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231 killed in deadliest single attack in Somalia's history

Qatar embassy 'severely damaged' in blast

MOGADISHU: The most powerful bomb blast ever witnessed in Somalia's capital killed at least 231 people with more than 275 injured, a senator said yesterday, making it the deadliest single attack in this Horn of Africa nation. The toll could continue to rise. Abshir Abdi Ahmed cited doctors at overwhelmed hospitals he visited in Mogadishu a day after a truck bomb targeted a crowded street near key government ministries. Many of the bodies in mortuaries had not yet been identified, he said.

As angry protesters gathered near the scene of the attack, Somalia's government blamed the Al-Qaeda-linked Al-Shabab extremist group for what it called a "national disaster". However, Africa's deadliest Islamic extremist group, which often targets high-profile areas of the capital, had yet to comment.

Qatar said its embassy was "severely damaged" in the deadly bombing. A foreign ministry statement yesterday said the embassy's charge d'affaires was "slightly injured in the explosion but he is now in a good health, and the rest of staff are fine".

The Mogadishu bombing is one of the deadliest attacks in sub-Saharan Africa, larger than the Garissa University attack in Kenya in 2015 and the US Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998. Doctors at Mogadishu hospitals struggled to assist badly wounded victims, many burned beyond recognition. "This is really horrendous, unlike any other time in the past," said

Dr Mohamed Yusuf, the director of Medina hospital.

Inside, bleary-eyed nurses transported a man whose legs had been blown off. He waited as surgeons attended to another badly injured patient. Exhausted doctors struggled to keep their eyes open, while screams from victims and newly bereaved families echoed through the halls. "Nearly all of the wounded victims have serious wounds," said nurse Samir Abdi. "Unspeakable horrors." The smell of blood was strong. A teary-eyed Hawo Yusuf looked at her husband's badly burned body. "He may die waiting," she said. "We need help."

Ambulance sirens echoed across the city as bewildered families wandered in the rubble of buildings, looking for missing relatives. "In our 10 year experience as the first responder in #Mogadishu, we haven't seen anything like this," the Amin Ambulance service tweeted. Grief overwhelmed many. "There's nothing I can say. We have lost everything," wept Zainab Sharif, a mother of four who lost her husband. She sat outside a hospital where he was pronounced dead after hours of efforts by doctors to save him.

The country's Somali-American leader, President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, declared three days of mourning and joined thousands of people who responded to a desperate plea by hospitals to donate blood.

Continued on Page 11



MOGADISHU: Somali men carry the body of a victim who died in truck bomb explosion in the center of the capital yesterday. — AFP

News in brief

Kuwait to Iran: Regain trust

KUWAIT: Kuwait observed with great care the latest speech given by US President Donald Trump adopting a new strategy with Iran, a source at the Kuwaiti foreign ministry said. Kuwait previously welcomed the agreement between Iran and the UN Security Council's five permanent member countries plus Germany-regarding Iran's nuclear file, out of its commitment towards security and stability of the region, and to reach weapons of mass destruction free zone in the Middle East, it said. Kuwait also called on Iran to work on regaining the trust of regional states by adopting policies based on UN principles and international laws, namely respecting the countries' sovereignty and not interfering in internal affairs.

Riyadh fire kills 10

RIYADH: A fire at a carpentry workshop in the Saudi capital has left 10 people dead and three others injured, the kingdom's civil defense said yesterday. "The Riyadh civil defense put out a fire that broke out at a carpentry workshop in the Badr district of Riyadh," the Saudi civil defense wrote on its official Twitter account. It said the victims' identities had not yet been determined. No information was given on the cause of the overnight fire. The civil defense posted photos of what appeared to be an enormous lumber yard engulfed in flames, with firefighters working through the night to douse the blaze.

Saudi Arabia cancels gig

RIYADH: Saudi authorities yesterday cancelled a charity concert by Egyptian pop sensation Sherine Abdel Wahab, which had been hailed as a boon for the entertainment industry in the ultraconservative kingdom. The General Entertainment Authority said it cancelled the charity concert, slated for the end of October, after organizers failed to apply for the necessary license for the public event. Saudi Arabia has created a government agency to support private firms organizing entertainment events under the wide-ranging Vision 2030 plan, an economic strategy that aims to reduce the kingdom's reliance on oil revenue.

Oil producers may not need to extend cuts

KUWAIT: Oil producers may not need to roll over a deal to cut production beyond March if all members fully comply with their pledges, the Kuwaiti oil minister said yesterday. "The current reduction deal is sufficient to achieve the desired purpose," of rebalancing the oil market, Essam Al-Marzouq told reporters after opening an oil conference. Although "the compliance level to the cuts has reached an unprecedented 116 percent", this was mainly due to the fact that some countries were making higher cuts than pledged.

"Our focus now is centered on making all member states fully comply with the cuts to reach an even better percentage and therefore not need a new extension," Marzouq said. Marzouq, who heads a joint ministerial committee monitoring compliance, said it was too early to say if a new extension was needed and that "OPEC will take a decision next month".

The oil cartel is holding a key ministerial meeting in

Military draft dodgers will be penalized

KUWAIT: Chairman of the National Military Service Authority Maj Gen Ibrahim Al-Amiri said yesterday eligible conscripts in the military will receive notifications to start their service. Those who fail to present for conscription or seek to delay their service as scheduled will face penalties of up to five years behind bars, he warned. Amiri said in a news conference that the military was preparing the call-up notifications. "The number of eligible citizens has reached 2,541, with 800 dodgers," he said, noting that lawsuits were filed against many of them at the Investigation General Directorate.

The authority has started preparing for the first batch on Jan 6, 2018, where conscripts will be subject to medical



Maj Gen Ibrahim Al-Amiri

examination and other check-ups to determine their preparedness and fitness for the service. Legal advisor at the authority Ret Col Falah Al-Enezi said most cases of absconding from military service are classified as misdemeanors, while they become felonies when failing to show up for service in emergencies and wars. Such a crime is punishable by five years in prison or fines reaching KD 10,000 (\$33,000).

However, the law exempts some cases for health, social, educational or humanitarian reasons. (See Page 2)



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Oil Minister Essam Al-Marzouq attends the third Kuwaiti Oil & Gas Show and Conference yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Vienna on Nov 30. OPEC and non-OPEC producers struck a historic deal a year ago to cut crude output by 1.8 million barrels per day for six months. The deal was extended by nine months until March. It has boosted oil prices to above \$55 a barrel and reduced record high

inventory levels. Meanwhile, Kuwait will import 50 million cubic feet of gas from Iraq, Marzouq said, indicating this quantity was equal to five percent of Kuwait's summer consumption.

Continued on Page 11

WWE signs first woman wrestler from Arab world

DUBAI: World Wrestling Entertainment Inc signed its first female performer from the Arab world yesterday, smashing cultural taboos as the US-based pageant seeks to pile drive its way into lucrative foreign markets. Shadia Bseiso, a Jordanian versed in jiu-jitsu, dreams of encouraging more Arab women to take up sports - and of one day maybe even crashing a metal chair over WWE megastar John Cena. "Female athletes are finally getting the credit they deserve. The world is more open to that, and in terms of how the region will react to it, I'm hoping its going to be very positive," said Bseiso.

While women exercising in public is rare in the Arab world and the local entertainment industry often relegates



Shadia Bseiso

them to docile roles, big companies such as Nike have stepped up advertising geared towards female athletes. Still, the high octane physicality and outrageous storylines of professional wrestling remain a novelty in the region.

Speaking to Reuters in the WWE's Dubai office, Bseiso said she made sure to tell her parents about her colorful career choice in person. After announcing she would join the ranks of the WWE, they paused in disbelief for a moment, she said, worried for her safety in the often bruising shows. (See Page 13)

Boot camp ready to accept conscription new recruits

5,609 recruits registered as of Saturday

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: After the approval of the conscription law earlier this year, a boot camp is ready to accept new recruits. Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammed Al-Khaled visited the Kuwait National Service Authority (KNSA) Maj Gen Ibrahim Al-Amiri on Thursday. The visit included a briefing about the stages of conscription, which includes registration and medical checkups, followed by theoretical and practical studies.

Many Kuwaiti citizens who are included in the new law haven't registered yet, so the ministry is reminding them to do so to avoid sanctions. Head of the Kuwait National Service Authority (KNSA) Maj Gen Ibrahim Al-Amiri explained the procedures of registration and medical checkups, in addition to exemptions given to students.

Teachers and trainers are ready to accept the new recruits. "The first batch of recruits will start their conscription program on January 6, 2018. We have started all the administrative preparations to welcome them. We will be informing those on whom the conception law applies from the beginning of next week to attend medical checkups. The results will show the number of recruits who will attend the program and those who will be excluded according to the decision of the military medical committee. Some will serve in the administrative department, while the others will serve in the field," noted Amiri during a press conference held yesterday at the Officers Club.



Cases filed against 800 citizens who are yet to register

files are complete, while around 800 citizens haven't registered at all. We have filed cases against most of them, and they were transferred to the investigation department of the ministry of interior," he added.

KNSA is cooperating with the education ministry, Kuwait University and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, as these are the institutions that will accept the recruits as part of the conscription process. "The recruits will serve for one year, including a four-month course that will consist of two parts - 40 percent military and 60 percent theoretical in medical aid, firefighting and other useful fields. After graduating, they will be distributed into either the North Camp or the South Camp, where they will serve for eight months," he explained.

"After they finish this year of conscription, they will be called up to 10 times for a period of one month during various periods. These calls will be made depending on their circumstances, but they should all be served before he reaches the age of 46. I would also like to thank the parents of the students abroad who cooperated with us, especially since they served under conscription in the past. We set a period of two months for medical checkups as we know that some tests take a longer time such as those for AIDS," concluded Amiri.

60 days

KNSA consultant retired colonel Dr Falah Al-Anezi said every citizen who reaches 18 years of age will have 60 days to register, and if he doesn't, he will be prosecuted. "On the other hand, the law took into consideration health, social, educational and humanitarian conditions. So the law gave priority for their education, and delay permissions were given and not exemptions," he pointed out.

Exemptions are given for some cases. "Exemptions



KUWAIT: Head of the Kuwait National Service Authority Maj Gen Ibrahim Al-Amiri (center) speaks during a press conference yesterday. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

are given to those who join military service in the army, police, national guard or the fire department under the condition that they complete five years of service in these departments. Other cases of delay or exemption are decided by the medical committee. In some cases, disabled people may not join field training, but can perform administrative, craft or technical training," stressed Anezi.

"Other exemptions include citizens who are the only children of their parents, prisoners of war and the breadwinner of the children of a soldier in case of his death or disability, or if he is missing. Other cases are merely delayed, but for a certain period only, up to 34 years of age, which is enough to end his studies. Also, a husband accompanying his wife for study

abroad or accompanying a close relative for medical treatment abroad can delay his conscription for this period only," he explained.

"All those on whom the law applies should register to avoid being prosecuted. Not being conscripted is a misdemeanor, but in case of emergency or war, it is considered a crime punishable by five years and a fine up to KD 10,000. Also, the dodger will be banned from employment and political rights of being elected. Anyone who is late for registration will serve an additional month for every month of delay, and the sanctions may reach two years. We filed a case against those who haven't registered and they will have travel ban imposed on them and an order to be arrested," concluded Anezi.

Amir: Palestine deal important step in right direction

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Saturday congratulated the Palestinian people for signing a unity agreement, which he described as an "important" step in the right direction. His Highness the Amir said the agreement would end division among the Palestinians to be united against challenges facing the Palestinian cause, thus honoring aspirations and hopes of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

His Highness the Amir made the remarks when he received a phone call from Ismail Haniyya, head of the politburo of the Palestinian Hamas movement. Haniyya

briefed His Highness the Amir about the agreement Hamas reached with Fatah in Cairo.

His Highness the Amir commended "crucial and constructive" role of Egypt, foremost President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, which helped Hamas and Fatah sign the agreement. Haniyya thanked His Highness the Amir for his wishes and support of the Palestinian people and their cause.

In other news, His Highness the Amir sent a cable to US President Donald Trump, expressing his condolences over the victims and those affected by the wildfire currently causing devastation in California. His Highness the Amir also wished those injured quick recovery. 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 both sent similar cables to President Trump. Meanwhile, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem sent a pair of cables to US Vice President Mike Pence and Speaker of the US House of Representatives Paul Ryan, offering his condolences over the victims of California wildfires. — KUNA

Speaker meets counterparts taking part in IPU conference

SAINT PETERSBURG: Speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem has met his Egyptian counterpart Dr Ali Abdul Al-Sayed on sidelines of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)'s 137th conference in this ancient Russian city.

The two sides discussed issues of common interest and coordinating stances at the conference. Separately, he met Speaker of the Cypriot Parliament Dimitris Silluris, discussing coordination during the event. He also met his Iraqi counterpart Dr Selim Al-Jabbouri tackling identical topics.

Meanwhile, Treasurer of the Kuwaiti Parliamentary Caucus Waleed Al-Tabtabai said that Kuwait has been practicing democracy, pluralism and respect of human rights for more than five decades. Kuwait is a pioneer of human rights in the Middle East region, Tabtabai told a session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)'s Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, during the IPU's 137th Assembly currently held in St. Petersburg, Russia, October 14-18. The session tackled the draft resolution on "Sharing our diversity: the 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy."

"We are proud that our democracy excels our neighbors'. Yet, we are not fully content with the position, and believe there is still need for further democracy and respect of human rights," he told the meeting.

Multiculturalism is a basis of the international security and stability, Tabtabai said, emphasizing the necessity of supporting the policies and strategies that seek to bolster development, through further social solidarity and respect of human rights and freedoms.

The parliamentary delegations in the meeting agreed



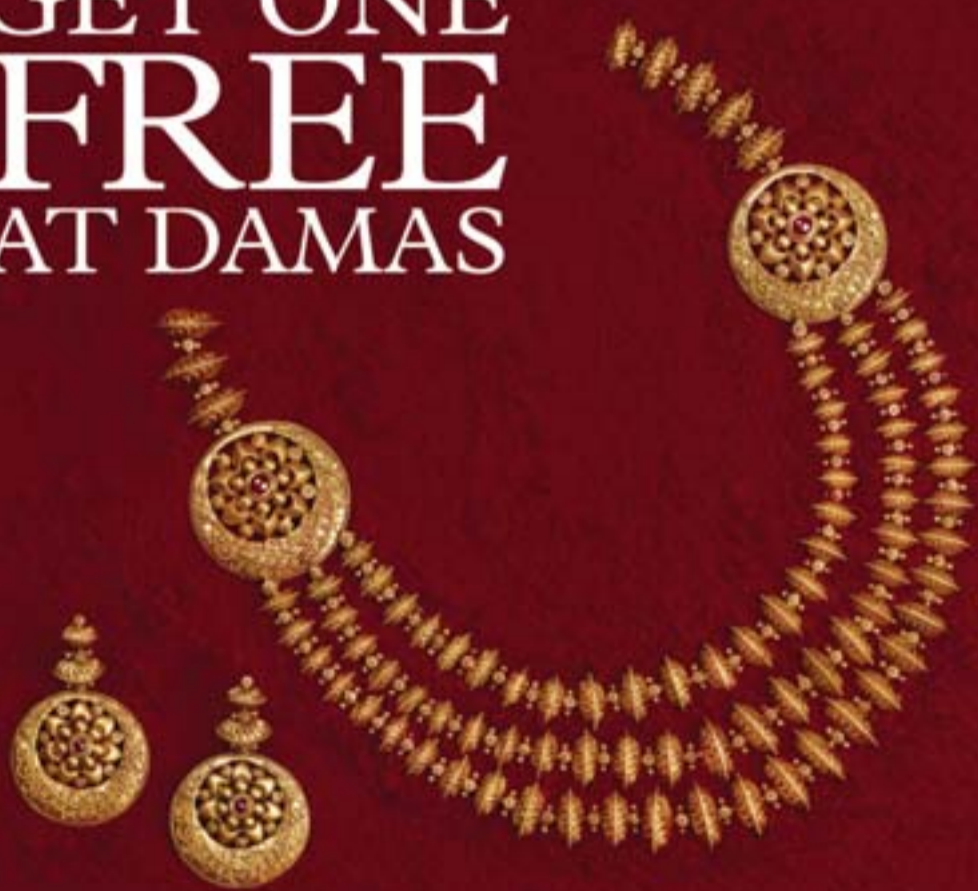
SAINT PETERSBURG: Speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem meets with Speaker of the Cypriot Parliament Dimitris Silluris. — KUNA

on the significance of democracy to preserve human dignity and protect human rights as well as those of minorities. They called for considering democracy as a process that could only be completed through women's participation in public life.

In the meantime, head of the Russian Senate's international relations committee Konstantin Kosachev lauded the performance of the Arab parliamentarians attending the Assembly. Kosachev said that the Arab presence is "strong," and stressed that apart from the parliamentary group, 12+1, no other ones were formed on ideological basis. The conference offers a good chance for the participant delegations to handle disagreements, and other issues of the Arab world.

Referring to an Arab and a Muslim initiative to comprise the Rohingya Muslims's plight on the Assembly's agenda, Kosachev said he noticed rising interest in the issue, but it is up to the delegations to decide to include it or not. He believed that such a controversial issue may not enjoy consensus among the participants and could cause divisions. — KUNA

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Local

Envoy compares S Korea-Kuwait relations to 'unsinkable' warship Kang Gam Chan

Destroyer makes four-day visit to Kuwait



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti and South Korean navy officials pose for a group photo on board of the Republic of Korea Kang Gam Chan destroyer ship. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



South Korean Ambassador to Kuwait Yoo Yeonchul.

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: A destroyer from South Korea began an official four-day visit to Kuwait in an elaborate ceremony held at Shuwaikh Port yesterday. The Republic of Korea (ROK) Kang Gam Chan destroyer ship was welcomed by Kuwaiti navy counterparts, South Korean Ambassador to Kuwait Yoo Yeonchul and Korean citizens in the country. ROK Kang Gam Chan is a modern destroyer warship built by Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering Co Ltd.

The mission of the trip is to provide on-the-job training and send a message of peace and harmony to the 10 countries it was slated to visit in 2017. "I firmly believe that our visit to your country, though short, will provide a wonderful opportunity to further strengthen our friendship and promote mutual understanding between both

countries," said Yang Yong-mo, Commander of ROKN Cruise Training Task Group.

98-day voyage

The ship's 98-day voyage to Vietnam, India, UAE, Kuwait, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Guam and Japan began on Sept 11, 2017 and ends on Dec 18, 2017. Under Yang's command, there are 638 crewmembers including 140 midshipmen who are on on-the-job training from the 72nd class of ROK Naval Academy. ROK Kang Gam Chan is a key naval asset capable of conducting composite warfare including anti-air, anti-surface, anti-submarine and electric warfare.

"Since the 'Treaty of Amity' in 1979 between S Korea and Kuwait, our focus has been on improving our economic ties; militarily wise, we are not very close, geographically speaking. But with this visit, we are hoping to

strengthen our military ties. We hope this visit will open a new chapter, or perhaps become a stepping stone towards building a relationship on a new level so as to serve our common interests," Yang added.

Four hostages

The ship saved four hostages from another ship, who were taken hostage by Somali pirates in 2012. The name Kang Gam Chan was taken from a revered general honored by the Korean people for contributing in a war against 100,000 Kitans and triumphing in the battle of Gwiju in 1018 AD. Along with ROK Kang Gam Chan are a smaller cargo ship and a fast combat support ship, sailing along with the destroyer carrying supplies and ammunitions such as oil, freshwater, logistic supplies, etc.

In a brief interview, Korean Ambassador Yoo spoke about the visit of the destroyer, which is proof of the

growing bilateral cooperation and the beginning of a new chapter of military collaboration between the two countries.

"I can feel the high level of cooperation in this visit. The visit will bring many opportunities as they plan to stay here in Kuwait for the next four days. Onboard, we will have a reception and cultural performance. There will also be a football match between the South Korean and Kuwaiti navy teams. So, I am very excited and I am sure this visit will deepen our friendship further. This ship is touted as an unsinkable ship, and I will compare our relationship to this destroyer - unsinkable, and it will go on forever," Yoo said.



The Republic of Korea (ROK) Kang Gam Chan destroyer ship.



Yang Yong-mo, Commander of ROKN Cruise Training Task Group.

Panel to scrutinize performance of health office in Germany

KUWAIT: Minister of Health Dr Jamal Al-Harbi announced yesterday forming a special panel to look into remarks made by the parliamentary investigation committee regarding Kuwait Health Office in Frankfurt, Germany. According to a min-

istry statement, Dr Harbi affirmed that the panel would discuss the remarks that had reached the ministry from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Cabinet General Secretariat about the office financial and administrative performance and how it deals with some hospitals in Germany. The new committee, grouping personnel of the ministry legal and financial affairs' departments and representatives of the ministries of foreign and financial affairs, will begin functioning in the end of this month.

The panel, once it has looked into the facts, will draft recommendations to avert recurrence of the "negative acts," as well as for settling financial liabilities for the hospitals. Its tasks also aim at adopting a strict auditing system plus facilitating care for the Kuwaiti patients sent to Germany for treatment-along with their companions. — KUNA

System automatically cuts late staff salaries

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Civil service employees at the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) may see salary deductions if they fail to show up to work on time now that a new fingerprint timeclock system has been installed. The new system directly connects employees time clock check ins to

the Civil Service Commission (CSC) tracking system, according to sources with knowledge of the system.

Meanwhile, MP Dr Mohammed Al-Huwailah warned that the cancellation of special allowances for Kuwaiti engineers and technicians newly appointed at the MEW would have a negative effective. He noted that it would discourage nationals from applying to work in the ministry. Huwailah added that the allowance was approved in 2002 to encourage Kuwaiti engineers and technicians to work in distant work sites.

"Cancelling it now is completely against government plans to Kuwaitize the public sector employees," he warned, noting that talk about privatizing the water and electricity sector was unacceptable as it provides vital public services.

Fake domestic help office busted

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Police raided a fake domestic help office yesterday and arrested seven African women who are reported absconding by their original employers. The operation came following investigations into information that police received about the activity of the fake office in offering domestic help services without a valid license. The detainees were sent to the proper authorities for further action.

Bad food

Kuwait Municipality's Public Relations Department announced that capital municipality teams succeeded in confiscating and destroying 28 tons of bad food in September. Capital municipality manager Bader Nasser Borqoba said that his teams actively inspected 660 markets, restaurants and co-op societies in September to make sure they all followed municipality regulations.

Sheikh Meshaal examines terminal construction

KUWAIT: Chairman of the Government Performance Follow-up Apparatus Sheikh Ahmad Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday urged officials of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to follow up closely on executing the project of the sixth back-up passengers' terminal (T-4) at the airport. The apparatus said in a statement that Sheikh Ahmad inspected today the venture construction site. He assured officials and personnel working in the project that he was ready to tackle any snags that might face them. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Chairman of the Government Performance Follow-up Apparatus Sheikh Ahmad Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah inspects the construction's site. — KUNA

local spotlight

Bitcoin



By Muna Al-Fuzai

Muna@kuwaittimes.net

There seems to be a new global trend on how to make quick money and become wealthy overnight! I am not a financial expert, but like everyone else, I heard about bitcoins and read stories about those who became rich in a few months. I kept wondering what is the bitcoin. Can we really trust attractive advertisements promoting it, and what are the guarantees?

The idea of becoming a millionaire is definitely seductive, as most of us today are troubled due to a shortage of money. So if there is an easy way to make a lot of money, many would say yes, let's go for it. This is precisely why I think it is time to write about this topic.

The Web defines bitcoin as a crypto-currency and a digital payment system. There are many digital currencies in the world - however, the bitcoin is the most famous these days. In fact, it had stirred controversy since its inception. Some people have put their money and life savings into this new digital currency. But my question has not been answered yet!

It is known that bitcoin as a digital currency was not issued by any central bank and is not subject to any supervisory body. All its transactions are on the Internet and it has no physical presence. Its value has fluctuated sharply, and questions were raised about its performance in 2017 and its future. As of Feb 2015, over 100,000 merchants and vendors accepted bitcoin as payment. According to research by Cambridge University in 2017, there are 2.9 to 5.8 million unique users using a crypto-currency wallet, most of them using bitcoins.

One of the advantages of this currency is that its fees are low, with speed and secrecy in its dealings, because it is not tied to a particular country. This eliminates the control of central banks on the printing of currency that causes inflation and high prices. The reason this currency is protected from inflation is its limited number, with only 21 million bitcoins to be mined by 2140. This limited number gives it great value in the market.

In 2016, a letter was issued from the Kuwait Banking Association to local banks asking them to warn their clients against using this so-called virtual currency, after noting that the currency was spreading in a way that would raise risk for its traders. Banks have been asked to strengthen their efforts to protect their clients from the spread of this currency, especially since it is a hypothetical digital currency that can transfer instantly to anyone anywhere in the world via the Internet.

The banks agree with the idea that the main problem with the use of bitcoin is that it is used without a central authority and supervision. They have fears of violating money-laundering laws or engaging in illegal activities. Germany is the only country that has officially recognized this currency as a form of electronic money.

I have read about well-known companies that started to invite the public to buy bitcoins, but people should be careful and must not rush to give away their savings, because this may open the door for suspicious operations and crooked companies too. It's worth mentioning that not all economists are supporters of this currency due to logical concerns of risk and losses, so be careful to drift behind the unknown. I agree bitcoin ads are encouraging, but caution is essential.

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A butterfly enjoying the nectar of a flower in Kuwait. — KUNA photo

Kuwait Times

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KDIPA issues its 2016-2017 achievements report

KUWAIT: On the occasion of publishing its Second Annual Report 2016, KDIPA issued an overview highlighting the main accomplishments achieved during the report period extending from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 in accordance with the tasks stated in its establishing law No. 116 of 2013, and the designated tasks thereon by the Council of Ministers.

This contributed to enhancing KDIPA's developmental, regulatory, promotional and advocacy roles in line with Kuwait's economic policy stemming from the National Vision 2035 and its pillars, a KDIPA statement said yesterday. The period covered by the annual report witnessed the attraction of direct investments reaching around KD 363.8 million, thus raising total cumulative direct investments approved and licensed since KDIPA started its operations early 2015 till end of March 2017 to a total of KD 707.8 million, through establishing 22 legal entities from 14 different nationalities, centered in the services sector with activities including ICT, mainte-

nance, healthcare, and renewable energy services.

KDIPA clarified that attracting such value added direct investments is expected to favorably impact crucial aspects of the national economy mainly contributing to economic diversification, enhancing the productive capacity, and fostering sustainable growth supporting the developmental pillars of the National Vision 2035.

Furthermore, attracting such investments will enhance cooperation and linkages between local companies and the licensed international companies, it said. KDIPA clarified that these licensed investments will avail more than 1000 jobs for Kuwaiti nationals, besides multiples of this number in indirect jobs across the economy, as well as providing specialized training programs to qualify the national talents and raise their capabilities, in addition to supporting local research and development efforts.

This is attained from initiatives undertaken by these companies of which establishing Huawei Centre for Innovation and Training and GE Kuwait Technology Centre to support innovation in product development, raising efficiency, and enhancing productivity, it added.

KDIPA will be following up activities of these licensed companies to assess its actual impact in the economy when a time series of data collected is attained on the ground measuring the scope and size of economic and social outcome, and determining the attained benefits on economic diversification. —KUNA

Kuwait partakes in youth convention in Saint Petersburg

SAINT PETERSBURG: Member of the Kuwaiti Parliamentary Caucus MP Omar Al-Tabtabaei affirmed yesterday the interest of the National Assembly in partaking in legislative events. He noted in this respect participation of a Kuwait University delegation in the forum of young parliamentarians, held on sidelines of the 137th conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

(IPU) in Saint Petersburg, Russia. The forum has tackled services for youth causes and experience of the Kuwaiti Youth Ministry.

"We have proven to the parliamentarians that we are people of action through presence of the Kuwait University students and their interaction with parliamentary activities," said Tabtabaei following his participation in the gathering. He has affirmed that the Kuwaiti delegation succeeded in persuading participating delegation in adopting the cause of the Muslim Rohingya.

The IPU conferees, he added, would vote later today on this file as an emergency topic that it will be the top issue to be tackled at the international event. —KUNA

Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem's era to be revived

KUWAIT: Kuwait University's Faculty of Literature organizes a convention themed 'Era of Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah 1965-1977' at the faculty compound on October 18th, under sponsorship of Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The faculty dean, Dr. Suad Abdulwahab, said in a statement yesterday that the convention aims at shedding light on achievements of the late ruler of Kuwait, namely

his tangible contributions to building the modern State. His most significant accomplishment was establishing Kuwait University (1966), she said, recalling his inauguration statement where he underscored necessity of education and scientific research for Kuwait's progress.

Lecturers will tackle the late Amir's policies for resolving crises at the local and Arab levels, in addition to his efforts to shore up the local economy. Dr. Abdulwahab called on people concerned with history to take part in the three-day gathering, noting that photos and books, depicting era of the late Amir, would be exhibited during the event. Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah was Kuwait's 12th Amir and the second after independence. He took the helm of power on November 24th, 1965. He was the first Kuwaiti foreign minister (1962). —KUNA

Local

القباس

Al-Qabas

Time to return

By Abdelmohsen Jamal

As young people are hungry for football and fine arts, they went in large numbers to attend the derby match between Al-Arabi and Al-Qadisiya clubs, hoping to see a good game. Players did not disappoint them, and played a good opening match, which is considered a promising start of the season to see such a good showdown between two top football teams. This also serves as an encouragement for fans to attend games in large numbers and to restore the good spirit of the league.

This calls upon us also to ask government officials and National Assembly members to work hard together to lift the international suspension of Kuwaiti sports and allow the Kuwait



The only thing left is a serious official move

youth to return to the crowning podiums and participate in international tournaments once again. The Kuwaiti youth are frustrated towards the inability of officials to find a solution and convince FIFA to restore local sports to its previous status and lift the suspension.

The large number of fans in the first match of the league is a message to all Kuwaiti youth that they, like other football fans around the world, are willing to see their national team compete in international arenas. Kuwait Football Association did a good job when it scheduled the opening match to be between two prominent teams to test the fans' response. And it was a good act by the fans to attend in large numbers to say that they have their support.

So, the only thing left is a serious official move, and in a manner that satisfies the international association according to its laws, so that it lifts the suspension on our sports, and has our athletes return to international arenas. We live with a deep heartbreak as we see the entire youth of the world play in regional and international tournaments, while our youth are not allowed to do so. Our message today: Enough suspension of Kuwaiti sports, and it is time for our return into international arenas. This message is for local officials and the FIFA.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



Rationalization

Al-Jarida

VIVA organizes blood donation day

KUWAIT: In partnership with Kuwait Central Blood Bank, VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, organized Blood Donation Day at its Headquarters in Olympia Tower. This initiative is part of VIVA's corporate social responsibility (CSR) program and corporate commitment to support community initiatives to help save lives and endorse good health practices among its staff.

VIVA's employees gathered to donate blood and help save the lives of others. Blood donations during the day were added to the blood bank's reserves to support its blood drive initiatives. The medical team also communicated important messages to donors about the importance of regular blood dona-



tion and its safe process.

VIVA is keen to continue its ongoing socially responsible role in the community by spreading the spirit of goodness amongst Kuwaiti society. We believe at VIVA in tak-

ing a holistic approach to our CSR activities, one that engages our employees, and creates goodwill in our communities with a focus on helping to grow and develop the State of Kuwait.

KIB sponsors Al-Sidra Association's breast cancer awareness campaign



KUWAIT: In commemoration of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced its sponsorship of the awareness campaign organized by Al-Sidra Association for Psychological Care of Cancer Patients, which is taking place throughout the month of October. This sponsorship comes as part of the Bank's expansive breast cancer awareness campaign, as well as its long-standing strategic partnership with Al-Sidra Association.

This latest sponsorship covers a series of medical awareness lectures presented by Al-Sidra Association, which are aimed at educating women about the importance of early detection in breast cancer prevention, and which are being held on the premises of Al-Sidra Association and Kuwait University. As part of the campaign, Al-Sidra Association will also participate in activities organized by the State Audit Bureau and Kuwait TV, in addition to participating in a number of other activities and initiatives within the community aimed at promoting breast cancer awareness.

On this occasion, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, said: "As a leading financial institution, we remain strongly committed to organizing and participating in various events that benefit the entire community, particularly initiatives that enhance health consciousness across the country. We are fully committed to playing an active role in spreading health awareness and educating people on the importance of early detection in disease prevention, through organizing and sponsoring informative lectures and awareness campaigns."

Najia further noted that KIB devotes special attention to health awareness, in line with its comprehensive social responsibility program and its social duties towards the local community. He also added that the Bank has an impressive track record of spearheading and sponsoring initiatives which support the local health sector, stemming from its belief that the health sector plays a key role in improving the quality of life within the local community.

Annahar

Annahar

Balloons and icebergs

By Jamal Al-Humoud

Icebergs are usually seen floating in a strange manner with the surface that looks like a small mountain while the submerged part may go deeper than one can see and is much larger, thicker and complicated. This wondrous scene teaches us that the real essence of something might not be actually seen just like a humble modest man that looks simple on the surface while he is full of potentials and creativity deep within.

The exact opposite of that is the case of a balloon which can easily blow up or shrink to its normal size if poked by a small needle. This reminds me of the saying which goes like this: "All that glitters is not gold." This saying applies to so



Many such people live around us and many of us get fooled by them

many people who would arrogantly walk around looking like balloons or are so silly and superficial that they are only concerned with appearances and are capable of enhancing such fake images to conceal their shallow thinking or lack of potentials.

Such balloon-like people may confuse you as you would expect too much from them and create an image about them that soon appears to be false, showing how hollow and shallow they are. Many such people live around us and many of us get fooled by them. They are called as fake friends, cheating lovers, radical employees, etc. One can also see them on social media networks that are dominated by silly, fake, talkative and unreasonable people.

We are doomed to get acquainted to various types of people throughout our lives, which helps us tell the difference between an "iceberg" and a "balloon." So, my advice to you all is to seek icebergs around you to rely on, consult and befriend because those will be your real assets in times of need. On the other hand, you should be very careful with "balloons". Dear readers, one should be fully conscious while dealing with people and capable of telling the difference between images and essences.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

Minister promises to overcome crisis in higher education institutions

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Mohammed Al-Faris, promised to overcome the financial crisis in various higher education institutions next year by rearranging priorities in the budget allocated to each institution.

Faris said in an interview with Kuwait's Al-Qabas daily published yesterday that he does not have a "magic wand" to solve the education crisis immediately, but there are mechanisms to control the number of admissions in each educational institution.

He pointed out that the file of Sabah Al-Salem University (Shedadiyah) is awaiting a decision of the Council of Ministers to decide whether to consider it a new university or a new building for Kuwait University.

He said that Kuwait is in dire need for various universities and the issuance of the government universities law besides an amendment of a law pertinent to the establishment of Jaber Al-Ahmad University. — KUNA

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CRIMES

Rescuers stop maid from committing suicide

KUWAIT: An Ethiopian housemaid was stopped from committing suicide at her sponsor's house in Sulaibikhat, said security sources. Rescue forces rushed to the scene where paramedics took the maid to Al-Sabah hospital with a forehead wound after she had banged her head on the wall several times in a hysterical fit. Initial reports suggest that the maid had just received news about her mother's death and that is when she suffered an emotional breakdown.

Smoke inhalation

Three children suffered from smoke inhalation when a fire broke out in Ishbeliya, said security sources noting that firemen from Ardhiya and Farwaniya rushed to the scene and found that the fire had started on the third floor of the building. The building was evacuated, children were rescued and the fire controlled. Further investigations are in progress to determine the cause of the fire.

Janitor assaulted

A citizen and his friend were arrested for assaulting an Egyptian building janitor in Riq'ee, said security sources. An eyewitness living in the same building saw the janitor being assaulted after he tried to stop the two from clicking pictures of the vehicles parked outside and asked them to leave, so he called the police. A case was filed.

Fake project

A lawyer filed a case against an Arab woman, accusing her of taking KD 6,000 from his client to start a fake project.

Work mishap

An Asian construction worker was rushed to hospital with serious injuries that he sustained after falling from the third floor of a building under construction in Ishbeliya, said security sources. A case was filed for investigations.

Mugging

An Asian man was assaulted and robbed by three assailants in Khaitan, said security sources. A case was filed and investigations are underway to identify the suspects and arrest them.

— Translated from the Arabic press



Wild elephants attack Rohingya camp killing four

Coup, revolution, mistrust: Moments in Iran-US relations

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CALIFORNIA: People watch water-dropping helicopters amidst smoke from the Canyon Fire 2 in Orange, California. — AFP

‘Hell on Earth’: California fire death toll rises to 40

‘Horror’ fires burn on as death toll mounts

LOS ANGELES: The death toll from California’s raging wildfires rose to 40 yesterday, with more than 10,000 firefighters battling 16 large blazes and 100,000 people evacuated, the state’s fire service said. Around 335 square miles (864 square kilometers) of residential neighborhoods, forests and other property have been burned since Sunday, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire).
 “These fires have been extremely destructive, with 5,700 structures estimated to have been destroyed,” the service said in a statement. Cal Fire later announced on its Twitter account that the death toll had risen from 35 in the morning to 38, with 20 of the fatalities occurring in Sonoma County alone, where more than 200 people are still missing. Pre-dawn winds in Santa Rosa have complicated the effort, pushing a blaze known as the Nuns Fire in two separate directions and forcing thousands to evacuate their homes near Oakmont and northeast of the city of Sonoma, Cal Fire said.
 Numerous churches across the region—in Santa Rosa, Napa, Sonoma, Petaluma and Novato—were housing victims of the wildfires and serving as resting places for firefighters, according to the Sacramento Bee newspaper. California Governor Jerry Brown announced the White

House had approved a request for direct aid for families in four counties, adding to emergency funds promised to the devastated winemaking areas of Napa and Sonoma.
‘The horror’
 Brown and Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris met community leaders and emergency management officials in Santa Rosa later Saturday, with nine counties still under a state of emergency. “Nothing has been this bad that I’ve ever seen in this state,” Brown was quoted as saying by the Bee. “The devastation, the horror, the displacement, is truly something that none of us will ever forget.” Firefighters working 24 hours on, 24 hours off, have come in from around the western United States and even as far as the Carolinas to provide fresh legs for the battle.



Fire-fighters battle large blazes; 100,000 evacuated

In Redwood Valley, a small town around 70 miles north of the Sonoma County fires that threatened world-renowned wineries, officials have been struggling with the gruesome task of naming victims. At least nine people were killed late Sunday by a wildfire that “swept through the area so fast it engulfed moving cars,” the Bee reported, but several remain unidentified. The settlement’s 2,300 residents have been begging for information about missing friends and relatives as rescuers scour the charred remains of dozens of homes.
‘Hell on Earth’
 “This is hell on earth,” Sheriff Tom Allman told the newspaper as he confirmed the ninth death, an 86-year-old widow found in the ashes of her Redwood Valley house. “This is such an all-encompassing tragedy—you lose a 14-year-old boy whose

grandfather was a friend of mine, an elderly woman and her caretaker, a grandma and grandpa who died together.” The last week has been the deadliest for wildfires in California’s history, according to officials.
 The Griffith Park fire in Los Angeles County in 1933 killed at least 29 people, and 25 people died in the 1991 Oakland Hills fire. Sonoma County Sheriff Rob Giordano said Friday his department was continuing to track down people reported missing by family or friends. The Sonoma County Sheriff’s Department had received 1,308 missing persons reports so far and 1,052 people have been located, Giordano said. Evacuation orders were in place for several towns in Napa and Sonoma, where hundreds of people have already lost their homes to the fast-moving infernos. Many residents took to social media to berate President Donald Trump for his silence over the tragedy on his Twitter account. Trump’s tweets and retweets on Saturday were largely limited to observations on health care and his son Eric’s upcoming appearance on Fox News, with nothing about California. “Still no comments from Trump about devastating fires in California & the lives lost. Is it ‘cause millions of CA voted for Hillary? How petty,” read one tweet, echoing much of the criticism. — Agencies

Once promised paradise, IS fighters end up in mass graves

DHULUIYAH: The Islamic State group once drew recruits from near and far with promises of paradise but now bodies of jihadists lie in mass graves or at the mercy of wild dogs as its “caliphate” collapses. Flies buzz around human remains poking through the dusty earth in the Iraqi town of Dhuluiyah, 90 kilometers north of Baghdad, at a hastily dug pit containing the bodies of dozens of IS fighters killed in 2015. “They should have ended up in the stomachs of stray dogs,” local police officer Mohammed al-Juburi said.
 “We buried them here not out of love but because we wanted to avoid diseases.” At one stage, IS ruthlessly wielded power over a vast swathe of territory straddling Iraq and Syria, but a military onslaught on multiple fronts has seen its fiefdom shrink to a last few pockets. Since the launch in 2014 of air strikes in Iraq and Syria against the group, a US-led coalition says around 80,000 jihadists have been killed. The overall number of dead is higher if you include those targeted by Russian and Syrian strikes.

residents faced a common dilemma over what to do with the corpses of IS fighters after local Sunni militiamen beat back the jihadists in fierce clashes. “We could have thrown them into the water, but we love the river too much to pollute it,” said the local policeman, who lost his own brother in the violence. “The people here as well as their animals drink from the Tigris.” Local finally decided to dig a mass grave for the fighters—but they said they refused to honor them with Islamic rites.
 “We buried them with bulldozers. Even in the ground they are still mired in their own filth,” said farmer Shalan Al-Juburi. “They said that they would go to paradise to enjoy the gardens of delights, but this is how they ended up.” The desolate site is in stark contrast to a nearby graveyard surrounded by a red-brick wall a few hundred meters away. There the “martyrs” who died helping to stop the jihadist advance lie in well-tended tombs adorned with their portraits and shaded by trees. Elsewhere, in western Iraq’s Anbar province, the luckiest among the IS dead appear to be those killed during its offensives against the army in 2015.
 In the centre of Fallujah, the first major city captured by the group in 2014, hundreds of memorials in a makeshift cemetery bear the noms de guerre of foreign fighters buried by their comrades. But as Iraqi forces in Anbar now look to oust the jihadists from their final footholds, operation commander Mahmoud Al-Fellahi insisted any jihadists killed will end up in mass graves. A similar fate befell IS members in the city of Mosul, the group’s largest urban stronghold in Iraq that it lost in July. There, a senior Iraqi commander told AFP, authorities used earthmoving equipment “to bury the jihadists after we collected information on their identities and nationalities”. — AFP



BAGHDAD: An Iraqi woman visits the grave of a relative, who was killed during battles with Islamic State (IS) group fighters, at a graveyard in the Iraqi town of Dhuluiyah. — AFP

Buried with bulldozers
 In agricultural Dhuluiyah on the banks of the Tigris river,

International

Iraqi, Kurdish presidents try to defuse escalating crisis

Iraq, Kurds in crisis talks over Kirkuk standoff

SULAIMANIYAH: The presidents of Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan held talks yesterday to defuse an escalating crisis, after a deadline for Kurdish forces to withdraw from disputed positions was extended by 24 hours. Thousands of Iraqi troops are locked in an armed standoff with Kurdish peshmerga fighters in the oil-rich province of Kirkuk, amid spiraling tensions following last month's vote by the Iraqi Kurds for independence.

The crisis is raising fears of fresh chaos in Iraq just as the country's forces are on the verge of routing the Islamic State group from the last territory it controls in the country. Kurdish forces, who were key allies in the US-backed offensive against IS, are refusing to surrender positions they took during the fightback against the jihadists over the past three years. Iraq's central authorities had demanded the Kurds withdraw from disputed areas overnight but the deadline was extended by a day following talks. Iraqi President Fuad Masum, himself a Kurd, was meeting Sunday with Iraqi Kurd leader Massud Barzani in Dukan in Sulaimaniyah province, officials said.

The peshmerga forces based in Kirkuk are mainly loyal to Masum's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) of party, a rival of Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP). Representatives of both parties were taking part in the talks. The Iraqi president was to submit a plan based on "dialogue and negotiation to avoid conflict and violence," Abdallah Aliwai, an adviser to Masum at the talks, told AFP, refusing to give more details. Iraqi and peshmerga forces could be seen early on Sunday still facing off in positions on the outskirts of Kirkuk, though there were no signs of troop movements.

Armed civilians in Kirkuk

As well as heavily armed federal troops, members of the Hashed Al-Shaabi, or Popular Mobilization forces,

which are dominated by Iran-backed Shiite militias, have massed around Kirkuk. Armed Kurdish civilians were seen gathering in Kirkuk overnight and Kirkuk governor Najm Eddine Karim, a Kurd sacked by Baghdad but who refuses to quit his post, warned: "Residents will help the peshmerga... we will not allow any force to enter our city."

Kirkuk, long claimed by the Kurds as part of their historic territory, has emerged as the main flashpoint in the dispute. Polling during the September 25 referendum was held not only in the three provinces of the autonomous Kurdish region but also in adjacent Kurdish-held areas, including Kirkuk, that are claimed by both Baghdad and Iraqi Kurdistan. The referendum, which was non-binding and saw voters overwhelmingly back independence, was declared illegal by Baghdad and held despite international opposition.

The Kurds control the city of Kirkuk and three major oil fields in the province. The three fields produce some 250,000 barrels per day, accounting for 40 percent of Iraqi Kurdistan's oil exports. They would provide crucial revenue to Baghdad, which has been left cash-strapped from the global fall in oil prices and three years of battle against IS. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi said this week that he was "not going... to make war on our Kurdish citizens" but has also rejected any negotiations until the independence vote is annulled.

US urges calm

Abadi's spokesman Saad Al-Hadithi told AFP that Iraqi government forces "do not want to... harm citizens, be they Kurdish or otherwise, but they must enforce the constitution," which gives Baghdad control in the disputed areas and over exports. Washington has military advisers deployed with both sides in the standoff and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said on Friday the United States was working to reduce ten-



KIRKUK: Iraqi forces flash the sign for victory as they drive towards Kurdish Peshmerga positions on the southern outskirts of Kirkuk yesterday. — AFP

sions. "We are trying to tone everything down and to figure out how we go forward without losing sight of the enemy," Mattis told reporters. "Everybody stay focused on defeating ISIS. We can't turn on each other right now," he said, using an alternative acronym for IS. After ousting the jihadists from their last urban areas including Mosul and Hawija in recent months, Iraqi forces are battling to push IS from its last positions along the border with Syria.

Tensions have also risen between the Kurds and Ankara and Tehran since the independence vote,

which both countries fear will stoke the separatist ambitions of their own sizeable Kurdish minorities. Yesterday, Tehran denied a claim from a Kurdish official that Iran had followed through on threats to close its border with Iraqi Kurdistan. Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Ghassemi said "no new decision" had been made and that "the land border is open with Iraqi Kurdistan". A Kurdish customs official, Shakhwan Abu Bakr, earlier said that the border had been closed to all people and goods at the three crossings into Iran. —AFP

Coup, revolution, mistrust: Moments in Iran-US relations

DUBAI: President Donald Trump's decision to not re-certify the Iranian nuclear deal marks yet another key moment in relations between Iran and America, which has seen decades of mistrust and mutual recriminations. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani mentioned many of them in his reaction to Trump's decision Friday night. Here are some of the key moments of that relationship:

1953 coup

In the aftermath of World War II, Iran nationalized the British oil refinery at Abadan, at the time one of the world's largest. America, fearful of Soviet influence, sided with the British in fomenting a coup against the elected government of Iranian Prime Minister Mohammed Mosaddegh. Though initially a failure, street protests fanned by the CIA ultimately pushed Mosaddegh out of power and cemented the rule of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. The US role in the coup plays a large part in the mistrust of America that persists in Iran to this day.

1979 Islamic Revolution

By January 1979, the cancer-stricken shah's grip on power had waned. Facing protests and strikes, he fled into exile, shocking his American backers who had no idea a revolution was in the making. The long-exiled Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, a charismatic hard-line Shiite cleric, returned to Tehran. Soon, he would become Iran's first supreme leader in



TEHRAN: An Iranian man reads a copy of the daily newspaper 'Omid Javan' bearing a picture of US President Donald Trump with a headline that reads in Persian "Crazy Trump and logical JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action)." — AFP

its clerically overseen government, having final say on all state matters. Khomeini later would turn against those who supported the revolution but opposed his absolute rule.

US Embassy takeover

In November 1979, Iranian university students stormed the US Embassy in Tehran, taking 52 Americans hostage. They demanded the return of the shah to Iran to face trial. President Jimmy Carter refused and launched a failed commando raid to free the captives. Six Americans who fled the initial takeover and found refuge with the Canadian ambassador later escaped Iran with the CIA's help. Their escape was dramatized in the 2012 film "Argo." Iran held the hostages for 444 days, releasing them only after the

1981 inauguration of President Ronald Reagan.

Iran-contra scandal

Under the Reagan administration, the United States agreed to secretly send weapons to Iran, then under an arms embargo amid its 1980s war with Iraq. Money earned from those sales went to fund American-backed Contra rebels fighting in Nicaragua. The Americans also hoped the sales would encourage the Iranian government to use its sway to help free American hostages held by the Lebanese Shiite militant group Hezbollah. When George HW Bush became president, he told Iran that "good will begets good will" and while American hostages in Lebanon were freed, relations never went further. —Reuters

Troop deployment expands near front line with the Kurds

AMMAN: The Turkish army is expanding its deployment in north-west Syria with the goal of encircling a Kurdish enclave and reining in Russian strikes in the Idlib border province under a deal to reduce clashes, rebels and witnesses said yesterday. A convoy of Turkish army troops entered Syria near the Bab Al-Hawa border crossing on Thursday in the first such deployment since last year when Ankara launched a major ground and air offensive to clear Islamic State militants from its last stretch of border with Turkey. At least four convoys

carrying scores of armored vehicles and equipment have been stationed in several locations in the first phase of a deployment that is expected to deepen inside rebel-held Idlib, opposition sources said.

"Nearly 200 troops are now stationed in areas that separate territory under control of Kurdish groups and opposition groups," said Ibrahim Al Idlibi, a military adviser in the opposition's Free Syrian Army (FSA). Witnesses said Turkish bulldozers were working around the clock, digging fortifications and setting up observation posts. A new deployment of Turkish armored vehicles and personnel arrived along the Syrian border on Saturday, positioned on the Turkish side, witnesses said.

Turkey was expanding its presence in an area where it hopes to act as a barrier to Kurdish ambitions of

uniting the isolated Afrin region, north of Idlib, with the rest of a self-declared autonomous Kurdish zone in the country's north. Turkish positions near Samaan castle in the Sheikh Barakat mountains of the fertile, olive-growing province put them just a few kilometers from Kurdish militia forces based in Jendaris. "Turkish forces are still in a state of advancing and expanding," said Mustafa al Sejari, a Free Syrian Army official.

Turkey says its operations there, along with the Syrian rebel groups it backs, is part of a deal it reached last month with Russia and Iran in Kazakhstan to reduce fighting between insurgents and the Syrian government. Syria on Saturday denounced the Turkish incursion saying it was a flagrant violation of its sovereignty and demanded Ankara pull its troops. —Reuters

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Yes or No? Catalan separatists face critical question to Spain

Spain's far-right gains visibility in Catalonia crisis

BARCELONA: Catalonia's president is facing a critical decision that could determine the course of the region's secessionist movement to break away from Spain. The Spanish government has given Carles Puigdemont until today morning to clarify if he did or didn't actually declare independence earlier this week. Puigdemont told Catalan lawmakers Tuesday that he had "accepted" a mandate for independence based on the results of a disputed referendum, but that he wanted parliament to delay its implementation "for a few weeks" to give one last chance to open negotiations with Spain.

If Puigdemont replies "Yes" to Madrid today, then Spain's government has given him until Thursday to back down or else Catalonia's ample self-rule could be temporarily suspended. But if Puigdemont replies "No," he will face rebellion from hardliners inside the secessionist camp which could topple his government and force a regional election for Catalonia. The far-left CUP party said on Saturday that it will withdraw its support from Puigdemont's government if he fails to make a firm statement for a declaration of independence and deliver on that promise in the regional parliament.

Puigdemont gave no hints on what his answer will be when he briefly spoke at a traditional memorial to former Catalan leader Lluís Companys, who was executed in 1940 by the troops of dictator Gen Francisco Franco. "In place like this and on a day like this, my government wants to reiterate its commitment to peace ... and democracy ahead of the decisions we must make," Puigdemont said after placing flower arrangements at the site where Companys was shot and at his tomb in Barcelona.

Moderates in the secessionist bloc are backing Puigdemont's attempt to talk with Madrid, despite its repeated rejections of even considering the possibility of Catalonia splitting away. The European Union supports a united Spain and no foreign country has voiced support for Catalonia's separatists, meaning a declaration of independence would likely only garner a robust response from Spanish authorities.

Puigdemont claimed he had the mandate to declare an independent Catalonia after an overwhelming "Yes" vote

in a Oct 1 referendum that Spain's top court had suspended on grounds that it was likely unconstitutional. Spain's Constitution says that matters of national sovereignty are the jurisdiction of the Spanish parliament. Parties against secession boycotted the vote on grounds that it was illegal and lacked basic guarantees such as an independent electoral board. Only 43 percent of eligible voters cast ballots amid a Spanish police crackdown that Catalan officials said injured hundreds. Spanish authorities said the police response was proportionate and that hundreds of officers were also injured in the violence.

Polls taken before the referendum showed roughly half of Catalonia's 7.5 million residents don't want to leave Spain. Long silent compared to the well-organized secessionists, pro-union forces have held large rallies in Barcelona over the last week. The political crisis has also led to an exodus of business and banks from the prosperous northeastern region. Hundreds have relocated their headquarters to other parts of Spain to avoid being cast out of the European common market.

As Catalonia's separatist challenge heats up, far-right groups are increasingly taking to the streets in their quest for Spanish unity, sparking fears they will grow stronger after decades on the margins, analysts say. In central Barcelona Thursday, xenophobic group Hogar Social, far-right party Vox and ultra nationalist group Espana 2000 rallied along with tens of thousands of families, couples and retirees for Spain's national day.

Not far off on Barcelona's mountain of Montjuic, several hundred other far-right supporters rallied, holding fiery speeches next to a stand selling memorabilia like Adolf Hitler's "political testament" or items marked with "SS", the insignia of the Nazi elite force. Small groups of far-right supporters have gathered on other occasions in Barcelona, or further afield in Valencia or the Balearic Islands-parts of Spain with strong regional identities-sparking scuffles. While these types of incidents have happened in the past, some fear that the far-right could grow stronger if the face-off between Spain's central government and Catalan leaders who want to break away persists.



Crisis triggers an exodus from the northeastern

parts of Spain to avoid being cast out of the European common market.

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BARCELONA: Catalan regional government president Carles Puigdemont (center) lays a wreath next to Catalan parliament president Carme Forcadell (left) and Barcelona mayor Ada Colau (2nd left) during a ceremony commemorating the 77th anniversary of the death of Catalan leader Lluís Companys yesterday. — AFP

Far-right weak in Spain

"The longer the polarization (in Spain) and the harder it is to resolve the conflict, the more the potential for these groups to get organized and gain political influence, or take to the streets," says political analyst Pablo Simon. "There have never been such big protests with Spanish flags, and that's what these groups are taking advantage of to grow bolder and expand. They're becoming more visible." Historian Xavier Casals, who specializes in the far-right, counters that there is currently no political party with a brand strong enough to capitalize on the Catalan crisis.

But he adds it is difficult to gauge what will happen as "the situation in Catalonia is evolving rapidly, with

unpredictable and changing scenarios." Unlike other European countries such as France or Germany, Spain's far-right is very much on the margin and "has been hugely fragmented since the start of the 1980s," says Jordi Borrás, a photojournalist who has long studied the issue. The country's national parliament has not had any far-right lawmaker since 1982.

After Spain transitioned to democracy in the 1970s, the far-right found itself unable to broaden its appeal beyond nostalgia for Francisco Franco's 1939-1975 dictatorship, says Borrás. Not only that, but many people who identify with the far-right vote for Spain's conservative Popular Party, which is currently in power, he adds. — Agencies

News in brief

Man-eating tiger dies

NEW DELHI: A tiger which killed four villagers in central India has died after being electrocuted, an official said yesterday, ending a hunt by armed rangers for the beast. A court in Maharashtra state issued a shoot-to-kill order Friday against the two-year-old female tiger after its latest victim, a woman, died earlier this month. But efforts to capture or kill the tiger were called off after it strayed against an electric fence near a village early Saturday, said Rishikesh Ranjan, field director of Pench Tiger Reserve. "She died at 2:30 am after getting electrocuted. We have recovered the body," he said. "The fencing was erected by the villagers to keep away wild animals, especially boars." The tiger named "Kala", meaning black in Hindi, was initially captured in July after killing two villagers and injuring four others in Brahmapuri in Maharashtra state.

Israeli PM, police face off

JERUSALEM: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Israeli police faced off in a rare public dispute yesterday over an intensifying graft probe that has led to speculation over whether he will eventually be forced from office. Netanyahu late Saturday lashed out at the police on his Facebook page over leaks to the Israeli media related to the graft investigation. That prompted a stern response from the police, who have been probing gifts Netanyahu allegedly received from wealthy supporters as well as suspicions he sought a secret deal with the publisher of a top-selling newspaper. His wife Sara has faced a separate investigation into alleged misuse of public funds. Netanyahu has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing and has accused members of the Israeli media of seeking to force him out of office. Israel's Channel 2 television reported Saturday night that the long-serving prime minister is to soon be questioned again by police as part of the investigation, prompting Netanyahu's Facebook post.

Philippines hits militants

MARAWI: Philippine troops yesterday bombed militants loyal to the Islamic State group who have held out for over four months in a southern city and the military said the conflict would be over "very soon". The army previously set a target to end the fighting in Marawi, which it said has killed more than 1,000 people. Troops have missed previous deadlines to flush out the militants whom authorities said intended to establish a local IS caliphate. Yesterday FA-50 fighter jets flew over Marawi as soldiers fought the militants house-to-house in an area which has now shrunk to about five acres (two hectares), a military spokesman said. "We are hoping that we will end this Marawi siege very soon," Colonel Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of the task force battling the militants, told reporters. Pro-IS gunmen occupied parts of Marawi, the Islamic capital of the mainly Catholic Philippines, on May 23. Since then 822 militants, 162 government forces and 47 civilians have been killed, Brawner said.

4 Pakistani troops killed

ISLAMABAD: A bomb yesterday killed four Pakistani soldiers as they searched for militants linked to the kidnapping of a US-Canadian family who were freed last week. The incident happened near the Kharlachi checkpoint in Kurram district in the restive tribal belt bordering Afghanistan. The family were being held by the Taliban-allied Haqqani network in the tribal area until they were rescued during a Pakistani military operation Wednesday.

EU summit to throw Britain a Brexit bone

BRUSSELS: EU leaders are set to extend an olive branch to British Prime Minister Theresa May at a summit in Brussels this week in a bid to break a deadlock in Brexit negotiations. The Europeans will announce that there has not been enough progress on divorce issues, including the size of Britain's exit bill, to move on to the second phase, of trade talks, until December at the earliest. But in a goodwill gesture to a badly weakened British leader, they are set to say that the EU should start internal preparations for talks on the future relationship with Britain, which is due to leave the bloc in 18 months. "The goal is to be a bit more positive, show London that the door isn't totally closed," an EU diplomatic source said. "But basically it doesn't change anything."

Negotiations have become increasingly bad tempered, with European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker saying on Friday that the British "have to pay" and British finance minister Philip Hammond calling the Europeans "the enemy". Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel, in an interview published Saturday, urged May's government to "find clarity among themselves as quickly as possible" and overcome divisions over its Brexit policy. The poisonous atmosphere is not just in the talks-noxious fumes in the Europa building where the summit is due to be held sickened 20 people on Friday and it is not due to reopen until Monday.

'Good cop, bad cop'

All 28 national leaders will meet on Thursday in Brussels to discuss EU President and summit host Donald Tusk's schedule for discussing Europe's post-Brexit future, with the crisis in Catalonia also likely to rear its head, and relations with Turkey up for discussion. May will then be asked to leave after breakfast on Friday so the 27 other leaders can weigh up Brexit. Germany is leading a group of EU countries that want the sensitive issue of Britain's financial commitments to the EU solved before any discussions are opened on a post-Brexit trade deal.

Others want to give Britain something to cling to amid fears that an economically damaging "no-deal" scenario on March 29, 2019 is becoming increasingly likely. "There are two types of EU countries, those that lie awake at night worrying about Brexit and those who don't," another

Russia hosts youth festival as Putin woos under-30s

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin is expected to speak at a youth festival launched in the Soviet era, in his latest effort to appeal to young Russians ahead of the presidential election next year. The World Festival of Youth and Students was initiated by the USSR and the Eastern Bloc after World War II and Russia is hosting the 19th festival in Sochi's Olympic park on the Black Sea, following a Soviet-style parade in Moscow Saturday that boasted 10,000 foreign guests.

Putin, who is widely expected to run for re-election next



CHEVENING: British lawyer and Boris Johnson's wife, Marina Wheeler (left) helps as Britain's Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson (center) boards a row boat with Czech Republic's Deputy Foreign Minister Ivo Sramek on a boating lake in the grounds of the British foreign secretary's official residence Chevening House, in southern England. — AFP

EU diplomat said. The EU is demanding progress on three divorce issues—the divorce bill, the rights of three million citizens living in Britain and the fate of Northern Ireland and its land border with EU member Ireland—before it will move on to discussing trade talks, as Britain wants.

The EU's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier warned during the last round of EU-UK talks that the negotiations were in a "disturbing" deadlock over the bill, which the EU puts at 100 billion euros (\$118 billion) and Britain at 20 billion euros. A draft summit statement obtained by AFP says that while there has been "progress" it is not enough to unlock the next phase of talks, noting the lack of a "firm and concrete commitment" from Britain on the money.

They will "reassess" in December whether to move to trade, and so to be "fully ready" for that they authorize Barnier and the member states "to start internal preparatory discussion." EU sources also played down talk of divisions between Barnier, who reportedly wants to throw Britain a bone, and more reluctant member states. "Barnier

year though has not formally announced his participation, will visit the opening in Sochi along with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and other officials. The forum, which uses guerrilla icon Che Guevara as a symbol, has the motto "For Peace, Solidarity and Social Justice, we Struggle Against Imperialism." The event's website says organizers expect 20,000 guests in Sochi from 150 different countries. Russia's embassy in Pyongyang said North Korea will also send a delegation of "Komsomol" — the Soviet youth movement.

Re-creating 1957

The World Youth Festival first took place in Czechoslovakia in 1949 and was hosted by Communist states around the world in the second half of the 20th century. Six events have been held since 1989, with North Korea, Cuba and Venezuela among the host nations.

The USSR hosted the event twice: once in 1985 shortly after Mikhail Gorbachev became Soviet leader and most famously in 1957, when thousands of foreigners descended on Moscow for the first time during Khrushchev's political thaw.

and the EU 27 are taking turns to play Good Cop, Bad Cop," a diplomatic source said.

Visions of the future

The bulk of the summit will be devoted to plans to reboot the EU after the shocks of Brexit, the eurozone debt crisis and the migrant crisis. French President Emmanuel Macron and Juncker have both recently unveiled visions for the future, and Tusk will at the summit outline his plans for making them a reality over the next two years, up to a special EU summit in Romania the day after Britain finally leaves. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Saturday that former Polish premier Tusk will explain "how we can improve our working method to show results more quickly". The EU leaders may also discuss US President Donald Trump's harsh take on the 2015 Iranian nuclear deal, which prompted France, Germany and Britain to issue a strong rebuttal on Friday, in a sign that cooperation on security and diplomacy continues despite the bad blood over Brexit.—AFP

Sixty years later, this year's student parade in Moscow echoed the 1957 festival which Russians remember as marking the beginning of a new, more open USSR. On Saturday, students walked through central Moscow with flags of different countries.

The rainy weather kept some people away and the spectators consisted mainly of people over 50, some teary-eyed with nostalgia. "I finally have the chance to see this as I lived in the Far East and didn't have the chance to see it in Moscow," said 71-year-old Valentina Rogova watching the parade. "All nations should be friends. We used to have more events like this in Soviet times." The 1957 festival "was a breakthrough for the West and for the East," according to Russian historian Alexander Shubin. "The West saw that normal people live in the USSR while Soviet citizens saw what foreigners look like for the first time."

This year's festival will have a different vibe. While hosting an exhibition on the lessons of the 1917 October Revolution, the leftist festival's program also includes workshops on how to set up a business and a display of Dutch tulips.—AFP

International

Cambodia political prince submits to its strongman

Royalist party would benefit from ban on opposition

PHNOM PENH: With Cambodia's opposition warning of the imminent death of its democracy, the historic rival who once beat Prime Minister Hun Sen in an election said there was no option but to work with the strongman. Seventy-three-year-old Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Hun Sen's opponent in UN-supervised elections in 1993, has horrified Cambodia's main opposition party with a call for it to be dissolved after its leader was charged with treason. Ranariddh's career exemplifies not only the swings in Cambodian politics, but also the way Hun Sen, 65, has used force and cunning to neutralise enemies since defecting from the genocidal Khmer Rouge in the 1970s to help drive it from power.

"Samdech Hun Sen, you want or you don't want, you like him or you don't like him, he brings about this national unity," Ranariddh said, using the prime minister's formal title. "According to the law you are not allowed to harm national unity," the white-haired Ranariddh told Reuters on Saturday. Beside him, four aides nodded and pressed together their palms in deferential emphasis. Ranariddh's royalist Funcinpec party won no parliamentary seats in 2013 elections, but would be allocated most of those held by the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) if it is dissolved after the arrest of leader Kem Sokha last month. Alongside the government, Funcinpec has sought a ban on the CNRP because of the arrest. Kem Sokha and his party dismiss the charges against him as bogus and an

attempt to extend Hun Sen's 32-year rule at the head of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) amid the biggest crackdown on critics of the prime minister in years. "The prince failed his people when he had the mandate to bring real peace," said Mu Sochua, a deputy to Kem Sokha who recently fled to exile in fear of arrest. "Now, he is robbing his people of their right to choose the leader of their choice by collaborating with the CPP in the dissolution of the CNRP."



Prince Norodom Ranariddh opposes foreign protests

Father's shadow
Ranariddh was summoned to politics from his post as a French law lecturer by his wily father, the late King Norodom Sihanouk. With royalist sentiment strong, Ranariddh beat Hun Sen in the 1993 election organized by the United

Nations. But when Hun Sen threatened a return to war, Sihanouk did a deal that sidelined his son as a co-prime minister. Ranariddh was driven into exile in 1997 after his forces were defeated by those of Hun Sen in bloody clashes in Phnom Penh. After international pressure, Ranariddh was allowed to contest elections a year after, but never again came close to winning and entered on and off alliances with Hun Sen.

Splits in the party followed and after a spell overseas following accusations of financial scandal, Ranariddh returned in 2015. As he speaks, he switches between English and Khmer with a peppering of French. "We are not puppets," Ranariddh said beside a huge portrait of his



PHNOM PENH: Cambodian government officials walk past honor guards to pay their respects in front of a statue of former King Norodom Sihanouk at a park in Phnom Penh yesterday during the fifth anniversary of his death. —AFP

father. "We are definitely not an opposition party but we don't always, always say 'yes, yes, yes, yes, yes'. We can say 'no'." Although the United States and other Western countries helped secure Ranariddh's return to

Cambodia in the 1990s, he dismissed their criticism of Kem Sokha's arrest and calls on the government to stop moves to ban the CNRP. "I, Norodom Ranariddh, would like them to leave us free to decide," he said. — Reuters

Afghan Air Force gets its own Black Hawk helicopters

KANDAHAR: Parked at a military runway in Afghanistan near other aircraft used in the fight against the Taliban, the grey-green helicopter appears unremarkable at first blush. A second look at the UH-60 Black Hawk reveals a vital distinction: the US Army's insignia has vanished, replaced by the triangular logo of the Afghan security forces. The fully refurbished chopper arrived here at Kandahar Airfield last month, the first of 159 the United States plans to give the Afghans to help turn the war in their favor.

"What you have here is a tried and true capability," US Air Force Colonel Armando Fiterre told reporters on a recent visit to the Kandahar air base in southern Afghanistan. With the Afghanistan war turning 16 this month, the United States is looking to flip what officials have been calling a "stalemate" with the Taliban into a winning strategy that will force the insurgents to the negotiating table. US President Donald Trump has ordered the deployment of more than 3,000 additional troops, on top of the 11,000 already there, to train and advise Afghan security forces. And Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis has overseen a loosening of restrictions on when the US military can attack insurgents. But key to any durable gain is the ability of the Afghan security forces to lead the fight, instead of relying on guidance from the US and NATO, and a big part of that is a US-funded, seven-year modernization of their air force.

Replacing Russian helicopters

The plan to modernize the Afghan air force will provide vital firepower and mobility to the Afghans, Pentagon spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Mike Andrews said. These are "significant offensive factors" enabling the Afghans to "break the stalemate with insurgents." In the past, Afghan security forces have relied on the coalition for air support. "While the coalition is still present, (the Afghans) can also rely on their own countrymen overhead," Andrews added. Under the program, the Afghans will phase out their 45 or so Russian Mi-17 helicopters and replace these with Black Hawks, a US military workhorse first produced in the 1970s. The US says parts for the Russian choppers are hard to source, and US politicians want American aircraft



KANDAHAR: An Afghan air force UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter sits at Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan. Parked at a military runway in Afghanistan near other aircraft used in the fight against the Taliban, the grey-green helicopter appears unremarkable at first blush. — AFP

to be used. The helicopter Fiterre showed off is a training vehicle, but the Afghan Black Hawks eventually will include 58 of the attack variants that can be fitted with rocket pods and machine guns. Others will be used to ferry troops, cargo and aid. This "becomes a sustainable capability to increase the Afghan government's forward presence in a lot of these isolated locations," Fiterre said. Between now and 2024, the Afghan Air Force will more than double their fleet of aircraft. Some of this buildup could be seen at Kandahar, with a couple of US-provided Super Tucano attack planes taking off for combat missions in the Taliban heartland only 30-minutes away.

Growing capabilities

Over the past year, the Afghan air force has increasingly taken on combat missions to provide air support to ground troops and conduct surveillance. But fighting an insurgency where the Taliban operate from civilian areas comes at a high cost. On October 1, an "erroneous" Afghan air strike killed 10 security forces in volatile Helmand. The number of civilians killed and wounded was at a record high in the first nine months of 2017, a new UN report shows, made worse by the Afghan air force carrying out its

own air strikes along with US forces. The UN mission report documented 466 civilian casualties - 205 deaths and 261 injured - a significant increase in air strike casualties compared to the same period a year ago. The report found 62 percent of these casualties stemmed from Afghan air strikes, and most of the casualties were women and children. US Lieutenant General Kenneth McKenzie insisted the Afghans' performance "was only going to improve" as additional US trainers and advisors flow into Afghanistan under Trump's plan.

"It's not going to be easy, because that's a tough place to operate aircraft... but I think we are on a positive trajectory," he said. Last week, US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis hailed the Trump-era loosening of rules that make it easier for US air power to proactively target the Taliban, but insisted standards to protect civilians had not been diminished. "We will never fight at any time, especially in these wars among innocent people, without doing everything humanly possible to protect the innocent that the enemy purposely jeopardizes," he told senators. Afghan pilots who will fly a Black Hawk will undergo a six-week pilot training program, followed by another 10 weeks of mission training, meaning they will start conducting operations next year. — AFP

Wild elephants attack Rohingya camp killing four

DHAKA: Wild elephants attacked a new camp where Rohingya refugees were sleeping, killing a woman and her three children in southern Bangladesh, an official said yesterday. A herd of elephants entered the Balukhali camp in Ukhiya town early Saturday and trampled tents where several refugees were sleeping, said district forest official Mohammed Ali Kabir. Four other people, including the woman's husband, were injured in the attack, Kabir said.

Many others fled to safety when they heard the elephants approaching. Officials said the new camp was built in a forest area that was earlier frequented by elephant herds. The woman's husband, Abu Bakar Siddique, said yesterday that he had been released from the hospital, but that one of his children and some other relatives were still hospitalized. More than 500,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled from Myanmar's Rakhine state to neighboring Bangladesh since Aug 25, when Myanmar security forces responded to attacks by a militant Rohingya group with a broad crackdown on the long-persecuted Muslim minority.

Many houses were burned down. The United Nations has called the violence "textbook ethnic cleansing." Siddique said he and his family made the perilous journey from Rakhine state to reach Bangladesh some four days ago. They found a place and were living in a tent in one of the camps where hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have taken refuge. "I fled Myanmar to avoid attacks by the military. But the elephants have killed my wife and children," Siddique said. "It is painful to live this way, I have lost everything." Kabir, the forest official, said that the elephant habitat was under threat and that the passages used by the animals to move from one place to another have been encroached by human settlements.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh has tightened security along its western border with India amid concern that hundreds of Rohingya Muslim refugees could be pushed into its territory, officials said yesterday. Patrols have been stepped up along the frontier with India's West Bengal state, where border guards say they have been ordered in recent weeks to steer Rohingya into Bangladesh. Tariqul Hakim, an area commander of the Border Guard Bangladesh, said Rohingya could be seen gathering opposite the Putkhali frontier post, where just a narrow river divides the two countries.

"We have stepped up surveillance and patrols so that no Rohingya can be pushed into our territory," Lieutenant Colonel Hakim told AFP. There are 40,000 Rohingya in India but the Indian government wants them deported, telling a top court last month they pose a security threat. Hakim said Rohingya communities inside India could be trying to reunite with their families in southeast Bangladesh, where more than half a million Rohingya refugees have arrived since August from Myanmar.

An estimated 536,000 refugees have crossed since August 25, fleeing violence in western Myanmar described by the United Nations as ethnic cleansing. An Indian border guard in West Bengal said that patrols had previously turned over all Rohingya intercepted at the frontier to local police. "But now our directions are very clear, and that is to push all Rohingya into Bangladesh," he told AFP on condition of anonymity. "We are trying to accomplish our task with active local support".

A Bangladesh border guard official, Abdul Hossain, said villages along the frontier were on high alert, with newly-arrived refugees saying they had been encouraged by Indian guards to cross the border. "We've been patrolling the border day and night to prevent their entry. Local villagers have also joined us in the patrols," Hossain said. Local council member Nazrul Islam said more than a dozen Rohingya who crossed at a southwestern part of the frontier Friday reported Indian guards opening a section of barbed wire to allow them to pass easily. — Agencies

Chinese leader to tighten clutch on power at conclave

BEIJING: Chinese leader Xi Jinping is expected to tighten his grip on power at a Communist Party conclave this week, cementing his stature as the country's most dominant ruler in decades. The five-yearly congress, which opens Wednesday, will give Xi an opportunity to enhance his control over the world's second largest economy by stacking the halls of power with loyalists.

The 64-year-old supremo will undoubtedly be granted the customary second term as general secretary of the Communist Party, but analysts will watch for signs that he may try to hang on beyond 2022. Xi's clout has drawn parallels with Mao Zedong, modern China's founder, and Deng Xiaoping, who spearheaded economic reforms as paramount leader from the late 1970s to early 1990s. "We can basically describe there as being three eras: The era when Mao was in power, Deng Xiaoping's era, and now the 19th Party congress is in some sense the complete opening of the Xi Jinping era," Chinese political expert Chen Daoyin told AFP. During his first term, Xi has already accumulated titles, nurtured a cult of per-

sonality and launched crackdowns on activists. Notably, the government let the country's most prominent dissident, Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo, die of cancer in custody in July. Party officials, including potential rivals, have fallen under his sweeping campaign against corruption, and he has reshuffled the military leadership. On the global stage, Xi has used China's economic might to bring more countries into the Asian giant's orbit. While he has championed globalization, the United States and Europe still complain of huge hurdles to enter the Chinese market.

He has even managed to build a rapport with Donald Trump, who has called Xi a "friend", visiting the US leader at his Florida resort and inviting him to Beijing after the congress in November despite differences over trade and how to handle North Korea. All of it has been backstopped by a buildup of military muscle, as the leader has revamped the People's Liberation Army, opened the country's first overseas base in the Horn of Africa and aggressively asserted claims to the disputed South China Sea.

In addition to general secretary, Xi also



NANJIE: Photo shows a plate featuring a portrait of China's President Xi Jinping (right) next to statues of late communist leader Mao Zedong, at a stall in the 'East is Red Square', in Nanjie village, in China's central Henan province. —AFP

has the traditional jobs of president and chairman of the central military commission. Unusually, he has added a slew of other titles, including "core" leader, earning him the nickname "Chairman of everything". One clear signal that the age of Xi has begun is if he is able to fill the new Politburo Standing Committee with his allies. Five members of the seven-person

council that rules over China are set to step down in line with an unofficial retirement age of 68, leaving only Xi and 62-year-old Premier Li Keqiang. But Xi may break with convention and lobby to retain his 69-year-old right-hand man Wang Qishan, the mastermind of the massive anti-graft campaign that has toppled a number of Xi's potential rivals. —AFP

Analysis

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian GulfTHE LEADING INDEPENDENT
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FOCUS

Iran angered by Trump, but needs nuclear deal

US President Donald Trump angered Iran with his speech on refusing to re-certify the nuclear deal, but Tehran is unlikely to walk away from the agreement in retaliation. Brinkmanship aside, Iran needs to sell its oil on the international market as allowed by the atomic accord. And politically, Trump's speech helps the same hard-liners America's president says he wants to target, offering them a convenient punching bag as many Iranians took his words as a personal insult.

"Iran relents when it faces international unity and lacks domestic unity," wrote Karim Sadjadpour, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington. "Trump is unifying Iran internally, splintering international unity." In particular, Trump's insistence on using the term "Arabian Gulf" in place of "Persian Gulf" riled the Iranian public. Online, Iranians shared historical maps and videos of former US presidents all calling it the Persian Gulf. Many saw it as a nod to the Gulf Arab states of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, two major US allies that long have criticized the nuclear deal.

The comments could also be seen as validating Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's longtime warnings against trusting the US or expanding negotiations beyond the narrow scope of Iran's nuclear program. Since Trump's speech, which puts the burden on Congress to decide the nuclear deal's fate, Iranian officials have threatened that they too could decide to unilaterally walk away. "If someday our interests are not realized and other parties want to violate their commitments, they should be aware that Iran will not hesitate a moment," warned Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.

But the posturing belies the fact that Iran can ill-afford to risk the deal, which lifted crippling international sanctions in return for restrictions on its nuclear activities. Iran rushed back into the global oil markets once the deal took effect, boosting its gross domestic product by 7.4 percent in the first half of 2016 and 2017, recovering from a recession in the period prior, according to the International Monetary Fund. That's even with global oil prices now halved, after falling from highs of over \$100 a barrel in the summer of 2014.

US lawmakers have about two months to decide whether to put the accord's previous sanctions back into place, modify them or do nothing. But even if Congress restores all the pre-2015 sanctions, Iran could agree to a revised deal with Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the European Union, the other parties to the accord, which have been telling Trump's administration to stay in. That would hurt Boeing and other American companies, and make EU firms with US business interests wary, but Iran would likely see it as a far better outcome than the pre-2015 status quo.

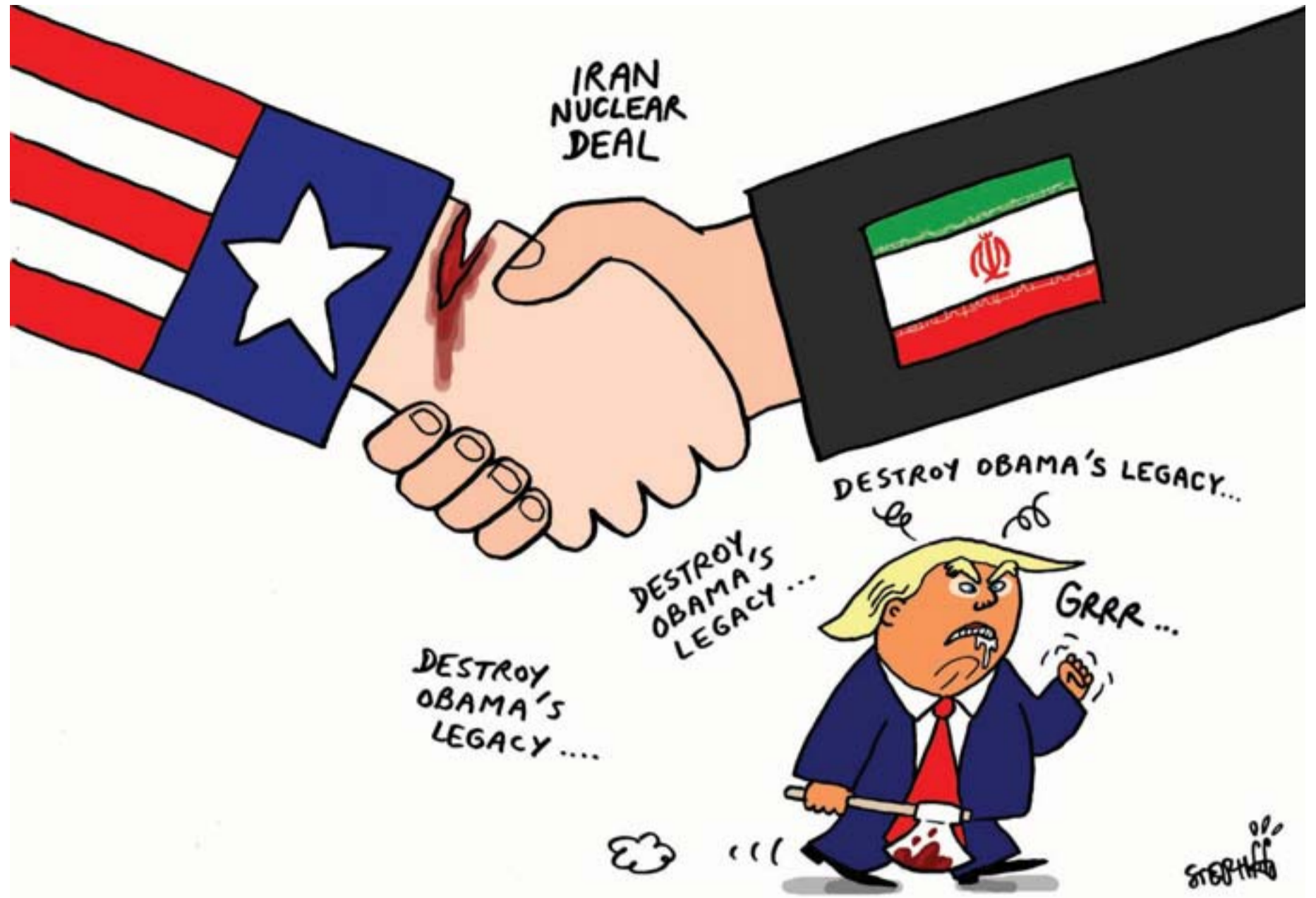
Continued difficulties

"Iran is very unlikely to reflexively abrogate the agreement, given the substantial economic benefits it continues to receive," wrote Cliff Kupchan, the chairman of the Eurasia Group. However, the IMF warned that GDP growth outside of the oil industry averaged just 0.9 percent, a sign of the continued difficulties the average Iranian faces in the deal's wake. While authorities announced landmark billion-dollar deals with Boeing, Airbus and other global entities, the typical person still struggles to find a job or have their stagnant salary keep pace with Iran's lowered but still nagging inflation.

"We are sure that despite all this rhetoric, foreign investment and participation in infrastructural projects will be continued in our country," Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Sunday. So far, Iran's stock market and hard currency markets remain unchanged. Rallying around the flag does have its limits in Iran. Iranians applauded when Zarif challenged Trump on the naming of the Persian Gulf, but the foreign minister drew criticism from some quarters when he tweeted that "Iranians - boy, girls, men, women are all" part of the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard.

The Guard, while fighting against the Islamic State group in Iraq, supports embattled Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad in his country's civil war, which some Iranians have started criticizing in public in recent months. The Guard also routinely arrests and imprisons dual nationals and others over espionage charges on secret evidence, drawing international rebukes. Its hand in putting down the Green Movement protests born out of Iran's disputed 2009 presidential election also lingers in Iranians' memory.

The Guard has made a series of threatening remarks around Trump's speech. It could test-fire another ballistic missile or force another tense encounter with the US Navy, which bases its 5th Fleet in Bahrain. So far this year, the Navy has recorded 14 instances of what it describes as "unsafe and/or unprofessional" interactions with Iranian forces, the most recent coming in August, when an unarmed Iranian drone flew close to a US aircraft carrier as fighter jets landed at night. The Navy recorded 36 such incidents in 2016 and 22 in 2015. Most involved the Revolutionary Guard. "We're watching closely," said Cmdr Bill Urban, a 5th Fleet spokesman. — AP



Trump and the dismantling of Obama legacy

Brick by brick, the demolition job has begun: since taking office less than a year ago, Donald Trump has launched an all-out assault on the legacy of Barack Obama. Climate, free trade, health care, immigration, foreign policy - the 45th US president has set about undoing just about everything done by the 44th. All new presidents, of course, break with their predecessor once in the Oval Office, especially if they come from a rival political party.

But what is striking is how systematic the hammer blows to Obama's legacy have been. And rather than throw his weight behind new policies or projects, Trump has shown a willful desire to unpick, shred and erase everything his predecessor accomplished. It's worth noting that each time he buries one of the reforms of the man who sat before him at the "Resolute desk," Trump sounds more like a candidate than a president.

'Ridiculous trade deals'

The Trans-Pacific Partnership? Within days of taking office, Trump signed an order pulling America out of the free trade accord, the fruit of eight years of negotiations between 12 Asia-Pacific countries, from Chile to Canada and Japan. "We're going to stop the ridiculous trade deals that have taken everybody out of our country and taken companies out of our country, and it's going to be reversed," Trump said. Paradoxically, in signing off on the project's demise, Trump was aligning himself more with the left wing of the Democratic party than with the Republican mainstream. The Paris climate accord? Obama played a leading role in attaining that milestone in the effort to combat global warming. Trump pulled out of the agreement signed by 195 countries, claiming that it "punishes the United States" and

declaring: "I was elected to represent the citizens of Pittsburgh, not Paris." What about Obamacare, the signature legislative achievement of Obama's first term? After trying in vain to get Congress to repeal it, Trump is now working to bring about its collapse through the regulatory process.

And the Iranian nuclear accord? The bid to prevent Tehran from developing a nuclear weapon in return for a lifting of sanctions more than any other bore came to repre-

A break at any price

How to explain the fixation on destroying Obama's legacy at all cost? Trump has held high his determination to fulfill his campaign promises, and give form to a simple slogan: "America First." And his team recalls, with reason, that Obama acted by decree many times when thwarted by Congress. What has been decided by the stroke of a pen can be undone by the stroke of a pen. Historian Jeffrey Engel, however, sees no equivalent in recent decades to Trump's systematic application of the simple principle that "if the other guy liked it, it must be bad."

To Engel, the explanation is that Trump's electoral base "never accepted fully Barack Obama as their president." "There was a move among Obama's opponents to delegitimize him and to say that this man is not really president and consequently anything that he did, Trump's base is ready to get rid of," said Engel, who heads Southern Methodist University's center for presidential history in Dallas, Texas.

A notable fact: Obama has until now remained largely silent as his legacy is demolished. American tradition, which is generally respected, holds that a former president should remain above the fray. But, in thinking about his place in history, Obama is also playing the patience card. "I think that Obama understands that his legacy ultimately will be defined by how America reacts to Trump in the long term and how Trump's successors act," said Engel. On Nov 7, 2016, on the eve of the US elections, Obama warned voters "it all goes out the window" if they were to send Trump to the White House. That attempt to rally Democratic voters now seems prophetic. — AP

Obama is playing the patience card

sent Obama's approach to world affairs. "This deal will have my name on it," the Democratic president said shortly before it was concluded. "Nobody has a bigger personal stake in making sure that it delivers on its promise." While Trump has stopped short of tearing up the Iran deal, as he threatened on the campaign trail, on Friday he warned he could do so "at any time," raising doubts about the fate of an accord born of years of painstaking diplomacy.

FEMA rejects \$1.2bn appeals over decade

As US communities ravaged by this year's series of intense hurricanes and wildfires clear debris and begin to rebuild, many are counting on the federal government to help cover their costs. They could be in for a frustrating surprise. If history is any guide, some local governments and nonprofit organizations could get less than they were told to expect from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Others could be asked years from now to repay some or all of the aid they received, if FEMA concludes the projects failed to comply with its voluminous requirements or decides it shouldn't have approved the payouts in the first place.

Over the past decade, FEMA's denials and reversals have caused uncertainty and anger in some communities, led to long rounds of appeals, strained local budgets, made it hard for some organizations to stay afloat, and occasionally delayed the rebuilding process. "My word of advice for everybody is document, document, document," warned a frustrated Mayor Orlando Lopez of Sweetwater, Florida. "Cross your t's, dot your i's and back up everything."

On Aug 15, FEMA denied an appeal from the Miami suburb and said it must repay \$2 million it received nearly two decades ago to repair storm damage because it failed to adequately document work done. Lopez called FEMA's actions "completely and utterly unfair." A few weeks after the denial, Sweetwater suffered a fresh round of damage from Hurricane Irma. For its part, FEMA is legally obligated to look out for the taxpayers' money and guard against misuse and fraud by local governments and organizations that overcharge the federal government or use emergency aid to undertake long-desired improvements they couldn't otherwise afford.

Christopher Logan, FEMA's public assistance director, said in the agency's

defense that major disasters can result in "extremely complex, technically complicated projects that span many, many years." But he said the agency has recently taken steps to reduce what he called misunderstandings. An analysis by AP found that over the past decade, FEMA headquarters has denied appeals for at least \$1.2 billion sought by local governments and nonprofit groups to protect or rebuild communities hit by hurricanes, floods, fires, earthquakes, tornadoes or other major disasters.

The AP reviewed more than 900 final appeal rulings. In one-third of those cases, FEMA granted some or all of the requested funding, totaling about \$250 million. Two-thirds of the appeals were rejected, probably totaling well more than the \$1.2 billion tallied by the AP because the amounts denied were unclear in FEMA's online records for more than 100 cases. The money at stake in those cases was just a tiny fraction of the tens of billions of dollars FEMA paid out during that period. Yet the disputes may offer a glimpse of some of the challenges communities struck by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria and Nate could face in the years and even decades ahead.

The AP's review found that FEMA has argued with local governments and nonprofits - and faced disagreements within its own ranks - over hundreds of matters big and small: whether buildings should be repaired or replaced; whether certain damage was caused by a disaster or by pre-existing problems; even whether tree stumps were the proper size to qualify for removal using federal aid.

Among the appeals squelched by FEMA: Florida's attempt to get \$51 million it claimed to have lost by waiving tolls for motorists evacuating from eight hurricanes in 2004 and 2005. FEMA's final decisions sometimes come long after a disaster has struck, and even well after the money has been spent. The agency also has repeatedly



In this Nov 13, 2013 file photo, local woman Karen Zupko (third from left) talks with volunteer Devin Burke of Minneapolis amid the debris of Zupko's home, two months following September's destructive flood, in Jamestown, Colorado. — AP

rejected funding requests based on the applicant's failure to appeal within the required 60 days - even though FEMA acknowledges that it routinely exceeds its own 90-day legal deadline to rule on appeals.

FEMA's Logan said the agency recently overhauled its disaster operations to provide each applicant with a single contact person and more information about the potential pitfalls in seeking federal aid. The goal, he said, "is to help them understand what we can pay for and what we can't pay for - so that we set the expectations up front so we don't have those kind of misunderstandings."

FEMA officials acknowledge the agency has done a poor job of resolving appeals quickly. In 2014, just 6 percent of appeals to FEMA headquarters were decided within the law's 90-day requirement. That is up to 26 percent this year, agency officials said. Hurricane Katrina alone accounted for one out of every seven appeals over the past decade. The storm illustrates how FEMA's rulings can occasionally be financially dev-

astating to groups and individuals and have long-lasting effects on communities.

"FEMA dropped us like a hot potato," said Dimitre Blutcher of Harvey, Louisiana, former executive director of N'R Peace, a nonprofit organization that helps people with HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases get medical treatment. Her group's HIV clinic and main office were devastated by flooding and winds from Katrina in 2005. Days after the storm, she said, FEMA asked her to continue providing services to clients. FEMA paid the group \$105,600 for its work, which included the long process of reconstructing clients' files after the paper records were destroyed.

Blutcher said FEMA and state officials led her to believe the clinic would qualify for additional money, so she took out a bank loan and line of credit while awaiting reimbursement for her costs, which grew to \$280,000. But FEMA reversed course in 2011, saying it would not provide any more reimbursement and ordering the group to repay the initial \$105,600, too. — AP



Illuminated pumpkins are on display during the Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze at Van Cortlandt Manor in Croton-on-Hudson, New York, on Saturday. The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze is for 45 evenings, including Halloween night and features over 7,000 hand-carved, illuminated pumpkins set against the mysterious backdrop of Van Cortlandt Manor's 18th-century buildings and riverside landscape. — AFP

231 killed in deadliest single...

Continued from Page 1

"I am appealing all Somali people to come forward and donate," he said. Mogadishu, a city long accustomed to deadly bombings by Al-Shabab, was stunned by the force of Saturday's blast. The explosion shattered hopes of recovery in an impoverished country left fragile by decades of conflict, and it again raised doubts over the government's ability to secure the seaside city of more than 2 million people. "They don't care about the lives of Somali people, mothers, fathers and children," Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire said of the attackers. "They have targeted the most populated area in Mogadishu, killing only civilians."

Rescue workers searched for survivors trapped under the rubble of the largely destroyed Safari Hotel, which is close to Somalia's foreign ministry. The explosion blew off metal gates and blast walls erected outside the hotel.

The United States condemned the bombing, saying "such cowardly attacks reinvigorate the commitment of the United States to assist our Somali and African Union partners to combat the scourge of terrorism." It tweeted a photo of its charge d'affaires in Somalia donating blood. But the US

Africa Command said US forces had not been asked to provide aid. A spokesman told AP that first responders and local enforcement would handle the response and "the US would offer assistance if and when a request was made."

The US military has stepped up drone strikes and other efforts this year against al-Shabab, which is also fighting the Somali military and over 20,000 African Union forces in the country. The United Nations special envoy to Somalia called the attack "revolting", saying an unprecedented number of civilians had been killed. Michael Keating said the UN and African Union were supporting the Somali government's response with "logistical support, medical supplies and expertise."

The spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres strongly condemned the attack and urged all Somalis to unite against extremism and work together to build a "functional" federal state. Saturday's blast occurred two days after the head of the US Africa Command was in Mogadishu to meet with Somalia's president, and two days after the country's defense minister and army chief resigned for undisclosed reasons.

Amid the chaos, the stories of victims began to emerge. Amino Ahmed said one of her friends, a female medical student, was killed on the eve of her graduation. The explosion also killed a couple returning from a hospital after having their first child, said Dahir Amin Jesow, a Somali lawmaker. "It's a dark day for us," he said. —AP

Experts: Therapy unlikely to help...

Continued from Page 1

In his speech during opening the 3rd Kuwait Oil and Gas Show and Conference (KOGS 2017), Marzouq said the share of renewable energy sources, including wind, photovoltaic panels, and geothermal and solar power, will rise in energy mix from one percent in 2015 to five percent by 2040. The portion of nuclear power is expected to rise from five percent in 2015 to six percent by 2040, he told reporters.

He pointed out that the fossil fuels, including gas, coal and oil, will remain a key source to meet 75 percent of the future energy demand by 2040 compared with 81 percent in 2015. Despite forecasts of the continued dominance of oil in the future of energy, challenges remain major, mainly in light of the weakness of crude oil prices, he said. This prompted many governments of oil-producing countries to carry out eco-

nomical and financial reforms, diversify sources of income amid high competition and increase the efficiency of using energy through applying advanced technology, Marzouq indicated.

The minister noted that Kuwait is continuing its plan to implement vital oil projects in accordance with the 2040 strategy without being affected by the oil prices. The projects include the exploration of crude oil and gas, and refining them, in addition to the expansion of petrochemical products. He stressed that such projects will enhance environmental performance and safety in oil refineries, and provide new jobs as well as support the country's economic growth.

For this purpose, several joint initiatives and workshops were launched to carry out the local strategic program through partnerships with the private sector, he said. He referred that a framework has been prepared to boost cooperation amongst oil companies, governmental bodies and the private sector's companies to determine services and industries needed by the oil sector in the coming years, and develop a mechanism to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and modern technologies from the oil sector and international companies to the private sector. — Agencies

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Sports

Sam Allardyce rules out Scotland job

LONDON: Former England manager Sam Allardyce has ruled himself out of contention to be the new Scotland coach. Allardyce was one of the bookmakers' favourites for the role after Gordon Strachan was dismissed on Thursday following Scotland's failure to qualify for the World Cup. Although Allardyce is out of work after leaving Crystal Palace at the end of last season, he isn't interested in a return to international football. The former West Ham boss, who has Scottish ancestry, was axed by England after only one game in charge when he was caught in a newspaper sting last year. "My parents and sister were all born in Scotland, I have heritage from there, there's no doubt about that," Allardyce told BBC 5 Live's Sportsweek on Sunday. Asked if the job interested him, he added: "Not at this moment in time because I'm enjoying not being involved at the front end of football at the moment. "I think David Moyes would probably be my choice for that one. —AFP



Dovizioso wins MotoGP Grand Prix of Japan

MOTEGI: Ducati rider Andrea Dovizioso edged championship leader Marc Marquez to win the MotoGP Grand Prix of Japan yesterday. Dovizioso moved ahead of Marquez on the final lap and clocked a time of 47 minutes, 14.236 seconds at the Twin Ring Motegi circuit to beat the Repsol Honda rider by 0.249 seconds. Ducati rider Danilo Petrucci was third, 10.557 seconds off the pace. With three races left, Marquez leads Dovizioso by 11 points in the overall season standings. "I knew that anything could happen," Dovizioso said. "It was so exciting to be in this race, to fight with Marc always is, and it was important for the championship." Suzuki riders Andrea Iannone and Alex Rins were fourth and fifth, respectively. Jorge Lorenzo was sixth on his Ducati, ahead of Aprilia rider Aleix Espargaro in seventh and pole sitter Johann Zarco on a Yamaha. Yamaha rider Maverick Vinales and Ducati rider Loris Baz rounded out the top 10. The next race is on Oct 22 at Phillip Island, Australia. — AP

Warner gearing up for Ashes battle with England

SYDNEY: Australia opener David Warner has fired a salvo ahead of the Ashes against England, likening the series to a "war" and saying the hosts would work up some "hatred" for their opponents to get in the right frame of mind. Warner also said he did not regret comments he made during the first Ashes test at the Gabba in 2013 about England having "scared eyes", adding that he fully expected more words to be exchanged during the coming series. "As soon as you step on that line it's war," Warner said on ABC Grandstand. "You try and get into a battle as quick as you can. I try and look in the opposition's eyes and try and work out 'how can I dislike this player, how can I get on top of him?' "You have to delve and dig deep into yourself to actually get some hatred about them to actually get up when you're out there. History is a big part in this and that is what carries us onto the ground." The five-test series starts in Brisbane on Nov. 23 and Warner said the battle would begin in earnest on day one of the first encounter at the Gabba. —Reuters



Flyers rout Capitals, win home opener, Crosby leads Penguins past Panthers

Semyon Varlamov made 33 saves for Avalanche

PHILADELPHIA: Claude Giroux, Scott Laughton and Sean Couturier each scored two goals to lead the Philadelphia Flyers to an 8-2 victory over the Washington Capitals on Saturday night. Wayne Simmonds, Claude Giroux and Valtteri Filppula also scored for Philadelphia in its home opener. The Flyers won a home opener for the 28th time in 50 games. Brian Elliott rebounded from a dismal six-goal outing against Nashville to stop 21 shots and win for the third time this season. NHL leading scorer Alex Ovechkin failed to record a goal or assist for just the second time in six games. He failed to score a goal in last year's season series against the Flyers for the first time in 12 seasons. Jakub Vrana and Nicklas Backstrom scored for Washington.

PENGUINS 4, PANTHERS 3

Sidney Crosby scored two goals for Pittsburgh, including a bad-angle deflection in the third period. Patric Hornqvist and Greg McKegg also scored for the Penguins, who are 8-0-2 in their last 10 games against the Panthers - their longest stretch without a regulation loss in the history of the series. Matt Murray stopped 43 shots. Jonathan Huberdeau scored twice and Aaron Ekblad also had a goal for Florida. Evgeni Dadonov added two assists, and James Reimer made 29 saves in his second start of the season.

BLACKHAWKS 2, PREDATORS 1, OT

Brandon Saad scored his sixth goal 3:05 into overtime, and the Blackhawks beat the Predators in their first meeting since last year's playoffs. Saad beat Pekka Rinne with a one-timer from the left edge of the crease after taking a pinpoint cross-ice pass from Patrick Kane. Corey Crawford made 37 saves for Chicago, which wasted six power-play chances. The Blackhawks were swept by the Predators in the first round of the postseason last April. Patrick Sharp scored with 5:36 left in the third period, spoiling Rinne's shutout bid and sending it to overtime. Filip Forsberg scored a power-play goal late in the second period for Nashville. It was his fifth goal in five games.

STARS 3, AVALANCHE 1

Tyler Seguin and Jamie Benn each had a goal and an assist in the second period, powering the Stars to the victory. Ben Bishop made 21 saves and allowed only a third-period goal by Matt Duchene. Bishop has been in goal for both Dallas victories this season. Esa Lindell added an empty-net goal with 39 seconds remaining. Devin Shore had two assists. Semyon Varlamov made 33 saves for the Avalanche.

BLUE JACKETS 5, WILD 4, OT

Alexander Wennberg scored 47 seconds into overtime, and the Blue Jackets rallied from a two-goal deficit. Zach Werenski, David Savard, Cam Atkinson and Josh Anderson also scored for the Blue Jackets, winners of three straight. Tyler Ennis scored two power-play goals for Minnesota, which got 30 saves from Devan Dubnyk. Eric Staal and Landon Ferraro also scored.

MAPLE LEAFS 4, CANADIENS 3

Auston Matthews scored his second goal of the game 48 seconds into overtime, sending Toronto to the victory. Matthews finished a 2-on-1 with William Nylander, beating Carey Price from the left circle for his fifth goal in five games. James van Riemsdyk and Patrick Marleau also scored for Toronto, which ended a 14-game winless run against Montreal dating to January 2014. Jeff Petry, Alex Galchenyuk and Jonathan Drouin scored for the Canadiens.

BRUINS 6, COYOTES 2

Zdeno Chara had a goal and two assists. Anton Khudobin stopped 29 shots in his first start of the season and the Bruins kept the Coyotes winless. Boston fell behind late in the first period, quickly erased that deficit, and then raced away from the Coyotes with three second-period goals to extend its winning streak to 11 straight games against Arizona, including seven consecutive in the desert. Tim Schaller and Anders Bjork each scored late in the third period after Arizona cut the lead to 4-2. Mario Kempe scored his first career NHL goal for Arizona and Oliver Ekman-Larsson got his 41st career power-play goal, most ever by a Coyotes defenseman.

DEVILS 3, RANGERS 2

Drew Stafford scored early in the third period and Keith Kinkaid stopped 29 shots in his season debut, leading New Jersey to the victory. Adam Henrique and Miles Wood scored in the second for the Devils, who bounced back one night after their first loss of the season and improved to 4-1-0. Rick Nash and Kevin Shattenkirk scored for the Rangers, and Ondrej Pavelec had 16 saves in his first start since signing with New York in the offseason. The Rangers dropped to 1-5-0 for the first time since 1980.

LIGHTNING 2, BLUES 1

Nikita Kucherov became the first Tampa Bay player to score in each of the first five games of a season. Tyler Johnson also scored for the Lightning, who have won four of five. Andrei Vasilevski made 28 saves. Vladimir



CHICAGO: Ryan Hartman #38 of the Chicago Blackhawks breaks up the ice as Sam Girard #94 of the Nashville Predators falls behind him at the United Center on Saturday in Chicago, Illinois. — AFP

Tarasenko got his fourth goal and Jake Allen stopped 25 shots for St. Louis, which has lost two in a row following a season-opening four-game winning streak. Kucherov made it 2-0 with a backhand at 6:27 of the third.

JETS 2, HURRICANES 1

Nikolaj Ehlers scored his team-leading fifth goal, sending Winnipeg to the victory. Ehlers took a feed from captain Blake Wheeler and wired a shot from the high slot over the stick-side shoulder of Scott Darling 6:03 into the third. Winnipeg won its third straight after an 0-2 start. Bryan Little also scored for the Jets, and Connor Hellebuyck stopped 28 shots. Jeff Skinner had a power-play goal for Carolina. Darling, making his first road start as the Hurricanes' No. 1 goalie, made 19 saves.

KINGS 4, SABRES 2

Drew Doughty scored the tiebreaking goal on a power play with two minutes left for Los Angeles. Doughty and Tyler Toffoli had a goal and an assist apiece for the Kings, off to a 3-0-1 start under new coach John Stevens. Dustin Brown scored his fourth goal in four games and Jonathan Quick made 23 saves in another grinding victory for the Kings. Tanner Pearson added an empty-net goal. Jack Eichel had a goal and an assist for the Sabres, who dropped to 0-4-1 under new coach Phil Housley.

SENATORS 6, OILERS 1

Mike Hoffman had two goals and an assist as Ottawa routed Edmonton to sweep a three-game road trip through Western Canada. Derick Brassard, Zack Smith, Chris Wideman and Kyle Turris also scored for the Senators, who have won three straight. Adam Larsson had the goal for the Oilers (1-3-0), who have dropped three in a row.

ISLANDERS 3, SHARKS 1

Thomas Greiss stopped 40 shots. Brock Nelson scored a tiebreaking goal in the second period and New York rallied to beat slumping San Jose. The Sharks are 1-3 on their season-opening five-game homestand. Anders Lee and Cal Clutterbuck also scored for New York. Kevin Lebac had a power-play goal for San Jose, and Aaron Dell stopped 20 shots.

FLAMES 5, CANUCKS 2

Dougie Hamilton had two goals and an assist, and Jaromir Jagr recorded his first point for Calgary. Mark Giordano, Johnny Gaudreau and Travis Hamonic provided the rest of the offense for Calgary, which got 27 saves from Mike Smith. Derek Dorsett and Brock Boeser replied for Vancouver, while Jacob Markstrom stopped 22 shots. — AP



Ovechkin failed to record a goal

and Keith Kinkaid stopped 29 shots in his season debut, leading New Jersey to the victory. Adam Henrique and Miles Wood scored in the second for the Devils, who bounced back one night after their first loss of the season and improved to 4-1-0. Rick Nash and Kevin Shattenkirk scored for the Rangers, and Ondrej Pavelec had 16 saves in his first start since signing with New York in the offseason. The Rangers dropped to 1-5-0 for the first time since 1980.

Ko, star of the show in LPGA's Korean showdown

INCHEON: Ko Jin-young held off the challenge of world number two Park Sung-hyun and double major champion Chun In-gee to capture the LPGA's KEB Hana Bank Championship title and earn herself a golden ticket to the lucrative US women's tour.

Two shots clear overnight, Ko shot a four-under-par 68 on Sunday to finish on a combined 19-under, two strokes ahead of Park and three clear of Chun, her two Korean playing partners in a dream final grouping for tournament organisers. Ko currently plays on the domestic Korean Tour but the quality of her play over four days at SKY72 Golf and Resort in Incheon, west of Seoul, suggests the 22-year-old will have no trouble adapting to life on the elite U.S. LPGA Tour if she chooses to accept the place her victory brings.

"This victory means so much to me," Ko told reporters. "I was playing against exceptional players that rank much higher than me on the global ranking. So I was able to watch and learn a lot today as well. "I was quite flustered after I made those two bogeys on the front nine. Today I really realized once again that with golf you have to stick until the end to know."

Ko said she would need some time to think about whether she will make the switch to the United States. "I haven't really given it much thought because I hadn't imagined I would be



INCHEON: Jin Young Ko of South Korea dances with her trophy as she celebrates her victory of the LPGA KEB HanaBank Championship golf tournament. — AP

given the opportunity," she said.

"There is another major event in the KPGA that starts next week, so my mind was more on that," Park, who could have supplanted Ryu So-yeon as world number one had she won the \$2 million tournament, picked up four strokes through 11 holes to storm into the lead as Ko started poorly, dropping shots at the second and third. But Ko was flawless the rest of the way and a stretch of three consecutive birdies from the seventh put her back in the driving seat, and while she held her nerve over the closing nine it was Park who faltered, three-putt bogeys on 14 and 16 sealing her fate.

"Obviously Jin-young was outstanding

today," said a disappointed Park, who looks certain to win the LPGA Rookie of the Year award and leads the official money standings. Becoming world number one is still very much a possibility for the 24-year-old, who left Korea to join the US Tour at the end of last season and bagged her first major at the US Women's Open in July. "I think that's the type of goal you continue to work hard to reach," she said. "There are events left, so I'll just give it my best shot." Current world number one Ryu finished with a two-under 70 to end tied for eighth on 10-under, alongside defending champion Carlota Ciganda (72), Brooke Henderson (72) and Angel Yin (73). — Reuters

WWE signs first woman wrestler from Arab world

DUBAI: World Wrestling Entertainment Inc. signed its first female performer from the Arab world yesterday, smashing cultural taboos as the US-based pageant seeks to pildecrive its way into lucrative foreign markets. Shadia Bseiso, a Jordanian versed in jiu-jitsu, dreams of encouraging more Arab women to take up sports - and of one day maybe even crashing a metal chair over WWE mega-star John Cena. "Female athletes are finally getting the credit they deserve. The world is more open to that, and in terms of how the region will react to it, I'm hoping its going to be very positive," said Bseiso.

While women exercising in public is rare in the Arab world and the local entertainment industry often relegates them to docile roles, big companies such as Nike have stepped up advertising geared towards female athletes. Still, the high octane physicality and outrageous storylines of professional wrestling remain a novelty in the region.

Speaking to Reuters in the WWE's Dubai office, Bseiso said she made sure to tell her parents about her colourful career choice in person. After announcing she would join the ranks of the WWE, they paused in disbelief for a moment, she said, worried for her safety in the often bruising

shows. They support her fully, she added, as she now heads to the company's Orlando, Florida, training centre for grueling in-ring training and what WWE calls "character development" - transformation into one of their trademark big personalities. She has a Jordan-themed persona in mind, she says, declining to elaborate. For decades a quintessential if curious emblem of Americana, professional wrestling has now won die-hard fans in the Arab world and beyond, and features widely in apparel and toys. WWE's reach deeper into new demographics makes plenty of business sense for the \$1.5 billion Connecticut company, which has also recently signed several Indian and Chinese athletes in the hope of snaring millions of potential new devotees.

"Recruiting Shadia to join our developmental system underscores WWE's ongoing commitment to building a talent roster as diverse as our fan base," said Paul "Triple H" Levesque, WWE Executive Vice President and himself a popular wrestler. Bseiso insists the quirky genre has room to expand if only fans could find a hero from home. "As it is, the WWE's incredibly popular in the Middle East, but I think having athletes from the region who grew up here - it will change things. You finally have someone to root for." — Reuters

Sports

Suarez scores late as Barcelona draw with Atletico Madrid 1-1

Real Sociedad ends five-game winless streak by beating Alaves

MADRID: Atletico Madrid was able to contain Lionel Messi and yet still couldn't top Barcelona in the Spanish league on Saturday. Atletico was a few minutes away from ending a seven-year winless streak against Barcelona in the league until Luis Suarez produced an 82nd-minute equalizer for 1-1.

Suarez had been ineffective at Wanda Metropolitano Stadium before his late header that extended Barcelona's unbeaten streak against Atletico to 15 league matches. Atletico did a decent job stopping Messi after his starring role to put Argentina in the World Cup. He has 14 goals in 12 matches with Barcelona but was unable to score at the Metropolitano. His best chance was a second-half free kick that hit the post. The playmaker, coming off a long trip from Ecuador for Argentina's qualifier, had 27 goals in 34 matches against Atletico in all competitions. "He certainly wasn't as tired as most people thought he would be because he played a tremendous match," Atletico coach Diego Simeone said of Messi. "We defended well, just couldn't put the game away on the counterattacks."

The result ended Barcelona's perfect league record and cut the club's lead to five points over Real Madrid, which defeated Getafe 2-1 with a late winner by Cristiano Ronaldo. Atletico stayed in third place, six points behind Barcelona, which won its first seven league matches. Sevilla dropped to fourth place, also six points off the lead, after losing at Athletic Bilbao 1-0.

“Good job from all the team in a complicated game”

BLOWN LEAD

Barcelona, which had outscored opponents 23-2, controlled possession but it was Atletico which was able to create the most significant opportunities. Antoine Griezmann had two clear chances denied by Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre Stegen early.

Saul Niguez gave the hosts the lead with a well-placed shot from outside the area in the first half. Suarez jumped between Atletico defenders to head in a cross by substitute Sergi Roberto. "Good job from all the team in a complicated game," Suarez said.

Two weeks after playing behind closed doors to protest the Spanish government's moves to halt Catalonia's independence referendum, Barcelona was met with Spanish flags, and outspoken defender Gerard Pique was loudly jeered by the local fans.

WINNING AGAIN

Athletic edged Sevilla in Bilbao to snap a six-game winless streak in all competitions. Mikel Vesga scored the winner just before half-time at San Mames Stadium, where Sevilla lost for an eighth straight time.

RECOVERING REAL SOCIEDAD

Real Sociedad ended its five-game winless streak by beating Alaves with goals by Mikel Oyarzabal in the 77th and Aritz Elustondo in the 81st. Alaves, second-to-last in the standings, was coming off its first win of the season at Levante.— AP



MADRID: Barcelona's Andres Iniesta, centre, battles for the ball with Atletico Madrid's Juanfran, left, and Angel Correa during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Atletico Madrid and Barcelona. — AP

Arsene Wenger rues Arsenal panic after penalty dispute

WATFORD: Arsene Wenger believes a "scandalous" penalty was the main reason why his Arsenal side ended up losing 2-1 at Watford on Saturday. The result lifted Marco Silva's Hornets into fourth place in the Premier League on a day when Manchester United, Liverpool and Chelsea also all dropped points.

Arsenal led at half-time through a rare goal from Per Mertesacker, the Germany defender, but the game changed in the second half when Mesut Ozil failed to convert a simple chance to double the lead.

Within a minute Hector Bellerin was adjudged to have impeded Richarlison at the other end for a penalty that the Arsenal manager was convinced was the result of a dive to deceive referee Neil Swarbrick. Measures are in place this season for the authorities to punish simulation retrospectively and it will be interesting to see if action is taken against the Brazilian.

"It's a scandalous decision but what can we do? Nothing," Wenger complained. "I believe that we had many many danger situations where we could have scored but didn't. We were unlucky with the penalty it was a bit ridiculous. Then we panicked. And we stand there with defeat. We dropped the level a bit in the second half. We lost our fluency a little. We had the chances to score two and three."

Richarlison could be handed a two-match ban if found guilty of diving, a decision that would be made by a three-man panel consisting of a former match official, a former manager and an ex-player, and would have to be unanimous.

'DIVING AND DECEIVING'

Former Premier League referee Graham Poll certainly felt there was a case to answer. "It is as clear an example of diving as you can see," he said. "I wouldn't blame Swarbrick. I would blame Richarlison for diving and deceiving." The penalty was converted by Troy Deeney, a Watford substitute, and set the platform for midfielder Tom Cleverley to win the game deep into added time. Deeney was convinced Swarbrick had got the controversial penalty call correct. "I know Hector, he's a good lad but that's a penalty and the other way round he'd be screaming for a penalty," he said.

The season may only be eight league games old but there is no denying that Watford have made a fine start under new manager Silva, apart from a 6-0 home loss to Manchester City last month.—AFP

PSG wins 2-1 away to Dijon to move 6 points clear in Ligue 1

PARIS: On a frustrating day for the world's two most expensive players, and with the club's top scorer rested, it was unheralded defender Thomas Meunier who got Paris Saint-Germain's goals in a 2-1 win at Dijon on Saturday.

Neymar and Kylian Mbappe cost PSG a combined 402 million euros (\$478 million) when they joined in the off-season. They had an off day, although Mbappe made some amends by setting up Meunier's winner in the second minute of injury time.

It was the attack-minded right back's fourth goal in four games, including one for Belgium last weekend in a World Cup qualifier. "I always try and follow things up, that's my style," Meunier said. "I love bringing something to the attack." The win moved French league leader PSG six points clear of defending champion Monaco, which lost at Lyon 3-2 on Friday.

INJURY-TIME DRAMA

PSG was without Edinson Cavani - left out after playing for Uruguay in World Cup qualifying this week - but carved out enough chances to win easily. PSG was coasting to victory until the 87th minute, when Dijon launched a hopeful ball up the field, forcing PSG center half Marquinhos to hack clear. The looping ball fell to forward Benjamin Jeannot some 35 yards out and he hit a tremendous left-footed volley over the head of goalkeeper Alphonse Areola.

Then Mbappe's cross fell to Meunier on the edge of the



PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain's Belgian defender Thomas Meunier (C) celebrates scoring a goal with Paris Saint-Germain's French forward Kylian Mbappe during the French L1 football match between Dijon (DFCO) and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG). — AFP

area, and his low shot squeezed through the legs of defender Oussama Haddadi and over the line. "We fought hard the whole game and showed that we could stand up to PSG," Dijon goalkeeper Baptiste Reynet said. "We got back into the game in an incredible way, so it's a pity to concede that goal the way we did. We lost a bit of concentration."

Dijon played with a high energy and harried PSG all over the pitch, forcing mistakes. PSG's frustration showed when Neymar was shown a yellow card for a cheap foul on Dijon defender Cedric Varrault. Reynet made a stunning reflex save to push away Mbappe's low volley and saved again moments later from Neymar's strike, but could not recover in time to stop Meunier's

low shot slipping under his body in the 70th.

OTHER MATCHES

Saint-Etienne scored three late goals to beat Metz 3-1 and move up to third place, while Caen dropped down to eighth spot after losing 2-0 at home to Angers. Guingamp moved up to ninth with a 2-0 home win over Rennes, but Lille's struggles continued as it conceded an injury-time goal in a 2-2 home draw with Troyes. Striker Andy Delort's first-half goal sealed mid-table Toulouse a 1-0 home win against Amiens.

In other games, Marseille looks for a fourth straight league win when it travels to Strasbourg; Bordeaux faces Nantes and Montpellier takes on Nice. — AP

Lara, Charlo, Hurd defend titles, Charlo with 1st-round KO

NEW YORK: All three champions defended their titles Saturday night in different fashions. The highlight was Jermell Charlo's first-round knockout of Erickson Lubin. Or maybe it was Jarrett Hurd's action-packed win over Austin Trout. It certainly wasn't Erislandy Lara's unanimous decision over Terrell Gausha.

Lara schooled Gausha for most of their 12-round WBA welterweight title fight, outpointing the 2012 US Olympian to close out the triple-championship card. The feature was hardly that, a display of imprecise punching and pawing. Lara, a native of Cuba now nicknamed "the American Dream" and fighting out of Houston, knocked down Gausha in the fourth round with a right-left combination, but by the ninth, many of those remaining in an announced crowd of 7,643 were chanting "This is boring!"

The previous two bouts were anything but. Charlo stunned Lubin with a sharp, short right to the chin and knocked out the challenger 2:41 into their WBC super welterweight title fight. Hurd overcame a cut to his left eye to stop a game Trout in 10 rounds in their IBF junior-middleweight championship fight.

Charlo's first good punch of the bout was enough for the win. Lubin, who was in a crouch when hit, took the shot directly on his chin. One of the rising stars of box-



NEW YORK: Terrell Gausha and Erislandy Lara exchange punches during their WBA Junior Middleweight Title bout at Barclays Center of Brooklyn. — AFP

ing, he was immediately counted out as his left leg twitched while he was on the canvas.

Charlo scored his 15th knockout in his 30th fight and second defense. His twin brother, Jarmell, also has been a world champ. "They were giving him a lot of attention. I was quiet the whole time," Charlo said. "They said they were going to come take my title. I had to defend it." "They didn't know what I was bringing into this and I think (Lubin) was worried about the wrong things." Lubin took his first loss after 18 wins. He left the ring under his own power, his night over in quick fashion.

"I'm fine," Lubin said. "He caught me with a blind shot. I didn't see it coming. He landed it. I felt like when I got up I could have kept fighting, but it's boxing. It happens." Hurd and Trout were set to go to the hospital

after their fight. But Hurd was cleared by doctors at the Barclays Center.

Hurd had the eye looked at by ring doctors several times. But it was Trout's right eye that was pretty much closed by the end of the 10th, and the action-filled fight was stopped before the 11th began. Nicknamed "Swift," Hurd wasn't all that quick for much of the bout, but he took charge midway through - despite the blood flowing down the left side of his face and by his left ear. Trout carried much of the early rounds, but he didn't have the punching power to do enough damage to the champion.

Hurd is 21-0 with 15 knockouts, while Trout, a former champion, is 30-4. It was the first time he has been stopped in a fight. — AP



Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE	
Leicester City v West Bromwich Albion	22:00
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
SPANISH LEAGUE	
Las Palmas v Celta de Vigo	22:00
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
ITALIAN LEAGUE	
Hellas Verona v Benevento	21:45
beIN SPORTS HD 4	

Sports

Federer beats Nadal to win Shanghai, extends winning streak to four matches

Showdown between two best players on the planet

SHANGHAI: Roger Federer got one over his old rival Rafael Nadal to win the Shanghai Masters 6-4, 6-3 yesterday in a showdown between the two best players on the planet. Federer extended his winning streak over Rafael Nadal this year to four matches after beating the top-ranked Spaniard.

It was a 94th title for the Swiss legend, drawing him level with the great Ivan Lendl, and a fifth victory in a row against world number one Nadal. Nadal, who admitted afterwards that he had been beaten by the better man on the night, was ahead in their overall record going into the clash — 23 wins to Federer's 14.

But this time he was up against it almost right away. Number two Federer put the Spaniard under the cosh in breaking him in the first game-to roars of approval from the majority inside the arena. Another break to 36-year-old Federer in the pivotal fifth game of the second set put him in reach of a second Shanghai Masters crown—and a sixth title in 2017. “We didn't think maybe we were going to have the year we did, I definitely didn't,” Federer said on court afterwards, looking at Nadal, reflecting on their continued success even at this late stage of their careers. “It's nice to share this court with you today and I hope there are more to come in the tournaments we've got left.”

“It's been a pleasure playing against you here today,” Federer, fondly known as “Cow” in China for his laid-back personality, had started the better in grabbing the break and he then rattled through his own service game for 2-0.

Federer, a 19-time Grand Slam champion, was in full flow under the Qizhong Tennis Center roof, which was closed because of downpours in Shanghai. Nadal, 31, fresh from winning the US Open and China Open, groaned while lashing many of his shots; Federer was all quiet efficiency. Somewhere in the stadium somebody

rattled a cow bell. Federer made it 4-2 with two booming aces in a row, drawing huge cheers from much of the stadium.

In contrast, Nadal—a 16-time Grand Slam winner but who had never won the Shanghai Masters—was labouring through his service games.

'EMOTIONAL YEAR'

There were suggestions that Federer might not be quite as fresh as his old foe, having been pushed to three sets a day earlier in the second semi-final against Juan Martin del Potro. The timeless Federer rubbished that notion as he sealed his way to a 5-3 first-set lead.

Nadal sent down his fourth ace for 5-4, only for Federer to seal the set with his seventh ace of the match. There was little between the great rivals in the early exchanges of the second set until the fifth game.

Nadal saved the first break point but could not survive the second one to put Federer in reach of the title.

Nadal, for whom defeat sees Federer close the gap at the top of the world rankings as the year approaches its climax, has nevertheless enjoyed a remarkable season of his own.

His triumph in Beijing last weekend was also his sixth of the year as he continues to defy doubts about his fitness following repeated injury. The Spaniard called it “an emotional year”. “I could maybe have done some things better,” said Nadal. “Of course was not the best match of the week for me... but when someone plays better than you in most of the things that really matter in this sport, then it's tough.”

He declined to say if he had been hampered by a problem with his right knee, which had a bandage on it during the match. “I don't want to talk about that now, sorry,” Nadal said. “After losing a final it's not the moment.” — AFP

“ I could maybe have done some things better ”



SHANGHAI: Roger Federer of Switzerland, left, holding the winner's trophy and Rafael Nadal of Spain with his trophy after the award ceremony for the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament. — AFP

Sharapova fights to first title since drugs ban

TIANJIN: Five-time Grand Slam winner Maria Sharapova was made to fight by 102nd-ranked teenager Aryna Sabalenka at the Tianjin Open yesterday before winning her first title since her 15-month doping ban. The former world number one, who returned to action in April, came from behind in both sets and needed four championship points in the tie-breaker before beating the 19-year-old 7-5, 7-6 (10/8).

Sharapova clasped her hands to her chest in delight as she absorbed the feeling of winning her 36th tour title and first in more than two years since the 2015 Italian Open. Sharapova, 30, was contesting the seventh tournament of what has been an injury-plagued and controversial comeback since testing positive for the banned substance meldonium in early 2016.

She exchanged 11 breaks of serve with the Belarusian, who has yet to win a WTA trophy, before

finally clinching it in the tie-breaker when the teenager put a forehand return long. In a tight final of high-decibel shrieking, Sabalenka was broken in the opening game but any expectations that she would roll over quickly dissolved when she won four games in a row to go 4-1 up. Sharapova's coach Sven Groeneveld urged her to use the body serve, and momentum immediately shifted as she held the next game and then edged a nine-minute game seven to wrestle it back on serve. Sabalenka angrily slammed her racket down as she double-faulted to be broken for a third time and with Sharapova serving at 6-5, the Belarusian overcooked a forehand to hand over the set.

The second set followed a similar pattern and Sabalenka was 5-1 up before Sharapova reeled her in, breaking three times—and saving a set point along the way—before serving for the match at 6-5.

But a double fault from the Russian took it to a closely contested tie-break, where Sharapova held championship points four times before finally sealing it after two hours and five minutes. Sharapova, whose ranking has dropped to 86, has been playing on wildcards this season. Her return has proved divisive, with some rivals insisting she shouldn't be back on tour at all. She now heads to next week's Kremlin Cup in Moscow for the first time since 2007, after also being given a wildcard to play in what is her home tournament. — AFP



TIANJIN: Maria Sharapova of Russia holds her trophy after winning her women's singles final match. — AFP

Rooney rides to Everton's rescue

LONDON: Wayne Rooney came to Ronald Koeman's rescue as the Everton striker's last-gasp penalty salvaged a 1-1 draw at Brighton and Hove Albion yesterday. Everton boss Koeman was on the brink of another damaging defeat after Anthony Knockaert put Brighton ahead eight minutes from full-time at the Amex Stadium.

But Brighton captain Bruno was penalised for fouling Dominic Calvert-Lewin in stoppage-time and Rooney stepped up to score the crucial equaliser. “We are in a difficult situation but it's one thing to come out of this and show fight like we did today,” Koeman said.

“At least we got one point, a point well deserved. We were mostly the better team. “My whole football life is pressure, if I don't get pressure from outside I put pressure on myself.” While Koeman will be relieved to avoid a fifth defeat in Everton's last six Premier League games, the Toffees once again looked poor for long periods and remain without an away win since January.

The under-fire Dutchman tried to solve Everton's goalscoring problems by restoring Rooney to the attack, but until the penalty the former England captain hardly had a sniff of goal. With the fixture being televised live in India—but strangely not in England—the Asian audience had little to enjoy from a scrappy encounter until the final 10 minutes.

Having soaked up Everton's early pressure, Brighton became more adventurous and only a brave goal-line clearance from Michael Keane denied Lewis Dunk from six yards out. In the second half, Everton right-back Mason Holgate darted into the penalty area and his fierce cross-shot was palmed away by Mathew Ryan. Koeman's frustration turned to despair when Jose Izquierdo's drive rebounded into the path of Knockaert, who smashed it past Jordan Pickford to give the hosts



BRIGHTON: Brighton's Dutch midfielder Davy Propper (L) goes down at the hands of Brighton's Spanish defender Bruno Saltor during the English Premier League football match between Brighton and Hove Albion and Everton. — AFP

the lead in the 82nd minute.

But Bruno's clumsy elbow into the neck of Calvert-Lewin in the penalty area earned Everton a reprieve as

Rooney stepped up to roll in the spot-kick. Everton almost snatched a winner at the death but Ryan pulled off a fine double save to deny Kevin Mirallas. — AFP

De Kock, Amla trump Mushfiqur century

KIMBERLEY: Quinton de Kock and Hashim Amla shared a record partnership as South Africa cruised to a “ruthless” ten-wicket win in the first one-day international against Bangladesh at the Diamond Oval yesterday.

De Kock (168 not out) and Amla (110 not out) put on an unbeaten 282 to overhaul Bangladesh's 278 for seven with 7.1 overs to spare. The South African openers overshadowed the feat of Mushfiqur Rahim, whose 110 not out was the first century by a Bangladesh batsman against South Africa in any international match. Bangladesh's total was their highest in one-day games against South Africa.

Mushfiqur's innings came with a price. He appeared to suffer a hamstring injury and he watched the De Kock-Amla partnership from the players' balcony, adding to injuries which kept two other key players, Tamim Iqbal (thigh) and Mustafizur Rahman (ankle) out of the match.

“We have to keep fighting,” said Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Mortaza about the injuries. “These things happen in cricket. You can't blame anything.” Mashrafe said that although Bangladesh had posted a good total, “we knew we had to take wickets. If you can stop the runs at both ends the pressure will bring wickets. But we couldn't apply pressure.”

South African captain Faf du Plessis praised what he described as another “dominating” performance. “As a team you want to be ruthless. Today was a very, very good example of that. When you're bossing the game and you are 150 for no wicket it's easy to throw wickets away, but the guys are hungry to put in massive performances.”

De Kock made his runs off 145 balls with 21 fours and two sixes. Amla had less of the strike, facing 112 balls and hitting eight fours. Their partnership was the highest for any wicket for South Africa and the joint sixth highest in all one-day internationals.

Mushfiqur's fifth one-day century was greeted with rapturous applause by hundreds of Bangladeshi supporters. He made his runs off 116 balls with 11 fours and two sixes. He shared successive partnerships of 59 with Shakib Al Hasan, 69 with Mahmudullah and 42 with Sabbir Rahman for the third, fourth and fifth wickets.

Shakib made a quiet return after resting during a two-match Test series in which Bangladesh were heavily defeated. He made 29 and conceded 48 runs in eight overs. But he became only the fifth player to complete the one-day international “double” of 5000 runs and 200 wickets. Kagiso Rabada spearheaded South Africa's bowling attack, taking four for 43. — AFP

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Business

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2017

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WASHINGTON: (From L) Zhou Xiaochuan, Governor of the People's Bank of China, JPMorgan Chase International Chairman Jacob Frenkel, Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and G30 Chairman Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen attend the 32nd Annual Group of 30 (G30) International Banking Seminar in Washington DC, yesterday. — AFP

US-world divide spills out at IMF-WB meetings

Washington continues to stymie China's ambitions to elevate its global role

WASHINGTON: The growing split between the United States and the rest of the world spilled into the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Washington this week.

The US administration showed a diminished view of the Bretton Woods institutions that shaped a US-led order after World War II, rejecting efforts to expand their activities, and defending its attack on free trade pacts as part of President Donald Trump's "America First" agenda. And at the same time, the US continued to stymie China's ambitions to elevate its global role via an expanded stake in both the IMF and World Bank. The Trump administration spelled out its view by rejecting a capital increase that the World Bank wants to expand its global anti-poverty mission.

"More capital is not the solution when existing capital is not allocated effectively," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a statement Friday, one day after Bank President Jim Yong Kim said he believed the Trump administration was now supportive of the

move. There was also no movement on the IMF's long-planned boost in its lending resources that would come with a shakeup of its shareholder quotas. Last year, the Republican-controlled Congress effectively vetoed the move, and the Trump administration has not supported bringing it back to life.

US questions IMF, Bank pay

Instead, Mnuchin took aim at the IMF and World Bank bureaucracies, calling them inefficient and suggesting their staffs are overpaid—a longstanding view among many US conservative critics of both.

"We see scope for further budget discipline, especially with respect to compensation and the Executive Board budget," he said of the World Bank. The new US stance on globalization under the Trump administration also came through in the meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank chiefs that took place during the IMF-World Bank meetings. In the past, the group regularly raised the alarm over protectionist and anti-free-trade

sentiment. But this week the Trump administration—which this year killed the Trans-Pacific Partnership with Asia-Pacific nations, stalled talks on a transatlantic free trade zone, and forced a renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement—appeared to stifle such talk. After presenting a tepid G20 statement with no mention of trade or protectionism, German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble quipped that the G20 lacks expertise in the matter. Because of that, he said, "at this time, global discussions are much more relaxed."

Schäuble challenges US

The US differences with its allies were not evident on the surface, and the nearly week-long meetings of the two giant multilateral institutions went off smoothly. The World Bank's Kim and IMF chief Christine Lagarde kept the focus on the need for countries to reform for the long term while global growth is strong, and to address growing inequality, especially in the most developed nations.

But in statements to the steering commit-

tees of the two institutions, many countries made clear their differences with the United States. Most said they backed a capital hike for the World Bank. Schäuble called it "urgent." He also was tough on the trade issue.

"We should all be concerned about slow global trade growth and increased anti-free-trade rhetoric. Both are a threat to our common economic prosperity," Schäuble said.

"Protectionist measures will only harm growth and harm those they claim to protect," he added. In its formal statement, China called the lack of progress on increasing World Bank capital "regrettable."

'Climate change' restored

It is a crucial issue for Beijing, which sees that a larger shareholding in both the IMF and World Bank, both dominated by the United States, would recognize its status as the world's number two economy and a political superpower. "We hope that all parties will provide more political impetus from the perspective of increasing the legitimacy and effective-

ness of the World Bank's governance structure... so as to increase the representation and voice of emerging market and developing countries," China said.

The US push for both to curb compensation met unenthusiastic reactions. In a closing statement, the Bank's steering committee blandly pledged support for a compensation review. But the IMF bristled. "The Fund is highly cost-conscious and in fact we have been operating under a flat budget in real terms for six years in a row," a spokesperson said. "Salaries and benefits are reviewed on a regular basis by our Executive Board." But one notable change suggested the Trump administration was not always getting its way—or was changing its stance.

In the April IMF-World Bank meetings, the final Bank statement was bereft of any mention of climate change, reflecting Trump's refusal to accept it as a key global challenge. In the statement released Saturday, climate change was reinstated as one of the world's key challenges. —AFP

'Most' Fed members see rising inflation in 2018, says Yellen

WASHINGTON: The majority of policymakers at the US central bank believe US price pressures will rise in 2018 despite recent weakness, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said yesterday. Sharp divisions among Fed members have persisted since last year over the causes of persistently weak inflation, which has failed to rise in the face of falling unemployment and steady job creation.

But the Fed is widely expected to raise rates in December for a third time this year, in the expectation that inflation will eventually kick in.

"My best guess is these soft readings will not persist and with the ongoing strengthening of labor markets, I expect inflation to move higher next year," Yellen said. "Most of my colleagues agree." She spoke at an international banking seminar in Washington at which the chiefs of also delivered remarks. At its most recent policy meeting, the Fed left rates unchanged but forecast one more increase this year and a further three in 2018. Minutes released last week

showed however that a vocal minority of Fed policymakers do not accept one-off explanations—such as sudden drops in mobile phone and prescription drug prices—for weak inflation and are calling for the Fed to hold off raising rates prematurely. However, Yellen and some other key policymakers have also made plain they expect to continue to gradually raise interest rates given the strength of the overall economy and continued tightening of the labor market.

Fed officials largely shrugged off a weak jobs report for September and pinned the decline in employment on Hurricanes Harvey and Irma temporarily displacing workers.

In her speech, Yellen said the most recent wage gains contained in the September jobs report were encouraging and that she expected the central bank to raise interest rates further.

"We continue to expect that the ongoing strength of the recovery will warrant gradual increases in that rate to sustain a healthy labor market and stabilize inflation around our 2 per-



WASHINGTON: Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen speaks during the 32nd Annual Group of 30 (G30) International Banking Seminar in Washington, DC, yesterday. — AFP

cent longer-run objective."

The central bank has raised interest rates four times in its tightening cycle which began in late 2015. The Fed currently predicts one more rate rise this year and three the next.

The Fed has two more scheduled meetings this year, in November and December. Investors currently see the Fed raising interest rates in December. — Agencies

High Noon.com: Battle for Saudi e-commerce market begins

RIYADH: In Saudi Arabia, a kingdom where postal codes are rarely used, most people pay in cash, and shopping is done in giant air-conditioned malls, building an online retail business is no easy task.

But two powerfully-backed companies are trying to do just that, betting a young, tech-savvy population will eventually deliver up a large slice of the Arab world's largest consumer market. After months of delays, Noon.com launched in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Oct. 1 and said it would enter the Saudi market "within the coming weeks." That will start a race for dominance in a largely untapped market against Dubai-based Souq.com, which is already present in Saudi Arabia and poised for expansion after its acquisition this year by Amazon.

Both companies are well armed for the

fight. Investors in Noon.com, including Dubai billionaire Mohamed Alabbar and Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, have put \$1 billion into the project. The business also plans to leverage existing assets from Alabbar's Emaar Malls, Aramex delivery service and Namshi and JadoPado online marketplaces. Souq.com was known as the "Amazon of the Middle East" even before its purchase by the world's biggest online retailer, having built up a following and brand relationships since its launch in 2005. "Amazon and Souq.com will benefit from early-mover advantage in our view," said Josh Holmes, a consumer analyst at market researcher BMI. But with online sales in Saudi Arabia expected to surge to \$13.9 billion by 2021 from a projected \$8.7 billion this year, he said there would be plenty for Noon.com to play for. — Reuters

KAMCO Oil Market Monthly Report

Near-term outlook remains bullish on higher oil demand capped by shale rise

Saudi-Russia talks fail to show direction

KUWAIT: Oil had one of the longest running positive streaks in Sept-17 with spot Brent crude reaching almost \$60/b, the highest level since July-15. The run-up came on the back of improving outlook for oil demand coupled with the ongoing destocking in the US. That said, price trend in Oct-17 turned negative after Hurricane Nate's impact was less-than-expected and reports that US crude production reached 9.56 mb/d in Sept-17. In addition, the reported rise in US oil exports to a record of nearly 2 mb/d also fanned concerns about continuing oversupply in the market. The second week saw high volatility but prices trended higher underpinned by strong Chinese oil imports (9 mb/d in Sept-17) along with the ongoing Iran and US tensions that threatens the pace of production revival in Iran, in addition to the unrest in Iraq.

On the other hand, the ongoing talks between Russia and Saudi Arabia have failed to show direction on whether the ongoing production cut agreement would continue beyond the March-18 deadline, although the probability of an extension remains high considering its impact on the oil market and expectations of faster rebalancing. On the positive side, OPEC chief signaled that they are looking to expand the production cut deal to include other producers and urged US shale producers to join the efforts to rebalance the oil market.

Meanwhile, recent forecasts have pointed to a stronger oil demand in 2018, although production is expected to increase as well. The US EIA, in its latest Short Term Energy Outlook, has raised the US oil demand growth projection for 2018 by 20 tb/d, while lowering its 2017 forecast by 120 tb/d. On similar lines, the IEA had a positive undertone in its monthly report where it expects to see steady oil prices in 2018 on rising demand, partially offset by rising non-OPEC supply. The agency lauded OPEC and other non-OPEC producers for the production cuts but said that 2018 would require continued discipline as demand is expected to grow at the same pace as supply from outside the group.

OPEC also boosted its oil demand outlook by 30 tb/d for both 2017 and 2018 backed by a strengthening global economy coupled with weaker supply from non-OPEC producers. Nevertheless, production data showed higher month-on-month output in September-17 that reached 32.7 mb/d, almost 50 tb/d more than the previous month, according to OPEC's secondary sources. Bloomberg data also suggested an increase of 120 tb/d led by higher production in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Libya partially offset by marginal cuts primarily by Iraq and Algeria.

Oil prices

Crude oil prices had one of the longest running positive streaks during September-17 with OPEC crude declining merely on four trading sessions and reaching a peak of \$64.3/b, the highest since July-15. A growing consensus among oil producers that the market is expected to rebalance in 2018 provide the much needed positive boost to the market. A weak USD also provided support to prices during the month. On the other hand, the ongoing political events in Venezuela, Iraq (Kurdistan) and Libya has held prices higher, although it is not considered as a permanent support. However, during October-17, oversupply concerns started resurfacing, which along with profit taking from higher prices and record US exports numbers, resulted in prices receding from more than 2-year higher levels. In addition, API reported an increase of 3.1 million barrels in US crude stocks as against analyst consensus of a decline of 2 million barrels. On the other hand, the EIA, in its

Short Term Energy Outlook, maintained a positive tone and said that expenditure on heating fuels is expected to rise this winter season due to colder-than-expected weather.

The higher oil prices during September-17 also led to higher rig count in the US with a reported increase of six rigs during the last week of the month. Nevertheless, the count was down by 2 and then 5 during the first two weeks of October-17. Also, Baker Hughes' monthly rig count data showed that international rig count dropped by 21 to 931 rigs during September-17, while US rig count was down by 7. Average crude prices during September-17 strengthened across the categories and topped the highest level since July-15. Average OPEC crude price was up 7.7 percent to reach \$53.4/b, while Kuwait crude was up 7.2 percent. Brent crude prices saw an even stronger surge of 8.5 percent during the month. The positive trend continued in October-17 with all the three crude categories recording a surge of almost 1 percent as compared to September-17 levels.

World oil demand

Global oil demand growth expectations for 2018 revised up

World oil demand growth projections for 2017 was revised upwards for the third consecutive month in OPEC's latest monthly oil report. The growth is now expected to reach 1.45 mb/d

after an upward revision of 30 tb/d to 96.80 mb/d reflecting improving economic trends in OECD countries and higher demand from China. Demand from the OECD region was revised upward by 42 tb/d, led by better-than-expected demand data for Q2-17 across the OECD countries. The US recorded better-than-expected oil demand growth during the quarter with transportation fuel demand revised upward by 100 tb/d during the quarter. Distillates accounted for the bulk of the strong demand, as per the latest available data for July-17, led by expansion of industrial activities coupled with LPG supplied to petrochemical industry, while demand for gasoline, jet/kerosene and naphtha remained largely flat. Nevertheless, gasoline demand is expected to pick-up in the remainder of 2017 and in 2018 on the back of positive trends in US vehicle market, especially the larger vehicles. Preliminary data for August-17 and September-17 also pointed out to continued strong demand for fuel products in the US. The OECD Europe region is also expected to post positive oil demand growth and despite some downside risks, the overall projection is dominated by positive factors. The first seven months of the year witnessed a demand growth of 0.28 mb/d backed primarily by road transportation and industrial fuels.

Meanwhile, Chinese demand till YTD Aug-17 has been strong (+0.34 mb/d) primarily led by rising jet fuel and gasoline consumption. Global oil demand growth expectations for 2018 was also revised up by 30 tb/d to 1.38 mb/d to a total demand of 98.19 mb/d. The upgrade was once again due to better economic growth globally, particularly in China and Russia. For the OECD Americas, the demand

growth was upgraded by 15 tb/d on the back of slightly better economic outlook as compared to the previous month. Industrial and road transportation fuel requirements are expected to be the main contributor of growth for the US as well as the OECD Europe region. The Asia Pacific countries within the OECD region are expected to slightly consume less oil in 2018 as compared to 2017. Outside the OECD region, India is expected to be a major growth contributor in 2018 with a projected y-o-y demand growth of 0.16 mb/d.

World oil supply

Global oil supply during September-17 witnessed a month-on-month upward revision of 0.41 mb/d and

averaged at 96.50 mb/d, showing an increase of 1.08 mb/d as compared to September-16. Non-OPEC supply during the month accounted for the bulk of this increase at 0.31 mb/d and averaged at 57.65 mb/d. However, for the full year 2017, non-OPEC oil supply forecast was revised downward by 0.10 mb/d to average at 57.69 mb/d resulting in an expected growth of 0.68 mb/d. Changes for the full year reflected a lower supply forecast for FSU. OECD Americas and Other Asia by 0.14 mb/d partially offset by an upward revision of 0.04 mb/d in supply from OECD Europe and Africa. In terms of individual country changes, supply from UK, Colombia, Azerbaijan, Congo and Brunei saw upward revision of close to 0.07 mb/d, while supply from Russia, Brazil and the US was lowered by approximately 0.13 mb/d. Quarterly supply expectations for the remainder of 2017 shows a supply rate of 58.28 mb/d during Q4-17, that is higher than the other quarters due to seasonal pattern coupled with the improving price environment that would trigger shale production in addition to start-up of giant projects like Kashagan, an increase in active rigs in North America and higher upstream investments. The OPEC monthly report added that key shale producers in the US are basing their production plans on a price of \$50-55/b, despite a drop in drilling efficiency.

Non-OPEC supply growth projections for 2018 was once again lowered by 60 tb/d to 0.94 mb/d and is expected to average at 58.64 mb/d. The downgrade revision primarily reflects lower oil supply primarily from Russia.

OPEC production & spare capacity

OPEC production increased by 120 tb/d during September-17 to reach the year's second-highest monthly production rate of 32.83 mb/d, according to Bloomberg data. The increase in production was primarily led by Saudi Arabia (+60 tb/d) and Kuwait (+50 tb/d), partially offset by marginal curbs in Iraq and Algeria totaling 40 tb/d. OPEC's monthly report showed an increase of 88.5 tb/d in supply from OPEC during September-17 with secondary sources pointing at Libya and Nigeria as the key contributor to this growth. Despite adding almost 54 tb/d during the month to reach a production rate of 0.92 mb/d, Libya unable to reach its target production rate of 1.25 mb/d due to sporadic shutdowns at fields and ports in addition

to budget constraints, as said by the Chairman of NOC. Also, the start of October-17 witnessed a two-day closure of the country's largest Sharara oilfield that hampered production. Nevertheless, the reopening of Benghazi port and a new substitution that would give Libya's Sarir oilfield a production boost of 26 tb/d are expected to push production higher during October-17.

Meanwhile, Nigeria has voluntarily limited its oil production at 1.8 mb/d, and said that it continues to enjoy OPEC's exemption for the production cut agreement.

According to a statement from Russia's energy minister, OPEC is said to have achieved 100 percent compliance to the production cut deal after fully implementing the output cuts. However, the agreed upon cuts by individual countries is yet to be achieved and the overall compliance came after some countries cut more



than their share of the deal. On the other hand, the compliance by non-OPEC producers was even higher at 119 percent in September-17 from 117 percent during the previous month, according to Bloomberg. In addition, according to IEA, total oil supply cut compliance was around 125 percent.

Furthermore, Saudi Arabia has announced a much smaller allocation for November-17, emphasizing its adherence to the production cuts. According to the official statement, despite a contracted demand of 7.7 mb/d, the Kingdom has assigned merely 7.2 mb/d for export. This also highlights a new emphasis on targeting exports rather than just production levels for a faster rebalancing of the market.

CBK announces winners of daily draw of Al-Najma Account

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the daily draw on "Al-Najma Account" yesterday at the Bank's Head Office to select 5 winners to win a cash prize of KD 7,000 for each. The draw was held in the presence of Abdulaziz Ashkanani, representative of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The following names were announced as winners of the prizes:

1. Fajer Mansour Mohammad Awadh
2. Mohammed Abd Matar
3. Mohammad Ahmad Al-Qallaf
4. Hayat Yousef Al-Yousef
5. Ali Subhi Al Ali

Al-Najma Account allows its customers to win a daily prize of KD 7,000 which is the highest daily prize in Kuwait. In addition, the Account offers quarterly draws that provide customers with opportunity to get their dreams turned to reality by winning great prizes starting from KD 100,000 for the first quarter escalating thereafter by KD 50 thousand for each quarter to reach KD 250,000 in the last quarter. Customers can enjoy additional benefits including obtaining ATM card and a



credit card against the customer's account along with enjoying all other banking services.

The Bank congratulates all the lucky winners and draws their attention that the cash prizes will be credited into their accounts with the Bank. Further, the Bank appreciates the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's significant role and its continuous cooperation and effective supervision on the draw that was smoothly and transparently organized.

EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.706
Indian Rupees	4.665
Pakistani Rupees	2.869
Srilankan Rupees	1.965
Nepali Rupees	2.921
Singapore Dollar	225.610
Hongkong Dollar	38.766
Bangladesh Taka	3.699
Philippine Peso	5.887
Thai Baht	9.165

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.761
Qatari Riyal	83.180
Omani Riyal	786.512
Bahraini Dinar	804.170
UAE Dirham	82.455

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	20.150
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.101
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216
Tunisian Dinar	126.100
Jordanian Dinar	427.170
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.018
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.613

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	302.650

Euro	360.150
Sterling Pound	404.790
Canadian dollar	244.790
Turkish lira	84.190
Swiss Franc	313.300
Australian Dollar	240.910
US Dollar Buying	301.450

Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd	
20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
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	0.396046	0.408046
Czech Korune	0.005898	0.017898
Danish Krone	0.041176	0.049176
Euro	0.352811	0.361811
Georgian Lari	0.134799	0.134799
Norwegian Krone	0.034475	0.039675
Romanian Leu	0.081608	0.081608
Russian ruble	0.005260	0.005260
Slovakia	0.009018	0.019018
Swedish Krona	0.033367	0.038367
Swiss Franc	0.304488	0.315488
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.230842	0.242842
New Zealand Dollar	0.208385	0.217885
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.237725	0.246725
US Dollars	0.298550	0.302970
US Dollars Mnt	0.299050	0.302970

Asia	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003267 0.003851
Chinese Yuan	0.044459 0.047959
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036811 0.039561
Indian Rupee	0.004197 0.004885
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018 0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002624 0.002804
Korean Won	0.000258 0.000273
Malaysian Ringgit	0.068064 0.074064
Nepalese Rupee	0.003020 0.003190
Pakistan Rupee	0.002714 0.003004
Philippine Peso	0.005809 0.006109
Singapore Dollar	0.218899 0.228899
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001612 0.002192
Taiwan	0.009999 0.010179
Thai Baht	0.008802 0.009352
Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.795792 0.804292
Egyptian Pound	0.014201 0.020109
Iranian Riyal	0.000084 0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000196 0.000256
Jordanian Dinar	0.422259 0.431259
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000 1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000155 0.000255
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021927 0.045927
Omani Riyal	0.779684 0.785364
Qatar Riyal	0.078829 0.083769
Saudi Riyal	0.079620 0.080920
Syrian Pound	0.001283 0.001503
Tunisian Dinar	0.119004 0.127004
Turkish Lira	0.078544 0.088844
UAE Dirhams	0.080975 0.082675
Yemeni Riyal	0.000984 0.001064

Business

Gulf Bank encourages entrepreneurs and promotes digital investments

WISE Investments by Gulf Bank highlighted at conference

KUWAIT: In line with its commitment to promoting entrepreneurship and innovation in banking in Kuwait, Gulf Bank is a Gold Sponsor of this year's ArabNet conference, set to take place at Arraya Ballroom - Courtyard Marriott tomorrow (17 October 2017).

The conference will be held for two days, under the patronage of Khaled Nasser Abdullah Al-Roudan, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, and will include panel discussions on ad-tech, investment and innovation, digital commerce, and will include startup battle and Ideathon competition, as well as a tech fair for exhibitors.

Commenting on the participation, Laila Al-Qatami, Assistant General Manager at Gulf Bank said: "Gulf Bank is happy to be a gold sponsor of this year's ArabNet conference. Banking innovation and support for youth are important to the Bank,

and this conference will be exploring these very topics. The ArabNet conference last year made a big impact in Kuwait and was well attended, we expect this year to be an even bigger success. We thank the team at ArabNet for putting together an interesting and exciting conference, we look forward to seeing you there."

To address the emerging SME market in Kuwait, the Bank will be represented by Meshari Shehab, Assistant General Manager for Priority and Wealth Management at Gulf Bank. Shehab will be a judge at the Startup competition tomorrow (17 October) a 12 noon.

Additionally, members of the Gulf Bank team will be present at our booth to address any questions and offer advice to young entrepreneurs on best methods for funding for their ideas and businesses.

Furthermore, Tareq Al-Saleh Assistant General Manager for Investments, will be speaking on

recently launched WISE Investments product. With WISE, Gulf Bank has simplified the investment process by offering customized investment scenarios based on each customer's risk appetite and investment goals. Feel free to come by the Gulf Bank booth to learn more about this cutting edge investment platform.

The conference will feature over 30+ leading companies from across the region and the world, engaging guests to discover the latest trends, applications, and technologies in the region also pave the way for competitions through The Startup Battle, which will highlight the best regional startups to an enthusiastic crowd of investors, incubators, media and digital professionals, as well as connect entrepreneurs with



ArabNet Kuwait conference begins tomorrow

new trends and innovation panel at 10am on Wednesday (18 October). Al-Saleh will explain how Gulf Bank delivered Kuwait's first customized digital investment platform with its

Meshari A. Shehab
Assistant General Manager, Gulf Bank



Tareq Al Saleh
Assistant General Manager for Investments, Gulf Bank



the digital world and The Ideathon competition which will showcase the best ideas from regional entrepreneurs in order to connect them with the latest developments in the digital world.

ArabNet is a leading events, media and research company focused on digital business and

entrepreneurship in MENA. ArabNet organizes major annual conferences in Beirut, Riyadh, Dubai, and Kuwait; publishes news and analysis of the digital sector on its online news portal and print 'ArabNet Quarterly' magazine; and creates original research reports about the region's digital industry.

NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

Dollar continues descend amid stubborn inflation

KUWAIT: Last week, FOMC minutes from the Federal Reserve's September meeting were released as investors awaited the Fed's tone regarding the path of interest rate hikes. The minutes revealed that even though the central bank held its course for a December rate hike, Fed officials differed in opinion over whether the lag in inflation was persistent or temporary. The minutes revealed that "many participants expressed concern that the low inflation readings this year might reflect not only transitory factors, but also the influence of developments that could prove more persistent, and it was noted that some patience in removing policy accommodation while assessing trends in inflation was warranted. A few of these participants thought that no further increases in the federal funds rate were called for in the near term or that the upward trajectory of the federal funds rate might appropriately be quite shallow. Some other participants, however, were more worried about upside risks to inflation arising from a labor market that had already reached full employment and was projected to tighten further."

The report also illustrated the concerns some of the policy-makers had regarding waiting too long to raise interest rates, saying that a "slow pace in removing policy accommodation could result in an overshoot of the Committee's inflation objective in the medium term that would likely be costly to reverse or could lead to an intensification of financial stability risks or to other imbalances that might prove difficult to unwind."

Later during the week, and much to the dismay of Federal Reserve officials, inflation figures released on Friday failed to live up to expectations, proving that the time ahead will be of a tricky nature for the policymakers. Core consumer prices, which exclude both food and energy, continued to disappoint, rising only 1.7 percent y/y in September. This marks the seventh time in 8 months where the figure has failed to meet analysts' expectations. Additionally, the CPI also missed its estimate, coming in at a 2.2 percent rise y/y. Nevertheless, despite the disappointing inflation numbers, chances of a December rate hike hovered around 74 percent in terms of market confidence.

On the other hand, figures released by the Commerce Department signaled that retail sales in the US rose 1.6 percent m/m, a rate that is joint highest since 2009. Driving the high number was a surge in auto sales, which came as consumers rushed to replace damaged vehicles, a result of the series of devastating hurricanes that ravaged the United States' Gulf Coast. Meanwhile, core retail sales, which exclude vehicles, increased 1 percent m/m, a level that is greater than market expectations and joint highest since 2012.

The dollar was sent downwards by traders as they digested news of the weaker-than-expected inflation. The dollar index reached an October low of 92.749 as it weakened against a basket of major currencies. Moreover, treasury yields also fell, with the benchmark 10-year note reaching a 3-week low of 2.2730 percent on Friday while the 2-year note fell to 1.4888 percent. Looking at the world economy, the International Monetary Fund revised its world economic forecasts upwards last week, stating that the global economic recovery has strengthened financial stability. The fund upgraded its global economic growth forecast for 2017 and 2018, to 3.6 percent, and to 3.7 percent respectively. The improvement was mainly driven by a pickup in trade, investment, and consumer confidence. Nevertheless, the IMF warned policymakers not to get too comfortable and said that the current economic conditions were fuelling an appetite for risk that, together with central banks' response to the 2008 global crisis, appeared to be laying the ground for a new financial crunch. The IMF also cited a \$135tn debt pile in G20 nations that borrowers are finding difficult to service. Tobias Adrian, of the IMF's financial stability watchdog stated that "While the waters seem calm, vulnerabilities are building under the surface and if left unattended, these could derail the global recovery."

On the currency front, the pound sterling managed to climb steadily throughout the week. That is however until turbulent Brexit negotiations between British diplomats and their European counterparts managed to feed the volatility of the cable. On Thursday, the European Union's chief negotiator Michel Barnier stated that negotiations were at a deadlock and that Britain had told the EU that it was not ready to specify how much it believed it should pay. This sent the pound down 1 percent against the dollar and to a 30-day low against the Euro. Nevertheless, sterling managed to appreciate to an 11-

day high of 1.3336 after reports emerged that the European Union could offer Britain a two-year transitional Brexit deal. The cable, assisted by a soft dollar, ended up closing the week higher at 1.3284.

The euro managed to steadily climb against the US dollar throughout the week, shrugging off rising tensions in Spain. The single currency was assisted by numerous economic data that proved to be above analysts' expectations as it managed to peak at 3 week high of 1.1880 on Thursday. The Euro closed the week at 1.1822 against a soft dollar.

As for the Japanese yen, it had a subdued week, mainly reacting to the US dollar. The USDJPY pair saw its biggest move on Friday after a disappointing reading of US inflation failed to impress. The pair opened the week at 112.68, and ended up closing lower at 111.84.

Regarding commodities, OPEC announced that it expects demand to strengthen next year, citing higher consumption growth and lower supplies from outside the organization. Demand is expected to reach 33.1 million b/d in 2018, up by roughly 200,000 b/d from last month's forecast. Meanwhile, oil prices firmed up this week as US crude inventories fell by 2.7 million barrels versus an expectation of 1.9m. Also helping lift the price of oil was positive trade data out of China. Eventually, Brent crude managed to reach a high of \$57.57 before closing the week at \$57.20.

US producer price index
US producer prices increased by 0.4 percent m/m in September, the largest increase since April. The figure was driven largely by a 10.9 percent increase in gasoline prices due to the hurricanes which reduced the Gulf Coast's refining capacity. Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics also showed that the index for final demand services increased 0.4 percent, while the prices for final demand goods rose 0.7 percent, the largest increase since moving up 1.0 percent in January.



Germany saw its largest export growth

In the UK, output in the industrial sector improved for a third straight month in August, with a much better than expected improvement in manufacturing pushing growth to its highest level since February. Manufacturing production increased at a level of 0.4 percent m/m versus a market expectation of 0.2 percent. Furthermore, overall industrial production increased 1.6 percent y/y, twice as fast as the 0.8 percent rate predicted by analysts. Meanwhile, the UK's total trade balance deficit widened by 2.9 billion pounds to 10.8b while the total goods and services deficit widened by 6.2b to 13.2b.

UK industrial output
In the UK, output in the industrial sector improved for a third straight month in August, with a much better than expected improvement in manufacturing pushing growth to its highest level since February. Manufacturing production increased at a level of 0.4 percent m/m versus a market expectation of 0.2 percent. Furthermore, overall industrial production increased 1.6 percent y/y, twice as fast as the 0.8 percent rate predicted by analysts. Meanwhile, the UK's total trade balance deficit widened by 2.9 billion pounds to 10.8b while the total goods and services deficit widened by 6.2b to 13.2b.

Germany trade balance
Germany saw its largest export growth in 12 months, with the trade surplus widening to 21.6 billion euros as exports outpaced imports, defying a strong euro. Based on provisional data, the Federal Statistical Office also reported that German exports and imports increased by 7.2 percent and 8.5 percent y/y respectively in August. Compared with July 2017, exports increased by 3.1 percent and imports by 1.2 percent in calendar and seasonally adjusted terms. The figures suggest that the German economy, the eurozone's growth engine, is set for a solid expansion in the third quarter despite uncertainties about



the make-up of the next government following national elections last month. The euro reached an October high of 1.1880 as it appreciated against the US dollar.

Eurozone industrial production

The eurozone witnessed its highest level of industrial production in 2017, exceeding analysts' expectations. During August of 2017, seasonally adjusted industrial production rose by 1.4 percent in the euro area and by 1.7 percent in the EU28, according to official figures released by the Eurostat. During the prior month, industrial production rose by 0.3 percent in the euro area and fell by 0.3 percent in the EU28. The 1.4 percent rise was mainly due to production of capital goods rising by 3.1 percent, durable consumer goods by 1.3 percent, intermediate goods by 1.2 percent, and energy by 0.2 percent. Notably however, output in France's industrial sector unexpectedly pulled back in August after a fall in manufacturing of machinery offset gains in transportation equipment. Industrial output fell by 0.3 percent m/m whereas analysts were expecting a 0.4 percent increase.

Japan machinery orders

Japan's core machinery orders increased well above expectations in August. The seasonally adjusted figure came in at 3.4 percent m/m versus an expectation of a 0.9 percent increase. Even though the increase was the second highest in 8 months, only lower than the prior month's 8 percent m/m increase, the value of core orders was the highest since July of 2016, at \$82.4 billion yen. Core machinery orders are a leading indicator of production, and usually signal the level of capital spending in the coming nine months. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will be especially delighted to hear of any positivity in the Japanese economy in order to bolster his position in the upcoming elections this month.

China trade balance

China's trade balance reached a six-month low as its imports rose 18.7 percent, exceeding estimates with the fastest growth since March to result in a trade surplus of \$28.5 billion. As for exports, demand for Chinese products have proven to be healthy as the dollar value of outbound shipments rose 8.1 percent y/y to a level of \$169.8bn. The data also showed that China's trade surplus with the United States reached a record high of \$28.1 bn. Meanwhile, Chinese imports from North Korea fell 37.9 percent and exports dropped by 6.7 percent amid nuclear tensions with the defiant regime. Elsewhere in the region, trade has also been strong. Exports surged to records last month in both South Korea and Taiwan, while August data has shown strengthening in Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore as the International Monetary Fund raised its global growth forecast as well as its estimate for China.

China manufacturing

In China, latest data from IHS Markit casts doubt over the strength reported by the Chinese government's official figures earlier. IHS Markit suggests that activity levels across China's manufacturing and services sectors slowed sharply in September. The service sector expanded at its weakest pace in almost two years as the pace of new businesses cooled down. The services PMI declined to 50.6, the lowest reading since December 2015 and one of the weakest since the survey began in 2005. The survey was in contrast to an official gauge of the non-manufacturing sector that showed the services sector expanded at the fastest momentum since 2014, clouding the picture on the performance of the economy.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30180
The USDKWD opened at 0.30180 yesterday morning.

Decade after bubble burst, Ireland still faces housing crisis

DUBLIN: Ten years after Ireland's property bubble burst, the economy is recovering from the ravages of a deep recession but a housing crisis remains, due to a supply shortage and spiralling prices.

Sales prices have increased by 47 percent since 2013, when they hit rock bottom, while rents are going up by double digits each year. "Prices were inflated in 2007, they were too high, but they fell by such an amount that they probably fell by too much," said Kieran McQuinn, research professor at the Dublin-based Economic and Social Research Institute.

"On the one hand they're coming back to some long-run level, but equally that long-run level is increasing itself because the underlying economy and demand are so strong." As the global financial crisis hit, house prices halved, unemployment soared and Ireland was forced to seek emergency funding from the European Union and International Monetary Fund. Today, the housing market is a victim of Ireland's return to economic growth - the shortage is particularly evident in urban areas, which fuel a national average rent of 1,159 euros a month.

Experts predict the increase in prices to continue for another two years as the construction industry, which was hit badly in the crisis, catches up with increased demand. McQuinn does not expect a new housing bubble, however. Noting that the last one was fuelled by cheap credit and reckless lending, he said: "You don't quite have that here. You're beginning to see credit flowing into the market... it's picking up again, but from a very low base." Even despite the increase in loans, sales are stagnating in the face of prices that put the cost of a typical Irish three-bedroom house at 500 euros (\$600) a week.

Overcrowded homes

"You have middle income earners, between 30,000 and 70,000 euros a year, who are squeezed because they can't buy but also they can't qualify for social housing," said Donal McManus, head of the Irish Council for Social Housing, the national federation of housing associations. With the current stock of social housing only representing seven to eight percent of the market, he warned that Ireland suffers from a lack of affordable solutions and as a result, an over-reliance on the "unpredictable" private sector.

In an attempt to get things moving, the government has stepped up its interventions in the past 18 months, most recently increasing the budget of the housing ministry by 46 percent in 2018, and promising new developments, particularly of social housing.

"But the government is over-reliant on the private sector which will build the majority of social housing, while local authorities don't have to buy land and can build cheaper," said Francis Doherty, a spokesman for the Peter McVerry Trust, an NGO that campaigns against homelessness.

"They choose the most expensive but least effective solution to solve the crisis", while at the same time homelessness has gone up by 23 percent in a year-a record, he said. The situation is leading to "overcrowding situations and people still living with their families", said Fintan McNamara, a spokesman for the Residential Landlords Association of Ireland (RLAI). McNamara therefore believes the government was wrong to decide "a blanket ban on budget accommodation...just to improve standards". — AFP

Business

Wall Street Week Ahead

Cyclical sector rally banks on global economic expansion

NEW YORK: US stock sectors that are particularly dependent on economic growth recently grabbed hold of the market's rally and are poised to keep the reins should further signs of global expansion emerge...

Todd, chief investment officer at Greenwood Capital Associates in Greenwood, South Carolina. "If it's something more fundamental, it should be longer lasting than that."

rack up any significant legislative wins. Now, investors say, September's stock rally for those groups again stemmed at least in part from policy hopes...

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report. Sunday 15 October 2017. Table with columns: Index, Change, Closing, Last Closing. Includes sub-tables for Trades, Basic Materials, Consumer Goods, Health Care, and Banks.

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report. At 02:00 PM Previous Day. Includes sub-tables: Global Stock Indices, MENA Stock Indices, Global Currencies Exchange Rate, MENA Currencies Exchange Rate, Global Interest Rates, Global Bond Yields, and Commodities.

Business

Ooredoo launches state-of-the-art data center through FASTtelco

Digital solutions for companies and organizations



KUWAIT: (From right) Nouf Al-Mesh'an, Mijbil Al-Ayoub, Abdulaziz Al-Babtain and Ahmad Abdulaziz.



KUWAIT: Ooredoo announced the launch of its fully equipped state of the art data center through FASTtelco, a company owned by Ooredoo Kuwait, at a press conference held at Ooredoo's head office in Kuwait City. The announcement comes to further reiterate FASTtelco's commitment to being one of the leading companies in information technology solutions, and the company of choice for prospective clients searching for ICT solutions, catering especially for the needs of corporates and businesses. FASTtelco will provide a suite of managed hosting services tailor-made to fit corporate and business needs. These services are ideal for corporates and businesses looking to better manage their data, platforms and applications.

In a statement during the press conference, Mijbil Al-Ayoub, Senior Director of Corporate Communications at Ooredoo stated that Ooredoo and FASTtelco work in tandem according to an ambitious agenda which includes providing the best digital solutions to its customers. This stems from Ooredoo's strategy which aims to enrich the experience of its customers. Al-Ayoub reiterated, "We are proud to offer the newest and most modern services, which will definitely benefit and be an asset to various companies and

organizations of different sizes. We aim today to adapt digital technology and to depend on the internet to launch a number of projects that heavily depend on the internet. We are glad to provide such full-fledged services to support these projects.

From his end, Abdulaziz Al-Babtain, B2B Senior Director at Ooredoo highlighted the data center, its goals, and the services being offered during the press conference. He stated that, "The new data center provides end-to-end IT solutions to customers in various sectors including financial, healthcare, media, e-commerce, educational and governmental. The center is fully equipped to deliver an exceptional experience in services and solutions like managed CPE, cloud services, NOC and operations, data center consultancy, and much more. This is especially important today, where busi-

nesses are faced with growing challenges to respond efficiently to new digital trends in IT, security and control. Ooredoo strives to be the trustworthy choice among its growing customers as it continually transforms its services to meet the needs of the digital world, ensuring peace of mind with end-to-end solutions and 24/7 NOC, in addition to opportunities for scalability and maximum return of investment.



End-to-end solutions and 24/7 NOC



Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Thani. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Gulf Insurance Group named 'Insurance Brand of Year' by World Branding Awards



KUWAIT: Gulf Insurance Group, the leading insurance service providers in the Middle East and North Africa region, was named 'Insurance Brand of the Year' by the World Branding Awards during a prestigious ceremony held in Kensington Palace, London.

Receiving the award, Khalid Al-Sanousi, Group Senior Manager at GIG said: "We are pleased to win this international award in recognition of our continuous efforts to ensure excellence for our customers, partners and shareholders alike. By elevating our brand value, we seek to achieve our goal to be the number one choice for our customers in all the markets in which we operate. The year 2017 was one of great accomplishments, where we continue to hold triple (A) ratings from S&P, am BEST and MOODY'S. We also received the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Business Excellence Award 2017. This confirms the efforts of

Gulf Insurance Group and its subsidiaries to reflect the quality and excellence of our services through constant innovation."

Gulf Insurance Group received the same award in 2015. As a brand, Gulf Insurance aims to create greater desirability across the insurance industry, with a primary focus on building long lasting premium quality relationships that are rewarding and based on mutual respect.

The World Branding Forum aims to advance the standards, skills and education of the branding community for the good of the industry and consumers. Winners of this award are judged on three criteria: brand valuation, consumer market research and public online voting. As the leader in the insurance industry in the MENA region, Gulf Insurance excelled in all criteria and was selected as the best brand.

Takaud records outstanding performance in first 3 quarters

MANAMA: TAKAUD, the specialist provider of pensions, savings and investment solutions for the MENA region, announced yesterday that the company's bespoke Investment Strategies have posted returns ranging from 4.65 percent to 14.42 percent year to date (YTD) in 2017. These Strategies are created and prudently managed by the TAKAUD Investment Team and are all composed of high-quality mutual funds.

Leading the pack in terms of 2017 YTD performance are the Global strategies with returns of 14.42 percent for the Growth

Strategy, 8.56 percent for the Balanced and 4.79 percent for the Prudent Strategy. The Global strategies invest in mutual funds from the USA, Europe, Asia and emerging markets.

The Regional Investment Strategies also performed exceedingly well. The Regional Growth Strategy posted YTD returns of 12.08 percent, the Balanced Strategy showed 9.88 percent growth, and the Prudent Strategy 7.16 percent. The Regional strategies include global mutual funds but have a focus on the MENA region.

TAKAUD's sharia-compliant Strategies achieved an impressive 10.03 percent YTD in the Growth Strategy, 8.05 percent in Balanced and 4.65 percent in Prudent. These strategies invest in high quality Sharia-compliant mutual funds approved by the Sharia Review Bureau.

"The results are excellent and we are very pleased for our customers," said TAKAUD's Chief Investment Officer Johannes van der Dong. "TAKAUD is dedicated to creating innovative and successful investment products for investors at every level. Our offerings are unique in the MENA market and offer great potential to both individual and institutional investors."

World energy leaders to meet in Kuwait at KOGS 2017

KUWAIT: Over 5,000 world energy leaders, stakeholders and executives will converge in Kuwait for the 3rd Society of Petroleum Engineers Kuwait Oil & Gas Show and Conference (KOGS 2017) in October for 4 days of strategic dialogue and business opportunities.

The event will take place from 15-18 October 2017 at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre and the Kuwait International Fair in Mishref, under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah with official support from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC).

Convening under the theme 'Shaping the Energy Future: Integration and Diversification,' the conference program features over 200 expert speakers and covers topics across the full value chain focusing on today's industry trends and challenges. Key

features include a minister-to-minister panel session, an executive plenary session led by chief executives, 4 panel sessions and over 100 technical presentations.

More than 200 companies from 24 countries will be in attendance at the parallel exhibition that takes place from 16-18 October 2017. The 14,000 sqm international showcase features flagship participation from NOCs and IOCs, state-of-the-art equipment, machinery, technological advancements and innovative services in the oil, gas, refining and petrochemical sectors.

"The stature of this major international oil and gas exhibition and conference befits Kuwait's international standing as one of the world's leading oil producing nations, and mirrors the great strides we have made both upstream, downstream and in our overseas activities," said His Excellency Issam A Almarzooq, Kuwait Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity & Water, State of Kuwait and Chairman of the Board, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

"The current growth witnessed in Kuwait's oil and gas industry holds much promise for domestic and foreign oil and gas companies. KOGS 2017 will facilitate an important technological exchange between industry leaders, professionals and government officials," he continued.

Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi account draw

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, the second largest in terms of assets, announced yesterday the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD 5,000.

- The lucky winners are:
- Zain Abdullah Hassan Al-dousari
 - Sadan Ahmad Abdullah Al-Attar
 - Hanaa Abdullateef Saif Saif
 - Abdulla Adnan Yaousif Abulhassan
 - Naser Abdulaziz Abdullah Al-Awadhi

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly



draws, wherein the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws. Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.

Technology

Suzuki introduces latest marine engine at a spectacular event

Mustafa Karam and Sons hosts event at showroom



KUWAIT: Suzuki Motors management at Mustafa Karam and Sons, local agents and distributors of yachts and guests attend the marine event.



KUWAIT: The latest marine engines, developed by Suzuki on display at the Suzuki showroom. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



KUWAIT: In a wonderful marine evening, the stars of Suzuki Marine Motors have twinkled at Mustafa Karam and Sons Showroom, Suzuki Marine Distributor in Kuwait. The event was attended by the local agents and distributors of boats, yachts, sea enthusiasts, marine enthusiasts and those interested in Suzuki Marine products as well as local press representatives. During the event, the latest marine engine, developed by Suzuki and the long-awaited engine, was introduced.

GEKI - Parting Seas

GEKI is considered the latest revolution in the world of outboard marine engines many unique features and specifications, deemed to be the first of its kind. The new engine is characterized by advanced technology and precision in the world of external 4-stroke marine engines, and the only of 350HP without any technical

additions to produce excessive power.

- NO TURBO CHARGE
- NO SUPER CHARGE
- It is a 6 cylinder engine with a capacity of 4.4cc

- For the first time, Dual-Propellers are used
- COUNTER ROTATION PROPELLERS

Manufactured to allow the engine to start stronger, more firmly and resolutely, in addition to the dual fuel injector, which works to raise the efficiency of burning fuel mixture and leads to a cycle increase of the engine power, and reduce the proportion of fuel consumption: as the ratio

of engine control was designed for high compression, high energy and better performance, in addition to many other advantages and features. The new engine will be introduced at competitive prices in the local market.



Marine enthusiasts, local agents, media attend



Kobe Steel, Nissan scandals tarnish image of Japan Inc

TOKYO: Embarrassing scandals at Kobe Steel and Nissan have tarnished the reputation of Japan Inc for quality, as once-mighty industrial world-beaters battle fierce global competition and shrinking profit margins. Once again, the image of a corporate boss bowing deeply in apology before the cameras has been splashed across Japan's newspapers and sparked a fresh bout of national soul-searching. Kobe Steel's chief admitted his firm had falsified quality data in products shipped to about 500 clients, including carmaker Toyota, aircraft manufacturers and defense contractors.

The news that the affected parts were also used in Japan's "Shinkansen" bullet trains deepened the humiliation for the "Made in Japan" brand that was once a byword for quality.

The revelation wiped \$1.8 billion off its share price over the past week—a drop of more than 40 percent—as the scandal deepened and widened to other products such as steel wires, a key company product. The Kobe Steel news came just days after Nissan recalled more than one million vehicles in Japan after admitting that staff without proper authorization conducted final vehicle inspections before shipping them to dealers. "Once the Japanese way of manufacturing won the praise of the world. But now jobs are being outsourced and factories are sent overseas. Things have changed," said Koji Morioka, professor emeritus at Kansai University. Intensifying global competition and an unending drive to cut costs have resulted in a situation in developed countries like Japan where

workers keep quiet to protect themselves even if they see wrongdoing, added the expert. "As globalization continues, companies are expanding local production, and emerging economies are becoming ever more competitive," Morioka said.

Indian, Chinese pressure

The admissions came as the global industry landscape goes through sweeping transformations, experts said. Costly workers in mature economies like Japan are directly pitted against cheap factory staff in emerging markets in a competition for jobs. Experienced workers with stable contracts are being replaced by temporary novices, while management demands higher productivity from all employees. Meanwhile, industry newcomers are taking market share away from traditional corporate giants. In the steelmaking sector, for example, Indian and Chinese giants have steadily expanded, pressuring their Japanese rivals.

And the Japanese auto manufacturing behemoths have expanded overseas production, rather than exporting vehicles from Japan. The Kobe Steel and Nissan scandals are the latest in a string of negative headlines for Japanese industry that used to be the envy of the world. — AFP

US rejects French proposal on taxing tech companies

WASHINGTON: The United States does not support a French proposal to tax the gross revenues of international tech corporations like Google and Amazon, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Saturday. The remarks come as European officials say Washington has softened in recent days on a point that has caused sharp transatlantic tensions in recent years.

European authorities have targeted multinational companies that avoid taxation by seeking out cosy arrangements in low- and no-tax jurisdictions.

The Obama administration in 2016 reacted angrily to European authorities' decision to collect more than \$14 billion from Apple, which had negotiated highly favorable tax arrangements with Ireland.

Washington had until recently shown little interest in discussing a joint solution, according to European officials. In September of this year, French authorities proposed that the European Union impose taxes on gross corporate revenues because they say they have been unable to tax corporate profits directly.

Mnuchin said Saturday he did not support this. "I think the concept of a gross revenue tax does not make sense and I

don't think that's the right direction," Mnuchin told reporters on the sidelines of the annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

However, Mnuchin said talks were continuing. "We look forward to this discussion on international tax issues," he said. "I think there's a general view from us and our allies. What we don't want is for the international companies to be going into tax havens to avoid taxes, no matter where they're our companies our other countries." Speaking a separate news conference, French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said Saturday he was pleased that the United States was open to discussing the matter. "I return satisfied with the progress we've had from Washington on this subject," Le Maire said, noting that Washington and Paris had created a bilateral working group on the matter.

"It's the first time that France and the United States have agreed to advance the ways and means of taxing digital giants," Le Maire said France's proposal might not be perfect but could be put in place quickly. "It is not an ideal proposal but it is a proposal that can be enforced in short order," he said. — AFP

Futuristic solar-powered Dutch family car hailed 'the future'

ADELAIDE, Australia: A futuristic Dutch family car that not only uses the sun as power but supplies energy back to the grid was hailed as "the future" yesterday as the World Solar Challenge wrapped up.

The innovative bi-annual contest, first run in 1987, began in Darwin a week ago with 41 vehicles setting off on a 3,000-kilometre (1,860-mile) trip through the heart of Australia to Adelaide. Dutch car "Nuna 9" won the race for the third-straight time, crossing the finish line on Thursday after travelling at an average speed of 81.2 kilometers per hour (55.5 mph).

It was competing in the Challenger class, which featured sleek, single seat aerodynamic vehicles built for sustained endurance and total energy efficiency.

But there was also a Cruiser class, introduced to bridge the gap between high-end technology and everyday driving practicality. German team HS Bochum was the first to arrive Friday with its stylish four-seater classic coupe, featuring sustainable materials such as vegan pineapple leather seats.

But another Dutch team, Eindhoven, was set to be crowned overall champion based on a system taking into account design, practicality, energy efficiency, and innovation, organizers



ADELAIDE, Australia: The team members pose near the futuristic Dutch family car that not only uses the sun as power but supplies energy back to the grid was hailed as "the future" yesterday as the World Solar Challenge wrapped up. — AFP

said. Their family car, "Stella Vie", carried five people at an average speed of 69 kilometers per hour, with event director Chris Selwood saying it was a practical demonstration of what the future might look like.

"These incredible solar cars have been designed with the commercial market in mind and have all the features you'd expect in a family, luxury or sporting car," he said.

"Team Eindhoven are to be congratulated on their achievement to date—clearly the most energy efficient solar car in the field, capable of generating more power than they consume. "This is the future of solar electric vehicles. When your car is parked at home it can be charging and

supplying energy back to the grid." Cars in the race were mostly developed by universities or corporations, with teams hailing from around the world. They were allowed to store a small amount of energy but the majority of their power had to come from the sun and the vehicle's kinetic forces.

Team Eindhoven said its vision had been to build a family car with a balance between aerodynamic, aesthetic and practical design. "We think we succeeded very well with a car that is more efficient than its predecessors and includes some state-of-the-art technologies to not only generate energy but also supply it back to the grid," they said. — AFP

Tesla recalls Model X vehicles for seat fix

SAN FRANCISCO: Tesla said that it is recalling Model X sport utility vehicles to fix second-row seat-backs which might shift forward during crashes. Internal testing revealed that cables in second-row fold-flat seats in 2016 and 2017 model year vehicles might need to be adjusted to "ensure the safety" of those riding inside, a Tesla spokesperson said in an email response to an AFP inquiry.

"Although Tesla has not received reports of any issues or accidents relating to this condition, we will be conducting a voluntary recall to inspect the affected vehicles and confirm whether any adjustment is needed," the statement said. The number of Model X vehicles being recalled was estimated at 11,000, with only a small percentage expect-

ed to have the seat cable problem. In messages sent to Model X owners, Tesla offered to tend to inspecting and adjusting seats using its mobile service, giving an option of bringing vehicles into service centers. "Until then, there is no issue with continuing to drive your Model X," the Tesla spokesperson said. "We just ask that you temporarily avoid having two adults sit in the second row left and center seating positions at the same time." While Tesla cars have been met with high demand and glowing safety reviews, the Silicon Valley-based firm has struggled to crank models off the assembly line.

Tesla announced early this month that it missed its production target for the Model 3 sedan, the first mid-priced electric vehicle for the mass market in its lineup. The electric car maker started taking reservations for its mass-market sedan in March 2016, which is priced at \$35,000 (29,824 Euros) to start and is key to the company's plans to expand market share. The company said it has received some 450,000 pre-orders for the Model 3. Tesla last week said it was delaying the planned launch of an electric transport truck, diverting resources to step up production of its Model 3 sedan and to produce batteries for storm-ravaged Puerto Rico. — AFP

Health

Small scale farmers try to solve Amazon big problems

The clock is turning back, forest farmers say

MEDIO PURUS EXTRACTIVE RESERVE: In western Brazil's Amazon, the very people tasked with looking after the world's greatest rainforest are themselves wondering if they have a future. "We are just trying to survive," said Cleyton de Oliveira, 24. De Oliveira lives in one of the special areas called extractive reserves that were pioneered in the 1980s by environmentalist and union leader Francisco "Chico" Mendes as a way of putting small producers in charge of the forest. The idea was to allow modest communities to farm in a sustainable manner.

That way the poor had an opportunity to make a living and to own land, while their presence would keep the giant ranches and plantations encroaching constantly on the Amazon at bay. Mendes was murdered by a rancher in 1988 but not before his groundbreaking idea had taken root, part of a legacy that made him a national hero. Three decades later, there are 90 such reserves across Brazil, covering 96,500 square miles, including two created in 2008 in the western state of Amazonas, called Ituxi and Medio Purus—huge territories home to just 6,600 people in total.

They are the descendants of workers employed in slavery-like conditions as rubber tappers in the 20th century before extractive reserves gave the poor a chance to build new, freer futures. "We had to fight for years to get them, getting a lot of threats," said Silverio Barros Maciel, an Ituxi reserve community leader. But today, with almost no government support and ever growing pressure from ranchers who want their lands, the forest farmers say that clock is turning back.

Guardians of the Amazon

In the two Amazonas reserves, farmers harvest Brazil nuts, acai, fish and other produce on a modest scale. The creation of the reserves "meant freedom," says Medio Purus leader Jose Maria de Oliveira. It also meant another line of defense for the Amazon rainforest, putting locals in charge of making sure that

exploitation of the natural resources is sustainable and preventing big companies from grabbing land. Jose Maria de Oliveira credits the creation of the two reserves for saving species like the arapaima, a mammoth fish—one of the biggest river fish in the world—from annihilation.

But the forces pressing down on the rainforest are ever stronger. The highest deforestation rates in Brazil are found in the area of Labrea, the regional center which governs both reserves and which is a center for logging and ranching. "There's a whole mosaic of conservation areas here but that's not enough to halt the deforestation because there are people who want it to go ahead," Jose Maria de Oliveira said.

At the government environmental body named after the slain campaigner—the ICMBio or Chico Mendes Conservation and Biodiversity Institute—officials feel powerless. There are just four employees to monitor conservation in an area about the size of one and a half Puerto Ricos. "We are struggling to keep the forest going but we see that conservation of the Amazon is not the government's priority," Joedson Quintino, the ICMBio representative for Ituxi said.

Abandoned

Simply living on the extractive reserves is tough. What farmers say is the government's near abandonment of their communities makes it tougher. There are no roads, so everything and everybody must travel by river. To get from Labrea to Ituxi takes six hours in a fast boat, using up \$140 worth of fuel each way. In winter months, when the heavy rains come, boats can take shortcuts, cutting the journey in half.

Scarce educational facilities make raising a family harder. In Ituxi, for example, there is only basic schooling and the teacher, Francisco da Silva, lives in the small wooden building. He has used his ingenuity to build a solar system powering a television, printer and music player used during classes. Others rely on noisy, expensive-to-run generators. "Life on the riverbanks is hard," says Sicleudo Batista, another rural teacher who at 29 has already had malaria six times. In Medio Purus there are around

At first they were tolerated by the authorities, but then on September 24 security forces stepped in to break up a rally and arrested seven people for taking part in an "unauthorized demonstration", local rights activist Atmane Rizkou said. The situation only got worse when residents tried again to march on October 8, activists said. The attempt descended into violence as police boxed in the town and used force to break up the gathering and detained 21 people, said Akchbabe. "The protesters were subjected to repression, insults and humiliation," he said. "The town is in a state of siege."

Watermelons to blame?

Residents put the shortages roiling this arid region down to the overuse of sparse resources for agriculture, especially the cultivation of watermelons. Akchbabe says locals accuse the ministry of agriculture of allowing this water-intensive production "which provides profit for big farmers to the detriment of the inhabitants". University professor Abdelmalek Ithazir, who has written about Morocco's water policy, says that rare rains have led to the overexploitation of ground water across the country. "The rains are scarce and strong heatwaves lead to evaporation from water at the source, above all in the south," he told AFP.

"We need to develop a new, more rational policy and



AMAZONAS, Brazil: Smoke from deforested areas hangs in the air near Labrea in the Western Amazon region of Brazil. —AFP

a dozen schools for middle school, with satellite links for distance learning, but there's no access to higher education, which makes it hard to persuade young people not to leave the reserve. There are a dozen other primary school facilities, all in simple hits with just a handful of rooms, including for where the teacher lives. Cleyton de Oliveira is the only health worker for all of Ituxi and half of his monthly \$400 salary goes on boat fuel costs. There are no pharmacies or dedicated boat ambulances, while a boat dispensing preventative care has visited Medio Purus just once so far this year and not at all in Ituxi.

It's meant to visit both twice a year. The mayor of Labrea,

Gean Barros, can offer little help. From the same center-right party as President Michel Temer, a big supporter of agribusiness, Barros opposed the creation of the two local extractive reserves. Residents accuse him of doing everything he can to weaken the reserves. He blames the lack of help given to them on the central government. "Ninety percent of what they promised was not carried out," he said. Ituxi leader Francini dos Santos said there's no other choice but to keep trying—neither for them nor for the forest. "There are so many obstacles that we get tired," he said. "But if we abandon it, everything will get worse." —AFP

'Thirsty protests' hit Morocco over water shortages

RABAT: Residents angered by persistent water shortages in southern Morocco have taken to the streets in a series of "thirsty protests" that has grabbed the attention of the country's king. Since the start of the summer, inhabitants in the region of desert town Zagora have been left parched and furious as water supplies are cut off for hours—or even days—at a time.

"The situation is critical. It means daily suffering for the people in this region," Jamal Akchbabe, head of an environmental group in the town, told AFP by phone. "Families are going for days without tap water, while others don't have any for several hours each day. And this water is undrinkable." In a bid to express their discontent over the crisis, residents began organizing regular peaceful protests in the town of some 30,000, around 700 kilometers (430 miles) from the capital Rabat.

alternative measures." Officials appear to have heeded the anger—but so far their response has entailed mainly just words. At the end of September Prime Minister Saad-Eddine El Othmani promised "emergency measures" after the national water and power authorities admitted there were "constraints" hindering the system. A few days later the country's powerful monarch Mohammed VI called for the establishment of "a commission that will look at the issue with a view to finding an adequate solution in the coming months".

Sensitive timing

The protests come at a sensitive time for Morocco as the authorities are desperate to avoid a repeat of social unrest that has seen months of demonstrations rock the long-marginalized Rif region in the north. But the water issues roiling the country are common across North Africa and the Middle East where access to the precious resource has long been a problem. The World Bank estimates that over 60 percent of people there live in areas that suffer from a scarcity of water, compared to a worldwide figure of just 35 percent. In neighboring Algeria to the west, water shortages in 2000 and 2013 erupted into violence clashes. Meanwhile in Tunisia, where residents are especially reliant on winter rainfall to fill up dams, droughts caused supplies to be cut in summer 2016 for periods that sometimes lasted weeks at a time. —AFP



ZAGORA, Morocco: A picture taken on Sept 22, 2017 shows residents of this southern Moroccan town waiting to fill containers with water from a public well as they face water shortages. —AFP

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
فهد علي المخيزيم

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

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What's On



A staff party was hosted for Al-Sabah Hospital's Medical Casualty Department at Inn&Go Hotel, Kuwait City last Thursday.

NBK celebrates Mega Draw Day

More than KD 300,000 in cash



Everyone loves winning with NBK! National Bank of Kuwait rewards its customers with the most amazing mega prizes ever and this year was no exception. NBK celebrated its exciting, fun-filled Mega Draw Day on Friday 13 October 2017, at the Grand Avenues, handing out more than KD 300,000 in cash and grand prizes.

Congratulations to all the winners of this year's Mega Draw event which included the announcement for the KD 250,000 Al-Jawhara Quarterly Draw and 10 lucky draw winners chosen for the very popular Cards Cashback 'A Year of Winning' competition. The competition, which ran from 1st of May to 15th of September 2017, awarded winners their card spend up to a maximum KD 1,000 every month for an entire year!

Winners were welcomed throughout the day with instant prizes, fun and games during the Mega Draw Event. Suresh Bajpai, General Manager: Consumer Banking Group, National Bank of Kuwait oversaw the festivities, which was attended by hundreds of NBK customers and visitors to The Avenues.

Anas Mohammed Morad was chosen as the winner for the KD 250,000 Al-Jawhara Quarterly Draw. The draw was conducted,

like all NBK's competitions and draws, in the presence of an official from the Ministry of Commerce.

"NBK rewards its customers with significant value prizes, like the KD 250,000 Al-Jawhara Quarterly prize," said Suresh Bajpai, General Manager: Consumer Banking Group, National Bank of Kuwait. "We routinely exceed our customers' expectations, offering high value products and services for their current and future banking needs and rewarding them for their loyalty and business."

During the Mega Draw Day, NBK also rewarded 10 lucky customers for their card usage campaigns which took place over the summer. Speaking on the occasion, Hanadi Khazal, AGM - Products, Marketing and Segments at National Bank of Kuwait said, "Ten lucky winners will receive their spend amount of up to KD 1,000 every month, for the next one year. For every KD 1 spent abroad, each credit cardholder and debit cardholder earned three chances in the draw and if the spent was within Kuwait, one chance for credit card spends. The cashback 'A Year of Winning' program elicited strong response in line with NBK's market leadership.

The lucky winners are:

1. Massimiliano Porcelli
2. Tareq Tulbah
3. Jaber Hameed Abu Jaber
4. Jenan AlKulaib
5. Mohammed Ameer Alji
6. Kareem Zahran
7. Annah Hussain
8. Hend AlMdhayan
9. Meshal AlDalak
10. Khaled AlZahra

Customers can apply online on nbk.com for an NBK credit card. NBK offers a range of different credit cards to suit the current and future needs of customers and provide them with valuable rewards and promotions. NBK offers the region's largest reward point program at over 700 merchants.

National Bank of Kuwait offers a full suite of banking options including digital solutions online and on smartphones to suit customer's individual lifestyle needs now and in the future. Visit NBK.com to apply for convenient services including NBK Tap & Pay, with free delivery, NBK credit cards and many other types of solutions. The event lived up to its expectation as being one of the annual key events in Kuwait.



Sheraton Kuwait appoints new Italian chef at Riccardo restaurant



The Sheraton Kuwait, A luxury collection hotel is pleased to announce the joining of Chef Giulio who will be resuming the role of head chef in our Riccardo restaurant. With his vast knowledge and experience on a variety of traditional Italian cuisines, not only will he bring his new creations with his own creative twist to please the palates of both international and local guests adding enthusiasm and inspiration.

Chef Giulio, who was born in Italy, has always been fascinated by the art of culinary, which has defined his career. With 15 years of experience in the hospitality and restaurant industries at various international locations, with him he brings expertise on Italian cuisine together with a true passion for the culinary arts and new culinary ideas to bring the

guest's dining experience to the next level.

"We welcome Chef Giulio to the family of Sheraton Kuwait, a Luxury Collection Hotel, wishing him a successful tenure and we are confident that with his specialization in authentic Italian style dining, he will create culinary magic to the delight of our guests", said Fahed Abushaar, General Manager of the Sheraton Kuwait.

Sheraton Kuwait's Riccardo Restaurant was first established in 1979 till this present day offering some of the finest Italian dishes. Since then, it has enjoyed an unrivalled reputation for providing a truly exceptional dining experience where delectable Italian cuisine, one of the finest in Kuwait, can be savored in the refined elegance of this most stylish and sophisticated restaurant.



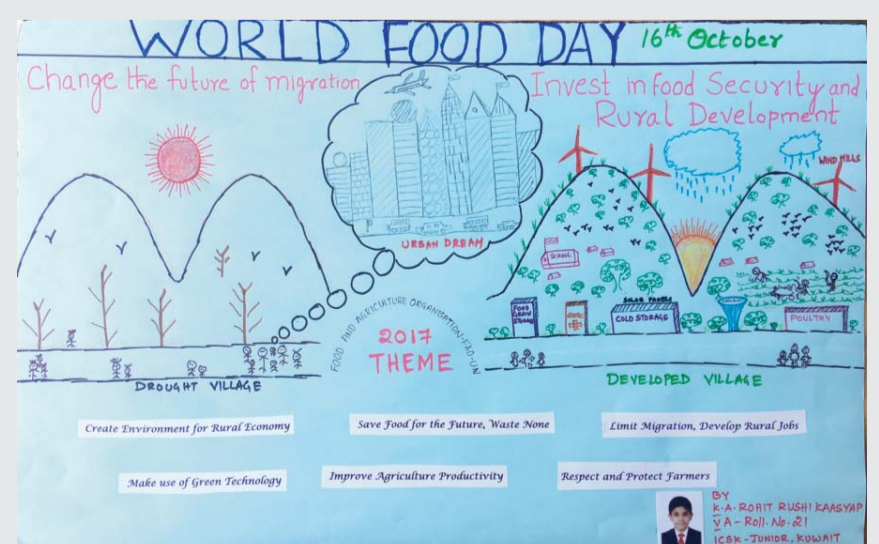
Chef Giulio

Study in Canada exhibition

Organized by the Embassy of Canada, the 12th annual Edu-Canada Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Tour will be visiting Kuwait from October 29-30,

2017. Representatives of around 10 leading Canadian institutions will be available to meet students, parents, teachers and guidance counselors to present the advantages of studying in Canada. On Sunday, October 29, 2017 at 6:00 pm a Study in Canada exhibition will be held at Symphony Style Hotel, Symphony Style Mall, Arabian Gulf road, Salmiya, for potential students and their parents to attend. For more information: www.kuwait.gc.ca.

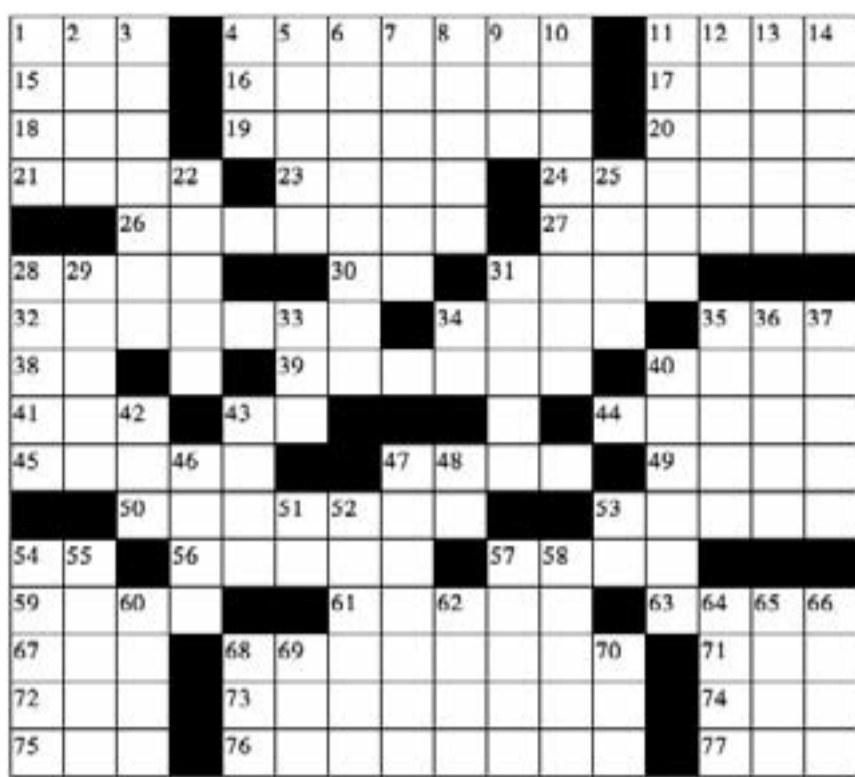
World Food Day



October 16th every year is celebrated as 'World Food Day' as per the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. This year's theme is "Change the Future of Migration. Invest in Food Security and Rural Development." K. V. Rohit Rushi Kaasyap, a fifth grade student in ICSK, Junior in Salmiya, Kuwait designed the above poster to highlight the issue.

Stars

CROSSWORD 1736



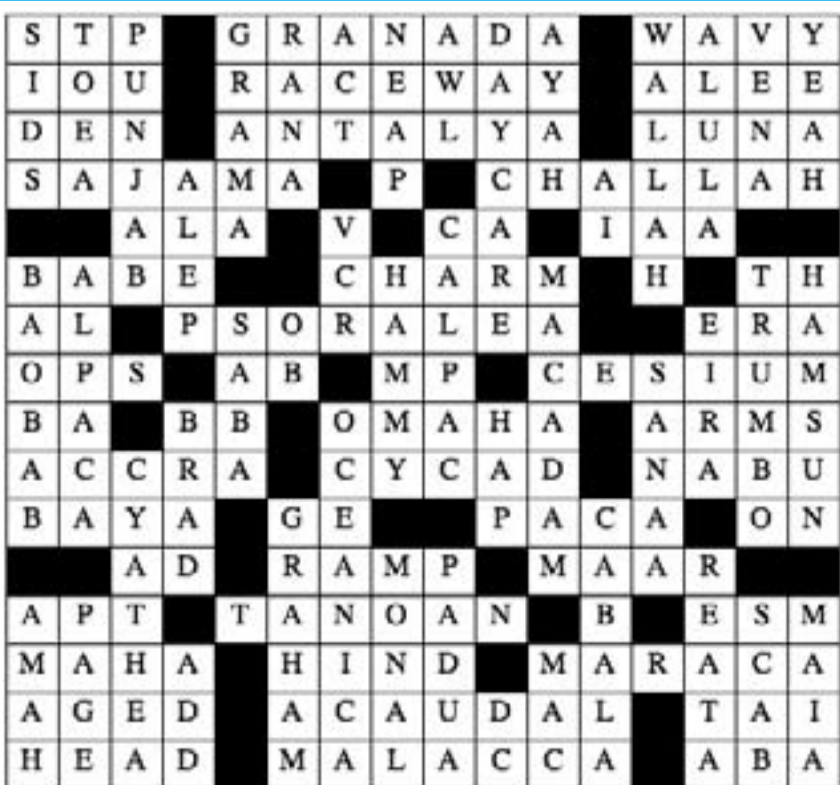
ACROSS

1. A United States liquid unit equal to 8 fluid ounces.
4. Comic dramatist of ancient Rome (253?-184 BC).
11. Having or denoting a low vocal or instrumental range.
15. Used of a single unit or thing.
16. Resembling or imitative of or suggestive of a man rather than a woman.
17. Causing a dull and steady pain.
18. A boy or man.
19. A member of the Algonquian people formerly living along the Tennessee river.
20. A port city in northwestern Algeria and the country's 2nd largest city.
21. City in eastern Belgium.
23. On or toward the lee.
24. The ratio of reflected to incident light.
26. Tropical American trees.
27. Feeling mild pleasurable excitement.
28. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
30. Being ten more than one hundred forty.
32. A spot that is open late at night and that provides entertainment (as singers or dancers) as well as dancing and food and drink.
38. A soft yellow malleable ductile (trivalent and univalent) metallic element.
39. Capital and largest city of Iraq.
41. A lipoprotein that transports cholesterol in the blood.
44. A telegram sent abroad.
45. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
49. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
50. Minute freshwater crustacean having a round body enclosed in a transparent shell.
54. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
56. American dwarf fan palms.
59. A very young child (birth to 1 year) who has not yet begun to walk or talk.
61. A thin tapered rod used by a conductor to direct an orchestra.
63. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
67. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
71. (British) Your grandmother.
72. Of a light yellowish-brown color n 1.
73. One who anoints as a religious ceremony.
74. A branch of the Tai languages.
75. Late time of life.
76. A monastery for lamas.
77. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.

DOWN

1. A telephone connection.
2. Relatively small fast-moving lichen.
3. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedaling).
4. A syndrome that occurs in many women from 2 to 14 days before the onset of menstruation.
5. An avalanche volcanic water and mud down the slopes of a volcano.
6. A collection of excerpts from a literary work.
7. Undergoing menstruation.
8. Infections of the skin or nails caused by fungi and appearing as itching circular patches.
9. The act of using.
10. Enclosed in a protective covering.
11. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
12. Extensive landed property (especially in the country) retained by the owner for his own use.
13. Relative darkness caused by light rays being intercepted by an opaque body.
14. A council convened to discuss ecclesiastical business.
22. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
25. A soft heavy toxic malleable metallic element.
29. Any taillike structure.
31. Lower in esteem.
33. A gradual decline (in size or strength or power or number).
34. A public promotion of some product or service.
35. A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.
36. Deciduous trees with smooth usually silver-gray bark of North America and Europe and Asia.
37. Any of various types of fold formed by doubling fabric back upon itself and then pressing or stitching into shape.
40. A battle in the Napoleonic campaigns (1809).
42. A digital display that uses liquid crystal cells that change reflectivity in an applied electric field.
43. Plant with an elongated head of broad stalked leaves resembling celery.
46. (law) A comprehensive term for any proceeding in a court of law whereby an individual seeks a legal remedy.
47. A genus of Cichlidae.
48. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
51. A hemoprotein composed of globin and heme that gives red blood cells their characteristic color.
52. Small tree of dry open parts of southern Africa having erect angled branches suggesting candelabra.
53. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
55. A clique that seeks power usually through intrigue.
57. An established line of travel or access.
58. Located inward.
60. An unofficial association of people or groups.
62. A large number or amount.
64. (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
65. King of Saudi Arabia since 1982 (born in 1922).
66. Small buffalo of the Celebes having small straight horns.
68. A close friend who accompanies his buddies in their activities.
69. A nucleic acid that transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm.
70. Free from liquid or moisture.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are concerned with preserving the usual and are stable and methodical in your ways of keeping everything the same. You resist change and may have trouble initiating change; once on the move, you are indomitable. A kind of romantic thinking characterizes your approach to life. This could mean a longing for a soul mate or a yearning to save the world. Community or family concerns may hold your interest this afternoon. There is an interest in bringing people together. This could mean that you become involved in developing communications between neighbors, friends or family—healing. Others want to help you in whatever you decide your quest is—you will find all the support or help you need is available.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Making peace with the past is essential now, and it's the only way you can get to the future you want. Ignore this and the questions about the past will never go away. People who cannot help themselves play a bigger role in your life now: do unto others. Meditation brings self-awareness, and that can set you free from being a prisoner of your own plan. Sometimes lazy and perhaps a bit absentminded, you would benefit from making a list of your goals... Long-term and short-term. This will bring some focus into your day as well as recognizing progress. Make it a point to mark off at least two of the most important things on your list. This is a day where you can get your personal needs met and much can be accomplished—emotionally and physically.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your happiest times all month are the days, like this day, when you spend time with friends in group activities. Spiritual practices and some charity work may be involved in making this a rewarding time. You may find yourself being put to good use by your friends and this should go rather smoothly. You have quick answers, great wit and a surplus of solutions. This is a good time to write and communicate with real originality. Inventions and breakthroughs are possible. Everything conspires to value and to bring out your unique and unusual qualities. You may find that someone close to you understands and is supportive of your eccentricities. You could feel loving and warm to those around you and you are appreciative of your own life.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

may be a challenging day where you can use your skills and expertise to solve problems and feel successful. You may be teaching in a religious setting or you could be working with a few co-workers to help you on this day. You may find that your personal growth depends on how you can handle some very sensitive psychological material coming up now. Perhaps the people you are communicating with today have plenty of questions for you—regardless of what job you are undertaking. You can take control and rise above whatever stress you experience at this time. You will benefit from investigative insights and getting to the heart of things. Enjoy a sunset or, if possible, get away from the city lights this evening, perhaps with a loved one.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This Monday may be challenging, but it is quite gratifying when you look back to see the accomplishments you make in such a short time. This could mean that some project is completed successfully or you help a friend install the border around a vegetable garden. Whatever the case, you seem to have the energy and enthusiasm to keep up with the requirements of the day. Time away from regular responsibilities this afternoon gives you new insight and renewed appreciation of just where you are in your life's path at this time. Opinions and beliefs of different cultures have an appeal for you. There is an urge to study religious, cultural or philosophical controversies: movements that have a way of stirring your blood.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

If you need a loan, the first of next week brings high probabilities of being granted a loan. Get the necessary papers together now, especially if this is something you want at the beginning of next week. Social affairs are wonderful ways in which to network. Accept the invitations that will be coming now and through the end of this month. Neighbors or relatives, brothers or sisters in particular, can be subjects for concern on the home front. It may take some effort and patience on your part to keep things on an even keel. Remember that there is a tendency to be out of touch or uncommunicative just now; listen to your conversations and be your own judge as to how you want to improve your communication skills in order to be most clear. Hugs are healing.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Independence, a need for freedom and an interest in trying new and different things may take hold of you now. You may behave in unusual or unconventional ways. You could also have an interest in the exotic or in eccentric friends. Breaking away and upsetting the trend of the moment may be the name of the game. A much more adventurous you will emerge. However, be careful that you do not become some sort of a speed demon. This urge to speed may be at your command for a good long time. The thrill of the chase, the smell of the greasepaint or the roar of the crowd is what gets your juices flowing now that you have entered a new cycle. To be appreciated, to be admired—adored, even—is what you desire. Make your passions positive.



Scorpio (October 23-November 19)

Deeper levels of consciousness open up for you now. You may be a bit quiet because you are especially impressionable. You are psychically aware of the deepest inner feelings of others. A soul-mate experience—or the yearning for one—can change your whole approach to relationships. There is a tendency to see someone as though he or she were on a pedestal and to measure him or her against an ideal. If you put people on pedestals, they are bound to fall and you could experience some disappointments. This is not the most practical time to get into a close partnership, regardless of how alluring the prospect. Dive into some activities this afternoon with your friends. Short or long trips bring wonderful adventures your way.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

This whole month gives you the opportunity to work on focus and understanding. Understand your feelings and take responsibility for them—you will jump ahead in the game of life many, many steps. You can demonstrate great understanding and sensitivity to the needs of others just now. You are in a good position to communicate concerning groups and society in general. You could be most persuasive with others and moving in speech and communication. The situation is a natural for self-expression and lends itself to your particular thinking. You may find yourself in charge of a sports team or teaching manners to young people. A good conversation with those you love is possible. You might enjoy updating the photo album this evening.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Friends may take control of most of your day today—you do not mind. You love a social life—friends and relationships play a major role in your make-up. You draw emotional sustenance and a sense of security from ideals, friends and social involvement. You love to communicate and discuss ideas with other people. Your ideas are always fair and impartial, especially when it comes to helping others and perhaps in helping further charity organizations. You are at your mental best when you are communicating with others. This evening you are highly motivated when it comes to a particular romantic relationship and you may show off your best attire for a special event. Keep grounded with your own emotions, perhaps through gardening.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Confidence and conviction are keystones of a new phase you have begun. There is power behind your ideas and the way you gain attention for your viewpoint. On this day it may be fun to join into group conversations but you may find yourself exhausted from the effort if the subject is not interesting to you. Travel and adventure are compelling temptations and you seriously consider lining up your next adventure. Sympathy and understanding are emotional qualities that take on a greater importance. You have plenty of enthusiasm to be helpful when needed. You have an inner self-confidence that burns with its own light. Your taste in art and appreciation in general are heightened and you may find yourself creating or enjoying a visit to an art show this day.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Communicating and getting your message across to others is at a high just now. Your timing should be perfect and those around you should find you most spontaneous. Romance, recreation and creativity take on an inspirational and perhaps wildly idealized quality now. Such experiences can be truly soul-stirring. Someone you care about—a child or lover perhaps—may have difficulty distinguishing fantasy and reality. Experimenting with different types of music may help you to unveil the different types of moods. Music can be enchanting but some music can be quite grounding. You have real vision and insight into the unity that ties this world together. You find new ways to bring people together—to unify situations.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional weather word.

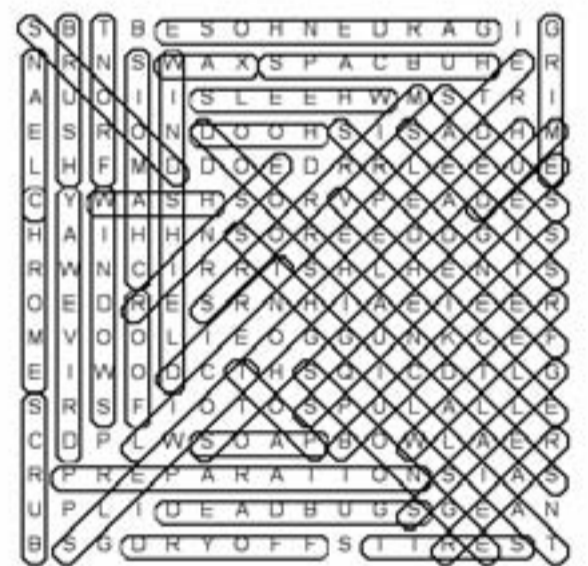


- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| BAROMETER | FLOOD | ICE | STORM |
| BLIZZARD | FLURRIES | LIGHTNING | SUNNY |
| CELSIUS | FOG | MIST | TEMPERATURE |
| CLOUDS | FORECAST | MONSOON | THERMOMETER |
| COLD | FREEZE | OVERCAST | THUNDER |
| CYCLONE | FROST | RAIN | TORNADO |
| DOWNPOUR | HAIL | SHOWER | TSUNAMI |
| DRIZZLE | HOT | SLEET | TYPHOON |
| DROUGHT | HUMIDITY | SNOW | VISIBILITY |
| FAHRENHEIT | HURRICANE | SQUALL | WINDY |

Weather

Yesterday's Solution

Washing a Car



- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|------------|
| BRUSH | FENDERS | PREPARATION | TIRES |
| BUCKETS | FRONT | REAR | TOP |
| CHAMOIS | GARDEN HOSE | RINSE | TOWELS |
| CHROME | GLASS | ROOF | VEHICLE |
| CLEAN | GRIME | SCRUB | WASH |
| DEAD BUGS | HEADLIGHTS | SIDES | WATER |
| DIRT | HOOD | SOAP | WAX |
| DOOR HANDLES | HUBCAPS | SPONGE | WHEELS |
| DOORS | LICENSE PLATE | SQUEEGEE | WINDOWS |
| DRIVEWAY | MIRRORS | SUOS | WINDSHIELD |
| DRY OFF | MUD | TAIL LIGHTS | |

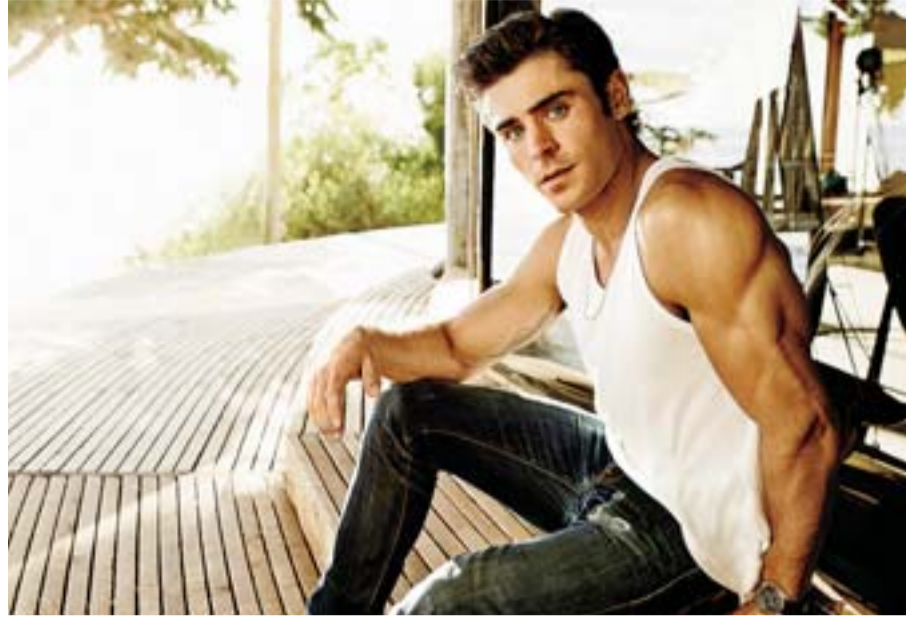
The hidden message is: BIRD DROPPINGS

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





Zac Efron was once charged at by a bear

The 29-year-old actor and his brother Dylan recently partnered up with Columbia Sportswear to test some of the brand's new gear, and the Hollywood hunk has revealed that whilst on a trip to Montana for the partnership, they got more adventure than they bargained for when they came face to face with a grizzly bear. He said: "Out of nowhere, [we were like] 'Okay, that's a bear. Everybody stop. And we all stood still. Somebody silently whispered 'But it's charging at us.' It took like two big canter at us. '[Luckily it] disappeared behind some trees. It was the scariest part of the trip! But it was cool to see a bear that close. It was maybe 15 or 20 feet

away. It was charging at us!" The 'Baywatch' star is thrilled about having the opportunity to explore new places on behalf of the sportswear brand though, as he is using it as "an excuse" to "see the rest of the world". Speaking to People magazine, he said: "I'm about to turn 30, so I'm thinking about how much of the world is left to see, how much there is to do and how much is out there. Luckily this is kind of an excuse for me to get outside even more and follow my dreams and see the rest of the world."

Jade Thirlwall struggling with long distance relationship



The 24-year-old Little Mix star has been romancing The Struts bassist for two years, but admits it feels as though they've only just begun their relationship because their hectic touring schedules mean they "never" get to see one another. She said: "It's s**t - we never see each other. We've been together two years but it feels like we've only just started going out because we never see each other. It's been a bit s**t not seeing each other I must admit." But the 'Power' hitmaker - who has been busy on a world tour whilst Jed's band have been touring with rock legends Foo Fighters - hopes she will be able to get in some much needed down time with Jed, 26, over the Christmas period. She added to the Sunday Mirror newspaper: "I'm going to try and see my boyfriend over Christmas, we don't see each other very often. "He is coming up north but we do so much unpacking and travelling we just want to be a normal couple and stay in one place. I think we just want to stay at home and chill." It isn't the first time the brunette beauty has bemoaned the distance between them, as she previously said they constantly have to fly around the world to see one another.



Winona Ryder thinks the world could have ended

The 45-year-old actress - who has been dating fashion designer Scott Mackinlay Hahn since 2011 - insists she doesn't do much to plan ahead for the future and nothing about her career has been "strategic". Asked where she thinks she'll be in 10 or 20 years time, she told Britain's Marie Claire magazine: "I honestly don't know if the world is going to exist then. "Everything is changing so fast. I've never been very strategic. I think if you try to be strategic, you just end up failing." The 'Stranger Things' actress admitted there has been a "drought" of good roles for women of a certain age, but she doesn't like to complain as there are much bigger issues in the world. She said: "There are definitely times when it feels like there's a real drought. It's

like that line in 'First Wives Club': 'There are only three ages for women in Hollywood - Babe, District Attorney and Driving Ms Daisy.' Or mother, which I am now. "Luckily, [Joyce in 'Stranger Things'] is not a cookie-cutter character: I get to do some more stuff with it. But it's also hard to complain. "You think about what's going on in the world right now and, 'There's not enough roles for me! I want to be...' So it's a tricky conversation." There are women who are facing much harder things all over the globe." Winona also hit out at criticism of actresses wearing the same dress on the red carpet more than once.

Julia Roberts rarely gets recognized

The 'Pretty Woman' actress occasionally gets stopped while out in public, but for the most part, people just think she is a very convincing lookalike. She said: "I don't attract that energy. I get more of, 'Psst, I have to tell you something. People tell me my daughter looks just like you.' Or my favourite, 'You look just like Julia Roberts!' 'Mm-hmm'. 'Are you Julia Roberts?' 'Yes'. 'No you're not.' " And the 49-year-old actress - who has twins Phinnaeus and Hazel, 12, and son Henry, 10, with husband Daniel Moder - thinks people believe she leads a "fantastical" life with an army of staff, when she's actually happy to do chores herself. She told Harper's Bazaar magazine: "I think people confuse the idea of having this fantastical job with somehow being a

fantastical individual. "Like, 'How could you possibly make breakfast?' Well, hunger is a good motivator. "Of course [I go grocery shopping]. It's a thing of make-believe that I can't buy toilet paper because of course I can." The 'Notting Hill' actress insists she's never been particularly competitive or ambitious and doesn't feel upset if she misses out on work. She said: "In a business where people can be very competitive and ambitious, I had a strange lack of those emotions. "When I didn't get a job, I'd think, 'Of course! I would have picked her too. I really believed it all had a purpose.'" Julia is a big believer in fate, and tends to leave her decision making to her instincts.



Liam Gallagher owes 'everything' to his mother

The 45-year-old singer might be outspoken toward his brother and musical rival Noel, but he isn't feuding with his whole family, and he has heaped praise on his mother Peggy. When asked what he owes to his parents, Liam said: "I owe my mother everything; she gave me life, guidance and beautiful skin." The 'Wall of Glass' hitmaker would even take his mother on a desert island with him, as long as they were surrounded by an "endless supplies of food and booze". Asked where he'd most like to be, he said: "On a desert island with no technology, surrounded by friends and family with endless supplies of food and booze." Liam revealed his answers in a series of quickly answered questions put to him by The

Guardian newspaper, where he also revealed his biggest regret was "Oasis splitting up", and says he relaxes by "running every morning". He also claimed his guilty pleasure is "70s sitcoms like 'Rising Damp'", his most unappealing habit is "licking [his] own plates", and that the worst thing anyone's ever said to him was "Are you Noel Gallagher?". Meanwhile, the 'For What It's Worth' singer recently admitted he welcomes his mother's advice when it comes to his career, and said she even helped select the songs that made it onto his recently released debut solo album 'As You Were'.

Adele will pay tribute to the late George Michael

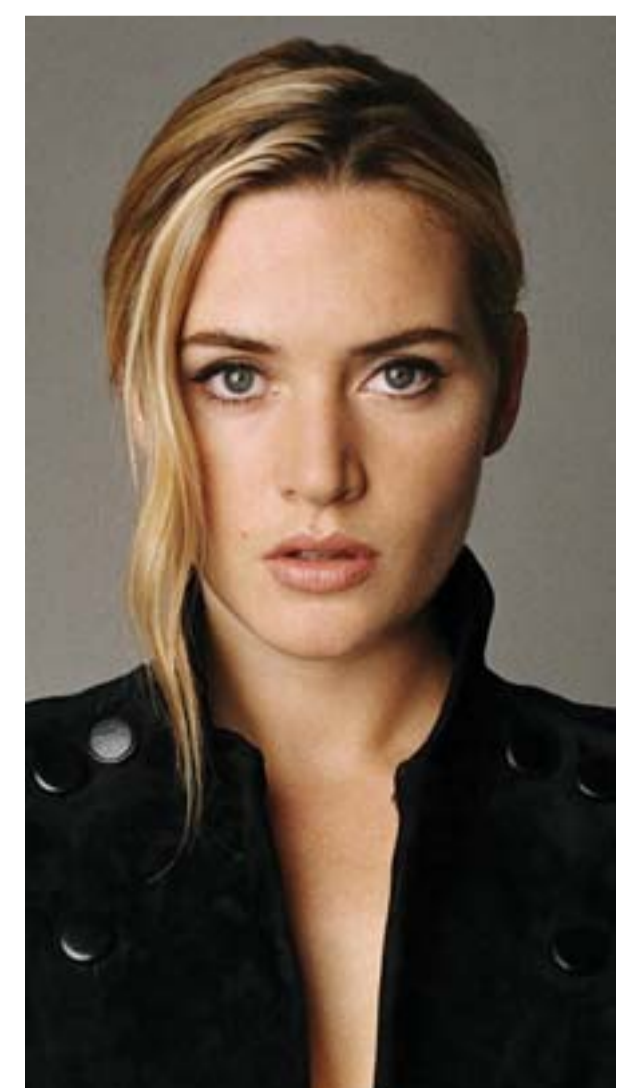


The 29-year-old singer will be seen performing the track during the opening credits of the documentary - which George was working on prior to his passing on Christmas Day last year at the age of 53 - after she wowed audiences with a slowed-down cover of the song at the Grammy awards earlier this year. A source told The Sun on Sunday newspaper: "Adele did not feature until a very late stage. But George's best friend David Austin, who was making the film with him, asked her if she would be involved and she said yes straight away. "She was a massive fan and wanted to make sure her tribute was perfect. The result was incredible and will be aired during the opening credits." And insiders also believe the 'Hello' hitmaker could be set to release her cover of the 1996 track as a single in memory of the late for-

mer Wham! singer. Meanwhile, during Adele's performance of 'Fastlove' at the Grammys, the star was forced to stop abruptly mid-song and had to ask producers if she could begin again when she messed up the track. Adele - whose 2016 Grammys performance of 'All I Ask' was plagued with technical difficulties - said: "I know it's live TV. I f**ked up. I can't do it again like last year. I'm sorry for swearing. Can we please start it again? I'm sorry, I can't mess this up for him." After the performance, the 'Hello' singer - who donned a black crystal earring reminiscent of one which George used to wear - appeared on the verge of tears, despite the applause she received from the audience.

Kate Winslet can't conform

The 'Mountain Between Us' actress insists she's never cared about other people's opinions and feels lucky to be in a position where she doesn't have to try and fit in to society's expectations. She said: "I just can't do the conforming thing at all in life. "I am not the kind of person who lives by other people's judgments and opinions. I dance to the beat of my own drum. "It's important for humanity and I am lucky that I can do that. There are many young women in the world who are so fragile emotionally and who don't believe in themselves." However, the 42-year-old star - who has children Mia, 16, and Joe, 13, from her marriages to Jim Threapleton and Sam Mendes respectively, and three-year-old Bear with husband Ned Rocknroll - admitted it can be difficult for young people to stay true to themselves these days because society is so judgmental. She said: "I life, the most important thing is to be true to yourself. "And it's hard to do that, because we live in an incredibly judgmental world. Particularly in the world of celebrity, it's unbelievably judgmental. "It does actually make me sad. "Wouldn't it be nice if we could all be exactly as we really are and not have to think for two seconds about what we are saying or wearing or what we are doing? Just be free and ourselves." Despite her fame, Kate and her family are still able to lead a low-key existence."



Lifestyle | Gossip

Motion picture Academy kicks out disgraced Harvey Weinstein

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences expelled Harvey Weinstein on Saturday, vowing that the era of "shameful complicity in sexually predatory behavior" in the movie industry was over. An emergency meeting of its 54-member board of governors, which includes stars such as Tom Hanks, Whoopi Goldberg and Laura Dern, voted "well in excess of the required two-thirds majority," it said in a statement. "We do not simply to separate ourselves from someone who does not merit the respect of his colleagues but also to send a message that the era of willful ignorance and shameful complicity in sexually predatory behavior and workplace harassment in our industry is over," the statement read.

An avalanche of sexual harassment, assault and rape accusations against Weinstein have surfaced since the publication last week of an explosive New York Times report alleging a history of abusive behavior by the Hollywood mogul dating back decades. As Weinstein's expulsion was announced, the London-based Sunday Times reported on a fifth alleged rape victim, British actress Lysette Anthony, who was said to have reported the 65-year-old to the Metropolitan Police last week.

Anthony, 54, who appeared in Woody Allen's 1992 film "Husbands and Wives," told The Times that Weinstein attacked her in the 1980s. On Thursday, American actress Rose McGowan became the fourth woman to accuse the 65-year-old of raping her. "What's at issue here is a deeply

troubling problem that has no place in our society," said the Academy, which organizes the Oscars. "The board continues to work to establish ethical standards of conduct that all Academy members will be expected to exemplify." Since the outbreak of the scandal, more than two dozen actresses including Mira Sorvino, Rosanna Arquette, Gwyneth Paltrow, Angelina Jolie and Lea Seydoux have come forward saying they were sexually harassed by the producer.

'Sick and depraved'

Some of the most recent allegations involved the former Bond Girl Eva Green, whose mother told French radio Weinstein had harassed her daughter for months, and British actress Alice Evans, who penned an essay for The Telegraph claiming she had rejected his advances, and believes it may have harmed her career.

Weinstein has not been seen in public since paparazzi descended upon him as he left his daughter's home in Los Angeles on Wednesday. "Guys, I'm not doing OK but I'm trying," he said in a video obtained by ABC. "I got to get help. You know what, we all make mistakes." Celebrity gossip portal TMZ reported that Weinstein later flew to rehab in Arizona, possibly at The Meadows, a facility near Phoenix where golfer Tiger Woods and supermodel Kate Moss have been treated.

Weinstein's brother and business partner Bob told The Hollywood Reporter in an emotional interview published

Saturday that he knew the tycoon was a cheater, but said he was unaware the extent of his "sick and depraved" behavior. "For me, I thought he was literally just going out there cheating in a pervasive way," he is quoted as saying. "It wasn't like he even had a mistress. It was one after another and that I was aware of. But as far as being in a room and hearing the description in The New York Times? No way."

Weinstein appears to have garnered little sympathy from the public, either, according to a survey conducted by celebrity branding expert and bestselling author Jeetendr Sehdev. Some 82 percent of 2,000 people questioned as part of an ongoing study into American attitudes to celebrity and entertainment said he should be kicked out of the Academy.

End of 'awful era'

Hollywood, too, has largely turned its back on Weinstein, with veteran filmmaker Oliver Stone and fashion designer Donna Karan offering the only words of support. While Stone merely warned against Weinstein being "condemned by a vigilante system," Karan went further, triggering outrage when she suggested women had been seeking a reaction from Weinstein by dressing provocatively.

Expulsion is a sanction the Academy had used just once before Weinstein, according to The Hollywood Reporter, against "The Godfather II" actor Carmine Caridi. He was accused of giving tapes of around 60 Oscar movies seeking consideration for the Academy Awards to a neighbor who turned out to be a pirate. The LA Times newspaper reported that some members of the board had wrestled with the Weinstein vote, worried that it might set a precedent requiring governors to police members' behavior.

Other A-listers including Bill Cosby, Roman Polanski and



In this March 2, 2014 file photo, Harvey Weinstein arrives at the Oscars in Los Angeles. — AP

Mel Gibson have all been investigated for their treatment of women but have escaped expulsion. Celebrities took to Twitter to celebrate Weinstein's expulsion, with "Hellboy" actor Ron Perlman declaring how "proud" he was of the decision. Mia Farrow, who worked with Polanski on "Rosemary's Baby" (1968) voiced hope that "we are witnessing the end of an awful era" while cautioning that "there are others."

Weinstein's films have received more than 300 Oscar nominations and 81 statuettes, according to The Weinstein Company, which he co-founded after selling Miramax. The studio fired him on Sunday and is exploring a sale or shut-down, according to the Wall Street Journal. Meanwhile the producer's wife, English fashion designer Georgina Chapman, has said she plans to divorce him. — AFP

'Only the Brave' honors heroes of deadly Yarnell fire

On a blistering June morning in 2013, Arizona's Granite Mountain Hotshots elite firefighting squad went into the wilderness to protect the town of Yarnell from a ferocious blaze. By the end of the day, all but one of the 20 man crew were dead. It was the largest loss of life among American firefighters since the attacks of September 11, 2001 and the deadliest US wildfire in more than 20 years.

"Only the Brave," a major new movie starring Josh Brolin, Jennifer Connelly and Miles Teller, pieces together the final hours of the crew. Its release on Friday next week could hardly be more timely, with the deadliest week of wildfires in California's history leaving 33 dead and hundreds still missing. The movie offers insight for those watching the increasingly grim headlines from northern California into the lives of the men and women who run toward danger to protect people and property, real-life heroes in an age of superhero movies.

"We all are asked to be brave in our own lives, and bravery is such an interesting thing," seven-time Oscar nominee and one-time winner Jeff Bridges, who co-stars, told a news conference in Los Angeles. The 67-year-old veteran of more than 70 movies wondered aloud if bravery of the type displayed by the Hotshots required them to feel fear, or if it was just instinctual. "Or does bravery take practice... being at peace in this uncomfortable situation? That's something that all of us can look at in our own lives," he said.

The Yarnell Hill Fire was ignited by a lightning strike on June 28, 2013 and, two days later, the gusting winds fanning it changed direction, twisting and rotating its progress. Sole survivor Brendan McDonough, who was the lookout for the Hotshots that day, alerted his crew and retreated down the mountain. As the winds gusted ever harder and the fire rapidly picked up progress, supervisor Eric Marsh, a 20-year veteran, guided his crew from one protected "black zone"-charred ground protected from the blaze-toward a different safe site.

Cut off

But the flaming front approached faster than anyone had anticipated, and the crew's escape route was suddenly cut off. Caught in a freak inferno, they deployed their fire shelters but perished in the extreme heat. The story resonated particularly strongly with Brolin, who drew on his experience as a volunteer firefighter in Arizona when he was in his 20s to play Marsh. The 49-year-old actor, Oscar-nominated for Gus Van



(L-R) Actor James Badge Dale, producers Molly Smith, Trent Luckinbill singer-songwriter Dierks Bentley, actor Josh Brolin, tech advisor Pat McCarty and lone survivor of Yarnell Fire Brendan McDonough speak onstage before the "Only The Brave" Nashville Screening Hosted by Dierks Bentley at The Belcourt Theatre on October 12, 2017 in Nashville, Tennessee. — AFP

Sant's "Milk," describes firefighters as the "last profession that are untouchably uncorrupt."

Hotshots, the country's top wildland firefighters, don't carry water, instead literally fighting fire with fire, using chainsaws to fell trees and burn barrels to light blazes to halt the progress of wildfires. The term "hotshot" is usually reserved for Forest Service special units and the Granite Mountain crew were just a band of local firefighters that Marsh dreamed of turning into an elite crew. This had never been achieved, but years of training paid off and they became the first certified municipal hotshot crew in the United States.

The 20 actors playing members of the unit immersed themselves in a boot camp led by real-life hotshots in the mountains outside Santa Fe, New Mexico. Sleeping in the dirt under the stars, they ate military rations, hiked most of the day and learned how to become wildland firefighters. Teller described the camp and 60-day shoot as a "kick in the gut," adding that the "collective suffering" helped the cast bond. "I think I underestimated the physical aspect of the job. I knew it was going to be tough, but I wasn't versed on hotshot training before I showed up," said Teller. 30.

Bravery

"Only the Brave" features five fires portrayed through a mixture of actual blazes, special-effects fire and computer-generated imagery. The crew built a two-acre forest set behind Santa Fe Studios, with more than 600 pine, juniper and

spruce trees, bushes, grass, rocks and a drip irrigation system.

The fires were ignited from liquid propane tanks, with flames bursting 30 to 100 feet (nine to 30 meters) into the air. "The actors will tell you, we had fire on set and it was hot," said director Joseph Kosinski, of "Tron: Legacy" and "Oblivion" fame. "I was just remembering yesterday a scene that Josh was in where he was standing very close to some large flames and after the take I was like, 'Are you good, man? Are you okay?' He was like, 'Yeah, no problem.' And he turned around and the pack on his back had melted."

The Granite Mountain Hotshots crew was discontinued after the tragedy, with Arizona's Forestry Division finding no evidence of negligence. But the Industrial Commission of Arizona, which oversees workplace safety, blamed the division for the deaths, arguing that officials knowingly put protection of property ahead of safety and should have pulled crews out earlier.

A memorial in the town of Prescott, where the firefighters were based, was attended by thousands, including representatives from over 100 hotshot crews and Vice President Joe Biden.

"All men are created equal and then some become firefighters," Biden said, paying tribute to the bravery of the Granite Mountain Hotshots. — AFP

Mountaineer Reinhold Messner, and the art of not getting killed

Italian mountaineer Reinhold Messner is perhaps one of the world's last great adventurers: he has conquered the planet's highest peaks, crossed Antarctica and hunted for the elusive Yeti. That he has lived to tell those tales, is mainly down to luck, he says. Now 73 years old with an unruly mop of grey hair and a full beard, the man who counts German Chancellor Angela Merkel as a walking buddy says he is always in pursuit of the next challenge.

"Life is about daring to carry out your ideas," he told AFP in an interview at this week's Frankfurt book fair. "And for me, it always comes back to the wilderness, nature, mountains." One of the best-known living mountaineers, Messner became the first person to climb Mount Everest solo and without the help of bottled oxygen in 1980. He also became, in 1986, the first to scale the world's 14 summits over 8,000 meters again without supplemental oxygen.

Along the way, he has pioneered an extreme style of mountaineering known as alpinism, where climbers aim to reach the top with as little material and outside help as possible. "We were the first generation to say: we don't need all that," recalls Messner, who grew up in South Tyrol and started climbing at the age of five. But it is an art that is increasingly getting lost, he says, dismissing today's climbers who rely on sherpas and ready-made

routes to reach the peak.

"The true alpinist doesn't want any infrastructure, he wants to go into the wild. "And the odds of getting killed there are relatively high. And most people are sensible enough not to want that," he laughs. "But the art of not getting killed is only an art if there's a chance you could die," he adds. "If I rule out the chance of getting killed in advance, the whole thing becomes a game, or tourism or consumerism."

Tragedy

Messner's own exploits have not been spared from tragedy. In 1970, his brother Guenther died as they were descending Pakistan's "killer mountain" Nanga Parbat in bad weather. Messner himself lost seven toes to frostbite. His brother's death prompted one of the most infamous rows in mountaineering history, which haunted Messner for decades. Other members in the expedition accused him of leaving his brother behind near the summit in a bid to become the first to ascend the mountain from one side and descent from the other.

It wasn't until 2005 that Messner said he felt vindicated, when Guenther's remains were recovered close to where he always insisted his brother had died in an avalanche. His daring feats have become the stuff of legend, but Messner-



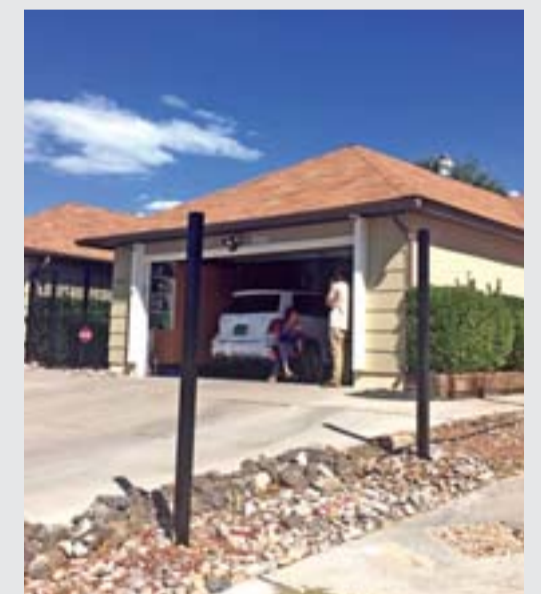
Italian explorer and mountaineer, Reinhold Messner, poses during an interview with AFP journalists during the Frankfurt Book Fair 2017 in Frankfurt am Main. — AFP

who has a history of falling out with teammates and preferring to climb alone—says he has experienced plenty of failures along the way too. "Around half of the top alpinists have died climbing," he said. "Of course if I'm careful and turn back more often than the others, I can increase my chances of survival. But if I hadn't been lucky a few times, I wouldn't be here." — AFP

'Breaking Bad' house gets fence to block fans

The real Albuquerque house made famous by the methamphetamine-making character Walter White in the AMC-TV hit series "Breaking Bad" is getting a fence. The owners are installing a 6-foot wrought iron fence on the front of the house used in the series, starring Bryan Cranston. The move comes after the owners have complained of countless fans wanting snapshots and selfies of the house.

Joanne Quintana tells KOB-TV that she loses count of the number of weekly visitors to the house that her mother owns. She said the tourists have caused disruptions that have made them fearful to leave the property unattended. Some tourists have even told them "to close our garage" and "get out of the picture," Quintana said. Construction on the fence is underway, and Quintana says people have already tried to climb around the construction to snap a photo.



The house used in the AMC-TV series "Breaking Bad" with poles for a new fence is shown in this Friday, Oct. 13, 2017 photo in Albuquerque, New Mexico. — AP

On Friday, a worker was seen placing poles and two women in chairs outside of the house's open garage yelled at visitors trying to take photos. One woman shouted expletives at an Associated Press reporter snapping images of the house and demanded the reporter stay away from property. "Breaking Bad" follows Walter White, played by Cranston, producing and selling methamphetamine with a former student, Jesse Pinkman, played by Aaron Paul.

The show ended in 2013, but tourism companies in Albuquerque still embrace the drug-addled series and give "Breaking Bad" tours showcasing spots made popular in the show. The Albuquerque Convention & Visitors Bureau created a website of the show's most popular places around town to help tourists navigate. The Walter White house is not listed, however. Still, a number of fan sites give the address and photos of the house are posted on Instagram almost every day. A prequel to the show, "Better Call Saul," is filming its fourth season and recently shot scenes near the Albuquerque bureau of The Associated Press. — AP

Lifestyle | Features

Yalda's tips for traveling with kids

Traveling with kids can be a challenge, especially for new parents. No matter if it's your first trip with your child or your twentieth, it can always be an anxious and stressful experience. It's so important for me to still look presentable and be comfortable while traveling and handling kids and making sure that I don't completely neglect myself.

Getting organized and managing your time is key. Whenever we have a trip coming up with the kids, I always make sure to plan ahead weeks in advance and book my appointments like getting my hair and nails done, planning my outfits for the trip, and any other errands that need to get done. Leaving things until the last minute is the easiest way to neglect yourself. You will end up rushing around and packing for your kids, which will result in you having no time to focus on yourself.

Another thing that I've found so useful is finding a simple and quick routine that will make you look more put together as quickly as possible. My routine starts with fixing my hair and making sure it doesn't look like a disaster. I usually put it up into a messy bun or braid, which instantly makes you look so much more presentable. For my face, I usually go for a bit of BB cream all over, some mas-



Yalda Golsharifi

cara, a bit of blush and a tinted lip balm or lipstick. This routine doesn't even take me 10 minutes but it makes such a difference to how I look and feel. A simple routine like this can be used when you're traveling to make you look more put together while still looking effortless and comfortable.

As for keeping your kids entertained while traveling, I always make sure to pack my kids a backpack each filled with their favorite toys and snacks to keep them going during the flight. Packing extra clothes and medicine is also a good idea because you never know when an accident might happen or if your kids may feel unwell during travel. Making sure your kids stay hydrated while traveling is so important so having some juices handy or packing their favorite water bottle will encourage them. If it's a long haul flight, packing pajamas or your child's favorite blanket or stuffed animal can be a great way to make them feel at home and maybe get some sleep if they're struggling.

At the end of the day, traveling is an exciting experience. As stressful as it may be to parents, kids are usually so excited about flying and "going up in the sky" and all of the excitement that goes along with visiting a new country and trying new things, so don't let the stress ruin the excitement. Make sure to give your kids the best experience that you can, so remembering to stay calm and not let the little things get to you is so important.

Remember that some of the best family memories you will ever have are made when you travel :)

Robert Plant
nears 70
as voice of
spiritual warmth

Robert Plant was Led Zeppelin's "Golden God" whose voice could tear through audiences, but on his latest album he proves anew he is more subtle and spiritual than a screecher. "Carry Fire," which came out on Friday, renews Plant's fascination with American roots music but ventures further afield as the rocker breezily brings in North African lutes and the pulsating energy of electronica.

Plant, who was famously a reluctant lyricist at the birth of Led Zeppelin, returns with a poetic touch, rekindling the mythological imagery that came to mark his old band-and, obliquely, taking aim at US President Donald Trump. At age 69, Plant retains his instantly recognizable voice, with a rich intensity at the higher ranges. But on "Carry Fire" he decides to turn on the vocal overdrive sparingly, his vocals representing not an older self but a softer, warmer side.

"Carry Fire," Plant's 11th solo album, will strike Led Zeppelin fans for its nods, intentional or not, to the band. On the dreamy "Season's Song," Plant opens verses by singing, "Oh my love" a faint echo of the more boisterous "All My Love" of Led Zeppelin's heyday. The album begins with "The May Queen," an image of nature that appeared in Led Zeppelin's most celebrated song, "Stairway to Heaven." Yet the new song goes in a different direction with rich vocal harmonies and fiddle.



Robert Plant, the former vocalist of the band Led Zeppelin, performs during Alive Festival in Oeiras, Portugal. — AFP

Plant wrote "Carry Fire" after returning to England following the disintegration of his relationship with folk singer Patty Griffin, with whom he lived in Austin, Texas. The singer has said he was alarmed by how often he was recognized in Austin. But he retains the interest in American music that was initially heard in Led Zeppelin's blues and more recently on "Raising Sand," his 2007 album with bluegrass singer Alison Krauss that won the Grammy for Album of the Year.

New sort of immigrant song

If "Immigrant Song," one of Led Zeppelin's best-known songs, spoke of Norse invasions, Plant on "Carry Fire" appears interested in a much more recent immigrant experience. "Carving Up the World Again... a wall and not a fence" quotes in the title the words of Trump, who in his campaign against undocumented immigrants from Mexico vowed to erect a full-fledged barrier on the border.

"Call up the cavalry and double up the guard / Preparing for catastrophe inside the house of cards," Plant sings in the song's chorus. He evokes campaigns against Native Americans in the more rocking "New World" as he sings, "They're barely human / It's time to move them / To let them kneel before the sword." Plant embraces electronic backdrops on "Bluebirds Over the Mountain," which features Chrissie Hynde of The Pretenders, and on "Keep It Hid," also rife with natural imagery.

Plant, backed up on the album by his Sensational Space Shifters band, opens the title song with an oud, bringing a North African feel to a song still grounded in rock beats.

In an interview several years ago with the pop culture site Noisey, Plant described an experience in Morocco as life-altering as he searched to understand the uniqueness of their music. "Time and age mean nothing," he said, adding that without new creativity "you get on the same old ferry going backwards and forwards from your past, to the bank." — AFP

Turning
weed into
drinks in
Lebanon

Sitting among the vines of Sauvignon Blanc and Tempranillo growing on his spectacular farm in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, Michel Emad remembers the not-so-distant time when he opted to cultivate cannabis. The retired soldier was not alone in this illicit trade: cannabis fields used to stretch as far as the eye could see in this part of Lebanon over which the state has tenuous control.

"Everyone used to grow hashish, that was what the market wanted, there was no alternative crop," Emad, a father of two in his fifties with neatly trimmed hair, said. Now he and the 220 farmers from the Coteaux Heliopolis cooperative are growing grapes for winemaking in the northern Bekaa Valley's Deir al-Ahmar region.

The area, one of the poorest in Lebanon, is notorious for its cannabis production, which expanded massively over recent decades to turn into a multi-million-dollar industry. While cannabis farming has only been feebly challenged by the authorities over the years, it remains illegal and the small cooperative has succeeded in luring some producers away from the risky business.

They are looking to cash in as Lebanon's wine industry has blossomed, with traditional heavyweights and myriad smaller producers making inroads on an ever-expanding global market. "Growing grapes is more lucrative and leaves you with a clean conscience," Emad said, explaining that this year's nine-ton harvest earned him \$10,000 (8,400 euros), twice his erstwhile income from cannabis.

Cannabis to Cabernet

On the other side of the dirt road running along his vineyard, the tall stems of cannabis fields are still visible. Emad spent three years growing cannabis, like many other villagers in Lebanon's Bekaa who see it as their only means of survival. The security forces regularly raid the cannabis farms in the area and Emad's fields were wiped out twice before he even-



A cannabis field is seen near a vineyard on the outskirts of Deir Al-Ahmar.

A general view of vineyards planted next to cannabis fields on the outskirts of Deir Al-Ahmar in the Bekaa Valley, one of the poorest regions in Lebanon and notorious for its cannabis production. — AFP photos

ually decided to join the cooperative in 2003.

"With hashish you always feel threatened by the authorities, you can't sleep at night for the constant risk of being jailed or seeing the state destroy your crops," he said, puffing on a cigarette in the shade of a tree. The Coteaux Heliopolis cooperative was launched in 1999 and now covers around 250 hectares of vineyard (620 acres) in Deir Al-Ahmar.

The first harvest in 2003 and the resulting windfall sparked a wave of interest among cannabis farmers in the area. "We have provided evidence that people don't want to grow hashish. They are obliged to because it is their only source of income but they don't actually want to live in fear and in violation of the law," said Shawki Al-Fakhri, who heads the cooperative. "If you give them an alternative, a lucrative and legal crop to farm, people will take it in a heartbeat," said the retired engineer, sitting in the garden of the house his grandfather built.

Historical land

The elegant sexagenarian with flowing white hair recounts with an amused grin how his own father had been tempted by cannabis farming decades ago but was eventually dissuaded by his grandfather, a village priest. The cooperative's harvested grapes—around 400 tonnes in 2017 — are then sold on to producers such as Chateau Ksara, one of the biggest players in Lebanon's wine industry, or Domaine Wady, one of the oldest and most renowned wineries.

The project initially received funding and technical support from France and gradually grew with local loans allowing producers to turn their fields into vineyards. The grapes of choice are Syrah, Tempranillo, Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc and Viognier. "These are grapes that like the sun and the heat and could work at high altitude," said Charbel Al-Fakhri, who works alongside his father Shawki at the cooperative and got a specialized MBA from France's wine capital Bordeaux.

The cooperative has created its own winery and made a modest start with 100,000 bottles in 2017, only a fraction of the eight million bottles Lebanon produces each year. "I really believe our white is a little gem, its freshness is remarkable. We also have a very fresh and fruity red," said Charbel proudly. For him, the switch from cannabis to wine is like returning a historical land to its rightful owner.

Coteaux Heliopolis chose its name as a homage to the nearby City of the Sun Heliopolis was the name of the ancient city of Baalbek where the Roman wine god Bacchus was worshipped. "The Romans didn't just happen to pick this place. We're 12 kilometers from Baalbek, once the area was covered with vines," the young man said. "Our land is exceptional." — AFP



A Lebanese farmer inspects grapes at his vineyard planted next to a cannabis field.

Protests hit Frankfurt
book fair in row
over far-right

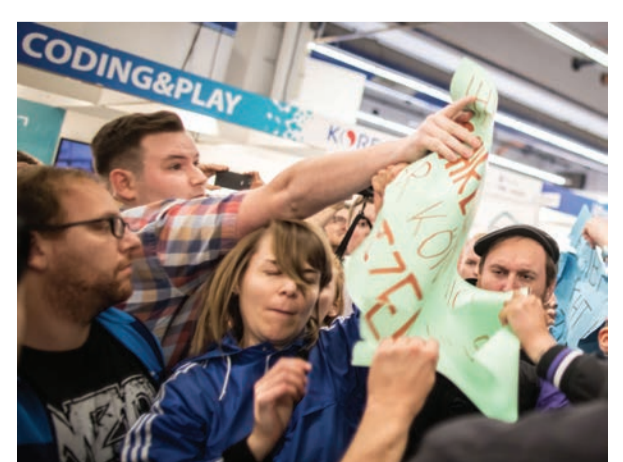
The presence of a leading member of Germany's far-right AfD party at the Frankfurt book fair triggered protests on Saturday, with police intervening to separate rival demonstrators. Several dozen leftist protesters shouted "Nazis out" while counter-demonstrators responded with "Everyone hates Antifa" (the anti-fascist movement), DPA news agency reported. The protests were sparked by leading AfD member Bjoern Hoecke's visit to the annual fair to attend the presentation of a book by the hard-right publishing house Antaios.

Elsewhere at the trade show, a reading by two right-wing authors had to be cancelled because it was drowned out by protesters, DPA said. The tumult comes just three weeks after the Alternative for Germany party (AfD) won its first

seats in the federal parliament after taking nearly 13 percent of the votes in a national election. Hoecke is one of the AfD's most divisive figures. He made headlines earlier this year when he said Germany should stop atoning for its guilt over World War II.

Organizers of book fair, the world's largest publishing event, issued a statement condemning "the targeted provocations" between "left- and right-wing groupings". "The Frankfurt book fair thrives on diversity of opinion and is a space for free dialogue," it said. The presence of far-right publishers at this year's fair has been controversial, with critics accusing organizers of giving a platform to rabble-rousers.

The small publisher Antaios, which describes itself as "new right", earlier this week complained that some of its books were stolen and others smeared with toothpaste and coffee in apparent protest actions. It is the publishing house behind the bestselling book "Finis Germania", Latin for "The End of Germany", which news weekly Der Spiegel described as "extremely right-wing, anti-Semitic and historically revisionist". — AFP



Protesters demonstrate against the presence of far-right publishing houses and the visit of a regional leader of the AfD (Alternative for Germany) clash with order keeping staff at the Frankfurt Book Fair. — AFP

An exciting voyage through classical and folk music

South Indian musician Kavalam performs in Kuwait

By Sajeev K Peter

In his fascinating concert 'Ragamanjari,' a mix of Carnatic classical, semi-classical and folkloric tunes, South Indian musician Kavalam Sreekumar took the audience on a musical voyage on Friday at ICSK auditorium, Salmiya. Demonstrating his expertise in both classical and folk musical genres, Kavalam wooed music-lovers of all hues at NAFO Kuwait's 'Onam 2017'.

The concert commenced with the traditional classical song, 'Swaminatha paripalaya', set to raga 'Nattai' in Kavalam's distinctive style. This moving piece was followed by two classical songs including the popular number 'Nakumo kanalen', set to the raga 'Abheri'. The artiste then forayed into semi-classical numbers like 'Sreeganapathyude' and eventually folk songs and light music numbers drawing applause from the audience for his

soulful, lucid, and powerful renditions. He was accompanied on violin by Karunagappally S Balamurali, on mridangam by Perunna G Harikumar, on tabla by Iqbal Koyilandi and on Gijira by Ragesh V Ramakrishnan.

Reviving the folk culture

Also well-known as a Malayalam playback singer, this was Kavalam's third concert in Kuwait. He has travelled across India and abroad and presented concerts in the US, the UK, Europe, Asian countries and Gulf countries. Kavalam underwent rigorous training in music from the tender age of five and inherited an illustrious legacy from his father, theatre director and poet late Padmabhushan Kavalam Narayana Panikkar. The young musician, following in his father's footsteps, seeks to revive and reenergize Kerala's folk music and culture.

"Unfortunately, the once vibrant and powerful folk music

tradition in Kerala, kept alive by my ancestors, is now fading away. Although, many folkloric songs and lyrics are available, we don't know how they were rendered in the past. So for all practical purposes, we have lost them," said Kavalam during an interview with Kuwait Times prior to the concert.

"That means, we are facing a challenge today. We have to recreate the music of the past once again. But it is not possible to archive the songs as they were rendered in the past nor it is possible to notate them like classical songs," Kavalam said. He has composed scores of folk songs many of which were written by his father, and recorded them in his voice.

Kavalam sang a few of his famous folk songs like 'Aalalay thara venam,' 'Karu kara kaar mukil,' and 'mukkutti thiruthali' and recited some poems in his unique style of rendition that gives prominence to voice culture, expression and clarity of lyrics. "These were songs I sang and recorded around three decades ago. I am happy that these songs are very popular even today," he said, adding ruefully that he should have recorded more such songs back then.

Appealing to the masses

Highlighting the power and resonance that folk music has with the masses and common people, Kavalam said, "The actor Mani has proved that folk songs can be more popular than film songs." "Kerala's folkloric tradition represented a rich cultural heritage as it was associated with harvesting and vocations of various tribes and rural people of the yesteryear," he said.

"That generation demonstrated extraordinary artistic skills. For example, the once-famed Arjuna dance, in which artistes use three-tier rhythms—legs, hands and vocal rhythm. They could maintain rhythms and music at different levels," Kavalam added.



Kavalam Sreekumar

Kavalam spoke about the efforts that had been made to preserve the texts and lyrics of Kerala's folk history while arguing that they were few and far between. "M V Vishnu Nampoodiri has compiled folk songs as language song collections in five volumes. Unfortunately, no serious attempt is being made at an official level to revive Kerala's folkloric culture today. Not even anything at the academic level," he said.

Through his musical journey, Kavalam has rendered scriptures such as Ramayana, Bhagavatha, Lalitha and Vishnu Sahasra Namam, Soundarya Lahari and Dhyana Slokas. In addition to scores of songs and poems, Kavalam has also composed several songs for the Mohiniyattam dance form, some of which are in the repertoire of danseuses like Kanak Rele and Bharathi Sivaji. "Today, I am looking at my music career from a broader perspective," he added.



South Indian musician Kavalam Sreekumar performs during NAFO's 'Onam 2017' in Kuwait.

London film fest to end with 'Three Billboards'

The 12-day London Film Festival ends Sunday with "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," a small-town tragicomedy starring Frances McDormand and Woody Harrelson that is being tipped as an Oscar contender next year. Martin McDonagh's film won best screenplay at the Venice Film Festival and last month took the Toronto International Film Festival's People's Choice Award, frequently a bellwether for Hollywood's coming awards season.

Russian director Andrey Zvyagintsev's "Loveless," a piercing drama about a divorcing couple whose son disappears, won the best picture prize Saturday at the London festival's awards ceremony, where filmmaker Paul Greengrass said the industry needs to do "much, much better" on diversity after the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

Zvyagintsev's prize was the director's second top trophy from the London festival. He received the best picture award in 2014 for "Leviathan," a tragic satire of small-town corruption that brought the director criticism from Russian officials. British director Andrea Arnold, president of the judging panel, said "Loveless" turned one family's story into "a universal tragedy."

"Loveless" is also an indictment of social flaws, with resonance well beyond Russia. Festival director Clare Stewart said the film's depiction of parents so consumed with their own lives they don't initially realize their son is missing "is such a powerful metaphor for what is happening with many children around the world." Stewart said "Loveless" asks audiences, "Are we caring for our future?"

Difficult week

During an awards ceremony at London's 17th-century Banqueting House, South African director John Trengove won the first feature trophy for "The Wound," a drama about masculinity and sexuality set against the backdrop of a Xhosa initiation ritual. The documentary prize went to Lucy Cohen's "Kingdom of Us," a portrait of a family trying to recover after a suicide. Patrick Bresnan's "The Rabbit Hunt" was named best short film. Greengrass, the English director of

"United 93" and three of the Jason Bourne thrillers, received the British Film Institute Fellowship, a career honor. The 61st London festival has featured glitzy galas for other potential awards season favorites, including Guillermo del Toro's fantastical "The Shape of Water," Sean Baker's vibrant "The Florida Project" and directing duo Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris' tennis drama "Battle of the Sexes." But it has also been shaken by the allegations of sexual harassment and rape against powerful Hollywood producer Weinstein. The disgraced movie mogul has denied non-consensual sexual activity.

Accepting his award, Greengrass said it had been a difficult week for the industry,



BFI Fellowship winner Paul Greengrass in the press room at the Film Festival Awards, part of the BFI London Film Festival, at Banqueting House, London.

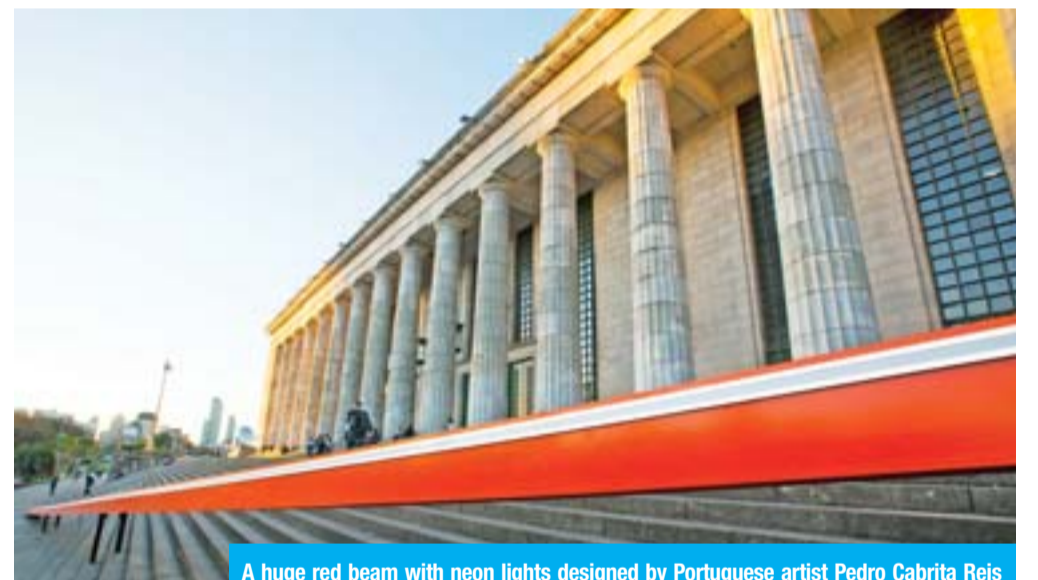
which still has a "profound issue with diversity." "We need to do much, much better, including addressing our lack of women directors as a matter of urgency," Greengrass said. He said "every one of us in leadership positions have to do more" to stamp out bad behavior. The London festival has sought in recent years to encourage diversity in the film industry. About one-quarter of the 242 features in this year's lineup were directed by women - a higher share than many festivals manage. Stewart said that "it's been very important for us, given our history of championing strong women, to really support the women who are brave enough to come forward and speak out" against Weinstein. Stewart said she hoped exposure of Weinstein's behavior over decades would be a turning point. "I think that this will lead to change," she said. — AP

South American Biennale seeks to change the rules of art

The impeccably white Palais de Glace in Argentina's capital is a national historic monument that once housed the country's fine art museum. But these days it looks like a giant candy cane. The building's walls were painted in brightly colored stripes and wrapped in neon lights by French artist Bertrand Ivanoff as part of the recent opening of the South American biennale, Bienalsur. The contemporary art fair seeks to draw in new audiences by giving artists free range to experiment and showcase works that break the mold.

Established biennales like Venice are run by one curator who chooses a common theme. At Bienalsur, the themes are wide ranging - from humanity's relation with nature to borders and immigration. And the fair extends beyond one geographic location. Buenos Aires is the biennale's ground zero but 379 artworks are being exhibited from September to December in museums, cultural centers and public spaces in more than 30 cities and 16 countries.

"Today's art is a prisoner of big players - a group of 20 galleries and 20 curators who decide," said Marliese Ilhesca, Bienalsur's international adviser. "This is the first time that artists are free to propose themes, situations and spaces." One of Bienalsur's themes is the link between art and social action. Iranian photographer Reza Deghati, whose images have appeared on the cover of National Geographic, taught a three-month workshop to children in one of Buenos Aires' most dangerous slums. His students captured images of their daily lives that are now on display in a major public square.



A huge red beam with neon lights designed by Portuguese artist Pedro Cabrita Reis stretches across the steps of the neoclassical building that houses the law faculty.

"One photograph won't change the world," Deghati said. "But it will change one person who will change the world." Deghati said he hopes the workshop helps other residents of Buenos Aires learn about the realities of children living in slums and foster inclusion. "You fear what you don't know," he said. "That's what creates isolation."

Time as a concept

The collaborative "Turn" project by Japanese artist Katsuhiko Hibino includes artworks by children with autism, young drug addicts and kids from a poor area of Peru's capital. "Art on the Borders" displays works in areas that are disputed by neighboring countries, such as Chile and Peru or Colombia and Venezuela.

Focusing on the concept of time, Argentine artist Marie Orensanz nailed 12 watch needles of different sizes at a Buenos Aires park; Brazil's Regina Silveira painted large black hands on a building inside Memory Park, which is dedicated to people who were forcibly disappeared during Argentina's 1976-1983 dictatorship; and Portugal's Pedro Cabrita Reis installed a huge

neon beam on the steps of the neoclassical building that houses the law faculty of Buenos Aires University.

Bienalsur also rebelled against the "don't touch the art" concept of museums and exhibits. "Take me, I'm yours" by France's Christian Boltanski and Germany's Hans Ulrich Olbrist, exhibits things from daily life that visitors to the Buenos Aires Museum of Decorative Art can not only touch, but take home.

Brazilian artist Eduardo Srur wants to raise awareness about pollution by placing two giant floating bottles on the Riachuelo, a river in Argentina's capital that is so polluted it was once named one of the world's 10 dirtiest places. Ilhesca describe the biennale as an exercise in changing the rules of art. "When artists step out of the pigeonholes of the market, or the elite of curators, they can surprise the world," she said. — AP



A screenshot from the film 'Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri'.



This Monday, Oct 9, 2017 photo shows the usually impeccably white Palais de Glace in bright-colored stripes and wrapped in neon lights painted by French artist Bertrand Ivanoff as part of the recent opening of the South American biennale, Bienalsur in Buenos Aires. — AP photos



A man and woman walk by an installation created by Brazilian artist Regina Silveira as part of the South American Biennale or Bienalsur.

Lifestyle

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2017



A picture taken yesterday in Wolxheim, eastern France, at sunrise shows vineyards with the village in the background. — AFP

After yoga classes, meditation breaks into mainstream

It is 5 pm, otherwise known as rush hour in Manhattan. Julia Lyons, 31, finishes work and heads straight for her daily dose of peace and quiet—half an hour at meditation studio “Mndfl.”

Since April 2016, when she discovered the then-brand new studio, the investment bank employee has abandoned yoga and embraced meditation.

“I have been meditating pretty regularly—probably five times a week, 30-minute sessions,” says Lyons, sipping a cup of tea on the studio’s sofa. “I just need a moment to chill out. This city—you are always running place to place and there are not a lot of quiet spaces,” she explains. “I think it’s made me a lot happier and also just helped me make better decisions, more thoughtful decisions.”

Practiced by millions around the world, meditation promotes mental well-being through concentration, breathing techniques and self-awareness. For a long time, those singing its praises were intellectuals, celebrities or people dedicated to spirituality. Its popularity in the West is owed in part to the Beatles, who promoted the practice on their return from India in the late 1960s. But these days, meditation can be found in all areas of life—from hospitals exploring its benefits for patients with serious illnesses, to schools who recommend it for children and television shows.

The craze is a result of many factors—waning attendance at places of worship, lives spent submerged in smartphones, not to mention neuroscientists’ confirmation of the benefits. As a result, demand is spreading across American cities—perhaps a natural continuation of the yoga craze, which firmly embedded the search for nirvana in the health and wellbeing industry.

\$10 for half an hour

Lodro Rinzler, Mndfl’s 34-year-old “chief spiritual officer,” opened his first studio in Greenwich Village at the end of 2015, and now owns two others in Manhattan and Brooklyn. Elsewhere in the US, studios can be found in Los Angeles, Miami, Washington and Boston.

The new craze is a result of many factors

Introduced to meditation as a child by his parents, who converted to Buddhism in the 1970s, he says business “is going well.” “The people who come here are really a cross section of all New Yorkers,” he explains. “If the common denominator is, ‘I am really stressed out, I need to know how to deal with my mind’—that’s basically everyone.”

Rinzler refuses to talk money, revealing only that classes are often full and the 75 numbered pads in his studios have been reserved online 70,000 times in just 18 months. The reason for success? A model offering a well-rounded intro-



A bell sits on the floor of MNDFL meditation studio on August 24, 2017 in New York.

duction to this ancient practice for a reasonable price. For years, Rinzler explains, Buddhist centers only offered long introductions—sessions of several hours, or even seminars lasting a number of days and costing up to several thousand dollars.

With classes priced at just \$10 for half an hour, and options for unlimited subscriptions, new studios in New York or Los Angeles hope to capture a wider audience. Their model is similar to gyms, but with “zen” in abundance—including dimmed lights, plant walls, and unlimited organic tea.

CEOs join, employees follow

Companies are also reaping meditation’s benefits. More and more organizations in Silicon Valley and other sectors are introducing employees to the practice, convinced of the long-term benefits for the workforce. Emily Fletcher, an actress who has taught meditation since 2012, launched a special program for companies 18 months ago.

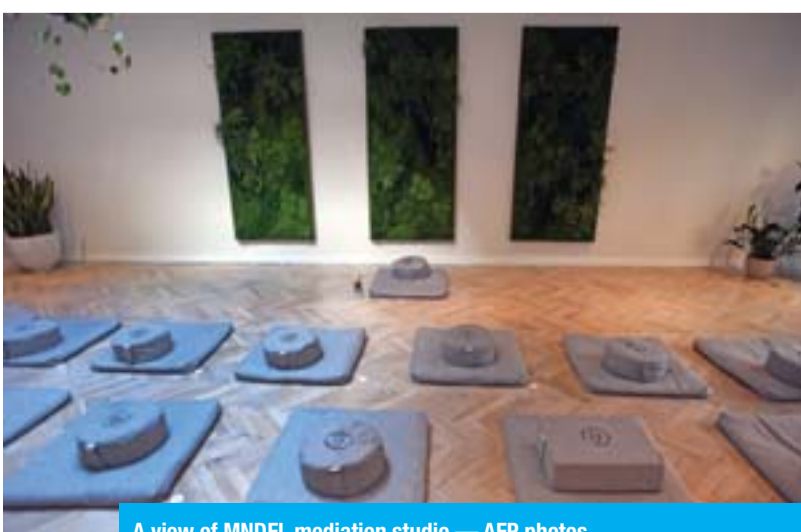
Starting from 150 students in the first year, she now has over 7,000 — and hopes to reach tens of thousands more with online courses, including in medium-sized cities such as Cleveland, Ohio or Tallahassee, Florida. “The most common way that I find myself teaching at companies is I teach the CEOs to meditate, and they start to benefit and they bring me on to do a talk with the company,” Fletcher, CEO of Ziva Meditation, says.

Employees take part on a voluntary basis, mostly “for some selfish reasons,” the 38-year-old explains. “Either they want to speak better, please their boss, want to make more money or have better sex...” But Fletcher insists she has no issue with people starting out of self-interest. “If you actually practice you will start enjoying your life more, your brain will function better, your body will feel better, you get sick less often,” she says. “Those altruistic things will happen as a result of the practice anyway.”

Mobile meditation

Another aspect of the industry gaining traction is meditation apps. One of the most popular, Headspace, had already been downloaded more than 11 million times in the spring—and boasts over 400,000 paying users. But meditation’s newfound popularity is of such high intensity, neither Rinzler nor Fletcher is concerned about competing studios popping up over time.

“I am sure they are going to be exactly like yoga studios, you are going to find them on every block...” Rinzler predicts. “If you look at it as a business, there is competition,” Fletcher reflects, adding, “if you see it as a mission, there are colleagues.” “There are not too many teachers when it comes to teaching four billion people in my lifetime!” — AFP



A view of MNDFL meditation studio — AFP photos



Emily Fletcher gives a meditation class at a financial company in New York.



A sign on a door announces a meditation class in session at a financial company in New York.