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Ghanem tears into Israel at global parliamentary meet

Speaker lambastes Israeli delegation, shames it to leave hall

SAINT PETERSBURG, Russia: Kuwait's chief lawmaker fiercely retaliated to the Israeli parliament representative's comments on imprisoned Palestinian lawmakers at an international conference yesterday. "The saying 'if you have no shame do as you please' applies to the comments made by this rapist (Israeli) parliament," National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem told lawmakers gathered at Inter-Parliamentary Union talks.

During a discussion about Palestinian lawmakers arrested by Israeli authorities, Ghanem said this "represents the most dangerous type of terrorism - the terrorism of the state". "You should grab your bags and leave this hall as you have witnessed the reaction of every honorable parliament around the world," he said, addressing the Israeli delegation. "Leave now if you have one ounce of dignity, you occupier, you murderer of children," he charged. The Israeli delegation left the talks following the remarks by Ghanem and several other parliamentarians amidst applause.

In press statements on the concluding day of the IPU assembly, MIP Mohammad Al-Dallal said the Kuwaiti delegation successfully won support for an item on Rohingya Muslims that was overwhelmingly voted for and added to the assembly's agenda. Later yesterday, Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri

voiced his gratitude to Ghanem for his speech. Speaking to the parliament, Berri thanked Ghanem for his forceful stance.

Kuwait is a staunch supporter of the Palestinian issue and has maintained its boycott of Israel even as other Gulf and Arab states have softened their stance or are allegedly strengthening links with Israel. Kuwait Airways refuses service to Israeli citizens, citing a Kuwaiti law barring citizens from agreements "with entities or persons residing in Israel, or with Israeli citizenship".

The national carrier has resisted pressure to change its policy and has absorbed major financial hits as a result. Last year, Kuwait Airways cancelled flights between London and New York after a fracas over its refusal to carry Israeli citizens. It dropped the route after 35 years of operations. Faced with lawsuits, it also ended other intra-European flights over similar reasons.

And earlier this month, Arab-Israeli Facebook star Nuseir Yassin slammed Kuwait Airways for its long-standing policy of refusing to fly Israeli passengers. He had booked a Kuwait Airways flight to the India from New York, but when he arrived at the airport to check in, he was turned away. Yassin also questioned the motives behind Kuwait's boycott, claiming that the country's efforts hurt Israel's Arab minority. — Agencies



SAINT PETERSBURG, Russia: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem gestures during a speech at the Inter-Parliamentary Union meeting yesterday. — KUNA

Palestinian girl wins \$150K Arab reading prize

DUBAI: A Palestinian high school student yesterday won \$150,000 in an Arabic-language reading competition organized by the Dubai government. Seventeen-year-old Afaf Raed Sharif, from Ramallah, beat 16 finalists from across the Arab world to land the top prize in the second annual Arab Reading Challenge. Participants had to read at least 50 books to qualify.

"This is a victory over all the challenges that we face. We refuse to be any less than any other people in the world," Sharif told AFP. "It's a message to all students: don't you ever give up. Don't you ever break. When you set a goal, you can reach it. It won't be easy ... but you have to make persistence and patience your allies."

The all-girl Al-Iman school, in Bahrain, won a \$1 million prize for the best reading initiatives for students. The principal of the winning school takes home \$100,000 of the prize money, with the school's reading supervisor taking another \$100,000 and the remaining \$800,000 going to school funds. — AFP



DUBAI: Palestinian high school student Afaf Sharif raises a trophy next to Emir of Dubai Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum at the Arab Reading Challenge. — AFP

Qatar emir open to dialogue to end Gulf crisis

BOGOR, Indonesia: Qatar is "open to dialogue" in resolving a dispute that has seen the Gulf state isolated from its Arab neighbors, its emir said during a visit to Indonesia yesterday. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain cut diplomatic and trade ties with Qatar on June 5, accusing it of financing terrorism and maintaining too close of ties to their arch-rival Iran. Doha denies the charges.

Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani said he discussed the issue with President Joko Widodo of Indonesia, which has the world's largest population of Muslims and has close ties to the Arab world. "We conveyed...that Qatar is ready to conduct a dialogue to solve the problem as we already know that no one will win," Thani told reporters after meeting with Widodo at the state palace in Bogor, outside the capital of Jakarta. "We are all brothers and suffering because of this crisis," he added. President Widodo did not publicly address the dispute.



BOGOR: Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim Al-Thani meets Indonesian President Joko Widodo at the presidential palace yesterday. — AFP

The leader of the world's biggest exporter of liquefied natural gas also visited Malaysia - another Muslim-majority nation - and Singapore this week. Saudi and other Arab nations have made a list of 13 wide-ranging demands of Qatar, including closing down the Al Jazeera television network and curbing ties with Iran. Kuwait and top United States officials have attempted to mediate between the parties, but there is little sign that the crisis will be resolved soon.

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A Saudi first: Spokeswoman at US embassy

WASHINGTON: As Saudi Arabia feverishly portrays itself as ready to join the ranks of modern, tolerant societies, the kingdom has turned to a once-unlikely messenger - one of its daughters - to make its case to the West. On Fatimah Baeshen's first day as the Saudi Embassy in Washington's official spokeswoman, the ultra-conservative nation's rulers issued a decree to lift its ban on women driving, starting next summer. It was a step toward erasing what much of the world sees as a stain on Saudi Arabia women's rights record. Activists are pushing for greater human rights and political freedoms, even with the recent openings for women.



Fatimah Baeshen

Baeshen, the first woman to hold embassy post, is no stranger to life behind the wheel of a car. The Saudi-born Baeshen spent years living, working and studying in the United States, affording an easy fluency in the routines of American life that many Westerners see as irreconcilable with the country she represents. "I'm a byproduct of the longstanding Saudi-US relationship," Baeshen said in an Associated Press interview. "For years, Saudi students have been coming to the United States to study."

Continued on Page 11

UAE boosts trades with competition

ABU DHABI: The oil-rich United Arab Emirates, seeking to elevate the prestige of vocational skills among its youth, this week hosted a global trades competition - the first in the Middle East. At the Abu Dhabi convention center yesterday, schoolgirls in tartan uniforms followed their teachers past contestants engrossed in aircraft maintenance and hairdressing competitions. Foreign competitors from as far afield as Norway and China rubbed shoulders with Emirati college students, men in traditional white robes and women in black flowing gowns.

They were some of the thousands of UAE students bussed in on field trips to see some 1,300 competitors take part in WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017, billed as the world's top vocational skills competition. "The leadership of the UAE really wants to show their population the opportunities that vocational skills offer to young people," WorldSkills International spokesman Crispin Thorold told AFP.

Vocational jobs in the Gulf are often filled by migrant workers and seen as less prestigious than careers in the army, government or business. Thorold said that was not unique to the Middle East. "There are very few countries... where there is genuine equality in the minds of parents and the minds of teachers between academic qualifications and vocational qualifications," he said, singling out Germany and Finland as exceptions.

Don Robertson, from the US state of Missouri, flew to the Middle East for the first time to support his son Jonathan in the automotive technology contest. Jonathan first took up the trade as an extracurricular subject. During his junior year of high school, he heard of the global competition through his skills club. "He



ABU DHABI: Competitors take part in an aircraft maintenance competition during the "World Skills" international competition yesterday. — AFP

came back home and was telling his mother that, 'Oh yeah, they have a world skills contest and I'm gonna go,'" Don said smiling as his son, now 22, focused on his task during an hours-long competition.

"For Jonathan it was a great thing because he was never one we could see going on to a four-year school to be an engineer or work in an office setting," he said. "He was very good with his hands and he did have a natural interest in automobiles." Robertson said he believes schools are now putting more emphasis on "the hands-on trades". For his son, the trade has already opened doors in the form of an internship at General Motors.

Over at the welding competition, Mohammed Youssef Ali Bandar from Kuwait recalled his family's initial resistance to his career path. "When I first wanted to do welding for a living, my parents said 'Why! You'll be like a laborer driving around in a pick-up truck full of gas cylinders,'" he told AFP with a grin. He nearly switched topics at his technical institute, but one of his instructors encouraged him to stick with welding. "He said you never know what might come your way," Bandar recalled. He ended up graduating at the top of his class and secured a job at Kuwait's Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

Continued on Page 11

South Korean envoy glad for military ships' visit to Kuwait

Korean cultural performance at Jaber Al-Ahmad Center



KUWAIT: Sailors from the Republic of Korea's Navy Cruise Training Task Group (CTTG) perform martial arts during a ceremony commemorating the 38th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between South Korea and Kuwait. The event was held at Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center on Tuesday. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



KUWAIT: South Korea's Ambassador to Kuwait Yoo Yeonchul on Tuesday said that he was happy for the visit of the two Korean ships to the country. "I am quite pleased to see that the two Korean military ships, Destroyer Kang Gam Chan accompanied by the support military vessel Hwanchun, visited the Shuwaikh port of Kuwait" this week, he said. The visit is the first of its kind in the history of Kuwait-Korea bilateral relations since the establishment of the diplomatic relations in 1979. "Therefore, this will set a new horizon of our two countries' cooperation in the field of defense, enhancing our bilateral relations to a new level," he added.

The visit aims to promote Hallyu, 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games and Defense technologies through exhibition during the ship tour, he explained. Meanwhile, head of the two ships Yang Yong-Mo said the visit is part of a 98-day training tour which includes Vietnam, India, UAE, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, the US and Japan.

It aims to promote common cooperation with the friendly countries, he said. The Korean Embassy held late Tuesday a cultural festival at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center. The programs include Korean traditional cultural performance, Hallyu performance, naval band performance and taekwondo show. — KUNA



News in brief

Amir sends condolences

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences yesterday to the President of the UAE Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan on the death of two UAE pilots. In the cable, His Highness expressed sorrow over the deaths of Emirati pilots who were killed in a plane crashed while on duty with the Saudi-led Arab Coalition's Operation in Yemen. 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 sent similar cables to the Emirati President. — KUNA

Kuwait, Iraqi FMs discuss developments

KUWAIT: Kuwait's First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received a phone call from Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim Al-Jaafari Tuesday, and discussed bilateral relations, regional and international issues of mutual interest. — KUNA

Minister receives Chinese envoy

KUWAIT: Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received China's Ambassador to Kuwait Wang Di and Kuwaiti Ambassador to China Sameeh Jawhar yesterday. The officials discussed issues of mutual importance, according to an official statement. — KUNA

Food aid to Yemen

RIYADH: A Kuwaiti humanitarian campaign launched a project to deliver 4,000 food baskets to families affected by war in Amran Governorate in Yemen yesterday. The baskets contain one-month supplies of food, benefitting 4,000 families, member of the Yemeni-Kuwaiti Relief Agency Tariq Abdulwasea said in a press statement. Meanwhile, Yemeni official Abdulkareem Hanash thanked the Kuwaiti leadership in aiding Yemenis affected by the ongoing war. — KUNA

Kuwaiti, Italian Defense Ministers discuss cooperation

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Italian Defense Minister Roberta Pinotti discussed joint cooperation at Bayan Palace yesterday. The meeting discussed boosting cooperation on all levels, mainly in the military field, the ministry's Moral Guidance and Public Relations Department said in a press statement. The meeting was attended by Kuwaiti army's Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Khoder, the Ministry of Defense's Undersecretary Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and other senior military officials. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Italian Defense Minister Roberta Pinotti. — KUNA

Kuwait reiterates commitment to Syrian refugees

DOHA: The State of Kuwait is committed to the process of aiding the Syrian refugees escaping from the deadly conflict in their country, said a Kuwaiti official yesterday. After the 11th meeting of the major donors' group for Syria, the official tasked with humanitarian and international organizations affairs at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry Ziyad Al-Mashaan said that Kuwait vowed at April's Brussels meeting to support the future of Syria and neighboring countries to provide \$300 million for the refugees between 2016 and 2018.

As part of Kuwait's commitment to provide \$100 million this year, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) and other national entities have signed accords with countries hosting the refugees to make sure that the money was spent on aiding Syrians, said Mashaan. He added that an additional sum of \$28.9 million was donated to international agencies and organizations helping the refugees.

Kuwait's charitable organizations have also vowed at a meeting in Qatar to deliver \$46 million worth of relief aid to the refugees, indicated the official who expressed pride in Kuwait's ongoing humanitarian efforts. He also took the chance to thank all countries



DOHA: Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry official Ziyad Al-Mashaan attends the 11th meeting of the major donors' group for Syria in Doha, Qatar yesterday. — KUNA

and international organizations providing necessary assistance to the Syrian refugees and those displaced in Syria. The major donors group for Syria was established after the conclusion of the Second International

Humanitarian Pledging Conference on Syria in Kuwait in 2014. The group aims at establishing a platform for major donors to discuss cooperation within the framework of helping the Syrian refugees. — KUNA

Local

Interior Ministry allows Syrians to regularize dependents' visa status

Multiple arrests in state-wide campaigns

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Kuwait is allowing Syrians in the country to issue dependency visas of their wives and children in a bid to help end their suffering. The decision is expected to help hundreds of families in which sponsors brought their wives and children to Kuwait on visit visas but faced a dilemma when they could not transfer their visas into dependent visas or send them back to their war-torn country. As per the new instructions, Syrian sponsors in this case will be allowed to transfer their families' visas provided that they meet the conditions required for sponsoring their family members.

Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Nationality and Passport Maj Gen Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah said Kuwait spares no effort in helping expatriates out of the humanitarian role Kuwait is carrying out

in international arenas. He said that in order to reunite Syrian families living in Kuwait, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah gave instructions to authorities to correct the status of violators by granting the male sponsor's wife and children article 22 residency permits, provided they meet the following conditions: The sponsor must meet the required conditions as far as salary and no security restrictions. Meanwhile, the children should not exceed 20 years of age while residency is granted for one year only. He said this applies to those who enter the country before October 22, 2017.

Crackdown
Acting Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt Col Mohammad Yousuf Al-Sabah led a campaign in all Kuwait governorates Tuesday night, which resulted in the arrest of four people wanted on felony cases, three others

on drugs cases, 58 absconders in addition to five illegal workers, and 12 persons caught without IDs. Meanwhile, 374 traffic tickets were issued. Separately, Farwaniya municipality carried out a campaign that targeted stores, restaurants and markets in several malls. The campaign resulted in issuing 15 food violation citations.

Accidents
Firemen were sent to a scene of an accident where a car collided with the steel barrier and flipped over between Sulaibiya and Qairawan. Sulaibikhat fire station men responded and rescued three people who were suffering from moderate injuries. In another incident, a four-wheeler collided with a police patrol, and no injuries were reported. Separately, firemen dealt with a truck that became stuck at the gate of Kuwait Public Transport Company at Ras Al-Ardh. No injuries or damages were reported.



KUWAIT: Acting Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt Col Mohammad Yousuf Al-Sabah (right) looks on as a policeman writes on a traffic ticket during a recent crackdown.

10 MPs demand debating law on naturalization

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Ten lawmakers yesterday submitted a petition calling on the national assembly to debate and approve a law that sets out the number of people who can be naturalized this year. The draft law stipulating granting Kuwaiti citizenship to up to 4,000 people, a majority of them stateless people or Bedouins, was studied and approved by the national assembly interior and defense committee before the summer recess of the assembly.

The lawmakers demanded that the bill be debated in the first or the second session of the new term of the assembly which opens on October 24. The national assembly has every year passed similar legislation but the government refrained from implementing them and naturalized only a few hundreds over the past several years.

MPs want the government to use the law in full as a means of resolving the decades-old problem of the 110,000 Bedouins who claim the right to Kuwaiti citizenship while the government says many of them do not fulfill the required conditions. The Bedouins say that their forefathers were entitled to citizenship but did

not get it because of wrong procedures while the government says that Bedouins or their forefathers came to Kuwait from neighboring countries and destroyed their identification documents to avail of the generous services and benefits associated with the Kuwaiti nationality.

Audit reports
Meanwhile, MP Abdullah Al-Roumi asked State Minister for Cabinet Affairs and acting information minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah if the council of ministers receives and studies reports by the State Audit Bureau. He asked if the council of ministers discusses those reports coming from the Audit Bureau tackling a variety of financial and administrative issues besides probes and investigations.
The lawmaker asked about the measures the council of ministers takes toward such reports and if it assigns certain bodies or departments to study them and recommend actions. He also asked if the council follows up on such assignments.
Roumi demanded a copy of the latest decision taken by the council of ministers on a report from the Audit Bureau or a copy of the response of a government body that was assigned to study such reports. The State Audit Bureau is regularly asked by the National Assembly and the government to prepare detailed reports on financial and administrative controversies besides reviewing mega government contracts to ensure they were in line with Kuwaiti laws and did not involve violations.

businesses that could be done via mobile phone or a computer, which solved the problem of renting an office.

Ministry fights extremism
Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs intensified its preparations to have full control on religious spring camps to protect young people from intruders who might spread extreme or radical ideologies amongst them. Sources said that the ministry will form a special committee to monitor those camps and organize special on-camp lectures to promote the idea of moderation and patriotism amongst the youth.

Construction permits
The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) submitted construction permits to 568 citizens who were given housing land plots in West Abdullah Al-Mubarak area project. Meanwhile, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammad Nasser Al-Jebri said that the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources has abdicated Abu Halifa Park land located on an area of 650,000 square meters in Ahmadi to the PAHW. He added that this step was taken to help solve housing problems.

Issues in Financial Control Problems
Hammad emphasized the significance of internal control systems as an important foundation of good governance, given that current international recommendations for improved corporate governance are in essence concentrated on the necessity for strengthening internal controls. Hammad mentioned that the finance ministry has issued a manual setting the general guidelines for internal control systems, along with guidelines on the principles of good governance. "The ministry is cooperating with the Transparency Society to reform its systems and create procedures based on the initiative of the institution," he said.
He added that the guidelines cover the responsibilities of boards of directors with regard to setting up adequate internal control systems and entrusting an external audit bureau with assessing its adequacy. The resulting reports are received and reviewed, which makes sure they remedy any insufficiencies in their internal control systems.

Allowances for home-based businesses

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) issued between 300 and 400 licenses to small business owners who are looking to run their business from home using social media. Meanwhile, efforts are currently underway to pass regulations in order for the government to pay them national labor support allowances similar to their peers in the private sector, said small projects manager at MGRP Fares Al-Enezi. The official explained in a press statement yesterday that MGRP had suggested licensing home-based businesses in 2003 to help the owners of small businesses advertise their products on social media. The proposal faced some difficulties in the beginning due to lack of legislation, he added, which led to changing the official description of these businesses from home-based licenses to licenses for small businesses or freelance

KU seminar discusses governance

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Kuwait University (KU) held a seminar titled "Financial Supervisory Authority and its Role in Governance" presented by the Head of the Financial Supervision Sector of Accompanying Bodies and Independent Institutions Bader Mishari Abdullah Al-Hammad yesterday at the Business Administrative College in Shuwaikh. During the seminar, Mishari Al-Hajri, Dean of the Business and Administrative Sciences Faculty, welcomed Hammad and praised his work at the Finance Ministry and his latest book "Technical

Tech startups in Kuwait

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

As I am sitting in the audience of ArabNet, a conference focused on digital business and entrepreneurship in MENA, and listening to entrepreneurs pitching their ideas, I can't help but think about how much the market has changed in Kuwait because of new legislations and how it can continue to prosper with new legislations introduced. The tech startup industry in Kuwait is a booming industry, and although Kuwait is a small market internationally, some startups have proven their capability of being international players. I was proud to hear stories of young entrepreneurs such as Just Clean sharing their success stories. Therefore, today I would like to focus on tech startups and the change that has been happening in Kuwait.

Tech startup

Question: We have heard from many sources that there new legislations that facilitate starting a tech startup in Kuwait. Can you please elaborate?

Fajer: Yes, the government as part of its 2035 New Kuwait plan is really pushing for a more diversified economy focusing on different sectors and a private sector that is fully functional and not reliant on government funding, as well as foreign investment into Kuwait. For startups, this means a focus on new laws, such as the following:

1. Although there are no new laws specifically for startups, there have been new bylaws making it easier for startups to obtain licenses, space and so on. Setting up the Kuwait Business Center has also been a great help to many of my clients.

2. Licenses for 'home businesses' without the need of a commercial location - all you need is an address. With that said, activities are limited as of now, and I hope they expand to include tech startups.

New laws

Question: What new laws would you suggest for tech startups in Kuwait?

Fajer: In the simplest of terms, I would suggest the following laws for tech startups in Kuwait:

1. Intellectual property laws - although you can copyright source codes in Kuwait (it is done at Kuwait National Library) and other innovations can be patented as well, there could be more advanced laws to structure intellectual property right issues.

2. Crowdfunding - we are blessed in Kuwait to have very strong networks and family ties, and although there are successful projects that have been crowdfunded, there is no law that specifically addresses and organizes crowdfunding projects.

3. Although we had a new companies law recently, there are still issues that need to be organized, like investors in general, silent investors and the possibility of having shares for work, which are all important for SMEs.

National Fund

Question: Is it true that Kuwaitis are eligible for funds from the Kuwait National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises?

Fajer: Yes, Kuwaitis are eligible for financial and technical support from the Kuwait National Fund: an independent public corporation with a total capital of KD 2 billion that develops and finances small and medium enterprises. Obviously, since the fund is providing equity to new and already established companies, they have their own terms and conditions, with the most important being the following:

1. All partners need to be Kuwaiti and 21 years old and above.

2. Have 1-50 employees and a capital of not more than KD 500,000.

3. You will need to support your business with KD 20,000 of the capital.

4. A business plan needs to be submitted.

5. Government employees can apply and once accepted, they can get paid leave to work on their new startups.

6. From experience, evaluation takes up to 60 business days.

Should you have any questions or concerns, or you require a consultation, please email me at ask@fajerthelawyer.com.

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Local

US Embassy in Kuwait organizes 10-day Discover America event

Over 15,000 Kuwaiti students sent to US in 2016

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: The US Embassy in Kuwait has organized 10 days of activities to mark the fifth annual Discover America event. Commercial Councilor Jeff Hamilton and Press Attache Heather Ward announced that the activities will commence on October 21 and run through October 30, 2017. Discover America is organized by the US Foreign Commercial Service Office in collaboration with the Public Affairs section of the US Embassy in Kuwait.

The highlight of this year's event includes US fashion brands, food, film, music, education, business know-how and tourism. The ten-day event will take place at venues throughout Kuwait City, including shopping centers (the Avenues, Boulevard Mall, Sharq Mall, Marina Mall) in addition to the Sultan Center, Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Amricani Cultural Center, Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa, The Scientific Center, and other locations.

"Kuwait is a significant investor in the United States, and we continue to work with the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) and private Kuwaiti investment firms to promote the United States as a trusted and profitable destination for further investment," Hamilton noted. Just last month, the US Chamber of Commerce hosted a very successful US-Kuwait Economic Forum, featuring leaders in industry and investment. Dozens of US companies attended the event.

Mutual investment

The message of mutual investment and prosperity was underscored by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Commerce's SelectUSA and Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA). The focus of the event was to highlight Kuwait as a destination for US companies. "Our investments and trade reflect the deep ties between our two countries. Our bilateral trade of goods totaled over \$6 billion in 2016, about \$3 billion in each direction. 95 percent of Kuwait's exports to the United States are

petroleum based products and over 40 percent of US exports were in the transportation sector. The recent completion of ten Boeing 777s for Kuwait Airways brings US exports to Kuwait in 2017 to an all-time high," he added.

Out of all the significant events that took place this year, Hamilton highlighted the US Embassy's prime objective to create awareness. "I want people to discover the uniqueness of America. This year we have organized many value added activities including fun run, adventure travel to the US and education. As the programs will be held at different venues, many companies participating in Discover America have expressed their support through special promotions and discounts at several American restaurants and retail stores," he added.

15,000 students

In 2016, Kuwait sent more than 15,000 students to the US for further studies, Kuwaitis entered the United States more than 80,000 times for tourism, and thousands of Kuwaitis traveled to the United States for medical treatment. These are considered as service exports, and in total were valued at over \$2 billion in 2016. "There are approximately 200 US companies in Kuwait. They are present in most sectors, including oil and gas, defense, architecture, healthcare, and automotive, among others. Many Kuwaiti companies own US franchises here as well," he said.

Most of the challenges while doing business in Kuwait relate to the slow tendering process and the numerous approvals required for most business activities. The pace of government procurement moves very slowly compared to other markets. Delayed and incomplete payments have been on the rise over the past year. Drop in oil prices in recent years has resulted in a budget deficit. Improvements in intellectual property rights are also needed.

Kuwaiti investment in the commercial real estate sector has increased by 45 percent in the past year. The KIA's investments in the United States has increased by



KUWAIT: (From left) Commercial Councilor Jeff Hamilton and Press Attache Heather Ward attend a press conference organized by the US Embassy in Kuwait to promote the Discover America event. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

20-fold in the last two decades. The Authority has several billion dollars in technology start-up and enterprise investment, nurturing US technology and small, but rapidly growing, companies. Kuwait has investments in the Hudson Yards Project, the largest privately funded real estate development project in North America. These

diverse investments provide for the current and future financial security of Kuwait. Kuwait's Sovereign Wealth Fund investments in the United States are roughly estimated at over \$300 billion, and are diversified among stocks, bonds (primarily US treasuries), real estate and technology.

Kuwait Times

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The Promenade announced as RunKuwait's platinum sponsor

KUWAIT: Fawzia Sultan Healthcare Network (FSHN) announced the participation of The Promenade as the platinum sponsor for this year's RunKuwait race which will take place on Saturday, November 11, 2017. The press conference was hosted at The Promenade Culture Centre in attendance of Dr Elham Hamdan representing FSHN, and Sahira Ladha representing The Promenade.

RunKuwait is a charitable initiative aiming at raising awareness and funds towards the rehabilitative treatment of vulnerable children with disabilities. Since 2013, all registration proceeds are channeled directly towards the non-profit Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center (CERC), founded by FSHN.

Held successfully for the past six years, RunKuwait is continually supported by corporate sponsors and this year marks another successful sponsorship affiliation with The Promenade as the platinum sponsor.

Commenting on this sponsorship affiliation, Dr Elham Hamdan, medical director at FSHN, said: "We are extremely proud to announce The Promenade as our platinum sponsor for the seventh year of RunKuwait. Since the inception of this initiative, we have received continued support from our sponsors and The Promenade is dedicating their efforts for the second year around to support every step of

RunKuwait as we look forward to achieving a common goal of providing children with disabilities the possible means for treatment."

Speaking at the press conference, Adnan Al-Othman, Vice Office Supervisor and Trustee Committee Member of the Al-Othman Portfolio, commented: "At The Promenade, we are deeply committed to supporting local initiatives which contribute to the community in Kuwait. In that regards, we are very pleased to continue our ongoing support of RunKuwait and believe strongly in the event's goal of supporting children with disabilities."

We look forward to a long partnership with the Fawzia Sultan Healthcare Network, and of course, we wish all of the participants good luck."

The event hosts a 5km and 10 km fun run or walk, where the entire family is encouraged to support this noble cause through registering now on runkuwait.org prior to November 4th in order to receive their timing chips and join the race. RunKuwait is supported

with generous contributions from the following sponsors: Agility as a Founding Partner, The Promenade as a Platinum sponsor, The Scientific Center as venue partner, ASAR Legal and INTERSPORT as Gold sponsors, KDD as Silver sponsor, Fitness First as Bronze sponsor, IKEA, Porsche Centre Kuwait, Behbehani Motors Company, and Zain as Friend sponsors, and Gotap as payment sponsor. The media sponsors for the RunKuwait initiative this year are Al-Anba newspaper, Kuwait Times newspaper and 248am blog as the exclusive social media sponsor.

Interested participants can register through the RunKuwait.org website. Additional information or queries about the race can be channeled through the RunKuwait official social media channels, @RunKuwait on Instagram and Facebook.

“Supporting local initiatives which contribute to the community”



KUWAIT: (From left) Sahira Ladha from The Promenade and Dr Elham Hamdan, medical director at FSHN attend the press conference.

Local

الرأي

Al-Rai

Is someone listening?

By Dr Khalid Al-Saleh

I met an Iraqi young man who was pursuing his PhD in Warsaw in the year 1992. He spoke about the Iraqi community requesting that he joins them in a demonstration in front of the American embassy to lift the embargo against Iraq. The youngster asked the people to demonstrate in front of the Iraqi embassy demanding the exit of Saddam Hussein instead, if they really wanted the embargo to be lifted. At that time, the youngster was packing his belongings to escape from the Polish capital and become a political refugee because of what he said to the Iraqi community representatives.

If what this youth had advised was carried out, the situation in Iraq would be different today. I remembered this incident while listening to the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the World Health Organization (WHO) meeting held in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan. While they demanded for the end of war in Yemen, I suggested that if the Iranian representative seriously wants to end the war, they should not be calling for a ceasefire, rather he should ask his government to get out of Yemen.

The Iranian interventions in Arab countries' affairs cause constant tension between Arabs and Iranian people, and not only at the governments' level. If Iranian government stopped its intervention in Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and Iraq, the situation would change in those countries and become more secure and stable. Normalizing relations with Iran is an urgent matter for the region's future and for the happiness of its people.

To face challenges that come to us from all countries that do not want anything good for us, and for normalization to take place, each country must commit to not interfering in the affairs of other countries, and not create sectarian for populous reasons to justify intervention. I hope that the elders in Iran listen to this advice and refrain from interfering in Arab countries' affairs, before their interventions cause harm to the good Iranian Muslim people who are paying the price of a policy that is far from being right. We learn from history, but is someone listening?

— Translated by Kuwait Times



Demography

الانباء

Al-Anbaa

Facebook ministers

By Salah Al-Sayer

Social changes, namely those concerning women, are usually accompanied by deeper explanations and predictions than economic and political changes. The latter could be the result of leaps and pounces outside normal courses, such as striking oil, for instance while the former necessarily happens because of public awareness and sentiments developed among people. Contemplating about the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques' decision to allow Saudi women to drive makes one realize the depth of such a social shift following long years of giving women access to education as well as public and private sector careers.

We can say that allowing Saudi women to drive like men is a clear declaration of the social transformation in Saudi Arabia that came after declaring the economic transformation through the 2030 vision which involves preparing for post-oil economy. This goes in addition, the remarkable

political transformation manifested in the decision of shifting responsibility to a generation of the founding king's young grandsons and appointing prince Mohammed Bin Salman as Crown Prince. Such transformations collectively reflect Saudi Arabia's readiness to cope with various changes and developments.

The entire humankind is currently at the verge of a phase of deep transformations paving the way for a new international trend with more youth and feminine participation in public life and state management. This was clearly seen in European countries where women are taking the lead in various high-ranking governmental positions, ministerial portfolios or premierships. Europe is also experiencing a phenomenon known as 'Facebook ministers' as a number of young officials, ministers and presidents represent new generations.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

الانباء

Al-Anbaa

We are sucking food, MPs

By Saad Al-Motesh

Parliament agenda includes a clause known as 'responding to letters'. As far as I know, it involves having MPs respond to letters they receive from citizens but I do not know if those letters were ones of appreciation or complaint. However, I will push my luck and try sending one of those letters hoping they would respond to it. I am a retired citizen and my pension is less than half of your declared salaries. This applies to most retirees on behalf of whom I would like to thank you for passing the law to provide private medical insurance to retirees via the Afya card, thus giving us some medical privileges.

However, Afya card gives us what is worth over KD 15,000 of medical services and the



Those cards cover so many services that are of no use to retirees

insurance company will get that sum whether we use it or not. According to a firsthand experience, I only used the card in doing a full blood test that costs KD 150 at most, but when I needed it in a more serious case, they kicked me out. Those cards cover so many services that are of no use to retirees such as maternity services as you all know that retirees mostly do not need it.

So, if you wish, just provide us with some herbal or medical remedy that makes us young once more and we promise we will produce you more voters. You all know that most retirees suffer from dental problems, so it would be better if you include dental fixed implantations that cost over KD 10,000, in the services the card provides, or at least include the cost of purchasing baby formula that needs no chewing because we are already fed with 'sucking our food'.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

New health fees drive 'tourists' away

Motorist to expat: 'Leave or I'll deport you'

KUWAIT: Kuwait has registered a notable drop in the number of expatriates who arrive on commercial, business and tourist visas since health services' fees were hiked, a high-ranking source at the residency affairs department said. The number of visitors is expected to see further reduction after applying the proposed new fees on visit visas, said the sources, adding that the department is waiting the approval of the new fees by the Cabinet.

Comedy clips

A police officer was detained for violating military law and rules after appearing in comedy clips on social media. The officer was basking in the sudden fame he got through the humorous clips on Snapchat, but was being monitored by the supervisory department. His action was deemed a clear violation of ministry instructions, which bans its employees from compromising the security apparatus, so he was interrogated and detained.

Deportation threat

A reckless driver damaged an Egyptian motorist's car and threatened to deport him.



KUWAIT: This file photo shows passengers lined up at Kuwait International Airport. Increased fees on public health services presented to expatriates in Kuwait could threaten to hurt tourism in the Gulf state. — KUNA

"Go, you are an expat... leave, otherwise I will deport you," he warned. The Egyptian reported the matter to police, who arrested the driver and took him to Sharq police station.

Child molester caught

A soldier accused an Egyptian guard at a

youth center of molesting his son. The 11-year-old boy told his father that while at the youth center, the guard took him to a darkened area, fondled him and attempted to rape him, but he escaped and waited for his father outside. Investigations are underway.

— Translated from the Arabic press

Burgan Bank sponsors music group's performances

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, one of the highest contributors to society, is the main season sponsor of the upcoming performances by one of Kuwait's most prestigious music and arts organizations, Ahmadi Music Group. A sponsor for four consecutive years, Burgan Bank remains a strong advocate of arts and music deeply committed to promoting cultural enrichment and exchange.

Performing with the highest musical standards, the Ahmadi Music Group, operational locally and internationally for over 65 years, has conducted famed concerts and performances on world-renowned platforms. The Group has made recent efforts to contribute more vigorously to the cultural life of Kuwait by performing both significant choral works and also fully-staged opera. Burgan Bank had previously sponsored the first ever classical music performance by Ahmadi Music Group at Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center for two complete symphonies by Beethoven and Faure, marking a historic and

proud moment for Kuwait.

The bank's support of the reputable and longest standing arts group in Kuwait stems from its strong-held belief that arts and music create a positive impact on culture, quality of life, and the country as a whole. Burgan Bank encourages the new generations to benefit from the group's international expertise and reiterates its commitment to empower Kuwait's multi-talented youth by providing them with a one of a kind opportunity to explore their love for the art in the midst of experienced mentors.

Music is a cultural language which brings nations and people together. More importantly, it is an extricable link that strengthens social bonds between communities. Considered one of the oldest and most demonstrative art forms, music has played a leading role in developing overall wellbeing and happiness around the world.

Burgan Bank's support of this initiative falls under its dynamic full-fledged community program entitled 'ENGAGE' - Together to be the change. This program sheds light on important aspects affecting every segment of the society by promoting social welfare through educational, cultural and health driven initiatives. Burgan Bank's approach to 'ENGAGE' begins with a vital principle that as a leading Kuwaiti financial institution, its conduct and policies should be aligned with the needs and interests of the community.

NBK, KRCS conclude educational campaign

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) and Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) concluded 'Educate for a Brighter Kuwait' campaign to help parents pay their children's tuition fees. This fund raising campaign received donations for 4,295 students. The campaign has launched an exhibition at The Avenues Mall and received donations from citizens and expats. Also the donations were accessible online through KRCS's website.

The 'Educate for a Brighter Kuwait' project was launched for the third consecutive year. It aims at nurturing and educating children. The project offers the financial support to non-Kuwaiti families with low income who are unable to afford the education of their children in Kuwait. Manal Al-Mattar, NBK Public Relations Assistant General Manager and Lama Al-Othman, KRCS Human Resources Development Manager expressed their sincere appreciation for all those who participated in support for the project.



Mattar expressed her sincere appreciation to Kuwait Red Crescent Society for its active and prompt response and efforts to help children who are in need for safety and education. "This sponsorship reflects NBK's commitment toward corporate social responsibility," Mattar said. "NBK is keen to support various private and public humanitarian missions and aid groups in their efforts to help children and families in need."

Meanwhile, Othman said that the campaign covered 500 students in its first year, while it succeeded to achieve the support for 2,500 students in its second year. We are proud that we have received donations to pay the tuition fees for 4,295 student this year. Othman added that KRCS looks forward to coordinate with national institutions such as NBK to achieve relevant humanitarian and development projects in Kuwait.

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International

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017



China Xi declares 'new era' as party congress kicks off

Tehran vows to 'shred' nuke deal if Washington quits

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HEBRON: An employee of Trans Media inspects a satellite at the company office in the West Bank city of Hebron yesterday, following the closure of the media office by Israeli forces. —AFP

Israel raids eight Palestinian media firms for 'incitement'

Channels accused of incitement against the state of Israel

HEBRON: Israeli forces raided Palestinian media offices across the occupied West Bank overnight in what a military spokeswoman yesterday called a "large-scale operation" against incitement. The raids on eight companies came hours after the Israeli government declared that it would not deal with an emerging Palestinian unity government that includes Hamas unless the Islamist group made radical changes. Israeli officials said the raids targeted companies that provide services to Hamas television stations. Notices were posted saying the companies were to be closed for six months.

"Israeli army forces last night raided eight Palestinian production and media companies that provide services to Al-Aqsa and Al-Quds TV channels," the head of an Israeli defense ministry unit known as COGAT, Yoav Mordechai, wrote on Facebook, referring to Hamas channels. "These two channels broadcast constant incitement against the state of Israel. It is no secret that these two channels inspired, several times, terrorists to go out and commit terrorist attacks against innocents." Israeli officials provided no specific examples of the alleged incitement. At least one of the companies targeted provides various services to a range of local and international news media.

The Palestinian Authority said it condemned the raids "in the strongest terms". "Occupation forces committed a blatant aggression and gross violation of all international laws when they stormed Palestinian cities and raided media offices," PA government spokesman Yusef al-Mahmoud said in a statement. He said the measures were a "clear challenge to the international efforts, especially the American efforts, to seek an opportunity for compromise and lay the foundations for peace and security with the agreement of all sides." US President Donald Trump has been seeking ways to restart long-stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts.



Israel rejects unity govt that includes Hamas

Equipment seized
A Palestinian journalists' union official in the southern West Bank city of Hebron said that the offices of

three companies providing production services to Hamas television channels were closed and equipment and documents seized. They were named as Palmedia, Ramsat and Transmedia, a satellite broadcasting facility where two members of staff were arrested, the union official said.

An official with Palmedia said that three of its five offices in the West Bank were closed, including its headquarters in Ramallah as well as in Hebron and Nablus. Some 50 people were out of work due to the Palmedia closures, he said. The company provides services to a range of local and international media. A military spokeswoman told AFP that security forces "searched a number of media and production offices suspected of broadcasting inciting content, encouraging, celebrating and promoting violence and terrorism against Israelis."

"During the large-scale operation, media stations such as Ramsat and Transmedia were closed," she added. "In addition forces seized equipment and documents from media companies that provided services to Al Aqsa and Al Quds-TV channels that are illegal organizations." Last week, rival Palestinian movements Fatah and Hamas signed a landmark unity deal aimed at ending a decade-long split. Israel said on Tuesday it would not negotiate with a Palestinian unity government that includes Hamas if the Islamist movement does not disarm, recognize the country and renounce violence.

The government statement also demanded that president Mahmud Abbas's Palestinian Authority "continue to act against Hamas terror infrastructures" in the West Bank. Hamas has run the Gaza Strip for a decade, but also has a presence in the West Bank, where Abbas's Fatah is based. Israel and Hamas have fought three wars since 2008, and the Gaza Strip has been under an Israeli blockade for around a decade. Egypt has also kept its border with Gaza largely closed in recent years. Hamas seized Gaza in 2007 in a near civil war with Fatah that followed an electoral dispute after polls won by the Islamist movement.—AFP

Qaeda set to gain as IS disintegrates

BEIRUT: Over several nights in September, some 10,000 men, women and children fled areas under Islamic State control, hurrying through fields in northern Syria and risking fire from government troops to reach a province held by an Al-Qaeda-linked group. For an untold number of battle-hardened jihadis fleeing with the civilians, the escape to Idlib province marked a homecoming of sorts, an opportunity to continue waging war alongside an extremist group that shares much of the Islamic State's ideology - and has benefited from its prolonged downfall. While the US-led coalition and Russian-backed Syrian troops have been focused on driving IS from the country's east, an Al-Qaeda-linked insurgent coalition known as the Levant Liberation Committee has consolidated its control over Idlib, and may be looking to return to Osama bin Laden's strategy of attacking the West. Syrian activists with contacts in the area say members of the Levant Liberation Committee vouched for fleeing IS fighters they had known before the two groups split four years ago and allowed them to join, while others were sent to jail. The activists spoke on condition of anonymity because they still visit the area and fear reprisals from the jihadis.

IS has lost nearly all the territory it once controlled in Syria and Iraq, including the northern Iraqi city of Mosul - the largest it ever held - and the northern Syrian city of Raqqa, which once served as its de facto capital. Tens of thousands of its fighters have been killed on the battlefield, but an untold number have escaped. As it gradually disintegrates, theological splits have also emerged within the organization, including the rise of a faction that blames its leader, Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, for the setbacks.

"Al-Qaeda will welcome ISIS members with open arms, those are battle-hardened with potent field experience," said Fawaz Gerges, a professor at the London School of Economics and the author of "ISIS: A History." ISIS is an alternative acronym for the Islamic State group. The two groups both sprang from Al-Qaeda in Iraq, which emerged in the years after the 2003 US-led invasion, but split over ideology and leadership in 2013 and battled each other across northern Syria. Earlier this month, IS attacked the Levant Liberation Committee again, in what was seen as a revenge attack after the defections. While IS went on to carve out a proto-state in large parts of Syria and Iraq and declared an Islamic caliphate in 2014, the Al-Qaeda militants allied themselves with other Syrian insurgent groups and cultivated grass-roots support by providing aid and other services to civilians. They remained focused on the war against Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces, although they've also crushed several small US-backed rebel factions. But despite formally severing ties with Al-Qaeda last year and repeatedly changing its name, the group is still widely seen as a loyal affiliate of the global network that carried out the Sept 11 attacks.

Brett McGurk, the top US envoy for the coalition battling the Islamic State group, has said Idlib is the largest Al-Qaeda haven since bin Laden's days in Afghanistan. Two Iraqi intelligence officials told The Associated Press in Baghdad that bin Laden's successor, Ayman Al-Zawahiri, sent an envoy to Syria to convince IS fighters to defect and join his group. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters, said this might have been the reason behind an audiotape released by IS leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi on Sept 28, in which he ordered his fighters not to "retreat, run away, negotiate or surrender."

While Al-Qaeda may yet regain the mantle of worldwide jihad, it could also come under increasing threat in its bastion in northwestern Syria, as the forces arrayed against IS shift their focus to a new potentially worldwide threat. "The honeymoon



RAKQA: A member of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), backed by US special forces, talks on the radio near Raqqa's stadium as they clear the last positions on the frontline. —AFP

period for Al-Qaeda, in which the so-called Islamic State absorbed most of the counterterrorism focus while Al-Qaeda's affiliates grew stronger, is coming to an end," according to an analysis by the Soufan Group security consultancy.

"It now appears Zawahiri is seeking to consolidate the terror network and return the group to its heyday as the vanguard of a global movement," it added. That could place the

militants in the crosshairs of the international coalition. Turkey launched a limited military operation in Idlib last week aimed at imposing a "de-escalation zone," one of several set up across Syria under an agreement between Turkey, Iran and Russia. The Turkish troops have yet to confront Al-Qaeda, but that could change if it comes to be seen as a regional or international threat.—AP

Anniversary Offers

Midea
MJ-JS20B21
Slow Juicer



200
29
69
39

- 8.8gph's Pulp Collector
- 40mm-feeding tube
- High Speed 11 RPM Motor

DeLonghi
EXTRA
FH1363
Fryer



1400
54
79
25

Wait 200
1.7Kgs

Moulinex
LM2211
Blender



350 1.25
8
11
3

- 350W
- 1.25 Litre
- Safety

Midea
MK-17D18A
Kettle



1.7
2200
3
5
2

- 360°rotational base
- Single water window
- Non-power indicator
- Pull-off lid

SHARP
EI-S110(P-3)
Steam Iron



2200
3
6
3

- 2200W
- Anti Drip
- Ceramic Coated

ORCO
OR-PG42GS
Garment Steamer



2000
2
20
25
5

- Double Pole Hand
- 2.5Ltr Water Tank
- Automatic Color Release
- Flat Iron Release & Steam
- Cordless, Steam & Soles

Panasonic
MK-FB005TZ
Food Processor



2.5
79
103
24

- 13 Attach. 16 Functions
- Glass Touch Panels
- Manual Models
- 33 Functions

SHARP
R-20CT(S)
Microwave



800 20
16
23
6

- 5 Power Levels
- 25mm-Doorvent Turntable
- Mechanical Control

Midea
MJ-BH40C1
Hand Blender with Chopper



1.5
400
5
7
2

- 400Watt
- 1.5Ltr Jar
- 2 gears in Pulse & Run Mode

ORCO
ST1003A-CB
Sandwich Maker



Midea
VTW21A15T
Vacuum Cleaner



21 1000
14
29
14

- 400W Motor
- 2.5Ltr Bag Capacity

Panasonic
CS-YC24TKF



24000 BTU/hr
2
229
249
20

Panasonic
CS-PC24TKF



24000 BTU/hr
2
259
289
30

White-Westinghouse
WS24K17BCCI



24000 BTU/hr
2
149
209
60

White-Westinghouse
WS36K17BCCI



36000 BTU/hr
3
299
399
100

YORK
YHFC24



24000 BTU/hr
2
169
249
30

YORK
YHFC36



36000 BTU/hr
3
299
369
70

Midea
MST1MB1-24CR



24000 BTU/hr
2
139
189
50

Midea
MST1MB1-30CR



30000 BTU/hr
2.5
159
229
70

SHARP
SJ-GC53V-SL3



492
139
189
50

- Double Door Refrigerator
- 17.3 Cubic Feet
- Glass Door
- Eco Design

SHARP
SJ-K385E-SS3



348
99
129
30

- 12.25 Cu. Ft.
- Silver Color
- No Frost

Midea
HD-520FW



520
89
119
30

- Double Door
- White
- No Frost

SHARP
SJ-19T-HS3



190
65
75
10

- 6.7 Cubic Feet
- Single Door
- No Frost

ORCO
ACM50552GS



50x55cm
29
49
19

- 4 Burner
- Electric Ignition
- Gas Oven
- Silver

FLAMEGAS
EB-5540W



55X40cm
69
95
26

- 4 gas burners
- Oven and grill
- White Color

Panasonic
NA-107VC5WAS



7
89
129
40

- 1000 Rpm
- 33cm Wide Door
- Allergy Care Program
- Double Layer Door
- White Color

SHARP
ES-FE610BZ-W



6
69
99
30

- 1000RPM
- LED Display
- ChildLock
- White

SHARP
ES-MM95Z-H



7.5
64
79
15

- 8 Programs
- Soak Timer
- Air Dry
- Child Lock

Midea
MTE80-P501Q



8
35
42
7

- 2 doors Washing Machine
- 30-degree water temperature
- A plastic rotating basin

ORCO
OR-9060WR



90x60cm
99
139
40

- 5 Burner
- Full Safety
- White

FLAMEGAS
AL-9612GI



90X60cm
149
199
50

- 5 gas burners
- Stainless steel

International

Khamenei says Tehran will 'shred' nuke deal if Washington quits it

From Damascus, Iran vows to confront Israel

ANKARA: Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said yesterday Tehran would stick to its 2015 nuclear accord with world powers as long as the other signatories respected it, but would "shred" the deal if Washington pulled out, state TV reported. Khamenei spoke five days after US President Donald Trump adopted a harsh new approach to Iran by refusing to certify its compliance with the deal, reached under Trump's predecessor Barack Obama, and saying he might ultimately terminate it. "I don't want to waste my time on answering the rants and whoppers of the brute (US) president," Khamenei said in a speech to students in Tehran quoted by state television. "Trump's stupidity should not distract us from America's deceitfulness...If the US tears up the deal, we will shred it."

Trump's move put Washington at odds with other parties to the accord - Britain, France, Germany, Russia, China and the European Union - who say Washington cannot unilaterally cancel a multilateral accord enshrined by a UN resolution. Khamenei, who has the final say on Iran's state matters,

welcomed their support but said it was not sufficient. "European states stressed their backing for the deal and condemned Trump ... We welcomed this, but it is not enough to ask Trump not to rip up the agreement. Europe needs to stand against practical measures (taken) by America."

Under the deal, Iran agreed to curb its disputed uranium enrichment program in return for relief from international sanctions that crippled its economy, and UN nuclear inspectors have repeatedly certified Tehran's compliance with the terms. Trump accuses Iran of supporting terrorism and says the 2015 deal does not do enough to block its path to acquire nuclear weapons. Iran says it does not seek nuclear arms and in turn blames the growth of militant groups such as Islamic State on the policies of the United States and its regional allies. In decertifying the

nuclear deal last week, Trump gave the US Congress 60 days to decide whether to reimpose economic sanctions on Tehran that were lifted under the pact.

'Do not interfere'

In a major shift in US policy, Trump also said Washington will take a more confrontational approach to Iran over its ballistic missile program and its support for extremist groups in the Middle East. Tehran has repeatedly pledged to continue what it calls a defensive missile capability in defiance of Western criticism. The United States has said Iran's stance violates the 2015 deal in spirit as missiles could be tipped with nuclear weapons.

Tehran has said it seeks only civilian nuclear energy from its enrichment of uranium, and that the program has nothing to do with missile development efforts. "They must avoid interfering in our defense program ... We do not accept that Europe sings along with America's bullying and its unreasonable demands," Khamenei said. "They (Europeans) ask why does Iran have missiles? Why do you have missiles yourselves? Why do you have nuclear weapons?"

The Trump administration has imposed new unilateral sanctions targeting Iran's missile activity. It has called on Tehran not to develop missiles capable of delivering nuclear bombs. Iran says it has no such plans.

Iran has one of the biggest ballistic missile programs in the Middle East, viewing it as an essential precautionary defense against the United States and other adversaries, primarily Gulf Arab states and Israel. "Americans are angry because the Islamic Republic of Iran has managed to thwart their plots in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and other countries in the region," Khamenei said. Supporters of the deal fear Trump's decision to decertify the deal could eventually unravel it, causing more tension in the crisis-hit Middle East, where Shiite Iran is involved in a decades long proxy war with US-ally Sunni Saudi Arabia.

Iranian supreme leader calls US president a brute



Europe worried about influx of militants from Tunisia

OFF THE TUNISIAN COAST: Tunisian smugglers are offering migrants seeking a fresh start in Europe a new route from Africa to Italy. Thousands have made the dangerous 300 km journey between Libya and the Italian island of Lampedusa this year and hundreds more are thought to have died trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea to reach European shores. A crackdown by the Libyan coastguard in August has forced migrants and smugglers to find alternatives, giving Tunisians an opportunity to sell spots on overcrowded boats between the Gulf of Tunis and Sicily.

The number of migrants trying to make the trip, which can be as short as 150 km, has jumped in the last month while fewer are leaving from Libya. Most are Tunisians fleeing economic hardship at home. Others want to avoid increased navy patrols off Lampedusa and prefer to arrive on the larger island of Sicily where it is easier pass unnoticed. Penalties for smugglers and migrants are also light in Tunisia if you are caught. "The route to Sicily is not as heavily guarded as to Lampedusa," said Hassan Rebhi, captain of a Tunisian coast guard captain whose boat patrols the waters off Tunisia.

Libya is still a much bigger departure point for Europe with 108,000 reaching Italy from Libya in 2017, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). But Tunisian arrivals are on the rise with 1,400 in September, up from 1,350 in the first 8 months of the year. Many others are believed to have reached Sicily but escaped detection and identification. Tunisian coast guard officials said they had foiled 900 departure attempts in September compared to 170 in August. About 80 percent are Tunisians but there are also Libyans, Moroccans and sub-Saharan Africans. —Reuters

No jobs at home

The route from Tunisia has been active before - some 20,000 left in 2011 as Tunisians tried to escape political turmoil when longtime president Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali was ousted. Tunisia won international praise for its democratic progress and the numbers seeking to leave fell but successive governments have failed to create jobs for young people. Some 40 km offshore, Rebhi's boat pulled up alongside an inflatable boat overloaded with 14 young Tunisian men who had been hoping to make it to Italy. The coast guards ordered them to switch off their engine and climb aboard the ship.

"I watched many videos of young people who arrived in Italy. I have been unemployed for five years and don't have any hope things will get better in Tunisia," said Anwar, a Tunisian who was shivering after spending 8 hours on the damp boat. European officials are worried about an influx of Tunisian jihadists. Thousands of Tunisians have left to fight for Islamic State. Some have also made their way to Europe including Anis Amri who killed 12 people when he plowed a truck through a Christmas market in Berlin. —Reuters

The biggest refugee camps in the world

PARIS: Bangladesh has announced plans to build a refugee camp that could accommodate around 800,000 Rohingya Muslims pouring over the border from Myanmar. The camp would be the largest in the world and has raised concerns about the risks of concentrating vulnerable people, such as the spread of disease. Around 550,000 Rohingya have fled communal bloodshed in Myanmar since the latest violence began in August 25. While some have joined the roughly 300,000 fellow Rohingya living in the official camps of Kutupalong and Nayapara since the 1990s, most have set up alongside hundreds of thousands more already living in makeshift camps and villages outside those settlements. The UN's refugee agency estimates there are an unprecedented 65.5 million refugees in the world today, split between urban centers or informal settlements, and more formal camps. Here are some of the largest of these camps, based on UN figures.

Bidibidi, Uganda: 285,000

This vast settlement in far northern Uganda has sprung up over the past year as people flood out of South Sudan, fleeing civil war and severe food shortages. A village in the Yumbe district on the South Sudan border, Bidibidi became a refugee settlement in August 2016 and now hosts nearly 285,000 people, according to figures from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Uganda hosts more than half of the nearly two million South Sudanese who have fled their country since war erupted in 2013. The Adjumani district in the same border area of Uganda contains many further camps and settlements where there are together about 233,000 more South Sudanese.

Dadaab, Kenya: 239,500

The sprawling Dadaab complex 100 kilometers from Kenya's border with Somalia has housed Somali refugees for around 26 years. The majority fled the outbreak of civil war in Somalia 1991 and many never returned, going on to have children and grandchildren. Dadaab is made up of four camps, some of which have come to resemble towns, but is considered a single area. There were about 239,500 people in Dadaab at the end of September, according to UN figures. The population peaked at around 485,000 in 2012 following a new influx after famine in Somalia. A voluntary repatriation program is helping some to return. The Kenyan government decided last year to close Dadaab, about 450 kilometers northeast of the capital Nairobi.

US-backed forces comb ghost city Raqqa; IS ousted

RAQQA: US-backed forces combed the ruins of Raqqa for survivors and bombs yesterday, after retaking the Syrian city from Islamic State group jihadists and dealing their dreams of statehood a fatal blow. A lightning final assault by the Syrian Democratic Forces on Tuesday saw jihadist defenses collapse faster than expected and the SDF claim a landmark victory in the three-year fight against IS. SDF fighters flushed jihadist



TEHRAN: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei meets with Iranian students in the capital Tehran. Khamenei dismissed US President Donald Trump's aggressive criticism as the "rants and whoppers" of a "brute" in a speech. —AFP

Military chief warns

Meanwhile, Iran's military chief warned Israel against violating Syrian airspace and territory on a visit to Damascus yesterday, Iranian state media said, a sign of rising tensions with Israel as it voices concern over Iranian influence in Syria. General Mohammad Baqeri also pledged to increase cooperation with the Syrian military to fight Israel and insurgents in Syria, where Iranian forces and Iran-backed militias including Hezbollah have provided critical military support to Damascus. "It's not acceptable for the Zionist regime to violate the land and airspace of Syria anytime it wants," Baqeri said in the Syrian capital at a news conference with his Syrian counterpart.

"We are in Damascus to assert and cooperate to confront our common enemies, the Zionists and terrorists," he said, a reference to Israel and Sunni Muslim jihadists including Islamic State. "We drew up the broad

lines for this cooperation," Syrian state media cited the Iranian military chief of staff as saying. Iran's expanding clout during Syria's six-year-long civil war has raised alarm in Israel, which has said it would act against any threat from its regional arch-enemy Tehran. Israel's air force says it has struck arms convoys of the Syrian military and Hezbollah nearly 100 times during the war.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that Iran was strengthening its foothold in Syria and that Israel was watching developments. He said Israel would do whatever it takes to protect its security. Tensions had risen this year between Lebanon's Hezbollah and Israel, which have avoided a major conflict since 2006. This week, the Israeli military said it attacked a Syrian anti-aircraft battery that had fired at its planes over Lebanon. But the Syrian army said it hit an Israeli warplane after it breached its airspace at the Syria-Lebanon border. —Agencies



UKHIA: Rohingya refugees near the Thaingkhal refugee camp in Ukhiya looks toward the stranded refugees. —AFP

saying it was a training ground for Shabaab Islamist militants from Somalia. The decision was overturned by Kenya's High Court on the grounds that it violated the country's international obligations and amounted to the persecution of refugees.

Kakuma, Kenya: 185,000

This camp on the outskirts of the town of the same name in northwestern Kenya was established in 1992 following the arrival of thousands of people fleeing from southern Sudan during the 1983-2005 war. Many were young boys who risked being forced into combat. The camp also took in some of the hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians who fled around the fall of the military government in 1991. About half of the refugees there today are from South Sudan and a quarter from Somalia, with those from Ethiopia down to under four percent.

Nyarugusu, Tanzania: 139,630

Just 37 kilometers from the border with Burundi, this camp was opened in November 1996 to host people fleeing conflict in the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo. Tens of thousands of Burundians arrived in 2015 when their

country plunged into crisis after President Pierre Nkurunziza sought a fiercely contested third term. Burundians now account for around 47 percent of the camp's population. Tanzania hosts around 60 percent of the 410,000 Burundians who are refugees.

Zataari, Jordan: 80,140

About 5.2 million Syrians have left their country since conflict erupted in 2011, the largest migration in the world today. Most are in neighboring countries, where only nine percent are in camps, the UN says. About 20 percent of those in Jordan are in camps, the largest of which is Zataari with about 80,140 people, according to figures for August. Some 80 kilometers north of the capital Amman, Zataari was established in 2012 and evolved from a collection of tents into an urban settlement. There are also more than 3.2 million Syrians in Turkey, which hosts the largest number of refugees in the world, the UN says. However only about 10 percent are in camps, the largest being the Akcakale tent camp with around 26,400 people. The government of Lebanon estimates it hosts 1.5 million Syrians. Most of them live in informal tented settlements in the Bekaa Valley. —AFP

holdouts from Raqqa's main hospital and municipal stadium, wrapping up a more than four-month offensive against what used to be the inner sanctum of IS's self-proclaimed "caliphate". Waving their yellow flags, the Kurdish-led SDF forces celebrated their victory on an infamous traffic circle where IS used to carry out public executions and that had become known as the "Roundabout of Hell".

Yesterday, teams of SDF fighters deployed across the cery, rubble-strewn streets of Raqqa to look for unexploded ordnance and booby traps left behind by the jihadists. "They are making sure there are no more sleeper cells" in Raqqa, SDF spokesman Mustafa Bali said. "Mine-clearing operations and the re-opening of the city are under way." Bali said, adding that his organization would only formally announce the liberation of the city once they are completed. The SDF and the Kurdish intelligence services issued clear instructions forbidding the tens of thousands of displaced families from attempting to return to their homes. —AFP



RAQQA: A picture shows a damaged Armenian church in the Syrian city of Raqqa. —AFP

International

Catalonia's leader urged to 'act sensibly'; deadline nears

Prospect of showdown sends shock-waves across Spain

MADRID: Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy urged Catalonia's leader yesterday to "act sensibly" and renounce an independence bid to head off a threat by Madrid to impose direct rule, a prospect that has sent shock waves across the country. Rajoy issued his appeal in the national parliament where he sought to win more political support for his threat to take direct control of Catalonia today unless the rebel regional government drops its plan to break away.

The move would need only a vote in Spain's upper house, where Rajoy's People's Party holds an absolute majority. It would be the first time in Spain's four decades of democracy that direct rule has been imposed. That prospect in the euro zone's fourth-largest economy has prompted hundreds of Catalan firms to move their headquarters, led Madrid to cut economic growth forecasts and rattled the euro.

Regional leader Carles Puigdemont has already defied Madrid once this week, reiterating on Monday an ambiguous independence declaration he made last week and immediately suspended. "I ask Puigdemont to act sensibly, in a balanced way, to put the interests of all citizens first," Rajoy said on Wednesday, mentioning both residents of the autonomous region, which produces a fifth of Spain's wealth and has its own language and culture, and the rest of the country. Today's deadline is Puigdemont's last chance to abandon an independence declaration which Madrid has rejected as illegal.

"It's not that difficult to reply to the question: has Catalonia declared independence? Because if it has, the government is obliged to act in one way, and if it has not we can talk here," Rajoy said in parliament. The row has

rattled financial markets and sent companies scurrying to relocate on safer ground. Banco Sabadell, Spain's fifth-biggest bank, was considering moving its top management to Madrid. Almost 700 companies pulled out of the north-eastern region between Oct 2 - the day after a referendum on independence which Madrid branded illegal - and Oct 16, according to Spain's companies registry.

Tourism, a vital part of the Catalan economy centered on its seaside capital Barcelona, has also taken a hit, with activity falling 15 percent so far this month, industry association Exceltur said on Tuesday. The region's tourism industry could make 1.8 billion euros (\$2.12 billion) less than usual in the fourth quarter "if the volatility and confrontation get worse in the coming months", Exceltur said in a statement. Spain's biggest political crisis since a failed military coup in 1981 dragged the IBEX stock index lower than its European peers.



Catalonia to face direct rule unless it drops secession

Threat of direct rule

Unless there is a clear renunciation of the independence bid, the premier is set to invoke a never-before-used article of the 1978 constitution, which would impose direct central rule. Catalan newspaper La Vanguardia said on Wednesday that Puigdemont, a 54-year-old former journalist, was mulling declaring independence and calling so-called constituent elections for the newly-declared republic.

But Catalan foreign affairs chief Raul Romeva told a news conference in Brussels: "Elections are not on the table now." As the threat of direct rule neared, the Catalan government took a combative tone on Tuesday. "Giving in forms no part of this government's scenarios," spokesman Jordi Turull said. "On Thursday, we won't give anything dif-



BARCELONA: People hold placards reading 'Help Catalonia' and 'Freedom' during candlelit demonstration in Barcelona against the arrest of two Catalan separatist leaders. — AFP

ferent than what we gave on Monday." Tempers have flared since Monday after the jailing of two separatist leaders pending an investigation for alleged sedition.

Tens of thousands of protesters gathered along Barcelona's Diagonal Avenue on Tuesday to call for their

release, whistling and shouting "freedom" and "out with the occupying forces". Puigdemont said, "Sadly, we have political prisoners again," referring to the military dictatorship of Francisco Franco, who suppressed Catalan culture and language until his death in 1975. —Reuters

Weakened German leader scrambles to form government

BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel, weakened by poor election results, started talks yesterday to forge an unlikely governing coalition from a motley crew of parties that span the political spectrum. Merkel's conservatives, who won the September 24 vote without obtaining a clear majority, launched exploratory talks with the liberal and pro-business Free Democrats (FDP), then planned to meet from 1430 GMT the left-leaning and environmentalist Greens. To avoid a breakdown that would force new elections, all sides will have to agree in the coming weeks on tough compromises on thorny topics ranging from immigration to EU reform to climate policy.

If the initial talks go well, all sides will meet jointly tomorrow to open negotiations that could form a government by perhaps January in the biggest EU economy. The alliance, which would be a first for Germany at the national level, has been dubbed "Jamaica" because the parties' colors match the Caribbean country's flag-black for the conservatives, yellow for the FDP and green for Greens. "If you embark on a voyage to Jamaica, you can expect stormy waters," said negotiator Alexander Dobrindt of the Bavarian CSU party before heading into the talks.

The delicate negotiations come as Merkel, long seen as Europe's most influential leader, is increasingly described as a lame duck, past the zenith of her power in what is widely expected to be her final term. Critics are snapping at the heels of the veteran chancellor for delivering the worst election result since 1949 for her Christian Democrats (CDU), followed by a state election loss last Sunday. "Up until two years ago Merkel appeared untouchable," the Süddeutsche Zeitung newspaper wrote. "That aura of invincibility is now gone. Her power, too, is on the wane." "If the CDU had any kind of challenger waiting in the wings, Merkel would have reason to worry."



BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel of the Christian Democrats party (4th left) waves from the balcony as they meet to prepare exploratory talks of a potential coalition yesterday. — AFP

'Massive hurdles'

If trouble is brewing in Merkel's party, her more conservative Bavarian allies, the CSU, are in disarray, fearing another poll drubbing in state elections next year. Having long rallied against Merkel's decision to allow in more than a million asylum seekers since 2015, the CSU has signaled a sharp shift to the right to win back voters from the anti-immigration Alternative for Germany (AfD). CSU chief Horst Seehofer reiterated yesterday that limiting immigration was a "very, very important" goal.

The CSU's Dobrindt said earlier that Sunday's election victory in Austria of rightwing candidate Sebastian Kurz showed that the CDU/CSU must "position ourselves as a conservative force in these negotiations". Such talk only heightens distrust with the Greens, who emerged out of the 1960s and '70s protest movements against the Vietnam war and nuclear weapons and who favor a multicultural society that welcomes refugees. Greens negotiator Juergen Trittin pointed to growing rightwing and populist tendencies in the CDU/CSU bloc and warned that their headline demands on the refugee issue would present "massive hurdles".

source". If the confession proves to be "credible and comprehensible", judge Josef Bill said, the case could close with M receiving a suspended sentence and a fine.

Big risks, at what gain?

The spying claims sparked outrage in Germany, with Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel rebuking Switzerland over the scandal and summoning Bern's envoy for clarification.

The case was especially embarrassing for Switzerland, which in 2015 had signed a deal with the European Union to exchange bank data starting in 2018 as part of an international pledge to clamp down on tax cheats. Amid the uproar, German and Swiss media reported that the accused's operation had unraveled by chance, possibly because he had walked into a trap set by Werner Mauss, a former top spy dubbed Germany's James Bond.

Daniel M, a former policeman and a high-ranking security officer at Swiss banking giant UBS, reportedly passed on a CD containing banking data to a German contact who had in fact been working for Mauss. The data turned out to be erroneous, but Mauss reported the exchange to UBS, which in turn passed it on to Swiss authorities who arrested M in February 2015 for breaching banking secrecy. During the investigation, M, apparently told Swiss investigators that he had been working for Bern to spy on German authorities.

But a copy of a summary of the interrogation ended up in the hands of German authorities through Mauss, leading eventually to M's arrest in Frankfurt. German prosecutors say he was paid 3,000 euros (\$3,500) a month over half a year by his Swiss handlers. He also received 13,000 euros for the personal details of tax officials, of which he gave 10,000 euros to his associate. Separately, for the mission to place a mole in the tax office, M was promised 90,000 euros. He received 60,000 euros of the sum but passed on most of it to unknown individuals, according to German prosecutors. He risks up to five years in jail. —AFP

'Power crumbling'

The other partner in the coalition talks, the FDP, is an easier fit, having previously served with the conservatives for lengthy stretches until they humiliatingly crashed out of the Bundestag at the last election in 2013. Its youthful leader Christian Lindner, who led the party back into the Bundestag, has presented his own tough demands as he eyes the powerful finance ministry. On the eve of the talks, Lindner even cautioned Merkel to refrain from any bold moves at the EU level, especially if it cost German taxpayers, before a new government is formed.

"I expect that Merkel... makes it clear that her government is only performing a caretaker role," he told the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. "Germany is currently not in a position to take decisions." Given the competing interests, and the weeks of haggling over posts and policy ahead, the Spiegel Online news site predicted that "with a bit of luck, Germany may have a new government by January." "Germany is experiencing a strange phenomenon," it said in a commentary. "A new coalition is being negotiated by parties who don't really want it, while the aura and the power of the former and future Chancellor Angela Merkel is crumbling." —AFP

Swiss 'tax spy' goes on trial in Germany

FRANKFURT AM MAIN: A Swiss man accused of spying on German officials who were hunting tax cheats went on trial in Frankfurt yesterday, in a convoluted case that has strained ties between Bern and Berlin. Daniel M, 54, was arrested in Frankfurt in April on espionage charges after he compiled information on officials tasked by the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia with ferreting out stashes of wealth hidden at Swiss banks. Switzerland had been seeking the identities of three German tax officers, hoping to build a case against them for illegally obtaining banking data—which are protected under the country's strict secrecy laws.

Swiss banks had come under intense pressure in recent years as several German states started buying CDs or USB memory sticks allegedly containing data on German taxpayers who had parked their fortunes across the border. Fearing prosecution, many of Germany's rich and famous subsequently came forward to declare their hidden wealth, boosting the tax coffers of Europe's biggest economy by billions of euros. German investigators say Daniel M was in the employ of Bern's spymasters by July 2011 at the latest. Along with an associate working for a security firm in Frankfurt, he allegedly collected birthdates, telephone numbers and private addresses of German tax officials.

Prosecutors also believe he placed a mole, whose identity remains unknown, in the tax office. Hours after the trial began, the case appeared to be heading for a quick settlement. The defendant's lawyer Robert Kain told the court his client was ready to confess and would issue a written statement next Thursday, the next hearing date. Denying that a mole was placed in the tax office, Kain said that "there is no

'Czech Trump' fans euroskepticism two days before vote

PRAGUE: A billionaire populist known as the "Czech Trump" wooed euroskeptic voters yesterday with promises of a "fair" deal from Europe if he wins this week's general election as expected. Andrej Babis, 63, who heads the ANO (Yes) movement, is the clear favorite for prime minister in the October 20 and 21 ballot where traditional pro-EU parties are forecast to take a thrashing. Analysts say that already-strong euroskepticism in the EU member country could further intensify, echoing trends in neighboring countries in the bloc. Voters yesterday received a letter in the mail from Babis vowing that "the Czech Republic will not adopt the euro" should he take office. But he insisted he is "all for a single Europe which plays fair and where nobody is a second-class member".

After Britain's vote to leave the EU in the Brexit referendum, some have even started to talk about the prospect of "Czexit". Two-thirds of Czechs said the EU's decisions were not in the interest of their country in an April survey by the independent CVM pollsters. "Some voters, politicians and journalists are inclined to present these elections as a kind of referendum on Babis, but what's worse and more dangerous is that topics like the migrant crisis and criticism of the EU are gaining more ground," Charles University analyst Josef Mlejnek said. Babis echoes other eastern EU leaders—especially in Hungary and Poland who also oppose mandatory EU refugee quotas and various rules they see as attempts by Brussels to limit national sovereignty. —AFP

News in brief

Red Crescent alarmed

ISTANBUL: The Turkish Red Crescent yesterday expressed alarm over the "drama" of the humanitarian situation in the northwestern Syrian province of Idlib, saying 800,000 people were living in hundreds of largely makeshift camps. But with Turkey launching a military operation to implement a so-called de-escalation zone in the province, the head of the Turkish Red Crescent Kerem Kinik expressed hope aid operations could be expanded across the province. "In Idlib, the humanitarian situation is, unfortunately, one of a large-scale drama," Kinik told reporters in Istanbul. He emphasized that people displaced by Syria's over six-year civil war had come to Idlib from other cities including Aleppo, Homs, Hama and Damascus. "In Idlib there are 400 camps and 800,000 people are living in these camps most of which are unfortunately makeshift in nature," he said. "They cannot produce anything and are dependent on outside help."

25 fishermen arrested

KARACHI: Pakistan has arrested at least 25 Indian fishermen for allegedly fishing illegally in its waters, officials said yesterday. The Maritime Security Agency (MSA) made the arrests during the last four days, impounding four wooden boats, a security official said on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to the media. He added "the arrested fishermen have already been handed over to police, who will produce them in a court today". Senior local police official Adeel Chandio confirmed the arrests. Indian and Pakistani fishermen are frequently detained for illegal fishing since the Arabian Sea border is not clearly defined and many boats lack the technology to fix their precise location. The fishermen often languish in jail, even after serving their terms, as poor diplomatic ties between the two neighbors mean fulfilling bureaucratic requirements can take a long time.

Suicide bomber kills 7

QUETTA: A Pakistani Taliban suicide bomber rammed a car into a police truck in the southwestern city of Quetta yesterday, killing at least seven people, police said. The attack killed five police officials and two passers-by on the outskirts of the city of Quetta, police chief Abdur Razaq Cheema said. He said 22 people were wounded, eight of them critically. Sarfraz Bugti, the home minister of Baluchistan province, of which Quetta is capital said: "It was a suicide blast." Quetta is about 100 km east of the border with Afghanistan. Bugti said the truck carrying the police officials was on its way to the city to drop them at their posts when the suicide bomber rammed into the vehicle. Television pictures showed the burnt wreckage of the vehicles. The Pakistani Taliban, an umbrella organization of various militant groups within Pakistan, and loosely allied to the Afghan Taliban, issued a statement claiming responsibility.

Horror in Taiwan

TAIPEI: A Taiwanese couple have been indicted over the abuse and deaths of three of their children whose bodies they then buried in hidden locations, in a crime that has shocked the island. The father, identified by his family name Lee, admitted to beating two sons aged seven-years-old and 10 months-before they died, prosecutors said in a statement yesterday. He was charged with causing injury leading to death while the children's mother was indicted for abandonment leading to death, both punishable by life imprisonment. The cause of death of their six-month-old daughter was undetermined. Lee, 37, denied abusing the baby, prosecutors said.

International

China leader declares 'new era' as Communist Party congress opens

Xi pledges to build a 'modern socialist country'

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping yesterday laid out a confident vision for a more prosperous nation and its role in the world, stressing the importance of wiping out corruption and curbing industrial overcapacity, income inequality and pollution. Opening a critical Communist Party congress, Xi pledged to build a "modern socialist country" for a "new era" that will be proudly Chinese and steadfastly ruled by the party but open to the world.

Although his wide-ranging address made clear there were no plans for political reform, Xi said China's development had entered a "new era", using the phrase 36 times in a speech that ran nearly 3-1/2 hours. "With decades of hard work, socialism with Chinese characteristics has crossed the threshold into a new era," Xi said. The twice-a-decade event, a weeklong, mostly closed-door conclave, will culminate in the selection of a new Politburo Standing Committee to rule China's 1.4 billion people for the next five years, with Xi expected to consolidate his control and potentially retain power beyond 2022, when the next congress takes place.

The 64-year-old Xi, widely regarded as the most powerful Chinese leader since Mao Zedong, spoke to more than 2,000 delegates in Beijing's cavernous, red-carpeted Great Hall of the People, including 91-year-old former president Jiang Zemin. Security was tight on a rainy, smoggy day in the capital. As expected, the speech was heavy on aspiration and short on specific plans. On the economy, Xi said China would relax market access for foreign investment, expand access to its services sector and deepen market-oriented reform of its exchange rate and financial system, while at the same time strengthening state firms.

During Xi's first term, China disappointed many investors who had expected it to usher in more market-oriented reforms, especially in the debt-laden state sector. "If Xi gets the political mandate that he is expected to out of the congress, then my hope is that the state sector

reforms actually get done," Damien Ma, fellow and associate director at US thinktank the Paulson Institute said. "If not, then I would also revise my assessment of the state of reforms in China. There have been talks in Beijing that the state sector will be a focus after the 19th party congress, so we need to see."

The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China said it welcomed commitments to open wider the door and treat all companies equally, but said European companies operating in China continued to suffer from "promise fatigue". "The only cure for this is promise implementation," it said in a statement. In what was probably an indirect reference to US President Donald Trump's "America First" policy, Xi promised that China would be fully engaged with the world, and reiterated pledges to tackle climate change. Trump this year opted to withdraw the United States from the Paris climate pact.

"No country can alone address the many challenges facing mankind; no country can afford to retreat into self-isolation," Xi told the delegates, among them Buddhist monks, Olympic medalists,

farmers and at least one astronaut. Xi set bold long-term goals for China's development, envisioning it as a "basically" modernized socialist country by 2035, and a modern socialist "strong power" with leading influence on the world stage by 2050.

But he signaled there would be no significant political reforms, calling China's system the broadest, most genuine, and most effective way to safeguard the interests of the people. Xi has overseen a sweeping crackdown on civil society, locking up rights lawyers and dissidents and tightening internet controls as he has sought to revitalize the Communist Party and its place in contemporary China. "We should not just mechanically copy the political systems of other countries," he said. "We must unwaveringly uphold and improve party leadership and make the party still stronger."



BEIJING: China's President Xi Jinping (center) sings the National Anthem with Chinese leaders during the opening of the 19th Communist Party Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday. — AFP

Firm on graft, Taiwan

Xi praised the party's successes, particularly his high-profile anti-graft campaign, in which more than a million officials have been punished and dozens of former senior officials jailed, saying it would never end as corruption was the "gravest threat" the party faces. On self-ruled Taiwan, claimed by Beijing as its own, Xi said China would never allow the island to separate from China, adding that China would strive to fully transform its

armed forces into a world-class military by the mid-21st century. He made no mention of neighboring North Korea, which has angered Beijing with repeated nuclear and ballistic missile tests in defiance of UN sanctions. Pyongyang sent a congratulatory message ahead of the meeting. Xi has consolidated power swiftly since assuming the party leadership in 2012, locking up rivals for corruption, restructuring the military and asserting China's rising might on the world stage. —Reuters

News in brief

Greek height rule 'sexist'

LUXEMBOURG: The EU's top court ruled yesterday that Greek police had discriminated against women by setting a minimum height requirement for police cadets regardless of sex. The Greek police academy's rule that all applicants, male or female, must be at least 1.70 meters tall unfairly disadvantaged women, the European Court of Justice said. The case was brought by would-be police cadet Marie-Eleni Kalliri, whose application to join the academy for the 2007-8 year was turned down on grounds of height. Her claim went up to Greece's top administrative court, which sought the opinion of the Luxembourg-based ECJ. "A law that lays down, as a criterion for admission to a police school, a minimum height requirement irrespective of sex may constitute unlawful discrimination against women," the court said. The ruling, which is binding on all 28 EU members, suggested that a physical aptitude test would be a better and fairer way to assess candidates for police tasks that required strength.

Explosion rocks Sweden

STOCKHOLM: A powerful explosion blew out the entrance to a police station in the southern Swedish city of Helsingborg yesterday, an attack authorities linked to their fight against organized crime. The explosion occurred just after midnight in the city centre, which is home to around 100,000 people. Prime Minister Stefan Lofven called it "an attack against our democracy" and urged authorities to "step up the fight against serious crime." The blast, heard from as far away as 20 kilometers, caused no injuries but serious material damage. The police station entrance was completely destroyed, with dozens of windows smashed. Police sources quoted by daily Aftonbladet said several kilos of explosives were used. The head of the local police, Patric Heimbrand, told reporters that investigators were working on the presumption that "criminal circles" were behind the attack. He said police work against gangs was paying off and likely causing "irritation".

Portugal minister resigns

LISBON: Portugal's Interior Minister Constanca Urbano de Sousa resigned yesterday as criticism mounts over the government's handling of a series of deadly forest fires that killed more than 100 people in four months. Socialist Prime Minister Antonio Costa accepted her resignation, his office said. On Sunday, a series of deadly wildfires broke out in the centre and north of the country which killed 41 people and injured another 71, the civil protection agency said. Similar huge blazes in June killed 64 people and injured 250 near the central Pedrogao Grande region, in what were the deadliest wildfires in the country's history. As the toll mounted on Monday, a small rightwing party had called for the minister to step down. Costa initially resisted the demand but by Wednesday appeared to have backed down. After the tragedy in June, the government came under mounting criticism for failing to develop a coherent strategy to fight forest fires, which has further sharpened over its inability to prevent another devastating disaster this weekend.

White man indicted

ANNAPOLIS: A white man was indicted Tuesday on a hate crime charge for allegedly stabbing a black college student to death "because of his race," a Maryland prosecutor said. Prince George's County State's Attorney Angela Alsobrooks announced the grand jury indictment against Sean Urbanski at a news conference in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Richard Collins III was stabbed to death on May 20 at the University of Maryland, days before he was set to graduate from Bowie State University. He had just been commissioned as a second lieutenant in the US Army. "We are completely comfortable with the indictment in this case and look forward to taking the case to trial in January," Alsobrooks said.

Hillary slams Trump's 'dangerous' war of words with N Korea

SEOUL: Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton slammed President Donald Trump's "dangerous and short-sighted" war of words with North Korea yesterday, saying his Twitter tirades only benefitted Pyongyang's attention-seeking ruler and hurt Washington's credibility. Clinton lost last year's presidential election to the insurgent Republican despite having decades of experience in politics.

Tension has been running high for months as the White House's new incumbent and the North's Kim Jong-Un trade threats of war, with Trump dubbing Kim "Rocket Man" and being called a "dotard" in response. In recent months Pyongyang has carried out multiple launches of missiles potentially capable of reaching the US mainland, and its sixth nuclear test. But Trump's tit-for-tat with the young, autocratic ruler of the isolated regime only dents Washington's credibility and helps Kim bask in global attention he seeks, the former secretary of state told a forum in Seoul.

"I am worried about some of the recent actions from the new administration that seem to raise tensions. Our allies are now expressing concerns about America's credibility and reliability," she said. "Picking up fights with Kim Jong-Un just puts a smile on his face. It's like picking fights with NATO and the EU which puts a smile on Putin's face," she added, referring to the

Russian President Vladimir Putin. Trump's escalating verbal threats have sparked concerns of potential conflict on the peninsula, especially after he warned this month that "only one thing will work" on the North, without elaborating further.

Such "cavalierly threats to start a war are dangerous and short-sighted", Clinton said, adding the regime would be "thrilled" to get the "personal attention of the leader of our country". Without once mentioning Trump by name, she also said she was "very concerned that the new administration is draining the government of the expertise" in diplomacy over the North. "There are few Asia experts of senior level left at the State Department," she said. Alienating Washington's allies in Asia, where the clout of the world's number-two economy China has been rising to rival the US, could have "grave consequence", she said: "If we pull back, it leaves a vacuum for others to fill."

'Ongoing threat'

How to curb Kim's weapons ambitions is expected to be a major focus of Trump's trip to Asia next month that includes Tokyo, Seoul and Beijing among its stops. US deputy secretary of state John Sullivan, who was also in Seoul yesterday for talks with his South Korean and Japanese counterparts, defended Trump's comments.

"The regime in Pyongyang is unpre-



SEOUL: Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton speaks at the World Knowledge Forum in Seoul. — AFP

dictable and not transparent," he told reporters. "We and our allies have to be prepared for any eventuality. For that reason the president... said all options are on the table." Clinton, the former first lady who served as the US' top diplomat from 2009 to 2013 under president Barack Obama, suffered a shock defeat to Trump in the 2016 election. She felt "so responsible" for the defeat, she said, but also blamed multiple factors including sexism, misogyny and Russian intervention she recounted in her recent memoir "What Happened".

Moscow, she said, was "trying to destabilize every democracy". "It's not going to end at 2016 American campaign... it's an ongoing threat," Clinton said, describing the suspected Russian campaign as "so successful... and very effective propaganda". Trump's presidency has been overshadowed by allegations that his campaign team colluded with Russia during last year's election. Moscow has faced accusations of state-sponsored cyberattacks on countries including Germany and France to influence election results—allegations it has steadfastly denied. —AFP

Top Kenyan election official flees country

NAIROBI: A top Kenyan election commissioner has quit and fled the country ahead of an Oct 26 presidential election saying the vote would not be credible but incumbent Uhuru Kenyatta restated his commitment to the poll. The opposition is likely to say the resignation of Roselyn Akombe, one of seven election board commissioners, is further evidence that the repeat election is illegitimate.

The Supreme Court last month nullified the Aug 8 vote on procedural grounds following a petition by opposition leader Raila Odinga against Kenyatta's victory. Odinga withdrew from the repeat poll last week, saying the election board had not carried out reforms including the firing of key officials he blames for the mistakes of Aug 8. The resignation heightens uncertainty over a vote that some independent observers say Kenyatta looks set to win.

Political uncertainty has blunted Kenya's economy. The central bank sold dollars yesterday in the foreign exchange market after the shilling currency weakened on news of Akombe's resignation. Kenya is East Africa's richest country and a hub for diplomacy and security in a region that faces conflict in Somalia and South Sudan. At least 37 people have died in violence since the August vote, including four killed in confrontations between police and protesters in the past week. Youths have also broken up meetings by election officials in the opposition stronghold of western Kenya this week. The election board said it has conducted some reforms and the vote will go ahead with seven candidates including Odinga on the ballot. "We walk towards the declared date of the 26th of October both as a God-fearing leadership and government," Kenyatta said in a televised speech yesterday. Akombe said the election would

not be credible and warned Kenyans to remember violence that followed a disputed 2007 poll when more than 1,200 people were killed. She told BBC radio she fled to New York after receiving numerous threats that she said came from both sides.

"The commission has become a party to the current crisis. The commission is under siege," she said in a statement dated Tuesday. She said commissioners were serving partisan interests and legal advice was being skewed for political reasons. A week before the August poll, the election commission's head of IT was found tortured and murdered in Nairobi, raising fears of a possible hack of the commission's computer systems.

Roll the dice

Kenyan law requires that the new election be held within 60 days of the nullification of the original vote but Odinga says his withdrawal should trigger a new election cycle 90 days from his announcement. The ruling party has used its parliamentary majority to pass electoral amendments saying the remaining candidate wins if the other candidate pulls out. They also curtail the grounds on which the Supreme Court can nullify an election.

Odinga has called daily demonstrations to protest against the election body and draft law, which the president is yet to sign. The protests have mostly been small and police have used tear gas to quash them. This week, police raided homes belonging to wealthy opposition financier Jimi Wanjigi and said they found a cache of weapons. Wanjigi said in an emotional interview the firearms were licensed and he was being persecuted. On Tuesday, Deputy President William Ruto said Odinga pulled out of the race to avoid a "humiliating defeat". Some independent observers say the opposition, which has been issuing urgent appeals for donations, was likely to lose if it competes next week. "There is probably a NASA judgment that if they go back to a poll, they are going to lose," said one senior Western diplomat, referring to Odinga's National Super Alliance. "So there's a NASA judgment to roll the dice... reset the situation." Efforts by diplomats, religious leaders and civil society leaders have so far failed to bridge the divide.—Reuters



Andrew Clark plays basketball in the atrium of the Woodward's building on a mural placed on the ground to mark World Sight Day in Vancouver on Tuesday. — AP

A Saudi first: Spokeswoman...

Continued from Page 1

There are several Saudis that are like me, that are very comfortable and are able to fluidly go back and forth between cultures."

For Saudi Arabia, Baeshen's appointment reflects an opportunity to try to revise a narrative that is sharply at odds with the kingdom's ambitious plan to transform itself for the future. In addition to sweeping economic changes, "Vision 2030" calls for easing social restrictions as a younger generation prepares to take the helm. The kingdom's Gulf Arab neighbors have sprinted toward modernity in recent years, building flashy skyscrapers and attracting foreign tourists, but Saudi Arabia's economic development has lagged.

Though the US prizes the close security alliance, Saudi Arabia's restrictive freedoms, its conservative religious clergy and its human rights record made it difficult for two countries to claim they had much in common culturally. Now Saudi Arabia is under de facto control of young Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, or MBS, as he's known in foreign capitals. The 32-year-old is in line to inherit the throne from his father, King Salman, and is behind ambitious goals to create more jobs for young Saudis, bolster tourism and ease a historic overreliance on oil revenues after a drop in prices plunged the country into deficit. The economic overhaul also means bringing more Saudi women into the workforce, with an eye toward creating more two-

income households and weaning Saudis off of reliance on government perks. The official plan calls for increasing female participation from 22 percent to 30 percent.

As the kingdom works on domestic reforms, a concerted effort is underway to tell its story more proactively in the West. Its embassy in Washington, considered by many Saudi officials to be their most important overseas post, has stepped up messaging with more social media engagement. The kingdom has spent millions on an aggressive lobbying and public relations campaign targeting Capitol Hill and the American media.

Polished and relaxed, Baeshen is a quick defender of her country's progress, even when faced with sensitive questions. She said gender played no role in her selection. In a recent cable news appearance, she interjected to forcefully challenge several points when the host ticked through a litany of critiques of how Saudi Arabia treats women. "Women across the board deal with different issues, regardless of where they are," Baeshen told the AP. She said the driving issue shouldn't obscure the fact that Saudi women have been productive members of society for decades. "The myopic focus of this element I think deters the larger perception of what Saudi women have really been able to contribute."

Baeshen's life tells part of that story. After attending the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, she wrote a thesis on Islamic financial regulation in secular markets while a graduate student at the University of Chicago. She worked in the Saudi Ministry of Labor and at the World Bank before joining the embassy. As a director at the Arabia Foundation, a pro-Saudi research center, she wrote in Time Magazine earlier this year: "The change-through-confrontation approach is counterproductive to achieving our collective goal: force is too often met with the strongest of cultural resistance." — AP

UAE boosts trades...

Continued from Page 1

That gave him the opportunity to study in the US for his engineering degree, and this week he was in Abu

Dhabi to serve as coach for the Kuwaiti competitor in the welding contest. "If I hadn't continued as a welder I would have had to join the army and I never would have gotten a higher education," he said. He admitted the job was dangerous and said some students are initially nervous around the welding flame. "But they always go for it," he said. — AFP

Qatar emir open to dialogue to...

Continued from Page 1

The two leaders witnessed the signing of agreements in civil aviation, education, youth and sports cooperation, and healthcare. The emir's visit to the world's most populous Muslim nation, which has close ties with Qatar and other Arab countries, comes after Saudi Arabia's King Salman and a huge entourage visited Jakarta and Bali in March for nearly a month.

Meanwhile, Qatar's foreign minister yesterday said the fight against the Islamic State group has suffered in the Gulf crisis. The closure of Qatar's only land border and the airspace ban on Qatari planes "undermines the global efforts in countering" IS in Iraq and Syria, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani said in an

interview with CNBC.

Qatar is home to the Al-Udeid air base, home to some 11,000 US soldiers and crucial in the fight against IS. As part of the coalition's operations, numerous air strikes against IS targets in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan have been conducted from Al-Udeid, the largest US base in the region. The foreign minister said Al-Udeid had also suffered under the air blockade as well as the Saudi decision to seal off Qatar's only land border - a move that prompted Iran, along with Turkey, to step in and provide much-needed food imports.

The land border had been used for 90 percent of Qatar's food and medical supplies, with "part of it is going to the base", said Sheikh Mohammed. Qatar's military planes which had been providing logistical support for the coalition are now "only allowed to use one path, which is toward the north - toward Iran," he added. Qatari troops in June were also ordered out of Bahrain, where they had been serving with the US Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT). NAVCENT is part of the US Central Command whose area of operation includes the Middle East and Asia. — Agencies

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Defeat of IS in Raqqa heralds wider struggle for US

The defeat of Islamic State in its de facto capital Raqqa may only be the start of a wider struggle by the United States to contain any insurgency launched by the militant group and to stabilize the region, as Washington grapples with defining a comprehensive strategy in Syria. US-backed militias declared victory over Islamic State in Raqqa on Tuesday, raising flags over the last militant footholds after a four-month battle. The Sunni militant group often referred to as ISIS, overran Raqqa in January 2014, seizing control from rebel factions opposed to the rule of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad.

"While recapturing Raqqa is important symbolically, talk about almost a pyrrhic victory," said Bilal Saab, a senior fellow at the Middle East Institute. "Addressing the economic, political grievances of the Sunnis so that another ISIS doesn't come about will be as important as the military fight." Raqqa was the first big city Islamic State captured, before its rapid series of victories in Iraq and Syria brought millions of people under the rule of its self-declared caliphate, which passed laws and issued passports and money.

Islamic State has lost much of its territory in Syria and Iraq this year, including its most prized possession, the Iraqi city of Mosul. In Syria, it has been forced back into a strip of the Euphrates valley and surrounding desert. Middle East analysts said that among the wide array of problems exposed after Islamic State's ouster from Raqqa were where to find money to help rebuild the shattered city, how to support fledgling local government in the face of a likely insurgency and how to keep Assad, backed by Iran and Russia, from trying to regain control.

"The real challenge is that ISIS will turn into a vengeful ghost, will try to stalk and to wreak havoc on the post-conflict security and governance and administration in order to undermine the US and its partners," said Nick Heras of the Center for a New American Security. A US State Department official said Washington remained committed to a peace process in Geneva and supported the "broadest possible group of Syrian representatives in those discussions."

The official said that the United States and allies would continue to provide humanitarian assistance and support efforts to stabilize areas freed from Islamic State rule "to include continuing the removal of IEDs and other explosives ... restoring basic services and refurbishing schools". The official said the US goals included "supporting local governing bodies that are representative of the area, civilian-led, and credible in the eyes of the populations."

Assad's use of force to crush an initially peaceful uprising against his family's more than four-decade rule triggered the country's civil war in 2011. The conflict helped create a vacuum that Islamic State eventually filled by seizing parts of Syria. Russia stepped in with military support for Assad in 2015. "The greatest challenge for Raqqa and local Syrian partners that are trying to rebuild Raqqa is the ambiguity of Trump administration Syria policy," Heras said.

"A signal needs to be sent that the US intends to keep a residual force in the areas that it has conquered from ISIS in order to oversee the stabilization mission and to have the broader, publicly unstated aim, to constrain Iran's ability to reconquer all of the country in the name of Assad," he said.

Several analysts said the United States does not appear to have a durable strategy to stabilize the region, let alone to revive the moribund UN talks in Geneva aimed at ending the civil war. "We've captured and lost cities before," said Senator Ben Sasse, a Republican. "This victory underscores the need for a comprehensive Syria strategy."

A US official who spoke on condition of anonymity said "If the Russians truly want to ... have something that will really put Syria back together, we will see if they are willing to return to the Geneva process." Saab, of the Middle East Institute, suggested US influence in Syria may be too slight to shape events. "Our investment has always been and will always be quite limited," he said. "We have ceded the terrain to Russia and the Iranians and it's almost too late now, for us, to get involved effectively, you have to have some skin in the game." — Reuters



After Raqqa victory, Kurds face tricky peace

Kurdish groups who led the fight against Islamic State in its former capital Raqqa must navigate a complex peace to avoid ethnic tension with the city's Arab majority and to secure critical US aid. The Kurdish-dominated Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) which finally vanquished Islamic State in Raqqa on Tuesday face a big task rebuilding a city left in ruins by months of intense fighting and heavy air strikes by the US-led coalition.

The political challenge is no less daunting in a city that falls outside the Kurdish-dominated regions of northern Syria. The fall of Raqqa, where Islamic State staged euphoric parades after its string of lightning victories in 2014, is a potent symbol of the movement's collapsing fortunes. Its self-declared "caliphate" is also crumbling fast in eastern Syria, helping President Bashar al-Assad and his Iranian and Russian allies to recapture swathes of territory.

Keenly aware of Raqqa's ethnic and tribal sensitivities, the SDF has been working hard to put Arabs at the heart of plans for local government and policing post-Islamic State, analysts say. In the short term, the Raqqa Civil Council (RCC) set up under SDF auspices must urgently provide security, repair infrastructure and supply aid to win the backing of a population exhausted by conflict, and to allow the people of Raqqa to return home.

Longer term, Raqqa's political destiny is tied to the wider fate of the war that has shattered Syria into a patchwork of areas over the last six years, including swathes of the north controlled by the Kurdish YPG militia that leads the SDF. Ultimately, the Syrian state wants to recover control of this city on the Euphrates River, meaning it may eventually become the arena of a new conflict with Damascus, or a bargaining chip in eventual negotiations over possible Kurdish autonomy.

"Whoever leads us, Kurd or Arab, we want them to provide us with services," said a man from Raqqa, speaking

outside the RCC headquarters in Ain Issa, north of the city. "Safety and security is the most important thing," said the man, a government employee before the war who cited lingering fear of the Syrian state as his reason for staying anonymous.

'Federal' Future?

Raqqa was not a target for the YPG earlier in the war but gradually became one as the militia emerged as the main Syrian partner for the US-led coalition. The US-led coalition says Arab fighters battling under the SDF banner made up the bulk of the force in the Raqqa campaign. But Kurdish commanders and fighters of the well-organized YPG appeared the leading force throughout the four-month campaign.

Syria's main Kurdish party, the PYD, and its allies may hope Raqqa will eventually join a new "federal" system of autonomous regions they are establishing in the north. But Kurdish leaders say it is too early to discuss that for now, underlining local and international sensitivities surrounding the political project opposed by their US allies and neighboring Turkey. While Syrian Kurds say they want to remain part of Syria, regional concern over Kurdish separatism has deepened since Iraqi Kurds voted for independence, triggering military action by Iraq and tough measures by Turkey and Iran.

Turkey, in particular, views rising Syrian Kurdish power at its border as a threat to its security, and unsuccessfully pressed Washington to abandon its alliance with the YPG in the run up to the Raqqa attack. Turkey plays host to a rival Raqqa civil council which regards the YPG as a foreign occupation force. Kurdish politicians say Raqqa's future is now entirely in the hands of its people.

"So far we have not seen any reactions to indicate there will not be acceptance of the SDF, or the RCC," said Fawza

Youssef, a senior Kurdish politician, in an interview. "The ones who will remain in Raqqa will be the internal security forces and the RCC," she said. "The security forces that are being prepared are all volunteers from Raqqa." Some YPG fighters quickly began pulling back from the city on Tuesday, handing their positions to non-Kurdish elements of the SDF, a witness and field commanders said.

Risk of 'Covert Interference'

The SDF applied a similar model in the northern Syrian city of Manbij last year after capturing it from Islamic State. "The (RCC) is still closely linked with YPG/PYD power structures, but they have put more time and effort into emphasizing inclusivity than we have seen in some other areas," senior International Crisis Group analyst Noah Bonsey said.

But the risk of unrest would rise if Kurdish groups were perceived to be micro-managing the city. "There is also the risk of covert interference from the outside: IS sleeper cells, and the Syrian regime may see an interest in using loyalist networks to destabilize things. Either of those dynamics could heighten ethnic tension."

Yasser Al-Sayyed, a 43-year-old former car salesman from Raqqa, said people are "happy with the SDF now, of course, because they're free from Daesh (Islamic State)". "But this needs to be followed up" with aid, reconstruction and jobs. The United States has deployed a team of diplomats to Syria to work on humanitarian and stabilization efforts. The US State Department said Washington would take the lead in helping to clear rubble and restore basic services. "We will assist and take, essentially, the lead in bringing back the water, electricity and all of that," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert told a briefing. "But eventually the governance of the country of Syria is something that I think all nations remain very interested in." — Reuters

Vote may have put independence out of reach for Iraq Kurds

The Kurdish independence vote championed by their leader Masoud Barzani was a gamble that may have made his quest for a homeland more elusive than ever. The Sept 25 vote won overwhelming backing for secession but has raised the possibility of a new civil war in Iraq that could draw in regional powers. Baghdad says the vote is illegal. Just a few months ago, the Iraqi army, Kurdish fighters, known as the Peshmerga, and Iranian-backed Shiite paramilitary forces worked together to defeat Islamic State in Mosul.

But that cooperation was short-lived and on Monday Iraqi forces seized Kirkuk - an important oil town for the OPEC producer that is also considered by the Kurds to be the heart of their homeland. Iran and Turkey oppose Kurdish independence and Shiite militias funded by Tehran are gaining influence across Iraq. Meanwhile divisions between the two parties in the ruling Kurdish coalition have deepened.

"Kurds have been managing these areas since the fall of (Iraqi President) Saddam (Husseini) in 2003 and to change the situation in an instant will make the whole situation as if it is sinking into quicksand," said Baghdad-based analyst Jasim Al-Bahadli, an expert on Shiite armed groups. He said the Shiite paramilitary groups' presence in areas that used to be controlled by Kurds will help create tensions that could lead to a long-term conflict. "Sensitivities could develop into hostilities that could spark a civil war," he said.

Leadership Crisis

Barzani and his Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) have defended the referendum. "It was the right move. No one will stop us from achieving independence," his spokesman Vahid Ali said. But not all of Iraq's Kurds, who fought a bloody civil war amongst themselves in the 1990s, supported the idea, raising doubts over the management of any independent state. The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said the KDP, who make up the coalition, were putting Kurds at risk because of strong opposition to the vote, including from key ally the United States.

The Peshmerga General Command in the KDP stronghold of Erbil accused Iran, a historical ally of the PUK, of helping Iraqi forces launch the offensive in the Kirkuk area.



"Unfortunately some of the PUK officials betrayed Kurdistan by being part of the plan by abandoning key fronts and leaving," said the Peshmerga statement. "This plot will fail and the will of our people will prevail." Ali Akbar Velayati - a top adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei - was quoted in a report by Tasnim news agency as saying Iran had no role in the Kirkuk operations. A senior Western diplomat also denied that Iran had played a role. "This is mythology. Barzani has in the past blamed others for his mistakes including the PUK. But this is mythology designed to get support from the Americans," he said.

PUK leader Jalal Talabani died barely a week after the vote, adding more uncertainty for the Kurds. Shuras Sherko Jdy, an official in the main opposition Kurdish Gorran Movement, said the Kurds, who gradually built an autonomous region in the north after the 2003 US-led invasion, were facing a leadership crisis. "Civil war could take place over Kirkuk. I hope it does not. If it does it will encourage the intervention of Iran and Turkey," he said.

But Iran, like Turkey, worries the vote will encourage their own Kurdish populations to push for homelands and has made no secret of its growing ambitions in Iraq. The most

prominent Iranian figure in Iraq is Major General Qassem Soleimani, the commander of foreign operations for Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards, a military corps providing training and weapons to Iraqi paramilitary groups backing the Shiite-led government in Baghdad.

Ali said Soleimani appeared in Kirkuk two nights before Iraqi security forces attacked. That account was confirmed by an Iranian source in Iraq who said he appeared for "a couple of hours there to give military guidance". "Tehran's military help is not a secret anymore. You can find General Soleimani's pictures in Iraq everywhere," said an official close to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. "Now, beside political issues, Kirkuk's oil is a very key element for Iran, which is an OPEC member. Control of those oil fields by Iran's enemies, would be disastrous for us. Why should we let them enter the oil market?"

Kurds have sought an independent state since at least the end of World War One, when colonial powers divided up the Middle East after the collapse of the multiethnic Ottoman Empire and left Kurdish-populated territory split between Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria. They have often accused the West of not helping them during times of trouble. — Reuters

Sports

Spanish Olympic high jump champion Beitia retires

MADRID: Olympic champion high jumper Ruth Beitia has retired from athletics due to persistent injuries, the Spaniard announced yesterday. "I've spent many years putting my body to 100 percent on many occasions and putting it to the limit on others," Beitia told a news conference in her home city of Santander, accompanied by her coach Ramon Torralbo. "The situation we find ourselves in today is to tell you that we are calling time on our sporting life." Beitia, who won the high jump competition at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro last year, is the only Spanish female athlete to have won an Olympic gold. She has combined her sporting exploits with a career in politics since she was elected to the regional parliament of Cantabria with the ruling PP party in 2011. "I will take everything that sport has taught me, everything I have learned from Ramon with me into other aspects of my life.—Reuters



Swiss govt pledges \$1bn for Sion 2026 bid

GENEVA: The Swiss government yesterday pledged a billion dollars in support of a national effort to host the 2026 Olympics, raising the chances that Sion will compete for the Winter Games. Switzerland's executive branch, known as the Federal Council, said Sion 2026 offered "a great opportunity for sport, the economy and society" in the wealthy Alpine nation. It offered a total of 995 Swiss francs (\$1 billion, 862 million euros) to support the Games in the city in the southern canton of Valais. Sion has repeatedly been listed as a candidate to host 2026, with interested cities due to formally unveil their projects in 2019. But the International Olympic Committee has faced challenges in attracting viable candidates, as voters increasingly grow weary of the cost. Swiss federal government support for a bid will be welcome news at IOC headquarters in Lausanne, especially after the Austrian state of Tyrol voted against Innsbruck's bid for 2026, citing concerns over the financial burden and environmental impact.—AFP

Title, not payday the prize Pulev seeks

SOFIA: Bulgaria's Kubrat Pulev has no regrets about pulling out of his fight against world heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua due to a shoulder injury and says he has not given up hope of fighting the Briton. Joshua, undefeated in 19 fights since turning professional in 2013, will now defend his IBF world title against Frenchman Carlos Takam in Cardiff on Oct. 28 in his first bout since defeating Wladimir Klitschko to win the WBA title in April. Pulev said the chance to win the title was more important to him than the money on offer and he had decided to wait for another chance. "It wasn't easy for me to make that decision," the 36-year-old told local media. "I know, in my place, almost everyone would choose to get into the ring in Cardiff, despite everything, and collect a few million." Pulev, one of Bulgaria's most popular sportsmen, was confident he had the weapons to dethrone Joshua.—Reuters



Gymnast McKayla Maroney alleges sexual abuse by former team doctor

Nassar gave her sleeping pill while the team traveled to Japan

WASHINGTON: Two-time Olympic medalist McKayla Maroney says she was molested for years by a former USA Gymnastics team doctor, abuse she said started in her early teens and continued for the rest of her competitive career.

Maroney posted a lengthy statement on Twitter early yesterday that detailed the allegations of abuse against Dr Larry Nassar, who spent three decades working with athletes at USA Gymnastics but now is in jail in Michigan awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to possession of child pornography. Nassar also is awaiting trial on separate criminal sexual conduct charges and has been sued by more than 125 women alleging abuse.

Nassar has pleaded not guilty to the assault charges, and the dozens of civil suits filed in Michigan are currently in mediation. Maroney, now 21, says the abuse began while attending a US National team training camp at the Karolyi Ranch in the Sam Houston Forest north of Houston, Texas. Maroney was 13 at the time and wrote Nassar told her she was receiving "medically necessary treatment he had been performing on patients for over 30 years." Maroney did not detail Nassar's specific actions.

Maroney, who won a team gold and an individual silver on vault as part of the "Fierce Five" US women's team at the 2012 Olympics in London, said Nassar continued to give her "treatment" throughout her career. She described Nassar giving her a sleeping pill while the team traveled to Japan for the 2011 world champi-

onships. Maroney says Nassar later visited her in her hotel room after the team arrived in Tokyo, where he molested her yet again.

"I thought I was going to die that night," Maroney wrote. Maroney did not immediately return an interview request from The Associated Press. Attorneys for Nassar had no comment. USA Gymnastics also had no immediate comment.

Maroney says she decided to come forward as part of the "#MeToo" movement on social media that arose in the wake of allegations of sexual misconduct against Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein. "This is happening everywhere," Maroney wrote. "Wherever there is a position of power, there is the potential for abuse. I had a dream to go to the Olympics, and the things I had to endure to get there, were unnecessary and disgusting."

Maroney called for change, urging other victims to speak out and demanding organizations "be held accountable for their inappropriate actions and behavior." Maroney is the highest profile gymnast yet to come forward claiming she was abused by Nassar. Jamie Dantzscher, a bronze medalist on the 2000 US Olympic team, was part of the initial wave of lawsuits filed against Nassar in 2016. Aly Raisman, who won six medals while serving as the captain of the US women's team in both 2012 and 2016, called for sweeping change at USA Gymnastics in August.

USA Gymnastics launched an independent review of its policies in the wake of the allegations against Nassar in the summer of 2016 following reporting by the



LONDON: In this July 29, 2012, file photo, US gymnast McKayla Maroney poses after completing her routine on the vault during the Artistic Gymnastic women's qualifications at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. — AP

Indianapolis Star that highlighted chronic mishandling of abuse allegations against coaches and staff at some of its more than 3,500 clubs across the country.

In June, the federation immediately adopted 70 recommendations proffered by Deborah Daniels, a former federal prosecutor who oversaw the review. The new guidelines require member gyms to go to authorities

immediately, with Daniels suggesting USA Gymnastics consider withholding membership from clubs that decline to do so. The organization also named Toby Stark, a child welfare advocate, as its director of SafeSport. Part of Stark's mandate is educating members on rules, educational programs, reporting and adjudication services.—AP



Nassar has pleaded not guilty to charges



Nissan Al Babtain receives award for local integration

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babtain Co, the exclusive agent of Nissan vehicles in Kuwait has been awarded by Nissan GulfZCo, in recognition for their local integration of Nissan being the automotive sponsor of the UEFA Champions League.

The UEFA Champions League is Europe's top football club competition and the most popular annual sports event in the world, followed by millions of fans in the Middle East. As the UEFA Champions League excites football fans across the globe with thrilling football action and Nissan excites people with their innovative and stylish designed vehicles, UEFA is the ideal strategic partner to create exciting and memorable moments as part of an 'Engineers of Excitement' platform for fans of both worlds. Therefore, Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. signed a partnership contract with the UEFA Champions League from 2014/15 - 2017/18 season.

Throughout the last three years, Nissan Kuwait has heavily invested in this partnership, providing their fans and football enthusiasts with memo-

orable experiences to witness the football action live in Europe during UEFA Champions League Final matches in Berlin 2015, Milan 2016 and Cardiff 2017. Customers and followers of Nissan Al Babtain's social media sites had the chance to win all expense paid trips to the most anticipated game of every season - the UEFA Champions League Final - through raffle draws and interactive online competition such as guessing the number of footballs placed in a Nissan Kicks, a Treasure Hunt or uploading a video of their football skills on social media. By transforming the entrance of the Nissan showroom in Al-Rai to a soccer field and creating a sports corner, Al Babtain also brought the stadium atmosphere of a UEFA Champions League game to Kuwait.

Soccer is the most popular sports in Kuwait, which incidentally, is home to many football clubs, including the Ultimate Soccer Academy. Aligned with Nissan's global direction, Nissan Al Babtain is a partner of the Ultimate Soccer Academy, supporting and encouraging the youth in Kuwait in

sports involvement and regional league exposure.

During the award ceremony Nasser Wattar President & CEO, Nissan GulfZCo, who presented the award to Nissan Kuwait, stated "Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babtain Co has always been a leader and best practice example regarding the integration of sponsorships in this region and supporting the youth in Kuwait through collaborations with KidZania, Red Bull and Ultimate Soccer Academy. Being a partner of the UEFA Champions League is one of Nissan's greatest sponsorship globally and through Brand campaigns and engaging activations, Al Babtain has increased the awareness of the UEFA Champions League partnership in Kuwait and provided customers with exciting experiences".

The Group Stage of the UEFA Champions League Season 2017/18 has kicked-off from September 12, and one can expect that Al Babtain will also conduct exciting activities and campaigns during the upcoming UEFA Champions League season.



Crown prince annual shooting tourney begins

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: IHH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Annual Shooting Tournament began yesterday with large participation by Kuwait, and Gulf shooters, declaring the commencement of the 2017/2018 shooting sport season.

Technical and administrative departments prepared well by holding meeting with sub-committees to make sure all is ready for such a prestigious event.

The tournament being held at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex which was at its best, with ranges in top shape.

Secretary General of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Obaid Al-Osaimi inspected the ranges and field preparations and gave instructions to provide all the necessary means to ensure the success of this tournament which carries a dear name to all.

Meanwhile, KSSC Assistant Secretary said the board of directors spares no effort in supporting shooters of the national team as well as juniors by bringing the best world lecturers and trainers to make sure they make achievements in all local and international arenas. He said Kuwait shooting has several events both locally and abroad, most notably the tournament of IHH the Amir International Prix to be held in January 2018.

Brazil's ex-Olympic chief charged for corruption

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazilian prosecutors charged the former head of the national Olympics committee (COB), Carlos Nuzman, and five other people yesterday with corruption based on an investigation of alleged bribery to have Rio de Janeiro host the 2016 Games.

Nuzman, who was provisionally suspended by the International Olympic Committee and arrested in Rio on Oct. 5, was charged with racketeering, money laundering and violating currency laws. The former governor of Rio de Janeiro state, Sergio Cabral, and former COB director Leonardo Gryner also were charged with corruption in connection with a \$2 million payment to guarantee votes for Rio, the prosecutors' office said.

Nuzman, 75, a former IOC member and now honorary member, is accused of arranging bribes to get the IOC to pick Rio as host of the 2016 Olympic Games. He has denied any wrongdoing. Rio was awarded the Games in 2009 over Chicago, Tokyo and Madrid.

Those charged included Brazilian businessman Arthur Soares, who prosecutors said acted as an intermediary, and Lamine Diack, a former IOC member from Senegal and former head of the International Association of Athletics Federation. Brazilian police raided Nuzman's home in September and accused him of paying a \$2 million bribe to Diack's son Papa Diack, who was also charged. Father and son have denied the allegations.

The IOC provisionally suspended Nuzman a day after he was arrested, along with the COB, which was responsible for Rio's bid to stage the Games. The IOC said Brazilian athletes would not be affected and Team Brazil would be able to take part at next year's Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang in South Korea.

Nuzman resigned last week as head of the COB. In a letter to the committee he said he needed to devote himself to his legal defense and would not be returning.—Reuters

Sports

Hayward breaks ankle, Cavaliers hold off Celtics 102-99 in opener

Rockets rally to spoil champion Warriors' return

LOS ANGELES: The new NBA season was less than six minutes old when disaster struck for the Boston Celtics on Tuesday in the form of a gruesome ankle injury to forward Gordon Hayward. Hayward suffered a dislocated and broken left ankle in the Celtics' 102-99 loss to the Cavaliers in Cleveland. The former Utah star, who inked a four-year, \$128 million deal with the Celtics in the off-season, landed hard 5:15 into the game after a leaping cut to the basket, trying to catch an alley-oop pass from Kyrie Irving. Players from both teams looked shocked as Hayward, his ankle turned at a sickening angle, was attended by medical staff and rushed off on a stretcher.

Irving, the former Cavaliers star who landed in Boston after a shock off-season trade request, said it was one of the worst injuries he'd ever seen. "It's not a great sight to see," Irving said. Irving's return to Cleveland was supposed to be the story of the night. He was booed lustily by Cavaliers fans—including when he lofted a shot over superstar LeBron James for the season's first basket.

James said he had plenty of fond memories of playing alongside Irving, reaching three straight NBA Finals and winning a title with him in 2016. "But once the ball went up, it was kind of back to our regularly scheduled program," James said.

'A WORK IN PROGRESS'

The Cavs led 54-38 at half-time and stretched the lead to 61-43 early in the third quarter. The Celtics fought back and were up 98-95 before Kevin Love made two free

throws, James followed with a layup and then assisted on Love's three-pointer that gave Cleveland a 102-98 lead.

Irving missed a driving shot and a three-pointer at the buzzer and the Cavs prevailed. James scored 29 points with 16 rebounds and nine assists—but said he still needs to work on his fitness after missing most of the pre-season with a sprained left ankle. He also said it would take some time before he, Love and new additions Derrick Rose and Dwayne Wade, are operating together at full capacity. "We've got some things we need to figure out," James said. "It's a work in progress, for sure."

“ It was one of the worst injuries he'd ever seen ”

ROCKETS SHOOT DOWN WARRIORS

In Oakland, the revamped Houston Rockets rallied to spoil the Golden State Warriors' opening night festivities with a dramatic 122-121 triumph.

The Warriors started the night receiving their championship rings from NBA commissioner Adam Silver and unfurling their championship banner in the rafters of Oracle Arena. It looked like they would be celebrating at the end of the night as well as they led by as many as 17 points in the first half. But driven by James Harden (27 points) the Rockets rallied, taking the lead for the first time 44 seconds from the end of regulation thanks to two free throws from PJ Tucker. Golden State star Kevin Durant had a chance to win it, and in fact thought he had, but his last-gasp effort didn't leave his hand before the buzzer sounded. "I thought it had a chance," Durant said. "But, I knew it was a little late. I knew it was cutting it close." — AFP



OAKLAND: Klay Thompson #11 of the Golden State Warriors drives to the hoop against PJ Tucker #4 of the Houston Rockets during their NBA game at ORACLE Arena. — AFP

Concrete Kuldeep cements place in Indian attack

NEW DELHI: India's rising star, spinner Kuldeep Yadav, believes bowling on concrete has made him battle-ready for any surface that a rival cricket power can lay out for him. Kuldeep, who claimed a hat-trick in his country's triumphant one-day series against Australia, has become a household name at 22 and with just two Tests and 11 one-day internationals to his name.

He played a big part in India's 4-1 win over Australia, but many believe the real test will come in tours of South Africa and England next year. Ahead of India's series against New Zealand, starting Sunday, Kuldeep told AFP in an interview that his varied left-arm wrist spin will be a weapon on any track.

"It doesn't matter to me where I am playing because since my childhood I have bowled on cemented wickets. So if you can turn the ball on concrete then you can spin it anywhere," Kuldeep said. "If you have skill, good variation and are beating the batsmen in the air then you can find success anywhere," added Kuldeep, who hails from the northern city of Kanpur.

Kuldeep started as a pace bowler but at the age of nine he switched to wrist spin at his coach's insistence. "I started my career in 2004 as a fast bowler. After practising for a few months my coach advised me to switch to spin."

"I did not like it at the start, but the first ball I bowled was wrist spin and I had no idea what it was. So, he must have thought I have a talent and he worked on it. "Initially it was tough but when I got down to it, the hard work paid off."

WARNER WICKET

Kuldeep has made his mark in the Indian Premier League Twenty20 competition with the Kolkata Knight Riders. But his rise as a top-class spinner has been instrumental in India becoming top of the world Test and one-day rankings.

The latest addition to India's rich spin tradition made an instant impact with four wickets in his debut Test against Australia in Dharamsala this year. He impressed in Sri Lanka in September and then bamboozled Australian batsmen, including star opener David Warner, with his wrist spin, winning many more fans.

"Australia are a good team and compared to other sides always play dominating cricket. Their batsmen don't allow you to settle and just want to dominate a bowler," Kuldeep said. "Australia are a dangerous side because they play freely and put you under pressure. I played in the West Indies and then in Sri Lanka but they don't play as attacking as the Aussies." — AFP

Flyers explode for 4-goal second period, beat Panthers 5-1

PHILADELPHIA: Sean Couturier, Shayne Gostisbehere, Claude Giroux and Dale Weise all scored in the second period to lead the Philadelphia Flyers to a 5-1 win over the Florida Panthers on Tuesday night. The Flyers followed an 8-2 win against Washington with another dominant offensive effort, capped by the four-goal second. Wayne Simmonds stole the show after the fourth goal when he dropped agitated Panthers center Michael Haley with a left-handed punch. Simmonds waved his arms toward the crowd and exhorted them to get louder as he skated toward the locker room to serve his major penalty. He high-fived fans and the orange-and-black faithful went wild for a period on the short list of the best in three years under coach Dave Hakstol. Michal Neuvirth made the lead stand with 40 saves in his first win of the season. Valtteri Filppula scored an empty-netter for the Flyers.

PENGUINS 5, RANGERS 4, OT

Sidney Crosby scored the tying goal with less than a minute remaining in regulation. Evgeni Malkin put in the winner 58 seconds into overtime and the Penguins beat the struggling Rangers. Patric Hornqvist, Phil Kessel and ex-Ranger Carl Hagelin also scored for the two-time defending Stanley Cup champions, who handed New

Win over Cubs puts Dodgers on brink of World Series berth

CHICAGO: Chris Taylor homered and drove in two runs, and Yu Darvish pitched six-plus strong innings Tuesday as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Chicago Cubs 6-1 to move within one win of a World Series return. The Dodgers, whose 1988 championship marked their last appearance in Major League Baseball's title showcase, took a commanding 3-0 lead over the reigning World Series champion Cubs in the best-of-seven National League Championship Series.

They'll try to complete the sweep on Wednesday in Chicago. Darvish struck out seven and scattered six hits and walked just one over 6 1/3 innings. He also drove in a run when he drew a bases-loaded walk in the sixth frame.

"The story of the night, obviously, is Yu Darvish," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "After that first homer that he gave up ... he was dominant. He just had that rhythm, the poise and didn't allow whole lot of hard contact." The Cubs, who hadn't managed a hit off the Dodgers bullpen in the series, put runners on second and third in the ninth inning when Alex Avila singled and Albert Almora followed with a double off of right-handed relief pitcher Ross Stripling.

But Dodgers closer Kenley Jansen got Addison Russell to pop out to first, and then struck out Tommy La Stella and Ian Happ to close out the victory. The Cubs seized an early lead for the third straight game when Kyle Schwarber homered off of Darvish with one out in the first inning. The Cubs got hits from three of their first five batters, but couldn't add to their lead and stranded two runners on base after Schwarber's home

run (1-5-1) its fourth straight loss. Rangers captain Ryan McDonagh turned the puck over in overtime and Kessel set up Malkin for the game-winning goal. Just before that, the Rangers iced the puck, leading to a face-off in their zone. Michael Grabner put New York ahead 4-3 when he and David Desharnais completed a nifty give-and-go at the 8-minute mark of the third period.

MAPLE LEAFS 2, CAPITALS 0

Connor Brown scored the game-winning goal in the third period and Frederik Andersen stopped all 30 shots he faced for the shutout as the Maple Leafs continued their tremendous start by beating the Capitals. Toronto has won five of its first six games. Washington has now lost two in a row since top defenseman Matt Niskanen went out with a long-term upper-body injury. After getting a promotion to the third line, Brown picked up his second goal of the season and broke a 0-0 tie with 14:07 left in the third. Brown corralled a rebound of Morgan Rielly's point shot and poked the puck between Braden Holtby's legs.

CANUCKS 3, SENATORS 0

Brock Boeser and Alexander Burmistrov had a goal and an assist each in the Canucks' win over the Senators. Thomas Vanek also scored for the Canucks (2-2-1), while Anders Nilsson made 32 saves for a shutout in his first start of the season. Craig Anderson turned aside 21 of 24 in net for Ottawa (3-1-2). The win snapped a three-game losing skid for the Canucks that started with a 3-2 shootout loss to Ottawa in Vancouver one week ago.

PREDATORS 4, AVALANCHE 1

Viktor Arvidsson and Roman Josi each scored a goal and added an assist to lead the Predators to a win over the Avalanche. Colton Sissons and Austin Watson also

scored for Nashville, which has won three of their last four. Filip Forsberg and Alexei Emelin each had two assists and Pekka Rinne made 20 saves to earn his third victory of the season. Nathan MacKinnon had the lone goal for Colorado, losers of two straight.

DEVILS 5, LIGHTNING 4, SO

Kyle Palmieri scored the lone goal in a shootout, lifting the Devils to a win over the Lightning. Drew Stafford scored twice in regulation as New Jersey improved to 5-1-0. Palmieri and Brian Gibbons each had a goal in the first period, and Cory Schneider made 33 saves. Vladimir Namestnikov, Ondrej Palat, Nikita Kucherov and Steven Stamkos scored for Tampa Bay, which had its four-game winning streak snapped and fell to 5-1-1.

HURRICANES 5, OILERS 3

Teuvo Teravainen had a pair of goals and Jordan Staal a goal and three assists to help the Hurricanes beat the Oilers. Elias Lindholm and Jaccob Slavin also scored for the Hurricanes (2-1-1), who snapped a two-game losing skid. Mark Letestu, Ryan Strome and Milan Lucic tallied for the Oilers (1-4-0), who have now lost four in a row.

BLUE JACKETS 5, JETS 2

Jack Johnson's goal 13:54 into the second period was the eventual winner as the Blue Jackets extended their winning streak to four with a commanding victory over the Jets. Cam Atkinson broke open a scoreless game just 36 seconds into the second period for the Blue Jackets (5-1-0), powering ahead of Winnipeg defenseman Jacob Trouba and muscling the puck past Winnipeg goalie Steve Mason. Nick Foligno, Lukas Sedlak and Zach Werenski had the other goals for Columbus, while Jonas Korpisalo made 24 saves for the win.—AP



CHICAGO: Addison Russell #27 of the Chicago Cubs loses his bat during a swing in the ninth inning against the Los Angeles Dodgers during game three of the National League Championship Series at Wrigley Field. — AFP

run. "I really didn't change much approach-wise from first inning until the end of the game," Darvish said. "I just kept pitching the same way." The Dodgers responded in the second inning. Andre Ethier pulled them level with a solo homer on the first pitch he saw from Kyle Hendricks. Taylor broke the 1-1 tie in the third inning with a 444-foot solo home run to center field. Hendricks, who struggled with his command, allowed at least two home runs for the second consecutive post-season start. Taylor put the Dodgers up 3-1 with a fifth-inning run-scoring triple that scored Joc Pederson, who led off the inning with a double. The Dodgers loaded the bases in the sixth and after getting Pederson to fly out for the second out of the inning, Cubs reliever Carl Edwards walked Darvish on four pitches to extend the Dodgers' lead to 4-1. Los Angeles tacked on two runs in the eighth. After a walk to Logan Forsythe and a Barnes sin-

gle, Forsythe scored when reliever Mike Montgomery's pitch bounced off the arm of catcher Willson Contreras. Barnes reached third base and then scored on Kyle Farmer's sacrifice fly.

ONE-WIN MINDSET

The winner of the series will face either the New York Yankees or Houston Astros in the World Series starting next Tuesday. The Yankees and Astros were tied 2-2 in their American League Championship Series after New York's 6-4 home win on Tuesday. Taylor said the Dodgers weren't thinking World Series just yet.

"Obviously we're excited to be up 3-0, but honestly, we've just been taking it one game at a time and just focusing on getting one win," he said. "So we'll come in with the same mindset and focus on getting that one win." — AFP

Sports

No Pique, no problem as 10-man Barcelona cruise

Barca lead Group D with a perfect record from three games

BARCELONA: Barcelona shrugged off an early Gerard Pique red card and the distractions of a first match at the Camp Nou since a violent crackdown of an independence referendum in Catalonia to beat Olympiakos 3-1 yesterday.

A Dimitrios Nikolaou own goal and second-half strikes from Lionel Messi and Lucas Digne ensured a comfortable evening for the hosts on the field, while the political tension sweeping across Catalonia was seen in the stands despite a low turnout due to torrential rain. Barca lead Group D with a perfect record from three games, while Juventus remain three points behind thanks to a 2-1 win over Sporting Lisbon. A near 50-metre banner produced by the club called for "Dialogue, Respect, and Sport" before kick-off as Barca continued their plea for both sides of the political divide to reconcile their differences.

Catalonia's separatist leader Carles Puigdemont must abandon his bid for independence from Spain on Thursday or face an unprecedented move by Madrid to seek a suspension of his region's autonomy.

Barca's singing section also held up a banner reading 'Freedom for Catalonia', while there were habitual chants in favour of independence in the 17th minute of each half to mark the fall of Catalonia in the Spanish War of Succession in 1714.

Those cries were briefly halted in the first period, though, as Barca went in front in the 18th minute when Nikolaou sliced Gerard Deulofeu's cross into his own net. The club have supported Catalonia's right to self-

determination in a referendum, but stopped short of backing independence. Barca beat Las Palmas 3-0 behind closed doors on October 1 as a protest at the violent scenes across Catalonia, according to Barca president Josep Maria Bartomeu. However, the decision to go ahead with the match proved divisive as two Barca board members resigned in the aftermath and there were calls for Bartomeu to resign from supporters at the start of the second half.

Messi nets 100th goal in Europe

However, both organisations refused that offer. "We believe FC Barcelona's message doesn't represent the majority of the fans. For that reason we reject the invitation to the directors' box," the ANC said in a statement on Twitter.

Pique dominated headlines for his outspoken criticism of the police brutality on the day of the October 1 referendum and his subsequent treatment when on international duty with Spain as he was jeered. However, for once it was his performance on the pitch that was left open to criticism as he was stupidly sent off for slapping the ball into the net two minutes before half-time after picking up an early booking. Barca, though, shrugged off their numerical disadvantage as Messi scored his 100th goal in European competition and 97th in the Champions League on the hour mark.

The Argentine dinked a free-kick towards goal, but



BARCELONA: Olympiakos' Moroccan midfielder Mehdi Carcela-Gonzalez (top) vies with Barcelona's Spanish midfielder Sergi Roberto during the UEFA Champions League group D football match. — AFP

needed the help of a poor effort from Olympiakos' keeper Silvio Proto, who merely helped the ball on its way into the net. Messi was involved again for Barca's third three minutes later as his cutback was drilled

home by Lucas Digne. Olympiakos pulled a goal back a minute from time as Nikolaou made amends for his earlier error with a towering header, but the Greeks remain rooted to the bottom of group without a point. — AFP

Terrific trio on target as PSG thump Anderlecht

BRUSSELS: Paris St Germain's feared attacking trio all got on the scoresheet as the French side completed a comfortable 4-0 away victory over Anderlecht in their Champions League Group B clash yesterday.

Kylian Mbappe, Edinson Cavani and Neymar, who form the world's most expensive frontline, all netted, while Angel Di Maria added a fourth with a late strike, in a win that maintains the Ligue 1 side's 100 percent record in the group stage with three wins from three.

They head the standings with nine points from second-placed Bayern Munich, who have six. Celtic are in third with a single victory to their name, while Anderlecht are still searching for their first points. PSG should have won by a greater margin as they spurned a number of chances and will be confident of victory when the teams meet again in their next fixture in the group in Paris on Oct. 31.

"We want to make an impression in this competition. We came here to try and win in style and are happy to go back to Paris with the three points," Mbappe told French TV. "We had good game but are aware there are many games still ahead and we need to keep up the intensity. It's a competition where we need to be at our maximum."

The visitors led inside three minutes when Mbappe drilled the ball low through the legs of Anderlecht goalkeeper Matz Sels from a tight angle after being set up by Marco Verratti. It should have been 2-0 midway through the first half when Leander Dendoncker's back-pass to Sels was woefully short and Mbappe found himself one-on-one with the keeper.

Sels managed to get a hand to the ball but only pushed it as far as Neymar, who shot wide from the edge of the box. PSG did get their second just a minute before halftime though as Neymar's bullet shot



BRUSSELS: Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian forward Neymar (C) heads the ball during the UEFA Champions League Group B football match between RSC Anderlecht and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) at the Constant Vanden Stock Stadium in Brussels. —AFP

was parried into the air by Sels and Mbappe followed up to head across goal for Cavani to nod into the net.

It was the seventh Champions League match in a row in which the Uruguayan forward has scored. Cavani and Mbappe then both contrived to miss chances with just Sels to beat, before Neymar got his name on the scoresheet as he drilled a low freekick

under the jumping Anderlecht wall and into the back of the net. Home forward Henry Onyekuru, on loan from Everton, struck the crossbar with 10 minutes remaining, the closest Anderlecht came to a goal. The rout was complete when Di Maria saw the Anderlecht defence part in front of him and he raced through to chip the ball past an exposed Sels. — Reuters

Bayern beat Celtic on Heynckes' Champions League return

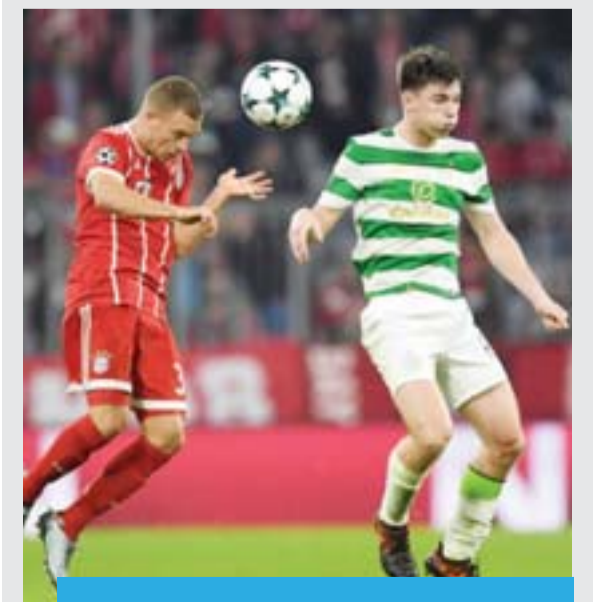
MUNICH: Bayern Munich returned to the Champions League yesterday with a familiar face in charge and comfortably defeated Celtic 3-0. Jupp Heynckes, who retired after guiding Bayern to the Champions League, Bundesliga and German Cup treble in 2013, has the German powerhouse running smoothly again after taking over from Carlo Ancelotti, fired after the side's 3-0 defeat at Paris Saint-Germain.

Paris Saint-Germain won 4-0 at Anderlecht in the other Group B game on Wednesday and leads with nine points, three ahead of second-place Bayern. Celtic has three points and Anderlecht is last after three defeats.

Bayern, which routed Freiburg 5-0 in Heynckes' first game back at the weekend in the Bundesliga, again produced an assured performance despite a lively start from Celtic. The visiting fans celebrated their side's early corner like it was a goal.

Thiago Alcantara thought he'd scored early on but it was ruled out as the ball was deemed to have gone out of play before Robert Lewandowski pulled it back. Celtic defender Mikael Lustig pulled Lewandowski's jersey in the area minutes later but no penalty was given. Bayern was threatening a goal and it came in the 17th minute when Thomas Mueller fired in the rebound after Craig Gordon saved Lewandowski's header. Kinsley Coman, given his chance due to Franck Ribery's injury, produced a long cross for Joshua Kimmich to meet with an even better header inside the far corner from around the penalty spot around 10 minutes later for 2-0.

Mats Hummels wrapped it up with a header to Arjen Robben's corner five minutes after the break as Bayern kept a firm grip on the game. It proved a frustrating night for Lewandowski, however, with a goal ruled out for offside. Celtic pushed forward late on. Substitute James Forrest brought a save from Sven Ulreich, before it was Scott Sinclair's turn to have a goal ruled offside. — AP



MUNICH: Bayern Munich's midfielder Joshua Kimmich (L) and Celtic's Israeli midfielder Nir Bitton vie for the ball. — AFP

Juve recover from bizarre own goal to snatch late win

TURIN: Juventus hit back to snatch a late 2-1 win at home to Sporting after gifting the Portuguese side an early lead with a bizarre own goal by Alex Sandro in their Champions League match yesterday. Four days after their two-year unbeaten home run was ended by Lazio, Juve were in more trouble when goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon saved at foot of Gelson Martins but the ball hit Alex Sandro and went straight into the net.

Miralem Pjanic levelled with a superb free kick in the 29th minute and, just as Sporting seemed set to frustrate the hosts, Mario Mandzukic scored the winner with a superb diving header in the 84th minute.

Juventus have six points from three games in Group D, three behind leaders Barcelona, while Sporting are on three. Already fending off talk of a crisis after taking one point from their last two league games, Juventus got the worse possible start with a double mistake by Alex Sandro in the 12th minute.

The Brazilian first failed to cut out Bruno Fernandes' pass through the Juve defence, allowing Martins a clear run on goal. Buffon managed to block the ball at Martins' feet, only for it to hit Alex Sandro and ricochet into the net.

At that point, it looked as if Sporting might claim their first win in Italy at their 14th attempt but it turned out to be their only shot on target all evening. Juve quickly regained control and, after several near misses, levelled in the 29th minute when Pjanic curled an exquisite free kick over the wall, leaving Sporting goalkeeper Rui Patricio rooted to the spot.

Sporting defended resolutely in the second half while at the other end, Bas Dost kept the Italians' defence occupied but without seriously troubling Buffon. A draw seemed on the cards until Douglas Costa, who had just come on, whipped over a cross from the left and Mandzukic beat his marker to the ball to score with a diving header at the far post. — Reuters

Basel win 2-0 at CSKA Moscow

MOSCOW: Goals either side of halftime earned Basel a 2-0 win at CSKA Moscow yesterday to keep the Swiss side in second place in Champions League Group A. Midfielder Taulant Xhaka sped past CSKA's sluggish backline and unleashed a powerful low drive that beat veteran goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev in the right corner to put Basel up in the 29th minute.

Basel thought they had scored another early in the second half when Alban Ajeti's drive beat Akinfeev, but referee Bjorn Kuipers ruled offside. After a string of missed chances, Dimitri Oberlin added another for Basel in the 90th minute.

The disallowed goal re-energised CSKA but they were unable to use the momentum to get on the scoresheet. CSKA's best chance came in the 76th minute when a powerful header by Mario Fernandes floated just over the bar.

Both sides were cautious early in the match, failing to set the pace and create space to generate scoring opportunities. Basel set-pieces that could have unsettled CSKA were off target or floated into the hands of Akinfeev. But the Swiss side succeeded in shutting down CSKA's offence and conceding no shots on target. Basel climbed to second place in the group on six points, three behind leaders Manchester United. CSKA are third on three. — Reuters

13 US gymnast Maroney alleges sexual abuse by team doctor



14 Hayward breaks ankle, Cavaliers hold off Celtics 102-99 in opener



15 No Pique, no problem as 10-man Barcelona cruise



Goalkeeping gaffe hands Man Utd win at Benfica

LISBON: Manchester United took a huge stride towards the Champions League knockout stages yesterday, seeing off an uninspired Benfica 1-0 to make it three wins out of three thanks to a goalkeeping howler.

Marcus Rashford broke the deadlock midway through the second half when an inswinging free-kick from the left was carried over his line by teenage goalkeeper Mile Svilar. Svilar, who became the youngest goalkeeper to start a Champions League game aged just 18 years and 52 days, caught the ball but in doing so stepped backwards over his line to gift United the lead.

It was a lucky break for the Premier League high-flyers, who, despite dominating possession, had been struggling to create meaningful chances against the Portuguese champions, twice winners of the European Cup. Benfica showed increased

urgency after going behind, bringing on forward Jonas for Diogo Goncalves but they failed to trouble David de Gea in the visitors' goal.

Rashford limped off with about 15 minutes to go, replaced by Anthony Martial, who tested Svilar early following an incisive run into the box. Benfica captain Luisao was sent off in added time after a lunge at United substitute Scott McTominay to compound the home side's misery. Jose Mourinho made four changes to the team that started Saturday's cagey 0-0 draw with Liverpool in the Premier League, with Victor Lindelof, Daley Blind, Juan Mata and Rashford returning to the side. But it was Benfica who played the more enterprising football in the early stages as the visitors struggled to establish any rhythm, frequently caught offside as they tried to make inroads.

United, unbeaten since they lost the European Super Cup to Real Madrid in early August, have made an impressive start to the Premier League season, scoring freely before the weekend's Anfield stalemate. Svilar beat Iker Casillas's record—the Real Madrid legend made his debut in the competition in 1999 at the age of 18 years and 118 days. The Portuguese champions came into the match on the back of two defeats out of two in the Champions League, including a 5-0 drubbing at the hands of Swiss side Basel. — AFP

Hazard rescues Chelsea in six-goal Roma thriller

LONDON: Eden Hazard came to Chelsea's rescue after his side blew a two-goal lead in a dramatic 3-3 draw with Roma in the Champions League yesterday. Antonio Conte's team looked on course for a comfortable victory at Stamford Bridge thanks to first half goals from David Luiz and Hazard at Stamford Bridge. But Roma's Aleksandar Kolarov struck before half-time to spark a stirring fightback from the Serie A side.

Former Manchester City forward Edin Dzeko bagged a brace after the interval to give Roma the lead, only for Hazard to spare Chelsea's blushes with a late leveller. Chelsea remain two points clear of Roma at the top of Group C, but this was the latest in a growing list of alarming displays from the Premier League champions.

Blues boss Antonio Conte reportedly held a lengthy inquest with his squad in the aftermath of Saturday's shock 2-1 loss at Crystal Palace and this erratic performance—which extended their winless run to three matches—may well spark another dressing down from the Italian. After being penned into their own half early on, Chelsea conjured an electric counter, but Alvaro Morata, showing signs of rust after his injury

lay-off, shot tamely at Roma goalkeeper Alisson Becker. Roma were undaunted and Diego Perotti galloped forward for a stinging strike that whistled over.

Brazil defender Luiz had been missing in action during that Roma raid, but the part-time midfielder recovered his bearings to put Chelsea ahead in the 11th minute. Stealing possession inside the Roma half, Luiz initially tried a defence-splitting pass, but when that was blocked, he seized on the rebound and curled a fine first-time finish past Becker from 20 yards. Roma midfielder Radja Nainggolan wasted a golden chance to equalise when he shot straight at Thibaut Courtois.

That miss seemed fatal for Roma when Hazard scored Chelsea's second in the 37th minute. It was Hazard who started the attack, pouncing in midfield and picking out Morata. While Morata sized up his options, Hazard was sprinting into the Roma area, where he met his team-mate's deft cross with a cool close-range finish.

Hazard's first club goal of the season should have put Chelsea on cruise control, but they

remained far from convincing and Roma were back in the game three minutes later.

Kolarov took possession wide on the left edge of the Chelsea area, surged past Cesar Azpilicueta and blasted a fierce strike that deflected in off Andreas Christensen. Roma had won only once in their 15 games in England, but the way they were bossing possession suggested a memorable escape wasn't out of the question. The warning signs were there when Courtois was forced to stick out a boot to stop Dzeko converting Kolarov's cross early in the second half. Conte responded to Chelsea's struggles by sending on Pedro for Luiz and moving Cesc Fabregas into a more defensive midfield role. But the switch failed to stem the tide and Roma equalised thanks to Dzeko's moment of magic in the 64th minute.

Federico Fazio spotted Dzeko's run and lofted a perfectly-weighted high pass that dipped into the Bosnian's path. Dzeko contorted his body in mid-air to meet the ball with a sublime volley that flashed past Courtois. Conte's side were stunned, but Dzeko wasn't finished yet and he put Roma ahead in the 70th minute. — AFP



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Business

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017

18 Cash-loving Japanese savers opt to play it safe**19** US home construction hits one-year low in September**22** Huawei unveils Huawei Mate 10 and Mate 10 Pro

WASHINGTON: (From left), Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland with United States Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Mexico's Secretary of Economy Ildefonso Guajardo Villarreal speaks during the conclusion of the fourth round of negotiations for a new North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in Washington on Tuesday. — AP

AUB achieves a net profit of KD 40m for 9 months

Total operating income grew by 6.6% to KD 84.5 million

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) reported a net profit of KD 40 million for the nine months ending on 30 September 2017 in comparison to KD 39.1 million for the same period in 2016, after the financial statements have been approved by AUB's Board of Directors and the Central Bank of Kuwait. The continuous and steady business progression of AUB is further evidence of the growth of total operating income by 6.6 percent to KD 84.5 million from KD 79.3 million achieved in the same period last year. Accordingly, the equity attributable to the shareholders grew by 5 percent to reach KD 404 million up from KD 385 million recorded at the end of December 2016.

These encouraging results were attributed to focused delivery to the Bank's customers and maintaining a conservative approach for provisioning and sound credit policies to mitigate and manage the risks associated with the market volatility and geopolitical challenges experienced in the region. Net operating profits grew by 4.6 percent to reach KD 57.2 million for the nine months ending on 30 September 2017 up from KD 54.7 million recorded in September 2016. AUB's total assets grew by 4.9 percent to reach KD 3.9 billion as of 30 September 2017, while the total deposits grew by 4.7 percent to reach KD 3.3 billion.

The Chairman, Dr Anwar Al-Mudhaf, said that "The continuity of our growth in AUB's profits for the nine months ending on 30 September 2017 is evidence of the confidence in the Bank's successful strategies and prudent operational vision to achieve maximum values for both shareholders and depositors. With our wide client-base, branch network, the unique services we offer and the expertise of our staff, AUB will continue its success in

attaining a greater share of the domestic market through the promotion of Islamic Banking and world-class banking services". The Bank has achieved a return on average shareholders' equity (ROAE) of 13.7 percent and a return on average assets (ROAA) of 1.4 percent as at the end of September 2017, being amongst the highest return indicators of the banks who have announced their results in the local market for the same period. The higher returns have



**Total assets
grew by 4.9% to
KD 3.9bn as of
Sept 30, 2017**

contributed in generating earnings per share (EPS) of 22.8 fils. The Bank has reported a sound capital adequacy ratio (CAR) of 17.2 percent, comfortably higher than the regulatory required level of 13.5 percent and will provide room for further expansion.

The Chairman attributed these positive results for the period to the efforts of the bank's management and its staff members who have provided distinctive services and inte-

grated solutions for the customers, maintaining customer confidence and enhancing the presence of the Bank in Corporate Banking, Retail Banking, Private Banking & Wealth Management and Treasury. The Chairman stressed that the management's success has placed the Bank among the best and safest Islamic Banks, not only locally but also regionally.

The chairman added that the Bank has continued to receive high credit ratings from international credit rating agencies, such as Fitch, Moody's and Capital Intelligence. The Bank maintained a credit rating of "A+" on the long term and "F1" on the short term with stable outlook by Fitch Ratings Agency, and "A2" on the local currency with stable outlook by Moody's. Capital Intelligence affirmed the Bank's long term credit rating of foreign currency to "A+" and enhanced the short term foreign currency rating to "A2". All these ratings confirm the credit standing, capital quality and stability of the Bank now and for future growth.

Building on success, AUB is proud to state that it has been presented "The Best Islamic Bank in Kuwait 2017" award by Global Business and Islamic Finance Magazine to recognize AUB's leading position as one of the safest Islamic banks offering innovative products, creative customer services, effective cost management and generating earnings and values to the shareholders. In addition and for the unique positioning of our Private Banking businesses which has placed the Bank on the top, AUB has been awarded "The Best Bank for Private Banking in Kuwait in



Dr Anwar Al-Mudhaf

2017 Award" by "The Banker Magazine". In addition, our debut issuance of the Additional Tier 1 Capital Sukuk issued last year won the award of "Sukuk Deal of the Year 2017" from "The International Finance Magazine" in particular for the swift execution, efficient structure and competitive pricing. Furthermore and as an evidence of retaining the talent of top Kuwaiti banking leaders, the "International Finance Magazine" awarded the "Woman Entrepreneur of the Year in IT, Banking and Finance Award" to Jehad Al-Humaidhi, our Senior General Manager and Head of IT and

Operations Division due to her remarkable contributions and achievements in the field.

Over and above and in line with our strategic objectives to navigate the businesses towards Digital Banking and E-Channels, the Bank has also been awarded "The Best Corporate Digital Bank" and "The Best Call Center" awards in Kuwait for the year 2017 from "The Global Finance" and "CPI Financial Banker Middle East" magazines respectively. The Bank is committed to the continuous improvement in banking services, including the innovation of its services, products and financial solutions.

In conclusion, Dr Al-Mudhaf extended his thanks and appreciation to the Central Bank of Kuwait, to the Bank's Board of Directors, the Bank's customers, shareholders, management and staff members for their confidence and support conferred upon the Bank which has enabled AUB to realize continued achievements and to maintain its preeminent position in the Kuwaiti Banking Sector.

Saudi carrier flynas launches direct flight to Iraq after 27 years



DUBAI: Saudi budget-carrier flynas yesterday launched the first direct flight between the kingdom and Iraq since the Gulf War 27 years ago, marking another move by the kingdom to improve ties with its neighbor in an attempt to blunt rival Iran's vast influence there.

The carrier posted on its Twitter account an image of the crew that took part in the inaugural flight, which took off from Riyadh bound for Baghdad just before noon.

"We worked hard to see that flynas flights to the brotherly nation of Iraq are operational as quickly as possible in order to connect the two brotherly nations economically and socially after a 27-year-long break," flynas CEO Bandar Al-Muhanna said in a statement. Saudi Arabia's

national carrier, Saudia, is scheduled to make its inaugural flight to Baghdad today, Abbas Al-Khafaji, the media director for Iraq's Civil Aviation, told The Associated Press. The flights are the latest sign of improved relations between the two countries. A number of high-profile Iraqis have visited Saudi Arabia in recent months, including a rare visit in July by influential Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. Saudi Arabia also has plans to open a border crossing with Iraq, which has been closed since Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait in 1990 with the exception of some Iraqi pilgrims who have entered the kingdom for the Hajj. — AP

UK firms to flee if no Brexit deal by Xmas

LONDON: More British finance firms will move business to EU countries if Britain fails to hammer out a post-Brexit transition deal by the end of the year, London Stock Exchange chief Xavier Rolet warned yesterday.

"Unless on this side of Christmas a credible announcement is made, then my understanding is that in the first quarter of next year, the implementation stage will start," Rolet said, referring to contingency arrangements being prepared by businesses. "In the absence of certainty in the next few months, the businesses, the CEOs, the boards the executive committees of many

companies that are based here will have to start acting on worst case scenarios," he said at a meeting with MPs in parliament.

Prime Minister Theresa May has backed a two-year transition period to ease the impact on the economy but she is beset by divisions within her own Conservative party and talks with Brussels are stalled over the size of the UK's exit bill. A transitional deal, which could involve joint supervision of the City finance district by EU and UK regulators, would reduce the chances of London being stripped of its "clearing" role in processing international transactions made in euros.

Services account for 80 percent of Britain's economy, with access to markets such as the United States and China dependent on "global standards of complex regulation," Rolet said.

This could be jeopardized by a "no deal" scenario in which the UK exits the bloc without reaching a formal agreement, he argued. Rolet also told parliamentarians that a three-year transition deal would be most "appropriate" for financial markets and would benefit entrepreneurship and growth. — AFP

Business

Cash-loving Japanese savers opt to stash money in home safe

People wary of possible negative interest rates

TOKYO: The Tokyo stock market might be riding two-decade highs, but a growing number of Japanese are choosing to stash their cash in the humble home safe, wary of negative interest rates in the bank and out of the view of eagle-eyed tax officials.

It is no secret that Japan has some of the world's biggest savers, learning from an early age to put aside some of their hard-earned wages for a likely long retirement. However, cautious households who already put away more than half their nest-egg in cold hard yen, are increasingly bringing the cash home.

Part of the reason is a longstanding savings culture. But the Bank of Japan's move to usher in negative interest rates last year and changes to the tax code have propelled demand for alternatives to keeping money in the bank.

And that has seen home safes that cost from as much as 20,000 yen (\$180) fly off store shelves, with sales surging by a fifth last year. Demand is so strong that staff at one Tokyo outlet of Bic Camera have hauled the steel boxes from the back of the shop to a prime spot right near the escalators.



'A whole other world'

That dovetails with a recent Bank of Japan study that found investors socked away no less than half of their combined 1.8 trillion yen savings in cash, while about 10 percent was put into stocks and 19 percent in other retirement and life insurance policies.

By contrast, Americans hold just 13 percent of their savings in cash and just over a third in equities, while Europeans fall somewhere in between. This despite that fact that Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei 225 index has been rising since its financial crisis trough in 2009 and is now sitting at its highest levels for 21 years.

"Investing is seen by many Japanese as a whole other world," said Kaneko Ito, a personal finance consultant at Japan's All About advisory site. Cash is king in Japan and credit cards are much less popular than in other countries so it's common for people to carry around relatively large amounts of yen to pay for day-to-day things. The country's low crime rate is one reason people feel safe keeping cash in their house—the odds of a burglary are relatively low. In fact, sometimes first responders come across huge sums of money being kept in the homes of recently deceased people.

'Put some aside'

Culture plays a part too. Like in some other Asian nations, Japanese people are told from an early age that they must save for the future with finger-wagging parents reminding adult children to "put some aside" and not to borrow too much. Some lessons were also learned from Japan's phenomenal post-war economic boom that ended with the collapse of a stock and real estate market bubble in the early

nineties. Years of deflation and slow growth followed, a point not lost on many risk-averse savers. "It's a question of culture and education—protecting oneself rather than being aggressive, and avoiding losses rather than maximizing profits," Ito said.

"Before the bubble burst in the nineties, bank interest was extremely high. You could double your money in a decade so there was no reason to opt for riskier investments," he added. Not so anymore. The central bank introduced negative interest rates in a bid to kickstart bank lending and the broader economy. That means the average saver can literally be paying to put their money in a bank, depending on how much they shell out in fees for withdrawals and transfers but get almost no interest.



YOKOHAMA: In this picture taken on June 21, 2017, a cleaning company worker finds a stack of Japanese yen notes as he cleans up a woman's apartment in Yokohama, who died alone in her apartment and was found days later.—AFP

Changes to the tax code may have also spurred this flight to cash savings and combination safes as people worry that more visible savings could be spotted by keen-eyed revenue collectors. But it's not just regular

folks that are loving the cash—Japan Inc's conservative firms are keeping some 400 trillion yen in reserve equivalent to about 75 percent of the country's entire gross domestic product.—AFP

Financial, security woes put Libyan oil recovery on shaky ground

TUNIS/TRIPOLI: Libya's oil production revival is being undermined by the same financial, economic and security problems that threaten the promise of stability and a better life for the divided North African nation. Libya surprised many observers when it managed to raise its output fourfold to around one million barrels per day (bpd), boosting its only significant source of income.

Continued disruptions by a range of local groups demanding a share of the revenues, as well as a lack of funds for maintenance and investment, are preventing the National Oil Corporation (NOC) from consolidating those gains, oil officials, engineers at the major fields and analysts say.

NOC Chairman Mustafa Sanalla said last week that the corporation had only received a quarter of its 2017 budget, making a previously announced target of 1.25 million bpd by the end of the year "very difficult" to achieve. Without sufficient investment, output would dip, he warned.

"You can lose production at any time." One problem is that many of the gains made over the past year were relatively easy and cheap, said Riccardo Fabiani, a senior analyst at Eurasia Group. "Now the problem in the east and other parts of the oil infrastructure is that you need more serious work to repair some of the facilities, so it's more expensive, it's technically more challenging ... and the additional volumes that

will come out of that repair work are going to be more limited," he said.

Fabiani predicted production is likely to hover between 700,000 and one million bpd in the short term. Shutdowns have been caused mainly by armed groups making demands for their members, sometimes claiming to act on behalf of local communities seeking jobs and public services, but also by peaceful civic groups protesting economic hardships since the 2011 overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi.

Sharara

Sanalla has said repeatedly he will not negotiate with blockaders and has threatened to prosecute them, although the NOC also tries to



Largest oilfield frequent target of blockades

support communities near oil facilities and develop relationships with them. Limited resources and persistent lawlessness in a country split between rival political factions mean the NOC struggles to meet expectations, however.

"The National Oil Corporation is keen to preserve production but at the same time it's a part of the problem," said Ghaith Salem al-Rooq, a negotiator from Zintan who took part in talks to reopen blockaded pipelines near the western town. "They have been making promises to those who shut down the fields, but never

fulfilled their promises." Production at the southwestern Sharara field, which can pump up to 280,000 bpd, or more than a quarter of the country's total output, is a frequent target of blockades.

In the most recent incident, an armed group forced a two-day shutdown at Sharara in early October to demand salary payments, fuel supplies and the release of members that it said had been detained. A new group called "Enough Silence", made up of young people from six districts in southern Libya, has said it will peacefully blockade supply roads to Sharara to lobby for oil revenues to be spent on the neglected south. "The problems are endless," a spokesman for the movement, Mohamed Hamouzi, told Reuters by phone. "We are talking about severe lack of medical, educational, and security services. There's no liquidity at all," he said, referring to severe cash shortages in banks across Libya.

"If our demands for solving these problems are not met we are going to shut down Sharara within two weeks."

Yesterday, a group of Gaddafi loyalists posted a video of four men standing over a pipeline at an unnamed desert location, threatening to cut supplies of oil and gas to terminals in the Zawiyah refinery and Mellitah complex on Libya's northern coast within 72 hours if one of their leaders was not released from jail in Tripoli.

With the largest proven oil reserves in Africa, pumping more than 1.6 million bpd before 2011, Libya's production is closely watched. Along with Nigeria, it has been exempted from OPEC-led production cuts. Adding to uncertainty are political divisions that the United Nations is trying to mend.

A current UN-backed government in Tripoli has been eroded by internal splits, lack of technical capacity and rejection by factions that control the eastern part of the country.—Reuters

China's Xi vows open economy, but investors want action

BEIJING: President Xi Jinping vowed yesterday to further open China's economy to the world, but foreign companies and investors who have complained of "promise fatigue" called for deeds rather than words. Xi made his pledge during a wide-ranging speech to open a week-long Communist Party congress that will hand him a new five-year term as general secretary.

"Openness brings progress for ourselves, seclusion leaves one behind. China will not close its doors to the world, we will only become more and more open," Xi told some 2,300 party delegates in Beijing.

Xi vowed to "protect the legitimate rights and interests of foreign investors" and said "all businesses registered in China will be treated equally". The Chinese leader has sought to cast himself as a champion of globalization as the United States retreats behind President Donald Trump's "America First" policy.

But US and European firms still complain about being barred from certain sectors and forced to share their technologies with local competitors to gain access in some industries. "European companies operating in China continue to suffer from 'promise fatigue'," the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China said in a statement. "The only cure for this is promise implementation." Trump, who will visit Beijing next month, has

launched a trade investigation into China's intellectual property practices.

An expansive \$300 billion plan called "Made in China 2025," aims to reshape China's economy but has drawn scrutiny from foreign business groups for its push to foster home grown companies in key industries. "Xi's were welcome words and noble sentiments," said Peter Fuhrman, chairman of boutique investment bank China First Capital. "We hope the more obstructive, less visionary government officials across China will take Mr. Xi's words as a command, not as one option among several," he added.

'Shared growth'

Around the world, Chinese conglomerates have been on a buying spree, snapping up companies in the entertainment, industrial and robotics industries.

But analysts and diplomats say those same opportunities are not afforded to foreign companies operating in China. With the Trump administration in particular, China has faced scrutiny for its ballooning trade surplus with the United States, which reached a three-year high in September.

Xi said China will "give equal emphasis" to attracting capital and expanding abroad. It remains to be seen if such words will mollify the Trump administration.

As a candidate Trump repeatedly threatened to label China a "currency manipulator" over what he deemed were unfair policies keeping down the value of the renminbi. So far he has backed away from those promises as he sought China's help in dealing with North Korea. Xi did note China will improve regulation around monetary and macro-prudential policy and "see that interest rates and exchange rates become more market based".—AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.698
Indian Rupees	4.660
Pakistani Rupees	2.874
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.967
Nepali Rupees	2.931
Singapore Dollar	224.330
Hongkong Dollar	38.783
Bangladesh Taka	3.694
Philippine Peso	5.887
Thai Baht	9.172

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.814
Qatari Riyal	83.235
Omani Riyal	787.032
Bahraini Dinar	804.700
UAE Dirham	82.509

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.950
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.075
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216
Tunisian Dinar	123.610
Jordanian Dinar	427.450
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.019
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.635

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.850
Euro	357.820
Sterling Pound	403.240

Canadian dollar	244.470
Turkish lira	83.310
Swiss Franc	311.250
Australian Dollar	239.250
US Dollar Buying	301.650

GOLD

20 Gram	249.070
10 Gram	127.450
5 Gram	64.570

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer

US Dollar	302.500
Canadian Dollar	242.060
Sterling Pound	402.500
Euro	357.870
Swiss Frank	297.040
Bahrain Dinar	802.860
UAE Dirhams	82.752
Qatari Riyals	83.572
Saudi Riyals	81.527
Jordanian Dinar	427.936
Egyptian Pound	17.180
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.970
Indian Rupees	4.668
Pakistani Rupees	2.871
Bangladesh Taka	3.716
Philippines Peso	5.899
Cyprus pound	18.000
Japanese Yen	3.695
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.928

Selling Rate

Malaysian Ringgit	72.590
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.275
Thai Bhat	10.130
Turkish Lira	83.270

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY

	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.392350	0.402350
Czech Korune	0.005801	0.017801
Danish Krone	0.043761	0.048761
Euro	0.350537	0.359637
Georgian Lari	0.121386	0.121386
Norwegian Krone	0.034064	0.039264
Romanian Leu	0.077549	0.077549
Russian ruble	0.005271	0.005271
Slovakia	0.009032	0.019032
Swedish Krona	0.033062	0.038062
Swiss Franc	0.302907	0.313907
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.229085	0.241085
New Zealand Dollar	0.210245	0.219745
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.236684	0.245684
US Dollars	0.298850	0.303270
US Dollars Mint	0.299350	0.303270
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003301	0.003885

Chinese Yuan	0.044435	0.047935
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036709	0.039459
Indian Rupee	0.004254	0.004942
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002611	0.002791
Korean Won	0.000257	0.000272
Malaysian Ringgit	0.068050	0.074050
Nepalese Rupee	0.003023	0.003193
Pakistan Rupee	0.002694	0.002984
Philippine Peso	0.005800	0.006100
Singapore Dollar	0.217972	0.227972
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001629	0.002209
Taiwan	0.009906	0.010086
Thai Baht	0.008804	0.009354

Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.796587	0.805087
Egyptian Pound	0.014370	0.020278
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000204	0.000264
Jordanian Dinar	0.422684	0.431684
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021961	0.045961
Omani Riyal	0.780463	0.786143
Qatar Riyal	0.078923	0.083863
Saudi Riyal	0.079700	0.081000
Syrian Pound	0.001284	0.001504
Tunisian Dinar	0.118620	0.126620
Turkish Lira	0.077964	0.087994
UAE Dirhams	0.081057	0.082757
Yemeni Riyal	0.000985	0.001065

Business

US home construction hits one-year low in Sept

Report reflects weakness in single-family activity, apartment building

WASHINGTON: Construction of new homes fell 4.7 percent in September, the biggest decline in six months, reflecting weakness in both single-family activity and apartment building.

The September result left construction at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.13 million units, the Commerce Department reported yesterday. It was the sharpest decline since a 7.7 percent fall in March. Homebuilding has been sliding this year, but economists remain optimistic that the low level of unemployment will soon spark a rebound in sales and construction. Even though construction activity has fallen in recent months, home building is 6.1 percent higher than a year ago. Single-family building contracted 4.6 percent in September, while apartment construction was down 5.1 percent. Construction activity in August declined a revised 0.2 percent, a slightly smaller drop than initially reported. Damage from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma did not have a major impact on the August figures.

Application for new building permits, a sign of future activity, dropped 4.5 percent in September to an annual rate of 1.22 million units. Even with the decline in construction and permits, analysts found

reasons for optimism. Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, noted that permits for single-family construction rose 2.4 percent even though the overall permit number was held back by a 16.1 percent plunge for apartment building.

"We're expecting new home sales to strengthen markedly," he said in a research note, spurred by potential buyers rushing to close deals before mortgage rates move higher. A survey released Tuesday showed that homebuilders are feeling more optimistic than they have in months about the future. The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index rose 4 points to 68 in October, the highest reading since May. Readings above 50 indicate more builders see conditions as good rather than poor.


A shortage of homes for sale combined with rising prices has translated into an affordability challenge for many would-be buyers. In September, construction was down in all regions of the country except the West, where construction starts rose 15.7 percent. Construction fell the most in the Midwest, a drop of 20.2 percent. Construction was down 9.3 percent in

the South and 9.2 percent in the Northeast.

However, US regions not affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma also saw steep drops in home building. After nearly a decade of economic recovery, analysts say rising wages and steady job creation have created strong demand for homes. But rising input costs and a shortage of workers has kept the market very tight. Total housing starts fell 4.7 percent in September to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.13 million units, the third straight monthly decline and the lowest pace of construction since September of last year, according to the Commerce Department. — Agencies

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6 6 8 0 4 2 2 2



MIAMI: This file photo taken on September 11, 2017 shows a broken crane caused by winds from Hurricane Irma sitting on top of a building under construction in downtown Miami, Florida. — AFP

Taiwan Trade Mission to Kuwait

**One-on-One Trade Meeting
with 9 Taiwanese Companies**
10 AM-1 PM & 4PM- 7 PM October 22 (Sun), 2017
Emerald Ballroom - Ground Floor
Sheraton Hotel - Kuwait

Bar / tube for Hydraulic & Automation	Electrical Product (enclosure/ plug/receptacle)
Door hardware (closer/ spring)	Dental Implant Tool
Industrial Machinery / Tap/Drill/Thread Tool	Stainless steel bar/tube/sheet/coil
LED Lighting / Foam machine (whole plant)	Water purification equipment

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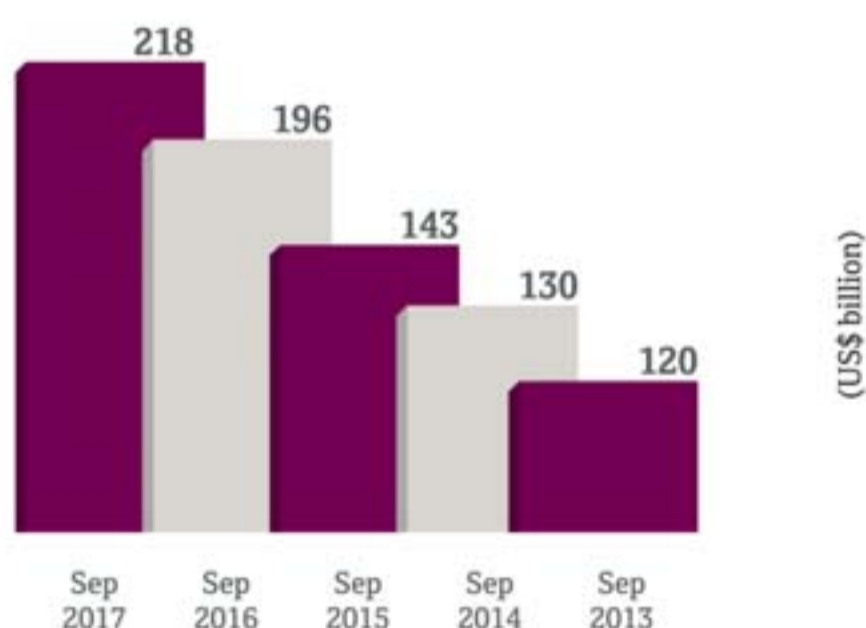
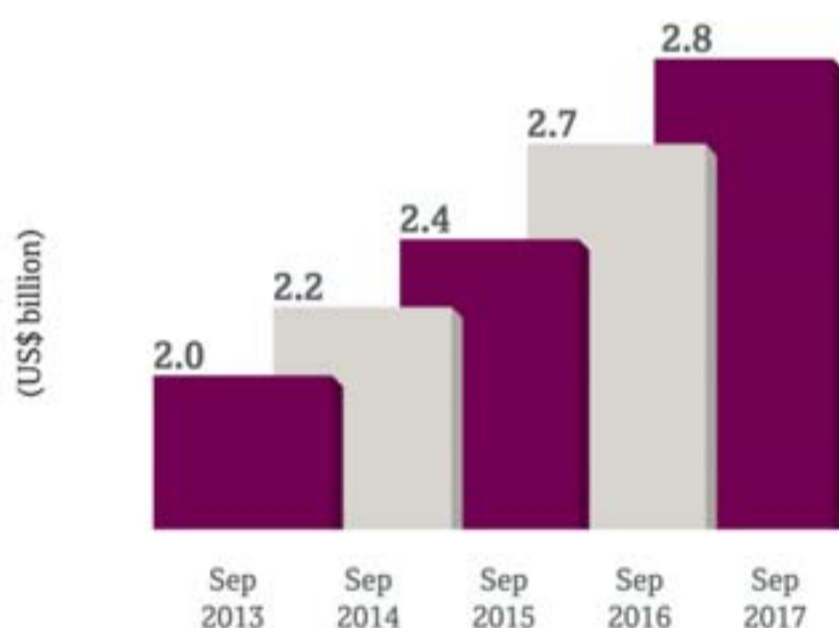


Taiwan External Trade Development Council

QNB Group, the largest bank in the MEA region, delivers another record result for Q3 2017

Net Profit US\$2.8 billion, up 6% from September 2016

Total Assets US\$218 billion, up 11% from September 2016



QNB Group achieves record financial results for the period ended 30 September 2017

- QNB Group, the largest financial institution in the MEA region, is currently present in more than 31 countries across three continents
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Business

Strong IBM earnings lift Dow above 23,000 points

NEW YORK: The Dow jumped above 23,000 points early yesterday, boosted by IBM, which surged after it reported growth in key cloud computing and artificial intelligence businesses.

IBM, which has suffered more than five years of revenue declines, shot up 7.8 percent after it reported a four percent drop in third-quarter earnings to \$2.7 billion. But earnings-per-share bested analyst expectations and revenues in IBM's closely-watched cloud computing division rose 20 percent compared with the year-ago period.

About 20 minutes into trading, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was at 23,107.66, up 0.5 percent. The Dow briefly topped 23,000 on Tuesday, but finished slightly below that mark. The broad-based S&P 500 climbed 0.1 percent to 2,561.13, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index retreated slightly to 6,622.44.

US stocks have scored numerous records in recent weeks in anticipation of solid earnings and enactment of a tax cut supported by President Donald Trump. Yesterday, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin warned that the stock market would drop if Washington fails to pass the tax measure. Housing data released yesterday showed a drop in September in housing starts and permits for new construction, due partly to US hurricanes, but also declines in some other regions.

European stock markets mostly advanced yesterday, though Madrid fell as Spain threatened to suspend Catalonia's autonomy. In early afternoon deals, Madrid's IBEX 35 index was down 0.3 percent, while the euro fell versus the dollar. Spain said yesterday it would take the unprecedented step of seeking to suspend Catalonia's autonomy if the region's leader does not abandon his independence bid, on the eve of his deadline to give a final answer. Elsewhere in Europe, London's benchmark FTSE 100 index was up 0.3 percent as traders digested official data showing British unemployment sticking to a 42-year low point.

Sterling fell with markets not certain on whether the Bank of England will raise interest rates next month despite rising British inflation. "The UK is a key focus for markets this week as traders try to determine whether or not the Bank of England will follow through on warnings that interest rates could rise at an upcoming meeting," said Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at Oanda trading group. In Asia, Tokyo's main stocks index ended up 0.1 percent at another 21-year high-but Seoul dropped 0.1 percent, and Taipei, Manila and Jakarta also turned negative. Hong Kong edged 0.1-percent higher to rack up a fifth successive day of gains that have left it at a 10-year high, while Sydney and Wellington were both marginally higher. Shanghai was up 0.3 percent. Chinese dealers



TOKYO: A man looks at an electronic stock board showing the Dow Jones, left, and US dollar rate against the Japanese yen at a securities firm in Tokyo yesterday.—AP

are watching Beijing, where the Communist Party yesterday kicked off its once-a-decade congress to hand Xi Jinping a second five-year term, consolidating his already immense power at the helm of the world's number-two economy. Markets are hoping the leadership provides some idea about future policy, particularly in tackling the country's titanic debt mountain and possible further liberalization.

On Tuesday in New York, the Dow and S&P 500 stock indices closed at new all-time highs following solid results from big firms including Johnson & Johnson and Goldman Sachs, which reinforced confidence across trading floors. However, some analysts are warning of a retreat before the end of the year, with Goldman citing the fate of US President Donald Trump's tax plan as key. Oil prices meanwhile rose following data showing a drop in US stockpiles and with the commodity continuing to get support from ongoing battles between Iraqi and Kurdish forces in the disputed northern Iraq province of Kirkuk. Crude fields taken Tuesday by the Iraqi army accounted for more than 400,000 of the 650,000 barrels per day that the autonomous Kurdish region used to export in defiance of Baghdad.—Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report. Wednesday 18 October 2017. Includes tables for Index, Trades, and various stock categories like Oil & Gas, Consumer Goods, and Banks.

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

Business

Warba Bank heads towards innovation breakthrough in Islamic banking sector

Net profits up by 442% reaching KD 4.752m for first 9 months of 2017

KUWAIT: By the grace of Allah, Warba Bank, the best investment and corporate bank in Kuwait, has announced that it has achieved remarkable financial results for the first nine months of 2017, reflected by its net profits which increased by 442 percent reaching KD 4.752 million compared to KD 877 K for the same period last year. The increase in the Bank's total revenues was driven by strong performance of all business units. The total revenues reached KD 42.66 million at an increase of 63 percent compared to the first nine months of 2016. Moreover, the operating revenues increased by 70 percent amounting to KD 26.800 million by the end of September 2017 compared to KD 15.741 million for the same period of 2016.

The total assets of the bank increased to KD 1.670 billion due to its expansion strategy in the local and regional markets and investments in high quality and low-risk assets the financing portfolio witnessed remarkable growth reaching KD 1.223 billion at an increase of 62 percent over portfolio balance as on 30 September 2016. As a result of the high quality of the financing portfolio, the bank's non-performing facilities reached 0.83 percent one of the lowest ratios prevailing in the domestic banking sector. The bank's provisions coverage ratio for non-performing facilities reached 208 percent as on 30 September 2017.

During the third quarter 2017, The Bank successfully paid the return on the perpetual Sukuk issued earlier this year thanks to the increase of the bank's net profit reaching KD 4.752 million for the nine months ending 30 September 2017.

Commenting on the bank's results for the first nine months of 2017, Abdulwahab Abdullah Al-Houti, the Chairman of the Board, said: "Thanks to Allah's Guidance, in the first nine months of 2017, Warba Bank achieved outstanding results and laid the foundation stone for the Bank's drive to position itself as the champion of Islamic corporate and investment banking services in Kuwait, as well as providing advanced digital services to our retail customers. Since the beginning of the year, the Bank has been expanding its investment base in promising emerging regional and international markets, enhancing its investment portfolio thus forming strong base for investors' confidence in the Bank's performance."

Al-Houti affirmed that Warba Bank continues to inject needed investments to introduce new unparalleled services and products that bring about a new developed era in

the Islamic banking sector, in line with customers' expectations and needs. He pointed out that Warba Bank is expanding its investment and financing plans on local and international markets giving examples of the Bank's achievements in the first nine months in this respect. He further elaborated that the Bank's Investment Banking Group, is currently studying investment opportunities in Kuwait and abroad which, will enhance the Bank's investment portfolio and provide lucrative returns to investors. Al-Houti also pointed out that all indicators demonstrate high-quality performance of the Bank at all levels and departments. He confirmed that Warba Bank will exert all efforts for providing tailor-made financing services to boost the national economy by supporting its institutions.

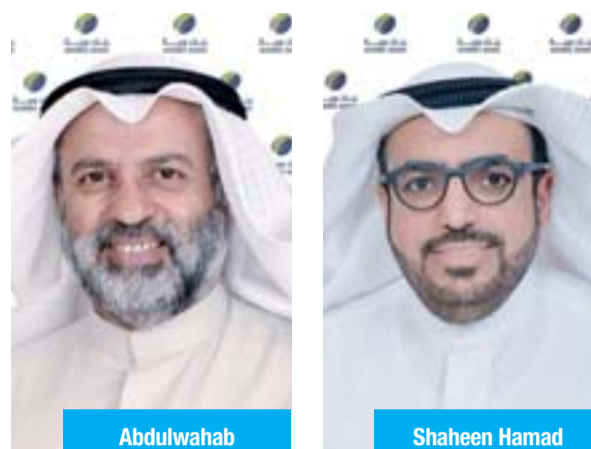
Warba Bank's CEO, Shaheen Hamad Al-Ghanem, said that the Bank has realized leading achievements in the finance and investment sector in the first nine months of 2017 in Kuwait, regional and international markets. The Bank diligently deepens its position as an Islamic bank that offers regular and rewarding investment opportunities for investors. Al-Ghanem pointed out that the growth and improvement come in line with the Bank's strategy to create unique investment opportunities and exclusive financing solutions for customers. The Strategy also aims at supporting corporate and investment

sector. Al-Ghanem noted that during this period, Warba Bank has been focusing its efforts on innovate flexible financing solutions and providing its customers with excellent digital banking services that have significantly contributed in adding value to their banking transactions.

Rewarding financing plan

Al-Ghanem said that the first nine months of 2017 witnessed remarkable developments in the Bank's financing operations. The Bank has successfully accomplished a number of deals most notably a strategic financing deal in the aviation sector in Kuwait, where the Bank successfully undertaken a syndicated Sharia-compliant financing transaction, of \$300 million (KD 91.4 million) of which, Warba Bank's share represented \$80 million (KD 24.4 million). The deal is in favor of ALAFCO Aviation Lease and Finance Company to finance purchasing and leasing aircrafts over a period of three years. The Bank has acted as the deal Lead Arranger and Lead Manager.

Warba Bank also participated in Sharia-complaint co-



Abdulwahab Abdullah Al-Houti

Shaheen Hamad Al-Ghanem

financing for the Ziraat Participation Bank of Turkey amounting \$236 million. As well, the Bank also participated in arranging the \$400 million Sukuk issuance of the Dubai-based Miraas Holding Co for Real Estate Development, where the Bank's share in the transaction reached \$50 million.

During the first nine months, Warba Bank has focused its efforts in reinforcing its global real estate investment plans by completing a number of real estate acquisitions in the United States. The bank sees USA as a promising market for stable real estate investments since it is marked with high demand for premium residential units. The Bank has acquired ULTRIS facility located in Banyan Grove/Virginia, luxury beachfront apartments, in partnership with Bentall Kennedy, its real estate partner in USA. Earlier this year, Warba Bank initiated its collaboration with Bentall by acquiring the ManpowerGroup headquarters, an office building in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In addition, Warba Bank has added another investment's achievement to its global real estate investment portfolio by acquiring a residential facility, SUTTE 2801, in partnership with Cortland Partners.

Digital banking services

Pointing to the rapid development Warba Bank is witnessing in its digital infrastructure, Al-Ghanem said that Warba Bank continues to employ the necessary investments, to develop its digital infrastructure to best offer unprecedented services in the Islamic banking industry in Kuwait. In this regard, he pointed out that the Bank launched a number of digital services during the first nine months this year that have been built upon flexibility and convenience criteria; these services have been designed to save customers' time while fulfilling their banking demands easily, through the Bank's website "Warba Online" and

Warba Application on smart phones.

Al-Ghanem further elaborated that services available on Warba online, fall under the name of "Express". Warba Bank has recently added to its portfolio of digital services, the "Express Bill", which allows customer to pay their mobile bills on a pre-set monthly date and amount specified in advance; while the new "Express share", allows customers to request to transfer money to their accounts from anyone with a mobile number and ATM card.

Financing solutions

As part of Warba Bank financing solutions, during the first nine months of the year, the Bank launched a series of auto financing solutions through sealing strategic partnerships with leading international car brand dealers in Kuwait. Recently, the Bank signed a quality deal with Mohammed Nasser Al-Sayer & Sons, the exclusive agent for Toyota cars in Kuwait, where the two parties signed the largest deal of its kind since the Bank incorporation. The deal is worth KD 9,702,250 million; whereby the Bank bought the stock of Toyota-Land Cruiser in Kuwait. Another milestone has been achieved by Warba Bank in this regard, through a fruitful cooperation with Mohammed Nasser Al-Sayer & Sons, the exclusive general dealer of Lexus vehicles in Kuwait. The Bank launched a new offer for both customers and non-customers, on the new 2017 Lexus cars in accordance with Islamic Sharia. The exclusive promotion offers customers the possibility of settling installments of all Lexus 2017 models for up to 4 years, at the same cash price; that is in addition to several other benefits.

As well, Warba Bank launched car financing campaigns under the slogan "Zero Profit & Flexible Installment Plan" in collaboration with a number of distinguished partners, notably Alghanem Motors, the exclusive agent of Honda vehicles in Kuwait, to finance the latest cars models from this Japanese brand, according to 0 percent profit and up to 5 years settlement period. The Bank sealed another deal with Ford Alghanem to finance the latest brands of Ford vehicles at flexible monthly installments for up to 5 years and 0 percent profit as well.

Promotional campaigns

Al-Ghanem said that Warba Bank has recently launched a distinguished marketing campaign for its customers of Al-Safwa Cardholders under the slogan "Use your Credit Card for a Chance to Win a Land Cruiser". The campaign offers Al-Safwa customers a variety of features that allow them to enter the draw on a Toyota Land Cruiser. The Bank also continues its "Salary Transfer" campaign, which highly meet customers' expectations. During last period, the Bank worked on upgrading Al-Sunbula account by raising the number of winners to 13 monthly winners of KD 30K value prizes.



Qualitative leap in financing, investment portfolio

Gulf Bank offers its credit cardholders instant discounts at Costa Coffee

KUWAIT: As part of its Dining Program, launched in July 2017, Gulf Bank announced in cooperation with Costa Coffee, to offer its credit cardholders an opportunity to enjoy instant 15 percent discounts, when purchasing at any of Costa Coffee outlets using their Gulf Bank's credit cards.

Gulf Bank customers can enjoy various discounts and privileges at reputable and renowned restaurants and coffee shops in Kuwait through Gulf Bank Dining Program, all Gulf Bank's credit cardholders will get up to 20 percent instant discounts at over 300 of your favorite restaurants in Kuwait includes all type of cuisines, when using their credit cards on all transactions.

Gulf Bank is committed to providing customers with exceptional value and exciting offers that meet their needs, in addition to presenting them with one of the widest selections of financial products and banking services currently available in Kuwait.

Ultimate offer on Nissan Patrol from 'Nissan Al-Babtain

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Company (AABC), the sole authorized dealer of Nissan vehicles in the State of Kuwait, has announced the ultimate offer on its Nissan Patrol models for the ultimate peace of mind to cater to those who dream of new experiences on the road. Customers can look forward to receiving an amount of up to KD 2,000 on top of the highest trade in value for their used vehicle.

On offer by Nissan Al-Babtain are all of the Nissan Patrol models from the V6, which incorporates dynamic safety mechanisms for a peaceful driving experience to the high-performance V8 which is equipped with a strong 400 HP engine and comes with superior levels of styling and advanced technological upgrades.

Also part of the Nissan Patrol family, comes the Nissan Titanium, with multiple features for added comfort and luxury, backed by a strong 400 HP engine, 20 inch alloy wheels, a multi system entertainment DVD

screen featuring home LCD quality in-vehicle along with the 8-inch class-leading navigation system.

In line with Al-Babtain core strategy, Nissan comes with this ultimate deal as part of its grand seasonal offers due to the highest trade value that a customer can get. Now owning a Nissan Patrol is much easier through Al-Babtain's offer as it saves customer's time and effort of selling their old cars and enables owning the 'Hero of Terrain' dream come true.

Nissan Al-Babtain invites customers to visit its showrooms located in Al-Rai and Ahmadi to seize this exclusive opportunity and enjoy the Hero of All Terrains.

Al-Babtain Group was founded in 1948 to present a model of honesty, integrity and total dedication and to gain bright reputation in Kuwait and the Middle East area.

Al-Babtain Group has licensing rights for some of the world's leading brands stretching the globe from the USA to the Far East. For more than 60 years Al-Babtain Group has experienced continued success, and large measure of this success came from the Group's advanced flexible management style and long term vision. These astounding results were achieved due to a versatile strategic formula focusing on growth amongst its sphere of activities; including automotive, technology, investment, information, industrial and Finance.

X-cite celebrates 10-year anniversary of The Avenues Store with exclusive offers!



KUWAIT: In celebration of the 10-year anniversary of its store at The Avenues, one of its largest in the country, X-cite by Alghanim Electronics, a leading electronic retailer with the largest network of shops in Kuwait, is launching exclusive and unmatched offers starting today until October 28, 2017. The promotion was created to reinforce X-cite's record success and leading position in the local market due to the continuous efforts of the X-cite team in providing superior services that go beyond customer expectations.

Spanning ten days, the promotional campaign features exceptional prices across a wide range of products including phones, laptops, cameras, games, TVs, home appliances, gas cookers, washing machines, dryers, air conditioners and much more.

The campaign also includes numerous interactive activities located inside X-cite's branch at The Avenues where winners will receive valuable prizes throughout the promotion's duration period. X-cite opened its branch at The Avenues on October of 2007. Now, customers can shop at any of X-cite's 20 branches that are strategically located across Kuwait. X-cite's fun and convenient shopping experience is evident in its website and free-to-download app.

Subscribe to X-cite's daily newsletter on Xcite.com or follow X-cite on social media on Instagram or Snapchat at @XciteAlghanim, Facebook at XcitebyAlghanim or website to stay up-to-date on the latest updates, new product arrivals and monthly offers.



AUB launches exciting campaign to reward customers when transferring salaries

KUWAIT: As part of its efforts to reward its customers, Ahli United Bank (AUB) launched a unique campaign which includes a broad range of benefits that have been developed exclusively to clients who transfer their salaries to the Bank.

The campaign offers customers the chance to enter into its grand draw to win an Audi R8. The launch of the new campaign coincides AUB's efforts to drive more awareness, where the bank announced that it will be present at 360 MALL as of today for three consecutive days, to unveil and highlight the added value of this campaign. AUB's latest campaign offers new customers transferring their salaries to the Bank a chance to choose from an extensive number of instant cash gifts that are valued at KD 300 for salaries of KD 1,000 KD and above and KD 200 for salaries less than KD 1,000 Or, customers can receive Qard Hassan of a maximum value of KD 8,000 with a flexible repayment period of up to five years.

The benefits of this campaign also include providing the customers who transfer their salaries to AUB's Al-Hassad Islamic Account free life insurance takaful against natural death worth 36 monthly salaries up to KD 50,000 maximum, in addition to free insurance takaful against accidental death worth 72 monthly salaries up to KD 100,000 maximum. The minimum salary transferred must be KD 700.

Customers are also given the chance to enter the draw for Al-Hassad Islamic Account prize draws, which offers the largest prize draw value to the largest number of winners, while also being the first draw program in Kuwait that is Sharia-compliant. Customers who transfer their salaries during the campaign period will receive free credit cards during the first year of the card issuance. Amer Najem, AUB's Head of Branches said, "We continue to seek to reward our customers, and as such, the salary transfer campaign from AUB reflects our keen interest to help customers manage their financial life in an easy and comfortable manner, ultimately providing them with a host of benefits." Najem also added, "The campaign further reflects our efforts to rewarding our customers, where transferring salaries to AUB mirrors our underlying support to help manage our customers' financial and banking requirements in an easy manner to provide an extensive range of benefits."

CBK launches new package for its Visa, MasterCard clients

KUWAIT: Within its efforts to improve its banking services and in collaboration with Public Services Company which introduced the unique concierge service "Yemnak" to Kuwait, the Commercial bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently launched a new package of services for its Visa and MasterCard holders.

In this regard, CBK's general manager of Corporate Credit & Acting general manager of the Retail Banking Division, Sahar Al-Rumaih stressed that CBK is keen on its credit card clients' time so that those cards can completely and immediately meet their demands.

"Accordingly, CBK added that new outstanding concierge services to save clients' time". She also noted that the new services include access to over 600 business lounges in various airports, free travel insurance and the personal assistants.

Notably, personal assistant services uniquely link clients with specialized service representatives to provide them with hotel and flight booking in addition to restaurant reservations, transportation to and from the airport in luxury cars, delivery services, car rental services, on the road emergency services, event management and occasions in addition to a number of governmental services.

Technology

Huawei unveils long-awaited Huawei Mate 10 and Huawei Mate 10 Pro

Smartphones equipped with world's first Kirin AI processor inside

KUWAIT: During an exclusive global launch held at Munich, Huawei Consumer Business Group unveiled its highly-anticipated Mate 10 Series, which will open the door to new AI mobile applications. The new HUAWEI Mate 10, HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro and PORSCHE DESIGN HUAWEI Mate 10 are breakthrough AI devices that combine innovative hardware, the Kirin 970 and EMUI 8.0. The HUAWEI Mate 10 Series continues its legacy of superior product performance and long-lasting battery life, while integrating new Leica dual camera technology.

"As we enter the age of intelligence, AI is no longer a virtual concept but something that intertwines with our daily life. AI can enhance user experience, provide valuable services and improve product performance", said Richard Yu, CEO, Huawei Consumer Business Group. "The HUAWEI Mate 10 Series introduces the first mobile AI-specific Neural Network Processing Unit, launching a new era of intelligent smartphones."

The HUAWEI Mate 10 and Mate 10 Pro key features include:

- * Kirin 970, the world's first AI processor for smartphones with a dedicated Neural Network Processing Unit (NPU);
- * A 3D Glass Body featuring an almost bezel-less design, HUAWEI FullView Display and HDR10 Supported technology for intensely vivid and brighter colors;
- * TÜV Safety Certified HUAWEI SuperCharge and 4000 mAh battery with AI-powered Battery Management;
- * New Leica Dual Camera with SUMMILUX-H lenses, both featuring an aperture of f/1.6 and intelligent camera including AI-powered Real-Time Scene and Object Recognition and AI-powered Bokeh;
- * An all-new, simplified EMUI 8.0 based on Android(tm) 8.0.

A New, Mobile AI Computing Architecture for Intelligent Mobile Experiences

The HUAWEI Mate 10 and HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro are the first devices powered by the new Kirin 970 processor, delivering AI enhancements for a faster, more customized mobile experience. The Kirin 970 is built

using an advanced TSMC 10nm semiconductor manufacturing process, and features an octa-core ARM Cortex CPU, a first-to-market Mali G72 12-core GPU and the first NPU designed specifically for a mobile device. The Kirin 970 also has a new dual ISP for AI-powered intelligent camera.

The specialized NPU, combined with Huawei's innovative AI mobile computing architecture, means the Kirin 970 delivers 25x better performance and 50x greater energy efficiency for AI-related tasks, compared to four Cortex-A73 cores. The HUAWEI Mate Series is also the world's fastest smartphone



A faster, more customized mobile experience

supporting super-fast LTE connectivity and download speeds. The device comes with the world's first dual 4G SIM support and dual VoLTE connections.

By combining individual and collective intelligence for on-device AI, the new HUAWEI Mate Series delivers real-time responses to users, including AI-powered Real-Time Scene and Object Recognition and an AI Accelerated Translator. The Kirin 970 is an open mobile AI computing platform for third parties to create new and imaginative AI applications, which extends Huawei's processing capabilities to the entire value chain.

Design Qualities for New Levels of Sophistication and Comfort

With an all-new HUAWEI FullView Display, the HUAWEI Mate 10 features a stunning 5.9-inch screen with a 16:9 display, an almost bezel-less design and HDR10 to support vivid colors. The 6-inch HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro features an 18:9 OLED display, high screen-to-body ratio and HDR10 for

dynamic video viewing.

The iconic devices feature a 3D Glass Body, beautifully and symmetrically curved on all four sides for an ergonomic hold. The back of the devices features a reflective band design to highlight the new Leica dual camera.

The HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro is also IP67 Water and Dust Resistant.

New Leica Dual Camera and AI-powered Battery Management for the Next Era of Smartphone Use

Huawei has again partnered with Leica to co-engineer dual lenses for the HUAWEI Mate 10 and HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro. It combines 12-megapixel RGB + 20-megapixel monochrome sensors, an Optical Image Stabilization (OIS), dual lenses with the world's largest aperture of f/1.6, AI-powered Bokeh Effect and AI-powered Digital Zoom. The new AI-powered Real-Time Scene and Object Recognition, which automatically chooses camera settings based on the object and scene, supports an advanced AI-powered Digital Zoom function with AI Motion Detection for clearer portraits and sharper pictures. The HUAWEI Mate

10 and HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro pack a 4000mAh high-density battery featuring a smart battery management system that understands user behavior and intelligently allocates resources to maximize battery life. It supports 4.5V/5A low-voltage super charging, powering the device from 1 percent to 20 percent in 10 minutes, and from 1 percent to 58 percent in 30 minutes. Additionally, HUAWEI SuperCharge is the world's first fast charging technology to receive TÜV Fast-Charge Safety Certification, ensuring safe end-to-end charging.

The HUAWEI Mate 10 and HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro will launch with Huawei's all-new EMUI 8.0 powered by Android(tm) 8.0. Features include an AI Engine to fully leverage the capabilities of the Kirin 970; an AI Accelerated translator to deliver faster and more accurate interactive translation for a smoother communication experience; an easy projection feature to connect the new Huawei Mate Series to a larger screen; support for a full desktop experience - either mirroring or extending the smartphone display like a PC.



MUNICH: Richard Yu, CEO, Huawei Consumer Business Group, unveiling HUAWEI Mate 10 Series at a launch event in Munich.



US firm to build solar plants in blackout-plagued Gaza

GAZA: The Gaza Strip will have three new solar energy plants operating by April, the US-based energy firm behind the project said on Tuesday, providing the territory with some relief from daily blackouts but far from meeting its severe power shortages.

Gaza was already chronically short of electricity before West Bank-based Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas cut payments for

Israeli-supplied power to the territory in June, attempting pressure the rival Islamist Hamas group to relinquish control of the Gaza Strip.

Despite of a reconciliation deal between the two sides, these sanctions are still in place. Gaza's daily power needs are estimated at nearly 600 megawatts.

Israel, Egypt and the enclave's only electrical generating plant currently supply 165

megawatts. Solar power plants will be built in three areas in the Gaza Strip and in total produce 40 megawatts of electrical power as early as April, said Volker Gutjahr, technical director of the Samaha Group.

The project, called "Turn on the lights in Gaza", was announced at a ceremony on Tuesday in the territory attended by company representatives and Palestinian officials.

"The capital will be around 50 million euros, plus or minus, because this is an unknown territory, so we never know what surprises may come up," Gutjahr told Reuters. Gutjahr said the first shipment of equipment for the solar plants should arrive in March and will reach the Gaza Strip via the Israeli

Mediterranean port of Ashdod. Wail Elawoor, CEO of Arab Orient Technology Services company, the local partner in the venture, said approval for the project came from the Energy Authority of the Palestinian Authority, the self-rule body headed by the Western-backed Abbas.

The project will create jobs for local engineers and workers under supervision of US and German technical experts, Elawoor said. Hamas, which is considered a terrorist group by the United States, Israel and other Western countries, turned over civil control of the Gaza Strip to the Palestinian Authority two weeks ago. It had seized the territory in fighting in 2007. — Reuters

Twitter steps up fight against sexual harassment

SAN FRANCISCO: Twitter has announced tough new rules on tweets containing "non-consensual nudity" and sexual harassment, which could be seen as fallout from the Harvey Weinstein abuse scandal. The rules will come into force in the coming weeks, Twitter said in a statement late Tuesday, after company co-founder Jack Dorsey on Friday posted a series of tweets promising policy changes.

The San Francisco-based social media giant will "immediately and permanently suspend any account we identify as the original poster/source of non-consensual nudity and/or if a user makes it clear they are intentionally posting said content to harass their target," the statement read.

Twitter defines "non-consensual nudity" as including "content like upskirt imagery, 'creep shots,' and hidden camera content." "Since people appearing in these pictures "often do not know the material exists, we will not require a report from a target in order to remove it," the statement said.

Twitter said that while it recognizes that there is "an entire genre of pornography dedicated to this type of content, it's nearly impossible for us to distinguish when this content may/may not have been produced and distributed consensually. "We would rather error on the side of protecting victims and removing this type of content when we become aware of it," the statement read.

Twitter also said that sexually charged conversations and the exchange of sexual media will now be "unacceptable," and promised to take action when such exchanges are reported by participants or by observers. Twitter's statement follows an uproar caused by the temporary suspension of the account of Rose McGowan, an actress who says that Weinstein raped her.

The account was suspended after McGowan posted an obscenity directed at actor Ben Affleck, whom she said lied about his ignorance of Weinstein's history of sexual abuse.

Twitter however said her account was suspended because McGowan broke usage rules by including a personal phone number in a tweet. — AFP

Electric jet startup could become 'Uber in the sky'

LAGUNA BEACH, United States: Eviation Aircraft chief executive Omer Bar-Yohay pictures a day not too far away when summoning a bargain plane ride with a smartphone will be as easy as hailing Uber.

The startup working on a self-piloting, electric aircraft was at the WSJD Live conference here Tuesday with a vision of "Uber meeting Tesla in the sky."

Bar-Yohay spoke of a future in which people could take Uber to a regional airport, then use another smartphone application to summon an Eviation electric plane to whisk them inexpensively to destinations hundreds of miles away. "What would happen if Uber meets Tesla in the sky?" Bar-Yohay asked rhetorically in an interview. "I think it makes super-commuting not so super anymore; you just go. That is the vision." Eviation was at the Paris Air Show earlier this year with a small-scale prototype, and is intent on returning with a full-scale electric aircraft capable of carrying passengers in 2019.

Funding takeoff

Co-founders were at the Wall Street Journal technology conference to rustle up funding, with a goal of about \$20 million. The startup founded about two years ago has been paying its way out of pocket, with some help from the Israeli government, going through about \$10 million to date, according to Bar-Yohay. The new infusion of cash will be used as fuel in a race to be first to market with an electric airplane, this one designed to carry up to nine passengers and two crew members.

"We have been sprinting full-speed for the past two years," Bar-Yohay said. "I don't think it is going to be winner takes all, but it will be



LAGUNA BEACH: Eviation Aircraft co-founder and chief executive Omer Bar-Yohay talks during an interview with AFP at the WSJD Live conference in Laguna Beach, California. — AFP

winner takes a hell of a lot." In his eyes, the appeal was obvious. Instead of spending hours in a car traveling hundreds of miles, an electric plane summoned on-demand to a regional airport would get passengers to far-away destinations quickly and inexpensively.

Eviation is out to take advantage of small, typically underutilized regional airports, making them lift-off spots for on-demand flights. "It needs to cost like a bus ticket," Bar-Yohay said of such a service. "If you build the plane electric, like a Tesla, the cost of operating becomes ridiculously low."

'Never break'

Electric components for airplanes are a fraction of the cost of comparable parts for engines in traditional aircraft, and are more reliable, according to Bar-Yohay. "You need to build machines that will never break; electric components are naturally like this," Bar-Yohay said. Eviation plane batteries are spread out in more than a dozen places, so "no matter what hits you, some part of the aircraft will have the power to keep you going," according to Bar-Yohay. The expected range of the Eviation plane will be about 650 miles (1,050 kilometers). The vision is to have the aircraft be self-piloting, so it could be summoned by an app or be available as desired for people who pool resources to buy one. "The market can become transportation for the masses," Bar-Yohay said. — AFP

Is facial recognition the stuff of sci-fi? Not in China

SHANGHAI: From toilet-paper dispensers to fast-food restaurants, travel and crime-fighting, China is taking the lead in rolling out facial-recognition technology. But while advocates warn it makes life easier, quicker and safer, opponents counter that it is another example of how the Chinese government keeps a sinister and increasingly close eye on its 1.4 billion people.

Shanghai and other Chinese cities have recently started deploying facial recognition to catch those who flout the rules of the road. Jaywalkers at some Shanghai intersections have their images flashed up on a nearby screen for public shaming and must pay a fine of 20 yuan (\$3) to have it removed. And people at the crossing hardly blinked. Communist-ruled China is already one of world's most heavily monitored societies, with

estimates of more than 176 million surveillance cameras in operation.

"I can accept it. The offenders are captured after all in public and I think it's a way to enforce the law," said 42-year-old hospital worker Wu, who give only her surname.

"However, I believe there are some people whose photos are displayed publicly who may express their concerns about this, saying their privacy was violated and worrying about their private information being misused." Police say facial recognition is making the country safer.

It has been used to snare criminals who attempt to evade justice by giving false names, and in one recent case in Qingdao, home to China's best-known lager, 25 suspects were arrested when they turned up to a beer festival only to be identified by the technology at the entry gates. — AFP



SHANGHAI: In this photograph taken on August 9, 2017 a Chinese traffic policeman explains to a girl about the installed facial recognition screen at a road intersection in Shanghai. — AFP

Health

Phony dentists are plying their brisk trade on Morocco's poor

Thriving on poverty with wretched consequences

A smart white coat is no proof of being a qualified medical practitioner in Morocco, where fake dentists and other "health professionals" thrive on poverty, sometimes with wretched consequences. "It's all a question of know-how. I inherited mine from my father," Hamid says proudly, sporting a thin moustache and teeth yellowed by thick deposits of tartar.

Hamid brandishes his pincers at the heart of the joyous racket of the Sunday market of Beni Yakhlef, a rural town about 30 kilometers from the seaside metropolis of Casablanca. About a dozen patients wait their turn under an ancient, ragged sunshade, seated on plastic stools bearing the logo of a renowned brand of soft drink.

Hamid cleanses the pincers with bleach, then inserts them into the mouth of a woman wearing a jellaba. In one skilled and unexpected tug, he wrenches out a decayed stub. The woman grimaces and spits out blood. Hamid's 10-year-old son hastens to fetch her cotton wool and aspirin from the boot of an old German sedan car, which serves as the medical cabinet for a mobile dentist's family.



tal prosthetists who call themselves dentists" and by former "assistants who learned the essentials of the profession on the job or cleaning ladies who worked in dentists' surgeries," Brighet explains. These interlopers carry out all sorts of operations, from extracting and removing teeth to deadening nerves, but their patients risk bad problems, the consultant adds.

Deadly danger

"This phenomenon should not rightly exist in an emerging country like Morocco," Brighet argues, noting the dangers of infection—including tuberculosis and the transmission of hepatitis B or C—and of a fractured jaw, "even death in the most serious cases." A 12-year-old boy died at Oued Laou in northern Morocco "after an acute infection of bacterial origin in the blood, followed by a hemorrhage, after having a tooth removed by a dental prosthetist passing himself off as a dentist," the National Order of Dental Doctors reported late in August.

"Dental medicine in Morocco follows standards, laws, rules. Charlatans observe no rules. It's like putting on a black gown without being a lawyer and going to plead before the judge," Brighet warns. Moroccan law is clear. Nobody is allowed to practice the profession unless they have a diploma and formal authorization to practice and are listed on the registry of the order. "But the authorities close their eyes. They know and do nothing," he charges.

Interlopers carry out all sorts of operations

In their own defense, unqualified physicians argue that they enjoy "historical legitimacy" and accuse dentists of wanting to "grab the whole cake". Abdelfateh Benamr, a prosthetist working in the old Arab quarter of the capital, Rabat, says that he "learnt the profession from his father". Benamr stresses that he began practicing in 1978, "before the opening of the first faculty of dental medicine (in Casablanca in 1981) and the coming of the dentists. "We were not very many

when air pollution levels spiral out of control," said its chairman Bhure Lal in a statement. The Board said the city's Badarpur power plant, which has a capacity of around 700 megawatts, would be closed until March. The plant is due to shut down for good next July as India seeks to move away from heavily-polluting fossil fuels.

It also banned the use of the privately-owned diesel generators that many rich households rely on during India's frequent power cuts. The measures follow a temporary ban on the sale of firecrackers in Delhi introduced earlier this month by the Supreme Court to ease the pollution levels. Last year, levels of PM2.5 — the fine particles linked to higher rates of chronic bronchitis, lung cancer and heart disease—soared to 778 in the days that followed Diwali, prompting the Supreme Court to warn of a public health emergency. Levels of PM2.5 between 301 and 500 are classified as "hazardous", while anything over 500 is beyond the official index. The Delhi government then shut schools for three days, banned all construction work for five days to curb dust levels and temporarily closed the Badarpur plant. A 2014 World Health Organization survey of more than 1,600 cities ranked Delhi as the most polluted. India's notoriously poor air quality causes over a million premature deaths every year, according to a joint report by two US-based health research institutes earlier this year. —AFP



In Morocco, about 3,500 phony "dentists" practice illegally in surgeries in towns and rural areas, according to official health ministry statistics. —AFP

before, but today there are 30,000 prosthetists... That's a big problem."

"Third sector"

Rachid Choukri, president of the Federation of Private General Practitioners in Morocco, asserts that "charlatans swarm in the cities. They are well established, they treat many diseases, hand out prescriptions and ask for medical tests." "God knows what products they give people. It's dramatic!" he says. "They have had no training. Or when they did, it wasn't to become a doctor.

Dieticians who claim to be doctors, midwives who set

themselves up as gynaecologist-obstetrician... This is what we call the third sector. There's the public sector, the private sector and the informal sector." Statistics concerning the illegal practitioners are incomplete since the informal sector is difficult to quantify, but qualified doctors say thousands of people are engaged in sharp practice. "The state is aware of this, but does nothing to stop it," Choukri says. "Because they would have to be found jobs, new roles." The ministry of health publicly condemns the activities of the fraudsters. But when asked for comment by AFP, its staff gave no details of steps taken or planned to crack down. —AFP

Power plant shut in fight against Diwali smog

NEW DELHI: India's environmental watchdog shut down a coal-fired power plant and banned the use of diesel generators in New Delhi as air quality plummeted in the world's most polluted capital yesterday, the start of the Diwali festival. New Delhi experiences suffocating smog every year around Diwali, when farmers in north India burn the stubble left behind after the harvest and revellers let off smoke-spewing firecrackers.

The onset of winter aggravates the problem as the cooler air traps the pollutants, a phenomenon known as inversion. The Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Board, a statutory body, made the ruling as levels of PM2.5 pollutants in the air reached around 200 micrograms per cubic metre—eight times the World Health Organization safe limit of 25.

"Difficult situations demand tough responses and solutions and Delhi is faced with a really difficult situation each winter

when air pollution levels spiral out of control," said its chairman Bhure Lal in a statement. The Board said the city's Badarpur power plant, which has a capacity of around 700 megawatts, would be closed until March. The plant is due to shut down for good next July as India seeks to move away from heavily-polluting fossil fuels.

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NEW DELHI: This file photo taken on October 31, 2016 shows an Indian cyclist riding along a street as smog envelops a monument. —AFP

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What's On

Basma Intl. Co. opens Lebanese Awtar Restaurant

Basma International Company, a specialized company in the hospitality industry, opened its new Awtar Restaurant that is located in the heart of Kuwait City, and overlooking the Arabian Gulf Road. The launch ceremony was attended by social media celebrities and bloggers, as well as media delegates, fans of Lebanese cuisine in Kuwait and the restaurant's crew. During the event, guests enjoyed the entertaining vibes while having their scrumptious dishes that include a variety of appetizers, salads, main dishes, Lebanese grill and appetizing dessert choices.

Awtar Restaurant is renowned for its authentic Lebanese dishes. Guests can enjoy a variety of oriental and Lebanese delicacies that are prepared from high quality and fresh ingredients by expert chefs, making Awtar the number one destination for family gather-



ings. Not forgetting the elegant decor that takes in a garden with a magnificent view, in addition to the friendly, experienced staff, and cozy ambience that provide guests with an unparalleled dining experience. Awtar Restaurant is a stunning new addition to Kuwait's fine dining scene, offering both the highest levels of service and hospitality.

Kuwait Positivity, officials discuss model area standards



The 'Kuwait Positivity' voluntary team met recently with representatives of boards of directors of co-op societies of Qortuba, Meshrif, Qusour and Adan, in presence of official spokesman of the Ministry of Health. The meeting discussed the standards of model areas and how they can be applied in various areas around Kuwait similar to Yarmouk, which was officially recognized last year as a model area.

Fruity day of learning at BSK



At the British School of Kuwait (BSK) Year 3 students immersed themselves into their learning, by coming to school dressed as their favorite fruit or vegetable, as part of their Science topic 'Plants and Animals, including Humans.'

During the day the students participated in some practical learning activities. The teachers and students brought in different types of healthy food and held tasting sessions to taste new fruits and vegetables. The students were also given an opportunity to make fresh smoothies and juices.

Miss Sadie, Head of Year 3, remarked "It was a fantastic day and a great way to end the Science topic.

Everyone really enjoyed the day and it has inspired a love of learning and raised high expectations for the rest of the term."

Throughout the week students were also able to join in with a variety of exercise sessions, such as Vibe, Crossfit and yoga. The Vibe sessions were a particular favorite, with students enjoying the chance to choreograph some of their own dance moves. Each day Year 3 teachers delivered short yoga sessions, designed to help the students feel calm and be mindful. All these activities were used to enhance the curriculum and were planned to guide the students to live a healthy lifestyle, outside of school.

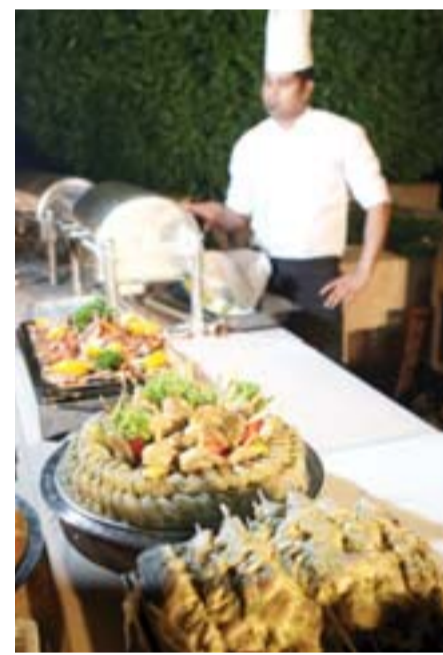
Marina Hotel Kuwait brings back enticing Barbeque nights

Marina Hotel opened its poolside Barbeque Nights in the presence of media representatives and senior management who enjoyed the marvels of a prodigious night. The hotel's spectacular settings, beautiful landscape combined with the warm weather had a very positive impact on all attendees.

Guests were offered a delicious selection from the sumptuous barbecue station filled with marinated and seasoned varieties of succulent meats and chicken, fresh seafood with rich variety of seaside dishes and a delicious salad bar with the assorted breads. For the finale, delectable desserts were served.

On the occasion, General Manager Nabil Hammoud said: "As we do every year, we are pleased to bring back the Barbeque nights this season. The lovely weather proves to be the perfect setting for guests to enjoy our unique dining experience with our specialties cooked with the freshest possible ingredients. With the launch of our Barbeque Nights, we would like to offer you all a scrumptious dining experience at the pool."

The night was bestowed with delight and contentment, the soft music and the balmy breeze embraced the attendees with serenity and gratification. Notably, the five-star Hotel seizes every opportunity to dazzle guests with ultimate experiences that gratify their needs. The unique poolside location was designed with a capacity to accommodate up to 150 visitors at a time and has a special area for groups and gatherings.



INJAZ Kuwait supporting partner of ArabNet 2017

INJAZ Kuwait has recently participated as a supporting partner in the second edition of ArabNet Kuwait conference, took place on 17-18 October, under the patronage of H.E. Khaled Nasser Abdullah Al-Roudan, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs.

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.

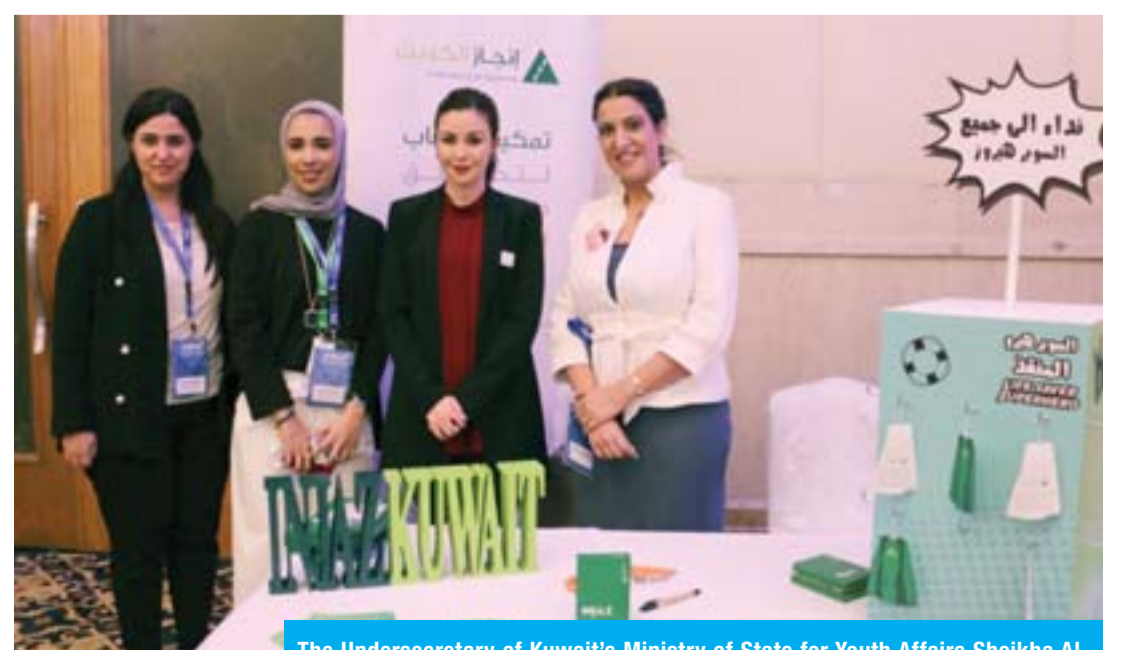
The conference, which featured over 30+ leading companies from across the region and the world engaging guests to discover the latest trends, applications, and technologies in the region also paved the way for competitions including: The Startup Battle and The Ideathon competition

INJAZ's participation comes in line with its on-going efforts to support Kuwaiti youth, enhance corporate volunteering awareness and community service in the private sector and organizations, to achieve INJAZ's mission in empowering young people to own their economic.

Since 2005, INJAZ-Kuwait has reached over 54,336 students from 129 educational institutions, thanks to 4,859 volunteers-and growing. INJAZ Kuwait connects corporate volunteers to mentor youth in collaboration with the private sectors and organizations, who have provided their professional experience in the financial literacy, entrepreneurship and business management fields. INJAZ Kuwait continues to equip and support youth, to ensure a more prosperous future for generations to come.



Khaled Nasser Abdullah Al-Roudan, Minister of Commerce and Industry, poses with INJAZ Kuwait's team at the conference.



The Undersecretary of Kuwait's Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Sheikhha Al-Zain Al-Sabah, poses with INJAZ Kuwait's team.

Indian business delegation to visit Kuwait

A business delegation of more than 10 Indian EPC companies from The Progress, Harmony and Development (PHD) Chamber of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, a prominent Chamber of Commerce and Industry in India, is visiting Kuwait from 22-23 October, 2017. Most of companies from PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry are leading EPC companies in India and globally.

The Embassy of India, Kuwait in association with the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) is

organizing a business meeting with the Indian Business Delegation at the Al Boom Hall (11th Floor) at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kuwait on October 23, 2017 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm.

The delegation will interact with the members of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Kuwaiti businessmen and will make a presentation about their businesses. Business to Business meeting will also be held to explore the mutually beneficial trade and economic arrangements. The visiting Indian companies include, Engineering Projects India Ltd, Gammon Engineers and Contractors Private Limited, Jaguar Overseas Limited, MV Omni Projects (India) Limited, Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited, Seftech India Pvt Ltd, Vishal Infrastructure Ltd. and Angelique International Ltd.

TV



00:10 Striking Distance
01:51 X-Men: First Class
04:01 Larceny
05:31 Road Wars
07:05 Blackhat
09:15 X-Men: First Class
11:25 Larceny
12:55 Batman: The Killing Joke
14:15 Blackhat
16:25 Dick Tracy
18:10 Judge Dredd
19:50 Face/Off
22:05 Blood Diamond



00:45 Treehouse Masters
01:40 Rugged Justice
02:35 Escape To Chimp Eden
03:00 Escape To Chimp Eden
03:25 Dr. Jeff Rocky Mountain Vet
04:15 Animal 911: Los Angeles
05:02 Wildest Islands
05:49 Lone Star Law
06:36 Night
07:00 Night
07:25 Escape To Chimp Eden
07:50 Escape To Chimp Eden
08:15 Treehouse Masters
09:10 Rugged Justice
10:05 Wildest Islands
11:00 Escape To Chimp Eden
11:25 Escape To Chimp Eden
11:55 Dr. Jeff Rocky Mountain Vet
12:50 Animal 911: Los Angeles
13:45 Rugged Justice
14:40 Wildest Islands
15:35 Lone Star Law
16:30 Treehouse Masters
17:25 Whale Wars
18:20 Whale Wars
19:15 Rugged Justice
20:10 Escape To Chimp Eden
20:38 Escape To Chimp Eden
21:05 Whale Wars
22:00 Whale Wars
22:55 Wildest Islands
23:50 Lone Star Law



00:10 Doctors
00:40 EastEnders
01:15 Poldark
02:10 Last Tango In Halifax: Christmas Special
03:05 Born To Kill
04:00 Maigret
05:25 Doctors
07:00 EastEnders
07:30 Stella
08:20 New Tricks
09:15 Doctors
09:45 EastEnders
10:15 Father Brown
11:05 The Coroner
11:50 Stella
12:40 New Tricks
13:35 Doctors
14:05 EastEnders
14:40 Father Brown
15:30 Stella
16:15 New Tricks
17:10 The Coroner
18:00 Doctors
18:30 EastEnders
19:45 Father Brown
20:00 Uncle
21:00 Agatha Raisin
22:20 Benidorm
23:10 Doctors
23:40 EastEnders



00:00 Escaping Polygamy
01:00 Celebrity Ghost Stories
02:00 My Haunted House
03:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
04:00 Escaping Polygamy
05:00 Celebrity Ghost Stories
06:00 Crime Stories
07:00 Crime Stories
08:00 It Takes A Killer
08:30 It Takes A Killer
09:00 Homicide Hunter
10:00 Cold Case Files
15:00 Crime Stories
16:00 The First 48
17:00 The First 48
18:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
19:00 It Takes A Killer
19:30 It Takes A Killer
20:00 Homicide Hunter
21:00 Crime Stories
22:00 Fred Dineage: Murder Casebook
23:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill



00:05 Inside Amy Schumer
00:30 Inside Amy Schumer
00:55 Broad City
01:20 Problematic With Moshe Kasher
01:45 Inside Amy Schumer
02:10 Another Period
02:35 South Park
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Inside Amy Schumer
03:50 Another Period
04:15 Kroll Show
04:40 Nathan For You
05:05 Tosh.O
05:30 Disaster Date
05:55 Ridiculousness Arabia
06:25 Sweat Inc.
07:15 Impractical Jokers
07:40 The Jim Gaffigan Show
08:30 I Live With Models
08:55 Workaholics
09:20 Kroll Show
09:45 Nathan For You
10:10 Tosh.O
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11:20 Disaster Date
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13:05 Impractical Jokers
13:30 Nathan For You
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14:20 I Live With Models
14:45 Workaholics
15:10 Friends
15:35 Disaster Date
16:00 Ridiculousness Arabia
16:30 Impractical Jokers
16:55 Workaholics
17:20 I Live With Models
17:45 Disaster Date
18:10 The Jim Gaffigan Show
18:35 Impractical Jokers
19:00 Impractical Jokers
19:25 Impractical Jokers
19:50 Friends
20:12 Friends
20:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

21:30 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salwage
22:00 Problematic With Moshe Kasher
22:25 The Half Hour
22:50 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
23:15 Broad City
23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah



00:30 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
01:20 What Happened Next?
02:10 Animal Nation With Anthony Anderson
03:00 Ultimate Survival
03:50 Kids Do The Craziest Things
04:15 Kids Do The Craziest Things
04:40 How It's Made
05:30 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
07:50 Storm Chasers
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Mythbusters
10:20 Ultimate Survival
11:10 Space Dealers
12:00 Wild Mexico
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Mythbusters
14:20 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
15:20 Storm Chasers
16:10 Ultimate Survival
17:00 Weather Gone Viral
17:50 Wild Mexico
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Kids Do The Craziest Things
20:45 Kids Do The Craziest Things
21:10 Weather Gone Viral
22:00 Wild Mexico
22:50 Ultimate Survival
23:40 Storm Chasers



00:30 Ghost Asylum
01:20 Murder Calls
02:10 I Am Homicide
03:00 Sin City Justice
03:48 Disappeared
04:36 California Investigator
05:01 California Investigator
05:24 I Almost Got Away With It
06:12 Southern Fried Homicide
07:00 Disappeared
07:50 California Investigator
08:15 California Investigator
08:40 I Almost Got Away With It
09:30 Southern Fried Homicide
10:20 Obsession: Dark Desires
11:10 Grave Secrets
12:00 Disappeared
12:50 California Investigator
13:15 California Investigator
13:40 I Almost Got Away With It
14:30 Southern Fried Homicide
15:20 Obsession: Dark Desires
16:10 Murder Calls
17:00 Disappeared
17:50 California Investigator
18:15 California Investigator
18:40 I Almost Got Away With It
19:30 Southern Fried Homicide
20:20 Obsession: Dark Desires
21:10 Reasonable Doubt
22:00 I Am Homicide
22:50 The Perfect Murder
23:40 Ghost Brothers



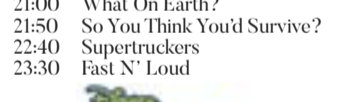
00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 The Live
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binnie And The Ghost
02:30 Binnie And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 The Live
03:20 Hank Zipzer
03:45 Alex & Co.
04:10 Alex & Co.
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:25 Binnie And The Ghost
05:45 The Live
05:50 Rolling With The Ronks S1
06:00 Jessie
06:25 Liv And Maddie
06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
07:20 The Zhuzhus S1
07:40 Elena Of Avalor
08:10 Bunk'd
08:10 Stuck In The Middle
08:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
09:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
09:25 Lolirock
09:50 Lolirock
10:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
11:05 Hank Zipzer
11:30 Alex & Co.
11:55 Alex & Co.
12:20 Lolirock
12:45 Lolirock
13:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
13:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
14:00 K.C. Undercover
14:25 K.C. Undercover
14:50 Bizaardvark
15:15 Elena Of Avalor
15:40 Stuck In The Middle
16:05 Liv And Maddie
16:30 Bizaardvark
16:35 Bunk'd
17:00 K.C. Undercover
17:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
17:50 Mickey Mouse
18:15 Star Wars Forces Of Destiny
18:20 Bizaardvark
18:45 Best Friends Whenever
19:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:15 Liv And Maddie
19:40 Elena Of Avalor
20:05 Jessie
20:30 Crackle
20:35 K.C. Undercover
21:00 K.C. Undercover
21:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
21:50 Sunny Bunnies
21:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
22:20 Alex & Co.
22:45 Lolirock



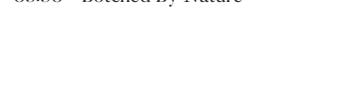
00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:15 Calimero
00:30 Art Attack
00:55 Henry Hugglemonster
01:05 Loopdidoo
01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 Calimero
01:50 Henry Hugglemonster
02:05 Art Attack
02:30 Henry Hugglemonster
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02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:10 Art Attack
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04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Henry Hugglemonster
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopdidoo
06:00 Henry Hugglemonster
06:15 Calimero
06:30 Loopdidoo
06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
07:00 Sofia The First
07:10 Puppy Dog Pals
08:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
08:30 Doc McStuffins
09:00 PJ Masks
09:30 Miles From Tomorrow
10:00 Goldie & Bear
10:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
11:00 PJ Masks
11:30 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
12:00 Puppy Dog Pals
12:30 Sofia The First
13:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
13:30 PJ Masks
14:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
14:30 Doc McStuffins
15:00 Puppy Dog Pals
15:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
16:00 Sofia The First
16:30 Doc McStuffins
17:00 PJ Masks
17:25 Puppy Dog Pals
17:55 Sofia The First
18:25 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
18:55 PJ Masks
19:25 The Lion Guard
19:55 Doc McStuffins
20:25 Doc McStuffins
20:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
21:15 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
21:45 Doc McStuffins
22:15 Goldie & Bear
22:45 Puppy Dog Pals
23:15 PJ Masks
23:45 Loopdidoo



00:20 Street Customs 2008
01:05 Strip The City
01:50 Abandoned Engineering
02:35 Breaking Magic
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
04:50 Alaska: The Last Frontier
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Outback Truckers
06:45 Street Customs 2008
07:30 Fast N' Loud
08:15 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
09:00 Garage Gold
09:25 How Do They Do It?
09:47 How Do They Do It?
10:10 Strip The City
10:55 Abandoned Engineering
11:40 Breaking Magic
12:25 How Do They Do It?
12:47 Garage Gold
13:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier
13:55 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
14:40 Outback Truckers
15:25 Fast N' Loud
16:10 Street Customs 2008
17:00 How Do They Do It?
17:25 How Do They Do It?
17:50 Garage Gold
18:20 Garage Gold
18:50 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
19:40 How Do They Do It?
20:10 How Do They Do It?
20:35 How Do They Do It?
21:00 What On Earth?
21:50 So You Think You'd Survive?
22:40 Supertruckers
23:30 Fast N' Loud



00:00 Decoding The Past
01:00 Patton 360
02:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 How The States Got Their Shapes
04:05 How The States Got Their Shapes
04:30 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
05:20 Decoding The Past
06:10 The Universe
07:00 Patton 360
08:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
08:10 How The States Got Their Shapes
08:45 How The States Got Their Shapes
09:00 The Universe
09:25 Patton 360
09:50 Ancient Aliens
10:00 How The States Got Their Shapes
10:30 How The States Got Their Shapes
11:00 Engineering Disasters
12:00 Decoding The Past
13:00 Patton 360
14:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
14:40 Gravity Falls
15:05 Lab Rats
15:30 Milo Murphy's Law
15:55 Right NOW Kapow
16:25 Walk The Prank
16:50 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
17:15 Mech-X4
17:40 Marvel's Spider-Man
18:05 Supa Strikas
18:30 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures
18:35 Disney II
19:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
19:25 Right NOW Kapow
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
19:55 Mech-X4
20:20 Walk The Prank
20:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
09:00 Supa Strikas
09:25 Supa Strikas
09:50 Walk The Prank
10:15 Gravity Falls
10:40 Lab Rats
11:15 Pheeas And Ferb
12:55 Pheeas And Ferb
13:20 Zeke And Luther
13:45 Zeke And Luther
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
14:40 Gravity Falls
15:05 Lab Rats
15:30 Milo Murphy's Law
15:55 Right NOW Kapow
16:25 Walk The Prank
16:50 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
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19:55 Mech-X4
20:20 Walk The Prank
20:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
21:10 Gravity Falls
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats Elite Force
22:35 Pheeas & Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am
KSA



04:40 Botched By Nature
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 La Clippers Dance Squad
06:55 E! News
07:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop
10:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
11:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
12:00 E! News
12:15 Botched
13:10 Botched
14:05 Botched
15:00 E! News
15:15 E! News: Daily Pop
17:10 Botched
18:05 Botched
19:00 E! News
19:00 WAGs Miami
21:00 WAGs Miami
22:00 WAGs Miami
23:00 E! News
23:15 Botched



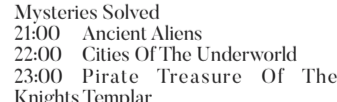
00:00 Chopped
01:00 Bakers vs. Fakers
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:25 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:50 Anna Olson: Fresh
07:15 The Kitchen
08:05 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
08:55 Siba's Table
09:25 Siba's Table
09:55 Cooking For Real
10:25 Cooking For Real
10:55 The Kitchen
11:45 Bake With Anna Olson
12:10 The Pioneer Woman
12:35 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 Reza, Spice Prince Of India
18:30 Reza, Spice Prince Of India
19:00 Haloween Baking Championship
20:00 Siba's Table
20:30 Siba's Table
21:00 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
21:30 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Chopped



23:30 Mountain Men
00:15 Eat Street
00:45 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
01:10 Route Awakening
01:40 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
02:35 Access 360 World Heritage
03:30 Mega Food
04:25 This Is Brazil
05:20 Route Awakening
05:45 Route Awakening
06:15 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
06:40 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
07:10 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
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16:20 Route Awakening
16:45 Route Awakening
17:15 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
17:40 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
18:10 Restoration Man
19:05 This Is Brazil
20:00 Route Awakening
20:30 Route Awakening
21:00 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
21:30 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
22:00 Restoration Man
22:55 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
23:50 Access 360 World Heritage



00:20 Grizzly Empire
01:10 Monster Fish
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02:50 Safari Brothers
03:45 Wonderfully Weird
04:10 Wonderfully Weird
04:40 Born Wild
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09:15 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
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03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 The Loud House
04:12 The Loud House
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 Get Blake
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 The Loud House
07:24 Rabbids Invasion
07:48 Get Blake
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Sanjay And Craig
09:00 Rank The Prank



10:10 Ax Men
11:00 The Warfighters
11:50 Duck Dynasty
12:15 Duck Dynasty
12:40 Counting Cars
13:05 Counting Cars
13:30 Time Team
14:20 Swamp People
15:10 Alone
16:00 Time Team
16:50 Swamp People
17:40 Counting Cars
18:05 Counting Cars
18:30 Forged In Fire
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 Mystery Pickers
21:00 Mystery Pickers
21:50 The Warfighters
22:40 JFK Declassified: Hunting Oswald



23:30 Mountain Men
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02:00 The Next Mega Tsunami
03:00 Future China 2049
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07:00 Innovation Nation
07:30 Innovation Nation
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09:00 Street Monkeys
10:00 Mega Factories
11:00 Nazi Megastructures
12:00 Richard Hammond's Wildest Weather
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16:45 Nazi Megastructures
17:00 Locked Up Abroad
17:30 The Chose
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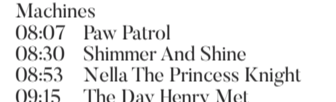


09:24 Henry Danger
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Regal Academy
11:00 Wixx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Rabbids Invasion
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 Sanjay And Craig
13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn School Of Rock
14:12 100 Things To Do Before High School

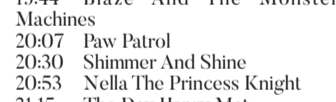
Lost In The West III
SpongeBob SquarePants
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
The Loud House
Sanjay And Craig
Harvey Beaks
Hunter Street
Henry Danger
Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
School Of Rock
Game Shakers
The Thundermans
SpongeBob SquarePants
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
The Loud House
Sanjay And Craig
Rabbids Invasion
Breadwinners
Harvey Beaks
SpongeBob SquarePants
SpongeBob SquarePants
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



00:01 Max & Ruby
00:25 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:36 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:47 The Day Henry Met
00:52 The Day Henry Met
00:57 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:19 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:41 Zack & Quack
02:03 Shimmer And Shine
02:25 Olive The Ostrich
02:30 Olive The Ostrich
02:35 Paw Patrol
02:58 Little Charmers
03:10 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
03:22 Dora The Explorer
03:44 Max & Ruby
04:06 The Day Henry Met
04:11 Nella The Princess Knight
04:35 Shimmer And Shine
04:59 Wallykazam!
05:21 Zack & Quack
05:32 The Day Henry Met
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Rusty Rivets
06:13 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Zack & Quack
07:21 Bubble Guppies
07:44 Blaze And The Monster Machines
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09:45 Rusty Rivets
09:57 Wallykazam!
10:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
10:42 Zack & Quack
10:52 Team Umizoomi
11:15 Shimmer And Shine
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06:50 The Beat Beneath My Feet
08:30 Operation Avalanche
10:10 Waiting For Superman
12:10 Far From Men
14:00 Not Without My Daughter
16:05 Rushmore
17:50 Some Like It Hot
20:00 Miller's Crossing
22:00 The Preppie Connection
23:45 The Long Goodbye



00:20 Big Baby
01:50 The Fairy Tales Tree
03:20 The Incredible Adventures Of Professor Branestawm
04:35 Last Wizard
06:05 Freddy Frogface
07:35 Lego DC: Justice League Gotham City Breakout
09:05 Mickey, Donald, Goofy: The 3 Musketeers
10:25 Ozzy
10:25 Ozzy
12:05 The Fairy Tales Tree
13:35 The Incredible Adventures Of Professor Branestawm
14:50 Zodiac: The Race Begins
16:30 Mickey, Donald, Goofy: The 3 Musketeers
17:45 American Girl: Grace Stirs Up Success
19:30 Free Birds
21:00 Zodiac: The Race Begins
22:40 Lego DC: Justice League Gotham City Breakout



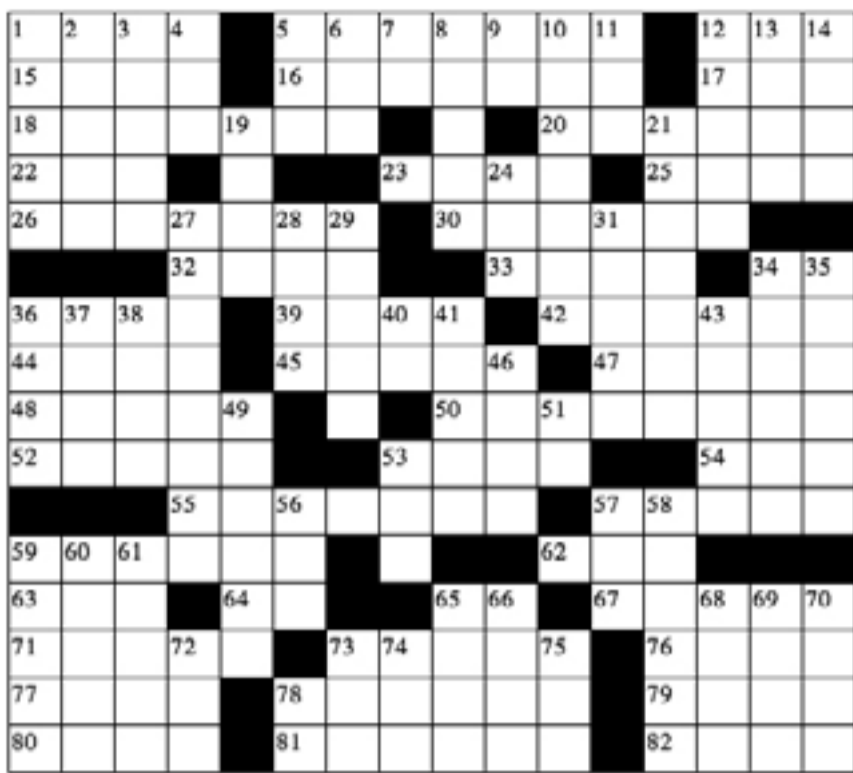
00:55 Boyhood
03:40 A.I. Artificial Intelligence
06:05 Hanging Up
07:40 Last Action Hero
09:55 Confessions Of A Teenage Drama Queen
11:25 A.I. Artificial Intelligence
13:50 Fast & Furious 7
16:10 Max
18:05 Ladder 49
20:00 The Hurricane
22:25 Straight Outta Compton



00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Hacking The Wild
02:10 Rise Of The Machines
03:00 Da Vinci's Machines
03:48 Mythbusters
04:36 How Do They Do It?
05:00 Food Factory
05:24 Hacking The Wild
06:12 Rise Of The Machines
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:16 Da Vinci's Machines
07:24 Mythbusters
08:14 Mythbusters
09:02 Rise Of The Machines
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 Hacking The Wild
11:26 Da Vinci's Machines
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15:26 Hacking The Wild
16:14 Mythbusters
17:02 Rise Of The Machines
17:50 Da Vinci's Machines
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 Mythbusters: The Search
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 Rise Of The Machines
22:00 Evil Knobs! In The Name Of Science
22:50 Da Vinci's Machines
23:40 Mythbusters

Stars

CROSSWORD 1739



ACROSS

- 1. Beyond what is natural.
5. Painting that applies the pigment thickly that brush or palette knife marks are visible.
12. An orange-brown antelope of southeast Africa.
15. An aromatic ointment used in antiquity.
16. (of a roof) Having two slopes each side of the ridge.
17. Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.
18. A person who is not a serf or a slave.
20. An embroidered rug made from a coarse Indian felt.
22. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
23. (biology) Shed at an early stage of development.
25. (usually followed by 'to') Having the necessary means or skill or know-how or authority to do something.
26. A doughnut-shaped chamber used in fusion research.
30. A percussion instrument consisting of a pair of hollow pieces of wood or bone (usually held between the thumb and fingers) that are made to click together (as by Spanish dancers) in rhythm with the dance.
32. A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria.
33. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
36. Informal or slang terms for mentally irregular.
39. In bed.
42. An attendant who carries the golf clubs for a player.
44. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
45. A Portuguese province on the south coast of China and two islands in the South China Sea.
47. Having the head uncovered.
48. Possessing or using or characteristic of or appropriate to supernatural powers.
50. (Italian cookery) Squid prepared as food.
52. A city in northwestern Turkey.
54. An undergarment worn by women to support their breasts.
55. Source of a wood mentioned frequently in the Bible.
59. (Greek mythology) One of the three Graces.
62. Large brownish-green New Zealand parrot.
63. The cry made by sheep.
64. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
67. An early form of modern jazz (originating around 1940).
71. Capital of Nigeria in the center of the country.
76. Flat and uninspiring.
77. The closing section of a musical composition.
78. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
79. A French abbot.
80. A rounded projection or protuberance.
81. Conqueror of Gaul and master of Italy (100-44 BC).
82. A heavy long-handled hammer used to drive stakes or wedges.

DOWN

- 1. Below the required standards for a purpose.
2. Australian clover fern.
3. A squeaking sound.

- 4. A lyric poem with complex stanza forms.
5. One of the most common of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
6. A adult male person (as opposed to a woman).
7. After noon.
8. A unit of resistance equal to a billionth of an ohm.
9. A soft silver-white or yellowish metallic element of the alkali metal group.
10. Small often spiny insectivorous mammal of Madagascar.
11. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
12. A Bantu language spoken by the Kamba people in Kenya.
13. A translucent mineral consisting of hydrated silica of variable color.
14. English monk and scholar (672-735).
19. Designer drug designed to have the effects of amphetamines (it floods the brain with serotonin) but to avoid the drug laws.
21. Covered with paving material.
24. Take in solid food.
27. The value of a coordinate on the horizontal axis.
28. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
29. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
31. Jordan's port.
34. A range of mountains (usually with jagged peaks and irregular outline).
35. Dividing an animal into right and left halves.
37. South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.
38. A city in southeastern South Korea.
40. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
41. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
43. Any of numerous low-growing cushion-forming plants of the genus Draba having rosette-forming leaves and terminal racemes of small flowers with scapose or leafy stems.
46. Profane or obscene expression usually of surprise or anger.
49. A member of the Taracahitian people of central Mexico.
51. A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary.
53. Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
56. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
57. God of the earth.
58. Desert shrub of Syria and Arabia having small white flowers.
60. A republic on the west coast of Africa.
61. A mountain peak in the Andes in Argentina (20,997 feet high).
65. Armor plate that protects the chest.
66. A city in northern India.
68. A small cake leavened with yeast.
69. Fast-growing herbaceous evergreen tree of South America having a broad trunk with high water content and dark green oval leaves.
70. British politician (1788-1850).
72. A sharp hand gesture (resembling a blow).
73. A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
74. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
75. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

An important relationship, perhaps with a young person or someone in your near environment, may come into focus today. There could be an emotional over-tone to all of this that may require understanding and flexibility on your part.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Today and tomorrow are the best times to start a diet or exercise program. This is a significant day, which you can use to your best advantage. This is a day that is not too stressful: there is time for accomplishing tasks or setting things up to work in your favor.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

It is possible to overdo the exercise program—careful this morning. Keep an ever-watchful eye on balance in your life now. This means a reasonable amount of exercise, balanced nutrition, play, work, rest and time to volunteer your services or talents.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your best path to notability, if that is what you seek, is through your social contacts. You may be in competition for a particular position in the workplace at this time. Whether you get the position or not is least important.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You will be reaping the rewards of your efforts the next few days. This could be in sales, volunteer service, budgeting or any of the other projects that improve as you take the time to pay attention to them.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You spend far too long inside a building this day. During your lunch break, take a little time to move around out-of-doors for a while. You may want to try something new or different this afternoon.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You will be pleased at the progress you have made this whole year—just take a look! This is a rewarding day. Financial savvy and a practical turn of mind are qualities that take on greater importance in your life.



Scorpio (October 23-November 19)

There is a yearning to broaden your horizons through travel, education or both. You may feel restricted in some way. Perhaps, survival training or photography in seldom-traveled places would satisfy the need to know, to learn, to experience life to the fullest.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

Every thought you have makes up some segment of the world you see. Work on keeping your thoughts positive and constructive—you will encourage others to do the same. This month has given you the opportunity to begin your work on a better focus.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Your emotional drive and sense of things may be a bit off in your timing and in numbers. This might not be a good time for large, expensive purchases. However, this is a good time to complete unfinished projects.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

This is a period that is heightened with new ways to communicate. Interaction with others and an exchange of ideas show off your quick mind—you are smart as a fox.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You probably do not have to worry about your weight, but still you might be interested in the new trends and what everyone else is doing to stay healthy. Stress is much easier to wade through if your body is up to the climb.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Thankful For...

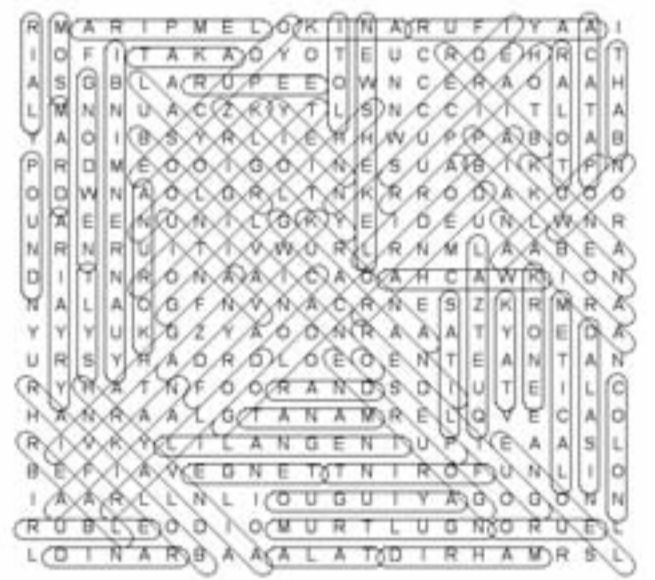
Find and circle all of the people and things to be thankful for. The remaining letters spell a secret message.



- ACTS OF KINDNESS, A PLACE TO LIVE, BEACHES, BEAUTIFUL NATURE, BLESSINGS, BOOKS, BROTHERS, CARE GIVERS, CHILDREN, CHRISTMAS, CLEAN WATER, CLOTHING, COMPUTERS, ELECTRICITY, EYEGLASSES, EYESIGHT, FAITH, FAMILY, FLOWERS, FOOD, FREEDOM, FRESH AIR, FRIENDS, FUN, GOOD HEALTH, GRANDMA, HAPPY MEMORIES, HEARING, HOLIDAYS, HUMOR, INTERNET, LAUGHTER, LIFE, LOVE, MUSIC, NURSES, PARENTS, PEACE, PETS, RAINBOWS, SCHOOL, SINGING, SISTERS, SMART PHONES, SMILES, SUNSHINE, TEACHERS, TELEVISION, VOLUNTEERS, WARM SHOWERS

Yesterday's Solution

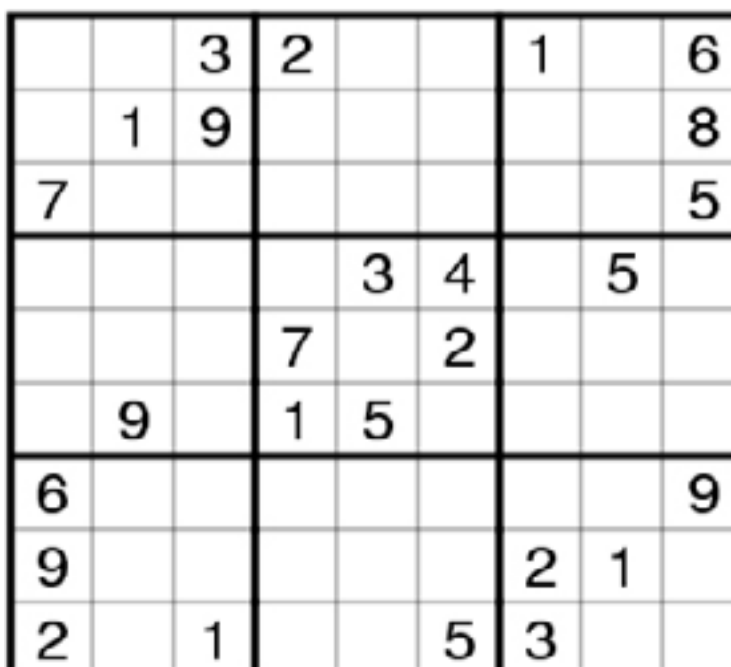
World Currencies



- AFGHANI, ARABY, BAHIT, BALBOA, BIR, BOLIVAR, BOLIVIANO, COLDI, DALASI, DENAR, DINAR, DOLLAR, DREAM, ESCUDO, EURO, FOREIT, FRAN, GOLD CORDOBA, GOURDE, GUARANI, GUILDER, HRYVNYIA, KUNA, KOBRIJA, KRONA, KROON, KUNA, KWACHA, KYAT, LEMPIRA, LEONE, LIANGENI, LIRA, LOTI, MARIAT, NAIFA, NEW DONG, NEW KIP, RUPEE, RUPIAH, SHILLING, SOH, SUCRE, SYLLI, TAKA, QUETZAL, RAND, REAL, RIAL, VATU, RINGGIT, RYAL, YUAN RENMINBI, ZLOTY

The hidden sentence is: IF YOU CAN COUNT YOUR MONEY, YOU DON'T HAVE A BILLION DOLLARS

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Kuwait Times Classifieds

Thursday, October 19, 2017

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DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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Fax: (+965) 24348714
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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Partly cloudy and with light to moderate freshening at times northerly wind to north easterly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h.

BY NIGHT: Fair with light to moderate freshening over costal areas north westerly wind to northerly wind, with speed of 12 - 40 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING		No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART
KUWAIT CITY	34 °C	26 °C	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	35 °C	26 °C	
ABDALY	35 °C	21 °C	
BUBYAN	34 °C	23 °C	
JAHRA	36 °C	25 °C	
FAILAKA ISLAND	34 °C	25 °C	
SALMIYAH	32 °C	26 °C	
AHMADI	32 °C	28 °C	
NUWAISIB	34 °C	24 °C	
WAFRA	35 °C	22 °C	
SALMY	35 °C	22 °C	

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Thursday	10/19	Relatively hot	37 °C	24 °C	NW-N	15 - 40 km/h
Friday	10/20	Relatively hot	35 °C	23 °C	NW-VRB	06 - 26 km/h
Saturday	10/21	Relatively hot	35 °C	24 °C	NW-VRB	06 - 26 km/h
Sunday	10/22	Relatively hot	36 °C	23 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 28 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:31
Sunrise	05:51
Zuhr	11:33
Asr	14:49
Sunset	17:15
Isha	18:32

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	36 °C
MIN. Temp.	23 °C
MAX. RH	57 %
MIN. RH	15 %
MAX. Wind	NE 43 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

AIRLINES

American Airlines	22087425
Kuwait Airways	22087426
Jazeera Airways	171
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Air Slovakia	22434940
Olympic Airways	22420002/9
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
Reservation	22433388
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Alitalia	22414427
Balkan Airlines	22416474
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
Czech Airlines	22417901/ 2433141
Indian Airlines	22456700
Oman Air	22958787
Turkish Airlines	22453820/1
Aeroflot	22404838/9

FMCG REQUIRES

- Sales Manager – Key Accounts
- Indian National
- Experience in Hyper & Super Markets (FMCG)
- Valid driving license

- Sales Supervisor – Key Accounts
- Indian National
- Experience in Hyper & Super Markets (FMCG)
- Valid driving license

- Executive Secretary
- Indian National
- Experience in (FMCG)
- Valid driving license

- Van Salesman
- Valid Health Card
- Valid Driving License
- Transferable Visa

Please send you CV to:

Fax: 22479555

E-mail: export@barakadates.com

LUXURY APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Two rooms, lounge, bathroom and kitchen

69996992 - 66804222



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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Thursday 19/10/2017				Departure Flights on Thursday 19/10/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JAI	574	Mumbai	00:05	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
KAC	102	London	00:15	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
SVA	502	Jeddah	00:20	PIA	240	Sialkot	00:40
SVA	514	Riyadh	00:25	JZR	502	Luxor	01:15
MSC	411	Asyut	00:30	SVA	503	Jeddah	01:20
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	JAI	573	Mumbai	01:25
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	SVA	515	Riyadh	01:25
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	MSC	412	Asyut	01:30
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KAC	677	Dubai	01:45
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	SAI	442	Lahore	02:30
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	KAC	775	Istanbul	02:55
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	KAC	351	Kochi	03:05
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:55
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	KAC	351	Istanbul	03:10
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
PGT	830	Istanbul	02:10	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:30
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	MSR	607	Luxor	04:05
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	QTR	1087	Doha	04:10
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	417	Manila	04:20
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	JZR	560	Sohag	04:45
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	QTR	1077	Doha	05:30
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:50	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:50
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	FEG	934	Sohag	05:55
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:05	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
DHX	170	Bahrain	04:35	THY	771	Istanbul	06:25
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	KAC	773	Riyadh	06:35
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	KAC	167	Paris	07:15
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	KAC	501	Beirut	07:50
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	KAC	613	Bahrain	07:55
BAW	157	London	06:05	QTR	8512	Doha	08:15
KAC	204	Lahore	06:20	BAW	156	London	08:20
KAC	678	Dubai	06:25	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	KAC	791	Madinah	08:35
WAN	342	Sohag	06:40	KAC	513	Tehran	08:45
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	JZR	778	Jeddah	08:50
QTR	8511	Doha	06:45	KAC	117	New York	09:15
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:15
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	KAC	561	Amman	09:30
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:50	KAC	691	Muscat	09:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	JZR	534	Cairo	09:30
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	IRA	672	Ahwaz	09:35
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:40
IRA	673	Ahwaz	08:35	KAC	101	London	09:45
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	IRA	668	Mashhad	10:05
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	617	Doha	10:15
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	153	Istanbul	10:30
FDK	803	Damascus	10:00	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
KAC	774	Riyadh	10:45	AAG	148	QA	11:00
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	FDK	804	Damascus	11:00
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00
PAL	668	Manila	11:00	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:15	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
SYR	341	Damascus	11:25	RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	MSC	404	Asyut	12:15
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	SYR	342	Damascus	12:55
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	PAL	669	Manila	13:10
THY	766	Istanbul	12:50	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10
FEG	933	Sohag	12:55	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	THY	767	Istanbul	13:45
KAC	514	Tehran	13:10	FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	KAC	413	Bangkok	14:05
KAC	792	Madinah	13:55	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:15	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
KAC	618	Doha	14:20	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
KAC	352	Kochi	14:20	KAC	563	Amman	15:40
JZR	779	Jeddah	14:25	SVA	505	Jeddah	15:45
KAC	692	Muscat	14:55	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:50
KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
KAC	304	Mumbai	14:55	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KAC	788	Jeddah	14:55	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	15:55
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05	KAC	743	Dammam	16:00
KAC	562	Amman	15:10	KAC	619	Doha	16:00
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10	FDB	8054	Dubai	16:05
KAC	502	Beirut	15:25	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
FDB	8053	Dubai	15:25	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:30
SAW	705	Damascus	15:50	SAW	706	Damascus	16:50
RJA	640	Amman	16:00	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
FDB	051	Dubai	16:15	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	FDB	052	Dubai	17:05
JZR	535	Cairo	16:20	KAC	503	Beirut	17:15
KAC	118	New York	16:25	JZR	266	Beirut	17:15
JZR	787	Riyadh	16:35	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
KNE	531	Jeddah	16:35				

Lifestyle | Gossip

Karlie Kloss lands her own talk show

The 25-year-old model's new program, 'Move Night with Karlie Kloss', will see her interview her celeb friends, including Kendall Jenner and Ashley Graham, while they watch films and play games together. Karlie confirmed the news on Twitter, writing: "#MovieNightWithKarlie and friends coming to your living room this winter on @FreeformTV (sic)" The six-part series will feature several big names from the celebrity world, including Karlie's fellow model pals Kaia Gerber, Joan Smalls and Amber Valletta. The first episode will air on December 28 on Freeform and will feature supermodels Jourdan Dunn and Martha Hunt, as well as special guests, actor Burkely Duffield and magician Joel Ward. Other stars lined up for appearances over the series include Orange Is the New Black's Ruby

Rose, tennis legend Serena Williams, former 'Hart of Dixie' actress Rachel Bilson, and YouTube star Lilly Singh. As well as Karlie, TV channel Freeform are excited about the launch of the show. Alongside a promo picture of Karlie lying on a sofa beneath a TV displaying the title of the show, 'Movie Night with Karlie Kloss', they wrote on Instagram: "Pass the [popcorn emoji]... we're ready for #MovieNightWithKarlie. This winter we'll get to watch movies with @KarlieKloss and her friends. You ready? (sic)" One guest Karlie may want to invite for an upcoming episode is her pal Taylor Swift after speculation they have fallen out was recently played down.



Kourtney tries to 'unplug' during vacations

The 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star - who has children Mason, seven, Penelope, five, and Reign, two, with ex-partner Scott Disick - bans the use of mobile phones during meal times when travelling, and tries to take her camera out instead of using her phone to take photos. However, she admitted she does still set aside a specific time each day to check her social media accounts. She wrote on her app: "I think it's so important to have conversations and really listen to our kids and friends when they're speaking-especially when we're having a meal. I love Instagram and Twitter and Snapchat, but when I'm on vacation, I try to unplug and not be online intermittently during the day. Instead, I'll pick a specific time and try to do all my emails and check social all at once." Kourtney, 38, is currently romancing Younes Bendjima and her sisters are amazed at how the relationship has transformed her. In a scene from 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians', Kourtney was seen sitting in a car with sister Khloe Kardashian and family friend Jonathan Cheban, and struggling to gift wrap a birthday present for the hunk, which included putting a hotel key card inside a wallet. Speaking in her confessional, 33-year-old Khloe said afterwards: "I know Kourt has been out on the dating scene recently. She's planning a birthday surprise tonight. I don't really know the details tonight but she's like doing this whole exchange. Like she's putting like a hotel key into a wallet. "Never known Kourtney to be this giddy ever in my life. I've never known Kourtney to plan anything. It's so cute though to see her this giddy."

Manson expects to recover after being crushed by prop

The 'Dope Show' hitmaker has joked he was the victim of "gun violence" after he was hit by part of his staging which was in the shape of two large weapons last month during a show at the Manhattan Center Hammerstein Ballroom in New York City, but is determined the injury will not set him back. He said: "This isn't something that's going to wreck the whole world. "I will recover quickly because I have super-human powers. I have the willpower and the determination to not let this set me back." The 48-year-old rocker then joked: "Maybe God does exist and he's trying to hold me back! "I have the greatest fun on stage but unfortunately I was the victim of gun violence. I shouldn't have been playing around with firearms." Marilyn - whose real name is Brian Warner - had to undergo surgery after being left with a broken fibula and minor bruising to his skull and ribs, and was also forced to axe a number of his shows following the incident, which left him annoyed. Speaking on radio program 'The Scully Show', he added: "It wasn't secured to the floor. I've got ten pins and a plate in my ankle and so I sadly get to miss the great shows that I wanted to do and I'm p***ed! I don't wanna be laying with a f***ing cast on my leg. "I had to go to surgery which was a painful ordeal. I'm not going to let this mild setback keep me off-track from my goals and ambitions for this record." The 'Kill4Me' singer recently admitted he was in "excruciating" pain when the stage prop struck him. — BANGSHOWBIZ



Katy Perry asks fan to make a dress for her and her dog



The 32-year-old singer was so impressed by the sight of supporter Samantha Bolton's homemade outfit, which features her tour logo of an eye, at a meet-and-greet before her show at the KFC Yum Center in Louisville, Kentucky, she has commissioned her to design more. According to TMZ, Samantha, 26, made her dress and shoes from more than 3,000 rhinestones and featured a logo which looks similar to the one the 'Firework' hitmaker uses for her current 'Witness: The Tour'. Katy posted a video on her Snapchat of Samantha and the dress, and the supporter has since been inundated with requests to make replicas of her outfit. She has a full-time job but told the gossip website she hopes this could be her big break into the world of fashion design. In the clip, a visibly shocked Katy sees the dress and screams: "Where did you get that?" Samantha replies: "I made it." Katy then asked Samantha to make her one, and she said she will. The 'Swish Swish' hitmaker then joked: "You made it and you didn't make me one? Please leave." Katy could potentially wear her newly-designed attire on a date, but she recently admitted being single is helping her career. The blonde star - who was married to comedian Russell Brand from 2010 until 2012 and has also dated the likes of John Mayer and Orlando Bloom - said: "I'm a bit younger in heart! I'm a bit more mature ... single! "You know, when you're single, you got a lot of time to yourself and a lot of energy, and I'm just finding a delicate balance."

Stewart 'saved' make-up artists from being sexually harassed



The 27-year-old actress claims she has stepped in on "many" occasions to stop directors of photography from taking advantage of crew members, but admits such actions "keep going every single day". She said: "I can't tell you how many times I've saved makeup artists — because it trickled down, too — and camera assistants from DPs who are like, "Woo woo." It happens on lesser states as well. "And when I say saved, I mean momentarily been like, 'Don't, f***er!' And they are embarrassed for one second but it just keeps going every single day. "So, I'd say let's be aware of this on every level. "Those girls are as duct-taped as one could possibly be because they are in fear of getting their next job, as every is actress, too, same deal." Kristen admitted she feels "sick" hearing all the recent sexual harassment stories coming out of Hollywood, but insisted she was "thankful" that such a subject is being brought to light in public. Speaking at the Elle Women in Hollywood event in Beverly Hills, she added: "I want to express how thankful I am to hear what is typically a murmured sotto conversation. "We've all been talking about this forever."

Tommy Hilfiger to launch a clothing line for the disabled

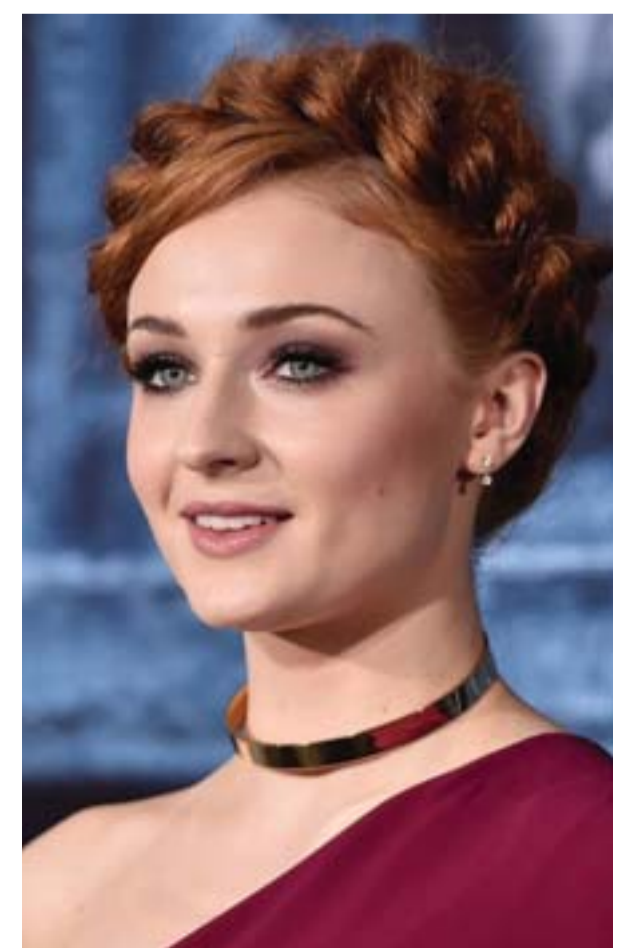


The 66-year-old fashion designer - who launched his eponymous brand in 1985 - is reportedly expanding his label to include a fashion collection that has certain alterations and easy fastening details to suit the needs of the wearer. Bloomberg Online has reported. The creative mastermind's company, which is owned by PVH Corporations, will include adjusted seams and openings in the new garments, as well as magnetic and Velcro closures and adjustable leg openings, to ensure the products are easier for carers to change the customer and for the wearer to dress themselves. And Tommy's collection will be adapted from a previous childrenswear capsule he launched last year, as well as his sportswear line. The niche range will include 37 menswear garments, and 34 womenswear items. And the American

businessman is set for a busy year ahead as he is also set to launch a ski line in partnership with the "ultimate" outerwear company Rossignol this month, which he has been eager to design for a "long time". Speaking previously Tommy said: "I've wanted to develop this capsule collection for a long time, and Rossignol was the ultimate partner to bring the concept to life in a really iconic way. With our shared values on quality, perfect fit and merging fashion with technical function, we've designed a signature red, white and blue collection that works from the ski slopes to the international metropolis."

Turner wears '24 carat gold snail gel' eye patches

The 21-year-old actress swears by the skincare product, which she has insisted is not "actually" made of the shelled gastropods, because she has "really bad circles" under her eyes and the item helps to brighten her under-eye area. Speaking about her beauty hacks to Elle UK Online, the blonde-haired beauty said: "I have really bad circles under my eyes so I always put on these 24 carat gold snail gel eye patches. They're not actually snails! I leave them for 20 minutes, take them off and it brightens my eyes completely. It's amazing, I always, always use them." And the 'X-Men: Apocalypse' star has revealed though she owns "a lot" of beauty products, she doesn't wear much make-up. She explained: "I don't wear a lot of make-up but I have a lot of make-up." Sophie - who recently announced her engagement to singer Joe Jonas - finds beauty and trend inspiration on social media, although she will not be trying the "father eyebrow" trend any time soon because she believes she doesn't have "enough hair" on her brows. She said: "I find a lot of inspiration from Instagram - I really like to find looks that would work on me. I take a lot of pictures to my make-up artist and say, 'Can we do something like this?', and then they create a whole new look for me inspired by that. I love putting together moments like that, beauty moments."



Lifestyle | Gossip

US author **George Saunders** wins 2017 Man Booker Prize

US author George Saunders on Tuesday became only the second American writer to win Britain's renowned Man Booker Prize, which was awarded for his first full-length novel "Lincoln in the Bardo". Judges for the world's most prestigious English-language literary award praised as "utterly original" the book that chronicles the death of Abraham Lincoln's 11-year-old son Willie using the accounts of hundreds of narrators.

"The form and style of this utterly original novel reveals a witty, intelligent, and deeply moving narrative," said Lola Young, chair of the judging panel, in announcing the prize at a ceremony in London.

Saunders, 58, described the award as a "great honour, which I hope to live up to with the rest of my work, for the rest of my life." In a brief, politically-tinged acceptance speech, he made several thinly-veiled references to the controversial policies of US President Donald Trump.

"We live in a strange time," he told the audience. "In the

US now we're hearing a lot about the need to protect culture. Well, this tonight is culture." He later told reporters he was in disbelief and numb at the award. "For an artist, I think validation is really helpful," he added. "My opinion of myself improves a little bit." The winner of the Man Booker receives £52,500 (\$69,300, 58,800 euros), although the bigger prize is seen as a spike in sales which invariably follow the announcement of the winner.

Relishing artistic freedom

This year's shortlist stoked controversy over its big name omissions and eclectic line up, with one British columnist calling it "baffling" and a leading US critic decrying its "Americanisation". It pitted three nominees from the US against two British writers and a British-Pakistani author. The award, launched in 1969, was only open to novelists from Commonwealth states until it began permitting those from other English-speaking countries in 2014. Last year Paul Beatty became the first American to win

for his novel, "The Sellout". Saunders was the British book-makers' favorite ahead of the 2017 announcement on Tuesday. He wrote "Lincoln in the Bardo" over a four-year period, after first conceptualizing it 20 years ago, the author told a press conference following the ceremony. Saunders said he was unsure how exactly to tell the story at the outset, but relished the artistic freedom. "I think the true mastery (of storytelling) is to be willing to wade into something and not be sure how it's going to turn out," he added.

'No fights, no blood'

In a lengthy and varied writing career, Saunders has penned award-winning short story collections, essays, illustrated fables and a bestselling children's book, as well as many pieces of journalism. In 2006, he was awarded both a Guggenheim Fellowship and a MacArthur Fellowship, while in 2009 he received an Academy Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

To clinch the Man Booker Prize he beat competition from a varied selection of writers, including fellow American Paul Auster, who penned "4321". The shortlist also included two other debut novelists—Emily Fridlund, who wrote "History of Wolves", and Fiona Mozley, the 29-year-old British author of "Elmet". British author Ali Smith was shortlisted for the

"A witty, intelligent, and deeply moving narrative"

'Wonderstruck' is a beautiful fable for youngsters

For devoted fans of certain prestige directors, it's always a little disarming to see them make a true children's film. Expectations have to be readjusted in real time as you submit to something else, something different. That exercise can yield disappointment, but sometimes, maybe even most of the time, the results are transcendent. Think about Alfonso Cuarón's "A Little Princess" or Martin Scorsese's "Hugo." When a master of cinema decides to look at the world from a child's perspective, we should all line up.



Millicent Simmons in a scene from "Wonderstruck".

"Wonderstruck," the latest from "Carol," "I'm Not There" and "Far From Heaven" director Todd Haynes is very much for the young — for those who still find pleasure in tactile simplicity, who pour over pop-up books and paper dolls, who fantasize about the past, and whose imaginations are richer, more elaborate and darker than most adults care to remember. "Wonderstruck" is adapted from a Brian Selznick book, the same author of "The Invention of Hugo Cabret," which pro-



This image released by Roadside Attractions shows Jaden Michael, from left, Oakes Fegley and Julianne Moore in a scene from "Wonderstruck". — AP photos

vided the basis for Scorsese's "Hugo." It intercuts the stories of two children, Rose, a young girl in 1927 and Ben, a young boy in 1977.

Rose, played by the magnificent newcomer Millicent Simmons, is deaf. We see her world in black and white and without sounds. Carter Burwell's beautiful score is our only respite from complete silence. And while things are pretty as a picture — an intentionally artificial rendering of that time — Rose is in agony and unable to hear or communicate with others except with a notepad. She doesn't talk, and hasn't yet been taught sign language. While she oscillates between frustration and annoyance with those around her, she finds some joy in cutting out pictures of and seeing films with her favorite silent movie star Lillian Mayhew (Julianne Moore).

Meanwhile, in 1977, where every color seems to have a dusty brown undertone, Ben (Oakes Fegley, who also starred in last summer's "Pete's Dragon") is having nightmares and missing his mother (Michelle Williams), a local Minnesota librarian who died recently in a car accident. He carries around a folded up copy of the newspaper clipping in his pocket. He is also isolated from the world around him, and will become even more so when he suffers an accident and loses his hearing too.

Both children are destined for an adventure soon. Ben finds a clue that perhaps his father, whose identity he doesn't know, is tied to a book store in New York City. And Rose sees that Lillian is set to perform in a play in the city. And both non-

hearing kids set out in their respective times to the big city to find what they're looking for, and find peace at the American Museum of Natural History.

The 1977 thread definitely plays second fiddle to the sumptuous and storybook-like saga of Rose in 1927, which is in no small part due to Simmons' deeply moving performance. Together, though, it feels at times like a stitched together Frankenstein of a film — a grand idea that never quite comes together until it's forced to in the very final moments.

Indeed, the last 15 minutes are undeniably moving. Getting there, however earnest a journey it may be, is a bit of a tedious exercise punctuated by moments of humor and joy and beauty. Still, for a kid in this age of digital devices and content disconnected from experience, "Wonderstruck" could be its own sort of treasure — a call to explore the real world, to submit to the magic of museums and the enchantment of a beautiful book.

"Wonderstruck," an Amazon Studios and Roadside Attractions release, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association of America for "for thematic elements and smoking." Running time: 117 minutes. Three stars out of four. MPAA Definition of PG: Parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children. — AP

Han Solo's film titled **'Solo: A Star Wars Story'**

The origin story of Han Solo, the roguish intergalactic "Star Wars" bounty hunter, has finally been given a title, director Ron Howard unveiled on Tuesday. "Solo: A Star Wars Story" will follow the beginnings of the gruff but loveable Han Solo, made famous by Harrison Ford in George Lucas' "Star Wars" films. The movie is scheduled for release on May 25, 2018. Alden Ehrenreich is taking over the role of the titular bounty hunter, while Donald Glover will play young Lando Calrissian, played by Billy Dee Williams in the original trilogy.

Howard, who took over the production of the film after the sudden departure of its two directors earlier this year, revealed the title in a short video and said that filming had wrapped on the project. The "Solo" spin-off is part of Walt Disney Co's expanding slate of "Star Wars" movies, which was rebooted by the 2015 blockbuster hit, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens." That film made more than \$2 billion at the global box office. The Han Solo film is the second of three stand-alone "Star Wars" films that kicked off with last year's "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story." — Reuters

Sequel to **Mandela's 'Long Walk'** autobiography launched

The sequel to Nelson Mandela's celebrated autobiography "Long Walk to Freedom" will be published today after his unfinished, hand-written draft was completed by a South African novelist. Titled "Dare Not Linger," the book tells of Mandela's five years as president after the end of apartheid and the first multi-race elections in South Africa in 1994.

"Long Walk to Freedom", released shortly after the election, was a global phenomenon, selling more than 14 million copies, and was turned into a film starring Idris Elba. Mandela wrote 10 chapters of his follow-up memoir on loose paper and in files between 1998 and 2002, when he stopped working on it due to his age and hectic schedule. Mandla Langa completed the book using fresh interviews and research, as well as Mandela's own notes from when he was president.

The Nelson Mandela Foundation, which hosted the book's launch on Tuesday in Johannesburg, described the project as a "50/50" collaboration between Mandela and Langa. The book's title is taken from the final sentence of Mandela's first autobiography, when he wrote that "with freedom comes responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not ended".

Co-author's 'trepidation'

Mandela's widow Graca Machel wrote in a prologue to the new book that he had struggled to complete it because of the "demands the world placed on him, distractions of many kinds and his advancing years". "Through the last years of his life he talked about it often—worried about work started but not finished," she said.

Mandela served one term as South Africa's president before stepping down in 1999. He retired from public life in 2004 and died in 2013 aged 95. Co-author Langa, 67, was a fellow activist against white-minority rule who joined the African National Congress (ANC) in 1944, the same year as Mandela. Best known as a novelist and poet, he said at the book's launch that he took on the task "with a sense of gratitude and humility and, at the same time, trepidation".

"The analogy I use is that a melody can be enriched by introduction of instruments, of other voices—not to take away the essence of that melody but to celebrate it and enhance it," he said. With modern South Africa facing political scandals, sharp inequality and racial tension, Langa said he hoped the book would "help us to remember ourselves as South Africans when we held the moral high ground."



A Kenyan schoolboy reads a book on former South African president Nelson Mandela during his birthday celebrations in Nairobi. — AFP

'Hands-on leader'

The years covered by the volume include the Truth and Reconciliation Commission into apartheid crimes, Mandela's globe-trotting diplomacy, his divorce from Winnie Mandela in 1996 and marriage to Machel in 1998. It may also address his deep regret over his failure to tackle the country's AIDS crisis and his much-criticised choice of Thabo Mbeki as his successor as president.

Verne Harris, of the Nelson Mandela Foundation, said the book would "fundamentally shift perceptions" about the anti-apartheid hero's time in power. "What emerges is... a hands-on leader who, in relation to aspects of his government such as the security establishment, was a bit of a micromanager," Harris said. "He was a politician's politician; he knew how to get the best out of people." Publisher Pan Macmillan described it as "a vivid and inspirational account of Mandela's presidency, a country in flux and the creation of a new democracy". "Long Walk to Freedom" tells of Mandela's rural childhood, his youthful activism, his 1964 trial, his imprisonment on Robben Island before his release from jail in 1990, and his election victory. Archbishop Desmond Tutu said at the time that the book told how "justice, freedom, goodness and love have prevailed spectacularly in South Africa and one man has embodied that struggle." — AFP



Author George Saunders of the United States with his book 'Lincoln in the Bardo' after being announced winner of the 2017 Man Booker Prize, in London. — AP

fourth time for "Autumn", while Mohsin Hamid, a British-Pakistani writer, completed the line-up with his second shortlisted novel, "Exit West."

The Man Booker's five person judging panel only reached its decision at 2:40 pm (1340 GMT) on Tuesday afternoon, according to Young, the chair. She said the nationalities of the writers were not a factor, and the group were "very diligent, very thorough" in their considerations. "There were no fights, no blood on the carpet," she said. — AFP

Lovato reveals a lot in new documentary

You might expect a lot of glamorous footage of Demi Lovato in the new YouTube-exclusive documentary that she co-produced — and you won't be disappointed. She's often shown in flattering light, in slow motion with perfect hair and makeup. But there's also a lot of ugly stuff, too.

Lovato spills the beans about her years of drug abuse, her eating disorder and even the time she angrily punched one of her backup dancers in the face. She discusses being bipolar, says she's still in love with her ex, Wilmer Valderrama, and that she constantly worries about what she did or didn't eat. "Demi Lovato: Simply Complicated," which airs on the video platform starting Tuesday, is a combination of a Barbara Walters special and an infomercial for Lovato's new album. It's a weird, sometimes uncomfortable, 78-minute fusion of artificiality and honesty, but Lovato's charisma ultimately pulls it off. We see her suggestively sucking her thumb while stretched out on a bed in her underwear and giving us a come-hither look in wet hair, but also hear about a cocaine bender that ended with her in a psych ward. She admits drinking so much one night that she threw up on the way to a crucial performance for "American Idol," a gig she eventually did very hung over. "It's embarrassing to look back at the person that I was," Lovato says in the film, directed by Hannah Lux Davis, who has directed music videos for DNCE, Nicki Minaj, Ariana Grande and Lovato, among many others, but is making her debut here as a full-length director.

'Secrets make you sick'

The unrated film is the latest in a wave of star-driven music documentaries airing on streaming platforms that includes "Lady Gaga: Five Foot Two" on Netflix, a short feature on Apple Music about Pink's new album, "Clive Davis: The Soundtrack of Our Lives" on Apple and Katy Perry's four-day livestream in partnership with YouTube.

Structured chronologically, "Demi Lovato" uses old footage and photos to examine Lovato's rise from a bullied girl who was fascinated with death to a Disney princess on "Camp Rock" struggling with her squeaky-clean image, to her life today, as a sober music superstar who dates men and women, using online dating sites to find potential mates. "I've learned that secrets make you sick," she says.

We learn she considered Shirley Temple's career a template for her own and was so disliked as a girl that a petition signed by schoolmates made the rounds requesting that she kill herself. We learn she first did coke at 17, faked drug tests and that she might not be over loving Valderrama, her boyfriend for six years.

"I think my heart's always with Wilmer. I think it was with Wilmer, I think that it is with Wilmer and I think it will be," she says in yet another moment of refreshing honesty. "I do have moments where it's late at night and I'm lonely and I wonder if I made the right decision." (Valderrama appears in footage but is not interviewed.)—AP



In this Oct. 11, 2017 file photo, Demi Lovato arrives at the premiere of her documentary, "Demi Lovato: Simply Complicated" in Los Angeles. — AP

Echoes of war as S Korean grannies on front lines in new documentary

The installation of a powerful US missile system in South Korea was meant to defend the country from the nuclear-armed North and infuriated Beijing. But the stars of a film about it are the elderly grandmothers who found themselves living next to some of the world's most advanced weapons. The South Korean documentary "Soseongri" shows how the deployment transformed a previously sleepy farming district into a domestic and international political battleground.

Most of the protagonists are in their 80s, enabling the documentary-makers to draw parallels between the Korean War and the peninsula's current tensions as they recount

their own nightmarish memories of the 1950-53 conflict. Seoul last year announced the deployment of the US Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system to guard against growing missile threats from Pyongyang. But the plan drew fire from both China, which saw THAAD as a threat to its own security, and residents of Seongju, the southeastern county designated to host it. Soseongri is the closest village to the former golf course where THAAD was installed in March.

The deployment sparked months of protests and demonstrators clashed with police as they struggled to prevent US



Hearts and minds

The villagers repeatedly drew parallels with the devastating Korean War, when airborne bombings and civilian killings over ideological differences were commonplace. "Whenever someone was beaten to death, we ran to the bamboo forests so as to not to hear the sound," said one. Millions were killed in a conflict that sealed the division of the Korean peninsula, which is technically still at war after it ended with an armistice rather than a peace treaty.

Another resident added: "We were attacked by planes during the Korean War, but now our hearts and minds are hurt." Despite the village's violent past and tumultuous present, much of the film features serene and often comical scenes of its aged inhabitants tending their crops and rice paddies or joking together in a small community hall. Director Park Bae-Il says he tried to portray how the regional arms race rattled the aged farmers' seemingly boring but peaceful daily lives, and their deep-rooted fear of weapons and war.

"All news media only talked about politics and diplomacy over THAAD but rarely showed the actual human faces behind this controversy, or the voices of the actual people who live there," Park told AFP. The film's underlying message against conflict and weapons might sound naive or idealistic when the North and the US regularly trade threats of apocalyptic violence, he acknowledged. "But now more than ever is the time for us to hear the voices of the people who actually went through the horrors of war." — AFP

Captured moments of confusion, anger and fear

army trucks carrying missile parts entering the village. The 89-minute film, which had its world premiere at the current Busan International Film Festival, captured moments of confusion, anger and fear when elderly farmers who had spent almost all their lives in the village suddenly found themselves at the centre of international diplomatic controversy. Military helicopters fly overhead and huge lorries roll into Soseongri along a road flanked by angry residents and anti-US activists, and hundreds of police. "This whole thing reminds us of the war," says one villager.

'Spawn of the devil'

The THAAD deployment met a mixed response in the South, with surveys showing around half supported it, slightly more than a third against, and the rest undecided. Some people welcome its defensive capability, while others see it as a US bid to bolster its military presence against China at the expense of its ally Seoul. Beijing—the South's top trading partner—has slapped a series of measures against South Korean businesses, widely seen as economic retaliation. But the film does not directly address the diplomatic tit-for-tat, concentrating instead on the elderly residents' daily lives as their village is flooded by competing groups of activists. The villagers join the anti-THAAD protesters for fears of being the first target of a Northern attack, waving a banner reading "THAAD leaves, peace comes" and setting up tents in the road to try to stop incoming military trucks. But hundreds of conservative, pro-THAAD activists also descend on the village to loudly accuse the residents of being "North Korea followers" and "spawn of the devil" who should be "clubbed to death".



These undated handout photos obtained from the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) in Busan on October 17, 2017 shows elderly South Korean farmers in scenes from the movie "Soseongri". — AFP photos

'Rock n' roll' Trotsky gets Russian biopic for 1917 anniversary

Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky gets a raunchy makeover as a "rock 'n' roll hero" in a new television series that highlights his adventurous exploits, ruthless character and rampant sex life. The series has been produced by Russia's state-controlled Channel One to mark the centenary of the 1917 Russian Revolution—and focuses one of its most divisive figures.

"This is the first (television) drama dedicated to Trotsky in the history of Russia," Konstantin Ernst, Channel One's general director, told potential buyers including Netflix at the MIPCOM international entertainment market in the French resort of Cannes. "Unlike Lenin, Trotsky looked like a rock 'n' roll hero breaking out of jail, revolution, love, exile and murder".

Ernst jokingly compared the revolutionary—who famously had a love affair with Mexican painter Frida Kahlo—to disgraced Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein. Trotsky, Ernst said, was "energetic, creative and sexually active - as you know this (last trait) is not so popular in the film industry these last two weeks."

Trotsky played a major role in the Bolsheviks' seizure of power in 1917 but was subsequently demonized as an "enemy of the people" due to his opposition to Joseph Stalin. The brilliant orator and Marxist theorist was forced into exile in 1929 and became an idol for the Western radical left. In 1940, Soviet secret police stabbed him with an ice pick in Mexico City on Stalin's orders. The eight-part biopic series titled "Trotsky" is set to air the first week of November. The title role is played by 45-year-old Konstantin Khabensky, one of Russia's most popular actors who starred in the hit fantasy movies "Night Watch" and "Day Watch" and also appeared in "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy."

'Bloody role'

"It's hard to be objective a hundred years later, but we tried to produce a series based on real events," the show's main producer Alexander Tsekalo told AFP in a phone

interview. "Trotsky played an important and bloody role in the Russian revolution." In the first episode seen by an AFP reporter, an elderly Trotsky reminisces from his Mexico home about the 1917 revolution and the ensuing civil war between Bolsheviks and their opponents.

Trotsky believes he is talking to a Canadian journalist but in fact this is Spanish agent Ramon Mercader, sent by Stalin to assassinate him. The series also shows his early life in the city of Odessa in present-day Ukraine. A prison warden beats him in solitary confinement and abuses him for his Jewish origins, telling him: "Revolutionaries and Jews do not understand the Russian nation."

Curiously, Trotsky subsequently adopted the prison warden's surname to replace his birth name of Bronstein. The series often makes reference to the Jewish roots of Russian revolutionaries, but the director denies it could be seen in any way as anti-Semitic. "I am Jewish. We are not deciding the Jewish question, we need to decide the Russian question," Tsekalo said. The show largely presents him as a ruthlessly calculating mastermind, however. In one scene, he orders every tenth deserter from the Red Army to be shot and hands a peasant his watch-before going back to his train carriage to put on another gold watch.

An unwanted centenary

Tsekalo insists there was no censorship at Channel One—notorious for its exclusively pro-Kremlin news coverage—saying there was "nothing to censor." Nevertheless he said he discussed scenes and the "message" of the show with Ernst. The series' take on history is that "people should not be forced to take to the streets and revolution always means blood," Tsekalo said. This follows the Kremlin line.

With Vladimir Putin in power for nearly 18 years, all talk of revolution is taboo and the Russian state seems unwilling to mark the 1917 anniversary. "The state is not participating in marking the centenary, it is only watching," said Russian historian Nikita Petrov from Memorial rights group. "The Kremlin's message is that all revolutions are bad—and especially those financed from abroad."

The Kremlin has condemned the popular uprisings in neighboring Ukraine and Georgia that it alleges were orchestrated by the West. The Trotsky series is keen to portray the West as playing a key role in the events of 1917 too. In a scene from "Trotsky" set in Paris in 1902, a German agent asks Russian-born Marxist theorist Alexander Parvus how much he thinks it would cost to destroy Russia with a revolution. "A billion marks," Parvus replies with a smile. Tsekalo says it is a "well-documented fact" that the West wanted to destroy Russia because it was "becoming a strong capitalist country." — AFP

Weinstein resigns, celebrity accounts of assault snowball



Leo Seydoux



Harvey Weinstein's civil lawyer, Patty Glaser, is surrounded by media after leaving The Weinstein Company Board of Directors meeting in New York. — AFP

Harvey Weinstein, the disgraced Hollywood mogul accused of decades of sexual abuse and harassment, resigned from the board of his production company as Reese Witherspoon became the latest star to open up about her sexual assault experience. Weinstein was sacked as co-chairman of The Weinstein Company on October 8, but still held a seat on the board until his resignation on Tuesday.

A source close to the film producer confirmed his departure after a meeting in Manhattan between Weinstein's legal team and his eponymous company. The Weinstein Company announced Monday that Colony Capital had agreed to provide an "immediate cash infusion" to the scandal-plagued studio, and that the two parties were in talks on a potential sale.

Around 40 actresses, including stars Gwyneth Paltrow, Angelina Jolie and Mira Sorvino have come forward saying they were sexually harassed by the producer. On Tuesday, Game Of Thrones actress Lena Headey wrote about alleged encounters with the mogul at the Venice Film Festival and in Los Angeles. The English actress tweeted that Weinstein was "furious" after she told him she was only interested in discussing work. The avalanche of accusations against the twice-married, 65-year-old father of five include rape, assault and sexual harassment. Weinstein insists any sexual encounters were consensual.

'Silence condition of employment'

Until his downfall Weinstein was one of the most powerful Hollywood moguls. His films have received more than 300 Oscar nominations and 81 statuettes—but last week he was expelled from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Revelations about Weinstein, first reported by The New York Times and The New Yorker magazine, have seen women around the world share experiences of sexual harassment.

On Monday Oscar-winning actress Witherspoon, 41, said she was just 16 when it happened to her for the first, but not the only time, by an unnamed director. "I have my own experiences that have come back to me very vividly, and I found it really hard to sleep, hard to think, hard to communicate," she said at Elle magazine's Women in Hollywood event late Monday.

"A lot of the feelings I've been having about anxiety, about being honest, the guilt for not speaking up earlier or taking action," she continued. "True disgust at the director who

assaulted me when I was 16 years old and anger that I felt at the agents and the producers who made me feel that silence was a condition of my employment." Jeffrey Katzenberg, who was Disney CEO when his company bought the Weinstein brothers' Miramax production company in 1993, said he had not heard any sordid stories about Weinstein's behavior.

"During my two years with him at the company, my issues were with his brother, Bob, who was generally abusive with people at my company," said Katzenberg, speaking at the WSJ Live conference in southern California late Monday. "I told him not to speak to my employees or he was finished. I did not hear stories about Harvey abusing women," said Katzenberg, who slammed the fallen Hollywood mogul as a "monster."

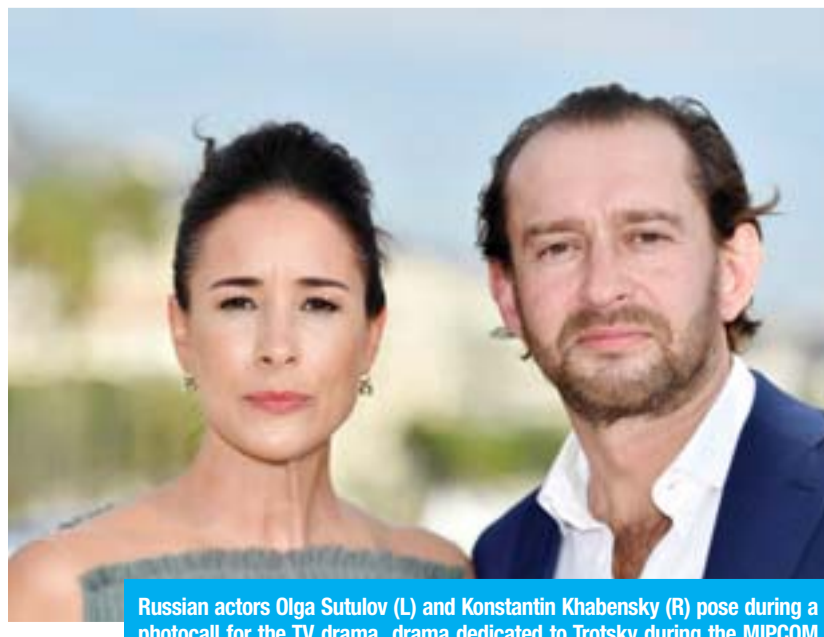
Amazon resignation

As the Weinstein harassment allegations reverberate around the world, thousands of women have taken to social media in response to an appeal by actress Alyssa Milano to respond "me too" if they have been sexually assaulted or harassed. US actress America Ferrera joined the campaign on Tuesday to say she was sexually assaulted when she was nine years old, although there was no suggestion that the alleged assault was linked to her career.

At the Women in Hollywood event on Monday, Jennifer Lawrence—who in 2016 was the highest paid actress in the world—spoke of being humiliated by a female producer and urged to lose weight at the start of her career. "A female producer had me do a nude lineup with about five women who were much, much thinner than me. And we all stood side-by-side with only paste-ons covering our privates," she said. "After that degrading and humiliating lineup, the female producer told me I should use the naked photos of myself as inspiration for my diet." "I let myself be treated a certain way because I felt like I had to for my career," she said. Separately, Amazon confirmed Tuesday that Roy Price was resigning as president of Amazon Studios—just days after he was suspended on October 12 from the tech giant's entertainment division following renewed sexual harassment allegations. — AFP



Leon Trotsky



Russian actors Olga Sutulov (L) and Konstantin Khabensky (R) pose during a photocall for the TV drama dedicated to Trotsky during the MIPCOM trade show in Cannes.



Amazon Fashion Week Tokyo



Models display the creations of ELZA WINKLER, designed by Eiichiro Nakai, during the Amazon Fashion Week Tokyo 2018 spring/summer collection in Tokyo. — AFP photos

'Project Runway' fashion designer Mychael Knight dies

Georgia fashion designer Mychael Knight, who was a finalist on the popular TV competition show "Project Runway," died Tuesday at age 39. Knight died outside Atlanta surrounded by family and friends, said friend Jerris Madison, the editor and photographer of *Obvious Magazine*, a fashion, lifestyle and cultural publication.

An official cause of death has not been released, but Knight had extensively shared his five-year struggles with irritable bowel syndrome, writing in now-deleted Facebook posts that he suffered chronic abdominal pain, a "leaky gut," extreme fatigue and exhaustion. "He was innovative, unapologetic, kind and giving," Madison said of Knight. "He made sure that anybody who was in his core circle, his family, his friends, didn't have to want for anything. He was just an amazing man."

Knight appeared on Season 3 of "Project Runway," which aired on Bravo, finishing fourth that year. He returned for "Project Runway All-Stars," finishing eighth on the show that now airs on the Lifetime network. "We are saddened to hear about the passing of a member of the Project Runway family," said Lifetime spokeswoman Dee Perez in a statement. "It's a loss of a great talent and we wish his family peace and solace during this difficult time."

Knight spent his childhood in Montgomery, Alabama, but graduated from Washingtonville Senior High School in Washingtonville, New York, in 1996. After completing his undergraduate studies, Knight broke into the fashion industry in Atlanta by working as an intern at Wilbourn Exclusives in 2001 before becoming a fashion

stylist in the music industry in 2002.

In 2006, Knight became a contestant for "Project Runway," and went on to win that season's fan favorite award. The next year, he introduced his label, Mychael Knight, on BET's "Rip the Runway" and he designed a line of custom tees for the Starbucks Corp. In 2008, Knight launched Kitty & Dick, his lingerie label for men and women, and his unisex fragrance, MajK. Madison said "Project Runway" definitely helped expand Knight's brand, which caught the eye of celebrities like Toni Braxton, Sheri Shepard and Eva Marcille, who ultimately became his clients. "His name was still on people's minds," Madison said. "The industry is very competitive, but he continued to do it his way."

Madison said Knight, who had been living in Los Angeles, was always sharp and chic in his personal style and that carried over into his collections. "He died doing what he loved," Madison said. "And you can see that in his final collection presented (last month) at New York Fashion Week. It was amazing. The industry has lost a true innovator. Mychael was just getting to that point where people were saying 'Hey, I remember this guy.' He was about to be huge and really wanted to capitalize on affordable sportswear for women of all sizes." — AP



SPRINGFIELD: File photo shows designer Mychael Knight addresses the similarities of fashion today with models wearing his designs to fashion during the time of Mary Todd Lincoln, during the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum's first fashion show. — AP

Lifestyle

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017



Residents work in one of the communal spaces at the co-living building 'The Collective Old Oak' in North West London. — AFP photos

'Co-living' project brings innovation to London housing

The 10-storey building may look like a hotel, but it is thought to be the world's biggest large-scale house-share, offering modest rooms and upscale services for hundreds of young adults caught in London's housing crisis. The Old Oak building, situated on a canal bank in North West London, opened in the spring of 2016, and has become a pioneer of "co-living", a concept that is beginning to catch on elsewhere, notably in the United States.

"Today in cities, we don't know our neighbors, housing is more and more expensive, we're living behind our devices and this is addressing that challenge," said Ryan Fix, consultant at The Collective, the project's developer. This was no niche market, he insisted: "It's going to be a massive movement in the coming decades."

Ed Thomas, who manages the property for The Collective, offers a tour of the 546-room building and its facilities. "You've got a nice spacious room with big window that lets lots of light in," he says as he shows AFP a room measuring 12 square meters. All of the rooms are currently occupied. Some have a tiny ensuite bathroom, with a small wash basin placed almost over the toilet, and a kitchenette. In others, the cooking and washroom areas are shared.

Yoga and cinema

The Old Oak boasts high-end facilities such as a spa, gym, library, work room, restaurant and even a cinema,

which is packed for evening showings of the hit TV series "Game of Thrones". The building is a ten-minute walk from two London Underground stations. And its distinguishing features include its industrial-style architecture and sprawling common spaces filled with colorful armchairs and wooden furniture.

There are also communal activities on offer, such as music evenings and yoga classes. The majority of the Old Oak's current tenants are young people aged between 22 and 35 earning an average of £30,000 a year (\$40,000, 34,000 euros) — who might otherwise be sharing a cramped house with strangers. It is common for Londoners to spend "40 to 50 percent of their net salary" on housing, James Mannix, a partner at estate agency Knight Frank said.

"It is extremely difficult to find a place to rent in London and young people are increasingly marginalized," said The Collective's Ed Thomas. "It is very time-consuming, and even once you move into somewhere, the chances that you find a group of people that you get along with are extremely slim. We're trying to tackle that problem."

According to Knight Frank, a typical room in shared accommodation costs £1,602 per month in central London and £954 in areas farther out. The Old Oak's prices are largely in line with those of the local area. The majority of the rooms cost between £850 and £1,100 pounds per month, but that includes all bills (energy, internet, cleaning,



The common restaurant at the co-living building.

taxes and common facilities). The largest are advertised at more than £1,400.

'An investment'

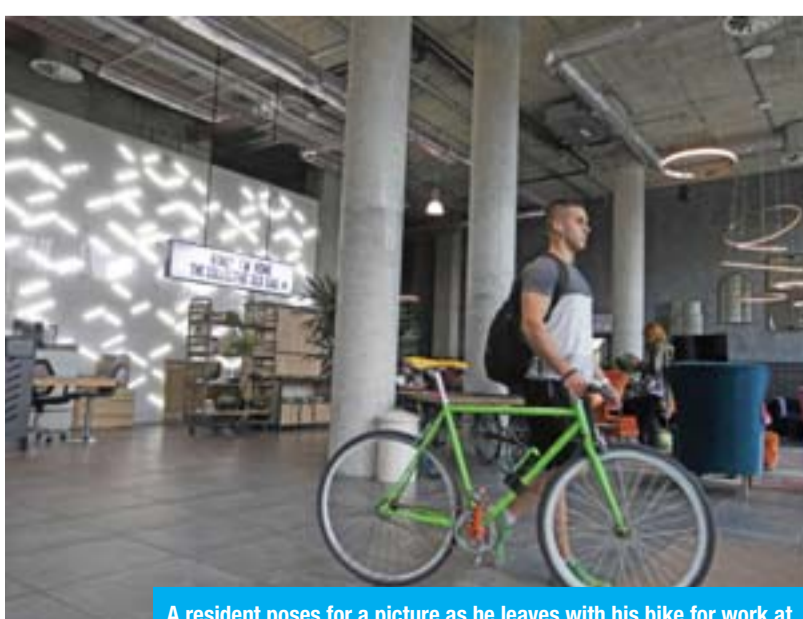
Adam Saez, a 26-year-old Australian sports trainer who has lived in Old Oak for over a year, sees his rent as "an investment". "I've not only made friends, but I've also done a lot of networking, so I've met lot of people that I now work with as well," he said. Sarah Sinigaglia, a 19-year-old Italian-Swiss student newly arrived in London, agreed. "It's very easy to meet people," she said. "In the evening, you can go downstairs (...) to the lobby or the bar, and there are lots of people like me who are alone."

The Collective, whose first shared building was funded by a "Singapore family" for an undisclosed amount, is launching two other projects in east London. One is close to

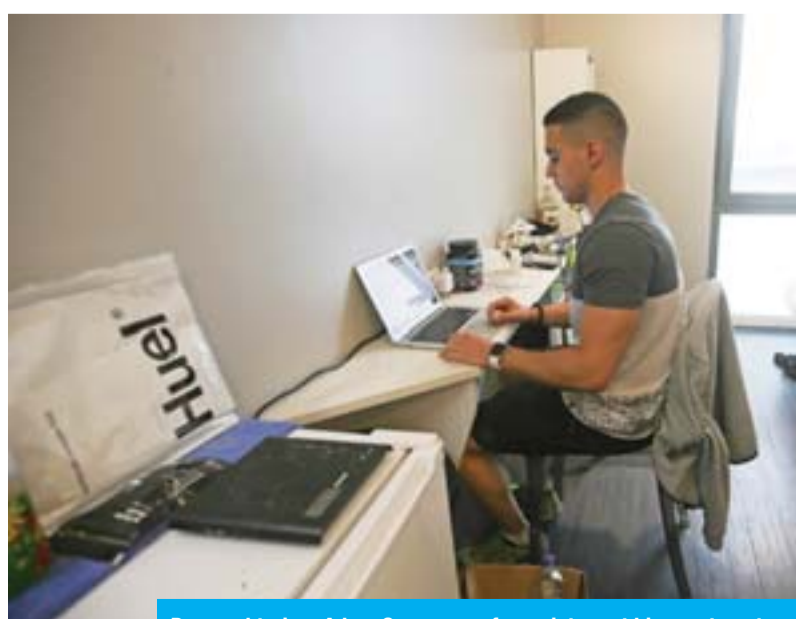
the Olympic Park in Stratford and the other in Canary Wharf, in the business district of the British capital. They are expected to open in 2019, with a combined total of 1,000 rooms up for rent.

The Collective is also looking to expand internationally and eyeing different target groups, such as families. Estate agent Mannix said the concept of co-living is "socially a good thing," creating affordable accommodation at the same time profitable for the developers—in a private-sector response to a crisis which the public authorities are failing to tackle sufficiently. — AFP

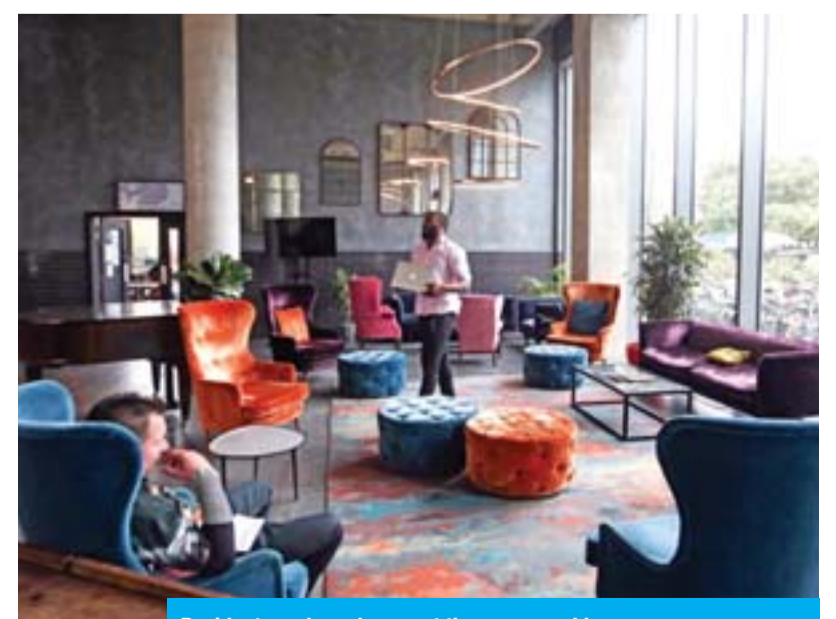
“We're living behind our devices, this is addressing that challenge”



A resident poses for a picture as he leaves with his bike for work at the co-living building.



Personal trainer Adam Saez poses for a picture at his apartment.



Residents and employees at the communal lounge area.