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500 expats to be deported for violating laws, criminal acts

PAM wins hundreds of cases against iqama traders

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The interior ministry said Monday it sent around 500 expatriates to the deportation center for violating the residency law and committing crimes. It added in a statement this came during a security campaign in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, during which policemen checked identification papers of 927 expatriates, of whom 497 were arrested and referred to the deportation center. The campaign, it said, aimed at enforcing the law and arresting criminals who were escaping from punishment. The ministry urged the public to cooperate with the police and to report those wanted by the security and judicial authorities.

Separately, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh said on Monday the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) has won over 500 court cases against residence permit dealers. The cases will surely curtail the phenomenon of what is locally known as "iqama business", Sabeeh, who is also Minister of State for Economic Affairs, said during a ceremony held by the Moroccan Embassy in Kuwait to mark the 19th anniversary of the Moroccan king's accession to the



KUWAIT: Policemen gather during a security campaign in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh late Monday. — Mol

throne. Kuwait is keen to help everyone live on its soil in peace and security, the minister added. The ministry of social affairs and labor took these legal moves in collaboration with international labor agencies and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and in line with relevant international agreements, Sabeeh added.

Kuwaiti leadership discusses Iraq developments with Maliki



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Iraqi Vice President Nouri Al-Maliki yesterday. — KUNA

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti leadership discussed with visiting Iraqi Vice President Nouri Al-Maliki the latest security and political developments in Iraq, said Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarallah. Jarallah

stressed Kuwait's keenness on supporting Iraq to overcome its current crisis and achieve security and stability. Maliki conveyed Iraq's appreciation of the Kuwaiti role in supporting

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News in brief

Jozak named Kuwait head coach

HONG KONG: Former Croatia technical director Romeo Jozak has been appointed coach of the Kuwait national team, the former Legia Warsaw boss has confirmed on social media. Jozak, 45, has signed a two-year contract and will also take charge of the country's Olympic team as the Kuwaitis attempt to re-establish themselves after a two-year absence from the international football scene. A FIFA-imposed ban, which was put in place in late 2015 due to political interference in the Kuwait Football Association's affairs, was lifted in December. — Reuters

Saudi king holidays in NEOM

RIYADH: Saudi King Salman has arrived for a holiday in NEOM, a still-undeveloped mega city that the crown prince has pledged to build from scratch in the kingdom's remote northwest, state media said Monday. NEOM appears an unusual holiday destination for the monarch, who is known to spend his annual summer vacation in palaces in locations such as Morocco. NEOM, announced with much fanfare last October by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, is part of a series of multi-billion-dollar projects as the kingdom seeks to diversify its oil-reliant economy. — AFP

Iran link to Houthi missiles

UNITED NATIONS: Yemen's Houthi rebels are still arming themselves with ballistic missiles and drones that "show characteristics similar" to Iranian-made weapons, a report by a UN panel of experts has found. In a confidential 125-page report to the Security Council, the panel said it "continues to believe" that short-range ballistic missiles and other weaponry were transferred from Iran to Yemen after an arms embargo was imposed in 2015. The experts are also investigating information that the Houthis received from Iran a monthly donation of fuel valued at \$30 million. — AFP

Police hunt 8 for bestiality

NEW DELHI: Police in northern India yesterday said that a major manhunt was underway for eight men accused of having sex with a pregnant goat that later died. The suspects face prosecution under the colonial era Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code that outlaws "intercourse against the order of nature". Police raids were being conducted in the Mewat region of Haryana state to look for the men. "We have identified three of the eight accused and the police teams are out on raids to arrest them as soon as possible," police official Naazneen Bhasin said. — AFP

Tehran wary of Trump's offer to meet Iran leaders

TEHRAN: Skepticism was rife in Iran yesterday after US President Donald Trump offered talks, with one lawmaker saying negotiations would be a "humiliation". The country's top leaders did not give an immediate response to Trump's statement a day earlier that he would meet them "anytime" without preconditions. "I would meet with Iran if they wanted to meet," Trump said at a joint White House press conference with Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte. "I don't know if they are ready yet. No preconditions," he added. "They want to meet,

I'll meet. Any time they want. Good for the country. Good for them. Good for us. And good for the world."

But several Iranian public figures said it was impossible to imagine negotiations with Washington after it tore up the 2015 nuclear deal in May. "With the contemptuous statements (Trump) addressed to Iran, the idea of negotiating is inconceivable. It would be a humiliation," said Ali Motahari, deputy speaker of parliament, according to the conservative Fars News. "America is not trustworthy. After it arrogantly and unilaterally withdrew from the nuclear agreement, how can it be trusted?" added Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli, according to Fars.

The US is set to start reimposing full sanctions on Iran from August 6 - a move that has already contributed to a major currency crisis with the rial losing two-thirds of

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TEHRAN: A man looks at a newspaper with a picture of US President Donald Trump on the front page in the capital yesterday. — AFP

Israeli Arab poet jailed for 'incitement'

JERUSALEM: An Israeli court yesterday sentenced an Arab woman to five months in prison for incitement to violence and support for a terrorist organization in poems and other social media posts, the justice ministry said. Doreen Tatour, 36 and an Israeli citizen, posted a video clip of herself reading her poem "Resist, my people, resist them," in Oct 2015, accompanied by pictures of clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces, according to authorities. The posts on YouTube and Facebook

came as a wave of Israeli-Palestinian violence was erupting, including Palestinian knife attacks.

"I wasn't expecting justice to be done. The case was political from the start, because I am Palestinian and support freedom of speech," Tatour told reporters at the Nazareth Magistrate's Court in northern Israel. She was convicted in May and sentenced. The court also added a six-month suspended sentence to Tatour's jail time, according to the official minutes distributed by the justice ministry. Her lawyer Gaby Lasky was expected to appeal.

Tatour's prosecution has drawn international criticism. International writers group Pen has defended Tatour, saying she "has been convicted for doing what writers do every day - we use our words to peacefully challenge injustice". The

poem was quoted in Hebrew in the charge sheet, but according to an English translation on the Arabic literature and translation site ArabLit, it contains the following lines: "For an Arab Palestine, I will not succumb to the 'peaceful solution'. Never lower my flags, Until I evict them from my land, Resist the settler's robbery, And follow the caravan of martyrs."

Prosecutors said that on Oct 4, she also quoted a statement by Islamic Jihad calling for "continuation of the intifada in every part of the West Bank", alleging it showed her support for the outlawed militant group. Tatour said her poem was misunderstood by the Israeli authorities as it was not a call for violence, rather for non-violent struggle. Tatour, from the Arab village of Reineh near Nazareth, was arrested on Oct 11, 2015. Her sen-



Doreen Tatour

tencing comes after the release on Sunday of Palestinian teenager Ahd Tamimi who served an eight-month sentence for slapping two Israeli soldiers, an episode recorded in a video that went viral. Tamimi, 17, was greeted by crowds of supporters and journalists upon her release in her hometown of Nabi Saleh in the occupied West Bank. — Agencies

Mallya makes assets 'offer' to Indian court

LONDON: Indian tycoon Vijay Mallya said yesterday he had made an "unconditional offer" to an Indian court in a bid to settle fraud charges, as he continues to fight extradition from Britain. Mallya, chairman of the UB Group drinks conglomerate and chief executive of the financially ailing Force India Formula One team, said it did not entail pleading guilty to any crimes. "I have not included any clemency plea or plea bargain in my unconditional offer to the Karnataka

High Court," he told reporters outside a London court after the latest hearing in his legal battle against facing trial in his homeland.

"All we've said to the court (is), 'Here are the assets... please sell them under judicial supervision, pay the banks, pay the other creditors.'" Asked how any financial settlement in India could affect fraud charges filed against him, Mallya added that it was up to the Indian government. "They have their legal advisers, I have mine, and if the way forward has to be decided before various judicial forums, that's the way it's going to be."

Mallya, known for his lavish lifestyle, left India in March 2016 owing more than \$1 billion after defaulting on loan payments to state-owned banks and

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LONDON: Indian tycoon Vijay Mallya speaks to members of the media as he leaves after appearing at Westminster Magistrates Court yesterday. — AFP

Local

Panelists demand changes to promote gender equality, women's rights

Large number of girls do not know their rights: Activist



A general view of people in attendance at the panel discussion.



KUWAIT: (From left) Abdullah Al-Khonaini, Faisal Al-Fuhaid, Ahmad Al-Mutawa and Athraa Al-Refai attend a panel discussion held by Abolish 153 campaign to promote women's rights. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Abolish 153 campaign continued its awareness activities with a panel discussion about the legislations that promote gender equality and ones that discriminate against women. The panel discussion was held at Promenade Cultural Centre by lawyers Athraa Al-Refai and Ahmad Al-Mutawa, along with Abdullah Al-Khonaini and Faisal Al-Fuhaid, who represented civil societies in Kuwait.

During the discussion, Refai said that many articles and legislations need to change. "The constitution is the basic legislation of Kuwait since 1961," she said. "The constitution, in article 29, says people are equal despite their differences. We can see that the Kuwaiti constitution guarantees the right of equality for all." She argued that while the labor law claims to give women their rights and privileges, female employees, despite having

the same standard working hours as male employees, are not allowed to work late shifts between 7 pm to 6



Discussion held by Abolish 153 campaign

am. However, female employees working in pharmacies, hospitals, etc are allowed to work beyond the standard

working hours. "Also, the law prohibits (women) from working in dangerous fields. The legislator has a flaw in understanding the role of women in society, where women who are specialized in laboratories and chemical engineering may also suffer health damage. How this legislation was enacted without understanding it?" she asked.

Lack of marriage

Refai added that the disabled law mentions that women with disabilities are not eligible for marriage loans if they marry non-Kuwaitis. "Women with disabilities are suffering from a lack of marriage because of their situation. We should encourage them if others are accepting them. But we push them away. There is an imbalance in legislation that needs to be adjusted for women."

Mutawa stressed that legislations need to support

women more. "There is a difference between justice and equality - we must understand the needs of the parties and where the imbalance lies," she underlined. "I am optimistic because women are beginning to understand more about their rights."

Khonaini, member of the Voice of Kuwait group, spoke about the social life of Kuwaiti women. "We visited several Kuwaiti schools in different areas, where we held social awareness workshops. We noticed that a large number of girls do not know their rights. We talked with them about their right to vote and to enter the political sphere, and about our need for their vote," he said. He added the curriculum does not have any kind of awareness about the constitution, rights and duties. Khonaini affirmed that raising awareness is very important in schools, as friends and family are not enough to make people aware. "They should start from the younger generation - this should be a priority."

Win the car of your choice with NBK

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) continues to reward its customers by enabling them to triple their chances to win a car of their choice valued at up to KD 20,000 when using their NBK Cards during their summer vacation abroad.

As part of its ongoing summer campaign, NBK enables cardholders to enter the draw to win a car of their choice when using their Credit Cards in Kuwait, whether for retail purchases, online payments or cash advances. Each KD 1 spent locally avails for a draw entry, while each KD 1 spent internationally using NBK Credit or Debit Cards avails for three draw entries.

"We are always searching for new unique ways to reward our loyal customers, and what better way than to give them the opportunity to choose the car they want," said Hanadi Khazal, Chief Marketing Officer, Consumer Banking Group, National Bank of Kuwait. "The summer campaign has received great feedback since its launching date and we encourage our customers to continue

using their cards while travelling to increase their chances to win a car of their choice." Khazal added: "Rewarding our customers is part of our commitment, this is why we didn't want to give customers just a car but wanted them to enjoy the one they choose and make our summer campaign even more special."

NBK's summer campaign runs until September 15. Five winners will be announced during the draw that will be held on September 28, 2018. Each winner will receive an NBK gift Prepaid Card issued in the name of the Bank and loaded with KD 20,000 to be spent on the car of the winner's choice. The gift card may be used at any vehicle dealership inside Kuwait to purchase a vehicle and car insurance.

By giving customers the opportunity to win the value of a vehicle of their own choosing, NBK reaffirms its long-standing commitment to customer satisfaction and continues a lasting relationship with customers based on loyalty and trust.

Customers benefit from a range of banking products and services that suit their lifestyles. They can choose from Credit Cards tailored to their specific needs, take advantage of the NBK Rewards program and enjoy the promotions and prizes introduced all year-long. To avail to these benefits, customers can visit NBK.com, where they can navigate through the online card comparison tool.

Burgan Bank pursues excellence in human capital development

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, one of the leading banks in talent and career development, announced its one-year sponsorship of leading knowledge transfer platform - Knowledge Club's Season 2 workshops and seminars as part of its ongoing strategy to enhance its human capital capabilities through world-class training, strategic partnerships and supportive resources.

The agreement was signed with Vigor Events: the founder of the 'Knowledge Club' and a first-class education and training provider in the Middle East and North Africa region. The 'Knowledge Club', running for the 6th year, provides top companies and individual professionals an exceptional training and development experience. The comprehensive program will hold seminars, conferences, and experiential learning workshops presented by internationally leading speakers, authors and trainers. Providing exposure and access to thousands of key decision-makers from various fields and sectors in the region, Season 2 will run every month from September until December 2018 featuring real-life case studies, principles, guidelines, new best practice and more to nurture employees' wealth of knowledge and leadership skills. Additionally, coinciding with

the new agreement and forging ahead on its trajectory toward successful development of a workplace learning culture, Burgan Bank renewed its Learning and Development Center to provide timely, state of the art learning solutions and initiatives that adapt to changing market demands. It was inaugurated on a management level, the center aims to accomplish the bank's long term strategic objectives through an effective innovation life-cycle that invests extensively in internal leadership capabilities and positively impacts overall business continuity.

Group Chief Human Resources and Development Officer at Burgan Bank, Halah El-Sherbini Commenting on the opening of the Learning and Development Center and the bank's new 'Knowledge Club' sponsorship, said, "To deliver on our vision of incorporating top quality human capital, we have proudly partnered with Vigor Events which offers wide access to leading international minds through various training experiences. This is truly a transformative learning experience which happily coincides with the opening of our very own learning center that offers dynamic resources for learning and development and helps support the expansion of our training offerings dedicated to advancing our staff's skills. Raising the bar of excellence through the introduction of new discoveries, knowledge sharing exercises and world class activities will inevitably lead to a progressive work force and sustainable corporate culture."

During the event, Burgan Bank held a brief presentation on the latest departmental achievements and projections for 2019. During the collaborative phase, the bank's staff will also participate in several other engagements before the end of 2018, including a large scale team-building event to enhance productivity both at individual and team levels.



ABK successfully concludes blood donation drive

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently announced the successful conclusion of its blood donation drive which was held at the bank's head office on July 25, 2018. A large number of the Bank's staff members donated blood to support the cause.

The blood donation drive is held annually by ABK to encourage its staff members to play an active role in giving back to the community. In line with this, the bank also recently sponsored LOYAC's 6th blood donation drive to help raise awareness among the public of the



importance of donating blood. ABK's efforts and continuous support were recognized by the Central Blood Bank team. The bank is an

active contributor and focuses a great deal on making a difference in the communities in which it operates.



KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality bulldozers removed 15 unlicensed shacks during a recent campaign carried out at desert areas in Jahra yesterday morning. The crackdown came following complaints that municipality personnel received about illegal activities that were reportedly taking place at the unlicensed locations.

Local

Kuwait, Morocco enjoy both leaderships' patronage: Sabeeh

Embassy celebrates Moroccan King's anniversary



KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh (second from right) joins officials and diplomats in cutting the cake during the ceremony. —Photos by Joseph Shagra



KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh underlined the depth of fraternal relations between Kuwait and Morocco, which enjoy the patronage of both countries' leaderships.



Sabeeh, who doubles as Minister of State for Economic Affairs, made her statements during a ceremony by the Moroccan Embassy in Kuwait Monday night to mark the 19th anniversary of the



Moroccan King's accession to the throne. Memos of understanding, which were signed by both sides, would lead to a further promotion and development of Kuwaiti-Moroccan relations, the minister pointed out. She appreciated Morocco's unwavering backing to the State of Kuwait in all international domains. Government officials, diplomats and other dignitaries attended the event.—KUNA

Iraqi Vice President tours Kuwaiti cultural landmark



KUWAIT: Iraq's Vice President Nouri Al-Maliki visited Kuwait's Abdullah Al-Salem cultural center yesterday, where he was acquainted with the various departments across the building, all of which are laden with historical significance. —KUNA



Kuwait eager to boost investment in Iraq's Kurdistan



IRBIL: Kuwaiti Consul General in Irbil Omar Al-Kandari meets with President of Kurdistan Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (KFCCI) Dara Khayat. —KUNA

IRBIL: Kuwaiti Consul General in Irbil Omar Al-Kandari said Kuwait is eager to boost investment and trade with Iraq's Kurdistan region. The official's remarks were made during his meeting with President of Kurdistan Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (KFCCI) Dara Khayat yesterday.

Kandari further noted that the meeting discussed cooperation in facilitating commercial exchange between the two sides as well as investment procedures for Kuwaitis. He added that he plans on organizing a trip for Kuwaiti businessmen to Kurdistan, to learn of investment conditions in the region. Kandari also said that there already are Kuwaiti companies investing in Kurdistan but we aim to increase the number.

Meanwhile, Khayat said that Kurdistan will provide facilitations for Kuwaitis to invest in different fields in the region. According to KFCCI officials, the investment field in Iraq's Kurdistan had prominently developed since the war on the so-called Islamic State was over in Iraq.—KUNA

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Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Sunset at Ras Ashairej. — Photo by Mused Alghuraibah (KUNA)

Permanent WHO office in Kuwait soon: Health Minister

Kuwait provides \$59 million in medical supplies to Yemenis

KUWAIT: Kuwait Health Minister Dr Basel Al-Sabah said yesterday that the ministry is placing the final touches on the permanent office of the World Health Organization (WHO), which will open soon in Kuwait. The minister affirmed that opening the office in Kuwait would increase the chance of executing health plans and programs and to keep Kuwait updated with the latest developments.

Minister Sabah received the regional director of WHO Dr Ahmad Al-Mandhari, a meeting aimed at achieving a quantum leap in the relations between the two sides. He also stressed the importance of Dr Mandhari's visit to Kuwait, saying it would focus on the two side's future visions and plans. During the meeting, the two officials touched on important matters connected with plans to counter major diseases.

Meanwhile, Dr Mandhari said that the opening of this permanent office would serve the health system in Kuwait and the region. WHO strives, through this cooperation between the two sides, to highlight Kuwait's advance healthcare system, in addition to strengthening joint health ventures, said Dr Mandhari in a statement.

Medical supplies

Kuwait offered \$59 million as medical supplies to Yemeni people to help them withstand the humanitarian crisis in their country. Sheikh Dr Basel said yesterday. "Under the guidance of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait responded to the appeal of the Yemeni people and provided medicine to cover shortages in Yemeni hospitals," Sheikh Dr Basel added.

During the reception, the Minister explained that Kuwait enjoyed a common relationship with WHO for six decades, positively contributing to World Health Programs and supporting emergency and relief plans. "The State of Kuwait is keen on following up with latest international health and medical programs, policies, and plans," Dr Basel Al-Sabah said. He stressed the importance of Kuwait's technical cooperation with international organizations in various health fields, in line with the World Sustainable Development Goals 2030, WHO's Program of Action (2019-2023), and the strategy of cooperation between the two sides. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Health Minister Dr Basel Al-Sabah (right) presents a memento to the regional director of WHO Dr Ahmad Al-Mandhari. — KUNA

SEWA awards Kuwait's Tayyar in Tarsheed month

SHARJAH: Sharjah Electricity and Water Authority (SEWA) awarded Director of Technical Supervision Department at Ministry of Electricity and Water in Kuwait Engineer Iqbal Al-Tayyar for her efforts in preserving energy. During the annual Tarsheed month celebrations, SEWA Chairman Rashid Al-Leem awarded Iqbal Al-Tayyar for her stance in conserving electricity. Tayyar said after the celebration that the award is fruit of efforts exerted by Kuwait Electricity and Water Ministry in protecting energy and finding better technological means through projects and media campaigns.

Meanwhile, Leem praised Kuwait ministry's bilateral and strategic cooperation with SEWA. SEWA hosts annual celebrations to award UAE government officials and GCC officials who promote preservation and saving of energy. — KUNA



SHARJAH: Director of Technical Supervision Department at Ministry of Electricity and Water in Kuwait Eng. Iqbal Al-Tayyar (left) receives her SEWA award. — KUNA

Sidra Medicine performs first open-heart surgery

DOHA: Sidra Medicine performed surgery in its newly opened Heart Center in July. Sidra Medicine Heart Center is one of the institution's flagship programs and is positioned to become a leading center in the region for patient suffering from congenital heart disease. Patients in Qatar and the region now have access to state of the art equipment and an international team of experts able to perform the most complex cardiology procedures in Qatar, eliminating the need to travel abroad for care.

The first open-heart surgery was performed on three year old patient who was diagnosed with atrial septal defect, which manifests as a hole in the heart. Dr Olivier Ghez, Sidra Medicine's Division Chief of Cardiac Surgery, led a multidisciplinary team of 10 medical professionals during the successful 2-hour surgery to correct the defect. The team included Dr Reema Kamal who is a Qatari chief of cardiology.

"My family and I are so thankful for the care we received at Sidra Medicine. The doctors and allied staff were so supportive and helpful throughout the entire process and our son was discharged in less than one week. I am relieved that we could access the right care so close to home and so efficiently," said the boy's mother.

Dr Ghez, a renowned congenital cardiac surgeon who joined Sidra Medicine from the Royal Brompton Hospital in London, UK is now of his expertise in neonatal and pediatric cardiac surgery. He said: "I am very proud to have performed the first open heart surgery at Sidra Medicine. I would like to thank all the doctors, nurses and the incredible allied staff for the role they played in this operation. We can now offer world-class care for the most complex of cardiac patients here at Sidra Medicine and have already been very busy with children in need of the team's expertise."

The Heart Center provides a wide range of services including cardiac surgery, interventional therapies, electrophysiological therapies, cardiac anesthesia, perfusion, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), cardiac intensive care, non-invasive cardiology, outpatient and inpatient



Sidra Medicine's main hospital.



DOHA: Doctors perform a surgery in Sidra Medicine's newly opened Heart Center.

cardiac care, as well as fetal cardiology. "The Heart Center aims to provide comprehensive care to children and adults with congenital heart disease by harnessing the expertise of an internationally renowned team and a model that represents a fusion of best practices from around the world," said Dr Ziyad Hijazi, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Sidra Medicine and the Director of Sidra Heart Center.

Local

Union applauds effort to fight fake degrees in public sector

Court rejects case against businessman for not paying power bills

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

KUWAIT: Chairman of the union of public sector employees' syndicates Hussein Al-Azmi highly commended the Cabinet's decision to form a special committee to examine the certificates of citizens working in government bodies. Azmi expressed hope that the committee will be successful in exposing state employees with fake degrees and take proper legal measures against them.

Case rejected

The criminal court rejected a case filed by the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) against a popular businessman for not paying electricity and water bills of his shopping malls, and referred the case to the public prosecution pending further referral to the court of misdemeanor.

Care house

MP Saleh Ashour filed an inquiry with Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Development Hind Al-Sabeeh asking about the reasons of shutting the social affairs ministry's social care house number 2 in Hawally for repairs. Ashour also asked whether the building would be used to house expatriate laborers and whether the house's residents had filed a case against the ministry.

Honoring

In appreciation for their efforts in combating illegal 'markets' set up by hawkers who attacked a municipal team, Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi honored Farwaniya inspection leader Ahmad Al-Sherieka and inspectors Saadoun Al-Azmi, Faleh Mohammed Al-Azmi and Abdul Aziz Al-Shemmari.

Shrimping season

Chairman of Kuwait Fishermen Union Thaher Al-Sowayyan said the shrimping season in Kuwait's economic waters will commence today after a seven-month ban. Sowayyan also repeated his demand to reconsider the decision on stamping fishermen's passports leaving



and arriving at Doha and Um Al-Maradem ports because it might lead to considerable losses if some fishermen, namely Asians, depart the country without their sponsors' knowledge, taking away all the fishing gear in their possession. "Civil IDs will be enough in our economic waters protected by our navy," he demanded.

New schools

The Capital educational area director Badriya Al-Khaldi announced opening four new schools by the beginning of the new school year. Speaking on the sidelines of inaugurating the 'Your Health is Precious for Us' exhibition at the educational area building, Khaldi said directors

and assistant directors of the new schools had been named and that preparations are in progress to provide the school with furniture. Salmiya clinic manager Dr Latifa Al-Dowaisan said medical bodies' participation in such occasions provides visitors with the latest information of various medical concerns, such as obesity, hypertension and diabetes that result from sedentary lifestyles, as well as oppor-

tunities of discussing those concerns with specialists.

Three tenders

Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) decided to award three tenders with a total value of KD 32 million to build a road at Al-Ratqa oilfield and maintain some buildings to the north, said informed sources. The sources added that the first contract - to build Al-Ratqa road with the value of KD 13.9 million - will be awarded to Kuwait Systems Company. The second contract of providing maintenance services with a total value of KD 10.1 million will be given to Al-Saif United Company for General Trading and Contracting, and the third contract will be given to Al-Ghanim Healthcare Company to provide medical supplies for four years with a total value of KD 7.8 million.

Special allowances

The information ministry's administrative and financial affairs sector urged all ministry sectors to list employees deserving special allowances, pending payment. Informed sources said assistant undersecretary for administrative and financial affairs Ghaleb Al-Ossaimi issued special forms to be used showing detailed information about each employee, the type of allowance and whether or not they deserve the allowance.

Kuwait becomes Japan's third biggest crude oil supplier

TOKYO: Kuwait's crude oil exports to Japan fell 24.2 percent in June from a year earlier to 5.28 million barrels, or 176,000 barrels per day (bpd), down for the second consecutive month, government data showed yesterday. But Kuwait overtook Iran and Qatar to become Japan's third-biggest oil provider last month, supplying 7.3 percent of the Asian nation's total crude imports, the Japanese Natural Resources and Energy Agency said in a preliminary report. Japan's overall imports of crude oil declined 14.7 percent year-on-year to 2.4 million bpd for the first drop in two months. Shipments from the Middle East accounted for 88.0 percent of the total, up 3.4 percentage points from the year before. Saudi Arabia remained Japan's No.1 oil supplier, but imports from the kingdom fell 6.4 percent from a year earlier to 916,000 bpd, followed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with 548,000 bpd, down 25.6 percent. Iran ranked fourth with 148,000 bpd and Qatar with 135,000 bpd, respectively. Resource-poor Japan relies on imports for virtually all of its oil, gas and coal. — KUNA

Shrimping season starts today



Family rescued from burning Abdullah Al-Mubarak house

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

KUWAIT: A fire broke out in a citizen's house in Abdullah Al-Mubarak and residents were trapped by the flames, said Kuwait Fire Service Directorate's (KFS) public relations and media department. Firemen from Jleeb and Ardhiya were immediately dispatched to the scene, where they found the fire was on the ground floor, KFS said, adding that family members, who were rescued without casualties, were trapped on the second floor. The fire was put out in record time to prevent it from spreading. Further investigation is in progress to determine the cause of the fire.



KUWAIT: The scene at the house after the fire was extinguished.

Totally untrue

The Relations and Security Information Department at the Interior Ministry said reports in a local paper and social media about the transfer of an officer at the airport because he implemented the law is totally untrue. It said investigations confirmed the officer made a mistake in carrying out security procedures at the airport, besides being unprofessional in dealing with those who were present. He also gave orders to let some passengers enter without being checked. The

statement said the officer was sent for investigations, then he was transferred to another department at the airport.

Suspect turns self in

A suspect who fired gunshots at Jahra police on July 24, then three days later stole a car at gunpoint from an Indian driver, turned himself in to sentences implementation detectives to serve a 10-year jail sentence. The suspect had fired at policemen who went to arrest him, then later told authorities he wants to serve his sentence. The suspect will be interrogated on all charges before being sent to the central prison.

Arrests

An Iraqi man who kept bothering his neighbor, who is in her fifties, was arrested and faces charges. The woman lodged a complaint against him over his behavior, so detectives worked on the case and caught him. The suspect denied any wrongdoing, but found wanted on other charges. Separately, Jahra police arrested two citizens who were sitting on the jogging track in Naseem, as they were found under the influence of drugs and had drugs on them. The arrest was made when police asked them for their IDs and found them under the influence. They were taken to concerned authorities.

KUFPEC exceeds 100,000 barrels a day in production

KUWAIT: Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC) announced highest production rate record since its establishment in 1981, exceeding 100,000 barrels of oil equivalent a day (boed), as July's rate reached 119,000 boed. In a press statement yesterday, KUFPEC CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah said the company aims to reach 150,000 boed by 2020 and keep it up at that rate until 2040. The company continues to work on its vital projects in Australia, Norway and Canada to reach its goals, he added.

KUFPEC's second pipeline for liquefied natural gas 'Wheatstone LNG Project' in



Australia had started production mid-June with a rate of over 38,000 boed by now, Sheikh Nawaf said. The project's development plan aims to provide the Australian market with gas, while also having the right to transfer part of the production to Kuwait should the need arise, he noted.

Meanwhile, the company's production rate in Norway's Greater Sleipner are was recorded at 30,000 boed. The area is Norway's second largest center for natural gas, he added. As for Canada, the CEO said that KUFPEC's

shale gas project added 28 million boed to the company's total reserve of 494 million barrel this year. KUFPEC's current production rate in Canada is at 8,000 boed, he said, adding that the company dug 120 oil wells to boost performance and aims to reach 2000 wells in the coming years.

Moreover, Sheikh Nawaf said that KUFPEC's production is 70 percent gas and 30 percent oil. He noted that natural gas prices are more stable than oil prices. He also mentioned that the company signed \$1.1 billion finance agreement with a number of regional and international banks to help it expand its oil and gas production. The CEO added that KUFPEC had employed 30 Kuwaiti workers since 2017, to reach 80 percent rate of employments for Kuwaitis, including 14 employees working in the company's offices abroad. Sheikh Nawaf said that KUFPEC's assets go up to \$7 billion, with investments in 13 companies around the world. KUFPEC is a subsidiary of state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC). It aims to boost output to 150,000 boed by 2020 from 119,000 boed currently, Sheikh Nawaf noted. — KUNA

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'New age militancy' stokes on-going Kashmir conflict

Gunmen storm Afghan govt building, 11 die in bus bombing

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NEW DELHI/ISLAMABAD: In this combo picture, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi gestures to greet attendees during Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Parliamentary committee meeting at Parliament and in a handout photograph released by political party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on July 26, 2018, Pakistan's cricketer-turned politician Imran Khan, and head of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (Movement for Justice) party, addresses the nation at his residence in Islamabad a day after general election. — AFP photos

Modi and Khan discuss regional peace

'Reiterated his vision of peace and development in the entire neighborhood'

ISLAMABAD: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi called Imran Khan on Monday to congratulate him on his party's victory in the Pakistan general election, with both men discussing regional peace. It was their first call since Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) emerged victorious from last week's vote that has been marred by claims of pre-election rigging and irregularities on the day.

Relations between the nuclear-armed rivals have frayed in the last couple of years, with direct talks stalled amid diplomatic rows and military firing across the Line of Control frontier that divides the disputed region of Kashmir. Khan, widely seen as Pakistan's prime minister-in-waiting, is now courting independent candidates and minor parties to form a coalition government in a nation that has fought three wars with India.

In the phone call, Modi "reiterated his vision of peace and development in the entire neighborhood", according to a statement by India's Ministry of External Affairs. Khan declared in his victory speech that he wanted to resolve the long-standing territorial dispute over Kashmir, saying "if India comes and takes one step towards us, we will take two". Khan's media team said he had told Modi it was vital both countries focus on pulling millions out of poverty.

The PTI said Khan had also told Modi that issues between the two nations must be resolved through talks. "Wars can breed tragedies instead of facilitating resolution of conflicts," he said, according to a PTI statement. "Prime Minister (Modi) expressed hope that democracy

will take deeper roots in Pakistan," the Indian ministry said in a brief statement. European Union observers say there was an uneven playing field during the election as major obstacles were put in the way of a rival party that was led by jailed former premier Nawaz Sharif. The United States has also expressed concern about what it calls electoral "flaws".

Khan has offered to investigate all claims of irregularities, and promised to build a new Pakistan with an Islamic welfare state that would seek to elevate those mired in poverty. Some analysts and commentators have said Pakistan's democracy has been weakened by meddling by the armed forces. Both Khan and the military deny colluding with each other.

Majority-Muslim Pakistan has criticized India in recent years about what it calls New Delhi's heavy-handed tactics in Kashmir, as well as violence suffered by the Muslim-minority groups in India at the hands of Hindu extremists. India blames Pakistan for stoking the revolt in Kashmir and the Modi government has refused talks unless Islamabad acts against militant groups operating from its soil against India. India and Pakistan have fought three wars since independence

from Britain in 1947, two of them over Kashmir, which they both claim in full but rule in part. In its first response to Khan's election, the Indian foreign office said it hoped Pakistan's new government would work for a terror-free South Asia.

Citizens list

One of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's biggest critics is rallying opposition parties against his government after a new list of citizens excluded 4 million people from a border state in a drive against illegal immigrants. The draft National Register of Citizens (NRC) is the result of a years-long agitation by residents of the northeastern state of Assam demanding expulsion of the immigrants from Muslim-majority Bangladesh just over the border.

Work on it accelerated under the state and federal governments of Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the exclusions from the list released on Monday have given ammunition to opposition parties to band together against Modi's re-election bid next year. Mamata Banerjee, the firebrand chief minister of India's

eastern state of West Bengal, accused the BJP of trying to make millions of people stateless for political reasons. "This can't be tolerated and that's why India needs a change, and the change must come in 2019, for the betterment of the people of this country," Banerjee said at an event in New Delhi. Outside parliament, her regional All-India Trinamool Congress led a protest by lawmakers from seven political parties, who held placards demanding "Stop this divide and rule policy" and "Why have Indian citizens become refugees in their own country?"

Assam has been racked by waves of violence over the years as residents, including tribal groups, have clashed with both Hindu and Muslim settlers, whom they accuse of plundering resources and taking away jobs. BJP President Amit Shah hit back at the opposition, saying his party was the only one that dared to take a firm stance against illegal immigration. He said migrants from Bangladesh had no place in India.

India does not have a deportation pact with Bangladesh, however, and the government has said it would decide on the fate of those eventually deemed foreigners in consultation with the Supreme Court, which is monitoring the registration process. In Assam, many applicants queued for the second day at government booths to check their citizenship status, with some relieved at finding their names on the list while others who did not make it hung around, dejected. There have been no reports of violence and security remains tight. — Agencies



Relations have frayed in the last couple of years

Volcano hikers tell of terror after Indonesia quake

MATARAM: More than 500 hikers and guides stranded by landslides on an Indonesian mountain after an earthquake have returned to safety, with some recalling their terror when tons of rock cascaded down. The shallow 6.4-magnitude quake, which struck early Sunday on Lombok island and was followed by scores of aftershocks, triggered major landslides on Mount Rinjani, blocking the hiking routes that criss-cross it.

Some 800 trekkers and their guides were on the mountain when the quake struck including citizens from the United States, France, the Netherlands, Thailand, Germany and 21 other countries, according to search and rescue officials. Hundreds managed to find a way down on Sunday and over 500 more reached safety Monday night.

While most were able to pick their way down the mountain on foot, at least three arrived at Sembalun village on the lower slopes by helicopter, according to officials. Some returned with harrowing tales of being caught out by the quake, which killed 17 people across the holiday island including one on the mountain. Australian hiker Stanley Yu said the ground began to shake about 20 minutes after his group reached Rinjani's peak. "The earthquake lasted about 10-20 seconds. After that everybody was rushing down," he told AFP. "On the way down there was another earthquake and that made everyone panic — it was pretty scary." One Thai tourist, who reached the foot of the mountain Tuesday morning, felt the ground shake beneath her sleeping bag. "I felt the earth move... and thought 'Huh? What's happening?'" she said. "I got out of my bed and then I saw a landslide (with) rocks falling down." A male



SEMBALUN: This handout picture released by the Indonesian military and taken on July 30, 2018 shows hikers descending from Mount Rinjani after people were stuck on the mountain following an earthquake on July 29, in Sembalun, West Nusa Tenggara. — AFP

friend said he watched parts of Rinjani's slopes collapse. "The whole mountain, rocks, fell down — I was a bit afraid," he said.

'Tired but in good condition'

The remaining 500 or so hikers were able to start climbing down on Monday after guides discovered an alternate route that was unaffected by the landslides. The last three trekkers — two porters and a guide — are expected to arrive at the base of the mountain by 7pm local time, said Agus Hendra Sanjaya, a spokesman for the search and rescue agency on the island's main city of Mataram.

"We have searched the (Rinjani) area, there are no more hikers," he told AFP. "We started this morning at 6am and will continue to monitor the situation for the next three days from our base at

the foot of the mountain in Sembalun." Most of the trekkers reached the base of the mountain by late Monday evening, according to I Gusti Lanang Wiswananda, another spokesman from the Mataram search and rescue agency. "They were all tired but in good condition and were checked by our medical teams on the ground upon arrival," he told AFP.

Helicopters and search teams had been deployed to scour the mountain's slopes and drop food supplies for those stranded on it. Thousands of buildings were destroyed across Lombok, including a health clinic. National disaster mitigation agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said more than 220 people suffered serious injuries. A Malaysian tourist was among the dead, with another six citizens injured, the foreign ministry in Kuala Lumpur has said. — AFP

Man jailed in Australia over terror plot

BRISBANE: A man was jailed for 17 years yesterday for plotting a terrorist attack in Australia after being prevented from travelling to Syria, with the judge saying he continued to hold extremist views. Agim Kruezi, 25, was arrested in 2014 and pleaded guilty in the Brisbane Supreme Court to one count each of preparing for terrorist acts and planning a foreign incursion. The court heard Kruezi, reportedly an Australian-born Albanian, planned to travel to Syria to fight with an Al-Qaeda-affiliated group but was stopped by customs officers and his passport was cancelled. He instead turned his attention to an attack on home soil.

Broadcaster ABC said police found a loaded semi-automatic sawn-off rifle, two balaclavas, two machetes, a photocopy of a book titled Jihad, and an Islamic State flag pinned to his bedroom wall when he was arrested. Instructions to carry out beheadings were also discovered on his computer and in the days before his arrest, he purchased 10 liters of petrol and attempted to buy glass bottles suitable to make molotov cocktails, it added.

Justice Roslyn Atkinson said it was necessary for counter-terrorism police to arrest him when they did to prevent a "public attack". "If not imminent, it was at least planned to the point you had obtained weapons," she said, according to Brisbane's Courier Mail. "There seems little doubt... that you intended to carry out the terror plot, albeit the precise details were yet to crystallize." She added that "there is no evidence that you have changed your (extremist) views".

Canberra has been increasingly concerned by homegrown extremism and citizens fighting with jihadist organizations abroad such as Islamic State. The country introduced sweeping counter-terrorism laws in 2014 that include blocking alleged jihadists from going overseas. Authorities say they have prevented 14 terror attacks in recent years. Several others have occurred, including the 2014 siege of a central Sydney cafe in which two hostages were killed. — AFP

International

Killers of tourists in Tajikistan 'pledge allegiance' in IS video

Tajik authorities declared 2018 'a year of tourism'

DUSHANBE: The Islamic State group yesterday released a video showing what it said was a pledge of allegiance by the five men accused of murdering European and American tourists in Tajikistan. An armed gang attacked a group of seven foreign cyclists, killing four and injuring two, on a popular biking route in the south of the impoverished ex-Soviet nation on Sunday. The incident was first reported as a hit-and-run road accident but later claimed by Islamic State jihadists.

Tajik authorities however say the attack was carried out by a banned Islamist opposition party with the backing of Iran. The video released by IS yesterday shows five men, who resemble pictures of the suspects put out by Tajik police, sitting by a tree in front of a jihadist flag. The clip shows them swearing allegiance to Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, the group's leader.

Tajikistan released pictures of four of the suspects after they were killed by police while resisting arrest. A 33-year-old man resembling the fifth participant in the video has been detained. A further three suspects were also being held, police

said. The victims — two Americans, one Swiss citizen and one Dutch citizen — were killed after being struck by a car and attacked as they cycled a road off the Pamir Highway — a popular tourist route with spectacular views. Two other foreigners were injured in the attack in Danghara district, about 100 kilometers from the capital Dushanbe. A French citizen survived unscathed. Tajik authorities had declared 2018 "a year of tourism".

'Baseless allegations'

Tajikistan brushed off the earlier claim of responsibility by the IS group, saying the leader of the attackers was Hussein Abdusamadov, an "active member" of the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (IRPT). He had undergone "military sabotage" training in Iran, police said yesterday. But a spokesman for the IRPT — which was banned in 2015 as part of a crackdown that has been criticised by the US and several rights groups — rejected the claim. "These allegations are baseless and they are not our members," Mahmudjon Faizrahmon told AFP. "Unfortunately, the authorities used this human

and national tragedy to suppress their opponents," he said. Tehran also denied any involvement. "The Islamic Republic of Iran denies any link with this terrorist attack and categorically denies that there is any military base to train terrorists inside Iran," said foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi, quoted by the Mehr news agency. "We condemn all terrorist acts all over the world, including the recent attack on foreign tourists in Tajikistan," he said.

While majority-Muslim Iran and Tajikistan share a Persian cultural and linguistic heritage, relations between the countries have been tense. Although Muslims in Tajikistan overwhelmingly adhere to the Sunni Islam, Shia Islam dominates in Iran, limiting religious ties between the two countries. In 2016, a Tajik court gave life sentences to key figures in the IRPT, a group authorities have accused of plotting to overthrow the government. Some members of the IRPT had fought government forces in the civil war in Tajikistan that lasted from 1992 to 1997. The party's subsequent participation in domestic politics was widely viewed as a positive legacy of the peace process. — AFP



A image taken from a video released by The Islamic State's (IS) Amaq News Agency yesterday, allegedly shows the five executors of an attack on foreign tourists on a bike tour in southern Tajikistan. — AFP

Tense count as Zimbabwe oppn claim victory



HARARE: Supporters of MDC (Movement for Democratic Change Alliance) leader and opposition presidential candidate cheer outside the MDC headquarters. — AFP

HARARE: Zimbabwe's opposition MDC party yesterday claimed victory in the country's historic elections, setting the scene for a showdown with the ruling ZANU-PF that has held power since independence in 1980. Senior MDC official Tendai Biti said party leader Nelson Chamisa had won the presidential race, and alleged that the authorities were delaying the publication of results. "The results show beyond reasonable doubt that we have won the election and that the next president of Zimbabwe is Nelson Chamisa," Biti told a press conference at the party's headquarters in Harare.

"We are however seriously concerned about evidence of interference... there is a deliberate delay in announcing the results. This delay is totally unacceptable," President Emmerson Mnangagwa, 75, has also said he was confident of victory in Zimbabwe's first election since former leader Robert Mugabe was ousted in November after 37 years in power. "The information from our reps on the ground is extremely positive! Waiting patiently for official results as per the constitution," Mnangagwa said on Twitter early yesterday.

The rival claims pointed to a contested result, raising the prospect of competing fraud allegations and a possible run-off vote in September—required if no candidate wins at least 50 percent of ballots in the first round. Analysts have said it was unclear whether the country's generals, who ousted Mugabe and ushered Mnangagwa into office, would accept a win by the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). Defeat for the ruling party would likely lead "to a denunciation of the election by the Mnangagwa administration and the potential for the military to intervene to secure power for ZANU-PF," the London-based BMI risk consultancy said.

Anxious wait for results

"I am scared—is there going to be unrest?" Stone Sibanda, a 39-year-old taxi driver in Harare, told AFP. "It is a very sensitive moment. Everyone is anxious." Estimated turnout was around 75 percent before polls closed on Monday evening after a peaceful day of voting. Early results from the elections—presidential, parliamentary and local—are expected today, and full results are due by Saturday. At one polling station in the capital Harare, officials counted large piles of ballots using gas lanterns and candles late into the night on Monday. If required, Zimbabwe's 5.6 million registered voters would be asked to return to the polls to vote in a presidential run-off on September 8. Zimbabwe's much-criticised election authority declared yesterday that the vote had been free of rigging—even though the count was not yet completed. "We are absolutely confident there was no rigging... we at the Zimbabwean Election Commission will not steal (the people's) choice of leaders, we will not subvert their will," said ZEC chair Priscilla Chigumba.

Mugabe, 94, whose authoritarian regime held power through violent, fraud-riddled elections, voted in Harare alongside his wife Grace after a surprise press conference at his home on Sunday at which he called for voters to reject ZANU-PF, his former party.

EU cites 'shortcomings'

Once-banned European Union election observers, present for the first time in years, said participation appeared high but warned of possible problems in the polling process. "There are shortcomings that we have to check. We don't know yet whether it was a pattern," EU chief observer Elmar Brok told AFP on Monday.

The bloc will deliver a preliminary report on the conduct of the election on Wednesday, as will the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union teams. Mnangagwa, Mugabe's former right-hand man in ZANU-PF, was the clear election front-runner, benefiting from tacit military support, loyal state media and ruling party controls of government resources. — AFP

Ukraine's prisons languish despite promised reform

KIEV: Around 20 men are crammed into the foul-smelling cell, where cockroaches wander across the walls and barred windows. This is one of Ukraine's most notorious prisons, the Lukyanivska facility in central Kiev, where improvements have long been promised but have yet to materialize. "This is how it is," a prisoner tells AFP as he pulls back a piece of fab-

ric that barely separates a toilet — covered in a thick layer of mould — from the rest of the room.

Largely unchanged since the Soviet period, the Ukrainian penitentiary system is infamous for its dire conditions. Pro-Western Ukrainian authorities launched efforts to reform the creaking infrastructure two years ago, but the project has stalled largely because of a lack of funding. "A prison is not a cognac, it does not improve with age," deputy justice minister Denys Chernyshov said of Lukyanivska, which has a 150-year history.

'No point in a makeover'

Over the years it has been home to numerous high profile prisoners, including the future leader of the Soviet secret police Felix Dzerzhinsky, the filmmaker Sergei Parazhanov

and many dissidents. More recently former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko was also held in the women's wing, where conditions are slightly better.

Some of the buildings in the prison complex have been renovated but the only way to improve the rest is to knock them down, Chernyshov told AFP. "The way things are at the moment it is impossible to get rid of the mould because it has gone all the way through the walls — there is no point in trying to do a makeover," he said. "It is necessary to build a new building." With 2,500 inmates, Lukyanivska is among the worst of its kind, according to a report made this year by the Ukraine's Ombudsman. Kiev authorities have put the land on the market, with a view to using the funds to construct a new facility outside the capital. But Chernyshov admits they have not yet received an offer. — AFP

Incheon Airport **الطيران المدني**

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The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is delighted to announce the Tender (Tender No. 4 -T4 - 2018 / 2019) of 'Food and Beverages Business (FB01) at Kuwait International Airport - Terminal 4'.

Tender documents can be purchased from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation – Financial Affairs Department, Tenders and Contracts Section at Kuwait International Airport. Please refer to the information detailed below:

Announcement Date	Closing Date	Price of Tender Documents	The Preliminary meeting will be held on Sunday, August 5, 2018 at 10 AM.
29 / 7 / 2018	27 / 8 / 2018	1,000 K.D	Location: Directorate General of Civil Aviation Financial Affairs Department

- The above amount should be paid by K-Net.
- The Bank Guarantee (Bid Bond) should not be less than (150,000 KD, One Hundred Fifty Thousand Kuwaiti Dinar only) in the form of certified Cheque or a Letter of Guarantee issued by one of the banks accredited to the State of Kuwait.
- The documents should be filled and returned in an envelope sealed with red wax. The location of submission is the Directorate General of Civil Aviation – Financial Affairs Department – Tenders and Contracts Section.
- The deadline (closing date) for submission is on Monday, August 27, 2018 at 1 PM.

Incheon Airport **الطيران المدني**

Directorate General of Civil Aviation
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The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is delighted to announce the Tender (Tender No. 5-T4 - 2018 / 2019) of 'Food and Beverages Business (FB02) at Kuwait International Airport - Terminal 4'.

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Announcement Date	Closing Date	Price of Tender Documents	The Preliminary meeting will be held on Monday, August 6, 2018 at 10 AM.
29 / 7 / 2018	27 / 8 / 2018	1,000 K.D	Location: Directorate General of Civil Aviation Financial Affairs Department

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- The documents should be filled and returned in an envelope sealed with red wax. The location of submission is the Directorate General of Civil Aviation – Financial Affairs Department – Tenders and Contract Section.
- The deadline (closing date) for submission is on Monday, August 27, 2018 at 1 PM.

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Announcement Date	Closing Date	Price of Tender Documents	The Preliminary meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2018 at 10 AM
29 / 7 / 2018	15 / 8 / 2018	1,000 K.D	Location: Directorate General of Civil Aviation Financial Affairs Department

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- The deadline (closing date) for submission is on Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at 1 PM.

Incheon Airport **الطيران المدني**

Directorate General of Civil Aviation
Incheon International Airport Corporation – South Korea

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is delighted to announce the Tender (Tender No. 7-T4 - 2018 / 2019) of 'Bank and Money Exchange Business (BME02) at Kuwait International Airport - Terminal 4'.

Tender documents can be purchased from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation – Financial Affairs Department, Tenders and Contracts Section at Kuwait International Airport. Please refer to the information detailed below:

Announcement Date	Closing Date	Price of Tender Documents	The Preliminary meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 8, 2018 at 10 AM
29 / 7 / 2018	15 / 8 / 2018	1,000 K.D	Location: Directorate General of Civil Aviation Financial Affairs Department

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- The documents should be filled and returned in an envelope sealed with red wax. The location of submission is the Directorate General of Civil Aviation – Financial Affairs Department – Tenders and Contract Section.
- The deadline (closing date) for submission is on Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at 1 PM.

International

How do you sleep? Greece seeing political allegations for fire deaths

'Public figures have no right to hide during a crisis'

ATHENS: Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras accused the opposition yesterday of exploiting one of the country's worst ever natural disasters for saying ministers should resign over the deaths of at least 91 people in a fire. Greece has been stunned by the blaze which swiftly gutted the town of Mati east of Athens on July 23. Scores more people were injured and the death toll could still rise. There have since been recriminations over whether an evacuation order was issued and whether rescue services responded in a timely manner.

"I really wonder how some people ... can sleep today, and continue content in exercising their duties," Kyriakos Mitsotakis, head of the Conservative New Democracy party, told a news conference. "When someone undertakes political responsibility it should be accompanied by an act, and resignation is an act of personal responsibility," said Mitsotakis, whose party is leading in opinion polls. Though Mitsotakis did not name the prime minister, the comments appeared to be aimed at Tsipras, who has said he accepted full political responsibility for the disaster.

'Trying times'

The prime minister's office accused Mitsotakis of trying to "take advantage of dozens of citizens' pain and loss". "Human lives cannot become an object of political exploitation," Tsipras's office said in a statement. "Citizens will judge those who judge," Mitsotakis said those responsible for coordinating the fire response, including the civil protection and interior ministers and the fire brigade chief, should resign.

He also appeared to criticize Tsipras for failing to visit the scene of the disaster sooner. Tsipras travelled to the site on Monday a week after the blaze. Another government minister who visited earlier had a heated exchange with survivors on whether aid was sent in a timely manner. "Anger, and sympathizing with another's pain is something deeply personal," Mitsotakis said.

"But public figures have no right to hide during a crisis. (A leader) has an obligation to take a position, and be next to people in trying times." Tsipras has vowed to hold a thorough inquiry into how hundreds of people were left trapped by flames. He has pledged a series of changes, including a crackdown on unlicensed construction which is thought to have worsened the fire and blocked off escape routes for residents fleeing towards the sea. The bodies of two people thought to have fled into the sea to escape the wildfires that ravaged coastal towns near Athens last week have been recovered, port police said Tuesday. Confirmation that the pair were victims of the fire would bring the disaster's death toll to at least 93.

Police have now recovered eight bodies from the sea off a string of popular coastal communities that were devastated by the fires that broke out on July 23. The fires burned with such ferocity that most people fled to the safety of the sea with just the clothes on their backs. Many then had to wait several hours in the water for help to arrive. It was local fishermen, not the coast-guard or navy, who first came to their aid. A merchant marine official told AFP that the search for further victims was continuing. —Agencies



ATHENS: People attend a candlelight vigil in front of the Greek parliament in Athens on July 30, 2018, to commemorate victims of the country's worst ever wildfires, which has claimed scores of lives. —AFP

German acquitted over 'racist' bombing 18 years later

DUSSELDORF: An alleged neo-Nazi was acquitted by a German court yesterday for a bombing 18 years ago targeting Jewish immigrants, in what angry victims' advocates called a historic "legal mistake". Ralf Spies, 52, was cleared of 12 counts of attempted murder with a "racist" motive and a charge of causing an explosion in the attack at a commuter rail station in the western city of Duesseldorf on July 27, 2000.

The regional court in the city found him not guilty, after having released him from custody in May "for lack of sufficiently reliable testimony" from witnesses, many of whom were in prison with the defendant. The victims were on their way back from a German language course when the explosion, hung in a plastic bag on a fence near the Wehrhahn station entrance, went off, sparking panic.

Ten eastern European migrants — six of them Jews from the former Soviet Union — were injured in the bombing, which shocked Germany and drew international condemnation. A 26-year-old Ukrainian pregnant woman lost her unborn child and had to undergo emergency surgery after the blast ripped off one of her feet. Her 28-year-old husband suffered wounds over his entire body from metal fragments unleashed in the explosion and was in a critical condition for several days.

'Worst legal mistake'

Chief prosecutor Ralf Herrenbrueck, who had called for a life sentence for Spies, expressed outrage in closing arguments last week that the case appeared to be unraveling. Spies "felt called upon to keep his neighborhood 'clean'. He wanted to get rid of everything he hated," Herrenbrueck told the court.

Four lawyers representing victims of the blast pointed to wiretapped telephone calls in which Spies appeared to boast about his involvement in the attack. They had urged presiding judge Rainer Drees to convict Spies, citing a preponderance of evidence. But as it became clear that the trial was heading toward an acquittal, co-plaintiff attorney Juri Rogner said in final arguments that the court was on the verge of "committing the worst legal mistake in the history of Duesseldorf". —AFP

UK drops charges against ex-soldier for fighting IS

LONDON: A former British soldier alleged to have fought alongside Kurdish forces battling the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria had terrorism charges against him dropped yesterday. James Matthews, from east London, was due to face trial in November after being charged with receiving training in Iraq and Syria on or before February 15 2016 "for purposes connected to the commission of preparation of terrorism".

The 43-year-old was believed to be the first person to be prosecuted for terrorism in Britain for assisting a group already helped by the British government. But state prosecutor Tom Little said at a hearing at London's Old Bailey on Tuesday that there was no longer a realistic prospect of conviction on "evidential grounds".

Hundreds of foreign fighters from countries including Britain, Canada, France, Germany and the United States have fought alongside the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) in northern Syria. The group is a key component of the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces alliance which waged a successful campaign against Islamic State jihadists. Joel Bennathan, who was defending Matthews, said his client was "happy" charges had been dropped. —AFP

Counting under way after Mali's violence marred poll

BAMAKO: Counting was under way in Mali following a key presidential election that saw balloting halted at hundreds of polling stations because of violence in restive regions of the poor Sahel country. Despite the violence, candidates and authorities praised Sunday's first round of voting, relieved that the violence — which included the torching of polling stations and assaults on electoral officials — caused no casualties.

Security was a central issue during the campaign, in which 73-year-old President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita is seeking re-election with the international community hoping the poll will strengthen a 2015 peace accord. On Monday evening, Keita's coalition announced the incumbent seemed "largely ahead" in the results. "He is in a good position to get a second term," Mahamadou Camara, a spokesman for the president, told reporters.

Leading the pack of his 23 challengers is Soumaila Cisse, 68, a former finance and economy minister, who lost by a wide margin in the 2013 election that brought Keita to power. Cisse's campaign director Tiebile Drame said

the team was "legitimately satisfied" but criticized authorities for failing to provide adequate security. Some 30,000 security personnel were deployed throughout the country. "Luckily, there were no casualties," said Drame while insisting that his candidate would force a second round run-off. The aim to re-elect the president in the first round was "already a failure", he said.

Late Monday, the campaign of another prominent candidate, businessman Aliou Boubacar Diallo, said it was a "certainty" that he would also be in the second round, adding "we want to steal victory". The polls were observed by teams from the European Union, the African Union, the regional ECOWAS grouping and the Francophone organization.

'God does not like elections'

Cisse's team had warned of possible election fraud, claiming that there were two electoral lists and hundreds of fake polling stations. He and other challengers, who include several former ministers and just one woman — an entrepreneur — have accused Keita of incompetence on security matters.

Most of the violence on Sunday occurred in the north and centre of the sprawling semi-desert country, regions already hit by ethnic unrest and jihadism. Not a single ballot was cast at 716 of the polling stations in the two regions following threats and attacks by armed groups, government figures showed — with no plans announced to give residents a chance to vote. "Very few people were expecting that voting would be

Spain struggles with spike in migrant arrivals

ALGECIRAS: Since being plucked from a packed inflatable boat by Spanish rescuers in the Mediterranean on Friday, Glenn Alban has slept outdoors on a bed of flattened cardboard boxes in the port of Algeciras in southern Spain. The 18-year-old Cameroonian says he gets just two meals a day — milk and a biscuit for breakfast and juice and a sandwich for dinner — as he waits to be identified by police and allowed to leave the port, one of Europe's biggest.

"As you can see it is difficult. It is so hot," he told AFP on Monday as he pointed to his makeshift bed, which was sheltered from the blazing sun by a Red Cross blanket he had tied between a fence and a concrete road barrier. "I did not expect to stay here for a long time like this. I am shocked. I can't believe it," said Alban, who lived in Morocco for two years before making the crossing to Spain, adding that he had expected a more efficient reception in Europe.

He is part of a surge in the number of migrants arriving by sea on Spain's southern shores from North Africa that is stretching the country's security forces and safety net. Spain has overtaken Italy as the preferred destination for migrant arrivals in Europe this year as a crackdown by Libyan authorities has made it more difficult for them to reach Italian shores.

Over 22,000 people have arrived by sea so far this year according to Spain's

maritime rescue service — more than during all of last year. Just since Friday more than 1,500 migrants have landed in the southern province of Cadiz in Andalusia, with the majority of the new arrivals funneling through Algeciras. Dozens of migrants were filmed landing on a beach at Tarifa near Algeciras on Saturday before sprinting into woodland as stunned sunbathers — some of them naked — looked on, in videos that went viral on social media.

'Lack of means'

With police stations and makeshift emergency shelters set up in sports centres in Cadiz full, many rescued migrants have been forced to sleep inside an orange rescue boat docked in the port of Algeciras, or on the pavement beside it.

During a fact-finding visit to Algeciras on Saturday, Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska denied there was a "collapse" in the system to receive migrants, saying the situation is "absolutely under control and controllable". But police and charities that work with migrants say the surge in arrivals is exposing Spain's response as unplanned, underfunded and understaffed. "The number of migrant arrivals is very significant, as is the lack of means to deal with it," the representative of the Cadiz branch of the United Police Union (SUP), Carmen Velayos, told AFP.

There are not enough officers to process migrants within 72 hours of their arrival as required by law, even though agents have been pulled from other tasks or in some cases worked every day for the past month, she added. In a sign that police are struggling to control the situation, 62 migrants escaped on Sunday



BAMAKO: An electoral official shows a ballot paper during the vote counting at the polling station. —AFP

able to take place in all of the country," Sean Smith, senior West Africa analyst at risk consultancy Verisk Maplecroft, said.

In Mali's north, where the state is barely present, armed groups who signed the peace accord helped to ensure security. "This is the big difference between the north and the centre of the country: it is possible to negotiate with (armed) groups in the north, but not at all in central (Mali)," said Aurelien Tobie, senior researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Violence also marred the lead-up to the vote, despite the presence of 15,000 UN peacekeepers, 4,500 French

troops and a much heralded five-nation anti-terror G5 Sahel force.

The jihadist violence has spread from northern Mali to the centre and south of the country and spilled over into neighboring Burkina Faso and Niger, often inflaming communal conflicts. Mali, considered a linchpin state in the troubled Sahel region, is one of the world's poorest countries, with most people living on less than \$2 a day. The organization of the vote was "a huge security challenge," Prime Minister Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga said late Sunday, praising the proceedings "despite minor security incidents." —AFP



ALGECIRAS: Migrants rescued at sea wait to be transferred at the harbor of Algeciras. —AFP

from a warehouse which has been turned into a temporary shelter in the port of Barbate in Cadiz.

'Completely overwhelmed'

The authorities have not had enough blankets, mattresses and even food for the migrants who arrived in recent days, said Ana Rosado, an activist with the Andalusian Pro-Human Rights Association (APDHA) which provides aid to the new arrivals. In some cases officials have asked local residents to donate water and basic food items for them, she added. "They are completely overwhelmed," Rosado said.

Migration has become a political issue in Spain since Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez took office in

June and promptly agreed to accept two ship loads of asylum seekers denied entry by Italy. The main opposition conservative Popular Party (PP) accuses Sanchez's approach of creating a "pull factor", but the government points out that the rise in arrivals started more than a year ago. It accuses the previous PP administration of not preparing for a predictable rise in migrant arrivals. The interior minister said the government was working against the clock to open a new migrant reception centre near Algeciras with room for 600 people. Members of Spanish military emergency unit UME unloaded a truck-mounted crane on Monday to help set up the new centre scheduled to open later this week in the port of San Roque. —AFP

International

30 years on, 'new age militancy' stokes on-going Kashmir conflict

Indian troops are now also fighting a social media war

SRINAGAR: A home-made bomb set off the insurgency against Indian rule in Kashmir 30 years ago, but "new age" fighters using social media assaults alongside guns are taking the battle to new heights of bitterness. The explosion at the Srinagar telegraph office doorway on July 31, 1988 caused no casualties but lit the fuse on a conflict that rights groups say has since left more than 70,000 dead.

Public support for the act surprised the attackers and India, which has struggled in Kashmir ever since it was divided with rival Pakistan in 1947 in the turmoil of independence. But while Kashmir remains one of the world's most heavily militarized zones, the 500,000-plus Indian troops in Kashmir are now also fighting a social media war. Hundreds of young men post images of themselves with AK47 guns on Facebook and other social media sites after joining underground groups, seeking to build large, sympathetic followings and attract new recruits.

When the army surrounds militant hideouts, they are often impeded by crowds of civilians rallying to the separatists' cause, ready to risk their lives in a hail of bullets. Indian police respond by hauling in people who make pro-militant social media comments and by blocking mobile internet during demonstrations. Social media sites were blocked for a month last year.

Abdul Ahad Waza, 50, who clandestinely organised some of the first groups to get arms training in Pakistani Kashmir, said the Jammu

Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), which planted the first bomb, had not expected such support. "All we wanted was to let the world know that Indian rule of Kashmir was not acceptable," Waza, who spent 11 years in jail, told AFP. He now lives a quiet life with his wife and two children. "That explosion in Srinagar quickly turned into an explosion of public support for our cause," Waza said "new age militancy" was now carrying on the fight.

A case in point is Manan Wani, a PhD scholar who went missing in January having abandoned geology research at an Indian university to join the banned Hizbul Mujahideen group. In a recent letter sent to Kashmir media justifying his move, Wani said: "There was a time when the fight was between an armed militant and a thousand Indian troopers but now Indian army has to get through thousands of unarmed freedom fighters before getting the gunman. "The people who come to rescue the militants at encounter sites, unarmed, without caring about their lives give us an idea about the aspirations and emotions of the people."

For more than a decade after the 1988 bomb, Kashmir convulsed with street protests. An Indian military crackdown left tens of thousands dead, mainly civilians. Separatists say they want independence or a merger with Pakistan. The JKLF ended its armed struggle in 1994. But other armed groups with thousands of fighters took their place. Indian peace initiatives and a 2001

India-Pakistan summit on Kashmir failed. Kashmiris then turned to peaceful self-determination protests that brought hundreds of thousands of people onto the streets between 2008 and 2010. Another 300 civilians were killed as security forces countered the protests.

Fearless protests

The rebellion seemed to be waning when in July 2016, Indian troops killed a renowned militant commander. The death of 23-year-old Burhan Wani, who had built up a big following on social media, acted as a new fuse. Now Indian troops find entire communities at the scenes of their sieges of rebel hideouts, hurling stones at soldiers to help militants escape.

According to DS Hooda, a retired lieutenant general who served in Kashmir for more than two decades, it is this public anger that is now the real "challenge" for the government. "This militancy is not a problem. Civilian killings, and this confrontation, sustains a vicious cycle. Social media is reinforcing hardened views and positions," Hooda said. "The middle ground has disappeared." Wani's death sparked months of protests that left nearly 100 dead and at least 10,000 injured. Some 500 militants have been killed across the territory since 2016.

A top police officer, part of the Indian counter-insurgency campaign for many years, said it is "infinitely more difficult" for India now than at any time in the past. "People coming to rescue



SRINAGAR: Indian paramilitary troopers stand during a random search operation in central Srinagar on July 27, 2018. Security has been in on high alert after recent attacks by suspected militants. — AFP

militants is a huge new development. None of it is planned or orchestrated, it's all spontaneous," the former police officer told AFP on condition of anonymity. The mood on the street is also

hardening. "It feels like we're back to the '90s, even worse. What we have seen and what has been done to us, it is now a point of no return," said Bashir Ahmed, a businessman. — AFP

New Myanmar Rakhine commission denounced

YANGON: A new commission set up by Myanmar to look into human rights abuses in Rakhine state has been criticized by observers yesterday as a "political gimmick", as the country tries to stave off further censure over its treatment of its Rohingya Muslims. The government announced Monday evening that an "independent" commission of inquiry had been established but gave no details about its remit, powers or the timeframe given to complete its report.

The military tore through Rohingya villages in a campaign that started last August following a spate of insurgent attacks, forcing some 700,000 to flee over the border en masse to Bangladesh. The Rohingya have recounted testimony of widespread murder, rape, torture and arson at the hands of the army and ethnic Rakhine Buddhist mobs, in violence the UN has branded as ethnic cleansing. In the decades before that the Rohingya systematically had their rights stripped away by a country that widely regards them as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. Yangon-based analyst David

Mathieson called the new commission a "political gimmick".

"Given the weight of evidence collected by Amnesty International, the UN and the media, this CoI (Commission of Inquiry) is tantamount to a rude gesture, not a genuine inquiry," he said, adding that it can only "collide with a military covering up ethnic cleansing". Members of the new commission include two foreign and two Myanmar nationals: former Philippine deputy foreign minister Rosario Manalo, Japan's UN representative Kenzo Oshima, the former chair of Myanmar's constitutional tribunal U Mya Thein and Aung Tun The, who heads up the Myanmar government body dedicated to the Rohingya crisis.

No tangible result

In an interview with Bangladeshi newspaper The Daily Star in April, Aung Tun The denied that any ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya had occurred in Rakhine. International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) legal advisor Sean Bain pointed out that previous inquiries on Rakhine had produced no tangible

result. They "tend to be ad hoc, rarely if ever lead to prosecution & fail to provide redress," he tweeted. "Impunity results, undermining justice & emboldening perpetrators."

Two prominent members of previous commissions — former Thai ambassador Kobsak Chutikul and US diplomat Bill Richardson — publicly quit their posts after expressing frustration with the government. Human Rights Watch Myanmar researcher Rich Weir said the new body would be used like previous commissions "as distractions and shields from criticism and pressure". Myanmar political analyst Soe Myint Aung said the creation of the new commission will not play well inside the country either.

"Some think she is not tough enough. Others think she is conceding too much by internationalizing a domestic problem," he said of civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been globally lambasted over the crisis but remains a heroine domestically. The military have denied nearly all allegations of human rights abuses, justifying their "clearance operations" as a way of flushing out Rohingya militants who killed around a dozen border guard police last August. Doctors Without Borders (MSF) estimates that at least 6,700 Rohingya were killed in the first month of the army's campaign alone. — AFP

Van bomb in south Philippines kills 10

COTABATO: Ten people, including troops and civilians, were killed when a bomb in a van blew up at an army checkpoint in the southern Philippines yesterday. The powerful explosion, claimed by the Islamic State group, occurred after soldiers and pro-government militiamen stopped the vehicle just after dawn to search it. One soldier, five militiamen and four civilians were killed on the outskirts of the mainly Christian city of Lamitan, which is on the predominantly Muslim island of Basilan.

The van driver, a suspected member of the Abu Sayyaf militant group, also died. Philippine military spokesman Colonel Edgard Arevalo told reporters in Manila. He said government forces had been on heightened alert after receiving reports that extremists planned to plant improvised explosives around the island. "We can just imagine the tragedy that this would bring to the people of Basilan had we not stopped them at the checkpoint," he said. Authorities earlier said at least five people died in the blast. Basilan is a stronghold of the notorious Abu Sayyaf kidnap-for-ransom group.

'War crime'

It is one of several armed groups fighting troops and police in the southern Philippines, where a decades-long Muslim rebellion has

claimed more than 100,000 lives by government count. Roderick Furigay, the Lamitan vice mayor, speculated that the explosives could have been intended for a parade yesterday morning by 4,000 children in the centre of the town to mark the country's "nutrition month".

"That could have been (the target)," he said on ABS-CBN television. "It's a good thing they were stopped at the checkpoint." President Rodrigo Duterte recently signed a law to create an autonomous region in the south to help end the conflict. Duterte put the southern Philippines including Basilan under martial law until the end of this year after Abu Sayyaf members based on the island joined pro-IS militants who seized the southern city of Marawi last year.

The five-month siege killed 1,200 people and destroyed much of the centre of the city. Duterte said the militants planned to turn Marawi into the capital of a Southeast Asian Islamic caliphate. IS's propaganda arm Amaq, claiming responsibility for yesterday's blast, said "a suicide attack has killed around 15 from the Philippine army" in Lamitan. Duterte spokesman Harry Roque condemned the Basilan blast, describing it a "war crime" apparently aimed at civilians. "We condemn in the strongest possible terms the latest terrorist attack in Basilan perpetrated in violation of our laws," Roque said in a statement. — AFP

Pakistan election sees the rise of anti-blasphemy party

ISLAMABAD: A relatively new anti-blasphemy party whose leader has reportedly vowed to nuke the Netherlands should he ever come to power did surprisingly well in Pakistan's elections last week, which were tainted by the rise of extremist groups. Islamic fundamentalist parties fielded more than 1,500 candidates in Pakistan's provincial and national elections that were won by cricket hero turned politician Imran Khan. Extremists were a major talking point going into the contest with politicians, including Khan, accused of pandering to their vote base by trumpeting headline issues such as blasphemy. Here AFP looks at how the main extremist parties fared during Wednesday's polls.

Anti-blasphemy party

The performance of Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP), led by radical preacher Khadim Hussain Rizvi, will worry mainstream politicians and human rights activists the most. The group, founded in 2015, entered the national consciousness last year when it blockaded the capital Islamabad for several weeks calling for stricter enforcement of Pakistan's controversial blasphemy laws.

It wants the automatic death penalty for anyone deemed to have insulted Islam or the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Rizvi reportedly told journalists recently that if he took power in the nuclear-armed country he would "wipe Holland off the face of the earth", over cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed published there. Fortunately for the Netherlands, TLP failed to win any of the 272 seats up for grabs in Pakistan's National Assembly. It did, however, capture two seats in the provincial assembly of Sindh. TLP polled over 2.23 million votes in the national assembly elections, its first general election, and more than 2.38 million provincial votes, election commission website data shows. "Their overall number of votes is very surprising. It's a really spectacularly rapid rise," political commentator Fasi Zaka told AFP. TLP's strong showing is of particular concern to Pakistan's Ahmadi community, which has long been targeted by extremists. They consider themselves Muslims but their beliefs are seen as blasphemous in most mainstream Islamic schools of thought.

Group linked to Mumbai attacks

Allah-o-Akbar Tehreek was backed by Hafiz Saeed, the man accused of masterminding the 2008 Mumbai attacks that killed 166 people. Saeed has been designated a terrorist by the United Nations



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani opposition leader and head of Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA), a religious parties alliance, Maulana Fazalur Rehman (R) speaks to media after attending a meeting. — AFP

and has a \$10-million bounty on his head. Allah-o-Akbar Tehreek was formed after Pakistan banned the Milli Muslim League — the political party of hardline militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba, which is headed by Saeed — from the election.

None of the party's candidates won seats but they did register more than 435,000 national and regional votes. Zaka said he had expected work done in Punjab by LeT's long-established charitable arm — Jamaat-ud-Dawa — to have translated into more votes. "They have been in the business of service delivery where the state has not fulfilled its remit ... I think they have underperformed," he said.

Sunni hardliners

Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ) is a radical Sunni group that frequently spouts hatred against Pakistan's Shiite minority community, considering them heretics. "If we get power in the evening and if a single Shia is alive by the morning in Pakistan then change my name," leader Muhammad Ahmed Ludhianvi told an election rally. ASWJ is considered to be the political face of sectarian militant group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ), which has been behind numerous bloody attacks on Shiite Muslims in Pakistan. Its candidates ran as independents and were known to have won at least one seat, in the Punjab assembly. Zaka, the analyst, said that while votes for extremist parties did not translate into many seats in a first-past-the-post system, their sizable vote banks will give them clout in an increasingly competitive political landscape. — AFP

Gunmen storm Afghan govt building, 11 die in bus bombing

JALALABAD: Gunmen stormed a government building after multiple explosions in an ongoing attack in Jalalabad yesterday that has left at least 11 people wounded, the latest in a series of assaults in the eastern Afghan city. On the other side of the country a roadside bomb apparently intended for security forces hit a passenger bus and killed at least 11 people, as civilians once again bear the brunt of violence in Afghanistan.

In the attack in Jalalabad at least two blasts were heard before the attackers entered the compound of the refugees and repatriations department, said Attaullah Khogyani, spokesman for the governor of Nangarhar province. Several foreign organizations are also in the vicinity. As the attack began, representatives of foreign donors and agencies were wrapping up a meeting with department employees inside the building, Khogyani said.

"All the partner agency representatives attending the meeting were Afghans and those who were stuck inside, including the director of refugees and repatriations department, were rescued," Khogyani said. "The operation to rescue more people possibly stuck in the building is also ongoing," he added. Several people have been taken hostage by the attackers, said Zabiullah Zmarary, a provincial council member. "We don't know the exact number," he added. At least 11 people have been wounded and a "large number" of employees had been rescued, Khogyani said. "I saw a black Corolla car drop three armed men at the gate of the refugees and repatriations department," a witness said.

Vigil held for idolized Indian politician

CHENNAI: Thousands of followers of an Indian politician held in almost god-like reverence thronged the streets yesterday outside the hospital where the 94-year-old was in intensive care, Muthuvel Karunanidhi, a charismatic self-styled champion of the poor,



HERAT: Afghan medical staff treat a wounded man in a hospital after roadside bomb hit a passenger bus. — AFP

At least one of the men blew himself up at the gate and two others entered the building, the witness said. Khogyani said one of the two attackers had been killed. An AFP reporter could hear gunfire as security forces swarmed into the area, and a plume of thick black smoke rose into the sky above the compound. The Taleban denied involvement in the attack in a WhatsApp message sent to journalists. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, which comes three days after militants raided a midwife training centre in Jalalabad. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for Saturday's attack, which left at least three people dead and several wounded. Jalalabad has been the scene of multiple attacks in recent months that have

killed dozens, as US and Afghan forces continue offensives against militants.

Civilians under attack

In the western province of Farah yesterday the bomb which hit the bus killed at least 11 people and wounded 31. "It was a bomb planted by the Taleban to hit security forces but... it got a passenger bus," Farah provincial police spokesman Muhibullah Muhib told AFP. There was no immediate confirmation from the Taleban that they were responsible. In a separate incident, 22 passengers travelling on a Kabul-bound bus in the eastern province of Paktia were kidnapped by gunmen on Monday night. Officials blamed the Taleban for both incidents. — AFP

was chief minister of the southern state of Tamil Nadu five times and successfully contested 12 state elections.

The crowd, 4,000-5,000-strong according to an AFP journalist, chanted "Come, rise up my leader!" outside the hospital in Chennai where Karunanidhi has been since Saturday. Police struggled to contain the crowds, many carrying photos of their "savior" in his trademark white shirt and oversized black glasses. Many women kissed the photos and wept. Karunanidhi was admitted for a urinary tract infection with complications. Doctors say he is being closely "monitored and treated".

Once one of India's most powerful leaders,

Karunanidhi has taken a back seat in recent years, handing over the reins to his son MK Stalin. The scenes in Chennai were reminiscent of the mass outpouring of 2016 when another local powerful leader J Jayalalitha was hospitalized. She died later of cardiac arrest. Affectionately called "Kalaingar" or scholar, Karunanidhi has written reams of poems, lyrics and books and is a prolific screenwriter for the Tamil film industry. The school dropout became involved in politics at a young age, spearheading the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam party which was allied for many years to the Gandhi dynasty's Congress party. — AFP

Analysis

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Eritrea's crumbling Massawa port hopes for peace revival

In the centuries-old Eritrean port of Massawa, the streets are so quiet that pedestrians' footsteps can be heard echoing off the buildings in its crumbling old town. Decades of conflict, sanctions and isolationist policies have seen trade shrivel up, with the harbor still lined with bombed-out buildings from Eritrea's war of independence from Ethiopia, achieved in 1993. But the cranes, berths and bars of Massawa are primed to bustle again after the Horn of Africa neighbors declared peace earlier this month, setting the stage for goods from landlocked Ethiopia to once again pass through this key port on the Red Sea.

As hotels eye renovations and new flights and trade routes are announced, Eritreans hope the newfound peace will breathe life back into the economy of one of the world's most isolated nations. "No people, no customers, no nothing," said Yohannis Primo Gebremeskel, owner of the Grand Dahlak Hotel. Despite being the fanciest accommodation in town, Yohannis said he gets few visitors and an entire 120-room wing of his hotel sits unused. "It's good that we are together (again)," he said, after an extraordinary peace process in a region suffering numerous intractable conflicts. "For Ethiopia and also Eritrea, it is a big chance. I think Ethiopian people will come here every week."

Pearl of the Red Sea

Once called the "Pearl of the Red Sea", Massawa has changed hands between empires for centuries and is the site of what scholars believe to be Africa's oldest mosque. Its old city is filled with hotels and shops built when Massawa was part of the Ottoman Empire and then from the late 19th century until World War II when Italy was in control. Decades after Eritrea was annexed by Ethiopia in 1962, the port became the site of a decisive battle in its struggle for independence.

At the gates of the city, three bomb-scarred tanks commemorate "Operation Fenkil" in 1991 when Eritrean rebels stormed the causeways connecting Massawa, an island, to the mainland. Their victory paved the way for Eritrea's independence vote in 1993. In the aftermath, Massawa's port continued to serve as a transshipment point for trade with Ethiopia, which lost its entire Red Sea coast when Eritrea seceded. But business came to an end in 1998 when war broke out over the neighbours' disputed land border. The conflict lasted for two years and left 80,000 people dead. The standoff continued after Ethiopia ignored a 2002 United Nations demarcation of their frontier and held territory belonging to Eritrea.

No trade, little to sell

Eritrea's President Isaias Afwerki implemented hardline policies after the war that scared off investors and isolated his country. These included jailing dissidents without trial, dismantling the independent press and pushing citizens into an indefinite national service program that forces them into specific jobs and keeps them from travelling. "Of course they wanted more economic development, but they prioritised national autonomy," said Seth Kaplan, a professor at Johns Hopkins University in the United States who has studied Eritrea's economy.

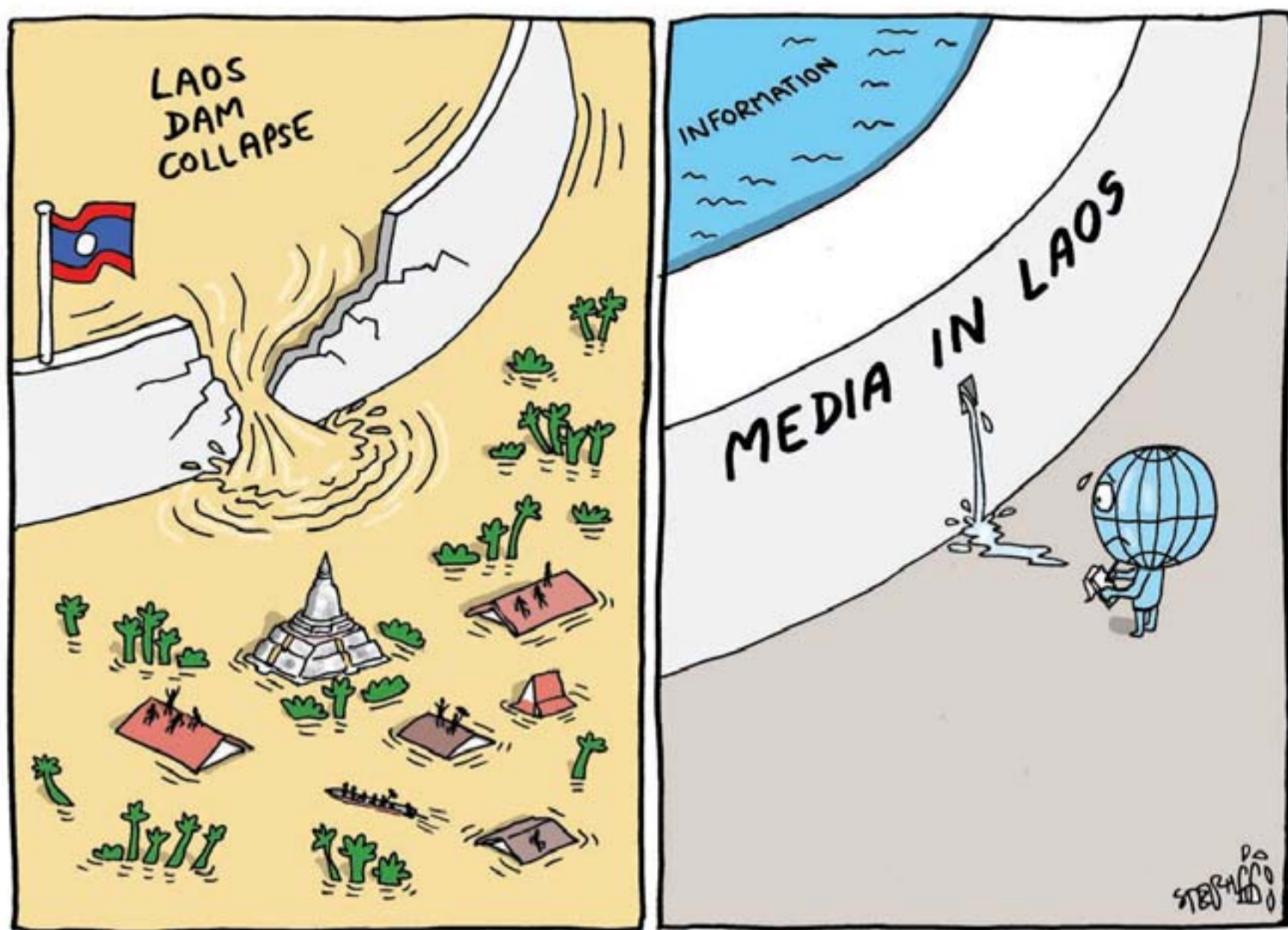
Things got worse after the UN Security Council imposed sanctions against the country in 2009 for supporting Islamist militants in Somalia. Eritrea on Monday announced the establishment of diplomatic ties with Somalia and Ethiopia has formally asked the UN to lift the sanctions. The African Development Bank estimates Eritrea's economy grew 3.4 percent in 2017, well below its neighbor's eight percent. Most of that growth came from the Bisha gold, copper and zinc mine.

One of the mine is exported via Massawa which does little else but import oil and consumer goods. "Why would the port be functional when most parts of the world can't trade with it, and they have very little to sell?" Kaplan asked. Residents say that some months may see 10 ships arrive, and others, none.

Fast change

Eritrean President Isaias this week hailed "a new, transitional phase" and end to an "epoch of crises, conflict and instability" in the Horn of Africa, but has said nothing about a change in his government's own policies. Residents are hopeful that peace between Ethiopia and Eritrea will bring trade and visitors back to the faded town. Ethiopian Airlines has already restarted flights to the capital Asmara from two Ethiopian cities, and is planning services to Massawa and the southern port Assab soon. "We now have hope," said Mohamed Idris, a boat captain who ferries rare tourists from Massawa to islands in the Red Sea.

North of the city, visitors swim in the breakers at the Italian-built Gurgusum Beach Hotel, where fire-roasted goat is advertised on a menu ending in the exhortation "Victory to the masses". Despite the intense heat the hotel has no air conditioning, and manager Adam Ahmed says he is hoping the government pays for renovations. "We're waiting now for fast change," he said. — AFP



For buoyant Assad, war enters tricky phase

President Bashar Al-Assad's path to a final victory in the war in Syria is strewn with diplomatic landmines that will complicate his attempt to recover "every inch" of the country and may leave big areas out of his grasp indefinitely. Assad's advances have accelerated this year in the conflict that began in 2011. Russian and Iranian military power helped deliver the defeat of the last rebels near the capital Damascus and the city of Homs, and allowed him to recover the southwest in a matter of weeks.

Rebels who once reduced Assad's control to a small fraction of Syria now pose no military threat to his rule. With his allies' help, Assad controls the bulk of the country and is inviting investors from "friendly" nations to help rebuild it. Declaring the return of "normal life", his Russian allies are urging refugees to come home, saying there is nothing to fear from Assad's government, though many people continue to flee areas that are falling back under its control.

But some are trickling back and Moscow is seeking international support for them, in the apparent hope that Western states that backed the opposition will now direct aid to government-held areas, spreading the burden. But with Russia in the ascendancy, there is no sign of the kind of negotiated political transition which the West has said is needed to unlock its support and to encourage the bulk of the millions of refugees in Europe and the Middle East to return.

Assad has recovered the frontiers with Jordan and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, and says he will press ahead. Almost all of northern Syria and much of the east remain outside his grasp. But in these areas a new test awaits: Hostile Turkish and US forces that have carved out separate spheres of control on Syrian territory. Russian priorities, particularly its ties with Turkey, may largely determine how the war unfolds from here.

So too will US President Donald Trump, who has given conflicting signals over how long American forces will maintain their foothold across a swathe of the east and

northeast. US-backed Kurds, wary of their unpredictable ally, are beating a path to talks with Assad, seeking to safeguard their autonomy. "The conflict is entering a new phase. But it is hard to say the war is ending when so much of the country still remains outside the government's hands," said Noah Bonsey, the International Crisis Group's Senior Analyst on Syria.

"And it is still unclear to what extent an insurgency might emerge in parts of Syria that the government controls." Islamic State militants killed more than 200 people in the government-held Sweida region last week. The war is estimated to have killed hundreds of thousands of people.

Turkish alarm

Assad has flagged his next target: the rebel-held Idlib province. "Now Idlib is our target, although not only Idlib," Assad told Russian media last week. A sanctuary for Syrians who have fled government advances in other parts of the country, Idlib is controlled by an array of insurgents who have often fought each other. Jihadist groups hold sway, and foreign fighters are estimated to number in the thousands, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which reports on the war.

Idlib falls within an arc of territory stretching east to the Euphrates River where Turkish forces are deployed. Turkey has aimed to roll back Kurdish groups which it sees as a national security threat, but also to prevent more Syrians spilling over its border: Turkey already hosts 3.5 million refugees. In agreement with Iran and Russia, it has set up 12 military posts in Idlib and adjoining areas.

The possibility of an Idlib offensive is ringing alarm bells in Turkey. A top UN official has warned another 2.5 million people could flee toward the border in the event of an attack. President Tayyip Erdogan has been pressing Russian President Vladimir Putin to make sure that does not happen. "Of course, it isn't possible for us to accept any regime attacks directed at Idlib. I discussed this with

Putin. We've already agreed on this issue," Erdogan was reported as saying by the Turkish daily Hurriyet. "I do hope that he would do what's necessary on this."

The pan-Arab Alsharq Alawsat newspaper has reported details of a Turkish proposal to Russia over Idlib that includes the idea that rebels there surrender heavy weapons to the Turkish army. Such proposals - including that rebels be reorganized into a "national army" - are likely to be anathema to Assad. "If Assad has reiterated one consistent refrain through the years of uprising, it is nationalism. When Assad says he will take back every inch of Syrian soil, we should believe he means it," said Joshua Landis, an expert on Syria and head of the Center for Middle East Studies at the University of Oklahoma.

Rebels prepare

Despite this, a source in the regional alliance that fights in support of Assad thought an imminent Idlib assault unlikely. "The Turkish side will continue to hold on tight because the cards are in its hands," the source said. "Military action will happen after the deck is shuffled and the Turkish-Russian-Iranian agreement for that region is finished." Some rebels, doubtful of Russia's commitments, fear the worst. "We are preparing for any escalation, and carrying out reinforcement operations and redeploying forces in preparation for a battle in the near future," Colonel Mustafa Bakour, a commander in the Jaish al-Ezza Free Syrian Army faction, told Reuters in a message from northern Hama province. "We expect a Russian military escalation."

An Idlib offensive could prove more difficult than previous government campaigns. The jihadists who hold sway in the province have proved to be some of the toughest in the war. "An offensive may drive groups that are currently focused on maintaining territory in Idlib into the kind of guerrilla insurgency that some in the jihadist movement have been encouraging them to adopt for years," Bonsey said. — Reuters

Making a killing: Foes profit from trade across frontlines

Barrels of oil, sacks of sugar, crates piled with fruit: goods worth millions of dollars crisscross Syria's battlefronts daily, waved through by bitter enemies who have become business partners. Syria's regime, rebels, Kurds, and even jihadists are linking up with well-connected businessmen to turn a profit at crossings connecting otherwise divided territory. Multiple sources from rebel-held parts of Syria including military commanders, businessmen, fighters, and residents have described to AFP a sprawling, quasi-official network of deals and arrangements on cross-country trade. Critics say they have allowed armed groups and businessmen, some linked with President Bashar Al-Assad's regime, to profit from the divisions tearing Syria apart.

Sweet deal

One key junction where business takes place is Morek, between the northwestern province of Idlib - which is held by various rebel and jihadist forces - and government-controlled Hama. On the rebel side, Morek is managed by Al-Qaeda's onetime Syria branch Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), with the other side run by government forces. Year round, vegetables, biscuits and clothes leave Idlib, while fuel, sugar, and spare car parts are trucked in through Hama from across swathes of government-held territory, sources at the crossing and others familiar with operations there said.

"Morek is the most important crossing between rebels and the regime, given the trade coming and going through there," said Abu al-Huda Al-Sorani, who administers the border for HTS. "It's an official transit point recognized by us both, and it's the money that makes things move." In an interview with an AFP correspondent at the crossing, Sorani said Morek "was opened with the mediation of businessmen who have links with the regime". "One man monopolizes the trade on the regime side," he said.

Sorani declined to provide a name for the businessman, but multiple sources familiar with operations at the crossing pointed to a mysterious businessman known only as Ghawar. One source in opposition-held territory with close knowledge of the crossing said Ghawar pays Syrian government forces at least \$1 million every few months for exclusive use of a stretch of the M5 highway leading to Morek.

The source, and others interviewed by AFP, spoke on condition of anonymity fearing a backlash from rebel or regime forces for revealing details of trade operations. Ghawar, who acts as a frontman for regime-linked businessmen, also sets duties paid by each truck passing through loyalist checkpoints before they reach the crossing, the source said. On the other side, HTS monopolizes sugar sales in opposition zones and bans female livestock from leaving Idlib to maximize breeding in rebel areas and keep the regime dependent on them.

"No one can trade in sugar unless they're covered by HTS, because of its high revenue," the source said. HTS also sets export fees. On July 8, an AFP correspondent saw stonemasons protesting near Morek after duties per truckload jumped from \$400 to \$1,500. Ultimately the demonstrators managed to force prices back down.

Coming and going

"With zones across Syria controlled by various forces, border trade between them has become a fait accompli," said Ayman al-Dassouky, an analyst at the Turkey-based Omran Centre. "It brings mutual benefit to the warring sides who have allied themselves with businessmen taking advantage of the current situation to boost trade," Dassouky said. The crossings were "generating millions for the forces which hold them and businessmen who trade across them," he said. They provide rebels with a vital source of revenue, he said, "especially with the dwindling external support to them, mainly from the Gulf".

But trade across the front line is also crucial for the regime. "Its forces and loyalist militias make a profit which ultimately guarantees their loyalty, and big traders close to the regime benefit from deals on duties," said Dassouky. The phenomenon of enemies doing business together is widespread across conflicts, said Bassam Abu Abdallah, who heads the Damascus Centre for Strategic Studies. "In all wars, not just in Syria, these guys become the warlords. A web of interests is spun between the warring sides because of economic benefits," Abu Abdallah said.



A picture taken on July 18, 2018 shows lorries transporting merchandise at the rebel-held Morek checkpoint between the northwestern Syrian provinces of Idlib and Hama. — AFP

Business at Morek is so good that rival Islamists wanted a slice, and have tried in recent months to set up their own crossing from Idlib into Hama. Ahrar al-Sham, a hard-line faction once allied to HTS but which has fought against it since last year, attempted to establish trade through the Qalaat al-Madiq crossing it controls, about 30 km west of Morek. HTS objected and so far only a limited number of goods are passing through the Madiq crossing. "HTS forbade large trucks from reaching the Madiq crossing so Morek would remain number one for trade," said a rebel commander based near Madiq.

Wealth from war

Despite being bitter enemies, Kurds and Turkish-backed rebels are also running crossings linking territory under their control. The Hamran junction in Aleppo province is held by Kurdish militiamen on one side and the Levant Front, rebels loyal to Ankara, on the other. Up to 60 crude oil tankers transit through Hamran from Kurdish areas daily to be refined in opposition zones, a rebel official at the checkpoint said. Trade moves in the other direction too, with Ankara ultimately dictating what goes from rebel areas to Kurdish territory, he told AFP.

"Fertilizer is banned because it can be used to make explosives, and cement and metal too because they're used for blast walls against us," the official said. Crossings are cash cows for well-placed businessmen, especially those bringing goods to besieged areas. — AFP

Business

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2018

12 Kuwait's real estate sales rise modestly in Q2 2018**13** Britain's car industry cautions: No-deal Brexit is our nightmare**14** KIPCO announces net profit of KD 12.1m for first half of 2018

Zain Group records 5% profit growth to reach KD 86.4m

Data revenue grew by 10%, representing 27% of total Group revenues

KUWAIT: Zain Group, a leading mobile innovator with operations in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, announces its consolidated financial results for the six months to 30 June 2018. Zain served 47.4 million customers at the end of the period, reflecting a 5 percent increase year-on-year (Y-o-Y). In 2018, Zain applied the new IFRS 9 and IFRS 15 accounting standards that negatively impacted the company's key financial indicators, particularly EBITDA.

For the first six months of 2018 (H1), the Group's consolidated revenues remained stable at KD 503 million (\$1.67 billion). The Group's consolidated EBITDA for the period reached KD 169 million (\$563 million), down 20 percent Y-o-Y in KD terms, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 34 percent. Consolidated net income increased 5 percent Y-o-Y to reach KD 86.4 million (\$287 million). Earnings per share for the half-year stood at 20 Fils (\$0.07).

For H1 2018, foreign currency translation impact, predominantly due to the 40 percent currency devaluation in Sudan from an average of 15.8 (SDG / USD), in H1 2017 to 26.5 in H1 2018 cost the company \$94 million in revenue, \$36 million in EBITDA and \$9 million in net income. Excluding this currency translation impact, Y-o-Y revenues would have grown by 6 percent for H1 2018.

Group Key Performance Indicators (KD and USD) for the second quarter (Q2) of 2018

In second quarter of 2018 (Q2), Zain Group recorded consolidated revenues of KD 244 million (\$811 million), down 6 percent in KD terms, compared to the same period in the previous year. EBITDA for the quarter reached KD 85 million (\$282 million), down 19 percent Y-o-Y in KD terms, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 35 percent. Net income for the quarter amounted to KD 46 million (\$150 million), up 3 percent Y-o-Y in KD terms, reflecting earnings per share of 11 Fils (\$0.03).

For Q2 2018, foreign currency translation impact, predominantly due to the 43 percent currency devaluation in Sudan, cost the company \$52 million in revenue, \$19 million in EBITDA and \$4 million in net income. Excluding the above-mentioned currency translation impact, Y-o-Y revenues would have remained stable and net income would have grown by 6 percent for Q2, 2018.

Key Operational Notes for H1 2018

1. Launch and expansion of high-speed 4G LTE networks across key markets coupled with numerous data monetization initiatives saw Zain Group data revenues (excluding SMS and VAS) grow 10 percent Y-o-Y, to represent 27 percent of the Group's consolidated revenues

2. The application of IFRS 15 standards significantly impacted EBITDA predominantly due to two main factors. 1. The Cost of Sales (COS) related to handsets that could no longer be amortized, and 2. The company's investment in attracting Enterprise (B2B) customers

3. Significant currency devaluation impact in Sudan continues to negatively affect Zain Group's financial results. Nevertheless, Zain Sudan continues to perform exceptionally well in local currency terms

4. Zain Kuwait and Zain Iraq both recorded customer and net income growth, with loss of customer base in Zain KSA and Zain Jordan affecting their key financial indicators

5. Following the company-wide agreement entered into at the 2018 MWC Barcelona between Zain Group and DOCOMO Digital, Zain Kuwait launched its unique gaming platform www.zain.games/kw offering its customers access to over 1,000 top quality and branded games compatible with iOS,



Zain Vice-Chairman & Group CEO, Bader Al-Kharafi



Zain Group Chairman- Ahmed Al-Tahous

- Customer growth of 5% sees customer base reach 47.4 million
- In line with expectations, significant currency devaluation in Sudan effects overall results, notably a \$94 million revenue currency translation impact
- Consolidated revenues stable at KD 503 million (\$1.67 billion) with EBITDA margin of 34 percent for H1 2018
- Zain Kuwait, Zain Iraq and Zain Bahrain report net income growth, with Zain Sudan continuing to perform exceptionally well in local currency terms

Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO commented; "In addition to the consolidated 5 percent net income growth and 5 percent customer growth, the first six-months of 2018 produced numerous positive developments such as the operational progress being achieved in Kuwait, Iraq and Sudan as well as the robust growth in our data monetization, Enterprise (B2B), and smart city initiatives especially in our key 4G markets of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Jordan."

Android and Windows operating systems.

6. Zain Kuwait trialed 5G technology in several locations, an early initiative for its customers. The operator will continue developing and expanding the 5G network gradually across Kuwait in readiness for 5G devices that will be available, expected during 2019.

7. At the MWC Shanghai 2018, Zain Group joined other leading mobile operators committing to adopt and implement the GSMA IoT Security Guidelines of best practice and recommendations for the security of the entire Internet of Things (IoT) ecosystem.

Commenting on the results, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Zain Group, Ahmed Al-Tahous said, "The company's performance in the first half of the year has been pleasing given the numerous operational and forex challenges we face in several key markets. The Board is working closely with management in implementing wide-ranging programs to improve operational efficiency and cost optimization, to consistently deliver strong operational results."

The Chairman continued, "We are also focused on maintaining our leadership position in most of our markets and future-proofing the business by seeking new value-creating opportunities as well as maximizing our state of the art networks by offering innovative digital services to meet the ever-growing demand for high-speed data connectivity."

Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice-

Chairman and Group CEO commented, "In addition to the consolidated 5 percent net income growth and 5 percent customer growth, the first six months of 2018 produced numerous positive developments such as the operational progress being achieved in Kuwait, Iraq and Sudan as well as the robust growth in our data monetization, Enterprise (B2B), and smart city initiatives especially in our key 4G markets of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Jordan."

The Group CEO added, "Despite the sound operational progress and transformation we have undertaken across all our markets, it is unfortunate that several factors outside our control, namely the deteriorating currency issue in Sudan and the application of the new IFRS accounting standards, have impacted several performance indicators."

Furthermore, Kharafi said, "Our strategic transformation into a digital lifestyle operator continues to make headway and it is pleasing to report data revenue growth of 10 percent, which now represents 27 percent of our total revenues. We will continue fostering new value accretive areas to unlock the many lucrative opportunities that exist in the digital arena, in a bid to drive the business forward. We expect continued growth in all facets of our operations in the second half of the year."

Kharafi concluded by commenting on Zain Group's recent disclosure regarding Zain Saudi Arabia, whereby Zain KSA will be treated as a subsidiary of Zain Group and its financial results will be consolidated with the



results of Zain Group starting from the third quarter of 2018. He said, "The impact of this consolidation will strengthen the Group's financial indicators on various levels, except for the net income, since Zain Group's ownership in Zain KSA will not change."

Operational review of key markets for the six months ended 30 June 2018

Kuwait: Maintaining its market leadership, Zain Kuwait saw its customer base increase to serve 2.8 million customers, reflecting a 7 percent annual growth. It remains the Group's most profitable operation with revenues for the first six-months of 2018 up 5 percent reaching KD 174 million (\$579 million), EBITDA amounting to KD 54 million (\$180 million) and net income increased 2 percent to reach KD 39 million (\$130 million). Zain Kuwait's EBITDA margin stood at 31 percent at the end of H1 2018, (36 percent EBITDA margin for Q2 2018) with data revenues (excluding SMS & VAS) accounting for 32 percent of total revenues, growing 6 percent Y-o-Y.

Iraq: Zain Iraq performed exceptionally well in H1 2018 when compared to H1 2017 with revenues reaching \$558 million, a 7 percent increase Y-o-Y and EBITDA reached \$194 million, up 8 percent reflecting an EBITDA margin of 35 percent. The operation reported a net profit of \$18 million, up 66 percent on the \$11 million profit recorded for H1 2017. The expansion of 3.9G services across the country and restoration of sites in the West and North of the country, combined with numerous customer acquisition initiatives, especially in core regions, resulted in an impressive addition of 1.9 million customers (15 percent increase) to reach 14.7 million. Also contributing to the operation's financial revival was the significant growth of data revenues, robust growth in the Enterprise (B2B) segment and the revamping of its call centers significantly improving customer service.

Sudan: A substantial 40 percent currency devaluation in Sudan from an average of 15.8 (SDG / USD) to 26.5 affected the operation's financial results in \$ terms for H1 2018. Nevertheless, in local currency (SDG) terms, the operator continues to perform

remarkably well as revenues grew by 31 percent Y-o-Y to reach SDG 4.4 billion (\$168 million, down 21 percent in \$ terms). EBITDA increased by 38 percent to reach SDG 1.8 billion (\$67 million, down 17 percent in \$ terms) and net income increased by 26 percent to SDG 688 million (\$27 million, down 21 percent in \$ terms). Data revenues (excluding SMS and VAS) accounted for 17 percent of total revenues and grew 52 percent in SDG terms. The operation saw its customer base expand 8 percent to reach 13.9 million.

Saudi Arabia: The operator recorded a loss of \$31 million in H1 2018, compared to net profit of \$14 million in H1 2017. Revenues for the period were down by 7 percent, reaching \$942 million. EBITDA reached \$316 million in H1 2018 with EBITDA margin stable at 34 percent. Compared with the first quarter of 2018, Zain Saudi Arabia reported a 10 percent increase in revenues, with EBITDA growth amounting to 8 percent in Q2 2018. The company achieved a 25 percent increase in operating profit quarter-on-quarter in Q2 and a 3 percent growth in gross profit. Zain Saudi Arabia also managed to reduce its net losses by 51 percent in Q2 compared to the previous quarter. The operator's total customer base stood at 8.4 million at the end of June 2018. Data revenues (excluding SMS and VAS) represent 53 percent of total revenues.

Jordan: Zain Jordan served 3.7 million customers at the end of June 2018, maintaining its market leading position despite intense price competition. Y-o-Y revenues were stable at \$241 million, with EBITDA down 17 percent to reach \$96 million, reflecting a 40 percent EBITDA margin. Net income decreased 25 percent to \$36 million in H1 2018. With the continual expansion of 4G services across the country, data revenues (excluding SMS & VAS) represented 38 percent of total revenues.

Bahrain: Zain Bahrain generated revenues of \$87 million for the first six months of 2018, generating an EBITDA of \$20 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 23 percent. Net income amounted to \$6 million, reflecting a 60 percent increase Y-o-Y. Data revenues (excluding SMS & VAS) represent 45 percent of overall revenues.

Business

Britain's car industry cautions: No-deal Brexit is our nightmare

Specter of disorderly exit from EU looms in divided UK

LONDON: A no-deal Brexit would seriously damage the car industry in Britain and the European Union by raising costs and sowing chaos for car-makers and consumers alike, the head of Britain's car industry warned yesterday.

With less than eight months until Britain is due to exit the EU, Prime Minister Theresa May has yet to find a proposal to maintain economic ties with the bloc that pleases both sides of her divided party and is acceptable to negotiators in Brussels.

May has stepped up precautionary planning for a so-called "no-deal" Brexit that would see the world's fifth largest economy crash out of the EU on March 29, 2019, a step that could spook financial markets and dislocate trade flows across Europe and beyond. Mike Hawes, chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), said carmakers were increasingly concerned about the lack of clarity around the manner of Britain's departure from the EU.

That has raised the prospect of Britain leaving with no deal and falling back on World Trade Organization rules that could leave British car exporters facing EU import tariffs of around 10 percent. "No deal... is just not an option. It would be seriously damaging to the industry not just in the UK but in Europe as well," Hawes told reporters as he presented SMMT's mid-year

update on British car production.

At stake is the future of one of Britain's few manufacturing success stories since the 1980s - a car industry employing over 850,000 people and generating annual turnover of \$110 billion. Much of the industry is owned by foreign companies.

The world's biggest carmakers including Toyota, BMW and Ford have urged Britain to ensure that they can import and export without hindrance after Brexit. Supporters of Brexit admit there may be some short-term pain for Britain's \$2.9 trillion economy, but that long-term it will prosper when cut free from the EU, which they cast as a failing German-dominated experiment in European integration.

In an attempt to rally support for May's proposals, Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt visits Paris and Vienna this week. "I will be explaining to my counterparts in Paris and Vienna that it is time for the EU to engage with our proposals, or we potentially face the prospect of a no-deal by accident, which would be very challenging for both the UK and EU," Hunt said.

Opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn could come under pressure at its annual party conference in September to agree to support a referendum on any deal that May can secure, the Guardian newspaper reported. There is deep concern in boardrooms about the prospect of Britain leaving the bloc without a deal, or with a deal that would silt up the arteries of trade.

That could be highly damaging for a car industry which is dependent on the speedy movement of huge numbers of parts across borders. The average car, for example, has about 30,000 parts.

Confidence among British consumers and businesses remains stuck well below levels before Britons voted in 2016 by a narrow majority for Brexit, surveys showed yesterday, two days before an expected interest rate increase by the Bank of England. The Financial Times reported that the EU's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, had softened his opposition to May's Brexit plan for financial services after the UK acknowledged Brussels would have ultimate control over the City of London's access to EU markets. British car output in the first six months of 2018 fell by an annual 3.3 percent to 834,402, with disappointing domestic demand cancelling out strong exports, SMMT said. — Reuters



UK's consumer confidence below pre-Brexit levels

"No deal"?

Under the current timetable, both London and Brussels hope to get a final Brexit deal in October to give enough time to ratify it by exit day. However, the potential for major political upheaval remains, with May's minority government facing a series of make-or-break moments in the Brexit process over coming months. She must find a way to strike a deal with the EU, which has already rejected her preferred plan on trade, then sell that deal to her deeply fractured Conservative Party, before putting it to a vote in parliament. Failure at any of those three hurdles could cost her job and thrust the United Kingdom into crisis.

Pompeo warns against IMF bailout for Pakistan

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo warned on Monday that any potential International Monetary Fund bailout for Pakistan's new government should not provide funds to pay off Chinese lenders. In an interview with CNBC television, Pompeo said the United States looked forward to engagement with the government of Pakistan's expected new prime minister, Imran Khan, but said there was "no rationale" for a bailout that pays off Chinese loans to Pakistan. "Make no mistake. We will be watching what the IMF does," Pompeo said. "There's no rationale for IMF tax dollars, and associated with that American dollars that are part of the IMF funding, for those to go to bail out Chinese bondholders or China itself," Pompeo said.

The Financial Times reported on Sunday that senior Pakistani finance officials were drawing up options for Khan to seek an IMF bailout of up to \$12 billion. An IMF spokeswoman said: "We can confirm that we have so far not received a request for a Fund arrangement from Pakistan and that we have not had discussions with the authorities about any possible intentions."

Speaking in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said the IMF has its own standards and operating rules when cooperating with relevant countries.

"I believe they will handle it appropriately," he told reporters, without elaborating. Pakistan is struggling to avert a currency crisis that has presented the new government with its biggest challenge. Many analysts and business leaders expect that another IMF bailout, the second in five years, will be needed to plug an external financing gap. — Reuters

BP profits gush to \$2.8bn as oil energizes sector

LONDON: Britain's BP yesterday became the latest global energy major to win an earnings boost from runaway oil prices, rounding off an impressive earnings season for the industry's big hitters.

BP said net profit rocketed to \$2.8 billion in the three months to the end of June and hiked its dividend for the first time in four years. The company's performance compared with slender profit of \$144 million in the same part of 2017 when it was hit by asset writedowns and large tax payments. Revenues meanwhile spiked by more than a third to \$75.4 billion.

The news came just days after BP-flush with cash from the soaring oil market-purchased US shale oil and gas operations from the world's biggest miner BHP Billiton for \$10.5 billion in what it has called a transformational deal.

Strategic investment

"There is no doubt that higher oil prices have not only contributed to BP's profit-but they have enabled the company to look for strategic investment (with BHP Billiton)," ThinkMarkets analyst Naem Aslam said.

"There was no chance for BP to produce this kind of revenue and profit numbers or even to look for acquisitions if oil prices were still around \$30 per barrel." At the same time, BP snapped up Britain's largest electric vehicle charging firm Chargemaster in June for an undis-



closed amount, as it bets on booming green demand in the coming decades.

"We continue to make steady progress against our strategy and plans, delivering another quarter of strong operational and financial performance," said chief executive Bob Dudley in the statement.

"We brought two more major projects online, high-graded our portfolio through acquisitions such as BHP's US onshore assets and invested in a low-carbon future with the creation of BP Chargemaster.

"Given this momentum and the strength of our financial frame, we are increasing our dividend for the first time in almost four years. "This reflects not just our commitment to growing distributions to shareholders but our confidence in the future."

BP follows in the footsteps of broadly upbeat Q2 earnings from Anglo-Dutch rival Royal Dutch Shell, Repsol of Spain, Total of France, and US titans Chevron and ExxonMobil. — AFP

Eurozone growth slows as trade tensions persist

BRUSSELS: Economic growth in the eurozone slowed in the second quarter, official data showed yesterday, feeding concerns that global trade tensions fuelled by Washington may be hurting Europe's economy. Major economic institutions-including the European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund-have warned that growth in the eurozone risks taking a hit from the rising protectionism that stemmed from the "America First" policies of US President Donald Trump.

The fresh data confirmed the fears with growth in the 19-country single currency bloc hitting 0.3 percent in the April to June period, below the 0.4 percent in the previous quarter, the EU's Eurostat statistics agency said. On a year-to-year basis, economic growth in the eurozone reached 2.1 percent, which was far lower than the 2.5 percent in the previous quarter and also weaker than forecasts by analysts.

"Trade uncertainty seems to have already had a significant effect on the Eurozone economy in the second quarter," said Bert Colijn, Senior Economist at ING bank.

"While the impact on real export growth has likely been small over the second quarter, the confidence factor has been more important," he added.

European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi on Thursday already warned that "the threat of protectionism" remained a "prominent" risk to eurozone growth and warned that this year may not see a repeat of the bumper 2017.

IMF Chief Economist Maurice Obstfeld warned this month that "the risk that current trade tensions escalate further ... is the greatest near-term threat to global growth".

ECB caution

The data landed days after the European Union and US declared a trade war truce following White House talks, but analysts said the accord was fragile and that the spat could still weigh on growth. Still, "the fact that the immediate risk of escalating trade tensions has diminished now should support growth throughout the second half of the year," said Dirk Schumacher of Natixis bank.

The uncertainty over trade helped ECB governors last week decide to leave interest rates at historic lows even though they stuck to plans to halve "quantitative easing" or mass bond-buying from October before ending the stimulus scheme at the end of the year. — AFP



First Half 2018 Results for Mobile Telecommunications Company - Zain

The Board of Directors of Mobile Telecommunications Company K.S.C.P. would like to announce to its shareholders that the company achieved a Net Profit of **KD 86 million (USD 287 million)** for H1 - 2018.

The Board would like to express gratitude to all customers and shareholders for their confidence and assures them of the company's commitment to excellence and profitable growth.

Board of Directors

47.4 MILLION	1.67 USD BILLION	563 USD MILLION	287 USD MILLION	7 CENTS
	503 KD MILLION	169 KD MILLION	86 KD MILLION	20 FILS
CUSTOMERS	REVENUES	EBITDA	NET INCOME	EPS



Business

KIPCO announces net profit of KD 12.1m for first half of 2018

KIPCO draws its strength from its portfolio diversity strategy: Hayat

KUWAIT: KIPCO - the Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - announced a net profit of KD 6.42 million (\$21.2 million), or 4.48 fils per share (\$1.48 cents), for the second quarter of 2018 (the three months ended June 30, 2018). This is a 14 per cent increase over the KD 5.64 million (\$18.6 million) reported in first quarter of the year.

For the first six months of 2018, the company made a net profit of KD 12.1 million (\$40 million), or 6 fils per share (\$1.98 cents), compared to KD 14.1 million (\$46.6 million) reported in same period last year.

The company also reported a seven per cent rise in its total revenue from operations during the first half of 2018, at KD 353.7 million (\$1.17 billion) from

KD 330.7 million (\$1.09 billion) reported for the same period in 2017. KIPCO's consolidated assets stood at KD 9.9 billion (\$32.7 billion) compared to KD 10.3 billion (\$34 billion) reported at year-end 2017.

Masaud Hayat, KIPCO's Chief Executive Officer - Banking, said: "Despite our belief that the regional environment in which our businesses operate continues to be challenging, we have performed relatively well in the first six months of the year. The diversification of our portfolio has been a long-term KIPCO strategy and this has proven, time and again, to be crucial to our performance and a strength during times of both favorable and difficult economic circumstances."



Masaud Hayat

Renault Talisman: Combining high performance and comfort

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co, the authorized agent of Renault in the State of Kuwait is pleased to announce its latest offer on the Renault TALISMAN, known for its sporty edge and flare for luxurious rides. Designed to fulfil customers drive for the perfect blend between comfort and high performance on the road, the dynamic saloon car offers KD 1,000 cash back upon purchase in addition to a 10 year warranty in addition to free registration and third party insurance.

Offering well-balanced, generous volumes, the TALISMAN serves as the right fit for customers seeking optimal practicality, enjoyment and premium led experiences through its electronic damper control for outstanding on-road dynamics, a class-leading energy TCe 190 turbocharged direct-injection petrol engine, with 190hp on tap, fuel consumption and CO2 emissions of as low as 17 km/liter and 139 g/km respectively.

With a special focus on personal well-being, the TALISMAN offers a spacious cabin with perforated, quilted leather seats that contain the class's most comprehensive list of functions (air conditioning, massage function, heating, ventilation) in the front and a boot of a capacity of 608dm³ (VDA) combined with a sleek exterior profile. Moreover, the vehicle contains an 8.7-



inch touchscreen display, exclusive BOSE surround sound with 13 speakers, color head-up display, a cowl 7-inch digital instrument display, easy hands-free trunk access, smart hands-free entry system and a comprehensive range of driver aids including hands-free parking and blind spot warning.

Ensuring a customizable and intense driving experience, the TALISMAN guarantees a conveniently accessible MULTI-SENSE technology and an intuitive

R-link 2 tablet that offers a big-screen multimedia feel and full control of the on-board technology. Drivers can engage the car in accordance to their mood by simply choosing one of five different modes, from sport to comfort mode.

Renault Kuwait encourages its customers to visit the showroom situated in Al-Rai and avail of the opportunity to explore a world of exciting features that come with the TALISMAN.

Arun Hari appointed Group Chief Risk Officer at GIB

KUWAIT: Gulf International Bank (GIB) is pleased to announce that Arun Hari has been appointed as Group Chief Risk Officer as of June 2018. Arun Hari has over 27 years of corporate banking experience in the MENA region, including 20 years with the HSBC Group in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Before joining GIB, he worked as Country Head of Global Banking at the Saudi-British Bank SABB. "I am pleased that Arun has joined us as the chief of the Group's Risk Management," said GIB Chief Executive Officer Abdulaziz Al-Helaissi. "With his wealth of experience, Arun will greatly contribute to our efforts to develop risk management operations and realize GIB vision."



Arun Hari

Commenting on his appointment, Arun Hari said: "The changes we have been seeing in the regional landscape provide GIB with several good opportunities for growth. I am looking forward to working with both the Board, the Executive Leadership team and employees to build a risk culture that will help GIB to strike a balance between prudent risk management & sustainable business growth and respond nimbly to the emerging threats." Arun holds a BSc in Mathematics from Mahatma Gandhi University in India and an MBA from Southern New Hampshire University in the United States.

GIB was established in the Kingdom of Bahrain in 1975 and commenced operations in 1976. In 2017, GIB became the first foreign domiciled bank to be granted approval from the Saudi Arabia Council of Ministers to establish a local commercial bank in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Consequently, GIB's branch offices in the Kingdom will become part of the Saudi Arabian subsidiary, with the country headquarters located in Dhahran. GIB is owned by the governments of Gulf Cooperation Council countries, with Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund being the primary shareholder.

GIB Capital is the investment banking and regional asset management arm of GIB, offering innovative solutions in the fields of asset management, bond and Sukuk issuance, loan syndications, financial restructuring, private placements, private sale, IPOs, underwriting equity and debt, as well as mergers and acquisitions.

Lufthansa boosts revenues by 5% in first half of 2018

FRANKFURT: Lufthansa Group increased its total first half-year revenues by 5.2 percent in 2018, excluding the impact of the first-time application of the IFRS 15 accounting standard. Reported total first half-year revenues amounted to EUR 16.9 billion, broadly in line with the prior-year level. Traffic revenue for the first six months totaled EUR 13.2 billion, which, excluding the first-time impact of IFRS 15, represents an increase of 7.0 percent. Adjusted EBIT - the key profit metric of Lufthansa Group - was roughly at its prior-year level at EUR 1,008 million. Adjusted EBIT margin amounted to 6.0 percent (compared to 6.1 percent in the first half year of 2017). Net income for the period also remained broadly stable at EUR 677 million (prior-year period: EUR 672 million).

"The prime features of Lufthansa Group's development in the first half of 2018 were strong growth and a simultaneous improvement in our unit revenues. Achieving both simultaneously is a significant success," says Ulrik Svensson, Chief Financial Officer of Deutsche Lufthansa AG. "At our Network Airlines, we were able to more than offset the added burden imposed by higher fuel costs through structural cost reductions and improved results by 26 percent. Without the integration costs at Eurowings, which we willingly accepted to further strengthen our market position in Europe, the Group's result would have grown."

The airlines' performance was the key driver of the Group's results in the first half year. Some 67 million passengers were carried, a new record for the period. Capacity, volumes sold and seat load factor were also all at new record highs. The biggest driver here was the Network Airlines, with both Lufthansa German Airlines and SWISS making positive earnings contributions by achieving not only higher unit revenues but above all substantial reductions in their unit costs.

First half-year fuel costs rose by EUR 216 million to EUR 2.8 billion. The increase is attributable to both the higher volumes and a higher fuel price.

An increase in the costs incurred through delays and flight cancellations had a negative impact on first half-year earnings. The main causes of these irregularities were strike action and the infrastructural inadequacies of Europe's aviation systems, such as the current capacity problems at the continent's national air navigation services providers. Extreme weather (such as storms) also adversely affected flight operations far more than usual in the first half-year period. The impact of these trends was felt by all airlines, not only the Lufthansa Group. However, Group earnings for the period were also depressed by the expense of integrating the aircraft formerly operated by Air Berlin into the Eurowings fleet - a process which is unprecedented in its scope within the European airline industry and took longer than originally envisaged.

Despite these adversities, unit costs were reduced by 0.6 percent in the first six months - thanks primarily to efficiency enhancements at the Network Airlines, which benefited from the comprehensive modernization of their aircraft fleets, the collective labor agreements reached last year with large parts of the workforce and a streamlining of operational processes and management structures. As a result of all these positive influences, first half-year unit costs at the Network Airlines (excluding cur-

rency factors and fuel) were 2.1 percent below their prior-year level.

Network airlines

The Network Airlines' focus on sustainable cost reductions and revenue growth was reflected in their earnings results for the first half-year period. Reported total revenues declined 3.9 percent to EUR 10.7 billion. However, excluding the effect of the first-time application of IFRS 15, the Network Airlines' total first half-year revenues increased 3.2 percent on the same period last year. Unit revenues (excluding currency factors) were also up 1.4 percent, thanks to higher load factors and improved yields, with North Atlantic and European routes seeing particularly strong customer demand. Adjusted EBIT increased by 25.6 percent to EUR 951 million. And Adjusted EBIT margin improved accordingly, rising 2.1 percentage points to 8.9 percent.

Lufthansa German Airlines raised its Adjusted EBIT by 16.0 percent to EUR 660 million in the first six months. SWISS increased its first half-year Adjusted EBIT by 56.7 percent to EUR 293 million.

Despite favorable earnings in the second-quarter period, Austrian Airlines reported a first half-year Adjusted EBIT of EUR -3 million, a EUR 6 million decline on the prior-year period that is attributable to the flight cancellations suffered in the first three months of the year.

Eurowings

Eurowings raised its total first half-year revenues to EUR 1.9 billion, a 9.2 percent increase on the prior-year period, or a 25.2 percent improvement excluding the impact of the first-time application of IFRS 15. Along with the sizeable capacity expansion, revenue was also boosted by a 3.4 percent increase in unit revenues (excluding currency factors). The decline in Adjusted EBIT for the period to EUR -199 million is largely attributable to the one-off effects of integrating parts of the former Air Berlin aircraft fleet, and particularly to the higher technical, charter and leasing costs incurred to achieve the capacity expansion required within such a short time. Lufthansa Group expects these additional integration expenses to continue to depress earnings at Eurowings in the third quarter of 2018, but not beyond. Further costs were also incurred at Eurowings as a result of flight delays and cancellations whose causes were largely beyond Lufthansa Group's control.

Aviation services

Within Aviation Services, the first half-year results for Lufthansa Cargo showed particularly sizeable growth, reflecting continuing strong demand for airfreight service products. Lufthansa Technik also saw business pick up tangibly in the second quarter after a weaker start to the year.

First half-year Adjusted EBIT for Lufthansa Cargo amounted to EUR 125 million, a 60.3 percent improvement on the prior-year period. Lufthansa Technik posted an Adjusted EBIT of EUR 218 million for the first-half period, 1.8 percent below its 2017 level. The LSG Group raised its first half-year Adjusted EBIT to EUR 40 million, a 207.7 percent year-on-year improvement.

Other Businesses & Group Functions reported a EUR

119 million decline to EUR -78 million Adjusted EBIT in the first half year, owing primarily to the non-recurrence of currency gains recorded in 2017.

Key financial indicators

Operating cash flow declined 6.4 percent to EUR 3.0 billion. With substantially higher investments in the aircraft fleet, free cash flow declined 53.3 percent to EUR 977 million.

Pension fund provisions increased 5.9 percent to EUR 5.4 billion, in response to a lowering of the discount rate from 2.0 to 1.9 percent and a negative development of the pension plan assets.

Net financial debt declined 11.4 percent from its level at the end of 2017 to EUR 2.6 billion. The equity ratio decreased by 1.5 percentage points over the same period to 25.0 percent, following the increase in total assets. However, the equity ratio on 30 June 2018 was still 5.6 percentage points above the same date last year, primarily thanks to the positive earnings contribution over the last twelve months.

Full-year outlook for 2018

Lufthansa Group reaffirms its previous forecast for 2018. Full-year capacity will increase by around 8 percent - slightly less than the earlier forecast of 8.5 percent growth. Fuel costs are expected to be some EUR 850 million higher than in 2017. However, Lufthansa Group now expects a slight increase of unit revenues for the full year. The reduction in unit costs (excluding currency factors and fuel) is expected to amount to around one percent - negatively affected by higher-than-planned integration costs at Eurowings. The Group is also expecting a slight reduction in earnings for Aviation Services now, in light of the earnings decline at Other Businesses & Group Functions in the first half year period, which was driven by the non-recurrence of prior year currency gains. Overall, however, Lufthansa Group still expects an Adjusted EBIT for 2018 that is only slightly below 2017's record level.

"With continuing strong demand, we are confident that, despite a challenging prior-year basis for comparison, we will be able to report solid revenue trends for the second half of 2018, too," confirms Group CFO Ulrik Svensson. "We will also continue to benefit from the substantial improvements in the cost efficiency of our Network Airlines. With Eurowings, following its sizeable capacity increase, our prime objective is to return to profitability next year. We will also create the structures to raise Eurowings' profitability to the levels of its prime competitors over the next three to four years."

IFRS 15

Lufthansa Group's adoption of the IFRS 15 "Revenue from Contracts with Customers" reporting standard entails changes in revenue and cost positions, especially at its Network Airlines and Eurowings. Passenger-based fees and charges, which were previously accounted on both the income and the expenditure side, are now netted in the profit and loss account. This reduces both income and expenditure. Since EBIT is not affected, EBIT margin increases mathematically. Prior-year figures have not been restated.

Best offer on brake pads from Alghanim service center



KUWAIT: In line with its unceasing commitment to guarantee the safety and peace of mind of its customers and their families, Chevrolet Alghanim has launched amazing discounted prices on genuine brake pads with installation on most Chevrolet models. The limited-time offer that started on July 25 can be availed at both the Shuwaikh and Fahaheel Chevrolet service centers. Chevrolet Alghanim encourages its customers to visit the nearest service center and take advantage of this limited-time offer.

Performed by a team of professional service technicians, the special brake checkup entails a detailed inspection that uses state-of-the-art technology and the latest available tools for car inspection and servicing. The process covers the most important components guaranteeing a car's proper operation and safety.

Chevrolet Alghanim's customers will receive an exclusive discount on Chevrolet brake pads with installation plus rotor machining, car wash and nitrogen tire refill will be provided free of charge, enabling customers to drive their Chevy safely without having to worry about potential car malfunctions. Chevrolet Alghanim recommends its customers to take advantage of this offer emphasizing on the importance of brakes and the periodic checkup during the summer season. Customers can benefit from this exclusive offer by visiting either the Shuwaikh Service Center, located in Shuwaikh Industrial Area, from Saturday to Thursday, 7:00am till 7:00pm, and Friday, 2:00pm till 7:00 pm, or the Fahaheel Service Center, from Saturday to Wednesday, 7:30 am till 6:00pm, and Thursday, from 7:30am till 1:00pm.

Technology

World's biggest king penguin colony shrinks by 90 percent

Climate change, increasing population contribute towards decline

PARIS: The planet's largest colony of king penguins has declined by nearly 90 percent in three decades, alarmed researchers said Monday. The last time scientists set foot on France's remote Ile aux Cochons—roughly half way between the tip of Africa and Antarctica—the island was blanketed by two million of the flightless birds, which stand about a meter tall. But recent satellite images and photos taken from helicopters show the population has collapsed, with barely 200,000 remaining, according to a study published in Antarctic Science.

King penguins are home bodies. While adults will set to sea for days at a time foraging for food, the species does not migrate. Why the colony on Ile aux Cochon has been so decimated remains a mystery. "It is completely unexpected, and particularly significant since this colony represented nearly one third of the king penguins in the world," said lead author Henri Weimerskirch, an ecologist at the Centre for Biological Studies in Chize, France, who first set eyes on the colony in 1982.

Climate change may play a role. In 1997, a particularly strong El Nino weather event warmed the southern Indian Ocean, temporarily pushing the fish and squid on which king penguins depend south, beyond their foraging range. "This resulted in population decline and poor breeding success" for all the king penguin colonies in the region, Weimerskirch said. El Nino's are cyclical events that occur every two to seven years. But they can be amplified by global warming, which itself produces many of the same results, albeit

on a longer timescale.

Indeed, Weimerskirch and colleagues showed in an earlier study that climate change, on its current trajectory, will likely make the Iles Crozet—the archipelago that contains Ile aux Cochon—unviable for king penguins by mid-century. Migration is not an option because there are no other suitable islands within striking range. Other factors may be contributing to the decline of the Ile aux Cochon colony, including overcrowding.

One egg at a time

"The larger the population, the fiercer the competition between individuals," noted a statement from France's National Centre for Scientific Research, which funded the study. "The repercussions of lack of food are thus amplified and can trigger an unprecedented rapid and drastic drop in numbers." But this so-called "density-dependent effect" can also be made worse by climate change, the study notes. Another possible culprit is avian cholera, which

has affected seabirds on nearby Marion and Amsterdam Islands, including some king penguins.

But until Weimerskirch and other researchers return to Ile aux Cochons—hopefully, he said, in early 2019—they won't know for sure. It is also possible that invasive species such as rats, mice or cats, have found their way onto the island. The Red List of Threatened Species conservation status for king penguins is currently "least concern," but the new data may prompt a reevaluation. King penguins are the second-largest



FRANCE: This handout photo shows a two-million-strong king penguin colony on Ile aux Cochon, part of France's Iles Crozet archipelago, situated roughly half way between the southern tip of Africa and Antarctica. —AFP

penguin species after the Emperor.

They do not make a nest, but rather lay one egg at a time and carry it around on their feet covered with a flap of abdominal skin, called a brood patch. Parents take turns incubating the egg, switching every couple

of weeks over a two-month period. There are two subspecies of kings. *Aptenodytes patagonica patagonicus* inhabits the Falklands and South Georgia Island, while *Aptenodytes patagonica halli* resides in the southern-most reaches of Indian Ocean and South Pacific. —AFP

Spotify's music industry liaison Troy Carter to depart

CALIFORNIA: Troy Carter, who acted as a bridge between Sweden-based Spotify Technology SA and the recorded music industry, will leave the company in early September but remain in an advisory role, Spotify said on Monday. Carter was a music industry veteran who had previously helped manage artists such as Lady Gaga and John Legend. In 2016, he became Spotify's global head of creator services. In that role, he helped the Swedish company ally concerns from artists over how they could gain a following and make money on Spotify's streaming music platform, which has thinner margins than the traditional record business.

"I came to this company to help bridge the gap between Spotify and the creative community," Carter said in a prepared statement. "Over time, that goal evolved from fixing a challenge to building a global team focused on changing the game for artists around the world, partnering with them to help bring their creative visions to life in new and innovative ways."

Variety earlier reported Carter's departure. The magazine also reported that Carter had been upset at a Spotify policy put in place in May that demoted the prominence of some artists after they were accused of what the company called "hateful conduct." The policy affected artists such as singer R. Kelly and rapper XXXTentacion. Last month, Spotify narrowed the policy, keeping a ban on songs "whose principal purpose is to incite hatred or violence" but removing terms related to an artist's conduct.

Spotify did not respond to a question about whether Carter's departure was related to the policy. In a statement, Spotify Chief Executive Daniel Ek said



NEW YORK: In this file photo, the opening numbers are displayed on the floor during the Spotify IPO at the Dow Industrial Average at the New York Stock Exchange in New York. —AFP

when Carter "joined our team, there was skepticism from the artist community on streaming overall. Troy has been instrumental in changing that perception and

his efforts to establish true partnerships across the industry will be felt for years to come." Spotify shares closed down 5 percent at \$176.79. —Reuters

Nintendo first-quarter profits up 44% to \$275m

TOKYO: Nintendo said yesterday its quarterly net profit jumped 43.9 percent year-on-year to \$275 million, driven by the global popularity of its Switch console and game titles. The Kyoto-based game giant reported net profit for the three months to June of 30.6 billion yen (\$275 million), with operating profit soaring 88.4 percent to 30.5 billion yen. It said sales were up 9.1 percent to 168.16 billion yen, and it expects strong demand for the Switch console to continue into the second half of the year.

"For Nintendo Switch, hardware sales in every region have been trending upwards since the video game expo, E3, was held in the US in June," the company said in a statement. "In parallel with an increase in digital sales, software sales also have been moving in

good shape towards the holiday season," it said. In the April-June period Nintendo sold 1.88 million Switch console units—down 4.4 percent from a year earlier, shortly after its launch.

At the same time it sold 17.96 million software units, more than double the same period last year. Game software sales were driven by "Donkey Kong Country: Tropical Freeze", which sold 1.4 million copies worldwide since its release in May, the company said. "Mario Tennis Aces", released in June, sold 1.38 million units. The "Nintendo Labo" series, a cardboard construction toy series for the Switch system, sold 1.39 million units, showing promise as the offerings in the series expand, the company said.

"Sales of Nintendo Switch remain steady, but a decisive period for Nintendo is the Christmas season," analyst Hideki Yasuda at Ace Research Institute in Tokyo told AFP before the results. "Results for the second half will prove to be a real test for Switch." For the year to March, Nintendo maintained optimistic annual targets, forecasting net profit of 165 billion yen and operating profit of 225 billion yen on sales of 1.2 trillion yen.

Analysts said Nintendo was expected to benefit from new software releases. "Demand for Switch is entering a second phase following its explosive initial



TOKYO: In this file photo the logo of Japan's Nintendo Co. is displayed at a presentation in Tokyo. —AFP

demand," Yasuo Imanaka, an analyst at Rakuten Securities in Tokyo, told AFP ahead of the earnings announcement. "Sales of Nintendo Labo are not strong enough to lead its profit, but expectations of the firm's overall earnings are high as it is scheduled to release potentially powerful titles during the rest of the fiscal year, including a Pocket Monster title," he said. —AFP

Nokia to help with T-Mobile superfast telecom network

SAN FRANCISCO: Nokia will help T-Mobile deploy a superfast "5G" mobile internet network across the United States in a \$3.5-billion deal, the companies announced Monday. Finland-based Nokia will provide T-Mobile its suite of 5G technology, and help build the telecommunications firm's new-generation nationwide wireless network, the companies said. "We are all in on 5G," T-Mobile chief technology officer Neville Ray said in a release. "And together with Sprint, we'll be able to do so much more."

US wireless operators Sprint and T-

Mobile announced earlier this year that they are merging to form a new company and push development of a super-fast 5G network. The merger must still be approved by regulators. 5G or fifth-generation wireless communications networks promise to move data so quickly that they would enable services such as remote surgery or driverless cars and allow customers to experience video and virtual reality with greater ease.

"Nokia and T-Mobile will advance the large-scale deployment of 5G services throughout the United States," Nokia chief customer operations officer Ashish Chowdhary said in the release. T-Mobile is one of the biggest earners for its parent Deutsche Telekom of Germany. T-Mobile and Sprint—a subsidiary of Japan's SoftBank—are at present the third and fourth largest US wireless operators, respectively. —AFP



FINLAND: A picture shows a view of the headquarters of Finnish telecoms giant Nokia in Espoo, Finland. —AFP

Uber hits brakes on self-driving trucks

SAN FRANCISCO: Uber on Monday said it is hitting the brakes on self-driving trucks, shifting gears to focus just on autonomous cars. Uber is among a number of technology and car companies racing toward what some contend is an inevitable future in which vehicles drive themselves. Uber's aspirations had included self-driving trucks, with the smartphone-summoned-ride service revving that effort with the purchase of startup Otto two years ago. "We've decided to stop development on our self-driving truck program and move forward exclusively with cars," Eric Meyhofer, head of Uber advanced technologies group, said in an email response to an AFP inquiry. "We recently took the important step of returning to public roads in Pittsburgh, and as we look to continue that momentum, we believe having our entire team's energy and expertise focused on this effort is the best path forward."

San Francisco-based Uber had suspended its self-driving car program after a crash that killed a woman pushing a bicycle in a street in Arizona in March of this year. Uber has a version of the ride service that matches truck drivers with loads in need of hauling. In the absence of an urgent need for self-driving trucks to keep Uber Freight competitive, members of that team will work on autonomous cars or be offered spots elsewhere in the company. Uber Freight has become a national operation since launching in May of 2017. Otto co-founder Lior Ron left Uber in the weeks after the fatal accident in Arizona, according to media reports. Ron and co-founders including Anthony Levandowski, started Otto in early 2016. The startup was bought by Uber nine months later in a deal valued at more than \$500 million. Levandowski was a central figure in a blockbuster federal lawsuit filed by Waymo against Uber claiming trade secrets were stolen from the self-driving car project where he worked before leaving to start Otto. —AFP

French lawmakers ban smartphones in schools

PARIS: French schoolchildren will have to leave their smartphones switched off or at home as the new academic year begins in September, after lawmakers voted for a ban on Monday. The ban on smartphones, tablets and other connected devices, which will apply to pupils up to the age of 14-15, fulfills a campaign promise by centrist President Emmanuel Macron, while being derided as "cosmetic" by the opposition.

MPs of Macron's centrist LREM party and its allies gave final approval to the bill, while lawmakers on the left and right abstained from the vote, calling the law a "publicity stunt" that would change nothing. Under the new law, schools may make exceptions for "pedagogical use", extra-curricular activities, or for disabled pupils. Secondary schools for their part can decide individually whether to impose a partial or total ban on connected devices.

A previous law, passed in 2010, already prohibited smartphone use during class. Education Minister Jean-Michel Blanquer said the earlier law did not apply across the board and lacked teeth, while the new law moves France "into the 21st century." "It sends a message to French society" as well as countries around the world, he said. Nearly nine in 10 French teens aged 12 to 17 own a smartphone. —AFP

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DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM
Consultant Pediatrician

Consultant Pediatrician-Canadian & American Board in Pediatrics-Canadian Board in Pediatric Emergency

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

DR. WALEED S BUHAIMED
Consultant of General Surgery
Laprosopic and Bariatric Surgery

Academic Certificates - Training

- ◆ Kuwait Board of General Surgery.
- ◆ (IFSO) member .
- ◆ Faculty member of (BEST).
- ◆ Member of Kuwait Surgical Association.

Scope of clinical Practice.

- ◆ Bariatric surgeries.
- ◆ Gallbladder stones surgeries.
- ◆ Abdominal wall and hernia surgeries.
- ◆ G.I. surgeries.
- ◆ Thyroid and para - thyroid surgeries.
- ◆ Anal surgeries.

email: wbuhaimed@gmail.com **Tel.: 965 22269411/ Mob.: 965 99212228** Jabriya, 4th Ring Road,Block 1A Floor 9 -Clover Center Mazaya Building

What's On

GUST student to attain full graduate scholarship

GUST awarded Maryam Abdulla GUST's Graduate Scholarship to enable her to complete her higher studies. Abdulla has officially completed her Master's degree in Spring 2017 from Kuwait University, and has been accepted at the University of Manchester to pursue her PhD in Computer Science starting Fall 2018. She is the 6th GUST alumni to receive this scholarship. Three GUST alumni are currently on this prestigious scholarship, and pursuing their PhD degrees in esteemed universities like Pennsylvania State University and Arizona State University.

Upon the completion of their degrees they will return to GUST as faculty members. This effort comes as part of GUST's faculty hiring strategy to integrate its graduates as future faculty members. GUST offers this scholarship to a selective number of alumni each year to encourage them to pursue their graduate degrees, in one of the QS top 100 ranked universities worldwide.

GUST has already funded five of its students to pursue their graduate studies.

The eligibility requirements are:

- Kuwaiti citizen
- GUST undergraduate degree
- Achieved high distinction (B+) or a 3.30 GPA
- Strong command of the English language to be able to meet all academic, entry, and other requirements of the concerned universities
- Applicants must not be above the age of 28 (as of October 1st following the scholarship nomination)

International study has proven its benefits to the growth and development of individuals. GUST prides itself in its growing portfolio of international courses and programs, and strives to connect with renowned universities worldwide to deliver a well-rounded experience to its students and faculty.



Symphony Style Mall organizes Blood Donation campaign

The Commercial Real Estate Company "Symphony Style Mall" invited all the public to participate in its blood donation campaign which was held at the company owned Symphony Style Mall. The Blood donation campaign was successfully held on Sunday July 29, 2018 as part of the company's 'We Care' - Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives to fulfil the needs and requirements of the Central Blood Bank. The campaign was titled "Take time out of your busy life to save a life"

Marketing and Communication Department has stated that "this campaign is held on an annual basis through the implementation and promotion of the corporate governance principles of the company to increase awareness about blood donation and help save lives". This campaign was supported by our generous sponsor Symphony Style Hotel Kuwait who played a vital role by contributing towards the cause and campaign. The Company wishes to thank all its employees, tenants and donors for their great support to this campaign.



Persian tamarind-stuffed fish

Ingredients:

- 6 tbsp. olive oil, plus more for greasing
- 1/2 cup barberries
- 1 large yellow onion, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup tamarind paste
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/3 cup minced cilantro
- 1/3 cup minced parsley
- 1/3 cup minced tarragon
- Lime wedges, for serving
- 4 trout, cleaned and butterflied
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

Instructions:

Heat oven to 375degrees. Grease two baking sheets and set aside. Soak barberries in warm water for

30 minutes and drain.

In a large skillet over medium-high, heat 3 tablespoons olive oil. Add the onions and cook until brown, about 10 minutes. Lower the heat to medium and cook, stirring occasionally, for 30 minutes more, until dark brown and caramelized. Add the barberries, almonds, tamarind, and garlic, and cook until fragrant, about 10 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in cilantro, parsley, and tarragon.

Season fish with salt and pepper. Stuff each fish with about 1/2 cup stuffing and brush with remaining olive oil. Bake for 15 minutes. Change oven setting to broil and cook an additional 3 to 4 minutes, until the fish's skin is golden.



OSN offers a fresh line-up of quality content

OSN continues to entertain this summer with a sizzling line-up of quality programming for all the family. Get ready for one of the biggest super hero films of the year when Avengers: Infinity War lands on OSN Store, just months after its cinematic release; while there's also new and exclusive seasons of Ballers, Better Caul Saul and Marvel's Runaways, to name just a few. And you can watch what you love when you want on OSN Play.

OSN Store

Just months after their cinematic release, buy and keep some of 2018's biggest movies on OSN Store and watch them whenever you like, and as many times as you want!

Avengers: Infinity War

August 15, 2018 to December 31, 2021

The Avengers and their allies must be willing to sacrifice it all, in an attempt to defeat the powerful Thanos before his blitz of devastation and ruin puts an end to the universe.

Isle of Dogs

August 22, 2018 to March 4, 2019

Set in Japan, Isle of Dogs follows a boy's odyssey in search of his lost dog.

OSN First Home of HBO: August Premieres Snowfall S2

Premieres Sunday, August 5, 10PM (KSA)

Set in 1983 Los Angeles, the series revolves around the first crack epidemic and its impact on the culture of the city.

Better Caul Saul S4

Premieres August 7, 9PM (KSA)

The prequel to Breaking Bad follows small-time attorney Jimmy McGill as he transforms into Walter White's morally challenged lawyer, Saul Goodman.

Ballers S4

Premieres August 13, 10PM (KSA)

Nominated for an Emmy, the half hour comedy series looks at the lives of former and current football players, the show follows former superstar Spencer (Dwayne Johnson) as he gets his life on track in retirement while mentoring other players through the daily grind of the business of football.

OSN Series First HD: August Premieres Marvel's Runaways S1

Premieres August 8, 7PM (KSA)

This series was nominated for the Saturn Award's Best Superhero Series, and brought by the creators of



The O.C. and Gossip Girl. After discovering their parents are super-villains in disguise, a group of teenagers band together, to run away from home in order to atone for their parents' actions and to discover the secrets of their origins.

Marvel's Cloak and Dagger S1

Premieres August 9, 9PM (KSA)

Based on 1980's Marvel Comics and the producer of Heroes and Daredevil. Two teenagers from very different backgrounds find themselves burdened and awakened to newly acquired superpowers while falling in love.

Claws S2

Premieres August 10, 10PM (KSA)

A look at the life and crimes of five women who work at a Florida nail salon.

OSN Play

Stan Lee's Lucky Man S1 & S2

Starting Wednesday, August 1

From the mind of comic book legend Stan Lee comes a bold new action crime series about a brilliant but flawed police officer with the power to control luck.

Banshee

Starting August 4

An ex-con assumes the identity of a murdered sheriff in the small town of Banshee, Pennsylvania, where he has some unfinished business.

Castle S1-S8

Starting August 8

After a serial killer imitates the plots of his novels, successful mystery novelist Richard "Rick" Castle receives permission from the Mayor of New York City to tag along with an NYPD homicide investigation team for research purposes.

Beyond S2

Starting August 23

A young man wakes up from a 12-year coma to discover new abilities that land him in the middle of a dangerous conspiracy.



OSN First Home of HBO: Reality Check

Starting 24 August, OSN First Home of HBO is proud to introduce Documentary Weekend, every Friday and Saturday with a new documentary premiering every Saturday at 8pm KSA. Enjoy the powerful, compelling, and inspirational content and make your weekends even more entertaining.

It Will Be Chaos

Premieres on August 25, 8PM (KSA)

Follows the stories of individuals fleeing their native countries in Africa and the Middle East seeking a better life in Europe, despite the dangers. The filmmakers charted the early days of the crisis in 2011, as thousands of refugees made the perilous journey from North Africa to the small impoverished island of Lampedusa in south Italy.

OSN Movies First HD

Den of Thieves

Premieres on August 2, 10PM (KSA)

A crime which follows the lives of an elite unit of the LA County Sheriff's Dept. and the state's most successful bank robbery crew as the outlaws plan a seemingly impossible heist on the Federal Reserve Bank. Starring Gerard Butler, Pablo Schreiber, O'Shea Jackson Jr.

All the Money in the World

Premieres on August 9, 10PM (KSA)

The story of the kidnapping of 16-year-old John Paul Getty III and the desperate attempt by his devoted mother to convince his billionaire grandfather Jean Paul Getty to pay the ransom. Starring Michelle Williams, Christopher Plummer, Mark Wahlberg.

Pitch Perfect 3

Premieres on August 10, 9PM (KSA)

Following their win at the world championship, the now separated Bellas reunite for one last singing competition at an overseas USO tour, but face a group who uses



both instruments and voices. Starring Anna Kendrick, Rebel Wilson, Brittany Snow.

OSN Series Comedy HD

The Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon

Tuesday-Saturday, 9PM (KSA)

Hailing from the Rockefeller Center in the heart of New York City, Jimmy has made it his mission to make sure viewers end the day with a smile. Each weeknight, he hosts A-list guests, from movie stars to athletes, comedians, public figures and everyone in between.

Late Night with Seth Meyers

Tuesday-Friday, 11:30PM (KSA)

With his signature monologue and sharp newsy segments like "A Closer Look," Seth Meyers hilariously breaks down the day's biggest stories and takes the current political circus head-on. He then welcomes Hollywood's most beloved A-list guests, as well as people not seen anywhere else in late night, like political figures and other interesting newsmakers.

OSN Yahala Cinema HD

Wajib

August 3, 11PM (KSA)

A father and his estranged son must come together to hand deliver his daughter's wedding invitations to each guest as per local Palestinian custom in this rousing family drama.

Habbet Caramel

August 17, 11PM (KSA)

Maya struggles with the effects of the caramel that gave her the ability to hear women's thoughts.

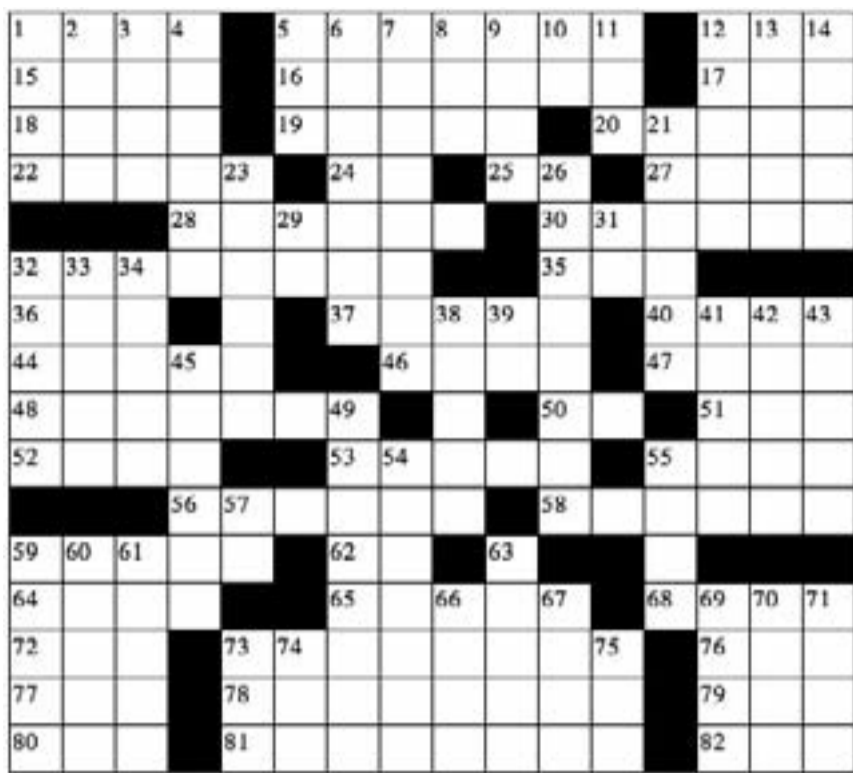
In Syria

August 24, 11PM (KSA)

Trapped inside her house in a city under siege, Um Yazen, a mother-of-three turns her flat into a safe haven for her family and neighbors in an attempt to protect them from the war raging on the streets of Damascus.

Stars

CROSSWORD 1974



ACROSS

1. Slow to learn or understand.
5. Instructed and encouraged in moral, intellectual, and spiritual improvement.
12. Payment due by the recipient on delivery.
15. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
16. Based on sound reasoning or evidence.
17. A metal-bearing mineral valuable enough to be mined.
18. Not only so, but.
19. A theatrical performer.
20. A cricket ball bowled as if to break one way that actually breaks in the opposite way.
22. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
24. Being one more than fifty.
25. A logarithmic unit of sound intensity.
27. Turn sharply.
28. Strike with a flat object.
30. A pendent spear of ice formed by the freezing of dripping water.
32. Any of various long-legged carrion-eating hawks of South and Central America.
35. (informal) 'Johnny' was applied as a nickname for Confederate soldiers by the Federal soldiers in the American Civil War.
36. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
37. A legally binding command or decision entered on the court record (as if issued by a court or judge).
40. The capital and largest city of Norway.
44. A pair of people who live together.
46. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
47. Singing jazz.
48. (used of persons) Standing above others in character or attainment or reputation.
50. The district occupied entirely by the city of Washington.
51. (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
52. A mountainous landlocked communist state in southeastern Asia.
53. Type genus of the Upupidae.
56. United States swimmer who in 1926 became the first woman to swim the English Channel (1903-).
58. Distant but within sight.
59. An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped cucumbers and spices.
62. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
64. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
65. A member of a people inhabiting the Arctic (northern Canada or Greenland or Alaska or eastern Siberia).
68. A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
72. A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement.
76. Someone who is morally reprehensible.
77. A chronic drinker.
78. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
79. A master's degree in fine arts.
80. The compass point midway between northeast and east.
81. Elder brother of Krishna.
82. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.

DOWN

1. The time during which someone's life continues.
2. The chief solid component of mammalian urine.
3. (statistics) Approximating the statistical norm or average or expected value.
4. The dialect of Malay used as the national language of the Republic of Indonesia or of Malaysia.
5. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
6. Slate clearly.
7. The Palestinian uprising (beginning in 1987) against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
8. The United Nations agency concerned with the international organization of food and agriculture.
9. A United Nations agency created to assist developing nations by loans guaranteed by member governments.
10. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
11. A young woman making her debut into society.
12. Ratio of the hypotenuse to the opposite side.
13. A projecting bay window corbeled or cantilevered out from a wall.
14. United States industrialist who manufactured plows suitable for working the prairie soil (1804-1886).
21. Consisting of the musk-ox.
23. Bring an accusation against.
26. An anniversary of the day on which a person was born.
29. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
31. A ductile gray metallic element of the lanthanide series.
33. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
34. The relative magnitudes of two quantities (usually expressed as a quotient).
38. Spread or diffuse through.
39. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
41. A burn cause by hot liquid or steam.
42. A long pointed rod used as a weapon.
43. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
45. Old World tropical herbs.
49. Any of the scroled spongy bones of the nasal passages in man and other vertebrates.
54. A deciduous tree of the family Ulmaceae that grows in the southeastern United States.
55. A blue dye obtained from plants or made synthetically.
57. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
60. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
61. Feeling or showing extreme anger.
63. God of justice.
66. A person who makes use of a thing.
67. Thin and fit.
69. The highest level or degree attainable.
70. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
71. The sixth month of the civil year.
73. A federally chartered savings bank.
74. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
75. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may find you have come up against a roadblock that you are unable to budge. The harder you seem to push the more you find the obstacle isn't willing to give way. Be careful, this may be a situation if you push too hard you may find yourself doing damage you are unable to fix. You seem to be high energy and have the discipline in place to apply yourself to all tasks at hand. Change focus if need be and accomplish the tasks that come without resistance. You may find yourself in conflict with someone who seems to challenge you in an area that is very sensitive to you. Step back, take a deep breath, and find a way to relax this evening. You may find yourself in need of an escape this evening.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may be feeling emotionally detached from your surroundings at this time. You tend to be viewed as detached by others when you are in all reality your mind is highly focused and your wheels are turning. You are fascinated by the unusual and are finding yourself lost in your thoughts. You may find it hard to focus in the workplace today. Today may not be the best day for important decisions in the work place as you have lost yourself in your thoughts. You are quick witted and are no stranger to finding yourself having to apologize for having offended someone. Bite your tongue, keep it to yourself today as this could result in a battle of words with someone close to you. Taurus, settle in with a book tonight and give your mind a break from reality. This will provide a much-needed escape for you.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Things may seem too good to be true. In an almost magical sense it seems that all of your dreams are coming true. Goals seem attainable now. Everything seems to be falling in your lap. You are being smiled upon and you have a new love for life. This is the result of your hard work and dedication. You may find that karma has a way of repaying your good deeds and there seems to be no other explanation for this vast array of good fortune. This is a great time to get all of your affairs in order and continue to dream big. Gemini, you seem able to make all the right choices and surround yourself with all the right people now. This may benefit you financially.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Don't skip out on your responsibilities even though you may be tempted. Seems as if a party is calling your name. You may regret choosing fun over your duties. This is not a good time for you to break any old molds and develop new patterns. This could cause conflict for you and not be in your best interest career wise. You are stable and predictable. This tends to bore you at times, but you are admired as the dependable one in the work place. You work well with others who see you as a natural born leader. This is being noticed at work and could bring reward and financial gain your way. Stick to what you know and continue your path to success.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Make that date, apply for that job, step out on a limb and take a chance. Now is a great time to make the change you have been thinking about making. You may find the reward is much greater than the risk you are about to take. This is a great day for you to step out of your comfort zone and take a chance. You are drawn to love ones today and crave spending some intimate time alone with someone close to you. This is a great time for you to develop and nurture a strong bond with someone close to you. You have a deep desire to love and be loved and you may find this some time spent expressing your feelings willajj55 fulfill everything you have been wishing for.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may be facing a very emotional issue in your life today. It may seem your desire to be respected by others is very strong. You may find yourself even demanding this from others today. You may find yourself becoming very organized and structured. A strong will takes hold. You may discover you may not only have a knack for organizing things, but you have one for organizing people as well. This makes you a great leader and this quality could be acknowledged in the workplace today. Leo, your ability to work with haste and little emotion makes you a natural in a position of leadership or management. You may find that you are not as appreciative of those around you. You will find others looking to you for support and advice and you are just the one to lead them in the right direction.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

What you value most may stand in the way of you making the correct decision at this time. Do not make an easy decision more difficult than it really is. Be careful not to make the wrong choice especially concerning your living situation. I desire for a social life or a night out on the town may quickly turn into a bad situation. Be sure and choose your company wisely. Remember Libra, not everyone always has your best interest at heart. This could cause you to feel cut off from your friends and isolated. It is a good time to put much thought into who surround yourself we had and into the decisions you make.



Scorpio (October 23-November 19)

Today finds you longing for change. Old habits die hard and you are definitely ready to put some of yours to rest. You long to surround yourself with all that is new, unique, and unusual. You may find much support from your peers concerning the changes you are making and the changes you discuss planning to make. While your peers seem to very supportive you may be met with adversity from your elders or superiors. Perhaps the change they see in you is too much, too fast for their more conservative perspective. Scorpio, this is a time to follow your heart, put yourself first, and do what is best for your health and happiness.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

If you have been desiring a change around your house now is the time to do it. It is a great time for you to do some redecorating and a great time for a change of scenery in your world. Your taste and selections will be heightened today and you will make great decisions you will be happy with for years to come. You are drawn to the finer things in life and surrounding yourself with them will bring a sense of harmony into your world. This is a great time for you to sit back and relax. Enjoy all this world has to offer and admire what your hard work has enabled you to acquire. A sense of pride and accomplishment come over you now.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You seem to have a love of law and order. You appreciate all of the responsibilities that have been placed on you. You understand that you have been recognized for your hard work and dedication. The have come to understand the reason so many tasks are assigned to you is because of your work ethic and ability to produce work quickly and accurately. You are now able to view every obstacle that stands in your way as a learning opportunity and you look at life with a hit me with your best shot kind of attitude. You are bold and unstoppable. Capricorn, you know as long as you are doing the right thing you will be rewarded.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You cannot resist the urge to get serious about taking care of yourself. Diet, health, and exercise are the main concerns in your world now. A dreamy and imaginative mood come over you. You may find yourself taking the long way around your problems to ensure an eternal solution rather than a temporary one. A great book or a movie may be a good way to spend your night. This is a great time to rest your mind and relax to give yourself a little break from reality, Aquarius. You deserve to reward yourself for all of your hard work.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

If you have ever taken a gadget apart because you were curious of its inner components and what it makes it work, you may well relate to the mood today finds you in. Curiosity and a desire to discover who you really are and what drives you is really moving within you. You desire power and control, but your level of sensitivity helps you come to the realization that only love of self will get you to that point. You may find you are putting much focus on your sexual needs at this time. You could experience a deep closeness with someone you love today.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Washing a Car

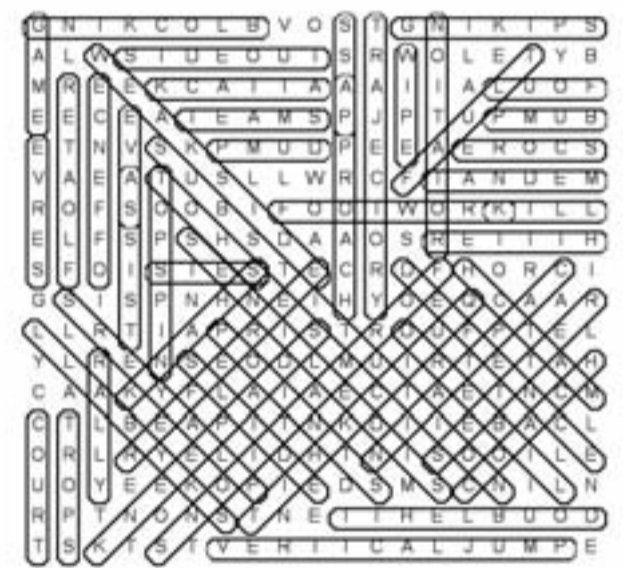
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 13 letters spell something that you wash off of a car.



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

Yesterday's Solution

Volleyball



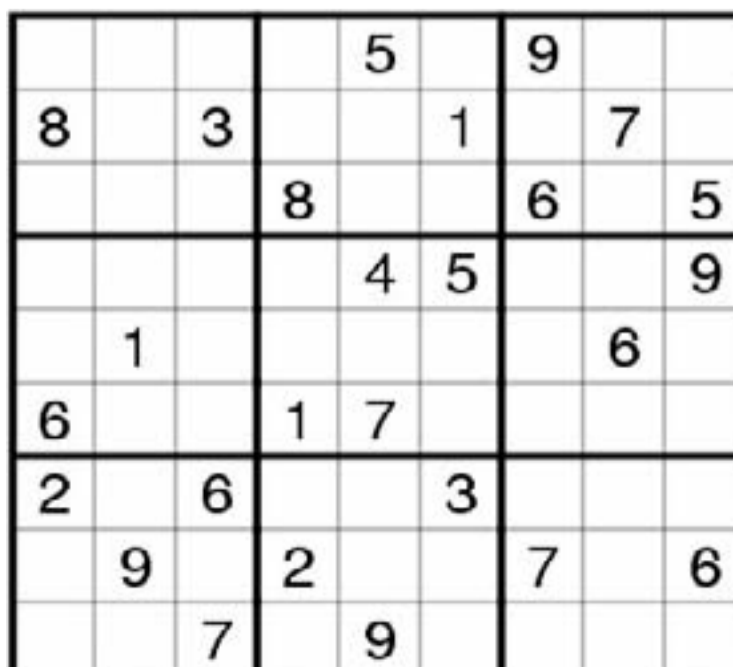
- APPROACH
- ASSIST
- ATTACK
- BLOCKING
- BUMP
- CAPTAIN
- COACH
- COURT
- DEFENCE
- DOUBLE HIT
- DUMP
- FAULT
- FLOATER
- FOOTWORK
- FORMATIONS
- FOUL
- GAME
- HITTER
- KILL
- LIBERO
- MATCH
- OFFENCE
- PASS
- PLAYERS
- POINTS
- QUICK HIT
- RALLY
- REFEREE
- ROTATOR
- SAVE
- SCORE
- SETS
- SERVE
- SETTER
- SHANK
- SHOT
- SIDELINES
- SLIDE
- SPIKING
- SPORT
- SUBSTITUTION
- TANDEM
- TEAMS
- TOPSPIN
- TRAJECTORY
- VERTICAL JUMP
- WEAK SIDE
- WIPE
- SKY BALL

The hidden message is: VOLLEYBALL WAS ORIGINALLY CALLED MINTONETTE

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2018



Regional dancers perform at the Guelaguetza festival in Zaachila, Oaxaca, Mexico. The Guelaguetza is a festival held once a year which gathers music, dance, gastronomy and handicrafts of different ethnic groups and tribes of the state of Oaxaca. — AFP

Lindsay Lohan to make US TV comeback in MTV reality series

Lindsay Lohan, whose promising movie career crashed in a string of legal woes and substance abuse, is returning to US television in a reality series about her night club ventures in Greece. MTV said on Monday that "Lohan Beach Club" will follow the actress as she works to expand a recently launched nightclub and restaurant business in Greece. The TV network said the show, expected to air in 2019, will see Lohan, 32, lead a team of "brand ambassadors" who will help promote her business "while striving to rise above the temptations the Mykonos night life scene has to offer."

Lohan, once one of Hollywood's most-sought after young actresses after starring roles in "The Parent Trap" and "Mean Girls," went to rehab six times between 2007 and 2013, and was in and out of jail and court repeatedly for offenses ranging from theft to drunken driving and drug possession. Her last feature movie was the 2013 low-budget thriller "The Canyons" after which she moved to London, and later Dubai. Her biggest acting job since then is dark British TV comedy "Sick Note," in which she plays a supporting role in the second season



Lindsay Lohan to make US TV comeback in MTV reality series that began airing last week. The Mykonos beach club is Lohan's third business venture in Greece following the 2016 opening of a nightclub bearing her name in Athens and a beach house in Rhodes which is due to open this summer. — Reuters

Toni Garrn believes in fasting

Toni Garrn believes that "fasting can be very healthy." The 26-year-old model tries to stay in shape but if she needs a boost, she thinks detoxing and going without food for a period of time helps her, and she also advocates staying away from sugar whenever possible. In an interview with Hello! magazine, she said: "Yes I believe detoxing and fasting can be very healthy for a period of time. Generally, I try to stay in a certain shape all year round. Normally we don't have time to prepare for big jobs. "No sugar, unfortunately really does go a huge way. Although the former Victoria's Secret star tried her best to avoid sugary treats, she can't help but indulge in her beloved ice cream whenever she sees the frozen snack on sale. Asked her cheat food, she said: "Ice cream, I can't pass a gelateria without going in. Italy is a nightmare place for me to stay in shape." Toni doesn't wear a lot of make-up when she isn't working but she loves a pink hue for the summer months. She said: "I think pink lips is really beautiful at the moment. I don't wear much make-up but when I do, I love pink for the summer. "For hair I think lots of women look amazing with a bob - use tons of hair spray to keep it in place.



The blonde beauty set up her own foundation in 2016 to help disadvantaged girls in developing countries, with a focus on encouraging education, because she feels "very blessed" with the life she's led and wanted to help others. She explained: "I was a young girl who was chosen to be a model and was able to finish my schooling at the same time. "Hardly any girls get to live that life and I feel very, very blessed. Right now in the world, more than 60 million girls who should be in school aren't, and that needs to change. — Bang Showbiz

Vivendi says wants to sell 50% of Universal Music Group

French media group Vivendi said Monday it plans to sell up to 50 percent of Universal Music Group as it reported a drop in net earnings. As revenue dipped 1.4 percent at the music label to 2.6 billion euros (\$3.0 billion), Vivendi's management team told the company's board of directors that an initial public offering was too complicated and instead recommended a "sale of up to 50 percent of UMG's share capital to one or more strategic partners, in order to extract the highest value."

Vivendi said it expected a transaction in the coming months which would be completed by the end of next year. Vivendi's net profit slid 6.3 percent in the first half of the year to 165 million euros. The bottom line was strongly impacted by a write down of 512 million euros in the value of its investment in Telecom Italia, which it made due its loss of control over the board following a shareholder battle this spring led by the activist hedge fund Elliot Management Corporation. Vivendi's sales rose by 18.3 percent to 6.4 billion euros, although without the consolidation of advertising firm Havas and currency effects the gain was 4.0 percent. — AFP



This combination of file pictures created in Paris shows the logo of French media group Vivendi in Paris (top) and the logo of music company Universal Music on its headquarters in Berlin. — AFP

'M*A*S*H' star Alan Alda has Parkinson's disease

Alan Alda, who starred as wise-cracking army doctor Hawkeye Pierce in the long-running television comedy series "M*A*S*H," revealed yesterday that he has Parkinson's disease. Alda, 82, said he was diagnosed with the nervous system disorder three and a half years ago. "I decided to let people know I have Parkinson's to encourage others to take action," he said in a statement on Twitter. "My life is full. I act, I give talks, I do my podcast," he said. "I take boxing lessons 3 days a week, play singles tennis twice a week, and take a mild pill. "And I'm not entering dementia," Alda said. "I'm no more demented than I was before."

"If you get a diagnosis, keep moving!" In an appearance on "CBS This Morning," Alda said the only symptom he has experienced so far is twitching in his thumb. Besides "M*A*S*H," the Emmy-winning Alda appeared on the popular TV political drama series "The West Wing" and was nominated for an Oscar for the movie "The Aviator." — AFP



In this file photo actor Alan Alda poses with his 40th Anniversary Special Founders Award at the 40th International Emmy Awards in New York. — AFP

Lifestyle | Gossip



Douglas found son's addiction and incarceration 'very painful and difficult'

The 'Ant Man and the Wasp' star's offspring, Cameron Douglas - whose mother is the 'Wall Street' actor's first wife Diandra - was jailed for drug possession in 2010 and had his sentence almost doubled in 2011 after he was found trying to sell prescription pills to other inmates but was released in 2016 following lengthy stints in solitary confinement and Michael is pleased he has finally turned his life around. He told Radio Times magazine: "My son's struggle was a nightmare. It was stressful for all involved, very painful

and difficult. "He has been out of prison a year and a half and he is actively pursuing his career. "I am happy to say he is in wonderful shape now." And the 73-year-old star - who also has Dylan, 17, and 15-year-old Carys with wife Catherine Zeta-Jones - is pleased with how his own life has turned out. He added: "I'm a happy camper." Michael became a grandfather in December when Cameron and his girlfriend Viviane Thibes welcomed daughter Lua into the world, and though he thinks it's "great", he isn't enjoying it as much as he'd hoped to because he's still got

his youngest child living at home so can't appreciate having a youngster around in the way some other grandparents can. He told reporters: "It's great. I mean, not as much as I had hoped because I still got a kid in the house. "I think you appreciate being a grandparent when everyone is out of the house and it's empty-nest syndrome, but I still have my daughter with me."

Kardashian West

wishes she hadn't chopped hair off

The 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star decided to go for a bob just a few days ago to match her sister Khloe Kardashian, but she's already having second thoughts about the 'do because her new look doesn't make her feel "sexy" enough. Taking to her Snapchat account, the 37-year-old beauty said: "So what do you guys think of my short hair? I'm so annoyed that I cut it. I just feel cutesy in it, like cute, no not sexy. I don't feel sexy in short hair, I feel sexy with long hair. It's cute." And it seems her lack of sexiness is bothering her as she later took to her Twitter account the vent about her bob, writing: "Wait I miss my long hair (sic)." Although she's not loving her hair right now, Kim is impressed with her body as she recently admitted that her sisters are jealous of her washboard abs and killer curves. Taking to Instagram earlier this week, Kim asked: "Wait, what was that Kendall?" To which her half-sister Kendall Jenner replied: "I'm really concerned, I don't think you're eating. You're so skinny." Her younger sister Khloe - who gave birth to her first child True three months ago - chimed in: "I've never seen a human being look as good as you. You are a walking FaceTune doll. I've never seen a skinnier person in my life than Mrs. West. Well, Kendall but that's natural, you, that takes work to look like that and that's amazing." Although Kim - who has three children: North, five, Saint, two, and Chicago, seven months, with her husband Kanye West - appeared to be lapping up the compliments, she is adamant she's not lost that much weight as she's still 119lbs. She screeched: "You guys, I'm not that skinny! I'm down to 119lbs but I will say that I am less when I take out my hair extensions so I don't have them in now."



Bella 'officially' split from Cena

The 'Total Bellas' star has confirmed she has parted ways from the professional wrestler for good after they tried to work on their romance. She told People in a statement: "After I called off the engagement, we tried to work on our relationship to get back to where it was, and in order to move forward with our wedding. After much time and soul-searching alone and together, we have decided to officially part ways. I had a beautiful and loving 6-year relationship with a wonderful man. I have the utmost respect for John, but I know this is what's best for me." The news may come as a shock to her fans as Nikki previously insisted she is just friends with John but didn't rule out a future for them. She shared: "Right now, we're just friends. We're working on each other and trying to work on us, and we talk every day. He is not only my best



Teigen 'still super insecure' about her post-baby body

Ehe 'Sports Illustrated' model is all for body confidence but admits she's still not 100 per cent there after giving birth to son Miles two months ago. Sharing a video showing off her post-baby body, she wrote on Twitter: "This is my new body. Instagram is crazy. I think it's awesome people have killer bodies and are proud to show them off (I really do!) but I know how hard it can be to forget what (for lack of a better word) regular ol' bodies look like when everyone looks bonkers amazing ... also I don't really call this "body confidence" because I'm not quite there yet. I'm still super insecure. I'm just happy that I can make anyone else out there feel better about themselves!" Meanwhile, the 32-year-old model - who also has two-year-old daughter Luna with her husband John Legend - previously admitted she worried about getting postpartum depression again. Speaking whilst pregnant with Miles, she said: "Do I worry about it with this little boy? I do. But I also know that when it does happen - if it does - I'm so ready for it. I have the perfect people around me for it. That's why I stand for a real core group of people around me ... I had just had Luna. I knew I had an incredible life and husband and family and all the resources necessary. I knew that I was personally unhappy, but I didn't think that anything was wrong with it because I just assumed that that's the way it goes. You have a kid, you're sad, you lose those endorphins and that's the way it is. I do wish that more people had spoken up around me. I encourage anyone who sees something around them to point it out. It took me to finally sit myself down because I think it's hard for people to point something out."

friend, but he truly is one of the best people I have ever met, and he has patience with me and he has really taught me a lot over the last few months, and I think one of those things is an inner strength that I thought I had, but didn't realize how strong I had it. "It's giving us this time in life to see what we really want for the future. I know for some people, because of the media or what they read on social media, they look at this as a very negative thing, but ... I don't want to be someone who gets a divorce, or who has kids and gets a divorce. I truly want to walk down that aisle, I want to give my vows and I want this to be one time. I'm beyond grateful that I have this amazing man, who is staying by my side and helping me fight through those issues and helping me become just an even better person, and even stronger." — Bang Showbiz



LIL WAYNE REPORTEDLY PULLED OUT OF PLANNED PERFORMANCE

The 35-year-old rap star was due to appear at Panorama music festival in New York on Saturday and while fans received last-minute news that he wouldn't be appearing because weather delayed his flight, the reality is rumored to be quite different. A source shared: "He didn't want to do it. This was going on for days, like three days. He just did not want to do the festival." Shortly before Wayne was scheduled to take to the stage, a message appeared on screens telling fans: "Due to weather conditions, Lil Wayne's flight has been delayed and he is unable to perform tonight. He was looking forward to performing for his NYC fans and plans to come back as soon as possible." But according to an insider, Wayne simply isn't a fan of New York, especially after he was arrested on a gun possession charge in 2007 following a concert. The chart-topping star subsequently pleaded guilty in 2009 and served eight months in

prison in the city. The source told the New York Post newspaper's Page Six column: "He's hated it here since his arrest years ago." Meanwhile, another source claimed that because of Wayne's desire to spend as little time in the city as possible, he left himself virtually no room for unforeseen problems. The insider explained: "Festival organizers found out mere hours before they put the signs up [that Wayne would not make it]. "They didn't know. Everyone was working to fix the situation and try to get him on at a later time." However, Wayne's attorney Ron Sweeney has insisted his client had intended to play the festival. He said: "I was there at the festival. We wanted to do the show. We had a flight delay. We tried to switch with Gucci Mane and go on at 8:30 p.m."



Pinto wants to make own 'fashion statements'

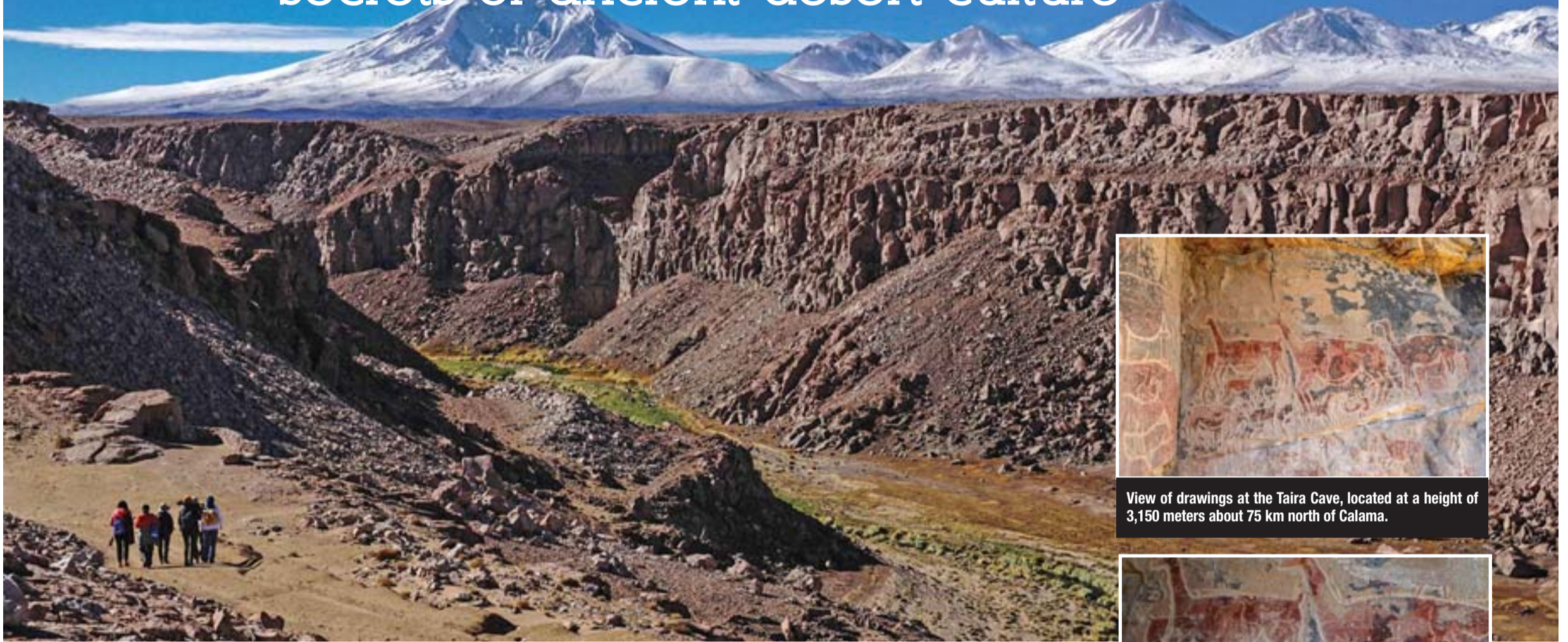
The 33-year-old actress believes that "confidence" is key and though she likes to be "put together", she doesn't always worry about following trends so long as she's happy with her outfit. In an interview with Britain's Harper's Bazaar magazine, Freida said: "There's a limit to how much you can be obsessed with the way you look and the way others perceive you, there has to be a level of confidence where you know within you who you are. "So I can walk out of my apartment without make-up and it doesn't matter. For me, that is what I perceive as being strong. I like to be put-together, I love fashion, but I also like dressing it down and I love not being on point all the time, or following a trend all the time. I like having my own sense of style and making my own statement. "So, I feel, as long as it doesn't border on insecurity or obsession, it's beautiful to be using fashion as a meaning of expression. To be using jewelry or clothes, whether that's just jeans and a T-shirt or high jewelry, as a mode of expressing yourself." The 'Slumdog Millionaire' actress is a Cartier ambassador for the jewelry line's new Coloratura collection - which celebrates color and diversity - and uses her platform as a role model to inspire girls and young women. Freida said: "Cartier came to me and said that the women that they've selected [to be ambassadors] are the women that they also consider to be fearless and bold, so for me to use the platform that Cartier already has - it's not just to sell jewelry. "It's using their platform because a lot of young girls and women like looking at their jewelry, whether they can buy it or not. It's aspirational. And I can use that to inspire people."

Harry Styles single again

The former One Direction star had been dating Victoria's Secret model Camille Rowe for just over a year, but it seems they couldn't strike a balance between their careers and their love lives as they called time on their relationship just two weeks after he completed his 89-date world tour on July 14, according to The Sun newspaper. The 24-year-old singer started dating the blonde beauty, 28, last year after they were introduced to one another through their mutual friend Alexa Chung. A source said at the time: "Harry and Camille are in the early stages of dating. "He's very protective of his relationships so isn't going to want to make a big show of things. They are well suited and seem happy. She's a real star on the rise." Within just a few months their relationship has stepped up a notch as Harry decided to take Camille to meet his family - including his sister - over the festive period. The insider explained: "Camille's come along at exactly the right point in Harry's life. He's had plenty of fun but seems to be content hanging out with her. They get on great. She's laid back and cool, plus she's been really supportive of his career. "The relationship is still fairly relaxed, he's hardly at the stage where they see each other every day. But Camille has also bonded with his sister Gemma and best pal Lou Teesdale, which is hugely important to Harry." The 'Sign of the Times' singer's relationship with Camille came just one month after he parted ways with food blogger Tess Ward, and the star has previously enjoyed romances with the likes of Taylor Swift and Kendall Jenner.



Chile's rock art llamas divulge secrets of ancient desert culture



Archeologists walk towards the Taira cave, about 75 km north of Calama, Chile. — AFP photos

Open air rock paintings in the world's driest desert pay testament to the importance of the llama to millennia-old cultures that traversed the inhospitable terrain. Conservationists working in Chile's Atacama Desert want UNESCO to recognize the Taira Valley drawings as a heritage site so they can develop sustainable tourism in the region. Taira is "a celebration of life," said archeologist Jose Berenguer, describing the site as "the most complex in South America" because of its astronomical importance as well as the significance to local shepherds. The rock art was a "shepherd's rite" needed to ask the "deities that governed the skies and the earth" to increase their llama flocks.

First rediscovered by Swedish archeologist Stig Ryden in 1944, the Taira rock art is between 2,400 and 2,800 years old. It is made up of a gallery of 16 paintings more than 3,000 meters (9,842 feet) above sea level on the banks of the Loa River that traverses the desert. The jewel in the crown are the Alero Taira drawings some 30 meters from the Loa in a natural shelter, in which the importance of the llama becomes abundantly clear. Not just the principal source of wealth for desert dwellers over thousands of years, the llama has been used in ritual ceremonies throughout the Andes for just as long, such as in the "Wilancha," or sacrifice to "Pacha Mama," or Mother Earth.

'Possible to delve'

"No one can understand the things done 18,000 years ago because the cultures that did them have disappeared," said Berenguer, curator at Santiago's



Tourists observe the night sky in Chiu Chiu.

Museum of Pre-Columbian Art. "Here, it's possible to delve into the meaning because we have ethnography and because there are still people living in practically the same way as in the past." According to Rumualda Galleguillos, one of around 15 indigenous people still raising llamas in the Atacama Desert like their ancestors, these pictures are a "testament" to forefathers who could neither read nor write. Around 90 percent of the engravings, painted mainly in red but also ochre yellow and white, depict llamas of various sizes, some pregnant, others suckling their young.



View of the San Pedro Volcano (right), near the Taira cave.

But the remaining 10 percent depict the desert's diversity, such as foxes, snakes, ostriches, partridges and dogs. The few human figures that appear are tiny, as if those painting them "wanted to go unnoticed in front of the greatness of animals that were so important to their economy," said Berenguer. What the paintings also demonstrate is that 2,500 years ago, people were already studying the stars in an area that has more recently become the astronomy capital of the world with some of the most powerful telescopes ever built. A book written in conjunction with the Atacama observatory called "The Universe of our Grandparents," claims that the ancient inhabitants of this area studied the stars to help learn how to domesticate the inhospitable desert and survive its dangers.

Seeing llamas

In this vision, the universe is made up of the skies and Earth as one whole, with the skies forming the horizon of life. What is seen in the skies is a reflection of what there is on Earth. Unlike the Greeks, though, ancient Atacama astrologists didn't see Orion, Gemini or Cancer. They saw llamas, their eyes, corrals, a loaded slingshot and a shepherd standing with his legs spread wide and arms in the air, worrying about foxes, said Silvia Lisoni, a professor of history and amateur astronomer.

Taira is located on an axis that aligns the sacred Sirawe "sandy eye" quicksand from where locals would pray for rain, the San Pedro volcano, the Colorado hill, and the Cuestecilla pampas, another sacred spot.

Volcanoes, like springs, were considered deities by the Atacama natives, while llamas were thought to have been born of springs. The Alero Taira is positioned so that it is completely illuminated by the sun on both the winter and summer solstices. "There's evidence that this site was built here for specific reasons," said Berenguer.

Taira is not the oldest example of rock art in this part of Chile, though. To the north in the copper mining Antofagasta region lies Kalina, around 1,000-1,200 years older than Taira, and Milla. This style of art has been found also in the Puna de Atacama plateau in neighboring Argentina, but Taira "has few equals in terms of beauty and complexity," said Berenguer. One day, he hopes that Taira will be afforded UNESCO World Heritage Site status like the rock art in the Cave of Altamira in Spain or France's Lascaux caves. — AFP



View of drawings at the Taira Cave, located at a height of 3,150 meters about 75 km north of Calama.



View of drawings at the Taira Cave.

Why buy popsicles when you can make healthier ones at home?

By America's Test Kitchen

Multicolored popsicles are fun and festive, but store-bought versions are loaded with sugar, corn syrup, and artificial colorings and their lackluster flavor leaves something to be desired. To make an ultra-flavorful, naturally sweetened version that would please kids and adults alike, we started with two kinds of berries. We settled on honey as our sweetener since it tasted great paired with the berries and wouldn't mar the bright colors we were after. We made a vibrant red raspberry puree for one layer; a blueberry puree made for a beautifully contrasting purple layer. For the middle layer, we aimed for a clean-looking white to make the red and purple stand out.

We tested several bases, including buttermilk, cream, and lemon. Tasters felt the buttermilk's tang distracted from the clean fruit flavors of the other layers, while lemon alone was too tart even when tempered by the honey. In the end, using a little bit of cream along with the lemon juice created the perfect balance of flavor and texture. A small amount of water in each layer ensured that the popsicles froze solid. For clean, well-defined stripes, be sure to let each layer freeze complete-

ly before adding the next layer, and be careful not to spill the mixture onto the sides of the popsicle molds when pouring. This recipe was developed using 3-ounce popsicle molds.

Striped fruit popsicles

Servings: 6 popsicles
Start to finish: 15 hours
Raspberry Layer
4 ounces raspberries (3/4 cup)
1/4 cup water
1 tablespoon honey
Pinch salt
Lemon Layer
1/4 cup water
3 tablespoons heavy cream
4 teaspoons honey
1 tablespoon lemon juice
Pinch salt
Blueberry Layer
4 ounces blueberries (3/4 cup)
1/4 cup water
1 tablespoon honey
Pinch salt

For the raspberry layer: Process all ingredients in food processor until smooth, about 1 minute. Using 1-tablespoon measuring spoon, carefully pour 2 tablespoons of raspberry mixture evenly into six 3-ounce popsicle molds, being careful to keep walls of molds free from drips. Cover molds and freeze until firm, about 4 hours.

For the lemon layer: Whisk all ingredients together in bowl. Using 1-tablespoon measuring spoon, carefully pour 2 tablespoons lemon mixture into each popsicle mold. Cover molds with foil and freeze until solid, at least 6 hours or up to 5 days. To serve, hold mold under warm running water for 30 seconds to thaw.

For the blueberry layer: Process all ingredients in food processor until smooth, about 1 minute. Using 1-tablespoon measuring spoon, carefully pour 2 tablespoons blueberry mixture into each popsicle mold. Cover molds with foil and freeze until solid, at least 6 hours or up to 5 days. To serve, hold mold under warm running water for 30 seconds to thaw.

Nutrition information per serving: 80 calories; 26 calories from fat; 3 g fat (2 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 10 mg cholesterol; 149 mg sodium; 15 g carbohydrate; 1 g fiber; 12 g sugar; 1 g protein. — AP



Photo provided by America's Test Kitchen in July 2018 shows striped fruit popsicles in Brookline, Mass. — AP



Divers working from their boats as they scour the bottom of Bangkok's Chao Phraya river for valuables. — AFP photos



Buddhist stone amulets recovered by divers from the bottom of Bangkok's Chao Phraya river.



A diver panning mud taken from the bottom of Bangkok's Chao Phraya river for any valuable items.



Bhoomin Samang emerging from a dive into Bangkok's Chao Phraya river to hunt for sunken treasure.



a diver panning mud scooped from the bottom of Bangkok's Chao Phraya river for valuables.

THAI 'INDIANA JONES' DIVERS SCOUR BANGKOK'S MURKY RIVER FOR TREASURE

Kneeling before his homemade metal scuba helmet, Bhoomin Samang prays for good fortune before he dives into the day's work—scouring the bed of Bangkok's Chao Phraya river for sunken treasure. The 62-year-old is part of a small community known as Thailand's "Indiana Jones" divers, who brave the inky-black underworld of the trash-filled waterway in search of coins, china, jewelry and scrap metal. "We look for old coins, sometimes we are hired to find lost objects in the river," says Bhoomin, a veteran diver who has been scouring the river for 30 years. Sometimes the find is more macabre—the divers have stumbled across skulls and skeletons as they feel their way along the river bed in total darkness.

middle of the country's urban metropolis. Wearing shorts and T-shirt, Bhoomin jumps off his motorized skiff into a river strewn with city sewage and debris. He is able to breathe thanks to the boxy helmet that weighs around 20 kilos (45 pounds), and is hooked up to a rubber tube that connects to an air tank aboard the boat.

The tank pumps oxygen into the helmet to keep water out, allowing the most experienced divers to drop down to 30 meters (100 feet) below the surface. After 15 minutes underwater, Bhoomin resurfaces with a cotton bag stuffed with mud. He pans it out on a metal dish, revealing several 200-year-old copper and bullet coins with pictures of 19th century Thai kings Rama IV and V on them—artifacts divers call "regulars". The coins trace the history of the Thai capital's lively waterfront, whose traditional stilted homes are increasingly being knocked down for development. "In the old days, we lived on rafts and had floating markets. Villagers lost their jewelry and money in the river," he said. An unfinished small Buddhist amulet was also hidden inside the mud.

Into the deep

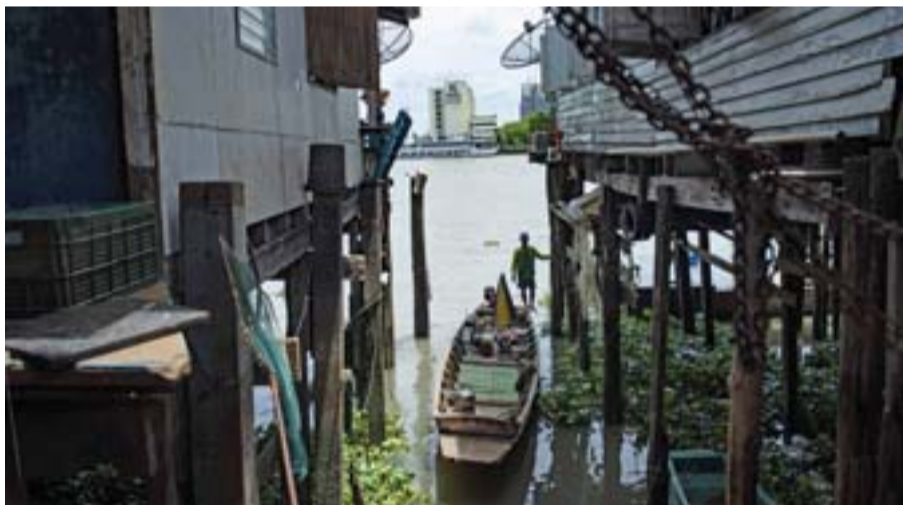
The divers can turn a decent profit. Selling a few copper coins can make them some 500 baht (\$15) — nearly twice Thailand's daily minimum wage. If lucky, a piece of jewelry or a rare coin in good condition can be sold for up to \$300 at Bangkok's antique markets, while their loot is fattened out by scrap metal. But the divers' fate is in limbo as urban development threatens their riverside community, which stands on weathered wooden stilts. Bangkok officials have ordered the families to relocate away from the river as part of the junta government's gentrification plan for the city. The divers fear that without direct access to the river, up to "90 percent" of them will lose their livelihoods. But that's not their only tension with the law-taking artifacts is technically prohibited and can be punished with fines or jail time.

Bhoomin, however, defends the trade, saying divers only go for the small stuff. "We don't take big artifacts like Buddha statues... (if officials really want something), they can go down there and take it," says Bhoomin, who dips into a box of salvaged spectacles and sunglasses whenever



He needs them. Then again, the lure of something special is always just around the river bend. "We don't know what we will find or where we will go today," said 29-year-old Somsak Ongsaard, another diver. "It's exciting." — AFP

Divers working from their boats as they scour the bottom of Bangkok's Chao Phraya river for valuables.



A diver on a boat next to his home along Bangkok's Chao Phraya river.

"If you're afraid of ghosts, you can't go in because you can't see anything. But we're used to it," he explains. Trained foreign and Thai Navy SEAL divers were recently at the center of global attention for their daring rescue of 12 boys and their coach from a waterlogged cave in northern Thailand. But the "Indiana Jones" divers use more makeshift equipment and operate under the radar in the



Diver Bhoomin Samang leaving his house in a boat with his homemade metal scuba helmet along Bangkok's Chao Phraya river.



Driver Bhoomin Samang holding rare coins he found during previous diving trips to the bottom of the Bangkok's Chao Phraya river.



Diver Bhoomin Samang holding jewelry and rare coins he found during previous diving trips to the bottom of Bangkok's Chao Phraya River.



A Buddha statue and China ceramic set retrieved by divers from the bottom of the Bangkok's Chao Phraya river.



Diver Bhoomin Samang praying in front of his homemade metal scuba helmet before he dives to the bottom of the Bangkok's Chao Phraya river to search for valuables.



Photos provided by the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens show the Amorphophallus titanum or "Corpse Flower" at The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, Calif. — AP photos

Stinky 'corpse flower' expected to bloom in California

Aso-called corpse flower known for the rotten stench it releases appeared close to blooming Monday at the Huntington Library in Southern California. The plant nicknamed "Li'l Stinker" plumped up in the last few days and was likely to bloom soon, said Brandon Tam, an orchid specialist at the Huntington. "The problem with these flowers is that it's always hard to tell because they always have a mind of their own, depending on the weather, depending on if it's ready to bloom," Tam said. The plant got its nickname because at 44 inches tall (112 centimeters) it is smaller than a typical corpse flower, according to the Huntington.

It is the sixth corpse flower to date at the institution in suburban San Marino. The previous bloom on Aug 23, 2014, reached a height of 66 inches (167 cen-

timeters). The formal name of the corpse flower is Amorphophallus titanum and it is native to the rainforests of Sumatra. It typically takes 15 years for a corpse flower to reach a mature blooming size, and there are now 45 in Huntington's collection, Tam said. The 16-year-old plant is the offspring of a 2002 blooming. "We're getting to that age where they're all about to bloom fairly soon," Tam said.

The foul odor attracts insects which aids pollination. The plants don't emit the foul odor until the bloom, which usually lasts only 24 hours. The Huntington said there were around 50 visitors circling the plant Monday morning. The research and educational institution houses rare books, art collections and botanical gardens. — AP



Classifieds

Wednesday, August 1, 2018

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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Very hot with moderate to fresh north westerly wind, with speed of 20 - 50 km/h causing rising dust.

BY NIGHT: Relatively hot with light to moderate freshening at times over coastal areas north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 31/07/2018 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	46 °C	34 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	47 °C	34 °C		
ABDALY	47 °C	31 °C		
BUBYAN	--- °C	--- °C		
JAHRA	47 °C	34 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	46 °C	30 °C		
SALMIYAH	41 °C	34 °C		
AHMADI	45 °C	36 °C		
NUWAISIB	47 °C	32 °C		
WAFRA	46 °C	33 °C		
SALMY	45 °C	29 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Wednesday	08/01	Very hot and rising dust over open areas	48 °C	33 °C	NW	20 - 45 km/h
Thursday	08/02	Very hot	47 °C	31 °C	NW	12 - 35 km/h
Friday	08/03	Hot	46 °C	30 °C	NW-VRB	06 - 26 km/h
Saturday	08/04	Very hot	48 °C	30 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 30 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:38
Sunrise	05:07
Zuhr	11:54
Asr	15:30
Sunset	18:41
Isha	20:07

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	47 °C
MIN. Temp.	31 °C
MAX. RH	28 %
MIN. RH	09 %
MAX. Wind	N 57 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
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Flight Schedule

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 1/8/2018					Departure Flights on Wednesday 1/8/2018				
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time		Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	
MSC	405	Sohag	00:05	FEG 341	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10	
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:10	KAC 672	THY	767	Istanbul	13:40	
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	KAC 618	WAN	351	Luxor	13:50	
KAC	102	London	00:50	QTR 1078	JZR	144	Doha	13:55	
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	KNE 231	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05	
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	JZR 125	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10	
PGT	618	Alexandria	01:15	GFA 221	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30	
MSR	618	Alexandria	01:35	SVA 500	MSR	2615	Cairo	00:30	
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC 364	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	FDB 059	JZR	504	Luxor	01:00	
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC 512	MSC	406	Sohag	01:05	
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	KAC 286	THY	773	Istanbul	01:45	
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC 788	JZR	528	Asyut	01:45	
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KNE 683	KAC	363	Colombo	01:50	
AEE	956	ATH	02:25	KAC 304	KAC	285	Dhaka	01:50	
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	ETD 303	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50	
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	KAC 412	JZR	502	Luxor	01:55	
THY	768	Istanbul	02:40	KNE 529	KAC	677	Dubai	02:00	
THY	1404	Lahore	02:45	KAC 562	KAC	417	Manila	02:00	
JZR	651	Manila	02:55	OMA 645	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:25	
KAC	418	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC 502	MSR	619	Alexandria	02:35	
ETD	305	Muscat	03:05	UAE 127	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50	
OMA	643	Amman	03:05	KAC 857	KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55	
RJA	648	Amman	03:05	SVA 504	KAC	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	
RBG	215	Sohag	03:05	KAC 118	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:10	
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	KAC 705	AEE	957	ATH	03:15	
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	MSR 575	JZR	142	Doha	03:20	
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	JZR 535	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30	
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	QTR 1072	THY	769	Istanbul	03:35	
KAC	796	Madinah	03:45	FDB 051	RBG	216	Sohag	03:45	
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	NIA 361	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05	
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	KAC 542	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05	
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	SVA 510	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15	
JZR	1541	Cairo	04:35	JAV 621	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	GFA 215	PGT	831	Istanbul	04:25	
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR 777	JAI	571	Mumbai	05:00	
KAC	770	Istanbul	05:15	JZR 145	QTR	1077	Doha	05:15	
KAC	544	Cairo	05:20	WAN 976	JZR	902	Baku	05:30	
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	JZR 177	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:35	
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	QTR 1080	KAC	103	London	05:45	
KAC	154	Istanbul	05:35	JZR 483	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00	
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	WAN 874	FDB	070	Dubai	06:00	
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	MSR 620	JZR	786	Riyadh	06:05	
BAW	157	London	06:10	RJA 640	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30	
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	GFA 217	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:25	UAE 875	RJA	649	Amman	07:00	
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	FDB 063	JZR	356	Mashhad	07:15	
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	KAC 744	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15	
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	ABY 123	WAN	133	Doha	07:25	
JZR	505	Luxor	06:55	KAC 776	RBG	550	Alexandria	07:30	
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	JAI 216	KAC	167	Paris	07:30	
JZR	143	Doha	07:00	JZR 189	KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:55	
WAN	342	Sohag	07:30	KAC 674	JZR	238	Amman	08:00	
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	WAN 352	JZR	778	Jeddah	08:00	
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	FDB 057	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00	
KAC	358	Kochi	08:00	KAC 104	BAW	156	London	08:20	
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	KAC 616	KAC	165	Rome	08:25	
JZR	529	Asyut	08:10	DLH 624	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35	
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	OMA 647	KAC	511	Mashhad	08:45	
SAW	703	Damascus	08:30	KNE 381	KAC	117	New York	09:05	
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC 620	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:05	
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	MEA 402	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15	
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	KAC 166	SAW	704	Damascus	09:30	
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	QTR 1088	KAC	521	Najaf	09:30	
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC 172	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40	
IRM	1188	Mashhad	09:55	JZR 803	KAC	561	Amman	09:40	
SVR	341	Latakia	10:05	KLM 445	JZR	534	Riyadh	09:45	
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	KAC 540	KAC	773	Cairo	09:45	
JZR	787	Riyadh	10:30	UAE 859	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:50	
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ALK 229	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00	
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	ETD 307	KAC	101	London	10:00	
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC 168	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00	
JZR	903	Baku	11:10	THY 764	KAC	617	Doha	10:10	
WAN	134	Doha	11:10	GFA 219	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:25	
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	KAC 564	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25	
IAW	157	Al Najaf	12:00	QTR 1082	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40	
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:30	ETD 309	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40	
THY	766	Istanbul	12:45	KAC 786	SYR	342	Damascus	11:05	
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	AIC 975	IRM	1189	Mashhad	11:10	
CLX	792	Luxembourg	12:45	WAN 136	AXB	890	Mangalore	11:20	
KAC	522	Al Najaf	13:00	SVA 514	JZR	124	Bahrain	11:20	
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	WAN 118	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35	
JZR	239	Amman	13:00	SVA 502	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55	



In this photograph taken on Monday, tourists on jeeps watch a Sri Lankan elephant during a safari at Kaudulla national park in Habarana. The Sri Lankan elephant is one of three recognized subspecies of the Asian elephant, native to Sri Lanka. — AFP

Iran's currency crisis triggers graft crackdown

TEHRAN: With its currency plummeting ahead of the reimposition of US sanctions, Iran has responded with dozens of arrests and claims of an enemy conspiracy, but also signs of a push to confront corruption. The Iranian rial has lost almost two-thirds of its value since the start of the year, and 20 percent in just two days since the weekend, hitting a record-low of 119,000 to the dollar. Many lay the blame on the imminent reimposition of US sanctions on August 6 following US President Donald Trump's decision to pull out of the historic nuclear accord, with Iranians rushing to store their savings in dollars.

The central bank issued a statement on Monday that trod a familiar line, blaming "the enemies' conspiracies" for the rial's sudden decline. This may not be purely paranoid fantasy. The US and its Gulf Arab allies are engaged in a "maximum pressure campaign" against the Iranian government, and there have been rumors that the United Arab Emirates has been curbing the physical supply of dollars to Iran, helping drive up prices.

But others say outside pressure is only effective because Iran's economy is so corrupt and poorly managed. Belatedly, the authorities appear to be waking up to the crisis. This weekend, the judiciary announced 60 people had been arrested for fraud and trying to undermine the banking system, with more to come. Spokesman Gholam Hossein Mohseni-Ejeie said several had direct ties to the government, allowing them, for example, to illegally import luxury cars, and could face the death penalty on Iran's infamous charge of "corruption on Earth".

New transparency

The arrests follow mounting anger against profiteers who use political connections to access dollars at artificially low rates, and then use them to import goods on the cheap, or simply sell them on the black market for a huge profit. In a radical departure from usual government practice, in June the young telecoms minister Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi exposed a group of mobile phone importers who were gaming the system. They had been granted \$250 million at the cheap rate to import phones, he said, "but less than one third was used for the purpose", implying the rest was stashed away or sold.

The 36-year-old minister's move proved wildly popular on social media, but saw a backlash from some of his cabinet colleagues such as Industry Minister Mohammad Shariatmadari, who said doing something similar in his ministry would amount to "a war against the private sector". Still, the episode showed a new willingness among Iranian officials to "be transparent and introduce accountability into the system," said Esfandiyar Batmanghelidj, founder of the

Mallya makes assets 'offer'

Continued from Page 1

allegedly misusing the funds. The loans from the state-owned IDBI bank were intended to bail out his failed carrier Kingfisher Airlines, whose motto was "Fly the Good Times" but folded in 2012 under huge debts. Indian authorities last year laid money-laundering charges against the tycoon, who dropped off India's most wealthy list in 2014.

He was subsequently arrested in Britain and released on bail as he battles extradition, living in a sprawling \$15 million mansion in southeast England. Heading into court yesterday, he again called the charges "completely false". "And now that the assets are before the court,



TEHRAN: A man withdraws Iranian rial notes from an automated teller machine in the capital yesterday. — AFP

Europe-Iran Forum, a business network. "Hopefully, more officials will understand that this is what the public is looking for."

'Full-fledged crisis'

The other priority is fixing the chaotic policies that have facilitated profiteering in the first place, particularly the disastrous decision in April to set a single, fixed rate for the dollar at 42,000 rials. To enforce the decision, the authorities shut down currency trading shops and made it illegal to sell dollars above the official rate, which only fuelled a boom in the black market. The government was forced to climb down in June, saying only importers of essential items such as medicines would use the cheap rate, while others would negotiate a higher price.

President Hassan Rouhani sacked the central bank chief last week, and his replacement, Abdolnassar Hemati, has promised new currency policies "in the coming days". But trapped in fire-fighting mode and under fire from both conservatives and reformists over the deteriorating economic situation, Rouhani has done little to address deeper problems. "We're in a full-fledged crisis and that's taking all the attention. No one is talking about bank reform and investment and job creation," said economic journalist Maziar Motamedi of Tehran's Financial Tribune.

Fearing a public panic, the government continues to insist that everything is under control, but has so far offered only vague promises that it will allocate more money to job creation and funnel more infrastructure projects to the private sector. "Just saying positive stuff is not helping. People have a hard time believing them," Motamedi said. "Everyone knows the structural problems are there but the government is tackling crises as they happen rather than preventing them." — AFP

and I'm in the hands of the court, I hope this will all end," Mallya added.

Inside the courtroom, England's Chief Magistrate Emma Arbuthnot - who handles the country's most complex extradition cases - delayed a decision on the case to Sept 12. She has been considering concerns over conditions at the prison in the Indian city of Mumbai where Mallya will be held, including overcrowding and whether it provides Western-style toilets.

Among the outstanding issues yesterday was the amount of natural light, with the judge ordering a video be filmed of the facility within three weeks to gauge the amount it receives. "Perhaps it ought to be done at midday," Arbuthnot told British government lawyers. "I want to see... whether the windows pick up any natural light." Mallya's lawyer Clare Montgomery told the judge that prosecutors' assurances on conditions "cannot be relied upon". "It's clear... that whatever the light is, it's not natural light flooding into the cell - there just isn't any." — AFP

Britain storm in tea cup settled: Milk goes in last!

LONDON: Although many cultural debates may be brewing in Britain, it appears that one age-old bone of contention has been settled: Should milk go in a cup of tea first or last? Drinking tea is considered one of Britain's favorite past-times, but its rituals have divided connoisseurs for centuries, and served as a social class marker. The most contentious issue has been when to add milk, but a poll published yesterday reveals that four times more Britons believe that it should be poured

in at the end, rather than the beginning.

The YouGov Omnibus survey found that 79 percent favored adding milk last, with 20 percent disagreeing. The split was even more marked across the generations, with 96 percent of 18-24 year-olds believing it should be added first, compared to 32 percent of over 65-year-olds. The issue was tackled by author George Orwell in his 1946 essay "A Nice Cup of Tea", where he wrote "indeed in every family in Britain there are probably two schools of thought on the subject".

It was believed to have class connotations, with the aristocracy showing off their expensive china cups by adding boiling water first - a practice that would reputedly shatter cheaper vessels. But the latest poll indicates no preference according to class, with the middle and working classes both equally likely to add their milk in first. — AFP

Kuwaiti leadership discusses Iraq...

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the Iraqi people, praising the positive results of the Kuwait International Conference on Iraq Reconstruction (KICIR) held last January, Jarallah quoted Maliki as saying.

The Iraqi vice president arrived in Kuwait late Monday on an official visit, and met HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday. Maliki also met Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy National Assembly Speaker Oudah Al-Rowaei.

Rowaei affirmed the importance of committing to HH the Amir's goodwill policy towards neighboring and friendly countries. After receiving Maliki, Rowaei said the "meeting discussed various issues concerning Kuwait and Iraq," adding that "Maliki appreciated the Amir's positive role in resolving numerous conflicts". "We as Kuwaitis are obliged to follow the policy of His Highness the Amir and adhere to his leadership in providing goodness in every deed possible for our brothers everywhere," Rowaei added. Maliki also visited the Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center, where he was acquainted with the various departments of the building, before he concluded his visit to Kuwait. — KUNA

Tehran wary of Trump's offer to...

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its value in six months. Only last week, Trump fired off an all-caps tirade at his counterpart Hassan Rouhani on Twitter, warning of untold "suffering" if Iran continued to threaten the US. Many in Iran are therefore suspicious of his latest volte-face. "We cannot negotiate with someone who violates international commitments, threatens to destroy countries, and constantly changes his position," said analyst Mohammad Marandi, of the University of Tehran, who was part of the nuclear negotiating team.

Some officials remained more receptive. "Negotiations with the United States must not be a taboo," said Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh, head of parliament's foreign affairs commission, in an interview with the semi-official ISNA news agency. "Trump understands that he does not have the capacity to wage war with Iran, but due to historic mistrust, diplomatic ties have been destroyed," said Falahatpisheh, adding that this left no choice but to work towards reducing tensions.

Motahari added that hardliners, who have long opposed any rapprochement with the US, share the blame for the collapse of the nuclear deal. "If the whole Iranian system had worked to implement this agreement, today we would be witnessing the presence of European companies in Iran and their investments, and even Trump would not be able to withdraw so easily from the deal," he said. "But from the start one part of the system did not want the agreement to work."

On the streets of Tehran, meanwhile, the focus remained resolutely on Iran's domestic economic difficulties. "All of us believe that Trump is the enemy of Iran and Iranian people. But now maybe Trump wants to give the Iranian people an opportunity and, God willing, it could be a way to get past our disastrous situation," added Hushiar, an office manager in her 50s.

Many Iranians find it hard to believe that the man who is trying to destroy their economy, and has banned them from flying to the US, can be trusted. "If they are

honest in their words that they want to have negotiations with us without any preconditions, at least they should stay in the JCPOA (nuclear deal) or they should let us get the benefits of European trade," said Morteza Mehdian, a software engineer in his 20s. "But the reality is this man is a liar and we cannot trust his word."

For now, this is also the official line, with Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei saying earlier this month that talking to Trump would be "useless". Foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi on Monday said "there is no possibility for talks", ahead of Trump's statement. "Washington reveals its untrustworthy nature day by day," Ghasemi said, according to the conservative-aligned Mehr news agency. The Trump administration says its "maximum pressure campaign" is designed to force Iran into a new deal that goes beyond limiting its nuclear program and includes curbs to its regional behavior and missile program.

Separately, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said Trump's repudiation of the accord reached in 2015 was "illegal" and Iran would not easily yield to Washington's renewed campaign to strangle Iran's vital oil exports. Rouhani said during a meeting with Britain's ambassador yesterday that after what he called the "illegal" US withdrawal from the nuclear deal, "the ball is in Europe's court now". He added, "The Islamic Republic has never sought tension in the region and does not want any trouble in global waterways, but it will not easily give up on its rights to export oil."

Rouhani and some senior military commanders have said Iran could disrupt oil shipments from Gulf states through the Strait of Hormuz if Washington tries to choke off Iranian oil exports. Reiterating Tehran's official stance, Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Hossein Khanzadi was quoted as saying by Tasnim news agency yesterday that the strait would remain open "if Iran's national interests are preserved".

Iran's OPEC governor, Hossein Kazempour Ardebili, told Reuters yesterday that Trump was mistaken to expect Saudi Arabia and other oil producers to compensate for losses of Iranian oil caused by US sanctions. "It seems President Trump has been taken hostage by Saudi Arabia and a few producers when they claimed they can replace 2.5 million barrels per day of Iranian exports, encouraging him to take action against Iran," Ardebili said. "Now they and Russia sell more oil and more expensively. Not even from their incremental production but their stocks." — Agencies

Sports

Emotional Andy Murray makes triumphant hardcourt return

Murray outlasts McDonald at ATP Washington Open

WASHINGTON: An emotional Andy Murray made a triumphant return to hardcourts Monday in his first match on the surface for nearly 17 months, outlasting Mackenzie McDonald at the ATP Washington Open. The three-time Grand Slam champion and former world number one, who missed 11 months with a right hip injury and surgery last January, defeated the 80th-ranked American 3-6, 6-4, 7-5.

Murray, who has fallen to 832nd in the rankings, needed seven match points to subdue McDonald, squandering five before being broken in the 10th game of the final set before breaking back and finally ending matters after two hours and 37 minutes at 12:45 am yesterday. "I fought hard and I had to," Murray said. "The movements and stuff were fine. I didn't break down. It lasted pretty well."

The 31-year-old Scotsman unleashed a primal scream and a right fist-pumping frenzy of joy after McDonald hit a forehand long on the final point. "I enjoyed getting through that one. You could see it in the celebration," Murray said. "That was a tough match. It could have gone either way. It was nice to get it." Murray had not played in a hardcourt match since March 2017 at Indian Wells, where he lost in his opening match. "I hadn't played in darkness or under the lights in a really long time and I felt my rhythm was off," Murray said. "I was struggling on my serve. I cut the unforced errors a little bit in the second set and started serving better."

Murray booked a second-round match Wednesday against British fourth seed Kyle Edmund, who had an opening bye. "I'll have to play much better if I want to win that match, more aggressively," Murray said. "It will help having one more match under my belt." It was Murray's first experience with a serve clock, which will

be used at the US Open this year. "Without a shot clock, that would have been a three-hour match," Murray said. "It's a positive change for tennis." After making his return from January hip surgery last month at Queens and Eastbourne, Murray skipped Wimbledon and began preparing for the hardcourt campaign.

Wawrinka rained out

His lone win on grasscourts came over Swiss Stan Wawrinka, another three-time Grand Slam winner fighting back from a left knee injury. The world number 198 had a first-round match against US qualifier Donald Young rained out. Murray's first hardcourt match in nearly 17 months, delayed three hours by rain, turned when he broke in the penultimate game of the second set and again on his fifth break chance in the opening game of the third set. Murray, whose best Washington finish was a runner-up effort in his 2006 debut, served for the match in the 10th game but squandered five match points, four of them on errors, and McDonald broke back to 5-5 when Murray netted a forehand to end the 12-minute game.

At 30-30 in the 11th game, McDonald stuck his racket over the net to play the ball, losing the point on a violation quickly called by French umpire Arnaud Gabas. McDonald then hit a forehand long to give Murray another chance to serve for the match. Murray, who surrendered four double faults and won only five-of-15 second-serve points in the first set, broke to open the second set but swatted an ugly forehand well wide to surrender a break in the next game, slamming a ball to the court in frustration at what in top form would have been a routine shot. Both held serve until the ninth game, when McDonald sent a forehand wide



WASHINGTON: Mackenzie McDonald returns a backhand to Andy Murray during the Citi Open at the Rock Creek Tennis Center on July 30, 2018 in Washington, DC. — AFP

to hand Murray the break and a 5-4 lead. Murray held on a service winner to force a third set.

Jaziri gets Zverev next

Tunisia's Malek Jaziri booked a second-round match

against third-ranked defending champion Alexander Zverev of Germany by defeating Russian Evgeny Donskoy 6-4, 6-1. US wild card Noah Rubin beat Russian Mikhail Youzhny 6-4, 6-4 to reach a second-round match against US second seed John Isner. — AFP

Serbian Danilovic dreaming big after maiden WTA success

BELGRADE: Rising Serbian tennis prodigy Olga Danilovic is ready to shine on the big stage after winning her maiden WTA title in stunning fashion. Danilovic became the first lucky loser from the qualifiers and the first player born in this millennium to win a WTA trophy after beating Russia's Anastasia Potapova in a dramatic Moscow Open final on Sunday.

"I said last year I was ready to turn professional and I really don't see myself playing junior tournaments any more," the 17-year-old told a news conference in the Serbian capital. "Some plans have now changed and I will definitely aim for bigger tournaments with higher ambitions. I've

been bracing myself for this for some time. "I still haven't slept and what I have achieved still hasn't sunk in. I need a few days to clear my head." Having lost to Spaniard Paula Badosa Gibert in the final round of the qualifiers, Danilovic was on her way to the airport for a return flight to Belgrade with her mother when the organisers asked her to re-enter the tournament.

The daughter of Serbia's former trophy-laden basketball player Predrag Danilovic, who had stints with NBA teams Miami Heat and Dallas Mavericks, then staged one upset after another en route to the trophy. Her victims included Germany's world number 10 Julia Goerges in the quarter-finals and she also fought back in the third set to beat home crowd favorite Potapova in the final. Showing her father's on-court tenacity and willpower akin to her more illustrious compatriot Novak Djokovic, the left-handed Danilovic hammered in a barrage of spectacular winners which cancelled out a flurry of unforced errors. The tearful youngster embraced her mother, a Serbian state television presenter, after the 7-5, 6-7(1) 6-4 win as she was cheered on by a contingent of Serbian fans. — Reuters

What pressure? Japan's Momota explosive in the worlds opener

NANJING: Japan's Kento Momota made a blistering start to his badminton World Championships yesterday - then brushed off any talk of pressure. The explosive 23-year-old is the man in form coming into the Nanjing showpiece and is tipped by many to win the tournament. After swatting aside Ukraine's Artem Pochtarov 21-13, 21-12, Momota said: "I don't take the attention at home and abroad as pressure, but instead motivation." "The first match was an easy win. I feel very good now and hope I can win all the matches. I want to win," Xinhua news agency quoted the sixth seed as saying.

Momota plays Luka Wraber, the 136th-ranked Austrian today. In the women's draw, world number one Tai Tzu-ying of Taiwan eased through in her opener to underline her status as the woman to beat. The top seed was never really in trouble against Hsuan-Yu Wendy Chen of Australia, winning 21-10, 21-16 to reach the third round. Similarly untroubled were former number one Saina Nehwal of India, the 10th seed,



NANJING: Kento Momota of Japan reacts after defeating Artem Pochtarov of the Ukraine in their men's singles match during the badminton World Championships yesterday. — AFP

and seventh seed Carolina Marin of Spain. Ratchanok Intanon survived a major scare as the fourth seed battled back from the brink of a shock early exit.

Ratchanok, the 2013 champion and one of the favorites, looked set to go out to the unseeded Mia Blichfeldt of Denmark, before recovering her poise to gleefully reach round three. A lacklustre Ratchanok went down 21-

16 in the first game and was trailing for much of the second, losing 19-16 at one stage. The 23-year-old appeared troubled by a right ankle or foot injury and called for her trainer as she stared defeat in the face. But the former world number one stormed back to squeeze through the second game 22-20 and then raced away in the decider 21-10 after a nervy 76 minutes of action. — AFP

Kuwait Squash Team in Cairo for training camp



By Abdellatif Sharara

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Squash Team under the categories of 11, 13 and 15 headed to Cairo yesterday for a 13-day training camp, in preparation for future championships. The camp will contribute in improving technical level of the Kuwaiti players through playing a number of friendly matches. Kuwait Squash Federation (KSF) Chief Adel Al-Ghareeb said in a statement. Kuwait Squash teams will hold a training camp for the under 11, under 13 and under 15 categories in Cairo.

The team delegation includes: Secretary General Mushari Al-Hamad, Board

Member Khalid Al-Habeeb, Technical Director Faisal Sarkhouh and Coach Ahmad Al-Sayyed. Meanwhile, the president of Kuwait Squash Federation Adel Al-Ghareeb met with the players and them asked to adhere to the ethics and technical aspects - adding that they should seek to benefit from the camp to enhance their levels. He reminded them that the delegation represent Kuwait. He said the camping is aimed at giving players the opportunity to have friendly matches with Egyptian players who are well established worldwide. Al-Ghareeb thanked Public Authority for sports and its Director General Dr Humoud Fulaitch for its support.

More pressure on lone spinner Rashid after Boycott blast

BIRMINGHAM: Adil Rashid faced further pressure ahead of his controversial recall to the England Test side for their series opener against India at Edgbaston when it was announced yesterday he would be the lone specialist spinner in their XI. The England and Wales Cricket Board confirmed that off-spinner Moeen Ali had been left out from a 13-man squad.

That leaves Yorkshire leg-spinner Rashid as England's sole designated slow bowler, although his county colleague Joe Root, the England captain, can supplement his top-order batting with occasional off-spin. England have also omitted uncapped Essex seamer Jamie Porter. Top-order batsman Dawid Malan remains in the XI, with all-rounder Ben Stokes and Surrey left-arm quick Sam Curran providing seam bowling support to the veteran new-ball pairing of James Anderson and Stuart Broad in the first of a five-Test series starting Wednesday. Rashid's recall for his 11th Test but first in England provoked a furious response given he signed a limited-overs only contract with Yorkshire for this season.

Yorkshire and England greats Geoffrey Boycott and Michael Vaughan are among those who've slammed the decision to call-up Rashid without him having first played any red-ball County Championship cricket this term. Former opening batsman Boycott

was scathing in his column for Britain's Daily Telegraph published Tuesday, accusing Rashid of being a "spoilt brat". "He should never have been handed a Test recall," insisted Boycott. "In two years England have gone around in a circle. By picking Rashid, they are selecting the unselectable: a player who will not play four-day Championship cricket for Yorkshire because his heart is not in it, but he will play for England in Test matches. Absurd? Yes."

Vaughan had previously labelled Rashid's selection "ridiculous", with Rashid responding angrily by saying his former team-mate's remarks were "stupid", while suggesting Yorkshire's less than enthusiastic reaction had been "disrespectful". Boycott said Rashid had responded to Vaughan's comments like a "spoilt brat". "Trashing a great England captain and superb batsman does not go down well with the cricketing public," insisted Boycott, who went into a self-imposed exile from international cricket for three years at the height of his career in the mid 1970s. "Let me tell Adil that Vaughan will be remembered as one of the greatest England captains and an elegant, superb batsman. In 10 years nobody will remember Adil's Test match performances."

Meanwhile England confirmed Jos Buttler as Root's vice-captain for the Test series. Buttler was only recalled to the Test set-up by new national selector Ed Smith for the two-match series against Pakistan earlier this season. But having deputized for England white-ball captain Eoin Morgan in limited-overs internationals, he has now been given a formal leadership position in the Test set-up as well. Anderson, England's all-time leading Test wicket-taker, had been assisting Root since the start of the last Ashes after Stokes was stood down from the vice-captaincy position following an alleged late-night incident outside a Bristol nightclub in September. — AFP

Dog Stormy wins medal

SYDNEY: A dog called Stormy has been awarded a medal after completing a half-marathon in out-back Australia and winning the hearts of its human competitors. The crossbreed diligently ran the 21-kilometre (13-mile) Goldfields Pipeline Marathon near the West Australian town of Kalgoorlie this month in two-and-a-half hours, the average time of participants. "People were amused. It was a very friendly dog, and prior to the half-marathon, he was going around saying hello to a lot of people and when the race started, he took off with them," race organizer Grant Wholey said yesterday.

"At the race stations he was having a little runaround and saying hello to the volunteers and participants, and then he would team up with another runner and keep on following the crowd. "He was just out there having a trot through the bush and enjoying people's company," Wholey said the black and brown canine came from a nearby Aboriginal community where school teachers said it was known to locals as Stormy.

Race organisers were told it belonged to the community rather than a single owner, and the one-year-old was impounded by rangers when no-one claimed him after the race. Wholey said he visited Stormy last week to award a participation medal in the hope the publicity would see an owner come forward. If not claimed in a week, the dog will be put up for adoption with some of the runners keen to take the pooch home, Wholey said. While Stormy did not appear to have the traditional physical attributes of a marathon runner and had "legs as long as a Basset Hound", he endeared himself to everyone, Wholey added. "He looks a really friendly, lovable dog. He'll make someone a good companion." — AFP

Sports

Indonesia invites N Korea's leader to the Asian Games

Sanctions push unified Korea teams to go no-brand at Asiad

JAKARTA: Indonesia has invited North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to attend the opening ceremony of the Asian Games in Jakarta in August following a similar invitation to South Korean President Moon Jae-in, officials said. North and South Korea are likely to be a focal point of the Games, particularly amid recent doubts over Kim's promise to work towards denuclearisation made during a summit with US President Donald Trump in Singapore in June. Ministers from the two Koreas agreed in April to push for a unified delegation from both countries to parade together in the opening ceremony at the Asian Games, to be staged in August and September.

Indonesian officials led by Coordinating Human Development and Cultural Affairs Minister Puan Maharani visited North Korea this week, meeting with Kim Jong Nam, the nominal head of state and president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly. "The main reason for us coming (to Pyongyang) is to convey an official invitation to the President of North Korea to attend the Asian Games Opening Ceremony on August 18," Maharani said in a release issued by the National Police.

Maharani also discussed North and South Korea relations during the visit, as well as regional issues and the performance of Indonesia's police in countering militancy. The Pyongyang visit follows the delivery of a similar invitation in Seoul last week. President Moon "will consider attending, with circumstances such as future schedule in mind," Blue House Spokesman Kim Eui-kyeom said in an emailed statement. Widodo offered in April to host a summit between North and South Korea, after meeting ambassadors from both Koreas.

The two countries marched under a unified flag at the opening and closing ceremonies of February's Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang. The Asian Games, co-hosted by the cities of Jakarta and Palembang, are expected to see a further cementing of that partnership. Deputy National Police chief Syafrudin, among the Indonesian delegation in Pyongyang, said Indonesia guaranteed security to all coun-

tries and contingents present at the Asian Games, including the government of North Korea. "Indonesia's security is very stable. Don't worry or hesitate," said Syafrudin, who like many Indonesians goes by only one name.

A no-brand at Asiad

Meanwhile, North and South Korean athletes in unified teams at next month's Asian Games will avoid wearing kit sponsored by global brands like Nike for fear of violating sanctions on Pyongyang that target luxury goods, officials said. The two Koreas agreed to field joint teams in three disciplines - canoeing, rowing and basketball - at the Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang from August 18 to September 2, in the latest round of sports diplomacy following the remarkable rapprochement on the peninsula. Nuclear-armed North Korea is under multiple UN sanctions for its weapons program and banned from importing luxury goods including sports equipment, prompting officials in the South to search for local uniform makers.

The South's Korean Basketball Association (KBA), which is sponsored by Nike, will turn to a small local company to provide uniforms for the joint women's team. "We couldn't go with Nike because of sanctions," a KBA official said. "We can't have any brand names." Nike will still provide uniforms for the KBA men's team which has an all-South Korean roster, the official said. The Korea Canoe Federation, which is sponsored by Japanese sports brand Descente, has also found a local company to make uniforms for its paddlers on the joint team.

"We measured the North Korean paddlers' sizes after they arrived (on Sunday) and the uniforms are now in production," a federation official said. It is the first time North and South Korea have formed unified teams to compete at the Asian Games. The two countries - which are technically still at war after the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice instead of a peace treaty - will also march together at the opening and closing ceremonies in Indonesia. The move follows an agreement between North



BANDA ACEH: Indonesian officials surround the flame during the torch relay of the 2018 Asian Games in Banda Aceh yesterday. — AFP

Korean leader Kim Jong Un and the South's president Moon Jae-in at their summit in April.

Sporting cooperation helped spark the current thaw between the two Koreas after the North sent a high-level delegation and athletes to the Winter Olympics held in the South in February, with the two countries forming their first-ever unified Olympic team - a joint women's ice hockey squad - for the Games. Diplomatic efforts

have gathered pace since then, leading to a landmark summit between Kim and US President Donald Trump in Singapore last month. But the US has warned against easing sanctions against the North Korean regime, recently blocking a request by the International Olympic Committee to the UN that called for an exemption to allow the delivery of sports equipment to the isolated country.—Agencies

Snow joke; China scours temples for Winter Olympic gold

SHANGHAI: A Chinese kung-fu monk rockets down the halfpipe, his robe fluttering behind him, bald head glistening in the sun, to claim snowboard Olympic gold. It may sound like a sequel to hit comedy film "Cool Runnings", but for Beijing 2022 hosts China this is no joke. China is so worried about its lack of winter Olympians and losing face on home soil that it is plundering the martial arts schools of Buddhist monasteries in the search for a star.

Frantic sports chiefs have plucked 125 teenage students from the renowned Songshan Shaolin Temple in the central province of Henan in the hope their martial arts prowess can translate into medal-winning performances on the snow. The latest batch of 23 students left for Beijing on Monday for initial training in freestyle skiing and other Olympic disciplines, the Henan Daily newspaper said. The best among them will then venture to New Zealand to hone their skills. Medal-hungry China is turning to martial arts training schools as part of what it is calling "cross-discipline candidate selection" for Beijing 2022.

More than 600 prospective Olympians - boys and girls - have been hand-picked so far in Henan alone, the Xinhua news agency said. China's General Administration of Sport, the government's top sports body, said the nationwide search was designed to "enrich the talent pool for ice and snow disciplines". Officials are also considering asking talented skateboarders, acrobats and trampolinists to switch disciplines as part of the ramped-up recruitment drive. It is easy to see why: at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in February, China won just nine medals, only one of them gold.—AFP

Kenya wants no discrimination in anti-doping rules

NAIROBI: Doping is a global menace and there should be no discrimination in the tough new anti-doping rules announced by the sport's governing IAAF at its council meeting in Buenos Aires last week, a senior Kenyan athletics official said on Monday. Under the rules approved by the International Association of Athletics Federations, Kenyan athletes will be among those required to have at least three out-of-competition doping tests in the 10 months before a world championships or Olympics. "The rigorous dope testing Kenyan athletes will be subjected to is a necessary evil to safeguard the interest of the majority of those who overwhelmingly run clean," Barnaba Korir, a member of Athletics Kenya's (AK) Executive Committee, told Reuters.

"It's however our belief this is done with the assurance that doping is a global menace and has to be fought as such without discrimination. AK will cooperate fully to fulfill its objectives and help reduce and eventually eliminate this vice." Up to 50 Kenyan athletes have failed dope tests in the past six years, among them 2016 Rio Olympics marathon champion Jemima Sumgong and former Olympic and three-time world 1,500m champion Asbel Kiprop, who has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.—Reuters

LeBron seeking a 'turn around' for lowly Lakers

LOS ANGELES: LeBron James says he is looking forward to the challenge of turning around the NBA's Los Angeles Lakers, who are coming off the worst five-year period in franchise history. "I like the challenge of being able to help a team get to places that they haven't been in quite a while," James told American sports broadcaster ESPN. "And obviously the Lakers haven't made the playoffs in a few years, but the Lakers organization and historical franchise matches up there with all the greats."

"You can look at the (NFL Dallas) Cowboys and you can look at the (NFL New England) Patriots, you can look at Manchester United, the Boston Celtics — these are like historical franchises. "And for me to be a part of that, I think it's a great move not only for me but for my family and for the history of basketball in general." James was speaking out Monday in his first public comments since leaving the Cleveland Cavaliers and signing with the Lakers.

The 33-year-old James is entering his 16th NBA season. He has won three championships and made it to the finals nine times, including a streak of eight years straight. James had agreed to a four-year, \$154 million contract with the Lakers, leaving the Cavaliers after four seasons in which he led them to four NBA finals. James brought Cleveland its first major sports crown since 1964 when the Cavs won the 2016 NBA crown but lost three of four finals showdowns with the Golden State Warriors. He decided to make a move in hopes of rebuilding the Lakers into a winner.

When James joined the Miami Heat, he led them to a 58-24 record and took them to the finals in his first season in South Florida. The Lakers were 35-47 last season and haven't made the playoffs since 2013, hitting the bottom after compiling 16 championships. They haven't gone past the second round of the playoffs since Kobe Bryant led them to consecutive NBA titles in 2009 and 2010. "At the end of the day, the guys love to play ball, and that's what



OHIO: LeBron James makes his way through the crowd during the opening ceremonies of the I Promise School on July 30, 2018 in Akron, Ohio. —AFP

they do every single day. I love that," James said.

"And bringing Lance (Stephenson) and JaVale (McGee) and Beas (Michael Beasley) and (Rajon) Rondo, they're guys that every day that they wake up they think about the game of basketball. And everything else is secondary. "So we look forward to all the challenges." He also used his LeBron James Family Foundation on Monday to officially open a new elementary school in his hometown of Akron, Ohio for at-risk students. The "I Promise School" will operate on an extended school year to help 240 third and fourth graders study and learn at an appropriate speed and catch up if they are lagging. The school will also feature job placement assistance for parents and a on-site food bank for families.

"The violence, the guns"

"I know these kids more than they know themselves," James said in a video introducing the program. "I walked the same streets. I rode the same bikes on the same streets they ride on... everything these kids are going through, the drugs, the violence, the guns, everything they going through as kids, I know." The 15-year NBA veteran was third in the league last season with 27.5 points a game, matched his career high with 8.6 rebounds and had a career-high 9.1 assists. James has played in 1,143 career regular season games for the Cavaliers and Heat, averaging 27.2 points, 7.4 rebounds, 7.2 assists. He ranks seventh in career NBA scoring with 31,038 points and also won Olympic gold medals in 2008 at Beijing and 2012 at London.—AFP

2020 Olympics Games to showcase Japanese ancient and modern sides

TOKYO: The opening and closing ceremonies at Tokyo's 2020 Olympics Games will showcase Japan's ancient and modern sides, the traditional theatre actor newly appointed to direct the events said yesterday. The appointment of Mansai Nomura, who performs in Japan's centuries-old classical theatre and is well known domestically, may suggest the importance that the country's traditional arts will play in the ceremonies. But Nomura gave little away.

"I will do my utmost to produce Olympic and Paralympic ceremonies that are simple but rich in Japanese spirit," Nomura told reporters. "I want to show our palette holds paints of many colors," he said, pledging to "cover the entire range, from high art to entertainment." The overarching concept of the ceremonies will be announced later this year, but Nomura said there would be drama. "Quiet at times, elevated at times... I want to show big swings," he said. While Nomura is famed for his performances in Japan's traditional comedy theatre, and is likely to draw on his knowledge of the country's rich artistic heritage, he said he was also a fan of modern entertainment.

And he said he saw no barriers to combining modern and traditional art. A fan of Michael Jackson, he compared the pop star's famed moonwalk to "suriashi", a technique



TOKYO: Chief executive creative director Mansai Nomura (center), executive creative director for the Olympic Games, Takashi Yamazaki (left) and executive creative director for the Paralympic Games Hiroshi Sasaki join hands as they pose at the end of a press conference yesterday. —AFP

of classical Japanese performance in which actors wearing traditional socks slide on wooden floors. "Put the soles of your feet (on the floor) and go forward, it's suriashi. Going backward, it's moonwalking. What appears to be two extremes can be like two sides of a coin," he said. Asked whether he'd be performing himself, he

quipped: "I'd moonwalk as much as people want if it pleases them. The budget for that would be zero." Nomura will direct the ceremonies with a team including Hiroshi Sasaki, a leading advert director who was Japan's pointman for the handover ceremony at the end of the Rio 2016 Olympics.—AFP

Sports

Mourinho's dark mood casts shadow over Manchester Utd

Constant carping, foul mood raise questions about team morale

LONDON: Jose Mourinho's constant carping and foul mood during Manchester United's increasingly tortuous tour of the United States is raising questions about team morale and title hopes just over a week away from the start of the new Premier League season. Unlike rivals Liverpool and champions Manchester City, two Premier League contenders whose pre-season has included solid preparations and astute transfers, Manchester United watchers see nothing to celebrate as the 55-year-old Portuguese manager prepares for his third term at Old Trafford.

The days when Mourinho used to poke fun at journalists with a twinkle in his eye during press conferences appear long gone, replaced by a litany of complaints as seen following the side's 4-1 humbling by Liverpool on Saturday in their latest outing on the US tour. Bookmakers are now taking bets on Mourinho becoming the first Premier League manager to be sacked or leave his post this season.

Reports reaching home from the US tour depict players too nervous to talk openly about what they think, with the Daily Telegraph and The Sun claiming those in the squad feel they are "treading on eggshells". The Sun cites one case of an unnamed player in a panic asking the TV channel he gave an interview to erase an answer he gave them. "It's understood the piece of content in question wasn't even contentious and could be considered 'on message' from a club point of view — but it is a measure of the tension being felt on a troubled tour," remarked the Manchester Evening News.

'Turning sour'

Mourinho has a history of targeting specific players on occasion and Ivorian central defender Eric Bailly has been in his firing line in the United States. "I don't

think he is a great leader," Mourinho said of Bailly while adding that newly-appointed captain Antonio Valencia's physical preparation was below expectations. "His condition was not good when he was back," he said after the player returned to the squad from holiday. He was more critical of French striker Anthony Martial, who he said should have returned to the US tour after going home to be with his girlfriend when she gave birth to a baby boy in Paris.

Mourinho's position was in stark contrast to England manager Gareth Southgate's much-praised decision to allow Fabian Delph to leave the World Cup finals to be with his wife at the birth of their child. Mourinho — who having guided United to Europa League and League Cup success in his first season — delivered nothing last term. Critics suggest he is caught in a repetitive pattern seen at previous clubs where his reign turned sour in the third season. It happened twice at Chelsea where he was sacked in the middle of his third campaign in his second spell there, and it also happened at Real Madrid.

However, Mourinho's biggest cause for complaint — that he has not been given the money for the signings he wanted — has won some sympathy, even from the Manchester United board despite reportedly strained relations with Ed Woodward, the executive vice-chairman. Thus far he has bought three players including Brazilian international Fred, but Mourinho is keen to have two new faces in the squad come the opening match with Leicester on Friday week. Ironically one of those targets is Leicester's England centre-back Harry Maguire, though the 2016 champions' wealthy Thai owners feel they do not have to sell, particularly having accrued a club record £60 million (\$79 million) for the sale of Riyad Mahrez to Manchester City.



CALIFORNIA: Manager Jose Mourinho of Manchester United looks on during the International Champions Cup 2018 match against AC Milan at StubHub Center on July 25, 2018 in Carson, California. — AFP

Relations between Woodward and Mourinho may not be great but there is no suggestion the former wants the latter out, having last January secured his signature on a new contract to June 2020 with the option of a further year. However, with Mourinho still preferring to live in the luxurious Lowry Hotel —

where a suite costs over £800 a night — than buy a more permanent home, and now that his trusted number two Rui Faria, seen as a reliable sounding board as to his mood swings, is no longer at United, many are suggesting the third season curse could prevail again. — AFP

The thrill is gone and cycling wants blue-sky thinking

PARIS: Team Sky's sixth Tour de France victory in seven years has left cycling desperately seeking ways to restore suspense to the peloton. Sky's implacable and monotonous domination, briefly interrupted by Vincenzo Nibali and Astana in 2014, has allowed the British team to propel three different riders to the top step of the final podium on the Champs-Elysees — Bradley Wiggins, Chris Froome and now Geraint Thomas.

"You can't blame them for winning," Tour director Christian Prudhomme told AFP, comparing Sky to European football's dominant club. "They're a version of Real Madrid." They have "the best in each position", said Romain Bardet of AG2R, who was the best French finisher in sixth place after being overpowered by the British outfit in the mountains. "We have a team, a machine that has won with three different leaders," Prudhomme said. The youngest rider in the race was Sky's Egan Bernal, who followed victory in last year's Tour de l'Avenir, a race for riders aged 23 or younger, with second place in this year's Tour de France young-rider category.

"They are preparing the succession," Prudhomme said. But if the same team keeps winning, cycling risks boring its public, even though viewing figures remained strong in France — once the country had won the World Cup. "Today everything is measured to the millimetre," said Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) president David Lappartient. "How many people are really captivated?" "In football, there are extraordinary, improbable reversals," Lappartient added. "We do not have that much on the Tour de France, while we have it on the Tour of Flanders and in Paris-Roubaix (one-day classics). We want to dream of the new. We must not rule out anything."

New types of routes

This year the Tour experimented with an unusually



PARIS: Photographers take picture as Sky team members pose after the 21st and last stage of the 105th edition of the Tour de France cycling race between Houilles and Paris Champs-Elysees. — AFP

short mountain stage (65 kilometres), the 17th to Saint-Lary-Soulan, to limit the role of teams. It may do so again. But Prudhomme still preferred the 200-kilometre marathon two days later saying "it was the classic Pyrenees stage that was the most beautiful". The course director, Thierry Gouvenou, is looking for steep climbs to favour the climbers and solo attackers and has been doing so since 2012, said Prudhomme.

A ban on radio ear-pieces has been a subject of debate between the Tour and the teams for several years but the technology has moved on and now the argument also includes power metres, body and bike sensors supply instant data on each rider's performance, allowing them to fine-tune their efforts, enabling managers in team cars to plan defensive tactics. "Riders must act on instinct," said Jean-Rene Bernaudeau, manager of the Direct Energie team and former Tour rider, told French newspaper Le Figaro. "You have to remove the earpieces. The sensors have their uses in training but if they were banned during the race, we would be fine... There are things to be done in

cycling, but we have to be quick."

Sky's big budget

Money is the biggest issue, many of those involved said. "Sky has a budget that is much higher than the second biggest on the World Tour," said Philippe Mauduit, who heads the Emirates team. "The peloton is enormously professionalized, the gaps have become very small. The difference is in the payroll. "We will have to do something if we want to preserve the appeal of top-level cycling. The media gags and, when they are no longer happy with what they see, they transmit that to the public." He suggests a salary cap: "It works in the NBA." Prudhomme agrees that "it might make sense" but insists it is the responsibility of the UCI. UCI president Lappartient told AFP: "There have always been teams with superior means, but I announced a working group on the attractiveness of races during my election campaign. This will be running before the end of the year, with riders, organisers, TV, journalists, there will be ideas, nothing is ruled out." — AFP

Ooredoo ambassador Al-Jeraiwi wins gold

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait's brand ambassador triathlete Najla Al-Jeraiwi won the gold medal in the Sierra Nevada Triathlon, in the Spanish district of Granada. The triathlon includes swimming for 1500 meters on Motril beach, cycling for 1970 meters up the hills of Capillera, one of the most scenic villages in the South of Spain near the Sierra Nevada mountains, and a running competition of 12 kilometers, including 400 meters of running uphill. In a press statement, Ooredoo Kuwait lauded the achievement, noting that it counts as an achievement for all the youth of Kuwait. The sponsorship of athlete Al-Jeraiwi comes in alignment with the company's core values of caring, connecting, and challenging. It further underscores the company's commitment to empowering women.

Al-Jeraiwi has a long track record of key achievements. She won the bronze medal in the African Triathlon Union Cup — the Pan Arab Competition, held in Sharm Al Shaikh last March. She was the first Arab female triathlete representative in the 17th Asian Games, South Korea and the first GCC representative in UCI Road World Championships 2016. She was also the runner-up in the ATU



African Triathlon & Pan Arab championship and the GCC cycling champion in both Time Trial and Road race. Al-Jeraiwi is currently the national champion of Kuwait in both triathlon and cycling. She has come in the top 3 in multiple regional triathlons.

Supporting youth and empowering women is among Ooredoo's top priorities through its CSR strategy. The company signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs in 2017 to support youth projects and initiatives. Ooredoo is continuously working with the different entities in both private and public sectors to enrich youth experience in a variety of fields.



First 2 MLS players join FC Cincinnati

OHIO: Looking ahead to their move to Major League Soccer next year, FC Cincinnati added their first two MLS players on Monday. Cincinnati picked up forward Fanendo Adi from the Portland Timbers and midfielder Fatai Alashe from the San Jose Earthquakes in separate cash deals. The Timbers received \$450,000 in general allocation money (GAM) and \$400,000 in targeted allocation money (TAM) for Adi. The Earthquakes got \$60,000 in TAM and \$75,000 in GAM for Alashe. Allocation money assists teams while working with the MLS salary cap.

According to the Oregonian newspaper, Portland could get an additional \$100,000 in TAM depending upon Adi's results next year. The Timbers also would receive a portion of the proceeds should Cincinnati sell Adi internationally within the next 24 months. According to FC Cincinnati, Alashe will play for the franchise's United Soccer League club for the remainder of this season before the club jumps levels next season. The Cincinnati Enquirer reported that Adi also will join the ULS squad, though FCC identified Adi as its "first MLS-designated player" without referencing his status in the USL.

"Sometimes opportunities just kind of fall on your doorstep but you're prepared for it," FC Cincinnati technical director Luke Sassano said Monday at a press conference. "I think in both situations with Fatai and Fanendo, we were really in a position to capitalize on those opportunities." Adi, a 27-year-old Nigerian native, was in his fifth season in Portland. In 126 games (102 starts) for the Timbers, he produced 54 goals and 14 assists. However, he had only three goals and two assists in 14 games (nine starts) this season. Adi scored a goal against the Houston Dynamo on Saturday after coming on as a sub.

"It's very exciting to be here (in Cincinnati)," Adi said. "It's going to be a test for us, but we are all ready for it. ... I had a lot of tears on the plane ride because luckily we had WiFi and I was looking at my Twitter and I saw lots of write-ups and videos, and I shed a lot of tears. It's very emotional. "Of course, it will take me maybe a few weeks to get over the whole thing with Portland because Portland is part of my family now. I've been there four years, and I left a legacy there to start something new. It's beautiful but some beautiful things have to come to an end and I'm ready for this next chapter."

FCC president general manager Jeff Berding said of Adi, "He's a tremendously talented player who is also a standout citizen in the community. The fact that he has agreed to join us is a clear demonstration of his passion for leadership and winning. He will immediately begin to create his new legacy with another very special fan base." Timbers coach Giovanni Savarese said in a statement, "Fanendo Adi has been a tremendous player for this club for the past five years, and I have enjoyed coaching him and getting to know him as a person since my arrival. This is a great opportunity for him within the league, and on behalf of the entire coaching staff, I wish him continued success in the future."

Alashe, a 24-year-old Michigan native, joined the Earthquakes in 2015. He made 85 appearances (69 starts) for San Jose, compiling five goals and three assists. Alashe had no goals or assists in 12 games (two starts) in 2018. Alashe technically will be on loan to FC Cincinnati for the remainder of the year before his transfer becomes permanent. "For me, it's just a good opportunity to start something new and be part of something special going on in this city," Alashe said. "I could see it Day 1 when I got here. ... (For FC Cincinnati) to bring us in here to be one of the first pieces is really humbling." — Reuters

25 Emotional Andy Murray makes triumphant hardcourt return



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27 Mourinho's dark mood casts shadow over Manchester Utd



Mariners' Paxton wins in return from DL

Rangers turn out lights on Diamondbacks



PHOENIX: Ketel Marte #4 of the Arizona Diamondbacks hits a single of starting pitcher Martin Perez #33 of the Texas Rangers during the fourth inning of the MLB game at Chase Field on July 30, 2018. — AFP

TEXAS: James Paxton outdueled Gerrit Cole as the Seattle Mariners defeated the visiting Houston Astros 2-0 Monday night in the opener of a three-game series. Nelson Cruz hit a two-run double for Seattle, sending the defending World Series champion Astros to their season-worst fifth consecutive defeat. Paxton (9-4), who was activated from the 10-day disabled list earlier in the day after being out since July 7 due to lower back stiffness, allowed three hits in seven scoreless innings. The left-hander didn't walk a batter and struck out eight. Alex Colome pitched the eighth and Edwin Diaz worked a 1-2-3 ninth for his major-league-leading 40th save of the season.

Cardinals 5, Rockies 4 (10 innings)

Marcell Ozuna hit a solo homer with one out in the bottom of the 10th inning as St. Louis beat visiting Colorado. Jedd Gyorko also homered for St. Louis. Matt Carpenter had three hits, and Dakota Hudson (1-0) got his first career victory with one inning of scoreless relief. Nolan Arenado hit a grand slam for the Rockies, who had their four-game winning streak snapped.

Red Sox 2, Phillies 1 (13 innings)

Blake Swihart hit a walk-off double in

the bottom of the 13th inning to score Eduardo Nunez and lift Boston past visiting Philadelphia. Swihart's first career walk-off hit gave Boston its fourth victory in a row. Nunez and Brock Holt each had two hits of the Red Sox's seven hits. Boston starter David Price and Phillies starter Aaron Nola each threw eight innings of one-run ball.

Twins 5, Indians 4

Mitch Garver hit a game-winning double in the bottom of the ninth inning as host Minnesota beat Cleveland. Miguel Sano opened the ninth by drawing a hard-fought walk against Neil Ramirez (0-1), and pinch runner Ehire Adrianza was sacrificed to second by Jake Cave. Two pitches later, Garver lifted a 1-0 fastball over left fielder Michael Brantley's head and was met at second base by his teammates. Garver's first career walk-off hit gave Minnesota its fifth game-ending win of the year. Three of those victories have come against the Indians.

A's 10, Blue Jays 1

Edwin Jackson combined with four relievers on a five-hitter, allowing Oakland to snap a three-game losing streak with a romp over visiting Toronto. Mark Canha and Stephen Piscotty homered, helping

the A's beat the Blue Jays for the fifth consecutive time this season. Jackson (2-2) pitched into and out of trouble for 5 2/3 scoreless innings. He teamed with Ryan Dull, Lou Trivino, Jeurys Familia and Ryan Buchter for the Athletics' 21st game this season giving up one run or fewer.

Giants 5, Padres 3 (12 innings)

Gorkys Hernandez led off the top of the 12th inning with his 13th homer of the season, and San Francisco emerged with a victory at San Diego. Hernandez connected on a 1-2 pitch from left-handed reliever Matt Strahm (2-3) on his 398-foot drive into the left field stands. The Giants added a second run in the 12th on singles by Kelly Tomlinson and Andrew McCutchen and a Buster Posey bloop that landed in left but resulted in a force at second base. Wil Smith (1-1), who entered in the bottom of the 11th with runners at the corners and two out, struck out all four Padres he faced.

Rangers 9, Diamondbacks 5

Rougned Odor homered leading off the seventh inning Monday night to snap a tie and lift the Texas Rangers to a 9-5 win over the Arizona Diamondbacks in a back-and-forth game interrupted by a power outage at Phoenix's Chase Field. Shin-Soo Choo hit a pair of homers for the Rangers, who have won four straight since a nine-game stretch in which they went 1-8. The Diamondbacks had a three-game winning streak snapped. Eduardo Escobar's first-inning sacrifice fly gave the Diamondbacks a 1-0 lead and stood as the game's only run until the fifth, when Choo and Arizona's Steven Souza Jr. swapped three-run homers.

The Rangers regained the lead during the eventful sixth inning. Robinson Chirinos laced a game-tying, one-out single off Yoshihisa Hirano. Jorge De La Rosa replaced Hirano and retired Joey Gallo on a popout, then was in the midst of a 3-2 battle with Delino DeShields when the lights went out due to a heavy wind storm. The game resumed a little more than 21 minutes later, and it took the Rangers just three pitches to go ahead. DeShields walked before pinch hitter Willie Calhoun

delivered an RBI single. Escobar tied the game again in the bottom of the sixth with a run-scoring single off Matt Moore. However, Choo homered on the first pitch he saw from Matt Andriese (3-5), and Jurickson Profar added an RBI single later in the seventh. Choo homered off Andriese in the eighth, and DeShields added an RBI single in the ninth. Chirinos finished with three hits and a stolen base while Elvis Andrus had two hits for Texas. Eddie Butler (2-1) got the final out of the sixth for the win. Three relievers combined to two-hit the Diamondbacks the rest of the way, though closer Keone Kela did not pitch as his trade to the Pittsburgh Pirates was announced once the game concluded. Escobar, Jon Jay and Ketel Marte had two hits each for the Diamondbacks. Rangers starter Martin Perez allowed four runs (one earned) on six hits and two walks while striking out five over five innings. Diamondbacks starter Robbie Ray gave up four runs on two hits and four walks while striking out six over 5 1/3 innings.

Brewers 5, Dodgers 2

Eric Thames hit a three-run home run and Travis Shaw collected three hits as Milwaukee earned a victory at Los Angeles in a game that was delayed 23 minutes by a power failure. In the third inning, the Brewers got a two-out walk from Shaw and a single from Ryan Braun before Thames went deep for his 14th home run of the season into the seats in left-center field. It was the first home run since July 8 for Thames, who missed seven games this month while on the disabled list due to right hamstring tightness. The blast gave Milwaukee a 4-0 lead.

Braves 5, Marlins 3

Freddie Freeman and rookie Ronald Acuna Jr each hit solo home runs to spark Atlanta to a win over visiting Miami. Freeman hit his 18th homer and Acuna hit his 10th. Johan Camargo had two of the Braves' six hits. Atlanta starter Julio Teheran (8-7) allowed three runs on four hits and four walks in five innings. He struck out four. Teheran also singled and drove in a run. —Agencies



WASHINGTON: James Paxton #65 of the Seattle Mariners delivers against the Houston Astros in the second inning at Safeco Field on July 30, 2018. — AFP

Underfire New Zealand's coach quits after mutiny

WELLINGTON: Embattled New Zealand women's coach Andreas Heraf quit yesterday, ending a rocky era which culminated in most top players refusing to play for him. The former Austrian international's resignation came as the New Zealand Football Association (NZF) launched an investigation into complaints about the 50-year-old who has been on "special leave" since June. NZF president Deryck Shaw accepted Heraf's resignation but said the inquiry would continue into issues raised in written complaints from 13 players who said they would not play for New Zealand again if he remained in charge.

"Part of the resignation is that Andreas has confirmed that he will fully participate in the review and we will look to the findings of the review to determine the outcomes around this matter," Shaw said. Heraf quit with immediate effect as both coach of the Football Ferns, as the women's team is known, and as New Zealand's technical director. He has not commented in New Zealand but in a recent interview with Austrian newspaper Der Standard he claimed there was a "large-scale conspiracy" against him.

Allegations of bullying and intimidation "lack any foundation and are based on fundamental differences in professionalism and performance," he said. Current Ferns players have told reporters, under anonymity, they had to ask Heraf's permission to leave the table at dinner, they were shouted at for passing the ball backwards because it was deemed too risky. Problems within the women's camp spilled into the public arena after their tour of Spain in March, following which New Zealand's most-capped player, Abby Erceg, retired in frustration.

Erceg later described the Ferns' tactics as "cowering in a corner", saying she would prefer to lose a game while trying to win it. "That's my mindset, and if you tell me I can't do that, then I can no longer represent that shirt with pride or conviction," she said. The player criticism reached a peak in June following Heraf's comments after a 3-1 loss to Japan in which New Zealand were told to play an ultra-defensive game. —AFP