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Riyadh expels Canadian envoy, recalls its own over interference

Saudi Arabia freezes new trade with Ottawa, to relocate students

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has suspended scholarships to Canada and will relocate students already there, state media said yesterday, after the kingdom abruptly cut ties with Ottawa over criticism of its jailing of rights activists. Riyadh, which suspended diplomatic relations with Canada yesterday, will "stop training, scholarship and fellowship programs" there, state-run Al-Ekhabriya television reported. Plans to relocate 7,000 students and their families in Canada to other countries, primarily the United States and Britain, were already underway, education ministry official Jassem Al-Harbash said.

The kingdom early yesterday gave Canada's envoy Dennis Horak 24 hours to leave the country, in an abrupt rupture of relations over what Riyadh slammed as "interference" in its internal affairs. "The Canadian position is an overt and blatant interference in the internal affairs of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia," the Saudi foreign ministry tweeted. "The kingdom announces that it is recalling its ambassador to Canada for consultation. We consider the Canadian ambassador to the kingdom persona non grata and order him to leave within the next 24 hours." The ministry also announced "the freezing of all new trade

and investment transactions with Canada while retaining its right to take further action".

The decision came after Canada demanded the immediate release of human rights activists detained in a new crackdown, including Samar Badawi, the sister of jailed blogger Raif Badawi. Ottawa said it was "seriously concerned" and was seeking "greater clarity" on Riyadh's move. "We are seriously concerned by these media reports and are seeking greater clarity on the recent statement from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," said Marie-Pier Baril, a Canadian foreign ministry spokeswoman. "Canada will always stand up for the protection of human rights, very much including women's rights, and freedom of expression around the world. Our government will never hesitate to promote these values and believes that this dialogue is critical to international diplomacy."

Samar was arrested along with fellow campaigner Nassima Al-Sadah last week. Samar's brother Raif was arrested in 2012 and sentenced to 1,000 lashes and 10 years in jail for "insulting Islam" in a case that sparked an international outcry. The latest arrests come weeks after more than a dozen women's rights campaigners were

detained and accused of undermining national security and collaborating with enemies of the state. Some have since been released.

The Saudi foreign ministry slammed the Canadian statement, signalling its growing annoyance over Western criticism of its human rights record. "Using the phrase 'immediately release' in the Canadian statement is very unfortunate, reprehensible, and unacceptable in relations between states," the ministry tweeted.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed, heir to the region's most powerful throne, has introduced a string of reforms such as lifting a decades-long ban on women drivers in a bid to overhaul the kingdom's austere image as it prepares for a post-oil era. But the 32-year-old has simultaneously pursued a hawkish foreign policy. In April, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expressed his "serious concern" over the continued jailing of Raif Badawi to Saudi King Salman. Badawi's wife Ensaf Haidar has been granted asylum by Canada, where she is raising their three children now aged 14, 13 and 10 as a single mother.

Riyadh's singling out of Canada is aimed at strongly



Samar Badawi

discouraging other critical Western governments from speaking out, observers say. "Canada is easier to cut ties with than the rest," Bessma Momani, a professor at Canada's University of Waterloo, told AFP.

Continued on Page 24

Trump firm as US set to re-impose sanctions on Iran

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump yesterday told Iran to change its "destabilizing" behavior or risk further economic isolation, hours before the re-imposition of sweeping sanctions against Tehran, though he left the door open to a new nuclear deal. After Trump pulled Washington out of the historic 2015 multilateral accord in May, to the consternation of his European partners, a new pact seemed unlikely in the short term, given his conditions - and Tehran's anger.

Against a backdrop of political turmoil and protests in Iran, Foreign Minister Mohammad

Javad Zarif himself accused Trump of "bullying" and of being isolated in his hostility to the Islamic Republic. A first phase of US sanctions against Iran goes into effect overnight, targeting Iran's access to US banknotes and key industries including cars and carpets.

"The Iranian regime faces a choice," Trump said in a statement. "Either change its threatening, destabilizing behavior and reintegrate with the global economy, or continue down a path of economic isolation. I remain open to reaching a more comprehensive deal that addresses the full range of the regime's malign activities, including its ballistic missile program and its support for terrorism," the Republican leader added.

Renewed US hostility has already sparked a run on Iran's currency, which has lost around half its value since Trump's announcement. It has added to tensions inside Iran, which has seen days of protests and strikes in multiple

towns and cities over water shortages, high prices and wider anger at the political system. Severe reporting restrictions have made it impossible to verify the swirl of claims coming through social media, though journalists confirmed a heavy build-up of riot police Sunday night in the town of Karaj, just west of Tehran, that has been a focal point of unrest, and said mobile internet had been cut in the area.

Zarif lashed out at Trump, but acknowledged there were difficult times ahead. "Of course, American bullying and political pressures may cause some disruption, but the fact is that in the current world, America is isolated," Zarif told reporters, according to the semi-official ISNA news agency. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani was due to give a televised address to the nation yesterday to outline plans for tackling the currency decline and impact of sanctions.

Continued on Page 24



TEHRAN: A woman walks in front of a mural painting depicting the Iranian flag in the capital yesterday. — AFP

News in brief

Eid holiday from Aug 19-23

KUWAIT: The Eid Al-Adha holiday will begin on Aug 19 and end on Aug 23, the Cabinet announced yesterday. The council noted that work in ministries and government institutes will halt during this entire period. — KUNA

Body found on missing yacht

KUWAIT: The authorities on Sunday located a yacht that capsized at sea two weeks ago some 1.5 nautical miles off Kuwaiti shores, and recovered a deceased individual on board. The missing vessel, which was found amid a wide-scale search operation, comes after authorities rescued six other Kuwaiti crewmembers in Kuwait Bay, read an interior ministry statement. The body was sent to the criminal investigation unit. — KUNA

Pepsico CEO stepping down

NEW YORK: Pepsico announced yesterday that Indra Nooyi is stepping down as chief executive after 12 years at the helm of the US soft drinks and snacks giant. She will be replaced by President Ramon Laguarta on Oct 3, but will remain as chair of the board until early 2019 to oversee the transition. "Her leadership and vision propelled our performance, transformed our company and embedded sustainability into everything we do. Thank you, @IndraNooyi!" Pepsico said on its Twitter account. Nooyi, who has been with the company for 24 years, led a strategic shift away from junk foods toward healthier options during her 12 years as CEO. "Growing up in India, I never imagined I'd have the opportunity to lead such an extraordinary company," the 62-year-old Nooyi said in a statement. — AFP



Indra Nooyi

Indonesia quake kills 98; imam's video goes viral

MATARAM, Indonesia: Indonesia yesterday sent rescuers fanning out across the holiday island of Lombok and evacuated more than 2,000 tourists after a powerful earthquake killed at least 98 people and damaged thousands of buildings. The shallow 6.9-magnitude quake sparked terror among tourists and locals alike, coming just a week after another deadly tremor surged through Lombok and killed 17 people. Rescuers yesterday searched for survivors in the rubble of houses, mosques and schools destroyed

in the latest disaster on Sunday evening.

National disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said there were fears a number of people were trapped in the ruins of a collapsed mosque in the northern village of Lading-Lading. Footage he posted on Twitter showed the large concrete mosque had pancaked. A lack of heavy equipment and shattered roads were hampering efforts to reach survivors in the mountainous north and east of the island, which had been hardest hit.

Najmul Akhyar, the head of North Lombok district, estimated that 80 percent of that region was damaged by the quake. "We expect the number of fatalities to keep rising," Nugroho said. "All victims who died are Indonesians." He said up to 20,000 people may have had to quit their homes on Lombok and paramedics, food and medication were badly needed.

Continued on Page 24



PEMENANG, Indonesia: Indonesian search and rescue personnel work on a collapsed mosque in North Lombok yesterday, a day after a 6.9 magnitude earthquake struck the area. — AFP

Turkey moves bathhouse to avoid flooding

HASANKEYF, Turkey: Turkish authorities yesterday conducted a hugely sensitive operation to move a centuries-old bath house weighing 1,600 tons to new location to avoid being engulfed under floodwaters by a controversial dam project. The Artuklu Hamam bath house in the southeastern town of Hasankeyf was loaded onto a wheeled platform and then moved down a specially constructed road to a new location in a process that took several hours.

Much of Hasankeyf will be under water or risk damage in the next years

because of the development of the Ilisu Dam project, which aims to drastically improve energy supplies for the Kurdish-dominated southeast. The moving of the Artuklu Hamam, which reports said is at least 650 years old, is the latest such transfer of a major historical building in the area to avoid being buried underwater. In May 2017, Turkey moved the 15th century, 1,100 ton tomb of Zeynel Bey, a Turkic tribal leader, also on a special platform to avoid being buried by the floodwaters. Both historic buildings have been moved around two kilometres to an archaeological park being set up just outside the town.

Located on the banks of the Tigris river, Hasankeyf is home to a cluster of sites from the Roman, Byzantine, pre-Ottoman and Ottoman eras. Batman governor Ahmet Deniz told the state-run

Continued on Page 24



HASANKEYF, Turkey: The Artuklu Hamam, a centuries-old bathhouse weighing 1,600 tons, is loaded onto a wheeled platform and moved down a specially constructed road yesterday. — AFP

Local

Ministers briefed on senior officials' recent visits to Kuwait

Kuwaiti cabinet holds weekly meeting



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the cabinet's meeting yesterday. — KUNA photos



Ministers attend yesterday's cabinet meeting.

KUWAIT: Under the chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti cabinet held its weekly meeting yesterday, discussing a number of important local, regional, and international issues. After the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah said that the meeting had touched on the recent visit by Iraqi Vice President Nouri Al-Maliki to Kuwait, which focused on bolstering ties on all possible levels. The cabinet discussed the meeting between His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Maliki, saying that the latter commended His Highness the Amir and the State of Kuwait for providing a helping hand to Iraq during its economic crisis.

The cabinet was also briefed about the recent visits by senior officials from Gambia, Zambia, and Guinea Bissau to Kuwait, said Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, adding that the visits mainly focused on bolstering bilateral ties and also touched on developments within the region and world. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled indicated that the cabinet continued its review of the recent visit by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah to China, adding that ministers agreed to assign competent bodies, which will follow through cooperation agreements signed between the two sides. A report on the matter will be tabled to the cabinet in a month's time, revealed the minister.

Business environment

Meanwhile, the cabinet looked into a report of the Permanent Committee for Streamlining the Business Environment and Enhancing Competitiveness in Kuwait, said Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled. The committee, said the minister, informed the cabinet of several issues connected with payment of fees for lands unexploited by their owners, and a draft project for an Islamic specifications and standards institute. He added that the cabinet discussed recommendations from the Legal Committee regarding cooperation between Kuwait and Somalia within the Islamic endowment domain. The Committee forwarded to the cabinet its review of the cooperation protocol signed in July 3, 1997 between Kuwait and the Czech Republic regarding air cargo, said Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, adding that another agreement between Kuwait and Ivory Coast to form a cooperation committee was also discussed. He indicated that a Kuwaiti-Hungarian Memo of Understand in sports was also touched upon during the meeting, affirming that discussions on Kuwait's cooperation agreements with world countries will be forwarded to His Highness the Amir for approval.

Facilitating projects

The cabinet was informed about the efforts to speed up the process of facilitating contracts and projects between the public and private sectors, said Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled who added that the ministers assigned several state bodies to look into the matter. Recommendations



regarding Terminal 2 of Kuwait international airport and hastening procedures to relocating Sheikh Abdullah Al-Mubarak airbase was touched upon during the meeting with the Kuwait Directorate for Civil Aviation, while the Ministries of Defense and Public Works appointed to follow up on the procedures. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled also said that the cabinet was informed about recommendations to encourage initiatives at the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), adding that ministers welcomed plans to develop 43 fuel stations belonging to Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC).

Meanwhile, the cabinet was briefed about the latest developments within the region and the world. The cabinet

congratulated Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa on winning the election, wishing him the best of luck in his future endeavor. The cabinet of ministers also condemned the recent terror attack, which occurred in northwest Algeria, expressing sorrow over the victims who fell in the attack and wishing for the quick recovery of those injured. The meeting also expressed condemnation towards attacks, which occurred in the Philippines and Afghanistan, affirming Kuwait's strong stance against such heinous actions. The cabinet lamented the recent earthquake on Indonesia's Lombok Island, expressed sorrow over those who lost their lives and wishing swift recovery to those affected by the natural disaster. — KUNA

Foreign Minister receives Gambian counterpart

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday Gambian Foreign Minister Mamadou Tangara on his visit to the country.

During the meeting, they reviewed the close bilateral relations between the two countries and the latest developments in the regional and international arenas, in addition to discussing issues of common concern. Senior officials of the foreign ministry attended the meeting. Separately, Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met Italy's Ambassador to Kuwait Giuseppe Scognamiglio. During the meeting, they



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Gambian Foreign Minister Mamadou Tangara. — KUNA photos

discussed ties between both countries and the latest developments regionally and internationally. Assistant Foreign Minister

for the Deputy Foreign Minister's office Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar attended the meeting. — KUNA

Omani, Kuwaiti military officials hold talks

MUSCAT: Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF), Lt Gen Ahmed bin Harith Al-Nabhani yesterday received Commander of the Kuwait Naval Force, Rear Admiral Khaled Ahmed Abdullah and his accompanying delegation, currently visiting the Sultanate. Omani and Kuwaiti officials exchanged viewpoints and discussed a number of military matters of common concern, Oman News Agency (ONA) reported. Earlier, Secretary General at the Ministry of Defense Mohammed bin Nasser Al-Rasbi, received in his office Commander of Kuwait Naval Force and his accompanying delegation. The two sides exchanged viewpoints and discussed several matters of common concern. — KUNA



MUSCAT: Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) Lt Gen Ahmed bin Harith Al-Nabhani meets with Commander of the Kuwait Naval Force Rear Admiral Khaled Ahmed Abdullah in Muscat, Oman yesterday. — Oman News Agency photo



KUWAIT: Vice Commander of Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at his office Lt Col Fayez Saad and Lt Col Azzam Abdurrahman, and honored them for obtaining their Master's degrees in political sciences after passing a course in leadership and staff held recently in the United Kingdom.

Local

Manpower Authority allows state employees to seek part-time jobs

Precautionary measures to detect returning travellers with diseases

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) issued several decisions allowing government workers to work in the private sector outside official hours. This would change the current situation where Kuwaiti nationals hired in the public sector are generally not allowed to seek part-time jobs at companies and other private institutions. The authority stipulated that employers should inform it about state employees who are allowed to work with them outside working hours, and that all data about them should be provided as well as the permit period, along with the jobs they have and the salary to be paid to them.

Precautionary measures

The health ministry approved a plan related to precautionary measures to prevent the spread of diseases after the summer break and return of pilgrims and vacationers in coordination with the interior ministry by operating eight thermographic cameras at the airport and border outlets. The plan is done in coordination with the medical emergencies department to transfer cases affected with diseases for quarantine and treatment. The ministry said it is necessary to coordinate with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to activate isolation rooms at Kuwait International Airport.

The health ministry put out a bid for registration of subscribers for the tender to offer health assurance for expats. All subscribers who will buy the documents will go on a field visit on Sept 10, and a preliminary meeting will be held at the ministry on Sept 17. The health ministry obtained approvals of the supervisory authorities to extend the building contract for six months in June and the extension will be from July 28 until Jan 27, without having the ministry incur any financial expenses.



Efforts to push stalled partnership projects

The higher committee at the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects discussed obstacles that prevent the completion of awarding of its projects that it put forward several years ago. Informed sources said the authority explained the situation to the higher committee to make a decision towards its stagnant projects, particularly the expansion of Um Al-Haiman

Stalled projects

The higher committee at the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects discussed obstacles that prevent the completion of awarding of its projects that it put forward several years ago. Informed sources said the authority explained the situation to the higher committee to make a decision towards its stagnant projects, particularly the expansion of Um Al-Haiman

water treatment station and the waste-to-energy Kabd project to transform waste into electric power, that were rejected by the State Audit Bureau. Sources said committee members will not remain idle and will discuss the issue with the State Audit Bureau to find solutions.

Investigation committee

Deputy director general of customs outlets affairs and head of the investigations committee Adnan Al-Qudaibi said after reports were published about the committee's chairman resigning after accusing an Egyptian legal advisor at the customs department of bribery, director general Jamal Al-Jalawi ordered the formation of an investigation committee to gather all information and documents regarding the accusation from all departments and concerned offices. Qudaibi said while the committee is carrying out its duties, it saw fit to reform the committee with members who work in 'neutral' departments.

KSHR hosts awareness campaign on labor law, domestic labor



KUWAIT: Khaled Al-Humaidi, Chairman of the Kuwait Society for Human Rights (KSHR), announced the launch of an awareness campaign on Labor and Domestic Labor Laws that aimed at introducing society to the articles of the two laws and educating them on the rights they grant to migrant workers in Kuwait.

He pointed out that the campaign would last for two months, during which awareness leaflets would be published in the form of awareness posters, summarized in Kuwaiti Labor Law No 6 of 2010 on work in the private sector, Law No 68 of 2015 regarding domestic workers in Kuwait and the two Ministerial Resolutions No 2194 and 2302 of 2016 and the implementing decisions of the Labor Law No 6 of 2010, as well as the Guide to the Management of Labor Relations and its Units.

The campaign, which will share 50 posts on a daily basis through KSHR's websites and mailing lists, coincides with the emergence of widespread societal criticism that ridicules and depletes the articles of the domestic labor law that allow domestic workers to keep their personal documents such as passports and civil cards.

The Monitoring and Follow-up Unit for Workers' Affairs in Kuwait at KSHR followed a large number of comments on the articles of the labor law during the campaign. It noted that there is a lack of knowledge about the articles of the law issued in 2015 and lack of acceptance of some of its articles, believing that these items are new decisions not legal material adopted three years ago. The Monitoring Unit considered that an awareness campaign should be conducted to raise the awareness of the society in general of the fundamental rights granted to the workers in Kuwait by the law. KSHR is implementing a project to legally protect migrant workers in Kuwait by defending their issues and knowingly by awareness of their rights through a hotline and awareness-raising messages. The project is implemented in cooperation with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and aims to promote legal awareness of human rights and defend all individuals and groups whose human rights are violated in violation of the articles of the law.

No injuries in Hawally work inspection unit

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and Agencies

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Manpower's (PAM) spokesperson Aseel Al-Mazyad said there were no injuries recorded in the fire that broke out at Hawally work inspection unit late Sunday. The fire was caused by an electrical short circuit and was put out before harming workers or clients. Mazyad, also head of PAM's public relations and media department said in a press statement yesterday. She added that the incident only caused material damage in the area.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Labor Union at PAM Fahad Al-Osaimi held the authority responsible over the incident, saying that management had turned deaf ears to staff's repeated complaints regarding the poor services at the building. He urged the management to provide safe and secure atmospheres and provide protection for both employees and people at working places.

250 kg hashish smuggling bid foiled

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

KUWAIT: Coastguards foiled an attempt to smuggle 250 kg of hashish into the country by sea. Marine security received tips about the attempt, so a warrant was obtained. A boat with five persons onboard was spotted, which was stopped and the contraband was found. The suspects were sent to concerned authorities. Separately, Nuwaiseeb customs officers foiled an attempt by two citizens to smuggle seven bottles of beer and a bottle of vodka on their arrival into Kuwait from a neighboring country. The two were sent to concerned authorities.

Burned alive

A man was burned alive when his vehicle caught fire yesterday, while two others who were with him escaped death. The three went to a gas station to get petrol for a friend, then on the way back, a fire broke out in their vehicle. The two Syrian men who survived threw them-



selves out, sustaining several injuries in the process, but their Kuwaiti friend could not and was burned to death. The deceased's body was taken by the coroner, while the Syrians were taken to Farwaniya Hospital. A source said a cigarette may have caused the fire.

Fraud

An Egyptian man complained against a female compatriot who claimed to be a senior official in a company and promised to bring his cousin on a work

permit in exchange of KD 1,300. The man borrowed the money and gave it to her. When he called her two weeks later, she made more promises, then disappeared. He then went to the company where she works and was surprised to learn she was a telephone operator and was fired for causing trouble. Hawally detectives looked for her, only to find out that she was in the central prison because of other offences. The victim recognized the suspect in a lineup and she confessed to committing the crime.



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Lt Gen Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah received yesterday at his office Italy's Ambassador to Kuwait Giuseppe Scognamiglio. He also received chairman and members of the labor union representing civil employees in the ministry.



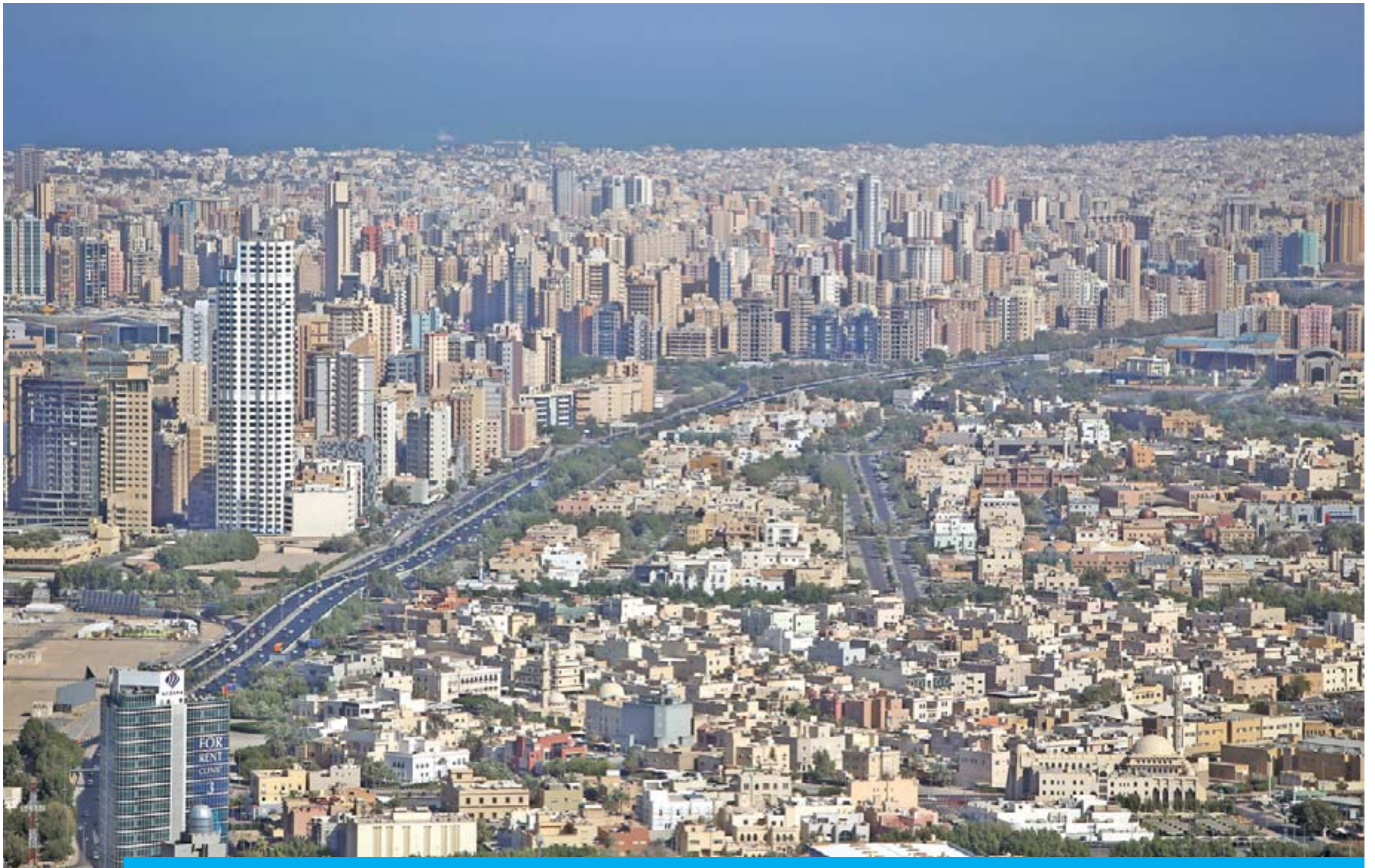
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Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A general view of Kuwait City taken from the top of Al-Hamra Tower. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Kuwait civil aviation reaffirms compliance with int'l regulations

Terminal 4 added value to transport services: Bahrain

KUWAIT: Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said Sunday it was fully committed to bidding by international standards related to operation of airlines at Kuwait International Airport. DGCA said in a statement it was strictly implementing safety and security measures to guarantee rights of travelers. The Directorate will execute punitive measures against any carrier violating aviation laws and legislations.

Separately, Bahraini Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications Minister Kamal Mohammad said Sunday Kuwait Airport's Terminal Four (T4) was an added value to air transport in Kuwait. Kamal made the remarks during a meeting with Kuwait's Ambassador to

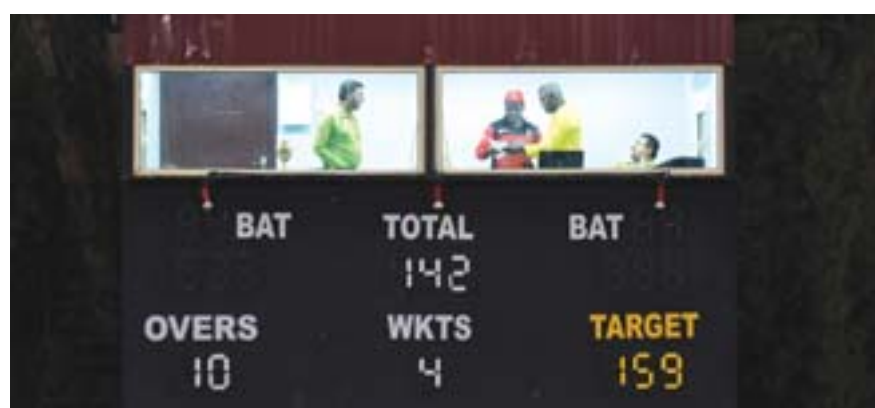


**Punitive
measures
against
violators**

Bahrain Sheikh Azzam Al-Sabah, and the Bahraini minister congratulated leaders of Kuwait for the operation of T4, due to launch operation in a flight to Manama tomorrow, the official Bahraini News Agency (BNA) reported. Kuwait leadership's support for T4 will improve air transport services, he said. "It is a source of pride that the Kuwait Airways makes its inaugural flight from the new terminal to Bahrain," said Kamal. Sheikh Azzam said the first flight from T4 to Bahrain embodied deep-rooted relations, and distinguished status the kingdom enjoys among Kuwaitis. He thanked all those who contributed to the success of Kuwait Airways flight to Bahrain. — KUNA



Cricket extremely popular during weekends in Kuwait



KUWAIT: Cricket, the world-renowned bat-and-ball game, has millions of followers globally and in Kuwait, many enjoy playing the sport during the weekends. At any given Friday, one could spot a large group of players, mostly from the Indian and Pakistani communities in Kuwait, playing cricket with a passion, possibly outnumbering the amount of people who play football or basketball in the country. — KUNA

Local

Shamal Az-Zour Al-Oula concludes training program for PAAET students

Empowering students with necessary knowledge, skills and training



KUWAIT: The students pose for a group photo with Shamal Az-Zour Al-Oula officials.



The Director of the Higher Institute of Energy at PAAET honors the representative of Shamal Az-Zour Al-Oula.

KUWAIT: As part of its ongoing commitment to social responsibility, Shamal Az-Zour Al-Oula yesterday announced the successful conclusion of its two-month training program for 12 students from the Higher Institute of Energy and the College of Technological Studies at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET).

The students were commemorated during the closing ceremony of the program where the Director of the Higher Institute of Energy at PAAET, Engineer Osama Al-Duaij honored the company's training faculty represented by the Technical Engineer at Shamal Az-Zour Al-Oula, Engineer Fahad Al Zuabi.

Empowering the students with the necessary knowledge, skills and training, Shamal Az-Zour Al-Oula provided them with an opportunity to partici-

pate in the training program to experience the technical work and field training involved at the plant and to equip them with the professional and personal skills necessary for the future workplace.

During the course of the two months, the students received hands-on field training at Az-Zour North One Power and Water Plant where they learned about water treatment technologies using different multi-effect distillation techniques (MED) operating under advanced global technical specifications, the most efficient techniques used in



Students received hands-on field training

Kuwait's other plants, the different stages of operation mechanisms, maintenance roles and responsibilities, various departments and their functions, and the adopted safety procedures at the work site. Az-Zour North One Power and Water Plant is Kuwait's first independently owned power and water facility operated by Shamal Az-Zour Al-Oula with a production capacity of 10 percent of Kuwait's power requirements at peak production (1,539MW) and 20 percent of water generation (107 million gallons per day).

Technical engineer at Shamal Az-Zour Al-Oula, Engineer Fahad Al Zuabi said: "Emphasizing our commitment to social progress and reform across the country, we are keen towards educating the Kuwaiti community throughout various fields including education, vocational training, and field training to prepare today's youth to handle dynamic positions in the energy and water sector. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our graduates on their hard work, commitment and diligence in the program, and wish them success in their future."

Az-Zour North One Power and Water Plant began operations in November 2016 and is the first stage of the country's plan to significantly increase its power and water capacity over the coming years and part of a larger effort to meet an anticipated peak demand of 25 gigawatts (GW) by 2025.

Officials discuss promoting tourism in Kuwait

MADRID: Director General of Leaders Group for Consulting and Development Nabila Al-Anjari held a meeting recently in Madrid, Spain with officials from the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the IE Madrid University for busi-

ness management. The meetings featured discussions on enhancing cooperation to boost the tourism environment in Kuwait, the group said in a press release yesterday.

Anjari, who is also the UNWTO's representative in Kuwait, discussed in her meeting with UNWTO's Deputy Secretary-General Jaime Alberto Cabal an evaluation of new developments in the tourism sector in the region, and means of improving cooperation between the UNWTO's secretariat general and members. Kuwait Hotel Owners Union's Secretary General Mohammad Najjiya attended the meetings.



MADRID: Director General of Leaders Group for Consulting and Development Nabila Al-Anjari (second from left) presents a memento to UNWTO's Deputy Secretary-General Jaime Alberto Cabal.

GCC to launch e-channel to be operated by JPPI



KUWAIT: Officials of the GCC Secretariat meet to discuss the GCC Joint Program Production Institution's affairs.— KUNA

KUWAIT: The Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) Secretariat will launch an e-channel that will be operated by the GCC Joint Program Production Institution, an official said Sunday. Ali Al-Rayyes, Director General of the institution, said in a statement that the e-channel

was fully supported by GCC Secretary General Abdullatif Al-Zayani, who backed media and artistic development. Officials of the GCC Secretariat met in the institution's headquarters in Kuwait yesterday to discuss institution's affairs.— KUNA

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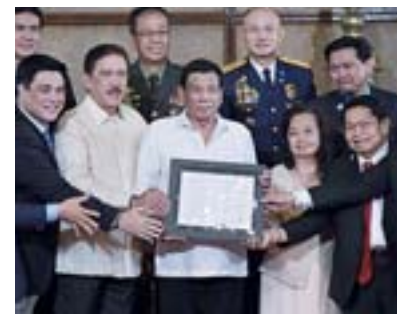
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Duterte urges peace in Muslim autonomy law

Bangladesh floats death penalty for road deaths in bid to quell protests

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GAZA CITY: A general view of the port of Gaza shows fishing boats. — AFP

Israel: Egypt equally responsible for Gaza

Egyptian mediation central to Israel-Hamas truce efforts

JERUSALEM: Egypt bears as much responsibility for the Gaza Strip as Israel does, an Israeli cabinet minister said yesterday, in remarks that could upset Cairo as it tries to avoid being drawn back into the Palestinian enclave while brokering truce talks there. In parallel to UN mediation, Egypt has used its contacts with both Israel and the dominant Palestinian Islamist group Hamas to discuss ways of calming a more than three-month-old surge in confrontations along the Gaza-Israel border. But some Egyptian officials say they would resist any attempt by Israel, or its US ally, to shift to Cairo the onus for addressing Gaza's long-term governance or economic problems.

Egypt ruled Gaza before losing it to Israel in a 1967 war. Israel withdrew troops and settlers from Gaza in 2005 while keeping control of its coast and airspace. Egypt has helped the Israelis isolate Hamas while insisting they remain the occupiers of Palestinian territory and therefore uniquely liable for Gaza. Asked about Cairo's role in the truce talks, Zeev Elkin, a member of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's security cabinet and Likud party, said Egyptian securi-

ty needs meant the Arab power "understands that it cannot shrug off Gaza".

"As far as we are concerned, after the State of Israel left Gaza, responsibility should not be imposed on us. Egypt is no less responsible," Elkin to Israel's Ynet TV in an interview. "We left Gaza. If someone strikes at us from Gaza, they will get hit back. Let the Arab world resolve the internal, humanitarian problem of the Gaza Strip. Why should we bear responsibility for this?" Asked if Elkin's comments reflected Netanyahu government policy, an Israeli official close to the prime minister declined comment. There was no immediate response from Cairo.

Diplomat messaging

But Egyptian officials have privately voiced worry

about Israeli calls for them to be more involved in Gaza, proposals that they think may dovetail with the Trump administration's efforts to address Palestinian grievances with pan-Arab help. According to one Egyptian official, the Foreign Ministry in Cairo instructed its diplomats in a June 10 cable to emphasize that Egypt would not budge from its position that Israel is the country with exclusive, ultimate responsibility for Gaza.

A ministry spokesman was not immediately available to respond to a request for comment on the cable. The Egyptian official, who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity, summarized Cairo's message as: "We are willing to do what we can to calm down the situation in Gaza or work on Palestinian reconciliation. But we will not take over

from Israel in Gaza. It's Israel's problem." The Palestinians and the United Nations similarly dispute Israel's assertion that it ended its occupation of Gaza in 2005.

On Sunday, when the Israeli security cabinet convened to discuss the Gaza truce ideas, one member - Intelligence Minister Israel Katz - tweeted that these should include "bringing Egyptian infrastructure, at sea and on land, to bear for the good of Gaza, under international supervision". The Egyptian official said Cairo would not let its facilities or territory in the Sinai desert, bordering Gaza, be used to relieve Israel of keeping the Palestinian economy alive.

Still, in what Palestinians saw a goodwill gesture, Egyptian cooking oil began entering Gaza on Sunday, offsetting Israeli supplies cut off in retaliation for the border violence. The White House said on June 21 that it had discussed with Egypt "the need to facilitate humanitarian relief to Gaza". The Trump administration's stated position is that Gaza should be under the control of Hamas's Western-backed Palestinian rivals. — Reuters

“ It cannot shrug off Gaza ”

Trump admits son met with Russian for information

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump admitted Sunday that his son met with a Russian lawyer in Trump Tower in 2016 "to get information on an opponent" but defended it as "totally legal." It was Trump's most direct acknowledgement that the motive for the June 2016 meeting was to get dirt on Hillary Clinton, his Democratic rival for the presidency.

As he has in the past, Trump insisted in a tweet that he did not know at the time about the meeting between his son Donald Jr and Natalia Veselnitskaya, a lawyer with links to the Kremlin. "This was a meeting to get information on an opponent, totally legal and done all the time in politics - and it went nowhere. I did not know about it!"

The meeting has come under intense scrutiny from Special Counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating whether members of the Trump campaign coordinated with a Russian effort to sway the 2016 election in the Republican's favor. The president's tweet about the meeting was one in a thread in which he reiterated criticism of Mueller, calling his probe "the most one sided Witch Hunt in the history of our country" peppered with "lies and corruption." The Washington Post reported Sunday that Trump has been brooding in private about whether his son unintentionally put himself in legal jeopardy by meeting with Veselnitskaya. Trump called the Post report "a complete fabrication."

Illegal meeting?

The Trump Tower meeting was arranged by British music promoter, Rob Goldstone, who told Donald Jr that he had "information that would incriminate Hillary and her dealings with Russia and would be very useful to your father." Young Trump responded "I love it" when first offered the "dirt" on Clinton, the Democratic nominee.

News of the meeting, which Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and top campaign official Paul Manafort also attended, broke in July 2017. Donald Jr initially said in a statement to The New York Times that the meeting was "primarily" about American adoptions of Russian children. He later admitted he accepted the meeting with Veselnitskaya in hopes of obtaining damaging information on Clinton, but said nothing came of it.

The Post had reported that the statement to The Times was dictated by the president, though at the time Trump's lawyers denied his involvement. They later reversed course in a memo to Mueller and said Trump was



WEST COLUMBIA: US President Donald Trump speaks at a rally for South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster at Airport High School. — AFP

indeed behind the statement that omitted the prospect of collecting dirt on Clinton. Lawyers described the statement as "short but accurate," according to The Post.

Asked on Sunday why he had denied the president's involvement, one of Trump's lawyers Jay Sekulow told ABC that "I had bad information at that point." "I made a mistake in my statement," he said. "That happens when you have cases like this." The president's lawyers argue that the meeting, in and of itself, violated no laws. "The question is how will it be illegal?" Sekulow said Sunday. "What law, statute, rule or regulation has been violated?"

In other news, a group of US senators, on a visit to Moscow on Monday, said they have invited Russian lawmakers to Washington later this year in a bid to help ease tensions between the two countries. On the second trip by US politicians to the Russian capital in just over a month, the delegation is this time being led by high-profile Republican lawmaker senator Rand Paul. Paul said that members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the upper house of the Russian parliament, the Federation Council, had been invited "to come to the United States to meet with us in Washington. I think this is incredibly important." The US lawmaker was quoted as saying in translated comments by Interfax news agency. — AFP

Damascus creates body to repatriate refugees

DAMASCUS: Syria's government is to set up a coordination committee to repatriate millions of its nationals who fled the country's seven-year conflict, state media has said. The cabinet on Sunday "agreed to create a coordination body for the return of those displaced abroad to their cities and villages," state news agency SANA reported.

The conflict has displaced more than five million Syrians outside the country, the United Nations says, with more than half displaced to Turkey and most of the rest split between Lebanon and Jordan. The committee "will take the necessary measures to settle the status of all those who were displaced and secure their return as security and basic services return to different regions", SANA said on Sunday. It would take steps towards "ensuring they can lead normal lives and practice their jobs as before the war" started in 2011, it added.

The coordination body is to "intensify contact with friendly countries to provide all facilities and take suitable steps towards their return", SANA said. President Bashar Al-Assad's regime has pushed back rebels and jihadists in large parts of Syria since its ally Russia intervened militarily on its side in 2015. Last month, Russia presented the United States with plans for the coordinated return of refugees to Syria.

The proposal includes the establishment of working groups in both Lebanon and Jordan, involving US and Russian officials. Also in July, Russia's chief Syria negotiator Alexander Lavrentyev visited Damascus, Amman and Beirut. According to the Syrian president, Assad told Lavrentyev that "Syria is bent on all its children returning".

In comments to the Russian media, Assad appealed for Syrian refugees — especially those who had their own businesses in the country — to return. Countries hosting Syrians, including Turkey and Lebanon, have stressed the need for the return of refugees to Syria, while human rights groups have warned that this should be done on a voluntary basis. — AFP

International

European nations keep melting as temperatures hit near-record highs

A roundup of recent developments

PARIS: Europe baked in near-record temperatures yesterday but hopes were for some respite after weeks of non-stop sunshine as people come to terms with what may prove to be the new normal in climate change Europe. Here is a roundup of recent developments:

France, adapt to change

Temperatures were expected to peak in southern France yesterday and further north today. On Saturday, they hit their highest levels since a deadly 2003 heatwave killed thousands of mainly elderly people. Health Minister Agnes Buzyn said people had to take proper care to cope with the heat and warned that everyone had to adapt. "You need to drink a lot, but also to eat and take salt," Buzyn said. "We are probably going to adapt our warnings in the coming years, because this is something we haven't been seeing until now."

Several cities imposed traffic restrictions and cut speed limits to try to reduce ozone pollution aggravated by the heat, with Paris also offering free parking and cheaper daily metro and bus passes to discourage driving. The heat wave could be among the "top three" on record for France, the national weather service said. The current forecast is for a cooler end to the week with temperatures in the mid-20s.

Spain fires under control

In Spain, the death toll rose to five after two homeless men succumbed to heat stroke in northeastern Tarragona, officials said. Firefighters helped by calmer winds were meanwhile gaining control of a wildfire in the southwestern province of Huelva, just across the border from the Algarve in southern Portugal where a major blaze was still burning in Monchique.

Temperatures remained high, especially in the south-east where they were forecast to hit 40-42 C. There has been little relief at night. At midnight the town of Zorita in the southwest recorded a temperature of 35.1 C, according to Spain's national weather office, the highest temperature in the country at that time.

Portugal fires

In Portugal, after hitting 45 C, short of the national record of just above 47 C, temperatures have eased slightly but not by enough to make the job of some 1,100 firefighters in Monchique any easier. Monchique, in southern Portugal, was covered by thick clouds of smoke early yesterday after the authorities evacuated several houses overnight, with 24 people injured, one seriously. "Our priority is to protect people," Interior Minister Eduardo Cabrita told reporters. EU Humanitarian Affairs Commissioner Christos Stylianides said on Twitter the EU was following the situation closely and was ready to help if needed. The weather service said that after Saturday's peak, temperatures were back below 45 C and should continue lower over the next few days.

Germany fresh spike

Germany expects a fresh spike mid-week to around 39 C before temperatures ease, with official figures showing the average for April-July running 3.6 degrees higher than the 1961-1990 reference period. Farmers continued to plead for help, with the president of Germany's farmers' association, Joachim Rukwied, saying a billion euros in government aid may be necessary as crop failure rates hit 70 percent in some areas. More than a million children returned to school yesterday in three German states —

Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland and Hesse — but some were allowed to go home earlier than planned due to the heatwave.

British islands in trouble

Britain continued to be hot in the south with a maximum of 32 C but it was cooler and cloudier in the north. Reports said the persistent lack of rain has hit the country's more remote islands. Worst affected is the tiny island of Lundy in the Bristol Channel — with a population in the dozens — which is now reliant on plastic bottles of water from the mainland after local supplies ran dry, the Daily Express said. Arran in Scotland, the Isle of Scilly in southwest England and Jersey in the Channel Islands have all asked people to cut consumption, it added. Meanwhile last year's winner of Britain's best lawn award is "refusing to surrender his hallowed turf to the heatwave", according to the Daily Mail. Stuart Grindle is reportedly spending four hours a day and hundred of pounds (dollars) on water bills to keep his garden an outlier of lush green in parched northern England. "I have no intention of allowing my pride and joy to be ruined," the committed horticulturist told the newspaper.

Netherlands

The heatwave has hit the low-lying Netherlands hard like many other countries but no one thought it could be a threat to its world famous system of dams and canals designed to keep the sea at bay. But river levels have fallen so low that the Rijkswaterstaat, which manages the national water system, has been opening barrages inland to flush out sea water seeping into coastal waterways. However, opening sluices on the Waal River has also



MULHOUSE, France: A woman looks through the glass of the enclosure of a Polar bear as he cools off in the water at the zoo in Mulhouse on August 3, 2018, as parts of Europe continue to swelter in an ongoing heatwave. — AFP

forced inland shipping from Germany to Amsterdam to take a detour at the city of Arnhem.

Greek fire toll 91

Greece was a little cooler but the toll in last

month's wildfire northeast of Athens rose to 91 with the death from injuries of a 95-year-old woman, officials said. Another 36 people are still hospitalized after the July 23 disaster, six of them in critical condition. — AFP

Knifeman kills two police officers in China

BEIJING: A knife-wielding murder suspect rammed a car into a police station in southwest China yesterday and was shot dead by the chief and another officer, who died later of their injuries. The man had been on the run after he was identified as a suspect in the stabbing death of another person hours earlier near the Chengdu-Yibin high-speed train construction site in Sichuan province, according to local police.

As police prepared to arrest the suspect surnamed Zhang, he "suddenly" ploughed a vehicle into the police station in the town of

Fujia and chased people with a knife, Renshou county police said a statement. "In order to protect the life and safety of the people, the director Wang Tao and the officer on duty urgently responded and shot the criminal suspect," the statement said, adding that the man later died in hospital.

Four other people were injured to various degrees but are out of danger. The police chief and the officer were seriously injured and were later pronounced dead by the hospital. Knife attacks are not uncommon in China. Last month a man who stabbed nine children to death and wounded another 11 in northern China was sentenced to death. Two boys were stabbed to death outside a Shanghai elementary school in June. In February, a knife-wielding man with a personal grudge killed a woman and injured 12 others in a busy Beijing shopping mall — a rare act of violence in the heavily policed capital. — AFP

Maldives oppn warns of 'cowardly' plot to delay elections

COLOMBO: The Maldivian opposition said yesterday that government warnings of a murky plot to destabilize the honeymoon islands were a "cowardly" attempt by the ruling party to delay next month's presidential elections. Defence Minister Adam Shareef Umar, a loyalist to President Abdulla Yameen, said police and defence forces had been placed on alert following an unspecified threat to national security. No further details have been provided of the alleged plot. But the Maldives opposition seized on the remarks, suggesting the strongman president who has ruled with an iron fist since 2013 was generating fear to justify delaying September's poll.

"President Yameen is running scared from an election he knows he can't win," Hamid Abdul Ghafoor, a spokesman for the Maldivian Democratic Party, said from the opposition base in Colombo. "This is why he's inventing cowardly excuses to cancel or delay the election." The archipelago nation has been on edge since Yameen — who has jailed or exiled almost all his opponents — imposed a 45-day state of emergency in February and arrested top judges accusing them of fomenting a coup against him.

The president has also not officially registered his intention to run again for office, raising further suspicions. He has until August 10 to file his nomination papers. The opposition lost the last elections in 2013 in controversial

circumstances. The Supreme Court annulled the results of the first round of voting when opposition candidate, and former president, Mohamed Nasheed was in the lead. The subsequent vote was then twice delayed, allowing Yameen time to forge alliances that helped him narrowly win the contested run-off.

Nasheed, who was jailed in 2015 in what the UN described as a politically motivated trial, was disqualified from running in the election on September 23. He lives in exile. The opposition has fielded MDP's parliamentary leader Ibrahim Mohamed Solih as the candidate to challenge Yameen. Many other opposition figures are imprisoned or banished abroad but Solih and the MDP have vowed to clear the way for all political dissidents to return and participate in government if victorious in the election.

The Supreme Court in February ordered that MPs sacked by the president be restored to power and dissidents freed from jail, sparking a crackdown by Yameen that plunged the islands into turmoil. The Maldives' chief justice and Supreme Court judges were arrested, along with Yameen's half-brother Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, a former dictator who ruled for 30 years until 2008. The US and European Union have expressed deep concern over Yameen's actions, and rights activists have called for sanctions on the president and his aides. — AFP

ing, was behind the 1975 killing of the CIA's Athens station chief Richard Welch, and claimed responsibility for assassinating 23 people in scores of attacks on US, British, Turkish and Greek targets between the 1970s and 1990s.

US state department spokesperson Heather Nauert on August 3 said Koufontinas "is inspiring the next generation of terrorists. We condemn in the strongest terms furloughs or any easing of his prison stay," she said in a statement. The Turkish foreign ministry also called Koufontinas' transfer "disrespectful" to the memory of Turkish diplomats slain by the group. The Greek justice ministry said the transfers were part of a policy to turn Korydallos into a correctional facility for suspects in pre-trial detention.

There was similar criticism in recent months when Koufontinas — November 17's top hitman and a hero figure to radical anarchists in Greece — was briefly allowed out on leave on three occasions. Members of the ruling Syriza party have repeatedly been accused by opposition critics of ideological links to the far-left and of being soft on far-left extremism. Xiros had gone missing after been given leave in 2014 by a non-leftist government. He was recaptured several months later. — AFP

South Sudan foes sign final power sharing deal

KHARTOUM: South Sudanese arch-foes signed a final power-sharing deal Sunday as President Salva Kiir called for unity in a country torn by a civil war that has killed tens of thousands of people. Kiir and his bitter rival Riek Machar were in neighboring Sudan to sign the deal, under which the rebel leader is set to return to a unity government as the first of five vice presidents, an AFP correspondent at the signing ceremony said.

The deal, which paves the way to a final peace accord aimed at ending the war in the world's youngest country, was signed in the presence of Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir and his counterparts from Kenya, Uganda and Djibouti, along with foreign diplomats. Once a final peace deal is signed, the foes will have three months to form a transitional government which will then hold power for three years.

The talks come as part of a regional push aimed at achieving peace in South Sudan, which plunged into a devastating conflict just two years after its independence from Sudan. "The agreement we have just signed today must map the end of conflict and war in our country," Kiir said in a speech in English after signing the deal. "We should ... rededicate ourselves to unite our people and work for peaceful transfer of power through the ballot boxes rather than through bullets."

Machar urged the regional east African bloc Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which is pushing the latest peace talks, to ensure that the deal is implemented. "I would urge ... IGAD to focus after this on the implementation of the agreement," Machar said in his address. "Somebody said that the devil sometimes is embedded in the implementation."

Challenges ahead

South Sudan's nearly five-year conflict began after Kiir accused his then-vice president Machar of plotting a coup against him in 2013. Kiir and Machar's factions have already agreed on a permanent ceasefire and with-

US police rescue 11 children from 'filthy' hideout

LOS ANGELES: Police say 11 children ages one to 15 were rescued in the US state of New Mexico after officers raided a dilapidated compound occupied by armed men. Two men were arrested after police found them and the children in what one officer called "the saddest living conditions and poverty I have seen," as part of the operation connected to a months-long search for an abducted three-year-old, according to New Mexico's Taos County sheriff's office.

The investigation kicked off late last year on the opposite side of the country in Jonesboro, Georgia, where 39-year-old Siraj Wahhaj of the state's Clayton County was accused of kidnapping his toddler — who was ultimately not found. The boy's mother told police her child, who she said suffered from seizures along with developmental and cognitive delays, went to the park with his father Wahhaj last December and never returned.

On August 2, Sheriff Jerry Hogrefe of Taos County in New Mexico issued a search warrant describing "a makeshift compound surrounded by tires and an earthen berm" in a



KHARTOUM: People celebrate a final South Sudanese power-sharing deal in Khartoum. — AFP

drawal of their forces from urban areas, in the latest talks hosted by Bashir. The power-sharing deal lays out a plan for a 35-minister transitional government including 20 Kiir allies and nine backers of Machar, along with representatives of other rebel factions. The parliament will be comprised of 550 lawmakers, including 332 from Kiir's group and 128 from Machar's faction.

Kiir warned that the bloated size of the government would pose a challenge. "See the size of the parliament, see the size of the cabinet. How do you pay them?" he said, adding that he was concerned about how to provide accommodations, offices and vehicles to new officials.

But Sudan's Bashir said the mediators were committed to ensure that the agreement was implemented. He said his personal aim was to ensure that South Sudan could restart production of oil from oil-rich Unity State by September 1. Nearly five years of war have seen South Sudan's oil production plummet to about 120,000 barrels a day from a peak of 350,000, according to the World Bank.

US support

Washington has been skeptical about the success of the latest peace initiative, given the fiery enmity between Kiir and Machar. Last month the White House warned that "a narrow

agreement between elites" would not solve the problems plaguing South Sudan. "In fact, such an agreement may sow the seeds of another cycle of conflict," it said. But on Sunday the top US envoy to Khartoum said the United States backed the process.

"We are supporting any initiative to bring peace to South Sudan and we hope this process will continue comprehensively," US Charge d'Affaires in Khartoum, Steven Koutsis, told reporters after Sunday's deal was signed. The United Nations said the power-sharing deal was a "significant step." "By signing this agreement the guns must keep silent," said Nicholas Haysom, special UN envoy to Sudan and South Sudan.

A similar peace deal was signed in 2015 but fell apart a year later in a deadly battle that saw Machar flee into exile. South Sudan's war dashed the optimism that accompanied independence from Sudan in 2011. The new country plunged into civil war, including fighting within the national army, fuelled by the deep enmity between the two leaders. The war has killed tens of thousands, displaced some four million people and left the oil-rich country's economy in ruins. With the country's agricultural sector severely disrupted, seven million South Sudanese — more than half of the population — will need food aid in 2018, the United Nations says. — AFP

Greek far-left assassin moves to farm prison

ATHENS: A Greek far-left militant convicted for multiple murders was moved to a farm prison yesterday, officials said, days after the government was criticized for a similar move last week. Christodoulos Xiros, a 60-year-old leading member of the defunct November 17 extremist organization, was moved from maximum security Korydallos prison in Athens to a farm prison in Halkida, justice ministry sources said.

The move came just days after another ex-November 17 assassin, 60-year-old Dimitris Koufontinas, was likewise moved to another farm prison in Volos, where inmates engage in open-air manual labor. The decision by the left-led government of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras was strongly condemned by victims' families and foreign governments who have lost nationals to the outfit. The shadow November 17 group, named after an anti-junta student upris-



AMALIA, New Mexico: This handout photo released by the Taos County Sheriff's Office on August 4, 2018 shows a view of a makeshift compound. — AFP

subdivision in the rural community of Amalia, where Wahhaj along with adult Lucas Morten were thought to be in hiding. The FBI had provided information and surveillance on the spot but "didn't feel there was enough probable cause to get on the property," Hogrefe said.

"That all changed for me when a message was forwarded to us from a Georgia

Detective that we reasonably believed came from someone at the compound — the message sent to a third party simply said in part 'we are starving and need food and water,'" the sheriff said in a statement. "I absolutely knew that we couldn't wait on another agency to step up and we had to go check this out as soon as possible." — AFP

International

Duterte urges southern peace in unveiling Muslim autonomy law

The measure has been a crucial missing element

MANILA: President Rodrigo Duterte unveiled a law yesterday granting greater autonomy to the Philippines' Muslim south, as he expressed hope the measure will at last end decades of bloody separatist conflict. He delivered his words after handing a symbolic copy of the new law, which he signed last month, to the leader of the country's largest Muslim rebel group.

It was the culmination of a ceremony at the presidential palace in Manila marking the passage of legislation that is a key step to ending one of Asia's longest and deadliest conflicts. The measure has been a crucial missing element to a languishing peace pact with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) which, along with other groups, has waged a rebellion that has claimed about 150,000 lives in the Mindanao region since the 1970s.

"I hope (the law) will finally end the decades-old conflict that is rooted in the Bangsamoro's fight for self-determination and the recognition of their unique identity," Duterte said, referencing the region where much of the conflict has raged. "May this serve as the final trajectory for the attainment of genuine peace, stability (and) good governance in Muslim Mindanao," he added. "Let us work together as we continue the healing and reconciliation process."

The law enforces a historic but fragile 2014 peace deal where the MILF vowed to give up its quest for an independent homeland and lay down its fighters' weapons in return for self-rule. Both sides believe creating the area will head off the lure of violent extremism and draw

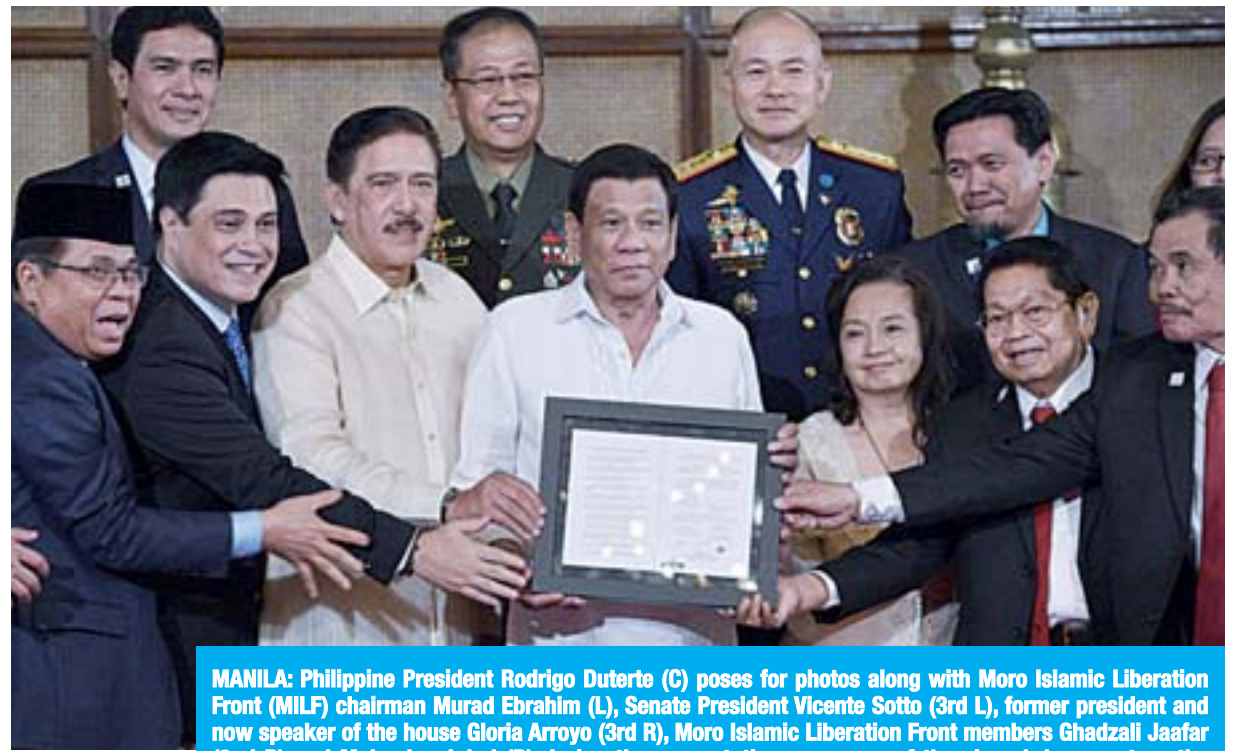
investments to a region where brutal poverty and perennial bloodshed has spawned radical armed groups.

IS allegiance

The initial peace accord was signed under Duterte's predecessor, Benigno Aquino, but Congress then refused to pass the supporting law. Rebel factions and jihadists began pledging allegiance to the Islamic State group soon afterwards and last year attacked the southern city of Marawi sparking a five-month battle that killed 1,200 people and leveled much of the town.

Muslim rebels regard Mindanao, the southern third of the archipelago, as their ancestral homeland dating back to when Arabic traders arrived there in the 13th century. In 1996, another major rebel group, the Moro National Liberation Front, signed a peace deal with the government that created a Muslim autonomous area in the south. But critics, including the MILF, said it had failed to bring peace and development.

Under the law Duterte signed, a new political entity known as the Bangsamoro would replace the current autonomous region, gaining more power and resources. It would keep 75 percent of taxes collected in the area as well as receive an annual fund allocation worth five percent of national revenues, or about 60 billion pesos (\$1.2 billion). The region is also to have a parliament and Islamic shariah courts exclusively for cases involving Muslims. Under the 2014 peace deal, the law has to be approved in a regional referendum, which is widely expected to pass. —AFP



MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte (C) poses for photos along with Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) chairman Murad Ebrahim (L), Senate President Vicente Sotto (3rd L), former president and now speaker of the house Gloria Arroyo (3rd R), Moro Islamic Liberation Front members Ghadzali Jaafar (2nd R) and Mohagher Iqbal (R) during the presentation ceremony of the signed document on the Organic Law for Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) at Malacanang palace. —AFP

Japan marks anniversary of atomic attack on Hiroshima

TOKYO: A bell tolled yesterday in Hiroshima as Japan marked 73 years since the world's first atomic bombing, with the city's mayor warning that rising nationalism worldwide threatened peace. The skies over Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park were clear, just as they were on August 6, 1945, when an American B-29 bomber dropped its deadly payload on the port city dotted with military installations, ultimately killing 140,000 people.

Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui, standing at the park near ground zero for the annual ceremony, appealed for a world without nuclear weapons and sounded the alarm over increasing nationalism. Without naming specific nations, he warned that "certain countries are explicitly expressing self-centered nationalism and modernizing their nuclear arsenals." They were "rekindling tensions that had eased with the end of the Cold War", he added. He urged the abolition of nuclear weapons, in a year when President Donald Trump pledged to increase the US nuclear arsenal.

"If the human family forgets history or stops confronting it, we could again commit a terrible error. That is precisely why we must continue talking about Hiroshima," Matsui said. "Efforts to elim-

inate nuclear weapons must continue." His call however highlighted Japan's contradictory relationship with nuclear weapons. Japanese officials routinely argue that they oppose atomic weapons but the nation's defense is dependent on the US nuclear umbrella.

New relations

This year's ceremony comes amid a diplomatic push for the denuclearization of North Korea that saw Trump and the North's leader Kim Jong Un hold unprecedented talks. Japan has largely maintained a hard line on Pyongyang, in particular pushing for movement on citizens abducted decades ago by North Korean agents. But reports suggest Tokyo is considering a summit soon between Kim and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, with local media floating a possible meeting on the sidelines of an international forum in Russia's Vladivostok next month.

"Ultimately, I myself will have to directly face chairman Kim Jong Un and engage in dialogue and resolve the nuclear, missile and, above all, the all-important abduction issue, and then build new Japan-North Korea relations," Abe said in Hiroshima yesterday. Abe, whose government has chosen not to



MUMBAI: An Indian student wearing a mask poses with her hands painted with a slogans for peace during a rally to mark Hiroshima Day. —AFP

participate in the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, said Japan had a responsibility to bridge the gap between nuclear and non-nuclear nations.

"In recent years, it has become evident that gaps exist among countries about ways to proceed with nuclear arms reduction," Abe told the ceremony, without directly referring to the treaty. "Our nation, while maintaining our (non-nuclear weapons) principles, will patiently work to serve as a bridge

between the two sides and lead efforts by the international community" to reduce nuclear weapons, Abe said.

Japan suffered two nuclear attacks by the United States at the end of World War II — first in Hiroshima and then in Nagasaki three days later. The bombings claimed the lives of 140,000 people in Hiroshima and 74,000 people in Nagasaki. Barack Obama became the first sitting US president to visit Hiroshima in May 2016. —AFP

Myanmar dissidents fear struggle forgotten 30 years after uprising

YANGON: Ko Shell had his teeth knocked out during torture sessions and spent 14 years in six jails, but as the 30th anniversary looms of the famed Myanmar pro-democracy uprising that led to his incarceration, he says those sacrifices are being forgotten. Sitting in a tea shop in downtown Yangon, he worries history is not being taught to the younger generation, a frustration mirroring wider disappointment with the government among many jailed for opposing the junta which ruled for four decades.

"All the true stories were not shared with the public," the 49-year-old said. Military regimes in Myanmar imprisoned nearly 10,000 people since the army first seized power in 1962, sending the country into decades of isolation. Most were jailed in the years after nationwide strikes on August 8, 1988, part of broader anti-junta demonstrations that catapulted Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi into the spotlight.

The daughter of Myanmar's independence hero, Suu Kyi was swept up in the revolt shortly after returning from a cozy life in England to care for her sick mother. But despite then spending a combined 15 years under house arrest by the paranoid regime, Suu Kyi has emphasized reconciling with the generals after winning landmark elections in 2015.

While a third of MPs in her party have served time for activism, prominent members of the 1988 protests were passed over when candidates for parliament were chosen to run. The lack of compensation, monuments or other

forms of redress for victims have caused angst, while many can't get the work they seek due to the stigma of jail. "Most of them face difficulties," said Ko Shell, a taxi driver.

Relics of the past

History is a dangerous subject in the Buddhist-majority country, where the military promotes a narrative of unifying a country riven by religious and ethnic faultlines. The toxic issue of belonging is highlighted by the Rohingya crisis, where the Muslim minority is referred to as "Bengali" to cast them as immigrants from Bangladesh. With many former junta members enjoying normal lives or still involved in government, dredging up memories of political prisoners is not common.

But Kyaw Soe Win from the Yangon-based Assistance Association for Political Prisoners hopes to change that. The museum he helped create is one of the only places in Myanmar where visitors can learn what inmates endured. "School texts, they never show the real history," he said, standing in front of a recreation of a prison cell.

There are photos of students marching, soldiers cracking down, and a reconstruction of Myanmar's most infamous prison, Insein. Displays show trinkets, crafts and musical instruments made in jail. The limited awareness about 1988 is part of a larger gap that leaves many susceptible to simplistic versions of history. "A big problem in Myanmar today is the lack of a critical discussion on the country's recent past," said writer Thant Myint-U.



YANGON: A pro-democracy student activist who was involved in the 1988 Uprising looks on during a gathering for the 30th anniversary of the uprising at the University of Yangon. —AFP

Prisoners, politicians

Frustration with Myanmar's government under Suu Kyi has risen since she took office more than two years ago. The country has faced global ire for its bloody handling of the Rohingya crisis — which the United Nations and Washington have described as ethnic cleansing — while conflicts burn in remote borderlands and the military still controls 25 percent of parliament.

Suu Kyi has also been singled out for lackluster economic reforms and top-down management. The next national elections are due in 2020 and a group of veteran 1988 leaders have announced plans to launch an alternative to Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD). Ko Ko Gyi, one of the 88 protesters involved in the new party, which is still settling on a name, said that the essence of the "four 8" revolution is democracy, and "democ-

racy means pluralism."

"We will try to make a better alternative for our voters," he said. Min Thu, a 57-year-old NLD lawmaker who spent 10 years in jail, acknowledged the slow pace of reform but compared it favorably to the past. "They (people) can reveal their opinion freely and they can criticize," he told AFP at an annual congress in Yangon.

He said the party was providing some assistance to former prisoners. Without naming the military, he blamed the imperfect progress on decades of mismanagement, but said voters can now pick new governments at elections if unsatisfied. But most former political prisoners are concerned about today, not the next vote. Ko Shell says he has family problems because his stretches behind bars make home life difficult. "I want to be free all the time," he said. —AFP

Bangladesh floats death penalty for road deaths in bid to quell protests

DHAKA: Bangladesh yesterday promised to introduce the death penalty for deliberate road deaths in a bid to quell more than a week of demonstrations calling for better road safety, as new student-led protests were met with tear gas and rubber bullets. Over the weekend scores of people were hurt as police fired tear gas and mobs apparently loyal to the government attacked demonstrators, photographers and even the US ambassador's car.

The tens of thousands of teenage school pupils and university students who have paralyzed the capital Dhaka and elsewhere for the past nine days — and torched eight buses — are pressing for better road safety after a speeding bus killed two teenagers on July 29. The latest clashes yesterday in the Rampura neighborhood saw police use tear gas to dispel hundreds of students from a private university, local police chief Rafiqul Islam told AFP. "They tried to set ablaze a police camp. We fired tear gas to disperse them," he said, adding four police officers were injured.

Students told AFP that police fired rubber bullets at protesters in an area home to two private universities and that members of the student wing of the ruling Awami League party attacked the protesters with sticks and bricks. "The situation is very bad. We have carried at least three students to the nearby Apollo Hospital," one student, Z Mallick, said.

The lengthy standoff, attracting foreign media interest and criticism from the UN and rights groups, has turned into a major test of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government ahead of December elections. Yesterday the law and justice minister Anisul Huq told AFP the cabinet has approved a new law allowing for the death penalty "if an investigation finds that the death in a road accident has been caused deliberately". —AFP

India kills 14 Maoist rebels

RAIPUR: Indian security forces yesterday killed 14 suspected Maoist rebels in a raid deep inside the forests of Chhattisgarh state, as the government intensified its crackdown. The police launched the operation after a tip-off about the presence of some 100 armed rebels inside two camps in a forested area of Sukma district.

"Fourteen Maoists have been killed in the operation, their bodies have also been recovered," said D. M. Awasthi, the state's anti-Maoist police force chief. Another gunfight with the rebels was going on at a nearby spot, Awasthi told AFP, without revealing more information. India's Maoist insurgency began in the 1960s and has cost thousands of lives in the simmering violence. A government security crackdown on the rebels since the start of the year has led to several casualties in the tribal areas across mainly five states.

Last month, eight Maoist rebels including four women fighters were killed near Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district. And ambushes on rebel camps over two days in April killed 37 Maoist fighters in western Maharashtra state. The rebels — also known as Naxals — say they are fighting for the rights of the indigenous tribal people, including the right to land, resources and jobs. So far this year, some 152 rebels have been killed by security forces, according to the Institute for Conflict Management, a Delhi-based non-profit group. The insurgency has also cost the lives of 69 civilians and 55 security men as of July 31. Critics say government attempts to end the revolt through tough offensives are doomed to fail and that the real solution is better governance and development of the region. —AFP

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Analysis

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DIY tests for HIV beat stigma in Zimbabwe's fight against AIDS

When she discovered she was HIV-positive early this year, sex worker Evelyn Msipa, 32, was alone in her rented apartment in Zimbabwe's capital Harare. She wept on seeing the result from the self-testing kit she had used, then rushed to a local health centre where she received counselling before the diagnosis was confirmed. Msipa bought the kit from a pharmacy as she had been afraid to find out her HIV status at a public clinic, and is one of a rising number of Zimbabweans using self-testing kits.

Under an initiative launched in 2016, the kits are sold for \$3 to \$5 in pharmacies and are free at public health centers as part of a drive to ensure 90 percent of Zimbabweans know their HIV status by 2020 and receive treatment quickly if needed. "Being HIV-positive is not a death sentence after all - I know now. Nobody can tell that I have HIV because I look healthy," Msipa told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Msipa said her decision to use a self-testing kit had influenced other women she works with to follow her example.

UNAIDS data shows about 1.3 million of Zimbabwe's population of 16 million are living with HIV, including some 740,000 women. About three-quarters get antiretroviral therapy that can suppress the virus that leads to AIDS. Although infection rates have slowed, the UN program said Zimbabwe recorded 40,000 new HIV infections and 30,000 AIDS-related deaths in 2016. New HIV infections have nearly halved since 2010 and AIDS-related deaths have fallen 45 percent. The government hopes self-testing will lead to more people starting early treatment for HIV and ultimately lower the prevalence of HIV infection in Zimbabwe. "It is a good way to reach a lot more people," said Angela Mushavi, a doctor with the Ministry of Health and Child Care.

Southern Africa push

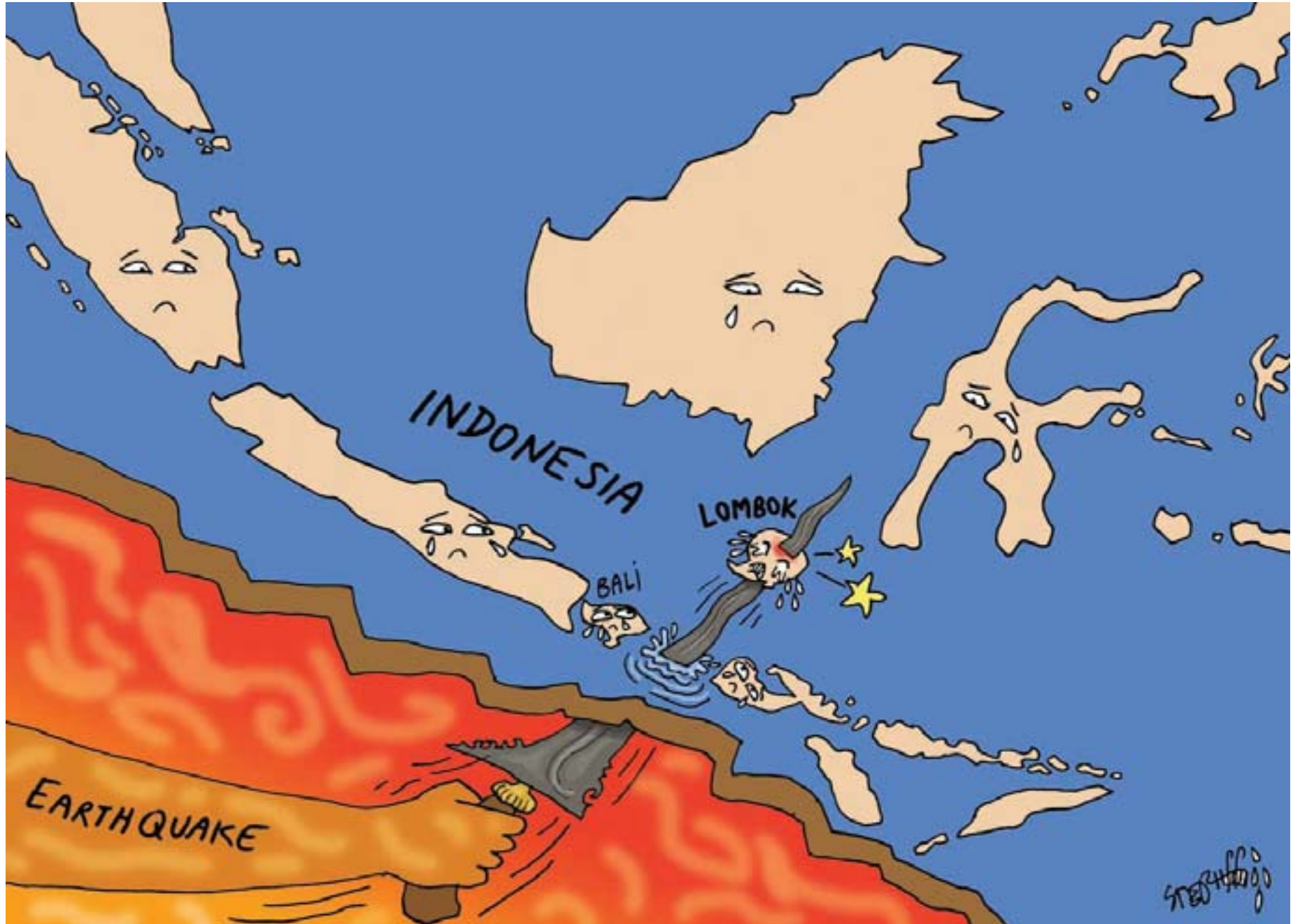
One million HIV self-testing kits have been distributed in Zimbabwe free of charge since August 2016, the government said. The national roll-out has focused on increasing access to self-testing among at-risk groups like sex workers. It is now being widened to include pregnant women, young people and adolescents, said Mushavi, who is national coordinator for prevention of mother-to-child transmission and paediatric HIV care.

David Parenyatwa, Zimbabwe's Minister of Health and Child Care, said the campaign targets "people who are afraid or ashamed of visiting public HIV testing centers". Self-testing has also gained traction in other Southern African countries including Malawi, Zambia, South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. Across the region, 4.8 million DIY kits will be distributed by 2020, funded by global health initiative Unitaid.

Amon Mpfu, monitoring and evaluation director at the National AIDS Council, said Zimbabwe's testing levels have increased with the kits which help to tackle the stigma of HIV, especially for sexual minorities. "It's very convenient because they can test themselves anytime and access treatment services, and live longer when they have got HIV," said Mpfu. Talent Jumo, director of Katswe Sistahood, a group working on girls' sexual health in Harare, said self-testing had been well-received by young women, partly due to easy access. "The idea of having self-testing kits on a shop counter or in a healthcare centre has helped demystify and destigmatize HIV," she said.

There has also been an increase in the number of men who have sex with men accessing HIV self-testing services through peer education programs, said Chester Samba, director of GALZ, an association for Zimbabwe's LGBTI community. Samba said support systems had been put in place for sexual minorities whether their test results are positive or negative.

For young women like 21-year-old barmaid Keyla Mahuni the self-test kits have been a life changer. "I could have just lived in the dark and fallen sick because I was afraid of visiting public testing centers, but thanks to self-testing, I now know my HIV status and went on treatment earlier," she said. "It was hard at first to accept my condition, but surely life has to go on." — Reuters



How Russian gas is a problem for Germany

For decades, the Friendship pipeline has delivered oil from Russia to Europe, heating German homes even in the darkest days of the Cold War. But a new pipeline that will carry gas direct from Russia under the Baltic Sea to Germany is doing rather less for friendship, driving a wedge between Germany and its allies and giving Chancellor Angela Merkel a headache. For US President Donald Trump, Nord Stream 2 is a "horrific" pipeline that will increase Germany's dependence on Russian energy. Ukraine, fighting Russian-backed separatists, fears the new pipeline will allow Moscow to cut it out of the lucrative and strategically crucial gas transit business.

It comes at an awkward time for Merkel. With the fraying of the transatlantic alliance and an assertive Russia and China, she has acknowledged that Germany must take more of a political leadership role in Europe. "The global order is under pressure," Merkel said last month. "That's a challenge for us ... Germany's responsibility is growing; Germany has more work to do." In April she accepted for the first time that there were "political considerations" to Nord Stream 2, a project she had until then described as a commercial venture.

Most European countries want Germany to do more to project European influence and protect eastern neighbors that are nervous of Russian encroachment. But letting Russia sell gas to Germany while avoiding Ukraine does the opposite, depriving Kiev of transit revenues and making it, Poland and the Baltic states more vulnerable to cuts in gas supplies. "The price would be an even greater loss of trust from the Baltics, Poland and Ukraine," said Roderich Kiesewetter, a Merkel ally on the parliamentary foreign affairs committee. "We Germans always say that holding the West together is our 'centre of gravity', but the Russian approach has succeeded in dragging Germany, at least in terms of energy policy, out of this western solidarity."

Many analysts say the business case for Nord Stream 2 is thin. Another pipeline already links Russia and Germany under the Baltic. Nord Stream 2 will double capacity but

future demand is uncertain. On the flip side, German industry likes anything that will provide energy more cheaply. Merkel's Social Democrat coalition partners, the leading voices in Germany calling for a conciliatory approach towards Russia, are also in favor.

The issue has divided Berlin's political class. The parties



Friendship no more

agreed in their coalition talks earlier this year to make a commitment to the pipeline, but did not put it in writing. According to Margarita Assenova, an analyst at the Centre for European Policy Analysis who is critical of Nord Stream 2, Russia can double gas exports to Europe via existing Ukrainian pipelines without building the new conduit. But despite opposition from European partners, from Washington and from within Merkel's party, Nord Stream 2 continues. Germany's diplomatic ambitions are being thwarted by the project's brutal business logic.

Ostpolitik

On the other hand, it has the strong backing of Gazprom, Russia's state-owned energy giant which owns Nord Stream 2 AG, the project company. Its boss Matthias Wamig, once an East German spy tasked with reporting on West German business, is seen as one of Berlin's most formidable lobbyists. The pipeline is one of a network of Kremlin-sponsored projects seemingly designed to cir-

cumvent Ukraine, the largest and most troublesome of the countries once ruled from Moscow. They include Turk Stream, which crosses the Black Sea to bypass Ukraine to the south. Lawmakers say Wamig has responded to their sceptical queries about the project by promising to take their concerns direct to Russian President Vladimir Putin, adding to the sense that the pipeline serves the Kremlin's strategic interests. But, for Gazprom, it makes sense: transit across a country with which Russia is in an undeclared war is risky and increasingly unreliable as Ukraine's Soviet-era pipelines grow older.

Germany and the European Union are attempting to broker an agreement between Moscow and Kiev to keep the gas flowing across Ukraine when the current transit contract ends in 2019. Critics say this means European consumers will pay a subsidy to help keep Ukraine afloat. In the SPD, sympathy for Nord Stream 2 runs deep. Gerhard Schroeder, the party's last chancellor, was appointed to senior positions at Russian energy companies after leaving office and regards Putin as a close friend.

For many of Schroeder's generation, cooperation with Russia is in the tradition of the "Ostpolitik" of their hero, 1970s Chancellor Willy Brandt, who defied a skeptical Washington to reach out to the Soviet Bloc, now seen as a prelude towards ending the Cold War. But a younger generation in the party, often critical of Schroeder's links to the Kremlin, is more cautious. Germany is bound to Russia by decades of cooperation on energy supply, but it has to offer something to its western allies too, officials say. That cooperation goes a long way: Last week, Merkel hosted Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Berlin. He was accompanied by Russian general staff chief Valery Gerasimov, who has been banned from the EU since Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014. Keeping lines open to the Kremlin is popular in Germany, where polls show people are better-disposed towards Russia than in almost any country. Increasingly, though, officials wonder if Germany is not paying too high a price in lost face. — Reuters

Villagers 'living between life and death' as Pakistan glaciers melt

When a glacial lake burst in Pakistan's northern Gilgit-Baltistan province in July, Sher Baz watched helplessly as the waters swept away his family home. Residents of Badswat village, which lies in Ishkoman valley at the foot of the Hindu Kush mountain range's snow-capped peaks, were at the mercy of the flash flood that carried off homes, roads and bridges, as well as crops and forest. "Thank God we are alive, but everything we owned was washed away by the floods when the glacial lake burst," said Baz, a 30-year old father of four.

Although there are several glaciers near Badswat village, residents said this was the first glacial outburst in living memory. The authorities said the timely evacuation of villagers meant nobody had died. Baz said the event had left him feeling stranded. "Surrounded by mountains and muddy water, it seems we are living between life and death," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Glacier central

Pakistan has more glaciers than any other country outside the polar region - more than 7,200 in the Karakoram, Himalayan and Hindu Kush ranges, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD). They feed the Indus River system, the country's water lifeline. But data gathered over the last 50 years

shows that all but about 120 of the glaciers exhibit signs of melting, due to rising temperatures, meteorological officials said.

As the glaciers retreat, they leave behind lakes supported by ice dams or accumulations of rock and soil. Inherently unstable, these dams often burst, sending huge volumes of water rushing into the villages below them. "With glaciers melting faster than before, we feel more vulnerable and it seems like we are under constant threat of a natural disaster," said another villager Shakoor Baig. While he is used to coping with floods, the 45-year-old farmer said he had not seen anything on this scale.

Baig, who lost his home, crops and fields, joined nearly 1,000 residents in Badswat village who were evacuated to higher ground, where some are living in temporary shelters. Trapped between mountains, receding waters and damaged roads, providing residents with enough food and tents has been difficult, said local relief group the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, which worked with the Pakistani army to air-drop aid.

Forest loss

Such events are just the start, said glacier expert and PMD head Ghulam Rasul. "The disasters caused by glacier outbursts in these areas will not stop here. They will continue in the future because there are so many glaciers at risk of bursting," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Years of deforestation, combined with climate change, have led to a spike in temperatures in the region, which has caused glaciers to melt, Rasul said. Over the past 80 years, he said, the average temperature in Gilgit-Baltistan has increased by 1.4 degree Celsius (2.5F) compared to a rise of 0.6 degree Celsius in the lower-lying regions of Sindh, Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

Poor government management of forests and increased demand for timber have seen trees cut down, he said - even though conserving forests is essential in



A view of Badswat village submerged by floodwaters after a glacial lake outburst in Gilgit-Baltistan province in Pakistan on July 27, 2018. — Reuters

order to absorb carbon emissions and fight climate change. "Global warming has direct implications on mountainous areas in northern Pakistan because of forest loss. Deforestation happened due to the negligence of authorities since people would cut trees for construction and fuel," Rasul said. "The essential thing to do is to grow more forests to mitigate the effects of global warming on glaciers in future."

Local authorities said rejuvenating the forest is a priority, but replenishing the area would take time. "The provincial government has already launched a campaign to grow the forest, among other solutions, to offset the rapid increase in temperatures in these mountains," local government spokesman, Faizullah Faraq, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. With help from the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Faraq

said, the authorities were also developing infrastructure in nearby areas in case residents of vulnerable villages were forced to relocate. "This is a big challenge and not a matter to resolve overnight, but we are moving in that direction," he said.

Rasul said the PMD had installed early warning systems in three areas to notify vulnerable communities of any glacial threats, adding that more were needed so to provide sufficient advance warning ahead of the next event. And, he said, the PMD recommends that communities be better trained in coping with emergency situations. Meantime all that villager Baz can do, he said, was pray that his family would survive another day. "I worry about the future and how to feed my family, since I lost my land and my job ended too. I pray that God will save us from more natural disasters," he said. — Reuters

Business

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12 Oil output seen rising on OPEC policy shift**13** Agility reports 19% increase in second quarter earnings**14** KAMCO posts net profit of KD 421,407 for H1 of 2018, an increase of 12%

BEIJING: Police check the identification of passersby as they search for petitioners near China's Banking Regulatory Commission in Beijing yesterday. — AFP

Trump's trade 'extortion' won't work: China

Beijing seeks to reassure investors as trade jitters batter markets

SHANGHAI/BEIJING: Chinese state media yesterday lambasted U.S. President Donald Trump's trade policies in an unusually personal attack, and sought to reassure investors anxious about China's economy as growth concerns battered its financial markets.

China's strictly controlled news outlets have frequently rebuked the United States and the Trump administration as the trade conflict has escalated, but they have largely refrained from specifically targeting Trump. The latest criticism from the overseas edition of the ruling Communist Party's People's Daily newspaper singled out Trump, saying he was starring in his own "street fighter-style deceitful drama of extortion and intimidation".

Trump's desire for others to play along with his drama is "wishful thinking", a commentary on the paper's front page said, arguing that the United States had escalated trade friction with China and turned international trade into a "zero-sum game". "Governing a country is not like doing business," the paper said, adding that Trump's actions imperilled the national credibility of the United States. The heated dispute between the world's two biggest economies has roiled financial markets including stocks, currencies and the global trade of commodities from soybeans to coal in recent months. Last month, the International Monetary Fund warned that escalating trade conflicts following US tariff actions on its trading partners threaten to derail the global economic recovery. The United States and China implemented tariffs on \$34 billion

worth of each other's goods in July. Washington is expected to soon implement tariffs on an additional \$16 billion of Chinese goods, which China has already said it will match immediately. On Friday, China's finance ministry unveiled new sets of additional tariffs on 5,207 goods imported from the United States worth \$60 billion.

That move was in response to the Trump administration's proposal of a 25-percent tariff on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports. The trade war, rising corporate bankruptcies, and a steep decline in the value of the yuan versus the dollar have raised concerns that China's economy could face a steeper slowdown. Recent data showed growth has already started to cool. The government has responded by releasing more liquidity into the banking system, encouraging lending and promising a more "active" fiscal policy. US companies are putting in place measures to cushion the impact of the trade row, including price hikes, and a number of companies - from industrial firms to home furnishers and toymakers - have said they will move some sourcing and manufacturing outside of China. China's exports are expected to have maintained solid growth in July despite the new tariffs on billions of dollars of ship-

ments to the United States, though the outlook has darkened as both sides raised the stakes in the trade brawl.

China markets take hit

The vitriol from the People's Daily follows Trump's comments on Twitter from Saturday in which he boasted that his strategy of placing steep tariffs on Chinese imports was "working far better than anyone ever anticipated", and that Beijing was now talking to the United States about trade.

Trump cited losses in China's stock market as he predicted the US market could "go up dramatically" once trade deals were renegotiated. China's stocks were lower yesterday as Beijing's latest tariff threats escalated the tit-for-tat Sino-US trade war, while the yuan weakened after briefly edging up despite the central bank's latest efforts to shore up the tumbling currency.

Michael McCarthy, Sydney-based chief market strategist at CMC Markets and Stockbroking, wrote in a note to clients that while China's proposed new tariffs appeared proportionate, "White House tweets claiming an upper hand for the US over the weekend risk another round of confidence sapping

exchanges." A flurry of articles in Chinese state media emphasized the resilience of China's economy and downplayed concerns about the impact of the Sino-US trade war.

"Market participants foresee a relatively stable Chinese currency in the near term, without fear of impacts from the US-China trade dispute. They expect solid economic growth momentum amid policy fine-tuning," an article in the official English-language China Daily newspaper said, citing Chinese economists. On Friday, the People's Bank of China said it would require banks to keep reserves equivalent to 20 percent of their clients' foreign exchange forwards positions from yesterday, in a move to stabilize the yuan. "Leading China's economy on a stable and far-reaching path, we have confidence and determination," another commentary in the main edition of the People's Daily said.

Trump has threatened tariffs on over \$500 billion in Chinese goods, covering virtually all US imports from the Asian giant, demanding that Beijing make fundamental changes to its policies on intellectual property protection, technology transfers and subsidies for high technology industries. The nationalist Global Times, responding in an editorial late on Sunday to White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow's remarks that China should not underestimate Trump's resolve, said China did not fear "sacrificing short-term interests". "China has time to fight to the end. Time will prove that the US eventually makes a fool of itself," the Global Times said. — Reuters

HSBC to pay \$765m US fine over crisis-era conduct

LONDON: Britain's Asia-focused bank HSBC yesterday revealed a \$765-million US fine over the lender's actions in the run-up to the subprime crisis, as it also logged rising first-half profits.

HSBC said it has agreed to pay the large US penalty over its conduct in residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS), a type of investment derivative that bundled home loans into securities and was sold to investors before the 2008 financial meltdown.

"HSBC reached a settlement-in-principle to resolve the Department of Justice's civil claims relating to its investigation of HSBC's legacy RMBS origination and securitization activities from 2005 to 2007," the lender announced in a results statement. "Under the terms of the settlement, HSBC will pay the DoJ a civil monetary penalty of \$765 million."

The London-headquartered giant is the lat-

est global bank to reach a US settlement over conduct in the run-up to the notorious subprime crisis which sparked a worldwide recession. However, the deal was agreed in July and therefore was not included in HSBC's first half results, which cover the six months to June.

Brexit, trade war headwinds

HSBC posted advancing first-half profits and expressed optimism over the outlook despite headwinds from rising costs, the China-US trade war and Brexit.

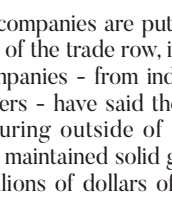
Pre-tax profit rose almost five percent to \$10.7 billion in the six months to the end of June compared with a year earlier. Net profit or earnings after taxation gained 2.5 percent to \$7.173 billion, boosted by high-growth markets particularly in Asia and the Middle East.

"We haven't yet seen any impact on our business or through our customers," chief executive John Flint told reporters when asked about the impact of the China-US trade spat.

"It's still too early to tell and in terms of estimating potential impact it's difficult because we don't quite know what the substance of the trade war will be. "We've got some tariffs in place and some coming, but the full impact is very difficult to estimate. "It is possible that it will shave China's GDP growth by a modest amount but (it is) too early to



China proposes new tariffs as trade war heats up



start predicting." Turning to Britain's looming departure from the European Union next year, the bank chief stressed that its cost estimate for a so-called hard Brexit remained unchanged. The lender had warned late last year that a chaotic Brexit could cost it up to \$300 million.

It had also outlined tentative plans to switch 1,000 jobs to Paris from London owing to Britain's departure from the European Union due in 2019. "Our role has been to ensure that we are in a position to secure customers' ... needs across the UK, Europe and the network that we serve in 67 markets across the world," added Flint. "Our planning from the outset has been based on what is euphemistically called a hard Brexit, and therefore the cost guidance that we have given in that regard remains absolutely consistent with what we have talked about in the past."

Costs outpace revenues

Revenues were up four percent at \$27.3 billion in the reporting period-but operating expenses grew seven percent to \$17.5 billion. In late morning deals, HSBC shares fell 0.53 percent to 712 pence on London's rising FTSE 100 index. "The market has reacted cautiously to the numbers ... because the group reported costs rising significantly faster than income,"



LONDON: Pedestrians walk past a HSBC UK bank branch in central London. —AFP

noted Hargreaves Lansdown analyst Steve Clayton. After wide-ranging cutbacks that saw 50,000 jobs axed in an overhaul announced in 2015, the bank added yesterday that it was now hiring again as it seeks new growth areas. Flint said in June that he plans to

invest \$15-17 billion primarily in growth and technology projects, with a particular focus on accelerating growth in Asia. HSBC, founded in Hong Kong and Shanghai in 1865, sees its focus firmly in Asia, although it has been based in Britain since 1992. — AFP

Business

BOJ's architect of 'shock and awe' plots retreat from stimulus

Deputy governor Amamiya trying to steer toward future rate hike

TOKYO: More than five years into a radical plan to boost the world's third-biggest economy, the Bank of Japan sent a message of quiet surrender last week, admitting it couldn't stoke inflation and walking back steps intended to do so.

The man leading the BOJ away from its program of unprecedented asset-buying and low or negative interest rates is the man who largely crafted the measures in the first place, bank deputy governor Masayoshi Amamiya. A fan of classical music who has recently begun to favor Russian composers, Amamiya "plays the piano, guitar and flute well," says a person who has known him for decades.

Unlike many previous central bank leaders, who took an academic approach to policy, Amamiya simply "tries to create something new," the person said.

The career central banker's latest creation, a mechanism for unwinding much of his previous work, has been quietly under development for almost a year. Interviews by Reuters with a dozen people familiar with the bank's thinking reveal for the first time that there were plans to raise rates twice this year.

In January, market turbulence pulled the rug from under an announcement of an increase. The bank then

hoped to signal higher rates in July and raise them in September, but weak inflation data scuttled that idea too. Neither plan was made public.

Last week, the central bank took more subtle action, rolling back parts of its policies that have hurt banks, paralyzed Japan's bond market and distorted stock prices even as they failed to ignite healthy inflation.

The move represented a compromise Amamiya forged with his boss, bank governor Haruhiko Kuroda, to appease doves on the policy board with a promise to keep rates very low for an extended period.

He swung a key vote, deputy governor Masazumi Wakatabe, allowing the new policy to move forward without any clouds of doubt from a senior official.

"The latest steps marked a major turning point for Kuroda's stimulus program," a source said. "The deflationists have become a minority, which means the BOJ is turning more hawkish." Amamiya, who largely crafted Kuroda's initially successful "shock-and-awe" campaign, may now be more mindful of his own legacy, insiders say. The Bank of Japan declined to comment for this article.

A roadmap to a sustainable stimulus program could serve as his own path to succeeding Kuroda as governor in five years. But there are no easy answers. A few more

years of ultra-low rates could drag down weak regional banks. Explicitly raising rates may trigger an unwelcome increase in the yen that could cool the export-reliant economy and anger politicians.

"Unwinding monetary support is far more difficult than expanding it," said a former BOJ policymaker who retains close contact with incumbent central bankers.

And looming in the background is the stubborn fact that low rates have done nothing to nudge inflation toward the central bank's target of 2 percent.

"Everyone at the BOJ knows what they're doing now is quite radical and needs amending at some point," another source said.

Mr BoJ

Dubbed "Mr. BOJ" by central bank watchers for innovating most of the bank's recent bold monetary easing tools, the 62-year-old Amamiya has spent most of his career at the monetary affairs department, which drafts policy and speeches. His candid, down-to-earth style won him close ties with powerful politicians and business executives, helping lift him to the second-highest position in the central bank.

But even the politically savvy Amamiya was blind-

sided by public backlash after the bank, desperate to protect a fragile economy from a strengthening yen, pushed short-term rates below zero in January 2016.

The move proved to be a disaster. Amamiya, who had three years earlier won praise for spearheading Kuroda's radical stimulus, received daily visits from bank executives furious about low bond yields, which were crushing margins. At his direction, bureaucrats soon were huddled in the seventh-floor meeting room at the BOJ's headquarters in Tokyo, searching for ways to support yields that had sunk far below the level they were shooting for.

Their brainstorming led to a policy called yield curve control, which kept short-term rates negative and guided long-term rates to around zero. The policy represented the first tool carefully designed to unwind Kuroda's massive asset-buying program.

It freed the bank from its obligation to buy a fixed amount of bonds, allowing it to steadily slow bond purchases to roughly half of what it had loosely pledged - just enough to keep yields pinned near zero.

"In a way, it was back to orthodox monetary policy that used interest rate targets as a policy tool," a third source said. "It was the first step toward policy normalization." — Reuters

Agility reports 19% Q2 earnings rise

KUWAIT: Agility, a leading global logistics provider, yesterday reported second-quarter earnings of 13.8 fils per share on net profit of KD 20 million, an increase of 18.7 percent over the same period in 2017.

EBITDA grew 13.6 percent to KD 37.1million. Revenue increased 12.3 percent to KD 384.2million. First-half earnings of 26.9fils per share and net profit of KD 38.9 million were up 24 percent. First-half EBITDA was KD 74.8 million, an increase of 18 percent. Revenue for the first half was KD 756 million, an increase of 14.1 percent.

Tarek Sultan, Agility Vice Chairman and CEO, said: "Our second quarter results were in line with expectations and consistent with the previous growth trend the company has been seeing. Agility's Infrastructure companies performed well, as did our logistics business, which witnessed another quarter of volume and revenue growth despite margin pressure."

Global Integrated Logistics (GIL) business strategy of effective trade lanes development, productivity optimization and defined tailor-made solutions to customers continued to generate favorable results. GIL gross revenue grew 13.4 percent to KD 289.3 million. Net revenue rose 5 percent to KD 66.7 million, primarily due to growth in Freight Forwarding and Contract Logistics. The respective revenue and net revenue growth rates for the first half were 14.5 percent to KD 567.4 million and 6.4 percent to KD 131.3 million.

Air freight continued its strong performance in Q2, driven by solid volume growth of 14 percent and stable yields compared to the same period of last year. Air freight net revenue grew 21.9 percent in Q2 and 20.3 per-

	Q2 2018 (Million KD)	Q2 2017 (Million KD)	Variance (%)	H1 2018 (Million KD)	H1 2017 (Million KD)	Variance (%)
Revenue	384.2	342.1	12.3%	756	662.6	14.1%
Net Revenue	124.3	117.8	5.5%	248.9	228.6	8.9%
EBITDA	37.1	32.6	13.6%	74.8	63.4	18%
Net Profit	20	16.8	18.7%	38.9	31.4	23.9%
EPS (fils)	13.8	11.6	18.7%	26.9	21.7	24%

cent in the first half. Ocean freight had consistent volume growth but with lower yields. In Q2, container volume increased 8.2 percent vs. Q2 2017. Ocean freight net revenue grew 7.4 percent in Q2 and 7.3 percent in the first half.

Regionally, Air freight and Ocean freight performance was strongest in Americas, Asia Pacific and Europe. Contract Logistics continued its steady growth, primarily in the Middle East and Asia Pacific, as a result of new business and effective utilization of facilities. Contract Logistics net revenue grew 3.2 percent in Q2 and 4.5 percent in the first half.

GIL's net revenue margin was 23 percent in Q2, down from 24.9 percent a year earlier due to yield degradation in Road freight and Project Logistics, primarily in the Middle East and Europe. GIL's EBITDA reached KD 9.3 million in Q2, and its EBITDA margin was 3.2 percent, slightly lower than 3.6 percent in Q2 2017. In the first half, EBITDA grew 13.3 percent to KD 16.8 million. EBITDA margin in the first half remained flat at 3 percent vs. the same period in the previous year.

GIL is accelerating its digital transformation to increase the efficiency of its business processes, gain business insights, develop innovative logistics solutions, differentiate its products and better connect to its customers.

Agility's infrastructure companies
Agility's Infrastructure group EBITDA rose

16.8 percent (after adjusting for the impact of the US government settlement in 2017), to KD 31.3million in Q2. Revenue grew 9.5 percent to KD 97.5 million. For the first half of 2018, EBITDA grew by 20.1 percent and revenue by 14.8 percent. All entities in the group contributed to this performance.

Agility Industrial Real Estate continues to improve the efficiency of its operations in Kuwait. It also concluded its Phase I development in Riyadh of 80K sqm of warehousing capacity and started with Phase II, for which an additional 120K sqm will be delivered next year. Expansion in Africa is progressing according to plan as Agility Industrial Real Estate moves ahead with its development in Ghana and prepares to start new developments in Mozambique, Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire. Tristar, continues to expand its fuels operation with existing customers. Tristar is also investing and diversifying its operations by expanding in shipping and broadening its geographic reach.

National Aviation Services (NAS) operations in Kuwait are generally stable. NAS operations in Cote d'Ivoire and Afghanistan continue to be positive contributors to the group. In addition, NAS's new operation in Uganda has contributed significantly in 2018. Operations in Tanzania and Morocco continue to bear down on our group, but Tanzania is poised for a turnaround in 2018 and has numerous opportunities in the pipeline.

Gulf Air chairman and deputy CEO receive GFBTU general secretary



MANAMA: Zayed R Alzayani, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism and Chairman of Gulf Air's Board of Directors, alongside the airline's Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Captain Waleed Abdulhameed Al-Alawi yesterday received the General Secretary of the General Federation of Bahrain Trade Unions (GFBTU), Hassan Al-Halwachi, along with a number of GFBTU representatives and Sawsan Al-Arabi, Chief of Gulf Air Trade Union.

During the meeting, a number of matters related to labor issues were discussed. Alzayani praised GFBTU's role and work in the Kingdom of Bahrain, specifically their efforts to develop cooperation and close ties across various sectors with the greater goal of creating a stable working environment that will operate in the interests of employers and workers. The meeting was an important platform for Gulf Air to reiterate its longstanding support of GFBTU and

vision of close collaboration to achieve the Kingdom of Bahrain's vision and strategies in this regard.

Gulf Air is in the midst of a #YearOfChange which sees the airline, in 2018 receive 5 Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners and 1 Airbus A320neo aircraft. Gulf Air's new and highly anticipated fleet entry, the airline's Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, serves Gulf Air's double daily London Heathrow service, offering increased capacity and enhanced, superior on-board products and services. The national carrier's incoming aircraft orders will ensure it maintains one of the youngest fleets in the region while building upon its award-winning reliability, on time performance and product and service standards. In 2018, Gulf Air has launched flights to six new destinations with flights to Bangalore and Calicut in India, Alexandria and Sharm El Shaikh in Egypt, Casablanca in Morocco and Baku in Azerbaijan.

Kuwait Times

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Business

KAMCO posts net profit of KD 421,407 for first half of 2018, an increase of 12%

Revenues rose by 2% to KD 4.8 million in H1

KUWAIT: KAMCO Investment Company announced its financial results for the period ended on June 30th, 2018. The company recorded a net profit of KD 421,407 for the first half of 2018, an increase of 12 percent in comparison to KD 375,364 during the same period in 2017. Earnings-per-share (EPS) for the period is 1.77 fils, compared to 1.58 fils in 2017. Fee income reached KD 3.8 million, an increase of 18 percent from KD 3.2 million achieved in the first half of 2017. Revenues rose by 2 percent to KD 4.8 million for the first half of 2018 from KD 4.7 million in 2017.

Total assets under management (AUM),

stood at KD 3.1 billion, with new money raised in funds and client portfolios.

Chief Executive Officer of KAMCO, Faisal Mansour Sarkhou, said, "Despite an anticipated slight increase in expenses, due to implementing the firm's growth strategy and expansion plan, we have increased our net profits by 12 percent in comparison to the first half of 2017. Our funds and portfolios under management continue to perform well in the market and KAMCO will continue to enhance them to outperform their benchmarks. We will remain focused on reducing our expenses and increasing our profitability by utilizing our resources

through varying market conditions to proactively serve our clients and stakeholders."

He also said, "During the second quarter, our Investment Banking Team has completed several key transactions within the local and regional markets. We acted as the Sole Managers and Arrangers of United Real Estate Company's KD 60 million bond issuance, and were Joint Lead Managers in Damac Real Estate Development's \$400 million Sukuk issuance. In addition to that, our Alternative Investments Team has increased the size of the AUM in the international real estate portfolio to \$344 million."

It is worth mentioning that, the GCC markets

remained mixed during the first half of 2018, Saudi Arabia with its double-digit gains at one end, while Dubai seeing an almost equivalent fall on the other. Most of the gains in Saudi Arabia came on the back of its inclusion in the MSCI's Emerging Markets index. In addition, a positive surprise provided a big boost to Kuwait during the latter half of Q2-18 after MSCI said it would include Kuwait in its 2019 review. Large-cap stocks remained the top pick in most of the positive performing markets while a conservative stance was followed in the case of Dubai resulting in a steep decline in trading activity.



Faisal Mansour Sarkhou

Gulf Insurance Group announces KD 6.6m net profit for H1 2018

KUWAIT: Gulf Insurance Group (gig) announced a net profit of KD 6.6 million (\$21.7 million), or 36.78 fils per share, for the first half of 2018 compared with net profit of KD 5.4 million (\$17.7 million) for the same period last year, an increase of KD 1.2 million (\$4 million) or 22.7 percent. This increase is due to the improvement of group's underwriting results and increase of the share of results from its subsidiaries.

Shareholder equity reached KD 78.8 million (\$260.3 million), as at June 30, 2018.

Book value per share reached fils440 as at June 30, 2018. Gross written premium reached KD 154.3 million (\$509.7 million) without Takaful Operations Premiums and after incorporating the Takaful Operations, Gross

written premium reached KD 168.1 million (\$555.1 million), a growth of 7.6 percent compared with the same period last year of KD 156.3 million (\$516.2 million). Net investment income and sundry income reached KD 6.8 million (\$22.36 million) compared to KD 6.2 million (\$20.6 million) for the same period last year with an increase of 8.6 percent.

Net technical reserves were raised from being KD 126.3 million (\$417 million) on December 31, 2017, reaching KD 129.3 million (\$427.15 million) as at June 30, 2018. This increase represents a growth of 2.4 percent, supports the company's technical operations and to protect the policyholders rights, thereby strengthening gig's ability to withstand emergencies and risks that may rise in the future. Total assets reached KD 497.3 million (\$1.64 billion) as at June 30, 2018, an increase of KD 4.2 million (\$14 million) or 1 percent from Dec 31 2017.

Khaled Al-Hasan, gig's CEO, said, "Our results for the first half of 2018 reflect the growth we have achieved. This is also a strong indication of the Group's

ability to protect its assets and shareholders' equity. It is also in line with our constant strive to provide the best insurance services to our clients across all markets we operate in, supported by our strategy for regional expansion and increasing our domestic and regional market share."

He added, "We thank our clients for these achievements, as well as the support of our shareholders, namely KIPCO - Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - and Fairfax Middle East Ltd. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to our dedicated employees for their efforts."



Khaled Al-Hasan

Ooredoo offers special Hajj plan

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* For use with the pack + 30 GB extra credit
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KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait announced the launch of a special roaming plan especially tailored for the holy pilgrimage season, giving pilgrims and visitors of the holy lands in Saudi Arabia 200 minutes of international roaming calls, and 60 GB of high-speed internet.

The launch of this product comes to reiterate Ooredoo's commitment to enriching the experiences of its customers with their different and varying needs, as this plan is available for both prepaid and post-paid customers. The usage of this plan can be tracked on Ooredoo's free My Ooredoo app, available for free on iOS AppStore and Android's Google Play Store, giving customers real-time updates on plan usage.

Ooredoo today provides mobile, broadband internet and corporate managed services tailored to the needs of customers and businesses. Ooredoo Kuwait - which is an enlisted company in the Kuwait Stock Exchange Market - operates a number of telecom service providers in the region, such as Ooredoo Algeria, Ooredoo Tunisia, Ooredoo Maldives, and Wataniya Palestine. Ooredoo Kuwait is a member of the international Ooredoo Group based in Doha, Qatar.

Al-Tijari announces winners of Al-Najma new prize program

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced the winners of the weekly and monthly draws as follows :- Monthly draw prize KD 20,000 - Tareq Yousef AbdalSalam Hararah

Weekly draw prize KD 5000 - Prithvi Raj Bhatia Manohar Lal Bhatia

The draw was conducted in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative Abdulaziz Ashkanani. Al-Najma Account was recently revamped by adding several benefits to the prize program through which now the account provides its customers the chance to win the biggest annual cash prize offered by a bank in Kuwait and over the globe as much as KD 1 million and half (KD 1,500,000) so that customers' dreams can easily turn to reality.

The bank stated that the account prizes this year is featured by the highest cash prize and diversity of prizes throughout the year clarifying that Al-Najma Account will offer weekly prize of KD 5,000 and monthly prize of KD 20,000 and a semi-annual prize of KD 500,000 for which the draw will be held on 1st July 2018 in addition to the grand prize (the biggest prize in the world) of KD 1,500,000 for which the draw will be held in January 2019. Al-Najma Account can be opened by depositing KD 100, and customer should maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 to be eligible to enter all draws on Al-Najma Account prizes. As for the chances of winning, the more balance a customer maintains in Al-Najma Account, the more chances the account holder will get to win, where each KD 25 will give the customer one chance to win, the account also offers addi-

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Al-Tijari

tional benefits like the ATM card, a credit card against customer's account and all CBK banking services that customer can enjoy.

Now CBK existing customers can open Al-Najma Account through Al-Tijari Online and enter all draws without visiting the Bank branch. However, CBK non-customers can submit account opening application via the Bank's website where the Bank's Sales Unit will call them to arrange visit to the customers to complete the account opening formalities.

Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi account draw

"Yawmi" account offers
125,000
5,000

"Yawmi" changed my day

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

The lucky winners are:

- * Saud Abdulaziz Abdullah Alhojailan
- * Rashed Salman Rashed Alaqrouqah
- * Amar Mohammad Abdullah Aljaldi
- * Yousef Hamad Aljari
- * Khalil Ibraheim Yousef Eiran

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, wherein the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the youngest commercial Bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Burgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

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

Moody's upgrades DP World's ratings to Baa1; stable outlook

LONDON: Moody's Investors Service, ("Moody's") yesterday upgraded the long-term issuer rating of DP World Limited (DPW) to Baa1 from Baa2. The outlook on all ratings is stable. A complete list of rating actions can be found at the end of this press release. "Our decision to upgrade DP World's ratings reflects a strong track record in managing its business through industry cycles as well as achieving its growth ambitions, while maintaining a healthy financial profile," says Rehan Akbar, a Moody's Vice President-Senior Analyst. "DP World's growing scale and geographic footprint has increased its business resilience which Moody's now sees as more appropriately reflected in the Baa1 rating."

RATINGS RATIONALE

Yesterday's rating action on DP World reflects

- (1) its diversified global operations;
- (2) the positive expected long-term growth in international container traffic; (3) its solid profitability and liquidity profile; (4) its expected adherence to leverage targets as proven by management's track record; and (5) its flexibility to delay capex to support the balance sheet if needed. The company tends to focus on origin and destination ports, which are relatively less sensitive to cyclical downturns as opposed to transshipment ports. Financial metrics are healthy, with Moody's adjusted EBITDA margin of 58.6 percent, adjusted funds from operations (FFO) interest coverage of 5.3x and adjusted FFO/debt of 19 percent as of 2017YE.

DPW's Baa1 credit rating also incorporates its

- (1) strong correlation to fluctuating global trade volumes; (2) material geographic exposure to Dubai; and (3) significant ongoing capex and the occasional bolt-on acquisitions that temper deleveraging, although Moody's expects the company to keep internal leverage within management targets of reported net debt/EBITDA below 4.0x. Moreover, Moody's assumes a lack of nega-

tive interference by DP World's ultimate corporate shareholder, Dubai World. The risk of escalation in trade tensions between the USA and its key trading partners creates significant uncertainty in global trading conditions and is a downside risk for DPW. Moody's believes the increased uncertainty will adversely impact business confidence and delay investment decisions leading to a weaker global trade outlook in H2 2018 and potentially well into 2019.

(2) DPW's direct exposure to export ports in the Far East is limited, with the Pusan Newport Company (PNC) terminal in Korea and the Saigon Premier Container Terminal (SPCT) in Vietnam the only terminals in that region which are consolidated into DPW's financials. The company is however exposed to non-consolidated minority stakes in several export terminals in Qingdao, China from which it has received dividend income in the past. The company does not operate any port in the USA and its operations in Canada comprise less than 5 percent of the group's total container capacity. Overall, Moody's believes DPW's credit metrics will remain commensurate to a Baa1 rating even after sensitizing moderate weakness in DPW's terminals that could be potentially affected by rising trade tensions.

Moody's also recognizes that the company's diversified operations shows that while parts of its port portfolio may face more challenging operating conditions in the near future, other parts of the portfolio may be net beneficiaries of any changes to global trade flows. Moody's base case therefore does not envision a more severe 'trade war' that results in a structural deterioration in DPW's cash flow generating ability.

LIQUIDITY

DPW has a strong liquidity profile underpinned by (1) reported cash balances of \$1.5 billion as of 2017YE; (2) access to a committed \$2.0 billion revolving credit facility that matures in June 2023 and was almost completely undrawn as of 2017YE; and (3) our expectation that the company will generate around \$2.0 billion of operating cash flows annually (including dividend income). Total sources will be more than sufficient to cover forecasted outflows over the next 12 months of (1) up to \$1.4 billion capital expenditures; (2) around \$350 - \$380 million of dividend payments; (3) \$302 million of debt maturing in 2018; and (4) M&A activity such as the acquisition of Drydocks World and Dubai Maritime City closed in January 2018.

Respecting fiscal rules not Italy's priority: Deputy PM

ROME: Respecting European Union's fiscal rules is not the priority of Italy's new government though it will try to abide by them if they do not hamper its reform agenda, deputy Prime Minister Luigi Di Maio said yesterday. He said Rome would try to apply its planned reforms, which include tax cuts and higher spending on pensions and welfare, without breaching fiscal conditions set by the European Union to help Italy reduce its public debt, the highest in the bloc after bailed-out Greece.

However, "our priority is the citizens and their needs," Di Maio told broadcaster RAI in an interview.

Asked whether he considered sticking to a 3 percent EU limit on the public deficit an unconditional duty, Di Maio said that respecting fiscal rules "cannot be a way to say that we cannot implement" the reform agenda. The comments had no immediate impact on Italy's bond yields, after a sell-off of the country's debt last week that on Friday briefly pushed yields on its 10-year bonds above 3 percent for the first time since June.

Di Maio's main government partner Matteo Salvini, leader of the right-wing League, made similar remarks on Sunday. "We'll do our best to avoid having to raise the deficit and try to respect all the little rules, but if the choice is between helping or ruining families, I say the 3 percent deficit-to-GDP ratio is not the Bible," Salvini told daily Corriere della Sera.

The ruling coalition is made up of the League and the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement led by Di Maio. The party chiefs' remarks seem at odds with Economy Minister Giovanni Tria, an academic who is not from either party, who has repeatedly said he wants to prevent any rise in Italy's structural deficit, adjusted for economic growth fluctuations.

Senior government officials reached a compromise on the next budget's outline on Aug. 3. Tria said he was satisfied with the preliminary agreement, stressing it was compatible with budgetary objectives.

Another meeting on the budget is expected to take place tomorrow, according to Italian newspapers. The government needs to agree its fiscal plan for next year by September and must present a draft budget to the European Commission by mid-October. —Reuters

Technology & Science

Apple shines in history-making style, despite some bruises

Brand still stands for quality product, great design, ease of use

SAN FRANCISCO: Despite fears of sapped inspiration, slowing sales, tariffs and suffocating regulation, Apple is now shining brighter than any other private-sector company in history, as the first with a \$1 trillion market value. Since starting out in a family garage in Silicon Valley more than 40 years ago, Apple weathered boardroom drama, market missteps, and even a close call with bankruptcy on its path to the milestone, thanks to products that radically transformed lifestyles and the way we communicate with each other.

The symbolic stock market accomplishment is a "natural result" given Apple's winning steps, and is "certainly not the finish line," Creative Strategies analyst Carolina Milanesi reasoned in an AFP interview. Apple has sold more than a billion iPhones. The handsets account for more than half of the Cupertino-based company's revenue.

In the second quarter of this year, the company recorded profits that jumped more than 30 percent to \$11.5 billion, besting market expectations despite selling slightly fewer iPhones than analysts projected. Apple's revenue in the fiscal third quarter soared 17 percent to \$53.3 billion from the same period a year earlier on the back of sales of pricier iPhones, online services and wearable devices.

“

Certainly not the finish line

”

Waiting for magic

However, iPhones accounted for 14.7 percent of the smartphones sold in 2017, while South Korean consumer electronics behemoth Samsung had 21.6 percent of that market, according to industry tracker IDC. Apple shipped 41.3 million iPhones, claiming 12.1 percent of the global market compared to 20.9 percent for Samsung and 15.8 percent for Huawei. Apple has seen sales of Mac computers grow despite overall shrinking in the market.

Since the death of legendary Apple co-founder and pitch-

man Steve Jobs in 2011, analysts have watched for the company to wow the world with the next "big thing" that will shake up culture and fuel revenue like the Macintosh, the iPod or the iPhone. While that kind of innovation has yet to reach store shelves, Apple has consistently defied dour predictions. In early May, Apple unveiled a new \$100 billion share buyback plan, alleviating worries about the iPhone's prospects and a hit from US-China trade tensions.

The company has managed to notch higher revenues, even when iPhone sales fall shy of expectations due to a trend of Apple making more money off each handset. Apple chief executive Tim Cook has remained firmly bullish, touting the company's product pipeline and championing good sales of the iPhone X, a recently unveiled model whose \$1,000 price tag analysts worried would be excessive. Benedict Evans of Silicon Valley venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz saw strength in Apple's tendency to do the unexpected in a way of thinking it likely inherited from Jobs.

"The tendency of so many people in tech to presume an Apple product will fail because it makes choices that they wouldn't have made is one of Apple's greatest competitive advantages," Evans said in a missive fired off on Twitter. And while online pre-orders and global product releases have whittled down the long, colorful queues at Apple shops on iPhone launch days, throngs still make pilgrimages to lay hands on devices. "The brand still stands for quality product, great design, ease of use and a customer-first approach to technology," analyst Milanesi said of Apple.

Privacy a religion

Apple has managed to shine despite bruises to its image that included being accused of keeping young people addict-



NEW YORK: The Apple logo is displayed in an Apple store in lower Manhattan in New York City. —AFP

ed to smartphones, slowing performance of older iPhones to motivate upgrades and sidestepping taxes by nestling cash in offshore havens.

The company has battled with the US government over making iPhones so secure that even police can't peek at data, and prides itself on not making money off people's personal information the way ad-targeting companies such as Facebook do.

"Tim Cook has made privacy a religion at Apple," Gene Munster of Loup Ventures said in an online post early this year. "We expect over the next year investors will look favorably on Apple given the company's privacy-first ethos in an age where privacy is becoming a more prevalent topic." Apple has spotlighted the growing amount of money it takes in from music, applications, games, subscriptions and services it sells to people using its devices. —AFP

Bezos throws cash, engineers at rocket program

SEATTLE: Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos is racing to pull his private space company out of start-up mode and move into production amid signals that his firm's heavy rocket set for lift-off in 2020 may slip behind schedule, according to people familiar with the project. Blue Origin has added hundreds of engineers over the past three years and continues to ramp up in an expansion that one employee described as "hyperbolic." The Kent, Washington-based company is looking to double its current workforce to around 3,000 employees over the next two to three years, a top customer told Reuters.

The urgency centers on a rocket dubbed New Glenn. The heavy-launch vehicle, which Bezos promises will be able to haul satellites and, eventually, people into orbit, is central to the company's hopes of winning lucrative military and commercial contracts. New Glenn's first-stage booster will be reusable, a key piece of Bezos' strategy to lower costs and increase the frequency of launches. Blue Origin executives have stated publicly that test flights will begin within two years.

But whether Blue Origin can hit that mark remains to be seen. With the clock ticking on 2020, company engineers are still finalizing details on New Glenn's design and just beginning to build model components that must be put through extreme testing, people familiar with the project said. They requested anonymity because they are not authorized to speak publicly.

Blue Origin has privately acknowledged in conversations with French satellite firm Eutelsat SA - its first New Glenn customer - that its 2020 time frame is "very aggressive," a person with direct knowledge of talks between the companies said. The firms have padded their contract, which covers the launch of a geostationary satellite in the period 2021-2022, so that Blue Origin will incur no penalties if it is late, the person added.

Yohann Leroy, Eutelsat's Deputy Chief Executive Officer, declined to discuss details of his company's contract with Blue Origin, but said he was optimistic New Glenn will be ready to carry his firm's satellite by the end of 2022. "Of course, I cannot guarantee that they will respect their initial timeline, but we are confident that they will not be very far from it," Leroy said.

A Blue Origin spokeswoman did not respond to requests for comment about the company's hiring practices, strategy or competitive challenges. The private firm has been tight-lipped on New Glenn's production status and plans for bringing it to market. Mounting a successful test in 2020 would give Blue Origin its best shot at fending off competing rockets and new ones expected to enter the market in the next few years, analysts said.

Rivals include aerospace stalwarts United Launch Alliance, a partnership between Boeing Co and Lockheed Martin; and France's ArianeGroup, a joint venture between Airbus and Safran. Japan and China are likewise designing reusable rockets. But 18 years after its founding, Blue Origin has found itself lagging a competitor closer to home: SpaceX. Founded by Tesla Inc Chief Executive Elon Musk, the Hawthorne, California-based company has upended the space industry with its relatively low-cost reusable Falcon 9 rockets. —Reuters

Invasion of big, voracious lizards threatens US South

AUSTIN, Texas: A group of South American lizards that can grow up to four feet long has established a home in the Florida wild after being brought to the United States as pets, and the reptiles could begin a voracious march across the US South, according to a new study. Tegus lizards, which currently live in two large colonies in Florida, could expand into an area from the Carolinas to Central Texas, according to the scientific report published in July on the website for the journal Nature.

"They are voracious, omnivorous predatory lizards that can live in a variety of habitats, but we can't know what is going to happen or how intense this invasion is going to become until the effects are upon us," said Lee Fitzgerald, a professor at Texas A&M University and curator of its Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections. Fitzgerald, a co-author of the

study, said in an interview this week it could take years for the tegu lizards to reach their potential range, but new hot spots pop up as more pet lizards escape or are dumped in the wild by owners.

There are no current estimates of wild populations of tegus in the United States. In South America, the large-bodied lizards range widely east of the Andes and include species such as the Argentine black and white tegu. Armed with strong jaws and tails that they can wield as thumping weapons, the lizards in Florida devour the eggs of American alligators and ground-nesting birds, wildlife officials said. The reptiles also have a taste for insects, fruit and birds.

"As far as being a damaging invasive species, it really depends on what the threatened resources are in the areas where you might get tegus," said Robert Reed, chief of the Invasive Species Science Branch at the US Geological Survey, and another report co-author. Tegus owners describe their pets as big, calm and occasionally affectionate lizards that like sunning themselves and are not picky about what they eat. But they can also be ornery and tough to handle.

In Florida, local wild populations of breeding tegu lizards are found in at least two counties, Miami-Dade and Hillsborough, home to Tampa, while there



FLORIDA: A black and white Tegus lizard is shown in the Florida Everglades. —Reuters

have been sightings in other parts of the state, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. On private lands, Florida hunters without a license are allowed to kill tegu lizards if it is done humanely. On public lands, the state is trying to get rid of the lizards

through traps.

"The most important thing that the public can do to stop the spread of non-native species like tegus is to NEVER release nonnative animals into the wild," commission specialist Jamie Rager said in an email. "Don't let it loose." —Reuters

Googlers bristle at censoring search for China

SAN FRANCISCO: Word that Google is crafting a search engine to meet China's draconian censorship rules has sparked widespread employee anger at the company which has responded by limiting workers' access to documents about the project, a report said Friday. Google was scurrying to stop leaks and quell outrage inside the company over what had been a stealth project prior to a report this week by news website The Intercept.

"Everyone's access to documents got turned off, and is being turned on [on a] document-by-document basis," a source told the news site. "There's been total radio silence from leadership, which is making a lot of people upset and scared. ... Our internal meme site and Google Plus are full of talk, and people are a.n.g.r.y." Google withdrew its search engine from China eight years ago due to censorship and hacking but it is now working on a project for the country codenamed "Dragonfly," an employee told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Huawei eyes smartphone summit after passing Apple

SHANGHAI: China's Huawei on Friday said it could replace Samsung as the world's top smartphone maker by late next year, just days after data showed it surpassed Apple for the number-two spot despite being essentially barred from the key US market. The chief of Huawei's consumer division, Richard Yu, made the remark at the release of business results for the first half of 2018, during which unlisted Huawei said it shipped more than 95 million smartphones, an increase of about 30 percent.

The search project—which works like a filter that sorts out certain topics—can be tested within the company's internal networks, according to the worker. "There's a lot of angst internally. Some people are very mad we're doing it," the source said. The tech giant had already come under fire this year from thousands of employees who signed a petition against a \$10-million contract with the US military, which was not renewed.

A Google spokesman declined to confirm or deny the existence of the project. "We provide a number of mobile apps in China, such as Google Translate and Files Go, help Chinese developers, and have made significant investments in Chinese companies like JD.com," spokesman Taj Meadows told AFP when news of Dragonfly broke. "But we don't comment on speculation about future plans."

A Bloomberg report on Friday said that Google's effort to get back into China includes seeking local partners, perhaps Tencent Holdings, to provide datacenter and computing capacity for services hosted in the internet cloud. Google did not respond to requests for comment on Friday. US internet titans have long struggled with doing business in China, home of a "Great Firewall" that blocks politically sensitive content, such as the 1989 Tiananmen massacre.

"It's no question that we become the number two next year. In Q4 next year it's possible we become number one," Yu said in Shenzhen, the southern Chinese city where Huawei is based. He added that "the past six months have been incredible". Huawei took second place from Apple in a tightening global smartphone market during the second quarter, according to figures released Tuesday by tech-industry trackers International Data Corporation (IDC).

South Korean titan Samsung remained on top in April-June, shipping 71.5 million handsets for a 20.9 percent market share, IDC said. But Huawei sold 54.2 million phones for a 15.8 percent market share, followed by Apple's 41.3 million iPhones that gave it 12.1 percent of the market. It was the first time since early

2010 that Apple was not in the top two. IDC said 342 million smartphones were shipped during the second quarter, down 1.8 percent from the same period of 2017 and the third consecutive quarter of year-over-year declines.

Market saturation and rising prices are among factors blamed for cooling growth rates. The leader in global telecommunications equipment, Huawei is essentially blocked from selling phones in the United States on security grounds owing to suspicions of the company's links to the Chinese government. Huawei has long disputed any such links. Frozen out of the US phone market, Huawei has made inroads worldwide largely by shipping high volumes of its cheaper handsets in Europe, Africa and Asia. —AFP



BEIJING: This file picture shows people walking near the Google company logo outside the former Google China headquarters in Beijing. —AFP

Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and The New York Times website are blocked in China, but Microsoft's Bing search engine continues to operate. In early 2010, Google shut down its search engine in mainland China after rows over censorship and hacking. Google had cried foul over what it said were cyber attacks aimed at its source code and the Gmail accounts of Chinese

human rights activists.

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

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- ◆ Faculty member of (BEST).
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What's On

Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah receives Kuwait Students Union members in UK



Sheikh Mubarak Abdallah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah received president and members of Kuwait Students Union in the United Kingdom. They explained to him the students' situation in Britain, and their

plans to honor the outstanding students this year. Sheikh Mubarak said he will sponsor the ceremony as he does every year, as he recalls his own study in Britain to receive his master's degree. He also received president

and some members of Shareeah college and Islamic studies at Kuwait University who are preparing a ceremony to graduate nearly 600 students in mid September.

KFH organizes FIFA 18 Play Station tournament

Kuwait Finance House (KFH) organized FIFA 18 Play Station tournament for its Hesabi customers for youth. This comes as part of the Bank's keenness to offer tailored products, services and activities that meet the interest and lifestyle of the youth. Over 70 players participated in the event that was held mall at 360 amidst massive public attendance. The Winners received valuable prizes worth over KD 1000 distributed as follows: KD600, KD300 and KD200 for the champion, the runner-up and the third place winner respectively.

KFH offers "Hesabi for Youth" with a variety of privileges as part of its continued endeavor to provide adequate customer care, innovate new products and services and fulfill the needs of all customers of various age categories and interests. Services and products are tailored to suit customers' needs and provide distinguished serve as per global standards in regard to quality, accuracy and speed. KFH has recently launched "Win with Hesabi" campaign that offers 2 BMW 4 Series Coupes and 120 cash prizes worth KD250.

"Hesabi" program has been designed to meet the needs of youth and aspire for their lifestyle. This program presents for youth many exclusive offers and a wide range of privileges including Hesabi ATM card with a unique design, eligibility to issue Hesabi prepaid card (as per credit regulations of KFH), distinguished offers and discounts etc. Hesabi for Youth represents the ambitions and expectations of youth segment and is in line with KFH aspirations to attract the largest portion of youth who represents the major part of Kuwaiti society. Also, the account represents KFH initiative to diversify banking services and products.



Embassy of Guyana holds concert

The Embassy of Guyana, South America in cooperation with the National Council of Culture Arts and Letters (NCCAL) organized 'a One Man Steel Band' featuring

Michael George, a man on the 'Steel Pan' while playing other instruments on Saturday. George performed American and Caribbean music with a group of instrument, some are attached to his body. The event was held at the Abdullhusein Abdul Redha Theater in Salmiya. The event promoted tourism and introduced the embassy's recycling initiatives. Guyana Ambassador Dr Shamir Ally and other dignitaries were present to grace the occasion.



Custard tart with berries



Ingredients:

To prepare the crust:
1/2 cup butter or 100 g, melted
2 1/2 cups digestive biscuits or 250 g, crushed
To prepare the filling:
1 cup sour cream or 250 g
1 tin Nestle Sweetened Condensed Milk or 397 g
1/2 cup fresh orange juice or 125 ml
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

For the topping:

1 cup canned raspberries
2 tablespoons water

Method:

Combine crushed biscuits and butter. Press onto the bottom and sides of a 26cm spring form pan.
In a bowl of an electric mixer, combine sour cream, Nestle Sweetened Condensed Milk, orange juice, eggs and vanilla extract. Beat until smooth.
Gently pour into the crust.
Bake for 35 to 40 minutes or until centre is set. Cool in pan on wire rack.
Put the berries in a small saucepan with the water, simmer until lightly warm.
Spread the berry syrup and berry peaces over the filling, cover and refrigerate.
Remove side of spring form pan. Slice to serve.

SHRIMP KABSA STUFFED BELL PEPPERS

Ingredients:

500 g shrimp, peeled, raw, de-shelled & de-veined
6 large green bell pepper or 900 g
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 large onion or 200 g, finely chopped
1 tablespoon tomato paste
2 medium tomatoes or 200 g, peeled and chopped
2 cubes Maggi Chicken Stock Bouillon Cube or 20 g
2 cups water or 500 ml, hot
2 small chili pepper, green, chopped
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1 cinnamon stick
2 teaspoons ground cardamom
1 1/2 cups basmati rice or 300 g
Pinch of salt
Pinch of ground black pepper

Method:

Prepare Bell Peppers by cutting open the top and removing seeds and membrane from inside. Discard seeds and membrane, stand peppers and tops in a large oven proof pan and set aside.
In a medium size pot, heat Vegetable Oil and cook Onions over medium heat for 5-6 minutes until translucent. Add Tomato Paste and saute for another minute.
Add Tomatoes, MAGGI Chicken Stock, Water, Chili Pepper, Cumin powder, Cardamom powder, Cinnamon stick and Shrimp and Cardamom powder and cook with constant stirring for 3-4 minutes or until the shrimp is turning pink.
Add rice, and stir gently. Bring to boil and cook covered over low heat for 15 minutes or until the rice somehow cooked with some liquid in the bottom of pot.
Divide moist rice mixture equally and stuff (3/4 full) the inside each Bell Pepper, do not press down and/or over fill as the rice will expand while baking.
Cover with tin foil and bake in a 175c oven for

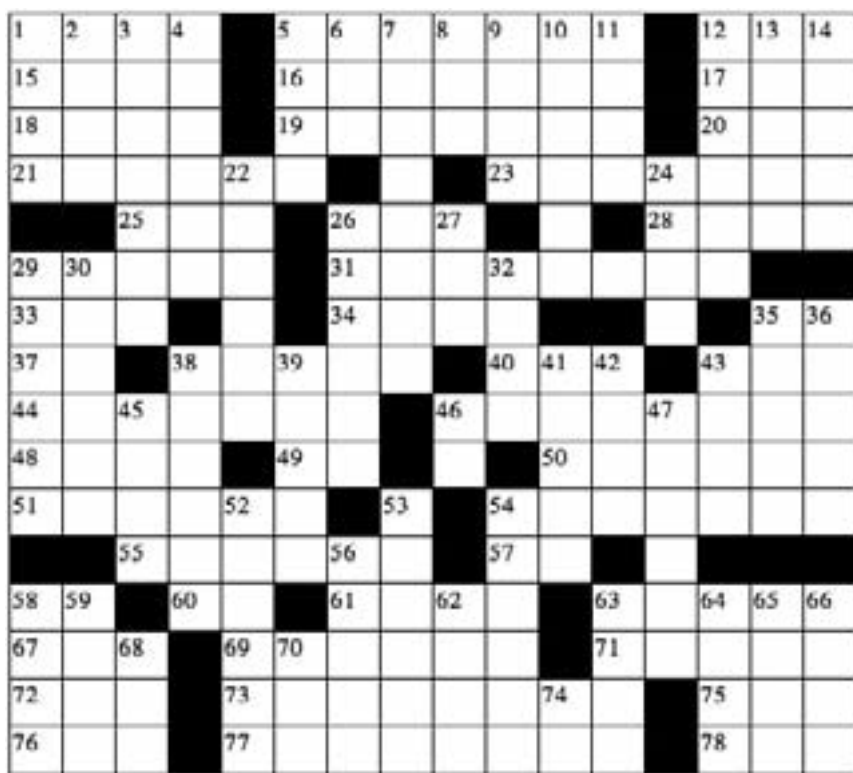


30 minutes.

Remove tin foil and increase temperature to 190c and cook for an additional 10 minutes to grill the outside of the peppers.
Serve hot.

Stars

CROSSWORD 1979



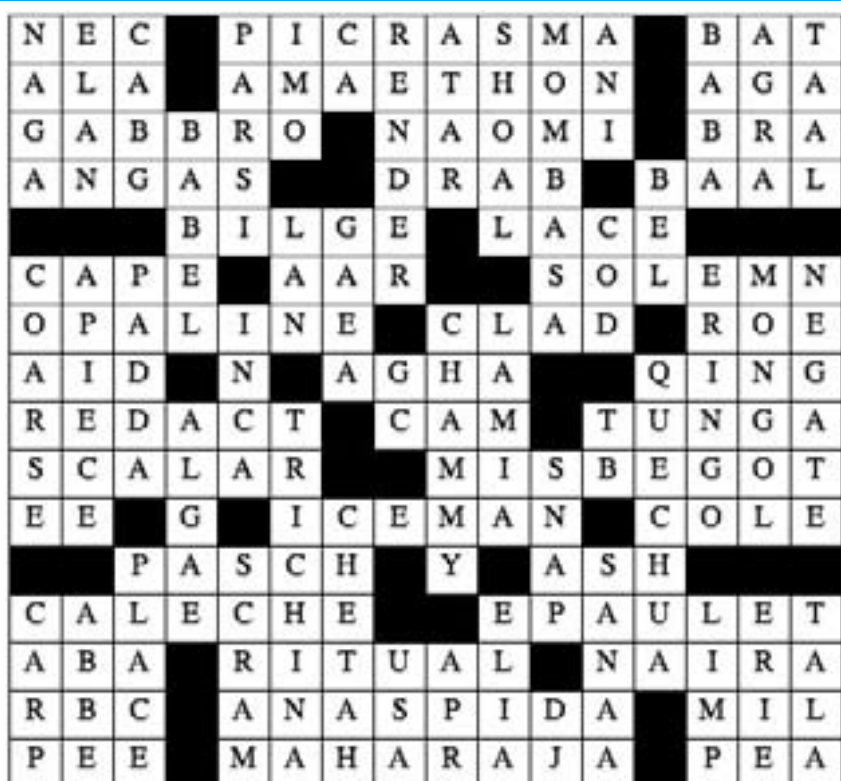
ACROSS

1. A blow from a flat object (as an open hand).
5. To put down by force or authority.
12. (informal) Of the highest quality.
15. A round shape formed by a series of concentric circles.
16. Any tumor derived from cells of the nervous system.
17. Nonresinous wood of a fir tree.
18. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
19. Of or relating to a coast.
20. Being six more than fifty.
21. Type genus of the Blattidae.
23. Of or relating to the ancient Aramaic languages.
25. The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
28. Type genus of the family Arcidae.
29. Wild ox of the Malay Archipelago.
31. A device that controls amount of light admitted.
33. A flat wing-shaped process or wing-like part of an organism.
34. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
37. A state in New England.
40. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
44. Relating to or having or hearing with two ears.
48. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
49. A chronic inflammatory collagen disease affecting connective tissue (skin or joints).
50. Flightless birds having flat breastbones lacking a keel for attachment of flight muscles.
51. A long chair.
55. The dialect of Malay used as the national language of the Republic of Indonesia or of Malaysia.
57. Being nine more than ninety.
58. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
60. Being one more than one hundred.
61. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
67. The airforce of Great Britain.
69. A historical region of southwestern India on the west coast.
71. (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the unconscious.
72. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
73. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
75. An acute inflammatory disease occurring in the intestines of premature infants.
76. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
77. The academic world.
78. Used of a single unit or thing.

DOWN

1. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
2. A pause during which things are calm or activities are diminished.
3. A department of Greece in the central Peloponnese.
4. Any of several trees of the genus Platanus having thin pale bark that scales off in small plates and lobed leaves and ball-shaped heads of fruits.
5. A ruler of the Inca Empire (or a member of his family).
6. (used as a combining form) Recent or new.
7. A member of a North American people formerly living in the Colorado river valley in Arizona.
8. The bureau of the Treasury Department responsible for tax collections.
9. A wine bottle made of leather.
10. A hostel for pilgrims in Turkey.
11. The basic unit of money in Western Samoa.
12. Streaming or flapping or spreading wide as if in a current of air.
13. Of or relating or belonging to a city.
14. Any plant of the genus Erica.
22. Of or relating to the palm of the hand or to the area at the base of the thumb.
24. Made from residue of grapes or apples after pressing.
26. Small wooden bat with a flat surface.
27. A young woman making her debut into society.
30. A vehicle mounted on runners and pulled by horses or dogs.
32. A sudden short attack.
35. (combining form) Indicating the first or earliest or original.
36. Of time long past.
38. Hard greenish-brown wood of the lignum vitae tree and other trees of the genus Guaiacum.
39. Indigo bush.
41. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
42. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
43. In or relating to or obtained from urine.
45. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
46. A state in the Rocky Mountains.
47. Tranquilizer (trade name Ativan) used to treat anxiety and tension and insomnia.
52. A derogatory term used by Jews to refer to non-Jewish women.
53. A short sleeveless outer tunic emblazoned with a coat of arms.
54. Remove offensive capability from.
56. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
59. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
62. A member of an Algonquian people living in central Canada.
63. A small cake leavened with yeast.
64. (Babylonian) A goddess of the watery deep and daughter of Ea.
65. A primeval personification of air and breath.
66. A cord that is drawn through eyelets or around hooks in order to draw together two edges (as of a shoe or garment).
68. At a great distance in time or space or degree.
70. A drug combination found in some over-the-counter headache remedies (Aspirin and Phenacetin and Caffeine).
74. Being one more than one.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may find during this time in your life that romance and social interaction become a major focus. You yearn for close and meaningful relationships with others. You feel as though you wish everything in your life to exude a type of elegance and refinement. You want to have the relationship everyone sees as ideal. You experience a level of excitement at the mere thought of having others look at you in envy of your life. You desire not only the perfect relationship, but also the want others to admire you for your high standards of truth and beauty. Being the center of attention excites you.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are truly beginning to value and enjoy your life. Love flows freely from your heart. Others feel drawn to you as it seems you want to share your success and happiness with everyone that crosses your path. Spread the joy! Romance and social interaction take on a greater meaning to you now. You long to be surrounded with the people you love and care deeply for. You wish for the perfect intimate relationship. Your goal is to have the love in your life that all other's see as perfection. You can have the fairytale.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You have a strong desire for a change of surroundings. You wish to broaden your horizons. This is a time you feel as though you occupy a tiny little spot on this Earth and wish to see and experience all the world has to offer. You need more out of life. You may find your desires to broaden your horizons are met with opposition from someone dear to you. This may be a time to consider a get away for yourself and with yourself only. You seem very sensitive when it comes to the needs of others. The only thing missing is someone who makes you feel as if you are understood.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your work comes naturally to you. Good job-related ideas seem to flow through your mind. Your thoughts and ideas come with ease. Your productivity has doubled in comparison to the recent past. A clear mind and a focus on success have helped things in motion for you. You have a wonderful relationship with your superiors. Everyone around you seems to notice who they can depend on and who the "go to" person is at work! This is you.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

A social life with all the frills is what you are desiring. Romance and social interaction are two things you begin to crave. A relationship that others envy is what you have your sights set on. The ideal partnership is what you strive for and you will accomplish your goal. You want to be with a partner you can share your deepest darkest secrets with, without being judged. A best friend and a lover all rolled into one. Love and trust are two things you are willing to fight for.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Place much focus on solidifying your foundation today. From your love of your own life to your love of family the roots are the key to success. You may find yourself in a very nurturing mood today. Plant the seeds today and prepare for great rewards from your work in the future. Now is a great time to start that diet you have been considering and to start to take care of yourself. You could find you may feel as if you are spinning your wheels, but Rome was not built in a day and you will soon start to truly see results from your actions. Virgo, keep your focus and push on!



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Today may find you being drawn toward romance. You may find that a child or loved one seems to draw deep emotions forth. You feel yourself loving with a depth that is beyond something you have felt in the past. A deep connection develops between you and this person. This is a wonderful experience for you and you are filled with joy and happiness. It may seem as though your creative juices are freely flowing, and you are able to express yourself in many ways other than words. You may find your creations bring admiration from others your way and you are filled with a great sense of pride.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Talk about perfect timing. That is the what life for you is all about today. You are able to get your point across with ease. Others seem drawn to you and eager to hear what you have to say. You are spontaneous and full of life today. This is one of those days you radiate joy. A smile from ear to ear is obvious to all who cross your path. You feel more alive than you have felt in quite some time. You long to share this feeling with a special someone. You strive to build a relationship with this person that others are envious of. A great day for you, Scorpio. Live, Laugh, and Love.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

While you aspire to be successful, you are aware that money is not the only measure of success. Enjoying what you do, finding meaning in your work, and knowing you are making a contribution are just as important as money. Your coworkers recognize this and respect you for it. Your attitude helps create an atmosphere of cooperation and teamwork. In addition to making for a less stressful environment, this also increases productivity. (And that just may lead to more money.) You are on the right track.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

It seems a desire for peace is a driving force in your world. What do you desire in a significant other? You are craving romance and social interaction. You are passionate but desire peace. Can these two qualities go hand and hand. When you find passion it seems to come at price. When you find peace you encounter another set of problems. You desire a passionate and peaceful relationship. Do not settle. Capricorn. You can find the best of both worlds. The ideal partnership is what you desire. You may have to pick up many pebbles before you find your rock.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Romance and social interaction take on greater importance for you now. You yearn for harmony in your world. You long to appear elegant to everyone you come in contact with. You seek the ideal partnership. This may be a romantic partnership or be a business relationship, but you desire perfection. You have set your standards high and are determined not to settle for anything less than perfection. These are the things that seem to excite you and quicken your pulse. Follow your dreams.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Romance and surrounding yourself with others seem to mean the world to you now. You truly want to strive for your relationship with your significant other to be as close to perfect as possible. You want to have the relationship others dream of. You can make this happen. You have always been one to treat others as you desire to be treated. This is the key to the perfection you seek. Live, laugh, and love hard.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Fears and Phobias

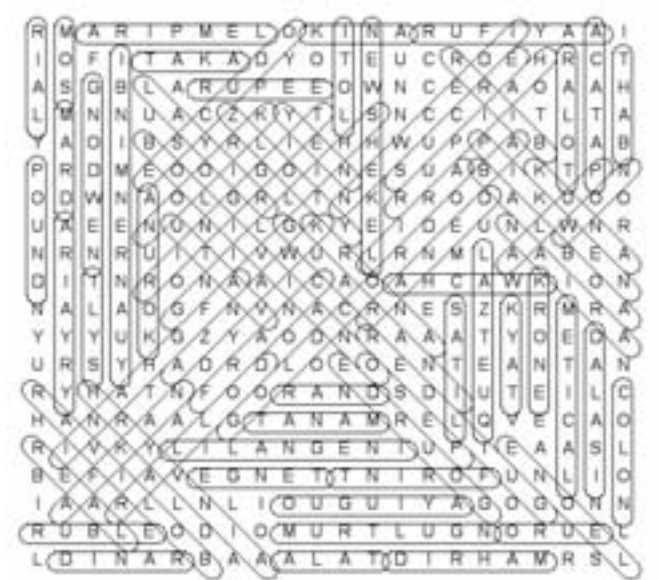
Find and circle all of the things that some people are afraid of, hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional beach word.



- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| BASEMENTS | DROWING | HOSPITALS | REJECTION |
| BATS | ENCLOSED SPACES | INSECTS | ROLLER COASTERS |
| BIRDS | FAILURE | LIGHTNING | SHARKS |
| BLOOD | FALLING | LOUD NOISES | SICKNESS |
| CLOWNS | FLYING | NEEDLES | SNAKES |
| COCKROACHES | FROGS | NUMBER THIRTEEN | SPIDERS |
| CROWDS | GERMS | OPEN SPACES | STORMS |
| DEATH | GETTING OLD | PAIN | THE DARK |
| DENTISTS | GHOSTS | PEOPLE | THUNDER |
| DOCTORS | HEIGHTS | POPPING BALLOONS | WASPS |
| DOGS | HORROR MOVIES | PUBLIC SPEAKING | WATER |
| DOLLS | | RATS | WORMS |

Yesterday's Solution

World Currencies



- | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|------------|---------------|
| AFGHANI | EURO | KWAZA | NEW SHEKEL | RUPPIE |
| ARABYRY | FORINT | KYAT | NGULTRUP | RUPYAH |
| BAHT | FRANC | LEMPIRA | OGULUYA | SHELLING |
| BALBOA | GOLD CORDOBA | LEONE | PATACA | SOM |
| BIRRE | GOURDE | LILANGENI | PESO | SUCRE |
| BOLIVAR | GUARANI | LIRA | POUNCE | SYLI |
| BOLIVIANO | GULDER | LITAS | PULA | TAKA |
| COLON | HRYVNYA | LOTI | QUETZAL | TALA |
| DALASI | KINA | MANAT | RAND | TENGE |
| DIRHAM | KORUNA | NETICAL | REAL | TOLAR |
| DENAR | KRONA | NAIRA | RIAL | VATU |
| DIRHAM | KRONE | NAKFA | RINGGIT | WON |
| DOLLAR | KRODOR | NEW CEDI | RYTAL | YEN |
| DRAM | KUNA | NEW DONG | RUBLE | YUAN RENMINBI |
| ESCUDO | KWACHA | NEW KIP | RUFYAA | ZLOTY |

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

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2018



A diver jumps during a high diving competition at the Mirusha waterfalls, near the village of Lapceve. — AFP

AFTER 'MARY SHELLEY', PIONEERING SAUDI FEMALE DIRECTOR KEEN TO FILM BACK HOME



Saudi writer-director Haifaa Al-Mansour poses during a photo session in Paris.

“ I think it's amazing to have Saudi Arabia becoming normal again ”

Fresh from shooting her first film in English, Haifaa Al-Mansour plans to return to her native Saudi Arabia next month for her new project—but this time, she won't be directing out of view by walkie-talkie from the back of a van. “When I started making films—I started in 2005, when my first short came out—people didn't believe in cinema in Saudi Arabia—films were illegal, the country was very segregated, so it was like ‘a woman making films, oh!’” the 43-year-old director told AFP in an interview. “But Saudi Arabia has changed,” Mansour said.

Late last year Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman lifted a decades-old ban on cinemas as part of his push to modernize the ultra-conservative country, which included in June allowing women to drive. Saudi Arabia this year made its first official appearance at the Cannes film festival with its submission of a series of short films. Mansour was the first woman to shoot a film in the country, the critically acclaimed “Wadjda” from 2012 about a girl who dreams of riding her own bike.

During the filming, she often had to direct her team via walkie-talkie while keeping out of sight in a van, since she could not be seen in public alongside male actors and crew members. “I don't think I will be in the van anymore,” she said. “Now we have a film fund and they are supporting my next project, which is called ‘The Perfect Candidate’, about a young Saudi female doctor who decides to run for an office in a municipal election,” she said. “It will be wonderful to be part of the evolution of film in the country,” she added. “I think it's amazing to have Saudi Arabia becoming normal again.”

‘Definitely a Haifaa film’

Mansour now lives in Los Angeles with her American husband and children. “Mary Shelley”, her biopic of the 19th-century author of the horror classic “Frankenstein”, is now hitting screens worldwide. Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley was just 18 when she travelled to Lake Geneva in 1816 with her future husband, the poet Percy Shelley, and their son to vacation alongside friends including Lord Byron. Kept inside for days by heavy rains, they challenged each other to write a ghost story, sparking the Gothic tale of “Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus”, which was eventually published in 1818, but without Mary Shelley's name on the cover.

“For her, to come and write something so original and not to have her name on it, I could not not tell that story. I felt just like, ‘this is definitely a Haifaa film’,” Mansour said. The offer to direct the film, starring Elle Fanning, came as a surprise—not least because Mansour had previously filmed mainly in Arabic. But having studied literature at the American University in Cairo and film at the University of Sydney, she was ready for the challenge of working in English. “We did a lot of rewriting on the script—it's not only a love story,” she said.

After filming the movie in Ireland, Luxembourg and France, Mansour said she was eager to work again in her native Saudi Arabia. “I think it is very important to make films there, especially with Saudi Arabia embracing films and allowing film theatres. It will be wonderful to be part of the evolution of film in the country,” she said. “I think it will have a great impact on young professional women.” — AFP



A picture shows the facade of the French restaurant L'Atelier de Joel Robuchon in London.

World's most-starred chef Joel Robuchon dead at 73

Joel Robuchon, the world's most-starred Michelin chef who tore down kitchen walls to give diners new insights into the art of haute cuisine, has died at 73, a French government spokesman said yesterday. Robuchon, who was hailed as one of four “chefs of the century” by the Gault Millau industry bible in 1990, founded a string of restaurants that revolutionised fine dining across three continents, ratcheting up a whopping 31 Michelin stars. From Tokyo to Paris and Macao, foodies queue up for seats in his L'Atelier restaurants, where they can watch chefs in action, perched on high stools at a U-shaped bar.

According to Le Figaro newspaper he died of cancer in the Swiss city of Geneva. His death was confirmed by government spokesman Benjamin Griveaux in a tweet. “Joel Robuchon, a visionary chef who was the most starred in the world, leaves us today. “From Paris to Shanghai, his savoir-faire was an art form that made French gastronomy shine and continues to inspire the next generation of chefs,” Griveaux wrote.

As a youngster Robuchon's first vocation was the priesthood but while cooking for other seminarians he discovered a passion for food and at 15 entered the restaurant trade. A perfectionist from the start, he quickly earned a name for himself in the rarefied world of Nouvelle Cuisine and by the age of 30 was running a 90-

strong kitchen at the Concorde Lafayette hotel in Paris. The accolades and Michelin stars came thick and fast and by the age of 50, after working himself to the bone, he decided to retire. But a few years later he was back in action with his Atelier concept, which was inspired by Japanese sushi counters and intended to be more affordable than traditional three-star eateries. — AFP



In this file photo Saudi writer and film director Haifaa Al-Mansour poses during a photo session in Paris, as part of the release of her new film “Mary Shelley”. — AFP photos



MOROCCO'S ANCIENT CITY OF VOLUBILIS RISES AGAIN

Situated in a fertile plain at the foot of Mount Zerhoun, the sprawling remains of Morocco's oldest Roman site—Volubilis—have survived pillage and long periods of neglect. After decades of decay, however, custodians of the now closely guarded ancient city have turned the page and are bringing back the tourists. The site, nestled among olive groves near the city of Meknes, boasts a new museum and visitor center and has been attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors. They stroll along the main artery lined with porticoes and the remnants of vast mansions, whose mosaic floors testify to a prosperous past.

A triumphal arch, a classic symbol of Roman

Bacchus gone missing

At the end of the 17th century, Sultan Moulay Ismail sent thousands of slaves to plunder Volubilis's marble columns for the construction of his palace in Meknes. "On the track leading from Volubilis to Meknes, we found capitals (of columns) abandoned by slaves, who fled when they learnt that Moulay Ismail was dead," said Alilou, who has been watching over the site for more than 30 years. Excavations at Volubilis began in 1915, along with research programs and restoration

'The site is fenced off and well-guarded'

work. But renewed interest in the site brought with it looting, especially during the period of French colonial rule from 1912 to 1956.

One particularly striking case in 1982 made headlines when a marble statue of Bacchus—the Roman god of wine—disappeared. In a desperate bid to find the relic, King Hassan II dispatched gendarmes who "interrogated, abused and beat" peasants who "didn't know Bacchus from Adam and Eve", according to Moroccan press reports. The effort was in vain and the statue was never found. "The people here are still traumatized," said a resident of nearby Moulay Driss Zerhoun.

Moroccan media frequently warn that the country's heritage—archeological finds, mosaics and ancient coins—is being looted. But in Volubilis, Alilou says that looting is a thing of the past. Today "the site is fenced off and well-guarded", he said. "We have a team of 14 guards who work day and night, cameras are everywhere." Mustafa Atki, another Volubilis conservator, said the whole issue of looting was "sometimes exaggerated".



Since the opening of its museum in 2013, the ancient city has attracted several hundred thousand visitors a year. "In 2017, for the first time we past the 300,000 mark," said Atki. Alilou said the ancient city covering 42 acres (17 hectares) has yet to reveal all of its secrets. "A third of the site, especially the western quarter built in the Islamic era, has not been excavated," he said. — AFP

Photos shows tourists walk through the ruins of the ancient Roman site of Volubilis, near the town of Moulay Idriss Zerhoun in Morocco's north central Meknes region. — AFP photos



architecture, sits at the top of what once was the main compound. Known in Arabic as "Oualili", the city was named a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1997. The ancient city has "known several civilizations, from the Mauritanian era to the Romans through the Islamic period", according to Mohamed Alilou, topographer and assistant conservator of the site. Volubilis was founded in the third century BC by a Moorish community, before being annexed by the Roman Empire in 42 AD.

At its peak, it would have counted up to 15,000 inhabitants. Threatened by civil wars across the empire, the Romans evacuated the city in 285. It didn't regain its splendor until the arrival of Arab conquerors in the seventh century. In the eighth century when the Idrisid dynasty erected the city of Fez as its new capital, Volubilis fell once more into disuse.



DEMI LOVATO THANKFUL TO BE ALIVE AFTER OVERDOSE



Singer/actress Demi Lovato

Pop star Demi Lovato said Sunday she was thankful to be alive and needed time to recover in her first remarks since an overdose nearly two weeks ago. Writing to her more than 70 million followers on Instagram, Lovato gave few details on her July 24 hospitalization but noted that she has long been open about her struggles with addiction. "What I've learned is that this illness is not something that disappears or fades with time," the 25-year-old star wrote. "It is something that I must continue to overcome and have not done yet," she wrote.

"I want to thank God for keeping me alive and well," she said, adding that she was "forever grateful" for the support of her fans and crediting the staff of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles with saving her life.

Lovato, who canceled a show in Atlantic City that had been planned for two days after her hospitalization, suggested that she may not be returning to the public eye soon. "I now need time to heal and focus on my sobriety and road to recovery," she wrote.

Lovato has long spoken of her struggles with depression, eating disorders and addiction, belying her happy persona as a smiling star of the children's show "Barney and Friends." A 2012 documentary, "Demi Lovato: Stay Strong," showed how she used to snort cocaine several times a day before finding her way into rehab and reviving her career. In June, Lovato released a song entitled "Sober" in which she indicated a relapse and apologizes in verse to her parents. The singer, whose hits include "Sorry Not Sorry," was rushed from her home to a hospital by emergency responders. It remains unclear on which drug she overdosed. Her overdose prompted a flurry of statements of solidarity from fellow stars who praised her personality—although the attention also triggered a backlash by social media users, who noted that many non-celebrities suffer from drugs with little fanfare. — AFP

'Zorba' composer Mikis Theodorakis in hospital after heart attack

Renowned Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis, who wrote the music for the 1964 classic film "Zorba the Greek", has been hospitalized after suffering a heart attack, the state agency ANA reported Sunday. Doctors said the 93-year-old was "out of immediate danger" but was being kept in hospital in Athens as a precaution given his advanced age. Theodorakis penned what is probably the best-known piece of Greek music, the theme tune to Zorba, an instrumental which is still played and danced to around the world.

He is also known in Greece as an icon of resistance against World War II Nazi Germany, as a militant communist in Greece's 1946-49 civil war and as an activist against the military junta that ruled Greece from 1967-74. Theodorakis has

remained a high-profile political campaigner and in February this year was out on the streets again, urging the Greek government not to compromise in the festering name row with neighboring Macedonia. In 2012 riot police used tear gas against him during an anti-austerity demonstration outside parliament. — AFP



Mikis Theodorakis



The floating hotel 'Queen Elizabeth II' joins flydubai's Holidays packages

By Faten Omar

Dubai-based carrier flydubai has unveiled its latest special fares for the summer with its 'Holidays' packages for destinations across the flydubai network. The online portal is designed to combine internally sourced wholesale hotel rates and rates provided by third parties with competitive airfares.

The Queen Elizabeth II joins flydubai's Holidays packages, providing unbeatable offers where customers can stay for two nights in the floating hotel for KD 67 for economy class passengers and KD 233 for business class passengers, who also receive a package of meals and entertainment on board.

Flydubai invited Kuwait Times along with a media delegation from Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia to experience the luxury holiday package in cooperation with Queen Elizabeth 2. QE2 opened its doors to the public on April 18, 2018. The world-famous cruise liner, which has a history spanning five decades, is now docked permanently at Mina Rashid. The grand launch of the QE2 will take place in Oct 2018.



Hamza Mustafa, CEO of PCFC Hotels commented: "To finally open the QE2 is a dream come true for my team and I. It is one of Dubai's most highly anticipated projects and we know that a lot of people are going to be very excited to see her for the first time, or to step back on board the vessel that created so many wonderful memories during her 40 years at sea."

The 13-deck hotel has been thoughtfully restored to her former glory - maintaining her most loved interior design features - including her period furniture, renowned paintings and famous memorabilia. The original porthole windows still add a maritime feel to the attractive modernized guest rooms and a number of her original restaurants have retained the same names and decor as her former years. Whilst extensively preserving her authentic elements, she has been fully equipped with all the latest technology.

Queen Elizabeth II was launched in 1967 in the presence of the Queen at Clydebank, then transferred to the Dubai Government to permanently anchor at Port Rashid as a floating hotel. The ship can host 4,000 people per day, with 224 renovated rooms and suites, three floors of executive rooms and suites, a theater and a cinema, and 13 restaurants.

During the trip, the media delegation enjoyed a bird's eye view of Dubai's attractions with Seawings' award-winning Silver tour. The new 25-minute flight route offered breath-taking views of all world-famous icons including Burj Khalifa, Palm Jumeirah, Burj Arab, World Islands and more covering the city from Jebel Ali in the south. The delegation also experienced the luxury of Arabic cuisine in a plush space replete with incredible food and drinks - at Makan restaurant in La Mer. The restaurant has smoking and non-smoking



indoor and outdoor areas and serves up a feast of your favorite Arabic dishes, with a special touch.

If you want to escape the heat, Laguna Waterpark will offer you a unique offering to the region's waterpark scene. Boasting a host of iconic rides, two of which have never been experienced before in the Gulf, as well as a dedicated children's zone, a pool lounge with a swim-up juice bar and luxury cabanas, Laguna Waterpark ticks all the boxes. With four distinct zones - Splash, Slide, Surf and Relax - fun-seekers of all ages will find something to love at Laguna Waterpark.

Flydubai Holidays packages

The flydubai Holidays launched last March, where it is attracting customers with a variety of options for a fun and cost-effective holiday to travel to all destinations within over 22,000 cities worldwide. Customers will also have the option to add ancillary services to their holiday experience, including airport transfers, sightseeing packages, UAE visa facilitation, car rental, and excursions.

Holidays.flydubai.com aims to be the leading sales channel and a 24x7 virtual shop window for Holidays

by flydubai. The website is fully responsive across three breakpoints (desktop, tablet, and smartphone) and is available in three languages - English, Arabic, and Russian. The portal caters to both customers and travel agents alike.

'Kids fly for less' with flydubai this summer

Flydubai also launched a special summer offer for families where children accompanied by their parents can fly from AED 10 plus taxes and surcharges to select destinations on the flydubai network.

The "kids fly for less" offer was available for booking from Thursday 19 July to Saturday 28 July. The special promotion is applicable on adult return fares in Economy Class for travel between 19 July and 15 August without any blackout dates and the accompanying child can fly from AED 10.

Recently flydubai launched a "Surf and drive" offer where passengers can enjoy unlimited connectivity for only USD 08 per flight and have the chance to win one of two new Toyota Rush SUVs.

The promotion is available on all flydubai WiFi enabled aircraft until 30 September 2018. To enter the draw, passengers can simply purchase a WiFi package on board a flydubai flight and their details will be automatically enrolled.

Flydubai to Sicily and Thessaloniki

flydubai offers now flights to Catania and through its partnership with Emirates this service will operate as part of its codeshare offering unmatched travel options. flydubai's route network in Europe includes 27 points in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland (from



October), Greece, Italy, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey and Ukraine.

Catania is the second largest city on the Island of Sicily and is known for its rich culture, arts and history. Sicily is filled with museums, monuments and the well-known Mount Etna. In addition, the island is popular for its spectacular beaches and culinary delights, including pasta, seafood and pastries.

Also flydubai has inaugurated its flights to Thessaloniki becoming the first UAE carrier to offer direct flights from Dubai.

flydubai's brand-new Boeing 737 MAX 8 offers passengers more comfort and an enhanced travel experience. The new cabin offering features a flat-bed in Business Class and in addition to the extra space and privacy, passengers can sleep comfortably during their flight. Economy Class offers new RECARO seats, which are designed to optimize space and comfort so passengers can sit back, relax and enjoy their flight. flydubai also offers exceptional in-flight entertainment with a full HD, 11.6-inch screen, featuring a wide selection of movies, TV shows, music and games in English, Arabic and Russian. In addition, the Boeing Sky interior with its gently-sculpted sidewalls and its smooth-flowing lines provides passengers with a more relaxing travel environment.





Bear observation tour organizer Miha Mlakar poses for a photo in one of his bear watching hide in the forest above the small village of Markovec, some 50 km south of Ljubljana. — AFP photos



A bear explores the forest above the small village of Markovec.



A bear watching hide in the forest above the small village of Markovec, Slovenia.



A bear explores the forest above the small village of Markovec, Slovenia.



A bear-safe and bear-friendly waste and compost containers in the small village of Banja Loka, Slovenia.



Sheep graze on a meadow behind the electric shepherd fence close to the small village of Markovec, Slovenia.

Slovenians strive to live in peace with bears

When he used to go hunting, Miha Mlakar would dream of killing a bear. But today the 33-year-old from Slovenia makes his living watching the animals, peacefully, in their natural forest environment. The turnaround to shooting bears with a camera, not a rifle, puts Mlakar, who runs bear observation tours, in step with wider efforts in the small Alpine nation to promote the coexistence of humans and bears. Once on the verge of extinction, Slovenia's brown bear population is booming, with the number roaming the sprawling forests having doubled in the last decade to around 1,000.

As a result, encounters with bears have increased—not that it seems to unduly worry everyone. “If you run into a bear, you have to step back... (But) there is no danger. The bear also prefers to move away,” Ljubo Popovic, a 67-year-old pensioner who lives in the village of Banja Loka in the southern Kocevje region, told AFP. Lying an hour to the west, near Markovec village, Mlakar has built 20 hides in a remote patch of forest reachable only by off-road vehicle and takes visitors, including foreign tourists, to observe the bears. “I cannot imagine this forest without bears. Bears make the forest wild and pristine, natural, like it was a few hundred or thousand years ago... I feel a connection with bears,” he tells AFP.

Managing bears

Slovenian bears are even sought after abroad. Between 1996 and 2006, eight Slovenian bears were released in the French Pyrenees, and France currently has a population of about 40 bears, whose presence divides opinion in regions where they live. In Slovenia, more than 60 percent of respondents in a 2016 survey carried out in areas where bears live said they were in favor of the bears' presence, even if many also said they would like to see the numbers regulated. “We have an average of one to three cases of physical contact between bears and humans per year,” Rok Cerne, of the Slovenia Forest Service in charge of wildlife, told AFP.

“Fortunately, we haven't registered any serious incident over the last years,” he added, stressing they were “very active in preventive measures”. Removing food sources that could attract bears has been one such step. In villages close to bear habitats, local authorities have replaced regular plastic waste and compost bins, which can be easily opened or flipped by

the animals, with containers protected by heavy metal cages. Meanwhile, damage to cattle from bear forays has remained stable, at up to 200,000 euros (\$231,500) a year, despite the bear population increasing, Cerne said.

Farmers are entitled to an 80-percent subsidy for using electric fences to protect flocks and the loss of cattle due to bears is compensated. If a bear becomes a habitual visitor to a village, special intervention groups step in to kill or relocate the animal with the help of local hunters. Regular culling also keeps the population under control to ensure long-term cohabitation, Cerne said. This year, authorities have proposed culling 200 bears, twice as many as last year.

Meanwhile, some 940 forays by bears into populated areas were registered last year, including attacks on sheep flocks and entry into gardens; so far this year, the figure is 120. But environmental campaigners fear that “hunting will be the main instrument to keep bear populations under control”, when other measures could work, said Livia Cimpoeru, of the WWF

plan published last month that recommends hunting to keep numbers at optimum levels. Use of reinforced bins, as well as a proposal for building work to be limited in regions where bears live, are also included in the government plan. Since the beginning of last year, 31 people, mostly shepherds, have been attacked, one of them fatally.



Sheep graze on a meadow close to the small village of Loski Potok, Slovenia.

Romania's ‘Van Damme’ bear
Slovenia's approach could inspire neighboring Romania, home to about 6,000 bears or 60 percent of Europe's estimated bear population, where tourists to villages in the Carpathian Mountains often post pictures online of bears waiting to be hand-fed. Bears rummaging through waste containers on the outskirts of cities, such as Brasov in central Romania, have become a common sight. And on a central motorway construction site, workmen have christened a regularly spotted sturdy male bear Van Damme after the Hollywood star.

Beyond tourists' anecdotes however, Romania has seen a “growing number of attacks” by bears, highlighted in a conser-

vation plan published last month that recommends hunting to keep numbers at optimum levels. Use of reinforced bins, as well as a proposal for building work to be limited in regions where bears live, are also included in the government plan. Since the beginning of last year, 31 people, mostly shepherds, have been attacked, one of them fatally.

Learning simple rules, such as how to avoid startling bears and not feeding them, as well as efficient management like accurate counting to ascertain trends, is crucial for reducing conflicts with humans, said Mareike Brix, of German-based EuroNatur foundation. “There is a risk, and there can be problems... But it's also great (to have bears). Wild nature has become so rare in Europe,” she tells AFP. — AFP

Who built Stonehenge? Cremation ashes yield clues

Despite a century of scientific scrutiny, the 5000-year old Neolithic monument in southern England known as Stonehenge has yielded few secrets about the people buried amidst its ring of towering rocks. Most of their remains were cremated, leaving only ashes, a few bone fragments, and an archaeological dead-end. But a eureka moment discovery by Christophe Snoeck, a University of Oxford graduate student at the time, revealed that many probably came from as far afield as Wales in western Britain, source of the bluestone used to carve Stonehenge's mysterious and entrancing monuments.

Some of these pre-historic wayfarers—who may have helped transport the massive stones—were cremated before their ashes were laid to rest, Snoeck and colleagues reported in a study published Thursday in Scientific Reports. Others may have died on the job, or settled near Stonehenge to finish their days.

What Snoeck discovered in the lab is that strontium, a heavy element found in bone, resists the high temperatures of a

funeral pyre, which can top 1000 degrees Celsius (1832 degrees Fahrenheit). Indeed, extreme heat seals the element's unique signature, isolating it—even over thousands of years—from contamination by surrounding soil. For scientists trying to tease out data from human remains burnt to a crisp, this opened up a gold mine. Cremation destroys all organic matter, including DNA.

“But all the inorganic matter survives, and there is a huge amount of information contained in the inorganic fraction of human remains,” Snoeck explained. By measuring traces of strontium, he told AFP, “it is possible to evaluate the origin of the food we eat, especially the plants.”

From the forests of Wales

Plants absorb strontium from the soil, and that strontium is then incorporated into our bones, reflecting the place where the plants grew. The researchers examined skull bone fragments from 25 people buried during an early phase of Stonehenge's history, around 3000 BC. Ten of them, they determined, had spent at least the last 10 years of their lives in a different region.

Archeologists already knew that Stonehenge bluestone came from Wales, so when the strontium profile of these ten outsiders matched what is known of the region's flora, it seemed reasonable to

assume they did as well.

The scientists were also able to tell whether the wood used in funeral pyres was from the Wessex area around Stonehenge, or from trees typical of the forests in Wales.



This file photo shows a general view of the prehistoric monument of Stonehenge, a world heritage site, near Amesbury in South West England. — AFP

This enabled them to conclude that some of the people buried at the site had probably been cremated in western Britain before their ashes were transported. Archeologists who excavated the site in the early 1920s—before reburial of the remains—reported that cremated matter had been deposited in organic containers such as leather bags, apparently brought from a distant place for interment. Much remains unknown about the pre-historic humans who erected Stonehenge, including the beliefs and rituals that animated their culture.

But the new findings “suggest that people from the Preseli Mountains in West Wales not only supplied the bluestones used to build the stone circle, but moved with the stones and were buried there too,” concluded John Pouncett, a co-author of the study and Spatial Technology Officer at Oxford's School of Archaeology. All told, there are between 150 and 240 cremation burials at Stonehenge, according to a recent study in the journal *Antiquity*. — AFP

Classifieds

Tuesday, August 7, 2018

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STATE OF KUWAIT
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
 METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 6817
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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 - 45 km/h causing rising dust over open areas.

BY NIGHT: Relatively hot with moderate to fresh north westerly wind, with speed of 20 - 40 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 06/08/2018 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	49 °C	37 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	48 °C	37 °C			
ABDALY	49 °C	35 °C			
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C			
JAHRA	48 °C	38 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	47 °C	34 °C			
SALMIYAH	46 °C	36 °C			
AHMADI	43 °C	39 °C			
NUWAISIB	47 °C	34 °C			
WAFRA	47 °C	32 °C			
SALMY	45 °C	33 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	MAX. Temp.	MIN. Temp.	Wind Direction	Wind Speed
Tuesday	08/07	Very hot and rising dust and some high clouds will appear	47 °C	36 °C	NW	20 - 50 km/h
Wednesday	08/08	Very hot and rising dust over open areas	48 °C	37 °C	NW	20 - 45 km/h
Thursday	08/09	Very hot and rising dust over open areas and some high clouds will appear	47 °C	35 °C	NW	20 - 45 km/h
Friday	08/10	Very hot	49 °C	34 °C	NW	15 - 35 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:43
Sunrise	05:11
Zuhr	11:54
Asr	15:30
Sunset	18:37
Isha	20:01

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	48 °C
MIN. Temp.	29 °C
MAX. RH	29 %
MIN. RH	08 %
MAX. Wind	NW 36 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
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

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Balaraju, Mother name Singaraju Roshamma, name of spouse Singaraju Krishna Veni. (C 5410)

I, BURLAKUNTA KRISHNA VENI, R/o D.No: 3/105 Pulapathuru (V&P) Rajampet (M.D) Kadapa (Dt.) A.P, India, Passport No. L678008, Aadhaar no. 935022351849, have changed my name to SINGARAJU KRISHNA VENI. Father name G. Subbaraju, Mother name G. Ragamma, name of spouse Singaraju Subbaraju. (C 5411) 2-8-2018

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUBBARAJU BURLAKUNTA, R/o D.No: 3/105 Pulapathuru (V&P) Rajampet (M.D) Kadapa (Dt.) A.P, India, Passport No. R7701669, Aadhaar no. 261881686499, have changed my name to SINGARAJU SUBBARAJU, Father name Singaraju

EMERGENCY 112

Flight Schedule

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

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 7/8/2018					Departure Flights on Tuesday 7/8/2018				
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time		Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	
FEG	441	Asyut	00:05	QTR 1078	Doha	14:10			
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	KNE 231	Riyadh	14:10			
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	GFA 221	Bahrain	14:15			
KAC	102	London	00:50	FDB 059	Dubai	14:20			
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	KAC 364	Colombo	14:20			
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	KAC 618	Doha	14:20			
JZR	241D	Amman	01:20	KAC 286	Dhaka	14:25			
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	KAC 692	Muscat	14:25			
JZR	539	Cairo	01:35	SVA 500	Jeddah	14:45			
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	JZR 789	Riyadh	14:45			
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC 788	Jeddah	14:50			
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	KAC 194	TXZ	14:55			
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	ETD 303	Abu Dhabi	15:05			
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC 304	Mumbai	15:05			
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	KNE 529	Jeddah	15:10			
THY	768	Istanbul	02:40	KAC 412	Bangkok	15:10			
THY	1404	AYT	02:45	OMA 645	Muscat	15:20			
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	KAC 562	Amman	15:20			
JZR	651	Lahore	02:55	ABY 127	Sharjah	15:35			
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC 502	Beirut	15:35			
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	UAE 857	Dubai	15:45			
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	SAW 705	Damascus	16:00			
MSC	415	Sohag	03:10	KAC 118	New York	16:00			
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	JZR 535	Cairo	16:10			
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	QTR 1072	Doha	16:15			
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	FDB 051	Dubai	16:20			
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	NIA 361	Alexandria	16:50			
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	KAC 542	Cairo	17:00			
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	SVA 510	Riyadh	17:05			
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	GFA 215	Bahrain	17:30			
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	JZR 777	Jeddah	17:35			
JZR	1541	Cairo	04:35	JZR 145	Doha	17:35			
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	JZR 177	Dubai	17:40			
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	THY 1282	TXZ	17:50			
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	QTR 1080	Doha	18:10			
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:20	JZR 483	Istanbul	18:20			
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	WAN 874	Istanbul	18:25			
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	MSR 620	Cairo	18:30			
BAW	157	London	06:10	JZR 125	Bahrain	18:35			
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	WAN 976	Baku	18:50			
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	RJA 640	Amman	19:00			
JZR	603	Mumbai	06:35	GFA 217	Bahrain	19:05			
JZR	561D	Sohag	06:40	UAE 875	Dubai	19:05			
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	FDB 063	Dubai	19:10			
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	KAC 744	Dammam	19:10			
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	ABY 123	Sharjah	19:20			
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30	KAC 156	Istanbul	19:25			
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	KAC 776	Riyadh	19:35			
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC 674	Dubai	19:40			
KAC	358	Kochi	08:00	FDB 057	Dubai	19:50			
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	KAC 174	Munich	19:55			
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC 616	Bahrain	20:00			
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	DLH 624	Frankfurt	20:05			
JZR	143	Doha	08:55	OMA 647	Muscat	20:05			
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KNE 381	Taif	20:10			
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	MEA 402	Beirut	20:15			
JZR	503	Luxor	09:40	KAC 620	Doha	20:15			
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	QTR 1088	Doha	20:40			
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	KLM 445	Amsterdam	21:00			
MSC	405	Sohag	10:15	UAE 859	Dubai	21:15			
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	ALK 229	Colombo	21:15			
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ETD 307	Abu Dhabi	21:15			
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC 168	Paris	21:20			
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	THY 764	Istanbul	21:30			
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	GFA 219	Bahrain	21:50			
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	KAC 564	Amman	21:50			
JZR	1539	Cairo	11:50	AZQ 4565	Baku	22:00			
WAN	134	Doha	12:20	QTR 1082	Doha	22:05			
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:30	ETD 309	Abu Dhabi	22:10			
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	KAC 162	Geneva	22:10			
THY	766	Istanbul	12:45	KAC 786	Jeddah	22:15			
WAN	884	Sarajevo	12:50	AIC 975	Chennai/Goa	22:25			
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	SVA 514	Riyadh	22:30			
AZS	4005	ESB	13:00	SVA 502	Jeddah	22:45			
JZR	239	Amman	13:00	KAC 192	Tbilisi	22:45			
RJA	644	Amman	13:20	JZR 185	Dubai	22:50			
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:30	JAI 574	Mumbai	23:00			
FEG	341	Sohag	13:50	MSR 2614	Cairo	23:30			
IAW	157A	Al Najaf	13:55	JZR 071	Dubai	23:35			
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	JZR 241	Amman	23:40			
				KAC 548	Alexandria	23:50			



BERGEN, Norway: A picture taken yesterday shows the ship used by Norwegian polar explorer Roald Amundsen upon its arrival at this port in western Norway. — AFP

Amundsen's ship returns to Norway after 100 years

OSLO: The ship used by Norwegian polar explorer Roald Amundsen finally returned home yesterday, completing its journey around the North Pole 100 years after her chaotic expedition started. A precious relic of Norwegian polar expeditions, the Maud was recovered in 2016 after spending 85 years in Canadian Arctic waters where it sank in 1930. The shipwreck was towed across the North Atlantic on a barge after it left Greenland at the end of June and arrived at the port of Bergen in western Norway on Monday morning. "The trip was long, but it

tell the story of this expedition to the Norwegian people," Wanggaard added.

In 1906, Amundsen became the first European to sail through the Northwest Passage searching for a shorter shipping route from Europe to Asia, something explorers had been trying to find for centuries. Amundsen sailed through the Northeast Passage with the Maud in 1918-20 and although the journey brought back rich scientific results, he was unable to get far enough north to launch a North Pole expedition.

Thanks to funding by three Norwegian brothers and entrepreneurs, the ship will be exhibited in the southeastern municipality of Asker, near Oslo, where it was launched in 1917. "Roald Amundsen is an important historical figure in Norway," Wanggaard said. The first person to reach the South Pole, Amundsen wanted to use the Maud to study the Arctic Ocean by letting her get caught on the ice and drift around the North Pole. "We want to

The ship, named after Norway's Queen Maud, was sold to the Hudson's Bay Company in 1925 and rechristened the Baymaud after Amundsen filed for bankruptcy. It ended its days as a floating warehouse and the region's first radio station before sinking at its moorings in 1930 near Cambridge Bay, in the Canadian territory of Nunavut. In 1990, Asker Council in Norway bought the wreck for just \$1. Cambridge Bay residents fought its removal but the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board granted an export permit for the ship in 2012. — AFP

Indonesia quake kills 98; imam's video...

Continued from Page 1

The spokesman said search and rescue teams also rescued between 2,000 and 2,700 tourists from the Gili Islands, three tiny, coral-fringed tropical islands a few kilometers off the northwest coast of Lombok.

Authorities initially said 1,200 people were stuck on the islands but scaled up the figure early in the evening. Some tourists chose to stay behind. Footage posted online by Nugroho showed hundreds crowded onto powder-white beaches desperately awaiting transport off the normally paradise Gilis. "We cannot evacuate all of them all at once because we don't have enough capacity on the boats," Muhammad Faozal, the head of the tourism agency in West Nusa Tenggara province, told AFP, adding two navy vessels were on their way. "It's understandable they want to leave the Gilis, they are panicking."

By early afternoon, hundreds of weary tourists had arrived with their baggage at Bangsal harbor, the main link between Lombok and the Gilis. Margret Helgadottir, a holidaymaker from Iceland, described people screaming as the roof of her hotel on one of the islands collapsed. "We just froze: thankfully we were outside," she told AFP tearfully from a harbor in Lombok to where she had been evacuated. "Everything went black, it was terrible." Seven Indonesian holidaymakers died on the largest of the three islands, Gili Trawangan, while another local woman died on nearby Bali.

But it was Lombok which bore the brunt of Sunday evening's quake. The shallow tremor sent thousands of residents and tourists scrambling outdoors, where many spent the night as strong aftershocks including one of 5.3-magnitude rattled the island. The quake knocked out power in many areas and parts of Lombok remained without electricity yesterday. Hundreds of bloodied and bandaged victims were treated outside damaged hospitals in the main city of Mataram and other hard-hit areas. Patients lay on beds under wards set up in tents, surrounded by drip stands and monitors, as doctors in blue scrubs attended to them.

Anguished relatives were huddled around loved ones

in front of the main clinic in Mataram, as medical staff struggled to cope with hundreds of patients. Many were yet to be attended to despite spending the night out in the open. "I feel restless sleeping in a tent, I can't be at peace," Nurhayati told AFP outside one hospital where she had brought her sick 70-year-old mother. "What we really need now are paramedics, we are short-staffed. We also need medications," Supriadi, a spokesman for Mataram general hospital, told AFP.

Singapore's Home Affairs Minister K Shanmugam, who was in Lombok for a security conference when the earthquake struck, described on Facebook how his hotel room on the 10th floor shook violently. "Walls cracked, it was quite impossible to stand up," he said. Bali's international airport suffered damage to its terminal but the runway was unaffected and operations had returned to normal. Disaster agency officials said. Lombok airport was also operating.

Meanwhile, a video of an Indonesian imam stoically reciting evening prayers in Bali as the deadly earthquake struck neighboring Lombok has gone viral on social media, with Internet users praising him for his unwavering faith. The white-robed Islamic leader was leading prayers on Sunday night at a mosque in Denpasar when the earthquake struck. Footage of the imam, recorded on a cellphone, showed him supporting himself against the wall as the room shook violently around him and as some congregants fled the building. Other worshippers can be seen stoically remaining in prayer as the mosque rocked from side to side.

The clip quickly went viral after the mosque posted it to Facebook. It has been watched more than 130,000 times on Facebook and shared on YouTube and Twitter. "I am crying... he did not even flinch, even though it is allowed to leave your prayer during an earthquake," said Indonesian cleric Yusuf Mansur, who shared the clip to his two millions followers on Instagram. "The faith shown by the Imam and the worshippers is extraordinary," a Twitter user Inyol tweeted to his 39,000 followers.

Indonesia, one of the world's most disaster-prone nations, straddles the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire", where tectonic plates collide and many of the world's volcanic eruptions and earthquakes occur. In 2014, a devastating tsunami triggered by a magnitude 9.3 undersea earthquake off the coast of Sumatra in western Indonesia killed 220,000 people in countries around the Indian Ocean, including 168,000 in Indonesia. — AFP

there", Harbush told Al Ekhbariya TV. Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Singapore are also on the list of potential destination countries, Harbush said.

The Saudi announcement, carried on the official Saudi Press Agency, caught diplomats in Riyadh off guard. Both the Saudi and Canadian ambassadors were away on leave when it was made. Neighbors and allies Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates said they stood with Riyadh, although they did not announce similar measures.

It was not immediately clear what effect, if any, the ban on new trade would have on existing annual Saudi-Canadian trade of nearly \$4 billion and on a \$13 billion defense contract. Saudi-Canadian trade consists largely of Saudi exports of petrochemicals, plastics and other products. In 2014, the Canadian unit of US weapons maker General Dynamics Corp won a contract worth up to \$13 billion to build light-armored vehicles for Saudi Arabia, in what Ottawa said was the largest advanced manufacturing export win in Canadian history. — Agencies



HASANKEYF, Turkey: Women take a selfie as the Artuklu Hamam, a centuries-old bath house weighing 1,600 tons, is loaded onto a wheeled platform and moved down a specially constructed road yesterday. — AFP

Turkey moves bathhouse to...

Continued from Page 1

Anadolu news agency that the process of moving the historical objects was an example for the world. "After the Artuklu Hamam, six more objects are going to be transferred. Hasankeyf will truly keep its historic identity. The new Hasankeyf will be a center for tourism," he added.

But some local activists have expressed concerns that the unique character of the town is going to be lost

forever. The Initiative to Keep Hasankeyf Alive, an NGO created in 2006 to oppose the dam project, said it will "bring destruction and losses for our region and not be beneficial for the majority of the population".

The Ilisu project, strongly backed by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has also caused tensions with neighboring Iraq which shares the Tigris river with Turkey and regards its waters as crucial for the arid regions where it flows. Turkey's ambassador to Iraq Fatih Yildiz announced in June that Ankara was putting the process of retention of water in the dam on hold, following complaints by Iraq of water shortages. "We have shown again that was able to put our neighbor's needs above our own," Yildiz said at the time. — AFP

Trump firm as US set to re-impose...

Continued from Page 1

The second phase of US sanctions, which takes effect Nov 5 and will block Iran's oil sales, is due to cause more damage, though several countries including China, India and Turkey have indicated they are not willing to entirely cut their Iranian energy purchases. EU diplomatic chief Federica Mogherini said the bloc, as well as Britain, France and Germany, deeply regretted the move by Washington. "We are determined to protect European economic operators engaged in legitimate business with Iran," she said in a statement.

But many large European firms are leaving Iran for fear of US penalties. "Individuals or entities that fail to wind down activities with Iran risk severe consequences," Trump said. Rouhani's government eased foreign exchange rules on Sunday, allowing unlimited tax-free currency and gold imports, and reopening exchange bureaus after a disastrous attempt to fix the value of the rial in April led to widespread black-market corruption.

With senior religious authorities calling for a crack-

down on graft, the judiciary said Sunday it had arrested the vice-governor of the central bank in charge of foreign exchange, Ahmad Araghchi, along with a government clerk and four currency brokers. The measures appeared to calm the markets yesterday, with the rial strengthening to 95,500 to the dollar - a 20 percent improvement on its record-low of 119,000 a fortnight ago.

Two countries that have welcomed increased pressure on Iran are its key regional rivals, Israel and Saudi Arabia. Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman described the renewed sanctions as "a courageous decision which will be remembered for generations". After months of fierce rhetoric, Trump surprised observers last week when he offered to meet with Rouhani without preconditions. But Zarif suggested it was hard to imagine negotiating with the man who tore up an agreement on which Iran and world powers had spent the "longest hours in negotiating history".

There have been ongoing rumors that Trump and Rouhani could meet in New York in September at the UN General Assembly - though Rouhani reportedly rejected US overtures for a meeting at last year's event. But that came less than a fortnight after a bellicose exchange between the two presidents, with Rouhani warning of the "mother of all wars" and Trump responding with a Twitter tirade against Iran's "DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE". — AFP

Riyadh expels Canadian envoy...

Continued from Page 1

"There isn't a strong bilateral trade relationship and poking the Trudeau government likely resonates with Saudi's hawkish regional allies. At jeopardy are the tens of thousands of Saudi students in Canada."

More than 7,000 students from Saudi Arabia are enrolled in university programs in Canada, according to Harbush, head of the education ministry's scholarship program. These students, 2,000 of whom are enrolled in graduate or medical school, are accompanied by more than 5,000 dependents. "The US and UK will get the lion's share, given their size and the education opportunities there, and we've begun coordinating with the missions

Sports

Red Sox, Phillies cap 4-game sweeps; Nationals beat Reds

Cave's slam helps Twins edge Royals

NEW YORK: Jackie Bradley Jr scored the tying run on a throwing error by third baseman Miguel Andujar with two outs in the ninth inning, and Andrew Benintendi hit a game-winning single with two outs in the 10th as the Boston Red Sox beat the New York Yankees 5-4 Sunday night, completing a four-game sweep at Fenway Park. Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman blew his first save chance since May 4, ending a streak of 22 straight converted. He allowed three walks and JD Martinez's two-out, two-run, bases-loaded single over second baseman Gleyber Torres' leaping attempt, cutting New York's lead to 4-3.

It appeared the Yankees were going to hold on for the win, but Andujar did not set himself and bounced the throw to first baseman Greg Bird on a ground ball by Xander Bogaerts, and Bradley scored from second. In the 10th, Sandy Leon singled off Jonathan Holder (1-3) and took second on a wild pitch. The Yankees then intentionally walked Mookie Betts. Benintendi capped the four-hour, 39-minute marathon by chopping a single up the middle as pinch runner Tony Renda scored.

Phillies 5, Marlins 3

Asdrubal Cabrera hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the eighth inning, and Philadelphia defeated Miami to complete a four-game sweep. The Marlins had tied the game in the seventh on a two-run homer by Derek Dietrich and a solo shot by Justin Bour two outs later. After Pat Neshek (1-0) was perfect in the top of the eighth for Philadelphia, Nick Williams led off the bottom of the eighth with a single against Drew Steckenrider (3-2). One out later, Cabrera hit his 20th homer, and second since the Phillies acquired him from the New York Mets on July 27, to give Philadelphia the lead for good.

Dodgers 3, Astros 2

Manny Machado had three hits, and Brian Dozier delivered a two-run double as Los Angeles earned a victory to salvage a game against visiting Houston in a weekend World Series rematch. Walker Buehler (5-4) gave up two runs on four hits over 5 1/3 innings as the Dodgers won after scoring just one run and collecting seven hits combined in the first two games of the series. George Springer led off the game for the Astros with a home run, his 19th long ball of the year. Springer left the game in the third inning with left thumb discomfort after he was thrown out while trying to steal second base.

A's 6, Tigers 0

Oakland completed a season-series sweep of Detroit, riding the 10-strikeout pitching of Trevor Cahill and a trio of home runs to a home victory. After winning 1-0 and 2-1 to open the weekend series, the A's completed a 7-0 run through the Tigers this season, allowing them to sweep consecutive opponents in the season series. Oakland capped a 7-0 sweep of the Blue Jays with three straight wins earlier in the week. Before this week, the A's had recorded just two season-series sweeps of seven or more games in franchise history.

White Sox 8, Rays 7

Rookie Daniel Palka, who struck out in his first four at-bats, crushed a two-run, tiebreaking homer in the

ninth inning, leading Chicago past Tampa Bay in St. Petersburg, Fla., to complete a three-game sweep. Palka hit the first pitch he saw from reliever Diego Castillo (2-2), blasting a 96 mph pitch over the wall in center. The homer was preceded by Jose Abreu's single. Tampa Bay closed the score to 8-7 in the bottom of the ninth on an RBI double by Kevin Kiermaier. However, Hector Santiago (4-3) got Jesus Sucre to hit into a broken-bat, game-ending double play.

Twins 6, Royals 5

Jake Cave hit his first career grand slam, and Fernando Rodney picked up his 24th save as Minnesota held on for a victory and a three-game series sweep over Kansas City in Minneapolis. Max Kepler, Miguel Sano, Logan Forsythe and Robbie Grossman each had two hits and Ehire Adrianza scored two runs for Minnesota. Gabriel Moya (2-0) pitched 1 2/3 innings of hitless relief to pick up the victory. Whit Merrifield homered and had four hits and Lucas Duda also homered for Kansas City. Alex Gordon and Alcides Escobar each had two hits for the Royals, who dropped their fourth straight game.

Giants 3, Diamondbacks 2

Evan Longoria had three hits, including a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning, and drove in two runs as San Francisco beat Arizona in Phoenix. Longoria had an RBI single in the third inning and doubled and scored in the sixth while extending his hitting streak to eight games. The third baseman went 7-for-18 as the Giants split the four-game series. Longoria is hitting .357 since returning from the disabled list July 26 after missing 34 games with a broken hand. Steven Souza Jr homered for the Diamondbacks, who fell back into a tie with the Dodgers atop the NL West.

Nationals 2, Reds 1

Matt Wieters homered, Bryce Harper added an RBI double, and Tanner Roark allowed just one run over seven innings as host Washington defeated Cincinnati. The Nationals, who had been struggling before last week, took three of four in the series. Washington has won five of its past six games. Roark (6-12) gave up seven hits and no walks while striking out two to win for the third straight time. The right-hander has allowed just two runs in 22 innings in that span, which has come at the right time for the Washington rotation.

Rockies 5, Brewers 4 (11 innings)

Nolan Arenado homered in the top of the 11th inning, and Colorado salvaged the finale of a three-game series by winning at Milwaukee. The result snapped the Rockies' four-game losing streak. Trevor Story also homered and drove in four runs, and Scott Oberg (7-0) pitched one inning for the win. Seungwhan Oh got his first save with Colorado and third of the season. Travis Shaw and Mike Moustakas homered for the Brewers, who rallied to tie it in the ninth before falling.

Padres 10, Cubs 6

Cory Spangenberg doubled home the tiebreaking run with two outs in the eighth inning, and Hunter Renfroe triggered a four-run ninth with a two-run



BOSTON: Eduardo Nunez #36 of the Boston Red Sox slides safely into first base under the diving tag of Luke Voit #45 of the New York Yankees at Fenway Park on August 5, 2018. — AFP

homer as San Diego won at Chicago to gain a split of a four-game series. Travis Jankowski drew a two-out walk from Cubs reliever Carl Edwards Jr. in the eighth and stole second ahead of Spangenberg's double. Renfroe's ninth homer of the season immediately followed Eric Hosmer's one-out single. The Padres added two more runs on a two-run single by Jankowski off Rosario.

Indians 4, Angels 3

Jose Ramirez hit a three-run home run in the first inning, and Cody Allen protected a late lead by pitching out of a bases-loaded jam in the seventh, helping Cleveland hold off visiting Los Angeles. Shohei Ohtani, the focal point of the Los Angeles offense while Mike Trout sits out with a wrist injury, capped a six-hit series with a single and a double for the Angels, who lost for the sixth time in their last seven games. Allen also pitched a scoreless eighth, after which Brad Hand came on for his third save in seven games for Cleveland.

Cardinals 2, Pirates 1

Matt Carpenter hit his career-high and National League-leading 29th homer, and Jedd Gyorko drove in the deciding run as St Louis won at Pittsburgh. The Cardinals, who scored both runs in the fifth, took two of three in the series. Jack Flaherty (5-6) struck out seven in six scoreless innings, and Bud Norris pitched a perfect ninth for his 21st save. Pittsburgh's Adam Frazier was 2-for-4, including a homer in the seventh.

Braves 5, Mets 4 (10 innings)

Nick Markakis capped a four-hit day by homering with one out in the 10th inning as Atlanta came back from an early three-run deficit to win at New York. The Braves took three of four from the Mets, who have lost seven of nine. Markakis' one-out homer off Tyler Bashlor (0-1) landed well beyond the fence in right-center field. It was the 13th homer of the season for Markakis, who finished 4-for-5 to raise his average to .319.

Orioles 9, Rangers 6

Mark Trumbo hit two homers and drove in a season-high five runs as Baltimore won at Arlington, Texas, to salvage the finale of a four-game series. Trumbo, who has 15 homers this season, went 3-for-4. It was his second multi-homer game of the season. Baltimore's Jonathan Villar finished 3-for-3 with a homer, a double and a single. He also drew a walk and stole a base.

Mariners 6, Blue Jays 3

Nelson Cruz hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the seventh inning and had four RBIs to lead Seattle past visiting Toronto. Kyle Seager hit two solo home runs for the Mariners, who avoided being swept by Toronto in the four-game series and snapped a five-game losing streak that equaled their worst of the season. Toronto's Aledmys Diaz had three hits, including a home run. In the series, Diaz went 7-for-13 with three homers and five RBIs. — Reuters

Semenya cruises to 27th consecutive 800 meters victory

ASABA: South Africa's Olympic and world champion Caster Semenya won her 27th successive 800 metres final when she clocked an impressive one minute 56.06 seconds at the African championships in Asaba, Nigeria on Sunday. The title was the second at the five-day games for the 27-year-old who had earlier won the 400m in a national record of 49.96 seconds, while her 800m time was a championship record.

Winner of the 800 and 1,500 meters at the 2016 African championships, Semenya has not been beaten in the shorter race since 2015. "Today was just to see how we could run after a hard 400 meters," the South African told the IAAF website <https://www.iaaf.org/news/report/african-championships-asaba-final-day>. "Which wasn't a bad thing to do - to test my limits after running 49. And 1:56.06, that's a beautiful time. I couldn't have asked for more."

With winners in the championships qualifying for next month's Continental Cup in Ostrava, the 27-year-old Semenya confirmed she would contest both distances. Burundi's Francine Niyonsaba, the Olympic and world silver medalist, again was second, running 1:57.97, with Ethiopia's Habtamu Alemu taking the bronze in 1:58.86. Ivory Coast's Marie-Josée Ta Lou added the 200m title to her 100 crown, winning in 22.50 over Cameroon's Bevina Abessolo (23.36).

Kenyan Golds

Kenya piled up six more golds in sweeping the women's 3,000m steeplechase and winning the men's 1,500m, 5,000m, 4x400 relay, 20km race walk and javelin. World record holder Beatrice Chepkoech clocked 8:59.88 for a comfortable win over team mates Celliphine Chespol (9:09.61) and Fancy Cherono in the steeplechase.

Commonwealth Games champion Elijah Manangoi snapped training partner Timothy Cheruiyot's five-meet winning streak in Kenya's 1-2 in the 1,500. Manangoi claimed gold in 3:35.20 with Cheruiyot running 3:35.93. Edward Zakayo, who is only 16, claimed the 5,000m title in 13:48.58. 2008 Olympic champion Julius Yego won the javelin with a throw of 77.34 metres and Alphas Kishoiyan anchored Kenya to the 4x400m relay gold in a championship record 3:00.92.

The performances sent the Kenyans to the top of the medals table with 11 golds, six silver and two bronze. South Africa, with Ncincilli Titi taking the men's 200m in 20.46 seconds, finished second in the gold race with nine. They had 30 overall medals, 13 silver and eight bronze. Hosts Nigeria also had nine golds after Glory Nathaniel took the women's 400m hurdles in 55.43 seconds, Grace Anigbata won the women's triple jump (14.02m) and their women's 4x400m relay team ran 3:31.17. —Reuters



Fahaheel Zone wins Youth India swimming competition

KUWAIT: In the swimming competition organized by Youth India Kuwait as a relief from the summer heat, Fahaheel Zone emerged as winners. Farwaniya zone became the runners-up. The swimming competition which was held at Qadisiya Ultimate Soccer Academy on Friday at 3.30 pm was inaugurated by KIG Acting President Faisal Manjeri. Exciting competitions then took place between swimmers from Farwaniya, Abbasiya, Fahaheel and Salmiya zones.

Ramshad of the Fahaheel Zone became the champion in 25m free style competition. George Kutty Joseph of Fahaheel zone and George Joseph of Abbasiya attained the second and third places. In the 25m backstroke competition, Ramshad of Fahaheel zone, Muhammad Shafi of Salmiya zone and Ajins of Farwaniya zone won the first three places respectively. In the 4x25 relay competition that followed, Fahaheel, Abbasiya and Farwaniya zones finished in the first, second and third places respectively. In the exciting final of the Water Polo competition, Farwaniya zone defeated Fahaheel zone for 3-1 goals.

Fahaheel zone received the overall championship trophy from Youth India President Mehanas Musthafa. The runners-up Farwaniya zone received the trophy from Youth India Sports Convener Nayeem. Medals for the indi-

vidual champions were distributed by Youth India General Secretary Safeer Abu, Secretary Shihabudeen and Treasurer Nihad. The matches

were controlled by Youth India executive members Saleej, Shafi Koyamma, Fawas, Nayeem, Haroon, Shafi N K and Nihad.



Sports

Thomas wins WGC-Bridgestone Invitational in a dominant style

Mclroy, Poulter, Day unable to mount challenge

OHIO: Winning the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational on Sunday had put Justin Thomas in a "great place mentally", with the timing perfect as he gears up to defend the PGA Championship title. Thomas showed his game and mind are both firing as he stayed clear of the field for a four-stroke victory in Akron, Ohio, on Sunday. Thomas started the final round with a three-shot cushion and was never seriously challenged, a one-under-par 69 more than enough to clinch his first World Golf Championships event and ninth PGA Tour title.

He finished at 15-under 265 at Firestone, while fellow American Kyle Stanley carded 68 for second place on 11 under. World number one Dustin Johnson and Dane Thorbjorn Olesen shot 64 and tied for third on 10 under. "I take a lot of pride in how I played today," Thomas told reporters. "I was very nervous going in. "With a three-shot lead I knew I needed to play well but I had a little bit of wiggle room. "I was able to dwell on past ... experience. "My goal today I was trying to get to 18 under, because I knew if I got to that I didn't think anyone would catch me. I played well enough to do that but didn't make many putts."

The victory was especially special for Thomas, in

front of his grandparents. Grandfather Paul played in the 1960 PGA Championship at Firestone. "They don't get to come out very often any more. This is my first PGA Tour win with them here, so it's pretty cool," the 25-year-old said after joining Dustin Johnson and Bubba Watson as three-times winners on the tour this year. He held steady on a day when the three players who started closest to the lead all fell apart. Rory Mclroy made three straight bogeys around the turn, carded 73 and finished seven shots behind, while Ian Poulter putted uncharacteristically poorly and was never a factor after four bogeys in the first seven holes.

A 74 left Poulter tied for 10th with Australian Jason Day, eight strokes off the pace. Day crept within two shots after three successive birdies from the 10th hole, only to drop five shots in the next five holes and shoot 73. The championship moves to Memphis next year, ending a long run at Firestone. "I'm glad I finally played well around here, just in time for it to leave," said Thomas, who will head to St. Louis brimming with confidence for the PGA Championship, which starts on Thursday at Bellerive. "I'm in a great place mentally right now. I was so patient and calm all week." — Reuters



OHIO: Justin Thomas plays his shot from the eighth tee during the World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational - Final Round at Firestone Country Club South Course in Akron, Ohio. —AFP

'Good times' returning to Euro athletics

BERLIN: The European Athletics Championships, which were set to kick off in Berlin on Monday, will be the "strongest ever seen" and will help bring the "good times" back to an ailing sport, according to European Athletics president Svein-Arne Hansen. The 24th edition of the 84-year-old event, which for the first time will come under the umbrella of the new multi-sport European Championships being co-hosted by Glasgow and Berlin, comes with the sport trying to emerge from a grim period. Yet Hansen, the 72-year-old Norwegian who was the meet director at Oslo's Bislett Games, said the Championships could help restore credibility to a sport disfigured by doping problems.

The event features seven reigning Olympic champions, 15 world champions and 34 victors from the last championships in Amsterdam two years ago. "I think it's the strongest championships we have ever seen," Hansen said. There will again be no Russian team in Berlin with their national federation still suspended from international competition over state-sponsored doping, even though the IAAF have said they have made "significant" improvement in key areas. A group of 29 Russians will compete as 'Authorised Neutral Athletes' in Berlin after satisfying IAAF requirements.

"Athletics in the world is very much coming out of that dark period with Russia," Hansen said. "We don't want the cheating. The Russian athletes who will be in competition in Berlin are clean." He believes that Berlin's historic Olympic stadium that hosted a successful world championships in 2009 featuring Usain Bolt in his world record-breaking pomp now has the chance to showcase "new stars" and attractive plotlines. Among them are the outlandish prospect of Norway's three Ingebrigtsen brothers - 27-year-old Henrik, Filip (25) and Jakob (17) - sweeping the medals in the 1,500 meters.

There should be a sprint battle to relish in the women's 100 meters between Dutchwoman Dafne Schippers, bidding for a third successive title, against Britain's brilliant Dina Asher-Smith, the reigning 200m champion. Norway's world champion Karsten Warholm launches his 400m hurdles bid on Monday but will then also attempt the most unlikely double over the flat 400. The men's 100m could top the bill in the stadium where Jesse Owens and Bolt thrived, featuring a quartet who have dipped under 10 seconds this season-Britain's Zharnel Hughes, France's Jimmy Vicaut, Italy's Filippo Tortu and Turkey's Jak Ali Harvey. — Reuters

Germany target Euro domination

BERLIN: Johannes Vetter headlines a strong German team that will bid to dominate the European Athletics Championships at Berlin's Olympic stadium this week, while Norway's Karsten Warholm has lined up a shot at a rare 400m/400m hurdles double. Germany, boasting a squad of 128 athletes, will eye a potential sweep in the men's javelin given they can start with world champion Vetter, newly-crowned German champion Andreas Hofmann and Rio Olympic gold medalist Thomas Roehele. Estonia's Magnus Kirt (89.75m) and Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch (89.02m) will be looking to challenge the German triumvirate.

"They (the Germans) can all throw over 92 meters, so I'm looking forward to seeing that," said Germany's David Storl, the multi-medalled shot putter seeking a fourth successive European title. Storl is one of five reigning European champions representing the host nation, alongside Christina Schwanitz (shot put), Max Hess (triple jump), Cindy Roleder (100m hurdles) and Gesa Felicitas Krause (3000m steeplechase). More medal hopes for Germany also lie in the men's discus. Olympic champion Christoph Harting is joined by Olympic bronze medalist Daniel Jasinski and older brother Robert, who famously won the world title in the same stadium in 2009, in his farewell to major championships competition. —AFP

Kuwait figure skating team wins five medals in Asian tournament

BANGKOK: Kuwait's female figure skating team won four gold and one silver medals in the second day of the weeklong Asian tournament held in Thailand. Tala Al-Kharjy won a gold medal in the drama section, whereas Taiba Al-Atwan won a gold medal in the beta category. Aljoud Al-Kharjy and Fatima Al-Yousif won the gold medals in the gamma category, while Futoun Al-Atwan won a silver medal in the solo category. "What has been achieved today was the result of joint efforts by the management of the club and the athletes," said Director of the Kuwait Winter Games Club Salem Al-Ajmi in a statement to KUNA. "The strong training camp, which was held in the Czech Republic with the support of the Public Authority for Sport (PAS), reflected positively on the results of players in the tournament so far," he stressed. — KUNA



Russian women eclipsed in apparatus events at Euros

GLASGOW: Russia's gymnasts dominated the women's team event at the European Championships but none of them were able to strike gold in the individual apparatus events on Sunday. Hungary's Boglarka Devai won the vault, Belgium's Nina Derwael successfully defended her asymmetric bars title, Dutch Olympic champion Sanne Wevers prevailed on the balance beam and

French starlet Melanie de Jesus was victorious on the floor. Angelina Melnikova, the outstanding performer in Russia's win on Friday, was the only member of the victorious team to win an apparatus medal, taking silver in the vault and bronze on the asymmetric bars at the SSE Hydro arena.

The 18-year-old Devai burst into tears after Melnikova, the last to compete, failed to overhaul her outstanding mark of 14.349 and it dawned on her that she had become the first Hungarian woman to win the European vault title for 20 years. World bronze medalist Derwael, also 18, took the gold on the bars with a routine that earned her an outstanding 14.733 mark ahead of Sweden's silver medalist Jonna Adlerteg (14.533). The 26-year-old Wevers, the first Dutch female gymnast ever to win Olympic gold, won on the

beam (13.900) a decade after taking a World Cup title in Glasgow. After reaching her peak in Rio, Wevers admitted it had been a difficult challenge to get back to her best in Glasgow.

"It has been hard. I really had to get obsessed with gymnastics again, to just completely focus on my goals. I managed to do so and I think today it all came out," she said. "It's fantastic to win this title and of course the bronze medal in the team final." De Jesus, one of the rising forces in the sport and all-around bronze medalist at the 2017 Europeans, produced a brilliant routine on the floor to record a mark of 13.766 and grab a gold to go with her silver with the French team. She finished ahead of Romania's Denisa Golgota (13.600), who also won bronze in the vault, and Belgium's Axelle Klinckhaert (13.400). — Reuters

Pom-pom girls and kiss cams: Badminton gets edgy to win fans

NANJING: Pom-pom girls strut their stuff, pop music reverberates around the arena and a "kiss cam" trains its sights on the next unsuspecting couple. Sounds like a basketball or baseball match? Think again: this is badminton, and probably not as many imagined it. It is all part of an attempt by the sport's governing body to attract and keep new fans, the younger the better.

"Increasingly we see ourselves as part of the entertainment business and not only the sports-entertainment business," Thomas Lund, secretary general of the Badminton World Federation (BWF), said. "That's a conscious choice... We are competing for people's time and attention - on television, on social media, online," the Dane said on the sidelines of the World Championships in Nanjing, China. "We want to engage them in badminton and make them think badminton." For spectators, that means more than just loud music and the fancy spotlights that rake over the audience between matches.

It is also the thudding "heartbeat" sound that plays to the crowd during a video decision review, ratcheting up the tension, and players walking onto court like rock stars. "The big thing for us at the moment is to ensure that it is not really about the court or the surroundings, it is really about the players," said Lund, a former Olympian in the sport. "It is about... how you present the players, these players that people think of as stars, present them as stars. "It's a theatre thing." The notorious "kiss cam", when couples in the crowd are flashed up on the big screen and encouraged to smooch, was in full effect in Nanjing, where Japan's Kento Momota was crowned men's champion and Spain's Carolina Marin won the women's title.



NANJING: Dancers perform during the badminton World Championships in Nanjing, Jiangsu province. — AFP

More money

Badminton - popular in Asia and bits of Europe but a niche sport in many countries - is "growing as a sport on many different levels", according to Lund. The BWF has attracted new sponsors, notably global banking heavyweight HSBC, and there is more prize money for players, he said. For the first time, there is a handful of semi-professional referees and later umpires too. Getting children interested, whether as spectators or players, is a key plank of the Kuala Lumpur-based BWF's drive to make badminton more popular and find the stars of the future. "It's about getting a racquet into their hand and keeping it in there," said Lund. To that end, the BWF has a schools program in 132 countries. Nobody is pretending that badminton will rival football for global popularity, but the BWF believes there is plenty of room to grow.

More competition

At the London 2012 Olympics, China cleaned up, winning all five titles. But those days of Chinese domination have gone, even if the hosts did win the mixed and men's doubles titles when the World Championships wrapped up on Sunday. Japan took gold in the women's doubles to go with Momota's singles title. China's somewhat waning powers can only be good for badminton's popularity — who wants to see the same country win everything? "But the good thing is that it is not because China have become worse, it's that the others have got better, we have seen a rise in standard," said Lund. "Japan are fantastic, India are fantastic, Thailand, Chinese Taipei (Taiwan), the Spain story with Carolina (Marin), Denmark still hanging on, which is good for the sport. "It has become more diverse." — AFP

Sports

Bangladesh seal T20 series with 19-run victory over West Indies

Russell smashes 47 off just 21 deliveries

SCOREBOARD

LAUDERHILL, United States: Scoreboard of the deciding final fixture of the three-match T20 International Series between the West Indies and Bangladesh at the Central Broward Stadium in Florida on Sunday.

Bangladesh Innings

Liton Das c Nurse b Williams	61
Tamim Iqbal c Williams b Brathwaite	21
Soumya Sarkar c Powell b Paul	5
Mushfiqur Rahim c wkpr Ramdin b Brathwaite	12
Shakib al Hasan c Nurse b Paul	24
Mahmudullah not out	32
Ariful Haque not out	18
Extras (lb-4, nb-1, w-6)	11
Total (20 overs, 5 wickets)	184
Fall of wickets: 1-61 (Tamim Iqbal), 2-66 (Soumya Sarkar), 3-97 (Mushfiqur Rahim), 4-102 (Liton Das), 5-146 (Shakib al Hasan)	
Did not bat: Nazmul Islam, Abu Hider, Rubel Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman	
Bowling: S. Badree 3-0-23-0, A. Nurse 3-0-31-0, A. Russell 3-0-36-0 (1w), C. Brathwaite 4-0-32-2 (3w), K. Paul 3-0-26-2 (1w), K. Williams 4-0-32-1 (1nb, 1w)	

West Indies Innings

C. Walton c (sub) Sabbir Rahman b Soumya Sarkar	19
A. Fletcher c Nazmul Islam b Mustafizur Rahman	6
M. Samuels b Shakib al Hasan	2
R. Powell c Abu Hider b Mustafizur Rahman	23
D. Ramdin b Rubel Hossain	21
A. Russell c Ariful Haque b Mustafizur Rahman	47
C. Brathwaite c (sub) Sabbir Rahman b Abu Hider	5
A. Nurse not out	0
Extras (b-4, lb-3, w-5)	12
Total (17.1 overs, 7 wickets)	135
Fall of wickets: 1-26 (Fletcher), 2-30 (Walton), 3-32 (Samuels), 4-77 (Ramdin), 5-96 (Powell), 6-128 (Brathwaite), 7-135 (Russell)	
Did not bat: K. Paul, K. Williams, S. Badree	
Bowling: Abu Hider 3-0-28-1, Rubel Hossain 4-0-28-1, Mustafizur Rahman 3-1-0-31-3 (1w), Nazmul Islam 0.3-0-2-0, Soumya Sarkar 2.3-0-18-1 (4w), Shakib al Hasan 4-0-22-1	

Result: Bangladesh won by 19 runs on the DLS Method

LAUDERHILL: Bangladesh withstood a withering assault from Andre Russell to complete a series-clinching 19-run victory on the DLS Method over the West Indies in the rain-affected deciding final fixture of their three-match T20 International Series on Sunday. Russell smashed 47 off just 21 deliveries with six towering sixes and one four to keep the Caribbean side in with a chance of surpassing Bangladesh's formidable total of 184 for five at Central Broward Stadium. However his dismissal at the start of the 18th over, giving left-arm seamer Mustafizur Rahman his third wicket of the innings, effectively sealed the result in favor of Bangladesh.

Russell's departure at 135 for seven off 17.1 overs was immediately followed by a sharp shower which ended any further prospect of play although there was little chance of the West Indies getting anywhere close to the target off a full 20 overs with all their big-hitters gone. Having been thrashed in both Tests at the start of the tour, this T20 series triumph follows on the 2-1 success in the One-Day International contest for the Asian side. Their formidable total was set up by a career-best effort from Liton Das. Das set the tone at the top of the order for his team after captain Shakib al Hasan chose to bat first with a blistering innings of 61 off just 32 balls with six fours and three sixes.

He earned the "Man of the Match" award and stole the show from his more experienced and prolific opening partner, Tamim Iqbal, in an opening stand of 61 off just 4.4 overs. Along the way the pair registered the fastest-ever fifty by Bangladesh in T20 International cricket off only 21 deliveries as they tore into the spin of Samuel Badree and Ashley Nurse before also putting the pace of Russell to the sword. It took the introduction of captain Carlos Brathwaite to engineer the breakthrough when he had Tamim caught at short fine-leg for 21 while Keemo Paul removed Soumya Sarkar cheaply for the second consecutive match to pull the West Indies back into contention.

Brathwaite also accounted for Mushfiqur Rahman while Kesrick Williams ended the rampaging knock of Liton as the Bangladesh innings stuttered when it



FORT LAUDERDALE: Bangladesh's players pose with the trophy after winning the 3rd and final T20i match against West Indies at Central Broward Regional Park Stadium in Fort Lauderdale on August 5, 2018. — AFP

seemed a total in excess of 200 was assured. However an unbeaten 32 from Mahmudullah and an unbroken 38-run sixth-wicket stand with Ariful Haque ensured that Bangladesh got up to a competitive total. West Indies replaced out-of-form opener Evin Lewis with the hard-hitting Chadwick Walton at the top of the order in their only change for this match but it failed to have the desired effect.

"Tremendous effort"

Walton and opening partner Andre Fletcher fell cheaply, as did the experienced Marlon Samuels, who was bowled by a shooter from Shakib. "This was a tremendous team effort and will give us a lot of confidence moving forward," said a delighted Shakib, who was named "Man of the Series." "Now we need to build

on this performance, in both the ODI's and T20's, when we return home to be more consistent and competitive against the big teams." Wicketkeeper-batsman Denesh Ramdin put on 45 runs for the fourth wicket with all-rounder Rovman Powell but it was the arrival of Russell at the fall of Ramdin's wicket which revived a flagging West Indies. He threatened to win the match off his own bat even with wickets continuing to fall around him but a miscued straight hit off a Mustafizur full-toss resulted in the catch at long-off by Ariful and the subsequent Bangladeshi celebrations. "I didn't think it was our smartest batting effort," said Brathwaite in assessing his team's performance in the run-chase. "Our bowlers pulled it back very well when it looked as if they would have gotten to 220 but we just couldn't execute with the bat as a team when it mattered." — AFP

Japan's Honda and Melbourne Victory ink deal

MELBOURNE: Former Japan midfielder Keisuke Honda has signed with Melbourne Victory for the 2018/19 season, the A-League champions said yesterday. The former AC Milan player bowed out of international soccer after Japan's exit from the last 16 at the World Cup in Russia, having represented the nation 98 times and scored 37 goals. Honda's signing is a coup for Victory after the departure of stalwart striker Besart Berisha and a bonus for the Australian league which has struggled to lure world class talent.

"I'm so happy to join the club," Honda, wearing a Melbourne Victory shirt, said from Los Angeles in an interview with local broadcaster Fox Sports. "I think Melbourne Victory is the best club in Australia. I am honored. I will make the club win. I have confidence. I will help the team as much as I can. I'm an ambitious person and I always work my best, so let's make it happen." National governing body Football Federation Australia confirmed it would make a significant contribution to Honda's multi-million dollar salary out of its marquee fund.

tribution to Honda's multi-million dollar salary out of its marquee fund.

"The marquee fund ... was set up for just this purpose," A-League boss Greg O'Rourke told a media conference in Melbourne. "We set out about three months ago with only two or three names (in consideration), one of those was Keisuke Honda. "It's fantastic that we take this next step to bring Asia to the A-League." Osaka-born 32-year-old Honda, a set piece maestro capable of playing across the forward line, underlined his class with a goal against Senegal at the World Cup, which made him his nation's only player to score at three of the global showpieces.

He said his agent brother had told him of Victory's interest a week after the World Cup but he had never thought of continuing his career Down Under. "I couldn't believe that because I am a Japanese and I never thought I would play in Australia in my career," said the bleach blond playmaker, whose last club stint was with Mexican side Pachuca. "I checked a couple of things. Melbourne Victory is the most successful club in the A-League in the last 13 years, they became champions many times, I am proud of this kind of club.

"Also the manager Kevin (Muscat), he is a really nice guy when I talked with him. "He has a big, big passion. I love it, so I think that reason was also why I decided to play with the club." Muscat coached Victory to a record fourth A-League title last season



Japan's midfielder Keisuke Honda

and said he was convinced Honda could make a big contribution. "He's a hugely driven individual as no doubt many people have seen over the years in his career," Muscat told reporters. "From a football side of things who can contribute and contribute heavily to my team and the competition was the most defining thing for me. "He's still got so much more to offer in relation to football." — Reuters

Beijing retain top spot after draw with Shandong

HONG KONG: Renato Augusto earned Beijing Guoan a share of the points as Sunday's top-of-the-table clash with Shandong Luneng ended in a 1-1 draw that allowed Roger Schmidt's side to hold on to pole position in the Chinese Super League. The Brazilian's curling free kick five minutes from the end of the first half cancelled out Diego Tardelli's fifth-minute effort to ensure Beijing retained their one-point lead over Shandong at the top of the standings. "We actually created a lot of chances to win but we wasted them and that's a pity," said Augusto. "But I don't want to blame the offence or the defense, because Shandong played very well today."

Beijing's draw with Shandong allowed defending champions Guangzhou Evergrande to move to within three points of the summit as Fabio Cannavaro's side picked up their fourth win in a row since the post-World Cup resumption with a 4-2 win over cross-city rivals Guangzhou R&F. R&F took the lead—the first time Evergrande have conceded since the Super League restarted last month—through Renato but Evergrande's Brazilian trio secured the three points for the seven-time champions. Anderson Talisca levelled the scores in the 28th minute to claim his

seventh goal in four games since moving to China from Benfica before a pair of goals from Paulinho either side of Ricardo Goulart's strike ensured that Eran Zahavi's injury time penalty was academic. Evergrande are now on 30 points and level with big-spending rivals Shanghai SIPG, who were surprise 1-0 losers against struggling Dalian Yifang. Yannick Carrasco scored the only goal of the game to ensure Dalian won for the first time since late May to ease the pressure on coach Bernd Schuster.

The results mean both SIPG and Evergrande are three points behind Beijing with a game in hand after their meeting with one another last month was postponed until Sept 18 due to bad weather. Jiangsu Suning kept the leading group in sight with a 3-1 win over bottom club Guizhou Zhicheng with three goals in the final 18 minutes—including one for China international Wu Xi—sealing the points for Cosmin Olaroiu's team. Chris Coleman's difficult start to life in Chinese football continued as his Hebei China Fortune side slipped to a 2-1 loss against Tianjin Teda.

The former Wales manager was appointed during the World Cup break and has yet to win a Super League game in five attempts, drawing three and losing twice. Ayoub El Kaabi gave Coleman's side the lead from the penalty spot 18 minutes into the game but Frank Acheampong equalized for Tianjin before Xie Weijun hit the winner two minutes from time. Henan Jianye took the three points from their encounter with Tianjin Quanjian with a 2-1 win while Beijing Renhe were held to a 1-1 draw by Chongqing Lifan and Changchun Yatai drew 1-1 with Shanghai Shenhua. — Reuters



Cristiano Ronaldo

Ronaldo's debut to be streamed live on Facebook

LONDON: Cristiano Ronaldo's debut for Juventus is among a series of games from Serie A and Spain's La Liga to be broadcast for free on Facebook in the UK and Ireland this season. UK rights holders Eleven Sports announced yesterday it had reached an agreement with the social media giant that will see at least one live match from both leagues broadcast every week on the network's own Facebook page.

The deal is just the latest step towards the online sector securing lucrative live football contracts after Amazon secured the rights to show 20 Premier League matches

a season for three years in the UK, starting from the 2019/20 season in June. Five-time World Player of the Year Ronaldo will make his Serie A debut at Chievo on August 18 with Atletico Madrid's La Liga opener at Valencia two days later and Barcelona's visit to Valladolid on August 25 also among the matches scheduled for free-to-air viewing.

"This partnership reflects our commitment to helping broadcasters reach new audiences, build their brands and deliver a great viewing experience for sports fans on Facebook," said Rhys Beer, Facebook's live sports programming lead for Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Last week Eleven Sports, owned by Leeds United chairman Andrea Radrizzani, announced a monthly online subscription for all of its content will cost £5.99 a month or an annual fee of £59.99. The first two days of golf's fourth major of the season, the PGA Championship, will also be broadcast for free via the Eleven Sports Facebook page. — Reuters

Willian commits to Chelsea, Luiz urges Courtois, Hazard to stay

LONDON: Brazilian international Willian has given Chelsea a huge boost by committing his future to the Premier League giants as the futures of Thibaut Courtois and Eden Hazard remain in doubt. Willian was also linked with a move away from Stamford Bridge, but Chelsea rebuffed offers from Barcelona earlier in the transfer window and the appointment of Maurizio Sarri to replace Antonio Conte as manager appears to have eased any desire to leave from the winger.

After Chelsea's FA Cup final win in Conte's final game in charge, Willian, who had been left on the bench, posted a picture on Instagram with the Italian blocked out by three trophy emojis in a picture of the whole team celebrating. "I'm a Chelsea player," Willian told ESPN Brasil. "I always made it clear that what I wanted was to stay in the club. "The only club I knew that really made an official offer for me was Barcelona. "But I have my head here and I intend to continue in the club unless the club wants to sell me. But my head is here in the club."

Willian's compatriot and team-mate David Luiz has urged Belgian duo Courtois and Hazard to also stay put after starring for their country at the World Cup. Courtois, 26, has a year remaining on his contract and has been repeatedly linked with a move to Real Madrid. Chelsea risk losing him for a reduced fee in January or for free next summer. The former Atletico Madrid stopper has repeatedly stated his desire to move closer to his two children in the Spanish capital. Hazard, whose deal expires in 2020, has stalled over a new contract offer and has long been the subject of speculation over a move to Real.

"Chelsea wants for the best players to stay," said Luiz. "They know Chelsea a lot, so they know what they've had here, the fun they've had here. Everybody loves them and I hope they can stay." Sarri said he would sanction Courtois' departure if the goalkeeper expresses a desire to leave following Sunday's Community Shield defeat to Manchester City. The transfer window for incoming players to Premier League clubs closes this Thursday, but Luiz is adamant the Blues have enough quality even if Courtois and Hazard go. "I want them to stay, because we have top players with the confidence," Luiz said. "If they decide to leave, I think we will continue with fantastic players." Luiz himself was sidelined by injury and a fallout with Conte for most of last season.

But after starting on Sunday, Luis insists he never contemplated leaving Chelsea for a second time and is now keen to show he can be a key figure for Sarri. "I was just working and trying to do my best," Luiz added. "Everybody has the opportunity, you just have to show him character, physical quality, technical quality, so since the first day I'm trying to do that." The 59-year-old Italian's style has been likened to Pep Guardiola's. But while City gave the Catalan time to adjust in his first season in England, there is precious little time for Sarri. "I hope we can understand it quickly and can fight for all the titles," Luiz said. "When you play for a big club you have to be ready to try to fight for the titles, and we're going to fight for that." — AFP

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World champ Kolesnichenko wins technical solo

Ukraine's Kolodiy and Lyskun take first Euro diving gold



GLASGOW: Silver medalist Ukraine's Yelyzaveta Yakhno (left), Gold medalist Russia's Svetlana Kolesnichenko (center) and Bronze medalist Italy's Linda Cerruti pose on the podium during the medal ceremony for the solo technical routine final at the Scotstoun Sports Campus during the 2018 European Championships in Glasgow yesterday. — AFP

GLASGOW: Svetlana Kolesnichenko, the new standard bearer for artistic aquatics, added another European Championships gold to her huge collection of international medals when she took the synchronized swimming solo technical title yesterday. In a Russian team that dominates the sport, the 24-year-old Kolesnichenko has become its most celebrated figure with one Olympic and 13 world titles to her name.

Yet it is only in the past year having taken up the solo events and won four titles at the 2017 world championships that the athlete from Gatchina, near St Petersburg, has really flourished. Performing to Edvard Grieg's Peer Gynt, Kolesnichenko was not quite at her very best but still dominated, her mark of 93.4816 putting her more than two points clear of Ukrainian silver medallist Yelyzaveta Yakhno (91.3517).

Italy's Linda Cerruti (90.2282) took the bronze as

Kolesnichenko celebrated her sixth European title, and the second in Glasgow following her victory in the duet technical with Varvara Subbotina. "I will work harder in the next year to improve. I'm getting stronger," said Kolesnichenko, who has the chance to collect another two golds on the final day of competition today. Kolesnichenko has certainly come a long way from the six-year-old girl who was taken to a synchronized swimming club because her mother thought she was too fat, only for the coach to originally refuse to take her on.

Russia underlined their dominance by later winning the gold in the technical team final, with Ukraine again having to settle for silver and Italy the bronze. The winning performance, which earned an impressive total of 94.6000, was so good that it even caused a ripple of amazement within the Russian squad. "Tatiana

Pokrovskaja (the team coach) smiled—and that is amazing," explained one member of the winning team, Mariia Shurochkina. "She told us we were amazing. It feels like a happy new year because one time in a year she says, 'OK, that was very good.'"

First Euro diving gold

Meanwhile, Ukrainian Sofiiia Lyskun demonstrated notable composure at 16 to pull off a winning final dive under pressure, enabling the teenager and partner Oleg Kolodiy to celebrate victory in the mixed team final at the European Championships yesterday. The action at the inaugural multi-event Championships moved from Glasgow to the Royal Commonwealth Pool in Edinburgh where the first of 13 diving finals was being staged and Lyskun provided a memorable opening.

The youngster demonstrated her appetite for big meet competition when, aged 15, winning bronze at the 10 meters platform synchro event at last year's European Championships in Kiev. Yet this was pressure of a different order when she was forced to produce a fine final dive to allow her and 25-year-old maths graduate Kolodiy to snatch the gold medal from Germany's Lou Massenber and Maria Kurjo.

The youngster's difficult dive—a back two-and-a-half somersaults and one-and-a-half twists in pike from the 10 meter board was so well executed that she earned the highest final round mark of any diver. It gave the Ukrainian pair a winning total of 355.90 to the German duo's 352.60, while the Russian team of Evgenii Kuznetsov and Luliia Timoshina were left to curse two poor final dives that turned a likely gold into bronze. —Agencies

England cricketer Stokes lost control in a street brawl

BRISTOL: England cricketer Ben Stokes lost his self-control and knocked two men unconscious in a street fight last September, a court heard yesterday as his trial for affray began. Stokes, acting in "revenge, retaliation or punishment", was involved in a "sustained episode of significant violence", prosecutor Nicholas Corsellis told a jury at Bristol Crown Court in southwest England. Stokes, 27, who starred on Saturday as England beat India at Edgbaston, is being tried alongside 27-year-old Ryan Ali and Ryan Hale, 28. They each deny the charge of affray. They had all

been drinking inside a Bristol nightclub. The fight took place outside after 2:00 am on September 25 last year, the prosecutor said.

They were all involved in threatening and/or using unlawful violence towards each other, it is alleged. Corsellis said only the defendants knew how the fracas began and it could have been stopped very quickly. "During the incident, Mr Stokes lost his control and started to attack with revenge, retaliation or punishment in mind. Well beyond acting in self defense or defense of another," he said. "He knocked Mr Hale unconscious and then - after time to pause for thought, to calm — he did exactly the same to Mr Ali. "Mr Ali received significant injuries included a fractured eye socket and required hospital treatment."

'Onlookers shocked'

Wearing a blue suit and red tie, Stokes sat in the far left of the dock, Hale in the middle and Ali on the far right. "This was not a trivial moment of unpleasantness. It was a sustained episode of significant violence that left onlookers shocked at what

was taking place," Corsellis said. "A bottle was used at the beginning by Mr Ali and a broken street sign brought into the fray towards the end by Mr Hale." The prosecutor said the three defendants were all young men of promise. "Ben Stokes, is a professional cricket player who has reached the top of his profession and represented his country," Corsellis said.

"Equally, Mr Ali has worked for the emergency services and Mr Hale has served his country in the armed forces. "It almost goes without saying, but past success, fame or good deeds does not absolve you from your duty - and the law - to behave yourself." Stokes missed the Ashes series against Australia after being suspended from playing for England. Without him, England lost the series 4-0. He has since played in the Test series against New Zealand and Pakistan. He starred in England's first Test victory over India last week. The trial is expected to last between five and seven days. The second Test between England and India, at Lord's in London, starts on Thursday.— AFP



BRISTOL: Clare Stokes (left), wife of England cricketer Ben Stokes, sorts out her husband's collar as they return to Bristol Crown Court yesterday after the court broke for lunch. — AFP