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INDEPENDENCE DAY OF
PAKISTAN

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Erdogan slams 'stab in back', vows action against 'economic terrorists'

Kuwait mourns Sheikha Fareeha

KUWAIT: Kuwait yesterday mourned Sheikha Fareeha Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, widow of Sheikh Rashed Al-Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who passed away aged 74. She was the President of the Kuwait Association for the Ideal Family. Sheikha Fareeha was the daughter of the late Amir III Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the 10th ruler of Kuwait, and the sister of both III the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as well as III the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. She was born on Feb 15, 1944 in Dasman Palace and married her cousin Sheikh Rashed, with whom she had four children - Sheikha Reem, Sheikha Bibi, Sheikh Humoud and Sheikh Ahmad. Sheikha Fareeha was known for her passion for



Sheikha Fareeha

charitable and social work, as well as her dedication to family issues and women's rights in particular. — KUNA (See Page 3)

KUWAIT: Kuwait has rebuffed as "ungrounded" reports that it injected KD 500 million (\$1.6 billion) to back the Turkish lira, which has been in free fall over deteriorating ties with the US. Denying such reports, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance said in a statement that Finance Minister Nayef Al-Hajraf met Turkish Minister of Treasury and Finance Berat Albayrak at Kuwait International Airport on Sunday evening. During the meeting, both ministers addressed the latest economic situation in Turkey, where Kuwait has various investments, according to the statement. But they did not touch upon any possible support of the Turkish currency, nor did they make any financial or investment decisions, it confirmed.

Meanwhile Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan yesterday accused "economic terrorists" of plotting to harm Turkey by spreading false reports and said they would face the full force of the law, as authorities launched investigations on those suspected of involvement.

Continued on Page 24



ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan addresses a luncheon for participants of the 10th Ambassadors' Conference yesterday. — AFP

CONDOLENCES

Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief

Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan,

Management and Staff convey their deepest condolences to

His Highness the Amir

Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

His Highness the Crown Prince

Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

and the Al-Sabah family

on the sad demise of

Sheikha Fareeha Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on her

Local

Amir meets Sheikh Hamad, receives biography of late Suad Al-Humaidhi

Crown Prince meets state officials



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah. — KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah at Seif Palace, where he presented to His Highness a book and a documentary about the biography of the late Suad Hamad Al-Saleh Al-Humaidhi. Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali also presented copies of the biography to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.


Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received yesterday Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and State Minister for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh. His Highness also received Minister of Finance Dr Nayef Falah Al-Hajraf, Minister of Health Dr Basel Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Adel Mused Al-Kharafi. His Highness the Crown Prince also met with Municipal Council Chairman Osama Humoud Al-Otaibi and Kuwait's Ambassador in Jordan Aziz Raheem Al-Dihani. — KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Minister of Finance Dr Nayef Falah Al-Hajraf.




His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Minister of Health Dr Basel Al-Sabah and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Adel Al-Kharafi.



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His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Municipal Council Chairman Osama Humoud Al-Otaibi.

Palestinian president hails Kuwait's support to Palestine, its people

RAMALLAH: The State of Kuwait has always been a supporter of Palestine and its people, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said on Sunday. This came during a meeting between President Abbas and a Kuwaiti delegation from the Ministry of Education, in charge of interviewing and hiring Palestinian teachers to work in Kuwait, in the presence of Palestinian Minister of Education Sabri Sidem, according to Palestinian news agency (Wafa).

The agency said that President Abbas welcomed the delegation, affirming importance of their visit and the great confidence placed in the Palestinian teachers in general. President Abbas also called on the rest of Arab countries to follow suit by enabling the Palestinian

teacher to work in their nations due to their "excellent ability and innovation." The Palestinian leader praised past efforts exerted by the Palestinian teachers who taught in Kuwait and conveyed a clear picture of the Palestinian teacher and their abilities.

President Abbas also praised His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, the government, and the people for their support to the Palestinian just cause. Meanwhile, Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education said Abbas instructed Civil Affairs Authority to ensure that the Kuwaiti delegation would be able to visit Gaza Strip. Earlier, the Ministry said the Kuwaiti delegation, which was seeking Palestinian math teachers, decided to extend their stay until yesterday. — KUNA



RAMALLAH: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas meets with members of a delegation from Kuwait's Ministry of Education. — KUNA

Local

Amiri Diwan mourns Sheikha Fareeha Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

Late Sheikha Fareeha's life dotted with philanthropic achievements



Sheikha Fareeha Al-Sabah attends a ceremony to honor winners of the 'Ideal Mother Award for Outstanding Family'. —KUNA photos

KUWAIT: The Amiri Diwan yesterday mourned Sheikha Fareeha Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, widow of Sheikh Rashed Al-Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. In the early hours of yesterday, Kuwait mourned the death of Sheikha Fareeha, President of the Kuwait Association for the Ideal Family, who passed away at the age of 74. Sheikha Fareeha was the daughter of the late His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the tenth ruler of Kuwait, and the sister of both His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as well as His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince of Kuwait. She was born on February 15, 1944 at Dasman Palace and married her cousin Sheikh Rashed Al-Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, with whom she had four children, Sheikha Reem, Sheikha Bibi, Sheikh Humoud and Sheikh Ahmad.

Sheikha Fareeha was known for her passion for charitable and social work, as well as her dedication to family issues and women's rights in particular. The Kuwait Association for the Ideal Family, which she heads, launched the 'Ideal Mother Award for Outstanding

Family' in 2004, to encourage a healthy and safe family environment. She never forgot youth and their important role in society as she tried to spread awareness about the dangers that surround them, later ascending to the helm of Al-Fatat Sport Club in 2010.

Sheikha Fareeha was also named as the 'Mother of the Disabled', for her efforts and contributions in urging the government to issue new laws and regulations that help integrate people with disabilities into society, ultimately preserving their rights. The late Sheikha Fareeha has won many honorary awards as a pioneer in human works from the Gulf region, including being honored by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. In 2008, she earned an honorary doctorate from the American University in Athens for her outstanding humanitarian and voluntary efforts, while she was appointed the Head of the Kuwaiti Arab Research Centre three years earlier. Meanwhile, being honored by the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport in Egypt was also among her accolades. In 2007, South Korea named her a 'pioneer in philanthropic works.' —KUNA

“
Mother
of the
Disabled
”

Qatari envoy to Kuwait passes away; Amir sends condolences

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent yesterday a cable of condolences to Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani over the death of Qatar's ambassador to Kuwait Hamad bin Ali Jaber Al-Hinzab. In the cable, Sheikh Sabah expressed his deepest

condolences, asking Almighty Allah to bestow His mercy upon the deceased. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to Qatar's Amir. — KUNA

Kuwait offers four desalination units to Iraq

KUWAIT: At the discretion of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the State of Kuwait yesterday sent four seawater desalination units to Iraq. A technical team of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Electricity and Water delivered the units to officials of the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources at the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border yesterday, the Kuwaiti ministry's

undersecretary Mohammad Bushehri said in a press statement. The production capacity of the four seawater desalination units amounts to one million imperial gallons, he said.

Kuwaiti General Consul in Iraq's Basra Province Yousef Al-Sabbagh was present at the reception. Thanking and appreciating Kuwait's fresh aid, Iraqi officials said the desalination units would be used mainly in rural and outlying areas in Iraq. They added that the Kuwaiti aid would effectively contribute to the provision of potable water to the residents of southern Iraq. Kuwait had granted Iraq 17 mobile power generators with a total capacity of 30,000 kilowatts, in order to ease out the neighboring country's power shortage. —KUNA



Members of a technical team from the Kuwaiti Ministry of Electricity and Water speak with Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources officials at the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border.



Desalination units offered by Kuwait to Iraq.



Sheikha Fareeha Al-Sabah is pictured with children at a cancer hospital in Egypt.



Sheikha Fareeha Al-Sabah visits an injured child at Al-Babtain Hospital in Kuwait.



Sheikha Fareeha Al-Sabah is seen with children at a center for people with special needs in Morocco.



Sheikha Fareeha Al-Sabah is seen during a visit to an elderly care home in Morocco.



Sheikha Fareeha Al-Sabah attends a ceremony to honor winners of a Holy Quran memorization competition for autistic people.

CONDOLENCES

**Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief,
management and staff convey their
deepest condolences to
the Qatari government,
the Embassy of Qatar
and the
Al-Hinzab family**

on the sad demise of

His Excellency
Hamad Bin Ali Jaber Al-Hinzab
The Qatari ambassador to Kuwait

May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on him

Local

Ministers review recommendation to provide services to Wafra residential area

Cabinet touts anti-corruption efforts

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti cabinet yesterday reviewed a recommendation by the public service committee to provide services to Wafra residential area, along with relevant procedures jointly taken by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare and other concerned agencies. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education was instructed to provide the required school facilities to the area for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Furthermore, Minister of Social Affairs and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh expounded on the findings of the first quarter of the government's annual plan 2018-2019, involving development projects and challenges addressed during the period.

The cabinet also lauded the efforts of concerned state agencies to wipe out corruption and to bring those involved in corruption cases to book. The efforts clearly reflect the government's keenness on monitoring cases of public funds and taking all

possible measures in this regard before reporting to the National Assembly, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah said in a



Cabinet holds weekly meeting

statement following a weekly cabinet meeting. This came following a briefing by Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Fahad Al-Afasi, who doubles as head of a committee charged with following up cases of public funds.

At the onset of the meeting, the ministers congratulated His Highness the Amir, His



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

Highness the Crown Prince, Kuwaiti people and residents on the occasion of the approaching Eid Al-Adha.

In the meantime, Sheikh Sabah Al-

Khaled briefed the ministers on the outcomes of a recent visit to Kuwait by Director-General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) William

Lacy Swing, together with the talks he had with Kuwaiti officials about Kuwaiti-IOM cooperation and regional and international developments. — KUNA

MP Subaie says all ministers could be grilled

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Opposition MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subaie threatened that all ministers could be grilled in the next parliamentary term starting next October and urged them to tackle alleged violations in the summer recess. He warned that the next term is expected to witness tense relations between the assembly and the government, adding that there will be a sufficient number of MPs for no-confidence votes in ministers.



MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subaie

The lawmaker said that he himself will grill the ministers of oil, finance and commerce and industry over a variety of alleged violations and called on the ministers to take the necessary measures to avoid the grillings.

Subaie said that he has decided to file to grill Oil Minister Bakheet Al-Rasheedi if he does not force a number of top executives at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) to go into retirement in accordance with the law. He said that it was the current CEO of KPC

Nizar Al-Adsani who proposed and enacted the retirement law which stipulates that top executives who complete 30 years of service should go into retirement. The lawmaker said that Adsani and the current leadership implemented the law on several leading oil officials but when their turn has come, they have reportedly asked for a five-year extension.

Subaie said that the minister has three months to force those executives to step down based on the law otherwise he will submit to grill him in December or January. He also urged the minister to tackle a number of other violations in the oil sector. The lawmaker also said he plans to grill Finance Minister Nayef Al-Hajraf if he does not take the necessary measures against the board of directors of the Kuwait Airways affiliate CASCO for committing several violations. He said he has already drawn the attention of the ministers to the violations and warned that the board members must be referred to the public prosecution over the financial violations.

Subaie also threatened to grill Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan if he fails to take action against officials under his supervision for a number of violations. He said the ministers have ample time to deal with such violations and avoid the questioning in the assembly.

Kuwait to employ UN migration agency expertise for labor body

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti government plans to sign several agreements for International Office for Migration program aimed at improving the role of the Public Authority for Manpower, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh said on Sunday. At an event hosted by the United Nations' migration agency, celebrating the impending departure of its Director-General William Lacy Swing, she pledged that Kuwait would continue to abide by its international commitments on the crime of human trafficking. In remarks to reporters, Sabeeh, also State Minister for Economic Affairs, hailed the government's cooperation with the IOM, which has provided state employees with several training courses on the issue of human trafficking, in particular. She also hoped this 'fruitful' collaboration, with the UN agency and others, would continue.

In a speech, the IOM chief praised Kuwait's effective aid relief initiatives and its role in assisting people affected by crises worldwide. He also hailed His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's role in supporting regional stability and spreading global peace, saying that his visit to Kuwait was in recognition and appreciation of these efforts. The IOM chief also commended Kuwait's decisions to host numerous conferences and meetings aimed at providing aid relief to countries affected by the conflicts in Yemen, Iraq and Libya, mentioning that Kuwait's generous contributions exceed the USD four billion-mark. Iman Erekat, who heads the IOM mission in Kuwait, said that not only does the country occupy the top spot in regards to humanitarian work it has been unique in its efforts to tackle human trafficking. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh joins officials in cutting a cake during an event hosted by the United Nations' migration agency, celebrating the impending departure of its Director-General William Lacy Swing. — KUNA

Kuwaiti NGOs sign protocol for ex-addicts' rehab

KUWAIT: Kuwait Public Relations Society signed a cooperation protocol with Aman Initiative to rehabilitate people who were treated from drug and behavioral addiction. The protocol aims primarily at providing social care and moral support for Aman Initiative, Jamal Al-Nasrallah, Chairman of Public Relations Society, said in a statement Sunday. The protocol, he added, would provide

assistance at professional and family levels in a full classified manner. Aman Initiative is very important because it helps youth who were victims of drug dealers who were targeting their "minds and bodies with poisons that will end their lives," he said.

The initiative, said Nasrallah, boost the society's role in protecting the former addicts and help them to blend in with their surroundings. Hawra Dashti, chairperson of Aman Initiative, said the protocol would unite efforts to provide care for former addicts to be healthy and productive citizens. Aman Initiative, consisting of volunteers of specialists, has been recently launched to provide psychological and social services for former addicts. — KUNA

Deputy FM meets with UN official

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met yesterday with Director of the UN World Food Program (WFP) office in the UAE and WFP Representative in the GCC Abdul-Majeed Yahya during his visit to the country. The meeting covered the search for prospects of cooperation between Kuwait and the activities put forth by the organization's programs around the world. Yahya praised Kuwait's role and support in the field of humanitarian works. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's office Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar. — KUNA

Official assures youth of Amir's support

CAIRO: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will never fail to stand by young people from every walk of life, a Kuwaiti official said on Sunday. The Kuwaiti Ministry of State for Youth Affairs' Assistant Undersecretary for Youth Development Mishaal Al-Subaie's remarks come as the world celebrates 'International Youth Day', an awareness initiative launched by the United Nations to draw attention to cultural issues surrounding youngsters. Subaie, who was feted by the Arab Youth Council for Integrated Development, explained that the formation of Kuwait's ministry of state for youth affairs was a likeminded endeavor that hopes to allow youngsters in Kuwait the chance to contribute to the development of their country. Speaking of a 'new Kuwait', he cited national efforts to motivate the country's youth, including an annual award to acknowledge exceptional creativity and skill. He went on to dedicate his accolade to the Kuwaiti leadership and people.

Kuwait's backing

Meanwhile, an Arab development official on Sunday lauded Kuwait's role in supporting Kuwaiti and Arab youngsters, pointing to His Highness the Amir's directives in this regard. Member of the Executive Office of the Arab Youth Council for Integrated Development Mohammad Al-Yaseen made the remark at the wrapping-up of a ceremony co-organized by the Arab League and the council to mark International Youth Day. He also spoke highly of Kuwaiti young people's ideas and great projects, calling for boosting their capabilities and skills. — KUNA

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Local

Couple arrested after man killed in Bneid Al-Gar fight

Accident exposes contrabands in driver's car

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: An Egyptian man in his thirties was killed after an Asian man stabbed him in the heart during a fight in Bneid Al-Gar. Paramedics pronounced the man dead on the scene after reporting there with police in response to an emergency call. The body was sent to the coroner. The murder weapon was recovered, and an eyewitness said that the suspected murderer was an Asian man. Detectives were able to identify the suspect in less than 24 hours, and investigations revealed that he along with his wife committed the murder, and both were arrested at the airport. Both confessed and gave full details about the crime and were sent to concerned

authorities to be questioned about their motives and face criminal charges. A third person is being sought for involvement in the case.

Theft

A man told Sabahiya police that his neighbor's son broke the side window of his car and removed a bag that was on the passenger's seat. A driver who works for third neighbor told him who the culprit was. Police arrested the suspect and he confessed to the crime, claiming he thought some valuables were in the bag. He faces a legal action.

Under the influence

A collision between two vehicles in Mahboula led to

the discovery of a liquor bottle with one of them. The man also had illicit pills and a knife, so he was sent to concerned authorities. Police who responded to a call about the accident found one of those involved was in an abnormal condition and incoherent, so he was arrested and the illicit material was found with him. Meanwhile, Ahmadi police arrested a citizen for being in an abnormal condition and having shabu. He was sent to the Drugs Control General Department. The man was arrested in Fahaheel.

Fight

Two female citizens exchanged accusations of insults and misuse of phones, so both were charged

with exchanging insults and threats. The neighbors exchanged insulting messages along with threats, then had a fight in front of the apartment of one of them in Jahra, then both went to the police station. Both were sent for questioning.

Domestic violence

A Filipina beautician accused her Egyptian husband of beating her and lodged a complaint against him. She said her husband waited under the building where she works, then asked her to come down to speak about a problem they had, but when she told him she was busy, he became angry. When she came down, he beat her badly. Police summoned him for questioning and he may face legal action.

Authority increases efforts to limit marginal labor, Kuwaitize jobs

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Informed sources at the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) said that the employment sector is reviewing administrative decisions and circulars regarding organization of the marketplace in a way that helps the authorities enhance procedures and limit

marginal labor. Sources said the revisions process will include amendment of some decisions so that the authority's goals can be achieved, headed by replacing expatriate labor with Kuwaitis in the private and oil sectors and moving forward with small and medium projects.

Sources said work is being done to implement the authority's plan to improve labor department buildings in some governorates, adding that a contract to build a new labor department in Hawally has been signed, while refurbishing of the Ahmadi building will be completed by the start of next year. Meanwhile, acting Director General of PAM Abdullah Al-Mutoutah said inspectors from the central inspection department will continue inspecting companies during the Eid Al-Adha break.

18.9 percent

The latest statistics issued by several government departments show that there are 444,278 Kuwaitis working in the public and private sectors, while expatriates number 2,343,548, occupying 27 professions in both sectors. Citizens make up 18.9 percent of the total workforce in the country with a major presence in the public sector with a total of 268,085 workers distributed over 20 various professions - both administrative and service oriented, while there are 83,870 expats in various government departments. Kuwaitis make up the largest percentage of workers in the government, particularly in the engineering sector, as their total number is 40,533, while only 2,000 expats work there. The number of expats in the medical sector rose to more than 34,000 employees, with 23,000 non-Arabs and 10,589 Arabs.

Society present initiative to develop Gulf Road

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Kuwait Engineering Society presented an initiative to develop Arabian Gulf Road to become a tourist attraction. The plan is being prepared in cooperation with the civil engineering department at Kuwait University, Kuwait Engineering Society's Chairman Faisal Al-Atel said.

Atel made his statement following a meeting between the society's Secretary Fahd Al-Otaibi, Assistant Secretary Humoud Al-Hadiya and Board Member Ali Mohseni met Chairman of the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation Mohammad Al-Hussan; who gave a demonstration about the authority's projects and what Kuwaiti engineers are doing. "We agreed with the chairman for joint cooperation to qualify Kuwaiti engineers to work in the private sector as well as cooperation in accrediting non-Kuwaiti engineers who work in contracting companies to carry out road projects," he said.

Meanwhile, Atel lauded efforts of the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation and praised Kuwaiti engi-

neers' work to complete the authority's projects, particularly the Jaber Causeway, whose final concrete block was successfully put in place recently, adding that bridge will place Kuwait on the map of countries that have the longest bridges over water in the world.

In other news, former deputy chairman of the Municipal Council Meshaal Al-Juwaisri said citizens are expressing their frustration on social media due to problems related to roads, most notably potholes, speed bumps and the fading road signs. He said citizens suffered material losses, such as of cars, and that the interior and public works ministries are responsible. He added that some people are complaining of body pain due to the potholes and the new detours including children and the elderly.

Bad weather halts maritime navigation



KUWAIT: Vehicles drive through a dust storm that hit Kuwait yesterday. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Ports Authority yesterday halted maritime navigation at Shuaiba, Shuwaikh, and Doha ports owing to dusty weather conditions in the country. Maritime operations at the three ports have stopped since 11:00 am based on field statements from naval

operation, said the authority in a press statement. According to the meteorological department, the country was affected by active northwesterly winds with speeds exceeding 60 km/h, causing visibility to drop under 1,000 m in some areas. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Terminal 4 (T4) at Kuwait International Airport. — KUNA

Terminal 4 operations start tomorrow

KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways said yesterday that official operation of its Terminal 4 (T4) would start tomorrow and would be specially designated for flights departing to and arriving from Dubai, the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Kuwait Airways will start using T4, to be only used by the national carrier, for its Dubai trips as of tomorrow, the airlines said in a statement and urged passengers or people receiving them to head to the new terminal. Operation will increase gradually, said Kuwait Airways. Kuwait Airways is the Arabian Gulf's oldest airlines. It was established in 1953 and Kuwait Government became full owner in 1962. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Pens fixed near the livestock market in Al-Rai, where sheep will be kept ahead of Eid Al-Adha. — Photo by Ben Garcia

Enough sheep for Eid, say livestock market workers

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: A week before Eid Al-Adha, the livestock market in Al-Rai is almost empty. Yesterday morning, Kuwait Times saw some workers fixing pens to hold the sheep in time for the feast of sacrifice. "The live sheep will be transferred here starting tomorrow. You can't see any here because they are still in the holding areas - besides it's too hot here," one of the workers said.

Eid Al-Adha is one of the holiest celebrations in the Islamic calendar, when sheep are traditionally slaughtered and

the meat is distributed to friends and family and the needy. According to workers in the area, sheep from various countries are already in Kuwait, and are currently at various farms and holding areas. The workers assured there are enough animals for the feast and beyond. "We do not display them here because it is too hot. We will set up some shade for the sheep so they are not exposed to the sun," said Khamel, a worker.

Prices of the sheep vary. "Prices range from KD 60 to KD 120. It depends on the size of the sheep and its origin. Australian sheep is cheaper because we have lots of stocks, but local sheep is expensive," Khamel noted.

Kuwait Times also checked the price of lamb at Souq Mubarakiya and some supermarkets around Kuwait. In Souq Mubarakiya, price of lamb per kilogram is ranging from KD2.5 and KD3.5 for the Australian Lamb. Prices are similar in supermarkets, which also sell frozen lamb from Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, India and Iran at varying prices.



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Acting Defense Minister Lt Gen Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah awarded a number of new Kuwait Army personnel with their new ranks during a ceremony held yesterday at the army officer's club.



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Fatal crashes reveal plight of Italy's African laborers

Tunisia's president proposes inheritance equality for women

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WASHINGTON: Antifa and counter protesters to a far-right rally argue during the Unite the Right 2 Rally in Washington, DC, on August 12, 2018. —AFP

Counter-protest drowns out neo-Nazi rally

White supremacist massively outnumbered in Washington

WASHINGTON: A white supremacist rally outside the White House fizzled out Sunday after only a handful of neo-Nazis showed up and were massively outnumbered by hundreds of counter-protesters. In an effort to avoid a repeat of the chaos of a deadly protest in Charlottesville, Virginia exactly a year ago, Washington police closed streets and threw a ring of steel across a public park to make sure the white supremacists and rowdy counter-protesters did not come into contact. Officers used pepper spray toward the end of the demonstrations, targeting a group of black-clad anti-fascists who scuffled with police a few blocks from the White House, but the day appeared to end without major incident.

Early in the afternoon, about 20 white nationalists trickled in from nearby Vienna, Virginia under heavy police escort at Washington's Foggy Bottom Metro station, as a larger group of at least 300 counter-protesters awaited them, shouting "Shame!" and "Get out of my city!" and jeering them loudly. After marching to Lafayette Square in front of the White House, the small group was driven in police vans back to a different train station. "Behold the master race," one counter-protester mockingly yelled. By the end of the day, only a smaller group of six individuals remained, ashen-faced as a crowd of about 200 counter-protesters screamed at them, separated by scores of police officers.

Heavy rain helped bring the so-called United the Right

demonstration to an early end, hours before the scheduled finish of what had been billed as a "white civil rights rally" protesting, among other things, the social media shut down of some voices on the extreme right. At Freedom Plaza, located on one end of Pennsylvania Avenue that leads to the US Capitol, a few hundred counter-protesters of all ages, including children and retirees, gathered in a seemingly light-hearted atmosphere. One group danced in the street.

"The US is for all of us, NOT just some of us," one sign read, while another said, "Fighting Nazis: An American Tradition." Last year, torch-bearing white supremacists marched through Charlottesville in two days of chaos that culminated with a man driving a car into a crowd of counter-protesters, killing a woman and injuring 19 people. In that case, some of the white supremacists carried guns, including assault rifles, but all firearms were barred from Sunday's rally. Charlottesville police faced massive criticism for their response and their failure to keep demonstrators and counter-protesters apart. Washington police, who had

begun massing near Lafayette Square as early as 8:00 am, appeared intent on avoiding the same pitfalls.

'Like Nazi Germany'

Kei Pritsker, 22, a Washington-area volunteer for the Answer Coalition that organized this year's counter-protest, said it was necessary to send a strong message to neo-Nazi sympathizers. "It would be a major mistake if we allowed fascists to just walk into the nation's capital and go in unopposed," he said. The white supremacist movement is enjoying a greater sense of empowerment under President Donald Trump, he added. "When Trump was elected, a lot of those people that were harboring a lot of racist sentiments felt like, because they had a president's backing, they could just go out and say this stuff," Pritsker said.

In the immediate aftermath of last year's march, Trump drew broad criticism when he appeared initially reluctant to condemn the extreme right-wingers—many of whom have rallied behind him since his election. On Saturday, the president issued a generic condemnation of "all types

of racism and acts of violence" via Twitter. A black man at the counter-protest who would only give his name as Jim said America feels more racist under Trump. "It has emboldened white folks now. If they are walking down the sidewalk, their position is you better get out of the way," he told AFP. "It was subtle, now it's not subtle, it's in your face. It's like Nazi Germany." Washington's population is about 50 percent black.

Wearing masks

Rally organizers encouraged supporters to bring only US or Confederate flags—not neo-Nazi emblems—and cautioned them to avoid reacting angrily to counter-protesters. The few demonstrators who showed up for the most part wore masks or concealed their faces. Counter-protesters ridiculed the group for not having the courage to show their faces. Their police escort was such that it was all but impossible to get close enough to interview any of them. Trump has retweeted white nationalist material, said Mexicans crossing the US border are rapists and drug dealers, and tweeted demeaning descriptions of black athletes and politicians. A black former White House aide, Omarosa Manigault Newman, wrote in an upcoming memoir that Trump repeatedly uttered a racial slur while making his hit reality TV show "The Apprentice" prior to his presidential run, and that there are tapes to prove it. Trump called her a "lowlife." —AFP

“ US is for all of us, not just some of us ”

100 Afghan forces killed

KABUL: At least 100 Afghan security forces have been killed as troops backed by US airpower struggled to push the Taliban from embattled Ghazni city, officials said yesterday, while residents reported food and medicine shortages four days after fighting began. The Afghan government said it had sent reinforcements to the strategic city, which lies barely two hours drive from Kabul on the main highway connecting the capital with the country's south. US forces in Afghanistan said they had been conducting airstrikes daily since the fighting began. The assault, which the Taliban launched late Thursday, comes as the insurgents are under increasing pressure to join peace talks and highlights the difficulty of repelling their repeated attacks on urban centers crowded with civilians, with residents among the dead.

"About 100 security forces have lost their lives and between 20 and 30 civilians have been killed," defense minister Tariq Shah Bahrami told a press conference in Kabul, offering the first high-level official casualty figure since the insurgents entered the city. He also said that 194 insurgents had been killed and 147 wounded. The Taliban swiftly responded, saying the government's claims were "baseless" and that talks were "under way for their surrender." Doctors were struggling to treat dozens of wounded at hospitals in the eastern provincial capital, where residents said insurgents roamed the streets. At a hospital in the city wounded people could be seen groaning in agony on stretchers, while uncovered wooden coffins filled with bodies were laid on the floor. A doctor in the hospital's intensive care unit said they had received over 80 dead bodies as of Sunday and had treated more than 160 patients, many of whom were had been injured by gunshots or shrapnel. "There are no police or soldiers to guard the hospital. They bring their wounded and then leave," the doctor, Mohammad Arif Omari, said. "The hospital is overwhelmed," Andrea Catta Preta, a spokeswoman for the International Red Cross in Kabul, told AFP.

With residents reporting power remained out in the city, she said the Red



GHAZNI: Coffins with corpses are seen on the floor of a mosque inside a hospital following clashes with Taliban fighters in Ghazni province. —AFP

Cross was able to reach the hospital yesterday during a brief lull in fighting, providing nearly 200 litres of fuel for its generator and medical supplies for over 100 people. "Everybody is requesting assistance, so we have been doing what we can whenever we have a window of security to do something," she added. An AFP reporter in the city said late Sunday that militants were going door to door and commandeering supplies including water, tea, and wheelbarrows to move injured fighters.

Ghazni residents who arrived in Kabul after fleeing the violence said that the dead bodies of militants and soldiers continued to litter the streets, while government offices have been set ablaze by Taliban fighters and food prices are rising. "Everyone wanted to find a way to flee the city. Most of the people are still hiding in their basements as fighting is going from street to street," said Ghazni journalist Fayeza Fayeza, who arrived in Kabul late Sunday after fleeing the city. Communication networks in Ghazni remained mostly down, and officials have been reticent, making any information difficult to verify and fuelling rumors of high tolls. —AFP

Britain pledges to end homelessness

LONDON: Britain's government pledged to end rough sleeping in England by 2027 yesterday, a target activists said could only be achieved by investing more in building affordable homes. Homelessness has more than doubled since 2010 in England, where more than 4,100 people now sleep rough, government figures show.

Yesterday the government announced a 100-million-pound (\$128 million) package to tackle rough sleeping, including funding for housing, mental health treatment and staff training. "Nobody should have to sleep rough," Prime Minister Theresa May said in a statement. "As well as ensuring people have somewhere to live, we have to deal with underlying problems and ultimately help people turn their lives around."

The government pledged to spend £50 million on building new homes outside London for people living in hostels or refuges and 30 million pounds on mental

health support for rough sleepers. It also said it would improve access to services and accommodation and train staff to help people under the influence of drugs and victims of domestic abuse and modern slavery. Britain had previously said it was investing more than 1.2 billion pounds to tackle homelessness, and it was not immediately clear how much of the 100 million pounds pledged yesterday was new money.

Homeless charities welcomed the plan, but said further "bold" action was needed, including significantly more social housing. "Let's be clear, this is a step forward and not a total fix for homelessness," said Polly Neate, head of Shelter, one of seven charities that advised the government on the strategy. "We still need to tackle the chronic lack of genuinely affordable homes, deep instability of renting, and problems with housing benefit that are leaving so many without a home," she said. An estimated 236,000 people are sleeping on the streets or in temporary accommodation in Britain, where homebuilding has been declining for decades, driving up property prices. —Reuters

International

Catalogue of abuse: Seeking justice for fleeing Rohingyas

'They killed my son. Four of them raped me'

COX'S BAZAR: Cross-legged in a windowless, almost pitch-black bamboo shack, the investigator pressed record on a video camera and asked the young Rohingya woman to describe the night the Myanmar soldiers came. "They broke down our door. They took my husband outside and shot him," recalled the 20-year-old, one of around 700,000 Rohingyas driven from Myanmar into Bangladesh a year ago. "Then they killed my son. Four of them raped me," said the woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, only her eyes visible beneath a veil covering her face, as the monsoon rain fell outside.

Different teams of investigators in the world's biggest refugee camp in Bangladesh, home to a million people, have been quietly documenting what the Myanmar Muslim minority suffered in 2017. From seasoned professionals working for governments, the UN and international rights groups, to grassroots volunteers armed with pen and paper, a trove of evidence is being amassed which it is hoped will help bring the Rohingyas some justice.

Another of those giving testimony is Nurjahan, whose husband and son were also murdered. She has taken it upon herself to secure justice for them and for all the girls in her village raped at gunpoint. She was among the first of 400 Rohingya women to put their inked thumbs to a legal document formally requesting a probe by the International Criminal Court (ICC). The group of largely illit-

erate women she is part of, Shanti Mohila ("Peace Women"), has also collected victim testimonies and signatures to lobby the ICC thousands of miles away. "We've lost our sons. Our daughters have been violated. We want justice for them," the 45-year-old said.

Unique approach
The only other Rohingya submission before the world's only permanent war crimes court is for the victims of Tula Toli, a Myanmar village whose Muslim inhabitants were rounded up and methodically slaughtered on August 30, 2017. Some testimony for a broader enquiry has already reached The Hague, where the ICC is being urged to investigate crimes against humanity, something that Myanmar denies. There is a new Myanmar-led commission to examine abuses, but this has been denounced by many observers as an empty stunt that will fail to establish accountability. A handful of soldiers have been charged by Myanmar for involvement in a single massacre but UN special rapporteur Yanghee Lee has tempered expectations that Myanmar's generals would stand trial anytime soon.

Myanmar is not a signatory to the court but ICC prosecutors and human rights lawyers have taken a unique approach by arguing that the crime of deportation was not complete until the Rohingyas crossed into Bangladesh. And as Bangladesh is an ICC signatory, they say the court has jurisdiction. A pre-trial chamber of

ICC judges is reviewing the unprecedented request, alarming Myanmar which voiced "serious concern". "They do feel some threat from this. I think that's important," said international lawyer Megan Hirst from Doughty Street Chambers in London, who is representing the Tula Toli villagers at the ICC.

How many babies?
Back at the camps in Bangladesh, another of those painstakingly pulling together evidence is Osman Jahangir, a field investigator from Bangladeshi rights watchdog Odhikar. His grim questions hint at the savagery of the violence. "Where did the gasoline come from? How many soldiers raped you? Did you see how many babies were thrown in the river?" he asked refugees. In a dark tent, Jahangir jotted down the coordinates of a Rohingya village on Google Earth. Where possible, he also gathers medical records and smartphone footage. In partnership with Hong Kong's Asian Legal Resource Centre, some of the findings were sent to the ICC. There are plans for a formal submission once rigorous field work is complete. "I have studied the Bosnian war. There was a trial. They were held responsible," Jahangir told AFP. "I really hope we can bring justice to the Rohingyas."

The NGOs and volunteer groups lack the resources and expertise of UN fact-finders or the US State Department, which sent veteran investigators to interview more than 1,000



COX'S BAZAR: A Rohingya refugee stands on a path in the Nayapara refugee camp near Cox's Bazar yesterday. — AFP

refugees this year. Justice experts also worry that amateur efforts to gather testimony risk contaminating evidence and undermining prosecutors in the event of a trial. But that does not dampen zeal in the camps. "Nobody can deny this," said community leader Mohibullah as he scrolled through a database of abuses uploaded by Rohingya volunteers onto an ancient laptop, detailing gang

rapes, torched mosques and murders. Lawyers representing the Rohingyas are quietly optimistic the ICC will decide it can investigate. "But whether that means anybody will anytime soon end up in the dock, is a less optimistic prospect," said lawyer Wayne Jordash from Global Rights Compliance, who is representing the Shanti Mohila group. — AFP

News in brief

Hero dog saves family

NEW DELHI: A family in the flood-ravaged Indian state of Kerala narrowly escaped death after their pet dog woke them up moments before a landslide destroyed their home, local media reported yesterday. Mohanan P and his family were sleeping at home in the mountainous Idukki district when their pet dog started barking raucously at around 3:00 am, waking the household. "That's when we realized something was wrong. I went out to see and we had to just rush out of the house," Mohanan told Indian news network NDTV. No sooner had the family rushed out when the landslide ploughed down a nearby hill and demolished their home. The family, dog in tow, have since moved to a government-run relief camp nearby. Flash floods triggered by the annual monsoon rains have pounded the southern tourist hotspot in the past few days, killing 39 people and leaving 100,000 more homeless so far. — AFP

Heathrow passport queues

LONDON: Passengers arriving at London's Heathrow Airport had to queue at passport control for up to two-and-a-half hours in July, official figures showed, sparking further criticism from aviation chiefs about delays caused by Britain's border regime. The Border Force missed its 45-minute or less target for passport check wait times for 95 percent of visitors from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) on all but one day last month, according to the data obtained by UK-based airline Virgin Atlantic. Queues were longest on July 6 when non-EEA visitors had to wait for up to two hours and 36 minutes at Heathrow, Europe's busiest airport. The boss of Virgin Atlantic called the queue times "unacceptable", adding to criticism from the chief executive of British Airways, who said last week that Heathrow's queues were worse than at other major world airports. — Reuters

Five crew members die

DUSHANBE: Three Russian climbers and two Tajik crew members have died in a helicopter "hard landing" in Tajikistan's remote mountainous region, emergency services said yesterday. Twelve other climbers and a third crew member survived the accident, which took place on Sunday at 11:30 GMT, and were evacuated from the site for medical treatment, authorities said. Of the 12 surviving climbers, all are Russian except for a Belarusian and a Spanish national. The site where the Mi-8 chopper crashed is some 480 kilometers east of the capital Dushanbe in the Pamir range, a key tourist destination. Emergency services said the climbers had been climbing the Ismoil Somoni mountain, which was once known as Peak Communism and used to be the highest in the Soviet Union. — AFP

Romania probes violence

BUCHAREST: Romania has opened an enquiry into alleged police violence at a mass anti-corruption protest against the leftwing government that left hundreds injured last week, military prosecutors said yesterday. Some 80,000 people - many of them Romanians living abroad - demonstrated late Friday in Bucharest, accusing the government of corruption and urging it to resign. Police used water cannon, tear gas, pepper spray and batons to disperse the crowd. More than 450 people, including 30 police, were hurt and around 30 arrested, leading to widespread criticism. Smaller protests followed Saturday and Sunday-albeit without any violence-with another one expected late yesterday. — AFP

Record ecstasy haul

PHNOM PENH: Cambodian authorities seized nearly 100 kilograms of ecstasy hidden in pet food shipments from Germany, police said yesterday, after charging a Chinese national in connection with the record haul. The suspect, identified as Yao Zeyu, was arrested on August 7 after coming to the Phnom Penh central post office to pick up the boxes, said National Anti-Drugs Authority deputy secretary-general Mok Chito. In total 98 kilograms of MDMA pills-better known as ecstasy-were discovered in the shipment, which was intended for distribution locally and in Vietnam. — AFP



NEW TAIPEI CITY: Photo shows bed-ridden patients in the lobby of a hospital in New Taipei City after being evacuated following a fire on the seventh floor of a hospice. — AFP

9 die in Taiwan hospice blaze

TAIPEI: Nine people were killed and 30 injured in a blaze that broke out yesterday at a hospice for the terminally ill near Taiwan's capital Taipei, fire officials said. All of the 44 people inside, including 33 patients, were evacuated after the fire started at the hospice on the seventh floor of a nine-storey government hospital in New Taipei city. Sixteen patients had cardiac arrests and seven were revived. The other nine died with the cause of death given as smoke inhalation, according to the local fire department. New Taipei fire department official Hung Liang-chien told reporters an initial probe showed that the fire was likely caused by the short circuit of an electrical device.

"We are clarifying whether it's the power cable of the hospital's electric bed or an air cushion bed brought in by relatives" of a patient, he said. One caregiver working in the hospice reported seeing a spark on the bed where the fire started, according to

local media. Local fire chief Huang Te-ching earlier denied reports the sprinkler system had malfunctioned. "The sprinkler device was on but there's some distance between its location and where the fire started so the fire couldn't be immediately put out," he told reporters. He added that authorities were also examining why there was a nine minute delay by the hospital in reporting the fire.

CCTV footage on local media showed staff rushing through the hospice corridors, carrying patients out in their arms or in wheelchairs to evacuate them after the fire broke out. The injured were rushed to several nearby hospitals, with 11 listed as in serious condition.

Premier William Lai apologized to the public and gave his condolences over the tragedy. "We will review the cause of the incident to prevent a similar situation from happening again," he said.

There have been nine hospital fires in Taiwan in the past decade claiming 37 lives. The worst was in 2012 when a cancer patient set a fire in a nursing facility in southern Tainan city that killed 13 people and injured 60 others. The arsonist was sentenced to death. — AFP

Bangladesh puts top photographer behind bars

DHAKA: Award-winning Bangladesh photographer Shahidul Alam was in jail yesterday, 10 days after being arrested following an interview with Al Jazeera about massive student demonstrations, police said. Alam, 63, who accused police of assaulting him in custody and was earlier sent to a hospital for a check-up following an order from the high court, was taken to a magistrate's court late on Sunday. "The court then sent him to jail," police official Moshir Rahman said.

Another police officer told the local Daily Star newspaper that Alam would be kept in prison until the completion of the probe into his charges. Alam was accused of making "false" and "provocative" statements on Al Jazeera and on Facebook Live as tens of thousands of students protested in Dhaka in late July and early August. He also published photos of the demonstrations. Alam told Al Jazeera that the protests were the result of pent-up anger at an "unelected government... clinging on by brute force" that has looted banks, gagged the media and is steeped in corruption.

He is being investigated for allegedly violating Bangladesh's internet laws, enacted in 2006 and sharpened in 2013, that critics say are used to snuff out dissent and

harass journalists. Alam - whose work has appeared widely in Western media and who founded the renowned Pathshala South Asian Media Institute - faces a maximum 14 years in jail, along with others who have been charged with breaching the laws in the wake of the protests. The renowned photographer told reporters outside court last Monday that he had been beaten so badly in police custody that his tunic needed washing to get the blood out.

New York-based Human Rights Watch and London's Amnesty International have demanded his release, and yesterday United Nations human rights experts echoed these calls. "The arrest and alleged ill-treatment of Mr Alam is extremely worrying and takes place in a general context of a crackdown against young students and others calling for better public governance, reforms and justice in Bangladesh, including media workers and other civil society," said the experts in a statement. The experts were special rapporteurs on human rights, freedom of expression and arbitrary detention, respectively Michel Forst, David Kaye and Seong-Phil Hong.

'Spreading rumors'

Alam's arrest capped a turbulent week in Bangladesh as students poured onto the streets in Dhaka and elsewhere for nine straight days after two teenagers were killed by a speeding bus. Last weekend the demonstrations turned violent as some protestors vandalized and torched vehicles and police used tear gas and rubber bullets. Mobs allegedly aligned with the government and wielding metal rods attacked demonstrators, journalists and even the US ambassador's car. — AFP

Arrested and killed: Inside Bangladeshi PM's war on drugs

DHAKA: Bangladesh police arrested Riazul Islam as he was walking home from his in-laws' house. At 3:15 am, he was shot dead in a sandy field beside a set of railroad tracks north of Dhaka. Police say he was killed in a gunfight with other drug dealers, and they recovered 20 kg of marijuana from the site. His parents say the officers extorted money from them and then killed him. "I knew my son was in police custody. All of a sudden my son was dead. I couldn't believe it."

The police took money and they still killed him," said his mother, Rina Begum. Bangladesh is the newest frontline in state-backed drug crackdowns in Asia, and Islam is one of more than 200 people shot dead by police in Bangladesh since May, when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced the campaign. Critics say the crackdown reflects Hasina's increasingly authoritarian rule ahead of a general election, due by December. That was also shown in its response to recent student demonstrations over road traffic deaths, including the use of rubber bullets and the arrest of a prominent photographer.

Hasina emphasized that the police and intelligence agencies would now tackle the drug problem in the same tough way they had countered violent extremism in recent years. Such campaigns can be popular with voters as has been shown by President Rodrigo Duterte's bloody drug war in the Philippines. Hasina's office did not respond to questions about whether the drugs campaign was a populist ploy.

The bodies appeared rapidly after Hasina's pronouncement. And, just like the

Philippines, the killings appeared to follow a script: suspects died in "gunfights", typically at night, and weapons and drugs were found nearby. In more than a third of the 211 killings recorded by Dhaka-based human rights group Odhikar since mid-May, the suspects were arrested before they were killed.

The police are overseen by Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, who denied the police were executing suspects. "Our law enforcement people don't kill, they don't execute anyone. It is impossible. If they do so they will be fired at that moment," he told Reuters. "It is not a lawless country." After Islam was arrested, according to the police report, officers took the "top terror" of the neighborhood to the field beside the railroad tracks to draw in and arrest other drug dealers.

The other dealers "sensed" the officers' presence and began firing randomly, and "to save life and government property", the officers fired back. "Roni was shot and fell down. He died on the spot," according to the report, which said two officers were wounded. Islam's autopsy report, read to Reuters by a hospital official, noted that a single bullet entered his head near his left ear and exited near his right. Each of the two officers were treated for small areas of tenderness and swelling on one of their hands, according to records at another hospital.

None of the six witnesses in the police report saw Islam die, they said. One of the six, handyman Mohammad Bappy, who lives at the edge of the field where Islam was shot, snapped photos of Islam's dead body. One of the pictures shows blood on the ground beneath Islam's head. "There was no gun," he said. "If there had been a gunfight we would have heard lots of firing from two sides. That didn't happen." Kamal Hossain, the officer in charge of the operation, said drug use leads to crime and arrests don't work. "They come out on bail and they do the same thing, selling and using drugs," he said. "Every drug dealer should be killed." — Reuters

CONDOLENCES

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PR Officer Shuwaikh Port Operations

(Father of Mr. Abdel Hamid Hamada)

on 10.08.2018.

May his soul Rest in Peace

International

Fatal crashes reveal plight of Italy's African laborers

16 African migrants killed after day in fields

FOGGIA: Smears of blood and oil mark the spot on the road where a van full of migrant farm laborers slammed into an oncoming truck and somersaulted across the tarmac on Aug 6, killing 12 of the men packed inside. Just 48 hours earlier, a near identical crash on a neighboring road killed four other African workers as they too returned home from a grueling day harvesting tomatoes in this sun-roasted corner of southern Italy.

The twin tragedies - so close together and with such a high death toll - have brought into focus the dire working and living conditions imposed on thousands of migrant farmhands whose cut-price labor allows Italy to be one of the biggest fruit and vegetable exporters in Europe. Ludovico Vaccaro, the magistrate investigating the Aug. 6 deaths, says rampant exploitation of foreign laborers has gone largely unchecked for years. "They should rebel, but they are so poor they have to accept the unacceptable," he told Reuters.

The multiple deaths have come at a time of rising anti-immigration sentiment in Italy, with the newly installed government moving to halt the arrival of migrants to the country and promising mass deportations for those already here. Many of those toiling in the fields of Italy's Puglia region have been here for years, no closer to integrating into local society than the day they arrived by boat from Libya. "I arrived in Italy on Aug. 26, 2013. I haven't created any problem, I don't have a criminal record, I didn't come here for fun. I just want to work," said Satai Darboe, 42, from Senegal.

"Do Italians have any idea how we are treated? Do they even care?" he said, taking a precious day off work to travel round various hospital morgues looking for the body of a relative of his who died in the Aug 6 crash. Darboe, tall and thin, wearing pink-rimmed glasses, was a distant cousin of Alasanna Darboe, a 28-year-old Gambian. They had worked together in the fields to make money to send home. "He was a good man. A pious man. He had a wife and two children. They don't know he is dead yet."



Migrants exploited, offered little chance to integrate

Gangmasters

The other dead came from Nigeria, Mali, Guinea, Ghana and Morocco. There is no suspicion of foul play in the crash, but Vaccaro believes the men were victims of the so-called "caporalato" system which exploits farm workers across Italy. Rather than employing pickers directly and putting them on regular contracts, farmers turn to caporali, or gangmasters, who gather the laborers from various camps and ghettos that dot the countryside and drive them to the fields in overcrowded vans.

These middlemen hand out the wages, keeping a handsome share for themselves, migrants say. Several workers said that although they had signed contracts that promised them more than 5 euros (\$5.71) an hour, in the end they got between 3.0-3.5 euros. "You can earn about 35 euros a day, but you have to pay 5 euros for the transport," said Njie, a 23-year-old Gambian who only gave his surname. "It is donkey work. White men check the plants and start yelling if just one tomato is left unpicked." Puglia labor accords stipulate that employers must pay for transport and say workers should spend a maximum 39 hours a week in the fields for a minimum salary of around 50 euros a day.

Migrants say they put in much longer hours than that. They also have to bring their own food and water and are allowed only brief breaks even as temperatures soar to 40C (104 degrees F) on the bleak Puglia plains, which lie far from the tourist trail. Italy introduced a law in 2016 aimed at eliminating the caporalato phenomenon, but it has had little apparent impact. The prosecutor Vaccaro blamed this failure on a lack of police, labor inspectors and magistrates to enforce the law, as well as limited cooperation from the victims themselves. "In order not to lose the chance of work, however bad it may be, the migrants don't talk," he said.

Interior Minister Matteo Salvini, who is head of the far-right League, said mafia groups controlled much of the farm labor



FOGGIA: Migrant workers take part in a march in Foggia, held in the aftermath of the death of 16 migrant workers in two road accidents. —AFP

system in the region. Farmers' associations claim that many laborers are employed legally, but, in a tacit acknowledgment that pay is kept to a minimum, they also accuse major retailers of imposing low prices for their tomatoes and squashing margins. "Prices of (canned) tomatoes have remained virtually unchanged since 1985, while the cost of production has risen," said Gianni Cantele, head of the farmers' group Coldiretti in Puglia. "When you buy a bottle of tomato pulp you pay more for the bottle than you do for the contents."

Red gold

Coldiretti says 345,000 foreigners from 157 countries work in agriculture, helping to harvest every fruit and vegetable grown here, from oranges to apples, from grapes to olives. But tomato is the predominant crop and is known locally as "red gold". The World Processing Tomato Council says Italy will overtake China this year to become the world's second largest producer of processed tomatoes after the United States. The export of tomatoes generated 1.6 billion euros in 2017. —Reuters

News in brief

Duterte to visit Israel

MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte is to make an official visit to Israel next month, his government said yesterday, nearly two years after he sparked outrage by likening his deadly drug war to the Holocaust. The September 2-5 trip will be the first by a Filipino leader since diplomatic ties were established between the two countries in 1967, a foreign department statement said. Duterte and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will discuss how to develop ties on issues including security and counter-terrorism, according to the statement. Israel has been a key weapons supplier to the Philippines, which is fighting Islamic militants as well as communist guerrillas. An Israeli firm supplied the thermal imaging system for an armoured military unit that killed the top leader of Islamic State group-linked militants who seized the southern city of Marawi last year, the unit has said. —AFP

Jihadists killed in Cairo

CAIRO: Six suspected Islamist militants were killed in an Egyptian police raid on their hideout in a suburb west of Cairo, the interior ministry said yesterday. The alleged jihadists died in a shootout after opening fire on security forces in the 6 October district, it said in a statement. The ministry said it had received information that the suspects were planning attacks on vital installations, Christian places of worship and security personnel. Security forces found three automatic rifles, other weapons, ammunition and jihadist propaganda at the scene, the ministry said. The statement did not specify when the raid took place or whether the suspected militants were affiliated with any specific group. The raid follows a failed suicide attack against a church close to Cairo on Saturday, when officials said a bomber blew up just short of reaching his target because of tight security. —AFP

Philippine leader sacks 20

MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has fired 20 people, including colonels and a general, over accusations of fraud and graft in purchases of military medical supplies, his spokesman said on Monday, the latest step in a sweeping battle on graft. Reining in government corruption was a key election plank for Duterte, who has been a big supporter of the security forces, promising equipment and boosting their budget and salaries to help tackle crime, drugs and armed rebellions. Those sacked were accused of involvement in 17 cases of bogus purchases of supplies, drugs and equipment at inflated prices, the spokesman, Harry Roque, told reporters. Civilians and military officials were among those sacked. The servicemen faced a court martial, he added. —Reuters

Falling signboard kills 3

SHANGHAI: Three people were killed and six others injured in Shanghai when a shop signboard toppled onto a crowded sidewalk in a popular shopping district amid heavy rain triggered by Typhoon Yagi. The accident occurred Sunday night on busy Nanjing East Road in the city center, a few hundreds meters (yards) from Shanghai's historic Bund riverfront district, a statement by city authorities said. Security camera footage broadcast by state-run China Central Television (CCTV) showed a heavy section of signage above a shop break off without warning and plummet edge-wise into a group of pedestrians. Three were killed. The six who were hurt did not suffer life-threatening injuries, city authorities said. CCTV quoted a witness as saying that a five-year-old child was among the dead. It took 16 people to lift the sign off of the victims, CCTV added. —AFP

South Korea woman given rare jail term for spycam crime

SEOUL: A South Korean court yesterday slapped a woman with a rare jail term for secretly photographing a male nude model, in a case that sparked controversy over double standards. High-tech South Korea has been battling a growing epidemic of so-called "molka" or spycam videos, which largely involve men secretly filming women in schools, offices, trains, toilets, changing rooms and on the street. Spycam crimes reported to police surged from around 1,100 in 2010 to more than 6,500 last year, and many offenders share or sell photos and videos online. According to official statistics about 98 percent of offenders are men—ranging from school teachers and college professors to church pastors and

police officers—while more than 80 percent of victims are women.

But in the latest case the woman in her 20s—also a nude model—was sentenced to 10 months in prison for taking a picture of her male counterpart at a Seoul art college and sharing it on the internet in May. She was arrested days later and paraded in front of television cameras while police raided her home to search for evidence—described by many activists as an uncharacteristically swift and aggressive response. Patriarchal values are deeply ingrained in South Korea despite its economic and technological advances. State data shows only 8.7 percent of high-tech peeping Toms are jailed on their first conviction, with most only fined or receiving suspended terms, seen by many as a slap on the wrist.

"The whole response by the police to this rare case in which a victim is male is truly unprecedented," said Seo Seung-hui, head of the Korea Cyber Sexual Violence civic group. "We rarely saw them act so quickly for countless cases in which victims were female," she told AFP. The case of the model—who has not



SEOUL: Photo shows South Korean women staging a monthly protest against secretly filmed spycam pornography in Seoul. —AFP

been named—was a catalyst for a recent series of mass women's rallies in Seoul, at which protestors accused the police and court of treating male victims and offenders more favorably than women. Smartphones sold in the South are

required to make a loud shutter noise when taking pictures, but many offenders use special apps that mute the sound, or turn to high-tech spy cameras hidden inside eye glasses, lighters, watches, car keys and even neckties. —AFP

Reunited post-Aleppo battle, Syrian medics mete out 'hope'

AL GHANDURA: Her scarred hands wrapped in gloves, Malakeh Harbaliyya lifted an infant out of an incubator at a hospital in Syria's rural north, holding him gently as he guzzled milk from a bottle. Nearly two years ago, the nurse and her brave colleagues were scrambling to save premature babies from heavy regime bombardment of Aleppo city, before ultimately being forced to quit the facility altogether.

Now the same team of doctors has reunited to open Hope Hospital in northern parts of the province still outside regime control. "I think of the children first before thinking of myself, because their lives are in our hands," said 31-year-old Harbaliyya at the facility in rebel-held Al-Ghandura. "Their tiny souls didn't do anything to deserve this war." In November 2016, Harbaliyya was working in the only children's hospital still operating in rebel parts of Aleppo city when an air strike slammed into the building.

In footage of the aftermath, Harbaliyya is seen scooping up a baby in a light pink blanket, then suddenly bursting into loud sobs. Barely eight months later, after evacuating the city, a car bomb sent Harbaliyya herself into intensive care in neighboring Turkey. But she has pulled through, and the severe burns on her hands have today healed into a swirl of scars. Her hair covered by a pink-colored scarf and dressed in a top that reads "Girls for the Future," Harbaliyya beamed as she lovingly pinched a frail infant's cheeks. "My colleagues at the Hope Hospital—the staff with me here—gave me the will to live," she said.

'Wherever we went'

In blue scrubs, Dr Hatem greeted his colleagues at the door before heading in to examine a girl squirming on a consultation bed from stomach pain. The hallway features a large portrait of Mohammad Wassim Maaz, a beloved children's doctor who died in an air strike on Aleppo city in April 2016. Later that year, after the city's Children's Hospital was knocked out of action and as a regime victory loomed, Hatem and his colleagues formulated a plan.

With government troops closing in, the staff knew they would soon be evacuated from Aleppo and wanted to stay together, said the 32-year-old doctor, also the hospital's director. "Wherever we went, we wanted to set up a children's hospital," said Hatem, preferring not to give his surname. In under a month, a crowd-funding campaign by the



AL GHANDURAH: 31-year-old nurse Malakeh Harbaliyya feeds a child at Hope hospital in the rebel held village of Al-Ghandura, northeast of Aleppo. —AFP

Turkey-based Independent Doctors Association and Britain's CanDo charity gathered enough donations from around the world to rehabilitate and run a new hospital for a whole year.

"We would never have imagined that we could find the whole amount in just three weeks," Hatem said. With equipment brought from Britain via neighboring Turkey, they opened the Hope Hospital in April 2017 in the previously underserved Al-Ghandura district. "There was not a single dispensary or anything to do with medicine in the whole area," said Hatem, who criss-crossed parts of the province still under rebel control looking for a good location. Slowly, the facility grew into a fully-fledged children's hospital complete with nine baby incubators, a malnutrition clinic, a well-equipped lab and emergency services.

'Something extraordinary'

After having to refer many women to another hospital, they added an obstetrics and gynaecology section too. "The team is mostly the same as the one in Aleppo but, because of the bigger workload here and the higher turnout, we had to increase staff," said Hatem. As the only specialized facility for miles, his clinic set amidst tall pine trees receives 8,500 to 9,500 cases a month. "The Hope Hospital really is a point of hope," he said. "It allowed the staff from Aleppo to feel that there is still humanity left in the world," Hatem said of the donations that brought the facility to life. But funds have started to run out and another crowd-funding campaign failed to meet its target. Now, staff hope to sign a contract with the UN's children agency (UNICEF) to help run the facility for six more months. —AFP

China tabloid defends Xinjiang clampdown

BEIJING: Tough security measures have prevented the restive Chinese region of Xinjiang from turning into "China's Syria", a state-run newspaper said yesterday after a UN report raised concerns about the treatment of the mostly Muslim Uighur minority. The Global Times defended the crackdown in the far-west region after the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was told on Friday that some three million people are being or have been held in "counter-extremism" and "re-education" camps in Xinjiang.

In an editorial, the daily accused the West of trying to "stir trouble for Xinjiang and destroy the hard-earned stability in the region". "The turnaround in Xinjiang's security situation has avoided a great tragedy and saved countless lives," the newspaper wrote in its English and Chinese editions. While the tabloid noted that police posts "can be seen everywhere" in Xinjiang, it did not mention the camps. The editorial said the security crackdown has prevented the region from becoming "China's Syria" or "China's Libya".

The Chinese delegation began responding to the allegations yesterday at the committee in Geneva. Chinese authorities have denied the existence of such camps despite mounting evidence from both official documents and testimonies from those who have been held in them. "In the name of combating religious extremism and maintaining social stability (China) has changed the Uighur autonomous region into something that resembles a massive internment camp that is shrouded in secrecy," Gay McDougall, vice-chair of the committee, said on Friday.

She said upwards of one million ethnic Uighurs and other Turkic Muslim minorities are being held in counter-extremism centers and another two million "have been forced" into reeducation camps for "political and cultural indoctrination". China has stepped up a crackdown in Xinjiang against what it calls Islamic extremism and separatist elements but many Muslims in the region accuse Beijing of religious and cultural repression. In a region that shares borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan, Muslims face regulations banning beards and veils as well as the distribution of unauthorized Korans. —AFP

International

Tunisian leader proposes inheritance equality for women, with exceptions

Thousands reject any challenge to Islamic law

TUNIS: Tunisia's president yesterday proposed giving women equal inheritance rights despite protests from thousands of people objecting to any challenge to Islamic law. The North African Muslim country, which toppled autocrat Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in 2011, grants women more rights than other countries in the region, and since last year has allowed Muslim women to marry non-Muslim men. But in a show how divided society remains, thousands demonstrated on Saturday in front of parliament against any changes to inheritance rules.

The current system is based on Islamic law which typically allows men to inherit double what a woman would receive. "I propose equality inheritance to become law," President Beji Caid Essebsi said in a speech. But in the face of the opposition from con-

servatives, he left the door open for some exceptions, saying families who wished to continue the allocation based on Islamic law



Muslim women allowed to marry non-Muslim men

would be able to do so. Parliament now needs to decide on a bill. Tunisia is ruled by a coalition of moderate Islamists and secular

forces which have been managing its democratic transition since 2011, avoiding the upheaval seen in Egypt, Libya or Syria.

They had agreed in 2014 on a constitution granting far-reaching political rights, limiting the role of religion and holding free elections, which stands out in a region often run by autocrats. But one of the few areas where the Islamists have resisted change is the inheritance law. To break the standoff Essebsi, a secular politician, had in August 2017 set up a committee to draft proposals to advance women's rights, winning praise from secular-minded women. While Tunisia has been hailed as the only "Arab spring" success story economic growth has been disappointing, however, with high unemployment driving many young Tunisians abroad who had joined the uprising. — Reuters



TUNIS: Hundreds of Tunisians hold pro-conservative signs during a protest against proposed reforms opposed by conservative Muslims that include equal inheritance rights for women and decriminalizing homosexuality. — AFP

Death toll in Syria arms depot blast increases to 69

BEIRUT: The death toll of an explosion at a weapons depot in northwestern Syria has risen to 69, mostly civilians including 17 children, a monitor said yesterday as search operations continued. Sunday's blast of unknown origin in the town of Sarmada in Idlib province took the lives of 52 civilians, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. The explosion also killed 17 members of Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham, a jihadist-led alliance, according to the Britain-based monitor, which relies on a network of sources inside Syria. "Rescue operations are still ongoing," Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman told AFP, more than 24 hours after the blast at the depot inside a residential building.

Most of the civilians killed were family members of HTS fighters displaced to the

area from the central province of Homs, he said. HTS controls more than half of Idlib province and is led by jihadists from Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate. Most of the rest is held by rebels, while the regime also holds a sliver of the province's southeast. The Islamic State jihadist group also has sleeper cells in the area. In recent months, a series of explosions and assassinations—mainly targeting rebel officials and fighters—have rocked the province. While some attacks have been claimed by IS, most are the result of infighting since last year between other groups.

Regime forces have in the past week ramped up their deadly bombardment of southern Idlib and sent reinforcements to nearby areas they control. President Bashar Al-Assad has warned that government forces intend to retake control of Idlib, after his Russia-backed regime regained chunks of territory from rebels and jihadists in other parts of Syria. Around 2.5 million people live in the province, half of them displaced by fighting in other regions of the country. More than 350,000 people have been killed and millions displaced since Syria's civil war started in 2011 with the brutal repression of anti-government protests. — AFP

Indonesia's quake death toll tops 400

JAKARTA: The death toll from an earthquake on the Indonesian island of Lombok has topped 400, authorities said yesterday, as bodies were still being recovered from the ruins of destroyed buildings. The shallow 6.9-magnitude quake on August 5 leveled tens of thousands of homes, mosques and businesses across Lombok, just a week after another tremor surged through the island and killed 17. "Search and rescue teams are still removing victims who were buried beneath collapsed buildings and landslides," said national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho.

The total number killed in the quake is now 436, Nugroho said, with more than 1,300

injured and nearly 353,000 displaced. The hardest hit region of Lombok has been in the north, where 374 people died and more than 137,000 have been forced from their homes, according to the latest official tolls. Most of the displaced are sleeping under tents or tarpaulins near their ruined homes or in evacuation shelters, while makeshift medical facilities have been set up to treat the injured.

Split open roads, particularly in the mountainous north of the island, are still proving to be a major headache for relief agencies trying to distribute aid. Nugroho said three helicopters, including one from the military, have been used to drop supplies to isolated communities, many of which urgently needed clean water, food, bedding and medicine. Meanwhile, the economic toll of the quake—including its impact to buildings, infrastructure and productivity—has ballooned to 5 trillion rupiah (\$342 million). "This damage and loss is very large," said Nugroho, adding the final figure was likely to be higher. — AFP

Rogue White House ex-employee Omarosa releases Trump's tape

WASHINGTON: Former White House staffer and TV celebrity Omarosa Manigault Newman has released a recording of a private conversation with President Donald Trump after she was fired. NBC's "Today" program played the brief recording, in which Trump claims to have had no knowledge that she was sacked by chief of staff John Kelly, and expresses regret at the news. The recording is the latest volley

from the disgruntled 44-year-old, once an ardent Trump ally, and represents another stunning breach of trust. It also appears to show a president who has little knowledge of what is happening inside his own White House—or who is willing to lie to avoid confrontation.

"Omarosa? Omarosa what's going on? I just saw on the news that you're thinking about leaving? What happened?" he said, apparently unaware she had already been fired. "Nobody even told me about it," Trump is heard saying.

"You know they run a big operation, but I didn't know it." He continues: "I didn't know that. Goddamn it. I don't love you leaving at all." Trump has already branded "Omarosa"—as she is commonly known—a "lowlife" after she released a recording of her firing by Kelly, seemingly recorded in



Omarosa Manigault

the White House Situation Room. Trump came to office vowing to hire "only the best people"—but has struggled to put a lid on leaks, backbiting and scandal inside his White House. — AFP

Norway fisheries minister resigns after Iran trip

OSLO: Norway's fisheries minister resigned yesterday following his earlier admission that he breached government security protocols during a holiday to Iran last month. Per Sandberg, who initially failed to notify colleagues of his whereabouts and also took his government-issued mobile phone to Iran, had been rebuked by Prime Minister Erna Solberg for violating the cabinet's travel rules.

Sandberg, 58, deputy head of the anti-immigration Progress Party, has also faced criticism from within his party for going on the trip with his girlfriend, Iranian-born Bahareh Letnes, 28, who obtained residency in Norway a decade ago. Ruling in a minority with a coalition cabinet of her Conservatives as well as Progress and the Liberals, Solberg's government has slumped in opinion polls after news of Sandberg's trip broke. The prime minister said she had ordered Sandberg to hand his phone to police for safety checks, but still faced criticism in parliament from opposition parties questioning the government's competence on issues of national security. The government requires ministers to inform the prime minister's office of where they are going, regardless of



OSLO: Norway's Minister of Fisheries Per Sandberg (left) waves as he leaves a press conference yesterday in Oslo. Norway's rightwing Fisheries Minister Per Sandberg quit after breaching security protocol when he went on holiday to Iran with an Iranian-born former beauty queen, in a major media scandal. — AFP

destination. It also forbids the use of government-issued phones in a country with which Norway does not have established security cooperation. The new fisheries minister will be Progress Party veteran Harald

Tom Nesvik, the prime minister's office said. Norway is the world's largest producer of farmed salmon, and seafood is the Nordic country's second-largest export industry after oil and gas. — Reuters

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E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
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drowning for
sand despite
govt crackdown

Raghnath Bartade watched helplessly as his brother was dragged off the sand-mining boat. His leg tangled in the anchor rope and his arms flailing as he sank into the murky creek near Mumbai. Moments earlier, Raghnath and Babban Bartade had been dredging sand by hand from the bottom of the creek - an often deadly trade that fuels India's booming construction industry, and continues despite an official crackdown. "We found his body within minutes," said Bartade, adding that he has witnessed several drownings since he began mining sand 13 years ago.

"The miners usually drift away in the water and their body surfaces days later," he said, standing outside his hut in Bharatpada village in Palghar district adjoining Mumbai on a rainy afternoon with his brother's children hovering close by. Babban's death in June came a year after a Thomson Reuters Foundation investigation revealed workers were drowning while illegally mining sand in Vasai Creek, one of the two main distributaries of the Ulhas River.

The investigation found about 75,000 men, many from India's poorest areas, were risking their lives and health by spending up to 12 hours a day diving 12 m into pitch-black waters with iron buckets to fill with sand. In response, the Maharashtra state government promised to end illegal mining along the creek, impose regulations, and provide alternate jobs. Almost one year later, there are far fewer sand mining boats on the creek, but the promised jobs have not materialised with officials at different levels of government passing responsibility for the employment plan on to others.

Siddharam Salimath, deputy commissioner in the Maharashtra state revenue department, said district heads were responsible for enacting the order he issued last year to provide alternative employment to sand miners. But Anil Pawar, deputy collector for Thane district where the creek flows, said it is the state government that has the resources to create job opportunities for former sand miners. "We have raided sand ports, seized sand. But worker rehabilitation is a policy decision that the (state) government has to take," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Kapil Patil, a member of parliament for Bhiwandi region, which Vasai Creek flows through, said he wrote to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis about four months ago, asking for a meeting to discuss the issue. Patil said he thought Fadnavis was "positive" about the plan to provide other jobs but the meeting has yet to be scheduled. An official from the chief minister's office, who asked not to be named because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said the "welfare of the workers is under active consideration". But local activist Nandkumar Pawar said that since most workers were engaged in illegal mining, there was no record that they worked there and may not be even enlisted for rehabilitation once the government starts giving jobs.

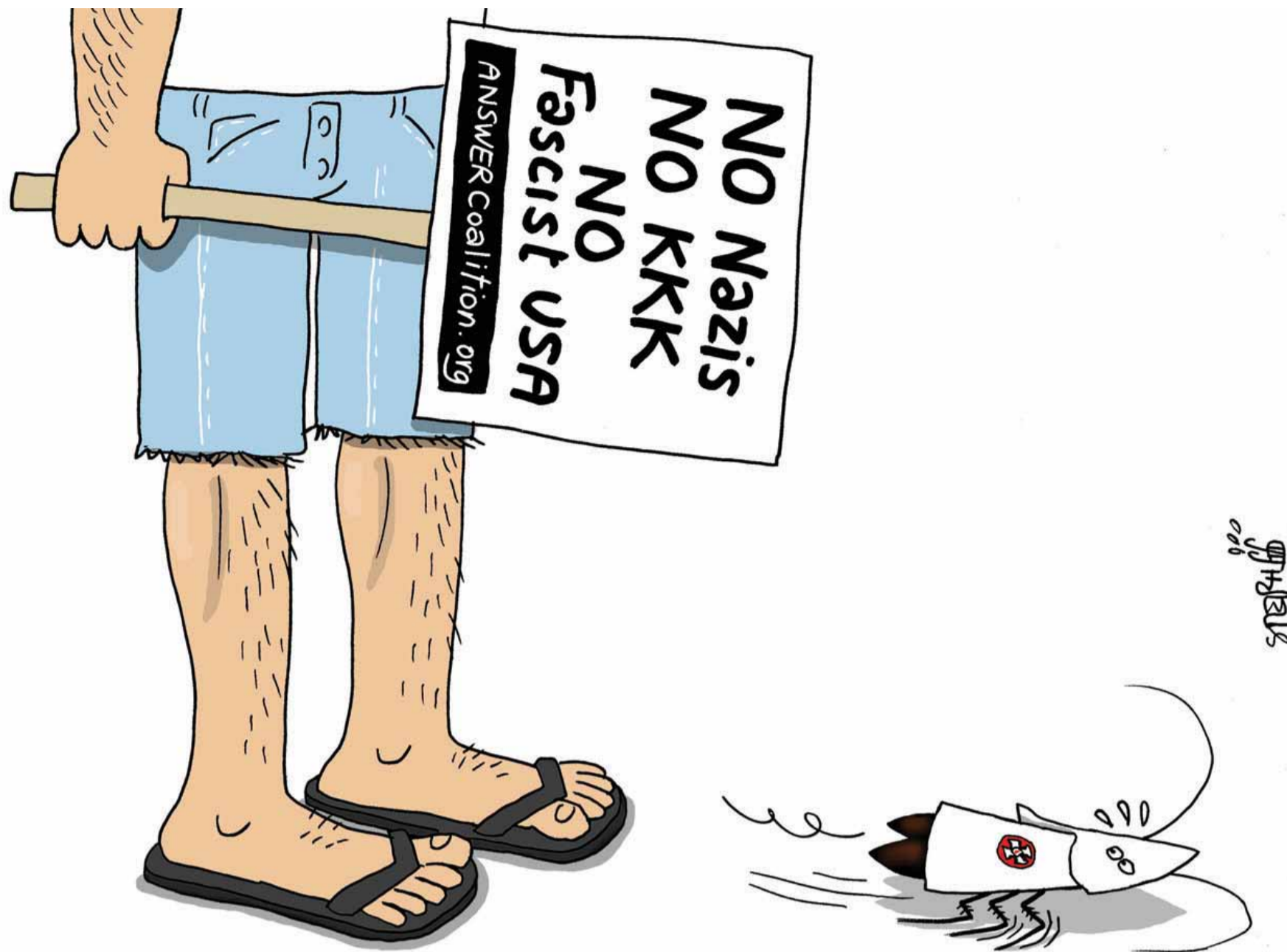
Worth the risk

A recent visit to sand mining hotspots by the Thomson Reuters Foundation showed the industry has slowed considerably since the crackdown, but poverty still drives some men to brave the creek's depths. "If there were 100 boats, there are 25 now," said Harnam Raj, who migrated from the northern state of Uttar Pradesh eight years ago to work as a miner. Raj works on a boat owned by Murari Babu, the elected leader of Kalher, a village on Vasai Creek, who said he plans to continue his business. "The government has said that workers cannot go down the creek as much," Babu said. "But workers have been doing this work for long, and they can continue doing it."

Raj said the pay makes the work worth the risks. "My ears and nose bleed all the time," he said, as workers shifted sand from boats into piles on the creek side. "But where can I find more work? What if I don't make as much money?" Divers can make about 1,200 rupees (\$15) in a day for a boat-full of sand and gravel - much higher than the average daily wage in India of about 270 rupees. The wage difference makes it hard to convince sand miners to sign on to government-backed work programs, said Prashant Narnaware, the head of Palghar district adjoining Mumbai. "We are willing to sponsor their healthcare and give them livelihoods," he said.

But residents of Dadade Katkari Pada, a village in Palghar surrounded by lush farmland, said they have seen little change since government officials conducted a survey of the population last year in preparation for an employment scheme. Babu Kanha Gaware said he has taken part in government-sponsored road building and was paid 100 or 200 rupees a day, but the work lasted only four or five days at a time. "There are no jobs here," he said. Of 30 families in the village, residents said that almost 20 still depend on sand mining in Vasai Creek, about 90 km away.

Sand is becoming scarce globally, with its annual consumption of 40 billion tonnes far exceeding the sediment carried by rivers across the world, according to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). Sand mining has been declared illegal in most parts of India with countless court petitions highlighting the danger it poses to coastlines, marine life, and sand reserves. — Reuters



Japan firms rethink ways to attract workers

Misaki Harada wants to quit her job as a receptionist at a restaurant management company in Tokyo and move into marketing for an apparel maker. But the 24-year-old said she wanted more than just a bigger paycheck. Her next employer would need to improve her quality of life. "If you ask me whether I prefer more money or more flexible working hours, I would choose more flexible working hours," she said. "I want to get married soon and start a family. I want to make sure I have time to take care of my children."

As Japan's population dwindles, its companies are being forced to change how they attract job seekers like Harada from an ever-shrinking labor pool. Nationwide, there are 1.62 jobs available for every jobseeker, the strongest demand for labor in more than 44 years. The jobless rate is 2.4 percent, near a 25-year low, and real wages adjusted for inflation have fallen in five of the past six years. Flexible working hours, personal benefits like day care and even rent assistance are now on the table alongside salary.

Such perks, common in the United States and Europe, are only just catching on in Japan, which until recently relied on a culture of complete devotion to an employer in exchange for job security and steady pay increases. Toyota, for instance, opened a 24-hour day care facility in April for shift workers at its plants near its headquarters in Toyota City. "Japanese companies are becoming more flexible about when and where you work," said Toshiaki Matsumoto, chief executive of HR Strategy, a human resources consultancy.

Some companies, like Jtekt Corp, the world's biggest supplier of vehicle steering systems, are simply moving

some of their operations away from competition. Jtekt last year cut the ribbon on a new technology development center in Akita Prefecture, northern Japan, known more for its rice, sake and namesake dog breed than engineering. The facility, which will develop technology for self-driving cars, is far from other companies hiring into the industry.

So far the company, a key supplier of Toyota Motor Corp, has hired about 20 engineers and plans to roughly double its workforce by the end of the year. "In larger cities, it's difficult to get across the message that we are hiring because we're competing with many companies for the same talent," said Fukami Imai, the center's representative director. Denso Corp, another Toyota supplier, took the opposite route, moving part of its self-driving research program to Tokyo because it is a more attractive locale than its headquarters in gritty Nagoya. "Some companies are offering free food or subsidizing rent so workers can shorten commuting time," Matsumoto said. "Some companies even provide counselling and time off for couples trying to conceive."

Forced to adapt

Japan's working-age population peaked in 1995 at 87 million and is forecast to fall to 45 million by 2065. Businesses slow to respond to that demographic change have been hit hard. Toyobo Co Ltd said it needs to ramp up production of film used in flat-panel displays, but can't fully staff the production line. Keeping employees from quitting - and not just throwing money at the problem - is another crucial piece of the labor puzzle, experts say.

"My new employer paid me more money, but the working hours were awful," said Daisuke Okamoto, 42, an

accountant who left a job in advertising in April for a position at a consumer goods company. "At first, I had a lot of regret. Now the company has given me more flexible working hours and the freedom to occasionally work from home, so I feel better about the job."

Daikisangyo, which assembles plane fuselages and wings for Boeing Co, was having trouble retaining new employees. Then it introduced a mentoring program that reduced turnover to zero, at least for now. "It's not just about the money anymore," said Tsuyoshi Saso, a manager at Interworks, a nationwide recruitment site for jobs in manufacturing. "They also want to work in a positive work environment with good colleagues."

Changing the workforce

Foreign workers can help fill some of the gaps, although they make up only about 2 percent of the current labor force, and companies hiring for "unskilled" positions like farm work must rely on trainees under an internship program that lasts up to five years. The government has said it will create new categories for foreign workers with more limited skills, but will issue only a small number of such visas.

Mazda Motor Corp's suppliers, which typically operate independently, are cooperating to figure out the best way to use artificial intelligence and robots to remove human workers from the equation altogether. "Our goal is to create unmanned production lines that can operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year," said Masato Uno, chairman of the Hiroshima Manufacturing Engineering Association, a consortium of Mazda suppliers and IT companies. "We expect this to address problems with productivity and labor shortages." — Reuters

Akihito pushed
boundaries to
reach out to Asia

When Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko stood, heads bowed, at a seaside cliff on Saipan 60 years after a bloody World War Two battle, their silent prayers conveyed a message many felt resonated louder than words. On that June 2005 visit - one of many war-related trips during Akihito's three-decade reign - the royal couple paid their respects at memorials not only for Japanese but also American and Korean war dead.

"I think the emperor felt heartfelt pain and mourning for those who died, and that we must not forget the tragedy of the war and should convey that to the generations who have not experienced it," Shingo Haketa, former grand steward of the Imperial Household Agency, which manages the monarch's affairs, told Reuters in an exclusive interview. Haketa and a half-dozen other associates of the emperor recounted to Reuters how after the death of his father on Jan 7, 1989, Akihito carved out an active role as symbol of peace, democracy and reconciliation.

Although he cannot directly influence government policy, Akihito has created a broader consciousness of Japan's wartime past, experts say. That is a sharp departure from the legacy of his father, Hirohito - once revered as a "living god" in whose name Japan fought World War Two. Hirohito's comments about the conflict were vague after Japan's defeat, and he remained a divisive figure because of his role.

Akihito, 84, will abdicate next year. On Aug 15, he will for the last time as reigning emperor take part in an annual memorial ceremony honoring war dead held on the anniversary of Japan's surrender. His retirement comes amid tensions with China and the Koreans, and his legacy appears threatened by a Japanese drift to the right mirrored in Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's conservative agenda. Japanese political leaders have expressed regret,

remorse and apology for their country's wartime actions. But remarks by the emperor have a different weight, experts say. "Emperors are like popes - their gestures carry a symbolic message," said Andrew Horvat, a visiting professor at Japan's Josai International University.

Pushing the envelope

Politicians have sometimes undercut official apologies, but Akihito's message has remained consistent. "People see (Akihito and Michiko) as sincerely and respectfully trying to reach out to wartime victims in a deeply symbolic and very reconciliatory way," said Jennifer Lind, a Dartmouth College professor who has written about apologies. Friends and scholars credit Akihito's post-war education with laying the foundations for how he forged his role. Influences included Quaker tutor Elizabeth Vining and former Keio University head Shinzo Koizumi, who saw many of his students die in the conflict. "Currently, most Japanese people think that the emperor is gentle and kind," Mototsugu Akashi, a former classmate, told Reuters. "But that is clearly a post-war phenomenon."

The makeover of the monarchy began after Japan's surrender in 1945, when Akihito was 11. In theory, the emperor can say what he likes as long as his remarks don't violate the post-war constitution, which defines the emperor as "the symbol of the State and the unity of the People", devoid of governmental power and unable to interfere in politics. In practice, Akihito's public remarks are carefully vetted to ensure they don't violate those rules, with delicate discussions determining how forthright he can be.

Akihito strained against those limits, say those who know him. "I know that for one or two speeches, he was angry with the Imperial Household Agency and foreign ministry about the words to be used," said Michael Barrett, who knew Akihito while head of the British Council in Japan during the 1990s. "It was said that they (the imperial couple) were birds in a gilded cage, but he opened the door of that cage," he added.

Conservative backlash

In one early example, Seoul in May 1990 wanted the new emperor to apologize for Japan's often brutal 1910-1945 colonization of the

Korean peninsula. Ruling party lawmakers objected, and prime minister Toshiki Kaifu offered to apologize instead to South Korean president Roh Tae Woo. Akihito, however, had his own ideas. "The current emperor wanted to make clear that it was Japan that caused the suffering of the Korean people," Makoto Watanabe, a former imperial grand chamberlain, an aide to the emperor, told Reuters in an interview.

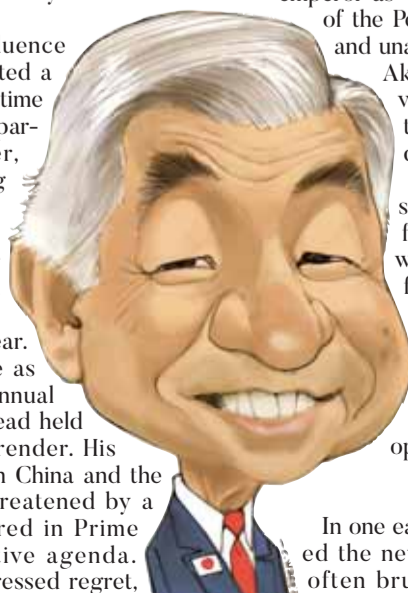
Ultimately, Akihito had his way after private negotiations with government officials. "I think of the sufferings your people underwent during this unfortunate period, which was brought about by my country, and cannot but feel the deepest regret," he said at a banquet for Roh. The early years of Akihito's reign saw a flourishing of debate over Japan's responsibility for World War Two and a series of government apologies.

The statements, and efforts to teach children about Japan's wartime actions, sparked a conservative backlash against a view of history seen as undermining national pride and identity. In 1992, Akihito became the first modern Japanese monarch to visit China. Domestic right-wing groups opposed the trip, while Chinese activists demanded an apology. While in China, the emperor said he felt "deep sorrow" for the suffering Japan inflicted on the Chinese people. The next year, he began visits to wartime sites, beginning in Okinawa, where resentment lingered against mainland Japan over the islanders' wartime sacrifices.

Overseas battlefield

Six decades after the war's end, he visited Saipan, a US territory, on his first trip to a foreign battleground. "He had felt strongly that he wanted to pray for all the souls who died in the war, not just domestically but overseas, not just Japanese but all the people of the world," Haketa said. "Usually, the emperor's overseas trips are in response to requests by the government, but this trip was based on his strong personal desire," he added.

Despite Akihito's age and health problems - he has had heart surgery and been treated for prostate cancer - he has continued his travels. In 2015 he and Michiko went to Palau's tiny Peleliu island, site of a fierce battle in 1944. In 2016 they visited the Philippines and this year returned to Okinawa. On the 70th anniversary of Japan's defeat, Akihito expressed "deep remorse" over the war, a nuanced departure from his annual script. Many liberals and moderate conservatives saw it as a subtle rebuke to Abe, who a day earlier had expressed "utmost grief" for the suffering Japan inflicted but said future generations should not have to keep apologizing. — Reuters



Business

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KUWAIT: A picture taken yesterday shows a wad of one-hundred Turkish lira notes on display at a currency exchange in Kuwait City. As the lira plunged another seven percent in value yesterday, investors fretted over potential economic contagion from Turkey. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Turkey CB fails to halt lira carnage

Erdogan in no mood to offer concessions to US

ISTANBUL: Turkey's central bank yesterday failed to halt the precipitous plunge of the lira with a raft of measures aimed at soothing markets, as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accused the United States of seeking to stab its NATO ally "in the back". A dispute between Turkey and the United States—which reached new intensity over the detention of an American pastor—has hammered the lira and also raised questions over the future partnership between Washington and Ankara.

As the lira plunged another seven percent in value, investors fretted over potential economic contagion from Turkey, particularly to European banks. The Turkish lira had tumbled some 16 percent against the dollar on Friday as US President Donald Trump said he had doubled tariffs on steel and aluminum from Turkey.

"We are together in NATO and then you seek to stab your strategic partner in the back. Can such a thing be accepted?" Erdogan said at a conference in the capital Ankara.

After Erdogan's speech, the lira was trading back at 6.9 to the dollar, a loss of over seven percent on the day, recovering from even sharper losses in earlier Asian trade where it struck a record low of 7.2362 to the greenback. In its first statement

since what was dubbed "Black Friday" in Turkey, the central bank said it was ready to take "all necessary measures" to ensure financial stability, promising to provide banks with "all the liquidity" they need.

The bank also revised reserve requirement ratios for banks, in a move also aimed at staving off any liquidity issues. But to the dismay of markets, the statement gave no clear promise of rate hikes, which is what most economists and analysts say is needed to ease the crisis.

Erdogan indicated he was in no mood to offer concessions to the United States in one of the worst spats between the two NATO allies in years. Erdogan said Turkey was facing an "economic siege", slamming the currency movements as an "attack against our country". The Turkish leader has been sanguine over the punitive measures announced by the US,

to dry up", said economists from Capital Economics. Economists say there was already trouble brewing even before the current spat erupted—many believe the government brought forward polls due in November 2019 to June this year to pre-empt any problems.

Erdogan won a new mandate in the polls with enhanced powers. "The unnecessary diplomatic spat between Turkey and the US over the jailed pastor... has exacerbated" an already emerging economic crisis, Paul T. Levin, director of the Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies, said.

The structural problems in the Turkish economy—which enjoyed impressive growth of 7.4 in 2017 — are seen as high inflation which is now close to 16 percent, a widening current account deficit and a banking system with foreign currency denominated debt.

Hussein Sayed, Chief Market Strategist at FXTM, said Turkey has "limited choices" against this background coupled with the US dispute. Erdogan insisted yesterday that the dynamics of the Turkish economy were "solid, strong and sound and will continue to be so".

Unorthodox policies

Since coming to power in 2003 Erdogan has built his popularity on growth and transforming areas, especially in the conservative interior of the country, with newly-found wealth.

Economists say he wants to keep the growth ticking and has thus made clear interest rates get in the way, with Erdogan describing them as the "mother and father of all evil".

Erdogan has also repeatedly aired the unorthodox view that low interest rates can help bring down inflation. Levin argued that despite the official emphasis on the crisis with the US "it has been clear for some time to anyone follow-

saying that while Turkey's relationship with Washington is at stake it will look for other partners. Analysts say that while Washington's sanctions against Ankara sparked the immediate crisis, Turkey's economy has been risking trouble for a while due to high inflation and the weak lira.

The central bank has over the last few weeks defied calls from markets for rate hikes to combat these problems, raising fears of interference from Erdogan who has repeatedly called for low interest rates.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel chanced into the crisis, calling for an independent Turkish central bank. "Nobody ... has an interest in the economic destabilisation of Turkey but of course everything must be done so that, for example, an independent central bank can operate," she said in Berlin. Erdogan had on Saturday described interest rates as a

"tool of exploitation", in remarks that further unnerved markets. "Investors need to see serious economic measures and not political ones to prevent things getting completely out of control," said Hussein Sayed, chief market strategist at FXTM, saying this had to include an emergency rate hike.

But Erdogan advised Turks not to worry. "It is not at all like we sank and we are finished. The dynamics of the Turkish economy are solid, strong and sound and will continue to be so." Erdogan also blasted what he called "economic terror" on social media, vowing that the judiciary had taken necessary measures to punish so-called speculators. The interior ministry launched an investigation into 346 social media accounts on grounds of "provocative sharings", the state-run Anadolu news agency reported. American pastor Andrew Brunson has been held since October 2016 on terror and espionage charges and, if convicted, could face a jail term of 35 years. Trump has described his detention as a "total disgrace" and urged Erdogan to free him immediately. A delegation led by Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Sedat Onal fled to secure a deal last Wednesday in talks in Washington on a number of issues including Brunson. — AFP



CB takes raft of measures to stop currency plunge

ing Turkey that the government's political and economic mismanagement would have consequences".

Interest rate caution

The route of hiking rates now appears cut off to the nominally independent central bank which is ready to use virtually any policy tool save this one, raising fears Erdogan has the bank under his influence. The bank in May helped boost the lira's value with a 300 basis point rate hike that came just before the elections. However one month after the elections, the bank dashed market expectations by leaving rates unchanged and has steadfastly refused to heed calls for an emergency hike. Instead yesterday it vowed to make available "all the liquidity" needed by the banks. "The measures to improve liquidity are not addressing the main issue which is lira's decline. Erdogan's unwillingness to raise interest rates suggests that the situation might not be defused soon," said Konstantinos Anthis, head of research at ADSS.

Policymaking team

The elections on June 24 marked a watershed in Turkish politics. Erdogan was inaugurated in July under a new system which entirely dispensed with the office of prime minister.

Former deputy prime minister Mehmet Simsek, a reassuring figure for investors, was conspicuously absent from the new government which is a vertical power structure under Erdogan. The president also appointed his son in law and former energy minister Berat Albayrak as finance minister to head a newly expanded finance ministry, a move that was given an immediate cold shoulder by markets. "It's arguably the lack of prompt, firm, and rational responses from Turkish authorities that has now sent the lira into a tailspin," said Levin. — AFP

Why has Turkey's currency fallen so sharply?

ISTANBUL: Turkey's lira has bled value against the dollar, leaving the country under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan facing its most serious economic challenge since a financial crisis in 2001. The crash on Turkey's "Black Friday" of August 10 — when the lira fell by some 16 percent—was precipitated by a tweet from US President Donald Trump doubling aluminum and steel tariffs on Turkey. But analysts argue that the malaise of Turkey—a high-growth economy with widely-acknowledged potential and importance—goes far deeper to policy and imbalances that have been allowed to persist for too long.

Crisis in US ties

The first warning sign trouble could be afoot came when Trump said on July 26 Turkey would be facing sanctions over its holding for almost two years of US pastor Andrew Brunson on terror-related charges. Days later, the US imposed sanctions against Turkey's interior and justice ministers using legislation drawn up to punish foreign officials following the death of a lawyer in Russian jail. Turkey followed suit with reciprocal measures. The tensions spooked investors already worried by the fallout of a row between Turkey and its NATO ally, with the lira falling sharply last week. And Trump then hurled fuel on the flames with his tweet over the tariffs, prompting Friday's crash.

The US imposition of sanctions "is causing capital inflows

Trump endorses call for boycott of Harley-Davidson

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump endorsed Sunday for a boycott of tariff-hit Harley-Davidson over its plans to move production of its iconic American motorcycles out of the country.

"Many @harleydavidson owners plan to boycott the company if manufacturing moves overseas. Great!" Trump tweeted. "Most other companies are coming in our direction, including Harley competitors. A really bad move!" Trump has taken it personally since Wisconsin-based manufacturer—once a presidential favorite — announced yesterday it is moving some production out of the US.

Harley-Davidson was targeted with EU tariffs after Trump imposed stiff duties on European steel and aluminum. An array of US companies have complained they are being hurt by the administration's tariff policies. But Trump has treated the issue as a loyalty test. "I've done so much for you, and then this," Trump tweeted earlier this week. "Other companies are coming back where they belong! We won't forget, and neither will your customers or your now very HAPPY competitors!" — AFP

Business

No sign of crisis or panic over trade war on Chinese streets

Most citizens are not worried, some say they won't buy US products

BEIJING/SHANGHAI: Chinese officials have been mostly measured and moderate in their response to US President Donald Trump's ratcheting up of a trade war with Beijing in recent weeks through his announcement of a series of punitive tariffs. They have generally avoided adding to tensions, allowing the Communist Party's official media to make the most bellicose comments.

But the mood on the streets of Beijing and Shanghai is a little less accepting. Reuters talked to a cross section of 50 people, mainly from the two cities, about how concerned they are about the trade war, what they think Beijing's response would be, and whether they think Chinese people should boycott American products in retaliation.

The interviews showed there is no palpable sense of crisis or panic yet. There is division and confusion over how China should respond to Trump, with some arguing that Beijing should strike back at American interests but others saying they didn't know what could be done.

But perhaps most worrying for American businesses selling in China, a significant minority of the people interviewed - 14, or 28 percent - want to stop buying American products now, and some say they are already boycotting anything made in the US. Others said they would continue to buy American but that could change in the future.

If that was representative of the whole of China - and words were turned into action - it might start to put a dent in sales of Apple's iPhones, Disney's movies, Starbucks' drinks and General Motors' cars, among other American products - and that's without any boycott being organized by the government or activists.

A decade after China basked in the patriotic glory of an inspirational opening ceremony for the Beijing Olympics, nationalist sentiment is rarely far below the surface.

The straw poll's sample is very small and clearly not scientific. The interviews were also conducted in a country where people are often guarded and may well not let foreign media know their real views. Any individual's comments deemed inappropriate - criticism of Xi would fall into this category - could lead to trouble with the authorities. But the views expressed in the 50 interviews are more than the basis for idle curiosity. Here are the results of the straw poll:

- Asked whether they were worried about the trade war, only 11 of the 50 (22 percent) said they were, and 39

(or 78 percent) said they weren't concerned.

- Asked what Beijing should do in response to Trump's punitive tariffs, 19 (or 38 percent) said that it should strike back hard. The rest came up with various responses, including a refocus on development of the domestic economy, building other export markets, while 8 (or 16 percent) said they had no idea what the government should do.

- Asked whether they would stop buying US products, 14 said they would, 31 said they wouldn't (some indicated their views could change if the trade war intensifies), and five didn't have a view.

Here are some of the comments from those interviewed: "Of course I'm concerned. It's a clash between the largest and second-largest economy," said Shanghai stockbroker Cai Qing, 40. "None of the relevant parties were fully prepared for the trade war. Policies were rushed, including US policies," he added. "To put it bluntly, Americans have always been so arrogant - they make everyone their manufacturer so they can reap the economic fruit," said Qu Xinjun, who works in the steel industry in Shanghai. "Trump is waging a psychological war with China. He was trying to intimidate China. From a psychological standpoint, we should not worry about the trade war, but rather focus on domestic development," he said. "We should trust our country and the leadership and trust that we can win the war."

"China has to hit back, which could show its great power status. China has to win this match," said Beijing interior decorator Zhang Shiyu, 56.

China has other markets it can look to, and President Xi Jinping's landmark proposal to build a new Silk Road, called the Belt and Road initiative, he said.

"We Chinese should not buy Apple phones. Like the saying 'Buy the nation's products, love China', buying domestic products will boost our own industries."

"A lot of American goods are actually made in China," said Wei Shaohuan, 26, the founder of a tech start-up in China's central Henan province, was interviewed on WeChat.

"But if, after a period of time, the trade war really incites a sense of hatred against the United States, then I will not watch American movies, not listen to American music, not recommend Disney to friends, and start writing social media posts saying that Americans are not good, in



SHANGHAI: A bank employee uses a money counting machine to count out 100 yuan (\$14.6) notes at a bank in Shanghai. — AFP

order to counter American cultural products," he said.

"I'm a strong supporter of Chinese products. I'm a firm opponent of any American product, especially after reading the news," said Zhao Guoxin, 61, a store owner in Beijing. "The other day I went to this American shop and I told them I won't buy one single thing, and I made them very awkward. To be honest I do think America is pretty obnoxious," he said.

"To be honest, importing from the US isn't our sole route," said Wang Yangqing, a Beijing nurse who said she was in her 20s. "We could also import from European countries. For girls, we use some American skin care prod-

ucts. If tariffs keep rising, I may shift to products from other places such as Japan or Korea." "China should strike back properly," said Xu Dong, 25, a student in Beijing. "But I won't stop buying their products. Some enterprises like Apple in fact bring in tax revenues and employment. It's a brand that is doing good to China," he said.

"For me it [the trade war] is great!" said Zhu Tao, 34, a ship catering manager in Beijing. "That's because I receive my salary in US dollars and since the US-China trade war started the US dollar has kept increasing in value compared to the yuan. So I think it has really helped me. It's great!" — Reuters

Empty shipyard and Suicides as 'Hyundai Town' grapples with grim future

ULSAN, South Korea: When Lee Dong-hee came to Ulsan to work for Hyundai Heavy Industries five years ago, shipyards in the city known as Hyundai Town operated day and night and workers could make triple South Korea's annual average salary.

But the 52-year-old was laid off in January, joining some 27,000 workers and subcontractors who lost their jobs at Hyundai Heavy between 2015 and 2017 as ship orders plunged. To support their family, Lee's wife took a minimum wage job at a Hyundai Motor supplier. His 20-year-old daughter, who entered a Hyundai Heavy-affiliated university hoping to land a job in Ulsan, is now looking for work elsewhere. The Lee family's fortunes mirror the decline of Ulsan, which is now reeling from Chinese competition, rising labor costs and its over-reliance on Hyundai - one of the giant, family-run conglomerates or chaebol that dominate South Korea.

Generations of Hyundai workers like Lee powered South Korea's transformation from the ashes of the 1950-53 Korean War to an industrial and manufacturing powerhouse, making the southeastern port of Ulsan the country's richest city by 2007.

But some experts say the chaebols have now become complacent and risk averse, failing to keep pace with their overseas competitors. South Korea's focus on exports has also made Asia's fourth-largest economy vulnerable to growing protectionism by major trade partners and other external shocks. "Hyundai was everything to me. I feel hopeless," Lee said at his apartment, a high-rise complex popular with Hyundai Motor workers 10 km (6 miles) from the automaker's factory.

With young people fleeing in search of jobs, Ulsan is now the fastest-aging city in the country, according to Statistics Korea. The city's population of 1.1 million has more than quadrupled since 1970, but fell for the first time in 2016 even as population grew in the rest of the country.

Once a prosperous company town

In many ways, the challenges facing Ulsan mirror those faced in the American Midwest in the 1970s and 1980s, when the once prosperous industrial heartland was hit by massive job and population losses.

Some experts and industry executive warn Ulsan - home to the world's biggest shipbuilder and largest car-making complex - might be South Korea's 'Rust Belt' in the making. "It could be worse here, since it's all about Hyundai and its suppliers," said Mo Jong-ryn, a professor of international political economics at Yonsei University in Seoul. "There is no alternative."

Legendary businessman Chung Ju-yung founded Hyundai Motor in Ulsan in 1967 and Hyundai Heavy six years later, turning the small fishing village known for whale hunting into a giant company town.

For decades, job seekers flocked to the city, drawn by high wages, company-subsidized housing and generous benefits. Hyundai's dominance is still keenly felt. Workers wearing gray Hyundai uniforms drive Hyundai cars, shop at Hyundai department stores, live in Hyundai apartments and go to Hyundai hospitals for medical service. Their children go to Hyundai schools and universities.

In the wake of the downturn, Hyundai Heavy has been selling assets such as an employees' dormitory, and a large foreign community complex it used for clients such as BP and Exxon Mobil and their families, officials say. The foreigners' complex featured townhouses, a golf course, a swimming pool and school.

A spokesman said Hyundai Heavy was doing its utmost to "normalize our company", working with labor unions to address a lack of work and an idled workforce.

Ripples from Hyundai's struggles spread throughout Ulsan. Eom Soon-ui runs a small noodle place in a traditional market blocks away from Hyundai Heavy's headquarters. One recent workday, the market was mostly empty, with about a dozen restaurants as well as uniform shops catering to shipyard workers closed.

"Hyundai makes or breaks for merchants like us. They're doing poorly, so I'm struggling to make ends meet," she said. Ulsan accounted for 12 percent of South Korea's exports last year, the lowest since 2000 and down from its peak of 19 percent in 2008, according to customs data. The city also has seen a rising number of suicides and now has the highest suicide rate in the country for those aged between 25 and 29, according to Statistics Korea. Ulsan University Hospital, run by Hyundai Heavy,

recorded 182 suicide attempts in the first half of this year, compared to about 150 a year earlier, a hospital official said. Taxi drivers have been told by police not to drop people off on Ulsan's newly built bridge after three people killed themselves there in just one month.

"People believed that if they work hard, they will be better off, and if their children study hard, they will be better off," said Park Sang-hoon, an official at an Ulsan suicide prevention centre. "Confronting a different reality now, it seems that many of them are getting to a point of hopelessness, and some are even making extreme choices."

Faltering abroad

After massive shipbuilding job losses, auto workers fear it could be their turn next. Hyundai Motor has been already moving some production offshore, and an internal forecast seen by Reuters shows domestic output is expected to fall to 37 percent this year, down from nearly 80 percent in 2004.

Executives say that's necessary because of high labor costs and strong unions at home.

But workers say many of Hyundai's problems are its own making, like failing to forecast a SUV boom in the key US market and missing the shift to electric cars. Hyundai Motors declined to comment for this story. Earlier this year, it pledged to hire 45,000 across the group over the next five years and invest heavily in new businesses including "wearable robots" and artificial intelligence.

However, some experts say South Korea's reliance on a few powerful chaebol is holding the country back. South Korea's top 10 conglomerates had revenue equivalent to 66 percent of the country's gross domestic product in 2017. By comparison, the combined revenue of America's top 500 companies was 65 percent of U.S. GDP, according to Fortune magazine's annual survey last year.

"South Korea's chaebol have been complacent," said Lee Dong-gull, the chairman of state-run Korea Development Bank. Because of their near monopolistic market positions at home, conglomerates have been reluctant to take risks and slower to innovate, Lee said.

Faltering in key overseas markets, South Korea forecasts export growth will slow to 5.3 percent in 2018 and 2.5 percent next year, from 15.8 percent last year.

No longer a paradise

That means more pain for Ulsan and other exports



ULSAN, South Korea: In the wake of the downturn, Hyundai Heavy has been selling assets such as an employees' dormitory, and a large foreign community complex it used for clients such as BP and Exxon Mobil and their families.

hubs. South Korean President Moon designated Ulsan and several other cities as "industrial crisis zones" in May, setting aside 1 trillion won (\$890 million) this year to support affected workers and suppliers, and to promote new industries.

Moon says the chaebol-oriented economic policy has reached its limit, and has widened the gap between haves and have-nots. Under a new policy of "innovative growth", Seoul is boosting investment in fuel cells and self-driving cars, "smart factories" and drones, as well as artificial intelligence, the internet of the things and big data.

Long-time Hyundai men say they aren't feeling benefits of the new policy. Lee, the former Hyundai Heavy worker, learned painting and molding to do home interior work, but is struggling to find a job because the downturn has also hit the real estate sector. Ha M.H., who came to Ulsan in 1982, said he is leaving Hyundai Heavy in August after 36 years, because the company's backlog for offshore platforms has run dry.

"Foreign inspectors from Scotland and elsewhere who used to work here in good old days still call Ulsan a paradise," Ha said. "All of my friends have left, and I am the last man standing." — Reuters

World stocks hit one-month low as Turkish rout spreads

LONDON: World markets shuddered yesterday, as Turkey's worsening currency crisis persuaded investors to dump equities and emerging markets and flee to safer assets such as government bonds and the dollar. The MSCI world equity index, which tracks shares in 47 countries, was down 0.6 percent yesterday and 1.75 percent since Friday's open as the Turkish lira plunged to a record low, forcing the country's finance minister to announce an economic action plan to ease nerves.

The lira has tumbled on worries over Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan's increasing control over the economy and deteriorating relations with the United States. It fell as much as 12 percent at one stage yesterday, then recovered to a loss of 8.5 percent by 1130 GMT.

"There's a risk-off mood generally triggered by the Turkish currency sell off, and we are seeing a wider sell-off now, and it's looking pretty ugly in other emerging markets as well," said Investec economist Philip Shaw. He pointed to the South African rand and the Mexican peso, down 2.8 percent and 1.8 percent respectively yesterday, as two examples of emerging markets hit by contagion.

"The plunge in the lira, which began in May, now looks certain to push the Turkish economy into recession, and it may well trigger a banking crisis," said Andrew Kenningham, chief global economist at Capital Economics. "This would be another blow for EMs as an asset class."

Turkish credit default swaps - a hedge against financial turbulence - surged to their highest since the 2008 global financial crisis as the lira took its latest dive.

The eurozone has also been hit by Turkish woes, particularly after a report by the Financial Times last week suggested the European Central Bank was increasingly concerned about euro zone banks with exposure to Turkey. The euro fell to a one-year low against the dollar yesterday and sank to a one-year trough against the Swiss franc as well. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL			
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL	
Europe			
British Pound	0.380830	0.394730	
Czech Koruna	0.005453	0.014753	
Danish Krone	0.042421	0.047421	
Euro	0.339077	0.352777	
Georgian Lari	0.137977	0.137977	
Hungarian	0.000977	0.001167	
Norwegian Krone	0.032167	0.037367	
Romanian Leu	0.057431	0.074281	
Russian ruble	0.004409	0.004409	
Slovakia	0.009092	0.019092	
Swedish Krona	0.029164	0.034164	
Swiss Franc	0.299413	0.310413	
Australasia			
Australian Dollar	0.213167	0.225167	
New Zealand Dollar	0.193751	0.203251	
America			
Canadian Dollar	0.225766	0.234766	
US Dollars	0.300150	0.305450	
US Dollars Mint	0.300650	0.305450	
Asia			
Bangladesh Taka	0.003005	0.003806	
Chinese Yuan	0.043009	0.046509	
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036671	0.039421	
Indian Rupee	0.003862	0.004634	
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023	
Japanese Yen	0.002671	0.002851	
Korean Won	0.000258	0.000273	
Malaysian Ringgit	0.070858	0.076858	
Nepalese Rupee	0.002631	0.002971	
Pakistan Rupee	0.001906	0.002716	
Philippine Peso	0.005750	0.006050	
Singapore Dollar	0.215724	0.225724	
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001565	0.002145	
Taiwan	0.009752	0.009932	
Thai Baht	0.008805	0.009355	
Arab			
Bahraini Dinar	0.791926	0.808426	
Egyptian Pound	0.014374	0.020092	
Iranian Rial	0.000084	0.000085	
Iraqi Dinar	0.000200	0.000200	
Jordanian Dinar	0.424827	0.433827	
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000	
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251	
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022494	0.046494	
Omani Riyal	0.783942	0.789622	
Qatar Riyal	0.079280	0.084220	
Saudi Riyal	0.080047	0.081347	
Syrian Pound	0.001290	0.001510	
Tunisian Dinar	0.106702	0.114702	
Turkish Lira	0.042762	0.054262	
UAE Dirhams	0.081411	0.083111	
Yemeni Riyal			
Yemeni Riyal	0.000989	0.001069	
Turkish Lira	0.055309	0.065609	
UAE Dirhams	0.081232	0.082932	
Yemeni Riyal	0.000987	0.001067	
Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd			
US Dollar		303.890	
Canadian Dollar		231.675	
Sterling Pound		389.255	
Euro		347.450	
Swiss Frank		304.185	
Bahrain Dinar		808.155	
UAE Dirhams		83.140	
Qatari Riyals		81.935	
Jordanian Dinar		429.905	
Egyptian Pound		16.994	
Sri Lankan Rupees		1.898	
Indian Rupees		4.423	
Pakistani Rupees		2.451	
Bangladesh Taka		3.635	
Philippines Peso		5.710	
Cyprus pound		18.050	
UAE Dirhams		3.750	
Syrian Pound		1.590	
Nepalese Rupees		2.765	
Malaysian Ringgit		75.205	
Chinese Yuan Renminbi		44.745	
Thai Bhat		10.100	
Turkish Lira		47.480	

Business

China unloads US soybean cargo amid fears about trade war cost

Sinograin confirms will pay extra duties, worth \$6 million

BEIJING: A vessel carrying US soybeans was unloading its cargo worth at least \$23 million at the Chinese port of Dalian yesterday, becoming one of the first shipments to incur hefty new import duties as the trade row deepens between Beijing and Washington.

The docking of the vessel after five weeks anchored off China's coast ended long-running speculation over the fate of the cargo, which had captured public attention.

China's state grains stockpiler Sinograin confirmed in a fax to Reuters it will pay the additional 25 percent import tariff on its 70,000 ton cargo of the oilseed. That equates to about \$6 million.

Comments on the country's Twitter-like Weibo showed early public support for the cargo had started to wane amid concerns that the public is footing the bill for the prolonged trade war. "Isn't Sinograin state-owned? Who is this tariff hurting? Eventually it is us paying the tariffs and it's us being sanctioned!" said one user. Two posts about the ship's arrival in dock and the extra costs generated more than 800 comments, mostly negative.

"Are we imposing sanction on ourselves? Common people will have to pay for that," said another Weibo user. Peak Pegasus started unloading its cargo on Saturday, a port official said yesterday, more than a month after it arrived off China's coast just hours after Beijing imposed 25 percent import duties on \$34 billion worth of US goods, including soybeans.



US-China dispute shows no sign of ending

The penalties were in retaliation for moves by Washington as part of a tit-for-tat trade dispute between the world's two largest economies. Last week, Washington said it would start collecting tariffs on another \$16

billion worth of Chinese imports from Aug. 23, as it tries to pressure China to negotiate trade concessions. Beijing has said it will retaliate in kind.

Soybeans, which are used to make cooking oil and animal feed, are the top US agricultural export to China, with the trade worth \$12.7 billion in 2017. In the fax to Reuters, Sinograin said the cargo was delayed by port congestion, although two officials at Dalian port said they hadn't seen major backlogs since June.

Two other ships carrying US soybeans, Star Jennifer and Cemtex Pioneer, have been anchored off China's coast for the past few weeks. This is unlikely to be the start of a trend while China, the world's top importer, can source alternative supplies from exporters such as Brazil, analysts said. Domestic stockpiles are 8.21 million tons, close to their highest on records. "Peak Pegasus is just an extreme case since it failed to make the deadline. Sinograin had to pay for the lesson," said Tian Hao, analyst from First Futures. "But for other buyers, they have turned to other sources such as Brazil." — Reuters



DALIAN: A vessel carrying US soybeans was unloading its cargo worth at least \$23 million at the Chinese port of Dalian yesterday becoming one of the first shipments to incur hefty new import duties as the trade row deepens between Beijing and Washington. — AFP

That sinking feeling? Sterling traders prepare for Brexit meltdown

LONDON: Having sunk to 13-month lows, sterling could fall by up to another 10 percent in the coming months should Britain crash out of the European Union without a deal on future trade ties, luring more speculators to bet against the currency.

Sterling lost almost two percent last week just as British holidaymakers were heading off for some overseas sun. The latest move lower was kickstarted by trade minister Liam Fox's warning that, with Britain less than eight months from its scheduled EU departure date in March, there was a 60 percent chance of leaving without a deal.

The moves were certainly exacerbated by a big and broad dollar rally, and the pound has since clawed back the worst of its losses against the euro, rebounding from 10-month lows. But the worry, say analysts, is that in the absence of any conclusive developments towards a deal over the coming months, the pound's spiral will accelerate while the clock ticks down on the deadline and hedge funds are tempted into betting against the currency.

And muddying the horizon are major political events - Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservative Party conference in early October, and meetings of EU leaders in late September and then mid-October. "There's no guaranteed date for when Brexit progress or hard Brexit will be known by apart from exit day on 29 March 2019," Nomura analysts told clients, describing a "hard

Brexit" as a "cliff edge" moment in which Britain crashes out of the EU in March 2019 without any future trading arrangements in place. "We find that we are very much in the early stages of pricing for a hard Brexit."

How will sterling trade in the later stages, then? Most economists still believe Britain will reach a deal with the EU. But the latest Reuters polls indicate risk of no deal have risen to 25 percent, versus 20 percent in July. Some bookmakers price even higher odds, above 40 percent. If that comes to pass, Britain's currency would crash to \$1.20 - from today's \$1.2750 levels, the Reuters poll showed, a fall of around 6 percent.

But sterling is forecast to rise to \$1.34 by end-January if an agreement is reached. Others predict more precipitous falls - Commerzbank sees a 10 percent drop against the dollar and euro. That would leave the pound close to parity with the single currency, below post-Brexit referendum lows of 94 pence and current levels of 89.2 pence.

The uncertain outlook and the prospect of a sudden sterling surge had kept many hedge funds on the sidelines. Now though, sensing profits to be made, some funds have begun to wager against the pound. Prominent Brexit campaigner and hedge fund boss Crispin Odey told Reuters he was betting against sterling. He predicts it will hit \$1.21 before March.

Options flash red

Concern may be mounting at the corporate level too. A senior currencies trader at a large European bank said British exporters had rushed to hedge themselves, while speculators were using options to short the pound in increasing numbers.

"Below the \$1.30 mark is where corporates start to get nervous," the trader said, speaking on the condition of anonymity. "Hedge funds have been buyers of sterling on the dips but that's starting to change. If it weakens further, we will see some accelerated selling." Perhaps reflecting that shift, the price investors are pre-

pared to pay for the future right to sell sterling has rocketed. Three-month sterling/dollar risk reversals, a gauge of put-to-call options, have plunged to their weakest level since January 2017, indicating heightened demand for 'puts'-derivatives that give holders the right to sell an asset.

'Call' options give the right to buy.

As Brexit approaches, more wild price swings are likely. Sterling/dollar three-month and six-month implied volatility gauges, which measure price swing expectations, have shot to their highest since February. Nine-month implied volatility, which covers the official March 29, 2019 Brexit date, has spiked even further, to 17-month highs.

Even relatively stable euro/sterling three-month implied volatility is at its highest since March.

Cheap as chips?

Yet shorting sterling remains a risky play. Should Britain retain close trading ties with the EU, the pound could jump towards its post-Brexit referendum high of \$1.4377 reached in April. A Brexit on these terms would also clear the path for the Bank of England to tighten monetary policy further. Sterling also looks cheap, according to some historical measures.

Using the real effective exchange rate or REER gauge - a currency's value against trade partners' currencies, adjusted for inflation - sterling is six percent below its five-year average, and 16 percent below its 20-year average. Under the purchasing-power parity, or PPP, theory, which compares the prices of a basket of goods, sterling/dollar should trade at \$1.61, and euro/sterling at 80 pence.

"Sure, there is gloom now but the currency remains undervalued as it has been historically," said Geoffrey Yu, Head of UK Investment Office at UBS Wealth Management. "Some will see this as an opportunity." — Reuters

Tesla's slow disclosure raises governance, social media concerns

WASHINGTON: Tesla Inc's handling of Chief Executive Elon Musk's proposal to take the carmaker private and its failure to promptly file a formal disclosure has raised governance concerns and sparked questions about how companies use social media. Musk stunned investors last Tuesday by announcing on Twitter that he was considering taking Tesla private in a potential \$72 billion transaction and that "funding" had been "secured." Tesla's shares closed up 11 percent before retrenching after the Wall Street Journal reported that the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) had asked Tesla why Musk announced his plans on Twitter and whether his statement was truthful.

Musk provided no details of his funding and as of Thursday Tesla's board had not received a financing plan from Musk, Reuters reported, leaving investors and the broader market clamoring for more information.

Putting aside whether Musk misled anyone, the unorthodox manner in which he announced the news and Tesla's failure to promptly clarify the situation with a regulatory filing is a corporate governance lapse that raises questions about how companies use social media to release market-moving news, securities lawyers said.

"Management buyouts or other take-private transactions already suffer from serious information asymmetry between management and public shareholders," said Gabriel Rauterberg, a University of Michigan law professor. SEC rules typically require companies to file an 8-K form within four business days of a significant corporate event. While several securities lawyers said Musk's tweets alone did not trigger this obligation, such a filing would be prudent given the unusual circumstances, David Axelrod, a partner at law firm Ballard Spahr LLP, said.

"An 8-K would provide some more details, it would say what stage negotiations are in, and provide more information than 53 characters in a tweet," he added.

SEC guidelines published in 2013 allow companies and their executives to use social media to distribute material information, provided investors have been alerted that this is a possibility. — Reuters

Investors shun Bayer stock over US pesticide ruling

FRANKFURT: Investors fled shares in German chemicals and pharmaceuticals giant Bayer yesterday, fearing a massive damages ruling against one of newly-acquired US firm Monsanto's flagship products could signal a wave of costly lawsuits.

The stock had plunged 11.5 percent to 82.60 euros (\$94.47) by midday (1000 GMT), lopping around \$10 billion off its market value. A California jury on Friday awarded dying groundskeeper Dewayne Johnson damages of almost \$290 million, saying Monsanto should have warned buyers that its flagship Roundup weedkiller could cause cancer. While observers have predicted thousands of other suits could follow, Bayer said the jury's findings went against scientific evidence and that other courts might "arrive at different conclusions".

Nevertheless, "if it's a quarter of a billion dollars per case, you don't need to lose many lawsuits before it becomes quite expensive," said analyst Michael Leacock of MainFirst bank, pointing out that Monsanto faces some 4,000 US lawsuits at the state level and 450 so-called "multi-district" cases at the federal level.

"The total cost, in our view, could easily reach \$10 billion" if Bayer were to settle out of court with a still larger number of plaintiffs, he predicted. What's more, if Roundup is "seen or if it's thought by consumers to be dangerous, there's a risk to long-term business," he added - a second reason for investors to shy away from Bayer for now.

The latest court decision came just over two months after Bayer sealed its \$63-billion takeover of Monsanto, one of the largest in German corporate history.

Aware of the often poisonous reputation of the US firm, which makes genetically modified seeds and "crop protection" technologies like pesticides, Bayer plans to ditch the Monsanto name once the takeover is complete. Environmentalists have vowed to keep up their pressure on the new giant unless it makes a drastic departure from Monsanto's past.

Science wrangle

Groundskeeper Johnson, diagnosed in 2014 with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma - a cancer that affects white blood cells - says he repeatedly used a professional form of Roundup while working at a school in Benicia,



BORDEUX: In this file photo, demonstrators walk with placards during a march for agro-ecology and civil resistance against seed and pesticide maker Monsanto in Bordeaux, southwestern France. — AFP

California. His lawsuit built on 2015 findings by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, part of the UN World Health Organization, which classified Roundup's main ingredient glyphosate as a probable carcinogen, causing the state of California to follow suit. Nevertheless, "on the basis of scientific conclusions, the views of worldwide regulatory authorities and the decades-long practical experience with glyphosate use, Bayer is convinced that glyphosate is safe and does not cause cancer," the company said in a statement Saturday.

Much of the value for Bayer in the Monsanto deal comes from the US firm's portfolio of genetically modified seeds, many of which are designed to resist pesticides like glyphosate.

Executives insist such products and methods are needed to feed a growing world population. But glyphosate has long been in the sights of environmentalists, with Brussels last year renewing its license for use in the European Union for just five years rather

than the usual 15 after intense lobbying.

Some EU nations including Germany and France have vowed to limit glyphosate use or ban it altogether despite the decision.

War chest

Bayer is no stranger to lawsuits, in 2012 paying out almost \$2.0 billion to around 10,000 women in settlements over its Yasminelle contraceptive pill, which increased the risk of blood clots. It also currently faces thousands of cases from patients claiming side effects from taking its anticoagulant drug Xarelto or using contraceptive devices Essure and Mirena. Meanwhile Canadian honey makers have launched a class action seeking compensation over Bayer's production and sale of so-called neonicotinoid pesticides, which campaigners argue have caused mass die-offs among bees. Bayer said in its first-quarter report this year that it had set aside some \$277 million dollars for pending litigation. — AFP

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Business

Infiniti Al-Babtain brings ultimate peace of mind with exceptional leasing offer

Offer includes some of Al-Babtain's acclaimed performance vehicles



KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co (AABC), the sole authorized dealer of Infiniti vehicles in the State of Kuwait is delighted to announce that its biggest Leasing campaign will continue so more loyal customers can benefit from the offer. In a bid to enjoy the summer holidays with family and friends, the offer includes some of its acclaimed performance vehicles for all to enjoy the exquisite ride.

Infiniti Al-Babtain guarantees attractive leasing prices in addition to a benefit package of free comprehensive insurance, maintenance and a replacement car that comes along with the leasing offer.

Taking into consideration some of the best performance models in Kuwait, the Q30 that starts at a leasing amount of only KD 149 per month is Infiniti's signature design, a premium compact vehicle that is popular among the younger drivers. Q30 comes with a double-arch grille with a unique 3D mesh and is powered by 1.6L or 2.0L Turbo engines in a 2WD configuration. For enthusiasts, the 2.0L Turbo is also offered with an optional AWD drivetrain. The 2.0L Turbo engine is a power-horse as it delivers 208hp and 350Nm torque while at peak performance, the INFINITI Q30 goes

from 0-to-100kph in 7.3 seconds.

A family-friendly, high performance car - the QX60 which is available at a starting amount of KD 275 per month, reflects the concept of high-end hybrid cars, and is designed to be a masterpiece of all standards. This innovative icon is equipped with a Rear Entertainment System with dual 8-inch monitors and wireless headphones followed by a 295-horsepower, 3.5-LITER V6 direct injection engine. From the double-arch grille to the LED taillights that accentuate the D-pillar, the confident curves captivate attention not usually given to a 7-passenger SUV.

The QX70, also up for a special leasing price starting at KD 275 per month comes with exterior enhancements, LED daytime running lights along with unique 21x9.5-inch multi-spoke premium paint-finished aluminum-alloy wheels mounted with 265/45R21 V-rated all-season tires. The QX70 is powered by a 329-horsepower 3.7-liter V6 with VVEL (Variable Valve Event & Lift). The engine is matched with a 7-speed automatic transmission featuring Adaptive Shift Control (ASC). Infiniti Al-Babtain invites its customers to avail of the limited duration deal at its showroom in Al-Rai.



China's July new loans rise to 1.45tn yuan, above forecasts: CBIRC

BEIJING/SHANGHAI: Chinese banks extended 1.45 trillion yuan (\$210.84 billion) in new yuan loans in July, China's banking and insurance regulator said, higher than analysts' expectations, as policymakers continued to pump liquidity into a slowing economy.

Faced with sluggish domestic demand and potential pressure from a trade war with the United States, policymakers have recently boosted policy support and softened their stance on deleveraging.

The People's Bank of China (PBOC) is also due to issue M2 money supply and outstanding loan growth data for July this week. In a Reuters poll, 36 analysts had predicted new July yuan loans of 1.2 trillion yuan, easing from a five-month high of 1.84 trillion yuan in June.

China's new loans totalled 1.45 trillion yuan in July, an increase of 623.7 billion yuan from a year earlier, according to preliminary figures in a statement posted on the official website of the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC) on Saturday.

The PBOC has been pumping out more cash to encourage bank lending but it faces difficulty in channeling credit to small firms, which are vital for economic growth and job creation, analysts said. State banks remain reluctant to lend to small firms, which are considered riskier than state-controlled ones.

The PBOC has cut banks' reserve requirements three times this year, with the latest reduction on July 5 freeing up 700 billion yuan in liquidity. It also lent a net 905.5 billion yuan to financial institutions via its medium-term lending facility (MLF) in June and July, central bank data showed.

Shadow lending clampdown

Annual growth in China's outstanding total social financing (TFS), which includes off-balance-sheet forms of financing, slowed to 9.8 percent in June, the lowest on record. The PBOC is also due to release TFS data for July this week. There has been little change in off-balance-sheet financing, such as trust loans and entrusted loans, the CBIRC said without providing further data.

Beijing has been clamping down on shadow lending in an effort to reduce risk in the wider financial sector. In the first half of the year, the total disposal of non-performing loans hit 800 billion yuan, around 166.5 billion yuan more than the same period a year earlier, the CBIRC added.

At the end of June, the capital adequacy ratio of commercial banks was 13.52 percent and the core tier 1 capital adequacy ratio of 10.57 percent. —Reuters

Air Arabia reports net profit of AED 230m in first half of 2018

SHARJAH: Air Arabia (PJSC) yesterday announced strong financial results for the first half ending June 30, 2018 as the Middle East and North Africa's first and largest low-cost carrier continued to deliver solid and sustained financial performance.

Air Arabia reported a net profit of AED 230 million for the first half ending June 30, 2018; a 12 per cent less than the AED 261 million reported for the same period last year. The company's turnover for the first six months of 2018 reached AED 1.816 billion, an increase of 6 per cent compared to AED 1.716 billion in the corresponding period last year. Air Arabia's strong profits are registered despite the economic pressure that airlines have witnessed in the second quarter of this year, which was driven by lower yield margins, higher fuel prices and seasonality shift in traffic that the market has experienced.

Marking strong growth in passenger demand, Air Arabia flew 4.2 million passengers during the first half of 2018 and the airline's average seat load factor for the first six months of 2018 - passengers carried as a percentage of available seats - stood at impressive 79 per cent.

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Mohamed Al-Thani, Chairman of Air Arabia said: "Air Arabia's strong financial results are a testament to the airline's robust growth strategy, operational efficiency and unwavering commitment to delivering on its value-added proposition for customers."

Corruption scandal in Argentina fells titans of business

BUENOS AIRES: Records kept in notebooks of the kinds used by schoolchildren are bringing down titans of Argentina's industry in a multimillion-dollar corruption scandal.

Dirty dealings are nothing new in Argentina. What sets this case apart is the large number of people going down-around 20 so far, with additional names surfacing regularly-and their high-flying status in the business world.

The scandal involves under-the-table payments to the governments of Nestor and Cristina Kirchner, the Peronist couple who ruled before the current president, Mauricio Macri.

One big mystery is whether the money went to enrich government officials personally or was helped finance election campaigns. Investigative Magistrate Claudio Bonadio is raising eyebrows by aggressively ordering the arrest and questioning of so many business leaders, from both ends of the political spectrum in Argentina. Most of the arrests happened on August 1.

Tycoons under arrest

"It is not the first time that major businessmen have gone to jail. What is new is the number and the reason," said Sergio Morresi, a political scientist at San Martin National University.

He continued: "The global aviation industry had to cope up with pressing economic challenges during the second quarter of this year and we are glad to see Air Arabia continuing to deliver strong financial and operational performance while maintaining its momentum growth across the breadth of its network."

The company's turnover in the second quarter ending June 30, 2018 reached AED 938 million, a 4 per cent increase compared to the same period of 2017. Net profit during the second quarter 2018 stood at AED 120 million, a 24 per cent less than the corresponding period of 2017. Air Arabia flew over 2.05 million passengers in the second quarter ending June 30, 2018 and the airline's average seat load factor for the same period stood at a high 78 per cent.

He concluded: "Trading conditions continue to be influenced by the regional geopolitical and economic challenges, however, the outlook of low-cost travel in the region remains very strong. We continue to focus on further expanding our reach and operational efficiency capitalizing on the fundamental strength of our business model and the value driven product offering to our customers."

During the first half of 2018, Air Arabia received three brand new Airbus A320 airplanes bringing its fleet size to 53 aircraft. The carrier added a total of 12 new routes to its global network in the first half of this year. Flights from Air Arabia's main hub in Sharjah commenced to Moscow Sheremetyevo and Grozny in Russia; Bodrum and Izmir in Turkey; and Qabala in Azerbaijan. The carrier also expanded its operation from its Egypt hub with new flights connecting Alexandria to Milan; Alexandria to Sharm El Sheikh; Sohag to Jeddah and Kuwait; and Sharm El Sheikh to Beirut and Hurghada. The carrier also expanded

Prosecutor Carlos Stornelli has said bribes paid in the so called "corruption copybooks" case total \$160 million. Bonadio began jailing tycoons after the publication of the records by Oscar Centeno, who worked as a driver for the deputy planning and public works minister Roberto Baratta.

In these notebooks, Centeno meticulously recorded the alleged receipt of sacks of money from 2005 to 2015. The whistleblower had been expelled from the army for bad behavior.

"There is no doubt that the copybooks describe in detail the way in which the Kirchners raised money illegally for seven years without any alarm going off at any oversight agency," said Nicolas Solari of the consultancy Poliarquia.

So far, eight business leaders have confessed and struck plea-bargain deals. Angelo Calcaterra, a cousin of Macri, acknowledged having ordered the payment of cash requested as a bribe in order to receive government contracts. Testifying before the judge, he said he thought this was a mandatory election campaign contribution.

Leaders of big multinational companies such as Argentina's Techint and Isolux of Spain have paid a visit to Bonadio's office.

Privileged

"The indictment and arrest of business leaders is new, and considering the unpopularity and impunity that big business people enjoy, it will probably be well received by public opinion," said sociologist Ricardo Rouvier.



BUENOS AIRES: Boudou attends his trial on corruption charges in Buenos Aires on August 7. —AFP

gist Ricardo Rouvier.

Morresi, the political scientist, said "one possible result is real progress in transparency and criminal convictions." The Buenos Aires stock market has taken a hit with the arrests.

Alberto Fernandez, who served as chief of staff to the late Nestor Kirchner, has complained that only business leaders who supported the Kirchners and their leftist Peronist governments have ended up behind bars-not those close to the current, conservative Macri government.

A dozen or so people from the planning and public works ministry have gone before the judge-though they have not



domestic operation from its Morocco hub with a new flight connecting Nador with Casablanca. Air Arabia today operates flights to over 150 global destinations in 49 countries from four hubs in the UAE, Morocco, and Egypt.

In March, Air Arabia received the 'Corporate Editor Choice Award' at the 2018 Air Transport Awards organized by Air Transport News, in recognition of Air Arabia's continued commitment to passenger satisfaction and development within the industry.

In June, the carrier declared that the financial exposure it has with the private equity firm "Abraaj" is limited to the Group's investment portfolio and that there is no significant impact on Air Arabia's business or on its liquidity status. As the court-supervised restructuring of Abraaj's financially stressed funds is currently taking place, Air Arabia's appointed team of experts continue to be actively engaged with the appointed JPLs as well as all stakeholders and creditors involved in this matter to ensure that the rights of investors - including Air Arabia - are preserved.

yet been charged over the case-and Cristina Kirchner's turn came yesterday. She now holds a seat as a senator. Explaining minister Julio de Vido and his deputy Jose Lopez have been in prison for corruption since 2017 and 2016, respectively.

They managed the federal government's public works projects under the Kirchners and were the only two ministers to survive the various cabinet reshuffles across the couple's 12 years in power.

Lopez was caught red-handed hiding 160 suitcases and duffel bags containing \$9 million in a convent with the help of a nun. —AFP

Technology & Science

Working for a change: Breaking free from traditional work culture in Japan

Approximately 600,000 young people are unemployed in Japan

TOKYO: Michiyo Arai is like many young Japanese women today. She believes flexible working patterns can help her move along a viable career path. But she is also anxious about job hunting in a country where practices, like teleworking, are relatively new.

Last year, the 28-year-old enrolled in a basic programming course that included a telework internship. It was with a company that supports "Youth UP". Also known as the "Utilizing IT to Support the Employment of Youth", this project is conducted by a Tokyo nonprofit organization, SODATEAGE-NET with the cooperation of Microsoft Japan. After taking on more courses to improve her computer skills, Arai was hired by an IT-related company in Chiba City, outside of Tokyo.

Her telework internship was based on using Skype. This remote experience, she recalls, gave her confidence. "While taking part in it, they would tell me, 'Let's get through this together one step at a time.' Instead of having to come face-to-face with someone, Skype acted like a buffer and helped me relax," Arai said. Expanding the window of employment opportunities

Telework uses information and communications technology so employees can work flexibly, without limitations on time and location. The Japanese government has recognized the value of that and has included it in its work-style reform program. Aiming to broaden youth's working styles, the "Youth UP" project provides "telework internship" opportunities using Skype and cloud services with the aim of giving job seekers much needed digital skills.

SODATEAGE-NET President Kei Kudo said the organization found that nearly 70% of the 15 to 39-year-olds that SODATEAGE-NET supports couldn't use Word and Excel "at all." Meanwhile, there are very few job postings that don't require Word and Excel skills. "Companies assume that most people can oper-

ate a computer and use Word and Excel, but there are individuals who never had the opportunity to use them. There is a gap between what companies assume a person can do and what that person can actually do," Kudo points out.

Official statistics show that approximately 600,000 young people are unemployed in Japan. To tackle this, the government's new work-style reforms require companies to adopt flexible working practices and better working environments. The wider aim is to create a society in which more women and youth actively join the labor market.

"Youth UP" is born

"Youth UP" project was launched in response to this situation. Under it, Microsoft sends instructors to nonprofit organizations where they help people build their IT skills and provide training for support group staff so they can become IT instructors themselves. This is a sustainable system, in which the support group will have the necessary know-how to conduct lectures even after the project ends.

Less than two years after the project's launch, 41 nonprofit organizations have joined across Japan. In addition to taking part in the project, SODATEAGE-NET, based in Tachikawa City in Tokyo, also acts as the organizer, and similar efforts are now being conducted on a nationwide scale. Through telework internships, interns communicate with their employers through Skype, without having to physically visit the company, wherever it might be.

In Arai's case, she used a computer at a community center she used to visit for career counseling. This system is also advantageous for companies that participate in the project. Welcoming a telework intern is easier for a company than accommodating new in-



TOKYO: Telework internships allows intern to work with their employers without having to physically visit the company.

office staff: the only requirements, for both the intern and the company, are internet access and fostering a mutual relationship of trust, bit by bit.

Arai's internship only lasted for four days, but she was able to gain confidence after completing a given task. It also made her realize what other skills she needed. Chartering a new course. Since "Youth UP" was launched, more than 50,000 people have taken the training program. The average employment rate of the trainees has reached 43 percent, exceeding the

initial target of 30 percent.

This spring, Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare took over the "Youth UP" project's IT basic training program to continue it. This move is deemed a rare endorsement of a private-sector project achieving significant results and outgrowing itself to be continued as a government project. Arai is now undergoing training at her new company and is studying more about computer science as a way of building her career. —AFP

World Bank to issue world's first blockchain bond

WASHINGTON: The World Bank is taking a step into the brave new world of digital finance to sell the first-ever bond to be issued entirely using blockchain technology, the bank announced recently. More than just funds, the World Bank aims to gain experience using blockchain — a digital public registry of transactions — that could lead to "a golden future" for financial services for developing nations, a bank official told AFP.

The technology is most often associated with cryptocurrencies — like bitcoin — which often raise suspicion about their reliability and volatility, as well as their use for criminal purposes. But because there as yet is no central bank-backed digital currency in existence, the two-year blockchain bond will rely on real-world money: Australian dollars.

The Washington-based development lender aims to raise about Aus\$50 million (about \$36 million), although it could be double that if more investors get involved before the bond is finalized the week of August 20. "Since our first bond transaction in 1947, innovation and investor satisfaction have been important hallmarks of our success with leveraging capital markets for development," World Bank Treasurer Arunima Oteah said.

"Today, we believe that emerging technologies, equally offer transformative, yet prudent possibilities for us to continue to innovate, respond to investor needs and strengthen markets." The transaction is the brainchild of the World Bank's innovation lab, which has been working on the issue for nearly a year, together with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. —AFP

Fish fry: Japan heatwave threatens famed tuna auction

TOKYO: Fishmongers at Tokyo's famed Tsukiji tuna auction are feeling the heat as the ageing market's air conditioners struggle to keep up with a heatwave blanketing the country. The dilapidated market is due to close later this year, and will relocate to a new, modern site. But in the meantime wholesalers have been forced to take measures including keeping their pricey produce in cool trucks until moments before auction.

"We can't replace the ageing air conditioners as we're relocating very soon, and it's been so hot that it's hard to get the temperature down," an official at the market told AFP. The auction space is usually kept at 15 degrees Celsius to keep the treasured tuna cool, but an "unprecedented" heatwave meant the mercury hit as high as 20 degrees in July, the official said.

To keep their fish fresh, wholesalers are keeping the shutters in the auction warehouse sealed, leaving tuna inside cool trucks until shortly before auction and covering fish with tarps as soon as they are sold. "Wholesalers are doing their best to keep the tuna from thawing," the official said. After more than 80 years in operation, Tsukiji is scheduled to move to Toyosu, the site of a former gas plant, on October 11.

The current site is the world's biggest fish market and a popular tourist attraction in an area packed with restaurants and shops. Plans to move the market have been in the works for years, and the relocation was originally scheduled for 2016. But myriad delays have set back the timeline, including the discovery of soil contamination at Toyosu. —AFP

Threat from on high: Race to bolster drone defenses

PARIS: From hand-held copters that zoom around the living room to high-speed craft offering the sensation of flying over the countryside, drones have won over legions of fans—and are proving a growing challenge for security authorities. Experts say models readily available on the market can easily be turned into a "poor man's weapon", a remote-controlled bomb or a means of filming a site in preparation of an attack.

"This is going to be the weapon of choice for those who feel that they are technically outmatched in other areas," said Todd Humphreys, an engineering professor at the University of Austin in Texas who specializes in drone research. Already the list of worrying incidents and close calls is long. The latest was on August 4 when two explosive-laden drones were allegedly used in an attempt to kill Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro as he gave a speech in Caracas.

And last week, President Emmanuel Macron's security services jammed a drone's navigating signals as it flew near his vacation retreat, sending it crashing into the Mediterranean. An inquiry has been opened, with police divers trying to recover the craft. Other high-profile scares saw a drone crash-

ing onto a stage near German Chancellor Angela Merkel in 2013, and two years later, the White House went on lockdown after a drone foiled radar systems and landed on the lawn. "I believe that this is a trend, and heads of state will need to be very cautious about giving outdoor speeches or outdoor rallies unless they're sure they can defend themselves against an attack of one or more drones," Humphreys said.

Evolving risks

Islamic State fighters have used civilian drones to track Iraqi army movements, while Russia reported in January that drones equipped with explosives had attacked its forces stationed in Syria. Environmental activists have launched them at nuclear power plants in France, and such threats have prompted the installation of drone-blocking capabilities at key US nuclear sites.

A Japanese man was convicted in 2016 for landing a drone carrying a bottle of radioactive sand from the Fukushima disaster site on the roof of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's office. Faced with such risks, officials are testing and deploying equipment including frequency jamming gear, nets and even intercepting eagles.

"We have a strategy of surveillance, inquiry and material testing," said Colonel Jean-Francois Morel of France's gendarme police force, who said 400,000 civilian drones were sold in the country last year. Strict operating rules are also in place in France, including a ban on their use in cities, and an online map which shows all areas that are off limits—including Macron's holiday retreat at Bregancon.

Researchers: Fight forest fires with indigenous knowledge

LONDON: Countries at risk of catastrophic wildfires should adopt ancient practices used by indigenous people, researchers said yesterday, after scores of deadly blazes engulfed parts of the northern hemisphere. Wildfires have menaced villages and forests from Greece to the United States this summer, killing hundreds and displacing tens of thousands of people.

Fire services should collaborate with indigenous communities that have practiced techniques for thousands of years to maintain their land and prevent large blazes, said a report by the Prisma Foundation, an El Salvador-based research group. "The best firefighting equipment in the world cannot stop the most devastating wildfires. An effective weapon to prevent uncontrolled wildfire is knowledge," the report said.

Indigenous people, who manage nearly 900 million hectares of land worldwide, hold "highly sophisticated" knowledge of fire management, the report noted. Indigenous groups around the world deliberately light

small fires throughout the year, which reduces the amount of fuel, preventing wildfires from spreading rapidly. "Small controlled burns can reduce the impact and threat of catastrophic wildfires," lead researcher Andrew Davis told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

In the Brazilian savannah, the number of dry season fires decreased by 57 percent after fire services started collaborating with indigenous tribes, according to the Prisma Foundation. The US Forest Service formed a partnership with the Yurok tribe in northern California last year, after a fast-moving wildfire killed 43 people.

The Yurok use controlled burns to protect settlements from larger fires, and exposure to heat also makes their crops more resistant to drought, said Frank Lake, a Native American ecologist. "Fire is medicine. This ancient lesson has an application to our modern conditions and situations," he said by phone from New Orleans. Fire now consumes more than half the annual budget of the U.S. Forest Service, which is in charge of managing national forests and grasslands, and it could exceed 67 percent by 2025, according to a 2015 report by the US Department of Agriculture.

In 1995, firefighting accounted for 16 percent of the Forest Service's yearly budget, and that allocation rose to more than 50 percent in 2015, said the



MONTAUBAN: In this file photo taken on May 16, 2018 a drone equipped with a photo camera is pictured during a training session of the 17th Parachute Engineer Regiment of Montauban in a forest of the Tarn et Garonne, near Montauban. —AFP

Eagles?

Starting next year, any drone weighing more than 800 grams must be registered with French authorities. But experts see shortcomings in the current defense strategies. "It is very difficult to hit a drone that is coming at high speed, at 100 km/h (70 mph), and it's not hard to build drones that do that," Humphreys said. "Even if you could hit one drone that came in at high speed, what if five or 10 of them attacked you all at once?" Other risks include an intercepted drone falling in an urban area, or crafts that are modified to ignore ground-based signals on the last stage of an attack, rendering jamming gear useless.

Stationing sharpshooters at all sensitive sites could also prove impractical-

ble—and costly. Prisons, in particular, are taking seriously the use of drones to deliver illicit packages to inmates or to scout out a means of breaking people out. French officials believe this is how career criminal Redoine Faïd was sprung so quickly from prison in July by armed accomplices using a helicopter—he is still on the run.

It was later revealed that no net had been stretched across the main courtyard at the prison to prevent airborne entry. As for training eagles to snatch rogue drones, the French air force program was inspired by a similar effort in The Netherlands. But Dutch officials said in December they were dropping the project after the birds were deemed too expensive and too unruly to be effective. —AFP



A helicopter drops water to a bush fire at the Holy Fire in Lake Elsinore, California, southeast of Los Angeles. —AFP

report. Despite the extra resources for firefighting, California has suffered its most destructive fire season in history this summer, according to the Prisma Foundation report. "Fire agencies are really struggling and looking for new strategies to address the wildfires," Lake said. The need for new strategies

will become more urgent as climate change is likely to bring an increase in wildfires, experts say. The number of high-risk fire days will increase from 20 to 50 percent globally by 2050, according to a report published last year in the journal Nature Ecology & Evolution. —Reuters

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199

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What's On



Zain awards winners of KON Program's best project ideas

Conclusion ceremony held at AUK in partnership with LOYAC

Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, participated in awarding the winners of the best project ideas as part of the KON Social Entrepreneurship Program during the conclusion ceremony held at the American University of Kuwait (AUK). The program, brought to Kuwait in collaboration with Babson College in Boston, came as part of Zain's Strategic Partnership of LOYAC.

Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Communications and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti participated in awarding the winning teams of the best project ideas as part of the KON Social Entrepreneurship Program: first-place winners Elements, second-place winners Trash 2 Treasure, and third-place winners Project 49. The event witnessed the attendance of LOYAC's officials as well as representatives from the program's sponsors.

Zain participated in the conclusion ceremony of the KON Social Entrepreneurship Program as part of its strategic partnership of LOYAC, which continues this year for over 14 consecutive years. The partnership comes in line with the company's Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility Strategy, which centers around the development of the education and youth sectors, especially in regards to nurturing and developing entrepreneurial skills within the youth.

Social entrepreneurship

KON, one of LOYAC's latest youth development programs, trained youth (12-16 years) in the area of social entrepreneurship throughout 6 weeks at the American University of Kuwait. The program was brought to Kuwait in collaboration with Babson College in Boston, considered the most prestigious entrepreneurship college in the United States and the number one institution in the world for entrepreneurship education.

This year, Zain's support to LOYAC will extend to a great number of educational initiatives and programs that cater to developing the youth's skills and talents, including KON Social Entrepreneurship Program that was recently concluded, as well as the IFAD Internship Program, where young Kuwaiti talents are sent abroad to learn from international experts, the LOYAC AC Milan Soccer School, and more.

Through its strategic partnership with LOYAC, Zain also trains hundreds of students as part of the LOYAC Summer Internship Program. The students take part in completing tasks, learning new skills, and go through professional training in the real business world at various departments and divisions within the company. Zain also offers the students financial rewards in recognition of their efforts and as an encouragement to their dedication.



Strategic partner

Zain is proud to be one of the strategic partners of LOYAC since its inception, especially that it is considered one of the most prominent national programs that cater to the youth and offers them a healthy and empowering environment to develop their skills and talents in an educational, fun, and social atmosphere.

Zain believes in the development of the communities in which it operates, and it is a very important part of the company's overall success. The company considers educa-

tion as a core element in the community development process, and it will continue to support it to contribute to the further progress of the country's youth.

Since its inception in 2002, LOYAC has grown to be the first choice of the youth in Kuwait when it comes to innovative and high quality educational programs. LOYAC runs several programs for the youth to develop their professional skills, enhance their personal growth and to help them find their sense of purpose by extending themselves to others.



Aquapark 'scratch and win' festival opens Friday

Aquapark Kuwait is celebrating its 23rd year of serving domestic tourism with a "scratch and win" festival. The festival will be for one month starting from 17th August to 17th September, over 16000 prizes will be distributed. Executive Director Hamad Al-Khanini said the fees of private memberships for the wave rides are as follows: Silver membership is KD 120, and the holder can enter wave riding daily. The golden membership is a 10% discount on all purchases in addition to 10 training sessions in wave riding. The platinum share is 500 per year and the member has access to a 20% discount on all purchases.



Executive Director Hamad Al-Khanini



Indulge in a luxurious family retreat at Jumeirah Messilah during Eid Al-Adha

Kuwait's idyllic resort, Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa, is looking to indulge family guests from around the region with an extensive array of family activities this upcoming Eid Al Adha. Recently recognized as Kuwait's Luxury Family-Friendly Hotel of the Year 2018 by the Luxury Travel Guide and Hotel of the Year 2018 by the Travel & Hospitality Awards, the luxurious resort is offering a fun-filled holiday with plenty of children's entertainment at the kid's clubs, non-motorized watersports activities along with a spectacular Eid Brunch buffet in the popular all-day dining venue Garden Cafe.

General Manager, Savino Leone said: "The resort will be tremendously active this Eid Al Adha as people look to make the most of the Eid Al Adha break with their friends and family visiting from across the region. Family holidays are one of those precious times when parents and children have each other all to themselves in their favorite secluded getaway. As Kuwait's idyllic destination, we tailor-make holidays for every member of the family and our resort is always teeming with opportunities for memorable experiences."

On the occasion, the hotel's opulent Garden Cafe will serve up a special Eid Brunch buffet for those looking to relax in its vibrant surroundings. The menu reads like a dining theatre with dishes lovingly prepared by the award-winning culinary teams. Signature dishes will be on offer including live cooking stations, ouzi carving, whole baked salmon specialty, mixed grills, an Asian, Indian and Oriental corner as well as

food trolleys displaying lively culinary demonstrations. Children will also enjoy their own dedicated buffet of treats featuring candy floss, tempting crepes and a range of ice cream flavors.

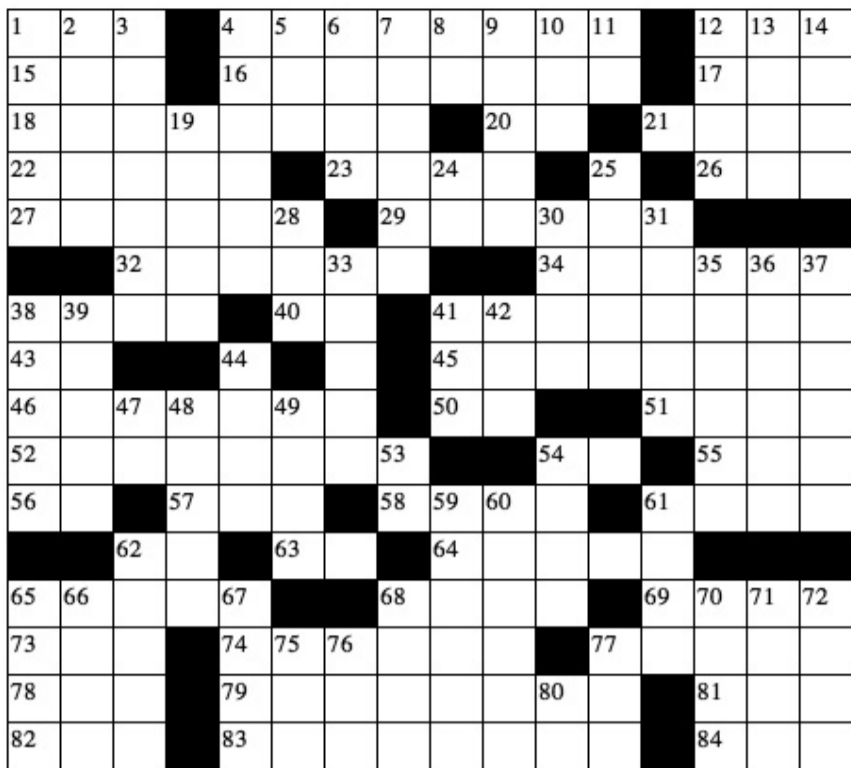
The stunning resort, which holds a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence, is enticing guests to cool off with an expansive watersports program which includes kayaking, diving, fishing and banana boat rides. For a more laidback time, guests can chill out by the pools and catch the sea breeze amidst idyllic backdrops.

With Eid Al Adha also comes a packed program of leisure activities for all ages starting with fun in the Sinbad Kid's Club and Teen Scene Club equipped with a private theater, latest video games, interactive board games and Arts & Crafts. Aqua Zumba classes and fitness sessions featuring yoga and martial arts classes by Talise Fitness are also available for an active and energetic holiday. At Talise spa, taking time out to relax is revered as one of life's true luxuries. Be pampered and preened with in-suite heavenly treatments as you explore the spa's vast facilities and tranquil ambience. Let Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa transport families to a place of exhilarating moments and finely-crafted luxury experiences for an unforgettable Eid holiday.



Stars

CROSSWORD 1985



ACROSS

1. North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
4. Biennial or perennial herbs of north temperate regions.
12. Call upon in supplication.
15. (Irish) The sea personified.
16. Causing alarm or fear.
17. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
18. The track on which trams or streetcars run.
20. A ductile silvery-white ductile ferromagnetic trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
21. Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
22. Living in or characteristic of farming or country life.
23. American novelist (1909-1955).
26. A beverage made by steeping tea leaves in water.
27. Situated at an apex.
29. A port city and resort in Andalusia in southern Spain on the Mediterranean.
32. A member of an agricultural people of southern India.
34. Related on the father's side.
38. (Old Testament) The eldest son of Isaac who would have inherited the Covenant that God made with Abraham and that Abraham passed on to Isaac.
40. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
43. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
45. Associated with the priesthood or priests.
46. (Arthurian legend) The most virtuous knight of the Round Table.
50. The syllable naming the fourth (subdominant) note of the diatonic scale in solmization.
51. Small drought-resistant sorghums having large yellow or whitish grains.
52. Malignant neoplasm of blood-forming tissues.
55. Having leadership guidance.
56. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
57. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
58. A former communist country in eastern Europe and northern Asia.
63. A gray tetavalent metallic element that resembles zirconium chemically and is found in zirconium minerals.
64. Long-tailed arboreal mustelid of Central and South America.
65. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
69. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
73. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
74. Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
78. (prefix) Bad or erroneous or lack of.
79. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
81. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
82. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
83. A port city in northeastern Greece on an inlet of the Aegean Sea.
84. A master's degree in library science.

DOWN

1. (used of opinions and actions) Far beyond the norm.
2. A thick sweet sticky liquid.
3. Brazilian tree with handsomely marked wood.
4. A narrative song with a recurrent refrain.
5. American prizefighter who won the world heavy weight championship three times (born in 1942).
6. Type genus of the Ranidae.
7. The craniometric point at the junction of the sagittal and coronal sutures at the top of the cranium.
8. Before noon.
9. The brightest star in Orion.
10. Either extremity of something that has length.
11. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
12. A small vessel for travel on water.
13. A river in central Europe that arises in northwestern Czechoslovakia and flows northward through Germany to empty into the North Sea.
14. Mentally or physically infirm with age.
19. A Portuguese province on the south coast of China and two islands in the South China Sea.
24. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
25. Moth having nonfunctional mouthparts as adults.
28. A workplace for the conduct of scientific research.
30. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
31. A communist state in Indochina on the South China Sea.
33. A cushion on a throne for a prince in India.
35. King of the Huns.
36. One who works strenuously.
37. Convert ordinary language into code.
39. French romantic writer (1766-1817).
41. 3 to 30 gigahertz.
42. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
44. The dialect of Albanian spoken in northern Albania and Yugoslavia.
47. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
48. Jordan's port.
49. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
53. A soft yellow malleable ductile (trivalent and univalent) metallic element.
54. Soft creamy white cheese.
59. The male reproductive organ of a flower.
60. An overland journey by hunters (especially in Africa).
61. A small cake leavened with yeast.
62. Lower in esteem.
66. A town in north central Oklahoma.
67. (of persons) Highest in rank or authority or office.
68. Large edible mackerel of temperate United States coastal Atlantic waters.
70. The biblical name for ancient Syria.
71. A fee levied for the use of roads or bridges (used for maintenance).
72. Type genus of the Anatiidae.
75. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
76. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
77. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
80. Being nine more than ninety.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may find harmony and beauty to be deeply satisfying to you today. You have a deep desire to get along with everyone that crosses your path. You may also find yourself playing mediator to friends that seem to not be able to see eye to eye today. You may find yourself paying much closer attention to your more intimate relationships. You work to find a balance between home and work life. You may be recognized in the work place for the management skills you are exhibiting and find yourself being offered a position in leadership. Aries. Good luck with your career today.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are a dreamer. Currently the set of dreams that have had your focus are far from your norm. This is a strange feeling as these dreams are far from what normally motivates you. Do not let outside influences lead you in the wrong direction. If it does not feel right, do not do it. You could find yourself pouring energy and effort into something that has a negative effect on your life in the long run. Gather your thoughts, avoid acting in haste, and discuss this situation with someone whose opinion you value. You had much rather be safe than sorry.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Relationships are the key to your emotional satisfaction now. You find it very satisfying to surround yourself with all things beautiful. Harmony is what you desire in your life. You have zero tolerance for drama and crave peace. You found yourself only wanting to spend your time with those closest to you. This is a great time to pour your attention into your marriage or partnership. You will find your relationship may prosper from the attention.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may have a strong desire to get out and about. The social scene seems to be calling your name. A live band, a dance floor, and laughter seem to be what you are longing for. Choose your company wisely because the wrong choice could find you involved in confrontation and your night ruined. You are defiantly marching to the beat of your own drum. Not everyone will appreciate this different side of you.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You hate to admit you may be obsessing over a problem, but... Your may feel as if your head is in the clouds. Foggy thoughts and scrambled ideas make everything seem as if you are living in a dream world. Do not get carried away focusing on a single problem. You can rest assured you have more than one to focus on. You are under a tremendous amount of mental pressure. Problems will not be solved today and to continue to dwell on this is nothing short of mental torture. Leo. Let it go.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may find yourself booking a flight. You have a strong desire to spend time with someone special who seems to live far away. You may find spending time with this person will greatly benefit you. This may financially beneficial as well as satisfying an emotional need. It seems you have friends from all walks of life. This is the time to surround yourself with the philosophical or religious contacts. The advice and guidance you could receive from them is much needed now. This is a person who could play a big part in making great things happen in your life now.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Stay put and sit tight. This could be a time you could make some bad choices concerning your living situation. You may not feel the usual level of support from your friends. Decision making is not your strong point today. You may feel as if a night on the town will make things better. Choose your company carefully. A great time could go south quickly. Remember, not everyone has your best interest at heart. Keep your friends close and your enemies closer tonight.



Scorpio (October 23-November 19)

You have set your focus on providing a strong foundation for your family life. You crave security and the one that will be by your side for a lifetime. You find yourself in a serious mood where deep conversation and planning will help to insure the stability you crave. You are serious about your future and who you want to spend it with. The seeds you plant today will develop the roots of the reward you seek. You are focused and determined to lead a healthy, happy life. You make your health a priority now, a gym membership, meal planning, or making plans to exercise as team, is where your focus is. This is great start to making your plans a reality. You know exactly what you want, and you will make it happen.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You will make mistakes today. Fortunately, you learn from your mistakes. A small setback will not diminish what you accomplish. You will dwell on the slip-ups just long enough to make sure they don't happen again. Then you will focus on the good you have done. You will be applauded for your work.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Capricorn, honest study of your place in life and how you got there is called for now. New approaches and goals regarding your immediate surroundings look likely and will be for the best; could be either work or home. People ask for your opinion on a work project that isn't yours. Your introspective, laid back attitude is perfect for reading a meaningful book, checking out a movie suggested by a friend or perhaps a massage. Wealth and abundance are likely for you as you enter this new cycle. There could be some blockage on a minimal level from an unexpected source. Mind over matter works for you; success stays near you for now. Relax and enjoy the results of your hard work for yourself and others; your karma is good, Capricorn.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

This is a time you are basing your happiness on the success of your relationships. Harmony and beauty are deeply satisfying to you. The lack of these things in your life will leave you extremely unsatisfied and tense. You may be so focused on your marriage or lack there of you find yourself letting your work life suffer. A one-track mind seems to be where you are at. You may seem to need to work on finding a balance between work and home. You need one to have the other. A time of reflection may help you come to realize you need to put more focus on being at peace with yourself.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

It seems you have a greater appreciation for things of value. You could find this to be a time of great material gain for you. Being more materialistic than usual may be your minds way of rewarding you for all the hard work you do. As someone who always seems to put others first, there comes a time you have to remember to spoil and reward yourself. Even if you only spend small amounts, or take time for short trips, you need to remember to take care of yourself first. You don't want to find yourself resenting others and feeling a sense of being used up.

Wordsearch Puzzle

80's Songs

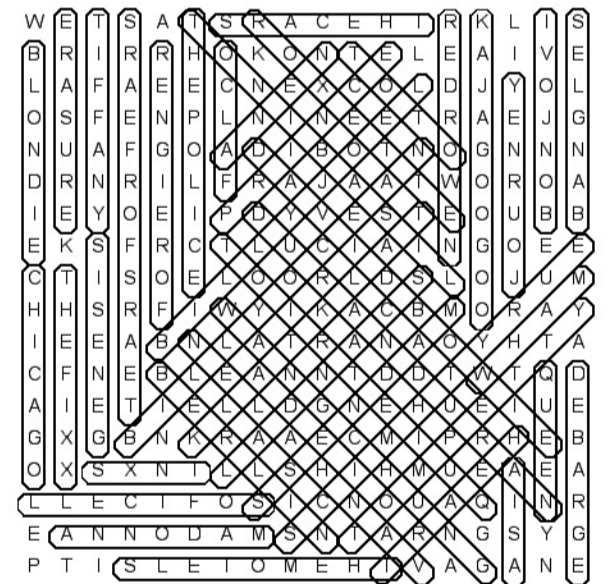
Find and circle all of the 1980's song titles that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the title of a U2 song.



- ABRACADABRA
- ALLEN TOWN
- ALONE
- AMANDA
- ANGEL
- BATDANCE
- BILLIE JEAN
- CARS
- CELEBRATION
- CHERISH
- COME DANCING
- CONGA
- COOL NIGHT
- CRYING
- ANGER ZONE
- DESIRE
- DRIVE
- FAITH
- FIRE LAKE
- FOOTLOOSE
- FUNKY TOWN
- HEARTLIGHT
- HELLO
- HIM
- HOLD ON
- JEOPARDY
- JESSE
- JUMP
- KEY LARGO
- KISS
- KYRIE
- LADY
- LEGS
- LONGER
- LOVE BITES
- LOVE SHACK
- LUKA
- MAGIC
- MANEATER
- MANIAC
- MICKEY
- MR. ROBOTO
- NASTY
- NIGHTSHIFT
- OH SHERRIE
- PHYSICAL
- PRIVATE EYES
- RAPTURE
- ROSANNA
- SARA
- SLEDGEHAMMER
- SMALL TOWN
- SUDDENLY
- SWEET DREAMS
- TIME
- TAINTED LOVE
- UPTOWN GIRL
- URGENT
- VALERIE
- VENUS
- YOU ARE
- YOUNG TURKS

Yesterday's Solution

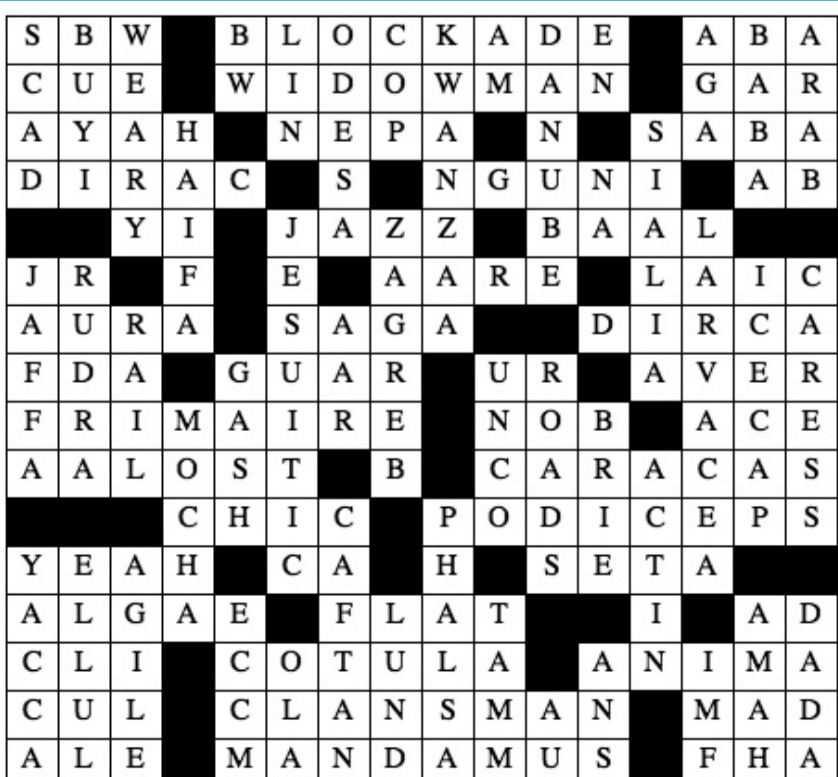
80's Radio Hitmakers



- ASIA
- BANGLES
- BERLIN
- BILLY JOEL
- BILLY OCEAN
- BLONDIE
- BON JOVI
- CHICAGO
- DAVID BOWIE
- DEBARGE
- DURAN DURAN
- ERASURE
- EURYTHMICS
- FALCO
- FOREIGNER
- GENESIS
- HEART
- INXS
- JOURNEY
- KAJAGOOGOO
- MADNESS
- MADONNA
- NENA
- NEW ORDER
- PRINCE
- QUEEN
- QUIET RIOT
- ROXETTE
- SCANDAL
- SOFT CELL
- TALK TALK
- TEARS FOR FEARS
- THE CAR
- THE FIXX
- THE MOTELS
- THE POLICE
- TIFFANY
- TOM PETTY
- TONI BASIL
- TOTO
- VAN HALEN
- WANG CHUNG
- WHAM!

The hidden song title is: WALK LIKE AN EGYPTIAN

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2018



Flamingos move around a pen at Fuente de Piedra lake, 70 kms from Malaga, during a tagging and control operation of flamingo chicks to monitor the evolution of the species. The lake, which is the most important breeding ground for flamingos in the Iberian Peninsula, is also a nature reserve and a haven for birds with over 170 different species recorded. — AFP

Cows help rehabilitate prisoners in Sweden



It's barely 6:00 am and Alfred is already busy milking cows. But when his chores on the farm are done, he won't be going home—he'll be returning to his prison cell.

In Sweden, which prioritizes rehabilitation over long prison sentences, Alfred is one of 60 inmates preparing to reintegrate into society at a minimum security "open prison" functioning as a farm in the town of Mariestad, about 300 kilometers (185 miles) southwest of Stockholm. Imprisoned since April for illegally possessing a gun, Alfred, a grandfather in his 50s who is due to be released in November, can't hide the joy he gets from spending time with the animals.

"I like them... they calm me down," he says with a sigh, wearing a cap, his arm covered in tattoos. In this agricultural prison called Rodjan—the biggest of the Swedish penitentiary system's three farms—his routines are the same every day.

He meets up with his work assignment partner Sofian (both names have been changed to protect their identities) in the morning for two and a half hours of work and then once again in the evening. "I clean (the udder) to avoid the bacteria, then I disinfect it" before pulling the teats, Alfred says enthusiastically. Other inmates work on the farm watering the plants, repainting the gates, and mowing the lawn. And a dozen of them are in charge of the livestock.

Prisoners in freedom

Sweden is among the countries with the fewest prisoners in the world: there are 0.5 inmates per 1,000 inhabitants, which is half of that in France (one per 1,000). Swedish and French prison data show. The Scandinavian nation spends twice as much as France on each detainee, including those placed under surveillance, and works hard to avoid confinement.

Instead, it prefers to put people on probation, favors widespread use of ankle monitors, sentences people to community service, and releases prisoners after two-thirds of time served. Sweden also invests heavily in reintegration through language classes and vocational training. "It's our system for bringing people out into society in a good way, so they don't come back to prison again," Britt-Marie Johansson, head of the Rodjan institution, tells AFP.

In Sweden, just under a third of prisoners re-offend after leaving jail or serving their term,

which is half of that in France, according to the Swedish and French prison statistics. As in all penitentiaries across Sweden, inmates have their own cells. At Rodjan, they're unlocked. There are no security cameras, no gates, no barbed wire, and inmates are allowed to move about freely. Sweden has more than a dozen open prisons across the country.

that he regularly steps into the barn "to see if everything is fine". Other inmates have been known to call the prison while on their days off if they know the cows are due to give birth, to ask "How did it go? Did it go well with the calf?" Johansson says, amused.

Michael Henningsohn, the farm's production manager, praises the detainees' work. "Many



Inmates at Rodjan are serving sentences for all types of convictions, ranging from driving without a licence to tax crimes or assault, but prisoners placed there are all considered to not pose a threat to society.

"We count the prisoners in the morning, during the day and in the evening, and we know where they are all the time," assures Johansson. "If they do something wrong, they go to a higher security level" facility, she adds. Closing the fence to the meadow after he finishes milking the cows, Alfred jokes that the cows are more locked up than the prisoners.

Work 'incredibly well'

The inmates work 35 hours per week with two days off and are paid 13 kronor (1.2 Euros, \$1.15) an hour. On his days off, Alfred admits

work incredibly well despite never having done this before. It's fascinating to see their attitudes" after only a few days of training, he says with a smile. In 2012, the farm received an award from Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf for the quality of its milk. The establishment's key to success lies in the strict routines required for running a farm, according to Henningsohn. Despite enjoying his time with the cows, Alfred does not see himself staying in the farming business after completing his sentence, even though he grew up surrounded by cows on his grandparents' farm. "I saw how it went for them... it's too hard," he says. —AFP

An inmate works with dairy cows at Rodjan farm, an open prison functioning as a farm in the city of Mariestad, located 300 kilometers southwest of Stockholm.

— AFP photos



BMX rider Sergio Layos performs a 180 barspin while Vyal paints at The Container Yard in Downtown Los Angeles, CA, USA. — Reuters photos



Youngsta poses for a portrait at Zone 6 during the Red Bull Music Academy Weekender in Soweto, South Africa.



Rapper Joie Kathos poses for a portrait at Underground Arts as part of the Red Bull Sound Select in Philadelphia.

Colorful collection of images from the **WORLD OF RED BULL** showcasing urban creativity



BMX star Bruno Hoffmann performs during the production of the Devil's Voice project, featuring a trip to the iconic Teufelsberg Cold War monitoring station in Berlin.



Frankie poses with her Mpendla elephant, courtesy of Falko's Eastern Cape journey as part of Once Upon A Town, which brings street art to small South African towns.



Tomas Slavik is seen prior to Valparaiso Cerro Abajo urban downhill race in Valparaiso, Chile.



Artists Robb DiMaria, Ellen Rutt and Ray Domzalski pose for a portrait atop their Red Bull Music Academy mural on the side of the TV Lounge bar in Detroit.



Skateboarder Danny Leon performs during the opening of Kaos Temple in La Iglesia Skate in Asturias, Spain.



Marc M'quez of Spain and Repsol Honda Team rounds the bend during the MotoGP Red Bull Grand Prix of The Americas at Circuit of The Americas in Austin, Texas, USA.

China denies entry to Disney's Winnie the Pooh film

China has denied Walt Disney Co's request to allow screening in the country of "Christopher Robin", a movie that features the honey-loving bear Winnie the Pooh, a source familiar with the matter said on last Tuesday. It is unclear why the Chinese government denied the request and Chinese authorities do not provide reasons to Hollywood studios when they disallow screening of their movies, the source said. However, the decision has revived online discussion as censors have in the past targeted the film's main character, originally conceptualized by English author A.A. Milne, due to memes that compare the bumbling bear to President Xi Jinping. China's Culture Ministry declined to comment and referred questions to the State Administration of Radio and Television, which did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

China, the world's second-largest film market, limits the

number of foreign-made films allowed into the country to 34 a year. It typically favors action-heavy blockbusters such as "Avengers: Infinity War" and "Black Panther", two of four Disney films that have played in China so far this year. Disney's "A Wrinkle in Time", which debuted around the world in March, has not been released in China. Netizens have in the past likened Pooh's appearance - namely his portly stature - to President Xi. A small number of people have even used Pooh as a symbol of resistance.

Popular memes compare images of Xi and former US President Barack Obama walking side-by-side to similar cartoon scenes including Pooh and his taller, leaner friend Tigger, a hyperactive tiger. Other allusions include a popular comparison between a Winnie the Pooh car toy image and the Chinese leader presiding over a military parade from the back of a moving vehicle.

"Can I still say Winnie the Pooh?" posted several users on Weibo, a Chinese microblogging site, on Tuesday, testing censors by adding images of Xi and Pooh. The images, seen by Reuters on last Tuesday, had been blanked out on the site by Wednesday. "If they don't let it into China, the joke is going to become huge," said another commenter.

Taiwan's foreign ministry posted a message on its official Twitter account on Wednesday in response to the news that the movie would not be shown in China. "Taiwan's OhBear is dismayed at the ban slapped on his cousin Winnie's latest film by censors in China," it said, referring to its tourism mascot 'Oh Bear'. "Make no mistake: All bears are created equal in Taiwan and (the Christopher Robin) movie is screening nationwide."

While China's film regulator does not give direct feedback on specific movies, it has released regulations in the

past that say it bars subversive themes, homosexual content and excessive violence. In March, the Beijing International Film Festival pulled award-winning gay romance "Call Me By Your Name" from its program, not long after the country's film regulator deemed LGBT content inappropriate, alongside content that includes bestiality. In "Christopher Robin", the eponymous hero, now an adult, reunites with boyhood friend Pooh and others such as Eeyore the donkey and Piglet. "It doesn't really matter what they do," said one anonymous Weibo user. "It's the internet, I can just pirate it anyway." — Reuters

Lifestyle | Music & Movies



Actresses Li Bingbing (left), Ruby Rose (center) and Jessica McNamee (right) attend the US premiere of Warner Brothers Pictures "The Meg" in Los Angeles, California.



Rosie Huntington-Whiteley (left) and Jason Statham attend Warner Bros Pictures And Gravity Pictures' Premiere of 'The Meg' at TCL Chinese Theatre IMAX in Hollywood, California. — AFP photos

Like 'The Wife,' Glenn Close says she's a late bloomer

Glenn Close may be known for playing strong, often ruthless women, but like her long subdued character in "The Wife" she says she's only just starting to feel comfortable in her own skin. Close plays Joan, the self-effacing spouse of a successful novelist in "The Wife," which opens in the United States on Friday as women in Hollywood and beyond are demanding a louder voice. Decades of suppressing her own talents and desires in support of her husband's career begin to unravel when he wins the Nobel Prize for literature and a biographer probes the couple's life.

"The film took 14 years to get made and who knew that it would be incredibly relevant?" Close, 71, told Reuters. The film is based on the 2003 book of the same name by Meg Wolitzer. Close's performance has won rave reviews, sparking talk of a potential seventh Oscar nomination next year. The Hollywood Reporter said the actress "commands the center of 'The Wife': still, formidable and impossible to look away from."



Despite a 40-year career, three Emmy awards, three Tonys and six Oscar nominations, the star of "Fatal Attraction" and the TV drama "Damages" says she feels she is just beginning. "I'm a very late bloomer. It took me a very long time to learn some basic things. That's why it's kind of wonderful and ironic for me to be at this point in my life and feel like it's just the beginning," she said.

Close launched her acting career in the theater in the 1970s and said she feels lucky to have found success in job she is so passionate about. "I think I'm at a time in my life where I've finally accepted certain things about myself, and it's ok. The fact that I'm not a hugely social person, that I'm very much in my head is okay," she said. "I feel happier and more calm and more excited about life than I ever have." — Reuters

'The Meg' bites off strong \$44.5 Million debut

"The Meg" devoured the competition at the domestic box office. Warner Bros' big-budget shark thriller opened well above expectations, biting off \$44.5 million when it opened in 4,118 North American locations. That was easily enough to nab the No. 1 slot over "Mission: Impossible - Fallout," which picked up \$20 million in its third outing for a domestic tally of \$162 million.

"The Meg," which is a co-production with China, will still have to secure big returns overseas to justify its expensive \$130 million production budget. It's not quite in the black yet, but it's off to a good start given a \$96.8 million international tally. In the Middle Kingdom, it generated a strong \$50 million. Imax screens accounted for \$13.6 million of "The Meg's" \$141.3 million global total. With \$44.5 million, "The Meg" secured the best opening of the year for Warner Bros., ahead of "Ready Player One" (\$41.7 million) and "Ocean's 8" (\$41.6 million).

Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros's head of domestic distribution, attributes the better-than-expected opening to the studio's marketing campaign, along with a non-competitive August debut. "It's just good popcorn entertainment that didn't take itself too seriously," he said. "It's silly, it's fun, and it let's audiences have a good time." Fellow newcomer "BlacKkKlansman" debut in fifth place with \$10.8 million in 1,500 locations, earning director Spike Lee his best opening in over a decade. Lee's Cannes Grand Prix winning crime drama, which debuted on the first anniversary of the deadly Charlottesville rally, has maintained enthusiasm with a promising 97 percent Rotten Tomatoes rating and A- CinemaScore. "Theaters told us repeatedly over the weekend that audiences were applauding, laughing, emotional, and some in tears by the film," Focus Features' president of distribution Lisa Bunnell said.



Actors Jason Statham (right) and Sylvester Stallone (left) attend the US premiere of Warner Brothers Pictures "The Meg" in Los Angeles, California.

"Spike has been able to bring something to the conversation of America that people haven't been able to have."

Horror auteur Jason Blum and Jordan Peele co-produced the Focus Features title, which tells the true story of black detective Ron Stallworth (John David Washington), who goes undercover with the help of Jewish cop Flip Zimmerman (Adam Driver) — to infiltrate the Colorado Springs chapter of the Ku Klux Klan. Prior to "BlacKkKlansman," Lee's 2006 film "Inside Man" launched with \$28 million. His latest outing, "Chi-Raq,"

picked up \$2.5 million during its limited theatrical run ahead of an Amazon release.

Sony's "Slender Man," also debuted nationwide this weekend, landing in fourth with \$11.3 million in 2,358 locations. That's a solid start given the low-budget thriller carries a \$10 million price tag. The final weekend opener, "Dog Days," picked up \$2.6 million when it launched in 2,442 locations. Meanwhile, Disney's "Christopher Robin" earned \$12.7 million in its sophomore frame, landing the fantasy drama based on the characters from Winnie the Pooh in third place. To date, it has generated \$50.3 million in North America.

Universal's jukebox musical "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again" reached a major milestone of its own, crossing \$100 million at the domestic box office. The sequel has generated over \$280 million worldwide. A24's "Eighth Grade" hit an achievement of its own with \$10 million at the domestic box office. Bo Burnham's coming of age drama picked up another \$1.6 million in its fifth frame.

At the specialty box office, Magnolia Pictures' "Skate Kitchen" bowed with \$17,000 when it opened in just one location. The best per-screen-average, however, went to Oscilloscope's "Madeline's Madeline," which pocketed \$20,000 from one venue. The summer box office remains strong, up a promising 11.2 percent from last year, according to comScore. Thanks to a surprisingly powerful debut from "The Meg," the weekend-to-date number is up 23.7 percent from the same frame last year, when "Annabelle: Creation" launched with \$35 million. — Reuters

Life on the edge: Scottish rapper probes UK wealth gap at Fringe

Scottish writer Darren McGarvey's one-man show at the Edinburgh Fringe, informed by his own violent and addictive past, is a powerful insight into Britain's wealth gap via rap and acid comedy. His upbringing in Glasgow's poorest high-rise estates, combined with his fluid patter and fresh ideas on how to tackle inequality drive his show, "Poverty Safari Live."

McGarvey, 33, tells the story of a working class boy who goes to a party with his girlfriend's university friends. Dressed first as his rapper alter-ego Loki and then bespectacled and in a suit, he dissects the attitudes of Britain's poor towards the casually privileged and tries to explain it. The show pokes fun at class: "regeneration" projects with cafes selling "gender-neutral gingerbread" and warns the working class in the audience that the theater bar only sells orange juice "with bits."

At times it is uncomfortable too, tapping into anger and prejudice and shining a light on how the poor are shut out. NatCen Social Research has found that the highest backing for Britain to leave the European Union in a 2016 referendum was amongst those classed as most economically deprived and with no educational qualification.

Using his own memoirs as a hook to talk about poverty has proved successful, and this year McGarvey won Britain's prestigious Orwell prize for political writing with the bestselling "Poverty Safari." "Brexit Britain is a snap-



shot of how things sound when people who are rarely heard decide to grab the microphone and start telling everybody how it is," he says in his book.

McGarvey, who has worked with police fighting gang crime and with social services helping children with anxiety and deprivation, suffered an abusive mother as a child. In a drunken rage she once held a knife to his throat at a party, one of many harrowing incidents he recounts in Poverty Safari. "I never regarded my childhood as hard until I saw the look on people's faces when I talked about it," he says.

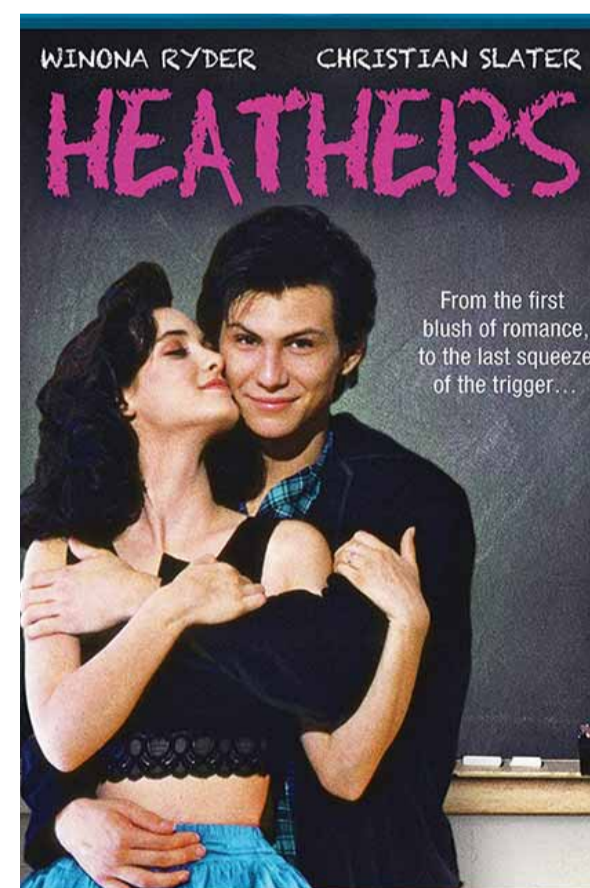
He spent years as an alcoholic and drug user, even as he was working with social services to help young people with the same problems. The exercise of holding up a mirror to society and its assumptions about class is potent because he applies the same process to himself. "I've taken on a potential tension between middle-class sensibilities and working class sensibilities and pulled it in to work, so that it is something that can be used as grist in the mill for creativity," he told Reuters. "Instead of accepting it, I'm trying to reconstruct it in my work to make it acceptable to both sides." — Reuters

Cult movie 'Heathers' about US high school set for re-release

When the dark comedy "Heathers" was released three decades ago it did not become a mainstream success, but the movie about four teenage girls at a US high school achieved something cooler: it became a cult classic. Now it's being re-released, and though it is set in an era before mobile phones and the Internet, director Michael Lehmann said its themes remain up to date.

"I think that's because questions about teenage life violence, bullying in high school - these are still in the forefront of the discussion. The movie feels relevant now," he told Reuters. "Today's teenagers ... are going to be amused by the styles and the fashions of the 80's and the sort of sensibility of that earlier age," he said, adding that he was not initially aiming to make a box office smash.

Heathers tells the story of a clique of wealthy girls, three of whom are called Heather, whose teenage antics have fatal consequences. "The vibe on the set was incredible, all the people working on it, we all really got it and were happy to be there," said Lisanne Falk, who played Heather McNamara in the movie. Two of the movie stars, Winona Ryder and Christian Slater, went on to become leading lights in Hollywood, and the film has also given rise to a musical of the same name. — Reuters



Ennio Morricone

GREEK TOWN LOVES MOVIE SCORE MAESTRO MORRICONE - AND IT SHOWS

Once upon a time in central Greece ... a small town fell in love with famed film composer Ennio Morricone and painted a huge mural in his honor. The residents of Larissa have launched a fan club dedicated to the Italian maestro - known for his scores for classic movies "Once Upon a Time in America", "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" and "The Mission". Members of the Cultural Society of Friends of Ennio Morricone Music in Greece screen his films and broad-

cast his concerts live on screens at archaeological sites.

In the latest sign of their appreciation, they have commissioned a mural of Morricone's bespectacled profile on a five-storey residential block, about 1,000 km (620 miles) away from his birthplace in Rome. "It is very visible, we wanted a clear illustration of him, so it could always remain here in our town, magnificent, like him and his large body of work," said society president Konstantinos Papakostas.

Papakostas set up the society in 2010 after seeing the Oscar-winning composer perform live in the Italian capital, then Assago, Milan. He spread the word in Larissa and has since persuaded 1,080 fellow townspeople to sign up as members. "I am completely in awe of him and his music," Papakostas said. Morricone, who turns 90 this year, is still composing music and has a series of performances lined up as part of "The 60 Years in Music" tour. — Reuters



A mural at the now-derelect ashram visited by the Beatles 50 years ago, in Rishikesh in northern India.



Tourists taking pictures of a mural at the now-derelect ashram visited by the Beatles 50 years ago, in Rishikesh in northern India.



Ajit Singh posing for a photo in Dehradun in northern India.



A tourist walking near the crumbling bungalow at the now-derelect ashram where The Beatles stayed 50 years ago, in Rishikesh in northern India.



Tourists visiting the site of the now-derelect ashram visited by the Beatles 50 years ago, in Rishikesh.



Tourists walking past the now-derelect house of the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi at the ashram.



This picture shows meditation huts at the now-derelect ashram visited by the Beatles 50 years ago, in Rishikesh in northern India.



A worker clearing vegetation outside the former post office in the now-derelect ashram visited by the Beatles 50 years ago, in Rishikesh in northern India.

Beatles' Indian hideaway comes together, 50 years on

Fifty years after the Beatles came to India, the bungalows where the Fab Four lived, the post office where John Lennon sent Yoko Ono postcards and the giggling guru's house are all ruins. Maharishi Mahesh Yogi's ashram, where the world's most famous group sought refuge and spirituality in 1968 and wrote much of their seminal "White Album", fell into disuse in the early 2000s. But thanks to the efforts of a group of locals, the site has been reclaimed from the jungle and tourists now roam where tigers and snakes were until recently the most common day trippers.

"Before, people used to sneak in, which could be dangerous," said local journalist Raju Gusain, instrumental in rescuing the area overlooking Rishikesh in northern India. "There used to be leopard paw marks and elephant dung," he told AFP on a tour of the site. "Now we have erected a fence to stop animals getting in from the tiger reserve next door."

By 1968, following the death of Beatles manager Brian Epstein the year before, fissures were beginning to show between John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr. But the group found a new mentor: the magnetic Maharishi who promised them happiness and enlightenment without drugs, through transcendental meditation. The bushy-bearded sage persuaded them to travel to his spiritual retreat in Rishikesh, and so in February 1968 they fetched up with their partners, not knowing quite what to expect.

Come out to play

A world away from "Swinging London", the band appeared to reconnect, penning almost 50 new songs. Others there included fellow musicians Donovan and Beach Boy Mike Love, actress Mia Farrow and her reclusive sister Prudence, inspiration for Lennon's song "Dear Prudence". The local wildlife—although the song is also supposedly about heroin or Yoko Ono-inspired "Everybody's Got Something to Hide Except Me and My Monkey" as well as "Blackbird".

McCartney wrote "Why Don't We Do It in the Road" after seeing monkeys openly copulating, while Love's presence helped spark "Back in the USSR", a pastiche of the Beach Boys' "California Girls". The band—with the exception of Starr, who brought a supply of baked beans due to his sensitive stomach and left after 10 days—enjoyed the break and the meditation too. "I felt like I actually was a feather floating over a hot-air pipe," McCartney recalled later of one session. "And I reported that to Maharishi,

and he giggled: 'Yes, this is good!'"

One local old enough to remember is Ajit Singh, the owner of a music shop—still open—in the nearby town of Dehradun, who fixed Lennon's guitar and performed at Harrison's 25th birthday. Turbaned, thin and with a croaky voice, the 86-year-old Singh recalls with twinkling eyes the band wandering into the store one day, pursued by a crowd outside, and him "inviting them home for tea". "They were very polite with me, they were not haughty or something," he told AFP in his shop. "I always said to people that they were good people."

done in 2001. Nature slowly reclaimed the site, while parts of the buildings were removed and people sneaked in and left graffiti.

But in 2016, paths were cleared, a fence was put up and some of the structures were repaired. Ruins they remain, however, although a few new murals have been added. The site now charges an entry fee — 600 rupees (\$8.75) for foreigners, 150 rupees for Indians—and boasts a cafe and a small photo exhibition and some information signs.

One recent visitor was none other than Prudence herself, said Raju Nautiyal, a ranger with the



Tourists gather in front of a mural of the Beatles and Maharishi Mahesh Yogi (center) at the now-derelect ashram attended by The Beatles 50 years ago in Rishikesh.

After a while though, relations worsened between the Beatles and the Maharishi, the atmosphere soured by the yogi's rumored sexual advances and his evident desire to make money from his famous new pupils. McCartney left after five weeks and Harrison and Lennon after two months. Asked the reason by the yogi, Lennon is reputed to have told the guru, "If you're so cosmic you'll know why."

Get baksheesh

But still, the Beatles helped put Rishikesh on the map for Westerners, and popularized meditation and Eastern spirituality. The Maharishi even made the cover of Time magazine in 1975. His ashram initially thrived but then went into decline and was aban-

Rajasthan Tiger Reserve who has helped in the clean-up. "I used to sing 'Dear Prudence' and one day Prudence came to play," he said.

American visitor Atta Curzmann, 68, a "great Beatles fan" inspired to take a lasting interest in Indian spirituality, said she hoped the site would not be restored too much. "The first time we came four or five years ago it was really run-down and we had to pay baksheesh (a bribe) to get in," she told AFP. "But I hope they don't make it too lovely and perfect because you want to see that antiquity, that part of it that shows the history." — AFP

Crowd-funded headstone marks lost grave of poet William Blake

The lost resting place of British poet and artist William Blake was finally marked Sunday with a gravestone, almost 200 years after he died. Despite his influence today, Blake died in obscurity in 1827 and was buried in an unmarked common grave in Bunhill Fields, a London cemetery. Only a plain memorial stone recorded that he was buried nearby, much to the dismay of two devotees who visited, and who decided to find his exact resting place.

Luis and Carol Garrido had as their guide the original coordinates of his burial, which were based on a grid of graves but became confused

when parts of the cemetery were converted into gardens. After two years of research and some painstaking work with a tape measure, they found it, and the Blake Society—of which they were members—began fundraising for a new memorial to mark the spot. The society raised £30,000 (33,500 euros, \$38,300) through donations from around the world, as well as a benefit gala.

The engraved slab of Portland Stone unveiled on Sunday reads: "Here lies William Blake, 1757-1827, Poet Artist Prophet", followed by two lines of his verse. "It matters that we recog-

nize those who have contributed to our cultural heritage, and no creative genius has influenced people to the extraordinary extent as William Blake," Nick Duncan, a trustee of the Blake Society, said in a press release. "Yet almost two centuries after his death, Blake's grave is unmarked. People walk unknowingly over it, dropping litter and thinking of other things." He added: "At last lovers of Blake from all over the world will have a point of pilgrimage." — AFP



A new tombstone for William Blake lies on his grave at Bunhill Fields Burial Ground in London. — AFP

Classifieds

Tuesday, August 14, 2018

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DAY: Monday 13/08/2018 Valid From 7 PM To 7 AM

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY NIGHT: Relatively hot and Dust will subside gradually with light to moderate freshening at times north wind, with speed of 15 - 45 km/h.

BY DAY: Hot with light to moderate freshening at times north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 45 km/h causing dust over open areas.

WEATHER WARNING			Fresh wind + dust		
STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.	SFC. CHART 13/08/2018 12		
KUWAIT CITY	43 °C	35 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	45 °C	34 °C			
ABDALY	46 °C	34 °C			
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C			
JAHRA	45 °C	34 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	44 °C	32 °C			
SALMIYAH	41 °C	34 °C			
AHMADI	44 °C	36 °C			
NUWAISIB	46 °C	33 °C			
WAFRA	45 °C	33 °C			
SALMY	43 °C	32 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	W
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	08/14	Hot + causing rising dust over open areas	46 °C	34 °C	NW	15
Wednesday	08/15	Hot	45 °C	32 °C	NW	15
Thursday	08/16	Hot and some high clouds will appear	46 °C	31 °C	NW	08
Friday	08/17	Very hot and some high clouds will appear	47 °C	33 °C	NW	10

NEW MEDICAL DAY CASE CENTER (KUWAIT)

Medical Division
 Consultant;
 (Radiologist, Refractive, Retinal & Squint surgeon)
 Registrar (General Ophthalmology & plastic)
 Cardiology specialist
 Laboratory specialist and technician
 X-ray and CT scan technician
 Orthoptist, Optometrist
 CSSD technician
 Biomedical engineer

Nursing Staff
 OT nurses
 OPD nurses, cardiology and diabetic nurse
 Fascial Aesthetician staff
 Dietitian

Requirement
 - Theatre nurses minimum 5 year, other staff and nurses 3-5 year experience.
 - Transferable visa, Knowledgeable in Microsoft office
 - Staff must be holding appropriate degree and qualification

Finance
 Senior accountant, Cashier, Insurance officer

Admin Division
 Support service Manger
 Secretary, Receptionist,
 Patient Representative
 PR officer, Maintenance Supervisor
 Marketing & sales assistant
 IT technician
 Concierge, Call Centre Officer
 Store in Charge

Pharmacy
 (Pharmacist, Pharmacy technician)

Please send your updated CV with picture, Civil ID, passport, qualification certificate on Email address:
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Airlines

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Wataniya Airways	22 066 536
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	22087426
Jet Airways	22924455
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Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044

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Flight Schedule

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 14/8/2018					Departure Flights on Tuesday 14/8/2018				
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	QTR	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	QTR
FEG	441	Asyut	00:05	KNE	AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05	RIA
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	GFA	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30	FEG
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	KAC	MSR	2615	Cairo	00:30	IAW
KAC	102	London	00:50	KAC	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	KNE
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	KAC	PIA	206	Lahore	01:00	GFA
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	KAC	FEG	344	Sohag	01:05	AZS
JZR	241D	Amman	01:20	SVA	KAC	677	Dubai	01:30	KAC
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	JZR	THY	773	Istanbul	01:45	FDB
JZR	539	Cairo	01:35	KAC	KAC	363	Colombo	01:50	QTR
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50	JZR
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	ETD	KAC	285	Dhaka	01:50	SVA
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	KAC	JZR	528	Asyut	02:10	KAC
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KNE	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:15	JZR
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	WAN	883	Sarajevo	02:30	KNE
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	OMA	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50	KAC
THY	768	Istanbul	02:40	KAC	KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55	KAC
THY	1404	AYT	02:45	ABY	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	KAC
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	KAC	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30	ABY
JZR	651	Lahore	02:55	UAE	THY	769	Istanbul	03:35	KAC
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	SAW	JZR	502	Luxor	03:45	ETD
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05	OMA
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	JZR	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05	KAC
MSC	415	Sohag	03:10	QTR	MSC	416	Sohag	04:10	KAC
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	FDB	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15	KAC
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	NIA	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	SAW
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	KAC	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:25	FDB
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	SVA	JAI	571	Mumbai	05:00	QTR
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	GFA	QTR	1077	Doha	05:15	KAC
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	JZR	JZR	142	Doha	05:20	UAE
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	JZR	JZR	1538	Cairo	05:25	KAC
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	JZR	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:35	NIA
JZR	1541	Cairo	04:35	THY	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00	KAC
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	QTR	FDB	070	Doha	06:00	KAC
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30	SVA
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	WAN	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	JZR
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:20	MSR	RJA	643	Amman	07:00	GFA
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	JZR	JZR	164	Paris	07:15	JZR
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	WAN	RBG	550	Alexandria	07:30	JZR
BAW	157	London	06:10	RJA	KAC	167	Amman	07:30	JZR
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	GFA	KAC	173	Munich	07:35	JZR
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	UAE	KAC	413	Bangkok	07:40	THY
JZR	603	Mumbai	06:35	FDB	KAC	193	TXZ	08:00	JZR
JZR	561D	Sohag	06:40	KAC	JZR	238	Amman	08:00	QTR
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	ABY	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00	KAC
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	KAC	BAW	156	London	08:20	KAC
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	KAC	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35	MSR
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30	KAC	KAC	691	Muscat	09:00	GFA
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	FDB	KAC	161	Geneva	09:05	FDB
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:05	RJA
KAC	358	Kochi	08:00	KAC	KAC	117	SNN/New York	09:05	ABY
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	KAC	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15	JZR
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	DLH	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40	JZR
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	OMA	KAC	561	Amman	09:40	FDB
JZR	143	Doha	08:55	KNE	KAC	773	Riyadh	09:45	KAC
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	MEA	JZR	534	Cairo	09:45	UAE
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	KAC	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50	DLH
JZR	503	Luxor	09:40	QTR	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:55	KAC
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KLM	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00	KAC
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	UAE	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00	KNE
MSC	405	Sohag	10:15	ALK	KAC	101	London	10:00	OMA
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	ETD	KAC	617	Doha	10:20	MEA
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25	KAC
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	THY	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40	DHX
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	GFA	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40	QTR
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	IAW	158	Al Najaf	11:00	KAC
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	AZQ	MSC	406	Sohag	11:15	ETD
JZR	1539	Cairo	11:50	QTR	JZR	788	Riyadh	11:20	KLM
WAN	134	Doha	12:20	ETD	AXB	890	Mangalore	11:20	KAC
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:30	KAC	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35	ALK
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	KAC	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55	KAC
THY	766	Istanbul	12:45	AIC	SYR	342	Damascus	12:00	THY
WAN	884	Sarajevo	12:50	SVA	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05	UAE
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	SVA	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10	GFA
AZS	4005	ESB	13:00	KAC	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10	KAC
JZR	239	Amman	13:00	JZR	RBG	554	Alexandria	13:10	ETD
RJA	644	Amman	13:20	JAI	WAN	975	Baku	13:20	QTR
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:30	MSR	THY	767	Istanbul	13:40	SVA
FEG	341	Sohag	13:50	FDB	JZR	144	Doha	13:55	JZR
IAW	157A	Al Najaf	13:55	JZR	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00	SVA
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	KAC	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15	IAW

Khamenei vows 'no war, no negotiations with the US'

Iran unveils next generation missile

TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader said yesterday there would be neither war nor negotiations with the United States, and that the country's problems were the result of government mismanagement more than renewed sanctions. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's comments add to the pressure on President Hassan Rouhani following a collapse in the currency and widespread protests over high prices and corruption. They also appeared to rule out any hope of fresh talks with Washington, which US President Donald Trump had proposed after walking out of the landmark 2015 nuclear deal and reimposing sanctions.

"Beside sanctions, they are talking about war and negotiations... let me say a few words to the people: THERE WILL BE NO WAR, NOR WILL WE NEGOTIATE WITH THE US," Khamenei said via his official Twitter account in English. There was also a show of military resolve as Defence Minister Amir Hatami unveiled a next generation short-range ballistic missile and vowed to further boost the country's missile capabilities. State broadcaster IRIB said the new Fateh Mobin missile had "successfully passed its tests" and could strike targets on land and sea.

'Problems are internal'

Despite renewed sanctions, many Iranians - including many at the highest levels of the establishment - see US hostility as only a contributing factor to long-standing problems inside the country. "Today's livelihood problems do not emerge from outside, they are internal," Khamenei said in another tweet. "Not that sanctions don't have an impact, but the main factor is how we handle them," he added.

Khamenei mirrored recent criticism of Rouhani's economic management from senior members of the clergy and the Revolutionary Guards - particularly over the collapse of the rial, which has lost around half its value since April. A fortnight ago, Guards commander Mohammad Ali Jafari told Rouhani to take "revolutionary actions to control prices and prevent the enormous increase in the price of foreign currency and gold," in an open letter published by the conservative Tasnim news agency.

But Khamenei criticized conservatives who called for Rouhani's resignation, saying they were inadvertently "playing into the hands of the enemy". "The government

must stay in office and powerfully carry out its duties to resolve the problems," he said.

Crackdown

Part of the strategy has been an effort to show action against Iran's deeply entrenched corruption, which Khamenei once described as "a seven-headed dragon". The judiciary said Sunday it had arrested 67 people under a sweeping corruption crackdown and prevented 100 government employees from leaving the country. Khamenei approved a written request from the head of the judiciary, Sadegh Larijani, to set up special revolutionary courts to try people quickly for economic crimes. Some lawmakers have criticized the move, with high-profile MP Ali Motahari saying yesterday that parliament must not be "by-passed" when writing new rules.

With the nuclear deal crumbling, Rouhani finds himself with little to show for his five years in power and increasingly under fire from all sides. Although the other parties to the agreement - Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia - have vowed to resist US sanctions, many foreign companies have already abandoned projects in Iran for fear of US penalties. A significant cut in oil sales is also expected when the US reimposes a second phase of sanctions in November - with some analysts estimating a drop of 700,000 barrels per day from its current level of 2.3 million.

State news agency IRNA reported yesterday that Iran is offering oil and gas at a discount to Asian customers in a bid to retain sales. Khamenei's tweets followed a speech in Tehran, in which he described Trump's offer of talks as "a dangerous game" and his administration as a "bullying, fraudulent regime". "Even if we ever - impossible as it is - negotiated with the US, it would never ever be with the current US administration," he added.

New missile unveiled

Meanwhile, Iran unveiled a next generation short-range ballistic missile yesterday and vowed to further boost its capabilities, Iranian media said, at a time of rising tensions with the US. State broadcaster IRIB said the new Fateh Mobin missile had "successfully passed its tests" and could strike targets on land and sea. "As

sures from Wall Street but also reduce its access to capital markets.

"They've had significant benefits from having access to capital markets, and the media attention has provided priceless free advertising," Levy said. "If you go private and people aren't paying attention it could be a negative." Tesla shares reversed gains at the opening and fell 1.1 percent at 1510 GMT to \$351.31.

Less than \$70 billion

In his blog yesterday, Musk said that reports that more than \$70 billion would be needed to take Tesla private "dramatically overstate the actual capital raise needed" because he expected some shareholders to remain invested in the firm. His comment that he wanted to launch a buyout at \$420 a share "would only be used for Tesla shareholders who do not remain with our company if it is private," Musk said in the blog. "My best estimate right now is that approximately two-thirds of shares owned by all current investors would roll over into a private Tesla."

Musk added that the Saudi Arabian sovereign wealth fund "has approached me multiple times" starting in early 2017 about taking Tesla private and had already taken a stake of nearly five percent through share purchases. He said the Saudis were interested "because of the important need to diversify away from oil" and added that the sovereign fund "has more than enough capital needed to execute on such a transaction."

California-based Tesla has become one of the most valuable automakers on expectations it will disrupt the industry, although it produced only slightly more than 100,000 vehicles last year. The company has been struggling to boost production of its Model 3, which is less expensive than its first models and could help expand Tesla's base. — AFP

not say what these would be. Separately, the Istanbul and Ankara prosecutor's offices launched investigations into individuals suspected of being involved in actions that threaten Turkey's economic security, broadcaster CNN Turk and state news agency Anadolu reported. Turkey's Capital Markets Board (SPK) and financial crime board have also said they would take legal steps against those who spread misinformation about financial institutions and firms, or reports that the government would seize foreign-currency deposits.

Earlier yesterday, Albayrak, who is also Erdogan's son-in-law, said Turkey would start rolling out an economic action plan. Albayrak stressed the importance of budget discipline, and ruled out any seizure or conversion of dollar-denominated bank deposits into lira. Economists say the lira's fall is due to worries about Erdogan's influence over the economy, his repeated calls for lower interest rates, and worsening ties with the United States over the detention of a Christian pastor and other disputes.

Erdogan reiterated yesterday his view that the currency's crash had no economic basis, saying that US sanctions imposed on Turkey over the terrorism trial of the pastor, Andrew Brunson, represented a "stab in the back" by a NATO ally. "We are together in NATO and then you seek to stab your strategic partner in the back. Can such a thing be accepted?" Erdogan asked. — Agencies



TEHRAN: Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami stands by the next generation short-range ballistic missile "Fateh Mobin" during an unveiling ceremony in the capital yesterday. — AFP

promised to our dear people, we will not spare any effort to increase the missile capabilities of the country and we will certainly increase our missile power every day," Defense Minister Amir Hatami said, quoted by conservative news agency Tasnim.

The new missile's range was not given, but previous versions had a range of around 200 to 300 km, according to the US-based Center for Strategic and International Studies. US officials told Fox News last week that a "Fateh-110 missile" was test-fired by Iran during naval exercises in the Strait of Hormuz last week. A US general described the exercises as designed to send a message, following threats from Iran that it could

shut down the vital, oil-shipping waterway in retaliation for renewed sanctions.

"Nothing can stop this missile because of its high degree of flexibility," said Hatami, adding that the new version of the Fateh Mobin was "100-percent domestically made... agile, stealth, tactical (and) precision-guided". "Be sure that the greater the pressures and psychological warfare against the great nation of Iran, our will to enhance our defense power in all fields will increase," he added. Iran's missile program is a major bone of contention, particularly with the United States and its allies, but is seen as vital by Iran to its defensive posture in a troubled region. — AFP

Saudis in talks to take Tesla private: Musk

WASHINGTON: Tesla chief executive Elon Musk disclosed yesterday he was in talks with Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund and other investors to take the electric automaker private. The revelation comes days after Musk's claim in an August 7 Twitter post that financing for a deal to take Tesla private had been "secured". Musk said in a blog post yesterday he had "no question" that the Saudis would finance such a transaction following a July 31 meeting.

The transaction would be structured with equity so as not to burden Tesla with crushing debt, Musk added. "I continue to have discussions with the Saudi fund, and I also am having discussions with a number of other investors, which is something that I always planned to do since I would like for Tesla to continue to have a broad investor base," Musk wrote. "It is appropriate to complete those discussions before presenting a detailed proposal to an independent board committee."

Musk's surprise comments last week sparked speculation he would need to borrow massive amounts to take Tesla private, a move that could allow the company to operate without requirements for financial reports and other pressures of a publicly traded firm. But the comments also raised questions about whether Musk ran afoul of securities laws by claiming backing without a firm financial commitment.

The disclosures about Saudi interest "helps reduce the legal risk fallout for Tesla," said Efraim Levy, an equity analyst at CFRA Research. "It also helps clarify the going private situation even if the transaction is ultimately not consummated." But Levy said taking the company private would be a mixed blessing for Tesla and Musk - the company could avoid short-term pres-



Elon Musk

Jordan: Militants who attacked police support IS

AMMAN: Militants behind an attack on Jordanian police supported Islamic State and investigations had revealed plans for more attacks on security and civilian targets, Jordan's interior minister said yesterday. Jordanian police said on Saturday a homemade explosive device planted near a police van killed a policeman and injured six others the day before. The police vehicle had been maintaining security near a music festival in the majority Christian town of Fuhais, near the capital Amman and 15 km from the hillside city of Salt.

In a huge security operation, Jordanian forces laid siege to a building in a residential part of Salt on Saturday night in search of those responsible for the bomb attack. After the suspected militants refused to heed calls to surrender, the security forces stormed the building in a shootout that resulted in the death of three militants and four security personnel, police said. Ten members of the security forces were also injured.

Interior Minister Samir Mubaideen said the militants, who blew up part of the building when the security forces stormed it, did not belong to a specific group but subscribed to Islamic State ideology. Militants from Islamic State and other radical groups have long targeted US-allied Jordan and dozens of militants are serving long prison terms. "There were plots to wage a series of terror attacks that sought security points and popular gatherings. We know the targets but we won't tell them so people won't get terrified," Mubaideen said. King Abdullah, a

Middle East ally of Western powers against Islamist militancy who has also safeguarded Jordan's peace treaty with Israel, warned on Saturday the perpetrators of the attack would pay dearly.

Secret investigations

The monarch has been among the most vocal leaders in the region in warning of threats posed by radical groups. The group were all Jordanian and there were no signs so far they had foreign links, Mubaideen said, refusing to give names of suspects. "The investigations are secret and ongoing," he told a news conference. Alongside automatic weapons in the suspect's possession, the authorities found a location where chemical ingredients for manufacturing explosives were buried, Mubaideen added.

General Hussein Hawatmeh, head of Jordan's Gendarmerie, said the militant cell was recently set up and there were indications its members had embraced radical ideology. "What is dangerous is that these new recruits are more impulsive than those with experience in executing operations that harm Jordan's security," Hawatmeh told reporters.

Jordan has been relatively unscathed by the uprisings, civil wars and Islamist militancy that have swept the Middle East since 2011. But there have been some incidents of violence, increasingly carried out by members of powerful tribes that are traditionally the backbone of support for the ruling Hashemite dynasty. Security forces have been extra vigilant having warned that sympathizers of Islamic State could launch revenge attacks after militants were driven out of most of the territory they once controlled in Syria and Iraq. Intelligence officials and some experts believe widening social disparities and a perception of official corruption are fuelling a rise in radicalization among disaffected youths in a country with high unemployment and growing poverty. — Reuters

Kuwait denies reports it injected...

Continued from Page 1

The lira currency, which has lost more than 40 percent against the US dollar this year, pulled back from a record low of 7.24 earlier yesterday after the central bank pledged to provide liquidity, but it remained under selling pressure and its meltdown continued to rattle global markets.

"There are economic terrorists on social media," Erdogan told a gathering of Turkish ambassadors at the presidential palace in Ankara, adding that the judiciary and financial authorities were taking action in response. "They are truly a network of treason," he added. "We will not give them the time of day... We will make those spreading speculations pay the necessary price."

Erdogan, who gained sweeping new powers following his re-election in June, said rumors had been spread that authorities might impose capital controls in response to the slump in the currency, which tumbled as much as 18 percent on Friday alone. The interior ministry said it had so far identified 346 social media accounts carrying posts about the exchange rate that it said created a negative perception of the economy. It said it would take legal measures against them but did



AMMAN: Jordan's Interior Minister Samir Mubaideen (left) speaks during a press conference in the capital yesterday. — AFP

Sports

Brooks Koepka holds off Woods to win 100th PGA Championship

Woods electrified spectators by displaying form that made him a champion

ST LOUIS: Brooks Koepka, holding his nerve to fight off dramatic challenges from Tiger Woods and Adam Scott, won a thrilling back-nine battle Sunday to capture the 100th PGA Championship. The 28-year-old two-time US Open champion sealed his third major title by firing a four-under-par 66 to finish 72 holes on 16-under 264, edging Woods by two strokes at Bellerive Country Club with Australia's Scott another shot adrift.

"To do this is truly incredible," Koepka said. As Woods electrified spectators by displaying the form that made him a 14-time major champion, American rival Koepka stayed calm and persevered under intense pressure to claim the Wanamaker Trophy and a top prize of \$1.98 million (1.73 million euros).

"I heard all the roars when Tiger made his run," Koepka said. "It was the first time Tiger has been in contention and I've been in contention at the same time, so the fans definitely let you know what he was doing."

"Scotty played unbelievably well and so did Tiger. They definitely made me question it there for a bit, for sure." Koepka fired the lowest 72-hole score in tournament history, one shot under the old mark set by American David Toms in 2001 at Atlanta Athletic Club.

Deadlocked for the lead with Scott—who began the back nine with three birdies in four holes—and only one stroke ahead of Woods, Koepka sank a 10-foot birdie putt at the par-4 15th and a six-foot birdie putt at the par-3 16th then parred the last two holes to secure the victory.

"I missed putts on 14 and 15 and Brooks didn't and my momentum was gone," Scott said. "I'm definitely playing better and in the right direction and that's a positive." Woods, who hasn't won a major title since the 2008 US Open and hasn't won any title in five

years, proved he is a legitimate major title contender once again at age 42 with an epic 64, his low final round in a major, which he concluded with a 20-foot birdie putt at 18, the crowd roaring as he walked off.

"These fans were so positive all week," Woods said. "I can't thank them enough for what they were saying out there and what it meant to me coming back trying to win a major championship again."

'MIND-BLOWING'

Koepka, who defended his US Open crown in June at Shinnecock, became only the fifth player to win the US Open and PGA Championship in the same year, joining Woods, Jack Nicklaus, Gene Sarazen and Ben Hogan.

And it came in a season where he missed the Masters with a left wrist injury. "Going from that to even being able to play this year to this, it's absolutely mind blowing," Koepka said. In his eighth month of a comeback season after spinal fusion surgery, Woods ground out four birdies against a lone bogey on both the front and back nines but could never draw level with Koepka, settling for his seventh career major runner-up finish.

"I played hard," Woods said. "Bit of a struggle with my game. I was hanging in there, grinding it out trying to make as many birdies as possible." Crowds cheered the veteran through a thrilling round that saw him miss every front-nine fairway but take only 10 putts, scrambling from dirt, trees and bunkers to stay in the hunt.

Woods, who said he wants to be chosen as a captain's pick for the US Ryder Cup team, was pleased he was able to contend at the PGA and lead in the last round of last month's British Open. "I would never have foreseen that a year ago," Woods said. The impact was dramatic for rivals as well.



ST LOUIS: Brooks Koepka of the United States poses with his mother, Denise Jakows (L), girlfriend, Jena Sims (R), and the Wanamaker Trophy on the 18th green after Koepka won the 2018 PGA Championship with a score of -16 at Bellerive Country Club on Sunday. — AFP

"The roars were pretty unbelievable," second-ranked 2017 PGA winner Justin Thomas said. "Any birdie he made everyone went nuts. This was the first real Tiger effect I've experienced with that many people." Scott, the 2013 Masters champion, missed a short

birdie putt at the par-5 17th and made bogey 18 to finish third but was pleased with his overall effort. "I was feeling really good out there, especially as he back nine got going," Scott said. "I didn't play the last two holes very well." — AFP

USA confirms Ryder Cup eight but door open for Tiger

ST LOUIS: US Ryder Cup captain Jim Furyk unveiled the first eight members of his squad yesterday and heaped praise upon Tiger Woods as a potential captain's pick to fill out the lineup. Jordan Spieth, Bubba Watson, Webb Simpson and Rickie Fowler qualified on points after the PGA Championship ended Sunday.

They join four who previously clinched berths—top-ranked Dustin Johnson, reigning Masters champion Patrick Reed, third-ranked 2017 PGA winner Justin Thomas and second-ranked Brooks Koepka, this year's PGA Championship and US Open winner.

But Woods, who charged to a runner-up PGA finish with an impressive final round six-under par 64, could still be among the Americans who try to defend the trophy against Europe at Le Golf National near Paris on September 28-30. "What's important is how well Tiger has played," Furyk said. "It's great to see him playing well. His word is trending. His game is trending." Furyk will make four captain's picks in early September to complete the roster and Woods is expected to be among them, although Furyk played coy when asked if Woods, up to 26th in world rankings from beyond 1,200 last December, could help the team.

"It's a good question. He's playing very well and there's probably a lot of people out there who think he can," Furyk said. "I realize he's playing really well and I'm really excited about Tiger Woods."

Woods, in the eighth month of his comeback from spinal fusion surgery, has not won a major since the 2008 US Open and hasn't won any event at all in five years. But he showed in losing to Koepka he still has formidable skills at age 42. Whether he plays or not, Woods is set to be a vice captain on the US team.

BEST PLAYER EVER

"Tiger has been a vice captain in the team room as a player. He's priceless to be honest with you. He has been a big help to our captains," Furyk said. "It's a big boost to have the best player who ever lived to be walking with your group."

Despite missing most of last season, Woods finished 11th on points. "To be part of the Ryder Cup conversation, going from where I've come from to now in the last year, it has been pretty cool," Woods said.

Spieth, ranked eighth, is a three-time major champion at age 25. Watson is a two-time Masters winner. Simpson won this year's Players Championship. Ninth-ranked Fowler has eight top-five major finishes.

Seven of the Americans are in the top 14 in world rankings with Simpson the odd man out at a still-respectable 20th. Thomas is the lone Ryder Cup newcomer among the eight. Fowler, Simpson and Watson have losing records in Ryder Cup play. Thomas, Watson, Koepka and Spieth have played Le Golf National before. "I'm excited. We have eight guys who love to compete," Furyk said. "I couldn't be more excited about the eight I have and I'm confident in them." Furyk will keep an eye open for players who impress in events over the next month. "I'll be looking at guys who have a great body of work this year, who fit in well with these eight players," said Furyk. "If a guy gets hot and starts playing well, he will catch my eye."

On the European side, qualifying runs for another three weeks for the first eight places which will be determined on points before captain Thomas Bjorn makes his four picks in September. British Open winner Francesco Molinari of Italy and England's Justin Rose, Tyrrell Hatton and Tommy Fleetwood strengthened their hold in the European points spots at the PGA, Molinari sharing sixth and Hatton sharing 10th.—AFP

Sting of PGA loss eased for Scott by confidence boost

ST LOUIS: Adam Scott was stung by a major loss when he led with four holes remaining, but the pain was eased by the confidence boost of contending at the PGA Championship. The 38-year-old Australian opened and closed with bogeys but enjoyed a run of five birdies in seven holes in a third-place showing Sunday at Bellerive, trailing only winner Brooks Koepka and runner-up Tiger Woods.

"If you told me I would have shot these scores at the start of the week, I would have been very pleased. This was some really good golf," Scott said. "It's hard to

rationalize everything after leading with four holes to play. You want to win from that position and I feel like I've led a lot of majors with four holes to play and not won them. But I will be taking confidence out of that for sure." The most bitter major memory for the 2013 Masters champion remains the 2012 British Open, which he led by four strokes with four to play only to make four straight bogeys to lose by a stroke to Ernie Els. But Scott, ranked 76th, had not been in the title hunt so deeply in years, the result this week his best US PGA Tour finish in two years. And he needed a special invitation from the PGA of America just to take part in his 70th consecutive major. "Definitely moving in the right direction," Scott said. "I don't think it will be rocket science for us to figure out, you know, the small little bits that may be missing."

"If anything, this is motivation to kick on a little bit, make the most of the rest of this year, continue playing at this level, and go into next year's season full of confidence." Scott was deadlocked with Koepka and one

stroke ahead of Woods after his birdie binge ended at the 13th hole. But Koepka birdied the par-4 15 and par-3 16 to edge clear, while Scott missed a short birdie putt on 17. The Aussie then bogeyed the last as his challenge fizzled.

"I'm pretty disappointed with myself that I couldn't play the last three holes better than I did," Scott said. "I had a putt to be one back on 17 and I think that really hurt that I missed that, just not to make it interesting up the last. "The putt there was my last hoorah really and just didn't hit it hard enough. And that's a shame."

Scott enjoyed his best finish since winning the 2016 WGC event at Doral. He had not been better than ninth in 17 prior US tour starts. "I performed well in that situation and it's not like I'd forgotten what to do, playing in a final group of a major," Scott said.

"But there are always things to work on when you're not the winner. I certainly want to keep improving. I can't stop here." — AFP



Will Genia

Wallaby Genia rates Bledisloe over World Cup

SYDNEY: Australia scrum-half Will Genia described the Bledisloe Cup against New Zealand as rugby's "pinacle" yesterday, ranking it even higher than the Rugby World Cup. The Wallabies have not won the trans-Tasman series since 2002 and Genia is hungry for victory after playing in seven losing Bledisloe campaigns.

"To me, I'd have to say it's the pinnacle," he told reporters as Michael Cheika's men prepare to face the All Blacks at Sydney's ANZ Stadium on Saturday. "The World Cup is obviously up there, but how often do you get to play the best team in the world three times and have to win two out of three to win a trophy?"

"I've been trying for a while now so I'm really looking forward to another crack." The influential 30-year-old said he relished the chance to prove himself against the back-to-back world champions.

"I haven't won a World Cup so I'm not going to say it's harder," he said. "But for me it's the number one pri-

ority... it would make it incredibly special if we're fortunate enough to do it." Australia won their last meeting against New Zealand in Brisbane in 2017 and Genia said they wanted to repeat that form in Saturday's first Bledisloe Test, which doubles as the opening match of the Rugby Championship.

"It's just being relentless in the pressure you apply on them, with and without the ball, and bringing that physicality as well," he said. "That was a big trademark of our game when we played them last time in Brisbane (a 23-18 win)."

Genia said the return of flanker David Pocock, who was on sabbatical for last year's series, would lift the Wallabies. "In the Rugby World Cup in 2015, he was one of the best players on the planet. He brings his ability as a player but also drives standards off the field," he said.

The Wallabies have suffered heavy defeats in the past two Bledisloe openers and playmaker Kurtley Beale said they wanted to avoid a similar fate in Sydney. The Australians played a trial match this month to ensure they did not go into the series underdone and Beale said Cheika had emphasised the need for a strong start. "In the last few training sessions, it's been spoken about a lot... focusing on trying to start the game with a bang," he said. "I'm sure that focus is going to put us in a really good position." —AFP

Caribbean sprinters take 200m races as US dominates meet

TORONTO: Caribbean sprinters swept the 200 metres races as US overall dominance continued on the final day of the North American Central American and Caribbean (NACAC) championships in Toronto on Sunday.

Trinidad and Tobago national champion Kyle Greaux spoiled the host country's chances in the men's 200m, clocking 20.11 seconds to upstage Canada's Commonwealth Games silver medalist Aaron Brown (20.20).

The women's race produced a tight finish as Olympic 400m bronze medalist Shericka Jackson of Jamaica won in 22.64 seconds, just 0.03 seconds ahead of Canadian Crystal Emmanuel. Fedrick Dacres and Shanika Ricketts added more gold for Jamaica.

Commonwealth Games champion Dacres tossed the discus 68.47 metres to defeat team mate Traves Smikle (65.46m) and Ricketts, the Commonwealth runner-up, bounded 14.25m in the women's triple jump.

But US depth prevailed with the Americans winning 11 of the 17 events, six of them by their women. Former world junior champion Shamier Little beat Jamaica's Commonwealth champion Janieve Russell in the women's 400m hurdles, the American winning in 53.32 seconds.

The US women also won the 1,500m, shot put, javelin and both relays. Former world indoor winner Marquis Dendy paced the men, winning the long jump with an opening of 8.29m, but Jamaica's Tajay Gayle made it interesting with a 8.24m leap on his last attempt.

US men also claimed the 3,000m steeplechase, where the only three contestants were Americans, the pole vault, 1,500m, and 4x400m relay. Canadian sprinters got some revenge by winning the 4x100m relay in 38.56 seconds with Brown the anchor, and Kyrone McMaster of the British Virgin Islands topped 400m hurdlers in 48.18 to add to his Commonwealth Games title. — Reuters

Sports

Chicago Cubs stun Nationals on David Bote's walk-off slam

Cardinals trounce Royals to finish three-game sweep

CHICAGO: David Bote slugged a pinch-hit, walk-off grand slam with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning to give the Chicago Cubs a dramatic 4-3 victory over the Washington Nationals on Sunday night at Wrigley Field. Bote hammered a low 2-2 fastball from Washington right-hander Ryan Madson (2-5) well over the fence in center field to turn an apparent shutout loss into a memorable victory. The stunning turnaround boosted Chicago's lead in the National League Central to three games over the second-place Milwaukee Brewers. Washington was in good shape entering the ninth after right-hander Max Scherzer struck out 11 over seven shutout innings, Mark Reynolds hit a sacrifice fly and Ryan Zimmerman delivered a two-run single to give the Nationals a 3-0 edge.

RED SOX 4, ORIOLES 1

Chris Sale returned from the disabled list in style, striking out 12 in five innings, and Steve Pearce homered as Boston completed a four-game sweep at Baltimore. Sale, back from shoulder inflammation, made his first start since July 27. The left-hander did not allow a run and gave up just one hit and no walks. Sale (12-4) fanned at least two each inning. He has won seven consecutive decisions.

ROCKIES 4, DODGERS 3

Chris Iannetta drew a bases-loaded walk in the bottom of the ninth inning, and Colorado beat Los Angeles in Denver. Charlie Blackmon homered, DJ LeMahieu scored twice, including the winning run, and Wade Davis (2-6) got the win with a scoreless inning of relief. In the ninth, LeMahieu hit a leadoff single off Dylan Floro (4-3) and went to second on an error by Dodgers right fielder Yasiel Puig. A strikeout, an intentional walk, a groundout and another intentional walk loaded the bases. Floro then walked Iannetta on five pitches to give Colorado its third consecutive win and second in a row in walk-off fashion.

MARINERS 4, ASTROS 3 (10 INNINGS)

Mitch Haniger capped a terrific series with an RBI double in the 10th inning as Seattle completed a four-game sweep at Houston. Haniger drove home Dee Gordon with his hit off Roberto Osuna (1-1) and closed the series 9-for-17 batting from the leadoff spot. Gordon stroked a one-out single off Osuna to start the rally and set the table for Mariners closer Edwin Diaz to record his 46th save on the season and fourth of the series. Seattle drew to within four games of the Astros in the American League West. Houston has been swept in consecutive series at home, dropping eight straight games at Minute Maid Park.

A'S 8, ANGELS 7

Jed Lowrie's two-run home run capped a four-run fourth inning to help lift Oakland past Los Angeles in Anaheim, Calif. Lowrie also doubled in the game as part of Oakland's 12-hit attack. Marcus Semien had three hits while Nick Martini and Matt Olson each added two more. The A's won two of three in the series and moved

to within 2 1/2 games of the Houston Astros for first place in the American League West. Fernando Rodney (4-2), the fifth of six Oakland relievers, got the victory in his second appearance with Oakland after being traded from Minnesota on Thursday.

GIANTS 4, PIRATES 3

Dereck Rodriguez limited Pittsburgh to one run in seven innings, pitching host San Francisco Giants to a victory. Nick Hundley and Joe Panik drove in two runs apiece for the Giants, who salvaged a split in the four-game series. Rodriguez (6-1) allowed a second-inning run on doubles by Josh Bell and Elias Diaz, the only two hits he allowed in his outing. He left with a 4-1 lead, having walked one and struck out four. The win was the fifth straight for Rodriguez, who hasn't lost since June 9.

PADRES 9, PHILLIES 3

Freddy Galvis hit the first grand slam of his career, and Joey Lucchesi blanked Philadelphia over six innings as host San Diego won the rubber match of a three-game series. The win gave the Padres a 3-3 split of the season series against Philadelphia, which slipped back into a tie with Atlanta for the National League East lead. Lucchesi (6-6) allowed two hits and three walks with six strikeouts. Travis Jankowski and Eric Hosmer each had two hits for the Padres, and Jankowski scored three runs.

CARDINALS 8, ROYALS 2

Yadier Molina hit a bases-loaded, two-run single in the seventh inning, and Tyson Ross pitched six innings in his debut for St. Louis, which completed a three-game sweep at Kansas City, Mo. Ross (7-9) made his first start since Aug. 3 after being acquired off waivers from San Diego last week. He allowed two runs on four hits. He was pressed into action when originally scheduled starter Luke Weaver was scratched due to an injured right hand. Molina's hit helped the Cardinals win their fifth consecutive game and improve to 17-9 since interim manager Mike Shildt took over for Mike Matheny on July 15.

YANKEES 7, RANGERS 2

Giancarlo Stanton homered again. CC Sabathia allowed just one hit in six scoreless innings, and New York dumped visiting Texas. Stanton homered in the first inning for the second straight game and for the fifth time in six games. Limited to starting as the designated hitter because of left hamstring tightness, Stanton reached 30 homers for the fifth time in his career. Sabathia (7-4) allowed only an infield single in the second inning. He struck out seven and walked three as the Yankees won for the sixth time in seven games.

INDIANS 9, WHITE SOX 7

Melky Cabrera went 2-for-4 with a home run and three RBIs, and Cleveland held on for a win at Chicago. Jason Kipnis and Yandy Diaz drove in two runs apiece for the Indians, who erupted for 14 hits. Cleveland claimed the series and has won seven of its past nine games. Adam



CHICAGO: David Bote #13 of the Chicago Cubs celebrates his walk-off grand slam as Ryan Zimmerman #11 of the Washington Nationals looks on at Wrigley Field on Sunday in Chicago, Illinois. The Chicago Cubs won 4-3. — AFP

Engel tripled, homered and drove in three runs for Chicago. Yolmer Sanchez also homered for the White Sox, who rallied with four runs in the ninth inning but fell short.

BRAVES 8, BREWERS 7

Ozzie Albies' seventh-inning solo shot was the deciding blow as Atlanta edged visiting Milwaukee. Albies connected on the second pitch from Dan Jennings (4-4) for his 21st homer of the season. The Braves won two of the three games in the series. Atlanta also got two-run homers from Ronald Acuna Jr. and Dansby Swanson. Jonny Venters (2-1) earned his first victory with the Braves since being acquired from Tampa Bay at the trade deadline.

DIAMONDBACKS 9, REDS 2

Paul Goldschmidt hit two of Arizona's five homers, and Zack Godley won his fourth consecutive decision as the Diamondbacks won at Cincinnati to salvage the finale of a three-game series. Daniel Descalso hit a three-run homer in the first inning to give the Diamondbacks a lead they never lost. Goldschmidt hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning, and Eduardo Escobar, Goldschmidt and David Peralta all homered in a four-run ninth. Descalso and Goldschmidt also doubled and had three RBIs apiece, and Jon Jay had two singles and scored twice as the Diamondbacks remained atop the NL West. Peralta has five homers in his last 10 games.

TIGERS 4, TWINS 2

Matt Boyd allowed only three baserunners in six innings, and Jeimer Candelario had two hits, a run and an RBI as Detroit downed visiting Minnesota. Boyd (7-10) limited the Twins to one run, two hits and a walk while striking out three. Shane Greene pitched the ninth for his 25th save as Detroit took two of three during the weekend series. Twins starter Kohl Stewart (0-1) was charged with three runs on eight hits in 4 1/3 innings during his major league debut.

METS 4, MARLINS 3

Jose Reyes and Michael Conforto homered to lead New York to a win at Miami. Reyes hit a two-run shot, and Conforto hit a solo shot. Noah Syndergaard (8-2) allowed seven hits, two walks and three runs in seven innings, striking out seven. He is 5-0 with a 1.96 ERA in seven career starts against Miami. Seth Lugo pitched a scoreless ninth to earn his first career save.

BLUE JAYS 2, RAYS 1

Toronto avoided a three-game sweep at the hands of visiting Tampa Bay thanks to a two-run sixth inning. Devon Travis and Randal Grichuk picked up the RBIs in the decisive rally. Jaime Garcia (3-6) pitched a perfect sixth in relief, striking out two, to earn the win. Ken Giles pitched a flawless ninth to earn his first save with the Blue Jays after having 12 with the Houston Astros. — Reuters

India agonises over 'humiliating' Lord's disaster

NEW DELHI: India's media yesterday lashed out at "abysmal batting" that led to a crushing innings defeat by England in the second Test at Lord's.

Mail Today called India's performance a "humiliating defeat" while The Hindu newspaper's headline said "Another abysmal batting display sends India to its doom" after the team were bowled out for 107 and 130. The tourists lost by an innings and 159 runs to go 2-0 down in the five Test series. Indian writers lambasted India's batsmen while hailing England's pace spearhead James Anderson who took nine wickets in the match. A Hindustan Times headline read: "India shamed at Lord's as bastmen surrender again". "For the World No.1 Test team that vowed to play aggressive cricket, its credentials in tough overseas conditions lay tattered amid a batting crisis," the newspaper added. The Times of India headlined its story "India turn paupers at Lord's." It hailed Anderson as England's "crafty maestro." India's batting legend Sachin Tendulkar praised the England pacemen and Chris Woakes for his 137 not out.

"An all-round performance by England. Excellent spells of fast bowling by @jimmy9 and @StuartBroad8, with a fine performance by @chriswoakes," Tendulkar wrote on Twitter.

"We've got to pull up our socks and produce better cricket India." While India's captain Virat Kohli offered no excuses for the capitulation, Indian commentators highlighted how the Indian top order has faltered in all four Test innings so far with opener Murali Vijay getting a pair at Lord's and Test specialist Cheteshwar Pujara failing to fire.

Former Test batsman VVS Laxman said on Twitter that "caught in unfavourable conditions, not reading what the opposition threw, saw India lose the Lord's Test tamely without showing a fight."

"Hopefully lessons are learned quickly and the rest of the batsmen start applying themselves going forward." Veteran commentator Harsha Bhogle said: "The new ball is a big factor overseas. When the openers blunt the new ball, they give life to the middle order. India is getting nothing from its openers and that is where the comeback, if there is one, has to start." — AFP



BRISTOL: England cricketer Ben Stokes (C) and his wife Clare (L) leave Bristol Crown Court as the trial breaks for the day, in Bristol, south-west England yesterday, during his trial on charges of affray. — AFP

No recall for Stokes as England name unchanged squad

LONDON: Ben Stokes was again omitted as England named an unchanged 13-man squad yesterday for the third Test against India at Trent Bridge starting Saturday, where victory would see them clinch the series. Stokes's ongoing trial on a charge of affray in Bristol saw him left out by England as they thrashed India by an innings and 159 runs in the second Test at Lord's on Sunday to go 2-0 up with three to play in the five-match campaign.

However, a brief statement issued by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said they would review Stokes's position following the conclusion of the trial,

which is expected to end before the third Test starts.

"The ECB will make an assessment of Ben Stokes's availability after the trial in Bristol has concluded," the statement said. Fellow pace-bowling all-rounder Chris Woakes, who took Stokes's place, starred with both bat and ball in a man-of-the-match display at Lord's.

Woakes made 137 not out, his maiden Test century, and also took four wickets as England overpowered India, the world's top-ranked Test side. By naming the same squad, England retained uncapped Essex paceman Jamie Porter and off-spinner Moeen Ali, both of whom missed out on a place in their XI that played at Lord's. England squad for the third Test against India at Trent Bridge, August 18-22:

Alastair Cook (Essex), Keaton Jennings (Lancashire), Joe Root (Yorkshire, capt), Ollie Pope (Surrey), Jonny Bairstow (Yorkshire, wkt), Jos Buttler (Lancashire), Chris Woakes (Warwickshire), Sam Curran (Surrey), Adil Rashid (Yorkshire), Stuart Broad (Nottinghamshire), James Anderson (Lancashire), Moeen Ali (Worcestershire), Jamie Porter (Essex). — AFP

Carmelo Anthony to officially join Rockets

ATLANTA: Carmelo Anthony is formally joining the Houston Rockets on a one-year, \$2.4 million deal. ESPN reported the long-discussed formality would become official yesterday. Anthony, a 10-time All-Star who was waived July 30 by the Atlanta Hawks, has been working out daily with Rockets point guard Chris Paul and MVP James Harden.

Anthony, 34, was amenable to a partial mid-level exception as his base salary after being one of the highest-paid players in the NBA last season and also receiving a buyout of his 2018-19 contract. Anthony receives the entire \$27.9 million due from his previous deal.

Entering his 16th NBA season, Anthony has a career scoring average of 24.1 points per game with the Denver Nuggets, New York Knicks and Oklahoma City Thunder. Last season, unaccustomed to his role as power forward and playing alongside Russell Westbrook and Paul George, he averaged a career-low 16.2 points in 32.1 minutes in his lone season for the Thunder.

Anthony could be vital to the Rockets, who lost forwards Trevor Ariza (Suns) and Luc Mbah a Moute (Clippers) in free agency. The Hawks acquired Anthony on July 25 as part of a three-team transaction, with Atlanta also receiving a protected 2022 first-round draft pick from the Thunder and Justin Anderson from the Philadelphia 76ers.

To complete the trade, the Hawks traded Mike Muscala to Philadelphia and Dennis Schroder to Oklahoma City, and Timothe Luwawu-Cabarrot moved from Philadelphia to Oklahoma City.

The Rockets created a roster opening by trading forward Chinanu Onuaku and cash to the Dallas Mavericks for center Maarty Leunen and the right to swap second-round draft picks in 2020. Onuaku played in six NBA games over the past two seasons and averaged 3.0 points and 2.3 rebounds. Leunen, who turns 33 next month, has yet to appear in the NBA. — Reuters

Sports

Barcelona fight back to defeat Sevilla to win Spanish Supercup

Barcelona's 13th Supercup and sixth in the last nine seasons

TANGIERS: Barcelona battled back to defeat Sevilla 2-1 and win the Spanish Supercup on Sunday with French World Cup winner Ousmane Dembele hitting a sensational winner to help give Lionel Messi a winning start as captain.

It was Barcelona's 13th Supercup and sixth in the last nine seasons. However, Sevilla squandered a golden chance to send the match into extra-time when Wissam Ben Yedder missed a last-minute penalty.

Pablo Sarabia gave Sevilla the lead after just nine minutes on a counter-attack. Gerard Pique, who announced his international retirement with Spain on Saturday, levelled three minutes before the interval for Barcelona after he was fastest to respond to a loose ball following a Messi free-kick.

That set the stage for French star Dembele to take the headlines with a 78th minute screamer from 25 yards and again Messi played a crucial role with the key pass.

There was still time for late drama when Barca goalkeeper Marc-Andre Ter Stegen brought down Aleix Vidal in the area as the Sevilla youngster closed in on an equaliser. But Ben Yedder hit a weak penalty which

was easily saved by Ter Stegen.

The match had endured a controversial build-up when Sevilla threatened to file a complaint against Barcelona if the La Liga champions fielded more than three non-EU players.

The Spanish football federation (RFEF) said on Saturday that there would be no restrictions on players from outside the EU for the Supercup, despite only three being allowed in squads for league matches.

Sevilla said they could file a complaint if Barca name an "improper lineup" in Tangier. New signings Malcom, Arturo Vidal and Arthur were expected to be Barca's three non-EU players on Sunday, although Brazilian centre-back Marlon also travelled with the squad.

In the end, 21-year-old winger Malcom, signed from Bordeaux in the summer, was left out of the match day line-up. Philippe Coutinho has reportedly acquired a Portuguese passport through his wife in the last week, while his fellow South Americans Messi and Luis Suarez are already EU citizens.

Sevilla qualified for Sunday's match as last season's Copa del Rey runners-up, after Barcelona won the league and cup double. — AFP



Super Cup hero Dembele hits a sensational winner



TANGIERS: Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi (C) carries the cup as they celebrate at the end of the Spanish Super Cup final between Sevilla FC and FC Barcelona at Ibn Batouta Stadium in the Moroccan city of Tangiers on Sunday. Barcelona defeated Sevilla 2-1 to win the Spanish Super Cup. — AFP

Lewandowski hat-trick leads Bayern to Frankfurt cup revenge

FRANKFURT: A brilliant hat-trick from Robert Lewandowski led Bayern Munich to a comfortable 5-0 victory over Eintracht Frankfurt in Sunday's German Supercup, giving former Frankfurt coach Niko Kovac a memorable start to his reign at the Bavarian giants.

Kovac returned to Frankfurt for his first competitive game in charge of the Bundesliga winners, having ended two successful years at Eintracht with a shock win

over Bayern in last season's German Cup final.

Yet there was no time for sentimentality on Sunday, as Bayern took brutal revenge for their cup humiliation, Lewandowski leaving the Frankfurt defence in tatters.

"It was a really good performance today, we scored at all the right moments," Kovac told ZDF.

"Of course I feel some sympathy for my former players and my former club, but I think it will still be a good season for Frankfurt. "I am very optimistic for this season. I have a great team and a lot of strength in depth."

A ruthless Bayern took the lead with their first chance on 21 minutes. Joshua Kimmich's cross picked out Lewandowski at the far post and the Polish star fired a header across Frederik Roennow in the Frankfurt goal. The striker nodded in a second from almost exactly the same position five minutes later, heading Arjen Robben's corner past the stranded Roennow.

The game could have turned in Frankfurt's favour just before half-time when Mats Hummels escaped with a yellow card after bringing down Mijat Gacinovic in

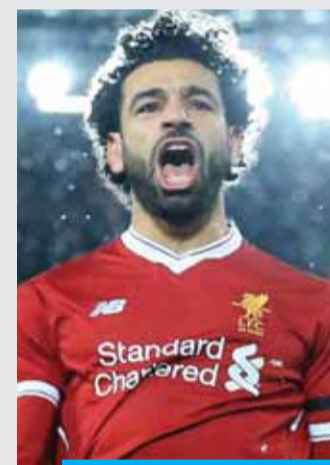
front of goal. At the other end, Lewandowski faced increasingly rough treatment from the Frankfurt defence, and Eintracht captain David Abraham was also lucky to escape a red card when he appeared to elbow the Polish striker late in the game.

There was no stopping Lewandowski, however, who danced free of Abraham to rifle in his third goal on 54 minutes. Kovac's perfect evening was sealed in the 63rd minute when Kingsley Coman bundled in Bayern's fourth. The new Bayern coach had focused on low crosses in training the week before, and watched happily on as David Alaba's low cross found Coman at the far post to make it 4-0.

Thiago delivered the final flourish five minutes from time, gratefully receiving a pass from Coman to slot home Bayern's fifth. Sandro Wagner could even have made it six, missing an open goal from two yards out, but that didn't stop Bayern celebrating a winning start under Kovac and a successfully defended Supercup title. — AFP

Egyptian fans hope for more Salah magic

CAIRO: As Mohamed Salah took to the field for the start of the new Premier League season, fans in his native Egypt prayed Sunday for another miracle campaign from the talismanic striker. Two dozen members of the local Liverpool supporters club gathered in a Cairo cafe to clap, cheer and celebrate as their hero got off to a winning start some 4,000 kilometres (2,500 miles) away.



Mohamed Salah

"We used to struggle to find places to watch Liverpool play," die-hard Reds fan Seif Mahdi, 18, told AFP. "But now everywhere shows it—you just have to tell them you want to watch Salah play." The reason for the excitement is obvious—last season the Egyptian star smashed a string of records as he scored 44 goals for his English club.

Those performances propelled Salah into the elite of world football and helped cement his status as an icon back home. Now his image stares down at the inhabitants of Cairo from adverts plastered along the traffic-clogged streets of the capital city.

His popularity has also helped turn Liverpool from a team few Egyptians knew much about to the most talked about foreign club in this country of some 100 million people. That's a strange feeling for the Liverpool fan club members who cheered on the team long before Salah's arrival. The supporters association in Egypt now boasts over 12,000 members.

"Before, I was unique and special when I told people who I supported," said business student Omar Nabil, 24. "But now Egyptians are really supporting Liverpool."

Sports shop owner Karim Nasr has seen the surge in Liverpool's popularity first hand. At his store in the Cairo district of Maadi, the club's shirts are the only ones that have run out of stock. "Over the summer months we sold more than 1,000 of them," he said.

"And every day we are getting requests for the new shirt that we are still waiting to receive in the shop." Right now, Egyptian football fans might be in need of a pick up after a summer that once looked so promising turned out to be highly forgettable.

After qualifying for the World Cup for the first time in 28 years hopes were high that Salah could help them make an impact in Russia. But a devastating injury in the Champions League final left Salah unfit and Egypt eventually crashed out after three losses.

"People felt huge expectation for the World Cup and so were very disappointed," said Hatem Maher, sports editor at Ahram Online website. "There was even some criticism of Salah, which is rare, but this has faded now and people are excited about the new season."

After watching the opening game of the new campaign, the Liverpool fans at the Cairo cafe were even more hopeful that their man could repeat the feats of last term. And maybe even go one better by helping Liverpool finally win the Premier League title.

Salah tapped in the club's first goal of the season to set his team on its way to a comfortable 4-0 victory over West Ham. "He's not a one-season wonder—he is top class," said Liverpool fan Mahdi. "Who knows, maybe he will do it again." — AFP

Real face up to life without Ronaldo

MADRID: Following up Zinedine Zidane's treble Champions League success with Real Madrid was always going to be a difficult job for Julen Lopetegui, but having to do it without Cristiano Ronaldo is a monumental challenge.

Real Madrid finished third in La Liga last season after a thoroughly disappointing campaign, 17 points behind arch-rivals and champions Barcelona, but Zidane papered over the cracks by guiding the team to a third European cup in a row.

The coach decided to walk away while he was on top and his surprise departure in May was followed by another, as Ronaldo joined Juventus. Over the previous nine years Ronaldo was crowned the best footballer in the world five times, helping Real Madrid to four Champions Leagues, with 450 goals in 438 games for the club.

However, in that period Ronaldo only won La Liga in 2012 and 2017, often losing out to Lionel Messi's Barcelona. While Barcelona have reinforced in the transfer window, Real have not replaced Ronaldo and have found it hard to secure their reported targets.

They have only added Real Sociedad defender Alvaro Odriozola and Chelsea goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, who is expected to replace Keylor Navas in the team and they can also use young Brazilian forward Vinicius Junior, although he is primarily expected to feature for the B team.

Los Blancos need both Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema to step up a level to cover for Ronaldo's absence and Marco Asensio will also be given a more prominent role. Lopetegui, sacked by Spain on the eve of the World Cup after Madrid announced he would take over from Zidane, was reportedly not one of the club's top choices for the role. Other coaches turned Madrid down, conscious of the difficulty of following in Zidane's footsteps, but Lopetegui said taking over was the happiest day of his life. "It's an exciting challenge reinventing the team without Ronaldo, making it competitive and capable of winning titles," said Lopetegui. "I have no doubt that it will happen with these players that we have."

Madrid president Florentino Perez has not proved patient at the best of times and if Lopetegui does not deliver on those words his time in the Spanish capital may be quickly curtailed. An early test against crosstown rivals Atletico Madrid in the European Super Cup on Aug. 15 may set the tone for the Spanish coach. Win and the transition begins smoothly, lose and worries will surface. — Reuters



PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian forward Neymar (L) controls the ball as he vies for it with Caen's Congolese midfielder Prince Oniangue (R) during the French L1 football match between Paris Saint-Germain and Caen on Sunday at the Parc des Princes, in Paris. — AFP

Neymar on the mark as PSG up and running under Tuchel

PARIS: Neymar scored his first goal for Paris Saint-Germain since February as the French champions kicked off the new Ligue 1 season with a 3-0 defeat of Caen on Sunday. The Brazilian star, who scored 19 times in 20 league games before fracturing his foot last season, struck just 10 minutes into his first start for the club in almost six months. Adrien Rabiot netted a second for PSG before half-time and Timothy Weah, the son of 1995 Ballon d'Or winner and Liberia president George Weah, rounded out the victory with his first league goal.

Gianluigi Buffon also produced a couple of sharp saves on his home bow in goal for PSG as coach Thomas Tuchel made a winning start at the Parc des Princes. "We played a good match with lots of intensity, especially in the first half. In the second half we managed things a bit more because we're not yet at 100%," PSG captain Thiago Silva told Canal+. "Some players arrived late (for pre-season) and are not ready, like myself for example. At the end of the match I had lots of cramps, but well done to all the team for the match we played today. We're going to make more progress."

German Tuchel, who replaced Unai Emery on a two-year deal, was without a host of first-team regulars as PSG's trio of World Cup winners—Kylian Mbappe, Presnel Kimpembe and Alphonse Areola—showed off the trophy to fans before kick-off. Edinson Cavani and Marco Verratti were also absent as Tuchel handed starts to youngsters Colin Dagba and Stanley N'Soki in defence, and fellow 19-year-old Antoine Bernede in midfield. After appearing in a

15-minute cameo at the end of last weekend's 4-0 rout of Monaco in the Champions Trophy in China, Neymar made a long-awaited return to the line-up in Paris. He needed little time to leave his mark as Caen goalkeeper Brice Samba was punished for a sloppy pass, with Christopher Nkunku setting Neymar up for a calm, side-footed finish on his left foot. Buffon, who was expected to retire at the end of last season before electing for a new adventure abroad, became the oldest PSG player in Ligue 1 history at 40 years and six months. The 2006 World Cup winner was called into action for the first time midway through the opening period when Malik Tchokounte's firm volley forced Buffon to punch to safety.

BUFFON BAILS OUT SILVA

Angel Di Maria, on target twice in the victory over Monaco, laid the ball on a plate for Rabiot to add PSG's second on 35 minutes. The Argentine winger's acceleration took him past Alexander Djiku and into the Caen area where he crossed for a charging Rabiot to tap in from close range.

Silva was indebted to the quick reflexes of Buffon on the stroke of half-time when an attempt to head clear a cross left his keeper scrambling to turn the ball behind. Stef Peeters had Buffon beaten after the break when his free-kick smacked against the inside of the post, while a combination of Samba and the woodwork then denied Weah on 85 minutes. But the US international pounced on another mistake by Samba a minute from time, Weah forcing the ball over the line after catching the Caen keeper in possession.

Earlier, Bertrand Traore and Memphis Depay scored for Lyon in a 2-0 victory over Amiens. Burkina Faso forward Traore fired Lyon ahead on 24 minutes when he broke down the right side of the area and sneaked the ball through the legs of Amiens goalkeeper Regis Gurtner. Nabil Fekir, who came on as a substitute in France's 4-2 win against Croatia in last month's World Cup final, was not included in the Lyon squad having only returned to training on Monday. Bruno Genesio's side coped without their captain as Dutch star Depay made the points safe with a terrific 20-yard free-kick on 75 minutes. — AFP

25 Brooks Koepka holds off Woods to win 100th PGA Championship



26 No recall for Stokes as England name unchanged squad



27 Barcelona fight back to defeat Sevilla to win Spanish Supercup



Nadal topples Tsitsipas in Toronto final

Greek fans sing Happy Birthday to Tsitsipas



TORONTO: Rafael Nadal of Spain with the champions trophy following his win in the final match against Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece on Day 7 of the Rogers Cup at Aviva Centre on Sunday in Toronto, Canada. — AFP

TORONTO: Rafael Nadal held off a late surge from birthday boy Stefanos Tsitsipas to claim the 80th title of his career with victory at the Toronto Masters on Sunday. Nadal overcame a second set fightback from Greek youngster Tsitsipas to claim a 6-2, 7-6 (7/4) victory in just under 1hr 45mins.

The win gave the 32-year-old Spaniard a record-extending 33rd trophy at the elite Masters level as well as his 80th title.

However Nadal later raised doubts about he would be chasing an 81st title at next week's event in Cincinnati, refusing to confirm that he would play the event as scheduled. "Will I play in Cincinnati? I

can't answer to you right now," Nadal said.

Earlier, a vocal crowd of local flag-waving Greek fans had sang Happy Birthday to the 20-year-old Tsitsipas as Nadal reflected on a successful campaign. "I feel I've improved every match, it's important to win even if you're not at your best," Nadal said as he prepares for the US Open later this month.

"It's been almost 10 years (2010) since I last played in Toronto," Nadal said of the event which comes to the city in even-number years as it trades with Montreal. "This trophy means a lot."

The loss concluded the tennis week of his life for

Tsitsipas, who beat four Top 10 opponent in a row to reach the final. "It's been an amazing week for me," he said. "This trophy means a lot after playing my first Masters 1000 final. "Rafa is amazing, he never cracks. He will always grab you like a bulldog and he will always make you suffer on the court."

"He was (once) normal like all of us, and he managed to become this beast, this monster that he is today. "That's how you feel when you play against him." Tsitsipas is taking the lesson he learned on court to heart: "I'm really hungry for more. I believe I can achieve much more this year. "Although I lost today, I feel like I can still beat good players. I really

want to make more points this year and get the best out of myself." Nadal added the Canadian honour to the titles he won in 2005, 2008 and 2013. The final featured a plot twist at the end, with Nadal broken while serving for victory leading a set and 5-4.

Tsitsipas would not buckle, making it 5-5 as Nadal hit the net, with the set finally going into a tiebreaker. Nadal regained control, earning a match point on a Tsitsipas forehand error.

The Spanish world number one concluded victory with a forehand winner deep into the corner. He now owns five titles this season and has clinched the first spot in the year-end finals in London. — AFP

Halep beats Stephens to take Montreal crown

MONTREAL: World number one Simona Halep held her nerve in a rollercoaster duel with Sloane Stephens Sunday to win the WTA Montreal crown for the second time. In a gruelling 2hr 41min battle, French Open champion Halep prevailed 7-6 (8/6), 3-6, 6-4 over Stephens in a repeat of the duo's meeting in the final of Roland Garros earlier this year.

The victory was Halep's 18th career title and her second in Montreal following her success in 2016. The 26-year-old sealed the win with an ace on her fourth match point, capping an enthralling duel marked by several momentum swings. Halep had taken the first set on a tie-break, after saving four set points against American third seed Stephens.

Halep made the stronger start, dictating rallies from the baseline to race into a 4-1 lead after twice breaking Stephens in the opening five games. Yet reigning US Open champion Stephens rallied superbly to claw her way back into the contest, breaking twice to level at 4-4. That however proved to be the cue for Halep to respond, breaking back after a net cord sat up inviting-

ly for the Romanian, who crushed a winner into the corner for 5-4. Another poor service game from Halep though gave the initiative back to Stephens, who broke for 5-5 and then held for a 6-5 lead. Stephens appeared to be closing in on the first set in the next game, when a wild forehand from Halep-her 20th unforced error-handed her opponent two set points. But Halep dug deep to save both points and then forced the tie-break. Stephens again looked to be on the brink of the first set after surging into a 5-1 lead which soon became 6-4 in the tiebreak. But once again the American was unable to seal the deal, Halep recovering to win the next four points for 8-6.

Stephens responded brilliantly in the second set however, breaking Halep twice in the first three games before advancing into a 5-3 lead. Once again though Stephens appeared to be on her way to squandering the momentum, wasting three set points in the ninth game before finally converting her to force a decisive third set. Both players traded early breaks in the decider before Halep secured the 13th break of the match in the fifth game for a 3-2 lead. A hold left her 4-2 up and she bagged another break in the seventh game to go 5-2 ahead when Stephens wearily duffed a straightforward volley into the net.

Stephens refused to go quietly though, saving a match point before breaking for 5-3, and then saving two more match points to hold. Halep was not to be denied however, thumping down an ace to seal a memorable win on her next service game. — AFP



MONTREAL: Sloane Stephens (L) and Simona Halep of Romania (R) hold their trophies after competing in the final round during day seven of the Rogers Cup at IGA Stadium on Sunday in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Simona Halep of Romania defeated Sloane Stephens 7-6, 3-6, 6-4. — AFP