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Kuwait leads tributes to former US president George HW Bush

Amir, top state officials mourn death of Kuwait's liberation hero

US Embassy statement

Condolences for George HW Bush

KUWAIT: We regret to announce the passing of former US President George HW Bush on Nov 30, 2018, in the United States, at 94 years of age. US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman and the entire staff of the US Embassy express their deepest condolences to the family of former President Bush. The Embassy will open a condolence book for all those would like to visit the Embassy to express their sympathies and honor his memory. The book will be open beginning on Sunday, Dec 2, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Monday, Dec 3 from 10 am to 2 pm and Tuesday, Dec 4, 10 am to 2 pm.

President George HW Bush dedicated his life to serving his country and the American public in the military, in domestic politics and foreign affairs. He was truly a "point of light" who inspired others to public service. He was a devoted husband and dedicated father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Sworn in as the 41st President of the United States on Jan 20, 1989, George Herbert Walker Bush helped usher in a more hopeful geopolitical era marked by the spread of freedom.

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KUWAIT/WASHINGTON: Kuwait paid tribute to former US president George HW Bush yesterday, saying his support during the first Gulf War "will not be forgotten". Bush, who helped steer America through the end of the Cold War, died Friday at age 94, his family announced. Kuwaitis have long expressed their gratitude to the late 41st president for backing the state following Iraq's 1990 invasion. In the wake of the war, many stuck bumper stickers on their cars of Bush standing in front of an American flag, and a few even named their children after him.

In a letter to US President Donald Trump, HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah praised Bush's

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"historic and courageous stance... and his rejection of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait from the early hours", including the decisive decisions taken by the American administration under the leadership of Bush and his pivotal role in forming an international coalition mandated by the UN to liberate Kuwait. His support "will remain in Kuwait's collective memory and will not be forgotten," he added. "On behalf of the Kuwaiti government and people, I express my deepest condolences and utmost sympathy."

HH the Amir sent similar cables of condolences to President George W Bush, the 43rd President of the United States of America, and the deceased president's family. 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 Trump. First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent cables of

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KUWAIT: A man gestures between Kuwaiti and American flags as the Kuwait Towers are lit up with images of former US president George HW Bush yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Mine blast wounds motorist; 761 rain damage claims filed

KUWAIT: A landmine blew up in Jraishan in northern Kuwait yesterday, injuring the Kuwaiti driver of a vehicle and setting it ablaze, the interior ministry said in a statement. The injured citizen was taken to hospital for treatment. The ministry has received over the past days many reports about unfamiliar objects, suspected to be abandoned military ordnance, the statement said, adding that experts were immediately dispatched to the locations and "tackled them".

The ministry urged citizens and residents to call 112 if they find unfamiliar objects. The ministry, along with other Kuwaiti authorities, has repeatedly urged for caution after recent torrential rain swamped many areas and caused sand drifting, uncovering military ordnance including mines.

Most of the ordnance, located on Kuwaiti territories, were left behind by the Iraqi troops that invaded

Kuwait in August 1990, starting a seven-month occupation of the country.

Meanwhile, compensation claims filed for rain damage reached 761 cases, including real estate, vehicles and furniture loss claims, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh announced yesterday. She added in press remarks that the process of receiving people affected by the heavy rains is well organized at the compensations committee headquarters in Shamiya.

The committee gives priority to Kuwaitis and to those with damaged houses and vehicles, Sabeeh said. She denied offering any financial compensation to the affected people yet, indicating that this stage is only for receiving inquiries and checking that they meet all requirements and are in accordance with the legal procedures followed. The government is giving the matter extra care, making sure to offer victims suitable payments that cover the damage they suffered. This committee will ensure justice towards the compensation demands, assuring those who incurred losses due to the recent deluge that they would receive an appropriate recompense. — KUNA

Qout Market slams 'arbitrary' closure by Municipality

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Municipality yesterday shut down the locally-developed Qout Market minutes before its opening in the parking lot of Discovery Mall in Kuwait City. Organizers of the market said the Municipality's actions were "arbitrary", adding that they didn't receive any warnings prior to the closure. "To explain, there is no license for outdoor markets in Kuwaiti law. Every year we go to see the head of Kuwait Municipality and have a conversation," said

Qout Market founders Budour Al-Qassar and Noaf Hussein in a statement published on social media.

"We have been trying to get the government to add a new license for Saturday markets, and almost succeeded last year with (Minister of Commerce and Industry) Khaled Al-Roudhan. We literally wrote the law. Then they dropped it. So for this year, we wrote our usual letter to the head of Kuwait Municipality and were told as usual they would turn a blind eye," they added.

Municipality Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi released a statement in which he explained that the decision to close the market came because it "violated municipal bylaws and safety conditions". However, the organizers believe that the decision was personal. "They must have known Manfouhi does not answer his phone on weekends and we would not be able to get through to him," they said in their statement. "They came prepared, and they came on market day instead of the night before to make sure they caused as much damage and humiliation as possible."

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French police clash with 'yellow vest' protesters

PARIS: Police and anti-government protesters clashed near the Champs-Elysees and in other parts of central Paris yesterday with demonstrators hurling rocks and paint at riot police who responded with tear gas. The clashes came as thousands took part in a third weekend of "yellow vest" protests

which have morphed from anger over fuel taxes into a broader anti-government movement. Crowds of protesters gathered at the Arc de Triomphe earlier found the Champs-Elysees locked down with police manning barricades and water cannon.

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PARIS: Demonstrators destroy a car during a protest by "yellow vests" against rising oil prices and living costs on the Champs-Elysees yesterday. — AFP

Iran launches stealth warship in the Gulf

DUBAI: Iran's navy yesterday launched a domestically made destroyer, which state media said has radar-evading stealth properties, as tensions rise with arch-enemy the United States. In a ceremony carried live on state television, the Sahand destroyer - which can sustain voyages lasting five months without resupply - joined Iran's regular navy at a base in Bandar Abbas on the Gulf. The Sahand has a flight deck for helicopters, torpedo launchers, anti-aircraft and anti-ship guns, surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles and electronic warfare capabilities, state television reported.

US President Donald Trump pulled out of an international agreement on Iran's nuclear program in May and reimposed sanctions on Tehran. He said the deal was flawed because it did not include curbs on Iran's development of ballistic missiles or its support for proxies in Syria, Yemen, Lebanon and Iraq. The United States has said its goal is to reduce Iran's oil exports to zero. Senior Iranian officials have said that if Iran is not allowed to export then no other countries will be allowed to export oil through the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf.

"This vessel is the result of daring and creative design relying on the local technical knowledge of the Iranian Navy... and has been built with stealth capabilities," Rear-Admiral Alireza Sheikhi, head of the navy shipyards that built the destroyer, told the state news agency IRNA.

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Qatari female 'pioneers' bask in filmmaking spotlight

DOHA: As Qatari filmmakers gathered on the red carpet at Doha's Ajyal Film Festival one thing stood out - the

majority of local directors are women. "I think this is a question that everyone is mesmerized by: the idea that we have more women in filmmaking here in Doha than men," said festival director Fatma Al-Remaihi. Among those showing movies at the annual six-day festival were Aisha Al-Shammakh, Nouf Al-Sulaiti and the rising star of Qatari cinema, Amal Al-Muftah.

Their films focus on a variety of subjects, from "marginalized" Qatari millennials and father-daughter relationships

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DOHA: This image grab taken from a handout video on Nov 27, 2018 shows Qatari film director Amal Al-Muftah (left) speaking with actresses on-set during the filming of a short film at an undisclosed location. — AFP

Obituary

Bush's single White House term shaped US history for decades

Bush ousts Iraqi forces from Kuwait

WASHINGTON: He was president for only four years, but George HW Bush shaped US history for decades, taking on tough jobs from Beijing to the CIA, ousting Iraqi forces from Kuwait, sealing a breakthrough budget deal that cost him an election and fathering a future president. He died on Friday at the age of 94, his family said. His passing came seven months after the April 17, 2018, death of his wife, Barbara, to whom he was married for 73 years.

His presidency, which ran from 1989 to 1993, was defined by two events - his aggressive response to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, and the soon-to-be-broken "read my lips" pledge he made not to raise taxes while running for president in 1988. At a time when the Cold War was ending and the influence of Soviet-style communism was waning, Bush's military and diplomatic actions firmly cast the United States as the world's leading superpower.

After Bush emphatically said Saddam's aggression "will not stand," US-led forces routed Iraq's army in the Gulf War, driving it from Kuwait while stopping short of taking Baghdad, Iraq's capital. Bush's popularity rating among Americans soared to about 90 percent. Twenty months later, in 1992, the Republican Bush lost his bid for re-election to Democrat Bill Clinton, whose folksy manner and focus on the economy struck a chord with many Americans and made Bush seem disconnected from voters for focusing on foreign policy over domestic issues.

Despite a broad coalition that included several Arab states, US involvement in the Gulf War was seen as a violation of Arab sovereignty by some in the Middle East, and led a few militant groups - namely Osama bin Laden's recently formed Al-Qaeda - to turn their focus toward fighting US influence. A decade later, the presidency of Bush's son, George W Bush, would be jolted by Al-Qaeda's deadly hijacking attacks on the United States on Sept 11, 2001.

The Bushes were only the second father and son to serve as US presidents - the first being John Adams (1797-1801) and John Quincy Adams (1825-1829). The Bush political dynasty also included Bush's father, who was a US senator, and son Jeb, a former governor of Florida who mounted his own run for the presidency in 2015 but dropped out in February 2016 after gaining little traction. Bush did not endorse Republican Donald Trump, the eventual winner in the 2016 presidential election, who attacked both Jeb and George W Bush during his campaign. The elder Bush did not publicly say whom he voted for in the election, but a source told CNN he went for the Democratic nominee, Hillary Clinton.

'No new taxes'

George Herbert Walker Bush was a moderate Republican known for his diplomacy and ability to compromise with Democrats. He was a symbol of a relatively collegial period in Washington that nevertheless set the stage for the divisive, partisan gridlock that now plagues the U.S. capital.

When he accepted the Republican nomination for president in 1988, Bush, then Ronald Reagan's vice president, was trying to win over conservatives who had more enthusiasm for Reagan. He answered questions about his conservatism with an emphatic

pledge. "Read my lips," he told the Republican National Convention. "No new taxes."

Later as president, Bush agreed to raise taxes to help reduce the government's deficit. The reversal angered conservatives and led in 1992 to an unusual primary challenge of the incumbent president by another Republican, conservative commentator Pat Buchanan. Bush easily defeated Buchanan for the Republican nomination, but his stance on taxes, the country's debt and the lagging economy led Texas billionaire Ross Perot to launch an independent presidential campaign.

Clinton ended up winning the race with just 43 percent of the popular vote, ousting Bush from the White House after one term. Bush's loss in the 1992 election made him a cautionary tale for a generation of Republicans, a lesson that endures in today's showdowns over the federal budget and spending. Years later, in 2014, Bush was honored with the Profile in Courage Award for his 1990 budget compromise by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, which praised the "decision to put country above party and political prospects."

In issuing the award for his compromise with

Pacific, was shot down at sea and rescued by a US submarine. As the war neared an end in January 1945, Bush married his sweetheart, Barbara Pierce. They had six children. After the war, Bush rejected a Wall Street job and, aided by his father's business connections, moved to West Texas to start an oil drilling firm. He made a fortune and began a rise to national prominence by winning elections to the US House of Representatives from Texas in 1966 and 1968.

He lost two races for a US Senate seat, but Bush's star continued to rise within the Republican Party. President Richard Nixon appointed him ambassador to the United Nations in 1971, and two years later, Bush became chairman of the Republican National Committee. Another Republican president, Gerald Ford, appointed him as an envoy to China in 1974 and then director of the CIA. Bush was credited with helping to restore morale after the CIA had undergone investigations into illegal and unauthorized activities. In 1998, the agency's headquarters in Langley, Virginia, was named the George Bush Center for Intelligence.

'Voodoo economics'

Bush ran for president in 1980 and squared off in the primaries against Reagan, a former actor and California governor who cast himself as a tough-talking conservative in contrast with Democratic President Jimmy Carter. Bush defeated Reagan in several primaries and ridiculed Reagan's devotion to supply-side economics, which holds that the best way to spur growth is through lower taxes on income and capital gains. Bush called Reagan's plan "voodoo economics." Reagan eventually swept aside Bush to win the Republican nomination and then asked Bush to be his vice presidential running mate, in part to help ease concerns among independent voters about Reagan's conservative views.

After Reagan's two terms, Bush was able to campaign for the presidency as the anointed heir to Reagan's conservative mantle. Even so, Bush sought to distinguish himself from the incumbent, and reach out to those who thought Reagan's policies had been too harsh on the poor and other vulnerable people. He famously called for a "kinder, gentler nation" in his 1988 speech accepting his party's nomination. He breezed into office, thrashing the Democratic nominee, Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, in 40 of the 50 US states. Bush had been derided by political detractors as a "wimp" when he was vice president, but he did not hesitate to use force as a foreign policy tool during his presidency.

He sent paratroopers to overthrow Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega in December 1989 and provided air cover to help Philippine President Corazon Aquino survive a coup attempt the same year. Then came Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug 2, 1990. Bush's strong response and the overwhelming allied victory in forcing out Iraqi troops led for a time to a national euphoria. The war against Saddam pushed Bush to a level of unprecedented popularity that was equaled only by his son after the 9/11 attacks on America. A decade later, the younger Bush would invade Iraq and drive Saddam from power.

KENNEBUNKPORT: In this file photo, US President George W Bush (right front) waves as he fishes with his father, former US President George HW Bush (left), and his brother, Marvin Bush (right back) in Kennebunkport, ME. —AFP



Popularity rating hits 90 percent



Democrats, the foundation wrote: "Although he recognized the 1990 budget deal might doom his prospects for reelection, he did what he thought was best for the country and has since been credited with helping to lay the foundation of the economic growth of the 1990s that followed." A major accomplishment of Bush's presidency can be seen every day across America - from the cut-away curbs on street intersections to the ramps outside buildings that allow access to those confined to wheelchairs.

They were mandated by the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, the law Bush signed that barred discrimination against the disabled in the workplace and ensured them equal access to public accommodations. Bush backed the law despite concerns from some conservatives in his party about the cost and potential litigation.

A privileged upbringing

Bush was born on June 12, 1924, in Milton, Massachusetts, into a patrician New England family, the son of financier Prescott Bush, who later would be elected to the US Senate from Connecticut, and Dorothy Bush. He grew up in the posh New York City suburb of Greenwich, Connecticut, and was educated at exclusive private schools and Yale University.

Bush came to know war firsthand, leaving school at 18 to become the Navy's youngest pilot in World War Two. He flew 58 missions off carriers in the



WASHINGTON: In this file photo taken on November 05, 1988, US President Ronald Reagan (second left) raises his arms in the air with George HW Bush (second right) while First Lady Nancy Reagan (left) and Barbara Bush (right) smile, after President Reagan announced endorsement for Bush as the next president of the United States. —AFP

'The vision thing'

Beyond the flap over his raising taxes and the impact of Perot's candidacy, Bush's 1992 loss was tied to a stagnant economy that sent the US jobless rate to 7.5 percent and left Bush open to charges that Republican policies had failed. Critics cited Bush's lack of a clear vision of what he wanted to do on domestic issues - what he called the "vision thing" in his oft-fractured phrasing. Some

political analysts said Bush's re-election effort was undermined by his decision not to take advantage of his popularity after the Gulf War to propose bold domestic initiatives. "There was a period of about two weeks when we could have done anything. But it slipped away," said a mid-level aide who had argued in favor of bold, postwar programs. His lone postwar initiative was an international one. —Reuters

Tributes for former US president Bush

WASHINGTON: Tributes have poured for former US president George HW Bush following his death on Friday at the age of 94. Here are excerpts of messages from the worlds of politics, business and Hollywood:

'Best dad'

"George HW Bush was a man of the highest character and the best dad a son or daughter could ask for." - His son, former president George W Bush

'Faith, family and country'

"Through his essential authenticity, disarming wit, and unwavering commitment to faith, family, and country, President Bush inspired generations of his fellow Americans to public service." - US President Donald Trump

An unlikely friendship

"I am profoundly grateful for every minute I spent with President Bush and will always hold our friendship as one of my life's greatest gifts." - Former US president Bill Clinton, who defeated Bush in the 1992 election

'True partner'

"We had the chance to work together during the time of enormous changes. And this was a dramatic time which called for huge responsibility from everyone. The result was the end of the Cold War and the arms race... He was a true partner." - Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev

'Noble, joyous calling'

"George HW Bush's life is a testament to the notion that public service is a noble, joyous calling. (...) It's a legacy of service that may never be matched, even though he'd want all of us to try." - Former US president Barack Obama

'Example to us all'

"President George HW Bush's ethos of public service was the guiding thread of his life and an example to us all. (...) Today Britain remembers a great statesman and a true friend of our country." - British Prime Minister Theresa May

'Lifelong friend'

"I feel privileged to have worked with him, and even more privileged that he became a lifelong friend. He was, quite simply, one of the most deep down decent people I have ever known." -Former British prime minister John Major

Bush - One-term president helmed political dynasty

WASHINGTON: George HW Bush-the upper-crust war hero-turned-oilman and diplomat who steered America through the end of the Cold War as president and led a political dynasty that saw his son win the White House-died at his Texas home on Friday. He was 94. The 41st American president was a foreign policy realist who navigated the turbulent end of the Cold War, from the revolutions against communist rule in eastern Europe in 1989 through the largely peaceful fall of the Soviet Union, which broke up in 1991. He assembled an unprecedented coalition to defeat Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein two years later.

But the decorated war pilot and former CIA chief suffered the ignominy of being a one-term president, denied a second term over a weak economy when he lost the 1992 election to upstart Democrat Bill Clinton. His favoring of stability and international consensus stands in sharp contrast to the provocative bluster of fellow Republican and current White House occupant Donald Trump, a man whom Bush did not vote for in 2016. Bush presided over economic malaise at home, and infuriated his fellow Republicans during a budget battle with rival Democrats by famously breaking his vow: "Read my Lips: No new taxes."

But he was the respected patriarch of a blue-blood political dynasty-son George spent eight years in the White House, and son Jeb served as governor of Florida. George W Bush called his father a "man of the highest character and the best dad a son or daughter could ask for," in a statement announcing his death. Bush's passing comes just months after the death in April of his wife and revered first lady Barbara Bush-his "most beloved woman in the world"-to whom he was married for 73 years. At the time of his death, Bush was the American president to have lived the longest. Jimmy Carter was born a few months later, so he could quickly reset the record.

War, oil, politics

George Herbert Walker Bush was born on June 12, 1924 in Milton, Massachusetts into a wealthy New England political dynasty-the son of Prescott Bush, a successful banker and US senator for Connecticut. Bush had a pampered upbringing and attended the prestigious Phillips Academy in Andover, but delayed his acceptance to Yale University in order to enlist in the US Navy on his 18th birthday and head off to war. He flew 58 combat missions during World War II. Shot down over the Pacific by Japanese anti-aircraft fire, he parachuted out and was rescued by a submarine after huddling in a life raft for four hours while enemy forces circled.

Bush married Barbara Pierce in January 1945, shortly



FLORIDA: In this file photo taken on November 14, 1988 President elect George HW Bush is smashed by a wave while fishing in back of the home of William Farish in Florida. —AFP



ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE: In this file photo taken on April 12, 1992, US President George HW Bush acknowledges the cheers of a crowd after teeing off the Andrews Air Force Base Golf Course. —AFP

'This will not stand'

In a major test of the post-Cold War order, Saddam's million-man army invaded Kuwait in 1990 and looked set to roll into Saudi Arabia, which would have given the Iraqi strongman more than 40 percent of the world's oil reserves. Bush famously vowed: "This will not stand, this aggression against Kuwait." He assembled a coalition of 32 nations to drive Iraqi forces out in a matter of weeks with a lightning air and ground assault.

Some 425,000 US troops backed by 118,000 allied soldiers took part in Operation Desert Storm, decimating Saddam's military machine without ousting him from power-a task that would be accomplished 12 years later by Bush's son. Buoyed by his victory in the Gulf, Bush and his hard-nosed and widely respected secretary of state James Baker cobbled together the 1991 Madrid Conference to launch the Arab-Israeli peace process. The conference was mainly symbolic, but it set the stage for the Oslo Accords two years later. In late 1989, Bush sent US troops to Panama to oust strongman Manuel Noriega. He also set the groundwork for the North American Free Trade Agreement. —AFP

Obituary

Kuwaitis recollect George HW Bush's great contributions in liberating their country

Late President's message on February 26, 1991 instilled in Kuwaitis' heart



Kuwait's late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah awards the Order of Mubarak the Great to former US President George HW Bush in 1993.



Former US President George HW Bush (right) speaks in the White House in 1991 as Kuwait's late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (left) and Kuwait's ambassador to the US Sheikh Saud Nasser Al-Sabah look on.

KUWAIT: When the name of former US President George HW Bush is mentioned, Kuwaitis recollect his great contributions to liberating their homeland from the 1990-91 Iraqi invasion and his determination to expel the invading forces and restore legitimacy to their country. With the demise of this personality that has had a great impact on the march of Kuwait and the lives of Kuwaitis at the age of 94 years, the biography of a man who made firm decisions in the history of the United States has had important effects on the march of Kuwait, its history and the Arab Gulf and the Middle East. The entire world recalls the decision made by the late President on January 16, 1991, to launch an international air strike against Iraqi forces to liberate Kuwait after the United Nations and the rest of the world exhausted their efforts to persuade the invading forces to withdraw voluntarily from

Kuwait. In implementation of that resolution and in pursuance of the Security Council resolution of 29 November, 1990 by 12 votes to two, with one abstention permitting the use of force if Iraq does not withdraw from Kuwait by January 15, 1991, coalition forces have struck Iraqi forces to force them to withdraw by force. The Kuwaitis also recall when late president addressed the US Congress, American people and the world on February 26, 1991 in the presence of Kuwait's ambassador to the United States of America at the time, Sheikh Saud Nasser Al-Sabah, with a historical message which was instilled in their hearts that Kuwait had become completely free of invading forces.

On January 30, 1991, the International Coalition forces launched a ground offensive on Iraqi targets inside Kuwait for 15 continuous hours, while the late US president

announced on February 23, 1991 that Baghdad would be given a chance to withdraw its troops from Kuwait without conditions, but Iraq rejected all these conditions, thus, forcing Bush on February 24, 1991 to give the green light to coalition commander General Norman Schwarzkopf to launch a ground offensive to liberate Kuwait.

President Bush had made numerous contacts with the countries concerned to find a peaceful solution to liberate Kuwait and to persuade the invading forces to withdraw, but all the attempts of the late President and other heads of brotherly and friendly countries, as well as the efforts of the United Nations, were met with an insurmountable block of defiance and stubbornness by the invading forces and with a sense of superiority over all peaceful efforts. After exhausting most of the peaceful solutions, the late president began

his decisions to force invading troops to withdraw by sending US ground, sea and air forces on November 6, 1990, estimated at 200,000 troops.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah said in a cable of condolences to US President Donald Trump, that he recalled the deceased's honorable and courageous attitudes towards Kuwait and his rejection of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait from the early hours. He also recalled the crucial decisions made by the American administration under the leadership of the late president and his pivotal role in forming the international coalition with the mandate of the United Nations to liberate the State of Kuwait until it was liberated. His Highness said that these positions will remain in the memory of the people of Kuwait and will not be forgotten. — KUNA



George HW Bush



In this file photo taken on March 06, 1992 US President George HW Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush shake hands with members of the crowd at a 'Bush/Quayle 92' rally on the steps of the Mississippi State Capitol.



Speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets with former US President George HW Bush during a visit to the US in 2017.



Kuwait's Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with former US President George HW Bush in 2016.



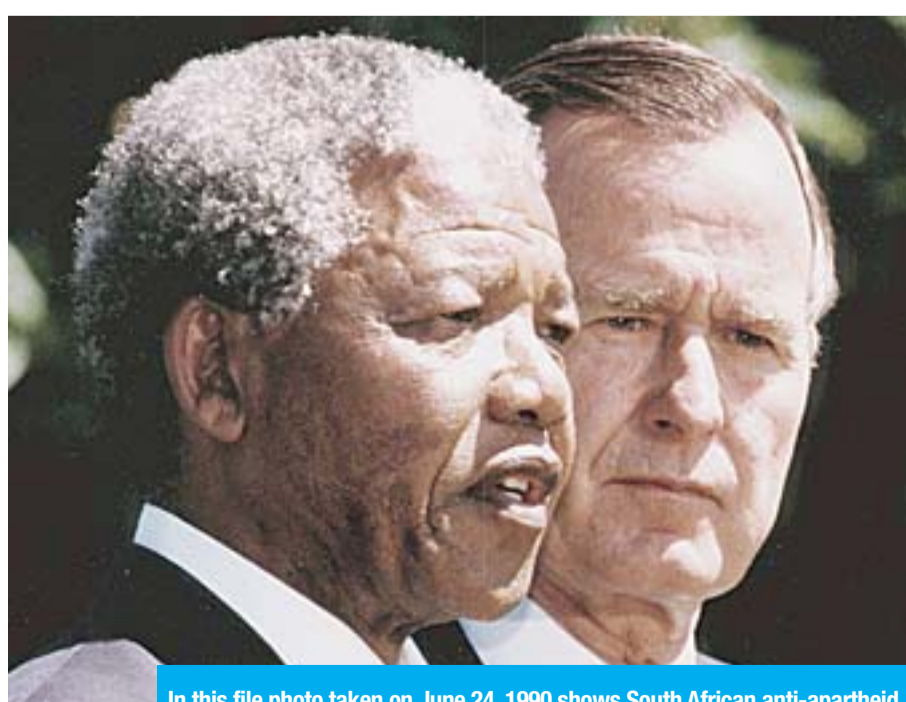
In this file photo taken on May 23, 2005 Former US President George HW Bush (L) and the former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev shake hands after a speech at the State Foreign Affairs University in Moscow.



In this file photo taken on November 19, 1992 US President George HW Bush waves to well-wishers while boarding Marine One for a weekend at the presidential retreat in Camp David, Maryland.



In this file photo taken on September 25, 2008 Former President George HW Bush waves as he arrives at the White House to participate in US President George W Bush's signing of S 3406, the ADA (Americans With Disabilities) Amendments Act of 2008, at the White House in Washington, DC.



In this file photo taken on June 24, 1990 shows South African anti-apartheid leader and African National Congress (ANC) member Nelson Mandela (L) speaks to the press and fans after finishing his joint statement with US President George HW Bush (R) on the White House South Lawn.

George HW Bush in 10 dates

WASHINGTON: Here are 10 key dates in the life of George HW Bush, the 41st president of the United States who died Friday at the age of 94:

- **June 12, 1924:** George Herbert Walker Bush is born in Milton, Massachusetts
- **June 12, 1942:** Bush enlists in the US Navy on his 18th birthday, and becomes its youngest pilot, flying 58 combat missions in a torpedo bomber during World War II. He is shot down over the Pacific and rescued at sea
- **January 6, 1945:** Following his discharge from the Navy, Bush marries Barbara Pierce. They have six children: George Walker, Robin (who died at the age of four), John (also known as Jeb), Neil, Marvin and Dorothy
- **1953:** Bush co-founds the Zapata Petroleum Company in Texas
- **1967-1971:** Serves as a Republican member of the US House of Representatives from Texas for two terms
- **1971-1973:** Serves as US ambassador to the United Nations
- **1976-1977:** Serves as director of the Central Intelligence Agency
- **1981-1989:** Serves as US vice president under Ronald Reagan, whom Bush had opposed for the Republican presidential nomination in 1980
- **1989-1993:** Serves as US president. In August 1990, Bush leads an international coalition to counter Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait and liberates the country in February 1991 with Operation Desert Storm
- **1992:** Bush loses his bid for a second term as president to Democrat Bill Clinton —AFP

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: People walk along a beach in Kuwait City. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Panel discusses temporary expropriations for public interest's bill

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The parliament's financial affairs committee is scheduled to meet today with Finance Minister Nayef Al-Hajraf and Minister of Public Works and Municipal Affairs Hosam Al-Roumi to discuss a bill proposed by the government on temporary expropriations for public interest. The bill deals with confiscating individuals' private properties for public interest determined by the state after compensating the owners.

Free trade zone

The Fatwa and Legislation Department agreed to have the Nuwaiseeb free trade zone managed by a specialized foreign company after the responsibility of supervising free trade zones was shifted from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) to Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) as per Cabinet resolution number 412/2018 issued on March 23, 2018.

Referral retirement

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh stressed that according to article 76 of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) charter, the CSC is not entitled to set additional conditions or regulations for referring public servants to retirement. Responding to an inquiry by MP Mohammad Al-Dallal, Saleh stressed that limiting CSC's liabilities had been set to allow relevant ministers apply whatever is suitable for public interest in terms of not letting go of experienced Kuwaiti workers.

Kuwait fights local product: Fishermen union

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Kuwait Fishermen Union's Chairman Thaher Al-Suwayyan announced that fishing mullet will be suspended for seven months effective Dec 1, noting that the suspension will remain till the end of June 2019. Suwayyan also noted that fishermen are facing many challenges and that many of them are considering quitting their jobs because of the losses they suffered. "Is there a country that fights its local products the same way Kuwait does?" he asked, stressing that the abundance of local products are the only means of controlling prices and providing the local market with enough fish as one of the main resources to achieve food security in the country.



Two injured in Sixth Ring Road accident

KUWAIT: Two injured citizens were taken to hospital following a traffic accident on Sixth Ring Road near industrial Jahra. Firemen rushed to the scene and worked hard to free a trapped man by using special equipment. The man was handed over to paramedics who rushed him to hospital. A case was filed to investi-

gate the cause of the accident.

Smuggling foiled

Abdaly customs officers foiled an truck driver's attempt to smuggle 24,000 illicit tablets he had stashed in the radiator and fan. The Egyptian driver was visibly nervous on arrival, so he and his truck were searched, and it took officers a while to discover the tablets. He along with the drugs was sent to the Drugs Control General Department.

Shuhada house fire

Firemen put out a fire in a Shuhada house. Mishref and Sabhan fire stations rushed to the house, evacuated it, and put out the blaze. No injuries were reported.

Suspected thief caught

Jahra detectives arrested a suspected thief in Sulaibiya despite resistance. He was found wanted by Ardhiya police station for various vehicle thefts, besides a three-year jail sentence. The arrest was made when detectives learned he was in his Sulaibiya home. The suspect is a Kuwaiti with a criminal record.

Beat up

Three Egyptians were taken to Khaitan police station for beating a compatriot over a dispute about the price of a mobile phone. Police received a call about the three beating the man, so police and medics went to the area and arrested the three, while the victim was taken to hospital. — Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai

Ahmadi launches rationalization campaign



KUWAIT: A group picture of the participants.

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Ahmadi governorate launched its third rationalization campaign for power and water sustainability, which it organized with the long-term development project 'My Governorate is More Beautiful' in cooperation with the Ministry of

Electricity and Water (MEW) and the Ministry of Education (MOE). The event was held at Essa Al-Houly boys school in Egaila in the presence of governorate representative and Director of Government Relations Hamid Al-Ibrahim, Assistant Undersecretary for Water Operations and Maintenance at MEW Khaleefa Al-Furaij and

Assistant Undersecretary for the Facilities Sector at the Education Ministry Yaseen Al-Yaseen, as well as the mayors of Egaila Hazmi Al-Jallal and Fahd Al-Ahmad area Khalid Al-Ajmi. Ibrahim appreciated the effective role of MEW and its campaigns to urge citizens and expats to rationalize consumption and stop the wastage of power and water in the country.

Kuwait reiterates support to global prohibition of chemical weapons

BRUSSELS: The State of Kuwait has once again stressed its support to the global prohibition of chemical weapons and to the activities of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). This position was stated by Kuwait's Ambassador to the Netherlands and the Permanent Representative to OPCW, Abdurrahman Al-Otaibi, at the 23rd Session of the Conference of the States Parties of OPCW which concluded at the Hague recently.

"My delegation stresses the importance of the Organization and its role in achieving the noble goal of a world free of chemical weapons and urges those countries that have not acceded to the Convention to join them as soon as possible to achieve universality," Otaibi said. "In this regard, the State of Kuwait welcomes the accession of the State of Palestine to the Convention and the exercise of its full membership

as an active party in the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons," he said.

The Kuwaiti ambassador stressed that the Organization of Islamic conference (OIC) member states should refrain from political differences, not politicize the functions of the organization and focus on efforts of its objectives, the most important of which is the elimination and destruction of chemical weapons. Kuwait, he noted, was one of the first countries to condemn the use of chemical weapons in Syria as well as the Salisbury incident in the UK and called for the prosecution of those responsible for these crimes, whether they are states or people, and to bring them to trial. The Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the review conference was held at the Hague from 19-30 November. — KUNA



Kuwait's ambassador to the Netherlands and to the OPCW mission Abdurrahman Al-Otaibi speaks at the conference.

Local

Gulf Bank reaffirmed commitment to INJAZ Al-Arab

More than 230 Gulf Bank employees volunteered at different schools across Kuwait



Omar K Alghanim's keynote address during the INJAZ Al-Arab competition.



KUWAIT: (From left) Laila Hilal Al-Mutairi, Kutayba Y Alghanim, Hanadi Al-Thani, and Omar K Alghanim with the Re-Al team from Kuwait.

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank reaffirmed its commitment to supporting youth through its partnership with INJAZ Al-Arab. As a platinum sponsor, Gulf Bank was honored during the 12th Annual Young Arab Entrepreneurs Competition, which was held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, represented by Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan, last Wednesday.

The bank participated in the event with a group of top executives, led by Chairman of Gulf Bank Omar K Alghanim and CEO Tony Daher. More than 450 representatives from different government entities, private sector and educational institutions were also present at the event. Also attending the event were the Chairman of Alghanim Industries Kutayba Y Alghanim, Chairperson of INJAZ Al-Arab Hanadi Al-Thani, and CEO of Injaz Kuwait Laila Al-Mutairi.

This year's competition saw more than 80 students from 11 countries across the MENA region compete over 12 categories, including the 'Company

of the Year' and 'Social Impact' award. Each award was presented to one high school and one university team by an esteemed judging panel.

The winners of the competition's highest title, Company of the Year, consisted of Nawa Company from Oman, and Contrive Company from Bahrain. The Kuwaiti team, Re-Al, also won two awards, including Product of the Year in the high school category.

Stellar program

Speaking at the award ceremony, Chairman of Gulf Bank and INJAZ Kuwait, Omar K Alghanim said: "I want to thank the INJAZ-Al Arab and INJAZ Kuwait teams for delivering another stellar program. It takes enormous care and commitment to do this and their impact is undeniable. I'm passionate about INJAZ, so as Chairman of Gulf Bank, I'm proud we are a Platinum Sponsor again this year. Gulf Bank provided nearly a quarter of the volunteers helping with INJAZ-Kuwait initiatives over the last year. Regionally, over three mil-

lion students have been through INJAZ programs, since its inception. That's incredible. That's making a difference."

Addressing the competing students during the ceremony, Alghanim added: "Young entrepreneurs represent the greatest asset society has. They question, they scrutinize, they problem-solve and they don't accept the status quo. I know how hard you have worked, and regardless of the competition results, you have already started your journey to success."

The bank continues to sponsor INJAZ Kuwait as part of its commitment to encourage and develop professional business skills amongst youth. To date, Gulf Bank has participated in four INJAZ Al-Arab programs, 47 INJAZ Kuwait Job Shadow Days, 69 INJAZ Kuwait Innovation Camps and 120 INJAZ Kuwait Entrepreneurship Master Class workshops. The bank's volunteers have positively impacted over 1,800 students. INJAZ Kuwait is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of young business talent.

Al-Yasra golden sponsor of Horeca 2019

KUWAIT: Following the success in its previous participations in Horeca exhibitions, Al-Yasra Food company announced its intention to participate in the Horeca Kuwait 2019 exhibition, which is due to be organized by Leaders Group in collaboration with Hospitality Services Company at Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Mishref in the period of January 14-16, 2019.

Commenting on Al-Yasra's participation, Leaders Group expressed its pride that a major leading company in marketing and distributing refrigerated and frozen foodstuff such as Al-Yasra would offer a golden sponsorship to the exhibition.

Meanwhile, Al-Yasra's foodstuff section manager Ayman Mahmoud stressed that Horeca had been steadily moving forward towards scientifically developing hospitality sectors with the help of a group of experts and specialized people. Further, Mahmoud noted that, ever since its establishment in 1989, Al-Yasra had created its own outstanding status in the food business not only in Kuwait, but also in most regional countries, which enabled it to win customers' trust. Al-Yasra exclusively markets regional and inter-



Ayman Mahmoud

national brands such as Sadia, Al-Safi Danone, Kellogg's Pringles and Lamb Weston, which all cover the local market's needs in various restaurants and major hotels.

Moreover, Mahmoud added that Al-Yasra was always keen on taking part in major exhibitions to communicate with parties working in the hospitality business in order to boost awareness about the significance of healthy food.

"The company provides complete lists of delicious healthy food that suits all needs of calorie intake," he explained, noting that Al-Yasra foods are carefully selected from fresh healthy foods to match customer's tastes.

Mahmoud added that Alyasra Foods today carries a wide selection of leading international food and beverage brands to homes and businesses across Kuwait and other GCC markets. Managed by a multi-cultural team of over 2,700 employees, Alyasra leads the market in frozen foods, fresh dairy and potato chips, amongst others. Alyasra Foods continues to be the largest supplier to the Horeca sector. Notably, Al-Yasra Foods Kuwait achieved international standards, namely the ISO 22000:2005 certification for food quality and safety in receiving, storing and delivering goods to customers.

time in two months, providing 7.4 percent of the Asian nation's total crude imports, compared with 6.1 percent in the same month of last year, the Japanese Natural Resources and Energy Agency said in a preliminary report.

Japan's overall imports of crude oil grew 5.5 percent year-on-year to 3.09 million bpd for the first expansion in two months. Shipments from the Middle East, accounted for 86.2 percent of the total, down 1.5 percentage points from the year before. Saudi Arabia remained Japan's No.1 oil supplier, with imports from the kingdom rising 8.2 percent from a year earlier to 1.26 million bpd, followed by the United Arab Emirates with 760,000 bpd, up 12.6 percent. Qatar ranked fourth with 220,000 bpd and Russia fifth with 162,000 bpd, respectively. Japan is the world's-third biggest oil consumer after the US and China. — KUN

Kuwait overtakes Qatar to become Japan's third oil provider

TOKYO: Kuwait's crude oil exports to Japan in October jumped 28.3 percent from a year earlier to 7.11 million barrels, or 229,000 barrels per day (bpd), overtaking Qatar to become Japan's third-biggest oil provider, Japanese government data showed. The volume of Kuwaiti oil bound for Japan rose for the first



Knowledge Club presents platform for leaders

KUWAIT: Vigor Events will conclude the Knowledge Club 2018 with a 1-day Conference titled 'Productivity, Engagement and Peak Performance' (PEP) on December 11, 2018 in Al-Dorra ballroom in Hilton Resort Kuwait.

In this a captivating conference, Leaders and Managers will gain valuable insights from the best-practices of progressive companies that are revolutionizing the way organizations and teams are managed nowadays leading to a rise in productivity, profits and employee engagement.

The highly practical conference is designed to help attendees know the Missing Piece to Solve the Puzzle of Productivity, Engagement and Peak Performance, gain insights to the latest employee engagement trends that are affecting every business across the world, and why disengagement has become a global epidemic and also to learn new strategies that focus on successful outcomes while managing the stress of overwhelm and complexity at work.

The Productivity, Engagement and Peak Performance (PEP) Conference is presenting the best-selling authors, International keynote speakers, and sought-after trainers on the subjects from around the globe such as Jason W Womack, MED MA Best-selling Author of his books 'Get Momentum' and 'Your Best Just Got Better,' Valerie Cade, MA Workplace Bullying Expert and Best Selling Author, David Zinger Founder of Employee Engagement Network, Ali Derisavi Management Consultant and founder of Utopia Republic Consulting Group, and Jodi Womack, MA the CEO and Founder of Get Momentum.

The conference is part of the Knowledge Club 2018 is the leading and development platform for top organizations in Kuwait, it is attended this year by Warba Bank/ Burgan Bank as Gold Member, Commercial Bank of Kuwait/ Kuwait Oil Company/ Hadi Clinic as Corporate Members and with the media support by the International Advertising Association (IIA) - Kuwait Chapter.

Advertisement for Bid No.: (KAC/PP/A/2/2018)
For the provision of provide sales services on board the
Kuwait Airways and its External Shops to a Foreign Entity
(Outsourcing).
Document No. 1 "Advertisement for Bid"



Kuwait Airways Company (KAC) advertises its interest to offer a public bid for providing sales services on the board of Kuwait Airways and its external shops to a foreign entity (Outsourcing) to the specialized companies at the Duty Free Department to provide a distinct sales service on its fleet including goods and variety of luxuries at reduced prices for travelers as well as providing the same service to its employees through sale in the assigned stores, while Kuwait Airways Company retains responsibility for the sales operations on its fleet according to the technical requirements and specifications mentioned in the bidding documents, and the bidder must purchase the tender documents.

The bidding documents can be obtained from the Kuwait Airways Company - Tenders and Bids Committee Secretariat at the Kuwait Airways Company, in the main building next to Kuwait International Airport in consideration of a non-refundable fee amounting 200 Kuwaiti Dinars as of the date of publication of this advertisement.

During the following times: From 8:00 am till 2:00 pm and the bids application deadline is at 8:00 am till 2:00 pm from (Monday) corresponding to 24/12/2018, provided that the bids are placed in the closed envelopes in the designated box at the aforesaid committee's office.

In addition to the above:

- 1- Each bidder, along with its original bid, shall submit the payment receipt with the bidding documents. These documents shall be stamped with the official stamp of the bid, and shall sign on each document page. Bids shall be placed (sealed and stamped) in the designated box at the headquarters of the Tenders and Bids Committee Secretariat.
- 2- The implementation of the works pertaining to this bid is for a period of (3) years.
- 3- The bidder shall not be an employee of Kuwait Airways Company or any of its subsidiaries, either directly or indirectly.
- 4- The bidder must have at least 5 years of experience in dealing with airlines or in managing a similar project in the duty free shops, supported by documents.
- 5- Kuwait Airways Company shall not be liable for any expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the performance of its bid.
- 6- The bidder shall comply with the conditions, criteria and quality levels determined by Kuwait Airways Company in the execution of the bidding.
- 7- Bids shall be accepted by the foreign bidder, provided that he has a Kuwaiti partner or agent who is a registered dealer engaged in a formal contract in accordance with the regulations in force in the State of Kuwait.

A pre-tender meeting will be held to respond to queries submitted by bidders at exactly 11 am on (Monday) corresponding to 17/12/2018, at the Supplies and Housing Department located in the Ground Floor at the Main Building, next to Kuwait International Airport. In the event the bidder fails to attend this meeting, the latter shall be bound by all the discussions and the decisions and recommendations contained in the minutes of the meeting.

If you have any further questions, please contact:
Tel. 24345555 - 6666 - 7777- 8888- 9999 Ext. 2789

Local

KDIPA showcases investment opportunities in Silicon Valley

Kuwait looks to diversify its economy to reach its goals: Sheikh Dr Meshaal Al-Sabah

SAN FRANCISCO: Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) presented Thursday in Silicon Valley, in cooperation with the Financial Times Live and the Magazine, Kuwait Investment Outreach Roadshow under the theme 'Discover the Opportunities in a Transformed Economy.' The event featured interactive discussions and keynotes from leading players in Kuwait business world who provided valuable insights into the role of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Kuwait, developments in Kuwait Fintech market and the impact of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) sector to Kuwait future.

The panel discussions focused on the new Kuwait, as the panelists shed light on the objectives of Kuwait's economic plan and why FDI is an essential part of the plan and what challenges does Kuwait still face and how they are being overcome. Another panel also discussed the ICT sector and Kuwait, focusing on the relationships between industry, technology and the economy in Kuwait, as well as how Kuwait business environment evolving from developments in the IT and ICT sector.

The panelists highlighted what makes Kuwait attractive for investment and what sets it apart, saying investors look for a stable political system, a strong legal background with the protection of rights, in addition to Kuwait enjoying one strong banking sector. They also agreed that Kuwait enjoys a strategic location and is considered a hub for many businesses to expand into the region, as well as the Kuwait youth whom are considered an added value.

Diversifying the economy

Sheikh Dr Meshaal Al-Sabah, Director General of KDIPA, stressed that "we are working to diversify our economy and to fulfill and reach our goals." He noted that the current aim is to attract new technologies and innovations to create job opportunities and growth. Dr Meshaal added that the Silicon Valley Roadshow is the second in three roadshow series, where last year it was held in London and next year it is scheduled to be held in Singapore. The idea of these roadshows, he noted, is to try to showcase all the latest developments in Kuwait economies, legal infrastructures and how Kuwait is working very hard to diversify its economy through creating new sources of income.

He added that the aim of the event is for both the public and private sectors in Kuwait to shed light on their experience in the country and showcase how foreign investors in Silicon Valley can benefit from all the opportunities happening in Kuwait and help with the Kuwait Vision 2035. He stressed that his message is that Kuwait is changing, Kuwait is working towards diversifying the economies, Kuwait is letting the private sector lead the economy along with all the legal changes the government and parliament have been working on the past few years. This is a great chance for companies to participate in our 2035 vision, he remarked.

Meanwhile, Secretary General of General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development Dr Khalid Al-Mahdi praised the Silicon Valley Roadshow, saying the audience showed that they want to be engaged that actually helped to achieve the objective of the roadshow. He affirmed that there are great opportunities in transforming the economy in Kuwait, noting because we have challenges, there are opportunities and our opportunities come from the actual needs and challenges we are facing right now, such as the transfer of knowledge and technology to the country. He added that the most important issue right now is the fourth revolution that will cause the disappearance of jobs and the creation of other jobs. We need to be ready for the job creation with the skillset that be suitable for our little ones (enter) the market space. The only way is to actually live the vision by creating this hub and allowing more open interaction with our partners around the world, he affirmed. Kuwait being neutral, using preventive diplomacy will make it very easy for Kuwait to make successful relations and partnerships with others.

New Kuwait vision

Group CEO of the Kuwait Finance House Mazen Al-Nahed who gave a keynote speech focusing on Kuwait Fintech Market, said that he thinks the main purpose of the roadshow is to show the participants of the Silicon Valley about the vision of Kuwait 2035 or the new Kuwait. He praised the presentations that were delivered, saying they portrayed a significant amount of knowledge that has been transferred from the participants to the audience and I



SAN FRANCISCO: Participants in the Kuwait Investment Outreach Roadshow themed 'Discover the Opportunities in a Transformed Economy.' — KUNA

think that the questions that followed have been very positive in terms of trying to understand further what are the challenges of operating in Kuwait versus operating in other jurisdictions. He stressed that Kuwait has a lot of capital, be it human, be it regulatory. I think this is one of the key strengths of Kuwait is that we have a strong judicial system and a regulatory system that protects the rights of any investor who is coming to Kuwait.

In the meantime, CEO of Zain Kuwait Eaman Al-Roudhan who gave a presentation entitled Smart nation: Empowering new Kuwait vision 2035, said that the participation of the private sector is very vital to accelerate the achievement of both the new Kuwait vision as well as the

role that Dr Meshaal has been very actively taking to attract investment, entrepreneurship and innovation into Kuwait to achieve the sustainability, the growth and the diversification of the sources of revenues for Kuwait, the creation of the jobs of the future, the engagement of the workforce from our local base into the digital transformation. She affirmed that there is huge potential in Kuwait, saying that Kuwait is a pioneer in the innovation as well as in technology. This roadshow is considered an opportunity to explore the economic outlook for Kuwait and the wider region, where the audience can discover new opportunities created for investors and Kuwait diverse future economy. — KUNA

Burgan Bank concludes 'Awaken Festival' in collaboration with en.v

KUWAIT: A leading contributor to progress in society, Burgan Bank concluded the first 'Awaken Festival' in partnership with en.v, an organization dedicated to fostering social development and civic engagement in the Middle East. The three-day festival took place on 15-17 November 2018 at Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah in Yarmouk Cultural Centre, and united more than 800 participants from various sectors in Kuwait, including 50 local civic initiatives, academics, artists and international speakers.

Burgan Bank remains committed to bolstering civil society's capabilities across Kuwait and continues to invest in strategic partnerships with innovative organizations. The latest collaboration with en.v, brought 'Awaken Festival' to Kuwait, an inspirational community-building initiative. The festival supports civil society organizations become more effective in addressing societal challenges, unite diverse community members to untap the potential of everyone in Kuwait, ultimately contributing to a brighter future.

Loulwa Al-Ayoubi, Acting Group Head of Investor Relations and Corporate Communications at Burgan Bank said, "Partnering with an influen-

tial organization like en.v and sponsoring the 'Awaken Festival' delivers on Burgan Bank's commitment to social development, by enhancing social structure and networks, and the standards of social responsibility. We aim to promote the spread of knowledge through innovative platforms and to engage with different sectors of society to create a community spirit and bolster local capabilities to address society's most pressing challenges."

Attendees engaged in meaningful discussions and explored community-driven approaches through interactive workshops, activities, and events, all featuring forward-thinking collaborations, encouraging open dialogue and exploring new ways to look at our individual roles in society.

Falling in line with its community program, 'ENGAGE' - Together to be the change, Burgan Bank sheds light on important aspects affecting every segment of the society by promoting social welfare through educational, cultural, social and health initiatives. Burgan Bank's approach to 'ENGAGE' begins with a vital principle that as a Kuwaiti financial institution, its conduct and policies should be aligned with the needs and interests of the Kuwaiti society.



Al-Sayer partners to empower Kuwaiti youth

KUWAIT: As part of efforts towards the development of youth, Al-Sayer Holding has participated in the 7th Tmkeen Youth Empowerment Symposium 2018. The event was attended by Hamad Musaed Al-Sayer CEO Al-Sayer Franchisee and Vice Chairman of the Al-Sayer Sustainability and Corporate Excellence Committee, Bedour Faisal Al Sayer Deputy Marketing Manager and member of the Al-Sayer Sustainability and Corporate Excellence Committee, Nehad Mohammad Al-Haj Ali Deputy Group Manager Corporate Excellence, Shibu Mohamed CSR Manager, Ahmad Mostafa Alaeen Sr CSR Executive along with Mithun Mohan Deputy Manager Field Operations, Mohamed Abd El-Rahman Abd El-Hady, Specialist Technical Training from Toyota Group Service Division.

The event which was held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, witnessed the participation of industry experts across competitive sectors. Al-Sayer participated as a Diamond Sponsor in event that concluded recently with an objective of empowering the aspiring Kuwait youth, through sharing knowledge from the industry veterans on ways to build and sustain the journey of entrepreneurship and be sustainable.

To achieve its strategic vision of New Kuwait vision by 2035 Kuwait National Development Plan (KNDP) has aligned its development theme and pillars in accordance to complement United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs). Being a leading private sector entity Al-Sayer Holding endorses such vision and has aligned sustainability and excellence as the strategic direction. The Group continues to involve in activities that motivate and encourage young entrepreneurs to aim for self-made competent role to build sustainable growth, employment, innovation and leadership for now and for future.

Youth Empowerment Organization is an Independent, Private Non-Profit Organization (NPO) and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). Their vision is to empower the youth to drive new era of economic development, growth and productivity among them and to the nation. Started in 2012, they conduct yearly symposium, and continuing each year by bringing international and regional leaders and



motivators to spark youth engagements towards entrepreneurship.

It is significant to say, Zidnei Application one of the online educational project supported by Al-Sayer Corporate Excellence CSR initiatives received accolades at the event. Zidnei, an e-learning platform offers online and interactive self-learning contents for secondary school students to excel in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, English, Aptitude Tests and IELTS. Zidnei opens wide potential to the students and parents to be self-reliant, with online learning performance evaluation and expert teaching guidance.

According to Nehad Mohammad Al-Haj Ali, "The Symposium offered Kuwaiti youth an opportunity to participate and interact with the

diversified panel of regional and international guests who shared their experience of taking proactive steps to foster steady progress in their profession as well as the immersive style of tackling business dilemmas through deep involvements and positive approach".

Panel of speakers at the 2018 event included Mitch Lowe CEO of Movie Pass who has also served as co-founding executive of Netflix and President of Redbox, Jason Wheeler former Vice-President of Finance at Google and former Chief Financial Officer of Tesla Motors, Mark Mastrov CEO and Founder of 24 Hour Fitness, Adam Sedlack President of UFC GYM, Arsen Avakian Founder of Argo Tea, who presented their time tested experience of managing business, people, operations and challenges.

Burgan Bank supports Int'l Day of People with Disabilities

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, one of the highest contributors to progress in society, sponsored 'The International Day of People with Disabilities' for the fourth consecutive year, in collaboration with the 'Ideal Education School' for students with special needs. Through the annual initiative, Burgan Bank emphasizes the need to encourage and facilitate the empowerment and inclusion of people with disabilities so they can fulfill their invaluable role in society. In addition to raising awareness about the topic and ensuring their equal rights, it is worth mentioning that Burgan Bank has been an avid supporter of the

special needs segment due to their determination and resilience to challenge individual abilities and accomplish outstanding results in diverse fields.

As part of the sponsorship, the 'Ideal Education School' organized an 'Open Fun Day' on 19 November 2018, celebrating the International Day dedicated to special needs students, who enjoyed participating in different games, arts and crafts, magic shows, musical trampolines and more, providing an inclusive and memorable experience.

Burgan Bank remains a long-standing advocate of the disadvantaged, and continuously supports cultural and social initiatives that ensure the welfare of people with disabilities and facilitate their integration in society. The bank's largest CSR initiative, 'Al-Mass Awards', that has been running for more than 13 years is dedicated exclusively to special needs groups, recognizing outstanding achievements of those who face physical, mental and sensory challenges. The bank is also the long-term sponsor of Kuwait's world champion in wheelchair fencing and titleholder across regional and international competitions, Tareq Al-Qallaf. Additionally, Burgan Bank has six

fully-equipped branches that cater to the special needs' requirements to ensure a banking experience with improved accessibility and the latest world-class technological applications.

Ideal Education School is a private school that teaches students aged 5-21 with developmental disabilities such as autism, Down syndrome, mental retardation, speech and language impairments, hard of hearing, cerebral palsy, and those with multiple disabilities. The School aims to ensure students develop maximum independence through educational programs that include vocational training, community awareness and advocacy.

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



International

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018

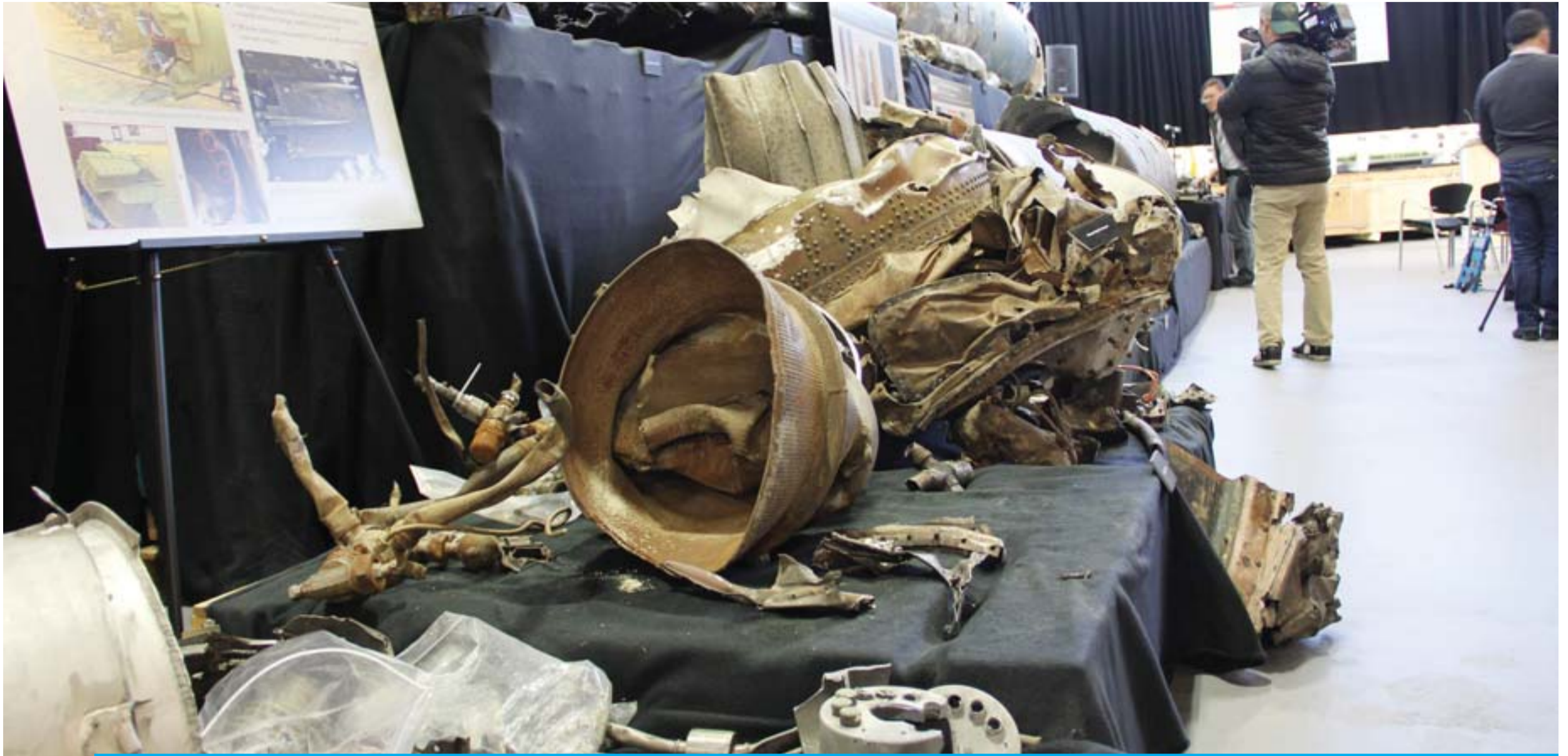


Powerful quake hits Anchorage

In US politics, grandmas and grandpas grab power

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WASHINGTON: The US military displays what it says are Iranian weapons, at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, DC. Senior US officials presented what the Pentagon called 'clear and tangible evidence' that Iran is arming dangerous groups with "advanced weapons" and is fueling instability across the Middle East. — AFP

How Iran spreads disinformation worldwide

Reuters finds 71 websites in global influence operation

LONDON: Website Nile Net Online promises Egyptians "true news" from its offices in the heart of Cairo's Tahrir Square, "to expand the scope of freedom of expression in the Arab world." Its views on America do not chime with those of Egypt's state media, which celebrate Donald Trump's warm relations with Cairo. In one recent article, Nile Net Online derided the American president as a "low-level theatre actor" who "turned America into a laughing stock" after he attacked Iran in a speech at the United Nations.

Until recently, Nile Net Online had more than 115,000 page-followers across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. But its contact telephone numbers, including one listed as 0123456789, don't work. A Facebook map showing its location dropped a pin onto the middle of the street, rather than any building. And regulars at the square, including a newspaper stallholder and a policeman, say they have never heard of the website.

The reason: Nile Net Online is part of an influence operation based in Tehran. It's one of more than 70 websites found by Reuters which push Iranian propaganda to 15 countries, in an operation that cybersecurity experts, social media firms and journalists are only starting to uncover. The sites found by Reuters are visited by more than half a million people a month, and have been promoted by social media accounts with more than a million followers.

The sites underline how political actors worldwide are increasingly circulating distorted or false information online to influence public opinion. The discoveries follow allegations that Russian disinformation campaigns have swayed voters in the United States and Europe. Advisers to Saudi Arabia's crown prince, and the army in Myanmar, are also among those using social media to distribute propaganda and attack their enemies. Moscow has denied the charges; Riyadh and Yangon have not commented.

Former CIA director John Brennan told Reuters that "countries around the globe" are now using such information warfare tactics. "The Iranians are sophisticated cyber players," he said of the Iranian campaign. "There are elements of the Iranian intelligence services that are rather capable in terms of operating (online)." Traced by building on research from cybersecurity firms FireEye and ClearSky, the sites in the campaign have been active at different times since 2012. They look like normal news and media outlets, but only a couple disclose any Iranian ties.

Reuters could not determine whether the Iranian government is behind the sites; Iranian officials in Tehran and London did not reply to questions. But all the sites are linked to Iran in one of two ways. Some carry stories, video and cartoons supplied by an online agency called the International Union of Virtual Media (IUVM), which says on its website it is headquartered in Tehran. Some have shared online registration details with IUVM, such as addresses and phone numbers. Twenty-one of the websites do both.

Emails sent to IUVM bounced back and telephone numbers the agency gave in web registration records did not work. Documents available on the main IUVM website say its objectives include "confronting with remarkable arrogance, western governments and

Zionism front activities." Nile Net Online did not respond to questions sent to the email address on its website. Its operators, as well as those of the other websites identified by Reuters, could not be located. Previous owners identified in historical registration records could not be reached. The Egyptian government did not respond to requests for comment.

Some of the sites in the Iranian operation were first exposed in August by companies including Facebook, Twitter and Google's parent, Alphabet, after FireEye found them. The social media companies have closed hundreds of accounts that promoted the sites or pushed Iranian messaging. Facebook said last month it had taken down 82 pages, groups and accounts linked to the Iranian campaign; these had gathered more than one million followers in the United States and Britain.

But the sites uncovered by Reuters have a much wider scope. They have published in 16 different languages, from Azerbaijani to Urdu, targeting Internet users in less-developed countries. That they reached readers in tightly controlled societies such as Egypt, which has blocked hundreds of news websites since 2017, highlights the campaign's reach.

A news site called Another Western Dawn which says its focus is on "unspoken truth." It fooled the Pakistani defense minister into issuing a nuclear threat against Israel: Ten outlets targeting readers in Yemen, where Iran and US ally Saudi Arabia have been fighting a proxy conflict since civil war broke out in 2015: A media outlet offering daily news and satirical cartoons in Sudan. Reuters could not reach any of its staff: A website called Realnie Novosti, or "Real News," for Russian readers.

It offers a downloadable mobile phone app but its operator could not be traced. The news on the sites is not all fake. Authentic stories sit alongside pirated cartoons, as well as speeches from Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The sites clearly support Iran's government and amplify antagonism to countries opposed to Tehran - particularly Israel, Saudi Arabia and the United States.

Nile Net's "laughing stock" piece was copied from an Iranian state TV network article published earlier the same day. Some of the sites are slapdash. The self-styled, misspelled "Yemen Press Ageency" carries a running update of Saudi "crimes against Yemenis during the past 24 hours." Emails sent to the agency's listed contact, Arafat Shoroh, bounced back. The agency's address and phone number led to a hotel in the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, whose staff said they had never heard of Shoroh.

The identity or location of the past owners of some of the websites is visible in historical Internet registration records: 17 of 71 sites have in the past listed their locations as Iran or Tehran, or given an Iranian telephone or fax number. But who owns them now is often hidden, and none of the Iranian-linked operators could be reached. More than 50 of the sites use American web service providers Cloudflare and OnlineNIC - firms that provide website owners with tools to shield themselves from spam and hackers.

Frequently, such services also effectively conceal who owns the sites or where they are hosted. The companies declined to tell Reuters who operates the sites. Under US law, hosting

and web services companies are not generally liable for the content of sites they serve, said Eric Goldman, co-director of the High Tech Law Institute at Santa Clara University. Still, since 2014, US sanctions on Iran have banned "the exportation or re-exportation, directly or indirectly, of web-hosting services that are for commercial endeavours or of domain name registration services."

Douglas Kramer, general counsel for Cloudflare, said the services it provides do not include web-hosting services. "We've looked at those various sanctions regimes, we are comfortable that we are not in violation," he said. A spokesman for OnlineNIC said none of the sites declared a connection to Iran in their registration details, and the company was in full compliance with US sanctions and trade embargoes. The US Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) declined to comment on whether it planned an investigation.

Another western dawn

The Kremlin is widely seen as the superpower in modern information warfare. From what is known so far, Russia's influence operation - which Moscow denies - dwarfs Iran's. According to Twitter, nearly 4,000 accounts connected to the Russian campaign posted over 9 million tweets between 2013 and 2018, against over 1 million tweets from fewer than 1,000 accounts believed to originate in Iran. Even though the Iranian operation is smaller, it has had impact on volatile topics. AWDnews - the site with the focus on "unspoken truth" - ran a false story in 2016 which prompted Pakistan's defense minister to warn on Twitter he had the weapons to nuke Israel.

He only found out that the hoax was part of an Iranian operation when contacted by Reuters. "It was a learning experience," said the deceived politician, 69-year-old Khawaja Asif, who left Pakistan's government earlier this year. "But one can understand that these sorts of things happen, because fake news has become something huge. It's something which anyone is capable of now, which is very dangerous."

Israeli officials did not respond to a request for comment. AWDnews publishes in English, French, Spanish and German and, according to data from web analytics company SimilarWeb, receives around 12,000 unique visitors a month. Among others who shared stories from AWDnews and the other websites identified by Reuters were politicians in Britain, Jordan, India, and the Netherlands; human-rights activists; an Indian music composer and a Japanese rap star.

Jobs for women

FireEye, a US cybersecurity firm, originally named six websites as part of the Iranian influence operation. Reuters examined those sites, and their content led to the Tehran-based International Union of Virtual Media. IUVM is an array of 11 websites with names such as iuvmpress, iuvmapp and iuvmpixel. Together, they form a library of digital material, including mobile phone apps, items from Iranian state media and pictures, video clips and stories from elsewhere on the web, which support Tehran's policies. —Reuters

Charlottesville victims recount their life-altering injuries at trial

CHARLOTTESVILLE: Jeanne Peterson was fast on her feet till she was struck by a car last year in Charlottesville driven by a neo-Nazi accused of attacking her. Now, she finds it difficult to walk unassisted. Wednesday Bowie almost bled to death when her pelvis was crushed in six places by the same Dodge Challenger and has been left with a "permanent gait" after it healed diagonally.

Both women took the witness stand Friday-Peterson with the help of a bailiff - on the second day of court proceedings against James Alex Fields Jr. Fields, 21, is accused of first degree murder over the killing of 32-year-old paralegal Heather

Heyer, as well as hit-and-run charges and eight counts of causing serious injury when he plowed into a crowd of counter-protesters at a white supremacist rally. Peterson, whose right leg was crushed by the impact, recounted attending the Unite the Right rally to protest against the presence of hundreds of white supremacists in her beloved Virginia hometown.

Confrontations broke out, which led city authorities to declare the rally an "unlawful gathering," and the far-right protesters began to disperse. The previously charged atmosphere became "joyful," it was celebratory and convivial," said Peterson, with counter-protesters happy because "the alt-right hadn't been able to make any of their hateful speeches." She didn't see Fields' car coming. "I just heard three bumps," Peterson said-realizing only later that two were his vehicle running over her right leg, and one reversing back over it. "I saw Heather Heyer up in the air and remember thinking to myself 'That's what someone's eyes look like when they are dead.'" —AFP

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International

Journalists increasingly becoming 'easy targets' for organized crime

30 journalists killed by organized crime

PARIS: Journalists are increasingly becoming easy targets for organized crime, with more than 30 killed worldwide over the last two years, a media watchdog warned. "The Mob has spread its tentacles around the globe faster than all the multinationals combined," Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said in a new report on the dangers.

"From Beijing to Moscow, from Tijuana to Bogota, from Malta to Slovakia, investigative journalists who shed light on the deals that involve organized crime unleash the wrath of gangsters, whose common feature is an aversion to any publicity unless they control it," said its author, French investigative journalist Frederic Ploquin. He said the only way to counter the threat was for reporters to work together to protect each other.

The biggest danger was in investigating corruption, Ploquin said, now that ruthless crime groups have "established a kind of pact with the state" in many countries, "to the point that you cannot tell where one stops and the other begins." "How is it possible that Mexico's drug cartels sprout like mushrooms without

the support of part of the state's apparatus?" asked RSF after nine of the 14 journalists murdered worldwide in 2017 by organized crime groups were killed there. Eight more have already died so far in 2018. Three reporters were also killed this year in Brazil and three more elsewhere in Latin America. An Indian journalist who was investigating his country's "sand mafia" was run over by a truck.

The toll has also become worrying in Europe, the report said, with journalists assassinated in Russia, Slovakia and Malta since 2017. Both Daphne Caruana Galizia, killed last year in by a car bomb in Malta, and Jan Kuciak, shot with his girlfriend in Slovakia in February, had been looking into the Italian Mafia and its links with local politicians. In 2017 alone, 196 Italian journalists were said to have had some kind of protection, with a dozen including

Roberto Saviano, the author of the bestselling book "Gomorra" on the Naples crime syndicate the Camorra, living under permanent police guard.

Iran journalist jailed

In another development, Iranian journalist and women's rights activist Hengameh Shahidi has been sentenced to more than 12 years in prison on unspecified charges, the official IRNA news agency reported yesterday. "Given the confidentiality of the proceedings and the security nature of the case I cannot disclose details about the court's verdict," her lawyer Mostafa Turk Hamedani told IRNA. He said Shahidi had received 12 years and nine months in prison, plus temporary bans on joining political groups, online or media activity, and leaving the country.

Iran journalist gets 12 years for 'insulting judiciary'



Powerful quake hits Anchorage

ANCHORAGE: A powerful earthquake jolted southern Alaska on Friday morning, buckling roads, disrupting rush-hour traffic and jamming telephone service in and around Anchorage, the state's largest city, but there were no reports of serious injuries. The 7.0 magnitude quake struck about 8 miles north of Anchorage, a city of 300,000 residents accounting for about 40 percent of Alaska's population, and was followed by dozens of aftershocks that continued to rattle nerves throughout the day.

Public schools and many businesses across Anchorage closed early, and an eerie quiet settled over the city's largely deserted streets by nightfall. At least two local television stations were briefly knocked off the air by the tremor, which some people said sounded like a roar of gunfire. Roads and bridges appeared to have been hardest hit, but Anchorage was otherwise mostly spared from major structural damage, authorities said. Power outages and disruption of phone service were widespread.

City Fire Chief Jodie Hettrick said two small, older buildings had collapsed, and that her department responded to several structure fires. Emergency medical personnel answered 56 calls in the hours immediately after the temblor, although none involved serious injuries, Hettrick said. "The fact that we went through something this significant with this minimal amount of damage says that we're a very well-prepared community, that our building codes and our building professionals have done a terrific job," Mayor Ethan Berkowitz told an earlier news conference.

The initial quake produced strong shaking within a 30-mile radius of its epicenter, with ground movement felt as far away as Fairbanks, 250 miles to the north, and Kodiak, roughly the same distance to the south, according to the US Geological Survey (USGS). "Thought the house was going to come apart," Anchorage-based climatologist Brian Brettschneider wrote on Twitter, posting a photo showing his kitchen floor scattered with items that had tumbled out of cupboards.

Elena Alfred, a young mother, described to Reuters how her 3-year-old son was nearly struck by a falling television at a friend's apartment as the walls shuddered through the quake. "I took him just in time before the TV fell on him," she recounted from an emergency shelter, where she took the boy and his two younger siblings afterwards. "They were scared. They kept crying," she said. A tsunami warning was issued for Cook Inlet, linking Anchorage with the Gulf of Alaska, but was later canceled.

'Scary day'

The Trans Alaska Pipeline, which carries crude oil 800 miles from the North Slope to a marine terminal at Valdez, was shut down for about seven hours as a precaution, but no damage to the system was detected, said a spokeswoman for the operator, Aleyska Pipeline Service Co. The quake apparently stemmed from an unnamed fault 27 miles deep inside a portion of the Earth's crust known as the Pacific Plate, where it bends underneath the North American Plate, USGS geophysicist Brian Kilgore told Reuters. Kilgore said only 15 or 16 quakes of magnitude 6 or greater have been recorded during the past century in the same region.

Morning rush-hour traffic in Anchorage came to a standstill as



ALASKA: People walk past a crack in the road after an earthquake near Northwoods on the Kenai Spur Highway in Kenai, Alaska.—AFP

authorities closed the only two highways in and out of town, and commuters struggled to make their way back home from a workday cut short by the 8:30 am quake. Governor Bill Walker issued a disaster declaration, calling it a "scary day for Alaska." Walker later recounted an unsettling elevator ride down from his 17th-floor office just as the quake began. "It did stop. That was good. Then it started. That wasn't good," he told reporters. "It made a lot of noise and slapped around cables and all that was going on, and it was a moment of wondering.... But it was a pretty rough ride coming down."

President Donald Trump declared a federal emergency, ordering US government assistance in the earthquake response and authorizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate all disaster relief efforts, the White House said. Strong earthquakes are not uncommon in seismically active

Alaska but tend to occur in remote, sparsely populated regions. Alaska has recorded earthquakes with magnitudes ranging from 7 to 8 at least once a year on average since 1900, according to the state government website. Southern Alaska was hit by a devastating 9.2 tremor in 1964, the world's second-most powerful earthquake on record.

Images posted on social media showed supermarket floors strewn with spilled merchandise. A photo posted by a reporter at TV station KTVA showed a deserted newsroom scattered with debris and a partially collapsed ceiling. The website for KTUU-TV featured a photo of a snow-covered highway that had buckled, with a car sitting between two deep fissures crossing the highway. Sporting events were called off for the weekend, and Anchorage public schools were to remain closed until Wednesday to allow for safety inspections. —Reuters

North Korean soldier defects to South Korea across border

SEOUL: A North Korean soldier defected to South Korea yesterday across their heavily fortified land border, which the two sides have begun to demilitarize as relations between the Cold War-era foes warm, the South's military said. The rare defection came as the two Koreas push ahead with a process of reconciliation in an effort to ease tensions, despite talks between Pyongyang and Washington on the North's nuclear weapons program stalling. The incident did not trigger any gunfire, unlike last year when a North Korean soldier ran across under a hail of bullets from his own side.

"A North Korean soldier was detected crossing the military demarcation line" by South Korean troops using surveillance equipment, the military Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said in a statement. "Related agencies plan to investigate him regarding the details of how he came to the South," it said. The JCS gave no further details, such as the exact location of the defection, the soldier's name, rank or unit or whether he was carrying a weapon. "The soldier is safely in our custody", the JCS said. The last defection involving North Koreans occurred in May when two civilians aboard a small boat fled to the South across the Yellow Sea.

In November last year, a North Korean soldier drove to the heavily guarded border at speed and ran across under fire from his own comrades. He was hit multiple times in the dramatic defection at Panmunjom truce village, a major tourist attraction and the only place on the frontier where forces from the two sides come face-to-face. Three other soldiers reportedly crossed the land border last year in separate incidents. In 2012 a North Korean soldier walked unchecked through rows of electrified fencing and surveillance cameras, prompting Seoul to sack three field commanders for a security lapse.

'Momentum'

More than 30,000 North Korean civilians have fled their homeland since the peninsula was divided at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. Most flee across the porous frontier with neighboring China and it is very rare for them to cross the closely guarded inter-Korean border, which is fortified with minefields and barbed wire. In recent months, however, the two sides have begun to remove landmines and destroy military bunkers at parts of the border as part of efforts to improve long-strained relations. They have also begun work to reconnect a train line and repair another rail link across the border. Despite the warming ties, it remains unclear whether the North's leader Kim Jong Un will make his first-ever visit to the South this year, as Seoul is hoping.

Meeting

Kim agreed to travel to Seoul after hosting his South Korean counterpart Moon Jae-in in Pyongyang in September for their third summit but prospects of a fourth Moon-Kim meeting have recently dimmed, with negotiations on denuclearizing the North grinding to a halt. In an apparent bid to encourage a hesitating Kim to commit to a trip, Moon elicited an expression of support for such a visit from US President Donald Trump at a summit in Buenos Aires on Friday. "The two leaders agreed Chairman Kim Jong Un's visit to Seoul would provide additional momentum to their joint efforts to establish peace on the Korean Peninsula," Moon's chief press secretary Yoon Young-chan said. —AFP

Germany's AfD in trouble as end of Merkel era looms

BERLIN: A year after it entered Germany's parliament, the far-right AfD party is facing turbulence, including a donations scandal and the looming departure of its favorite enemy Chancellor Angela Merkel. The troubles have come thick and fast since the five-year-old Alternative for Germany reached a key goal in October by entering the last of the country's 16 state assemblies, winning 13 percent in the region of Hesse.

A relative newcomer feared and loathed by the bigger mainstream parties, the AfD has however now stagnated at around 15 percent in the polls while another party, the left-leaning Greens, has booked a series of stunning successes. Billing themselves as "the alternative to the Alternative" with a clear stance against the AfD's anti-immigration message, the Greens are now polling at around 20 percent, making them the second-strongest party after Merkel's CDU-CSU bloc.

The AfD meanwhile have faced charges of accepting illegal campaign funds from a non-EU donor, in Switzerland—an especially damaging charge for a party that accuses all the "establishment parties" of being dishonest and corrupt. Co-leader Alice Weidel has been under fire after media reports said her party chapter received 130,000 euros (\$148,000) from a Swiss entrepreneur. While she has rejected wrong-doing and said the money was returned, German prosecutors in mid-November asked parliament to lift Weidel's immunity as they stepped up their enquiries.

'Object of hate'

A more fundamental, long-term problem may be that the AfD's declared nemesis, Merkel, has rung in the beginning of the end of her chancellorship after 13 years in power. Weakened by several election setbacks for her CDU, she has declined to stand again for the leadership of the party at a December congress and declared she will leave politics when her term ends in 2021.

The AfD, whose main slogan has been "Merkel must go", may hail the news as a triumph as they have long railed against Merkel over her decision to allow more than one million asylum seekers into the country since 2015. But they may yet come to miss the leader on whom they have projected their discontent, typically by portraying Merkel wearing a Muslim headscarf or with bloody vampire fangs on protest posters and in social media posts. "When



BUENOS AIRES: Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel (center) arrives for a bilateral meeting on the second day of the G20 Leaders' Summit in Buenos Aires yesterday.—AFP

Merkel goes, the AfD will need a new object of hate," wrote the Berlin daily Tagesspiegel. "With her retreat, Angela Merkel may have achieved something in which she previously failed: to truly hurt the AfD."

Much will depend on who succeeds Merkel at the helm of the party. If Merkel's preferred successor, the moderate Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, nicknamed "mini-Merkel", wins the race, the AfD will likely be happy to train their sights on her. The other two candidates—corporate banker Friedrich Merz and right-wing Health Minister Jens Spahn—may however be tougher targets since they have signaled shifting the party back to the right, including on immigration. In this case, "the AfD will probably lose some of its voters," said Sudha David-Wilp, a researcher at think-tank the German Marshall Fund.

'Lost the battle'

The AfD itself is still deeply divided between relative moderates who joined the party when it started as a mainly eurosceptic group, and its openly revisionist and far-right members. Its most extreme

major figure, Bjoern Hoecke, has demanded "a 180-degree shift" in the nation's culture of remembrance and atonement over Nazi crimes and the Holocaust—an era which another leader, Alexander Gauland, has termed a "speck of bird shit" in Germany's long history. This summer the AfD, which was long labelled "right-wing populist", for the first time publicly closed ranks on the streets with the anti-Islam PEGIDA movement at mass rallies in the eastern city of Chemnitz where neo-Nazis performed Hitler salutes.

The country's domestic intelligence services have started surveillance of some members of the AfD's youth wing, JA, for links to right-wing extremists—a fate the AfD as a whole wants to avoid at all cost. Last week the party executive declared that it had noted "with disgust" statements made by some members of the JA organization that betrayed a "contempt for humanity", and demanded they be excluded from the group. The same week a leading member, Steffen Koeniger from Brandenburg state, left the AfD, declaring that in many regions "the moderates within the AfD have lost the battle against the destructive ones once and for all". —AFP

International

Employees of IL&FS held hostage by Ethiopia staff fear for safety

Seven IL&FS employees held hostage

NEW DELHI: Employees of Indian company Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) taken hostage by local staff in Ethiopia...

local staff in the town of Woliso and one in Nekemte town, both of which are west of the Ethiopian capital, Bishnu told Reuters by telephone...

discussing the matter "on priority" with Ethiopian authorities and the management of IL&FS.

the IL&FS employees held hostage in different areas, and the movement of employees within the camp has not been restricted.

Low on water supplies With the ordeal widely reported by media, Bishnu said he feared the local staff would take away their mobile phones or cut online access to restrict them from talking to colleagues or communicating via e-mails and social media.

The employees are cooking their own food, eating potatoes and rice, although drinking water supplies are running low.

Countering China: US, Japan and India push for open Asia

BUENOS AIRES: The leaders of the United States, Japan and India met jointly Friday for the first time and called for open navigation in Asia...

With the meeting lasting around 15 minutes, the three-way summit was more about symbolism than planning strategy.

Japan, the US and India share fundamental values and strategic interests," Abe said.



BUENOS AIRES: (Left to right) Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks next to US President Donald Trump and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit in Buenos Aires.

woman Sarah Sanders said in a statement that the summit "reaffirmed the importance of the free and open Indo-Pacific vision for global stability and prosperity...

The Trump administration has increasingly spoken of a "free and open Indo-Pacific," a catchphrase long favored by Abe...

Modi and Abe also both met separately with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Trump is set to meet Xi on Saturday for talks focused on trade disputes.

Pakistan MPs critical of army barred from leaving the country

PESHAWAR: Two lawmakers who are vocal critics of Pakistan's powerful military and have alleged widespread abuses by the armed forces say they have been barred from leaving the country...

Both of us are on the ECL," Dawar told Reuters, a reference to the Exit Control List, which names people forbidden from leaving Pakistan.

But an FIA source confirmed Wazir and Dawar were both on the list, "so they can't leave the country."

The police in Swabi had lodged cases against them for their anti-Pakistan speeches in a public gathering there.

The PTM alleges that thousands of Pashtuns were targeted in state-organized killings after Pakistan joined the US-led war on terror in 2001...

In US politics, grandmas and grandpas grab the power

WASHINGTON: In 2018, in the country that gave us young leaders like John F Kennedy and Barack Obama, political power has been grabbed by politicians in their seventies and eighties.

Pelosi is a good example of this aging cadre: bold and active, she marches through the endless corridors of Capitol Hill showing

no sign of her age as she marshals her Democrats in opposition to the Republican agenda. In February, the petite Pelosi grabbed headlines for standing on four-inch (10-centimeter) heels throughout an eight-hour filibuster...

Summit of career Scientific studies show that "as we get

older, people who have purpose and passion, live longer and do well," said Maria Torroella Carney, chief of the division of geriatric and palliative medicine at Northwell Health in New York.

How do they stay in shape?

Pelosi said in a 2011 interview with the New Yorker magazine that she enjoys power walking along the banks of the Potomac River.

political life, all those meetings, all the traveling, the fiery arguments, the late-night negotiations... Aren't those things harmful to the health? On the contrary, he said.

Dementia

In the powerful Senate, an elite group of 100 members, seniority is seen as the top criteria for heading a committee...

who just won re-election. Sometimes, another re-election just seems too much. In April, Senator Thad Cochran finally stepped down at age 80 from his spot as chair of the powerful Appropriations Committee...

"I worry more about the well-being of someone who's 85 than I do about someone who's 75," said De Jonge, recalling that there is a 50 percent risk of dementia after age 85.

Trump, who reportedly loves hamburgers and sodas but golfs regularly, and says he never drinks or smokes, has vowed to seek office again in 2020.

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Business

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BUENOS AIRES: India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (left), Russia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov (second left), Russia's President Vladimir Putin (center left), Russia's Presidential Aide Yury Ushakov (center right) and China's President Xi Jinping (right), hold a meeting on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Buenos Aires, yesterday. — AFP

BRICS slams protectionism amid trade spat

Trump threat to escalate tariffs on China overshadows G20

BUENOS AIRES: Chinese President Xi Jinping and the leaders of major developing economies condemned protectionism at a G20 summit in Argentina on Friday overshadowed by US President Donald Trump's threat to escalate tariffs on China.

This year's two-day gathering is a major test for the Group of 20 industrialized nations, whose leaders first met in 2008 to help rescue the global economy from the worst financial crisis in seven decades.

With a rise in nationalist sentiment in many countries, the G20 - which accounts for two-thirds of the world population - faces questions over its ability to deal with trade tensions, which have roiled global markets. Hanging over the summit in Buenos Aires is the trade dispute between the United States and China, the world's two largest economies, which have imposed tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of each other's imports after Trump launched an effort to correct what he views as China's unfair commercial practices.

Global financial markets took their lead next week from the outcome of talks between Trump and Xi over dinner, aimed at resolving differences that are weighing on global economic growth.

Xi and other leaders from the BRICS group of leading emerging economies - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - issued a statement calling for open international trade and a strengthening of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

"The spirit and rules of the WTO run counter to unilateral and protectionist measures," they said. "We call on all members to oppose such WTO-inconsistent measures, stand by their commitments undertaken in the WTO."

Beijing hopes to persuade Trump to abandon plans to increase tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods to 25 percent in January, from 10 percent at present.

US stocks closed higher on Friday on hopes that a deal could be reached. Trump said there had been some positive signs. "We're working very hard. If we could make a deal that would be good. I think they want to. I think we'd like to. We'll see," he said.

A Chinese foreign ministry official in Buenos Aires said there were signs of increasing consensus ahead of the discussions, although differences remained.

Seeking common ground

On the eve of the summit, G20 nations were still try-

ing to reach consensus on wording for the summit's communique on major issues including trade, migration and climate change, which in past years have been worked out well in advance.

Officials hammering out the communique, known as "sherpas," said they expected to work into the night. "This has been an unprecedentedly long drafting," said Russia's sherpa, Svetlana Lukash. "It's very complicated," she said, adding that differences remained on all the key issues.

Earlier in November, officials from countries attending a major Asia-Pacific summit failed to issue a joint statement for the first time after the US delegation clashed with China over trade and security.

However, delegates to the Buenos Aires talks said good progress had been made on economic sections of the final communique. Argentina's presidency voiced cautious optimism that consensus would be reached, but a White House official said the United States would walk away from any statement that prejudiced US interests.

Highlighting the deep rifts within the G20, European Council President Donald Tusk said the European Union would extend its economic sanctions

on Moscow in December, after Russian ships fired on Ukrainian vessels in the Sea of Azov last week, seizing the boats and sailors.

"As this is a difficult moment for international cooperation, I would like to appeal to the leaders to use this summit ... to seriously discuss real issues such as trade wars, the tragic situation in Syria and Yemen and the Russian aggression in Ukraine," Tusk told a news conference.

Trump cited Russia's seizure of the ships as the reason he canceled a planned bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, where they had been expected to discuss the US leader's threat to withdraw from the Cold War-era Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty.

Moscow said US domestic politics may have been the real reason behind the cancellation after Trump's former personal lawyer pleaded guilty on Thursday to lying to Congress about a proposed Trump Organization skyscraper in the Russian capital. A White House spokeswoman denied this and Trump said on Friday the ships' seizure was the "sole reason" he scratched the meeting. A Kremlin spokesman said Putin was ready to continue talks with Trump. — Reuters

India's economic growth slows as Modi prepares for re-election

NEW DELHI: India's economic growth fell to a worse-than-expected 7.1 percent in the July-September quarter, dragged down by a slower consumer spending and farm growth, in a setback for Prime Minister Narendra Modi who faces a national election by May.

India's growth is still faster than China's 6.5 percent in the same quarter, but the figures were a come-down from the more than two-year high of 8.2 percent set in the June quarter.

A Reuters poll of economists had forecasted growth of 7.4 percent for the quarter. Having swept to power in 2014 promising to galvanize the economy, Modi has been criticized for failing to create enough jobs for the more than 12 million young Indians entering

the labor force each year.

India needs growth of 8-percent-plus to generate enough jobs for those workers.

The unemployment rate rose to a two-year high of 6.9 percent in October, with nearly 30 million young people looking for jobs, according to a report released this month by Centre for Monitoring India Economy (CMIE), a Mumbai based think tank. Some economists expect the slowdown to stretch on to the election, or beyond - encouraging the government to raise spending and breach its fiscal deficit target.

"With elections coming up, you will see a ramp-up in spending," said Teresa John, an economist at Nirmal Bang Institutional Equities, a Mumbai based brokerage, who added growth could even be slower in the second half of the fiscal year. The Statistics Ministry released data showing a decline in growth of the farm sector and consumer spending, raising fears that slower rural wage growth could hit growth in the second half of the fiscal year ending in March 2019.

Food prices

The gross domestic product figure was

"disappointing", Subhash Chandra Garg, economic affairs secretary, said in a tweet, adding first half GDP growth of 7.6 percent nonetheless remained robust and healthy - still highest in the world.

On Wednesday, a government panel announced revised growth estimates that made the Modi administration's record look better than the previous Congress-led governments. Having estimated back in August that the Congress oversaw an average annual growth rate of 8.1 percent during its decade in power, the Statistics Ministry revised that number down to 6.82 percent for 2005/06 to 2011/12 period, putting it well below the 7.35 percent average for the first four years of Modi's term.

A fall in food prices has hit rural incomes in recent months, which in turn dampened sales of consumer durables and other products. Tens of thousands of farmers and rural workers marched to the Indian parliament in the capital, New Delhi, on Friday in a protest against soaring operating costs and plunging produce prices that have brought misery to many.

Farm output grew 3.8 percent year-on-



ALLAHABAD: An Indian worker works on a railway bridge built over the Ganges River in Allahabad yesterday. — AFP

year in the September quarter compared with 5.3 percent the previous quarter. The construction sector, one of the biggest employers after agriculture, grew 7.8 percent year-on-year, slower than 8.7 percent in the previous quarter. Several factors conspired to hold the economy back during the

middle of this year, including a weak rupee and a squeeze in India's shadow banking sector that hindered both investment and consumption.

The broader NSE share index is up 3.3 percent so far this year. In 2017 NSE had gained 28.6 percent. — Reuters

Business

Al-Dousari: EQUATE plays key role in transforming petrochemical industry

Group sponsors 13th annual Gulf Petrochemical & Chemical Association (GPCA) forum

KUWAIT: EQUATE Group, a global producer of petrochemicals, sponsored the 13th annual Gulf Petrochemicals & Chemicals Association (GPCA) Forum, in support of the pioneering role of the Arabian Gulf's industrial sector. The forum was held in Dubai and lasted for three days. A large number of industrial leaders and professionals from across the globe attended the big event.

The forum focused on various elements highlighting the transformation of the global petrochemical industry. With the industry's vital role in energy supply and increasing energy demands, the petrochemical industry is becoming one of the fastest-growing industries in the world. The industry's success has provided the GCC nations with great economic contributions.

EQUATE Group's vision surely reflects high ambitions to be achieved. EQUATE Senior Vice President Naser Al-Dousari said, "As a global enterprise, EQUATE launched its 2025 Sustainability Strategy that is linked to the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Kuwait National development plan 2035. We firmly believe that sustainability is a key component for growth through creating added value by focusing on the environment, economy and society."

Al-Dousari assured that EQUATE plays a big role in the industry's transformation process. "EQUATE's contribution to this transformation is clear through our recent launch of Viridis 25 that represents a breakthrough technology by providing a new food-grade polyethylene terephthalate (PET) using up to 25% chemically recycled PET bottles as feedstock, which is



the highest ratio achieved so far worldwide."

He added, "As the first Middle East-headquartered enterprise to benefit from US-based shale gas sources, our ethylene glycol (EG) plant on the US Gulf Coast is scheduled to begin production during the fourth quarter of 2019 with a total capacity of 750,000 tons annually."

It's worth highlighting that EQUATE took its participation plan even further this time by sponsoring a professor along with a number of students from the College of Engineering & Petroleum at Kuwait University to have the opportunity to attend the forum and add to their experiences through interacting with other delegates. The initiative is part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was signed with the university for partnership and collaboration in industrial and academic fields.

The 13th Annual GPCA Forum is held in Dubai, UAE,



during November 26 to 28, 2018. The forum gathers over 2,000 top executives from petrochemical and chemical companies as well as government bodies and other entities from around the globe to discuss various topics.

The EQUATE Group is a global producer of petrochemicals and the world's second largest producer of ethylene glycol (EG). The Group owns and operates industrial complexes in Kuwait, North America and

Europe that annually produce over 6 million tons of ethylene, EG, polyethylene (PE), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), styrene monomer (SM), paraxylene (PX), heavy aromatics (HA) and benzene (BZ). The EQUATE Group includes EQUATE Petrochemical Company (EQUATE), The Kuwait Olefins Company (TKOC), as well as a number of subsidiaries such as MEGlobal and Equipolymers. Their products are marketed throughout Asia, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Kuwait-based COFE App 'one of the top 50 startups to watch for'



KUWAIT: COFE App, an online coffee-centric marketplace, was the only Kuwait-based startup listed as one of the "Top 50 Startups to Watch in the Arab World" by FORBES Middle East. Conceptualized in Kuwait and developed in Silicon Valley, the app connects coffee house chains and specialty coffee roasters with coffee lovers through a seamless, easy and efficient user-interface.

Created by a multinational team of technology professionals who are also coffee enthusiasts, the app has quickly penetrated the market. COFE App has carved itself a niche among coffee lovers and early adopters in a marketplace where coffee is an essential part of daily life and local culture.

COFE App Founder and CEO Ali Al Ebrahim said: "We would like to thank Forbes Middle East for believing in our app's potential. Though it's always nice to be recognized, today we are more focused than ever on growing both our range of vendors and our customer base in Kuwait, the Middle East, and beyond. COFE App brings together tradition and technology in a unified platform serving a region where coffee is more than just a beverage. We are excited about the next phase of our journey and helping coffee lovers get their daily fix of java from their favorite coffee brewers delivered right to their door with a tap on our app."

COFE App features:

- Saves time through a quick, easy, seamless and simple coffee purchasing experience.
- Extensive menu options that enable drinks customization (for example: sugar, milk type, and other add-ons).
- Multiple delivery options, including fast delivery to office or home, store pick up, and in car delivery service.
- Catering services for meetings and private banquets, with on-site kiosk and barista service.
- Multiple payment options, including cash-on delivery, debit cards and credit on the account.

COFE App was Beta launched in February 2018 in Kuwait, and will soon be available in other countries.

Wataniya Mobile becomes Ooredoo Palestine

DOHA: Wataniya Mobile has officially rebranded as Ooredoo Palestine, marking another important step forward for the global brand that launched in 2013.

The rebrand of Wataniya Mobile is part of Ooredoo Group's strategy to evolve its business and create a foundation for new opportunities for customers across its footprint in the Middle East, North Africa and Southeast Asia. For customers in Palestine, the launch fresh new brand is set to support a wave of exciting new initiatives and connect them to Ooredoo's global community.

To celebrate the launch of the brand, Ooredoo Palestine has offered free 3G access to customers in West Bank and free calling minutes in Gaza. Since launching 3G services for customers in West Bank at the start of 2018 as part of its network modernization strategy, the company has seen record-breaking demand for the service. This week, a brand inauguration event was held in West Bank, Palestine, which was attended by government ministers, ambassadors, media professionals and senior executives from Ooredoo Palestine and Ooredoo Group.

Prominent figures at the event included Dr. Mohammad Mustafa, representing the President Mahmoud Abbas; Dr. Allam Mousa, Palestine's Minister of Telecoms and IT; Sheikh Abdullah Bin Mohammed Bin Saud Al-Thani, Ooredoo Group's Chairman; Sheikh Saud Bin Nasser Al-Thani, Ooredoo Group's Chief Executive Officer; Mohammad Abu Ramadan, Ooredoo Palestine's Chairman; and Dr. Durgham Marace, Ooredoo Palestine's CEO.

Speaking at the event, Sheikh Abdullah Bin Mohammed Bin Saud Al-Thani, Chairman, Ooredoo Group, said: "Ooredoo today is a brand that reaches tens of millions of people in the Middle East, North Africa and Southeast Asia. Our name means "I want", which expresses everyone's aspirations for a better and more rewarding future."

"We have always put our customers at the heart of our business and we're committed more than ever to enrich their daily digital lives so they can take advantage of the life-changing opportunities that mobile technology offers. Today, we extend the Ooredoo brand to Palestine, welcoming Ooredoo Palestine to our global family and making the first step of a remarkable journey for us all," he added.

Sheikh Saud Bin Nasser Al-Thani, Ooredoo Group's Chief Executive Officer, commented: "Today is a historic day for Ooredoo Group, as one of our most dynamic markets adopts the Ooredoo brand, marking a new milestone within the company. This rebrand is a testament to our confidence in our strategy and our understanding of the incredible opportunities it has delivered to businesses and communities around the world." "Our customers in Palestine will be empowered to leverage our global resources and transform their digital lives. With our companies unified under one brand, we are a global force working to support our customers' aspirations, helping them grow and fulfill their dreams, here in Palestine and around the world," he added.

Mohammad Abu Ramadan, Chairman, Ooredoo Palestine, said: "As the company moves towards sustainable profitability, with a customer base that has increased significantly over the same period last year and with the largest registered capital in the Palestine



Securities Exchange with a value of 293 million shares issued and paid, we're very happy to crown today these successes by unifying Wataniya Mobile with its largest investor and parent company Ooredoo Group."

Dr. Durgham Marace, Chief Executive Officer, Ooredoo Palestine, said: "We have succeeded in launching our business in the Gaza Strip and we have provided the best campaigns and offers to our customers there, which reflected positively on the economy as a whole and played a role in boosting the Gazan market. Also, we've succeeded in launching the best 3G services in the West Bank, providing great services at very competitive our prices to enable our customers to experience and enjoy the internet. Of course, this wouldn't have been possible without our investors, particularly our founder investor - the Palestinian Investment Fund - and our largest investor, our parent company - Ooredoo Group."

He concluded: "We're proud and very happy to join Ooredoo Group's global family. This will offer us many opportunities for growth and will enable us to take our customers' experience to a whole new level and introduce innovative new product offerings."

Ooredoo is committed to invest all efforts to become the leading integrated ICT provider in Palestine and provide a full range of customized services. Ooredoo Palestine will continue to implement its vision to enrich customers' digital life and allow all members of the Palestinian community to enjoy high speed internet and high-quality voice services.

Ooredoo Palestine had officially launched operations in Gaza in 2017, providing residents with an alternative option for advanced communications services directly through its shops and authorised dealers. And most recently, Ooredoo Palestine launched its 3G services in the West Bank to enable the Palestinian youth to enjoy the internet and help them achieve their dreams and aspirations through the services it's providing.

Launching the Ooredoo brand in Palestine will enhance competitiveness and contribute to the country's economic growth, enabling young people to acquire knowledge, make decisions and be connected all the time, to realise their full potential through communications. The company is working with a number of business customers to provide a range of cutting-edge online services.

Doha students visit Ooredoo's HQ

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, in collaboration with Qatar Foundation and Doroub Agency organized a visit for students that came to Kuwait from Doha last Tuesday in the company's head office, in which they had a chance to meet Ooredoo's Chief Executive Officer, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Thani, where they had the opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts on the Telecom Industry.

Al-Thani shared his industry knowledge and career experiences with the students, sharing his life lessons and taking them through Ooredoo's CSR strategy in which supporting the youth and empowering them is one of its main pillars. Furthermore, taking them through the strategy of reflecting Ooredoo's vision of the company's core values of caring, connecting and challenging.

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development is a private,

non-profit organization that serves the people of Qatar by supporting and operating programs in three core mission areas: education, science, research, and community development.

Doroub Marketing Representative Omar Al-Houti stated that the agency creates tailor made travel plans that are carefully studied by a team of experts that ensures that travelers experience a holistic culturally engaged tour of the designated country. This gives everyone a chance to have a one of a kind opportunity to engage and connect with different civilizations with rooted traditions, which in the end created an unforgettable experience.

Empowering youth is among Ooredoo's top priorities through its CSR strategy. The company has recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs to support youth projects and initiatives. Ooredoo is continuously working with the Ministry to enrich youth experience in a variety of fields, with a focus on volunteerism.

Supporting youth and empowering



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



Health & Science

World AIDS Day marked with vigils, rallies

Death from AIDS fallen to lowest level this century

LONDON: From lighting candles to holding rallies, people around the world marked World AIDS Day yesterday to raise awareness about the fight against HIV/AIDS and remember all those who have died from it. The international event marks its 30th anniversary this year, with people across continents expected to hold campaigns and vigils and wear the symbolic red ribbons for the occasion.

Some 37 million people live with HIV around the world, according to the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), which in July warned against complacency slowing the fight against the global epidemic. In a report, the UN body said the global response to HIV/AIDS was at a "precarious point", adding that while treatment rates were rising and the number of deaths falling, "the success in saving lives has not been matched with equal success in reducing new HIV infections".

Death from AIDS have fallen to the lowest level this century, with fewer than 1 million people dying from AIDS-related illnesses last year, it said. But a funding crisis, prevention services not reaching vulnerable populations and discrimination remain worrying issues. More than 77 million people around the world have become infected with HIV since the epidemic emerged in the 1980s, according to UNAIDS. Just under half, or 35.4 million people, have died from AIDS-related illnesses.

“Some 37 million people are living with HIV”

30th World AIDS Day

The global campaign to end AIDS has made significant strides but the epidemic remains one of the world's leading public health challenges, affecting almost 37 million people. Campaigners say one of the biggest challenges in the fight to end AIDS is encouraging people to get tested and making them aware of treatment and prevention services. The theme of the 30th anniversary of World AIDS Day, which shows support for people living with HIV and commemorates those who have died, is "Know your Status". Here are 10 facts about HIV/AIDS:

About 35 million people have died from AIDS- or HIV-related illnesses since 1981, including 940,000 in 2017. Increased awareness and access to antiretroviral drugs have more than halved the number of AIDS-related deaths since 2004. An estimated 77 million people have become infected with HIV since the start of the epidemic in 1981, including 1.8 million in 2017. Every week, almost 7,000 young women aged between 15 and 24 are infected with HIV.

In sub-Saharan Africa young women are twice as likely to be living with HIV than men. South Africa has the world's highest HIV prevalence, with almost one in five people infected. One in four people, about 9 million, are unaware that they are HIV-positive. UNAIDS wants nine in 10 people to know their status by 2020. Almost 22 million people were accessing antiretroviral drugs in 2017, compared with 8 million in 2010. Eight out of 10 pregnant women living with HIV received treatment in 2017, compared with less than half in 2010. — Reuters



AMRITSAR: Indian school students pose for a photograph as they sit in the shape of a ribbon as part of an awareness event on the eve of World AIDS Day in Amritsar. — AFP

DDI concludes Diabetes Awareness Campaign

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI) concluded its month long diabetes awareness campaign which ran under the slogan 'Diabetes, I will fix you' with

an awareness march that started at the Kuwait Towers and ended at DDI. The march was in cooperation with Kuwait Mini Team and Classical Car Club.

The cars were fitted with illuminated blue circles/halos which symbolizes the blue circle campaign all around the world. The campaign aimed at drawing attention towards prevention measures that can be used against diabetes by change in lifestyle and will help avoid the disease. One can also follow doctor's instructions to lead a healthy diabetes free life.

The month long campaign included several activities including the reception of various educational bodies such as

schools and institutes. DDI also hosted prominent dignitaries who gave lectures on various scientific and medical fields. DDI also reached out to the public through setting up booths in various places such as the Avenues, Al-Hamra Tower, 360 mall and the Gate mall in an attempt to educate people while also running free tests.

Among other things, DDI carried out an ad campaign that showed a creative video with an important message. In cooperation with Kuwait Airways, booklets with information regarding diabetes were placed at the airport to educate passengers on how to deal with the disease while traveling.



What are the ethics of baby gene-editing?

PARIS: A Chinese scientist's stunning claim he has pioneered the world's first genetically modified baby has suddenly made the eternal debate over ethics and emerging scientific capabilities pressing and real. Should everything that becomes technically possible be carried out? For most ethicists the answer is no-but the tricky part is whether it can be prevented. "It's obvious that everything that is technically feasible is not ethically desirable," said Cynthia Fleury, a member of the French Ethics Committee.

"But to resist that, in a context of deregulated scientific competition, is structurally destined for failure." It's a question as old as science: Are ethics condemned to constantly nip at the heels of advances that burst forth and take a head start? Certainly the case in China has brought the debate to the fore. That country's National Health Commission has ordered a probe into the baby gene-editing announced by scientist He Jiankui, in which he claimed to have tinkered with the DNA of twin girls born a few weeks ago to prevent them contracting HIV.

China's government said it was opposed to the experiment, while the scientific world erupted in uproar. The alleged breakthrough has not been verified. And, after a backlash, He said his trial has been suspended and he has disappeared from public view. "Good science is not just about generating knowledge in a vacuum. Context and consequences are vitally important, and the consequences of this irresponsible action may be dire indeed," said Dr Sarah Chan, of the University of Edinburgh.

For all the condemnation, however, it is important to note that many objections were not over the principle of human genetic modification as such, but rather over the way the experiment was carried out. For instance: it was conducted outside of typical institutional structures, by a lone scientist acting in a way seen by many as premature given the technology used. He said he employed CRISPR, a technique which allows scientists to remove and replace a strand with pinpoint precision.

But the consequences of the technique are not yet fully known-particularly whether genetic slicing

and splicing like that carried over from one generation to the next, with unpredictable effects. The fear is that reckless application of CRISPR might create "monsters". Another ethical violation raised is that the aim of He's experiment was to protect the babies against AIDS and not to try to cure them of a life-threatening disease.

Trying to rush the technology

The concern of the scientific community is that by stepping across established ethical red lines, ensuing public suspicion could crush a field of very promising research. While CRISPR might spark unease of a future for humanity straight out of an Aldous Huxley novel, it also bears enormous hopes of being able to treat genetic infirmities. "Trying to rush the technology forwards, skipping vital scientific and ethical steps, could end up setting us all back," warned Dr Kathy Niakan, a biologist at the Francis Crick Institute in London. Yet that view in itself shows just how far ethics have evolved to the pace of scientific change.

For many decades, the idea of modifying human genomes was simply unthinkable. Now, several international scientific organizations conceive of it being possible, within a rigorous framework. "You can't just say that something is taboo and that's that, you can't ever think about it again," Anne Cambon-Thomsen, a specialist in immunogenetics and health ethics, and emeritus head of research at France's CNRS national scientific research centre, told AFP.

"An essential point of our humanity is to be able to react by thinking about what is made possible by our technical abilities," said Cambon-Thomsen, who is part of a European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies that advises the EU. Such a shift in acceptance has already been seen, for example, in the field of organ transplants. Yet human cloning, at present, still remains an intolerable premise. According to Cambon-Thomsen, that's because "we have difficulty in showing some sort of (medical) advantage in cloning".

Following the storm sparked by He Jiankui's announcement, scientists are calling for an international treaty on gene-editing. But agreeing global regulation "isn't easy because cultures are different-we don't think of human beings in the same way in China as in the West," observed Thierry Magnin, rector at the Catholic University of Lyon. Magnin, a theologian and physicist, said: "Ethics must be integrated right from the start when technologies are developed, and not come in the end." — AFP

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What's On



With the attendance of HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah, Sheikh Sabah Mohammad Al-Mubarak Al-Malek Al-Sabah recently celebrated the wedding of his son Sheikh Mohammad to the daughter of Sheikh Humoud Yousif Al-Salman Al-Sabah. The wedding reception was held in Qurtoba.

ACK students intern at Al-Babtain Group

Two business students from the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) had a great experience as they completed an internship program with Al-Babtain Group. Headquartered in Kuwait, Al-Babtain Group is one of the flagship companies being the main distributor for several renowned brands in the automotive industry as well as known for its investment and real estate projects locally and regionally.

The internship program consisted of work opportunities at Al-Babtain's Nissan in their Customer Call Center. Students spent 80 hours on-site assisting customers and were given training on how to manage both inbound and outbound calls. Commenting on their experience, Interns said: "It was an invaluable

experience as it enhanced our interpersonal skills and helped us to learn how to deal with customers".

On her end, Sonar Al Hajj, Group Recruitment Manager at Al-Babtain's commented: "I am very happy with the level of maturity that ACK students displayed and gladly we will be offering more internships in the future." ACK delivers a unique mix of vocational and theoretical curriculum, therefore the College strongly believes in providing internship opportunities, to its students, such as this, to experience things taught in the classroom and how they are applied in a professional setting, while also providing them with invaluable skills and knowledge to further their development and prepare them for their professional careers.



SPY organizes 'Domestic Helpers Day'



Salmiya Parish Youth (SPY) Kuwait organized their annual Domestic Helpers Day on November 30, 2018. Youth members organized a fun-filled picnic for 100 maids and drivers at a chalet in Kabd. Joyallukas Jewelry were the main sponsors for the event. This has been the 7th consecutive year that SPY has undertaken this initiative. Joyallukas has always believed that the people and community within which it operates are the cornerstones for its success. It has consistently undertaken various programs to help and encourage causes that benefit the society. Kiran Clement, member of the youth group said, "Our main goal is to spread joy and happiness amongst these hard working individuals who work 24x7 with almost no appreciation. It was a day well spent with the domestic workers who don't see their own family very often. I am very thankful to all those who helped make this event a success and would urge more people to be a part or contribute towards such causes."

SPY members organized many games and activities and served all the guests with food



and snacks throughout the day. The event ended with prizes distributed to the winning team who played all the games with great enthusiasm. Gift hampers were then handed out to all the maids and drivers. The catering

was undertaken by White Rose Restaurant and snacks were sponsored by Family Bakers. Many well wishers from Salmiya Church and the Open Gate Community also contributed towards making this a successful event.

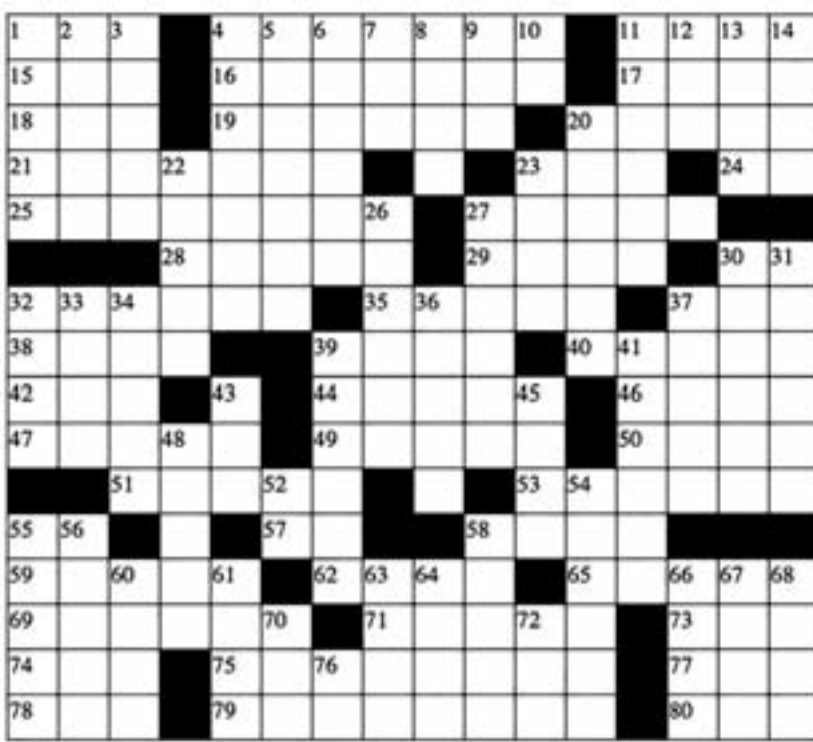


Nargis Al-Shatti councilor of DWC Diplomatic Women Committee held a meeting with the ITL World Travel Management Company. They discussed about "Tourism Week" in cooperation with the Ministry of Information to be the official sponsor for the week. Sudanese delegation from Al Suhub office for Tourism and Oman Airlines were among the attendees.



Stars

CROSSWORD 2073



ACROSS

- 1. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
4. An obsolete kind of container used for distillation.
11. An interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open.
15. (Irish) The sea personified.
16. Highly aromatic inner bark of the Canella winterana used as a condiment and a tonic.
17. Norwegian mathematician (1802-1829).
18. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
19. A small stream.
21. Come into the possession of something concrete or abstract.
24. A state in northwestern United States on the Pacific.
25. North American evergreen with small pinkish bell-shaped flowers and oblong leaves used formerly for shimplasters.
28. (Norse mythology) God of light and peace and noted for his beauty and sweet nature.
29. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
32. Metal shackles.
35. Jordan's port.
38. Set down according to a plan.
40. South African plant widely cultivated for its showy pure white spathe and yellow spadix.
42. A resource.
44. A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.
46. A small ball with a hole through the middle.
47. A military trainee (as at a military academy).
49. (Hindu) A manner of sitting (as in the practice of Yoga).
50. Any competition.
51. Port city in the United Arab Emirates on the Persian Gulf.
53. Filled with a great quantity.
55. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
57. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
59. Sluggish tailless Australian arboreal marsupial with gray furry ears and coat.
62. An indication of radiant light drawn around the head of a saint.
65. A shade of brown with a tinge of red.
69. Usually elongate cluster of flowers along the main stem in which the flowers at the base open first.
71. A deep ravine (usually with a river running through it).
73. A human limb.
74. The month following September and preceding November.
75. Mildly laxative n.
77. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
78. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series.
79. A loud bombastic declamation expressed with strong emotion.
80. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.

DOWN

- 1. A name that has been assumed temporarily.
2. The process of leaching.
3. Of or relating to Iraq or its people or culture.
4. Acrylic resin used to make a strong soft crease-resistant fabric (trade name Acrilan).
5. A tangible symbol signifying approval or distinction.
6. The cardinal number that is the sum of eight and one.
7. The force of workers available.
8. Cheese containing a blue mold.
9. Not in good physical or mental health.
10. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
11. Ground snakes.
12. A dark-skinned member of a race of people living in Australia when Europeans arrived.
13. Wife or mistress of Zeus and mother of Apollo and Artemis in ancient mythology.
14. (Welsh) Corresponds to Iris Ler.
20. A histamine blocker and antacid (trade name Zantac) used to treat peptic ulcers and gastritis and esophageal reflux.
22. Not invited or requested.
23. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
26. Noisy quarrel.
27. A port city in southwestern Iran.
30. A large and stately mansion.
31. Bearing or characterized by a blade or sword.
33. Precipitation of ice pellets when there are strong rising air currents.
34. Having help.
36. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
37. Appeal or request earnestly.
39. (Old Testament) The first of the major Hebrew prophets (8th century BC).
41. Wear away.
43. The month following January and preceding March.
45. Exhibiting or restored to vigorous good health.
48. A brass instrument without valves.
52. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
54. A northeastern Iranian language spoken in Russia.
56. Act together, as of organisms.
58. A constitutional monarchy in northern Europe on the western side of the Scandinavian Peninsula.
60. A hormone produced by the anterior pituitary gland that stimulates the adrenal cortex.
61. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
63. A city in northern India.
64. A cut of meat taken from the side and back of an animal between the ribs and the rump.
66. A metabolic acid found in yeast and liver cells.
67. A theocratic republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
68. Type genus of the Amniidae.
70. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
72. Large African antelope having a head with horns like an ox and a

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today may find you more impulsive than you usually are. You seem to be direct and outspoken when dealing with others today. You desire a fresh start. Your mind is on new beginnings and developing new habit patterns. Out with the old and in with the new. The consequences of the choices and decisions you make today will be long lasting. Take your time and put much thought into the changes you are making. Remember, acting on impulse is not always the best way to handle decisions and problems. Change can be good as long as you take the time to think things through and realize every action has a consequence.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Today may find solutions to old problems seem to fall in your lap. Ideas and dreams may easily turn into realities. You have a strong sense of independence today. You are one of a kind. Others may see you as quite eccentric. You are special and full of life. Communication with others comes natural. Clear thoughts of the past may be flowing today and you are able to really get in touch with your inner self. You know what you want and you are determined to achieve your goals.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may be entering a phase of directness and impulsiveness. You could find yourself experiencing powerful and forceful feelings. Your emotions are at an all time high. You seem to be craving a new start, some sort of new beginning is what you feel you need. New habits will start to be developed. These are habits that will have lasting effects on your life. Make sure these are positive things for you because they will have a long-term effect on your life. You may find that your mind is in overdrive. Slow down and think things through before making any big decisions. Do not act in haste.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Will find you entering a phase of directness. You may be very impulsive. You may want to bite your tongue to prevent putting your foot in your mouth. Others could find this quite offensive. Try and remember to take a moment to think before you speak. You should have no problem getting your point across to others, whether it be positive or negative. Try and remember to keep things positive today and put on a happy face to avoid conflict. This is a great day for new beginnings. Out with the old and in with the new.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are not lacking charm today. It seems as if everyone is drawn to you. Today is the date to make the date or apply for the job you have been thinking about. Others will be drawn to you today. You crave a fresh start. Out with the old and in with the new. Reach out to mend fences and ask for new beginnings. This is a time in your life where new habit patterns will be developed. Make sure they are good ones. Actions have consequences and these new habits will have lasting effects on your life. Make yourself known, Leo. This is a time for you to shine.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Today finds you direct and impulsive. What a combination! Powerful emotions are the driving force behind your mood. You may want to count to ten before you speak today. You are driven to make a fresh start. New beginnings are what you desire. This is a great time to make decisions and changes you will stick to. Make sure they are good ones. New habits will set the tone for quite some time in your life. A good day to keep to yourself to avoid conflict with others. That mouth could get you in trouble.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Today is a day of high energy and quick thinking. Your mind is sharp but your tongue is sharper. Be sure and wash your feet this morning as you may find yourself with one in your mouth. Stop and take a breath before responding to any negativity you encounter. Ask yourself if you had rather be right or if you had rather be happy. You may find biting your tongue is worth keeping the peace. Don't get carried away under pressure and make any hasty decisions. Take some time to think things through today before making any major decisions.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Powerful and forceful feelings seem to be your driving force today. A mixture of being outspoken and impulsive could be a dangerous recipe. You may want to practice biting your tongue. You could end up with your foot in your mouth if you aren't careful. A fresh start is what you crave. This is a great time to start new habit patterns. Make sure these are good ones, because your actions have consequences and these will be long lasting.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your artistic temperament is in conflict with your practical self today. What you are doing may be fun and aesthetically satisfying, but is it producing the income you need? Look for a project that is creative and financially profitable. You have many talents. You don't have to settle for either/or. You can have it all.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may find yourself having emotional differences with someone. This could cause you to become frustrated. There may be someone or something that just doesn't feel right to you and you are unable to put your finger on it. Trust your gut on this one. You are usually a great judge of character and able to know who and who not to keep in your circle. This is one of those people that you do not need to allow to become a part of your life. You can save yourself some heartache by walking away.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Communicating with others comes naturally to you today. You seem to have a gift when it comes to getting your point across with ease. It seems as if clear thoughts about the past flow freely through your mind today. You seem to have great understanding of the feelings of those around you. This is a great time to have a really special moment with someone you love. You may find that bonds are strengthened, and you will feel closer than usual to this person. A great foundation for the future may be built this evening with the one you love.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is a great day for your career wise. You may be just the one for the job that is coming available. It is an awesome day of harmony with not only your friends but with your co-workers. Your ideas and input are greatly appreciated today. Stick to your routine and stay true to yourself and you will experience a great sense of admiration from others. Even though today may find you in a very impulsive mood, resist temptation and think long and hard about decisions you make today. You may be facing some life changing decisions. This is not only a great day to organize your thoughts but also work on organizing your affairs and surroundings.

Wordsearch Puzzle

More 80's Songs

Wordsearch puzzle grid with 10x20 letters. Includes instructions: Find and circle all of the 1980's song titles that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the title of an Elton John song. Lists of 80's songs including Africa, Gloria Guilty, Never Notorious, etc.

Friday's Solution

More 70's Songs

Wordsearch puzzle grid with 15x15 letters. Lists of 70's songs including Afternoon Delight, American Pie, Dream On, Magic Man, etc. Includes hidden words at the bottom.

Friday's Solution

Completed crossword puzzle grid with letters filled in.

Daily SuDoku

Daily Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 1-9.

Friday's Solution

Completed Friday's Solution Sudoku puzzle grid.

Lifestyle

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018

Icelandic language fighting tsunami of English

Two centuries ago experts predicted that Icelandic would be a dead language by now. But the doomsayers can eat their words: Icelandic is alive and kicking despite an onslaught of English brought on by modern technology. Currently spoken by the 355,000 inhabitants of this North Atlantic island, Icelandic has repeatedly come under threat through the ages—following migrations, invasions by Norway and Denmark from the 16th to the early 20th centuries, and the Industrial Revolution. But it has always survived, with the written language little changed since the 11th century.

With just a little guesswork, an Icelander today can read the Icelandic Sagas, medieval literary masterpieces written in Old Norse in the 13th and 14th centuries. Yet English usage has in recent decades skyrocketed in Iceland—as around the world—thanks to the dominance of American pop culture as well as the adoption of modern technology such as the internet, YouTube and smartphones with lightning speed.

Visitors to the capital Reykjavik need only ask locals for directions to quickly discover that Iceland is in fact bilingual. For youths here, speaking English is simply a matter of necessity. “I have to be able to read English because it’s everywhere and it’s universal,” 11-year-old Sigthor Elias Smith says—in Icelandic. Here, people watch videos and play games on their laptops, tablets and smartphones in English for the most part. Like in other Nordic countries, dubbing is almost non-existent. And Icelandic is glaringly absent in the online world. “I watch YouTube a lot, I learn a lot of English that way, and also on Netflix,” says Sigthor’s friend Eva Bjork Angarita, 12.

Icelandic in the digital age

Amid some concern that English is too prevalent, Iceland has adopted several measures to promote its own language. In 1996, the government designated November 16 as Icelandic Language Day, aimed at drawing attention to its contribution to national identity and culture. In 2011, a new law recognized Icelandic as the country’s official language.

And Education, Culture and Science Minister Lilja Alfreðsdóttir announced in September that authors or editors publishing books in Icelandic would have 25 percent of their expenses reimbursed, in a bid to increase the diversity of books available in Icelandic. To counteract the dominance of English in technology, Alfreðsdóttir has also earmarked 2.4 billion kronur (around 17.5 million euros, \$19.3 million) to develop Icelandic versions of voice recognition services for virtual personal assistants such as Apple’s Siri and Amazon’s Alexa. Sigthor and Eva’s Icelandic teacher, Solveig Reynisdóttir, is among those concerned about the rise of the Bard’s tongue. She worries that the tsunami of English that children are exposed to online is affecting their Icelandic vocabulary.

“The children sometimes lack words because there are many they’ve never heard,” she laments as she hands out a language comprehension assignment to her 23 students. “The technological changes are a real challenge,” Alfreðsdóttir admits. Eiríkur Rögnvaldsson, an Icelandic professor and linguist at the University of Iceland, agrees.

He acknowledges that the ubiquity of English is not unique to Iceland, but notes that in contrast to other countries, many young Icelanders choose to live abroad. “Young people in Iceland ... don’t necessarily see Iceland as their home in the future. They want to go abroad, study and live abroad. It seems their connections to their country and language are not as strong as they used to be.” A 2016 Forbes study showed that 11.4 percent of Icelanders lived abroad, in sixth place of OECD countries with populations living overseas.

No worries

Others say the fears are unwarranted. Icelanders are prolific writers. Some 1,600 books are published in print each year, according to Iceland’s National and University Library. That’s three times more per capita than in France. “We shouldn’t be worried by a few red flags,” says Ari Pall Kristinsson, a researcher at the Arni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies. “Cultural life in Icelandic is very dynamic today.” And it is worth noting that English may be gaining ground orally, but it is not making its way into Icelandic dictionaries.

While English loanwords and slang regularly creep into other languages, Icelandic remains one of the world’s purest languages. The government’s Icelandic Language Committee sees to that. It guards the language closely, working meticulously to devise new words with Icelandic roots when necessary. For computer, it came up with “tölva”: a mix of “tala” (number) and “volva” (prophetess), to create the poetic “prophetess of numbers”. “I don’t think Icelandic will disappear,” says Gudrun Kvaran, head of the committee. “Two centuries ago, our famous Danish language experts predicted that Icelandic would be dead within 200 years. And yet we’re still speaking Icelandic today.” — AFP



This picture shows a Tawny owl displayed at an education facility in Kuwait city yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Rare Van Gogh photo is of Vincent’s brother, say experts

For decades the bright-eyed boy in the photograph was believed to be the legendary artist Vincent Van Gogh at the age of 13. But experts revealed Thursday that the picture is most likely not the Dutch “Sunflowers” painter but his brother Theo, who was 15 at the time. The Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam announced the shock discovery about what was previously thought to be one of only two photos of Vincent, and which has appeared in dozens of books. “With this discovery we are an illusion poorer and a portrait of Theo richer,” said Axel Rutger, director of the Van Gogh Museum.

“Of course there was a slight twinge of disappointment also because we have so few photographs of Vincent van Gogh and now we have even one less,” he told AFP. “But on the other hand of course I am always happy if you can discover more of the truth.” The discovery leaves just one known picture of the artist, taken when he was 19 years old. While Vincent Van Gogh is famed for his vividly-coloured, emotionally turbulent self-portraits in oils, he showed a surprising reluctance to be captured on camera.

He committed suicide at the age of 37 in 1890 after an emotionally turbulent life, detailed in years of correspondence with Theo, an art dealer who supported the artist emotionally and financially. “When I heard that this is most

likely a picture of my great-grandfather Theo—and not of Vincent—I was surprised, but I am glad that the mystery has been solved,” Willem van Gogh, Theo’s great-grandson and an advisor to the board of the Van Gogh Museum, said in a statement.

‘Image that everybody knows’

Uncovering the case of mistaken identity took years of artistic detective work. The picture was taken by taken by Brussels photographer Balduin Schwarz in the late 19th century, but did not emerge publicly until 1957, in an exhibition by Mark Edo Tralbaut, a Belgian researcher who identified it in a catalogue as “Portrait of Vincent Van Gogh (circa 1866)”. “It is the image that everybody knows as the portrait of the artist as a young boy,” Teio Meedendorp, chief researcher at the Van Gogh Museum, told AFP. But after a Dutch TV program raised questions about it in 2014, the Van Gogh Museum launched an investigation.

Coincidentally, another Van Gogh expert from Belgium, Yves Vasseur, had also started his own enquiries and got in touch with the museum. Vasseur said he discovered by chance that the photographer had only moved to his Brussels studio in 1870, four years after the photo was

taken, and that Vincent Van Gogh would have been much older at the time. “I decided to share my doubts about the identification with the Van Gogh Museum, and we subsequently decided to collaborate to solve this ‘identity crisis’ once and for all,” he said.

Confusing the issue was the fact that the brothers looked alike, with reddish-blond hair—but Theo had more delicate features and a “very light eye color” which looked like it could be seen in the photo. “The light color of Theo’s eyes is especially striking in the known photographs of him, and this can also be seen in the Schwarz portrait—this was another indication that the person in the portrait is probably Theo,” added Meedendorp.

The museum then commissioned a forensic study by a professor at Amsterdam University which showed with a “high degree of probability” that the photo was of Theo. “In the end we have lost a portrait, a photograph portrait of Vincent but we have found a new photography portrait of Theo,” Vasseur told AFP. — AFP



A handout picture released by the Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam shows a black and white image of Dutch painter Vincent Van Gogh, aged 19. — AFP photos



A handout picture released by the Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam shows a black and white image of Theo Van Gogh, Dutch painter Vincent Van Gogh’s brother.



A handout picture released by the Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam shows a black and white image of Theo Van Gogh, aged 15, Dutch painter Vincent Van Gogh’s brother.

Clyro plan double release



Biffy Clyro plan to release two albums next year. The 'Mountains' hitmakers have been working hard on a musical and movie project but before the visual aspect has been released, they're looking to get back into the recording studio and are looking forward to a "full-on" year. Frontman Simon Neil said: "We should have two albums out next year. "A director approached me to make a record and he's making a movie in response to it. "So we've been collaborat-

ing most of the year and he finished the film last week. "The album should hopefully be out in January and the film in March or April. "Then we'll be in the studio making the eighth album with Rich Costey in January or February and the sooner we can get it done the better. "This is what we do! If you're in a band you should be making music. It's going to be a full-on year." Simon has played guitar since he was young and admitted the instrument helped give him confidence because he was always very

shy and struggled to express himself. He told Q magazine: "When I grew up, my guitar was such an important part of my life. "I was a bit shy, not great at communication, but as soon as I learned guitar I felt I had a way to express myself. "It gave me a level of confidence I needed. "I wasn't great with words. Hopefully I'm better now because I'm meant to be a lyricist."



The Prodigy never expect their albums to do well

The Prodigy "don't ever expect" their albums to be successful. The dance music legends - made up of Liam Howlett, Keith Flint and Maxim Reality - released their seventh album 'No Tourists' earlier this month which became the sixth of the group's records to reach No.1 in the UK Album Chart, however, they are still always surprised when their music proves to be popular. In an interview with The Sun newspaper, Liam said: "We don't ever expect it because we are not in the public eye and we don't get radio play. We know what we are and we don't ever expect a record to do well. We don't take it for granted, especially now, so it's a good result for the fans who went out and supported us." Prior to their latest release, the trio didn't think they would ever make another album as it was too time-consuming, however, Liam revealed that a collaboration

with hip-hop group Ho99o9 got the ball rolling for this record. The 'Firestarter' hitmaker said: "Once I made the track with my rapper friends from New Jersey within six months I had six really good ideas. I told the guys I was halfway to making an album. "It usually takes five years as we do a lot of work on the road which sounds crazy. But from that point, I came in here [studio] every day. Sometimes on just three hours sleep, as night is the best time to write." Liam is married to All Saints singer Natalie Appleton and he has praised his pop star wife for her support while they were creating 'No Tourists' as she "understands" the hard work that went into the tracks. He said: "I am lucky I have a great wife who supported me through this. Because Nat is in the industry, she understands it, she gets it."



McConaughey won't speak before seeing work

Matthew McConaughey won't publicise his movies until he's seen the finished film. The 'Gold' actor admits he's learned the hard way not to talk about his work until it's complete as sometimes the final movie is very different to how he hoped it would be. He admitted: "I've given this advice: don't do press junkets or talk about the film until you've seen it. I've done that before and I went and saw the movie and I was like: 'Every interviewer I've talked to must have been thinking, what fucking movie is he talking about?' " And the Oscar-winning star claimed he's never reached his own high standards in his work. He told The Guardian newspaper: "I mean, I've never been in a film or given a performance that was as good as I'd hoped it would be. "I've come close. I've seen some that are close. The

movie that was closest to the script that I've ever been a part of is 'Mud'. There was like one scene different and the dialogue is almost exactly what Jeff Nichols wrote." However, Matthew is still proud of some of his work and thinks he's made some "great" movies in the past. He added: "I've never done [a film] that's lived up to what I imagined it could be. "I've been a part of a bunch of films that I highly respect and really have a love for and think are great. And I've done performances that I'm very happy with and I'm like, 'Good job, McConaughey!' But nothing that I've ever thought ... And I don't think I'll do one that does."

Serkis defends Johansson



Andy Serkis has defended Scarlett Johansson over the 'Rub & Tug' controversy. There was an outcry earlier this year when the star was cast as a transgender man in drama movie 'Rub & Tug', leading to Scarlett pulling out of the movie but Serkis believes actors should be able to play any role they wish. He told Variety: "I absolutely disagree. I really, vehemently disagree. "Actors should be able to play anything, and that's why I love performance capture technology. What should be the point is that whatever colour your skin is, whatever shape you are, whatever height you are, whatever your makeup is as an actor, you should have the ability to play anything." Andy - who admitted he had planned to go back to being a "conventional actor" after portraying Gollum through motion capture in 'The Lord of the Rings' franchise - said he wants equal opportunities in the movie industry but he believes in artistic freedom. Speaking about when Peter Jackson asked him to play King Kong, he explained: "I had thought 'Ok, I'll be going back into my career as a conventional actor.' But then Peter Jackson asked me to play King Kong, and that was a real epiphany moment-sort of going. "That, for me, is the end of typecasting. Of course, equal representation and opportunity is what [the conversation] should be about, but we're in the art of the imagination." Meanwhile, Andy has directed 'Mowgli: Legend of the Jungle', a retelling of Rudyard Kipling's 'The Jungle Book' and he believes it is "darker and emotionally more grounded" than the original text. He said: "This version of the story hadn't been told. People say it's darker, but it's emotionally more grounded. It's complex. I grew up loving the animated original, it's a beautiful piece of work, but it didn't have that complex central journey. I always felt that Mowgli was left out of the story, and you enjoyed the antics and buffoonery and the songs and the star turns of the animals."

Michael B Jordan is 'pretty sure' Stallone will return to Rocky

Michael B. Jordan is "pretty sure" Sylvester Stallone will return to his iconic character Rocky Balboa. The 31-year-old actor - who plays boxer Adonis Creed in the 'Rocky' spin-off film series 'Creed' - has admitted that on the last day of shooting the second installment in the franchise as Sylvester "passed the torch to him", but despite Stallone insisting he's done with

the iconic role, Jordan isn't convinced. Speaking on 'The Graham Norton Show', Jordan said: "On the last day of filming everyone gave their wrap speech and he segued into passing the torch to me and I got really emotional really fast because I wasn't expecting it from him whatsoever. "It's a character that he has played for 40 plus years - longer than I have been alive. It was pretty special. We'll see what happens with 'Creed III'. I'm pretty sure he'll be back." Stallone, 72, took to Instagram on Wednesday to announce that his appearance as pugilist Rocky in 'Creed II' would be his last outing following eight movies which began with Best Picture Oscar-winning film 'Rocky' in 1976. Alongside an Instagram video, Stallone said: "I just want to thank everyone around the whole wide World for taking the Rocky family into their hearts for over 40 years. "It's been my Ultimate privilege to have been able to create and play this meaningful character. Though it breaks my heart, Sadly all things must pass... and end. "I love you Kind and generous people, and The most wonderful thing of all, is that ROCKY will never die because he lives on in you. (sic)" Jordan isn't the only cast member who doubts the Hollywood legend is done with the role, as Dolph Lundgren - who features as Russian fighter Ivan Drago from 1985's 'Rocky IV' in 'Creed II' - thinks that Stallone might still return to his most famous character one more time. Speaking at the 'Creed II' European premiere in London this week, he said: "I don't know, I'll believe it when I see.-Bang Showbiz



Emily Blunt conquered fears during Mary Poppins

Emily Blunt has revealed that she conquered her fears of singing and flying while filming 'Mary Poppins Returns'. Emily Blunt conquered her fears while filming 'Mary Poppins Returns'. The 35-year-old actress used to have a huge fear of singing and flying but revealed she managed to overcome both of those for her performance in the upcoming movie. She told The Hollywood Reporter: "I was particularly challenged by two aspects of the movie, which were the singing and the flying. I'm terrified of both singing and heights. I had to sing while suspended from a great height in this movie. Those days were quite traumatic but I survived and in the end, I felt quite proud. It was a cathartic experience." Emily has previously revealed that acting helped her overcome her childhood stutter. The star - who has Hazel, four, and Violet, two, with her husband John Krasinski - had a speech impediment when she was growing up and she used to focus on "watching and listening" to people because she "couldn't speak fluently". She said:

"Because I couldn't speak fluently, I watched and listened. I'd be on the Tube, and I'd wonder about people and invent back stories for everyone. There's always been a natural desire to walk in the shoes of others. It started quite young, because it was the only tool I had to speak properly. I was that kid, upstairs in my room, trying out stuff in the mirror. But I'd never tell anyone about it. It was always very private." Meanwhile, filmmaker Rob Marshall revealed he took offering the role to Emily as seriously as a marriage proposal. He said: I guess it was. I didn't mean it to be. I did think it was a big deal to ask her to play this role so I wanted to set it up in a sort of ceremonious way. "When I said, you know, it's Mary Poppins, the character and the film, there was definitely silence. But then I heard her inhale with excitement. I knew that, of course, we all had trepidations and fear about how you follow that brilliant first film, but I know how fearless she is and I knew she would say yes. "By the end of the phone call it was a big yes."



Lifestyle | Music & Movies

Egyptian film star charged with 'inciting immorality' for wearing see-through dress

An Egyptian film star faces trial next month promoting immorality after attending the Cairo Film Festival in a see-through dress, state-owned online newspaper Al-Ahram Gate reported yesterday. Rania Youssef will face a trial in January in Cairo after receiving a number of complaints about her attire, accusing her of inciting immorality and promoting vice. The actress turned heads at the closing ceremony of the festival on Thursday when she appeared in a black dress that exposed what some commentators described as a swimsuit beneath it.

The pictures of the 44-year-old star left social media users divided, with some calling her names and other defending her right to wear what she wants. "This dress and design is called 'I forgot my trousers while going to be honored,'" wrote one Twitter user. Another user said Rania's appearance will help her get more work. "This entry has at least 15 films, two television series and 13 television and radio show appearances," wrote Karim Ahmed on Twitter. "Congratulations. Another Twitter user writing under the name Zakaria MJ frowned at the

criticism. "Rania Youssef is looking gorgeous," he wrote in a message in English. "I don't get why everybody is mad at her." — Reuters

Egyptian actress Rania Youssef poses on the red carpet at the closing ceremony of the 40th edition of the Cairo International Film Festival (CIFF) at the Cairo Opera House in the Egyptian capital. — AFP



In this file photo taken on September 11, 2017 (from left) Maddox Chivan Jolie-Pitt, Pax Thien Jolie-Pitt, Angelina Jolie, Vivienne Marcheline Jolie-Pitt, Knox Leon Jolie-Pitt and Shiloh Nouvel Jolie-Pitt attend the premiere of 'First they Killed my Father' at the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto, Ontario.



In this file photo taken on July 28, 2013 US film stars Brad Pitt (right) and Angelina Jolie (center), accompanied by their children, arrive at Haneda International Airport in Tokyo. — AFP photos

Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie reach child custody agreement

Hollywood superstars Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt have reached an amicable agreement on the custody of their six children, avoiding a potentially messy public trial, US media reported on Friday. Pitt and Jolie announced their separation in September 2016 after two years of marriage and 11 years together. Three of their children are their biological children, and the other three are adopted. "A custody arrangement was agreed two weeks ago, and has been signed by both parties and the judge," Jolie's lawyer, Samantha Bley DeJean, said in a statement carried by several US celebrity news outlets including TMZ.

"The agreement, which is based on the recommendations of the child custody evaluator, eliminates the need for a trial," she said. The couple had been set for a trial on December 4 — the deal means they will not battle in court. Jolie originally wanted to have sole custody of the children, while Pitt asked for shared custody. The terms of the agreement are confidential, DeJean said. The couple is still working out the details of their divorce, with the distribution of assets reportedly proving especially thorny. Jolie and Pitt did not have a prenuptial agreement. — AFP



Indian actress Priyanka Chopra (left) and US musician Nick Jonas are pictured after a dinner in Mumbai. — AFP

Chopra, Jonas marry in Indian royal palace: People magazine

"Quantico" actor and Bollywood star Priyanka Chopra married U.S singer Nick Jonas yesterday in a Christian ceremony attended by close family and friends at one of India's most opulent royal palaces, People magazine reported. The couple are due to have a traditional Hindu wedding ceremony on Sunday and host a reception in New Delhi next week.

The bride, groom and other members of the wedding party wore outfits designed by Ralph Lauren, the design house said on its Twitter account. The wedding was officiated by the groom's father, Paul Kevin Jonas, People said. Chopra, 36, who headlined three seasons of the ABC crime drama "Quantico", is one of Bollywood's biggest female leads with acting credits in several big-ticket films. Nick Jonas, 26, and his brothers Kevin and Joe formed a band, The Jonas Brothers, in 2005 and soared to fame as members of Disney's stable of teenage stars. The band split up in 2013.

Representatives for the couple were not reachable for comment. The venue of the wedding, the Umaid Bhavan Palace in the Indian city of Jodhpur, has been cordoned off to outsiders and no media were allowed near. Local police yesterday had to intervene after the couple's security men had an altercation with photographers who were trying to take pictures of the venue, a Reuters witness said. The palace is the home of the Jodhpur royal family, but part of it has been converted into a hotel with peacocks roaming 26 acres of landscaped gardens. — Reuters

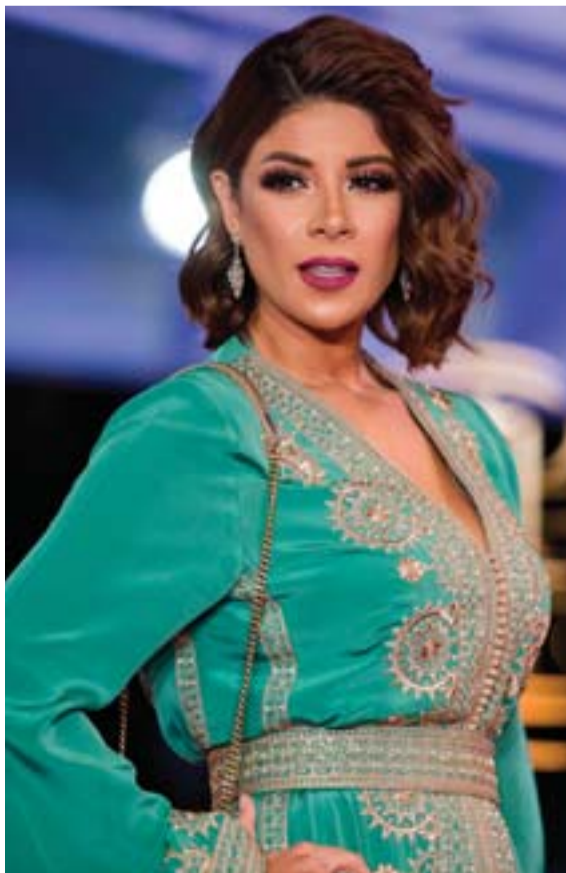
The Marrakech International Film festival



(Jury members from left) Ileana D'Cruz, Laurent Cantet, Dakota Johnson, Talal Hadid, James Gray, Joana Hadjithomas, Daniel Bruhl, and Lynne Ramsay arrive at the Marrakech International Film festival, on November 30, 2018 in the city of Marrakesh. — AFP photos



French actor Tahar Rahim



Moroccan model Leila Hadjou



Moroccan painter Mehdi Qotbia



French film director Agnes Varda



Mexican film director, Guillermo Del Toro



Michel Franco, Mexican film director and member of the jury, arrives at the Marrakech International Film festival.



Moroccan film director Jilali Ferhati



US actor Robert Pattinson

Sports

Boxing still on the ropes after IOC freezes planning for Tokyo 2020

Launches investigation into the International Boxing Association

TOKYO: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) put planning for the Tokyo 2020 boxing tournament on hold on Friday in a move that could see the governing body AIBA frozen out of the Games over a governance dispute.

The IOC said in a statement it had also launched an investigation into the International Boxing Association after AIBA submitted a progress report focusing on governance, financial management and sporting integrity.

It referred to that enquiry as "the initiation of a procedure which can lead to the withdrawal of recognition for AIBA" but said it still hoped boxing would be part of the programme. "The IOC Executive Board makes all efforts to protect the athletes and ensure that a boxing tournament can take place at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 regardless of these measures," the statement read.

The IOC's Executive Board said planning for the Olympic boxing tournament had been frozen, with immediate effect, and contact suspended between AIBA and the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee.

"This will also include the freezing of any ticket sales for the boxing competitions or any approval or implementation of the qualification system," the IOC's Sports Director Kit McConnell said in Tokyo on Friday.

No deadline was set for further action but any decision to withdraw recognition from an international federation would have to be made at an IOC session. The

next one is scheduled for June 2019.

McConnell said AIBA had been given adequate time to address the IOC's concerns.

"The timeline from the time we raised these questions is not short in that regard," he said.

"These questions have been on the table throughout the whole of 2018 and tomorrow is December."

AIBA has been in turmoil for years and the IOC has warned the Swiss-based body to sort out its finances and governance, as well as anti-doping issues, or risk missing out on Tokyo.

In a statement issued later on Friday, AIBA said it had made "great strides in a short period of time". The body's president, Gafur Rahimov, said he too had been concerned about its finances earlier in the year.

"However, I can assure our Olympic friends that after making significant cuts to our spending, securing new sponsors, securing trusted host cities for our major events and negotiating with our past partners, I am very proud to say that AIBA has achieved financial stability but that it had now attained financial stability," he said.

'SIGNIFICANT CONCERN'

The IOC executive board said AIBA had made progress but points of "significant concern" remained. They included doubts about AIBA's ability to continue as a going concern.

"This means basically (being able) to operate under normal financial circumstances with revenues to match the expenditure," said McConnell.

"Equally, there are elements of the audited and financial reports which are still omitted and are not included in the information that has been provided to us and not available on the AIBA website."

The IOC on Friday noted uncertainty about the role of Rahimov, an Uzbek, resulting from his "designation as a key member and associate of a transnational organised criminal network by the US Treasury Department".

Rahimov was one of two Olympic officials barred by the Australian government from attending the 2000 Sydney Games for security reasons.

In the AIBA statement, Rahimov downplayed concerns about his personal situation.

"I can assure the IOC that the situation with U.S. authorities based on false allegations by the previous regime of my country is being addressed and that my legal team is working hard to correct this," he said.

Despite its concerns, the IOC said it remained determined to feature boxing at Tokyo 2020.

"The goal again is that, by the time of the session in 2019, (the IOC will) be able to confirm, while protecting the integrity of the sport and while protecting the athletes... an Olympic boxing competition here in Tokyo," said McConnell.



IOC's Sports Director Kit McConnell

Tokyo 2020 spokesman Masa Takaya said Games organisers were very keen to work closely with the IOC to address any impact on planning.

Boxing has featured in all but one of the Summer Olympics since 1904 with Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, George Foreman, Sugar Ray Leonard, Anthony Joshua and Katie Taylor among those to have won gold medals and gone on to claim professional world titles. — Reuters

GAZOO racing wins Australia Rally at FIA World Rally Championship

SYDNEY: GAZOO Racing World Rally Team recently claimed the 2018 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) manufacturers' title in style, with a rally victory for Jari-Matti Latvala in the No. 7 Toyota Yaris WRC at Kennards Hire Rally Australia. Esapekka Lappi finished fourth in the No. 9 Toyota Yaris WRC to enable GAZOO Racing to clinch the manufacturers' crown in just the second season since its return to the WRC. GAZOO Racing World Rally Team's Toyota Yaris WRC machines demonstrated their strong performance during the final round of the season, with Ott Tanak and Latvala moving to the top of the leader board on the fourth and final day of the race. The victory sealed GAZOO Racing's fourth manufacturers' title in the WRC and its first since 1999.

Latvala, along with co-driver Miikka Anttilain the No. 7 Toyota Yaris WRC avoided mistakes and took three stage wins on the final day to clinch the team's fifth win of 2018 by 32.5 seconds. Lappi also won a stage to complete a strong drive in his final event before departing the team. Latvala and Lappi finished the season fourth and fifth respectively in the driver's standings, with both contributing significantly towards the manufacturers' title.

Akio Toyoda, President, Toyota Motor Corporation, and Team Chairman, said: "Congratulations to Jari-Matti and Miikka for the Rally Australia win! I was very glad to see them on the top of the podium at the end of the year after what has sometimes been a tricky season. And with this victory, we could win the manufacturers' title. I feel so proud, as Team Chairman, that we could achieve such a great result in the second year of our challenge after returning to the WRC after being away for 18 years. I am so grateful to Tommi, who has kept strengthening the Yaris WRC to win this title, all the team members who supported Tommi, and the six drivers and co-drivers who kept driving the Yaris towards our goal. Thank you very much and congratulations! I also feel glad that we could share this victory with the fans who kept cheering for us, and also our partners who have fought with us as one team. I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to them for supporting us."

Tommi Makinen, Team Principal, said: "It's an absolutely amazing feeling today. This was the toughest final round of a season that I can remember, and it was absolutely brilliant that Jari-Matti could win again. Esapekka also helped us score the points we needed. We started this project three-and-a-half years ago and we have developed much faster than we imagined. Last year we were here to learn and to gather data. In the second half of this season we were able to find a lot of improvements with the car. This is the result of



the huge effort from everybody in the team, and I am sure this success will just further motivate us all to continue improving in 2019."

Jari-Matti Latvala, Driver of No. 7 Toyota Yaris WRC, said: "I am so happy to win again. It was quite a relief after such a long time! The conditions today were incredibly demanding, and it would have been very easy to go off the road. I was very excited and nervous at the start of the final stage, but we managed to do it. To win the manufacturers' title is fantastic. I am so proud of the team and what they have created. Everybody has worked so hard and they deserve this reward!"

Over the years, Toyota has been participating in many different forms of motorsports, including Formula One, the World Endurance Championship (WEC), and the Nurburgring 24 Hours endurance race. Toyota's participation in these events was overseen by separate entities within the company until April 2015, when Toyota established GAZOO Racing (GR), to consolidate all of its motorsports activities under one in-house brand. Representing Toyota's belief that 'the roads build the people, and the people build the cars,' GR highlights the role of motorsports as a fundamental pillar of Toyota's commitment to making 'ever-better' cars. Harnessing years of experience gained under the extreme conditions of various motorsports events, GR aims to forge new technologies and solutions that bring the freedom, adventure, and joy of driving to everyone.



China's Yu Delu and Cao Yupeng banned for match-fixing

BEIJING: Chinese snooker players Yu Delu and Cao Yupeng have been handed lengthy bans after being found guilty of match-fixing, the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) said on its website <https://www.wpbsa.com/wpbsa-disciplinary-hearing-result> yesterday.

Yu was banned for 10 years and nine months for manipulating the outcome of five matches over a 2-1/2 year period in what the WPBSA described as

"deliberate and premeditated corruption to secure substantial financial gain".

Yu, who was ranked world number 43 when the charges were made in May, will serve the longest suspension in snooker since England's Stephen Lee was banned for 12 years in 2013.

Cao, the world number 38 when the pair were charged, also pleaded guilty to fixing three matches and was banned for six years, with 3-1/2 years of the sentence suspended.

"It is very sad when talented players are attracted to the opportunity to make money from fixing matches," WPBSA Chairman Jason Ferguson said in a statement. "The WPBSA has very effective prevention and monitoring processes that protect the sport. Where players ignore this, they risk their careers and they will be caught."

"Cao Yupeng has shown true remorse and he will assist the WPBSA in player education and in its fight against corruption, which is reflected in his reduced sanction." — Reuters

Force India name disappears from Formula One

LONDON: The Force India name will disappear from Formula One next season, after 11 years of competition, with the British-based team entered as Racing Point F1 on a list published by the governing FIA on Friday.

The chassis name was listed as Racing Point, with the company name Racing Point UK Limited. The team, who became Force India in 2008 after Indian beer baron Vijay Mallya bought Spyker F1, were taken over in August by Canadian billionaire Lawrence Stroll after going into administration.

They then competed in the second part of the 2018 season as a new Racing Point Force India team to distinguish them from the defunct Sahara Force India co-owned by Mallya and India's Sahara Group.

The team's 2019 drivers will be Mexican Sergio Perez and Stroll's son Lance, Ferrari's official team name also changes to Scuderia Ferrari Mission Winnow and Haas becomes Rich Energy Haas F1 team to reflect sponsorship arrangements.

The 2019 entry list also revealed that Formula Two champion George Russell will race for Williams with the number 63 while McLaren rookie Lando Norris will have a four on his car. Polish driver Robert Kubica, returning from an eight year absence after a near-fatal rally accident in 2011, will race with the number 88 on his Williams. Thailand's Alexander Albon, debuting at Toro Rosso, had yet to have a number assigned. — Reuters

Olympic rights body to weigh issues including transgender athletes

TOKYO: The International Olympic Committee said yesterday it was setting up a rights committee chaired by a prominent former UN commissioner to advise it on issues including transgender athletes.

But the committee will not be looking at human rights situations in host countries, an issue that has gained increasing attention in recent years.

Speaking in Tokyo after a meeting of the IOC's executive board, president Thomas Bach said the committee would be a "key instrument to help the IOC to meet our human rights responsibilities with a more strategic approach than we could do so in the past".

The panel will be chaired by former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein and will include six to nine additional members to be named next year. "One of the issues where we will ask already this advisory committee to help us... concerns the transgender policy of the IOC and the Olympic movement, where very complicated issues have to be addressed, where human rights play a central role," Bach said.

There have been heated discussions in recent years about the inclusion of transgender athletes in the Olympics, and criticism of sporting authorities for basing eligibility on testosterone levels.

And while the committee will offer advice on a range of rights issues, Bach said it would be limited to "our spheres of work," adding: "We will not pretend that the IOC or the Olympic games can solve human rights issues beyond our sphere of work."

Asked whether the body could, for instance, discuss reports of mass internment in parts of China in the context of Beijing hosting the 2022 Winter Games, Bach stressed that those issues were "political."

"The IOC has neither the mandate nor the authority to solve the human rights problems that are going beyond our mandate, which are clearly political issues," he said. Human rights issues have drawn attention and criticism in recent years, including outspoken opposition to Russia's anti-gay laws when it hosted the Winter Games in Sochi in 2014. — AFP

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26 Windies stumble in spin trial after Mahmudullah century

27 Infantino deplores 'idiots' who ruined Copa Libertadores



Capela's 27 leads Rockets' rout of Spurs

James scores 28 as Lakers down Mavs for second straight win



SAN ANTONIO: Clint Capela #15 of the Houston Rockets shoots the ball against the San Antonio Spurs on Friday at the AT&T Center in San Antonio, Texas.— AFP

SAN ANTONIO: Clint Capela scored 27 points on 12-of-16 shooting and pulled down 12 rebounds in just three quarters as the visiting Houston Rockets rolled to a 136-105 win over the reeling San Antonio Spurs on Friday. The Rockets, with point guard Chris Paul back in the lineup after sitting out three games with a hamstring injury, emphatically snapped a four-game losing streak, taking a 70-47 lead into halftime and never looking back. It was the second straight blowout loss suffered by the Spurs, who were defeated 128-89 in Minnesota on Wednesday. San Antonio has dropped five of its past seven games and eight of the 11 games it has played since beating the Rockets, also on the Spurs' home court, on Nov. 10. It marks the first time since 1987 that the Spurs have lost consecutive games by 30 or more points.

LAKERS 114, MAVERICKS 103

LeBron James scored 28 points and Brandon Ingram added 19 as Los Angeles Lakers rallied for a double-digit deficit in the first half and pulled away for a victory over visiting Dallas. Kyle Kuzma scored 15 points with 12 rebounds as the Lakers answered consecutive defeats earlier in the week with victories on back-to-back days after they built a big lead and held on against the Indiana Pacers on Thursday. Harrison Barnes scored 29 points and Dwight Powell added 17 off the bench for the Mavericks, who saw their three-game winning streak

come to an end. Dallas entered with seven victories in their previous eight games.

GRIZZLIES 131, NETS 125 (2OT)

Mike Conley scored 13 of his season-high 37 points in the second overtime, and Memphis recorded a wild victory over Brooklyn, which saw its home losing streak reach six games. Rookie Jaren Jackson scored a career-high 36 points, and his 3-pointer with 15.9 seconds left in regulation forged a 111-111 deadlock and forced overtime. He had cut the deficit to three just 12 seconds earlier by converting a four-point play. Conley hit the game-winning basket with nine seconds left in the first overtime to forge a 117-117 tie. Then he scored all but one of Memphis' points in the second overtime. Conley finished one point shy of his career high as he shot 13 of 25 and also handed out 10 assists.

HEAT 106, PELICANS 101

Josh Richardson scored a team-high 20 points including a key drive with 26 seconds left as Miami snapped a six-game home losing streak by defeating New Orleans. Pelicans star Anthony Davis scored 41 points, 19 of them in the third quarter. It was his third game of at least 40 points this season. New Orleans guard Jrue Holiday added 21 points and eight assists. Miami led by as many as 31 points in the second quarter and then held on to snap its longest home losing streak

since 2008. New Orleans got as close as three points late in the fourth quarter. Dwyane Wade provided 18 points off the Heat bench.

NUGGETS 113, TRAIL BLAZERS 112

Gary Harris scored 27 points as visiting Denver defeated Portland while Paul Millsap contributed 22 points and 10 rebounds and Nikola Jokic added 15 points, eight assists and six rebounds as the Nuggets won their fifth straight game. CJ McCollum bombed in 33 points but missed a jump shot that would have been the game-winner at the final horn as the Trail Blazers fell for the sixth time in nine games. Al-Farouq Aminu chipped in a season-high 20 points for Portland, which trailed by as many as 17 points in the second quarter.

76ERS 123, WIZARDS 98

Joel Embiid scored 16 points and grabbed 15 rebounds, recording his league-best 22nd double-double, as host Philadelphia dismantled Washington. Ben Simmons had 13 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds for his 15th double-double this season. Eight Sixers reached double figures in the win, half of them reserves, as they improved to 12-1 at home and won their third in a row. Bradley Beal scored 19 points for the Wizards, who fell to 2-9 on the road and dropped their second straight. They played without center Dwight Howard, who could be lost for several months

after undergoing back surgery.

JAZZ 119, HORNETS 111

Kyle Korver scored 14 points off the bench, 12 of those on 3-pointers, in his first game back with Utah in helping overpower host Charlotte to win a second straight to start its three-game trip. Donovan Mitchell led all scorers with 30. Jae Crowder came off the bench for 24 points and a team-high seven assists, and Rudy Gobert contributed 20 points and 17 rebounds for the Jazz, who had not won at Charlotte since December 2013, when the opponents were known as the Bobcats. Jeremy Lamb had 24 points, Kemba Walker 21 and Tony Parker 20 points and a game-high nine assists to pace the Hornets.

CELTICS 128, CAVALIERS 95

Kyrie Irving scored 29 points, and six other Celtics scored in double figures as Boston defeated visiting Cleveland. Irving, the former Cavaliers guard who demanded a trade out of Cleveland before last season, haunted his old team to the tune of 11-of-15 shooting from the field, including 5 for 7 from beyond the arc. Irving also grabbed four rebounds and dished out four assists. The Celtics were deadly from 3-point range, connecting on 17 of 31 attempts. They recorded season highs in points, margin of victory and field-goal percentage (53.3 percent).— Reuters

City go five clear with win over Bournemouth

MANCHESTER: Relentless Manchester City made it six Premier League wins in a row with a 3-1 victory over Bournemouth yesterday, moving them five points clear of second-placed Liverpool at the top of the table. With Liverpool not in action until their Merseyside derby with Everton today, City were made to work unusually hard for their victory by a dogged and determined Bournemouth side. Bernardo Silva broke the deadlock to get City up and running in the 16th minute but the reigning Premier League champions took their foot off the gas after that early opener, with Callum Wilson levelling things up one minute

before halftime. That equaliser jolted City into life. They came out for the second half with added impetus and were soon back in front through Raheem Sterling—his seventh goal in seven games against Bournemouth.

City then turned on the style to complete the victory, with David Silva and Leroy Sane combining to create an easy chance for Ilkay Gundogan to finish—the 22nd goal City have scored during this winning league run of six.

With their unbeaten league run now at 20 games, stretching back to April, City are looking in imperious form, while a fourth consecutive league defeat for Bournemouth sees them drop to ninth.

In another match, striker Javier Hernandez made the most of a rare start for West Ham United by scoring two clinical goals which helped the east London side to a 3-0 Premier League win at Newcastle United yesterday. The result, wrapped up with a late goal from Felipe Anderson, lifted West Ham to 13th place on 15 points from 14 games and ended

Newcastle's three-match winning streak as the Magpies, who have 12 points, slipped to 14th.

West Ham's fast breaks had toothless Newcastle reeling all afternoon and livewire Mexico international Hernandez fired them ahead in the 11th minute with a sweeping close-range finish after a fine cross by Robert Snodgrass.

Hernandez and strike partner Marko Arnautovic continued to torment their markers after the break and the Mexican missed a pair of gilt-edged chances before they combined to devastating effect for the second goal in the 63rd. Arnautovic superbly headed down a lofted West Ham clearance from their own half into Hernandez's stride and the 30-year old made no mistake as he drove the ball past Newcastle goalkeeper Martin Dubravka inside the near post. Newcastle threw men forward in the closing stages but failed to create any chances and were caught cold again in stoppage time when Brazilian Felipe Anderson found time and space in the penalty area to bury his shot through Dubravka's legs.— Reuters



MANCHESTER: Manchester City's English midfielder Raheem Sterling (C) takes on Bournemouth's Dutch defender Nathan Ake (L) during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Bournemouth at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, yesterday.— AFP