

Friday Times

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HUAWEI

Huawei arrest clouds US-China trade truce

See Page 37

Local



Local Spotlight

By Muna Al-Fuzai
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Protect children from bullying

Bullying has always existed, where some students harass the quietest, intelligent or even disabled students, for instance. It is a phenomenon that shows the absence of morality and must be seriously addressed. The phenomenon of bullying is widespread in today's children's lives and has become clear in schools, homes and malls in the absence of family guidance and awareness. Protecting children from violence and bullying has turned into a global campaign worthy of efforts. I believe that a bully is a sick person and often ends up failing in life, and studying their reasons and motivations is important for treatment.

Bullying is known as the deliberate use of force, taking many forms of verbal or physical abuse, whether from an individual against another or a group against an individual with the aim of hurting or exerting pressure on a person who is incapable of defending himself because of the unequal power, physical strength and personality between him and the bullying person. Verbal bullying is common today and harmful because it includes insults, harsh criticism, spreading lies, and sometimes anonymous emails full of curses and insults. Sometimes it can lead to exclusion, depression and even suicide.

This year, a number of Arab countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Lebanon launched community

campaigns to address and study bullying in partnership with their ministries of education and in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), funded by the European Union.

The campaign in the UAE, for example, witnessed a wide



Verbal bullying is common today and harmful because it includes insults

community response to the need of creating an awareness campaign, as well as organization of events to shed light on various issues related to bullying, such as what is bullying and its various forms, and what are the characteristics of the bullying person, beside the impact of bullying on children and how it affects their lives and mental health. The ministry of education conducted a questionnaire on the most com-

mon types of bullying on Twitter, and identified four types of verbal, social, electronic and physical bullying.

Most studies in this regard showed different reasons behind this kind of ill behavior, such as a lack of behavioral guidance, lack of sense of security and emotional stability, electronic games, cartoon programs, the existence of a person who is immersed in the child's environment, family disintegration, lack of communication skills, lack of parental control, promotion of bullying behavior, the absence of clear rules of conduct within the school, cruelty of parents and a large school size.

Bruno Mays, UNICEF representative in Egypt, said, "Bullying deprives children of their right to play and learn safely, and all children will benefit from the promotion of a culture that rejects bullying in order to preserve their safety and protect them from harm." He added: "We are optimistic that committed national efforts, prevention and response to violence in and out of schools will be sustained and strengthened by our partners."

I believe without doubt that the work to combat the phenomenon of violence must be in partnership with several parties in the community along with consultants and specialists. The media today has an upper hand and a major role in the dissemination of an anti-bullying culture.



Condolences

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Ajay Siddheshwar Vibhute

TID Department

On the sad demise of his

Father

May his soul rest in peace and may
God grant comfort and strength to the
bereaved family members during this time



IN MY VIEW

by Nejouad Al-Yagout
local@kuwaittimes.com

Statues and such

citizen complained about Qurans being sold in a market? It would be attributed to Islamophobia, no? Why is the irony still lost on us? Where is the Kuwait of my forefathers? My maternal grandmother, a devout Muslim, coexisted with her Hindu domestic helper, whose idol I saw more than once in her room in my grandmother's house. Her houseboy had a tattooed cross on his hand. How beautiful is that? Nobody in the house was "offended".

It's not just culturally offensive markets or shops that are being raided. What made another splash was the recent closing down of Qout Market. What was the excuse this time? Qout Market, which has been in business for six years, did not have the right license. So, let's give the authorities the benefit of the doubt for a mere minute: If Qout Market didn't have a license, why did they wait until the day of the event to raid and close down the market? Where were they in the weeks preceding the event, or even, as one of the organizers suggested, the night before? If this doesn't sound like a power trip, then what constitutes one? We are not a totalitarian state, are we? Then why are we behaving as such lately? Where are the names of these people who seem offended by everything from yoga to unveiled women, concerts and art, books and healthy interaction between all people?

I urge us all to awaken. I am optimistic that we are going through an evolution of consciousness, and the days of the ego are numbered. But, in the meantime, the fearful ones are tightening their grip, and it is our duty to remind them and ourselves that we are a nation that was founded on tolerance, acceptance and respect. And we cannot stay silent when our values are being threatened.

There seems to be a disconcerting new trend of raids in Kuwait lately. First, it occurred at a 3D printing shop selling figurines (deemed cultish idols) by men who raided the shop and closed it down. Everyone knows that selling idols is not permitted in Kuwait and nobody in their right mind would sell them in a renowned store! Anyone who wants to use a statue to pray in Kuwait has to go underground (and risk being deported as was the case of 25 Hindus a couple of years ago) or save their prayer for when they go to places that have freedom of worship.

Mostly, people of other religions pray privately, unless you're a Christian (apart from mosques, only churches are allowed in Kuwait). Anyways, upon closer inspection, the authorities realized that they were really just figurines, which even ultraconservative people use to decorate wedding cakes, as my cousin's wife (a very religious lady) pointed out. If a religious person has no issue with figurines, then who are the authorities representing? And what happened to the issuance of warnings prior to storming a shop? And what happened to courtesy?

On another occasion, a holistic market was raided and closed down because a local woman called the authorities to complain that one of the stalls was selling statues of worship. Oh, sensibilities and statues!

And I wonder, what would happen to a Muslim person living in a non-Islamic country if a

Local

The men who keep Kuwait's streets clean and shrubs neat



Ameen and Abu Khair trim a tree.

By Ben Garcia

Kuwait relies heavily on cleaners and manual labor from Bangladesh and other Asian countries. Thousands of them work the streets of Kuwait. But most take only a small salary and work extra jobs on the side to supplement their income. Kuwait Times met Ameen Motlib from Faridpur, a suburb of Dhaka. He works as a street sweeper and shrub and tree cutter in Kuwait. There are regular cutting and trimming schedules for all gardens and parks in Kuwait. "I am in charge of cutting and trimming bushes on Shuwaikh's streets and gardens. We not only trim, but are also in charge of switching on and off water supply to the plants," he said.

People in charge of cutting and trimming bushes around Kuwait say they cut and trim grasses once every 2-3 months. Cutting or trimming plants in your backyard is the most relaxing thing to do for some. This of course applies if you have a backyard with plants in Kuwait. Some psychologists recommend cutting or trimming trees/grasses when you want to relax or de-stress from a long day at work.

In summer, Ameen wakes up at 3 am and starts his job in Shuwaikh from 4 am, and is back at his accommodation by noon. They are taken by bus at 3:45 am and reach their assigned area by 4 am. "My uncle and five fellow Bangladeshis work with me to clean and clear three long streets assigned to us in Shuwaikh," he said. As soon as they are dropped at their designated area, his group starts work immediately to finish as soon as possible. Ameen admits to doing the job speedily to avoid the harsh midday heat. "The instruction from our supervisor is to clean the area quickly so we can take rest when the sun is up. If needed, we trim the plants too," he said.

Kuwait bans outdoor work from 11 am to 4 pm from June 1 until Aug 31. "All outdoor work must be completed by 11 am, so we wind down by 10 am and start gathering under the shade of trees nearby. We talk, share experiences and call our families. We also eat and drink while the truck collects garbage bags from where we left them on the streets. Normally, we bring drinking water in containers," he said. By noon, Ameen's

day concludes and the transport bus returns to take them back to their accommodation. Timings during winter and autumn are from 5 am to 1 pm.

Despite being only 30, Ameen has a 14-year-old son and a 3-year-old daughter. "I got married when I was 15. Life in Bangladesh is hard, but if you want to make it easy, get married," he quipped. "When I was 15, I decided to get married to my childhood sweetheart. I asked her parents' permission and my parents allowed us to get married, so we started life as husband and wife in Faridpur. But I realized life was still hard when my first child was born, when I was 16," he said.

He worked as a carpenter, but the money he earned from making tables and chairs was not enough for the family. "So I told my wife I should go abroad - it was hard for her, but eventually she agreed. So I looked for an agent and paid around KD 500. The next month I found myself in Kuwait," Ameen recalled. He arrived in Kuwait in 2005 with his uncle Abu Khair. His uncle was 40 and he was 18. "We were hired as cleaners and we signed a contract to receive KD 40 monthly, which was later increased to KD 60. In my spare time I clean cars so I can earn extra cash. This is my life and that of my uncle from then till now," he said.

Harsh challenges, good people

As street cleaners, they have no choice but to deal with the harsh weather, and bad and good people too. "We were not used to this unforgiving weather at first, but we've managed somehow. Of course, when it's really hot, you'll see us resting under the trees, but some people shout at us and tell us to get to work. There are good people too. Sometimes, if we are lucky enough, people give us KD 5 or even KD 10, but usually it's 250 fils," Ameen said.

"We also have to rest because we work under the heat of the summer sun and the cold in winter. These are the challenges we face and we are already used to them," he told Kuwait Times. The cut branches and leaves are collected by trucks and delivered to farms. Refuse like paper and plastic are separated for recycling purposes, while other trash is directly sent to the landfill.



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Local



Sabah Al-Salem University City in Al-Shadadiyya to be completed by 2019. — KUNA photos

Unplanned spaces in Kuwait's urban landscape

By Dr Yousef Al-Haroun

When you think of Kuwait's urban landscape, you might visualize clean and sophisticated infrastructure of roads, highways and contemporary architecture. For many, it is an image of a modern cosmopolitan metropolis. However for some who look closely, it is in fact full of incomplete projects and poor-quality architectural designs. These spaces are a manifestation of years of government mismanagement and neglect.

In 1952, Kuwait's master plan sprung the country towards modernization from a small mud brick town into a modern city-state. However, over the years, the inability to fully implement the master plan has enabled other forces to shape Kuwait's built environment. Competing private interests have initiated a 'land grab' of sorts that lobby government agencies to further their agendas and gain multimillion-dinar contracts.

After the demolition of Kuwait's old town, the government did not rebuild many parts of the city. Today, almost a third of Kuwait City is empty with abandoned plots of land and parking spaces. Moreover, this has led to a chaotic urban landscape, with no harmony between buildings, lack of architectural cultural identity, inadequate preservation of traditional architecture, pedestrian unfriendly, and of poor environmental quality.

It has produced a philosophy of unplanned and random architectural designs seen throughout Kuwait's urban areas. Random, informal or unplanned space may be defined as something that occurs without method or a conscious decision. This article aims to shed light on some of these unplanned spaces and their impact on people and the quality of the built environment. It argues that it is crucial to restructure the current master planning policy in order to elevate the current urban environment in Kuwait.

Background

Kuwait started its journey towards modernization with its master plan in 1952 designed by British firm Minoprio, Spencely and Macfarlane. The plan shaped present-day Kuwait City and its

suburbs. The concept was a network of ring roads and radials extending outwards from the old town. This planning provided the basis of the infrastructure for a modern city; however, it also paved the way for the destruction of the old urban fabric and loss of an architectural cultural identity.

Kuwait City was eventually guided through a series of master plans in almost every decade. However, these plans were not usually realized due to disconnects between the master plan, the realities of Arab Gulf dynamics and incapable local government agencies to implement mega projects. This vacuum has led many in both government and private sectors to enforce their own agenda without an overarching state vision, resulting in a chaotic urban landscape.

Kuwait City

After the demolition of Kuwait's old town, the government did not rebuild many parts of the city. Today, almost a third of Kuwait City is empty with abandoned plots of land and parking spaces. Why did the government demolish the city without completing its master plan? Instead, it focused on the making of Al-Jahra Street, now Fahd Al-Salem St, once the pride of Kuwait's coming to modernity. Over time, the municipality did nothing to preserve this street, and as a result, many early modern buildings have been

demolished or lie in ruins.

Today, Kuwait City has no central district, is not pedestrian friendly, and has skyscrapers that rise without order and harmony. The lack of planning has encouraged the private sector to take the initiative and develop a financial district in the city's Sharq quarter.

The 'Green Belt'

Kuwait City's 'green belt', an interstitial space between the city and adjacent residential districts, highlights the consequences of unplanned policy. In the 1960s, it was envisioned as a space full of gardens and parks. However due to government neglect, the municipality sanctioned an ice skating rink, a mall, a large electrical generator compound and parking spaces for nearby offices. Only recently in 2015 did the government through the Diwan Amiri revive the idea of the green belt in the redevelopment of Al-Shaheed Park. However, after completing phase 2, the project stopped due to challenges faced by the state to remove existing buildings and infrastructure.

Kuwait International Airport

Kuwait's airport is yet another example of random design policymaking, which perhaps magnifies conflicting private and governmental interests. The architecture of renowned Japanese architect Kenzo Tange has been morphed into a completely different building. In the 1980s, it was considered an architectural masterpiece. However, after the first Gulf War, it underwent renovation, which altered some of its originality and was further transformed when the government allowed the private sector to add a mall and parking structure as an extension. Moreover, the airport has been divided into smaller terminals for local carriers Kuwait Airways and Jazeera Airways. The new buildings are not connected to the old airport and are completely out of context and form. A new airport designed by Foster and Partners recently started construction and it is unclear how the new building will integrate into the current location.



Kuwait International Airport

Local

Kuwait University

The university campus was originally to be built in Shuwaikh and while construction, used Khalidiya high school as a temporary facility. However, when it was complete, they never let go of Khalidiya, and as Kuwait's population increased, so too did the university student population. To accommodate this demand, the university started to build new buildings in a small plot of land. This strained local infrastructure, produced traffic congestion with limited parking spaces, and disturbed the peace of nearby adjacent housing. As a result, Kuwait University today is scattered in more than one area and has no coherent urban hierarchy and college landscape.

Cooperative community centers

Finally, the last example of unplanned spaces in Kuwait is closely related to people's daily lifestyles, which is Kuwait's cooperative supermarkets and community centers found in almost every residential area. These centers have been regarded as one of the most successful experiments of Kuwait's modernization. The government grouped the supermarket, commercial, medical and other government services all in one centrally located and convenient space in each area. However, over time, each co-op took a different path as they renovated their buildings to accommodate more commercial spaces.

Furthermore, the Municipality and ministry of social affairs, that oversee the cooperatives, provided permits for new mosques, governmental buildings and banks to be built without any coordination between them and no clear master plan. This chaotic situation led to many supermarket complexes being like a maze of unusual buildings juxtaposed with each other.

Conclusion

There is one underlying theme in all these unfinished modern projects, which is the inability to fully execute the master plan,



Safat Square in the fifties

poor facility management, and failure to foresee future expansion. Thus, vacant public lands have become a potential space for competing and clashing interests, either between governmental institutions, private companies or non-profit organizations who want government support. Allowing unplanned and random projects to flourish created spaces that are aesthetically unpleasant, without cultural identity and poor environmental quality.

What is needed now is a clear master plan, a roadmap, a vision to design our city on every level. What is needed now is to start implementing these ideas and enforce the rule of law rather than waiting for other forces to guide our built environment. What is needed now more than ever is a new architectural language that gains inspiration from our past to meet the needs of the present, in order to aspire for a more sustainable future.



متاح حديقة الشهيد AL-SHAHEED PARK MUSEUMS

Al-Shaheed park map



PARK LEGENDS		مناطق الخريطة	
	TOILETS		FLAGPOLE
	BUILDING		PLANTS
	PARKING BUILDING		WATER
	JOGGING TRACK		CYCLING PATH
	HILLS		GREEN AREAS

SHOP DIRECTORY		دليل المحلات	
	TABLE D'OTTOMAN		THAWAB
	GARDEN		THREE BANNERS
	ADMINISTRATION		MEMORIAL MUSEUM
	CELEBRATION LOUNGE		HABITAT MUSEUM
	MOSQUE		GUEST CENTER

OPEN AREAS		مساحات مفتوحة	
	CIRCLE OF PEACE		SACHÉ DEPRESSION
	BASS AVARY		APOLLON THEATRE
	TUNNEL		BRIDGE
	AL-DIYAB GATE		MARTYR MONUMENT
	CELEBRATION GATE		CONTRIBUTOR MONUMENT & GARDENS

Beggars in Kuwait change tactics amid crackdown

By Chidi Emmanuel and Sahar Moussa

As the interior ministry stresses its zero-tolerance policy towards begging, beggars in turn are devising new means to dodge the crackdown. While some see it as a last resort for subsistence, others use the proceeds to offset their bills as economic hardship bites. According to the rules, foreigners who are caught begging will be deported and will be banned from entering any Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) country in the future.

Begging in Kuwait is a bit different from what we see in other countries. The establishment of the Social Affairs Department laid the technical and administrative foundations to combat begging - a menace that can do a lot of damage to Kuwait's image worldwide. More so, it is really hard to beg in a country that is known to be one of the richest oil countries in the world and named by the UN as a 'Humanitarian Center'. But with the winds of an

economic downturn swirling around Kuwait and other Gulf countries, some beggars have developed creative ways to beg despite the threat of deportation. Some beggars pose as helpers, while others pretend to be very ill.

In one of the most creative begging tactics in Kuwait, an Arab woman used a 3D drawing to fake a cancerous growth on her body. The beggar, who pretended to be a cancer patient, made people be-

lieve she was in serious pain and needed to undergo urgent surgery. The woman (reportedly from a GCC country) claimed she had one of her legs amputated and needed to treat the other at a hospital in Egypt. A Kuwaiti victim said the woman rang his doorbell and claimed she had lost one leg to cancer and did not want to lose the second one. He said he believed her when he saw the 'rotten leg' and gave her KD 190. The woman was later arrested.

The high season for begging in Kuwait is usually in the holy month of Ramadan. Beggars can be seen around mosques to take advantage of people's sympathy. According to reports, over 50 beggars (women and men) were arrested across Kuwait during Ramadan. "I often see an Arab woman in her late 20s wearing a niqab with a young girl begging for money whenever I come out of the mosque. I do give them money out of pity - at least for the sake of that small girl", said Kareem, an Indian expat.

In order to evade arrest, some offer to help you - even if you don't need their help, while others resort to selling various household items on the street. "I see some kids and men selling weird items along the road. I just give them money without taking anything in return. I feel they are not actually selling those things but are indirectly asking for help", said Rola Ahmed, a 41-year-old Lebanese expat.

However, everyone selling goods on the streets is not a beggar. Kuwait Times sighted an elderly man (a bedoon) selling some items along Airport Road. We offered him KD 5 - but surprisingly, the



Local



old man rejected the money and gave us KD 4 back with a pack of towels. "I'm not a beggar - I'm just selling these things to make a living. I'm sorry, I can't take it. If you want to help me, please buy from me," he insisted.

"Whenever I see an old man holding towels or tissues, I always buy from him. Some of them are not beggars. On the contrary, I actually respect the fact that they are actually doing something to help themselves. But some beggars are now pretending to be selling stuff too," said Youssef, a 30-year-old Kuwaiti.

Door-to-door

In another form of begging, some are going door-to-door. "On many occasions, some women dressed in abayas knock at my door asking for financial assistance. They claim to be Syrians who are in urgent need of money for their families in Syria. This seems weird in a conservative society like Kuwait. Initially, I used to give them some money, but these days, I don't open my door anymore for them," Lilla, a European teacher, told Kuwait Times.

"I heard someone knocking on my door, but I didn't answer because I wasn't expecting anyone. But when I looked through the peephole, I saw a woman going door-to-door begging for money. At first I was very scared, but when I went down, she met me near my car and asked for help. I gave her KD 5. I have never encountered this in Kuwait before. I think this is a new phenomenon," said Tony Edi, an African expat. Other residents Kuwait Times interviewed also narrated similar experiences.

Executive begging

In another begging tactic, a young man in his early thirties was spotted begging from a flashy sports car in Salmiya. "This is what he does every time. He always claims to have lost his wallet - asking people



to help him with some cash. If you come the following day, you will see him telling the same story again. The conman continues to prey on vulnerable victims to feed his habits," Ibrahim Omar said.

Kuwaiti law has zero tolerance towards begging. Any foreigner caught begging will be deported and banned from Kuwait permanently.

According to lawyer Osama Ameen, begging is illegal in Kuwait. "I strongly advise people not to beg because Kuwaiti law has zero tolerance towards begging. Any foreigner caught begging will be deported. Deported beggars are not allowed back into Kuwait under any circumstances and their sponsors will not be allowed to sponsor anyone regardless of the reasons and they will be blacklisted. Don't open your door to beggars - it is risky. There are proper channels to assist the needy - through legalized charitable organizations," Ameen told Kuwait Times.

It may be recalled that the Municipality issued a strong warning recently that it would deport any cleaning worker caught begging or acting contrary to public order. It also warned cleaning firms having contracts with the Municipality to advise their staff to abstain from begging.

Local

Lawmaker proposes govt buy debt again

Assembly panel meets bedoon jailed illegally

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: MP Majed Al-Mutairi yesterday called on the government to buy billions of dinars in bank loans taken by Kuwaiti citizens, revisiting a sensitive issue that had dominated domestic politics for years. But Mutairi this time says his draft law will not cost the government anything and will still relieve Kuwaiti citizens from a big financial burden.

In his bill, the lawmaker proposes that local banks report within one month to the Central Bank all the loans taken by citizens from local banks. The Central Bank in turn will place government deposits equal to the debt on Kuwaiti citizens, who will be exempted from repaying their debts. Mu-

tairi said through this way, the Kuwaiti people will be relieved and the government will not pay any extra dinar. He however didn't mention the amounts of interest that the government could obtain on the deposits.

The lawmaker said domestic banks and investment companies will then invest the deposits placed against the citizens' loans and take their dues from the investment returns. The government had in the past adamantly rejected such proposals, saying they constitute a major burden on state finances, and its rejection had locked the country into political crises. The government is highly expected to reject this proposal too because of its high cost on government coffers. The size of citi-

zens' debt is not known, but it is believed to be several billion dinars.

Meanwhile, the National Assembly's human rights committee yesterday met Mohammad Al-Enezi, a stateless man who was illegally detained by the interior ministry for 25 days over allegedly plotting to assassinate Saleh Al-Fadhlah, the head of the stateless (bedoons) central agency. Member of the committee MP Thamer Al-Dhafiri said the panel heard from Enezi about flagrant violations committed by the state security agency during his detention.

The lawmaker called on the interior ministry to launch an investigation into the allegations and threatened that the interior minister will be held

politically responsible. The public prosecution decided to shelve the case against Enezi after it found that he had only sent a text message to Fadhlah without threatening him.

Rapporteur of the legal and legislative committee MP Khalil Abul said yesterday that the committee received a report from the government on its viewpoints regarding the grilling against the prime minister. The government explained why it believes the grilling is unconstitutional. Abul said that the committee also discussed the issue with three top constitutional experts who expressed their opinions. The committee will meet on Monday with griller MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri, who shunned a previous invitation on Wednesday.

Amir sends condolences to Iranian president

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a cable of condolences to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. In the cable, the Amir expressed Kuwait's strong condemnation of the terrorist car bomb explosion that hit near a police post in Iran's southeastern port city of Chabahar, leaving two police officers dead and injured a number of people. The Amir expressed his sincere condolences and sorrow to victims of the terrorist act, praying for mercy for the deceased and swift recovery for the wounded. 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 the Iranian president. — KUNA

Kuwait gives nuclear security top priority

VIENNA: Kuwait attaches special attention to cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the region's countries, mainly GCC members, in the domain of nuclear security, said a Kuwaiti official. "Kuwait pays maximum heed to a national integrated plan to promote nuclear security in the country," Kuwait's national liaison officer at the IAEA Nader Al-Awadhi said to KUNA yesterday after submitting a working paper to a relevant international conference. The blueprint has played a core part in focusing efforts on the establishment of a strong and sustainable nuclear security infrastructure in the shortest possible time, he added.

The IAEA conference is being held in Vienna at the level of experts under the rubric: "International Conference on the Security of Radioactive Material: The Way Forward for Prevention and Detection". Elaborating, Awadhi said the Kuwaiti document included plans in the realm of nuclear security, together with a set of issues, primarily relevant expected threats. He noted that nuclear terrorism and its looming catastrophic consequences on humanity and national and environment infrastructures pose a main problem across the world in the context of globalization.

He added that the usage of radioactive material in illegal purposes



Nader Al-Awadhi

is a source of permanent worry, emphasizing that an integrated system for radioactive material security is one of the key elements of national nuclear security infrastructure. The paper features the main characteristics of Kuwait's nuclear security blueprint and progress made in this regard, the Kuwaiti official pointed out. This plan has largely contributed to ensuring the country's security by means of promoting institutional, human and technical capabilities in various nuclear security aspects.

Held from December 3 to 7, the IAEA gathering provides a forum for member states to share their experiences, including difficulties encountered, lessons learned and good practices adopted, in the implementation of the nuclear security recommendations on radioactive material and associated facilities. The purpose of the conference is to foster the exchange of practices and experiences related to the security of radioactive material under regulatory control in use, transport and storage, and to the system and measures for detection of this material out of regulatory control. — KUNA

Defense minister chairs SCPD meet

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired the Supreme Council for Planning and Development's second meeting as part of its 2018's second session. The meeting, held on Wednesday night, discussed reports by SCPD's committees submitted on the second session's agendas, the council said in a press statement yesterday.

It also discussed the economic committee's report on economic and financial sustainability in the country, added the statement, noting SCPD also reviewed a report on the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises Development. The meeting also discussed a report by the human and urban development committee on priorities of the government's action plan, in addition to the committee's opinion on housing issues, suggested solutions, and mortgage draft law. —KUNA



Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

DGCA projects over 15m passengers in '18

KUWAIT: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation projected yesterday the number of passenger travelling via Kuwait Airport is to surpass 15 million in 2018. The annual increase in the number of travelers via Kuwait Airport is between 10 and 12 percent, nearly a million, Deputy Director General for Aviation Safety and Air Transport Affairs Emad Al-Juluwi told KUNA. Juluwi made his remarks on the sidelines of celebrating the upcoming International Civil Aviation Day, annually marked on 7th of December.

Juluwi said DGCA has a colorful record of achievements, whether on the levels of training and qualifying national cadres, or infrastructure and significant facilities. The directorate has an ambitious plan to construct enhanced facilities and infrastructure; an important step that is in line with the country's goal to be an international financial and commercial hub, said the DGCA official. Some of the ambitious infrastructure projects listed in the New Kuwait 2020 Vision's development plan include airfreight city, third runway, and Terminal 2, noted Juluwi. —KUNA

Kuwait to tap renewable energy in oil extraction

BEIRUT: Kuwait is increasingly interested in drawing upon renewable energy in the extraction of oil in an effort to curtail carbon dioxide, said a Kuwaiti scientific official. "Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) has plans to curb carbon dioxide emissions in the processes of extraction, production and conversion (of oil)," Director-General of Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) Adnan Shihab Eldin said to KUNA while attending a conference on transfer of renewable energy in Middle East, held in the Lebanese capital Beirut.

"The KPC has commenced blueprints to carry out some projects aiming at storing carbon dioxide on the one hand, and to boost reliance on renewable energy on the other hand," he added. He underlined the significance of renewable energy in Kuwait, which could contribute to producing 15 percent of electricity generation in the country, noting that the oil sector is helping in building renewable-energy power plants in the country.

Speaking during the energy event, Shihab Eldin urged the Arabs, who hold more than 50 percent of the world's oil needs, to maintain a sustainable role of oil and gas which contribute to the countries' economies. — KUNA

Local

Exhibition of handicrafts made by prisoners opens

List of inmates to be pardoned being readied

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The 7th exhibition of handicrafts made by prisoners opened yesterday in Souq Sharq. On behalf of Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt Gen Essam Al-Naham, Assistant Undersecretary of the Interior Ministry Reformatory Institutes Department Maj Gen Faraj Fahd Al-Zuabi said: "We are happy to see the success of our efforts with the exhibition of the work of prisoners of the reformatory institutes department, which seeks to rehabilitate inmates and equip them with a profession that helps them after they leave prison to earn a living and live among the community as productive individuals and develop their talents and abilities."

Regarding the Amiri amnesty, he said the amnesty is always issued after the national holidays (February 25-26). "This year we were keen to seek the Amiri amnesty on the morning of the national holiday to make the prisoners spend the day with their families. We began to compile lists

of prisoners for the amnesty, and finalized and ratified them by the ministers of interior and justice. A committee was formed to examine the lists within the amnesty rules. The final list will be submitted on January 1 to the Amiri Diwan for auditing, and we hope it will be issued before Feb 25," Zuabi said.

He pointed out that the number of prisoners who will be released this year is lower because last year had highest, with 2,700 prisoners pardoned with immediate release or commutation of their sentences. Another 100 people were added to the list later. "The amnesty will include exemption from fines, especially for drug addicts, since these people should be considered as people with illness who they must be treated and not punished," Zuabi added. He thanked all those who participated in and contributed to the exhibition, which contributes significantly to raising the name of Kuwait in international forums and conferences on human rights.



KUWAIT: Interior ministry officials tour an exhibition of handicrafts made by prisoners at Souq Sharq yesterday. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Kuwait added to S&P DJI with EM classification

KUWAIT: S&P Dow Jones Indices has included Kuwait among emerging markets in its indices. It lauded the noticeable progress in settlement sand clearing through the move to a unified settlement cycle (T+3), and implement the Delivery v Payment (D v P) principle. The changes were implemented with the first and second stages of the market development project that is supervised by the Capital Markets Authority and implemented by

Boursa Kuwait and Kuwait Clearing Company. The announcement said the actual addition of Kuwait in the S&P Dow Jones Indices will be before market opening on Sept 23, 2019, bearing in mind that the indices are:

- S&P Global BMI
- S&P Global BMI Sharia
- S&P/IFCI
- Dow Jones Global Index
- S&P Global Property
- Dow Jones Islamic Markets

It is worth mentioning that S&P Dow Jones Indices placed Kuwait on the consultation list for promotion to an emerging market in its June report for the second consecutive year, and said that CMA is implementing important steps in the way of

earning promotion to an emerging market through a project being executed in several stages in order to get closer to international standards. It said in the same declaration that the most notable implementations within the development process are:

- Unifying the settlement cycle to T+3.
- Implementing the Delivery versus Payment (D v P) principle.
- Dividing the marked according to certain criteria.

This achievement is the second promotion to emerging markets indices following that of FTSE Russell, and the placement of Kuwait on the supervision list for promotion on the MCI indices to be decided in June 2019.

News in brief

Drug pusher held



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Drug Control General Department arrested a suspect with 60 kg of hashish and 3 kg of shabu hidden in a hole in a Kabd farm. The suspect was put under surveillance, and after it was confirmed he was selling drugs, a warrant was obtained and the farm was searched, where two boxes containing the drugs were found.

UAE says GCC strong despite row

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates said yesterday the Gulf Cooperation Council remained valid despite a bitter row with Qatar that has fractured the bloc ahead of an annual summit next week. Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and non-GCC member Egypt have imposed a diplomatic and economic boycott on Qatar since June 2017 over allegations Doha supports terrorism. Qatar denies the charges and says the boycott aims to curtail its sovereignty. "The main success of the council is in its economic aspects and the creation of a Gulf common market," UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash tweeted. "The political crisis will end when the cause behind it ends and that is Qatar's support of extremism and its interference in the stability of the region."

The dispute has undermined the regional role of the six-nation GCC, set up in 1980 as a bulwark against larger neighbors Iran and Iraq. Last week, Qatar abruptly an-

nounced it was quitting OPEC after 57 years to focus on gas in an apparent swipe at the oil-exporter bloc's de facto leader Saudi Arabia. The move has deepened the sense among diplomats and analysts that any prospect for a near-term resolution to the dispute was unlikely to come at the GCC summit in Riyadh.

Saudi Arabia's king has invited Qatar's emir to attend the Dec 9 gathering of heads of state, but Doha has not yet said what level of representation it would send. Bahrain's foreign minister said in remarks published yesterday that the level of Qatari representation at the one-day summit was irrelevant. "It is the same whether they attend or not," Foreign Minister Khalid bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa told the pan-Arab daily Asharq Al-Awsat. "The crisis with Qatar has reached unprecedented levels and I don't know how they will come back from that, as Qatar has joined itself with the region's enemies such as Iran and distanced itself from the GCC."

Qatar's ruler last month said the dispute "exposed the failure" of the GCC and harmed regional security by weakening the block which groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. At last year's summit, held in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain sent ministers or deputy prime ministers. —Reuters

Ring removed

A disabled citizen was taken to Razi (orthopedic) Hospital after all attempts to remove a ring from his finger failed. Firemen from Industrial Shuwaikh Center went to the hospital and used special equipment to cut it without injury.



International

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2018



Tight security for India mosque destruction anniversary

Page 14

Page 16

Bush to be buried after four-day tribute



RIMBO, Sweden: Swedish Foreign minister Margot Wallstrom, left, and UN special envoy to Yemen Martin Griffiths attend the opening press conference of the Yemeni peace talks at Johannesburg castle in Rimbo, Sweden. — AFP

Yemen, UN talks open in Sweden

Yemen govt demands rebel withdrawal from Hodeida

RIMBO, Sweden: Talks between Yemen's government and rebels, locked in a devastating war for nearly four years, opened yesterday as tension remained high despite what the UN envoy called a "critical opportunity". Yemen's government and rebels doubled down on their rival demands yesterday, just moments before hard-won consultations opened in Sweden under the auspices of the United Nations.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Yamani, who heads the Saudi-backed government's delegation to the UN-sponsored talks in Sweden, said his team would follow through with a planned prisoner swap with the Houthi rebels - but refused to compromise on the flashpoint port city of Hodeida, home to Yemen's most valuable port.

"The Houthi militias must withdraw from the city of Hodeida, and its port, and hand it over to the legitimate government, and specifically internal security forces," Yamani said. A Saudi-backed military coalition has for months led an offensive to retake Hodeida, the last rebel stronghold on Yemen's Red Sea coast. The move has sparked fears for more than 150,000 civil-

ians trapped in the city as even hospitals were seized by militants. Hodeida is on the agenda at the talks, slated to run for one week. Not on the table are negotiations on a solution to the conflict between the Saudi-backed government of Abdrabbo Mansour Hadi and Yemen's Huthi rebels, according to UN envoy Martin Griffiths.

Mass starvation threat

One of the most impoverished countries in the world, the Arabian Peninsula state of Yemen is now home to what the UN calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with 14 million people facing imminent mass starvation. The talks in Rimbo, Sweden - a picturesque village some 60 kilometres (35 miles) north of Stockholm - have been months in the making, with the UN sending its special envoy to Sanaa to personally escort the rebel delegation to Sweden.

"During the coming days we will have a critical opportunity to give momentum to the peace process," Griffiths told reporters as the rival delegations gathered in Sweden. "There is a way we can resolve the conflict," Griffiths said,

adding that the Security Council was "united" in its support for a resolution to the conflict. "Remember these are consultations. We are not yet beginning the process of negotiations." The meeting marks the first attempt in two years to broker an end to the Yemen conflict, which has killed at least 10,000 people since Saudi Arabia and its allies joined the government's fight against the rebels in 2015.

Humanitarian pipeline

Griffiths said the UN was willing to step in Hodeida, an offer the Saudi-led coalition has rejected unless the rebels withdraw completely from Yemen's western coastline. "The UN is willing if the parties so desire to play a part in the port and city. We'd like to take Hodeida out of the conflict because ... it's the humanitarian pipeline to the rest of the country," he said.

"We would like to see that airport open, but it needs to be assessed," he said. "We'd like to see progress on this." The head of the Houthi rebels' political council threatened yesterday to bar UN planes from using the Yemeni capital's

airport unless the peace negotiations lead to its full reopening. Sanaa international airport, located in the rebel-held capital, has been largely shut down for years. It has been the target of air raids by the Saudi-led coalition, which also controls Yemeni airspace.

International pressure to end the Yemen conflict reached unprecedented heights in recent weeks, as all eyes turned to Saudi Arabia's policies following the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Sources on both sides said they would demand a ceasefire - initiated by their rival - and the opening of humanitarian corridors.

The government and Houthis on Tuesday said they agreed to a prisoner swap, to be overseen by the International Committee of the Red Cross, after the Sweden talks. Saudi Arabia and its allies this week allowed the Houthis to evacuate 50 wounded rebels from Sanaa for medical treatment in Oman. Griffiths' plans to host talks in Geneva in September collapsed on the opening day after the rebels refused to leave the Yemeni capital, saying they feared they would not be allowed to return. — AFP

International

Suicide bomber kills two in southeast Iran city

Gunmen killed after attempting to storm police headquarters

TEHRAN: A suicide car bombing followed by an armed assault killed at least two people and wounded many more outside police headquarters in the port city of Chabahar in restive southeastern Iran yesterday. Chabahar lies in Sistan-Baluchistan province which has long been a flashpoint, with Pakistan-based Baluchi separatists and Sunni Muslim extremists carrying out cross-border attacks targeting the Shiite authorities. "This terrorist act led to the martyrdom of two members of the police force," the province's deputy governor in charge of security, Mohammad Hadi Marashi, told state television. Immediately after the bomber detonated the car bomb, gunmen attempted to storm the police headquarters but were killed by security forces, Iranian media reported. Chabahar city governor Rahmdel Bameri said many people were also wounded in the 10 am attack.



Civilian women, children injured in bomb blast

"The explosion was very strong and broke the glass of many buildings close by," Bameri told state television. Many nearby shop owners and civilian passers-by, including women and children, were seriously wounded, he added. Chabahar lies some 100 kilometers west of the Pakistan border and is home to a large, mainly Sunni Muslim ethnic Baluchi community which straddles the two countries. Immediately after the bomber detonated the car bomb,

Pope to visit UAE in February

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis, who has made boosting ties between Christianity and Islam a cornerstone of his papacy, will visit Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates in February, the Vatican said yesterday. The pontiff was invited to the majority-Muslim country by both Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and the local Catholic church. Francis will take part in an international "interfaith" meeting during the trip, which will run from February 3 to 5.

The 81-year old has already visited several Muslim countries, including Turkey in 2014, Azerbaijan in 2016 and Egypt in 2017. The Vatican said

Turkish court frees airport workers detained over protest

ANKARA: Turkish judge Wednesday ordered the release of 31 Istanbul Airport construction workers detained since September after protesting their working conditions, labor unions said. "The court has announced its decision: it has decided to free our director general Ozgur Karabulut, the heads of the Insaat-IS union, and all the workers," the Dev Yapi-is

gunmen attempted to storm the police headquarters but were killed by security forces, Iranian media reported. The number of assailants was not immediately clear. "The terrorists tried to enter Chabahar police headquarters but they were prevented by the guards and they detonated the car bomb," Marashi said without elaborating on how many assailants took part.

Busy shopping district

A resident contacted by AFP who said he was inside the police headquarters at the time of the attack said the assailants had attacked the building after blowing up the vehicle. "There was an exchange of gunfire right after the explosion," the resident said, adding that it lasted about 10 minutes. The police headquarters lies in a busy commercial district with many shops and

banks around it.

The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps ground forces, Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour, who has overseen counter-insurgency operations in the southeast, visited the police base after the attack, the ultra-conservative Tasnim news website reported. The news agency carried pictures of the remains of the vehicle used by the attackers which is believed to have been a blue Nissan van. It said 27 people

the theme for the Abu Dhabi trip was summed up in the phrase "make me a channel of your peace"—a quote from Saint Francis of Assisi, the pope's namesake. The hope was the visit would "spread in a special way the peace of God within the hearts of all people of good will," it said.

"This visit, like the one to Egypt, shows the fundamental importance the Holy Father gives to inter-religious dialogue," spokesman Greg Burke said. "Pope Francis visiting the Arab world is a perfect example of the culture of encounter," he added. The UAE prides itself on its religious tolerance and cultural diversity, and most Gulf Arab states have long allowed Christians to worship in churches. Nearly 80 percent of the population of the UAE is Muslim, while Christians constitute around nine percent, according to the Catholic News Agency. —AFP

construction union announced on Twitter. Insaat-IS also tweeted the news, and said a delegation would head to Silivri, a prison on the outskirts of Istanbul, to greet the workers due to be freed overnight.

In September, hundreds of workers walked off the job at Istanbul's new international airport in protest at poor conditions and work-related deaths on the site. Turkish authorities cracked down, arresting hundreds, according to labour unions. Most were released without charge, but some remained in prison. On Monday, opposition lawmaker Ali Seker said that the government had admitted that "at least 52 workers" have died on the site since construction began in 2015. —AFP



CHABAHAR, Iran: A general view of the scene of a car bombing in front of a police station in the city of Chabahar, in southern Iran. —AFP

were wounded in the attack. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Several recent attacks in the province have been claimed by the jihadist Jaish al-Adl (Army of Justice), which is blacklisted as a terrorist group by Iran. It was formed in 2012 as a successor organization to the Sunni extremist group Jundallah (Soldiers of God) which waged a deadly insurgency against Iranian targets over the previous decade. In October, the group claimed the capture of 12 Iranian security force personnel who were conducting

an operation near the Pakistan border.

A state television-run news agency reported that the unit included intelligence agents of the Revolutionary Guards. Five of those captured were released and flown home last month following Pakistani intervention. Chabahar is a strategically important city for Iran. It has a deep-water port on the Gulf of Oman, which, with Indian assistance, Iran has been developing it as a major energy and freight hub between Central Asia and India, bypassing Pakistan. —AFP

Saudi ambassador, brother of crown prince, returns to Washington

WASHINGTON: The Saudi ambassador to the United States Khalid bin Salman, brother of the powerful crown prince, has returned to Washington after leaving the US capital in the wake of the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, an official said Wednesday. "His Royal Highness the Ambassador is in Washington" embassy spokeswoman Fatimah Baeshen said. The diplomat returned to Riyadh in early October shortly after the killing of the dissident Saudi journalist at the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul.

At the time, the US State Department said it would seek information from him regarding the incident upon his return.

Two key Republican senators said Tuesday a briefing by CIA director Gina Haspel had only strengthened their conviction Prince Mohammed was behind the crime—a charge he denies.

According to US media reports, the CIA had evidence that Prince Khalid had spoken to Khashoggi before his death and assured him that he would be able to visit the consulate, where he planned to go to get documents he needed to marry his Turkish fiancée, without any risk to himself. Prince Khalid has denied what he called a "serious accusation."

Despite these heavy suspicions, the administration of President Donald Trump has sought to distance the Saudi leadership from the affair and insisted there is no direct proof Prince Mohammed ordered the killing. The Saudi foreign minister Adel al-Jubeir meanwhile was also in Washington Friday to represent his country at the funeral of former president George H.W. Bush, according to Baeshen. She did not add whether Jubeir would meet with administration officials during his stay. —AFP

International

The battle to save Central African Republic's starving children

Infant mortality in CAR is highest in the world

BANGUI, Central African Republic: The line of parents waiting to see doctors stretches back outside the hospital into the dusty courtyard. Mums and dads carrying weak, starving children. Many hanging limply in their arms like half empty sacks of rice. The scene at the paediatric complex in Bangui, capital of Central African Republic, is not dissimilar to a war zone. And as conflict tears through the country, people here are desperately fighting another deadly foe: hunger.

In a doorway, a young girl stands with the round shape of her belly protruding out above her skinny legs. A few meters away another malnourished girl sits barefoot, joints protruding, with shoulder blades poking out of her skin like blades, a baggy top the only clothing to cling to her perished frame. "Central African Republic is one of the most difficult countries to be a child," Donaig Le Dru, UNICEF spokesperson in CAR, said.

The statistics underline the horrors that stalk childhood in the country. Infant mortality in CAR is the highest in the world, according to the UN. One in 24 children die in the first 28 days of life. The number of children with severe or acute malnutrition rose from around 32,000 to 43,000 between 2014 and the end of 2018. And two out of three children — 1.5 million youngsters in total—are in need of humanitarian assistance, according to UNICEF. The UN's World Food Program warned last month that CAR was facing the worst situation of food insecurity in four years, with nearly two million people in urgent need of food aid.

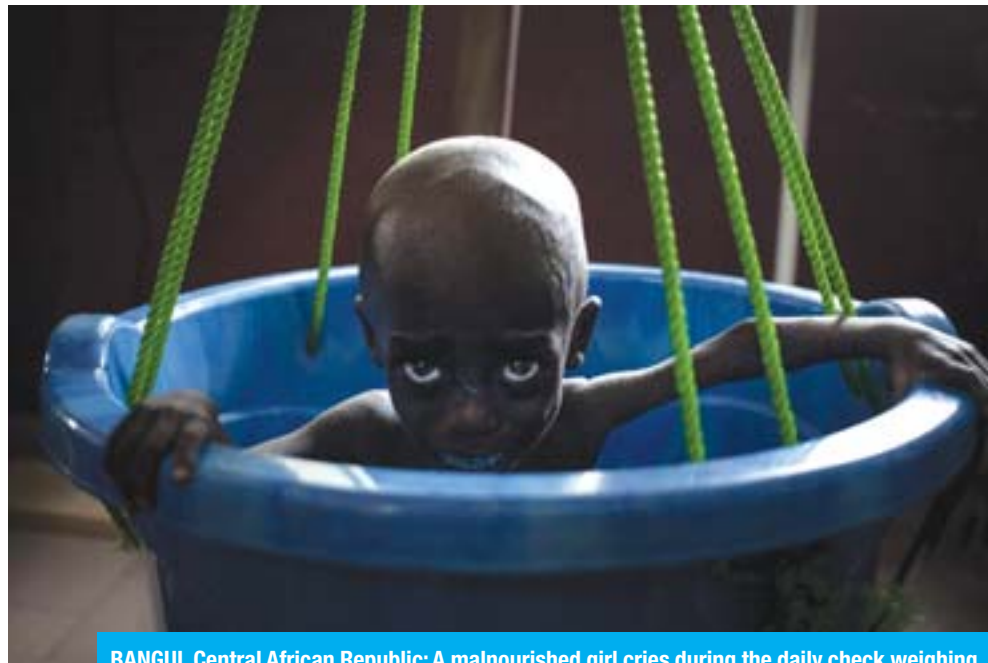
'More dangerous for children'

Civil unrest has lacerated this impoverished but mineral-rich country for years, leaving the economy in tatters and causing misery for those caught in the violence. In a report released last month, the UN expressed alarm over a "sharp increase in fighting" and said "life may be even harder and more dangerous for children" than it was at the height of the last outbreak of civil war five years ago. One of the world's poorest countries, the CAR spiraled into bloodshed after longtime leader Francois Bozize was overthrown in 2013 by a predominantly Muslim rebel alliance called the Seleka.

Nominally Christian militias called the anti-Balaka emerged in response, accelerating a cycle of sectarian violence. France intervened militarily from 2013 to 2016 to push out the Seleka, winding down the operation after Faustin-Archange Touadera was elected president. Touadera governs today with the support of a large UN peacekeeping operation. But most of the country is controlled by ex-rebels and militias, many of them claiming to act as guardians for the Muslim or Christian communities.

Severe malnutrition

The Bangui hospital is just a few kilometers from the mainly Muslim PK5 district—an area that has become a flashpoint in the troubled country. But just five pediatricians work here, struggling with limited equipment or support eked out of the creaking healthcare system. Inside the hospital, a group of parents and children stare at a malnourished girl crying during what has become a daily routine—being weighed



BANGUI, Central African Republic: A malnourished girl cries during the daily check weighing at the Bangui pediatric complex. — AFP

on scales in a large blue bucket.

One by one, the children are lifted onto the scales as other emaciated infants and parents look on, waiting their turn. In the overcrowded hospital grounds, a father called Theodore hugs his young daughter who is suffering from malnutrition. His wife is in hospital after having a nervous breakdown, he says, after the couple's

first child died. He struggles to earn enough money to buy food.

In general, children are hospitalized for a little over a week until their weight recovers. But not all survive, with some losing the fight against severe malnutrition or disease—the lasting consequences of violence and poverty in a nation wracked by conflict. — AFP

Spirit of slain monks lives on at Algerian abbey

TIBHIRINE, Algeria: There are no longer Trappist monks at the abbey in Algeria's Tibhirine made infamous by the slaughter of seven men who served there during the country's brutal civil war. But the memory of the French clergymen, kidnapped and murdered over two decades ago, remains strong as the Catholic Church prepares to officially beatify them on Saturday. The sun-dappled cloister and bare cells of Our Lady of Atlas are now overseen by a tiny group of believers who hope to keep alive their message of understanding and dialogue.

"This is a place marked by the deaths of the monks," said Brother Bruno, a member of the Chemin Neuf Community, to which the Church handed control in 2016. The seven monks of Tibhirine were abducted from the monastery by gunmen on the night of March 26, 1996 and only their severed heads were found two months later. Their deaths were announced by

the insurgent Armed Islamic Group of Algeria, which battled the government during the 1992-2002 civil war that left up to 200,000 people dead. But doubts have lingered ever since over the official version of events that blames Islamist fighters. "We do not know exactly when they were killed, or where, or by whom," said 50-year-old Brother Bruno.

Seven white marble stones bearing only the first names of the dead mark where their skulls lie buried in the shade of some trees—Christian, Luc, Christophe, Paul, Celestin, Michel and Bruno. In January 2018 the Vatican declared that the monks were martyrs for their faith, along with 12 other clergy slain during the conflict, including the bishop of Oran, Pierre Claverie, killed in a bombing in 1996. They had been murdered "in odium fidei", or out of hatred for the faith, it said, opening the way for their beatification—the first step on the path to Roman Catholic sainthood.

Trappist monks sought to return to the abbey in the aftermath of the killings from 1998 to 2001. But with the civil war still going on they were forced by the authorities to spend their nights in the capital Algiers, some 80 kilometers away, and only travel under military escort. —AFP

From arrows to M16s: PNG tribal fights get ever deadlier

PILIKAMBI: Tribes in Papua New Guinea's rough and rugged highlands have fought each other for centuries, but a recent influx of automatic weapons risks turning minor beefs into all-out war. Israel Laki misses the old days—just a few years ago—when clansmen would settle fights in what he deems the proper way: with bows, arrows, axes and spears. It was honorable, he insists, even if an arrow once thumped within millimeters of his heart as he tried to axe a rival tribal fighter to death.

The wiry 69-year-old still carries the scars and spirit of the old ways from this picturesque part of central Papua New Guinea, which westerners only reached in the 1930s. Even today, the modern state is little more than an abstract concept in the isolated region, where few respect the government. Old rivalries persist, as do fights over rape, theft and tribal boundaries. But tradition is increasingly melding with modernity, to devastating

effect. Locals now speak darkly of an influx of American M16s, AR-15s and Belgian FN's—all brutally effective rifles designed for the military—and of roving mercenaries and arms dealers willing to work for cash, pigs or women.

Papua New Guinea's population has more than doubled since 1980, placing increasing strain on land and resources and deepening tribal rivalries. Elsewhere in the country however, tribal fights have become rare or ritualistic, thanks, in part, to urbanization and the fear of firearms igniting an ever-escalating conflict.

But in Enga province, regional police commander Joseph Tondop has already seen dozens die during the three months that he has been on the job. "I was surprised to see people armed with very high-powered weapons and they are just killing each other by the side of the road," he told AFP. The surge in violence has prompted a company of around 100 government soldiers under the command of a Sandhurst-trained major to establish a makeshift garrison at a hotel in the main town of Wabag. "They decide to take the law into their own hands and apply justice amongst themselves. Jungle justice," said Tondop. Under this system "one person's problem becomes everyone's problem". Military intelligence suggests the guns come from nearby Bougainville Island—where a civil war raged until 1998—or from across the porous Indonesian border, or even from within the security services themselves. —AFP

Brexit hardliners resist pleas to vote for May's deal

European Research Group under pressure if deal sinks

LONDON: Conservative Brexiteers, having spent their entire careers railing against the European Union, are resisting pleas from Theresa May to support her deal and could try to unseat her in the aftermath of next week's vote. The prime minister has already survived a half-hearted coup from the EU's most ardent opponents, the party's so-called European Research Group (ERG), but will be under severe pressure if her deal is sunk as seems likely.

She commands a wafer-thin majority in parliament, and with opposition parties promising to vote the deal down, she cannot afford to lose more than a handful of her own MPs. But around 100 have so far said they are opposed to the agreement, throwing the whole process into chaos with less than four months to go before Britain leaves the EU. Their concerns have deepened after government legal advice revealed a risk that Britain could end up indefinitely stuck in an awkward customs arrangement with the European Union, with Northern Ireland as a separate economic entity.

May has tried to win them over, acknowledging on Wednesday the "concerns" raised by fellow Conservatives. "I'm continuing to listen to colleagues on that and considering a way forward," she told MPs. Brexiteers have also ap-

peared unconcerned by her warnings that if they vote against the agreement on Tuesday Britain may not end up leaving the EU.

Brexit 'above everything else'

The ERG fell short of securing the 48 letters needed from MPs to trigger a no-confidence vote, but following a defeat for May in parliament next week they could have more luck. The group was originally set up in 1993 to oppose Britain's continued integration into the European Community through the Maastricht Treaty. Many of its key players are veterans of that battle and are ideologically bent on leaving the EU at almost any personal or political price, having already helped bring down then prime minister John Major over the issue.

"They put leaving the European Union probably above everything else, including party loyalty," said Nick Wright, teaching fellow in EU Politics at University College London. "They just want to get us to the 29th of March and they don't care if there's a no-deal-once we're out." Among this group, nicknamed the "Paleosceptics" by journalist Tim Shipman in his Brexit book "All Out War", are former Tory party leader Iain Duncan-Smith, Bernard Jenkin, Owen Paterson, Bill Cash and Peter Bone.



LONDON: A handout photograph released by the UK Parliament shows Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May, center, standing at the dispatch box as she speaks during the weekly question and answer session, Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs), in the House of Commons in London. — AFP

They formed the backbone of the official Leave campaign during the 2016 referendum, but ran into frequent conflict with its combative leader Dominic Cummings. "His narrative was that the eurosceptics were completely incompetent and their image was hopeless," Jenkin told Shipman, with Cummings believing them to be naive and obsessed with "constitutional abstrac-

tions". Fellow Conservative MP Jacob Rees-Mogg took over leadership of the group after it was relaunched in 2016 to lobby for Britain to leave all of the EU's institutions as part of a deal. However, their failed attempt to unseat May and an amateurish press conference presided over by five veteran eurosceptics—all men—did little to alter this reputation. —AFP



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International

US court to hear 'double jeopardy' case with implications for Trump

Judges in favor of abandoning separate sovereigns principle

WASHINGTON: The US Supreme Court takes up yesterday the question of whether a person can be tried twice for the same offense—a case with possible implications for President Donald Trump and the Russia probe. The case involves Terance Gamble, who in 2008 was convicted of second-degree felony robbery. Seven years later, Gamble was pulled over in Alabama for a traffic violation and found to be in possession of a gun. The state sentenced him to a year in prison because felons are barred from possessing firearms.

Federal authorities tried Gamble separately for the same gun offense and he was sentenced to four years in prison. The Fifth Amendment of the US Constitution says that no one can be “twice put in jeopardy of life or limb” for the same crime. But for more than 150 years, the court has held that being tried separately by a state and the federal government does not violate this principle because they are “separate sovereigns.”

The Justice Department has set limits to avoid abuses in these cases and these are rare anyway, said Dane Ciolino, a law professor at Loyola University in New Orleans. “A conviction by one sovereign usually results in loss in interest by the other,” Ciolino said. Yet if state authorities fail to win a conviction of a suspect, or drop charges, fed-

eral prosecutors often step in and go after the defendant—or vice versa. This was the case with Terry Nichols, one of the defendants in the bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma City in 1995. The attack killed 168 people. After federal authorities failed to win a death penalty conviction, the state of Oklahoma put Nichols on trial. And again, Nichols was sentenced to life in prison because the jury was not unanimous on putting him to death.

Metastasizing law

Minor crimes like Gamble’s are often subjected to more than one trial in violation of the spirit of the constitution, say jurists who support his appeal before the Supreme Court. The American Civil Liberties Union has urged the court to drop its acceptance of double trials. “With the ever-metastasizing federal criminal law—there are now over 4,500 federal crimes on the books—there is tremendous overlap with state law on everything from drug possession to tampering with an odometer,” the ACLU said.

“This greatly increases the threat of duplicative prosecutions for a vast and increasing amount of conduct.” But other anti-racism advocacy groups are more cautious, such as the Thurgood Marshall Center, which argues that letting

people be tried by both a state and the federal government has helped advanced the cause of African American rights. They say blacks are better defended by the feds.

For instance, federal authorities charged police officers suspected in the beating of black motorist Rodney King in Los Angeles in 1991 after a mainly white California state jury acquitted them. This last decision triggered nationwide riots. Aside from the issue of civil rights, Ciolino said that if the Supreme Court ends up barring separate trials for the same crime, this could come into play in special counsel Robert Muller’s probe of alleged collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia in the 2016 election and whether Trump has tried to obstruct the investigation into this relationship.

Trump has said he does not rule out pardoning his former campaign manager Paul Manafort, who faces prison time for violating federal fraud laws. Under the current separate sovereigns doctrine, states such as New York or Virginia could bring charges against Manafort if Trump pardons him. Such a pardon would be seen as Trump’s way of encouraging other suspects in the Russia probe to decline to cooperate with Mueller, with the suggestion that if they hold



WASHINGTON: In this file photo US President Donald Trump speaks to reporters before walking to Marine One on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, DC. — AFP

fast, he will reward them with a pardon. But if the court rules in favor of Gamble and no longer upholds more than one trial for one offense, a Trump pardon would stand pat. In a display of how the issue crosses partisan lines, two of the nine judges on the court—progressive Ruth Bader Ginsburg and conservative Clarence Thomas—seem in favor of abandoning the “separate sovereigns” principle. —AFP

Bush to be buried after four-day tribute

HOUSTON: George H.W. Bush was to be laid to rest yesterday, concluding a four-day tribute to the 41st president that saw America briefly set aside its political divisions. After a state funeral Wednesday in Washington that was attended by the country’s five living presidents and foreign dignitaries, Bush’s flag-draped coffin was flown to Houston. He will lie in repose at St Martin’s Episcopal Church, where the Bushes worshipped for decades, until he is buried.

Bush will be interred at his presidential library in College Station next to his wife Barbara, who died in April, and their daughter Robin who died of leukemia at age three. At the memorial service President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania shared a front row pew in the National Cathedral with past presidents Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, Jimmy Carter and their wives as an honor guard brought Bush’s casket into the prayer hall.

Former president George W. Bush tapped the casket twice when he walked up to deliver a rousing eulogy, fighting through tears as he sang the praises of his father and predecessor as commander-in-chief, who died Friday at age 94. “He showed me what it means to be a president who serves with integrity, leads with courage, and acts with love in his heart for the citizens of our



TEXAS: A visitor paying his respect to former US President George H.W. Bush salutes the flag-covered coffin as he lies in repose at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church in Houston, Texas. — AFP

country,” Bush said. “He was born with just two settings—full throttle, then sleep,” he said. “To us, his was the brightest of a thousand points of light,” he said in a reference to his father’s signature call to volunteerism. Wednesday’s funeral capped a national homage that saw Bush lie in state in the US Capitol rotunda, where thousands paid respects to a statesman who steered the nation through turbulent times including the end of the Cold War—and in a style dramatically different to the current president.

Since Bush’s death, Trump has traded his usual provocative posture for one of solemnity, tweeting before the service about “a day of celebration for a great man who has led a long and distinguished life.” “He will

be missed!” Trump wrote. At the funeral, Trump and his Democratic predecessors appeared locked in an uneasy truce. Trump arrived and shook hands with Obama and former first lady Michelle Obama.

But his greetings stopped there, and the body language turned cold as he failed to acknowledge Hillary Clinton, his defeated Democratic rival in 2016. Clinton stared straight ahead and the two made no eye contact. It was a marked contrast when Bush Jr. arrived minutes later and shook hands with the current and past presidents and their wives—and handed Michelle Obama a piece of candy, as he did during the memorial service for senator John McCain in the same cathedral in September. —AFP

Child marriage costs countries billions in lost earnings

ACCRA: Respect Ruvimbo Topodzi was 15 and walking home from school in her native Zimbabwe when a 22-year-old man asked her out. She turned him down but it was too late. Her father saw them and assumed they were already together. He told her she had to marry the man and live with him. She dropped out of school and soon became pregnant. It was only when her husband became abusive that she was allowed back to the family home. Since then, Topodzi has been working to stop other girls having the same experience.

She took on the government to change the law and increase the minimum legal age of consent for marriage from 16 to 18. “As a mother and survivor of child marriage, I am so passionate about ending child marriage,” she told AFP at a recent conference on the subject in Ghana’s capital Accra. “I know how it feels to be married early and I know how you handle things in your marriage—that is so difficult.”

According to a new World Bank report, more than a third of girls in sub-Saharan Africa marry before their 18th birthday, which costs countries billions of dollars in lost earnings. Estimates for 12 countries suggest some \$63 billion is lost because child brides complete fewer years of formal education than their peers who marry later.

Every year of secondary education reduces the likelihood of marrying before the age of 18 by five percent or more, it added in the report, “Educating Girls and Ending Child Marriage”. West Africa in particular has the highest prevalence of marriage before age 15, and of the top 20 countries with the highest rates of child marriage in the world, 18 are in Africa. —AFP

International

French government yields on fuel price hikes after weeks of protest

Demonstrators block roads nationwide, playing havoc with traffic

PARIS: The French government, under pressure from weeks of “yellow vest” protests over rising living costs, on Wednesday scrapped all planned fuel tax hikes for 2019 and appealed for calm. An increase scheduled for January 1, was “scrapped for the year 2019” in its entirety, Environment Minister Francois de Rugy announced on BFM TV, in an about-turn for the government. The presidency, meanwhile, warned of possible violence during a new round of protests planned for tomorrow in Paris and elsewhere in the country.

“We have reasons to fear major violence,” a source in the Elysee Palace told AFP amid calls for fresh mobilization of the “yellow vests” movement already linked to four deaths and hundreds of injuries in often violent demonstrations. The protests began on November 17 to oppose rising fuel taxes, but have ballooned into a broad challenge to French President Emmanuel Macron’s perceived pro-business agenda and complaints that he is out of touch with the struggles of ordinary people.

Demonstrators have blocked roads nationwide, playing havoc with traffic in the busy run-up to Christmas. Last Saturday, rioters ran amok in the capital, torching some 200 cars, smashing shop windows, and vandalizing the Arc de Triomphe, an iconic national monument. Macron and his government appealed for calm Wednesday, and signaled they were ready to make further concessions to avoid more violence.

“The moment that we are living through is not about political opposition, it’s about the republic,” government spokesman Benjamin Griveaux said after a cabinet meeting where he said Macron urged decision-makers to issue “a clear and explicit call to calm.” Prime Minister Edouard Philippe told parliament: “What is at stake is the security of French people and our institutions. I’m calling for responsibility.” However far-right leader Marine Le Pen and hard-left firebrand Jean-Luc Melenchon have been vocal in backing the demonstrators’ demands.

Tax cuts for the rich

Protests continued Wednesday, with petrol depots, service stations, and shopping centers among the targets of the “yellow vests” or “gilets jaunes”—so named for the high-visibility road safety jackets they wear. Macron, whose approval ratings are down to just 23 percent, is yet to comment publicly since returning to France from a G20 summit in Argentina on Sunday morning. But his office said he told ministers he would stick to his decision to cut a “fortune tax” on high-earners—a move which has infuriated many protesters.

The one-year moratorium on fuel tax rises was announced the day after Philippe, in the first major retreat of Macron’s presidency, said the January 1 fuel tax rise would be postponed for six months. On Wednesday, De Rugy said the period was extended to assuage fears that the unpopular



MONTABON, France: Gilets Jaunes (Yellow vest) protestors man a barricade in Montabon, northwestern France, at an access to an oil depot they block since December 2 as part of the Gilets Jaunes protests. — AFP

increase would simply be reintroduced once the protests stop. In a battery of announcements targeting low-income families, Philippe also froze in-

creases in regulated electricity and gas prices, and new vehicle norms that would have hit users of old, polluting diesel cars. —AFP

Welcoming refugees may have ushered in Merkel’s final act

BERLIN: Opening Germany’s doors to more than a million refugees may come to define Chancellor Angela Merkel’s legacy, a landmark moment in her career that sparked a backlash which could hasten her political exit. It was “the decision of her life,” weekly Die Zeit judged recently, ahead of a vote on Friday that will crown a new head of the centre-right Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party Merkel has led since 2000.

Late summer 2015 saw hundreds of thousands of refugees attempt to reach Europe in often appalling conditions—prompting Merkel to welcome those who found themselves stuck in Hungary. After completing the journey to the Austrian-German border by coach or train or even on foot, many were welcomed by Germans with bouquets of flowers, food and other supplies.

Syrians and Iraqis fleeing conflict in the Middle East dubbed the chancellor “Mama Merkel”, the compassionate European who had offered them shelter—often in requisitioned gym halls or disused barracks. The nickname is “just a joke, it oversimplifies things,” says Rami Rihawi, a 22-year-old Syrian from Aleppo who arrived in Berlin in late 2015, spending seven months living with 300 other people in a gym. “But she will go down in history” for the choices she made back then, he predicted. Rihawi met Merkel in 2017 when she visited a training centre for young computer programmers where he was studying, before he was hired as a software developer at a start-up.

‘We can do it!’

“We can do it!”—the phrase Merkel repeatedly used back then

to reassure her fellow citizens they were up to the mammoth integration challenge—has since disappeared from her lexicon, after becoming a weapon flung at her by political opponents. Germans’ initial enthusiasm and openness quickly gave way to doubt over the mass arrivals, especially in eastern states already aggrieved by their economic disadvantages compared to the wealthier west.

At routine events or on the campaign trail, Merkel was met with masses of people whistling and heckling. “Resign!” a crowd in Dresden chanted on Germany Unity Day in 2016. The CDU’s traditional Bavarian allies—the more conservative CSU—have insisted on annual quotas for the number of migrants allowed into the country. Merkel long resisted such calls before finally giving in, in all but name.

Parliamentarians quickly passed tougher asylum laws that contributed to a sharp reduction in the number of new requests, from a peak of 750,000 in 2016 to 158,000 between January and October this year. And endless calls to be tougher about deporting rejected asylum seekers have seen charter flights take Afghans back to Kabul. Some politicians have even urged that people should be returned to parts of Syria.

With migration dominating the airwaves, the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party began notching up electoral wins after years of stagnation. It has become the strongest party in certain regions, winning 92 seats in the Bundestag (lower house) 2017 parliamentary election, promising to “hunt” Merkel.

Such a major presence for the far-right in parliament has not been seen in Germany since 1945, as the country’s strong memory of the Nazi past restricted xenophobia’s appeal. Meanwhile the CDU’s record low in 2017 prompted the party’s conservative wing, which had always bridled at Merkel’s centrist leadership, to turn up the volume on its complaints. It took six months for the chancellor to form her fourth government, and the shaky alliance has been riven by repeated clashes over migration—fed by the disunity in the conservative camp. After a string of setbacks in regional elections, Merkel announced in October that she would not stand for reelection as party chief this month—nor for reelection as chancellor in 2021. —AFP

Facebook board backs embattled executive Sheryl Sandberg

SAN FRANCISCO: The Facebook board of directors on Tuesday backed the social network’s number two executive Sheryl Sandberg, who is under fire for her role in pushing back against criticism of the social media giant. The board expressed support for Sandberg in a letter to Open Society Foundations—an organization backed by philanthropist and Facebook critic George Soros—writing that: “We take issue with several points you raise.”

Facebook’s second-in-command Sandberg, long seen as the “adult” at the youthfully-managed firm, has found herself the center of a controversy over how the social network sought to counter criticism by Soros and others. A prominent feminist and author with strong political connections, Sandberg has drawn fire in particular over an embarrassing effort to probe Soros, the billionaire investor, after he assailed the online network as a “menace to society.”

Facebook acknowledged last week that Sandberg asked her staff to conduct research on the Hungarian-born billionaire following his remarks early this year, out of concern that he held a “short” position that would profit from a decline in shares. “As is to be expected following an attack from such a well-known and widely respected figure, Facebook staff immediately initiated research to attempt to understand the motivations driving the criticism, financial or otherwise,” the board said in the letter, which was in response to one received from the foundation. —AFP

International

Tight security for India mosque destruction anniversary

Future of site - major touchstone issue in India

AYODHYA, India: Some 2,000 baton-wielding Indian police were on duty in the flashpoint city of Ayodhya yesterday to prevent any clashes around the anniversary of the destruction of a mosque. Hindu zealots reduced the Babri mosque to rubble in 1992, kicking off riots across India that left thousands dead, most of them Muslims, and the future of the site has become a major touchstone issue in Indian politics.

Standing behind yellow steel barricades, police yesterday were seen checking vehicles and stopping some passers-by for questioning as they sought to prevent any flare-up in violence. Watchtower guards and security cameras were trained on the ruins of the Babri mosque and its surroundings.

The disputed site is protected by a high steel fence. Many Hindus believe Ayodhya marks the birthplace of the deity Ram, and that the mosque that stood there for 460 years was only built after the destruction of an earlier temple.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power in 2014 pledging to construct a temple on the site, but the issue remains tied up in the courts. Modi,

running for a second term in 2019, has faced some disquiet from his core supporters who feel that he has not done enough for the cause, despite his parliamentary majority. Uttar Pradesh's state premier Yogi Adityanath, a firebrand monk who has long campaigned for the temple, has also unveiled plans to build the world's largest statue in Ayodhya—a 221-metre bronze Ram.

On an average day, a few thousand Hindu devotees visit the makeshift temple that was established after 1992. But yesterday fewer devotees could be seen. Muslim groups meanwhile held small commemorations of those who lost their lives in 1992. "All we want is peace and harmony. Muslims and Hindus of

Ayodhya have always lived in harmony but it is the politicians who stoke hatred for their electoral gains," said Mohammed Shahzad who runs a meat shop in the city.

"The mosque in my neighborhood was attacked during the riots in 1992. Our home was set on fire, we somehow managed to save our lives. We don't want a repeat of the violence at any cost." Kalyani Ubhe, a tourist, said: "A tem-

“ Our home was set on fire ”



SILIGURI: Indian supporters of Socialist Unity Centre of India (SUCI) shout slogans as they burn an effigy of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a protest to mark the 26th anniversary of the demolition of the 16th century Babri Masjid located in Ayodhya, in Siliguri. —AFP

ple must be built here. It is a matter of Hindu faith and devotion. We have a right to pray at the birthplace of Lord Ram." A statue will be a "bonus", said Shyam Madho, a 70-year old Ay-

odhya resident. "The statue will serve the purpose of tourism. It's the temple which is the main thing. First a temple must be built then the statue."—AFP

Bangladesh seeks action over Rohingya 'brainwashed' remark

DHAKA: Bangladesh summoned the Myanmar ambassador on Wednesday to condemn "irresponsible remarks" made by Myanmar's religion minister about Rohingya Muslims, and called for action against him, senior officials at the Bangladesh foreign ministry said. Rohingya Muslims living as refugees in Bangladesh after escaping Myanmar are being "brainwashed" into "marching" on the Buddhist-majority nation, Myanmar's religion minister Thura Aung Ko said in a video released by the news website NewsWatch.

"We strongly protest their minister's provocative remarks. It also hurt Muslim sentiments," a senior official in the Bangladesh foreign ministry told Reuters on Thursday. Condemning the comments about "marching on Myanmar", he said: "We have zero tolerance towards militancy. We have never encouraged radicalism." "If you give them citizenship and their property back, they will run for

Myanmar. Instead of doing that, you are making provocative statements? This is unfortunate," the official said.

More than 730,000 Rohingya fled Myanmar's Rakhine state in the wake of a brutal army crackdown last August, UN agencies say, and are now living in crowded Bangladeshi refugee camps. UN investigators have accused Myanmar soldiers of carrying out mass killings, rapes and burning hundreds of villages with "genocidal intent".

Myanmar denies most of the allegations. When Bangladesh summoned Myanmar ambassador U Lwin Oo, he "tried to dilute the comments by saying they were the religion minister's personal opinion," said an official at the Bangladesh foreign ministry who was present at the meeting. "But we asked for action against the minister."

The religion minister's comments come as both countries have been engaged in negotiations for more than a year to repatriate the Rohingya to Myanmar, often blaming each other for delays in the process. The latest plan was scuppered last month after no refugees agreed to return, saying they wouldn't go back unless Myanmar met a series of demands, chiefly granting them citizenship rights.—Reuters

Sri Lanka's political crisis spurs tourists to cancel in peak season

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's travel industry is starting to suffer the fallout of a political crisis in the middle of its peak tourist season, as uncertainty prompts cancellations by both business and leisure visitors. Tourism makes up about 5 percent of the Indian Ocean island's \$87-billion economy, but the president's sacking of the prime minister late in October triggered a crisis that credit rating agencies say has already hit economic prospects.

"We have cancellations in the region of about 20 percent," said Chandra Mohotti, a manager at the luxury Galle Face Hotel in the capital, Colombo, which has about 200 rooms. "Normally our hotel would be full. We are offering discounts because of the fear that allocations will not be utilized." Peak season for holidaymakers from Europe, a major source of tourists, along with India and China, typically runs from December to March. But numerous flight bookings have been cancelled, especially from Europe, a source at national carrier SriLankan Airlines told Reuters. "The crisis started just when tourists take a decision where to go," said the source, who declined to be named. "(It) has discouraged many of them." Mahinda Rajapaksa, who replaced Ranil Wickremesinghe as



COLOMBO: This file photo shows tourists leaving the Independence Square after a visit in Colombo, Sri Lanka. —Reuters

prime minister, lacks a parliamentary majority and has been prevented by a court from holding office, delaying the 2019 budget and leading to violent scenes in parliament. It may be a while before the cancellations show up in arrivals figures, however. Tourist numbers were up 16.8 percent in November on the year, official data showed yesterday, with visitors from Europe up 37 percent, although numbers from China, Japan, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia all fell. Last year, more than 2.1 million people visited Sri Lanka, tourism authorities say. Business travel has also been hit by the crisis, with firms moving meetings to elsewhere in Southeast Asia.

"There have been some cancellations and some have shifted to Singapore and Indonesia," said Sanath Ukwatte, president of the Hotels Association of Sri Lanka, adding that conference and exhibition bookings were the worst hit. Harith Perera, president of the Sri Lanka Association of Inbound Tour Operators, said he had also seen cancellations in the corporate sector.—Reuters

16 bodies found after attack in Indonesia's Papua

15 people evacuated from area in aftermath of massacre

WAMENA, Indonesia: Indonesian security forces have retrieved the bodies of 16 people in the aftermath of a massacre by suspected separatist rebels in restive Papua province, the military said yesterday. The confirmed deaths, believed to be of construction workers, mark the deadliest bout of violence in years to hit a region wracked by a low-level independence insurgency. The bodies will be evacuated to the town of Timika from the remote district of Nduga, a mountainous region where the attack happened Sunday, local military commander Binsar Panjaitan said.

"The latest information is that 16 bodies have been found," Panjaitan told reporters in Papua. The dead had not been identified and the military did not supply details about how they were killed. An earlier eyewitness account supplied by the military detailed the killing of at least 19 people, including in execution style shootings or having their throat slit. Previous local media reports put the number of dead between 24 and 31.

Yesterday, the military warned that it was not yet clear whether all the dead worked for a state-owned contractor that has been building bridges and roads as part of efforts to boost in-

frastructure in the impoverished region. Another 15 people—including seven employees of the contractor—have been evacuated from the area. Many in Papua view Indonesia as a colonial occupier and its building work as a way to exert more control over a region that shares a border with Papua New Guinea, an independent nation.

Police and military teams sent to the area have come under rebel gunfire with one soldier killed and two wounded since Monday, according to authorities. On Wednesday, the military supplied an account from one survivor

identified by his initials "JA" who claimed about 50 rebels entered the workers' camp on Saturday and led them away with their hands tied behind their backs. The following day, the rebels shot dead a group of workers, while some tried to escape,

Separatist rebels suspected behind deadly attack



the account said.

The attackers allegedly recaptured six workers and slit their throats, according to the uninjured witness, who said at least 19 employees had been killed in all. A Facebook account purportedly run by the National Liberation Army of West Papua (TPNPB) said the armed group had killed 24 workers on the orders of regional commander Ekianus Kogoya.

tional were also charged for involvement in the surrogacy ring, police said. Members of the Agape International Missions (AIM), a Christian anti-human trafficking charity, accompanied police on the raid, AIM said in a July statement. The women were initially provided accommodation by AIM and given meals, medical care and counseling, the group said. AIM said it continued to provide assistance after the women were arrested and transferred to a police hospital.

"We believe that with the necessary equipping and support these 32 families will become models of loving Christian families positively impacting the communities in which they live," the group said in the statement. Cambodia is 97 percent Buddhist, with Christians accounting for less than 1 percent of the population. An AIM staff member said the charity continues to provide assistance to the women, but declined to comment further.

Cambodia was a popular international destination for couples looking to have babies through commercial surrogacy but the practice was made illegal in 2016. Since then, Cambodia has been cracking down on surrogacy. In 2017, an Australian nurse and two Cambodian assistants were found guilty of running an illegal commercial surrogacy clinic. She was released earlier this year, according to local media reports. Neighboring Thailand has also banned surrogacy and much of the business has shifted to Laos, where dozens of fertility clinics have appeared during the past few years.—Reuters



WAMENA, Indonesia: Indonesian military and police officers carry body bags after they arrived in Timika, Papua province. —AFP

Indonesia routinely blames separatists for violence in Papua and foreign media need permission to report there, making it difficult to obtain reliable information. Papua declared itself an independent nation from the Dutch in

1961, but neighboring Indonesia took control of the resource-rich region two years later on the condition it hold an independence referendum. It officially annexed Papua in 1969 with a UN-backed vote, widely seen as a sham. —AFP

Cambodia frees 32 surrogate mothers charged with human trafficking

PHNOM PENH: Cambodia has released 32 women who were detained while pregnant on charges of human trafficking for acting as surrogate mothers for Chinese couples, a government official said yesterday. The women, who were detained in July, were freed on bail this week after promising to raise the children themselves, said Chou Bun Eng, secretary of state for the Ministry of Interior. "We requested (the court) to release them on probation under watch," she said via the messaging app Telegram.

Police have said each woman was promised \$10,000 for carrying a baby for Chinese clients. "We do not know yet who are the people who wanted the babies," said Chou Bun Eng, adding the mothers became attached to the infants during their pregnancies and wanted to keep them. "All have a commitment, because of love for the child developed in their wombs," she said. The women were discovered during police raids at two apartments in the capital, Phnom Penh, in June. They were charged in July with cross border human trafficking.

Five other Cambodians and one a Chinese na-

US priest accused of sex abuse arrested in Philippines

MANILA: An American Catholic priest wanted for allegedly sexually abusing Filipino altar boys as young as seven has been arrested in the Philippines and now faces deportation, officials said yesterday. Kenneth Bernard Hendricks, 77, was taken into custody Wednesday on the central island of Biliran after serving as a priest for 37 years in the predominantly Catholic Philippines.

"We received information from US authorities regarding the alleged sexual exploitation of multiple minor Filipino boys by Hendricks," immigration bureau spokeswoman Dana Sandoval said in a statement. "This is our priority, to kick out people like this because they are preying on our children," she said. Hendricks was wanted on an American warrant after being indicted by a US court on charges of "engaging in illicit sexual conduct in foreign

places", immigration authorities said. The US embassy in Manila did not immediately provide comment on the case. It was not clear how American authorities had learned of the allegations.

The priest allegedly abused altar boys, who were between the ages of seven and 12, in his residence and warned them they would go to prison if they told anyone about the molestation, they added. Hendricks, wearing a blue shirt and glasses, calmly nodded as he was being read his rights, TV reports showed. He later said he wanted to see the charges against him in writing. Local police said Hendricks was also the subject of a separate investigation by Philippine authorities after two boys filed a complaint against him.

"People in the community could not believe the allegations as he was known as a good priest. He had no record of any violations so the community was shocked," provincial police spokeswoman Chief Inspector Lilibeth Morillo said. Hendricks is to be deported and banned from the Philippines, the immigration bureau said. The Philippines is Asia's biggest Catholic country and has also seen sexual abuse charges leveled against its clergy. A US court in October sentenced a Filipino expatriate priest to 20 years in prison for abusing minors there in the 1990s.—AFP

International

Five missing after two US military planes crash off Japan

Japan's SDF deploys nine aircraft, three vessels for search

TOKYO: Rescue operations were underway yesterday for five US marines missing after two American military aircraft crashed during a refueling operation off the coast of Japan, the Japanese defense minister said. One crew member has already been rescued and is thought to be in a stable condition, Takeshi Iwaya said. A spokesman for the Japan Self-Defense Forces (SDF) said another crew member had been found but there were no immediate details of the marine's condition. "The Marine is being transported to a local hospital for evaluation," the US military said in a statement.

"US military and the Japanese Self-Defense planes and vessels are searching for those still missing... I hope all the members will be rescued safely as soon as possible," Iwaya added. The marines were conducting "regularly scheduled training" when the crash occurred around 2:00 am local time, the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force said in a statement. The F/A-18 fighter jet with two crew onboard and a KC-130 refueling tanker with five crew crashed into the sea around 100 kilometers off the cape of Muroto in southwestern Japan, Iwaya said.

The crew member rescued had been in the fighter jet, the minister confirmed. Japan's SDF had deployed nine aircraft and three vessels for the search, he said. "We are thankful for the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force's efforts as they immediately responded in the search and

rescue operation," the Marines said. A spokesman for the Japanese coastguard said six vessels and an aircraft had been dispatched separately to assist in the rescue efforts.

There are few details about the circumstances of what the Marines described as a "mishap" and an investigation is underway. Public broadcaster NHK sent a helicopter to try to find the crash site but was unable to locate it due to heavy fog and rain. During a normal KC-130 refueling operation, the tanker aircraft trails a hose from the back of the plane with a so-called "drogue", shaped a bit like a windsock, at the end. The fighter jet then inserts a probe inside the drogue to receive fuel, which it can do at a rate of up to 300 gallons per minute, according to [globalsecurity.org](#).

Appropriate measures

The US military has about 50,000 troops stationed in Japan and accidents are not uncommon. In November, a US navy fighter jet crashed into the sea off Japan's southern island of Okinawa and its two crew members were rescued alive. And in November 2017, a C-2A "Greyhound" aircraft with 11 people on board went down in the Philippine Sea-eight were rescued and the search was called off for the remaining three after a two-day search.

The US military has also experienced difficulties with its Osprey helicopters, with several



JAPAN: In this photograph courtesy of the US Air Force, a C-130 Hercules takes off during a training exercise at Yokota Air Base, Japan. — AFP

emergency landings, a deadly crash and a piece of chopper falling on the grounds of a Japanese school. Those incidents have stoked tensions between close military allies Washington and Tokyo and led to protests against the deployment of Ospreys by residents living near US bases. Iwaya said the incident was "regrettable but at this point we are doing our utmost to rescue those still missing".

"Later, if we get to know the details of the accident, we will take appropriate measures," added Iwaya. He said that there was no information that any passing vessels were affected by the crash. Yoshihiko Fukuda, mayor of Iwakuni that hosts the US base where the two aircraft were based, told the city assembly he had asked the military to halt operations until the cause of the accident became clear. — AFP

'We'll fight', says Philippine journalist in govt showdown

MANILA: Threatened with prison and closure of the news site she co-founded, Philippine journalist Maria Ressa says there is one clear response to the government onslaught she faces: fight back. The site, Rappler, has taken a critical stand on President Rodrigo Duterte's deadly anti-drug crackdown and now finds itself the target of grinding, unrelenting attacks from the authorities. Ressa turned herself in this week to face one tax evasion charge, but could still face arrest on four other counts that she insists were crafted to bring the site to heel.

"I have nothing to hide. We have done nothing wrong. I'm willing to challenge the government and I will hold them accountable," she said at Rappler's Manila headquarters. "I'm not afraid of what it's (the government) doing. In fact, I call them on these lies. We'll fight them in court," she added of the charge that carries up to 10 years behind bars. She is due to be arraigned Friday on the first case, which stems from allegations Rappler and Ressa did not pay taxes on 2015 bond sales that netted \$3 million.

The investments are at the heart of a case that led the Philippines' corporate watchdog to void the news site's license in January. That case is still pending. "They want to intimidate. They want to harass," she said. "The end goal of all that is to (force us to) pipe down. Stop doing the stories."

The government said this week Duterte had no hand in the charges, saying "we will never interfere with the function of the judiciary." Rappler has been among a clutch of Philippine news outlets that have questioned

the methods of the president's signature crackdown, which police say has killed nearly 5,000 alleged dealers and addicts since 2016.

The odds 'a bit stacked'

Rights campaigners say the true toll is triple that and could amount to crimes against humanity. Yet, the site and its roughly 30 journalists, a majority of whom are women in their 20s, has kept publishing stories on the drug war. Its most recent series quotes vigilantes who say they were paid by Philippine police to kill drug suspects or criminals under the banner of Duterte's crackdown.

Ressa insists the site is not anti-Duterte, saying it is just doing its job to hold the government to account. In doing so it has invited a steady stream of online vitriol since Duterte came to power over two years ago. Ressa's position at the head of the site meant getting, by her own estimate, up to 90 hate messages per hour online at one point toward the end of 2016. "I feel like Rappler has been under attack for two and a half years," she said.

The attacks are nothing new, but with the filing of criminal charges against her the stakes have now reached a new level of menace. Her fate will be decided by a judicial system which is notoriously responsive to pressure applied by the powerful. "I still believe there are men and women inside the government who want to hold the line, who believe in the values of the Philippine constitution," Ressa said.

"We're going to fight it in court, but it looks a little bit stacked," she added. Ressa admits to being baffled by the logic of the tax case against her and Rappler, which alleges the site became a dealer in securities—not a media outlet—once it engaged in the bond sales. "It's like saying yellow is blue," she said. "How do you fight against somebody who is trying to convince other people that yellow is blue?" — AFP

N Zealand military braces for climate change battle

WELLINGTON: The New Zealand Defense Force identified climate change as one of its biggest security challenges yesterday, warning that responding to global warming will increasingly stretch its resources. The NZDF said the impact of climate change in the neighboring Pacific islands promised to be so extreme that providing humanitarian assistance could limit its ability to perform its traditional defense roles.

"With the intensifying impacts of climate change... New Zealand may be faced with concurrent operational commitments, which could stretch resources and reduce readiness for other requirements," it said in a report examining climate's impact on the military. The NZDF has already played a major part in helping Pacific island nations such as Vanuatu and Fiji following devastating cyclones blamed on man-made global warming.

The report said problems in the Pacific would only worsen, bringing the potential for food and water shortages, land disputes arising from climate migration and more violent storm disasters. "When the effects of climate change intersect with a complex array of environmental and social issues, they can be a significant contributor to both low-level and more violent conflict," it said. "The security implications of climate change are further magnified in areas dealing with weak governance or corruption."

Climate Change Minister James Shaw said the military's role was changing. "More and more, their battles seem to be about fighting the aftermath of extreme weather events, which fewer and fewer people these days are trying to argue are not part of the impact of climate change," he said. New Zealand has lifted its presence in the Pacific this year, partly in response to China's growing role in the region, which Wellington sees as falling within its sphere of influence. — AFP



Lifestyle

FridayTimes

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Oil lamps are seen with offerings at the Pashupatinath Temple during the Bala Chaturdashi festival in Kathmandu yesterday. —AFP

Hollywood awards season kicks off with Golden Globes noms

See Page 20

Lifestyle | movies



In this file photo shows the view of the atmosphere at The 74th Annual Golden Globe Awards Nominations at The Beverly Hilton Hotel, in Beverly Hills, California. — AFP photos



American singer and actress Lady Gaga (left) and American actor and filmmaker Bradley Cooper pose on the red carpet upon arrival for the UK premiere of the film 'A Star is Born' in central London.



In this file photo actor Mahershala Ali attends the Premiere of 'Green Book' at The Paris Theatre.

Hollywood awards season kicks off with Golden Globes noms

Hollywood's annual carnival of awards shows began yesterday with the nominations for the Golden Globes—the starting gun in the race for the Oscars. The announcements, which come a week before the influential Screen Actors Guild nominations, are the first major bellwether of momentum going into the Academy Awards, which take place in February. Awards analysis website Gold Derby predicts that music romance reboot “A Star Is Born” and “If Beale Street Could Talk”—a tale of black love adapted from a James Baldwin novel—will top the nominations with nine each.

“A Star Is Born” stars Bradley Cooper, who also directed the film, and Lady Gaga, who are also expected to pick up nominations for their portrayal of an aging rocker and the young ingenue who unite on stage and in life. “A Star Is Born should dominate with nominations at the Globes and Oscars,” Gold Derby managing director Chris Beachum told AFP. “Beale Street”—the latest film from Barry Jenkins, who directed the best picture Oscar-winning “Moonlight”—tells the story of a young black couple in love in 1970s Harlem, and the obstacles in their path.



In this file photo US actor Rami Malek poses on the red carpet arriving for the world premiere of the film 'Bohemian Rhapsody' at Wembley Arena in north London.

Beyond the frontrunners, a slew of biopics are in the mix—“First Man,” the intimate recounting of Neil Armstrong’s moon landing; Dick Cheney film “Vice”; and “Bohemian Rhapsody,” about Queen frontman Freddie Mercury. Spike Lee’s “BlackKkKlansman,” the true story of a black police officer who infiltrated the Ku Klux Klan with the help of a white partner, is also expected to receive recognition in the drama categories. Another theme this season is the ravages of addiction, with “Beautiful Boy” star Timothee Chalamet—an Oscar and Globe nominee for “Call Me By Your Name” (2017), tipped to earn a nod for playing a meth addict.

A wealth of options

Last year, Tinseltown was looking to turn the page on the Harvey Weinstein scandal that engulfed the world of showbiz. This

year, the focus is squarely on the films. The Golden Globes feature separate awards for dramas and musicals/comedies—meaning more nominations, and a chance for Oscar voters to consider a wider range of performances before they get their ballots. The members of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, who vote on the winners, also have a tendency to honor the unexpected.

“A Star Is Born” and “Bohemian Rhapsody” will compete in the drama categories, seeking to firmly establish their position before the Oscars. “Roma,” the latest from Alfonso Cuarón, is eligible in the foreign film category, but the Mexican filmmaker (“Gravity”) could get the nod for best director. In the musical/comedy categories, the frontrunner is—appropriately enough—“The Favorite.” The offbeat tale of royal deception and lust stars a powerhouse trio of actresses—Olivia Colman as Queen Anne, and Rachel Weisz and Emma Stone as the women vying for her attentions.

“Olivia Colman delivers the most shocking screen turn that’s generating the most ‘serious’ buzz in Hollywood,” writes Gold Derby founder Tom O’Neil. “Beware: The queen approaches!” Another top prospect is “Green Book,” an offbeat comedy about a black classical pianist in 1960s America who hires an Italian-American bouncer as his driver for a tour of the racially divided South. Oscar winner Mahershala Ali and Viggo Mortenson are both expected to earn nominations. Summer rom-com success “Crazy Rich Asians” and anticipated Disney sequel “Mary Poppins Returns” will also compete in these categories. “The HFPA members generally love musicals, so also watch for big numbers for ‘Mary Poppins Returns.’” Beachum said.

New faces in TV race

The Globes also honor the best in television—it can feel a bit redundant after the Emmys in September, with many of the nominees mimicking the past Emmy field. They also can look ahead to programs that aired too late for Emmys contention, like the dark HBO mini-series “Sharp Objects,” Amazon drama “Homecoming” starring Julia Roberts, and Netflix’s offbeat “Maniac” with Stone and Jonah Hill. Of course, familiar top dramas like “The Handmaid’s Tale,” “The Americans” and “This Is Us” will also be recognized. Yesterday’s nominations was presented before dawn in California by actors Leslie Mann (“Welcome to Marwen”), Terry Crews (“Brooklyn Nine-Nine”), Danai Gurira (“Black Panther”) and Christian Slater (“Mr Robot”).

The 76th Golden Globes take place on Sunday, January 6 in Beverly Hills. The Oscar nominations come after the Globes this year, on January 22. Hosting the gala will be actress Sandra Oh, who could score a nomination herself for acclaimed TV drama “Killing Eve,” and comedian Andy Samberg, organizers announced Wednesday. — AFP



This combination of pictures shows actress Sandra Oh (left) and actor Andy Samberg (right) arriving for the 70th Emmy Awards at the Microsoft Theatre in Los Angeles, California.



In this file photo Badass Woman award recipient US actress Constance Wu arrives at the 4th Annual InStyle Awards at The Getty Center in Los Angeles.

Ariana Grande's 'Thank U, Next' video smashes records

Pop star Ariana Grande's sugary new music video for the hit "Thank U, Next" is now the fastest to rack up 100 million views on YouTube, the platform told AFP Wednesday. After dropping Friday, the clip needed little more than three days to eclipse South Korea's Psy, whose video for "Gentleman" took a few hours longer to hit 100 million views in 2013. Grande,



In this file photo Ariana Grande performs during Aretha Franklin's funeral at Greater Grace Temple in Detroit, Michigan. — AFP

25, had teased the video-which recreates scenes from several 2000s-era teen films including "Mean Girls" and "Legally Blonde"-for weeks after releasing the break-up anthem on November 5.

"Thank U, Next" also broke the record for most views in the 24 hours after its YouTube release with 55.4 million, smashing the previous record of 45.9 million views held by Korean boy band BTS for "IDOL." In the song, Grande reflects on former loves including rappers Big Sean and Mac Miller-who committed suicide in September-as well as the comedian and actor Pete Davidson, with whom she had a brief but heavily publicized engagement.

The track earned Grande, who launched her career acting in a series for the youth network Nickelodeon, her first number one spot on the Billboard Hot 100, a music industry standard chart based on sales along with online streaming and radio play. The pop artist will release an album-also titled "Thank U, Next"-at a yet unannounced date. — AFP



U2, Coldplay top Forbes list of highest-paid musicians

Irish rock band U2 topped the 2018 Forbes magazine list of the highest-paid musicians thanks in part to the group's successful "Joshua Tree" world tour celebrating their classic 1987 album. That tour helped the band collect \$118 million in pre-tax earnings from June 1, 2017 to June 1, 2018, the magazine said.

The performances featured well-known hits from "The Joshua Tree" album including "Where the Streets Have No Name," "With or Without You" and "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Look-

ing For." The band's earnings also included revenue from a new tour, "Experience + Innocence." British band Coldplay finished second on the Forbes list with \$115.5 million, mostly from its "A Head Full Of Dreams" tour. Billions of streams helped 27-year-old British singer Ed Sheeran finish third with \$110 million. He was followed by Bruno Mars with \$100 million and Katy Perry with \$83 million. — Reuters

Marrakech International Film Festival honors Jillali Ferhati

Moroccan actor and director Jillali Ferhati received the Golden Star of the Marrakech International Film Festival. A tribute to the director of "The Beach of Lost Children", "From the Dawn" or "Ultimate Revolt" on the evening of December 5th. After Robert De Niro and Agnes Varda, it is the turn of Moroccan filmmaker Jillali Ferhati to receive his Golden Star in an evening celebrating Moroccan cinema.

A reward given by Hammadi Guerroum, film critic and regular to the Festival, given the long career of Jillali Ferhati which is

spread over the span of thirty years and is marked by award, both in Morocco and the United States. Guerroum wished to salute "the friend, the man and the artist in this great moment of recognition". As a reminder, Jillali Ferhati is "The Beach of lost children" (1991), "Fortune Horses" (1995), "Braids" (2000), "Memory in detention" (2004), "From the Dawn" (2010), "Pillow secrets" (2013) and "Ultimate Revolt" (2018), his latest film that was screened at the end of this tribute ceremony.

Welcomed at the Palais des Congrès with great emotion and

pride, the artist expressed his high consideration to King Mohammed VI for the unconditional support for national cinema. Jilali Ferhati also thanked the audience for the "love and support you give me," he said. "I would also like to dedicate this award to my grandson..." he said in an emotional speech.

— www.moroccanladies.com



Moroccan actor Jillali Ferhati reacts after receiving a Tribute award during the 17th Marrakech International Film Festival in Marrakech. — AFP photos



US film director Laurence Fishburne (left) and guest attend the 17th Marrakech International Film Festival.



French actress Nadege Beausson Diagne.



Moroccan actor Jillali Ferhati reacts as he receives a Tribute award.



Members of the jury (from left) Mexican film director Michel Franco, US director and president of the jury James Gray, British film director Lynne Ramsay, French director Laurent Cantet, Lebanese film director Hadjithomas Joana, German-Spanish actor Daniel Bruhl attend the 17th Marrakech International Film Festival.

Solzhenitsyn's son back in Russia with opera for centenary



Alexander Solzhenitsyn and his family were exiled from the Soviet Union after he exposed the horrors of the country's labour camps to the world. Today his US-raised son is back to conduct an opera based on the dissident's work, with what he says is a message for modern Russia. The Bolshoi Theatre production of "One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich" is one of a number of Moscow events to mark 100 years since the Nobel laureate's birth. "It's a useful reminder of how far Russia has indeed come that Solzhenitsyn is not only no longer banned but in fact is actively studied, read and debated," said musician Ignat Solzhenitsyn, who lives in New York with his family, ahead of the opera's final dress rehearsal.

But in an interview with AFP that touched on Russian authorities' ongoing crackdown on dissident artists, the 46-year-old admitted the country was "crying out" for more reforms. "It's a country that's vastly different from the one that expelled Solzhenitsyn in 1974 and yet a country that surely still has a long journey ahead towards being... fully normal, fully integrated, and where people feel a sense of pride and of satisfaction," he said.

"Ivan Denisovich" is based on the author's own experiences as a political prisoner. It recounts the Stalin-era repressions, in which millions were killed and millions more held in the Gulags, through the eyes of one inmate over the course of a day in a labour camp. The opera, staged in the round in the Bolshoi's chamber theatre, sees prison guards patrol balconies behind barbed wire and searchlights roam the orchestra pit.

Dissident voices now

Composer Alexander Tchaikovsky said the late Soviet dissident was usually reluctant to approve adaptations of his works but was convinced after a direct appeal from the director of the first production in 2009. "Unfortunately he didn't survive to see the opera," Tchaikovsky said of the work, which was first staged in the Urals city of Perm months after Solzhenitsyn's death. In Moscow, authorities will unveil a new memorial to the writer to mark his centenary on December 11.

A number of theatres are putting on productions based on his works, and city hall has even produced an app-based "Solzhenitsyn tour" of the capital. But some have accused President Vladimir Putin's government of perpetuating the Soviet Union's persecution of artists. Ukrainian filmmaker Oleg Sentsov remains in a Russian arctic jail on "terrorism" charges that have been denounced as politically motivated, and celebrated director Kirill Serebrennikov is on trial for embezzlement.

Popular rapper Husky was briefly jailed as part of a crackdown that some have compared to the Soviet blacklisting of rock musicians. Ignat Solzhenitsyn is reluctant to draw a line between his father, who in his later years supported Putin, and the modern dissidents. "It's understandable why people would draw parallels, but I would say the differences outweigh the similarities," he said.

"The 'crimes' which are punishable are completely different from those days and the scope of people who fall under the eye of jurisprudence is incomparable. Those things matter as well." Solzhenitsyn returned to Russia in the 1990s, after some two decades in exile with his family following the publication of "The Gulag Archipelago".



Russian-American conductor and pianist Ignat Solzhenitsyn, son of famous Russian writer and dissident Alexander Solzhenitsyn, conducts a dressed rehearsal of the opera based on his father's story 'One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich' in Moscow.

No new Cold War

Most of those years were spent in the Vermont town of Cavendish, where he was famously jealous of his privacy and a sign in the local grocery store read: "No directions to the Solzhenitsyn home". While the rest of the family eventually also returned to Russia—with Ignat's two brothers working in Moscow for the American consultancy firm McKinsey—the young musician remained in the United States and carved out a successful career as a conductor and pianist.

The Russian-American said he feels "a little uncomfortable at times" as he straddles the two cultures in the current political climate. However he dismissed the idea that Russia and the West were in a new Cold War. "When I hear people say, 'Things are back to how they were', that's lunacy. It's real lunacy to say that, it's silly to say that or it's completely dishonest." If relations between Moscow and Washington are strained, Ignat hopes they can be improved in the near future and "absolutely" believes that culture has a part to play in this. "Even in Soviet times, culture was the Soviet Union's finest export. We know what Russia is capable of and what kind of talent there is here. Theatre, the arts, remind us of what we all have in common." — AFP



In this file photo a Sotheby's employee tags Sinatra memorabilia at Sotheby's in New York.



A Norman Rockwell Portrait of Frank Sinatra is displayed at Sotheby's in New York. — AFP photos

Sinatra memorabilia, jewelry on sale in New York

A sweeping range of Frank Sinatra memorabilia and jewelry owned by his fourth and last wife Barbara went on sale in New York yesterday, likely to be snapped up by mega fans and aficionados all over the world. The single most expensive lot, the enormous 20-karat diamond engagement ring that Sinatra gave Barbara in a champagne glass has already sold, fetching \$1.7 million in a battle between two telephone bidders, Sotheby's said. The jewel was one of two the entertainer tossed on the bed asking the model to pick the one she liked the most, without actually proposing.

Lots include memorabilia of a private life well lived, a knitted "Frank" yarmulke valued at \$200, the monogrammed orange flight jacket he wore on his private plane, and the USA Drinking Team jacket that he had made for nights on the town with his male friends, his version with "Coach" on the back. "With some of the memorabilia we have absolutely no idea because bidders can come from anywhere in the world, and that's what's so exciting," said Bruning.

Some of the smaller items have attracted the most attention. A police badge given to Sinatra by Essex County New Jersey with the inscription "chairman of the board, Frank Sinatra" was valued pre-sale at \$500-800, as already attracted online bids of \$6,500. Also in the sale are paintings done by Sinatra himself, such as two colorful cartoon-style clowns valued at \$8,000-12,000. "You get to see his life at home with his wife," said Mari-Claudia Jimenez, chairman of Sotheby's fiduciary client group. "It shows you a lot about him that you wouldn't know as a casual fan."

She predicted wide-ranging interest in the sale. "We're going to see the mega fan as well as the serious collector of art who's actually interested in buying some of the works that he collected, purely because of the art," Jimenez told AFP. "I think he's one of these types of icons that has a meaning to every different generation, which is really unique." The son of Italian immigrants and born in New Jersey in 1915, Sinatra was an Oscar winning actor and one of the best loved entertainers of the 20th century with hits such as "Strangers in the Night" and "My Way."

He first married teenage sweetheart Nancy Barbato (1939-1949), with whom he had three children, then Hollywood stars Ava Gardner (1951-57) and Mia Farrow (1966-68). He married Barbara in 1976. She died last year. — AFP



Some of the Sinatra Magnificent Jewels are displayed at Sotheby.



Frank Sinatra's assembled Dodie Thayer pottery lettuceware is displayed at Sotheby.



Some of the Sinatra Magnificent Jewels are displayed at Sotheby.



A 10.62-Carat Fancy Vivid Blue Diamond Ring, estimated to sell for \$20/30 Million, is displayed at Sotheby. The ring is part of the Lady Blue Eyes: Property of Barbara and Frank Sinatra auction going on November 27-December 7, 2018.

"She said 'alright I picked the diamond, you pick which finger to put it on' and that's how it became her engagement ring," said Quig Bruning, vice president and jewelry specialist at Sotheby's. The sale includes scores of items dating back to the couple's 22-year marriage—art and furniture from their homes in Palm Springs, Los Angeles and Malibu—as well as scripts and screenplays. There are signed letters, books and photographs tracing Sinatra's friendship with every US president from Harry Truman to Bill Clinton, and a lettuce-leaf dinner service estimated to be worth \$50-70,000.

Getty museum vows to fight Italy court decision on prized statue

A US museum has vowed to fight a decision by Italy's highest court which this week ordered that a prized bronze statue at the center of an epic legal dispute be returned to Italy. In a statement, the J. Paul Getty Museum said the more than 2,000-year-old statue named "Victorious Youth" was found in international waters in 1964 and was legally purchased by the museum in 1977. "We will continue to defend our legal right to the statue," Lisa Lapin, vice president for communications at the Getty Trust, said in a statement issued on Monday.

"The law and facts in this case do not warrant restitution to the Italian government of a statue that has been on public display in Los Angeles for nearly a half century." She added that any forfeiture order "is contrary to American and International law." The decision handed down on Monday by Italy's supreme court came after a decade-long legal battle over the sculpture, also known as the Getty Bronze or by the name of its presumed sculptor Lysippos, one of the most prized antiquities on display at the Getty Villa, located on the outskirts of Los Angeles. "Now we hope the US authorities will act as soon as possible to favor restitution of the Lysippos to Italy," Culture Minister Alberto Bonisoli told the ANSA news agency

following the court's decision.

'Final word from Italy'

The Getty, however, said it was not ready to surrender the relic. Lapin said the museum had extensively researched the origins of the prized statue before purchasing it from an antiques dealer in Germany for \$3.95 million, years after Italy's highest court had concluded there was no evidence the object belonged to Italy. "The statue is not and has never been part of Italy's cultural heritage," Lapin said. "Accidental discovery by Italian citizens does not make the statue an Italian object.

"Found outside the territory of any modern state, and immersed in the sea for two millennia, the Bronze has only a fleeting and incidental connection with Italy." Italian officials dispute Getty's arguments and maintain that the life-size statue was found off Italy's Adriatic coast by Italian fishermen and as such rightfully belongs to the state.

They say the statue was sold to an Italian art dealer after its discovery and was subsequently sold several times before it was smuggled illegally out of the country and eventually purchased by the Getty. Last June, a judge in Pesaro, a coastal town on the Adriatic Coast, ruled that the statue be confiscated. The Getty museum had appealed the de-



cision and Italy's supreme court rejected the appeal on Monday. Pesaro prosecutor Silvia Cecchi told local media that the court's decision "was the final word from the Italian justice" system and that the statue must be returned.

"It must be very clear that the order is effective

immediately and we will apply this principle by notifying the American authorities," Cecchi said. In 2007, following long negotiations, The Getty agreed to return more than 40 works of art to Italy after questions were raised about their provenance. — AFP

Architects build gingerbread city to whet appetite for design



A staff member poses for a photograph next to the Museum of Architecture's Gingerbread City at the V&A Museum, in London.



Architects swapped traditional building materials for sugar and spice to create an edible gingerbread city of the future at London's V&A Museum, to show that urban planning can be fun, and tasty.

Architects swapped traditional building materials for sugar and spice to create an edible gingerbread city of the future at London's V&A Museum, to show that urban planning can be fun, and tasty. The annual exhibition, which runs from Dec. 8 to Jan. 6, showcases buildings by architects, designers and engineers who had been asked to create a sustainable and inclusive

city of the future. "We design and we work a lot in model making, and at this scale as well," said Robert Nolan, an architect at APT.

"If you can see yourself having fun with just gingerbread and then transplant that to something a bit more realistic, actually it's not too far off and actually design is fun." More than 60 structures have been baked and the city features a cable car made of

liquorice, and cycle lanes and pedestrian route made entirely of sugar, while Holland Harvey Architects designed a modern homeless shelter. "We had to be very careful when making it that suddenly you might be halfway through making something and then be like 'oh, wait, where did that piece go? Oh, we've actually gone and eaten it'," Nolan said. —Reuters

The Cirque du Soleil show 'LUZIA'



Australian Helena Merten, of Canadian entertainment company Cirque Du Soleil, poses for a photograph with her hummingbird costume, which she wears in the show "LUZIA", in Mexico City. — AFP photos



Russian contortionist Aleksei Goloborodko, of Canadian entertainment company Cirque Du Soleil, is pictured with his "Alebrije" -fantastical creatures of Mexican folk culture- costume, which he wears in the show "LUZIA".



Italian-Venezuelan Laura Biondo, of Canadian entertainment company Cirque Du Soleil, poses for a photograph with her football player costume.



British-Israeli Shelli Epstein, of Canadian entertainment company Cirque Du Soleil, poses for a photograph with her Monarch butterfly costume.



Russian contortionist Aleksei Goloborodko, of Canadian entertainment company Cirque Du Soleil, is pictured with his "Alebrije" -fantastical creatures of Mexican folk culture- costume.



British-Israeli Shelli Epstein, of Canadian entertainment company Cirque Du Soleil, poses for a photograph with her Monarch butterfly costume.



Colombian Felipe Saray, of Canadian entertainment company Cirque Du Soleil, is pictured with his Mexican musician costume, which he wears in the show "LUZIA".

Lifestyle | Gossip

Muse plan choreographed live show as they move away from tech concerts

Muse are planning a “choreographed” world tour rather than focusing on technology. The band will be taking their ‘Simulation Theory’ album on a run of stadium shows in 2019, and frontman Matt Bellamy has revealed the performances will be a departure from their famous theatrical and technically ambitious concerts. He explained to the BBC: “I think I am interested now in making the show involve a lot of additional people. It won’t be dance routines - but choreographed theatrics of some kind. “We’ve done a lot with technology - the screens and drones and so on - but I think it is time for us to do something that involves people and get a cast together that brings our songs to life with people performing.” Matt’s ambition comes after he revealed last month that his won inspirations have changed over the years. He recently said: “It used to be Rage Against The Machine in terms of energy at certain points in our show. But also U2 in terms of their ability to make large spaces intimate and emotional for the people in the back. “I’m not really sure where to look now. Recently things that stood out would be David Byrne’s show that he did and also Sia who I think is very good with making the stage look very minimal, stripped down.” Next summer, the band will bring their new show to the London Stadium at Olympic Park on June 1, Ashton Gate in Bristol on June 5 and then bringing the run to a close at the Manchester Arena three nights later.

**Matty Healy: There is rampant misogyny in rock music**

Matty Healy admits there is “rampant misogyny” within rock music. The 1975 frontman had come under fire for recent comments in which he hit out at hip hop and “Soundcloud rap” while he was quoted as saying the same kind of sexism “doesn’t happen in rock and roll anymore”. However, he has now taken to Twitter and said: “Just to clarify I said that misogyny wasn’t ALLOWED in rock and roll now days in a way it is in hip hop - not that it doesn’t exist, that’s maybe a misquote as I’m aware of the misogyny in rocknroll. “I would never deny the RAMPANT misogyny that exists in Rock n Roll. It’s everywhere and has been a weirdly accepted part of it since it’s inception. “BUT now looking at what I said - I was simplifying a complex issue without the right amount of education on the subject. (sic)” The 29-year-old musician defended his ignorance while pointed out he does “actively” work to “support women” but admitted he is still uninformed in some areas. He continued: “Think cos I’m so actively trying to support women (not a brag but with the record label etc) I kinda forget that im not very educated on feminism and misogyny and I cant just ‘figure stuff out’ in public and end up trivialising the complexities of such enormous, experienced issues. “So basically, I’m sorry for saying that as I was wrong. And thanks for pointing out cos if I’m gonna do this I have to keep learning... “Just to clarify I’m not apologizing for saying ‘rock music is void of misogyny’. I didn’t say that. Any body who says that is not only thick as they most probably don’t have physical eyes. It’s the stupidest thing I’ve ever heard. (sic)”

Morrissey announces covers album ‘California Son’

Morrissey has announced plans for a covers album. The former Smiths frontman had confirmed he will be releasing a collection - titled ‘California Son’ - featuring tracks by the likes of Roy Orbison, Bob Dylan and Joni Mitchell. The tracklist for the record was unveiled by the singer on his official website late on Wednesday and the LP has been produced by frequent collaborator Joe Chiccarelli. BMG will release the LP, although Morrissey didn’t reveal a date fans can expect to be able to listen to the 12 tracks. As well as Dylan’s ‘Only A Pawn In Their Game’ and ‘It’s Over by Orbison’, the 59-year-old star has also taken on tracks by Laura Nyro (‘Wedding Bell Blues’), Carly Simon (‘When You Close Your Eyes’) and Dionne Warwick (‘Loneliness Remembers What Happiness Forgets’). The announcement comes just weeks after Morrissey was mobbed by fans in San Diego, forcing him to cut his concert short when members of the audience swarmed the stage. His manager Peter Katsis has hit back at claims Morrissey was under threat or that any of his passionate fans tried to physically assault him. In a statement on Facebook, he said: “Nobody tried to punch M last night. Morrissey’s fans are not malicious. “The fans were simply doing what they have been doing for almost 30 years. Trying anything they could do to jump onstage and touch him, or hug him.” While Peter admitted one fan went further than the others, he played down the incident and praised security for how they handled everything.

**Justin Timberlake postpones remaining December tour dates**

Justin Timberlake has postponed the remainder of his December tour dates due to bruised vocal cords. The 37-year-old singer took to Instagram to reveal doctors have instructed him to keep resting his voice to enable his vocal cords to properly heal, meaning he is not able to sing until next month. He wrote: “Hey guys, I’m sure you have heard that I’ve had to postpone several tour dates due to bruised vocal cords. My vocal cords are healing, but they are not all the way back to normal, so my doctors want me to continue to rest my voice. They have asked me to hold off on singing until next month. I’m really sorry, I want to be back on the stage and I am doing all I can to get there quickly. Thank you for understanding-I see all of your posts and I appreciate the support and the love. I look forward to coming back stronger than I was before. More to come on the rescheduled dates. (sic)” The ‘Cry Me a River’ hitmaker had eight remaining dates scheduled for December, and he is due to return to his tour after Christmas on January 4th in Washington. Last week, Justin was forced to temporarily shelve his Los Angeles show at the Staples Center due to the vocal cord issue. He also previously postponed several dates including his planned October 24 show at Madison Square Garden in New York, his October 28 gig in Buffalo, and two performances in Tacoma slated for November 12 and 13. After Justin’s first string of dates were postponed, he wrote on Twitter: “Hey guys, I’m sorry to announce I have to postpone the show at MSG tonight on doctor’s orders. “My vocal cords are severely bruised. I’m gonna make this up to you and the new show will be on my birthday, January 31. “More info to come. Again I’m so sorry to do this, but excited to see you soon. Love, J (sic)”

Spice Girls to perform at Glastonbury

The Spice Girls are in talks to perform at Glastonbury. The 'Viva Forever' hitmakers recently reunited for a stadium tour next year and now Mel B - who will be joined in the reunion by Emma Bunton, Mel C and Geri Horner, but not Victoria Beckham - has revealed they could also be taking to the stage at the world-famous music festival next June. She said: "Glastonbury, it's been talked about. But we're so pop and it's so cool-that'll be funny to me. "I think Mel C would really appreciate us doing that-she's the cool one. She's the cool indie chick." The 'America's Got Talent' judge also admitted she and her bandmates had been discussing having guest vocalists join them on tour and 'Firework' hitmaker Katy Perry is already on board. Speaking on Jessie Ware's Table Manners podcast, she added: "I've also had an idea which we've talked about-#getting other people on stage with us. "Katy Perry has agreed to do it-hopefully Adele will do it." Though few official announcements about the 2019 Glastonbury line-up have been made yet, it was announced last month that Stormzy will headline the Friday night of the event. After posters revealing the news appeared in Oxfam shop windows, organizer Emily Eavis tweeted: "Your Friday night Pyramid headliner is the mighty Stormzy!" The event's official Twitter account added: "The multi award-winning British MC will headline the Pyramid Stage on Friday, June 28th." The 'Big For Your Boots' hitmaker previously played at the festival on the Other Stage and Sonic Tent in 2017 and 2016 respectively. Meanwhile, Emily previously hinted that Sir Paul McCartney could be one of the other top acts for the weekend next summer. She previously said: "We always want him, of course, He's top of our list - but we'll have to see." The Cure have also been rumored to take a headline slot at Worthy Farm.



Steinfeld praises Bumblebee shoot

Hailee Steinfeld says 'Bumblebee' was one of her best experiences "working on a film". The 21-year-old actress stars as Charlie Watson in the upcoming 'Transformers' prequel - which sees John Cena take on the role as villainous Sector 7 agent Burns - and she found it tough to choose a standout moment from the shoot. Appearing at the 'Bumblebee' fan screening on Wednesday she exclusively told BANG Showbiz: "Well, I don't know if I could pick a favorite part but it was one of my favorite experiences of working on a film. "There was never a dull moment. Obviously this film is packed with so much action and so much emotion, it was a ride. The whole thing was a ride." Steinfeld praised the film for its balance of exciting action scenes while still featuring real "heart and emotion". She said: "I love that it is that perfect balance of this visually stunning, action packed film and so much heart and emotion - [it's] the anchor of all of it. "I love that when you watch the film you sorta lose yourself in each world when you're in it. You sorta forget you're watching a 'Transformers' movie when you're at home with the family, and then you're in this 'Transformers' world and then you're in this 'Transformers' world and then you forget that there's a family.

Day-Lewis worked for Smith for a week

Daniel Day-Lewis worked for Paul Smith for a week in preparation for 'Phantom Thread'. The 72-year-old fashion icon has revealed that while doing research for his 2017 drama film, the 61-year-old actor - who is known for his intense preparation for roles - spent five days learning the skills and terminology he needed for his movie, which followed the story of renowned dressmaker Reynolds Woodcock. Speaking on 'Table Manners with Jessie Ware', Paul said: "I'm a mate of Daniel Day-Lewis and he dresses really well. He worked in our tailor for a week and then he went off to work in a couturier in New York I think as well. "He was only with us for five days I think, just to learn the terms ... they're not scissors they're sheers, you know..." Daniel previously announced that 'Phantom Thread' would be his last film before retiring and leaving the industry following an illustrious acting career. In a statement, a representative said at the time: "Daniel Day-Lewis will no longer be working as an actor. He is immensely grateful to all of his collaborators and audiences over the many years.



Danai Gurira says Ryan Coogler is a 'visionary'



Danai Gurira thinks Ryan Coogler is a "visionary". The 40-year-old actress - who stars as Okoye in the Marvel Cinematic Universe - has hailed the 'Black Panther' director, and has also revealed that the much-anticipated sequel to the hit film is still in the early stages of its development. She shared: "He's a very stunning collaborator as well, but he's in his process until he is willing to open that up and that is what makes him such an amazing leader." Danai admitted to being overwhelmed by the positive reaction to 'Black Panther's' release. The actress is delighted that the film - which features a predominantly black cast - has been so warmly embraced by film fans. She told 'Entertainment Tonight': "We have been through an amazing and astounding year that we could never have dreamt of or imagined. "The way the movie has been embraced, the way people have responded to it. That is the sort of art that I have always wanted to be a part of." Danai is also delighted that a big movie studio had the courage to invest in a storyline that wasn't "mainstream". She said: "[I have always wanted to] tell stories that I believe have always been able to be told, even as a playwright, which is you can put the African front and center, you can put the black person front and center.

John C Reilly: I've been preparing to play Oliver Hardy my 'whole life'

John C Reilly feels he's been preparing to play Oliver Hardy his "whole life". The 53-year-old actor has admitted he relished portraying the silent comedy star in 'Stan & Ollie', which also stars fellow comic actor Steve Coogan as Stan Laurel. He explained: "I have been preparing for that role my whole life. Ever since I started watching Oliver Hardy." The new movie focuses on the fortunes of the comedy duo - who became well-known figures during the 1920s - after their fame and popularity had peaked. John told Metro US: "The main focus of that story is their last theatrical tour in England, Ireland and Scotland. "We shot most of it, pretty much everything in England, places like Brighton, Bristol, old towns like that, and London." John often forms part of a double act in his on-screen roles, and the American star - who also appears alongside Will Ferrell in the upcoming 'Holmes & Watson' movie - admitted he is perfectly suited to the particular dynamic. He said: "I have been really lucky, it is not just that I am drawn to duos - it is that audiences are drawn to duos. There are a lot of duo things out there.





Travel with purpose: How to make a difference with social enterprises

You want a fun and local experience while you travel. But you also want to give back, to do something to benefit the communities you visit. Is it possible to achieve both at the same time?

There's one easy way to connect these two goals: social enterprise in travel.

What are social enterprises?

Social enterprises resemble NGOs (non-governmental organ-

izations) in terms of having a social or environmental mission, but they have a market-driven approach and make money. However, they reinvest the lion's share or all of that money - their profits - back into the community. Many also train and employ disadvantaged or marginalized populations, thereby incorporating the mission directly into operations.

From tours and experiences to restaurants and shops, social enterprises allow you to have a deeper travel experience and connection to a place, and feel good knowing your money is being

put back into the community. Here are some examples, plus tips on finding them in your next travel destination.

Join cultural experiences and tours

Book a tour or experience with a social enterprise and you're likely to get a unique experience you won't find anywhere else. The prevailing theme of social enterprise-driven experiences: connection with and preservation of local culture and community. And that includes potatoes. Yes, potatoes.

Lifestyle | Travel

Friday, December 7, 2018

At Parque de la Papa, a new G Adventures and Planeterra Foundation partner in Peru, we faced 500 species of potatoes of every color, shape and texture, and a local farmer-advocate telling the story of their importance to the community and their food security. Tour fees fund local farmers and their work, including the preservation of 3000 varieties of indigenous potato species. We ate potatoes that tasted like no other potatoes we've ever known. Mind-blowing potatoes. Turns out the humble spud can form the basis of an engaging travel experience. Who knew?

In southern India, The Blue Yonder has created a Musical Trail to bring together travelers with musicians and artisans in villages along the River Nila in Kerala state. Instead of just observing a traditional performance, travelers can get hands-on, participate and even create music and art together.

Taking part in tours such as these not only delivers economic benefit to those involved - it also fuels the resurrection of once-dying local traditions and encourages a new generation of local musicians and artisans. Over 850 students now study the traditional percussion music of the River Nila thanks to a fellowship funded by reinvestment of the social enterprise's profits.

Shop for handicrafts and souvenirs

Social enterprise in shopping is on the rise, too. These handicraft shops often help shoppers accomplish two objectives at once: to find high-quality local crafts and a memorable story to go with them.

At Altyn Oimok (Golden Thimble) in Bokonbaevo on the south shore of Lake Issyk-Kol in Kyrgyzstan, founder Janyl Bayisheva explains that during Soviet times, traditional Kyrgyz

handicrafts and designs were unpopular, even discouraged. She was undeterred, and sought out elders to learn the techniques. Today, her mission is to use traditional Kyrgyz handicrafts as a way to provide economic opportunities to rural women and to keep this cultural knowledge alive for future generations.

The quality and design of the handmade crafts is incredibly high, even earning a Unesco Seal of Excellence for Handicrafts. Profits from the sales of these handicrafts and hands-on workshops go to train more young, disadvantaged women and provide social support. That's certainly a souvenir with a story.

Eat at community restaurants and cafes

Food is one of the best ways to connect to a place. Social enterprise restaurants and cafes take this a step further, since their business models deliver an added dimension of social impact in local communities.

At Parwa Community Restaurant in Peru's Sacred Valley, profits from a restaurant serving travelers en route to Machu Picchu have funded education grants, clean water capture, and improved toilet sanitation. In this village of 65 families, investments have positively impacted everyone in the community.

Friends-International Restaurants and Cafes operate in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Ethiopia. Their staff, from chefs to waiting staff, are drawn from a pool of disadvantaged youth trained by the organization in hospitality and life skills. By applying those newly acquired skills in their social enterprise restaurants, students acquire professional experience that they can then use to obtain full-time jobs.

The upshot: while enjoying a tasty meal, you can also contribute to the professional develop-





ment of the staff serving you. As a bonus, staff in social enterprise restaurant environments are often interested in interacting and sharing their stories.

How to incorporate social enterprises on your next trip

Social enterprises are growing in popularity around the world, but they may still be difficult to find. Here are a few tips on where to find them and how to incorporate them into your next trip.

Research online

In your favorite search engine, combine the search term 'social enterprise', the type of service you are looking for (e.g. walking tour, guest house, restaurant), and the destination you're visiting. Grassroots Volunteering also has a database with over 150 social enterprises around the world. Don't forget to pair this strategy with asking your network on social media. You might be surprised by the results and conversation.

Choose a tour operator with a focus on social enterprises

Choose a tour operator that incorporates social enterprises into their itineraries and operations. For example, G Adventures offers over 240 tours that feature social enterprise experiences. Visit.org vets local tour providers to ensure that a portion or all of the profits from tours are reinvested in the community. Whichever tour operator you choose, ask how their company works with local communities in the delivery of their tours. — www.lonelyplanet.com

Comic

Word Search

Movie Actresses 2

Find and circle all of the Movie Actresses that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of a movie for which Louise Fletcher won an Oscar.

H C L A R K S O N N O D N A R A S
A O D R E H C O N I B O N Y Z N E
Y M W E A V E R I F O N D L S Y B
E C C F S E D E L P Y E W I I T U
K A R F M C M O S T R G V E E S L
I O U I I O H R R E B R E S W R L
D A Z E T R E A H K R U N T T U O
M M E F H H W C N W E B I R H B C
A S L P T E T I I E S N A E U P K
N L L I T E G N R H L E L B R E N
S I W S L H S O U D I E C O M E O
E N E F T L O D I T N T A R A R T
T N G L E M S E H E C S M U N T N
A E E T J O H A N S S O N C K S I
B Y R O N A H O L P O R T M A N W
O S P A C E K S R E T L A W S U S
A G I M R A F N S T T A W E S D T

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| BATES, Kathy | JOHANSSON, Scarlett | SPACEK, Sissy |
| BINOCHÉ, Juliette | KIDMAN, Nicole | STEENBURGEN, Mary |
| BRESLIN, Abigail | KNIGHTLEY, Keira | STEWART, Kristen |
| BULLOCK, Sandra | LINNEY, Laura | STREEP, Meryl |
| BURSTYN, Ellen | LOHAN, Lindsay | SWINTON, Tilda |
| CLARKSON, Patricia | MACLAINE, Shirley | THURMAN, Uma |
| CRUZ, Penelope | MCADAMS, Rachel | TOMEL, Marisa |
| DELPY, Julie | MOORE, Julianne | WALTERS, Julie |
| DESCHANEL, Zoë | PFIFFER, Michelle | WATTS, Naomi |
| DUNST, Kirsten | PORTMAN, Natalie | WEAVER, Sigourney |
| FARMIGA, Vera | REID, Tare | WEISS, Rachel |
| FLETCHER, Louise | ROBERTS, Julia | WINSLET, Kate |
| HAYEK, Salma | RYDER, Winona | WITHERSPOON, Reese |
| HEGL, Katherine | SARANDON, Susan | ZELLWEGER, Renee |
| HUDSON, Kate | SMITH, Maggie | |

Yesterday's Solution

Movie Actresses 1

A L C O N N E L L Y H T H D W
D A E E O S I A L N A B N A O R
A N E R R I M N D O T L E V R I
M E E T L O J G N T H U L L I T
S H E R O O M E A S A N L S L
T C U S A C K Y M U W T A E A
G N I N N A F N R H A E I T P
H U N T E R N I O R Y B T C C
N E G S H K O U D I A E F U T
H Y O U E O R G C C H B T B W
Y L H E G E M A M C A H K E A
C R N T I T Z P N I B C N N T
E E R S E A N A S E L N A I S
R L O E I L L O R O A E W N O
A F M U B B B T B S N

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| ADAMS, Amy | CUTHBERT, Elisha | LANE, Diane |
| ALBA, Jessica | DAVIS, Hope | LANGÉ, Jessica |
| ALLEN, Joan | DENCH, Judi | MCDORMAND, Frances |
| BARRYMORE, Drew | DIAZ, Cameron | MIRREN, Helen |
| BENING, Annette | FANNING, Dakota | MOORE, Demi |
| BERRY, Halle | FOSTER, Jodie | PALTRON, Gwyneth |
| BEEL, Jessica | GUGINO, Carla | PAQUIN, Anna |
| BLANCHETT, Cate | HATHAWAY, Anne | RICCI, Christina |
| BLETHYN, Brenda | HUNTER, Holly | SWANK, Hilary |
| BLUNT, Emily | HUSTON, Angelica | THERON, Charlize |
| CLOSE, Glenn | JOLIE, Angelina | THOMPSON, Emma |
| CONNELLY, Jennifer | KEENER, Catherine | WATSON, Emily |
| CUSACK, Joan | | |

The hidden movie title is: THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS

Crossword 2078



ACROSS

- Hairpiece covering the head and made of human or synthetic hair.
- Belonging to or having the characteristics of a despot.
- Tag the base runner to get him out.
- A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
- A fast-growing tropical American evergreen having white flowers and white fleshy edible fruit.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- Lacking or deprive of the sense of hearing wholly or in part.
- Capital city of the Piemonte region of northwestern Italy.
- The capital and largest city of Yemen.
- A person of exceptional importance and reputation.
- Not easy.
- A hidden storage space (for money or provisions or weapons).
- Of or relating to or characteristic of the Republic of Chad or its people or language.
- Any of numerous plants of the genus Capparid.
- An official language of the Republic of South Africa.
- (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
- A digital display that uses liquid crystal cells that change reflectivity in an applied electric field.
- Weight to be borne or conveyed.
- A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
- A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
- A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
- With eagerness.
- A heavy odorless colorless gas formed during respiration and by the decomposition of organic substances.
- Having leadership guidance.
- A port city in southwestern Turkey on the Gulf of Antalya.
- A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
- United States computer entrepreneur whose software company made him the youngest multi-billionaire in the history of the United States (born in 1955).
- A river in northern England that flows east to the North Sea.
- A human limb.
- Extremely pleasing.
- An ornamental but poisonous flowering shrub having narrow evergreen leaves and clusters of fragrant white to pink or red flowers.
- A corporation's first offer to sell stock to the public.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- Lower in range than tenor and higher than bass.
- A nucleotide derived from adenosine that occurs in muscle tissue.

DOWN

- A large number or amount.
- The content of cognition.
- Wild or seedling sweet cherry used as stock for grafting.
- The district occupied entirely by the city of Washington.
- Take in solid food.
- A disinclination to work or exert yourself.
- (anatomy) Of or relating to or associated with the parietal bones in the cranium.
- A notice of someone's death.
- Tropical American flat-jointed prickly pear.
- Inflexibly entrenched and unchangeable.
- A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
- Submerged aquatic plant having narrow leaves and small flowers.
- Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
- With no effort to conceal.
- (a dated Britishism) A serious difficulty with which one is suddenly faced.
- East Indian tree bearing a profusion of intense vermilion velvet-textured blooms and yielding a yellow dye.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- Type genus of the Alcedinidae.
- A genus of Ploceidae.
- Small buffalo of the Celebes having small straight horns.
- Lower in esteem.
- A village of huts for native Africans in southern Africa.
- A large gathering of people intended to arouse enthusiasm.
- The cry made by sheep.
- Fermented alcoholic beverage brewed from malt and hops.
- Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
- Be earlier in time.
- (trademark) An alloy of iron and nickel having a low coefficient of thermal expansion.
- Advanced in years.
- A literary language of Chinese Turkestan (named for one of the sons of Genghis Khan).
- By bad luck.
- A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- A scheming person.
- Potentially existing but not presently evident or realized.
- A Bantu language spoken by the Kamba people in Kenya.
- An ancient region on the coast of western Asia Minor.
- Not elegant or graceful in expression.
- Greek author of fables (circa 620-560 BC).
- An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- Edible starchy tuberous root of taro plants.
- (folklore) A small grotesque supernatural creature that makes trouble for human beings.
- A flat wing-shaped process or wing-like part of an organism.
- A unit of surface area equal to 100 square meters.
- Half the width of an em.

Yesterday's Solution

T D T B O T O N N E E A G A
R A W A R I S A E M A H U B
A C E O C T A N E G R A I L
S H A G B A R K B L E B B Y
H A K E A B A R L B L
C B C A B S T I V A L
S C L K H A S I A C A V E
A L L O E A C H B D L E T
L A O D A S H E R T U S H
E R Y S I P H E A C H B T A
M O D E M C G B H A D A L
R E C A P A K A N
S E M I T O N E E M E R G E
P R E F A B C E I B A A A R
A I L P I C A R I A B M E N
M E D P A R N A I B A A L E

Daily SuDoku

				3	
	2		3 5	7	4
3			4	8 6	
9		8 6			
	1				4
			1 7		6
	6 1		8		5
4	9		7 1		2

Yesterday's Solution

5	7	8	1	3	4	9	2	6
3	6	4	9	2	7	5	8	1
1	9	2	8	6	5	3	7	4
6	3	9	2	5	1	8	4	7
4	8	5	6	7	3	1	9	2
7	2	1	4	9	8	6	5	3
2	4	3	5	8	6	7	1	9
8	1	6	7	4	9	2	3	5
9	5	7	3	1	2	4	6	8

TV Listings



01:30 Iron Man 3
03:45 Battleship
06:00 The Fast And The Furious
07:30 Countdown
09:05 The Bodyguard
10:40 Iron Man 3
12:50 Battleship
15:00 Shanghai Knights
16:55 The Tuxedo
18:35 S.W.A.T.: Under Siege
20:05 Harsh Times
22:00 The Big Hit
23:35 Code Of Honor



00:50 The Crocodile Hunter: Best Of Steve Irwin
01:45 North Woods Law
02:40 Monsters Inside Me
03:35 Great White: The Impossible Shot
04:25 Running With Wolves
05:15 North Woods Law
06:02 Wildest Middle East
06:49 Pit Bulls & Parolees
07:36 Vet On The Loose
08:00 Vet On The Loose
08:25 Wild Africa: Rivers Of Life
09:15 Animal Cops Houston
10:10 Running With Wolves
11:05 The Crocodile Hunter: Best Of Steve Irwin
12:00 Wildest Middle East
12:55 Pit Bulls & Parolees
13:50 Great White: The Impossible Shot
14:45 Groomer Has It
15:40 Big Cat Tales
16:35 Monsters Inside Me
17:30 Wild Africa: Rivers Of Life
18:25 Animal Cops Houston
19:20 Jaws Comes Home: Return Of The Great Whites
20:15 Vet Gone Wild
21:10 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
22:05 Wildest Middle East
23:00 Monsters Inside Me
23:55 Pit Bulls & Parolees



00:15 Mum
00:40 Friday Night Dinner
01:05 Friday Night Dinner
01:30 Holby City
02:25 Doctors
02:55 Doctors
03:25 Father Brown
04:15 Death In Paradise
05:10 Stella
06:00 Doctors
06:30 EastEnders
07:00 Holby City
07:55 Casualty
08:50 Father Brown
09:40 Death In Paradise
10:35 Casualty
11:30 Casualty
12:25 Holby City
13:20 Father Brown
14:10 Death In Paradise
15:05 Casualty
16:00 Doctors
16:30 Doctors
17:00 Doctors
17:30 Doctors
18:00 Doctors
18:30 The Coroner
19:20 The Coroner
20:10 Line Of Duty
21:15 Maigret
22:55 Father Brown
23:45 Doctors

03:50 Marcia Clark Investigates
05:30 Live PD: Police Patrol
05:55 Live PD: Police Patrol
06:15 Crimes That Shook Britain
07:00 Evil Up Close
08:00 It Takes A Killer
08:20 Live PD: Police Patrol
08:45 Live PD: Police Patrol
09:05 Crimes That Shook Britain
09:50 Cold Case Files
10:35 Marcia Clark Investigates
12:25 Live PD: Police Patrol
12:55 Live PD: Police Patrol
13:20 Crimes That Shook Britain
14:16 Evil Up Close
15:10 It Takes A Killer
15:40 It Takes A Killer
16:05 Homicide Hunter
17:00 Marcia Clark Investigates
19:00 Escaping Polygamy
20:00 Escaping Polygamy
21:00 Homicide Hunter
22:00 It Takes A Killer



00:05 South Park (Digital)
00:30 Broad City
00:55 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
01:20 Takeshis Castle Thailand
01:45 South Park (Digital)
02:10 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
02:35 Broad City
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Broad City
03:50 Broad City
04:15 Sweat Inc.
05:00 House Of Food
05:50 Ridiculousness Arabia
06:15 Ridiculousness Arabia
06:40 Ridiculousness Arabia
07:05 Friendszone
07:30 Friendszone
07:55 Lip Sync Battle
08:20 Lip Sync Battle
08:45 Sweat Inc.
09:30 Takeshis Castle Thailand
09:55 Takeshis Castle Thailand
10:20 Takeshis Castle Thailand
10:45 Friendszone
11:10 Friendszone
11:35 Key And Peele
12:00 Key And Peele
12:25 Key And Peele
12:50 Takeshis Castle Thailand
13:15 Takeshis Castle Thailand
13:40 Workaholics
14:05 Workaholics
14:30 Key And Peele
14:55 Key And Peele
15:20 Key And Peele
15:45 Impractical Jokers
16:25 Impractical Jokers
16:50 Impractical Jokers
17:15 Takeshis Castle Thailand
17:40 Takeshis Castle Thailand
18:05 Takeshis Castle Thailand
18:30 Lip Sync Battle
18:55 Lip Sync Battle
19:20 Friends
19:45 Friends
20:08 Friends
20:35 Corporate
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Nick Kroll: Thank You Very Cool
22:20 Roast Battle UK
22:45 Tosh.0
23:10 Tosh.0
23:35 Nick Swardson: Seriously, Who Farted?



00:30 Weather Top Tens
01:20 How It's Made
01:45 How It's Made
02:10 My Cat From Hell
03:00 Tanked
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 Weather Gone Viral
05:30 Weather Top Tens
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Destroyed In Seconds
07:25 Kids Do The Craziest Things
07:50 My Cat From Hell

08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Tanked
10:20 Ultimate Survival
11:10 Destroyed In Seconds
11:35 Kids Do The Craziest Things
12:00 Mysteries At The Museum
12:50 Weather Gone Viral
13:40 Weather Top Tens
14:30 How It's Made
14:55 How It's Made
15:20 My Cat From Hell
16:10 Xtreme Waterparks
16:35 Xtreme Waterparks
17:00 My Cat From Hell
17:50 Tanked
18:40 Destroyed In Seconds
19:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
19:30 Penn & Teller Tell A Lie
20:20 The Carbonaro Effect
20:45 The Carbonaro Effect
21:10 How It's Made
21:35 How It's Made
22:00 Xtreme Waterparks
22:25 Xtreme Waterparks
22:50 Ultimate Survival
23:40 Penn & Teller Tell A Lie



00:50 Jonestown Massacre: People Magazine Investigates
01:45 Someone You Thought You Knew
02:40 American Monster
03:35 Broken Trust
04:30 The Perfect Murder
05:25 Heartbreakers
06:20 Evil Online
07:10 I Almost Got Away With It
08:00 California Investigator
08:25 On The Case With Paula Zahn
09:15 Disappeared
10:10 Grave Secrets
11:05 Evil Online
12:00 Blood Relatives
12:55 On The Case With Paula Zahn
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
14:45 Heartbreakers
15:40 Evil Online
16:35 The Perfect Murder
17:30 On The Case With Paula Zahn
18:25 Disappeared
19:20 I Almost Got Away With It
20:15 Heartbreakers
21:10 Evil Online
22:05 Swamp Murders
23:00 The Devil Speaks
23:55 American Monster



00:10 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
00:35 Binny And The Ghost
01:00 Alex & Co.
01:25 Alex & Co.
01:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
01:50 Evermoor Chronicles
02:15 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:40 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:05 Binny And The Ghost
03:30 Binny And The Ghost
03:55 Hank Zipzer
04:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
04:20 Hank Zipzer
04:45 Alex & Co.
05:10 Alex & Co.
05:35 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
06:00 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
06:25 Binny And The Ghost
06:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
06:50 Rolling With The Ronks
07:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:25 Raven's Home
07:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
07:55 Stuck In The Middle
08:20 Bunk'd
08:45 K.C. Undercover

09:10 Bizaardvark
09:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
10:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
10:25 Tangled: The Series
10:50 Tangled: The Series
11:15 Bizaardvark
11:40 Bizaardvark
12:05 Liv And Maddie
12:30 Liv And Maddie
12:55 K.C. Undercover
13:20 K.C. Undercover
13:45 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
14:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
14:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
15:00 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
15:15 Bunk'd
15:40 K.C. Undercover
16:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
16:10 A.N.T. Farm
16:35 Bizaardvark
17:00 Tangled: The Series
17:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
17:50 Raven's Home
18:15 Stuck In The Middle
18:40 Stuck In The Middle
19:05 K.C. Undercover
19:30 Bizaardvark
19:55 Descendants Wicked World
20:00 Raven's Home
20:25 Liv And Maddie
20:50 K.C. Undercover
21:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:20 A.N.T. Farm
21:45 Bizaardvark
22:10 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
22:35 Stuck In The Middle
23:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
23:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
23:50 Lolirock



00:00 PJ Masks
00:25 PJ Masks
00:50 The Hive
01:00 Zou
01:15 Zou
01:30 Henry Hugglemonster
01:55 Henry Hugglemonster
02:20 The Hive
02:30 The Hive
02:40 Zou
03:25 The Hive
03:35 The Hive
03:45 Henry Hugglemonster
04:30 Minnie's Bow-Toons
04:35 The Hive
04:45 PJ Masks
06:00 Disney Muppet Babies
06:20 Puppy Dog Pals
06:35 PJ Masks
06:55 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
07:29 Vampirina
07:44 Vampirina
08:00 Sofia The First
08:30 Elena Of Avalor
09:00 Puppy Dog Pals
10:00 Disney Muppet Babies
10:20 Paprika
10:30 Paprika
10:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
11:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
11:40 PJ Masks
12:40 Paprika
12:50 Paprika
13:00 Claude
13:20 Claude
13:40 Trulli Tales
13:55 Trulli Tales
14:10 Paprika
14:20 Paprika
14:30 Vampirina
15:25 Disney Muppet Babies
15:40 Paprika
15:50 Paprika
16:00 Claude Shorts
16:25 Vampirina Ghouls Girls Rock!
16:30 Puppy Dog Pals
17:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
17:30 Vampirina
17:45 Vampirina

18:00 PJ Masks
18:15 PJ Masks
18:30 The Lion Guard
19:00 Sofia The First
19:25 Disney Junior Music Nursery Rhymes
19:30 Elena Of Avalor
20:00 Puppy Dog Pals
20:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
20:45 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
21:00 Vampirina
21:40 PJ Masks
21:55 PJ Masks
22:15 The Lion Guard
22:45 Sofia The First
23:10 Minnie's Bow-Toons
23:15 Zou
23:30 Henry Hugglemonster



00:15 Fast N' Loud
01:05 Cooper's Treasure
01:50 The Island With Bear Grylls
02:35 Man v Expert
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Alaskan Bush People
04:50 Deadliest Catch
05:35 Storage Hunters UK
06:00 The Caravan Show
06:23 Dallas Car Sharks
06:45 Storage Hunters UK
07:10 How Do They Do It?
07:35 Alaskan Bush People
08:20 The Caravan Show
08:45 Dallas Car Sharks
09:10 Deadliest Catch
09:55 Alaskan Bush People
10:45 Deadliest Catch
11:30 Fast N' Loud
12:20 The Caravan Show
12:43 Dallas Car Sharks
13:05 Storage Hunters UK
13:30 How Do They Do It?
13:55 Deadliest Catch
14:40 Fast N' Loud
15:30 Cooper's Treasure
16:15 The Island With Bear Grylls
17:05 Man v Expert
17:50 Abandoned Engineering
18:40 How Do They Do It?
19:05 How Do They Do It?
19:25 Fast N' Loud
20:15 Fast N' Loud
21:00 Diesel Brothers
21:50 Trans Am
22:40 Race Night At Bowman Gray
23:30 Gold Rush



00:15 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja
00:35 Boyster
01:00 Boyster
01:25 Counterfeit Cat
01:45 Counterfeit Cat
02:10 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja
02:35 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja
03:00 Boyster
03:20 Boyster
03:45 Dude That's My Ghost
04:10 Dude That's My Ghost
04:35 Counterfeit Cat
05:00 Marvel's Guardians Of The Galaxy
05:29 Marvel's Avengers Assemble
06:00 Marvel's Spider-Man
06:29 Big Hero 6 The Series
07:00 Milo Murphy's Law
07:29 Big City Greens
08:00 Phineas And Ferb
08:29 Supa Strikas
09:00 Supa Strikas
09:29 DuckTales
10:00 Big City Greens
10:29 Phineas And Ferb
11:00 Phineas And Ferb
11:29 Furiki Wheels
12:00 Big Hero 6 The Series
12:29 Big Hero 6 The Series
13:00 Gravity Falls
13:29 Phineas And Ferb
14:00 Phineas And Ferb
14:29 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
15:00 Milo Murphy's Law

15:29 Furiki Wheels
16:00 DuckTales
16:31 Space Chickens In Space
16:45 Space Chickens In Space
17:00 Big City Greens
17:29 Big Hero 6 The Series
18:00 Disney 11
18:29 Lab Rats Elite Force
20:00 Marvel's Spider-Man
20:31 Space Chickens In Space
20:45 Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verses Special
21:00 Furiki Wheels
21:29 Star Wars Resistance
22:00 Phineas And Ferb
22:15 Furiki Wheels
22:30 Big City Greens
22:45 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Dude That's My Ghost
23:25 Dude That's My Ghost
23:50 Randy Cunningham: 9th Grade Ninja



00:05 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
00:55 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
01:50 E! News
02:50 WAGs
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
06:55 E! News Middle East
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop
09:10 Botched
10:05 Celebrity Style Story
10:30 My Fabulous Me
12:00 E! News Middle East
12:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
15:00 E! News Middle East
15:15 E! News: Daily Pop
16:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
19:00 E! News
20:00 Very Cavallari
23:00 E! News Middle East
23:15 Model Squad



00:10 One Night With My Ex
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:30 The Chase
03:25 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
04:20 Wedding Day Winners
05:25 One Night With My Ex
06:15 Guess This House
07:10 The Chase
08:05 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
08:35 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
09:00 Wedding Day Winners
10:05 One Night With My Ex
10:55 Guess This House
11:50 The Chase
12:45 Emmerdale
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 Guess This House
15:10 The Chase
16:00 The Voice Kids 2018
18:50 Emmerdale
19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 The Chase
21:00 The Voice Kids 2018
23:40 Coronation Street



00:00 Clash Of Warriors
01:00 Modern Marvels
02:00 Cities Of The Underworld
03:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
03:50 Ancient Aliens
04:40 The Universe
05:30 Clash Of Warriors
06:20 Modern Marvels
07:10 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
08:00 Cities Of The Underworld
09:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
10:00 Ancient Aliens
11:00 The Universe
12:00 Clash Of Warriors
13:00 Modern Marvels
14:00 Cities Of The Underworld



00:00 Who Killed Tupac?
01:00 The Harvey Weinstein Scandal
02:30 It Takes A Killer
02:55 Bill Cosby: The Women Speak

Stars



Aries (March 21-April 19)

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



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

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



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

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



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

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



Leo (July 23-August 22)

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



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

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



Libra (September 23-October 22)

If you have been considering making a move career wise, now is the time to move forward. Your drive and energy are at an all time high. You demand respect and you are receiving it from all directions. You have worked hard and accomplished much in your lifetime. Face this challenge with a positive attitude and expect the best. Let no obstacle stand in your way. You will reap great benefits from the hard work that is facing you. Your high energy and positive attitude are about to take you places.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

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



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

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



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

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



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

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



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

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

Country Codes

Afghanistan	0093	Jordan	00962
Albania	00355	Kazakhstan	007
Algeria	00213	Kenya	00254
Andorra	00376	Kiribati	00686
Angola	00244	Kuwait	00965
Anguilla	001264	Kyrgyzstan	00996
Antigua	001268	Laos	00856
Argentina	0054	Latvia	00371
Armenia	00374	Lebanon	00961
Australia	0061	Liberia	00231
Austria	0043	Libya	00218
Bahamas	001242	Lithuania	00370
Bahrain	00973	Luxembourg	00352
Bangladesh	00880	Macau	00853
Barbados	001246	Macedonia	00389
Belarus	00375	Madagascar	00261
Belgium	0032	Majorca	0034
Belize	00501	Malawi	00265
Benin	00229	Malaysia	0060
Bermuda	001441	Maldives	00960
Bhutan	00975	Mali	00223
Bolivia	00591	Malta	00356
Bosnia	00387	Marshall Islands	00692
Botswana	00267	Martinique	00596
Brazil	0055	Mauritania	00222
Brunei	00673	Mauritius	00230
Bulgaria	00359	Mayotte	00269
Burkina	00226	Mexico	0052
Burundi	00257	Micronesia	00691
Cambodia	00855	Moldova	00373
Cameroon	00237	Monaco	00377
Canada	001	Mongolia	00976
Cape Verde	00238	Montserrat	001664
Cayman Islands	001345	Morocco	00212
Central African Republic	00236	Mozambique	00258
Chad	00235	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Chile	0056	Namibia	00264
China	0086	Nepal	00977
Colombia	0057	Netherlands (Holland)	0031
Comoros	00269	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Congo	00242	New Caledonia	00687
Cook Islands	00682	New Zealand	0064
Costa Rica	00506	Nicaragua	00505
Croatia	00385	Nigar	00227
Cuba	0053	Nigeria	00234
Cyprus	00357	Niue	00683
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Norfolk Island	00672
Czech Republic	00420	Northern Ireland (UK)	0044
Denmark	0045	North Korea	00850
Diego Garcia	00246	Norway	0047
Djibouti	00253	Oman	00968
Dominica	001767	Pakistan	0092
Dominican Republic	001809	Palau	00680
Ecuador	00593	Panama	00507
Egypt	0020	Papua New Guinea	00675
El Salvador	00503	Paraguay	00595
England (UK)	0044	Peru	0051
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Philippines	0063
Eritrea	00291	Poland	0048
Estonia	00372	Portugal	00351
Ethiopia	00251	Puerto Rico	001787
Falkland Islands	00500	Qatar	00974
Faroe Islands	00298	Romania	0040
Fiji	00679	Russian Federation	007
Finland	00358	Rwanda	00250
France	0033	Saint Helena	00290
French Guiana	00594	Saint Kitts	001869
French Polynesia	00689	Saint Lucia	001758
Gabon	00241	Saint Pierre	00508
Gambia	00220	Saint Vincent	001784
Georgia	00995	Samoa US	00684
Germany	0049	Samoa West	00685
Ghana	00233	San Marino	00378
Gibraltar	00350	Sao Tome	00239
Greece	0030	Saudi Arabia	00966
Greenland	00299	Scotland (UK)	0044
Grenada	001473	Senegal	00221
Guadeloupe	00590	Seychelles	00284
Guam	001671	Sierra Leone	00232
Guatemala	00502	Singapore	0065
Guinea	00224	Slovakia	00421
Guyana	00592	Slovenia	00386
Haiti	00509	Solomon Islands	00677
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Somalia	00252
Honduras	00504	South Africa	0027
Hong Kong	00852	South Korea	0082
Hungary	0036	Spain	0034
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Sri Lanka	0094
Iceland	00354	Sudan	00249
India	0091	Suriname	00597
Indian Ocean	00873	Swaziland	00268
Indonesia	0062	Sweden	0046
Iran	0098	Switzerland	0041
Iraq	00964	Syria	00963
Ireland	00353	Taiwan	00886
Italy	0039	Tanzania	00255
Ivory Coast	00225	Thailand	0066
Jamaica	001876	Toga	00228
Japan	0081	Tonga	00676

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
248 33 199

DR. MOHAMMAD AL HAJRY
Canadian Board of Otolaryngology
Head & Neck Surgery and Facial Plastics.
Fellow of Royal College of Surgeons-Canada
A rare Subspecialty in Microscopic Ear Surgery, Cochlear implant & Ear diseases

- ◆ Diagnosis/ Treatment of General Ears, Nose, and Throat conditions in adults & pediatrics
- ◆ Minimally invasive Endoscopic sinus surgery including Balloon sinuplasty
- ◆ Minimally invasive Microscopic & Endoscopic Ear surgery
- ◆ Diagnosis & treatment of Otolaryngology and Audiology (Hearing loss, Tinnitus & balance disorders)
- ◆ Facial Plastic and reconstructive surgeries (Rhinoplasty, Otoplasty, Fillers & Botox injections)
- ◆ Diagnosis & treatment of snoring & obstructive sleep apnea in clinic without surgery
- ◆ Diagnosis & Treatment of voice and swallowing disorders.
- ◆ Diagnosis & Treatment of Head and Neck benign & malignant tumors.

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ACADEMIC CERTIFICATES:

- ◆ Dermatology board certified.
- ◆ Fellowship training program in cosmetic dermatology and hair transplant, New York, USA.
- ◆ Member of American cosmetic dermatology society.
- ◆ Referee reviewer of International Journal of Dermatology.

SPECIALIZED IN:

- ◆ Dermatology & Cosmetic Treatments.
- ◆ Laser Treatments.
- ◆ Hair Transplant & Restoration.
- ◆ Body & Face Contouring.
- ◆ Injectable Fillers & Botox.

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Specialized in:

- 1- Diagnostic and therapeutic cardiac catheterization (Angiography and Angioplasty). Aortic valve implantation.
- 2- Diagnosis and treatment of coronary artery diseases
- 3- Diagnosis and treatment of heart failure, cardiomyopathies and valvular diseases.
- 4- Diagnosis and treatment of high blood pressure and high cholesterol.
- 5- Diagnosis and treatment of syncope, palpitations and cardiac arrhythmias.
- 6- Non-invasive diagnostic procedures echocardiography, exercise stress test, and 24 hour blood pressure and Holter monitoring

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Dr Hamoud Abdullah Alarouj
ENT Specialist

- ◆ Laryngology Fellowship - Canada
- ◆ Fellow of the European Board Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery
- ◆ Member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
- ◆ Member of the British Laryngological Association
- ◆ Member of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
- ◆ Member of the European Laryngological Society

Specialized in:

- ◆ Management of benign and malignant vocal cord lesions.
- ◆ Vocal cord augmentation.
- ◆ Treatment of spasmodic dysphonia.
- ◆ Adenotonsillectomy using latest techniques.
- ◆ Thyroid surgery.
- ◆ Surgery for the deviated nasal septum.
- ◆ Endoscopic sinus surgery.
- ◆ Treatment of allergic rhinitis.
- ◆ Treatment of snoring.
- ◆ Treatment of vertigo.

Scope of Clinical Practice:

- ◆ General & Laparoscopic Surgery
- ◆ Single Port Surgery
- ◆ Treatment of Colo-Rectal Diseases, Including Colorectal Cancer
- ◆ Surgical Treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Abscess
- ◆ Treatment of Perianal Fistula & Complex Perianal Fistula (complications)
- ◆ YAAT Procedure (Treatment of Fistula through Fistuloscope)
- ◆ Treatment of Irritable Bowel Symptoms
- ◆ Colonoscopy & Gastroscopy
- ◆ Stomach Balloon Insertion & removal
- ◆ Bariatric Surgery - Lap Sleeve Gastrectomy
- ◆ Gallstones & Abdominal Hernias Surgery

◆ Colonic Hydrotherapy & Fecal Incontinence Treatment
◆ Laparoscopic mini bypass
◆ Transanal minimally Invasive surgery

Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:

- ◆ American Board of General Surgery
- ◆ Fellow of American College of Surgery
- ◆ Canadian Board of General Surgery
- ◆ Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada
- ◆ American Board of Colo - Rectal Surgery
- ◆ American Board of Surgical Critical Care

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- Consultant Interventional and conventional cardiologist.
- Specialised in the Diagnosis and treatment of all adult cardiac diseases, including those cases that need urgent intervention in Cath lab (primary angioplasty).

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Health

Brazil researchers in limbo as science spending falls

RIO DE JANEIRO: In her Rio de Janeiro lab, biologist Michelle Klautau paid for the \$1,400 photo machine, two air conditioning units, most of the chairs and even the paint and tiles from her own pocket. The professor is one of several Brazilian scientists who warn the sector is teetering on a precipice after losing two-thirds of state funding between 2010 and 2017.

"We are reaching a point where it's becoming impossible," said Klautau, who specializes in marine sponges at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). "Researchers can't continue financing research with their salaries," she said. The rapid decline in funding—which researchers say has forced them to personally finance projects or see them terminated—parallels de-funding in other areas, notably culture.

"When I saw the National Museum in Rio in flames on the TV I started to cry," said Professor Luiz Davidovich, a respected physicist and president of the country's Science Academy, referring to a September 2 blaze that gutted South America's most important natural history museum.

In UFRJ labs, he said "researchers are paying out of their pocket to buy material or genetically modified mice to do their research into Zika." "We are already cutting the number of students in our laboratories, the number of projects, and often

the scale of them," Klautau added. One of her student assistants, Marcio Franca, pointed out a petty-cash box the team pays into to buy water, coffee and toilet paper.

Brazil has traditionally been a significant player in the science world. It recently inaugurated one of the world's most powerful particle accelerators, and regularly sees research published in science journals. The country has also enjoyed growth in several domains thanks to scientific advances—notably in the challenging field of extracting oil from deepwater pre-salt reserves, and in soya production, which has tripled.

"It wasn't a miracle. It was science," underlined Professor Davidovich. His own specialty in physics was buoyed by work carried out during Brazil's 1964-1985 military dictatorship due to the importance assigned to national security.

Boom years, corresponding with former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's 2003-2010 tenure, "were tremendous for science," he added, with budgets expanded, more university campuses, and research infrastructure created.

But then a record-busting recession hit, while Lula's protegee Dilma Rousseff was in charge. After her 2016 impeachment, Rousseff's vice president Michel Temer took over and froze government spending for 20 years, including in the non-priority science sector. "Brazilian science is under threat from lack of funds,"

warned Professor Marcos Farina, at the UFRJ's biomedical sciences department. He says that when it rains, water pools in the ceiling over his lab. "Then water starts dripping on our equipment," Farina said, showing a Japanese-made epi-fluorescence microscope covered in plastic, like other machines in his lab.

"Each researcher works with love for what they do, but their passion can have a bad side because they do the repairs while that should be the role of the institution," he said.

He, too, drew a link with the National Museum fire, which had been badly underfunded despite the cultural wealth of its 20 million artifacts. Klautau said things have become so bad that she thinks regularly about resigning and moving to a post abroad, "like many colleagues."

"What gives us energy to go on ... is the recognition we get from our foreign peers," she said.

But a Brazil brain drain is a growing phenomenon. Farina said his lab has already lost a teacher and a post-doctoral student, both of whom went to the United States. Many Brazilian scientists view with trepidation the nomination of Marcos Pontes, an astronaut, as science minister in the incoming government of far-right president-elect Jair Bolsonaro—who has promised a streamlined administration open to privatizations. — AFP

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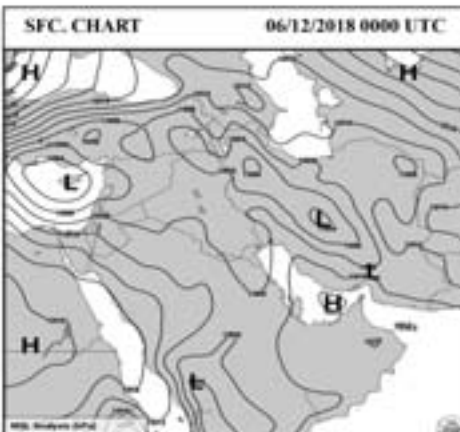
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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Partly cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times south easterly wind changing to north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 45 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

BY NIGHT: Clouds will decrease gradually with light to moderate north westerly wind to variable wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 06/12/2018 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	28 °C	21 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	27 °C	20 °C		
ABDALY	26 °C	19 °C		
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C		
JAHRA	26 °C	20 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	25 °C	20 °C		
SALMIYAH	24 °C	21 °C		
AHMADI	24 °C	21 °C		
NUWAISIB	26 °C	18 °C		
WAFRA	26 °C	19 °C		
SALMY	24 °C	17 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST

DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Friday	12/07	Mostly Sunny	23 °C	15 °C	VRB	06 - 20 km/h
Saturday	12/08	Mostly Sunny with a chance for fog forming at night	22 °C	14 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 26 km/h
Sunday	12/09	Clouds will increase gradually	22 °C	15 °C	NE-VRB	08 - 30 km/h
Monday	12/10	Partly cloudy with a chance for scattered rain at times	20 °C	14 °C	VRB-NE	08 - 30 km/h

PRAYER TIMES

Fajr	05:05
Sunrise	06:29
Zuhr	11:39
Asr	14:31
Sunset	16:49
Isha	18:11

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT

MAX. Temp.	26 °C
MIN. Temp.	15 °C
MAX. RH	100%
MIN. RH	56 %
MAX. Wind	SE 32 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

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Business

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2018

38 EY urges GCC to automatize taxes, train staff to face new challenges



Intra-GCC Transactions Under GCC

39 OPEC eyes output cuts to push prices as Trump calls for boost



41 China hails Trump-Xi summit, says 'confident' in trade deal



SHANGHAI: This file photo shows a Huawei logo in a shop in Shanghai. China reacted furiously yesterday after a top executive and daughter of the founder of Chinese telecom giant Huawei was arrested in Canada following a US extradition request, threatening to rattle a trade war truce with the United States. —AFP (See Page 38, 40)

China furious at Huawei executive's arrest

Meng faces extradition to US; US-China trade truce in tatters

BEIJING: China reacted furiously yesterday after a top executive and daughter of the founder of Chinese telecom giant Huawei was arrested in Canada following a US extradition request, threatening to rattle a trade war truce with the United States.

The detention of Meng Wanzhou, Huawei's chief financial officer, comes after American authorities reportedly launched an investigation into suspected Iran sanctions violations by Huawei, which was already under scrutiny by US intelligence officials who deemed the company a national security threat. The arrest stirred tensions just as the United States and China agreed to a ceasefire in their trade spat while negotiators seek a deal within three months.

The shock arrest of Meng Wanzhou, 46, who is Huawei Technologies Co Ltd's chief financial officer, raises fresh doubts over a 90-day truce on trade struck between Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping on Saturday - the day she was detained.

Her arrest, revealed late on Wednesday by Canadian authorities, is related to US sanctions, a person familiar with the matter said. Reuters was unable to determine the precise nature of the possible violations.

The arrest and any potential sanctions on the world's second biggest smartphone maker could have major repercussions on the global technology supply chain. Shares in Asian suppliers to Huawei, which also counts Qualcomm Inc and Intel among its major suppliers, tumbled yesterday.

Huawei is already under intense scrutiny from US and other western governments about its ties to the Chinese government, driven by concerns it could be used by the state for spying. It has been locked out of the US and some other markets for telecom gear. Huawei has repeatedly insisted Beijing has no influence over it. Meng, one of the vice chairs on the company's board and the daughter of company founder Ren Zhengfei, was arrested on Dec. 1 at the request of US authorities and a court hearing has been set for Friday, a Canadian Justice Department spokesman said. Trump and Xi had dined in Argentina on Dec. 1 at the G20 summit.

Sources told Reuters in April that US authorities have been probing Huawei, the world's largest telecoms equipment maker, since at least 2016 for allegedly shipping US-origin products to Iran and other countries in

violation of US export and sanctions laws. Huawei, which generated \$93 billion in revenue last year, confirmed the arrest in a statement. "The company has been provided very little information regarding the charges and is not aware of any wrongdoing by Ms. Meng," it said. She was detained when she was transferring flights in Canada, it added. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a daily briefing yesterday that China had asked Canada and the United States for an explanation of Meng's arrest, but they have "not provided any clarification".

The Chinese consulate in Vancouver has been providing her assistance, he added, declining further comment. On Wednesday, China's embassy in Canada said it resolutely opposed the arrest and called for her immediate release. In April, the sources told Reuters the US Justice Department probe was being handled by the US attorney's office in Brooklyn.

The US Justice Department on Wednesday declined to comment. A spokesman for the US attorney's office in Brooklyn also declined to comment.

Lu Xiang, an expert on China-US relations at the state-backed Chinese Academy of Social Sciences,

said the arrest of Meng is "extremely shocking". "If someone from the United States is hoping to use threats to an individual's personal safety in order to add weight in the talks, then they have most certainly miscalculated," he said. "I believe that China's government will use maximum force to fight for freedom and justice for Meng Wanzhou."

Arthur Kroeber, founder of Gavkal Dragonomics, said it was unlikely that Beijing would retaliate against the local US business community, whose interests have partly overlapped with China's in the trade war and been a source of leverage for Beijing. "You can play hardball with a small country but you can't do it with the US," he said. "Actually it hurts them to make life difficult" for US companies. —Agencies



Meng Wanzhou

Business

EY urges GCC to automatize taxes, train staff to face new challenges

Kuwait, Qatar and Oman undecided on date of VAT implementation

KUWAIT: Ernst & Young (EY) Senior Tax Partner for the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA), Sherif El-Kilany, said yesterday that the GCC countries must look into means to lay the ground for automatizing taxes. El-Kilany told KUNA that it was important to train staff and develop human resources to face the upcoming economic challenges facing the region through technological means. Within the taxation domain, technological development is playing a huge role in streamlining this process, said El-Kilany who added that it was necessary to train staff to handle taxes in this regard. He indicated that in the UK, the automatizing of taxes went through various phases until it allowed taxpayers to worry less about the process.

When it came to the GCC, the countries in the region decided generally to go with the value-added taxes (VAT); however, the process might differ from country to country as a result of differences in legislations, said El-Kilany who indicated this type of tax was successfully implemented in several MENA nations. VAT is a process wherein taxes are added to products or services in each stage of production or distribution. In regards to the GCC, the EY official said that Bahrain would employ VAT by January 2019 while Kuwait, Qatar, and Oman, did not mention a specific date when the

process would be implemented. Saudi Arabia and the UAE began to use VAT last January. Discussing direct taxes, El-Kilany said that such a process varies from country to country according to their needs; however, it would be important to address upcoming economic challenges and take necessary actions to avoid grave consequences.

The current trade war between the US and China—resulting from the American policies to lower taxes on its citizens, create jobs, and impose additional taxes on imports especially from China—will have consequences, indicated the official. He added that Gulf countries must use expected revenues from VAT, which might amount to \$25 billion, to add to income for their oil-based economies.

He mentioned that imposing taxes would be sort of a process that would measure the strength of any economy, noting that the GCC countries are expected to impose taxes. EY had provided consultation on the matter of taxation policies, said El-Kilany, adding that low taxes witnessed in Arab and GCC countries will have a good impact in terms of attracting investments and business opportunities.

Fully implementing VAT in the GCC is the biggest economic transformation facing the companies in the region, said El-Kilany who affirmed that it would have an impact on business and jobs. —KUNA



A yacht sails as the sun sets in Tamarindo, Costa Rica. —AFP

WTO chief warns of economic danger of trade war

WASHINGTON: All countries will lose in a global trade war, the head of the world's trade referee warned in a speech on Wednesday. Under attack from US President Donald Trump, the head of the World Trade Organization, Roberto Azevedo, acknowledged that reforms are needed, but rejected criticism that trade is the main cause of job losses.

Azevedo welcomed the commitment by the Group of 20 over the weekend in Buenos Aires

to reform the WTO to better preside over the modern trading system, saying the "system can be better."

But as the Trump administration has aggressively imposed punitive tariffs on trading partners, especially on China, with the goal of reducing the US trade deficit, Azevedo said that "we have to get away from the idea that trade is a zero-sum proposition."

"It is not. Everyone can benefit," he said in a speech to the National Foreign Trade Council.

He welcomed the US-China truce reached in Buenos Aires, and the commitment to reach a deal to defuse the conflict between the world's two biggest economies.

The alternative of escalating the trade conflict would undermine the global economic recovery, he said. —AFP

EU lawmakers agree on tough line against tech companies

BRUSSELS: EU lawmakers agreed yesterday to take a tougher stance against tech giants such as Google, Amazon and Apple in new legislation aimed at curbing unfair business practices. A European Parliament committee voted in favor of beefing up draft legislation to force online giants to set up Chinese walls between subsidiaries and to get merchants' consent before using their data.

The legislation should also give more powers to national authorities to go after rule breakers and include a blacklist of trading practices that are deemed to be

unfair, lawmakers said. The committee now has to reconcile its tougher stance with more moderate proposals put forward by the European Commission, which drew up the draft rules in April and has the backing of EU governments. The legislation aims to prevent unfair business practices by app stores, search engines, e-commerce sites and hotel booking websites in a bid to ensure a level playing field between the tech companies and traditional businesses.

"We have managed to introduce key improvements to the Commission's proposal that prohibit unfair practices, remove loopholes and safeguard fairness in the relationships between business users and online platforms. Unfair platform-to-business trading practices have no place in Europe," Danish center-left lawmaker Christel Schaldemose, the lead parliament negotiator, said. —Reuters

Arrest of Huawei 'heiress' throws rare spotlight on family

HONG KONG: Like many top Chinese executives, Meng Wanzhou is a mysterious figure even in her home country, but the 46-year-old chief financial officer of Huawei Technologies had been widely tipped to one day take the helm of the tech giant her father founded.

That was until her shock arrest in Canada at the request of US authorities on Wednesday, a move that has entangled her in the protracted diplomatic tensions between Washington and Beijing. Her fate is now uncertain. A source familiar with the matter told Reuters the arrest stems from Huawei Technologies Co Ltd's alleged violation of US sanctions on Iran. Similar allegations of breaching US export restrictions led to rival Chinese telecoms equipment maker ZTE Corp being hit with a devastating ban and heavy fines this year.

Huawei said in a statement that it had been provided with little information "about the charges" against Meng, who is also one of the vice chairs of its board and the daughter of founder Ren Zhengfei from his first marriage. Huawei added that it was "not aware of any wrongdoing by Ms. Meng".

The detention of Meng, who takes her family name from her mother and has also used the English first names "Cathy" and "Sabrina", has once again thrown the spotlight on Huawei at a time of heightened global concerns over elec-

tronic security.

Much of the scrutiny stems from Ren's background with China's People's Liberation Army (PLA), where he worked as a civilian engineer for nearly a decade until his departure in 1983, after helping to build its communications network. Officials in some governments, particularly the United States, have voiced concern that his company is close to the Chinese military and government. Huawei has repeatedly insisted Beijing has no influence over it.

Low profile

Ren, 74, founded the Chinese telecommunications company in 1988 and, like his elder daughter, has largely kept a low profile. But in a rare move, he posed last month for a family photoshoot for French lifestyle magazine Paris Match with his younger daughter and current wife.

Annabel Yao, 20, Meng's half-sister, posed in front of a grand piano with her mother, identified by the magazine as Yao Ling, and Ren, who wore a blue shirt with his hand resting on his smiling daughter's shoulder. A Huawei spokesman confirmed to Reuters that Yao is Ren's wife. Few outsiders had previously heard of the younger daughter, a Harvard computer science student and ballerina. She recently made a high-profile appearance at the exclusive Le Bal Debutante ball in Paris. Huawei is privately held and describes itself as employee-owned. Though Ren owns only around 1.4 percent of the shares, employees say he has supreme leadership within the company, frequently communicating to staff scattered throughout the world via internal memos. Huawei, now China's largest technology company by employees, with more than 180,000 staff and revenue of \$93 billion in 2017, started off selling digital telephone switches in the 1990s. —Reuters

Business

OPEC eyes output cuts to push prices as Trump calls for boost

We're looking for a sufficient cut to balance market: Al-Falih

VIENNA: OPEC members and other oil-producing countries mulled cuts in output yesterday to prop up plunging prices, defying repeated calls by US President Donald Trump that they keep the taps open.

"We're looking for a sufficient cut to balance the market, equally distributed between countries," Saudi oil minister Khalid Al-Falih told reporters ahead of an OPEC meeting in the Austrian capital.

Oil ministers from 20 or so countries are in Vienna for two days of meetings—first, the 15 members of OPEC, then a wider group including countries outside the cartel to discuss how to counter the tumble in prices over the past two months. The price of a barrel of Brent, the European benchmark, fell four percent to below \$60 yesterday, hit by the Saudi comments which were taken on the markets to be very cautious and concerns over an economic slowdown.

On Wednesday, Trump took to Twitter to urge producers to keep pumping. "Hopefully OPEC will be keeping oil flows as is, not restricted. The World does not want to see, or need, higher oil prices!" said Trump, who has repeatedly accused the cartel of keeping prices artificially high.

Saudi minister Al-Falih pointedly said Washington should back off. "We don't need permission from anyone to cut," he said. The US "is not in a position to tell us what to do," he added. At the end of 2016, OPEC's regular members joined forces with other countries—most notably Russia—to scale back output in a bid to reduce a glut that was weighing on prices.

The coordinated move—which has since been extended—stimulated a long rally in oil prices right up

until October 2018. Over the past two months, however, prices have plunged again.

Cuts on the cards?

In order to try and counter this, the so-called OPEC+ — who together account for more than half of the world's oil output—is discussing renewing the pact or perhaps cutting output still further.

All the signals are that more reductions in output are on the cards, despite the pressure from Trump, who argues that higher energy costs will choke off the economy. "A million (barrels cut) would be ideal," the Saudi minister said. "Ideally, everyone should join equally. I think that's the fair and equitable solution."

OPEC daily output stood at 32.99 million barrels in October, according to the International Energy Agency. However, OPEC's third-biggest producer Iran wants to be exempted from any such measures.

Given the economic sanctions being reimposed by the United States, the Islamic republic "doesn't join any agreement for cutting production because of the special situation Iran faces," oil minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said. Zanganeh said the estimated surplus currently on the market amounted to 1.3-2.4 million barrels per day. Ideally, "the price would be better to stand at \$60-70. That is acceptable for most OPEC countries."

Trump's intervention complicates matters. OPEC kingpin Saudi Arabia, in particular, finds itself in an especially delicate position in the wake of the murder of opposition journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Trump has continued to support the kingdom despite worldwide outrage over the murder but he



VIENNA: OPEC President and Energy Minister of the United Arab Emirates Suhail al-Mazrouei (fourth right) opens the 175th OPEC Conference of Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna, Austria yesterday. —AFP

is at the same time keeping up the pressure for lower prices. "The big unknown is how President Trump will react to any production cuts," said analysts at ING. Iran's Zanganeh said it was the first time a US president was trying to tell OPEC what to do. "They should know that OPEC is not part of their Secretary of Energy." Most OPEC members felt the same way, but "some members are going along with US policy," he said.

Negotiations between OPEC members are fraught, however, as some feel that Saudi Arabia

wields too much clout in setting policy. Iran has accused Saudi Arabia of being in thrall to the US.

In a surprise move on Monday, Qatar—which has been an OPEC member since 1961—said it would quit the cartel next month in order to focus on gas production. Doha accounts for only around two percent of OPEC output but the move caught the headlines given the political overtones. Qatar minister Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi said he had met a number of other OPEC ministers, but not his Saudi Arabian colleague. —AFP

German industry orders rise despite global trade friction

BERLIN: Strong demand from abroad drove an unexpected rise in German industrial orders in October, suggesting that exports may still support Europe's largest economy despite broader global trade friction.

Contracts for 'Made in Germany' goods rose by 0.3 percent, data from the Statistics Office showed yesterday, as strong demand from the euro zone offset a fall in domestic orders. It was the third consecutive monthly increase and compared with a consensus forecast for a fall of 0.4 percent. September's figure was downwardly revised to a modest rise of 0.1 percent.

Former Tesco directors cleared of fraud over 2014 accounting scandal

LONDON: Two former directors of Tesco were acquitted yesterday of fraud and false accounting at Britain's biggest retailer following a 2014 scandal. Christopher Bush, 52, who was managing director of Tesco UK, and John Scouler, 50, who was UK food commercial director, had been accused of cooking the books to support Tesco's share price and secure huge compensation packages.

However, Judge John Royce told a jury at London's Southwark Crown

The Economy Ministry said a slowdown in new car registrations stemming from the introduction of stricter pollution standards, known as WLTP, was still weighing on orders. Bottlenecks were gradually clearing up, it added. The effect of the WLTP standard on new registrations was reflected in a 3.2 percent contraction in domestic demand. That compared with a 2.9 percent rise in foreign orders, including a 7.3 percent increase in new orders from Germany's euro zone partners, the data showed.

The German economy, in its ninth straight year of expansion, has been looking to domestic consumption and increased state spending for growth as exporters have been caught up in trade disputes on goods tariffs that the United States is trying to resolve with both China and the European Union. Finance Minister Olaf Scholz told a news conference in Berlin that he was hopeful the US government and the European Commission would reach a deal to remove mutual tariffs on goods and permanently eliminate President Donald Trump's threat to impose tariffs on cars made in Europe. —Reuters

Court that the men had been acquitted by the Court of Appeal on Wednesday after it upheld his ruling that the prosecution case was too weak for the case to continue. "I concluded in certain crucial areas the prosecution case was so weak it should not be left for a jury's consideration," Royce said. Bush and Scouler were charged in September 2016 with one count of fraud by abuse of position and one count of false accounting. A first trial was abandoned in February, shortly before the jury was due to retire to consider its verdict.

The re-trial had been running since October. The case stems from an overstatement of Tesco's profit forecast in 2014. On Sept. 22, 2014, the group issued a statement to the London Stock Exchange saying that during its final preparations for an interim results announcement, it had identified a 250 million pound overstatement of its expected profit for the half-year, mainly due to booking commercial deals with suppliers too early. —Reuters

Millions of UK O2 customers hit by data glitch

LONDON: Britain's Spanish-owned mobile phone operator O2 said yesterday that millions of customers are unable to use data owing to a software glitch.

O2, a division of Spanish telecommunications giant Telefonica, said the same problem has also hit other mobile networks around the world. "We're aware that our customers are unable to use data this morning," an O2 spokesman told AFP. "One of our third party suppliers has identified a global software issue in their system which has impacted us. We believe other mobile operators around the world are also affected."

"Our technical teams are working with their teams to ensure this is fixed as quickly as possible." The spokesman added: "We'd encourage our customers to use wifi wherever they can and we apologize for the inconvenience caused." —AFP

Business

Markets tumble as Huawei arrest rekindles US-China trade fears

Oil sinks ahead of OPEC output decision

LONDON: World markets slumped yesterday as the arrest of a top executive at Chinese telecoms giant Huawei raised doubts over the recent trade truce agreed by US President Donald Trump and Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping. Oil prices meanwhile sank ahead of the latest OPEC output decision, with Trump pushing the cartel to hike output and guarantee low prices while kingpin Saudi Arabia wants to cut production to support the market.

In foreign exchange, the pound held up despite Britain lurching toward a potential no-deal Brexit — with Prime Minister Theresa May facing defeat in her attempts to push through parliament a controversial agreement with the EU.

Asian stock markets suffered a fierce selloff as it emerged that Huawei chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou had been held in Canada and was facing extradition to the United States over alleged Iran sanctions breaches by the firm. Trump and Xi had sparked a brief global markets rally on Monday after clinching a tariffs ceasefire at the G20 summit in Buenos Aires last weekend. But the rally ran out of steam with investors fretting over the fragile state of the world economy and fresh uncertainty surrounding Brexit.

The shock Huawei news, which emerged overnight, has dealt a blow to hopes of trade peace between Washington and Beijing. Major European capitals like Frankfurt, London and Paris saw their stock markets plummet more than two percent.

'Severe' sell-off

"Stocks have sold-off severely ... as traders are worried that US-China relations have deteriorated,"

said CMC Markets analyst David Madden. "The arrest of Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou in Canada over the weekend has rattled investor confidence.

"US-China relations were on the mend after the G20 summit ... and now the arrest might have thrown a spanner in the works." Meng is the daughter of company founder Ren Zhengfei, a former Chinese People's Liberation Army engineer. The company has been investigated by US intelligence, who deemed it a national security threat, and such concerns have been voiced elsewhere too. China has expressed outrage, urging Canada and the US to "immediately correct the wrongdoing". Investors are now braced for fresh falls when Wall Street reopens, following Wednesday's closure for a US national day of mourning for former president George H.W. Bush.

'Wild week'

"This week has been wild and there's still a way to go before it is over," said Spreadex analyst Connor Campbell. Investors are concerned that the Huawei news "will do irrevocable damage to the fragile trade truce", he added.

London-listed mining and energy giants saw their share prices tank on worries about demand from key commodity consumer China. Brent oil prices meanwhile briefly tumbled below \$60 per barrel on trader fears of an insufficient output cut at a Vienna OPEC meeting.

"Not only were miners in deep distress over the potential for another nosedive in US-China relations but BP and Shell plunged 3.0-percent apiece as Brent crude tumbled back under \$60," Campbell noted.

Haeling, vice president at LBBW Bank.

This situation in some ways defies logic: in normal times, the shorter the investment, the lower the yield or return to investors. Conversely, the longer the money is invested, the higher the interest rate to offset the additional risks, especially inflation.

But with hints the economy is losing steam, the logic is flipped. "There is a good reason why an inverted yield curve shows us a potential recession: it means credit is very tight, and expectations for growth and inflation are reduced," said Kathy Jones, chief of fixed income investments at Charles Schwab.

Short-term rates traditionally move in tandem with changes in the Federal Reserve's overnight lending rate, the Federal funds rate. The Fed has increased the rate three times this year, with another expected in December, to prevent inflation from accelerating.

That boosts the cost of borrowing for American households, and in turn pushes short-term Treasury bill rates higher, while putting downward pressure on long-term rates.

But rising short-term rates also reflect very high borrowing by the US government which is largely using short-term debt to finance the rising deficit. Recent news has contributed to flattening the curve, including a speech on November 28 by Fed chair Jerome Powell interpreted by many as signaling a US slowdown. —AFP



TOKYO: A pedestrian walks past a stock indicator board showing share prices of the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

OPEC members and other oil-producing countries are mulling output cuts to prop up plunging prices, defying repeated calls by Trump that they keep the taps open. "We're looking for a sufficient cut to balance the market, equally distributed between countries," Saudi oil minister Khalid Al-Falih told reporters. However, the remarks were interpreted as being overly cautious.

"Expectations for a supply cut are high given that the price of oil has plummeted by over a third in just a little more than two months," said XTB analyst David

Cheetham. "But the early indications are that the size of the reduction may not be enough to halt the market's declines."

Tech sector hammered

The Huawei news also sent shudders through Hong Kong and Shanghai markets, where tech firms were hammered. Hong Kong-listed ZTE, which was subject to a US banning order over security fears this year before that was reduced to a massive fine, was almost six percent down. —AFP

How did the company become so successful?

Huawei was a pioneering supplier of telecom gear at a time when China was spending heavily to upgrade its networks, importing much of its equipment. Huawei began competing internationally in the 1990s and was known for drastically undercutting rivals on price.

Competitors branded Huawei a cut-rate vendor of copycat equipment, and companies including Cisco Systems and Motorola filed lawsuits over alleged trade secret theft. But Huawei spent heavily on research and development and is now regarded as a global leader in key telecom network technologies and high-end smartphones. In contrast, its major Western rivals, Nokia and Ericsson, have struggled financially in recent years. Huawei today continues to expand into new areas including chip development, artificial intelligence and cloud computing. Why have some governments banned Huawei equipment? US intelligence agencies allege that Huawei is linked to China's government and that its equipment could contain "backdoors" for use by government spies. No evidence has been produced publicly and the firm has repeatedly denied the claims.

But suspicions persist. Concern now centers on the deployment of fifth-generation (5G) mobile networks, where Huawei is at the cutting edge. A new law in China requiring any domestic firm to assist the government when asked has also stoked concern. The US government has taken a series of steps to block the firm from US markets, including banning government purchases of Huawei gear and denying government help to any carrier that uses Huawei equipment. Top carriers Verizon Communications and AT&T pulled out of deals to distribute Huawei smartphones earlier this year. —Reuters

The 'curve' that drives Wall Street crazy

NEW YORK: The further it falls, the more Wall Street freaks out. The usually unremarkable "yield curve" made investors sit up and take notice this week as it signaled a possible recession on the horizon, sending stocks plummeting.

The curve plots the difference between returns on long- and short-term US Treasury debt, usually 10-year notes compared to two-year notes. That spread has been narrowing in recent days, and on Tuesday fell to 0.12 percentage points, the lowest since the 2007-2008 crisis, fueling a stock sell off. The phenomenon known as "flattening" of the yield curve is worrisome, but it is the "inversion" of the curve—when the two-year rate moves higher than the 10-year rate—that scares the markets most.

That tipping point has preceded most US recessions since 1950, and the curve last inverted in February 2006 prior to the 2008 recession. "My interpretation of the yield curve is that the markets are clearly showing that growth and inflation are likely to slow next year," said Karl

What is China's Huawei and why is it controversial?

BEIJING: The arrest in Canada of Meng Wanzhou, a top executive at China's Huawei Technologies Co Ltd and daughter of the founder and CEO, jolted the global business community yesterday and raised fears that a truce in the US-China trade war could come to a swift end. Meng's arrest came at the behest of US authorities and is connected to an investigation into alleged violations of US trade sanctions, a person familiar with the matter told Reuters. China's foreign ministry said neither the United States nor Canada have explained reasons for the arrest.

What is Huawei?

Huawei is the world's largest supplier of telecommunications network equipment and second-biggest maker of smartphones, with revenue of about \$92 billion last year. Unlike other big Chinese technology firms, it does much of its business overseas and is a market leader in many countries across Europe, Asia and Africa.

The company was founded in 1987 by former military officer Ren Zhengfei. It remains privately held and describes itself as employee-owned, though its ownership structure is unknown. It is based in the southern Chinese tech hub of Shenzhen and employs about 180,000 people.

Business

China hails Trump-Xi summit, says 'confident' in trade deal

Beijing eyes removal of all US tariffs on Chinese goods

BEIJING: China yesterday expressed confidence in striking a trade deal with the United States within their 90-day ceasefire period, praising the recent meeting between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping as highly successful.

In Argentina last weekend, Trump and Xi agreed to a truce that delayed the planned Jan 1 US hike of tariffs to 25 percent from 10 percent on \$200 billion of Chinese goods while they negotiate a trade deal. "We are very confident in reaching an agreement (with the United States) within the next 90 days," China's commerce ministry spokesman Gao Feng said in a weekly briefing, adding both sides have been communicating and cooperating "smoothly" since the leaders met in Argentina. China's ultimate goal during the 90-day trade talks is to remove all US tariffs imposed on Chinese goods, Gao said. His comments come as the arrest of a top executive of Chinese tech giant Huawei by Canadian authorities, on Washington's request, threatens to spark a flare-up in tensions between the world's two economic powerhouses once again.

The two countries have hit each other with tit-for-tariffs on goods worth hundreds of billions of dollars in sectors from automobiles to agriculture and energy, stymying trade and redrawing global supply chains. Gao confirmed for the first time since the high-stakes meeting that China had agreed to implement consensus reached by both sides on agriculture, energy and cars, although he did not give details on any specific measures.

"We will start with agricultural products, energy, automobiles to immediately implement the issues that the two sides have reached consen-

sus," Gao said, when asked about what is on the negotiation agenda.

"Then, in the next 90 days, we will follow a clear timetable and roadmap to negotiate on issues such as intellectual property right protection, tech cooperation, market access and trade balance," he said, stressing the consultations should be based on meeting the interests of both parties. The White House has said China had committed to start buying more American products and lifting tariff and non-tariff barriers immediately, while beginning talks on structural changes with respect to forced technology transfers and intellectual property protection.

The United States has levied additional duties of between 10 percent and 25 percent on \$250 billion of Chinese goods this year as punishment for what it calls China's unfair trade practices. China has responded with its own tariffs. "China and United States have reached very important consensus as both sides' interests overlap," Gao said. His comments echoed earlier remarks made by senior Chinese diplomat Wang Yi, who said the meeting was "friendly and candid" and would help to avoid further trade tensions.

"All of these help to safeguard China's legitimate interests, and are also in the interests of the United States, and even more are in line with the expectations of the international community," he added in a statement carried on the foreign ministry's website. But global markets have been nervous about the prospects of a Sino-US trade dispute spilling over to growing rivalry between both sides in areas such as technology, and many economists have remained cautious about being

fear that would lead to border checks, blocked ports and major tailbacks on the roads, threatening the \$540 billion worth of goods that move back and forth between the two and damaging major companies such as GSK and Unilever.

As a result, companies from Rolls-Royce and Airbus to retailers, manufacturers and food and drink groups have all said they are building up stock ahead of Brexit on March 29. A closely watched industry survey showed stockpiling was one factor driving output in November.

But in an economy built on production cycles that run to the minute, and where storing stock wastes time and money, warehousing is in short supply and prices are rising.

Owners of frozen and chilled storage space say they are fully booked until the middle of next year. And the government has had to request more secure storage for medication be built after it discovered that an order for all drugmakers to hold six weeks of supply could not be met.

"This is introducing extreme stress into the system," Mike Thompson, head of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI), told Reuters.

According to the Bank of England, large corporates are more active than small in preparing for up to a month of disruption. Companies are seeking space for around six months to one year, enough to see them through Britain's departure, but much less than the normal contracts of five years. — Reuters



BEIJING: A Chinese and US national flag hang on a fence at an international school in Beijing yesterday. — AFP

too optimistic on a temporary truce. The daughter of Huawei's founder is facing extradition to the United States, dealing a blow to hopes of an easing of Sino-US trade tensions and rocking global stock markets.

Trump also warned this week of more tariffs if the two sides could not resolve their differences. Hannah Anderson, Global Market Strategist at JPMorgan Asset Management, said there was a lot of uncertainty over the US-China rela-

tionship now as both view each other more as a competitor than a strategic partner in trade and economics. "When it comes to the trade policies that have been proposed so far specifically, I think we can all expect that there will be further tariff increases on US imports of Chinese goods, whether that's within the 90-day window that we are now operating under a pause or outside that window," Anderson told a small group of reporters in Beijing yesterday. — Reuters

Hoarding for Brexit sparks race for warehouse space in Britain

LEIGHTON BUZZARD, England: In a vast warehouse complex 40 miles north of London, staff are wrestling with ways to cram in more goods after a surge in demand from companies building stockpiles ahead of Brexit. Efforts at Miniclipper Logistics to add new racks by narrowing the aisles are being duplicated across Britain as Brexit contingency plans spark a race for storage space. The company, which after adding a mezzanine floor and a temporary warehouse has 300,000 square feet of capacity, has already had to turn new business away.

"Almost every day we receive another inquiry regarding Brexit," Sales Director Jayne Masters told Reuters. "We have customers queuing up to move goods in."

The world's fifth-largest economy risks stumbling into a disorderly exit from its biggest trading partner, the European Union, if parliament votes down Prime Minister Theresa May's withdrawal agreement on Dec. 11. Business leaders

World food prices fall in Nov to lowest in more than two years

ROME: World food prices declined in November to their lowest level in more than two years, led by declines in vegetable oils, dairy and cereal, the United Nations food agency said yesterday.

The Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) food price index, which measures monthly changes for a basket of cereals, oilseeds, dairy products, meat and sugar, averaged 160.8 points last month, down from a revised 162.9 in October, and its lowest level since May 2016.

The October figure was previously given as 163.5. In November, only the sugar price index gained, rising 4.4 percent from October, FAO said. The UN body's Cereal Price Index averaged almost 164 points in November, down 1.1 percent from October. Veg-

etable oil prices fell for a 10th consecutive month, by 7.6 percent on the month and reaching a 12-year low. Cereal prices fell partly because new crops weighed on rice export quotations and export competition drove down maize, FAO said. Palm oil prices fell considerably "fuelled by both persisting large inventories in leading exporting countries and the recent contraction in global mineral oil prices," it said.

Soy and sunflower oil prices weakened due to "abundant supplies across the US, the EU and several emerging markets and positive production prospects in the Black Sea region." Dairy prices dropped 3.3 percent from October, for a sixth straight monthly decline, and meat prices slipped slightly. FAO said global cereals output in 2018/19 was seen at 2,595 billion tons, down marginally from the previous forecast and 2.4 percent below last year's record high production.

FAO's forecast for world wheat production in 2018/19 was 725.1 million tons, 2.8 million tons lower than the previous forecast, "reflecting reduced estimates for this year's harvests in Turkey and the Russian Federation," FAO said. FAO's forecast for world cereal stocks at the close of seasons in 2019 was 762 million tons, unchanged from November. — Reuters

Sports

Oilers' Connor McDavid makes victorious return

Meier, Thornton guide Sharks past Hurricanes

CHICAGO: Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and Connor McDavid tallied shootout goals to rally the Edmonton Oilers past the host St. Louis Blues 3-2 on Wednesday. The pair beat Blues goalie Jake Allen as Edmonton won the extra session 2-1 after Tyler Bozak opened it with a goal for St. Louis. Nugent-Hopkins and Oscar Klefbom scored goals in regulation for the Oilers, who recovered from a 2-0 deficit. McDavid returned to the lineup after a one-game absence caused by illness and assisted on Klefbom's game-tying goal with 56 seconds left in the third period. He rang in the deciding goal in the shootout to break a 1-1 tie. Edmonton goalie Cam Talbot made his first start since Nov. 25 and had 28 saves. Ivan Barbashev and Brayden Schenn had goals for the Blues. Allen stopped 34 shots.

Ducks 4, Blackhawks 2

Ondrej Kase scored the go-ahead goal early in the third period as Anaheim opened a four-game homestand with a victory over Chicago. Brandon Montour, Daniel Sprong and Jakob Silfverberg also scored for the Ducks, who won their fifth consecutive game and improved to 7-1-2 over their past 10. John Gibson made 25 saves. Erik Gustafsson and Alex DeBrincat scored for the Blackhawks, who have lost five in a row and dropped to 3-9-2 under coach Jeremy Colliton after he replaced the fired Joel Quenneville. Corey Crawford stopped 28 shots.

Sharks 5, Hurricanes 1

Timo Meier collected one goal and two assists, and Joe Thornton notched three assists as host San Jose thumped Carolina. Martin Jones made 39 saves for the Sharks, who have won two in a row. Barclay Goodrow, Tomas Hertl, Meier, Joe Pavelski and Marcus Sorensen notched goals for San Jose, with Kevin Labanc recording two assists. Lucas Wallmark scored for the Hurricanes, who have just one win in five games (1-3-1). Curtis McElhinney made 18 saves. — Reuters



ST LOUIS: Connor McDavid #97 of the Edmonton Oilers looks to pass the puck at the Enterprise Center on December 5, 2018. — AFP

River join Boca in Madrid ahead of Libertadores clash

MADRID: Argentinean giants River Plate landed in Madrid yesterday ahead of their long-anticipated Libertadores Cup decider against bitter rivals Boca Juniors. The first leg of the two-leg final—the first to pit the Buenos Aires rivals against each other—ended 2-2 at Boca's Bombonera ground last month. River were set to host the return at their El Monumental stadium on November 24 but it was postponed after River Plate fans attacked the Boca Juniors team bus.

As punishment, South America's football federation CONMEBOL ruled that River would lose home advantage, and fears over further fan violence meant the game would be played outside Argentina. The second leg is scheduled to be held at Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadium on Sunday. Boca arrived on Wednesday and with River



MADRID: Boca Juniors players attend a training session at the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) headquarters in Las Rozas, northwest of Madrid yesterday. — AFP

joining them in the Spanish capital, both teams are expected to train today.

River, who arrived yesterday morning, are scheduled to train at 1800 (1700 GMT) at Madrid's Valdebebas training base. Boca will train at the Spanish football federation's training base at Las Rozas, north-west of the capital. The south American giants were initially opposed to proposals to play their

decisive second leg in Spain. Former Boca idol Juan Roman Riquelme lashed out at the decision earlier this week, saying it would make it "the most expensive friendly in history". "It won't be the same. No matter how much I want Boca to win it, I think the final has to be played in our country," he said. "The way it is, makes it the most expensive friendly in history." — AFP

Fighters mixing kung fu and bullfighting

JIAXING: Several times a week, kung fu teacher Ren Ruzhi enters a ring to spar with a bovine opponent around five times his weight and capable of killing him. Ren's mixing of martial arts and bullfighting worries his mother, but the 24-year-old has never been hurt. Besides, he says, grappling with a snorting bull is exciting. "It symbolizes the bravery of a man," Ren told Reuters in Jiaxing in China's eastern province of Zhejiang. Unlike Spain's more famous sport, the Chinese variant of bullfighting involves no swords or gore but instead fuses the moves of wrestling with the skill and speed of kung fu to bring down beasts weighing up to 400 kg (882 lb).

"Spanish bullfighting is more like a performance or a show," said Hua Yang, a 41-year-old enthusiast who watched a bullfight during a visit to Spain. "This (the Chinese variety) is truly a contest pitting a human's strength against a bull. There are a lot of skills involved and it can be dangerous." The physically demanding sport requires fighters to train intensively and they typically have short careers, said Han Haihua, a former pro wrestler who coaches bullfighters at his Haihua Kung fu School in Jiaxing. — Reuters

Sports

Thunder roar back as George scores 47, hits the winning 3

Curry lifts Warriors over Cavaliers

OKLAHOMA: Paul George hit the game-winning 3-pointer with 3.1 seconds remaining and finished with a season-high 47 points as the Oklahoma City Thunder rallied for a 114-112 road victory over the Brooklyn Nets on Wednesday night. The Thunder overcame a 23-point deficit to notch their largest comeback in franchise history. Russell Westbrook added 21 points, 17 assists and 15 rebounds to give him 108 career triple-doubles, moving him past Jason Kidd for third place on the NBA's all-time list. He is 30 triple-doubles behind Magic Johnson for second place and 73 behind all-time leader Oscar Robertson's 181. George, who scored 25 points in the fourth quarter, recorded his ninth career 40-point game and fourth since joining the Thunder before last season. He finished two points shy of his career high, shooting 10 of 12 in the fourth when the Thunder outscored the Nets 39-19 and won for the 16th time in 19 games since opening the season 0-4.

Lakers 121, Spurs 113

LeBron James scored 42 points, including 14 consecutive points for Los Angeles in a pivotal stretch of the fourth quarter, and the Lakers came from behind to beat the visiting San Antonio. The game went back and forth through the fourth quarter and was tied at 104 before Lonzo Ball poured in a 3-pointer to give Los Angeles a 107-104 lead with 2:36 to play. With the Lakers up 112-109, James hit a 3-pointer and a layup on Los Angeles' next two possessions, then a free throw with 20.8 seconds to play to close out the scoring. Kyle Kuzma added 22 points for Los Angeles, which earned its fourth consecutive win. DeMar DeRozan led the Spurs with 32 points while Rudy Gay scored a season-high 31 points. LaMarcus Aldridge scored 21 points for San Antonio, which lost for the fourth time in five outings.

Warriors 129, Cavaliers 105

Stephen Curry bombed in 42 points, and Kevin Durant saved 15 of his 25 for the third quarter as Golden State surged from behind to topple host Cleveland in a rematch of June's NBA Finals. The Warriors, who swept the Cavaliers in the Finals for a second consecutive title, trailed 64-58 at halftime before exploding for 37 points in the third quarter en route to a nine-point lead. Durant hit three 3-pointers in his personal flurry, while Curry also drained a trey as part of his big night that included 25 first-half points.

Nuggets 124, Magic 118 (OT)

Jamal Murray totaled 31 points and eight assists, and visiting Denver needed overtime to extend its winning streak to seven games with a hard-fought victory over Orlando. Nikola Jokic added 12 points, 13 assists and eight rebounds for Denver, and Paul Millsap scored 18 points. Evan Fournier had 26 points for Orlando but fouled out with two minutes left in overtime. Nikola Vucevic had 24 points and 15 rebounds, Aaron Gordon scored 19, and Terrence Ross finished with 17 as the Magic lost for the third time

in five games. The Timberwolves (13-12) are now over the .500 mark for the first time all season. They are 9-3 since the trade that brought Covington and Dario Saric from Philadelphia for Jimmy Butler.

Raptors 113, 76ers 102

Kawhi Leonard scored 36 points, grabbed nine rebounds and added five steals to help Toronto to a victory over visiting Philadelphia. It was the 13th straight victory over the 76ers at home for the Raptors, including two this season. Toronto has won 20 of the past 22 games between the teams overall. Jonas Valanciunas added 26 points and eight rebounds in just 18 minutes off the bench, while Serge Ibaka had 18 points and eight rebounds for the Raptors, who have won nine of their past 10 games.

Wizards 131, Hawks 117

With his backcourt running mate out of action, guard Bradley Beal took over and scored 36 points to lead visiting Washington to a win over Atlanta. The win was the third straight for Washington, while Atlanta lost its fourth straight. Washington's John Wall was out of the lineup with personal reasons, so Beal carried much of the offense himself. He was 12-for-22 from the field and easily topped his career average against Atlanta of 17.7 points. Beal, who also had six rebounds and nine assists, fell far short of his career high of 51 points set Dec. 5 against Portland.

Bucks 115, Pistons 92

Eric Bledsoe scored 27 points in 26 minutes, and five other Milwaukee players reached double figures in an easy win over visiting Detroit. Giannis Antetokounmpo had 15 points, eight rebounds and five assists, and Malcolm Brogdon tossed in 14 points. Tony Snell, Thon Maker and Sterling Brown contributed 11 points apiece for Milwaukee. Blake Griffin carried the Pistons with 31 points, seven rebounds and four assists. Reggie Jackson supplied 15 points, seven rebounds and five assists. Andre Drummond chipped in 10 points and eight rebounds.

Grizzlies 96, Clippers 86

Mike Conley scored 22 points, and JaMychal Green added 19 points and 11 rebounds off the bench as Memphis built a big early lead and held on for a victory over visiting Los Angeles. Conley, who fouled out when the Clippers rallied for an overtime victory the last time the teams met on Nov. 23, added seven rebounds and went 9 of 16 from the field. Rookie Jaren Jackson Jr. added 13 points for Memphis, which entered having lost four of its previous five games. Boban Marjanovic scored 19 points off the bench as the Clippers erased a 16-point, first-half deficit to lead in the third quarter, only to let the chance at a road victory slip away. The Clippers entered with five victories in their previous six games.

Timberwolves 121, Hornets 104

Karl-Anthony Towns had 35 points and 12 rebounds, and Minnesota exploded in the fourth



NEW YORK: Paul George #13 of the Oklahoma City Thunder makes a free throw during the third quarter of the game against Brooklyn Nets at Barclays Center on December 05, 2018 in New York City. — AFP

quarter for a victory over visiting Charlotte. Towns led a 22-2 Minnesota surge after the Hornets took a 96-93 lead into the final eight minutes. He scored seven in a 10-0 run when the Timberwolves initially gained control, and then teamed with Robert Covington to turn the game into a blowout.

Pelicans 132, Mavericks 106

Julius Randle had 27 points and 18 rebounds, leading six New Orleans scorers in double fig-

ures in a rout of visiting Dallas. Anthony Davis, who left the game briefly in the third quarter with an apparent ankle injury, also scored 27. E'Twaun Moore and Jrue Holiday scored 17 each, Darius Miller had 12 and Cheick Diallo 10 as the Pelicans won for just the third time in their last nine games. Randle, who had a career-high 37 points in a loss to the Los Angeles Clippers two nights earlier, started his second consecutive game in place of Nikola Mirotic, who is ill. — Reuters

Strugglers Schalke desperate for win

BERLIN: There has never been a bigger gap in the standings between leaders Borussia Dortmund and Schalke 04 ahead of a Ruhr valley derby in the first half of a Bundesliga season. But Schalke, last season's runners-up who are languishing in 12th place, know the 19-point gap will count for nothing when they host Dortmund tomorrow in Germany's 'mother of all derbies'. The Royal Blues also hope they can stretch their unbeaten run at home to five years against their in-form rivals, despite their own lacklustre shape.

Victory over Dortmund would instantly ease most of the pressure on embattled coach Domenico Tedesco, with Schalke having won just two of their last six league games. "We know that the derby is something special. If we give it everything we got then we can win the derby,"

said Schalke midfielder Alessandro Schoepf. "Dortmund have yet to lose (in the Bundesliga) this season so it's time. We won at home last season so why should we not do it again?"

Dortmund have so far played a sensational season, having gone unbeaten in the 13 league matches, making new coach Lucien Favre the most successful newcomer in Bundesliga history. They have also scored a staggering 37 goals in 13 Bundesliga games, with top scorer Paco Alcacer and captain Marco Reus netting a combined 19 times, five more than the entire Schalke haul so far, for the best attack in the league.

Dortmund have also won eight out of their last nine league matches as they raced seven points clear at the top of the table, with teenager Jadon Sancho, voted player of the month in October, quickly becoming the revelation of the season. "Our opponents are a top team this season, who are especially strong in attack," Schoepf told his club's website. "It is remarkable what Reus, Alcacer and Sancho, to name a few, are doing week in week out." "But we will not stay back. We want to play our game. Every team has weaknesses and we need to recognize them and exploit them," said the Austrian. — Reuters

Sports

Yasir breaks 82-year record, fastest to 200 Test wickets

Ton-up Williamson foils Pakistan after Yasir's record

ABU DHABI: Leg-spinner Yasir Shah became the fastest cricketer to take 200 Test wickets, breaking an 82-year-old record as Pakistan sought to clinch a series win in the third and final Test against New Zealand in Abu Dhabi yesterday. Yasir trapped night-watchman Will Somerville leg before for four to reach the milestone in his 33rd Test, beating Australian leg-spinner Clarrie Grimmett's record of 36 Tests set against South Africa in Johannesburg in 1936.

But that was the only highlight for Pakistan as Kane Williamson (105 not out) aided by Henry Nicholls, unbeaten on 54, took New Zealand to 199-4 at tea on the fourth day. That gave New Zealand a lead of 125 with six wickets intact and an outside chance of forcing a win in the series currently tied at 1-1. Pakistan had hopes of an emphatic win once Shaheen Shah Afridi had Ross Taylor caught hooking for 22 with the total at 60-4. But Williamson and Nicholls defied the bowling during their unbroken 139-run stand for the fifth wicket.

Williamson, who scored 89 in the first innings, drove medium pacer Hasan Ali to cover boundary for his 12th four to complete a well deserved 12th Test century. Nicholls survived a loud leg-before appeal off Yasir when on three, but Pakistan erred by not reviewing the not-out decision as the ball tracker showed it would have hit the leg stump. Nicholls also successfully challenged a leg-before verdict on nine and was dropped on 50 by Imam-ul-Haq off a luckless Yasir, having so far hit five boundaries. Yasir has figures of 2-66 while Shaheen has taken 2-48. Resuming at 26-2, New Zealand were facing defeat as the day started with Yasir's world record.

Yasir, whose 14 wickets helped Pakistan level the series 1-1 in Dubai, now has 27 wickets in the three Tests against New Zealand. His 14 for 184 were the second



ABU DHABI: Pakistani spinner Yasir Shah (right) delivers the ball as New Zealand captain Kane Williamson (left) looks on during the fourth day of the third and final Test cricket match between Pakistan and New Zealand at the Sheikh Zayed International Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday. —AFP

best match figures in a Test for Pakistan, behind former captain and current prime minister of Pakistan Imran Khan, who bagged 14 for 116 against Sri Lanka in Lahore in 1982. Yasir began the Abu Dhabi Test with 195 wickets in 32 Tests and on the opening day grabbed three early wickets.

But BJ Watling resisted with 77 not out, delaying his record until the second innings. Yasir was also the fastest Pakistani to 50 wickets (nine Tests), and reached 100 wickets in 17 Tests—second only to Englishman George Lohmann who set the record of 16 in 1896. —AFP

SCOREBOARD

ABU DHABI: Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the third and final Test between Pakistan and New Zealand at Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on yesterday:

New Zealand 1st innings 274 (K. Williamson 89, BJ Watling 77 not out; Bilal Asif 5-65, Yasir Shah 3-75)	
Pakistan 1st innings 348 (Azhar Ali 134, Asad Shafiq 104; W. Somerville 4-75)	
New Zealand 2nd innings (overnight 26-2)	
J. Raval lbw b Shaheen	0
T. Latham c Sohail b Yasir	10
K. Williamson not out	139
W. Somerville lbw b Yasir	4
R. Taylor c Asif b Shaheen	22
H. Nicholls not out	90
Extras: (b5, lb 1, nb 1)	7
Total: (for four wkts; 104 overs)	272
Still to bat: BJ Watling, C. de Grandhomme, Ajaz Patel, T. Southee, T. Boult	
Fall of wickets: 1-1 (Raval), 2-24 (Latham), 3-37 (Somerville), 4-60 (Taylor)	
Bowling: Hasan 13-5-37-0, Shaheen 16-5-55-2, Yasir 37-8-107-2, Asif 36-6-62-0, Azhar 1-0-2-0, Hafeez 1-0-3-0.	

Pujara ton helps India claw back against Australia

ADELAIDE: Cheteshwar Pujara scored a gritty 123 in punishing conditions to claw India back into the opening Test in Adelaide yesterday after Australia seized early control with some blistering bowling. Nathan Lyon, Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc all grabbed two wickets as temperatures topped 36 Celsius (96.8 Fahrenheit) and the tourists wilted to 250-9 at stumps on day one. The experienced Pujara faced 246 balls in his gutsy knock—passing 5,000 Test runs for his 16th Test century—as the wickets tumbled around him, including superstar captain Virat Kohli for three. At the end of a day characterised by poor shot selection, Pujara went for a quick single on the second last ball and was removed in a brilliant run-out by a diving Cummins.

"It was one of my top innings in Test cricket, I could say top five," said Pujara, adding that he was disappointed other batsmen didn't do as well. "To be honest we should have batted

better but they also bowled well in the first two sessions and I knew that I had to stay patient and wait for the loose balls. "We'll learn from the mistakes and put up a better show in the second innings." Batting after Kohli won the toss, the visitors crumbled in a disastrous morning session under a pace barrage before digging in later in the day, with Pujara and Ravi Ashwin (25 off 76 balls) staging a fightback as the bowlers tired. In their first home Test since the ball-tampering scandal in March, Australia took four wickets before lunch with the batsmen guilty of playing at deliveries they would have been better off leaving alone. Australian bowling coach David Saker said it was a premeditated plan for the quicks to pitch it up and lure India's batsmen into false shots. "We got the wickets the way we thought we might get the wickets," he told the Seven Network. Starc added that he felt the attack was excellent for much of the day, but they let it slip in the final hour. But he was happy overall. "If you'd said to us at the beginning of the day after losing the toss that we have them at 250-9, we'd have bitten your arm off," he said.

Khawaja stuns Kohli

Opener KL Rahul, who has been struggling for runs, flopped again, caught by Aaron Finch at third slip off Hazlewood for two. Vet-

eran Murali Vijay, in the side after young gun Prithvi Shaw suffered ankle ligament damage, didn't last much longer, caught behind by skipper Tim Paine off Starc for 11. In marched Kohli to a huge roar from the crowd, but Usman Khawaja at gully spectacularly caught him off a Cummins delivery as he attempted a drive, out after facing only 16 balls.

It was stunning one-handed take by Khawaja, whose preparations were upset by the shock arrest of his brother this week for allegedly framing a love-rival with a fake terror plot. The dismissal of Kohli, who has scored five centuries in his two previous Test tours of Australia and rates Adelaide his favourite overseas ground, sparked wild celebrations. Vice captain Ajinkya Rahane and Pujara worked to steady the ship.

But after returning from a break, Hazlewood enticed Rahane into a drive and he edged to Handscomb in the slips for 13. Rohit Sharma, preferred in the final XI to all-rounder Hanuma Vihari, had compiled a patient 31 when he swept Lyon for six, narrowly missing being caught on the ropes. Sharma then needlessly tried the same shot on the next ball, and this time debutant Marcus Harris comfortably collected the steeping catch, with the right-hander once more failing to capitalise on a good start. It

SCOREBOARD

ADELAIDE, Australia: Scorecard at stumps on day one of the opening Test between Australia and India at Adelaide Oval yesterday.

India first innings	
M. Vijay c Paine b Starc	11
KL. Rahul c Finch b Hazlewood	2
C. Pujara run out (Cummins)	123
V. Kohli c Khawaja b Cummins	3
A. Rahane c Handscomb b Hazlewood	13
R. Sharma c Harris b Lyon	37
R. Pant c Paine b Lyon	25
R. Ashwin c Handscomb b Cummins	25
I. Sharma b Starc	4
M. Shami not out	6
Extras (lb1)	1
Total (9 wickets, 87.5 overs)	250
To bat: Jasprit Bumrah	
Fall of wickets: 1-3 (Rahul), 2-15 (Vijay), 3-19 (Kohli), 4-41 (Rahane), 5-86 (Sharma), 6-127 (Pant), 7-189 (Ashwin), 8-210 (Sharma), 9-250 (Pujara)	
Bowling: Starc 19-4-63-2, Hazlewood 19.5-3-52-2, Cummins 19-3-49-2, Lyon 28-2-83-2, Head 2-1-2-0.	
Australia: Marcus Harris, Aaron Finch, Usman Khawaja, Shaun Marsh, Travis Head, Peter Handscomb, Tim Paine (capt), Josh Hazlewood, Pat Cummins, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Starc	

was left to Pujara, in his 65th Test, to stay at the crease and keep chipping away, building a 41-run partnership with Rishabh Pant and then 62 with Ashwin before he was run out by Cummins. —AFP

Sports

From dream to nightmare: Afghan 'Little Messi' Murtaza forced to flee

Intense fighting as Taliban launches offensive

KABUL: Murtaza Ahmadi moved the world with his love for footballer Lionel Messi in 2016. His dream of meeting the Argentinean came true, but now the seven-year-old boy is living a nightmare as one of thousands of Afghans displaced by war. Murtaza and his family abandoned their home in southeastern Ghazni province in November, along with hundreds of others fleeing intense fighting after the Taliban launched an offensive in the previously safe area. Now they are among the thousands of similarly uprooted people struggling to get by in Kabul, and also living with the fear that the Taliban are hunting for their famous son.

The image of Murtaza sporting a makeshift Messi jersey—made of a blue and white striped plastic bag and with Messi's name and famous number 10 written carefully on the back in felt-tip pen—flooded media and social networks in 2016. The media hype drew the football superstar's attention, and that year Murtaza met his idol in Qatar, where he walked out onto the pitch clutching Messi's hand as a mascot for a Barcelona friendly. Messi, a UNICEF goodwill ambassador, also gave his tiny fan an autographed jersey and a football. But the moment of happiness has quickly dissipated.

AFP met with the family recently in the cramped room in Kabul they are renting from another impoverished family, where Murtaza's mother Shafiqah told how they had fled their home district of Jaghori in the night after hearing gunshots. "We couldn't take any of

our belongings, we left only with our lives," she said, her face half hidden by a scarf. The family belongs to the Shiite-denominated Hazara ethnic group, who were targeted by the Sunni Taliban in their November operation in Ghazni. The UN says up to 4,000 families fled, with witnesses describing "absolute terror" to AFP. Hundreds of civilians, soldiers, and insurgents were killed in the fighting.

The fear felt by the Ahmadi family was ratcheted up when they learned that the Taliban were searching for the small Murtaza by name. "(They) said if they capture him, they will cut him into pieces," Shafiqah said, her eyes horrified. Sports were rarely tolerated under the 1996-2001 Taliban regime, and the Kabul football stadium was a well-known venue for stonings and executions. Shafiqah said she hid her famous son's face with a scarf to prevent him from being recognized as they fled. They took refuge first in a mosque in Bamiyan, before arriving in Kabul six days later. Among their belongings left behind are the football and jersey signed by Messi.

'I miss Messi'

Although Afghan security forces have beaten back the Taliban in Jaghori, the family says it no longer feels safe. "The danger of the Taliban coming back is high, going back is not an option," Shafiqah said. The attention they received as a result of Murtaza's fame has added to their fears, she continued. "Local strongmen were calling and saying, 'You have become rich, pay the money you have received



KABUL: Murtaza Ahmadi, a supporter of Argentine footballer Lionel Messi, kicks stones outside his home in Kabul. — AFP

from Messi or we will take your son'," she said. "At night we would sometimes see unknown men, watching and checking our house, and then the calls. During the days, we wouldn't dare let him outside home to play with other children." The family have already fled once before, to Pakistan in 2016, where they sought

asylum in "any safe country". They returned reluctantly to Jaghori after their money ran out, Shafiqah said. Murtaza's father Arif remains in Jaghori working as a farmer while his family lives in Kabul under precarious conditions, with inadequate shelter, food, water or sanitation available to the refugees. — AFP

Cavani rescues PSG in Strasbourg stalemate

PARIS: Edinson Cavani saved a point for Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday as the Ligue 1 leaders slipped for the second time in a week with a hugely entertaining 1-1 draw at Strasbourg. The Uruguayan striker fired home a 71st-minute penalty to maintain PSG's unbeaten record after 16 games despite a disjointed performance without injured star attacker Neymar, equalising Kenny Lalas's own spot-kick four minutes before the break for the spirited hosts, who came close to inflicting their opponents first league defeat of the season. "If you arrive in flip flops against PSG, you go home with a good spanking," said Strasbourg coach Thierry Laurey.

"We suffered at times but we managed to minimize their offensive power. They dominated the play but we were never in too much danger." Thomas Tuchel's side, who also drew at Bordeaux at the weekend and started without Kylian Mbappe and Thiago Silva, remain way ahead of the rest after a night in France full of late goals, incident and VAR. Champions PSG are 14 points ahead of Lille, who moved second on Tuesday after beating Montpellier 1-0 and stayed there thanks to Hatem Ben Arfa and Jordan Siebatcheu leading Rennes to a 2-0 win at Lyon on Wednesday.

Bruno Genesio's Lyon are fourth, 15 points behind PSG, while inconsistent Marseille are a further two points back after a 3-2 defeat at Nantes. PSG now don't play until they travel to Serbia for their Champions League clash at Red Star Belgrade, where a win will ensure their progress to the last 16, after Saturday's match with Montpellier was postponed because of security concerns.

"We reacted and showed a lot of quality in the second half. We completely controlled play in the opposing half and had both a lot of possession and dangerous situations," said Tuchel. "We played very well in the second half, showed quality but could not score."

Night of drama

The video assistant referees were involved in a series of key decisions on Wednesday, and it was VAR that helped Strasbourg take the lead over PSG, with referee Antony Gautier awarding Lalas's spot kick a full four minutes after Thilo Kehrer handled Lionel Carole's fizzing cross. The half-time deficit led Tuchel to bring Mbappe off the bench, and it was France's World Cup star who won the penalty that Cavani blasted past Matz Sels, Lalas hacking the 19-year-old superstar down in the box. PSG looked a different proposition to the sluggish team that slogged through the opening period, and Kehrer thought he had made amends for giving away the opening penalty six minutes after the break, only to see his header saved at point-blank range by Sels. However as the half wore on the away side ran out of ideas and Strasbourg made a push for the win in the final minutes.

Substitute Adrien Thomasson forced a superb stop from Alphonse Areola with a minute left, and the 24-year-old thought he had snatched a famous win deep in injury time when he headed home Youssouf Fofana's pinpoint cross. However while the majority of the crowd celebrated wildly, the linesman's flag was rightly raised to rule the unfortunate Thomasson's goal out for offside. Chief among the other crucial decisions helped by VAR on a dramatic night was Loick Landre's 96th-minute winner for Nimes at Caen, which came after Prince Oniangue had levelled at 1-1 in the 90th minute and was eventually given after Landre was found to be onside. — AFP

Henry, Vieira clash postponed amid security concerns

PARIS: A Ligue 1 clash between Thierry Henry's Monaco and local rivals Nice has been postponed, the French league (LFP) said yesterday, amid fears of more violent "yellow vest" protests in France over rising living costs. The LFP said today evening's game at the Stade Louis II had been called off following a request by the government in the Mediterranean principality, "in collaboration" with authorities in the neighboring French Alpes-Maritimes prefecture, which includes Nice.

The announcement comes after Paris Saint-Germain's game against Montpellier and Lyon's trip to Toulouse—scheduled for Saturday—were both postponed due to security concerns. Paris has been the scene of violent protests for three weekends running from "yellow vest" demonstrators unhappy at planned fuel tax rises. Demonstrations turned particularly violent last Saturday, with 412 people arrested after the worst clashes in central Paris for decades. However, unrest has also spread across the country, turning into a broader challenge to President Emmanuel Macron's agenda and complaints that he is out of touch with the struggles of ordinary people. A new round of protests is expected this weekend. — AFP

Sports

Wolves come from behind to beat wasteful Chelsea

Sarri slams Chelsea's complacency in defeat

WOLVERHAMPTON: Maurizio Sarri accused his Chelsea players of over-confidence after throwing away a lead to lose 2-1 at Wolverhampton Wanderers on Wednesday. Chelsea looked to be on course for victory thanks to Ruben Loftus-Cheek's early opener as the visitors dominated the first-half, but two goals in four second-half minutes saw Wolves secure their first win in seven games and inflict just Sarri's second defeat since taking charge in the summer. Next up Chelsea face the daunting task of halting Manchester City at Stamford Bridge on Saturday and Sarri suggested a jolt to their confidence could be a blessing, but declared himself "worried" by the manner of their defeat at Molineux.

"After this match we are less confident but maybe it's better because sometimes my players show me that they have too much confidence," said the Italian. "We played well for 55 minutes. After the goal for 1-1, which was an accident because we were in full control of the match, we were suddenly another team without the right distances and without our football. "I don't know why. I am really very worried, not for the result but the fact that after the first goal we conceded we did not react very well. I am really very worried for this, not for the result."

Chelsea missed several chances to extend their lead and were denied a possible penalty

early in the second half when Alvaro Morata tangled with Wolves defender Willy Boly. Yet Sarri refused to discuss the penalty appeal and insisted his decision to make five changes also wasn't the cause of his side's defeat. "In the first 10 minutes of the second-half we could have scored four or five goals. We had four goal opportunities but I don't want to discuss those or the referee," he added. "I don't think it depended on the changes, it depended on the mentality of the team. I saw a team without a reaction. You can lose a match but not without a reaction."

Chelsea are now 10 points off City at the top of the table, but of more immediate concern are now only in the top four above Arsenal thanks to their superior goal difference. "Manchester City are in another category, said Sarri. "We have to play and fight for the top four. It is a very difficult result for the top four. "For me, City at this moment are the best team in Europe or maybe the best in the world." Chelsea took an 18th-minute lead when Loftus-Cheek cut in from the left and hit a curling shot that struck the head of the unlucky Conor Coady to wrongfoot goalkeeper Rui Patrício and creep inside the near post.

However, on his first Premier League start, 18-year-old Morgan Gibbs-White led the fightback as he fed Raul Jimenez, who drilled a low shot under goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabal-



WOLVERHAMPTON: Chelsea's Spanish striker Alvaro Morata (2nd left) misses a chance on goal during the English Premier League football match between Wolverhampton Wanderers and Chelsea at the Molineux stadium on December 5, 2018. — AFP

aga. Moments later Molineux erupted when Matt Doherty crossed and Diogo Jota side-footed home for the winner. "He is one of the best generations of English players for a long

time," claimed Wolves boss Nuno Espirito Santo of his midfield starlet. "He is a reality of the fantastic job that national teams are doing, so well done to them." — AFP

Spurs show new Southampton boss the size of his task

LONDON: Tottenham bounced back from their derby defeat against Arsenal to sweep aside struggling Southampton 3-1 on Wednesday and show new Saints boss Ralph Hasenhuttl the size of the task he faces. The Austrian was named as Mark Hughes's successor earlier in the day and took a watching brief at Wembley but for the first hour it was painful viewing.

Hasenhuttl, who will take over from interim Kelvin Davis, who becomes the new manager's number two, will have been encouraged by the final 30 minutes as Southampton were the better side and grabbed a late consolation through Charlie Austin. But by then they were already three goals down, with Harry Kane, Lucas Moura and Son Heung-min on the scoresheet for Spurs. "It was a difficult game after last week, when we played three big games," Spurs boss Mauricio Pochettino told the BBC. "Hugo Lloris was man of the match

and that's something I'm disappointed about," he added. "We conceded more chances than against Arsenal. But I feel it was job done and I'm happy with the three points."

Lax defending from Southampton allowed Spurs to take a ninth-minute lead. As the hosts played a corner short, Matt Targett did not match Kane's run to the near post and the England captain rammed home Christian Eriksen's cross from close range for his ninth Premier League goal of the season. Spurs goalkeeper Loris somehow got his fingertips to a swerving effort from Pierre Hojbjerg and tipped it on to the post. That gave the hosts the wake-up call they needed and they were quick to reassert their authority, with Kane forcing Alex McCarthy into a low save before the Saints goalkeeper had to smartly tip over from Son.

Pochettino's men were in no mood to let Southampton make it nervy for them and two goals in the opening 10 minutes of the second half killed the game. After Eriksen's low free-kick was well saved by McCarthy, Moura fired home from the resulting corner at the second attempt for his fifth Premier League goal of the campaign. Four minutes later it was three and Targett was the culprit again as Trippier dispossessed him, passed to Kane, whose low cross was easy for Son to turn in from inside the six-yard box. Southampton, who remain third from bottom, showed plenty of spirit despite finding themselves 3-0 down. — AFP

Arsenal extend unbeaten run in four-goal thriller

MANCHESTER: Jose Mourinho accused his Manchester United players of shooting themselves in the foot as he saw his under-strength team gift Arsenal two goals in a 2-2 draw that extended their winless Premier League run to four games. United, who started with Paul Pogba and Romelu Lukaku on the bench, showed great spirit to twice come back, with equalizers from Anthony Martial and Jesse Lingard earning a much-needed point. But, after a defeat at Manchester City and dispiriting draws with Crystal Palace and Southampton, United are now 18 points behind leaders City and actually closer to the relegation positions than they are first place. United also trail Chelsea and Arsenal, who are now unbeaten in 20 games, by eight points in the battle for a place in the top four.

And Mourinho, who saw a bad David de Gea error and Marcos Rojo own goal twice hand Arsenal the lead, believes the performance continued their run of self-inflicted harm. "We scored four goals and we drew 2-2," joked Mourinho. "But we scored four goals and even in matches like today where we play well, we always shoot ourselves. "Sometimes we miss chances with an

open goal, other times defensive mistakes but tonight there was a fantastic spirit, good performances. "Our problem is finding a performance like this without the mistakes we made and we had very good performances where we make mistakes and we are always punished."

Mourinho's frustration was especially understandable given that Arsenal's opening goal, after 26 minutes, featured that rarest of collector's items, a mistake by his Spanish international goalkeeper David de Gea. Chris Smalling slipped at Lucas Torreira's 26th minute corner, allowing Mustafi the space to send a free header bouncing into the ground and goalwards. It looked a routine save for United's number one but he succeeded only in pushing the ball into the air, two-handed, over his own head and over the goalline, despite Ander Herrera's desperation clearance.

But United responded within four minutes as Rojo, playing for the first time this season, unleashed a terrific free-kick which Bernd Leno kept out at the foot of his left-hand post. Herrera responded quickly, although replays suggested he may have been fractionally offside, reaching the loose ball on the by-line and turning it into the six-yard area where Martial was able to convert. That dramatic pattern would be repeated after 68 minutes when Arsenal regained a lead they could only hold, on this occasion, for 74 seconds.

Lacazette played a one-two with fellow substitute Henrikh Mkhitaryan and advanced into the area where Rojo tackled him from behind and succeeded only in turning the ball into his own net. — AFP

Sports

Liverpool fightback at Burnley to maintain an unbeaten start

2 goals in seven minutes sealed a hard-fought win

BURNLEY: Roberto Firmino came off the bench to score with his first touch as Liverpool came from behind to maintain their unbeaten Premier League start on Wednesday after Jurgen Klopp's decision to ring the changes almost backfired. Two goals in the space of seven minutes midway through the second-half sealed a hard-fought 3-1 win at struggling Burnley after Jack Cork's 54th-minute effort had given the hosts an unexpected lead against a side they've now beaten just once in the last 12 attempts spanning 44 years. It means Liverpool remain second, cutting Manchester City's advantage at the summit to two points with a 12th victory of the campaign, and in the process posting the club's best start to a top flight season after 15 games. They were pushed all the way by a Burnley side now anchored in the relegation zone after an eighth game without victory.

A totally different outcome looked possible when Cork pounced from close range after goalkeeper Alisson twice failed to gather the ball after confusion in the Liverpool box from a Johann Berg Gudmundsson corner. The lead lasted just eight minutes before James Milner leveled with a cool 20-yard finish into the bottom corner from an inviting Divok Origi lay-off. Klopp immediately threw on Mo Salah and Firmino in a bid to seal victory which was rewarded in the 69th minute when Firmino guided the ball into an unguarded net after Virgil van Dijk redirected a Trent Alexander-Arnold free-kick across the face of goal.

Liverpool's German head coach utilised his squad to make seven changes from the side that clinched a dramatic stoppage-time Merseyside derby victory over Everton. Skipper Jordan Hen-

derson returned from suspension for his 300th career league appearance as the Reds started a game without any of Salah, Sadio Mane or Firmino for the first time in more than 18 months. After midfielder Ashley Westwood fired over early on, Burnley had to settle for shots from distance in an attempt to find a way past Alisson, with Chris Wood and Phil Bardsley both going close from long range.

The hosts had the ball in the net as half-time approached, but Ashley Barnes' fine first-time 18-yard volley into the top corner from Robbie Brady's free-kick was correctly ruled offside. Liverpool started the second-half with greater purpose, and Daniel Sturridge forced a good save from Hart with a powerful effort from the edge of the area which was destined for the bottom corner. Burnley's former England keeper further excelled

when he managed to fingertip a fierce Naby Keita effort onto a post and out for a corner after the Liverpool midfielder burst past Ashley Westwood.

The hosts responded with their best spell of the game as the hour mark approached, and a 300th league game in management for Burnley's Sean Dyche's looked like being a fruitful one after Cork pounced for his third goal of the season. That was until Milner's leveler changed the complexion of the game, and Klopp quickly called on his cavalry to provide the desired result. Alisson redeemed himself in stoppage time with a great save from Mee's header before launching the move that led to Liverpool's third goal when Xherdan Shaqiri swept home a Salah-inspired move to leave the Claret's only off the bottom only on goal difference after taking two points from the last possible 24. — AFP

Celtic miss out on chance to climb back to top spot

GLASGOW: Celtic missed the chance to climb back to the top of the Scottish Premiership after Motherwell scored a late equaliser as 10-man Rangers slipped to defeat against Aberdeen. Brendan Rodgers' side paid the price for failing to build on Ryan Christie's 13th-minute opener as their dominance in possession at Fir Park counted for nothing and they were left to rue a first-half penalty miss by Leigh Griffiths. The champions were heading back to the top of the table three days after Rangers leapfrogged them but Johnson's 88th-minute strike ensured Kilmarnock travel to Parkhead on Saturday as leaders following Aberdeen's 1-0 win at Ibrox.

Steven Gerrard admits he is struggling to tackle a discipline problem after striker Alfredo Morelos was sent off in the Rangers manager's first home defeat as boss. Scott McKenna fired Aberdeen ahead early but Rangers were given hope when Sam Cosgrove got himself sent off for the Dons just after the half-hour mark. But with Rangers struggling, Morelos' frustrations boiled over as he caught Graeme Shinnie to earn a second yellow midway through the second half. Rangers have now collected eight reds this term and Gerrard admits his patience is running thin.

The manager - whose side have now surrendered top spot just three days after taking the title-race initiative - said: "I'm concerned. There's only so much I can do. I've made it very clear they're not helping themselves. They're making their task a lot more difficult. We miss key players for important games." Kilmarnock climbed to the top of the table with a 2-0 win against Livingston after Greg Stewart netted a first-half double. The new leaders have now had just one defeat in their past 11 league games and currently sit one point ahead of Old Firm giants Rangers and Celtic. Elsewhere on Wednesday, Dundee beat Hamilton 4-0 with a Kenny Miller hat-trick, Hibs drew 2-2 with St Mirren and St Johnstone and Hearts also drew 2-2. — AFP

Newcastle hold on for rare point at Everton

NEWCASTLE: Newcastle United finally registered a goal at Goodison Park as they earned a useful away point with a 1-1 draw against Everton on Wednesday to bounce back from their weekend defeat by West Ham United. They had lost on their last five Premier League trips to Everton without scoring but took the lead after 19 minutes when Salomon Rondon lashed past Jordan Pickford.

Everton responded to dominate the rest of the half and were shouting for a penalty after a challenge on Ademola Lookman. Richarlison had an effort saved but from the resulting corner the Brazilian stabbed home at the far post. Everton looked the more likely winners but it was Newcastle who went close twice late on with Christian Atsu guilty of wasting a glorious chance for the visitors, shooting straight at Pickford as the clock reached 90 minutes. Newcastle are still looking for their first win at Everton since 2010. — Reuters

Odds stacked against Inter in Derby d'Italia

MILAN: The odds appear to be stacked against Inter Milan for today's Derby d'Italia at Juventus with the hosts on a seemingly relentless march towards an eighth successive Serie A title. Juventus have opened an eight-point lead at the top and dropped only two points in their first 14 games. Bolstered by the signing of Cristiano Ronaldo, their progress has been relentless and the second half of the season threatens to turn into a one-horse race. Inter Milan were seen as possible challengers to Juve's dominance at the start of the season but, despite at one point winning seven games in a row, have paid dearly for their inconsistency and are 11 points behind in third.

Even at this stage of the season, it seems their only hope is give a helping hand to second-placed Napoli by taking points off Juve. Inter's recent record in the fixture is equally demoralizing, with only two wins in the 16 league meetings since winning their last Serie A title in 2010 under Jose Mourinho. Inter are still smarting from their last meeting in April when they led 2-1 at San Siro with five minutes left, only to lose 3-2. — Reuters



LIVERPOOL: Everton's Colombian defender Yerry Mina (left) and Everton's English striker Dominic Calvert-Lewin (2nd right) vie in the air to header the ball against Newcastle United's English defender Jamaal Lascelles (2nd left) and Newcastle United's Swiss defender Fabian Schär during the English Premier League football match between Everton and Newcastle United on December 5, 2018. — AFP



MATCHES ON TV LOCAL TIMING

SPANISH LEAGUE

CD Leganes v Getafe 23:00
beIN SPORTS HD 3

ITALIAN LEAGUE

Juventus FC v Inter Milano 22:30
beIN SPORTS

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Werder Bremen v Fortuna D,sseldorf 22:30
beIN SPORTS

FRENCH LEAGUE

Monaco FC v Nice 22:45
beIN SPORTS



Yasir Shah smashes 82-year-old record

See Page 44

ABU DHABI: Pakistani spinner Yasir Shah delivers the ball during the fourth day of the third and final Test cricket match between Pakistan and New Zealand at the Sheikh Zayed International Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday. — AFP