

Friday Times

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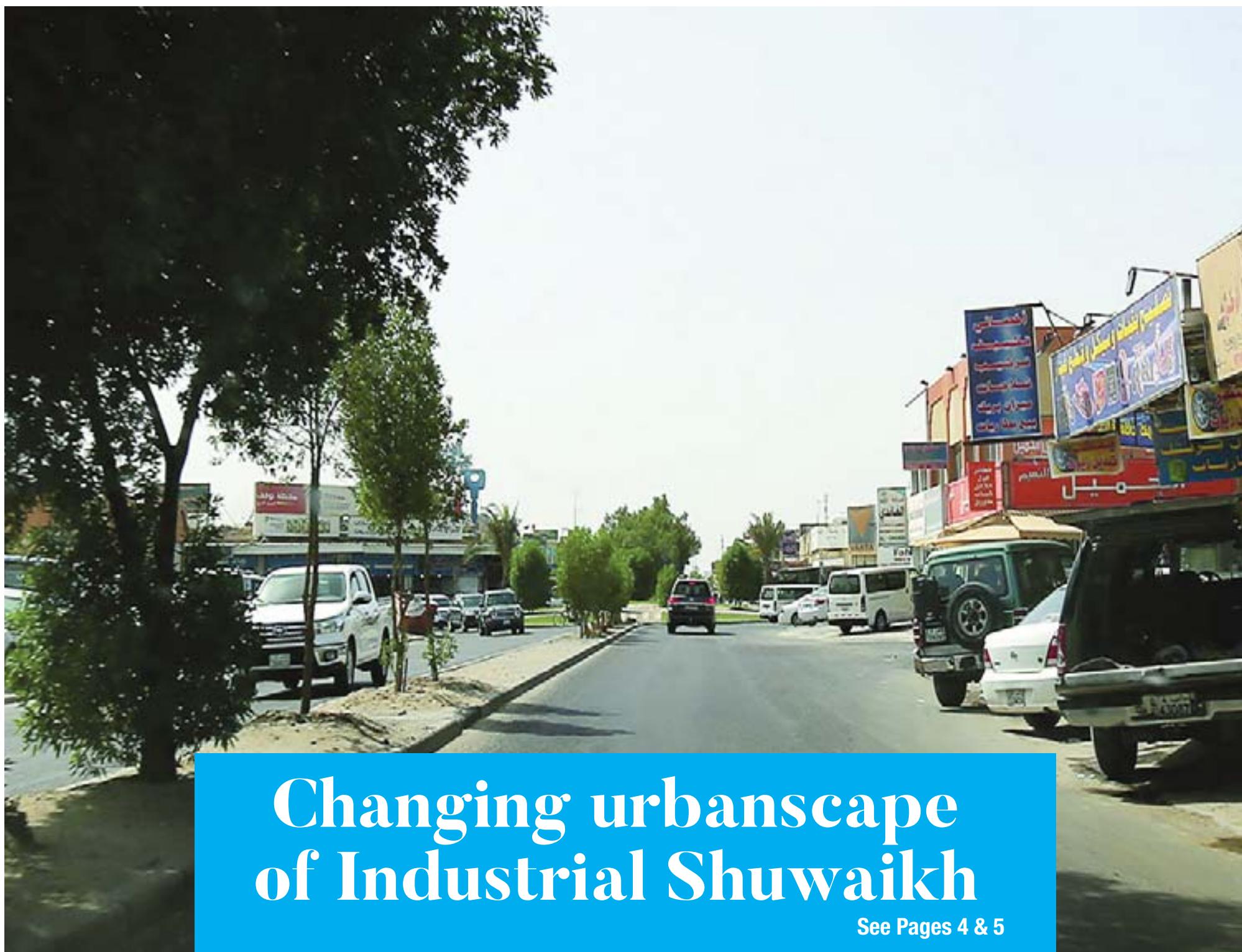
9 Man dies after losing wife, kids in accident



10 Russia jets pound Syria south, Jordan urged to open border



46 Uruguay's immovable defense ready for unstoppable Mbappe

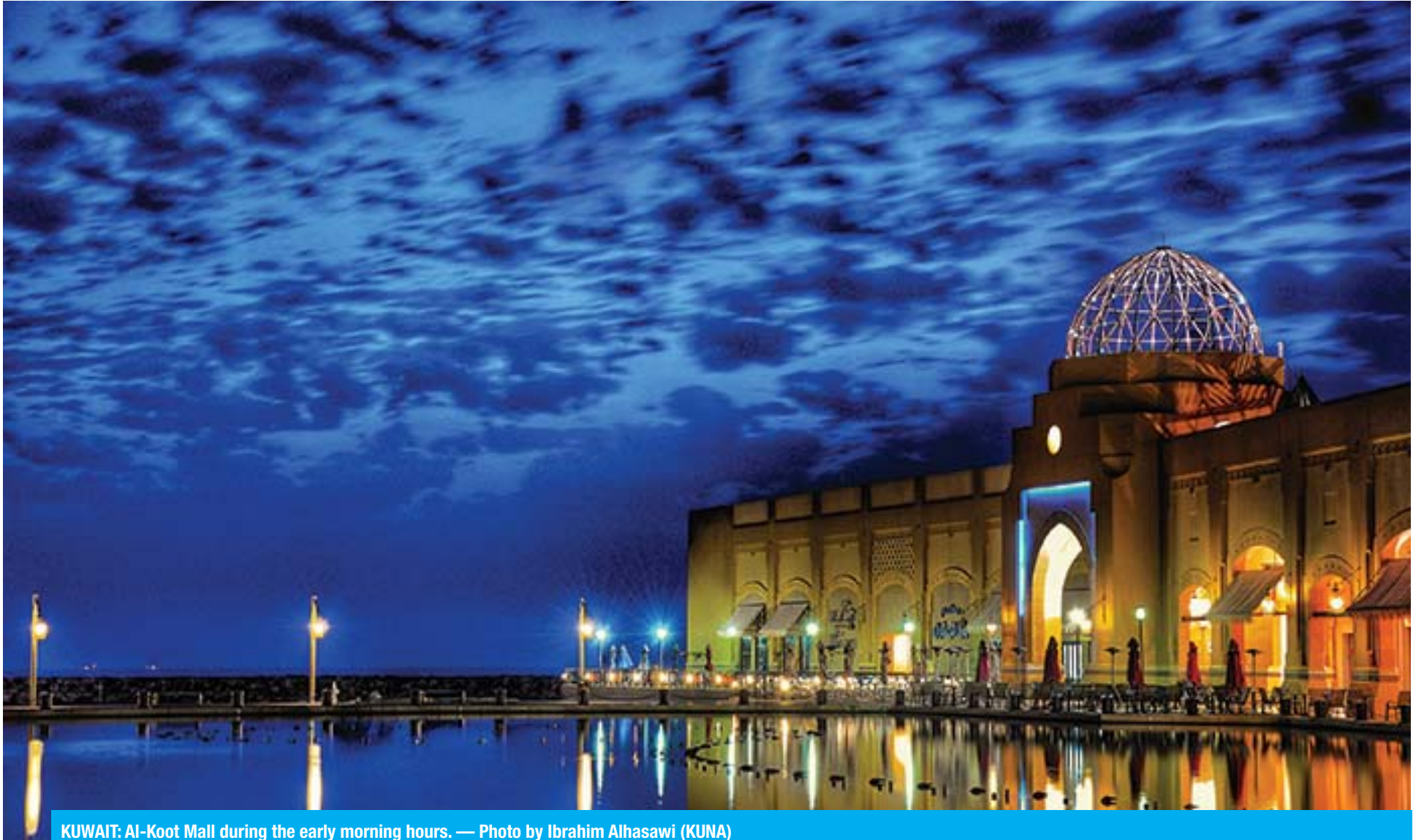


Changing urban scape of Industrial Shuwaikh

See Pages 4 & 5

Local

PHOTO OF THE DAY



KUWAIT: Al-Koot Mall during the early morning hours. — Photo by Ibrahim Alhasawi (KUNA)



Local Spotlight

By Muna Al-Fuzai
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Heat kills!

Kuwait is a very hot country, especially in the relatively long summer months. While we are hiding and protecting ourselves from the heat in air-conditioned places, whether in offices, homes or cars, some people start to exhibit a reckless or aggressive behavior the more temperatures rise. Should we blame the weather for this behavior caused by extreme heat?

There is a long-standing psychological belief that there is a close correlation between the temperature and human behavior, with the mood condition in spring for example is relaxed, as spring weather inspires human emotions and tranquility. Summer time, on the other hand, seems to do the opposite. It is associated with acute psychological reactions.

Studies conducted between 1987 and 2002 showed that heat affects the state of mind and thus thoughts and behaviors leading to mood disorder, discomfort, difficulty of endurance, patience and lack of focus. I think such conclu-

sion explains the reason for some human behavior here.

I think that it is true and natural that excessive heat would lead to inactivity and fatigue, and that there is a close relationship between crimes and the seasons of the year, when quarrels in the summer take place between neighbors and in public places.

For example, the most common cases that happen during the summer include traffic accidents, which are usually caused by driving under legal age, driving without a license, etc, in addition to beatings, thefts, as well as electronic crimes which are committed online by those who probably have a lot of spare time and long holidays.

I believe that families are responsible of spreading awareness among their kids, instead of leaving them to occupy their free time with video games and other forms of electronic entertainment, which could come with negative consequences. Also, parents must not allow their children

to drive vehicles without reaching the legal age, in order to protect their lives and the lives of others.

Perhaps the most prominent scene we see nowadays are quarrels that occur on streets because of minor traffic accidents, or a dispute over a parking spot, which may ignite a big fight and traffic jam. And while we are talking about the summer's heat, we should not forget about cleaners who roam the streets from early morning, and I hope that everyone would try to give them a small meal and water to help them cope with their difficult work in a very hot environment.

I know that we cannot control the weather, but you have to overcome negative behavior of others. I hope that people would try to enjoy exercise, swimming, listening to quiet music and avoiding exposure to the sun during peak hours. It is good that there are many travelers abroad these days, as road congestion gets eased. The real days of summer time just started.

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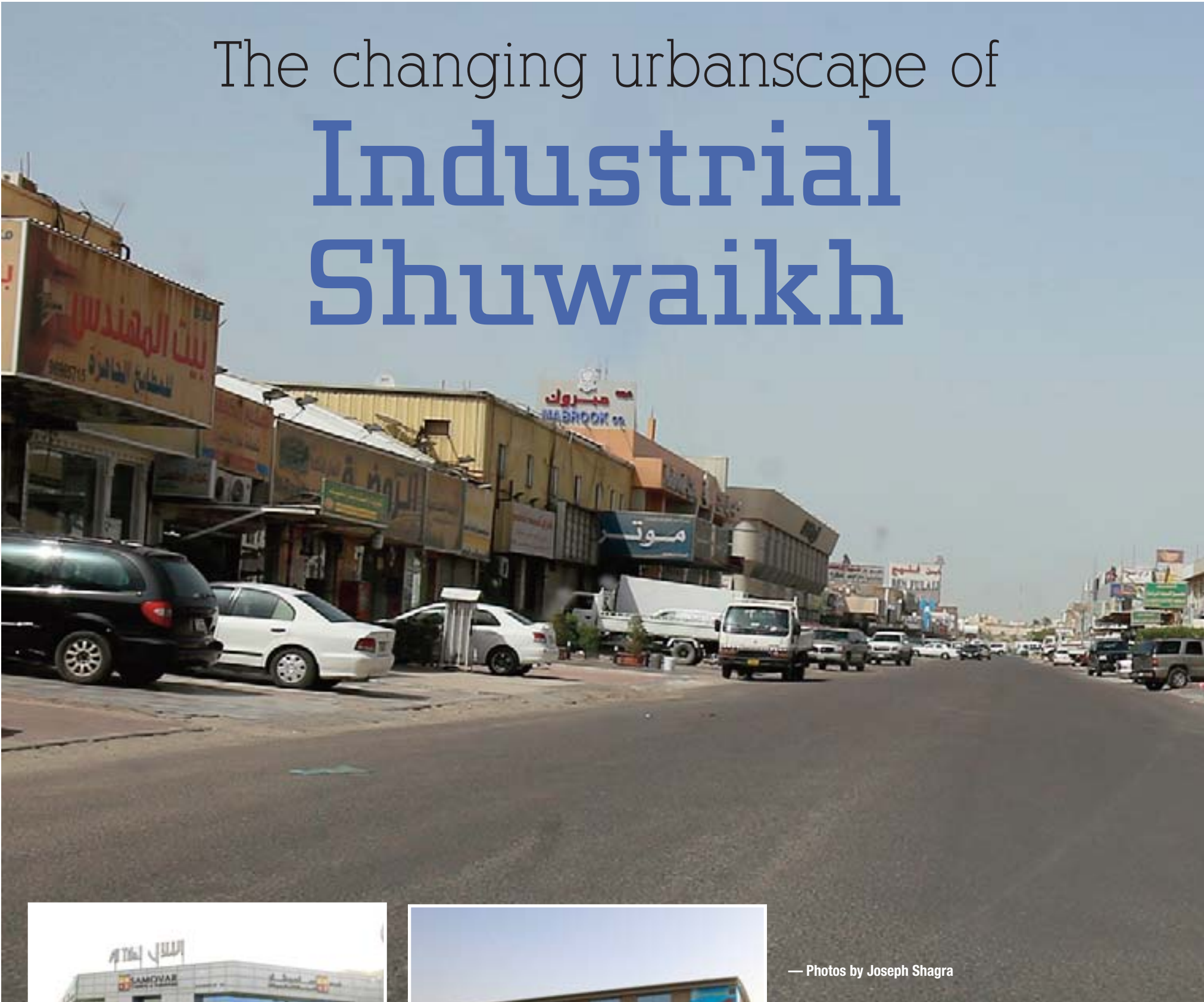


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The changing urbanscape of Industrial Shuwaikh



— Photos by Joseph Shagra



By Faten Omar

As part of our occasional series exploring various areas of Kuwait, Kuwait Times visited Industrial Shuwaikh to discover the main features of this area. Industrial Shuwaikh is located in the Capital governorate near Kuwait City. The area is known as an industrial hub as many manufacturers can be found in this area, along with Shuwaikh Port.

The area also has hundreds of car repair shops and garages, media offices and printing presses, blacksmithing and carpentry shops and shops selling all kinds of hardware, paint, building materials, etc.

Along with the older, industrialized parts of Shuwaikh, a newer, hipster area is flourishing. Several boutique shopping complexes flush with hip coffee houses and art galleries have also sprung up in the area.

Local



Mixed with the smell of oil and paint and heavy trucks trundling down the narrow lanes, one can find luxury vehicles driven by young, fashionably-dressed people. The juxtaposition of these scenes in an industrial zone can sometimes seem jarring.

Latifa Al-Rasheed, a student at Kuwait University, told Kuwait Times that new complexes and cafes that have opened in this area attract a number of young people because of their modern decor and unique ambience. "The area also has galleries that showcase art and recycled pieces," she added.

Another visitor to the area, Fawaz Al-Ahmad, expressed displeasure over the crowds on Canada Dry Street. He said Industrial Shuwaikh is full of businesses and is an active area visited by everyone - old or young.

Heavy traffic is common during the day and increasingly at night in some hotspots of Industrial Shuwaikh.

Exhibition of old Kuwaiti-Qatari relations kicks off in Doha

Event open at 'Katara' cultural village



DOHA: Participants take a group photo during an exhibition on the old Kuwaiti-Qatari relations, which kicks off recently in Doha, Qatar. — KUNA

DOHA: The Cultural Village Foundation (CVF) inaugurated on Wednesday the Kuwaiti-Qatari relations exhibition, in cooperation with the 965 Expo Group for heritage and handicraft exhibitions. General Manager of Cultural Village Foundation-Katara Khaled Al-Sulaiti lauded in an inaugural speech the opening of the exhibition for the first time at Katara, a cultural village in Doha.

He said that the exhibition "is the fruit of efforts and cultural cooperation that we and brothers in Kuwait have made over a long time." Sulaiti said that the exhibition includes a large collection of heritage, cultural, creative, valuable and artistic documents and possessions from owners of private museums, researchers, craftsmen and creative people of Kuwait. He noted the support of Katara for holding such art exhibitions is part of its efforts to offer heritage, enrich the cultural scene and promote cultural cooperation between the two countries to push it to the highest levels as well as share experiences and common interests with the Qatari creative people.

Meanwhile, Mohamad Kamal, founder of 965 Expo for heritage and craftsmanship exhibitions, thanked Katara for its big support to the exhibition and attention to arts, culture, heritage as well as creative people.

He said the five-day exhibition includes rare and valuable pieces, documents and manuscripts provided by 17 members out of 130 of the Expo 965. He explained that the exhibition was titled the "Kuwaiti-Qatari relations" as it contains many collectibles and documents pertaining to

the old Qatari-Kuwaiti trade. The exhibition also contains a book on the founder of Qatar dating back to 1905 and a large collection of foreign and Arab books and magazines and rare collectibles as well as others.

It also has a car registration of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, when he was serving as head of Social Affairs Department in 1960, and a car registration of Qatar's ruler Sheikh Ahmad bin Ali Al Thani and the watch of Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani as well as cables of congratulations from Kuwait's rulers to Qatar's rulers, Kamal elaborated.

He went on to say that the exhibition includes documents dating back to the 1930s pertaining to sheikhs and rulers of Kuwait and Qatar, trade, rare maps, number plates of cars, possessions of Kuwaiti and Gulf houses, banknote, the Indian rupee and others. He pointed out that the show includes

a collection of marine acquisitions, old ships, marine documents, metal making, jewelry industry and others. It has manufacture of jewelry, knitting of textiles, calligraphy and painting, and the collection of rare artifacts such as original manuscripts, valuable books, medal, decorations, stamps and coins.

The show aims at preserving heritage and traditional handicrafts, and encouraging artists in both Qatar and Kuwait to excel in innovation and abide by authenticity. Acting chargé d'affaires at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Qatar counselor Nasser Al-Ghanem and many of the media people attended the inauguration of the event. — KUNA



**Documents
dating back
to 1930s
exhibited**



Social media challenges traditional newspapers to become more creative

French parliament discussing controversial draft law on fake news

PARIS: Social media services have significantly grown to attract large numbers of people in the past few years, affecting different aspects of daily life as well as guiding public opinion. Many people use social media to read news but when it comes to looking for accurate and 100 percent transparent news, many societies trust newspapers and traditional media sources. In social media, people may mistake the posted news with the comments written by other people on the news itself.

Unlike newspapers, social media websites focus on speed in posting news rather than waiting for accurate and complete information, said Michel Abu Najm, head of Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper's office in Paris. Social media and online media sources pose challenges for traditional newspapers to be more creative in order to attract readers, he noted.

Abu Najm said that social media posts real and fake news together, adding that it is the role of traditional newspapers and media sources to reveal what's real to the readers. You have total freedom when it comes to posting news on social

media, however, in traditional journalism there are certain rules that must be followed in dealing with news, he said.

Worldwide spread

Turning to social media has spread worldwide, not only in the Arab World, writer and journalist George Roger argues. People tend to react to any news posted online, be it real or just rumors, he added in a statement. He warned against the dangers of spreading fake news on society, calling for setting a number of rules and laws to control this phenomenon.

In the same context, the French parliament is discussing a controversial draft law on fake news. The new law will allow any candidate or party to immediately turn to the law to deal with fake news three months prior to an election process. The law will also force social media websites to commit to complete transparency when posting news. The law had sparked many negative opinions in France as some fear that it would be used to limit freedom of speech online. — KUNA

“Turning to social media spread worldwide”



Hot, humid weather during weekend

KUWAIT: Kuwait is still affected by the Indian seasonal pressure which supplies the region with hot and relatively humid air masses, especially on the coastal areas, Kuwait Metrological Center (KMC) said yesterday. Today's weather is expected to be very hot and relatively humid, with light to moderate northeastern to northwestern wind at speeds between 12 and 32 km/h, Weather Forecast Monitor at Kuwait Metrological Center Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi said. The expected maximum temperature will be between 46 to 48 degrees Celsius. The sea state would be light to moderate waves between two to five feet. During the evening, the weather would be relatively hot and humid with light to moderate southeast wind at speeds between eight and 28 km/h. The expected minimum temperature would be between 34 to 36 degrees Celsius. The sea state would be light to moderate waves between one to four feet.

Today, the weather is expected to be very hot and relatively humid with light to moderate southeast wind at speeds between 10 and 30 km/h. The expected maximum temperature would be between 46 to 48 degrees Celsius. The sea state would be light to moderate waves between two to four feet. During the evening, the weather would be relatively hot and humid with light to moderate southeast wind at speeds between 10 and 30 km/h. The minimum expected temperature would be between 33 to 35 degrees Celsius. The sea state would be light to moderate waves between one to four feet. — KUNA



Local

Amir's China trip targets boosting cooperation, mainly on trade

BEIJING: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's second upcoming visit to China holds a special significance in increasing its bilateral cooperation with Kuwait, particularly in regards to joint trade and investments. With one eye on the future, the leader of the first Arab nation to have launched diplomatic relations with China back in 1971, will also look to open new areas for cooperation between the two.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

First on the agenda of his trip to Beijing, which begins tomorrow, will be bilateral talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping. The talks will showcase the signature of a number of agreements, according to China's Ambassador Wang Di.

These deals will target vital sectors such as trade, energy and finance along with China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative, more commonly referred to as the modern-day Silk Road - which Kuwait intends to be a part of amid its own hopes to one day become a global financial hub.

His Highness the Amir also plans to attend the four-day China-Arab Cooperation Forum (CACF) - a dialogue between Beijing and Arab League member countries created in 2004. During his last visit in mid-2009, the Amir signed an agreement for the construction of an oil refinery in China and other bilateral agreements in education, energy, infrastructure, sports and environment protection. — KUNA

Bahraini King praises Kuwaiti, Saudi, UAE supportive stances

MANAMA: Bahraini King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa lauded on Wednesday the supportive stances of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and UAE to support and enhance the stability of the financial situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain. King Hamad said that during his reception of Saudi Ambassador to Bahrain Abdullah bin Abdul-Malik Al-Sheikh, UAE Ambassador Sheikh Sultan bin Hamdan bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, and Kuwaiti Charge d'Affaires Abdullah Al-Shatti at Al-Sakhir Palace, Bahrain News Agency stated.

The Bahraini King pointed to the deep historical ties that unite the brotherly countries of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which have been confirmed in several sit-

uations to reflect the keenness to consolidate these fraternal ties, based on the belief in the unity of common destiny that brings them together.

He expressed his country's appreciation and gratitude to the three countries for their initiative to ensure Bahrain's financial stability, adding that the stances reflect the existing brotherly cooperation and coordination between Bahrain and the three countries. The Bahraini King pointed out the importance of the great role that will contribute to the support of the brothers, which is one of the models of integration between the brothers in the support of a planned program aiming at serving national and public interests. — KUNA



Bahraini King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa

Afghan official commends Kuwait's support

KUWAIT: A visiting senior Afghan official on Wednesday lauded Kuwait's "historic" backing to his country, especially during critical circumstances. Speaking at a press conference at the Afghan Embassy in Kuwait, Deputy Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Hekmat Karzai hailed Afghan-Kuwaiti relations as having been developed since diplomatic relations were forged in 1963.

He hoped that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah would contribute to the peace process and humanitarian relief efforts in Afghanistan. He said his visit to Kuwait is part of continuing talks and consultations

between both sides, considering it an opportunity for him to see the Afghan community in the Gulf country.

The visit also aims at promoting and developing distinguished and positive cooperation between Kuwait and Afghanistan to broader horizons, he added. Karzai went on to say that his country also seeks Kuwait's help in resolving the ongoing conflict there, along with economic backing in the sectors of energy, health and education.

In this context, he said he has already met with officials of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED). He also held talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah and His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

He noted that KFAED officials have agreed to fund a main energy project in Afghanistan, adding that a fund delegation would visit the country soon in order to



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Hekmat Karzai speaks during the press conference. — KUNA

see the situation on the ground. The Afghan official pointed to available major opportunities for Kuwaiti investors to have business in Afghanistan in the domains of transport, energy and mining. On the current situation in Afghanistan, he said cities are safer than villages, reassuring that the situation in general is remarkably improving. — KUNA



KUWAIT: People buy seafood at the Sharq fish market during a daily auction yesterday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Local

Minor accidents' settlement law saves time, prevents congestions

Compensation paid without need to go to court

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The activation of a law that allows motorists to settle minor traffic accidents at police stations will reflect positively on the traffic flow, the Interior Ministry said yesterday. This was made during a press conference that the ministry's General Traffic Department held yesterday to explain the procedures that drivers need to follow in order to settle minor accidents. Ministry officials attended the press conference, including Acting Assistant Undersecretary for General Security Maj Gen Ibrahim Al-Tarrah, Deputy Director General for Investigations Departments Jamal Al-Reesh, and Acting Director General of Relations and Security Information Brig Tawheed Al-Kandari.

The law's activation will help reduce paperwork needed to obtain permission to fix a damaged vehicle, which could take up to 18 months. This process will now be finalized within a few hours, Reesh noted, adding that the law was first enforced in the Capital Governorate last month, and has proven to be successful, before it was implemented at the remaining governorates this past Sunday.

The driver who is determined to have caused the accident will pay a KD 20 fine at the police

station, then the settlement documents will be sent to the insurance company for compensation without the need to go to court, Reesh explained.

Meanwhile, Tarrah said that the new law would reflect positively on traffic, as it saves time and effort while also reduces the burden on police officers. He further explained that in case of an accident, the drivers must move their vehicles to the side of the road to avoid obstructing traffic, and if they will receive traffic tickets if they fail to do so.

In the meantime, Director of Vehicles Department at Gulf Insurance Company Nawaf Al-Koot thanked the Interior Ministry for this new regulation. He explained that when the procedures are completed, the insurance money will be paid within 10 days. Furthermore, he said that those who do not accept the compensation amount can go the Ministry of Commerce and Industry where the case will be discussed, and in case they do not accept the decision, they can go to court.

In other news, the traffic department announced yesterday that a detour will be made on King Fahad Road at the Seventh Ring Road intersection for three days starting today, in order to demolish the old bridge there.



KUWAIT: Officials attend a press conference held by the Interior Ministry yesterday to announce the activation of the minor accidents settlement law. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

Man dies a week after losing wife, kids in accident

KUWAIT: A man who lost his wife and two children in an accident recently has succumbed to his injuries which he had sustained in the same accident. The 26-year-old Egyptian man had suffered severe burns as he tried to save his wife and kids from their burning vehicle after they were involved in an accident a little over a week ago at the Fifth Ring Road. He was hospitalized in a critical condition, and died in hospital on Wednesday.

Work mishap

An Indian man was killed when a steel bridge fell on his back at the Amghara car scarp yard. The incident happened when the bridge accidentally fell while the victim was trying to lower a car from a crane.

Florida Governor happy to be in Kuwait during Independence Day

KUWAIT: Florida Governor Rick Scott expressed his happiness to be in Kuwait and thank US army officers for their services as part of US Independence Day. "I am happy to be in Kuwait this Independence Day to thank our Florida national guard and army reserves for their service," Scott said yesterday. He also said it was his pleasure to meet with US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman and Director of the Office of Deputy

Prisoner attacked

An inmate was taken to Al-Babtain Center for Burns and Plastic Surgery after his cellmate scalded him with boiling water for unknown reasons. The suspect, a Kuwaiti man, boiled the water then poured it on his cellmate, prompting other inmates to call guards. The Central Prison's doctor diagnosed the victim with second degree burns. Authorities are treating the case as a felony.

Two fight

Two citizens were involved in a heated fight inside a Fahaheel store. Both men were arrested but did not reveal why they started their fight. Eye witnesses said however that the two entered in a dispute while they were chasing a girl.

Immoral acts

A Kuwaiti woman accused her neighbor of urging her to commit immoral acts as he left a flirting message on her car. The woman was preparing to enter her car when she noticed her neighbor pointing to a paper that he had left on her car's windshield. When she saw that the paper had a phone number written on it, the woman took it to police and lodged a complaint.

— Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai

Oil sector Kuwaitization reaches 85 %

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Kuwaitization of jobs at the oil sector reached 85 percent, Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Bakheet Al-Rasheedi has confirmed. Responding to inquiries about claims that indemnities of a number of Kuwaiti employees at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and its subsidiaries were canceled, the minister explained that new funds were added to pay the indemnity which is given once the subscription ends in accordance with the social security law.

Asked about the reason for failure to hire newly graduated Kuwaitis and citizens with experience in positions that were instead given to expatriates, the minister noted that KPC and its subsidiaries have annual employment plan for fresh graduates.

Retirement

Minister of Public Works and State Minister for Municipality Affairs Hussam Al-Roumi asked for a list of supervisors who spent 32 years in service at the public works ministry; a step considered the first to refer long-serving employees to re-

tirement. The list may also include employees who do not hold supervisory roles, according to sources familiar with the news.

Meanwhile, minister Roumi said that the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport is working on completing Abdullah Port - Wafra Road which is expected to be ready in November 2019. He added that the ministry is considering requirements to build a ministries' complex at Sabah Al-Ahmad City.

Bedoons' pilgrimage

The hajj affairs department at the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has received 1,300 applications from bedoons (stateless) to perform pilgrimage this year. The department's director Mohammad Al-Mutairi noted in a statement that the applications may drop to 1,000 in case of withdrawal or cancellation. People who performed hajj last year will not be accepted this year, which is a practice followed in order to allow others who did not perform pilgrimage before to go, he explained. A bedoon pilgrim will be requested to pay KD 400 or a little more, while the ministry will pay KD 500 for him or her, he said.



UK urges Russia to give details of nerve attack

Hezbollah's role in Syria exposes limits of US policy

Page 12

Page 14



DARAA: Smoke rises above rebel-held areas of the city of Daraa, during reported airstrikes by Syrian regime forces yesterday. — AFP

Russian jets pound Syrian south

Dark clouds of smoke rise over embattled rebel areas

BEIRUT: Dark smoke rose over areas held by Syrian rebels near the border with Jordan yesterday as President Bashar Al-Assad's Russian allies unleashed heavy air strikes and government forces sought to advance on the ground. The UNHCR refugee agency urged Jordan to open its borders to Syrians who have fled the fighting, saying the total number of displaced now stood at more than 320,000, with 60,000 of them gathered at the border crossing with Jordan.

Assad aims to recapture the entire southwest including the frontiers with the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights and Jordan. The area is one of the last rebel strongholds in Syria after more than seven years of war. With no sign of intervention yet by his foreign foes, government forces seem set for another big victory in the war after crushing the last remaining rebel bastions near Damascus and Homs. State television footage showed giant clouds of smoke towering over fields, rooftops and a distant industrial area, accompanied by the sound of occasional explosions.

After four days of reduced bombardment, intense air strikes resumed on Wednesday following the collapse of talks between rebels and Russian officers, brokered by Jordan. "The Rus-

sians have not stopped the bombardment," Bashar Al-Zoubi, a prominent rebel leader in southern Syria, told Reuters in a text message from the Daraa area, the focus of the government offensive. "The regime is trying to advance and the clashes are continuing." The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, monitoring the war through what it describes as many sources on the ground, said there had been 600 air strikes in 15 hours, extending into yesterday's early hours.

State media said government forces had captured the town of Saida, some 10 km east of Daraa city. A rebel command centre said on Twitter government attempts to storm the town were being resisted after it was struck with "dozens of Russian air raids", barrel bombs and rocket barrages. The two-week-old attack has taken a chunk of rebel territory northeast of Daraa city, where some rebels surrendered. The Observatory said 150 civilians have been killed.

Assad in ascendant

For the president, the Daraa campaign holds out the prospect of reopening the Nassib crossing with Jordan, a vital trade artery. Once Daraa is captured, the campaign is expected to move into the Quneitra area closer to the Golan frontier. Recovering the frontier with the Golan Heights is also important to Assad, reestablishing

his status as a frontline leader in the conflict with Israel, which sent reinforcements to the Golan frontier on Sunday. State TV said yesterday's bombardment had targeted the southern parts of Daraa, a city long split between rebels and the army, and

the towns of Saida, al-Nuaima, Um Al-Mayadan and Taiba. Its correspondent said the army aimed to drive southwards through the area immediately east of Daraa city, where rebel territory narrows to a thin corridor along the Jordanian border.

This would split the territory in two. The army

Russian-backed offensive resumes after talks collapse



has been trying for days to reach the Jordanian border in the area immediately west of Daraa, but had not succeeded in attempts to storm an insurgent-held air base there, the rebel command centre Twitter account said. Fleeing civilians have mostly sought shelter along the frontiers with Israel and Jordan, which is already hosting some 650,000 Syrian refugees. Both countries have said they will not open their borders, but have distributed some supplies inside Syria. Southwest Syria is a "de-escalation zone" agreed last year by Russia, Jordan and the United States to reduce violence.

Near the start of the government's offensive, Washington indicated it would respond to violations of that deal, but it has not done so yet and rebels said it had told them to expect no American military help. For the anti-Assad rebels, losing the southwest will reduce their territory to a region of the northwest bordering Turkey and a patch of desert in the east where US forces are stationed near the border with Iraq and Jordan. Assad now controls most of Syria with help from his allies, though a large part of the north and east is in the hands of Kurdish-led militia backed by the United States. — Reuters

International

Mother Teresa charity home 'sold babies'

Indian authorities seal a home run by the religious order

CHENNAI: Indian authorities said yesterday they have sealed a home run by Mother Teresa's religious order and charged a nun and one other person with baby trafficking. The home in eastern India's Jharkhand state is run by Missionaries of Charity, the order set up by Mother Teresa in India, and provides shelter for pregnant unmarried women.

"They have said that at least five to six babies have been sold to childless couples," police officer Aman Kumar told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a phone interview. "We are investigating to see how the operation was run and how many more children have been given away in the last few years." The Missionaries of Charity did not respond to calls for comment. Arti Kujur, head of the Jharkhand State Child Protection Society, said the home was charging between 40,000 Indian rupees (about \$600) and 100,000 rupees for each baby, depending on what the childless couple could afford.

"We had been receiving many complaints regarding the functioning of this home and were keeping a close watch on them for nearly six months," he said. The Missionaries of Charity stopped organizing adoptions in India in 2015 saying they disagreed with government rules that made it easier for single, divorced, and separated people to adopt children. There have been a number of reports of babies and children being trafficked through charity-run homes and hospitals, which cam-



RANCHI: An Indian nun (center) with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity hides her face as she sits outside a court under police protection before a hearing on child trafficking charges in Ranchi yesterday. —AFP

paigners say is driven by a long waiting list for adoption. The Nirmala Shishu Bhavan home run by the Missionaries of Charity in Jharkhand state capital Ranchi was required to inform authorities about all babies born there. "They were selling more babies than what they were handing over to authorities," said Baidnath Kumar, a

Ranchi-based child rights activist who had filed complaints against the home. Kujur said his organization had directed that the credentials of every home run in the state should be checked. "We hear that babies are being sold in other homes as well and are determined to put a stop to it," he said. — Reuters

Indian Railways live streams from kitchens after food scares

NEW DELHI: Indian Railways has started live streaming from its kitchens so that millions of passengers can see how their meals are prepared after scandals including one involving toilet water caused uproar. The state train provider is trying to convince commuters its food is safe after the government's own corruption watchdog labeled Indian Railways food "unfit for human consumption". In May, public confidence took another blow when a rail caterer was filmed making tea from toilet water.

Complaints about rats and cockroaches near onboard kitchens, and meals plagued with insects, are also commonplace. To clean up its image, Indian Railways launched Wednesday a streaming service on its website allowing travelers to scrutinize hygiene levels in their major kitchens. "This step will further enhance transparency and public confidence in the food preparation and packaging process across the Indian Railways network," its catering wing IRCTC said on Twitter. Private caterers also supply packaged food to the network, one of the world's largest.

The private caterer behind the toilet tea saga was fined 100,000 rupees (\$1,450) for the incident that outrage Indian commuters. The Comptroller and Auditor General, a government watchdog, said in a 2017 report that meals served aboard Indian trains were "unsuitable for human consumption". — AFP



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International

Hezbollah's role in south Syria exposes the limits of US policy

Assad makes rapid gains in offensive near Israeli border

BEIRUT: Hezbollah is helping to lead a Russian-backed offensive in southern Syria, pro-Damascus sources said, exposing the limits of US policy that hopes Moscow can get Iran and groups it backs out of the country. Hezbollah's role in the offensive near the border with Jordan and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights has also defied Israeli demands that Iranian proxies be kept away from its frontier - a fault line of the decades-old Arab-Israeli conflict. "Hezbollah is a fundamental participant in planning and directing this battle," a commander in the regional alliance that backs Damascus told Reuters. "Everyone knows this - the Israeli enemy, friends, and even the Russians."

Hezbollah's role includes directing Syrian forces, the commander said. It has also deployed its own elite forces. But the Iranian-backed group is keeping a lower profile than in past Syria campaigns, acknowledging the risks of Israeli escalation. A senior official in the regional alliance that backs Assad said Hezbollah was fighting "under the cover" of the Syrian army in the south. A European diplomat said Iranian-backed forces were not thought to be taking part "in strength".

For Assad, the campaign holds out the prospect of reopening a vital trade artery to Jordan, reestablishing his control over the Golan frontier, and crushing rebels once deemed a threat because of their proximity to Damascus. The offensive has yet to face resistance from Assad's Western, Israeli or Arab foes. Washington has told rebels it once backed not to expect intervention. Some have surrendered. Politically, the campaign has been one of the most complex yet for Assad. Israel has been pressing his Rus-

sian allies to keep Iranian-backed forces away from its frontier. Israel also wants them removed from Syria more widely, echoing Washington.

Recent Russian calls for non-Syrian forces to leave the south have been seen as partly directed at Iranian-backed forces. White House national security adviser John Bolton said on Sunday President Donald Trump would discuss Syria with Russia's Vladimir Putin at a summit in Helsinki this month. "There are possibilities for doing a larger negotiation on helping to get Iranian forces out of Syria and back into Iran, which would be a significant step forward," Bolton told CBS News "Face the Nation".

Seven years into the war which has killed hundreds of thousands of people, Assad now commands most of Syria with his allies' help, though most of the north and a chunk of the east remains out of his hands. The presence of Turkish and US forces in those areas will complicate further gains. As Assad seeks military victory, there seems little hope of a negotiated peace, with some 6 million Syrians abroad as refugees and 6.5 million more internally displaced. The southwest offensive has uprooted 270,000 people.

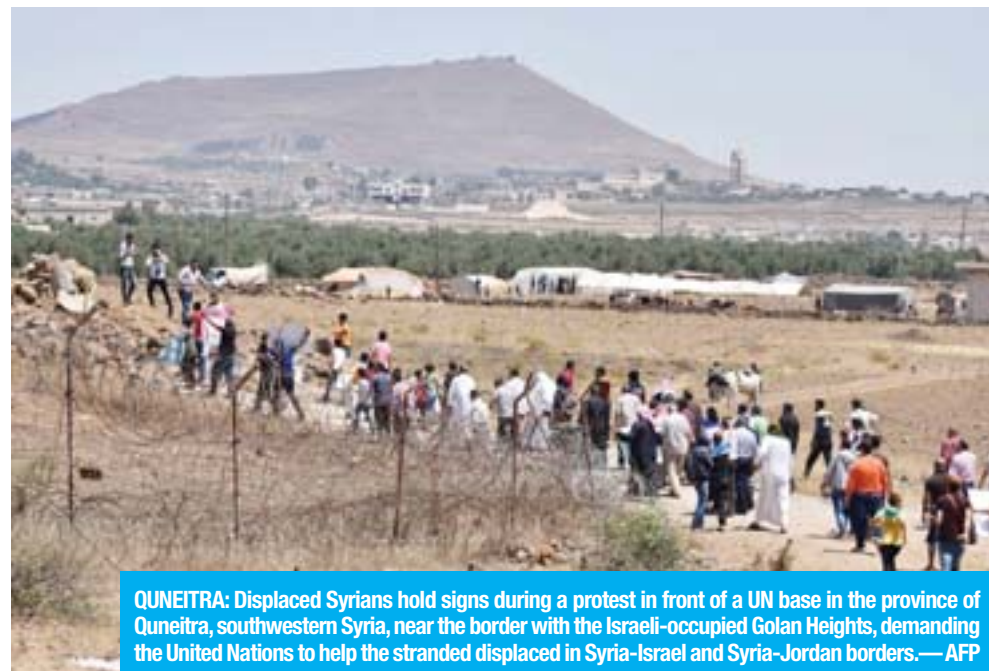
Critical support

Support from Iran and Hezbollah helped Assad survive rebel advances and plug manpower gaps early on, and then win back territory once Russia's air force arrived to help in 2015. Iranian-backed Shiite militias have also been seen as critical in holding territory. On the ground, Russia has deployed some regular forces, military police and private contractors. While Iran and Russia have worked closely together, differences have surfaced recently. No-

Qatari officials at a Washington steakhouse to garner support from members of Congress was a muted affair, without anyone with influence in the Trump administration at the event, according to a person who attended.

President Donald Trump followed the boycott with tweets suggesting Qatar funded terrorism, even though other US officials emphasized it was an ally. "When the blockade happened they (Qatar) had no presence on the Hill," said Joey Allaham, a former adviser to Qatar who was paid \$1.45 million, including costs, for his advocacy work. A year later the boycott remains in force, as the rivals have failed to resolve their dispute. But Qatar has managed to persuade certain lawmakers and influential Americans that it is a US ally in the fight against terrorism and victim of an unfair boycott, interviews with advisers on both sides show. Several Qatari lobbyists said the aggressive strategy, which has cost the small OPEC member tens of millions of dollars, has been about reaching people close to Trump as well as lobbying on Capitol Hill. The country has also hired some people seen as close to Trump, pledged billions of dollars in US investments or business and sponsored Doha visits, according to its advisers and public filings.

Qatar's boycott followed long simmering tensions in the region, with countries such as Saudi



QUNEITRA: Displaced Syrians hold signs during a protest in front of a UN base in the province of Quneitra, southwestern Syria, near the border with the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, demanding the United Nations to help the stranded displaced in Syria-Israel and Syria-Jordan borders.—AFP

tably, tension flared last month when Russian forces arrived unannounced in an area of Hezbollah deployment near the Lebanese border. The Russians withdrew the next day.

The official in the pro-Assad alliance said the United States appeared to be hoping to "substitute" Iranian influence with Russian influence, but this would be futile. Russia and Iran have an "understanding" in Syria, the official added. "The battlefield situation in Syria will not be reversed. The regime and its allies have very wide

control," the official said. Assad has said Hezbollah and other allies will stay a long time. Excluding Iran and Hezbollah from the southwest was one objective of contacts between the United States, Russia, Israel and Jordan that had sought - unsuccessfully - to stave off a government offensive, the European diplomat said.

"I suspect that a few Iranians will not cause the Israelis too much concern, but larger numbers of Iranians or Hezbollah would," the diplomat said.—Reuters

Lobbying battle

Rich from large natural gas reserves, Qatar has lavished at least \$24 million on lobbying in Washington since the start of 2017. That compares with a total of \$8.5 million Qatar paid in 2015 and 2016 for lobbying, Justice Department filings show. It has hired people close to Trump. Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, for example, said he worked for the Qataris on an investigation and visited Doha just weeks before becoming Trump's personal lawyer in April. Giuliani declined to give details, telling Reuters that he has not spoken to Trump about his Qatar work. Qatar's opponents have a formidable offensive of their own.

The UAE and Saudi Arabia shelled out about \$25 million each over the same period and had allies such as Elliott Broidy, a Republican fundraiser also close to Trump. In May last year, Broidy bankrolled a conference about Qatar and the Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamist group that Egypt and other Doha rivals have accused of terrorism, according to Mark Dubowitz, head of the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, a think-tank that organized the conference. It was at this conference that Ed Royce, chairman of the powerful House Foreign Affairs Committee, disclosed plans for a bill naming Qatar a sponsor of terrorism. Royce introduced the bill two days after the conference.—Reuters

Inside the Qatar's charm offensive to win over US

WASHINGTON: There was much bonhomie as a few dozen people, including members of Congress and US administration officials, gathered last week for dinner in a posh Washington neighborhood in honor of Qatar's foreign minister. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin sat next to the minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani. "You have been a great friend to the United States," Mnuchin told Thani, praising Qatar for its cooperation on counter-terrorism financing efforts.

The scene was a stark contrast from just a year ago. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt severed ties with Qatar in June 2017, accusing it of fomenting regional unrest, supporting terrorism and getting too close to Iran, all of which Doha denies. At the time, a dinner with

and the UAE angry about the tiny but rich Gulf nation's outsized role in regional affairs, sponsoring factions in revolts and civil wars and brokering peace deals across the Middle East. The United States, closely allied to countries on both sides, has found itself in the middle and tried unsuccessfully to mediate. Qatar hosts the Middle East headquarters for US air forces. An administration official said the United States fears the rift could allow Iran to enhance its position in the Gulf if Tehran supported the Qataris. Trump wants "the dispute eased and eventually resolved, as it only benefits Iran," a US State Department spokeswoman said.

Indeed, since the boycott Iran and Qatar ties have improved. Tehran opened its airspace to Qatar Airways when Saudis and others closed theirs, while Qatar restored full diplomatic relations with Iran. This boycott violates the "right of an independent country like Qatar to choose its allies," said an Iranian official, who previously served as ambassador to the UAE. Iran's foreign ministry declined to comment. Yousef Al Otaiba, the UAE ambassador to the United States, said: "Rather than hoping for Washington to enforce a solution to the crisis, Qatar should establish a dialogue directly with the UAE and its neighbors." The Saudi embassy in Washington did not respond to a request for comment.

International

Trump's visit puts Brexit dependence on the show

Britain seeking to shore up trade ties as Brexit nears

LONDON: When Donald Trump visits Britain next week, Prime Minister Theresa May will have to face a harsh reality: Brexit makes Britain more dependent than ever on an alliance with the most unpredictable US president in living memory. Sandwiched between a NATO meeting and a summit with Russia's Vladimir Putin, Trump's first visit to Britain as president comes at one of the most important junctures for Europe and the West since the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union.

From challenging Western assumptions about the EU and free trade to courting the Kremlin and North Korea's leader, Trump has delivered on his promise of an "unpredictable" US foreign policy. That leaves May, who held hands with Trump at the White House during her visit after his inauguration, in a difficult position as she seeks closer trade ties with the United States to offset the disruption of leaving the EU on March 29, 2019.

"The irony is that by leaving the EU, the United Kingdom will be less useful to Washington as an ally but it will also need the United States much more," said Jeffrey A. Stacey, a former State Department official in Obama's administration. "So May has been thrown into the arms of the most unpredictable U.S. president in living memory," Stacey said. Over 50,000 people have signed up for a protest on Trafalgar Square in central London against the Trump visit, which will include a meeting with Queen Elizabeth and possibly even a round of golf at his Turnberry course in Scotland.

Even taking account of Trump's penchant for deal making, the visit is likely to be heavy on

rhetoric about an increasingly lopsided "special relationship" and short on specifics such as the details of a post-Brexit trade deal. For supporters, Trump and Brexit offer the prospect of breaking free from what they see as obsolete institutions and rules that have weakened the United States and its allies relative to competitors such as China.

But for many British diplomats, Brexit marks the collapse of a 70-year British strategy of trying to balance European integration with a US alliance based on blood, trade and intelligence sharing. "May's rushed diplomacy with Trump has been foolish: what has she actually got out of the relationship so far?" said one senior European diplomat in London, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "You Brits are leaving Europe but do you really want to jump into the arms of Donald Trump's America? And more importantly, do you have a choice?" the diplomat asked.

Holding hands

Trump's victory in the 2016 presidential election shocked British diplomats in Washington and relations between May, a vicar's daughter, and Trump have been strained at times. The enduring image of May's visit to the White House in January 2017, when she became the first foreign leader to meet the president after he took office, was Trump taking May's hand to help her down the steps of a White House colonnade.

But any good vibrations from that moment soon dissipated when Trump, the same day, announced plans to ban migrants from seven Muslim-majority countries - a decision that drew



LONDON: Anti-Brexit protesters demonstrate with placards and EU flags against Britain's exit from the European Union outside the Houses of Parliament in London. — AFP

fierce international criticism and appeared to blindside May. Days later, thousands marched on parliament to protest the decision to offer a Trump full state visit to Britain, and 1.8 million people signed a petition saying the invitation should be cancelled because he might embarrass the Queen.

Trump has repeatedly thwarted British and other European diplomatic overtures, withdraw-

ing from multilateral agreements on climate change, human rights, and a treasured deal to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions in exchange for lifting sanctions. Officials around May insist that Britain still has the capability to influence Trump, outlining a handling strategy that involves appealing to his self interest, "planting the seed" of an idea and allowing him time to consider its merits. —Reuters

Balancing act: British leader's warring factions

LONDON: British Prime Minister Theresa May is seeking to finally unite her divided ministers behind a plan for trade ties with the EU after Brexit, after two years of balancing factions in her Conservative party. Here is an outline of the main camps ahead of today's crucial cabinet meeting:

The cabinet Brexiteers

Gaffe-prone Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson was a lead campaigner for Brexit in the 2016 referendum, offering jokes and an optimistic vision of a newly sovereign nation breaking free from EU rules. He backed out of the Tory leadership race that ensued after being betrayed by his friend Michael Gove, but has used his top job to publicly and repeatedly challenge the prime minister's EU strategy. Gove, an intellectual and Brexit true believer, spent some time in the political wilderness for his betrayal but for the past

year has brought his radical zeal to the job of environment secretary.

He is tipped as a future successor to May and the person she has to convince if she is to win over the eurosceptics. Brexit Secretary David Davis has reportedly been on the brink of quitting numerous times, most recently over May's plans to avoid customs checks in Ireland, and has led the opposition to her latest proposal, again according to media reports. New Home Secretary Sajid Javid opposed Brexit in the referendum but backed the eurosceptics in a dispute over future customs arrangements, and is now viewed as a serious leadership contender.

'Heart of Remain'

Philip Hammond, who is finance minister, has repeatedly expressed concern about the impact of a clean break with the EU on jobs and growth, and eurosceptics accuse him of urging businesses to make public their own fears. In secretly recorded remarks to activists last month, Johnson described Hammond's ministry as the "heart of Remain", referring to the campaign to stay in the EU. Hammond has said he will set out the economic implications of each option of trade partnership discussed by ministers at the meeting. —AFP

EU MPs reject controversial copyright law

BRUSSELS: The European Parliament rejected yesterday a highly controversial EU copyright law proposal that has pitted Beatles legend Paul McCartney against internet giants and the creators of Wikipedia. Lawmakers are now expected to return in September to the plans, which are aimed at ensuring creators of creative content—whether music, movies or news—are paid fairly in a digital world.

The draft law was firmly resisted by major US tech giants as well as advocates of internet freedom, with some campaigners warning it could even spell the end of viral "memes" or jokes. "Today's vote represents a victory for democracy," said Siada El Ramly, head of EDiMA, a lobby representing Google, Facebook and other US tech giants.

Members of European Parliament meeting in the eastern French city of Strasbourg voted 318 against the measure, 278 in favour, with 31 abstentions. The vote would have given MEPs the mandate to start negotiations with member states for a finalised law which Austria, holder of

the EU's six-month rotating presidency, would like finished by the end of the year. MEPs from France, who had staunchly backed the reform, were furious after the vote. US tech giants "who steal from artists and pay no taxes, have won a battle," said MEP Pervenche Beres.

The two most disputed aspects of the reform are an effort to boost revenue for hard-up news publishers and a crackdown on non-copyrighted material on tech platforms such as Google-owned Youtube or Facebook. Major publishers, including AFP, have pushed for the news media reform—known as article 11—seeing it as an urgently needed solution against a backdrop of free online news that has decimated earnings for traditional media companies. But opponents have called it a "link tax" that will stifle discourse on the Internet.

Resistance has been especially heated to Article 13: the proposal to make online platforms legally liable for copyrighted material put on the web by users. Music legend McCartney as well as major music labels and film studios had lobbied politicians urging them to back the changes. But critics said the reform will lead to blanket censorship by tech platforms that have become an online hub for creativity, especially Youtube. It would also restrict the usage of memes and remixes by everyday internet surfers, they said. Wikipedia went down in at least three countries on Wednesday in a protest at the upcoming European Parliament vote. — AFP

International

UK urges Russia to give details of nerve attack

US, Russia tensions spike over new nerve agent case

AMESBURY: Britain called on Russia yesterday to provide details about the Novichok nerve agent attack on a former double agent and his daughter after two British citizens were struck down with the same poison. The two Britons, a 44-year-old woman and a 45-year-old man, were critically ill after an apparently chance encounter with the poison near the site of the March attack on ex-double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia.

Britain has accused Russia of poisoning the Skripals with Novichok - a nerve agent developed by the Soviet military during the Cold War - in what is the first known offensive use of such a chemical weapon on European soil since World War Two. Russia, which is currently hosting the soccer World Cup, has denied any involvement in the March incident and suggested the British security services had carried out the attack to stoke anti-Moscow hysteria.

"The Russian state could put this 'wrong' right. They could tell us what happened, what they did and fill in some of the significant gaps that we are trying to pursue," British Security Minister Ben Wallace said. "I'm waiting for the phone call from the Russian state." Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said he did not know who Ben Wallace was but said Russia had offered Britain its assistance in investigating the nerve agent attack and had been rebuffed. Prime Minister Theresa May, speaking alongside Chancellor Angela Merkel in Germany during a visit to Berlin, said it was "deeply disturbing" that two more people had been exposed to Novichok, adding her thoughts were with the people of the area.

In the latest twist in one of the most mysterious poisonings in recent years, the two Britons, who were taken ill on Saturday, were initially thought to have taken an overdose of heroin or crack cocaine. But tests by the Porton Down military research centre showed they had been exposed to Novichok. Britain has notified the global chemical weapons watchdog, the Organization for the

Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), about the poisoning. It is unclear how the two Britons, whose background has nothing to suggest a link to the world of espionage or the former Soviet Union, came into contact with the poison, which is slow to decompose. "The working assumption would be that these are victims of either the consequences of the previous attack or something else, but not that they were directly targeted," Wallace said. Paramedics were called on Saturday morning to a house in Amesbury after the woman, named by media as Dawn Sturgess, collapsed. They returned later in the day when the man, Charlie Rowley, also fell ill. Amesbury is located seven miles (11 km) north of Salisbury, where Skripal - a former colonel in Russian military intelligence who betrayed dozens of agents to Britain's MI6 foreign spy service - and his daughter were found slumped unconscious on a bench on March 4.

Contamination

Health chiefs said the risk to the public was low, repeating their earlier advice that the public should wash their clothes and use cleansing wipes on personal items. But the exposure of two British citizens to such a dangerous nerve agent will stoke fears that Novichok could be lingering at sites around the ancient English city of Salisbury. Andrea Sella, professor of inorganic chemistry at University College London, said Novichok nerve agents were designed to be quite persistent and did not decompose quickly. "That means that if a container or a surface was contaminated with this material it would remain a danger for a long time," Sella said. "It will be vital to trace the movements of this couple to identify where they might have come into contact with the source." After the Skripal poisoning, police investigators in protective hazmat suits scoured Salisbury. They may return, police said. The March attack prompted the biggest Western expulsion of Russian diplomats since the Cold War as allies sided with May's view that



AMESBURY: A still image taken from video footage recorded shows a man on a stretcher being put into an ambulance by medics and police outside a residential address in Amesbury, southern England. — AFP

Moscow was either responsible or had lost control of the nerve agent. Moscow hit back by expelling Western diplomats, questioning how Britain could know that Russia was responsible and offering rival interpretations, including that it amounted to a plot by British secret services. — Reuters

UK nerve agent incident: What we know

LONDON: The exposure of an apparently random British couple to the same nerve agent used against former Russian double agent Sergei Skripal, in the same region, has sent officials scrambling to discover the source of the contamination. Here is what we know about the latest incident.

The poison

Police said samples from both patients, who fell ill on Saturday, were sent to defense laboratory Porton Down on Monday due to concern over their symptoms. Police said the tests confirmed that the substance was Novichok, a Soviet-designed nerve agent, although police could not confirm it was the same batch used against Skripal on March 4.

Investigation

The local Wiltshire police force initially suspected the couple had fallen ill after using heroin or crack cocaine from a contaminated batch of drugs. Counter-terrorism police took over the investigation on Wednesday after the exposure to Novichok was confirmed. Counter-terrorism police chief Neil Basu has said there is no evidence to suggest that the man and the woman, named locally as Charlie Rowley and Dawn Sturgess, "were targeted in any way". Government officials have said the two may have been exposed to the poison accidentally following the previous attack on the Skripals. — AFP

Poisoned couple: Their last hours before falling ill

AMESBURY: The two Britons exposed to nerve agent Novichok spent Friday in Salisbury before falling ill a day later and being taken to hospital in critical condition, according to their friend. Salisbury is the southern English city where former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter were found poisoned back in March-by the same nerve agent. The latest victims of the poison were named by their friend Sam Hobson, 29, as Charlie Rowley and Dawn Sturgess.

Hobson said that Sturgess was living in a homeless hostel in Salisbury and Rowley was a drug user who lived in Amesbury, a small town about eight miles north of Salisbury.

"We were all in Salisbury... we went in lots of different shops and went to Elizabeth Gardens to have a drink, it was a nice summer's day," said Hobson said. Then his friends "went off to have a chat". Hours later, an ambulance was called at around 0915 GMT to treat a woman who had lost consciousness at a house in Muggleton Road in Amesbury, where Hobson said Rowley lived. When Hobson turned up there on Saturday morning, he was met by "loads of ambulances", firemen and emergency service crews in protective clothing.

Rowley told him Sturgess had complained of headaches and then collapsed with "foam coming out of her mouth." "He called the ambulance because she stopped breathing," he said. After the paramedics left, Hobson and Rowley went to a Boots pharmacy, where Rowley wanted to collect a prescription. They then stopped at for a meal at a Baptist church before returning to Muggleton Road, where Rowley fell ill as

he was packing a bag to take to his girlfriend in hospital. "He started feeling really hot and sweaty... so he went and had a shower, he was in his bedroom for a while and then he came out and felt a bit weird and started acting all funny," said Hobson. "He was sweating loads, dribbling, and you couldn't speak to him. "He was making funny noises and he was rocking backwards and forwards and there was no response from him, he didn't even know I was there. It's like he was in another world, hallucinating."

A panicked Hobson called an ambulance at around 1430 GMT. Police initially assumed the couple had taken contaminated drugs, a claim immediately rejected by Hobson, saying that Sturgess "doesn't take drugs."

He believes they must "have gone somewhere contaminated" in Salisbury. Samples were taken from the couple on Monday "due to concern over the symptoms" and sent to the military laboratory at nearby Porton Down, according to head of counterterrorism Neil Basu.

Areas taped off

Late on Wednesday, Basu said tests had shown the pair had been exposed to Novichok, the same nerve agent that poisoned Yulia and Sergei Skripal in Salisbury on March 4. In the town, the Queen Elizabeth Gardens park and a rubbish bin outside the John Baker House homeless shelter were cordoned off, with the shelter evacuated yesterday.

The hostel is a short walk away from Zizzi's-the restaurant where Skripal and his daughter had their last meal before falling ill. In Amesbury, the Baptist church centre, the Boots pharmacy, and the house in Muggleton Road were also taped off. More than 100 counter-terror detectives are working on the case, in addition to the local police force. According to the latest police statement, no one else has displayed any symptoms with the risk to the public "low", although big questions remain as to the source of the contamination. — AFP

International

‘No kid left behind’: Macron tries to fix France’s education system

Education reforms aim to reduce inequality in system

MONTEREAU-FAULT-YONNE: In a primary school in a run-down neighborhood south of Paris, a teacher asks his first-year class how to spell words in a text on dinosaurs. The enthusiastic six- and seven-year-olds eagerly raise their hands and answer correctly. All 10 are brimming with confidence after a full year with about half as many pupils in their class as in most French primary schools. “No kid is left behind,” teacher Sebastien Ducoroy said after the lesson at Les Ormeaux school in the town of Montereau-Fault-Yonne, about 70 km south of the French capital.

The school is one of about 4,000 in deprived areas where the size of classes has been cut under reforms intended by President Emmanuel Macron to reduce inequality in education and prepare students better for the job market. Education is the latest battleground in a campaign by Macron to remake France from its core, shaking up politics and revitalizing the economy to make it more competitive globally.

As in many other reform areas, the centrist president has encountered resistance from unions, protests and ideological divides but is managing to push through changes in education which he believes will help business as well as job seekers. The reforms range from directives such as making school compulsory from the age of three instead of six and banning mobile phones in class, to encouraging the study of Latin and Greek and foreign languages.

But public attention has focused mainly on the smaller primary school classes, and on plans to overhaul the baccalaureat, the school-leaving exam introduced by Napoleon in 1808, and introduce an element of selection for universities. More scope to specialise is promised in areas such as computer science and coding, to match the needs of the digital world. “From kindergarten to university, we’re changing everything,” Macron, 40, said in a television interview in April.

The plans have angered some French people. They see the reforms as an assault on a system that has long offered a nationally standardized curriculum under which every French citizen would be taught the same things wherever he or she was. But Macron, who is married to his former teacher, wants to update the system to meet the needs of modern France better. Pupils’ chances of escaping their socio-economic background are smaller in France than in any of the other 71 countries surveyed, according to an analysis by policy think-tank OECD in a global education study. This does not chime with the national motto of “Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite” (Liberty, Equality, Fraternity) posted in every French school, or with Macron’s vision of French society.

Macron also wants to help employers who often complain they cannot find workers with the right skills even though the unemployment rate remains high at 9.2 percent.

Macron confident

Macron appears confident of forcing through what he calls the biggest changes in education since school became free and compulsory in France in the 19th century. The reforms sailed through parliament, where his En Marche movement has a big majority, and protests have been more subdued than some French expected in a country where student strikes sparked widespread civil unrest in 1968. Students occupied campuses earlier this year to challenge the introduction of slightly more selective entry requirements for universities but their protests have fizzled out.

Macron sets out to reform France from its core

So far, big business is broadly positive about the reforms. Florence Poivey, who recently sold a plastics processes business after 28 years at the helm, welcomes changes she hopes will put more focus on giving school leavers practical skills. “We clearly feel that the education system is changing, that those in charge of it realize that they

need to not only educate citizens but also prepare young people for real life,” Poivey, who is now head of the education and training committee at Medef, France’s main employers group, told Reuters.

“We can see that countries that are ahead of us economically are countries where the education system is much more focused on preparing young people for their future,” she said, citing Germany, Switzerland and Denmark as examples. At Les Ormeaux school, the reduction in classroom numbers has gone down well. Teacher Ducoroy, 42, was sceptical at first but said first-year pupils had learnt to read and write faster than in previous years.

Collecting her twin sons at the school gate, Fouzia Drief, 45, said she appreciated the amount of attention the boys received in small class. “The teachers are able to take good care of them,” she said. An opinion poll carried out among primary school teachers by the FSU, France’s biggest teachers union, also showed broad support for reducing the number of pupils in first-year classes in poor neighborhoods. Head teacher Gerard Mouroux welcomed the policy but added a word of caution after seeing education reforms in the past overturned as soon as another government took office. “We’d quite like for the reforms to last a bit, to let things settle and ... have some consistency throughout the school,” he said. —Reuters

12 arrested in riots over police killing of French youth

NANTES: Twelve people were arrested after a second night of rioting in the western city of Nantes triggered by the deadly shooting of a young man during a stop-and-search operation by police. The killing of the 22-year-old, identified by local media as Aoubakar F, risks inflaming simmering tensions in deprived urban areas in France where residents frequently complain of police brutality. Rioters set fire to several dozen cars for a second night running Wednesday and fought pitched battles with the police in the low-income district of Breil where Tuesday’s shooting took place and surrounding neighborhoods.

Several public buildings, including a police station, were damaged and a dozen shops were torched, despite calls by the victim’s family for calm. Eleven people were arrested in Breil and one person was arrested in the Paris suburb of Garges-les-Gonesse where Aoubakar F. grew up. The victim was under surveillance as part of a drug-trafficking investigation when he was stopped by police while driving at around 8.30 pm. The police said he was not carrying ID and that they attempted to arrest him. Nantes prosecutor Pierre Sennes said that the driver then “apparently tried to escape the search by quickly reversing.” Police sources said he reversed into one of the officers, prompting his partner to open fire—but a witness said the car was at a halt when the driver was hit in the neck by a single bullet. A police oversight body is investigating the killing. The driver had been wanted by police in Creteil, near Paris, for robbery and other offences. On a visit to Nantes yesterday, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe condemned the riots and promised “the fullest transparency” about the circumstance’s of the man’s death. Interior Minister Gerard



NANTES: People stand near a burned city hall yesterday in the Dervallieres neighborhood of Nantes, following clashes between groups of young people and police in the night of July 3 after a man was shot dead by an officer during a police check. —AFP

Collomb said Wednesday “all the necessary resources” were being deployed to calm the situation.

Contradictory accounts

A woman who filmed the incident, who wished to remain anonymous, said “there were no police behind the car, he didn’t hit anyone. There was only the one gunshot.” French police have a long history of strained relations with youths in poor suburbs with large immigration populations, while officers frequently complain about being targeted. In January, the government vowed a crackdown on urban violence after a shocking video emerged of a policewoman being beaten by a crowd in the Paris suburbs on New Year’s Eve. —AFP

Merkel hosts Orban with anti-migrant wind blowing

BERLIN: Angela Merkel and Viktor Orban held talks yesterday, days after the German chancellor made key border policy concessions to hardliners who have embraced the Hungarian leader’s anti-migrant stance. Orban, a populist firebrand who has spearheaded a drive against European asylum policies fiercely defended by Merkel, could not resist gloating over his first invitation to Berlin in three years. “The moment came that no one thought possible no matter what the circumstances: Angela Merkel requested a meeting with Viktor Orban, and not vice versa,” the daily Magyar Idok, which is closely aligned with Orban’s government, wrote this week.

“The initial, much-criticized Hungarian resistance,” as well as the “persistent unity” of Central European states against migrants, and a recently declared Austrian-Italian-Bavarian “axis” on border policy “have together decisively turned the EU debate on the refugee issue in a different direction”. “New winds are blowing in Europe,” it said. —AFP

International

Ethiopian reform wave rolls on, opposition 'no longer terrorists'

Prison chief axed over torture allegations

ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopia fired its prisons chief and took three opposition groups off its "terrorist" list yesterday, the latest steps in Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's bold push to shake the African giant from decades of security-obsessed rule. The sacking of the head of the prison service, along with four senior colleagues, came hours before a Human Rights Watch report that detailed torture at one notorious prison and urged the government to hold officials to account.

Announcing the dismissals, Attorney General Berhanu Tsegaye said prison officers must respect individual rights outlined in the constitution, a rare public rebuke to the country's security apparatus. His remarks echoed Abiy's stunning criticism of security forces last month in which the 41-year-old, who holds a doctorate in peace and security studies, acknowledged widespread police brutality and likened it to state terrorism.

"Does the constitution stipulate that prisoners should be flogged and beaten? It does not," he told a televised sitting of parliament. "Police flogged. This is unconstitutional. Police were terrorists." In office for just three months, Abiy

has turned politics on its head in the Horn of Africa nation of 100 million. Foremost among his reforms was the launch last month of peace talks with neighbor and sworn enemy Eritrea, against whom Ethiopia waged a 1998-2000 border war in which 80,000 people are thought to have died.

He has also rescinded a state of emergency and announced plans to partially open up the economy, including attracting foreign capital into the state-run telecoms company and national airline - both mouth-watering investment prospects given Ethiopia's size and pacy growth. Following the recent release of political prisoners, parliament ruled yesterday the Oromo Liberation Front and the Ogaden National Liberation Front, two secessionist groups, and the 'Ginbot 7', an exiled opposition movement, were no longer "terrorist" groups.



Reforms meet opposition from the hardliners

Turning point

The shake-up by the polyglot former soldier from the Oromo ethnic group, Ethiopia's largest, has won plaudits from Asmara to Washington and drawn comparisons to the 1980s 'perestroika' reforms of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. However, it has also attracted opposition from hardliners in the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF), the ethnic Tigrayan party that has dominated the ruling

EPRDF coalition - and by association the country and economy - for nearly three decades. Two people were killed in a grenade blast at a massive pro-Abiy rally in Addis Ababa last month, with the finger of blame pointed at those opposed to his reform

drive. There has been no claim of responsibility but the attack underscored the scale of Abiy's challenge and raised fears - including from Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki - that Ethiopia's new leader may not prevail.

"Ethiopia is now at a turning point or transition. What is the destination? How will this be achieved?" Isaias said last month in Asmara's first response to Abiy's peace overtures. In Tigrayan areas near the Eritrean border, locals criticized Abiy's olive branch to Asmara, while the TPLF warned that it would "not take part in any process that harms the people of Tigray". It later struck a more conciliatory tone, saying it welcomed Eritrea's positive response to Abiy's overtures. However, some former top-level 'securocrats' are not going quietly.

Major-General Teklebrhan Woldearegay, who quit as head of the INSA cyber-security agency in April, told a Tigrayan radio station this week Abiy was "being undemocratic and acting like a king". Gebreyesus Gebregziabher, the axed prisons chief, is a TPLF member while his replacement is from Abiy's party, the Oromo People's Democratic Organization. Abiy was elected to the helm of the four-party EPRDF in March after three years of violent protests by ethnic Oromo and other groups who felt they were being exploited and abused in an economic development drive.—Reuters

Nigeria's ruling APC splits, could hamper Buhari re-election

ABUJA: Nigeria's ruling party has split after a faction declared that it no longer supports the government of President Muhammadu Buhari, threatening his hopes of a securing a second term in an election due early next year. A group of politicians who were part of the All Progressives Congress (APC) told a news conference in Abuja late on Wednesday they had formed a new faction, led by former Buhari ally Buba Galadima and called Reformed-All Progressives Congress (R-APC). "The APC has run a rudderless, inept and incompetent government that has failed to deliver good governance to the Nigerian people," R-APC national chairman Galadima said. He said the faction, described as the authentic voice of the APC, has representatives in all Nigeria's local government wards and states.

Rifts within the APC could split support for Buhari within powerful patronage networks and among voters ahead of an election expected to be held in February. Buhari, a 75-year-old former military ruler, said in April that he would seek another term. His candidacy depends on party approval, though that is usually seen as a formality for the incumbent. Nigeria's political parties must select their candidates for the election between Aug. 18 and Oct 7. Nigeria is Africa's top oil producer and richest economy. It plays a key role in the regional fight against Islamist militants. —Reuters

New Armenia PM targets former elite in graft crackdown

YEREVAN: Nearly two months after mass anti-government protests propelled him to power, Armenia's new premier Nikol Pashinyan has launched an all-out crusade against corruption that has long eroded the ex-Soviet republic. Armenians were under no illusions about their ruling elite but allegations that a former war hero diverted humanitarian aid to feed animals in his private zoo have shocked the public. Pashinyan was elected in May after he brought tens of thousands of people onto the streets of the poor South Caucasus nation against deeply-unpopular veteran leader Serzh Sarkisian, forcing him to resign. As an MP who headed a small opposition party, Pashinyan built his popularity on promises to uproot the endemic graft that has long been the cause of anger against leaders. Last month, investigators began looking into alleged crimes within the government, arresting two senior officials.

They also started investigating the army, customs officials and school. Searches were made of the houses of Sarkisian's brother and nephew. Investigators said the company of the former had failed to pay some \$600,000 (514,000 euros) in taxes. But the biggest shock was in mid-June when police arrested retired army general Manvel Grigoryan, who was also an MP in Sarkisian's formerly ruling Republican party. The 61-year-old hero of Armenia's war with Azerbaijan in the 1990s over the breakaway Nagorno Karabakh region was accused of large-scale misappropriation of state goods and illegal arms possession.

Weapons, luxury cars

Republicans initially denounced the arrest as "unlawful and politically motivated," but after prosecutors released evidence relating to the charges, they issued a statement renouncing him as a party member. Public television aired video footage of the search in Grigoryan's country mansion where police found a cache of weapons, a collection of luxury cars along with vehicles that were intended for the military but registered in the names of his relatives.

Investigators claimed Grigoryan—who was in charge of delivering humanitarian aid to the army in his capacity of the head of the military veterans' union—used food parcels sent by schoolchildren to Armenian soldiers to feed animals in his own zoo. He has been stripped by parliament of his immunity from prosecution as an MP



YEREVAN: Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan speaks during an interview with AFP in Yerevan. —AFP

and placed in pre-trial detention. "We are dealing with the biggest corruption exposure in the country's history," Pashinyan told his cabinet. The crackdown has also exposed tax fraud by major companies linked to the Republican party.

Plot to kill premier

Analysts said the extent of corruption revealed since Pashinyan has come to power had dealt a death blow to the Republicans. "The corruption in Armenia is a Soviet legacy, but even in the Soviet era it was not this ugly and widespread," independent analyst Hakob Badalyan said. "There is a popular consensus that such crimes wouldn't have been possible without the former government's complicity." Another analyst, Vigen Hakobyan, said Grigoryan's arrest "was a heavy blow to Republicans, they bear the moral responsibility. Their chances of winning the next elections are now equal to zero."

Protest hero-turned-prime minister Pashinyan may have already transformed the country's political landscape, ousting old elites from power, but analysts have warned of possible "resistance by corrupt officials who feel they are at the end of their tether." "Pashinyan and his government pursue the anti-corruption struggle step-by-step, cautiously as they realize that some powerful forces might try to fight back," said Hakobyan. —AFP

International

In India's parched Bundelkhand, drought brings tide of migration

'There is hardly any greenery left'

IGLAS: Khuba Chand increasingly finds himself alone in Iglas, a drought-parched village in the Bundelkhand region of India's Madhya Pradesh state. Unable to sow a crop without rain, his son and older brother left last winter for New Delhi, to work as laborers. But Khuba has remained with his wife and daughter, unwilling to abandon his four cows and buffalo. "There are very few people left in the village," the 53-year-old said. "Many have moved with their families. They sold their cattle at cut-rate prices. But some of them didn't sell mainly because there were no buyers."

He hopes to hang on. "But keeping the cattle is not easy now. There is hardly any greenery left in the village. There is a severe shortage of fodder and water for cattle," he said. As ever-lengthening drought becomes the new normal, Bundelkhand, a parched region split be-



tween India's Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh states, is clearing out. The central Indian region of nearly 70,000 square kilometers once received about 800 to 900 mm (31-31 inches) of rain a year, according to India's Meteorological Department.

But over the last six to seven years, in particular, that total has nearly halved, with the number of monsoon rain days falling from 52 to 24 over the June to October monsoon period, according to D.K. Dubey, a scientist with the agency. That has

caused repeated and widespread crop failures - and a growing tide of farmers abandoning their land to try to find work in nearby cities.

'Emptied out'

Around half of the four million farmers living in the region have migrated temporarily or permanently since last year, according to Bundelkhand Jal Manch (the Bundelkhand Water Forum), a non-governmental organization working in the area. In Chand's village, in Tikamgarh district, only a quarter of the 70 farmers working there 10 years ago now remain. Chand's 80-year-old neighbor Milan Khan remembers when farmers were able to produce enough grain and milk to make a reasonable living.

Many have moved with their families

But that has become increasingly difficult over the last 15 to 20 years, he said. "Due to successive droughts, most of the villagers have exhausted all their savings and now are not in a position to invest in agriculture this year," Khan said. "They have no money to buy seed, fertiliser and pesticides." His wife, Roshani, blames the changing weather. "Now, in Bundelkhand, the weather has become erratic and unpredictable. We get very little rain during monsoons," she said. As a result, it's become hard to grow vegetables, she said, and "wheat and other crops have been failing regularly".

while, her retirement notice has yet to land at the Supreme Court as of yesterday afternoon, spokesman Michal Laskowski said. Gersdorf said she plans to go on holiday as of next week and that Judge Jozef Iwulski would temporarily stand in for her during her absence. Iwulski himself confirmed this on Wednesday saying: "I only fill in if she (Gersdorf) is absent." President Duda, however, regards Iwulski as the interim Supreme Court chief justice.

'Abnormalities'

Earlier yesterday, right-wing Justice Minister Zbigniew Ziobro also insisted that there was no doubt about the constitutionality of the retirement law and that Gersdorf was now a pensioner. "Under the constitution, Mrs. Gersdorf has retired because she exceeded the age limit of 65," he told state broadcaster Polish Radio, adding that Gersdorf has not filed a complaint with the Constitutional Court against the new retirement law. "This is the only body (Constitutional Court) that could decide whether a law is compatible with the constitution," he said.

The Constitutional Court also underwent controversial reforms introduced by the right-wing Law and Justice (PiS) government in 2016. Critics allege the changes were unconstitutional and stacked the court with PiS allies. Seven of the Constitutional Court's 15 judges yesterday signed a letter accusing the body's chief justice Julia Przylebska of "abnormalities" in appointing judicial panels and presiding judges in cases the court adjudicates. Przylebska, who joined the court in 2015 at the recommendation of the PiS government, denied any wrongdoing. —AFP



MADHYA PRADESH: A view of the locked doors of homes in Ataria, a drought-parched village in the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh state. —Reuters

Hulas Prajapati, a farmer in Ater village, in neighboring Chhatarpur district, is similarly losing hope. "When I was young, we used to have enough production both for our consumption and sale in the market. But during the last decade production has been continuously decreasing," the 40-year-old said. As a result, "villages have emptied out," he said, with most of his neighbors heading to cities last year after their rainy season crop failed, along with the dry season crop following it.

Now uncultivated fields surround much of the

village. According to a study carried out in May by Bundelkhand Jal Manch, up to 55 percent of farmers once living in rural areas of the Bundelkhand region have migrated at least temporarily to other places since last November. The study, conducted in about 200 villages in the region, found that most of those migrating were 15 to 45 years old. District magistrate's offices in the region and the Madhya Pradesh Minister for Revenue's office said they did not collect or release figures on such migration. —Reuters

The standoff over Poland's Supreme Court intensifies

WARSAW: The standoff over Poland's Supreme Court intensified yesterday as the president insisted its chief justice Malgorzata Gersdorf must retire under a law she has rejected as unconstitutional and the EU has criticized as a threat to judicial independence. Gersdorf, 65, has refused to comply with the law that took effect on Tuesday at midnight and reduces the retirement age for Supreme Court judges from 70 to 65.

She has branded the court changes—which has put Poland's Law and Justice (PiS) government at loggerheads with Brussels—a "purge". Gersdorf was back at work again yesterday, firm in her position that the constitution sets her term as chief justice at six years, overriding the new law. Thousands of supporters had greeted her when she arrived on Wednesday. But insisting that she must go, President Andrzej Duda yesterday sent retirement confirmations to several Supreme Court judges, including Gersdorf, presidential aide Andrzej Dera said yesterday.

Calling Gersdorf a "pensioner", Dera said any official business she conducted was "invalid by law", according to the Polish news agency PAP. Mean-

Rohingyas' scars 'consistent' with atrocity reports

HONG KONG: Rohingya Muslims' accounts of being shot, hacked and wounded by explosives are supported by forensic evidence, according to a report by physicians who examined them in refugee camps in Bangladesh. The report, compiled by Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) and seen by Reuters, will be published later in July. It is the first large-scale effort by medical experts to corroborate the accounts of refugees.

US-based PHR investigates mass atrocities globally and shared a Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 for its work medically documenting landmine injuries. The PHR report focused on refugees from the village of Chut Pyin. Myanmar security forces fired on civilians, raped women and burned homes, survivors and Rohingya from neighboring villages told Reuters. They estimated hundreds were killed. The Myanmar government and Myanmar military did not respond to requests for comment on the report.

Officials have said previously that security

forces were conducting legitimate counter-insurgency operations against "Bengali terrorists" and have rejected almost all allegations of atrocities committed by troops. Of the 25 Chut Pyin survivors examined by PHR, 22 had physical injuries, according to the report. Seventeen had gunshot wounds, five had suffered blunt trauma such as from kicking or beating, three had wounds from explosions or burns, three had penetrating injuries such as from stab wounds, and two had suffered sexual violence.

"All the forensic examinations and medical records were highly consistent with the histories that the survivors described," said PHR. "Chut Pyin exemplifies the campaign of violence that Myanmar authorities have carried out against the Rohingya people" and "should be investigated as crimes against humanity", the report concluded. More than 700,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled across the border from Myanmar since August 2017, when the Myanmar military launched a crackdown following a series of insurgent attacks on dozens of police posts and an army base.

Reuters, PHR and humanitarian groups have placed Myanmar's 33rd Light Infantry Division in Chut Pyin in the days before security forces swept through the village. Commanders from the 33rd held a series of threatening meetings with Rohingya leaders, attendees said. At another meeting later, a 33rd commander said its troops had attacked the village, an attendee said. —Reuters

International

More rain feared as Thai rescuers plan how to extract trapped boys

Rescuers consider four options

CHIANG RAI: Rescuers in Thailand were no closer yesterday to deciding when and how to extract 12 boys and their soccer coach from a flooded cave complex, where they were found this week, hungry and frail but otherwise in good health, after nine days lost underground. The search and rescue operation for the junior soccer team, who disappeared in the cave in the northern province of Chiang Rai on June 23, had seemed to be nearing an end when British and Thai divers found the boys late on Monday, huddled on a small, muddy bank in a flooded chamber.

But rescuers now have to figure out how to get them out, through several kilometers of dangerously flooded tunnels, or even to attempt to bring them out for now. One possibility is that the 13 stay put in the Tham Luang cave until the flood waters recede, at the end of the rainy season in about four months.

But some officials say the boys could be out in days if the weather is on their side and enough water can be pumped out of the cave network to enable the boys to get out the same way they got in, just before heavy downpours hit the region, on foot through muddy tunnels, perhaps with some swimming. A third option would be to teach the boys to use scuba gear, and they then dive through the flooded tunnels, the way their rescuers reached them. A fourth possibility would be to find an alternative way into their chamber.

Kobchai Boonarana, deputy director-general of the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation department, said it was up to the rescue team in the cave to decide if and when the boys would be strong enough to tackle the journey out. "Their conditions, we can see that their morale is good but what about their strength and their ability? That's

up to the team inside to decide," Kobchai told reporters yesterday. "Our job is to keep pumping out water and it is up to the team inside to assess the safety level and whether the kids can travel safely through," he said.

Regional army commander Major General Chalongchai Chaiyakum, said it took rescuers 11 hours to do a round-trip from the cave's entrance to the group and back, often battling powerful currents in the murky water. Rescuers had to contend with days of heavy rain that flooded the cave complex at the beginning of the search but the weather has been relatively dry for the past four days. But the meteorological department warned that up to 60 percent of the country's north, including Chiang Rai, can expect heavy rain from July 7 to July 12. Authorities have sent in food, water and medical staff, some of whom stay with the boys full time.

'Power of love'

Chiang Rai governor Narongsak Osotanakorn said all members of the group did not have to be brought out at the same time, but could be extracted over days, depending on the weather. "We're assessing weather conditions, if it rains and the water level rises, how many hours, days do we have?" he said. King Maha Vajiralongkorn thanked those involved in finding the soccer team nicknamed the Wild Boars. "This circumstance has clearly shown the power of unity in action, power of love and goodwill towards fellow men regardless of race and religious beliefs," the king said in a letter.

Some relatives of the boys gathered yesterday near the cave, where only a few rescuers were marching up to its entrance, in contrast to days of



MAE SAI: Dirt is moved to absorb water at a pumping site at Tham Luang cave area as operations continue for the 12 boys and their coach trapped at the cave at Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park in the Mae Sai district of Chiang Rai province.—AFP

frantic activity during a search that has grabbed media attention around the world. One mother said she had not been able to contact her boy. "We can't send them messages yet," said Ratdao Chantrapul, 37, the mother of 14-year-old Prajak Sutham. "Yesterday, they tried to take in mobile phones but the bag it was in broke," she said. Volunteers have been descending on the cave site to join the multinational rescue team, which includes Australian police, US military personnel and British cavers as well as more than 1,000 Thai army and navy personnel.

Father and son team Rafael and Shlomi Aroush

drove for 12 hours from their home in Udon Thani province to help with the rescue effort, arriving at the cave yesterday. Rafael, 53, who is from Israel but has lived in Thailand for more than 30 years, said he had been inside the cave 25 years ago and found that it was more difficult to navigate than other caves he had tackled. "It's very narrow. The way divers have to work is not a normal way of diving. The visibility is also really bad. You're diving blindly," Aroush told Reuters. He said it would be challenging for the boys. "Learning to dive is easy, but this is not normal diving," he said.— Reuters

Inequality drives migration crisis for Haiti, Dominican Republic

OUANAMINTHE: Chaos reigns at the Ouanaminthe bridge that separates Haiti and the Dominican Republic, where haphazard checks by border agents and the sight of people avoiding the gate by crossing a river instead are symptomatic of a growing migration crisis. This is one of four official crossings where thousands of Haitians are being summarily deported each month as part of an immigration crackdown.

Rights activists say the expulsions are based on racial profiling and the darker skin of Haitians, with many native-born black Dominicans being caught up in the process, and families torn apart as a result. "The vast majority of people being expelled are unable to prove their citizenship because they lack documentation," even if they

were born in the Dominican Republic, said International Organization for Migration head of mission Fabien Sambussy. "And the biggest problem with these expulsions is that families are being split apart."

Sometimes, adults are deported without their children. At other times, children sent back try to return to find their parents, while some Haitian children are sent unaccompanied to the border to go and live with a relative in hope of a better life. Many end up at Sainte-Therese center, a temporary home for children awaiting reunification with their families—a difficult if not impossible task when parents themselves are residing in the Dominican Republic without documents.

Driven by grinding poverty and high unemployment, Haitians make the eastward journey every year to their wealthier neighbor that shares the Caribbean island of Hispaniola. Relations between the two countries have long been tense, but the influx of cheap labor was begrudgingly accepted, until the Dominican Republic launched a hardline policy in 2015.

The numbers are startling. In 2017, Dominican authorities recorded the expulsions of 57,687 Haitians. That sum has already nearly been matched in the first six months of 2018, with more than 11,200 in May alone. —AFP

Nicaragua human chain calls for Ortega ouster

MANAGUA: Thousands of Nicaraguans formed a human chain Wednesday to demand the departure of President Daniel Ortega and an end to months of violence that has left at least 220 people dead. Waving blue and white Nicaraguan flags, the demonstrators lined one of the main roads leading from the capital Managua in the latest high-profile protest against the 72-year-old president. "The people have risen up and we are telling Comandante Ortega to leave, to resign, the people are not afraid of him," said a 27-year old protester with a flag in his hand. Many of the protesters were employees of companies located next to the highway.

Earlier, Ortega's younger brother, former

army chief Humberto Ortega, called for early elections and the dismantling of violent pro-government paramilitary groups to help resolve 2.5 months of unrest. Ortega made public his proposals contained in a letter to a Catholic Church-mediated national dialogue between government and opposition, meeting in a bid to end anti-Ortega protests and government repression that have wracked the Central American country since April 18. The retired general, who has often taken a critical view of his brother's administration, proposed bringing forward elections scheduled for 2021 to 2019 a key opposition demand he called a "peaceful solution to the tragic crisis we are suffering."

By holding early elections, the president would "say yes to peace," which will help the economy recover, as well as regenerate investment and tourism, said the younger Ortega. He also urged the government to dismantle the paramilitary groups and called on the opposition to tear down barricades used to seal off parts of cities from the police, "no matter how righteous your reasons may be.—AFP

Lifestyle

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A model presents a creation by Jean-Paul Gaultier during the 2018-2019 Fall/Winter Haute Couture collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP

Standing ovation at Valentino caps Paris couture week

See Page 22

LIFE OF ABE LINCOLN'S SON ON DISPLAY AT HILDENE IN VERMONT

The “Land of Lincoln” is the state slogan for Illinois, but there’s a Lincoln family outpost in the lush mountains of southern Vermont. Abraham Lincoln, who started his political career in Illinois, never made it to Vermont, but his son Robert Todd Lincoln built his stately summer home Hildene in the Green and Taconic mountains of Manchester. Robert Todd Lincoln was already a wealthy man by the time construction was completed on the 24-room Georgian Revival home in 1905. He had served as the Secretary of War and ambassador to Great Britain and at the time was president of the Pullman Palace Car Company, one of the largest companies in the nation.



In this photo Lincoln family photographs are displayed at Hildene, the summer home of Robert Todd Lincoln, son of President Abraham Lincoln, in Manchester, Vt. In the foreground are photos of Robert, left, and his wife Mary Harlan Lincoln, and at rear are Abraham, right, and Mary Todd Lincoln.



Photo shows goats that are kept at one of the dairies at Hildene.



Photo shows an interior sitting room at Hildene.



Hildene, the summer home of Robert Todd Lincoln, son of President Abraham Lincoln, is visible from the formal garden of the estate in Manchester, Vt. — AP photos

He first visited Manchester when his mother was a guest of Equinox House, a 19th century hotel still in business today that catered to the wealthy escaping summer heat on the coasts. Years later he visited the town with Edward Swift Isham, his law partner and a native of Vermont. After falling in love with the area, Lincoln purchased over 400 acres of land in 1902. The name Hildene, an old English word he picked up during his time in London, described the land itself: “a hill with a valley and a stream.” The home was built on a high point in the land overlooking the Batten Kill valley.

A home for the family

The home is kept in a style Lincoln would have recognized. The 1,000-pipe Aeolian organ he built for his wife is one of the first things to greet visitors as its music booms through the halls. Despite the grandeur of the location and size of the home, the decor is almost modest for the setting, reflecting the fact that this was mainly a home for the family.

He originally fashioned himself as a gentleman farmer and the kitchen is stocked with curious gadgets that, while current in his time, give the tour

guides an opportunity to quiz visitors on their function. The bedrooms housed a number of noteworthy guests, including William Howard Taft, a US president and Supreme Court justice.

Outside the home are equally impressive landscapes. The formal garden just off the back end of the house is framed by the two mountain ranges and views of the valley below. A tram ride takes visitors between the sites. The more adventurous can hike across the property, which includes wetlands along a stretch of the Batten Kill, a small river known world-wide for its elusive trout. Visitors are encouraged to make use of Vermont’s seasons. In winter, they can snowshoe or cross-country ski between the sites.

Robert Todd Lincoln died at the home in 1926. The Lincoln family held onto Hildene for three generations until Peggy Lincoln Beckwith’s death in 1975. Beckwith did not have any children and the property was initially donated to the Church of Christ, Scientist. When the home fell into disrepair, a group of Manchester locals formed a nonprofit to purchase the home and turn it into a museum. Now in its 40th year, the Friends of Hildene organ-



Photo provides a view of the Battenkill valley from Hildene.

ization has worked to provide a more complete view of Lincoln family life. “We have to keep everything fresh. The reality of a standalone house museum is that if you’ve been there, you’ve been there,” president Seth Bongartz said.

President’s stovepipe hats

The staff at Hildene has interpreted Lincoln’s forward thinking as an invitation to update the property for new guests. The property includes two functioning, modern farms, with dairies where goats and cows produce chevre and tomme cheese. They also run summer camps and students from a local high school can take courses on agriculture on the property.

In 2011 Hildene added a restored 1903 Pullman car. One of the few wooden frame models remaining, the rehabilitation process took four years after the staff located it in South Carolina. That site is on the Vermont African American Heritage Trail, and the staff acknowledges the complicated history of the company. The porters, initially freed slaves and their descendants, were often paid meager wages but over time their tips and exposure to the nation’s most influential men helped form a black middle class.

Robert Todd Lincoln was the only one of his siblings to survive into adulthood and carry on the family name. Despite the fact that Abraham Lincoln was assassinated four decades before the completion of the property, the home does acknowledge the most well-known member of the family. Outside the main entrance to the home is an outline of the Kentucky cabin where Abraham Lincoln was born. About the same size as the portico, it illustrates how far the family came in a generation. The home also features a rotating exhibit on the Lincolns, currently focused on Lincoln’s second inaugural address. And of course they prominently feature one of the president’s stovepipe hats. — AP



A stovepipe hat that belonged to Abraham Lincoln is displayed at Hildene.



Photo shows a Pullman Palace Car on display at Hildene.

Three indicted for kidnapping 'Halloween' actress, actor

Three people have been formally charged for kidnapping "Halloween: Resurrection" actress Daisy McCrackin and actor Joseph Capone, holding one naked in a bathtub for 30 hours while demanding the other pay a \$10,000 ransom. Keith Andre Stewart, Johntae Jones and Amber Neal were charged with 17 felony counts, including kidnapping, assault with a firearm, grand theft, mayhem and conspiracy and possession for sale of methamphetamine, according to a grand jury indictment unsealed Tuesday. Prosecutors say the three of them traveled to McCrackin's home on May 3, where Stewart pistol-whipped Capone. The trio then placed

black hoods over the actors' heads and drove them to Jones's home in Compton.

There, the trio stripped Capone naked and forced him to stay in a bathtub for 30 hours without food. Jones and Neal meanwhile took McCrackin's car and drove her to various banks demanding she pay at least \$10,000 to free Capone. Eventually, McCrackin was forced to write a check for the same amount to Neal, who deposited it into her account, the indictment says. The group brought McCrackin back to her home on May 4, where she escaped and contacted police, leading to the defendants' arrest. Neal's arrest with her hands up in front of multiple police

cars and police officers with their weapons drawn, has been viewed more than 3.2 million times on Twitter, the original poster suggesting it was an example of police brutality toward African Americans.

The Los Angeles District Attorney's Office said Stewart and Jones face a maximum possible sentence of life in state prison without the possibility of parole if convicted as charged, while Neal faces up to life in prison. Bail was set at \$1 million for Jones and Neal, and \$2.08 million for Stewart. They are due in court for a pretrial hearing July 23 at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center county courthouse. — AFP



In this file photo Daisy McCrackin attends a luncheon for a special tribute to David LaChapelle's documentary Rize on March 3, 2006 in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

A 'Japanese tip': The origami art left by diners



In this picture Yuki Tatsumi sits next to his collection of origami made from chopstick sleeves in Kameoka, Kyoto prefecture. — AFP photos



A collection of origami made from chopstick sleeves owned by Yuki Tatsumi in Kameoka, Kyoto prefecture.

Yuki Tatsumi was waiting tables at an izakaya pub in Japan's Kyoto when something on the table caught his eye a chopstick wrapper folded and fiddled into an abstract shape. It was the catalyst for a collection that now includes some 15,000 pieces of found "origami art" made by customers folding the paper sleeves that cover chopsticks at Japanese restaurants. "The very first one I found just looked like a bit of junk," 27-year-old Tatsumi admitted, but it made him think. "What if this is a message for me from customers? Cleaning tables suddenly became something fun, just by thinking about it that way."

Tipping at restaurants is not standard in Japan, but Tatsumi came to see the little folded paper pieces left behind by customers as a "Japanese tip", and started watching out for different types. He soon found there was a huge variety in the pieces left behind by customers, perhaps no surprise in a country where origami is a popular hobby and taught at schools. "I discovered many of them were folded in shapes of traditional good luck items in Japan, like a fan, a crane and a turtle," he said. "I also once found a table decorated like a fish tank, with paper folded like fish and seaweed."

Enchanted by his discoveries, he decided to branch out and ask other restaurants to donate the pieces left by their customers to his collection. In April 2016, he set off on a year-long road trip, asking hundreds of eateries from sushi restaurants to noodle stands to share their trans-

formed paper sleeves with him. He encountered some curiosity, and even reluctance, from restaurateurs bewildered about why he would want something usually headed straight for the garbage. But eventually 185 places from northern Hokkaido to southern Okinawa promised to keep whatever they found and send them to him.

Better than cash

"Many of the restaurant owners that helped me told me afterwards that they now find it more rewarding than a real tip in cash," Tatsumi said. "It may sound hard to believe, especially for those outside Japan, but this way of showing appreciation that is unique to each person is something

very pleasing." Now working as a researcher at an art museum in Kameoka near Kyoto, Tatsumi has around 15,000 pieces, each stored in its own small wooden box, like a piece of precious jewelry. Many are simple, with diners just forming a makeshift chopstick rest out of the sleeve.

But others are elaborate, like a black and white patterned piece formed into a dress, or a blue wrapper twisted into a snake, with the folds following the patterns on the paper. He sees them as an unspoken message between customers and their servers in restaurants, and worries that as automated service becomes more common in Japan, the "tips" he collects will disappear. "When you walk into a restau-

rant and only deal with a machine, I don't think you would make these items. I really think these are products created only when people communicate in person," he said.

Tatsumi has already exhibited his collection in Japan, and plans to take it to art events in Paris and South Korea later this year. He wants the collection to remind people to show appreciation and consideration for what they have. "Japan is a very wealthy country, where you can find something to eat anywhere at any time, but I think people are becoming less appreciative of what they have or who makes the food," he said. "Cash isn't the only way to show your warm feelings." — AFP



Photo shows an origami made from chopstick sleeves owned by Yuki Tatsumi in Kameoka, Kyoto prefecture.



A collection of origami made from chopstick sleeves owned by Yuki Tatsumi in Kameoka, Kyoto prefecture.



Standing ovation at *Valentino*
caps *Paris couture week*



Rarely does the demure Paris couture week see a standing ovation. Even rarer is the whooping and screaming that echoed around the gilded salons of the Hotel Salomon de Rothschild as Pierpaolo Piccioli took his bow following Valentino's collection Wednesday evening.

Mika, Valentino Garavani, Natalia Vodianova and Tracee Ellis Ross all got to their feet as the rousing operatic voice of Maria Callas played out the sumptuous creations from what was the week's strongest collection. Here are some highlights of the last day of haute couture week fall-winter displays.





Models present creations by Jean-Paul Gaultier at the end of the 2018-2019 Fall/Winter Haute Couture collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP photos



Valentino's opera

With the stirring aria of "Casta Diva," the couture seemed to take as its starting point the glory days of the height of legend Callas' career in the 1960s. Giant brushed-back wig hair and an unstructured celadon blue silk gown with intricate intarsia cape opened the 63-look show in that era's exaggerated style. It took 1,120 hours to make. Large round multicolored floral headpieces continued the retro feel. Loose, exaggerated plays on proportion then followed.

Gargantuan scarf-wraps surrounded the body - and one, in



vermilion, came actually attached across the bust. Bows at the collar in mikado, one in fluorescent yellow, were so big they finished at the hip. Despite the size, the looks were never over-the-top as Piccioli ensured to keep the proportions balanced from top to bottom, and in keeping with the models' body size. One floor-sweeping triangular feather dress could have been overpowering, but was modeled on 5ft 10 inch model Kaia Gerber, Cindy Crawford's daughter, with huge va-va-voom hair. It was archetypal dramatic couture.



Models present creations by Valentino at the end of the 2018-2019 Fall/Winter Haute Couture collection fashion show in Paris.



Gaultier's ode to smoking

A tardy Naomi Campbell triggered a dangerous media scrum as she entered Jean-Paul Gaultier. It raised the heat in the already scorching atmosphere as sweating fashionistas fanned themselves with Gaultier-branded fans. It's been banned in public - but smoking, the theme of the fall-winter couture, has evidently not been outlawed as a source of fashion inspiration. The unusual homage by Gaultier to one of the world's dirtiest, and most glamorous, habits made for a typically tongue-in-cheek collection of 73 varied looks. A black tuxedo jacket had the words "Gaultier Smoking" emblazoned on the front.

It was a play on words on the French translation of "tuxedo," le smoking - and one that continued in myriad black and white deconstructions of tuxedo looks. A surreal variation on the red Fez hat from Morocco - a country famed for its shisha pipes - also made an appearance. It covered the face, and from eye slits, the red tassels seemed to hang down like tears. Tulle mouth masks followed white plume boas representing plumes of smoke. But the final creation - a giant silver bridal veil - was the most creative look. Its shimmering, five-meter (16-foot) train was so diaphanous, it licked the air and evoked rising smoke. Pedro Almodovar's muse, actress Rossy de Palma, applauded from the front row.



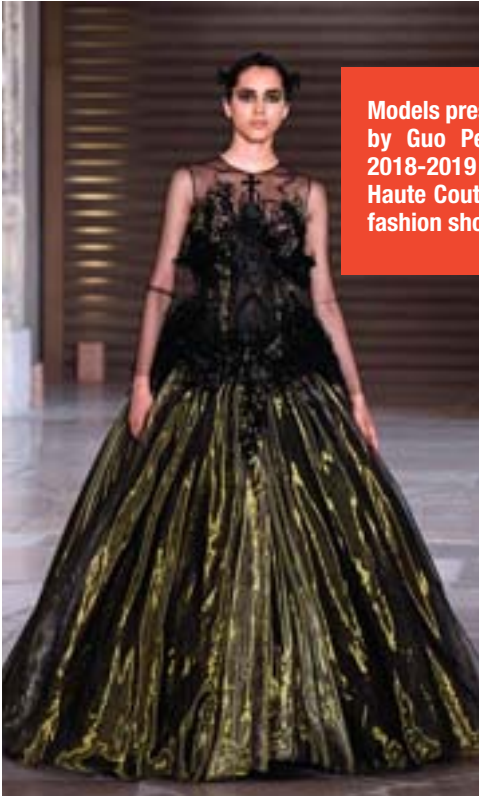
Models present creations by Fendi Couture at the end of the 2018-2019 Fall/Winter Haute Couture collection fashion show in Paris.



Models present creations by Viktor and Rolf during the 2018-2019 Fall/Winter Haute Couture collection fashion show in Paris.



Paris fashion gets tougher on press
Certain Paris Fashion Week houses pride themselves on careful image control and restrictive press access. As privately held brands, this is their right - although it can sometimes be excessive and lead to accusations of elitism. Invitations are sent to carefully selected journalists and buyers, and some houses prefer smaller venues. The system is thought to increase the mystery and cachet of the clothes. Like Balenciaga, Maison Margiela under John Galliano is one of many with a highly strict policy.
For the second season Maison Margiela extended their media clampdown to all photographic outlets, bar two, sending out a note explaining they would be handling the photography mainly "in-house" for Wednesday's morning show. The unusual move means that almost all images of the couture are now under the direct control of the Maison Margiela house. — AP



Models present creations by Guo Pei during the 2018-2019 Fall/Winter Haute Couture collection fashion show in Paris.





Nagasaki is a dynamic city, with memories of a painful past as well as a vibrant, diverse present.

48 hours in *Nagasaki*. A city's powerful character

There is no denying that Nagasaki's intense and turbulent history has forever marked it as a distinct destination. And while taking a journey there grants visitors an important opportunity to learn first-hand about the city's previous struggles, today travellers will also find it to be a vibrant and compelling location full of diverse charm, with a modern energy that embraces the past while looking toward the future. With so much on offer, here's how to make the most of two days in one of Japan's most dynamic destinations.

Day One: Morning

Start your adventure off right by grabbing some deliciously soft and springy pork dumplings from the Shianbashi branch of Butamon Momotaro, a family-run Nagasaki institution that opened its first store in 1960, and now boasts five popular locations across the city.

From there, you can hop a tram bound for Matsuyama-Machi, using the time to relax and take in the sights of the city as you make your way towards the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, located right beside the stop. An essential experience, the

somber museum offers a stark and gripping account of the destruction that befell the city on 9 August 1945 when the bomb was dropped, as well as the aftermath.

Displays include artifacts and relics from the time, such as pieces of twisted shrapnel, crumbled rubble, photographs, furniture and pottery found in the ruins, as well as a clock stopped at 11.02, the exact time of the bombing. Video displays show moving, first-hand accounts from survivors, while educational exhibitions offer information on today's nuclear landscape.

Adjacent to the museum lies the Nagasaki National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, which consists of an upper level with a sculptured water basin and two underground levels, one of which contains 12 glass pillars with shelves of books of the names of the deceased. Visitors are encouraged to leave messages of peace, which are maintained by the hall.

After that, it's a short stroll to Sakanaya, a restaurant that specialises in kaisen-don (rice bowls topped with amazingly fresh assorted sashimi) and offers interesting and delicious set lunches that include cuts of hamachi and boniti, as well as karaage (succulent Japanese fried chicken).

Lifestyle | Travel

Day One: Afternoon

Stretch your legs and work off lunch by taking a walk through Peace Park to see the impressive 10-tonne bronze Nagasaki Peace Statue, designed in 1955 by Kitamura Seibo. A serene spot, especially on a sunny day, the park also includes a Fountain of Peace in the shape of a dove, as well as a sculpture garden.

Rounding off the experience and just a five-minute walk away is the Atomic Bomb Hypocentre Park. Here, a single black-stone column marks the exact point over which the bomb exploded, making it a truly chilling and unforgettable experience. If you're still feeling contemplative, head across the river to Fuchi-jinja, a Shinto shrine at Inasa-yama, the impressive 333-metre high mountain located west of Nagasaki harbor.

Day One: Evening

As daylight gives way to dusk, taking the famous cable car to the top of Inasa-yama is the perfect way to get a true sense of the city. From this spectacular vantage point you have a near-panoramic view of Nagasaki, with the dancing lights of the urban grid bisected by the glistening waters of the harbor.

Having ventured so high, a visit to Onsen Fukunoyu (located on the mountain) is well worth it, and is the perfect way to unwind before heading back to the city. Here, visitors can try the standard wet baths, as well as the ganbanyoku hot stone spa. After descending the mountain, finish your evening off by grabbing a taxi to Shippoku Hamakatsu to sample shippoku-ryori, Nagasaki's impressive banquet-style dinner that sees various courses being served on a large round table.

Day Two: Morning

Approximately 20 kilometres off the coast of Nagasaki stands Hashima Island (also known as Battleship Island or Gunkanjima, due to its unique shape that resembles a war vessel), a former deep sea coal-mining facility that at one time was home to thousands of workers, as well as prisoners of war that



departing the ferry terminal to explore Gunkanjima. While much of the crumbling island is unsafe, guided tours operate along a renovated walkway, offering guests incredible views of the ruined architecture as they listen to the audio guides provided.

The Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum is a stark reminder of, to date, the last place a nuclear bomb was dropped in combat.

Day Two: Afternoon

Back at the terminal, you will definitely have worked up an appetite. Just five minutes away by foot is Japan's oldest Chinatown, which offers a host of restaurants and food stalls that stretch down the street. Stop by Kairaku-en to sample the sumptuous cuisine, including champon, a famous Nagasaki noodle dish featuring pork, squid and vegetables in a milky, salty broth, as well as the rich, braised pork that is served up in steamed buns.

If you still have room for desert, stop by Fukusaya to try their vibrant yellow castella cake before heading towards the Dutch Slopes to take in some of the beautifully-restored architecture that offers glimpses of Japan's early interest in the Western world. Continue on to Glover Garden, taking the moving walkways to the top of the hill and working your way back down again.

Call into the Mitsubishi No 2 Dock building, which boasts fantastic views of the harbor, while the historic Walker, Ringer, Alt and Glover Houses are also well worth a visit. Exit the garden through the Nagasaki Traditional Performing Arts Museum and look at the display of dragons and floats used in Nagasaki's colorful Kunchi Matsuri festival.

From there, work your way back towards the harbor, stopping at Dejima, the fan-shaped artificial island built in the 1640's as the sole trading post for foreigners after the Tokugawa shogunate declared Japan a closed nation. A fascinating slice of history, seventeen buildings and structures have been reconstructed here into the Dejima Museum.

Day Two: Evening

Pull up a chair outside to wind down with a cold beer at Delicious Restaurant Attic at Dejima Wharf or opt for a pick-me-up in the form of a specialty coffee, which comes complete with an intricate latte art portrait of a famous historical figure. For dinner, try Mugal Mahal nearby, an unassuming hidden gem serving incredible Indian food. Set meals come with flavorful aromatic curries, fresh salads, steaming pilau rice, juicy barbecued chicken and just-baked naan breads. After dinner, it's just a five-minute walk to Bar IWI, a cozy local watering hole that serves ¥500 drinks and stays open until 3am, allowing ample time to mingle with the friendly clientele consisting of locals and tourists alike. — (www.lonelyplanet.com)

Visitors come from far and wide to eat at Nagasaki's Chinatown and shop for Chinese crafts and trinkets.



The Nagasaki Peace Statue in Heiwa-koen (Peace Park) weighs 10 tons.

were controversially sent there as laborers. In operation since the 1890s, Hashima was eventually abandoned in 1974 following depleted coal reserves. Today the island is an eerie ghost town, with a cluster of dilapidated buildings that have fallen victim to time and rough sea elements.

From April to October, two cruises to the island are offered by Gunkanjima Concierge, one in the morning (9:40 meeting) and one in the afternoon (12:40 meeting), leaving from the Tokiwa Terminal at Nagasaki Harbor. While it is very much worth a visit, forward planning is essential, with booking ahead being advised through the company's website.

Before leaving, fuel up for the journey at Hotel Bellevue, with a hearty breakfast buffet jam-packed full of local ingredients from across the prefecture. Japanese dishes include egg rolls and pork katsu, while western style items are also available. Pack sunscreen and water, and be sure to use the bathroom before

Make delicious *Boston baked beans* slowly - very slowly

By America's Test Kitchen

The deep flavor and creamy texture of Boston baked beans is the product of simple, yet judiciously chosen ingredients and slow, very slow cooking. It seemed a natural recipe to adapt to the slow cooker and, given our location, we were under pressure to get this recipe just right.

We wanted our slow-cooker “baked” beans to have all the flavor and texture of the real deal and began by determining the correct ratio of water to beans. Once we had evenly tender beans throughout we focused on building flavor with traditional ingredients lamb, onion, molasses, brown sugar, and bay leaves went into the slow cooker.

The flavor was decent but not deep enough and the texture of the lamb was not appealing. We decided it was necessary to pull out a skillet to render the fat from the lamb and soften the onion first, which made the lamb palatable and greatly intensified the flavors of the dish. To brighten things up at the end of cooking, spicy mustard and a splash of cider vinegar went in, along with a touch more molasses to round out the acidity. Don't use dark or blackstrap molasses, which will become bitter tasting in the slow cooker. Be sure to let the beans sit and finish thickening for 10 minutes before serving.



BOSTON BAKED BEANS

Ingredients

- Servings: 6
Start to finish: 8 to 9 hours on high
Slow cooker size: 4 to 7 quarts
1 onion, chopped fine
6 ounces lamb, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
Salt and pepper
6 cups water, plus extra as needed
1 pound dried navy beans (2 1/2 cups), picked over and rinsed
1/4 cup plus 1 tablespoon molasses
- 1/4 cup packed dark brown sugar
2 bay leaves
1 tablespoon soy sauce
4 teaspoons cider vinegar
2 teaspoons dry mustard

Preparation

Microwave onion, lamb, and 1/2 teaspoon salt in bowl, stirring occasionally, until onion is softened, about 5 minutes; transfer to slow cooker. Stir in water, beans, 2 tablespoons molasses, 2 tablespoons sugar, and bay leaves. Cover and cook until beans are tender, 8 to 9 hours on high. Discard bay leaves. Drain beans, reserving 3/4 cup cooking liquid. Return beans to now-empty slow cooker. Stir in reserved cooking liquid, soy sauce, vinegar, mustard, remaining 3 tablespoon molasses, and remaining 2 tablespoons sugar. Cover and cook on high until beans are thickened slightly, about 10 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve.

Nutrition information per serving: 532 calories; 194 calories from fat; 22 g fat (7 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 21 mg cholesterol; 820 mg sodium; 67 g carbohydrate; 12 g fiber; 22 g sugar; 19 g protein.

COOKING ON DEADLINE:

WATERMELON STRAWBERRY SMOOTHIE

By Katie Workman

Holy mother of summer, it's gotten HOT. My dog is sleeping in our shower because the tiles are cool. I'm testing recipes in the morning because I don't want my oven cranking all afternoon. And (this is how I know it's really hot), I may be coming close to drinking my daily recommended amount of water. But water can get a little boring. All this by way of saying, if you have a blender, get it out. Buy frozen berries and

other frozen fruit, or freeze the fresh stuff yourself. Cut watermelon into chunks and stash those in the freezer. Have some honey or agave or simple syrup on hand. Blend it all up, maybe with some crushed ice, or juice, or even some sort of milk or nut milk or yogurt for those of you who are into the creamier thing. Drink. Rinse and repeat. After 5 pm, you may also add liquor to the grownups' glasses. After 4 if it's a Sunday. After 3 if it's above 90 degrees Fahrenheit outside and it's a Sunday.



WATERMELON STRAWBERRY SMOOTHIE

Ingredients
Servings: 2
Start to finish: 5 minutes
2 cups frozen watermelon chunks
1 cup frozen strawberries
1/2 cup crushed ice
1 1/2 cups orange juice, preferably fresh

1 teaspoon lemon juice
1 tablespoon agave or honey, or to taste

Preparation
Remove the watermelon and berries from the freezer and let sit at room temperature for 10 minutes to soften just slightly. Place all the ingredients in a blender. Process until blended and thick.

Serve in glasses with straws.

Nutrition information per serving:
193 calories; 6 calories from fat; 1 g fat (0 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 6 mg sodium; 47 g carbohydrate; 3 g fiber; 36 g sugar; 3 g protein.

THIS GAZPACHO SHINES AFTER A VINEGAR MARINADE BATH

By America's Test Kitchen

Hand-cut vegetables marinated in seasoned vinegar are the key to this stellar gazpacho. Chopping the vegetables by hand ensured they retained their color and firm texture. Letting them sit briefly in a vinegar marinade guaranteed well-seasoned vegetables, while a combination of tomato juice and ice cubes (which helped chill the soup) provided the right amount of liquid.

Chilling our soup for a minimum of 4 hours was critical to allow the flavors to develop and meld. Use a Vidalia, Maui, or Walla Walla onion here. This recipe makes a large quantity because the leftovers are so good, but it can be halved if you prefer. Traditionally, diners garnish their gazpacho with more of the same diced vegetables that are in the soup, so cut some extra vegetables when you prepare those called for in the recipe. Serve with croutons, chopped pitted black olives, chopped hard-cooked eggs, and finely diced avocados. For a finishing touch, serve in chilled bowls.

CLASSIC GAZPACHO

Ingredients

- Servings: 8-10
- Start to finish: 4 hours
- 1 1/2 pounds tomatoes, cored and cut into 1/4-inch dice
- 2 red bell peppers, stemmed, seeded, and cut into 1/4-inch dice
- 2 small cucumbers (1 cucumber peeled, both sliced lengthwise, seeded, and cut into 1/4-inch dice)
- 1/2 small sweet onion or 2 large shallots, minced
- 1/3 cup vinegar
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- Salt and pepper
- 5 cups tomato juice
- 8 ice cubes
- 1 teaspoon hot sauce (optional)

Extra-virgin olive oil

Preparation

Combine tomatoes, bell peppers, cucumbers, onion, vinegar, garlic, and 2 teaspoons salt in large (at least 4-quart) bowl and season with pepper to taste. Let stand until vegetables just begin to release their juices, about 5 minutes. Stir in tomato juice, ice cubes, and hot sauce, if using. Cover and refrigerate to blend flavors, at least 4 hours or up to 2 days. Discard any unmelted ice cubes and season soup with salt and pepper to taste. Serve cold, drizzling individual portions with oil.

Nutrition information per serving: 111 calories; 4 calories from fat; 0 g fat (0 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 327 mg sodium; 22 g carbohydrate; 4 g fiber; 15 g sugar; 2 g protein.



Comic

WORD SEARCH

Spiders 1

Find and circle all of the spider species and anatomy words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message.

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

- ABOOPEN
BLACK WIDOW
BOOK LUNGS
BRAZILIAN WANDERING
CAMEL
CARDINAL
CHELICERAE
CLAWS
EIGHT LEGS
ESOPHAGUS
EXOSKELETON
EYES
- FANGS
FISHING
FUNNEL WEB
GIANT HUNTSMAN
GOLDEN HUNTSMAN
GRASS
HEAD
HEART
INTESTINE
LICHEN
MIRROR
- HOUSE
OGRE FACED
ORCHARD
PEACOCK
PELIPALPS
PELLICAN
REDBACK
RED WIDOW
SETAE
SILK GLAND
SLAHENGE
- SPINNERETS
TARANTULA
TEXAS RECLUSE
THORAX
TRAPDOOR
VENOM
VOILIN
WATER
WEBS
YELLOW GARDEN
YELLOW SAC

CROSSWORD 1952

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15				16								17	
18				19						20	21		
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		26					27						
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47			48			49	50	51			52		
53			54		55		56			57			
		58			59	60	61			62	63	64	65
66	67			68					69				
70				71			72	73		74			
75				76				77			78		
79				80							81		

ACROSS

1. The bill in a restaurant.
4. A cephalosporin antibiotic (trade name Ultracel).
12. Rare (usually fatal) brain disease (usually in middle age) caused by an unidentified slow virus.
15. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
16. (Australian) Boulder.
17. The syllable naming the sixth (sub-median) note of a major or minor scale in solmization.
18. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
19. Italian brandy made from residue of grapes after pressing.
20. An anti-TNF compound (trade name Arava) that is given orally.
22. 16 ounces.
24. Lacking gonads.
27. An artistic form of nonverbal communication.
28. Having the leading position or higher score in a contest.
31. A village in eastern Ireland (north-west of Dublin).
35. Above the surround or above the normal position.
37. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
38. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
39. (prefix) In front of or before in space.
40. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
42. Type genus of the Majidae.
43. A fatal disease of cattle that affects

- the central nervous system.
45. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
46. A period of time spent sleeping.
47. Italian film actress (born in 1934).
49. Projectiles to be fired from a gun.
53. The square of a body of any size of type.
54. East Indian tree bearing a profusion of intense vermilion velvet-textured blooms and yielding a yellow dye.
56. (law) The seat for judges in a courtroom.
59. English scholastic philosopher and assumed author of Occam's Razor (1285-1349).
62. A dialect of Chinese spoken in south-eastern China.
66. Former usage synonymous with Antedon.
69. An abundance of material possessions and resources.
70. A flat wing-shaped process or wing-like part of an organism.
71. United States swimmer who in 1926 became the first woman to swim the English Channel (1903-).
74. Jordan's port.
75. A city in north central Morocco.
76. Inflammation of the aorta.
78. An adult male person (as opposed to a woman).
79. An armed adversary (especially a member of an opposing military force).
80. A famous waterfall in Venezuela.
81. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. An official language of the Republic of South Africa.
2. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
3. A room or establishment where alcoholic drinks are served over a counter.
4. An upward slope or grade (as in a road).
5. Dormouse of southern Europe and northern Africa.
6. Small genus of Eurasian aquatic perennial herbs.
7. A dissolute man in fashionable society.
8. City in central Iran.
9. A literary language of Chinese Turkestan (named for one of the sons of Genghis Khan).
10. The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.
11. The basic monetary unit in many countries.
12. Wearing or provided with clothing.
13. An island in Indonesia south of Borneo.
14. Tropical woody herb with showy yellow flowers and flat pods.
21. Desert shrub of Syria and Arabia having small white flowers.
23. ('cease' is a noun only in the phrase 'without cease') End v l.
25. Used of a single unit or thing.
26. German bacteriologist who described a disease now known as Reiter's syndrome and who identified the spirochete that causes syphilis in humans (1881-1969).
29. A two-wheeled horse-drawn covered carriage with the driver's seat above and behind the passengers.
30. (Irish) Chief god of the Tuatha De Danann.

32. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
33. The seventh month of the Moslem calendar.
34. (Babylonian) A demigod or first man.
36. Small cubes with 1 to 6 spots on the faces.
41. (in Gnosticism) A divine power or nature emanating from the Supreme Being and playing various roles in the operation of the universe.
44. A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
48. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
50. A master's degree in business.
51. A member of a Mayan people of southwestern Guatemala.
52. Small crude shelter used as a dwelling.
55. Either of two spiral-horned antelopes of the African bush.
57. An intersection or crossing of two tracts in the form of the letter X.
58. Affect with wonder.
60. An employee who performs clerical work (e.g., keeps records or accounts).
61. A list of dishes available at a restaurant.
63. Botswanan statesman who was the first president of Botswana (1921-1980).
64. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
65. (Hindu) A manner of sitting (as in the practice of Yoga).
67. A spread made chiefly from vegetable oils and used as a substitute for butter.
68. Hard strong durable yellowish-brown wood of teak trees.
72. United States sculptor and architect whose public works include the memorial to veterans of the Vietnam War in Washington (born in 1959).
73. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
77. A state in midwestern United States.

Yesterday's Solution

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

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

Songs From the Year 2003

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

- ALL I HAVE
ANGEL
BABY BOY
BEAUTIFUL
CLOCKS
COME OVER
DRIFT AWAY
FIGHTER
FRONTIN'
GET BUSY
- GET LOW
GOSSIP FOLKS
HEADSTRONG
I CAN
I WANT YOU
I'M WITH YOU
IGNITION
IN DA CLUB
INTO YOU
INTUITION
- LANDSLIDE
LIKE A STONE
LIKE GLUE
MESMERIZE
MISS YOU
PICTURE
RAIN ON ME
RIGHT THURR
SAY YES
SEÑORITA
- SO GONE
SOMEDAY
STAND UP
STUCK
SUGA SUGA
SUNRISE
SUPERMAN
TROUBLE
UNWELL

The hidden song title is: HOW YOU GONNA ACT LIKE THAT

TV Listings

Friday, July 6, 2018



01:45 The Phantom
03:35 Point Break
05:30 Abducted
07:05 Somnus
08:35 The Phantom
10:25 Point Break
12:30 Resident Evil: Vendetta
14:15 Suicide Squad
16:25 The Veil
17:55 Deepwater Horizon
19:45 Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation
22:00 The Bad Batch



00:45 North Woods Law
01:40 Monsters Inside Me
02:35 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
03:25 Lone Star Law
04:15 North Woods Law
05:02 Mutant Planet
05:49 Pit Bulls & Parolees
06:36 Orangutan Island
07:00 Orangutan Island
07:25 The Animals' Guide To Survival
08:15 Untamed & Uncut
09:10 Lone Star Law
10:05 North Woods Law
11:00 Mutant Planet
11:55 Pit Bulls & Parolees
12:50 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
13:45 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
14:40 North Woods Law
15:35 Monsters Inside Me
16:30 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
17:25 Untamed & Uncut
18:20 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
19:15 The Bronx Zoo
20:10 Life At Vet University
21:05 Mutant Planet
22:00 Dodo Heroes
22:55 Pit Bulls & Parolees
23:50 The Bronx Zoo



00:50 Holby City
01:50 Dickensian
02:40 Dickensian
03:30 Friday Night Dinner
04:00 The Detectorists
04:30 The Detectorists
05:00 Call The Midwife
06:00 Death In Paradise
07:00 Holby City
08:00 Father Brown
08:50 Father Brown
09:40 Death In Paradise
10:40 Father Brown
11:35 Father Brown
12:30 Holby City
13:25 Father Brown
14:15 Death In Paradise
15:15 Father Brown
16:10 Father Brown
17:05 Holby City
18:00 Holby City
19:00 Death In Paradise
20:00 Trauma
20:50 Shakespeare And Hathaway: Private Investigators
21:40 Poldark
22:40 Holby City
23:35 Father Brown



00:00 Homicide Hunter
01:00 Homicide Hunter
01:55 Deadly Wives
02:50 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
03:45 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
04:30 Homicide: Hours To Kill
05:15 Cold Case Files
06:00 The First 48
07:00 It Takes A Killer

07:20 The First 48
08:05 Homicide Hunter
08:50 I Killed My BFF
09:35 Deadly Wives
10:30 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
12:20 Homicide: Hours To Kill
13:15 Cold Case Files
14:10 Homicide Hunter
15:05 It Takes A Killer
15:35 It Takes A Killer
16:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
17:00 The First 48
18:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
19:00 Holloway: Women Behind Bars
20:00 Cold Case Files
21:00 I Didn't Do It
22:00 The Eleven
23:00 The First 48



00:05 Inside Amy Schumer
00:30 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
00:55 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
01:20 The Meltdown With Jonah And Kumail
01:45 Tosh.0
02:10 Inside Amy Schumer
02:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
03:50 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
04:15 The Dude Perfect Show
04:40 The Dude Perfect Show
05:05 House Of Food
05:55 Disaster Date
06:20 Disaster Date
06:50 Disaster Date
07:15 Punk'd (Bet)
07:40 Punk'd (Bet)
08:05 I Used To Be Fat
08:55 Bondi Ink
09:45 House Of Food
10:35 Hillbillies For Hire
11:00 Hillbillies For Hire
11:25 Friendszone
11:50 Friendszone
12:15 Friendszone
12:40 Impractical Jokers
13:05 Impractical Jokers
13:30 Impractical Jokers
13:55 Idiotsitter
14:20 Idiotsitter
14:45 Idiotsitter
15:10 The It Crowd
15:35 The It Crowd
16:01 The It Crowd
16:27 The It Crowd
16:53 The It Crowd
17:20 Takeshis Castle Thailand
17:45 Takeshis Castle Thailand
18:10 Friends
18:34 Friends
18:58 Friends
19:21 Friends
19:45 Friends
20:07 Takeshis Castle Thailand
20:30 Graves
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Teachers
22:00 Dan Soder: Not Special
22:50 Chappelle's Show
23:15 Chris Ramsey Stand Up Central
23:40 Comedy Central Stand Up Presents



00:30 Kids Do The Craziest Things
00:55 Kids Do The Craziest Things
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 Man v The Universe
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Kids Do The Craziest Things
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 Kids Do The Craziest Things
11:35 Kids Do The Craziest Things
12:00 How It's Made
12:25 How It's Made
12:50 Don't Blink
13:15 Don't Blink
13:40 The Carbonaro Effect
14:05 The Carbonaro Effect
14:30 How It's Made
14:55 How It's Made
15:20 My Cat From Hell
16:10 Ultimate Survival
17:00 My Cat From Hell
17:50 Tanked
18:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things
19:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
19:30 Don't Blink
19:55 Don't Blink
20:20 The Carbonaro Effect
20:45 The Carbonaro Effect
21:10 How It's Made
21:35 How It's Made
22:00 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
22:50 Don't Blink
23:15 Don't Blink
23:40 The Carbonaro Effect



00:45 Natalie Wood: An American Murder Mystery
01:40 Blood Relatives
02:35 Murder Calls
03:30 Evil Talks: Chilling Confessions
04:25 Swamp Murders
05:20 I Almost Got Away With It
06:10 Six Degrees Of Murder
07:00 California Investigator
07:25 Betrayed
08:15 Swamp Murders
09:10 Six Degrees Of Murder
10:05 Murder Calls
11:00 Disappeared
11:55 Betrayed
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:45 Six Degrees Of Murder
14:40 Murder Calls
15:35 Evil Talks: Chilling Confessions
16:30 Betrayed
17:25 Swamp Murders
18:20 I Almost Got Away With It
19:15 Six Degrees Of Murder
20:10 Murder Calls
21:05 Married With Secrets
22:00 Evil Online
22:55 Forbidden: Dying For Love
23:50 I Killed My Family When I Was 16



00:00 Hank Zipzer
00:25 Alex & Co.
00:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
00:50 Evermoor Chronicles
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Binny And The Ghost
02:55 Hank Zipzer
03:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
03:20 Hank Zipzer
03:45 Alex & Co.
04:10 Alex & Co.
04:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:25 Binny And The Ghost
05:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
05:50 Rolling With The Ronks S1
06:00 Jessie
06:25 Jessie
06:50 Liv And Maddie
07:15 Liv And Maddie
07:40 K.C. Undercover
08:05 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
08:30 Raven's Home
08:55 Elena Of Avalor
09:20 Bunk'd
09:45 Tangled: The Series
10:10 Cheetah Girls 2
11:50 K.C. Undercover
12:15 K.C. Undercover

12:40 Bizaardvark
13:05 Bizaardvark
13:30 Stuck In The Middle
13:55 Stuck In The Middle
14:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
14:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
15:10 Raven's Home
15:35 Raven's Home
16:00 Tangled: The Series
16:25 Tangled: The Series
16:50 Liv And Maddie
17:15 Liv And Maddie
17:40 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
18:05 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
18:30 K.C. Undercover
18:55 K.C. Undercover
19:20 Descendants Wicked World
19:25 Elena Of Avalor
19:50 Elena Of Avalor
20:15 Bunk'd
20:40 Bunk'd
21:10 Stuck In The Middle
21:35 Stuck In The Middle
22:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug...
22:50 Lolirock
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



00:00 Trulli Tales
00:30 PJ Masks
01:00 PJ Masks
01:25 PJ Masks
01:50 The Hive
02:00 Zou
02:15 Zou
02:30 Henry Hugglemonster
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 The Hive
03:30 The Hive
03:40 Zou
03:55 Zou
04:10 PJ Masks
04:35 The Hive
04:45 Henry Hugglemonster
05:10 Henry Hugglemonster
05:35 The Hive
05:45 Zou
06:00 Zou
06:15 PJ Masks
06:30 PJ Masks
07:00 Trulli Tales
07:25 PJ Masks Shorts
07:30 Puppy Dog Pals
07:45 Doc McStuffins
08:00 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
08:15 PJ Masks
08:30 Vampirina
09:00 Doc McStuffins
09:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
09:55 Unbungalievable
10:00 Vampirina
10:25 Vampirina
10:50 Vampirina
11:20 Vampirina
11:45 Vampirina
12:15 Vampirina
12:40 Vampirina
13:10 Vampirina
13:35 PJ Masks
14:00 Mission Force One
14:30 Mission Force One
15:00 Mission Force One
15:30 Mission Force One
16:00 PJ Masks Shorts
16:05 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse Space...
16:50 PJ Masks Shorts
17:00 Vampirina
17:30 PJ Masks
17:55 Unbungalievable
18:00 The Lion Guard
18:30 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
19:00 Puppy Dog Pals
19:30 Sofia The First
20:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
20:30 Vampirina
21:00 Trulli Tales
21:30 Sofia The First
22:00 Doc McStuffins

22:30 Puppy Dog Pals
22:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
23:00 Miles From Tomorrow
23:30 Trulli Tales



00:15 Fast N' Loud
01:05 Darkness
01:50 Hot Grease
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Alaska Monsters
04:50 Deadliest Catch
05:35 Storage Hunters UK
06:00 Backyard Oil
06:23 Dallas Car Sharks
06:45 Storage Hunters UK
07:10 How Do They Do It?
07:35 Alaska: The Last Frontier
08:20 Backyard Oil
08:45 Dallas Car Sharks
09:10 Kindig Customs
09:55 Alaska: The Last Frontier
10:45 Kindig Customs
11:30 Fast N' Loud
12:20 Backyard Oil
12:43 Dallas Car Sharks
13:05 Storage Hunters UK
13:30 How Do They Do It?
13:55 Fast N' Loud
14:40 Fast N' Loud
15:30 Darkness
16:15 Hot Grease
17:50 Unique Rides With Will Castro
18:40 Mighty Car Mods
19:25 Fast N' Loud
20:15 Fast N' Loud
21:00 Street Outlaws: Memphis
21:50 American Chopper
22:40 Twin Turbos
23:30 Outback Truckers



06:00 Marvel's Spider-Man
06:25 Lab Rats
06:50 Phineas & Ferb
07:05 DuckTales
07:32 Big City Greens
07:45 Furiki Wheels
08:00 Phineas And Ferb
08:50 Lab Rats
09:40 Milo Murphy's Law
10:30 Gravity Falls
10:55 Gravity Falls
11:20 Lab Rats
11:45 Lab Rats
12:10 Phineas And Ferb
12:35 Phineas And Ferb
13:00 Marvel's Spider-Man
15:05 Supa Strikas
15:32 Supa Strikas
16:00 DuckTales
16:25 Disney Mickey Mouse
16:32 Big Hero 6 The Series
17:00 Big City Greens
17:10 Big City Greens
17:25 Marvel Super Heroes Black Panther: Trouble In
17:32 Furiki Wheels
18:00 Lab Rats
18:25 Lab Rats
18:50 Phineas & Ferb
19:00 Disney11
19:25 Best Sports Ever
19:30 Mech-X4
19:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
20:00 DuckTales
20:25 Two More Eggs
20:32 Big Hero 6 The Series
20:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:00 Marvel Super Heroes Black Panther: Trouble In
21:25 Star Wars Rebels
21:50 Phineas & Ferb
22:05 Furiki Wheels
22:20 Big City Greens
22:35 Phineas & Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am
KSA



00:05 WAGs LA
00:55 WAGs LA
01:50 Botched
02:50 Botched

03:40 Botched
04:35 Botched
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Botched
06:55 E! News Middle East
07:10 Botched
08:10 E! News: Daily Pop
09:10 Botched
10:05 Botched
11:00 Botched
12:00 E! News Middle East
12:15 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
13:10 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
14:05 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
15:00 E! News Middle East
15:15 E! News: Daily Pop
16:15 Botched
17:10 Botched
18:05 Botched
19:00 E! News
20:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
21:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
22:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
23:00 E! News Middle East
23:15 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian



00:00 Cities Of The Underworld
01:00 Million Dollar Genius
02:00 In Search Of Aliens
02:50 Ancient Aliens
03:40 Search For The Lost Giants
04:30 Clash Of Warriors
05:20 Cities Of The Underworld
06:10 How 2 Win
07:00 Million Dollar Genius
08:00 In Search Of Aliens
09:00 Ancient Aliens
10:00 Search For The Lost Giants
11:00 Clash Of Warriors
12:00 Cities Of The Underworld
13:00 Million Dollar Genius
14:00 In Search Of Aliens
15:00 Ancient Aliens
16:00 Search For The Lost Giants
17:00 Clash Of Warriors
18:00 Cities Of The Underworld
19:00 Million Dollar Genius
20:00 UFO Hunters
21:00 Ancient Aliens
22:00 True Monsters
23:00 Clash Of Warriors



00:20 Alone
01:10 Mountain Men
02:00 Swamp People
02:50 Who Killed Tupac?
03:40 Ice Road Truckers
04:30 Swamp People
05:20 Alone
06:00 Alone
06:50 Alone
07:40 Alone
08:30 Alone
09:20 Alone
10:10 Hunting Hitler
11:00 Hunting Hitler
11:50 Hunting Hitler
12:40 Hunting Hitler: Inside The Investigation
13:30 Ice Road Truckers
14:20 Who Killed Tupac?
15:10 Who Killed Tupac?
16:00 Who Killed Tupac?
16:50 Who Killed Tupac?
17:40 Who Killed Tupac?
18:30 Cars That Made America
20:10 Detroit Steel
21:00 Road Hawks
21:50 The Warfighters
22:40 Swamp People
23:30 Alone



00:15 John Torode's Asia
00:45 What's For Sale?
01:10 Raw Travel
01:40 Dog Whisperer

Friday, July 6, 2018

TV Listings

02:35 Dog Whisperer
03:30 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
04:25 Places We Go
04:50 Fish Tank Kings
05:45 Fish Of The Day
06:15 Fearless Chef
07:10 Dog Whisperer
08:05 Dog Whisperer
09:00 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
09:55 Fish Tank Kings
10:50 Places We Go
11:15 Fish Of The Day
11:45 Fearless Chef
12:40 Restoration Man
13:35 Restoration Man
14:30 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
15:25 Places We Go
15:50 Fish Tank Kings
16:45 Fish Of The Day
17:15 Fearless Chef
18:10 Raw Travel
18:35 Raw Travel
19:05 Restoration Man
20:00 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
21:00 Places We Go
21:30 Fish Of The Day
22:00 Fish Tank Kings
22:55 Fearless Chef
23:50 Raw Travel



00:10 WW2 Hell Under The Sea
01:00 Nazi Underworld
02:00 Airport Security: Peru
03:00 Megastructures
04:00 WW2 Hell Under The Sea
05:00 Street Genius
05:30 Street Genius
06:00 Strippers: Cars For Cash
07:00 The Big Picture With Kal Penn
07:30 Danger Decoded
08:00 The Great Human Race
09:00 Street Genius
09:30 Street Genius
10:00 Inside Cocaine Wars
11:00 Airport Security: Peru
12:00 Megastructures
13:00 Strippers: Cars For Cash
14:00 The Great Human Race
15:00 The Real Saddam Hussein
16:00 Inside Cocaine Wars
17:00 Airport Security: Peru
18:00 WW2 Hell Under The Sea
19:00 Nazi Underworld
20:00 Inside Cocaine Wars
20:50 Airport Security: Peru
21:40 WW2 Hell Under The Sea
22:30 Nazi Underworld
23:20 World's Toughest Fixes



00:30 Shark Alley
01:30 Attack Of The Big Cats
02:30 The Incredible Dr. Pol
03:30 Shark Men
04:30 Man V. Lion
05:30 Wild 24
06:30 Operation Sumatran Rhino
07:30 Wild 24
08:30 Incredible Spiders
09:30 Wild Russia
10:30 Snakes In The City
11:30 Wild Russia
12:30 Operation Sumatran Rhino
13:30 Shark Attack Experiment
14:30 Big Cat Odyssey
15:30 Mexico Untamed
16:30 Snakes In The City
17:30 Savage Kingdom
18:30 Namibia, Sanctuary Of Giants
19:30 Big Cat Odyssey
20:30 Mexico Untamed
21:30 Snakes In The City
22:30 Savage Kingdom
23:30 Namibia, Sanctuary Of Giants



00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion

01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
02:36 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 Rabbids Invasion
04:12 Rabbids Invasion
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 The Loud House
05:48 Harvey Beaks
06:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
07:00 Breadwinners
07:24 Welcome To The Wayne
07:48 Sanjay And Craig
08:12 Rabbids Invasion
08:36 The Loud House
09:00 Regal Academy
09:24 Winx Club
09:48 Game Shakers
10:12 School Of Rock
10:36 Henry Danger
11:00 Blurt!
11:48 Hunter Street
12:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky And Dawn
12:36 Knight Squad
13:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
13:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
13:48 The Loud House
14:12 The Adventures Of Kid Danger
14:36 The Thundermans
15:00 The Thundermans
15:24 The Thundermans
15:48 The Thundermans
16:12 The Thundermans
17:00 The Adventures Of Kid Danger
17:24 School Of Rock
17:48 School Of Rock
18:12 School Of Rock
18:36 School Of Rock
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 Talia In The Kitchen
20:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
21:00 Harvey Beaks
21:24 Breadwinners
21:48 Bunsen Is A Beast
22:12 Sanjay And Craig
22:36 Rabbids Invasion
23:00 The Loud House
23:24 Regal Academy
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



00:22 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:32 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:43 The Day Henry Met
00:47 The Day Henry Met
00:53 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:15 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:37 Paw Patrol
01:49 Kid-E-Cats
01:54 Kid-E-Cats
01:59 Shimmer And Shine
02:21 Nella The Princess Knight
02:33 Paw Patrol
02:56 Max & Ruby
03:19 Dora The Explorer
03:42 Sunny Day
04:04 Nella The Princess Knight
04:27 Shimmer And Shine
04:37 Shimmer And Shine
04:48 Wallykazam!
05:11 The Day Henry Met
05:17 Zack & Quack
05:27 Top Wing
05:39 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Rusty Rivets
06:14 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Nella The Princess Knight
07:21 Kiva Can Do!
07:32 Kiva Can Do!
07:43 Paw Patrol
07:56 Paw Patrol
08:20 Shimmer And Shine
08:31 Shimmer And Shine
08:42 Nella The Princess Knight
09:04 Top Wing
09:16 Paw Patrol
09:39 Rusty Rivets
10:02 Wallykazam!

10:25 Bubble Guppies
10:48 Team Umizoomi
11:11 Kid-E-Cats
11:16 Shimmer And Shine
11:28 Sunny Day
11:50 Kiva Can Do!
12:01 Max & Ruby
12:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:34 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:45 The Day Henry Met
12:50 The Day Henry Met
12:56 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:40 Paw Patrol
13:52 Kid-E-Cats
13:57 Kid-E-Cats
14:02 Shimmer And Shine
14:24 Nella The Princess Knight
14:36 Paw Patrol
14:59 Max & Ruby
15:22 Dora The Explorer
15:45 Sunny Day
16:07 Nella The Princess Knight
16:31 Shimmer And Shine
16:41 Shimmer And Shine
16:53 Wallykazam!
17:17 Zack & Quack
17:27 Top Wing
17:39 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:00 Rusty Rivets
18:14 Paw Patrol
18:37 Dora The Explorer
19:00 Nella The Princess Knight
19:22 Kiva Can Do!
19:33 Kiva Can Do!
19:43 Paw Patrol
19:56 Paw Patrol
20:19 Shimmer And Shine
20:41 Nella The Princess Knight
21:03 Top Wing
21:15 Paw Patrol
21:38 Rusty Rivets
22:01 Wallykazam!
22:24 Bubble Guppies
22:47 Team Umizoomi
23:10 Kid-E-Cats
23:15 Shimmer And Shine
23:27 Sunny Day
23:49 Kiva Can Do!



00:15 The Middle
00:40 The Middle
01:05 The Drew Carey Show
01:30 The Drew Carey Show
01:55 Will And Grace 2017
02:20 Community
02:45 Men At Work
03:10 Late Night With Seth Meyers
04:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
04:50 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
05:40 Community
06:05 Men At Work
06:30 Black-ish
06:55 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
07:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
09:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
09:50 The Goldbergs
10:15 The Goldbergs
10:40 Community
11:05 Men At Work
11:30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
12:20 Black-ish
12:45 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
13:10 The Middle
13:35 The Middle
14:00 The Drew Carey Show
14:25 The Drew Carey Show
14:50 Community
15:20 The Goldbergs
15:45 The Goldbergs
16:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
17:00 Black-ish
17:30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
18:00 The Middle
18:30 The Middle
19:00 The Drew Carey Show
19:30 The Drew Carey Show
20:00 The Good Place
20:30 American Housewife
21:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
22:00 Future Man
22:35 Difficult People
23:05 The Detour
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



01:00 Hannah Montana Movie
03:00 Hercules (1997)
04:45 Pirates Of The Caribbean: Curse Of The Black Pearl
07:15 Hannah Montana Movie
09:15 Olaf's Frozen Adventure
09:45 The Lion King
11:30 101 Dalmatians 2
13:00 Beauty And The Beast
14:45 The Lion King 1 1/2
16:30 The Chronicles Of Namia: The Lion, The Witch...
19:00 National Treasure
21:15 Beauty And The Beast
23:00 The Lion King 1 1/2



00:00 This Is Us
01:00 Claws
01:50 Criminal Minds
02:40 Quantico
03:30 9-1-1
04:20 This Is Us
05:20 Timeless
06:10 Once Upon A Time
07:00 Good Morning America
09:00 The View
10:00 9-1-1
11:00 Criminal Minds
12:00 Once Upon A Time
13:00 Supernatural
14:00 Quantico
15:00 The View
16:00 Live Good Morning America
18:00 Grey's Anatomy
19:00 Criminal Minds
20:00 Supernatural
21:00 The Amazing Race
22:00 Survivor: Ghost Island
23:00 WWE Experience



01:55 Double Trouble
03:45 Roxanne
05:55 Mystery Date
08:00 Double Trouble
09:50 Roxanne
12:00 Mystery Date
14:05 Angus Thongs And Perfect Snogging
16:10 Step Dogs
18:00 Down To Earth
20:00 Elizabethtown
22:00 Everybody Wants Some



00:50 Emilie Jolie
02:10 Back To The Sea
03:55 Last Wizard
05:15 The Fairy Tales Tree
06:40 The Wish Fish
08:05 Azur & Asmar: The Prince's Quest
09:45 Dinofroz The Origin
11:15 Pacific Pirates
12:45 Back To The Sea
14:30 Last Wizard
15:50 Bunny Tales
17:10 Dinofroz The Origin
18:45 Operation Arctic
20:25 The Adventures Of Scooter The Penguin
22:00 Bunny Tales
23:20 Azur & Asmar: The Prince's Quest



01:15 Big Momma's House 2
03:00 Leap Of Faith
05:00 The Tree Of Life
07:30 Nim's Island
09:15 African Safari
10:45 Spotlight
11:05 Lego DC: Justice League Gotham City Breakout
12:30 Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: Dog Days
14:15 13 Going On 30
16:00 Monte Carlo
18:00 It Runs In The Family

20:00 The Legend Of Tarzan
22:00 Sex And The City The Movie



00:05 Food Factory USA
00:30 Alaska Mega Machines
01:20 Sci-Trek
02:10 Uncovering Aliens
03:00 Strangest Weather On Earth
03:48 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
04:36 Alaska Mega Machines
05:24 How Do They Do It?
05:48 Food Factory USA
06:12 Sci-Trek
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Strangest Weather On Earth
08:14 Alaska Mega Machines
09:02 Uncovering Aliens
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory USA
10:38 Strangest Weather On Earth
11:26 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
12:14 Alaska Mega Machines
13:02 Sci-Trek
13:50 Uncovering Aliens
14:38 How Do They Do It?
15:02 Food Factory USA
15:26 Strangest Weather On Earth
16:14 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
17:02 Uncovering Aliens
17:50 Sci-Trek
18:40 How Do They Do It?
19:05 Food Factory USA
19:30 How The Universe Works
20:20 Alaska Mega Machines
21:10 The Unexplained Files
22:00 How The Universe Works
22:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
23:40 How Do They Do It?



01:30 Bumboo
03:00 Bumboo
03:55 Koffee With Karan
05:00 Koffee With Karan
06:00 Maine Pyaar Kyun Kiya
08:55 Waiting
10:50 Milenge Milenge
13:05 Pyaar To Hona Hi Tha
16:10 Sholay
20:00 Phir Se Mafiaraaj
22:25 Drishyam



01:15 Godsend
03:00 Strange Magic
04:45 The Quiet American
06:30 Ant-Man
08:30 Serendipity
10:00 Without A Paddle
11:35 Step Up
13:20 This Is The End
15:00 Godsend
16:40 The Wedding Planner
18:20 An Ideal Husband
20:00 Ali
22:30 Maps To The Stars



00:00 Black Box
01:00 Black Box
02:00 Cedar Cove
03:00 Wedding Band
04:00 Cedar Cove
05:00 Mistresses
06:00 Black Box
07:00 Black Box
08:00 Cedar Cove
09:00 Wedding Band
10:00 Project Accessory
11:00 Mistresses
12:00 Black Box
13:00 Black Box
14:00 Cedar Cove
15:00 Married At First Sight: The First Year
16:00 Project Accessory

17:00 House Of DVF
18:00 Wedding Band
19:00 Wedding Band
20:00 Project Runway All Stars
21:00 Project Accessory
22:00 House Of DVF
23:00 Cedar Cove



00:20 Say Yes To The Dress UK
00:42 Say Yes To The Dress UK
01:05 90 Day Fianc?: Happily Ever After?
01:50 Say Yes: Wedding SOS
02:35 90 Days To Wed: Before The 90 Days
03:20 Kitchen Boss
03:42 Kitchen Boss
04:05 Toddlers & Tiaras
04:50 Say Yes To The Dress UK
05:12 Say Yes To The Dress UK
05:35 Kitchen Boss
08:15 Say Yes To The Dress UK
08:37 Say Yes To The Dress UK
09:00 Cake Boss
09:25 Little People, Big World
09:47 Little People, Big World
10:10 Little People, Big World
10:32 Little People, Big World
10:55 Cake Boss
11:17 Cake Boss
11:40 Cake Boss
12:02 Cake Boss
12:25 Cake Boss
12:47 Cake Boss
13:10 Meet The Putmans
13:55 Say Yes To The Dress UK
14:20 Say Yes To The Dress UK
14:45 Cake Boss
17:15 Little People, Big World
18:05 Sister Wives
18:30 Sister Wives
18:55 Sister Wives
19:20 Sister Wives
19:45 Cake Boss
20:10 Say Yes To The Dress
20:35 Say Yes To The Dress
21:00 My Little Life
21:50 Little People, Big World
22:40 My Extreme Excess Skin
23:30 Cake Boss
23:55 Cake Boss



01:00 WWE Wal300ha
01:30 Amsoil Arenacross
02:30 Pro Bull Riders
03:30 WWE Wal300ha
04:00 ABB FIA Formula-E Highlights
05:00 Amsoil Arenacross
06:00 Pro Bull Riders
07:00 World Of X Games
07:30 Mobil 1 The Grid
08:00 NCAA Basketball
10:00 Drone Racing League
11:00 This Week In WWE
11:30 WWE Wal300ha
12:00 WWE Bottom Line
13:00 WWE Afterburn
14:00 Drone Racing League
15:00 Amsoil Arenacross
16:00 Pro Bull Riders
17:00 NCAA Basketball
19:00 Indycar Highlights
20:00 WWE Experience
21:00 WWE Wal300ha
21:30 WWE Bottom Line
22:30 WWE Afterburn
23:30 Indycar Highlights



00:30 UFC Connected
01:00 NCAA Basketball
02:45 NCAA Basketball
06:30 UFC Top 10
07:00 Indy Lights Series
08:00 Indycar Highlights
09:00 One Weekly
09:30 Matchroom Boxing
10:35 Live Motul FIM Superbike World Championship
12:00 One Weekly
12:30 Matchroom Boxing
14:00 MotoGP Highlights
15:20 Live Motul FIM Superbike World Championship

Stars

Friday, July 6, 2018



Aries (March 21-April 19)

If you find yourself struggling today know that this is just a temporary bump in the road. You may feel as if your feelings and your values are at odds with one another. This day may find you feeling frustrated and even at odds with yourself and emotions or at odds with those close to you. Feelings such as these may make you feel as if the happiness is being sucked right out of you. Know that is just a temporary feeling and this is a temporary obstacle. Tension is high, and this is not a good day to make decisions. You may find yourself having to re-evaluate any decisions you make today so it just best to let things ride for now.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Today finds you open to the feelings and opinions of others. You may be more willing than usual to hear others out who have a total different approach to life. It seems you are the center of attention in the work place, a light in a dimly lit room. Your ambition is noticed and your ability to act fast and handle problems may be what others admire most about you. You are calm, cool, and collected, and with an abundance of common sense you seem to handle any situation you find yourself in. You feel a need to be respected and with the current path you are on there will never be a shortage of respect aimed your way.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may find yourself in an extremely sympathetic mood today. You may find others are eager to ask for your assistance today. You may find others are drawn to you and find interacting with you comforting today as you are so easy to communicate with. Not the best time to get out and about. Today you should focus on your personal issues and spend some time to yourself. Now is not the best time for you to make decisions regarding your living situation. Whether this is concerning who you live with or where you live, it is best for you to stay put for now. Time will reveal the move you need to make.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Events today may solidify your belief that you cannot change others. The only person you can change is yourself. Today finds you doing a great deal of soul searching. Changing your attitude and focus and being determined to focus on only the positive in your world will help you accomplish your dreams. You may find your time is best spent alone today and you should resist making any decisions that affect your living situation. Dismiss all that holds you back. This may be something as simple as a negative thought or attitude or a person that seems to always pull you backwards. Rid yourself and your life of all negativity and push forward.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This is a time of reflection for you. How did you get to this point in your lifedid you make the right decisionswhat life experiences molded you into the person you are todaythese may be a few thoughts that have been running through your mind. Today may find you at peace with who you are and how you got there. You also may find yourself very compassionate when it comes to the feelings and situations of those close to you. You very well could be asked advice and to fill the role of a mentor, which is a position you are perfect for. Leo, all is well in your world and you are on the right path.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This is a time in your life that being involved with those close to you takes on a greater meaning. You may find this a great time and very satisfying to spend time with friends and neighbors and find the opportunity to become more involved in their lives. This is a good time for you to focus on some of your more private issues and may find you are able to get to the root of these problems and are able to work through some private issues that have really been bothering you. You may find you experience a great sense of relief when you are able to confide in those closest to you and get some things off your chest. You tend to keep things bottled up and we all need a release now and then, Virgo. Your life situation may have you feeling blocked and getting some of this off of your chest may be just what it takes to move forward.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may feel as if you are just going through the motions. It seems like everything in your world is boring and repetitious. You may feel as if you are on the outside looking in and reality has escaped you. By placing focus on yourself and learning to appreciate the qualities that make you who you are you may find a bit of pleasure today. Look around as this is a day you may find great appreciation of the beauty that surrounds you. You have an eye and an ability to appreciate the beauty in the simplest of things. Get out and take a walk and enjoy the beauty of the nature that surrounds you. You may find this brings peace into your world and clarity to your mind today.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may find yourself entering a period of soul-searching. You may feel as if you are feeding off of the mystical, emotional, and instinctive qualities you possess. There is great depth to these feelings. You feel led to be forgiving, understanding, and compassionate to all in your life. You may experience relationships being mended today and barriers dissolving. This may be a great day to reach out to a love one by a phone or in person and enjoy reconnecting with someone very special to you. You seem to appreciate your thoughts in where they are leading you today. A great day to feed your mind with knowledge. You may want to do some studying or research today. You are hungry for knowledge, Scorpio, this should be very satisfying.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your appreciation for ideas and thoughts should make this an excellent time to begin a new project in the workplace. This is also a positive and productive period for you, and others are very enthusiastic about something you have to offer. Those around you will have no problem in knowing just where you are coming from, as you may find you are able to get your point across with ease. You may find yourself in the middle of a very enjoyable conversation, writing a letter, or getting caught up on a bit of reading. You may see your relationships becoming very peaceful and full of harmony. Partnerships and marriage could be some of the key elements in this now.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are full of charm and have a sparkle in your eye today. You may find that others are drawn to you and this would be a great time to step out of your comfort zone and take a bit of a chance. You may have your eye on someone or something special. Today is a great day to make a move towards this. You may find yourself desiring a change in your life and your surroundings. This is a great time socially for you and may find great pleasure hanging out with a group of your friends and trying something new this evening, a change of scenery is just what may be needed to satisfy this craving.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You desire to make your mark on this world. You demand attention. You are ambitious and determined to be noticed in the work place. Your lifestyle begins to revolve around organizing and administering to people and projects in your life. This is a great day for making plans to advance in your workplace. Expect to be not only noticed but admired for your skills and exceptional work performance. You may find you have great understanding of the needs of others today.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This may be a day you need to keep your emotions in check. It seems some people are circumstances may irritate you. You may find you have a short fuse and are easily agitated today. It seems you are deep in reflection and past experiences are helping you deal with your present circumstances. You may realize there is someone in your life you need to forgive in order to be able to move forward. You're experiencing a more sensitive side and putting more thought into seeing things from other people's point of view. This helps you understand those close to you better and helps dissolve boundaries that have been standing in your way. This helps bring more peace into your life and harmony into your world.

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
Antiga	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)
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- ◆ 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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CLINIC PAGE



DR. MOHAMMAD AL HAJRY

Canadian Board of Otolaryngology
Head & Neck Surgery and Facial Plastics.
Fellow of Royal College of Surgeons-Canada

ENR. WAJEEH

DR KHALED ALMERRI

Consultant interventional Cardiology
Department: Heart & Vascular Center

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



Know your Doctor

Otorhinolaryngology (E.N.T)

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)
- ◆ VAAFT 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



Dr. Abdullah Al Haddad

Surgery Department
Consultant General Surgery, Laparoscopic & Colo - Rectal Surgeon

daralshifa

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Dr. Ahmad Alaeddine

Head of Cardiology departmenta
at Dar Al Shifa hospital

- 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).



مستشفى دار الشفاء
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Dr. Hani Haider
General Surgery Consultant

American Board Certified in General Surgery

Member of the Society of American Gastrointestinal & Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)

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- ◆ Hemorrhoids, fistula & anal fissure surgeries
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- ◆ Cholecystectomy & laparoscopic appendectomy
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Information

Friday, July 6, 2018

STATE OF KUWAIT

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION

METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 6817

Fax: (+965) 24348714

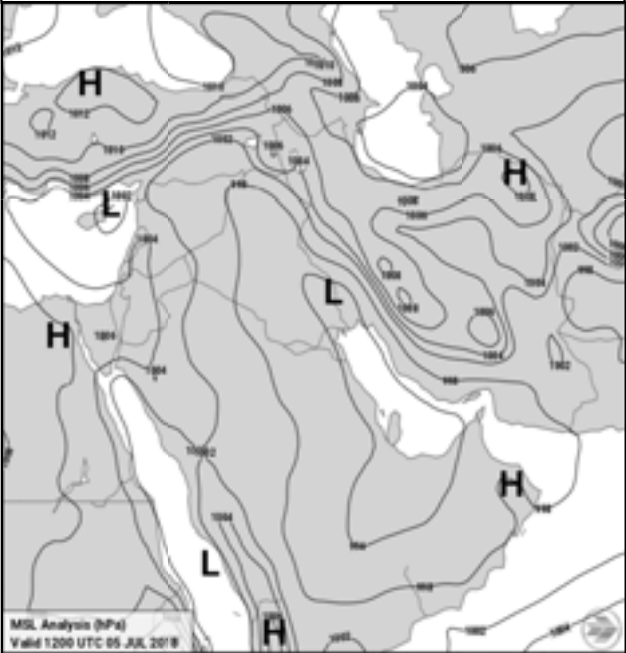
www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY NIGHT: Relatively hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to variable wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h .

BY DAY: Very hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate north westerly wind to south easterly wind, with speed of 10 - 32 km/h .

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.	SFC. CHART 05/07/2018 1200 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	46 °C	34 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	49 °C	31 °C		
ABDALY	50 °C	29 °C		
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C		
JAHRA	49 °C	33 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	45 °C	30 °C		
SALMIYAH	39 °C	32 °C		
AHMADI	40 °C	33 °C		
NUWAISIB	45 °C	30 °C		
WAFRA	49 °C	30 °C		
SALMY	48 °C	32 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Friday	07/06	Very hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	48 °C	31 °C	NW-SE	10 - 32 km/h
Saturday	07/07	Very hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	48 °C	32 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 30 km/h
Sunday	07/08	Very hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	48 °C	34 °C	VRB-NW	08 - 35 km/h
Monday	07/09	Very hot + causing rising dust	50 °C	36 °C	NW	22 - 55 km/h

TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:19
Sunrise	04:54
Zuhr	11:53
Asr	15:27
Sunset	18:51
Isha	20:23

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	47 °C
MIN. Temp.	32 °C
MAX. RH	31 %
MIN. RH	05 %
MAX. Wind	E 32 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Kuwait Times

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Kuwait Times is the first daily in the Arabian Gulf providing all the news and information on business, politics, local, sports and entertainment in Kuwait.

Hospitals	
Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9
Clinics	
Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

FRIDAY, JULY 6, 2018

Business

39 Trade Wars: Trump loads first volley against China**40** Djibouti launches 'Africa's biggest free trade zone'**41** Russia's telecoms security push hits snag: It needs foreign help

NEW JERSEY: People watch the New York Sky line lit by the Annual Macy's 4th of July Fireworks in Weehawken, New Jersey. —AFP

Unemployment among Saudis hits record

Private sector expected to grow modestly

DUBAI: Unemployment among Saudi citizens edged up to a record 12.9 percent in the first quarter of this year as private employers struggled under the weight of a new tax and a domestic fuel price hike, official data showed yesterday. The figures underlined the difficulties which the government faces as it pushes through reforms to reduce the economy's reliance on oil exports. The reforms aim to develop non-oil industries and create jobs, but they also involve austerity steps to close a big state budget deficit; a 5 percent value-added

tax was imposed at the start of 2018.

The austerity is hurting many private companies. The first-quarter unemployment rate was the highest recorded by the official statistics agency in data going back to 1999. It exceeded the 12.8 percent level which had prevailed for the previous three quarters. Authorities are keen to lure more Saudis, especially Saudi women, into the labor force to make the economy more efficient and reduce the government's financial burden. The latest data showed little progress in that area, however, with the number of Saudi job

seekers falling to 1.07 million in the first quarter from 1.09 million in the previous quarter, even as the number of employed Saudis also declined. The figures revealed a continued exodus of hundreds of thousands of foreign workers from Saudi Arabia because of the weak economy and hikes in fees which companies must pay the government to hire expatriates.

The number of foreigners employed in the kingdom shrank to 10.18 million from 10.42 million in the previous quarter and 10.85 million in the first quarter of 2017 - a drop which is slow-

ing the economy by hurting consumer demand. Saudi gross domestic product, adjusted for inflation, grew 1.2 percent from a year earlier in the first quarter of 2018, beginning to recover after shrinking in 2017, figures released earlier this week showed.

But the rebound was largely due to stabilizing oil output, and economists expect the oil sector to lead growth later this year with non-oil businesses expanding only modestly - a trend that may keep unemployment high. —Reuters

Business

Europe shrugs off Asian gloom, euro shuffles higher

Markets await US tariffs on China, Fed minutes

LONDON: European shares headed for a third day of gains yesterday, as reassuring economic data from Germany and a report that its big carmakers could be spared from US tariffs offset another gloomy session for Asia. Trade war nerves had pegged all of Asia's bourses back with a US deadline to impose tariffs on Chinese imports just a day away, but it was another widely-flagged target - the German car sector - that drove Europe's fast start.

Mercedes-maker Daimler, and BMW Porsche and Volkswagen raced up as much as 5 percent after a newspaper report about a US offer to suspend tariff threats on EU-made cars if the bloc lifts its duties on US ones. The mood was also helped as German industrial orders saw a stronger-than-expected jump after four months of falls. The euro briefly topped \$1.17 and bond yields also rose on a report that the ECB thinks markets are now too cautious on when it will raise euro zone interest rates next year.

Later in the day, traders will also get the minutes from the recent meeting of the US Federal Reserve where it raised rates for a second time this year and flagged that more are likely. "The euro is getting a bit of a lift on the German data though the trade concerns will continue to dominate markets with the Fed minutes being the key data point," said Kenneth Broux, a currency strategist at Societe Generale in London.

The overnight slide in Asian markets, in particular Chinese shares which are now deep into 'bear' market territory, highlighted the ongoing angst over US President Donald Trump's trade tariff plans. On Friday, US tariffs on \$34 billion worth of Chinese imports will take effect, and Beijing has promised to retaliate in kind, though it did say overnight that it

will "absolutely not" fire the first shot in a trade war. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan, which has been dropping since Monday, ended down 0.5 percent. The index has lost about 2 percent this week, plunging a nine-month low in the process. Japan's Nikkei shed 1 percent, South Korea's KOSPI slipped 0.75 percent, Hong Kong's Hang Seng was off 0.9 percent and the Shanghai Composite Index fell 0.9 percent to take its dive since late January to 23 percent.

With Europe advancing though, Wall Street's S&P 500 futures edged up 0.4 percent and Dow futures added 0.3 percent, pointing to a solid start following Wednesday's Independence Day holiday. "The \$34 billion US tariffs figure has been mostly factored by the markets and focus is now on what the United States says on the remaining \$16 billion (of a promised \$50 billion tariff plan)," said Masahiro Ichikawa, senior strategist at Sumitomo Mitsui Asset Management in Tokyo.

Weaponize

In currencies, the euro's gain was the dollar's loss. That also helped ease some of the pressure on volatile emerging market currencies, though Turkey's lira went lower again as its prime minister said cutting interest rates was a top priority. The Chinese yuan was also slightly lower, its recovery from an 11-month low stalling. A rebound in the yuan was triggered in the past two sessions after the country's central bank sought to calm nervous markets and stem the recent tumble.

The longer term direction for the yuan was still unclear. China appears broadly comfortable with a weakening yuan and would intervene only to prevent any destabilising declines or to restore market



BEIJING: A man checks stock price movements at a securities company in Beijing. — AFP

confidence, policy insiders told Reuters. "Although we do not believe China will weaponize its currency, we do believe the current trajectory of Chinese yuan depreciation is justified," strategists at Bank of America Merrill Lynch wrote in a note.

The dollar was 0.1 percent higher against the yen at 110.610 yen, though it was sticking in a narrow range ahead of the Federal Reserve minutes that could give fresh clues on central bank's rate hike plans. In commodities, Brent oil futures were down 0.7 percent at \$77.69 a barrel, after US Pres-

ident Donald Trump sent a tweet demanding that OPEC reduce prices for crude. Brent had risen on Wednesday on a threat from an Iranian commander to disrupt oil shipments from neighboring states if Washington continued to press all countries to stop buying Iranian oil, and a drop in US crude inventories. "If Trump continues to believe that OPEC are not doing enough, we would not rule out an SPR (Strategic Petroleum Reserve) release from the US, or possibly even export restrictions on petroleum products," ING said in a note. — Reuters

Trump's tweets add \$10 to oil prices

LONDON: US President Donald Trump, who recently called on OPEC producers to help reduce oil prices, has raised prices through his tweets, Iranian OPEC Governor Hossein Kazempour Ardebili was quoted as saying by news agency SHANA yesterday.

"Your tweets have increased the prices by at least \$10. Please stop this method," the oil ministry news agency quoted Kazempour Ardebili as saying.

Kazempour Ardebili said Trump was trying to intensify tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia and he called on the United States to join world powers in a meeting with Iran in Vienna today.

Foreign ministers from the five remaining signatories of a nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers will meet Iranian officials in Vienna to discuss how to keep the accord alive after the US withdrawal from the pact. — Reuters

Debt curbs likely hit China's Q2 GDP growth

BEIJING: China's second-quarter economic growth is expected to have slowed slightly from the previous quarter, a Reuters poll showed, as the government's efforts to tackle debt risks crimp activity and a looming US trade war threatens exports. The economy has already felt the pinch from a multi-year crackdown on riskier lending that has driven up corporate borrowing costs, promoting the central bank to pump out more cash by cutting reserve requirements for lenders.

Recent data have started to show signs of fatigue as credit expansion slowed and domestic demand ranging from government-funded infrastructure investment to consumer spending looked to be softening. This comes as a deepening trade war with the United States looks set to hit China's export machine.

A poll of 55 economists showed growth in gross domestic product likely eased marginally to 6.7 percent in the second quarter from a year earlier, compared with the 6.8 percent clip in the previous three quarters. Forecasts

in the poll ranged from 6.5 percent to 6.9 percent. "The synchronized slowdown in domestic and external demand is likely to put pressure on economic growth in the second half," said Lian Ping, chief economist at Bank of Communications. Lian said he expected GDP growth to slow to 6.6 percent in the third quarter and stay steady in the fourth quarter, bringing full-year growth to 6.7 percent - above the government's target of around 6.5 percent. China's Commerce Ministry on Thursday warned the proposed U.S. tariffs would hit international supply chains, including foreign companies in the world's second-largest economy.

Policy support expected

Faced with a slowdown in domestic demand and the potential fallout from the trade war, Chinese policymakers are likely to step up policy support for the economy and soften their stance on deleveraging. The People's Bank of China, which has cut banks' reserve requirements three times this year, has recently replaced its use of the term 'deleveraging' with 'structural deleveraging', a change that suggests less harsh curbs on debt.

The central bank also said it will keep liquidity 'reasonably ample', a shift from the previous wording of 'reasonably stable'. Chinese cur-

rency and equity markets have been volatile ahead of July 6, when US tariffs on \$34 billion worth of Chinese goods are set to kick in, with the yuan losing about 3.3 percent in June against the dollar - its worst month on record. Beijing has said it would retaliate with tariffs on US products.

"On monetary policy, we expect the PBoC to ease policy further in the quarters ahead in a more proactive and forward-looking manner," economists at Nomura said in a note. The Nomura economists said they expected the PBoC to deliver at least one more RRR cut before year-end, likely by 100 basis points and increase direct funding to the real economy via other liquidity injection tools, such as the supplementary lending facility.

Despite the economic uncertainty, China is comfortable with a weakening yuan, policy insiders told Reuters, and will intervene only to prevent any rapid and destabilizing declines or to restore market confidence, as the economy loses momentum and faces further trade risks. China releases second quarter GDP on July 16, along with June industrial output, retail sales, property sales and investment, and fixed asset investment data.

Economists in the poll estimated GDP grew 1.6 percent quarter-on-quarter, versus 1.4 percent in the first quarter. — Reuters

Business

Trade Wars: Trump loads first volley against China

China warns to send shockwaves around global economy

WASHINGTON: Steep American tariffs on Chinese goods worth tens of billions of dollars are due to take effect when the clock strikes twelve Thursday night, as US President Donald Trump fires the first salvo in a trade war between the world's top two economies. China has vowed to respond "immediately", with experts warning that tit-for-tat measures between the two financial superpowers will send shockwaves around the global economy and strike at the heart of the world trading system.

The US will levy a 25-percent tariff on more than 800 Chinese product categories worth around \$34 billion and has warned of more to come if a trade war escalates. Trump has threatened to progressively ratchet up US penalties to a total of \$450 billion in goods—which would represent the lion's share of all of China's exports to the United States.

The tariffs target a broad spectrum of Chinese goods—such as passenger vehicles, radio transmitters, aircraft parts and computer hard drives—from industries Washington says have benefited from unfair trade practices. A second tranche of 284 goods worth \$16 billion is currently under review and could be added to the US list.

UK readies new Brexit offer as Jaguar issues dire warning

LONDON: Iconic Indian-owned British carmaker Jaguar Land Rover yesterday became the latest company to warn that new trade barriers with Europe could imperil thousands of jobs and billions in investment, as the government headed into a high-stakes meeting to decide the fate of Brexit. A day before Prime Minister Theresa May convenes her warring cabinet to thrash out a common approach, aides said she had drawn up a compromise customs plan to ease trade with the European Union after Brexit takes effect in March 2019.

But the plan immediately ran into trouble, with Brexit Secretary David Davis reportedly telling May the proposal was "unworkable" and would not be accepted by Brussels. With the government at loggerheads and the EU looking on anxiously, Airbus, BMW and Siemens have also warned in recent weeks that they could yank investment out of Britain unless any Brexit deal ensures cross-Channel trade continues to flow freely. The chief executive of Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), which is owned by India's Tata Motors, said its "heart and soul was in the UK". "However, we, and our partners in the supply chain, face an unpredictable future if the Brexit negotiations do not maintain free and frictionless trade with the EU and unrestricted access to the single market," Ralf Speth said in a statement. "We urgently need greater certainty to continue to invest heavily in the UK and safeguard our suppliers, customers and 40,000 British-based employees."

Ever since Britain voted in a June 2016 referendum to quit the EU, the government has been grappling with the intractable problem of what kind of Brexit to deliver. May had vowed a clean break by quitting the EU's customs union and single market, which have bound Britain to rules set in Brussels. While such a drastic break would free Britain to build its own trading regime, it risks severe disruption to business and is opposed by many lawmakers in May's Conservative Party. Details of May's new so-called "facilitated customs arrangement" were still

US firing at itself

China is expected to retaliate as soon as the US tariffs go into effect, imposing duties on goods worth roughly the same amount but with a greater emphasis on politically sensitive farm agricultural products. "The US has provoked this trade war. We do not want to fight it, but in order to safeguard the interests of the country and the people, we have no choice but to fight," said Gao Feng, spokesman for China's commerce ministry.

Christine Lagarde, head of the International Monetary Fund, has already sounded the alarm about a tit-for-tat cycle of retaliation, saying it would only create "losers on both sides." And Gao noted that of the \$34 billion in taxable products on the US list, about \$20 billion—or nearly two-thirds—are made by firms

with foreign investment, including a "significant portion" from America. "The US's measures are essentially attacking the global supply and value chain. Simply put, the US is opening fire on the whole world, and also firing at itself," Gao said.

Better than ever

Economists have for months warned of the potential damage to the US and global economies from aggressive trade policies and protectionism, which would raise prices and



HANGZHOU: In this file photo, a worker checks wheel hubs of baby carriages that will be exported at a factory in Hangzhou in China's eastern Zhejiang province. —AFP

upend global supply chains. But the Trump team has paid little heed to those warnings, with Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross this week slamming them as "premature and probably quite inaccurate." Trump himself tweeted this week that the economy is doing "perhaps better than ever" even "prior to fixing some of the worst and most unfair Trade Deals ever made by any country."

Under the banner of his "America First" policy, Trump has also targeted other traditional trade

partners of the US, such as the European Union, Japan, Mexico and even Canada. And signs are growing that the escalating global trade dispute is already affecting the world's top economy, with punitive duties now in place for steel and aluminum and the White House threatening to slap duties on auto imports. Prices are rising, especially for steel and aluminum, and companies are starting to feel reticent about investments or planning to shift production overseas to avoid retaliation against US exports. —AFP



LIVERPOOL: This file photo shows Land Rover and Jaguar emblems at the Land Rover and Jaguar assembly plant at Halewood in Liverpool, northwest England. —AFP

lacking, but it takes elements from two existing customs plans—both of which have been rejected by Brussels. And while opposition lawmakers seized on the Jaguar warning to underline the risks of uncertainty for British jobs, Business Secretary Greg Clark said the government was determined to ensure JLR can continue to invest. For its part, the British Retail Consortium noted that fully half of Britain's food is imported, mostly from the EU, and those supplies rely on intricate and fragile trading links.

Failure to reach a Brexit deal would have dramatic consequences for UK consumers as well as EU producers, it wrote in a letter to May and chief EU negotiator Michel Barnier. "It is likely that we will see food rotting at ports, reducing the choice and quality of what is available to consumers," the BRC said, calling for no new barriers and flexibility from the EU during a transition period. —AFP

Dubai's troubled Abraaj nears out-of-court settlement

DUBAI: A lawyer for the founder of embattled Dubai-based private equity group Abraaj said yesterday it is close to an out-of-court settlement in a case over bounced cheques for millions of dollars. "Parties have reached an understanding last night. Now, they will put it in a document," said Arif Naqvi's lawyer, Habib al-Mulla. "A provisional agreement has been reached ... over the main issues to repay the loan," Mulla, the chief executive of law firm Baker McKenzie Habib Al Mulla, said.

Essam al-Tamimi, a lawyer for creditor United Arab Emirates businessman Hamid Jaafar, confirmed the negotiations but without giving details. A UAE court on Thursday adjourned a ruling against the Pakistani founder of Abraaj, the region's largest private equity firm, to allow a settlement, sources familiar with the case said. A ruling has been postponed until July 11 against Naqvi, who faces up to three years in jail for issuing three cheques worth \$300 million without having sufficient funds in the bank. —AFP

Business

Djibouti launches 'Africa's biggest free trade zone'

Infrastructure projects boost Djibouti's place in international trade

DJIBOUTI: Djibouti yesterday launched the first phase of Africa's biggest free-trade zone, seeking to capitalize on its strategic position on one of the world's busiest trade routes. At ceremonies in the capital, President Ismael Omar Guelleh hailed the scheme as the culmination of infrastructure projects "boosting Djibouti's place in international trade and commerce". The Horn of Africa nation, located at the mouth of the Red Sea and Suez Canal, in 2017 unveiled three new ports and a railway linking it to land-locked Ethiopia, as part of its bid to become a global trade and logistics hub.

Somalia's president, Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, hailed the free-trade zone as a "victory for East Africa", in comments echoed at the ceremony by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and presidents Paul Kagame of Rwanda and Omar al-Bashir of Sudan. The zone, which is connected to Djibouti's main ports, aims at diversifying the economy, creating new jobs and luring foreign investment through tax-free incentives and full logistical support. The pilot phase launched yesterday comprises a 240-hectare site. On its



Creating new jobs, luring foreign investment

scheduled completion 10 years from now, the \$3.5-billion initiative will span 4,800 hectares—the largest free-trade zone on the continent.

The project hopes to see foreign companies setting up manufacturing plants within the zone, adding value to products instead of merely importing and exporting raw materials. "The volume of goods travelling to East Africa keeps increasing. Every time a product arrives in the continent without being transformed it is a missed opportunity for Africa," said Aboubaker Omar Hadi, chairman of the Ports and Free Zones Authority.

A row of Djiboutian and Chinese flags fluttered side by side above the freshly painted bright yellow walls surrounding the expansive project—a symbol of the tiny country's close ties to the Asian giant whose loans have funded its lightning-fast infrastructure growth. Djibouti—which is also the site of China's only overseas military base is a critical part of China's "Belt and Road" global infrastructure initiative and in a prime position along what has been dubbed the "Maritime Silk Road". The free trade zone is being run



DJIBOUTI: Djiboutian women take part in rehearsals for ribbon cutting in front of the main gate of Djibouti International Free Trade Zone (DIFTZ) before an inauguration ceremony in Djibouti. —AFP

by Djibouti, the majority shareholder, along with three Chinese companies: the China Merchants

Group, Dalian Port Authority and Chinese big data company IZP.—AFP

German factories hit higher gear, but backdrop uncertain

BERLIN: Industrial orders in Germany bounced back in May to support expectations of an economic upturn, though simmering trade and political tensions may yet act as a brake on growth. Yesterday's 2.6 percent rise in orders exceeded expectations, and followed a survey of purchasing managers that suggested Europe's largest economy ended the second quarter on a stronger footing. The Economy Ministry said industrial output was likely to rise moderately in coming months.

But it also noted growing uncertainty about restrictive trade policies, while the International Monetary Fund (IMF) cutting its 2018 forecast for German GDP growth to 2.2 percent said protectionism and a possible hard Brexit had exposed the German economy to significant short-term risks. "The increase in orders is pleasing, but not yet a liberation," Ilja Nothnagel, foreign trade expert at the DIHK Chambers of Industry and Commerce, said. "The uncertainty caused by international trade policies is great," he said, as companies could no longer be sure that growth in key markets would continue to develop positively.

Global trade tensions are threatening to come to a head on Friday with a tit-for-tat ex-

change of tariff penalties between Washington and Beijing. US President Donald Trump's protectionist drive also risks severely impacting Germany, whose most important export markets outside the European Union are the United States and China.

Past its peak?

The German economy grew by a calendar-adjusted 2.5 percent last year, the strongest rate since 2011, propelled by vibrant domestic demand and resurgent exports. But the rate dipped to 0.3 percent on the quarter in the first three months of this year. "The upswing is alive, but it has passed its peak," Bankhaus Lampe economist Alexander Krueger said following Thursday's Federal Statistics Office data. Industrial orders had declined in the previous four months, including an upwardly revised drop of 1.6 percent in April.

May's rise beat a Reuters forecast for a 1.1 percent rise. A breakdown of the figures showed the jump was mainly driven by demand from other euro zone countries and domestic clients, with orders for capital goods and consumer goods rising the most. The economy ministry said the four monthly drops from January to April were linked to a strong jump in orders in the second half of 2017, as well as first-quarter weakness in the global economy and "uncertainty about trade policy." "The order backlog is still very high and business morale is still better than the long-term average despite a recent deterioration," it said. —Reuters

Egypt has primary budget surplus, seeks to revive economy

CAIRO: Egypt announced yesterday it had a primary budget surplus for the first time in 15 years and said it was committed to paying oil companies' debts by end of 2019 as it seeks to lure investors to revive a crisis-hit economy. Cairo has enacted a raft of tough austerity measures backed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) since 2016, hoping for a strong financial comeback as it recovers from years of political upheaval.

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's government devalued the Egyptian pound by half in 2016, and has pushed through steep fuel and electricity subsidy cuts this year, in measures praised by some economists but lamented by many Egyptians who say they are struggling with soaring living costs. Finance Minister Mohamed Maait said Egypt achieved a 0.2 percent primary budget surplus, worth 4 million Egyptian pounds in its 2017-2018 fiscal year. It is aiming for a 2 percent primary surplus in the current fiscal year.

Egypt's fiscal year runs from July to June. Primary budget figures do not factor in interest payments on government debt. The country expected its 2017-2018 budget deficit to stand at 9.8 percent, slightly above the 9.1 percent it said last year it was targeting. Maait told reporters that revenues expected from the 2018-2019 budget were around 989 billion Egyptian pounds, 817 billion of which

would be spent on debts and interest. Foreign reserves rose by the end of June to \$44.258 billion from \$44.139 billion, the central bank announced separately, continuing their climb since Egypt secured the \$12 billion IMF loan.

Gas debts down

Egypt wants to woo foreign investors and increase other crucial sources of income such as tourism, which declined drastically in recent years because of political unrest and a precarious security situation, although tourism revenues have recently picked up. A 2011 popular uprising which toppled ex-president Hosni Mubarak was followed by years of unrest, including the Sisi-led ouster of Islamist president Mohamed Mursi in 2013, and attacks by Islamic State insurgents in the restive northern Sinai Peninsula against security forces and then civilians.

Sisi's supporters say the security situation has greatly improved during his presidency - although critics say it has come at the cost of a harsh political crackdown. The discovery of large amounts of off-shore gas in Egyptian waters, including the giant Zohr gas field, has caused hope for another source of revenue with Egypt as a potential gas hub for the region. Petroleum Minister Tarek El Molla told reporters on Thursday Egypt was committed to paying off its debts to foreign oil companies by the end of 2019.

Those debts stood at \$1.2 billion at the end of June, their lowest since 2010 when they were around \$1.3 billion, he said. El Molla repeated that Egypt intended to increase production from the Zohr field to 2 billion cubic feet of gas per day by the end of this year - up from current levels of around 1.2 billion. Discovered in 2015 by Italy's Eni, Zohr contains an estimated 30 trillion cubic feet of gas. —Reuters

Business

Russia's telecoms security push hits snag: It needs foreign help

Law requires telecom operators to store users' calls and texts

MOSCOW: Russian telecoms operators will have to use foreign technology to comply with a law on storing data, two industry sources with knowledge of the matter said, even though Vladimir Putin told his government to ensure local companies produced the equipment. The law requires operators to store the content of users' phone calls and text messages for six months to aid the security services. President Putin wanted home-grown technology to be used to perform the task, to boost the domestic tech industry and make telecoms systems less dependent on Western equipment.

But faced with a tight deadline to start storing the vast amounts of information, and in the absence of suitable Russian hardware, operators will have no choice but to use equipment made by foreign firms including Cisco, Hewlett Packard Enterprise and Huawei, according to the sources.

In having to resort to buying in hardware from abroad, Russia is encountering the same issues as other countries including the United States: the tech sector is a multinational endeavor and developing sophisticated systems using only home-grown gear is fraught with difficulties.

"It's a good idea in theory to substitute imports, but you need to make a realistic assessment of the capacity of Russian firms," said Irina Levova of Moscow-based independent think-tank the Institute

for the Study of the Internet. "The money spent implementing this law won't stay in the Russian economy but will end up abroad." Adding to the problems besetting implementation of the law, no Russian telecoms operator has the necessary infrastructure in place, despite a July 1 deadline to start storing users' data, according to the two telecoms industry sources.

One of the sources is a senior manager at a Russian telecoms operator, who declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the matter. The other is the general director of Norsi-Trans, a company that procures hardware for telecoms operators. Russia's ministry for digital development and communications did not respond to a request for comment about the use of foreign hardware or about whether telecoms firms have the necessary infrastructure in place.

A spokesman for Deputy Prime Minister Maxim Akimov, responsible for telecoms, referred questions to the ministry for industry and trade. The ministry said Russian-made storage equipment had been tested this year and that it would seek to help local manufacturers competing against foreign firms. There is no legal requirement for telecom operators to use Russian-made hardware to comply with the data rules, which are part of package of anti-terrorism legislation dubbed the Yarovaya laws after Irina

"We need to fill up the order books"

India's richest man unveils broadband plan

MUMBAI: India's richest man Mukesh Ambani, who turned the country's mobile market upside down by offering free voice calls for life, is zeroing in on a new market-broadband internet. Ambani told shareholders yesterday that Reliance Industries, his oil-to-telecoms conglomerate, will roll out fiber broadband across 1,100 Indian cities. "We will now extend fiber connectivity to homes, merchants, small and medium enterprises and large enterprises simultaneously," he told investors in Mumbai.

His ambitious foray into fiber-based broadband would be "the most advanced" in the country, Ambani told shareholders at Reliance's annual general meeting. The announcement is likely to send a chill up the spines of India's broadband providers as the hugely wealthy conglomerate expands its drive into internet services. Reliance sparked a price war and a rush to consolidation in India's telecoms market when it launched its Jio network in September 2016 by offering vastly cheaper tariffs and data plans.

Ambani said yesterday that Jio had amassed



MUMBAI: India's richest man and oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani, right, along with his wife Nita Ambani, center, and their son Anant Ambani arrive for the company's 41st AGM in Mumbai. —AFP

215 million customers as he announced his plans to boost India's fixed-line broadband coverage with the launch of Jio Giga Fiber on August 15. "While India has pole-vaulted into global leadership in the mobile broadband space we still lag behind significantly in fixed-line broadband. Jio is determined to move India to among the top 5 in fixed-line broadband, too," he said. Reliance's telecoms rival Bharti Airtel currently provides broadband to Indian homes as does Tata Docomo and the state-owned BSNL among others. —AFP



CRIMEA: A portrait of Russian President Vladimir Putin is seen on a cover of a woman's phone as she takes pictures during celebrations of the Russian national holiday - Defender of the Fatherland Day in Sevastopol, Crimea. —Reuters

Yarovaya, one of the sponsors in parliament.

Of Russia's biggest operators, Rostelecom, Vimpelcom and MTS declined to comment about whether they would have to use foreign hardware to comply with the law, while Megafon and Tele2 did not respond to requests for comment. When asked whether they had the necessary infrastructure in place, Vimpelcom, Rostelecom, and Megafon said their systems were still under development. MTS and Tele2 Russia declined to comment.

After signing the Yarovaya legislation into law in

July 2016, Putin instructed his government to ensure that production of the equipment to store users' data took place within Russia. "This needs to be done swiftly. We need to fill up the order books of our own firms, especially since these are good, guaranteed orders," Putin said at the time at a meeting with government ministers. A handful of Russian companies are approved by the domestic intelligence service, the FSB, to provide combined systems of software and hardware that gather and store the contents of phone calls and text messages. —Reuters

As inflation soars, Facebook drives trading in Argentina's barter clubs

SAN MIGUEL: At an abandoned train station in Buenos Aires' working-class suburb of San Miguel, hundreds of Argentines gather with bags of clothes, rice, flour and sugar to trade. Most are women, some accompanied by children. Cardboard signs with their names scrawled in black marker hang from strings around their necks. They walk slowly around the old concrete platform yelling out the names of people they had agreed to trade within a forum on Facebook. They are the face of a resurgent but little-reported phenomenon in the suburbs surrounding the Argentine capital - barter clubs. The clubs have tens of thousands of members and are attracting hundreds more every week. They have become an unofficial economic indicator, showing the toll that soaring inflation and high unemployment are exacting on South America's second-biggest economy.

The barter clubs have surfaced before, during Argentina's 2001-2002 economic crisis and in the 2009 global financial meltdown. In between those crises they never completely went away, but today

the clubs operate differently. Many members are part of Facebook groups where they arrange trades before exchanging goods in person at places like the railway station.

Membership in the clubs has been soaring in recent months as poor Argentines, many of whom have lost their jobs or work off-the-books, struggle to find the cash to make ends meet. They are one sign that progress made by President Mauricio Macri last year in reducing poverty is beginning to reverse. The country's inflation rate is running at above 25 percent, and the currency has lost more than 30 percent of its value this year in a financial crisis that economists say will likely trigger a recession.

With unemployment running at 9.1 percent and many salaries chewed up by years of high inflation, members of the barter clubs bring second-hand goods, rice or homemade produce like desserts to trade. A chart posted on the San Miguel group's Facebook page outlines a points system for certain goods. It's aimed at ensuring participants feel their trades are fair. A 1 kg pack of flour serves as a reference, with a hypothetical value of 30 pesos, or one point. Two packs of flour are worth one bottle of sunflower oil. Four packs of flour is the suggested price for one cake, while three packs can be used to get adult jeans. When Reuters visited the San Miguel market and one in Merlo, another Buenos Aires suburb, most people seemed to be leaving with food. —Reuters

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Federer hits out at 'lethargic' Swiss team after tame loss

'I was disappointed. I expected more from the team'

LONDON: The FIFA rankings state Switzerland are the sixth best soccer team in the world but Roger Federer said his "lethargic" countrymen got what they deserved at the World Cup after they were beaten 1-0 by Sweden in the Round of 16. Vladimir Petkovic's men had been expected to emerge triumphant from Tuesday's showdown with 24th-ranked Sweden in Russia, but a lack of cohesiveness on the pitch left Federer and his eight million fellow Swiss dejected after the final whistle.

"I was disappointed yesterday. I expected more from the team," Federer, who has given Switzerland plenty to cheer about as he collected 20 Grand Slam titles over the past 15 years, told reporters at Wimbledon on Wednesday. "That's the thing with knockout. You have to bring it like it was the finals every match, it's 11 guys at the same time. It can't just be three guys, eight guys. It needs to be everybody at the same time doing the same thing."

"I felt it's an opportunity missed. We didn't create enough chances. We deserved what we got." Beaten only once since Euro 2016, Switzerland appeared to have enough talent to end Sweden's surprise run in the tournament and reach the quarter-finals for the first time since 1954 but instead gave a soulless display in St Petersburg.

Too late for pep talk

As Switzerland's most famous sporting export, did Federer wish he could have given them a pep talk? "Now the pep talk is too late anyway," said the 36-year-old, who is five wins away from claiming a record ninth Wimbledon title. "It's important that they understand you've got to bring the energy every single day. It's throughout the year. It's not just in the World Cup, last 16 or quarters. That's why you need to bring it every single day."

"When you step out on the pitch, or on the court in tennis, in practice, in the match, you have to always try to be able to perform as high as possible. Then it's actually not a big deal to bring it also in a match like yesterday." Federer's disciplined training regime has helped him to prolong his career well into his 30s and as he approaches his 37th birthday, he remains the man to beat at Wimbledon.

It is a doctrine he feels the country's soccer team should follow. "What I know from knockout play throughout the course of my career is (that) you can't afford to come in lethargic," Federer said. "You just think it's going to happen by itself, just because you play one good match the day before. You're only as good as your next performance really." —Reuters



SAINT PETERSBURG: Switzerland's players look dejected at the end of the Russia 2018 World Cup round of 16 football match between Sweden and Switzerland at the Saint Petersburg Stadium. —AFP

China mourns its 'psychic' World Cup cat

BEIJING: A "psychic" cat in China that correctly predicted the outcome of six World Cup games has met an untimely end, prompting thousands to pour out their grief on Chinese social media. The orange-furred tabby, named "Baidian'er", which means "white spot" in Chinese, was a stray that prowled around the Palace Museum in Beijing's Forbidden City. He was offered two bowls of food, with the flags

of competing World Cup teams stuck in the ground behind them. Baidian'er correctly predicted the results of six World Cup games. He achieved such fame that the Palace Museum even set up an account for him on China's Weibo, a popular Twitter-like platform.

Unfortunately, Baidian'er's correct prediction of an Argentinian win against Nigeria turned out to be his last. The museum said the cat fell ill and finally announced its death on Monday, sparking almost 10,000 comments on Weibo. "Every time I go to the Forbidden City, I have to go see Baidian'er, take a photo, play for a while, see him sleep on the grass in the sun," wrote one distraught user. "Go on living a happy life in Cat Heaven, I'll see you again." —AFP

FIFA rebukes Maradona over 'robbery' comments

MOSCOW: FIFA says it "strongly rebukes" Argentina great Diego Maradona's comments that England's win over Colombia was a robbery and that referee Mark Geiger was not up to the task. "Following comments made by Diego Armando Maradona...FIFA strongly rebukes the criticism of the performance of the match officials which it considers to have been positive in a tough and highly emotional match," said the global soccer body in a statement. "It also considers the addi-

tional comments and insinuations made as being entirely inappropriate and completely unfounded."

England won the round of 16 match on penalties following 120 minutes marred by squabbling, protests to the referee, play-acting and feigning injury. FIFA said it was "doing everything within its power to ensure principles of fair play, integrity and respect are at the forefront of this World Cup and how the organization is now run." In that context, FIFA said it was "extremely sorry to read such declarations from a player who has written the history of our game." Maradona said England's win was a "monumental robbery" and that Geiger "shouldn't be given a match of this magnitude." He added: "Geiger, an American, what a coincidence." —AFP

West Indies dismiss B'desh for record Test low of 43

NORTHSOUND: Kemar Roach led the demolition of Bangladesh with a five-wicket haul as the tourists were dismissed for 43, their lowest total ever in Test cricket, before lunch on the opening day of the first Test against the West Indies at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Wednesday. By stumps the West Indies top-order had built on that dominant bowling effort in reaching 201 for two, a lead already of 158 runs with eight wickets in hand.

Opening batsman Kraigg Brathwaite played his usual sheet-anchor role to perfection in compiling an unbeaten 88 from almost five hours at the crease. He put on 113 for the first wicket with Devon Smith (58), while Kieran Powell stroked his way to 48 in an 81-run stand before falling just before the close of play. Their serene progress through two sessions contrasted sharply with Bangladesh's woeful batting performance.

Apart from being their lowest Test innings total and lowest for any team in Test cricket in the Caribbean, it was also the second shortest first innings of a Test match — 18.4 overs — in the game's 141-year history, bettering by just one delivery Australia's dismissal for 60 off 18.3 overs by England at Nottingham in 2015.

Put in to bat on the greenest surface seen in 10 years of Test cricket at the venue, the Bangladeshis were no match for the quality of the West Indies fast bowling led by Roach, who set the rout in motion by claiming the first five wickets for eight runs in the space of 12 deliveries despite appearing to be troubled by a muscular strain behind his right knee. However it was the visiting batsmen who felt the greatest discomfort with only opener Liton Das getting into double-figures in a performance that once again exposed the vulnerability of their play-

ers in conditions away from what they are generally familiar with on the Indian sub-continent. Das was sixth out for 25, an ugly heave offering a simple catch to Roston Chase at backward point off Miguel Cummins to end any prospect of Roach claiming all ten wickets in the innings.

Holder continues excellent form

Cummins, whose place in the final XI was in question after a lack of success in the preceding three-Test series against Sri Lanka, took two more wickets before West Indies captain Jason Holder, fresh from a nine-wicket haul despite defeat in the final Test against the Sri Lankans in Barbados just over a week earlier, polished off the innings with the wickets of Kamrul Islam and debutant Abu Jayed.

Jayed was always in line for his maiden Test cap given the pitch conditions and the absence through injury from the tour of Bangladesh's most effective seamer Mustafizur Rahman. But he would not have expected to be at the crease as the last man in the batting line-up or being the first to use the new ball in the West Indies reply, all within his very first session of Test cricket.

If they were relying on their most senior players to navigate them through what was expected to be a tough opening session, Bangladesh were poorly served by the experienced quartet as captain Shakib al Hassan, former skipper Musfiquur Rahim and all-rounder Mahmudullah all failed to score while opener Tamim Iqbal contributed four runs before becoming the first wicket to fall, caught by wicketkeeper Shan Dowrich, to trigger the swift tumbling of wickets.

Four days after his 30th birthday, Roach's unerring accuracy and decent pace proved too much



ANTIGUA: Kamrul Islam (C) of Bangladesh is caught off by Jason Holder (TopR) of West Indies during day 1 of the 1st Test between West Indies and Bangladesh at Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Ground. —AFP

for batsmen ill-equipped to cope with the seaming ball. Four of his five wickets came via catches to the wicketkeeper or the slip cordon while Mushfiqur was trapped LBW, a review of the on-field decision being upheld by the television official.

Bangladesh's bowlers were made to look pedestrian in the conditions and their plight was

worsened by chances put down off both Smith and Brathwaite. Yet there was delight on an otherwise forgettable first day of Test cricket for Abu Jayed when he had Smith caught at the wicket to claim his maiden Test success. Mahmudullah was the other wicket-taker, removing Powell to a deflected slip catch 15 minutes before stumps. —AFP

Zaman sparks Pakistan to win over Australia

HARARE: Shaheen Afridi took three wickets as Pakistan completed a clinical 45-run victory over Australia yesterday in the Twenty20 tri-series in Zimbabwe. Pakistan batted first and opener Fakhar Zaman registered a career-best 73 as they raced to 194 for 7. Then left-arm seamer Afridi starred with three wickets as the bowlers held Australia to 149 for 7 in a match which was effectively a dress rehearsal for Sunday's final.

Pakistan lost Haris Sohail for a golden duck after being put in to bat on a chilly midwinter morning in Harare, but Zaman and Hussain Talat wrested back control back with a rapid 72-run stand. Talat cracked three fours and a six before playing one shot too many to be bowled by Glenn Maxwell's offspin. Zaman continued to middle his aggressive strokes and went to a 33-ball fifty, his third for Pakistan in this format, with a slog sweep for six, while another big hit off Andrew Tye's seamers took the batsman past his previous best of 61.

An edged four took Pakistan beyond 130, and Zaman into the 70s, in the 15th over, but he pulled the next ball he faced straight to Maxwell on the edge of the circle at midwicket. The quick dismissal of captain Sarfraz Ahmed, edging a Tye legcutter into the hands of wicketkeeper Alex Carey, put a further dent in Pakistan's batting, but the experienced Shoaib Malik ensured that the runs kept flowing.

He hit 15 off the 17th over, bowled by Marcus Stoinis, boosting Pakistan beyond 150. After he fell, Asif Ali struck three fours and two sixes in an unbeaten 37 to keep the pressure on Australia right to



HARARE: Pakistan's bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi celebrates after taking a wicket during the fifth T20 cricket match between Pakistan and Australia of a T20 tri-series including host nation Zimbabwe at The Harare Sports Club. —AFP

the end of the innings. Pakistan kept the pressure up with the ball too, Afridi taking the vital early wicket of Aaron Finch when the Australian captain had made just 16.

Bowling from the Golf Course End, Afridi swung and seamed the ball prodigiously to trouble the batsmen. He trapped Glenn Maxwell lbw, and then rattled D'Arcy Short's stumps as Australia slipped to 75 for 5. Their chase never recovered from the early losses, with the rest of Pakistan's attack chipping in with wickets in a much improved performance. —AFP

McIlroy to summon teen spirit to end drought

LONDON: Rory McIlroy is keen to regain the carefree mentality from his youth and take more risks as he prepares to challenge for his first major title since 2014 at this month's British Open. McIlroy won the last of his four major titles at the PGA Championship in 2014 and his efforts to win a fifth this year have been underwhelming with the 29-year-old having a disastrous final round at the Masters and failing to make the cut at the U.S. Open.

The Northern Irishman says his mentality rather than physical form has been to blame for his recent struggles on the course. "I think as you get older, it's natural instinct to become a little more careful," McIlroy told reporters. "You take way more risks when you're a teenager... I just need to get back to playing the game like I was a teenager. Not be careful, not try to be too perfect. Not try to control things that you can't control. Just go out and play your game. —Reuters

Sports

Third seed Cilic stunned by Pella in second round

LONDON: Wimbledon 2017 runner-up Marin Cilic, a favorite to go far in the tournament again this year, suffered a shock 3-6 1-6 6-4 7-6(3) 7-5 defeat by Argentine Guido Pella in the second round yesterday. The Croatian third seed began the day two sets up but 4-3 down on Pella's serve in the third, following Wednesday evening's halt for rain and found his opponent very much up for the fight.

Pella wrapped up the third set comfortably, then shaded an exciting fourth set that included two breaks of serve for each player with Pella taking command in the tiebreak to clinch it 7-3. The deciding set went with serve until Pella clinched his first victory over a top-five player on his fourth match point after Cilic had already saved two in the 10th game and another when 30-40 down.

Pella, who has very limited experience on grass and had lost to Cilic in three sets at the 2015 U.S. Open in their only previous meeting, was undoubtedly helped by Wednesday's rain interruptions. "Yesterday he was playing so, so good, hitting the ball so hard that I couldn't do anything," Pella said. "So the rain helped me a lot. Today I played differently, tried to be more aggressive, he started to feel uncomfortable. I tried to hit the ball hard and fight for every ball and I think in the end that's why I won."

Signs were immediate

"Every time you play this kind of player, they try

to break your serve in the first game and that's what he got in the first two sets." Pella said grass was not his favorite surface but he was trying to improve. "The rain came and today I felt much more confident, served better and was so calm until the end. I lost three or four match points before I could close the game, so I am very happy."

The signs were immediate that Thursday's play would be different as Cilic looked uncomfortable trying to find his length and perhaps ruminating that the weather had denied him a simple win the previous day. The fourth set was key for Pella as he made Cilic work hard for every point and varied his serve to keep Cilic guessing.

Cilic broke to take a 3-1 lead, only for Pella to break back, chasing and retrieving a cheeky drop shot from the Croatian to beat him at the net. Then it was Pella's turn as Cilic double faulted then fell to some fine recovery shots by the Argentine, one across court, the other kissing the line. But Cilic broke back and saw the set through to a tiebreak in which he took a 2-0 lead before Pella, playing superbly, reeled off five successive points to give himself four set points with Cilic managing to save only the first with an ace.

Cilic, who won the Queen's Club tournament 10 days ago, refused to blame the rain interruption. "I was focused on my game, I wasn't thinking of what comes next," said the Croatian, who lost last year's



WIMBLEDON: Croatia's Marin Cilic returns to Argentina's Guido Pella during their men's singles second round match on the third day of the 2018 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis Club. — AFP

final to Roger Federer. "Pella served well and came back into match, so it became a different match. "It's a big disappointment to lose in the second round when I was playing well in last few weeks. "I felt not

at the right level that I needed to be. He played solid, much better than yesterday. I had two levels between yesterday and today. There were many balls I was not executing well today." — Reuters

Williams sisters happy as women given centre stage

LONDON: Venus Williams said she was 'overjoyed' that Wimbledon organizers gave women the spotlight on the tournament's main showcourts on Wednesday. Five of the seven matches on Centre Court and Court One on day three were women's singles, although one of them was a late change after the Centre Court program ended early.

It did not escape the attention of five-time champion Williams, who beat Romanian qualifier Alexandra Dulgheru on Court One to move into the third round. "I was really overjoyed when I saw the schedule for today. We have a lot of equal play on the main courts in the other three grand slams," the American veteran said. "It was just fantastic to see Wimbledon also follow suit. It's wonderful to hopefully have that continue, to have equal for the men and the women."

Wimbledon has come under fire in the past for sending top women's seeds, including Venus and sister Serena, out to the smaller courts. While the club said there has not been a change in policy women's matches have outnumbered men's on the biggest courts so far at this year's tournament. Seven-times champion Serena beat Bulgarian qualifier Viktoriya Tomova on Centre Court on Wednesday, having opened on Monday against Arantxa Rus on Court One.

She echoed her sister's sentiments. "I think it's wonderful," she said. "For so many years it was just two men's, one women's. "Now it's several women out there playing. I think it's a great opportunity. Just really proud to be here and play at a tournament that can recognize that." Yesterday's Centre Court and Court One program favored the men, however, although three-times champion Novak Djokovic will find himself on Court Two. Of the seven matches scheduled for the two main showcourts on day four, including Marin Cilic's unfinished second-round clash with Guido Pella, only two are women's singles. Top seed Simona Halep will play Zheng Saisai on Court One while home hope Johanna Konta plays Dominika Cibulkova on Centre Court after Rafa Nadal opens the program. — Reuters

Nadal passes tricky test against Kukushkin

LONDON: The scoreboard said 6-4 6-3 6-4 to Rafael Nadal but it was an uneasy two-and-a-half hours for the Spanish world number one as he labored past Kazakhstan's Mikhail Kukushkin into the Wimbledon third round yesterday. Two-time champion Nadal, 32, never quite got to grips with the unorthodox Kazakh's low, skidding shots and faced 13 break points in an entertaining Centre Court contest.

Had Kukushkin converted a few more of them it could have got really complicated for Nadal, who is still finding his grasscourt game after claiming an 11th French Open title. Nadal took 10 minutes to hold his opening service game and was still being asked

questions by the world number 77 in the third when he slipped 3-1 behind in the face of some inspired shot-making by his opponent. The 17-times Grand Slam champion dug in though and managed to avoid being dragged further into the afternoon, claiming victory when Kukushkin's forehand smacked into the net tape. Nadal will face Australian teenager Alex De Minaur next.

Meanwhile, Novak Djokovic made it through to the third round at Wimbledon with a straight sets win over Horacio Zeballos of Argentina. The former world number one, seeded 12th at the All England Club as he makes his way back from an elbow injury, won 6-1, 6-2, 6-3 for his 60th win at the tournament. The three-time Wimbledon champion, more used to playing on the main Centre Court or Court One arenas, was in the strange position of playing on the 4,000-seater Court Two. Djokovic had treatment on his left thigh in the third set but overcame the problem to see out the set. He faces either British 21st seed Kyle Edmund or US qualifier Bradley Klahn in Saturday's third round. — Agencies



WIMBLEDON: Spain's Rafael Nadal celebrates a point against Kazakhstan's Mikhail Kukushkin in their men's singles second round match on the fourth day of the 2018 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis Club. — AFP

Sports

Egypt's women football referees push for more league promotion

CAIRO: On the sidelines of a small football pitch at a university in Cairo, Hanan Hassan remembers starting out as a referee and the response she got from one female player's mother. "In a loud voice she yelled as she was looking towards me: 'god bless you my daughter and I hope that my own daughter becomes like you'," Hassan recalls, proudly.

For years, women referees in Egypt have officiated at lower-level football matches but now have their sights set on the premier league. "My colleagues abroad have already presided over the men's tournaments in their countries, so why not in Egypt?" asked fellow referee Mona Atalla. Dressed in trousers and a pink shirt carrying the FIFA logo, Hassan and Atalla, both 37, presided over the evening all-women friendly game at Ain Shams University in the Egyptian capital.

While Hassan started her career as a professional referee in 2006, Atalla was part of the first group of female referees registered in Egypt in 1998 who were allowed to oversee all-women and junior male tournaments. After years on the pitch, Atalla and her female colleague Pousy Said were finally allowed in April to officiate a match in the men's second and third division leagues.

The decision by the Egyptian Football Association's referee committee raised hopes that women referees will soon be holding the red and yellow cards in the top-tier premier league. Atalla has already worked at international women's tournaments, including the under-20s World Cup. "Our expertise is not inferior to that

of the male referees, and the law (on football refereeing) is the same and should be implemented," she added.

Hassan, who also holds an international referee license, argued women may actually have an advantage on the pitch. "If the men's game does include some violence, the presence of a female referee could push some players to be more appropriate," she said, standing tall on the pitch with her hair covered. "It is natural for me to hand my decisions with a smile so that I absorb the anger of the person in front of me," Hassan quipped.

Fighting prejudice

There are just 15 women working as referees in Egypt, out of 60 registered with the country's FA, according to referee committee head Azab Haggag. He sees no reason for women not to officiate more high-profile matches, "but it has to be done gradually so that the fans are more prepared for it and accept it." Atalla, whose brothers and husband are also referees, said she has seen attitudes change over the years.

At first "some people saw it as strange for women to be playing football, and even more so for them to be officials... with the decision held in her hands," she said. "As the job was being practiced by women who do their jobs perfectly, people have become very proud of their presence in the field," said Atalla. But as the women referees are fighting to gain more ground, Haggag said the FA has received some complaints



CAIRO: Egyptian referee Hanan Hassan (R) and assistant referee Mona Atalla warm up prior to a women's football match. —AFP

from female players.

Norhan Hamdy, a 21-year-old who was playing in the game at Ain Shams University, is one of the footballers who objects to women referees. "As a female football player I prefer that a man officiates my games," said Hamdy, who be-

lieves some women referees are influenced by their emotions and can be biased towards their friends. Determined to see women referees promoted to the higher leagues, Atalla said such prejudices must be confronted: "We must fight this thought." — AFP

Conte's firing imminent as Sarri awaits call up

LONDON: The long-running saga over Chelsea manager Antonio Conte's future is set to be resolved imminently with his sacking to be replaced by fellow Italian Maurizio Sarri, according to British media reports. Conte's departure has been long expected, even though he added an FA Cup in May to the Premier League he won in his first season in charge of Chelsea in 2016/17.

Both the Daily Mirror and The Times report on Thursday things are coming to a head. The Times reports that Conte sent an email stating he is still the head coach and expects players who are not at the World Cup to be at the training ground on Monday when he returns from holiday, countermanding a request from a member of the club's technical staff for players to report this weekend. The Mirror reports that players want the confusion sorted out so they can plan for the future and that several agents in limbo over potential transfers. Conte is seen to have contributed to his own demise having fallen out both with the players and the board as the sheen of the title victory quickly disap-

pearing. His intense training methods angered senior players and he alienated the board over his disparaging treatment of Spanish striker Diego Costa and constant carping over the club's failure to replace top players with those of similar ability. Sarri, a former banker, has been favorite to succeed his compatriot after impressing as manager of Serie A side Napoli, who have replaced him with former Chelsea handler Carlo Ancelotti.

The main barrier has been compensation. Conte is due a reported £9million (\$11.9million) if he remains out of work for the season and with the major jobs such as Real Madrid and the Italy national post-which he occupied for two years till after Euro 2016 — filled it is likely he will sit the year out. Napoli are also expecting compensation of around £4.5million for Sarri, who is still under contract even though he is no longer their coach.

Sarri is believed to have agreed to bring former Chelsea favorite Gianfranco Zola-whose managerial career has stalled after a series of failures-along as one of his backroom staff. Sarri has also presented a list of players he would like to sign. They reportedly include Belgian forward Dries Mertens from Napoli, CSKA

Moscow's Russian playmaker Aleksandr Golovin and Italian defender Daniel Rugani from Juventus, the side that edged Napoli in the Serie A title race. However, due to the uncertainty several Chelsea players are seeking to leave.—AFP

Ireland refugees find their feet through football

DUBLIN: As Fadi hits a penalty shot into the back of the net, it is hard to believe that just a few years ago the Syrian teenager thought his footballing days were over when a house collapsed on him in an accident in his native Aleppo.

The young refugee, who suffered a broken leg and back, now lives in Ireland, where a football tournament with a difference has drawn crowds that are every bit as enthusiastic as those gathered in Russia for the World Cup - if rather smaller. Every summer, refugee communities in Ireland form teams that compete in the Fair Play World Cup, now in its ninth year.

The seven-a-side tournament is held in central Dublin and draws players from refugee communities all over Ireland whose countries of origin range from Vietnam to South Sudan, with the aim of raising awareness and helping them to integrate. Growing up in Aleppo, Fadi, a handsome 18-year-old who wears his hair fashionably slicked back, was a keen footballer until the accident happened shortly before the war.

Now he trains regularly and competed alongside other members of his family in a team they formed with the help of volunteers at the camp in Greece where they lived before Ireland took them. "When we play football together we have

fun and see each other, we speak to each other about the past and where we are now," Fadi, who asked that his family name not be used, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

This year's tournament was the first in which the Cafe Rits team - named after a cafe in the Ritsona refugee camp in Greece - have competed. But they took it seriously - their Greek coach Dimitrios Ermilios even flew over to put them through their paces ahead of the contest. As did Carolyn Rockafellow, an American former investment banker who set up Cafe Rits and helped get the football team off the ground. "The one thing that cheered everybody up is football, and it was clearly something that unified the camp," she said. "It really made a difference."

Fadi fled Aleppo in 2014 along with his parents and siblings, including his 20-year-old brother Ali, who also plays in the team. Both would have been drafted into the Syrian army if they had stayed. Altogether 38 family members crossed into Turkey before making the perilous journey by sea on to Greece - a feat they say was achieved through teamwork and has helped them to be better contestants.

They are among the more than 2,000 Syrian refugees who have arrived in Ireland since the war began in 2011, and they are the lucky ones. Life here is better than it was in the camp in Greece. Nonetheless, the UN refugee agency says they face difficulties including isolation, which football can help combat. "Sport is one of the best ways to get new communities to meet Irish people they meet people down on the training ground they meet people when they are at football," said spokesman Jody Clarke. — Reuters



Uruguay's immoveable defense ready for unstoppable Mbappe

NIZHNIY NOVGOROD: The build-up to today's quarter-final clash between France and Uruguay has been dominated by individuals, but it may be the South Americans' almost un-breach-able four-man defense which decides the result. While Uruguay sweat on the fitness of striker Edinson Cavani, it should be remembered that La Celeste's progress in Russia has been built upon their defense as much as their A-list attack.

And while France pin their hopes on Kylian Mbappe, it is unlikely that the teenage superstar has encountered a defense quite like Uruguay's. The mouth-watering last-eight tie in Nizhny Novgorod is likely to be decided by a battle between Uruguay's stifling back-line and the speed of Mbappe, 19.

Led by captain Diego Godin, and including Jose Gimenez, Martin Caceres and Diego Laxalt, along with goalkeeper Fernando Muslera, Uruguay's defense have the joint-best record at the World Cup. They passed

through the group stage without conceding a goal, and the only player to score against Uruguay was Portugal's Pepe in the last 16, and that was ultimately in vain. Brazil are the only other team to have conceded just the solitary goal so far.

Supreme organization

Uruguay have conceded three fewer goals than France. Both teams have scored seven times. Between them, the experienced defense have over 350 international caps between them. They are supremely well-organized and have already served notice that Mbappe will not have the same kind of freedom he enjoyed against Argentina. "If you let France have space it will be very difficult," Uruguay's coach Oscar Tabarez said after securing a place in the quarter-finals.

And he has also insisted that he is happy to cede possession to France in a bid to make the last four. France's conundrum against Uruguay is knowing

best how to utilize Mbappe and his fellow attacking danger, Antoine Griezmann. The French limped through their group stage but burst to life in their exhilarating 4-3 last-16 win over Argentina, inspired by Paris Saint-Germain's \$220 million (188-million-euro) Mbappe.

Didier Deschamps, France's coach, has already indicated that he is expecting a different kind of game from "solid" Uruguay from the seven-goal thriller in Kazan. The match is likely to be unsurprising, if not only for tactics, but also because of those involved. Whoever-and however-decides the match is likely to have to get one over on a domestic teammate. Cavani, who may play some part despite his calf injury, plays with Mbappe and PSG. Godin and Gimenez are colleagues-and close friends-with Griezmann, Rodrigo Bentancur and Blaise Matuidi play for Juventus, while Luiz Suarez and French defender Samuel Umtiti play for Barcelona. — AFP



This combination of pictures created on July 03, 2018 shows (top) Uruguay's forward Edinson Cavani (L) and Uruguay's defender Diego Godin (R) in Ekaterinburg on June 15, 2018, and (bottom) France's midfielder Paul Pogba (L) and France's forward Kylian Mbappe (R) in Ekaterinburg on June 21, 2018. — AFP

Whether you like him or not - Deschamps puts winning first

NIZHNIY NOVGOROD: Last weekend, Didier Deschamps chalked up another significant achievement in a remarkable career. He became the longest-serving coach of France when he oversaw his 80th game as Les Bleus beat Argentina 4-3 in a thriller to go through today's World Cup quarter-final against Uruguay.

Six years have passed since he replaced Laurent Blanc, but how long he carries on could come down to what happens in Nizhny Novgorod today, when France and their fearsome attack come up against the formidable Uruguayan defence. The French Football Federation set a semi-final place as their target coming to Russia, and a last-eight exit would leave a sense of potential unfulfilled in the Deschamps era. The FFF have said that the coach, who turns 50 this year, will stay around until 2020, when his contract expires. Nevertheless, a disappointing exit and his position will look rather fragile at a time when Zinedine Zidane is a free man having left Real Madrid. Many France fans will have longed for Zidane as they watched their national team's performances in the group stage, especially in the insipid 0-0 draw with Denmark.

The display against Argentina was what the public had been crying out for, with the explosive Kylian Mbappe eclipsing Lionel Messi as

the French tore apart a fragile defence. "There has been criticism, and there always will be. But the truth comes with what happens on the pitch," Deschamps told French television after that game. Diego Godin and co. will not leave the same kind of space to exploit in the quarter-finals, though, as the coach looks to avoid falling at the same hurdle as four years ago, when they lost to Germany. Since then, France have lost the Euro 2016 final on home soil to Portugal. Despite topping their qualifying group for this World Cup, the lowlights included a 0-0 draw with minnows Luxembourg. Deschamps has Mbappe, Antoine Griezmann, Ousmane Dembele, Olivier Giroud and Nabil Fekir in his squad. Yet he has struggled to settle on the perfect system to accommodate his attacking talents, and get the best out of Paul Pogba. Observers outside France are especially baffled how a team with such an embarrassment of riches in attack cannot play like they did against Argentina more often.

'A leader of men'

But as Spain great Xavi Hernandez pointed out in a recent interview with French newspaper Le Journal du Dimanche, it is simply that Deschamps has a style more akin to Diego Simeone than Pep Guardiola. "He has not changed his ideas on becoming a coach: defensive solidity and counter-attack," Xavi said. And if anyone doubts the credentials of the coach now, then more fool them. This is the man from the Basque Country who won everything as a player,

including captaining France to glory at the 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000. As a coach he took Monaco to the Champions League final in 2004 and ended Marseille's long wait to win a French title. "Deschamps is a living legend in France. His record as a player and a manager is astonishing," says Matthew Spiro, a British football broadcaster



NIZHNIY NOVGOROD: France's coach Didier Deschamps arrives at the hotel in Nizhny Novgorod on July 5, 2018 on the eve of their Russia 2018 World Cup football match against Uruguay. — AFP

for beIN Sports who is based in Paris.

Spiro says he understands "the clamour for more excitement", but points out that "in six years he has picked the team up from the depths of despair and reached the World Cup quarter-finals as well as the final of the Euro." Calls for more flair are inevitable when Deschamps has so many brilliant players at his disposal, and his lack of charisma when he appears before the media can be frustrating. However, the end will always justify the means, as long as he keeps on winning. "He is a manager, a leader of men. He is a winner," says Guy Stephan, his loyal assistant for almost a decade now. — AFP



Brazil seek to temper hopes of Belgium's 'Golden Generation'

KAZAN: Belgium coach Roberto Martinez has admitted he has no secrets as he plots to end Brazil's bid for a record-extending sixth World Cup ahead of their "dream" quarter-final in Kazan today. But the nation's "Golden Generation" have been reminded that the match against the favorites could represent the last chance for them to shine on the world stage.

"It's a dream match for our players," Martinez told Belgian press after sealing qualification for the last eight with a last-gasp 3-2 victory over Japan in the first phase of the knockout rounds. "There won't be many secrets to the game. We have to defend as well as we can and then punish them when we have the ball. It's that simple, and this team is ready for that."

On paper, a Belgium side containing the talents of Chelsea's Eden Hazard, Kevin De Bruyne of Manchester City and Manchester United striker Romelu Lukaku have the potential to cause a World Cup upset. But despite sailing through the group stage, Martinez's ambitious Red Devils have their work cut out if they are to go all the way to the July 15 final in Moscow.

Third-ranked Belgium reached the quarter-finals in 2014 in Brazil but before that the last time they got so far was in 1986, when 'Little Prince' Frank Vercauteren steered them to the semi-finals before a Diego Maradona double ended their hopes in a 2-0 defeat in Mexico. Vercauteren said before the tournament that Russia represented "perhaps one of the last chances for this generation of players to live up to expectations, because in 2022 a lot of them

won't be there".

On Monday, Belgium mounted a stirring fightback to beat Japan, with Nacer Chadli scoring the winner in the 94th minute. Becoming the first team in 48 years to overcome a 2-0 deficit in a World Cup knockout match was a "proud" moment for Martinez, who said: "That was a test for the team and its character."

Neymar threat

Despite scoring nine times in wins over Panama (3-0), Tunisia (5-2) and England (1-0) before the Japan game, Belgium will have to lift their game significantly to beat a well-drilled Brazil side increasingly dancing to the tune of star forward Neymar.

Neymar signaled he had well and truly put a recent injury lay-off behind him with an incisive performance in a 2-0 win over Mexico in Samara, where he scored the opener and set up Roberto Firmino for his maiden World Cup goal. Even more is expected from Neymar, whose pace, technique and all-round vision allied to Willian's slick movement gave Brazil another dimension.

For all Brazil's attacking riches, Belgium's biggest problem could be piercing a robust defense that has conceded just once, in their 1-1 opening draw with Switzerland. Brazil centre-back pairing Joao Miranda and Thiago Silva have been solid and will aim to keep it that way as the five-time champions target a place in the semi-finals and a match with either France or Uruguay.



KAZAN: Brazil fans cheer as they await their team's arrival at Mirage Hotel in Kazan yesterday for their Russia 2018 World Cup round of 8 football match against Belgium. —AFP

"We're progressing, that's evident," Silva said after their win over Mexico. "It was a complicated match against a dangerous side, but we were solid at the back." Mistakes such as the ones that allowed Japan to grab a two-goal lead are sure to be punished by Neymar but it is Brazil's defence

that is also catching the eye of observers. "As a former defender, I love watching Silva and Miranda play," former France defender William Gallas said in his role as a consultant for French radio station RMC. "They're the best centre back partnership of this World Cup." —AFP

Belgium pin dreams on the mercurial talent of Hazard

NIZHNY NOVGOROD: Eden Hazard leads his team into today's World Cup quarter-final match against Brazil on a stage built to showcase his talent but whether Belgium gets the full benefit of his mercurial ability is to be seen. Hazard is undoubtedly one of the stars of the tournament in Russia and at 27-years-old, wearing the captain's armband, at the peak of his powers.

But there is always a nagging doubt that when the going gets tough, the attacking midfielder might once again prove anonymous. It happened at the last World Cup in Brazil and two years ago at the European Championship when Belgium's 'golden generation' stood on the brink of delivering on their potential but then imploded. In the 2014 quarter-final against

Argentina he drifted out of the game and was replaced after 75 ineffective minutes as Lionel Messi won their head-to-head in a 1-0 Argentina victory.

Two years later, the stage was set for him to lead Belgium past outsiders Wales in the Euro quarter-finals but, in the face of determined defending, he faded when it mattered most and drifted out of the game with a shock 3-1 loss. Hazard is admired for his attacking flair, ability to run at defenses and finishing but it is his maverick genius that sets him apart.

"Ice baths, massages, he doesn't really do all that stuff," team mate Marouane Fellaini in a recent TV documentary over Hazard. Michy Batshuayi told of his amazement when Hazard went to the Chelsea gym for the first time-four years after he first signed for the club. "I told him recently that he must thank God for the talent he has been given. He answered, 'Maybe I should thank him a little,'" recalled former club mate Demba Ba. It all comes easy to Hazard, rarely bothered by the pressure and expectation. That supposed indifference was often a cause of irritation for managers like Jose Mourinho and Antonio Conte. But Belgium see what he is capable of and have placed their faith firmly in him. "He's a not a natural leader like Kompany but rather a leader who shows through example on

the field," fullback Thomas Meunier said last month.

"He's got extraordinary qualities, does things other players cannot. And you don't just run him over. He's very strong on his feet so it's difficult to take the ball off him. I think he's the complete player." Ominously for Brazil, his team mates believe Hazard is in the form of his life and ready to deliver. "I've known him for years and the way he has trained and played over the last weeks has been exceptional," said goalkeeper Thibault Courtois, who is also at Chelsea, this week. "I think he can reach another level." —AFP


WORLD CUP 2018				
Today's Matches (All local timings)				
Uruguay		17:00		France
Brazil		21:00		Belgium

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KAZAN: Fans cheer as Brazil's forward Neymar arrives with teammates at Mirage Hotel in Kazan Yesterday, for their Russia 2018 World Cup round of 8 football match against Belgium. — AFP



Brazil seek to temper hopes of Belgium's 'Golden Generation'

See Page 47