



5 Housemaid assaulted by her sponsor, case filed



6 Child beggars fill Mosul streets a year on from IS



8 Pyongyang rejects US' gangster-like demand



27 Belgium and France face off in semi-final



Kuwait, China boost economic ties; Amir meets China officials

China 'could set up industrial, high-tech parks in Kuwait'



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

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah said China could help set up industrial and high-tech parks in northern Kuwait - part of Gulf state's strategic plans to diversify economy and be a global trade and financial hub. The Chinese contribution will help achieve Kuwait government's 2035 national development strategy.

His Highness the Amir, in an interview with Chinese Xinhua News Agency, said the strategic development plan is aimed at achieving a strategic transformation into a diversified economy, as well as being an international trade and financial center capable of attracting multi-faceted investments. His Highness the Amir, who arrived in China earlier Saturday hopes China would help establish industrial and high-tech parks in northern Kuwait.

"We encourage the Chinese business and financial institutions to operate here," said His Highness the Amir. His Highness is scheduled to meet senior Chinese officials.

He will also attend the opening ceremony of the 8th ministerial meeting of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum in Beijing.

Commenting on China's Belt and Silk Road Initiative, His Highness said that Kuwait was among the first countries to sign a cooperation agreement with Beijing under the initiative. The initiative, consisting of Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road, is designed to build a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa and beyond the ancient Silk Road trade routes. Kuwait Amir said the 2013 initiative was compatible with Kuwait strategic development plans, and would help his country, which in 2015 announced a plan to develop its islands, achieve its development goals.

China is Kuwait's largest source of imports, as trade volume reached a record \$12.04 billion in 2017, according to Xinhua, while Kuwait is China's fourth largest crude oil supplier in the Arab world. There are currently more than 40 Chinese companies

operating in Kuwait with about 80 projects in progress in sectors of oil, infrastructure, communications and banking.

"I wish to emphasize that we are proud of the significant role which is played by Chinese enterprises in the development of our country," His Highness said. "Chinese companies are highly professional, and we are very happy to cooperate with them," towards more large-scale development projects in Kuwait, which was the first country to establish diplomatic relations with Beijing, His Highness noted.

He went on to say that the development of partnership and bilateral cooperation with China on the basis of mutual benefit contributed to better well-being of Kuwaiti and Chinese people as well as common progress. His Highness said Kuwait and China maintained strong political and economic relations, and his China visit "demonstrates the determination to strengthen such ties." He pointed out that Kuwait and China have been working together under the

framework of international and regional organizations.

Kuwait Amir called for "more consultation and coordination" with China due to the "sensitive and critical political, economic and security situations on the international and regional levels." He said China's role on the international stage would help tackle challenges facing the Arab and Gulf countries. "A friendly China will assume historical responsibilities, maintain international peace and security, and play a positive and outstanding role," His Highness noted.

Last Friday, Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah said that His Highness the Amir's China visit would contribute in setting a "roadmap" for future strategic relation with Beijing, as well as giving more oomph to cooperation in many crucial domains. This is His Highness's second official visit to the People's Republic of China since assuming rule, and the fourth since taking office in the state when he was a foreign minister. — KUNA

Turkey sacks 18,500 staff in 'new decree'

ANKARA: Turkish authorities yesterday ordered the dismissal of more than 18,500 state employees, including police officers, soldiers and academics, ahead of the expected end of a two-year state of emergency this month. The Official Gazette said 18,632 people had been sacked including 8,998 police officers over suspected links to terror organizations that "act against national security", in what could be the last of the purges under emergency rule.

Turkey has been in a state of emergency since the July 2016 attempted overthrow of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan but the European Union and critics have repeatedly called on Ankara to end it. Turkish media dubbed yesterday's decree as the "last", with officials indicating the government could declare emergency rule over as early as today.

Continued on Page 24

Kuwaiti top court jails 8 current and former lawmakers

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: In a stunning ruling, the Court of Cassation yesterday sentenced two current lawmakers and six former MPs, all of them leading opposition figures, to three and a half years in jail for storming the National Assembly building in 2011, practically ending their political future as they will be deprived from running for public office.

Islamist MPs Waleed Al-Tabtabai and Jamaan Al-Harbash were among those who were handed the tough sentence and are highly expected to lose their parliamentary seats triggering by-election. Former MPs who received the same term include leading opposition figure Mussallam Al-Barrak, in addition to Mubarak Al-

Walaan, Salem Al-Namlan, Fahad Al-Khannah, Faisal Al-Muslem and Khaled Al-Tahous. A third Islamist MP, Mohammad Al-Mutair, who received a one-year term by the Court of Appeals, got the sentence removed and was among those acquitted.

The court, whose rulings are final, also sentenced five opposition activists to the same sentence and penalized three others to a two-year sentence. At the same time, the court, presided over by judge Hisham Abdullah, acquitted 16 activists and one lawmaker and refrained from issuing any sentence on 34 others although it found them guilty. Constitutional experts said the National Assembly will look into procedures to revoke the membership of Tabtabai and Harbash, both of them believed to be outside the country.

Mohammad Al-Faili, a leading constitutional expert, said the Assembly's legal and legislative committee should meet as soon as possible to study the issue and then recommend to the Assembly revoking the membership of the two lawmakers. He said the final decision will be made by the National Assembly when it meets in the new term next October.

Constitutional expert Hesham Al-Saleh said the



Jamaan Al-Harbash



Waleed Al-Tabtabai

Assembly is expected to declare the seats of the two lawmakers vacant and call for by-election within two months of the decision. The by-election will be held in the second and third constituencies, the seats for Harbash and Tabtabai, respectively. The case began in November 2011 when hundreds of opposition demonstrators, who were protesting against corruption, entered the National Assembly building at night.

Continued on Page 24

News in brief

UAE extends service

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates has extended compulsory military service for Emirati men from 12 to 16 months, state news agency WAM reported, amid a three-year involvement in Yemen's war. The UAE, a federation of seven emirates with a mostly expatriate population, is a key member of a Saudi-led military coalition that intervened in Yemen in 2015 against the Iran-aligned Houthis movement to restore the internationally recognized Yemeni government in exile. "The general command of the armed forces ... announced the extension of the legal period for national service ... to 16 instead of 12 months," WAM said late on Saturday. The UAE introduced mandatory military service in 2014 for Emirati men. It kept participation for women, who can serve only for nine months, optional and requiring approval of their legal guardians. — Reuters

Saudi terror attack

RIYADH: A member of Saudi Arabia's security forces and a Bangladeshi resident were killed in an attack on a security checkpoint in Buraidah, a city in Qassim Province north of the capital Riyadh, the state news agency said yesterday. "Three terrorists opened fire on the security checkpoint located at Buraidah-Tarafiya road in Al-Qassim. The security forces fired back, killing two terrorists, and wounding the third," said a statement published by the state news agency (SPA). The authorities have begun a criminal investigation, which is still the subject of a security follow-up, and developments will be announced in due course, the statement added. Qassim, a heartland of the kingdom's ultra-conservative Wahhabi school of Sunni Islam, is one of the most conservative pockets of the country. — AFP

Death toll hits 81; Japan scrambles to rescue victims

KURASHIKI: The death toll from torrential rain and landslides in western Japan rose to 81 people yesterday, with dozens still missing after more than 2,000, temporarily stranded in the city of Kurashiki, were rescued. Evacuation orders were in place for nearly 2 million people and landslide warnings were issued in many prefectures. In hard-hit western Japan, emergency services and military personnel used helicopters and boats to rescue people from swollen rivers and buildings, including a hospital.

Scores of staff and patients, some still in their pajamas, were rescued from the isolated Mabi Memorial Hospital in boats rowed by members of Japan's Self Defense Forces. A city official said 170 patients and staff had been evacuated while public broadcaster NHK later said about 80 people were still stranded.

Continued on Page 24



KURASHIKI: Photo shows an aerial view of flooded houses in Kurashiki, Okayama prefecture yesterday. — AFP

6 boys rescued from flooded Thailand cave

MAE SAI: Six boys among a group of 13 trapped in a flooded Thai cave for more than a fortnight were rescued yesterday, authorities said, raising hopes elite divers would also quickly save the others. The first two boys emerged about nightfall from the Tham Luang cave complex after navigating a treacherous escape route of more than four kilometers through twisting, narrow and jagged passageways.

They were followed shortly afterwards by four others, leading to an explosion of jubilation on social media in Thailand and around the world as the rescued boys were rushed to hospital. "Six of them came out," a defense ministry official, who asked not to be named said. Foreign elite divers and Thai Navy SEALs yesterday morning began the complex operation to extract the 12 boys and their football coach as they raced against time, with imminent monsoon rains threatening more flooding that would doom the mission.

"Today is the D-day. The boys are ready to face any challenges," rescue chief Narongsak Osottanakorn told reporters near the cave site yesterday.

Continued on Page 24



MAE SAI: An ambulance leaves the Tham Luang cave area after divers started evacuating the 12 boys and their football team coach trapped in a flooded cave in Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park. — AFP

Local

Kuwaiti envoy holds dinner for Amir in China



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Ambassador to China Samih Jahour Hayat hosted a dinner yesterday in honor of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, along with a delegation accompanying him on his official state visit to Beijing. — KUNA



China and Arab States: Drawing up a Blueprint for Belt and Road Cooperation in the New Era

By Wang Yi, State Councillor and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China

The Eighth Ministerial Meeting of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum (CASCF) will be held in Beijing on July 10, 2018 (tomorrow). It will be attended by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, representatives from the other 21 Arab countries, and the Secretary-General of the Arab League, and President Xi Jinping will address the opening ceremony. This meeting will be another important event in China-Arab relations, following President Xi's participation in the sixth CASCF Ministerial Meeting in 2014 and his visits to Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the Arab League Headquarters in 2016. At the meeting, China and Arab states are expected to have in-depth discussions on how to jointly advance the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and strengthen overall cooperation with a view to drawing up a blueprint for China-Arab relations in the new era.

Long history

China and Arab countries share a long history of exemplary interactions. The past 2,000 years have witnessed uninterrupted exchanges between the Chinese and Arab peoples through land and sea links, which facilitated mutual learning between two great civilizations. Since the mid-20th century, we have supported each other in our respective struggles for national independence and development, writing a new chapter of friendship and cooperation. The inception of the CASCF in 2004 has further upgraded China-Arab relations, by adding a new driver in addition to the bilateral channels, and has thus accelerated the growth of China-Arab cooperation across the board.

As President Xi aptly puts it, China and Arab countries, who are natural partners in Belt and Road cooperation, need to follow the Silk Road spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit, and seek greater synergy in our respective pursuits of national renewal. The visionary guidance and commitment coming from our leaders have lent a fresh impetus to China-Arab relations. The last four years have seen multiple highlights in the fruitful exchanges and cooperation between China and Arab states, with a special focus on Belt and Road cooperation.

High-level exchanges

Over the past four years, we have maintained frequent high-level exchanges, including President Xi's successful visits to the Middle East and the visits to China by the heads of state of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Palestine. Such exchanges have contributed to deepening political trust and kept bilateral ties running at a high level. China has established or upgraded its strategic relations

with 11 Arab countries. It has supported Arab countries in exploring their own paths of development, and Palestine in restoring the lawful rights of its people. Arab countries, on their part, have given China valuable support on issues concerning its core and major interests.

The scope of our results-oriented business cooperation and people-to-people exchanges has kept growing to cover a wide range of areas, including satellite launch and cotton production. The CASCF institution building has made significant progress. The effective operation of over ten mechanisms, including the Ministerial Meeting, the Senior Officials' Meeting, the Entrepreneurs Conference, and the Energy Cooperation Conference, has fueled our Belt and Road cooperation in various respects.

Over the past four years, we have worked in concert to cement the '1+2+3' cooperation framework featuring one focus (energy cooperation), two priority areas (infrastructure and trade and investment facilitation), and three high-tech sectors for breakthroughs (nuclear energy, aviation satellite and new energy). Sustained efforts have been made to advance the 'four action plans', namely cooperation in four major fields of promoting stability, identifying new forms of cooperation, conducting production capacity cooperation, and deepening friendship.

New progress

Our pursuit of greater complementarity between development strategies has resulted in new progress in China-Arab cooperation. China has signed Belt and Road cooperation MOUs with nine Arab states and production capacity cooperation agreements with five Arab states. Both the Silk Road Fund and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank have invested in Arab countries. In 2017, China-Arab trade approached \$200 billion, up by 11.9 percent year-on-year, and direct Chinese investment in Arab countries reached \$1.26 billion, an increase of 9.3 percent.

Over the past four years, we have added new dimensions to our cooperation in the traditional areas of energy, infrastructure and trade. The Hassyan clean coal power plant in Dubai, equipped with the world-leading ultra-supercritical technology, and the Attarat power plant in Jordan, a dream come true of oil shale power generation, have taken China-Arab power cooperation to a new level. Several large infrastructure projects are well underway, including Phase II of the Khalifa Port in the United Arab Emirates and the train project in the 10th of Ramadan City of Egypt. They are expected to make the development of Arab countries better connected. Moreover, the cluster effect of the China-Egypt Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone is being felt.

Our cooperation has continued to upgrade and deepen through innovation. We have inaugurated a Technology Transfer Center, and held a successful Beidou Cooperation

Forum. China has helped Algeria put its first communications satellite into orbit, setting an example for such cooperation between China and Arab states. The China-Arab States Research Center on Reform and Development and the China-Arab States Forum on Reform and Development, two platforms for experience sharing in governance, reform and development, have been warmly received by Arab countries.

Humanitarian assistance

Over the past four years, we have added more substances to our mutually beneficial cooperation in home-grown development, social progress and personnel exchanges, delivering tangible benefits to our peoples. China has drawn up plans to provide assistance to Palestine and humanitarian assistance to Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Libya and Yemen, as was announced by President Xi. It has trained over 6,000 people of different professions for Arab countries.

While encouraging competitive production capacity to go global, China has helped Arab countries build up capacity for home-grown development in light of their need for economic diversification in the Middle East. In this process, China has paid special attention to helping Arab countries improve their people's lives, which is essential for the local economy. For instance, a Chinese enterprise opened China's first overseas fiberglass production base in the Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone, creating over 2,000 local jobs and making Egypt the largest fiberglass producer in Africa and third largest producer in the world.

Arab countries, for their part, have facilitated visits of Chinese nationals to the region. Today, nine Arab countries give visa-free or visa-upon-landing treatment to Chinese nationals, and 150 passenger flights and 45 cargo flights are run between China and Arab countries every week. As a result, the number of Chinese tourist arrivals in the region is soaring year by year. In the opposite direction, Arabian specialties of premium quality, including long-staple cotton from Egypt, olive oil from Tunisia, chocolate from Lebanon and dates from the Gulf Arab countries, have entered Chinese households with the help of e-commerce platforms.

The world today is at a critical juncture of major development, transformation and adjustment. China is making big strides on its new journey toward the two centenary goals and showing a stronger commitment to deepening reform on all fronts and opening wider to the world. Likewise, Arab countries have unveiled major initiatives of future-oriented reforms for national rejuvenation. Our development visions are getting more aligned and more complementary, placing China-Arab relations at a new starting point. Under the changing circumstances, we need

to work together for a new type of international relations, for a community with a shared future for mankind, and for a peaceful external environment and an equitable world order conducive to our national rejuvenation.

Future-oriented cooperation

At the forthcoming Eighth Ministerial Meeting, China and Arab countries will follow the guidance of our leaders, explore ways to advance future-oriented cooperation centered around the BRI, and further upgrade China-Arab relations.

China and Arab countries will become partners in promoting peace and stability. We need to strengthen coordination, continue to support each other on issues of major interests and core concerns, and safeguard the common interests of developing countries. We should promote political settlement of hotspot issues and uphold common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security as we strive to restore peace and tranquility to the Middle East at an early date and do our share in bringing about a world of prosperity and stability.

China and Arab countries will become partners in pursuing reform, development and shared prosperity. We need to support each other in exploring development paths tailored to national conditions. We can achieve common progress and development by tapping into the complementarity of our respective strengths and needs, by seeking synergy of our development strategies at a faster pace, and by increasing experience sharing on governance. In our pursuit of development, we must stay committed to a people-centered approach and deliver more benefits to our peoples.

Win-win outcomes

China and Arab countries will become partners in conducting practical cooperation for win-win outcomes. We need to follow the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, as we broaden cooperation in infrastructure, aviation satellite and energy and carry out key projects such as ports and industrial parks. China looks forward to signing with more Arab countries the MOU on Belt and Road cooperation to take our practical cooperation to a higher level.

China and Arab countries will become partners in championing cultural exchanges and mutual learning. We will encourage more people-to-people exchanges and deepen cooperation in science, education, culture, health and information. By building more bridges for interactions, we will enhance mutual understanding and friendship between our peoples and contribute to the progress of human civilization. A new blueprint brings new hope. A new beginning heralds new achievements. I am convinced that the giant ship of China-Arab friendship and cooperation will ride the wave toward a bright future.

Local

Crown Prince receives senior state officials

Ghanem represents Amir at Erdogan's inauguration



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem. —KUNA photos



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

KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Seif Palace National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Premier Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, as well as Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister, and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, Speaker Ghanem met with the South Korean Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Hong Young-ki. In other news, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has delegated the Speaker Ghanem to represent him on the inauguration of Recep Tayyip Erdogan as President of the Republic of Turkey for a new term. —KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister, and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.



Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets with South Korean Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Hong Young-ki.

Ministers hype Amir's China state visit

BEIJING: His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's official state visit to China has major implications for bilateral ties, a pair of Kuwaiti ministers said yesterday. Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh, alongside Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan, collectively emphasized the enormity of His Highness the Amir's "historic" visit to the world's most populous nation.

"We look forward to better ties with China through sealing a number of deals in various fields," Saleh said, citing seven agreements pending confirmation, all of which he hoped would help propel bilateral ties to new levels. On His Highness the Amir's visit to China, Roudhan expected that it would pay dividends in the long run, saying that the deals run the gamut from the technology and industrial sectors to the economy.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti minister hailed Beijing as an 'economic powerhouse,' whose knowhow and technology advantage could prove beneficial for the Gulf state. His Highness the Amir has commenced a three-day official



Anas Al-Saleh



Khaled Al-Roudhan

state visit to Beijing, where he will be named as guest of honor during a major forum over China's ties with the Arab region. —KUNA



KUWAIT: The 23rd meeting for the operations and training committee at the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) kicked off in Kuwait yesterday, featuring deputies of chiefs of staff of member states. The meeting targets boosting cooperation and military coordination to achieve integration between armed forces of GCC countries, the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry's Moral Guidance Department said in a statement.



FREE

Subscribe & Read

Kuwait Times

Send "subscribe" by whatsapp to
+965 9 44 88 888

*Enjoy the paper
right on your phone*

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A picture taken on July 7, 2018 shows a view of the beach in Salmiya, some 20 kilometers (12 miles) east of Kuwait City. Temperatures regularly soar in Kuwait in the summer to over 50 degrees Celsius. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Ahli United Bank sponsors workshop to train members of Women Tech Makers Kuwait

Through an initiative aimed to support digital awareness

KUWAIT: As part of Ahli United Bank's keen interest to support Kuwait's strength in digital technologies, Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced that it has sponsored Women Tech Makers (WTM) Kuwait workshop, which was recently held in the CODED Academy's offices in the Free Zone, Shuwaikh. The workshop's focus is to train and educate individuals around essentials in software development and programming with a special focus on tools such as Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics.

Tareq Muhmood, AUB's Senior Deputy CEO - Banking Business Group, said, "We are living in a digital world. As technology advances and consumers are becoming more switched on than ever before, it's never been more important to understand how to harness the power of digital technologies to help improve your career prospects, boost brand awareness, and branch out to your target audience in a way that commands results."

"As the world evolves, most businesses and organizations have gone through, or are at least preparing for, a certain degree of digital transformation. In today's world, people like to consume content, make buying decisions, stream music, complete banking transactions, share their thoughts, and do a host of other activities on the go. Ahli United Bank is part of this global conversation and works consistently towards enhancing its digital infrastructure to continue providing a world-class banking service that accommodates its customers' varied needs," added Muhmood.

Muhmood stressed that Ahli United Bank (AUB) contin-

ues to participate in thought leading events especially in support of women's development and rehabilitation to keep abreast of what is new in the world of technology, which in turn reflects the bank's overall strategy. Over the coming months Ahli United Bank will continue its digital transformation which is at the core of the bank's strategy. Raising awareness around the importance of adopting more connected and digital solutions is part of the bank's wider social initiatives.

It is worth mentioning, Women Tech Makers (WTM) is a technology oriented group that aim to build a tech community, offer resources and support with technologies for everyone interested. WTM is a Google inspired program active since 2012 and has grown around the world including Kuwait. WTM Kuwait has been operating since October 2017, and hosted over 10 events and grown to over 600 members on its official event page - Meetup. WTM Kuwait strives to offer a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which people can connect, inspire and encourage each other to learn new technologies regardless of their level of knowledge and background. WTM Kuwait is always looking for local talents to join and potential get nominated for Google programs and scholarships. For those experts in tech the program encourages them to pursue expertise certification as Google Developer Experts - GDE. This initiative is the first between Ahli United Bank and Women in Tech, and there are plans to collaborate on more similar initiatives in the future.



Gulf Bank's summer internship program begins

KUWAIT: Building on its commitment to supporting Kuwait's youth, Gulf Bank recently welcomed interns for its Summer Internship Program. The program has been designed for students who are due to graduate from Colleges and Universities, to raise their practical understanding of the banking industry and the working atmosphere within the financial institutions.

During the Internship, students are granted the opportunity to work across different branches of the bank, as well as the different business divisions within Gulf Bank's head office. Highlighting the objectives of the program Jennah Al-Mattar, Assistant General Manager for

Human Resources at Gulf Bank said: "At Gulf Bank we strongly believe in giving back to the community, one way this program does that is by empowering students to understand the reality of work in the private sector in general, banking specifically here at Gulf Bank. During their time with us they will get exposed to the work environment, customer interactions, as well as receive an intense induction that will help them better prepare for their transition from student into young professional upon their graduation." This initiative comes in line with the Bank's overall strategy to become the 'Employer of Choice' for National Graduates that are keen on building banking careers.



KUWAIT: Jennah Al-Mattar, Assistant General Manager for Human Resources at Gulf Bank is seen among students participating in the bank's Summer Internship Program.

NBK, LOYAC launch social entrepreneurship program

KUWAIT: The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) and LOYAC welcomed the participants in the social entrepreneurship program 'KON'. This social entrepreneurship program is co-created with Babson College. It aims to introduce young adults between the ages of 12 to 16 to the world



Yaqoub Al-Baqer

business and to turn their ideas into action. NBK will take part in the training sessions that will be ongoing until August 8, 2018. Throughout the 5 weeks program, leaders from NBK along with a group of professional leaders, mentors and trainers, locally and regionally will encourage the participants to create a profitable business that solves an environmental challenge.

NBK Public Relations Team Leader, Yaqoub Al-Baqer said, "NBK's sponsorship and participation in the program comes as a part of its strategic partnership with LOYAC. NBK is dedicated towards supporting talented young people and empowering them towards achieving their goals." "KON" is one of these initiatives that help invest and support young youths. NBK is elated with the outcome of the program last year and looks forward to seeing the participants moving into key leadership roles in their near future." Baqer added, NBK believes that investing in human resources is investing in our future. The KON program goes along with NBK's initiatives to invest in youth and support their aspirations.



Local

Ministry eyes building hospital specialized in hypertension diseases

25 percent of citizens aged between 20 and 49 suffer from hypertension

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health (MOH) is currently studying the possibility of building a hospital specialized in hypertension diseases. This comes in the wake of recent studies which showed that one quarter of Kuwait's population suffers from high blood pressure, and that the disease's rates are on the rise, sources said.

The hospital would be built according to the latest medical standards, said the sources, adding that it would include cutting edge medical equipment and specialized medical and nursing staffs working on hypertension, cardiovascular, abdominal diseases, as well as health nutrition units and departments.

The sources further elaborated on the studies, indicating that the statistics show that 25 percent of citizens aged between 20 and 49 suffer from hypertension, while over 60 percent of male citizens older than 50 suffer the same. The studies also related hypertension to obesity, and stressed the significance of healthy nutrition based on consuming more vegetables, fruits, cereals, and low-fat dairy products, while taking less sugar, salt, red meats and fats in order to avoid hypertension. Moreover, the study encouraged people to

exercise more in order to prevent hypertension, which it dubbed as 'the silent killer'.

Temporary slaughterhouses

The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition's (PAFN) Deputy Director for Inspection Dr Amal Al-



Temporary slaughterhouses at co-ops during Eid

Rashdan met with Chairman of the Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies (UCCS) Khaled Al-Otaibi to discuss building temporary slaughterhouses at co-ops in densely populated areas during Eid Al-Adha. Both sides agreed to have PAFN and other relevant bodies

supervise the slaughterhouses to ensure safe, Halal services and healthy disposal of the remains.

On a related issue, informed sources said that some slaughterhouses are already understaffed with both vets and butchers due to sharp budget shortages. Further, the sources stressed that PAFN would coordinate with various relevant state departments to monitor unauthorized butchers and fine them. In other news, Kuwait Municipality's Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi stressed that he would take all legal measures needed to remove violations and unsafe storage at fodder outlets in an attempt to avoid any fires from breaking out in the future.

Committee's meeting

Minister of Finance Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf issued a ministerial resolution last week appointing his assistant undersecretary for administrative affairs as head of the personnel affairs committee, said informed sources. They further noted that the committee had never met in two months because of the freezing of the resignation of undersecretary Khalifa Hamada, which he had filed on May 9, 2018 to the minister who is yet to make a decision whether to accept it or not.



Bonuses and promotions

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) is expected to approve paying 'excellent performance bonuses' and promotions for around 600 employees at the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport, effective from the next fiscal year, on grounds that it is an independent authority. The authority will evaluate its employees and make their annual performance reports before the end of this year according to CSC regulations, sources said.

Murders report denied

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry denied reports made yesterday by a local Arabic daily, which claimed that an average of six murders happen weekly in Kuwait. Statistics by the forensics department show that 12 murders occurred in Kuwait between January and June of 2018, which is an average of two per month. The newspaper's report confuses murders with assaults, the ministry explained in a statement released by its Relations and Security Information Department yesterday.

7,197 rulings against traffickers since 2014

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, State Minister for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh said that 7,197 court rulings were issued against fake companies that were involved in visa trafficking since 2014. The total amount of fines collected from those companies exceeds KD 12 million, she noted, adding that the fight against visa trafficking will continue, "using all legal means to do so".

Asked about workers registered on those fake companies, Sabeeh explained that the owners were

ordered to cancel their visas, while detectives were assigned to search and apprehend the workers for deportation.

In other news, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) has suspended 3,140 contracts of non-Kuwaitis in state departments starting from July 1, 2018. CSC President Ahmad Al-Jassar said. Following their suspension, the employees will be terminated as part of a plan to create more jobs for national manpower, as part of the state's strategy to 'Kuwaitize' the public sector. —Al-Jarida



Hind Al-Sabeeh

Crimes

Helper assaulted at sponsor's house

KUWAIT: Adan Hospital's investigator informed police that a woman arrived with bruises and burns on several parts of her body. The Sri Lankan woman said that her sponsor caused her injuries, saying that she was assaulted at his house in Dhaher where she worked as a domestic helper. The prosecutor ordered the sponsor to be arrested for questioning.

Rapist arrested

Ahmadi detectives identified the rapist of an 11-year-old Syrian boy who he had kidnapped in Abu Halaifa recently. The suspect, a Kuwait National Guard recruit, was arrested and referred to the public prosecution.

Suicide

A man committed suicide by slashing his wrists during a hysterical fit. Police had responded to an emergency call in which a Kuwaiti man said that his son went hysterical and was bleeding from self-inflicted wounds. When they arrived to the scene, police spotted the man running away from his house, with family members chasing him in an apparent attempt to calm him down. The man then crashed into a glass door at his neighbor's house, then used a piece of glass to slash his wrists and legs, before collapsing. Paramedics rushed him to the hospital, but he died upon arrival. A case was filed for investigations.

New drug

Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh Police Department discovered a new type of drug that has spread among addicts in the area. Major Meshal Al-Mutairi, head of the police station, took a sample of the substance to the forensics department and found out that it is used by vets to treat animals with severe fractures, and when consumed by humans, it has an intense effect on the brain. Investigations led to a veterinarian who was arrested in his Salmiya apartment. The suspect confessed to making the substance and selling it with the help of two Egyptian men. Detectives arrested the veterinarian, and are looking for the other suspects.

Boy safe

Police received a call from a man asking for help as his son disappeared in the sea while swimming near Kuwait Towers. Firemen and coastguards searched the area immediately, only to find out the boy was playing on the beach.

Forgery

Detectives were tipped about an Asian man who produced copies of university degrees, which are given to people to use when they submit paperwork to the traffic department to obtain drivers licenses. Investigations led to the man who was placed under arrest at his apartment in Farwaniya. Police also found inside five embassy stamps, in addition to five forged transactions. The suspect confessed that he collected KD 200 for each forged paper. Investigations were launched to find and arrest people who purchased forged documents from the suspect. —Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Anbaa and Al-Rai



KUWAIT: Football fans watch the Russia 2018 World Cup quarter-final football match between Sweden and England, at a cafe in Kuwait City on July 7, 2018. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat





Indian Kashmir in lockdown amid anniversary tensions

North Korea slams 'gangster-like' US

Page 8

Page 7



MOSUL: An Iraqi child peddler sells water bottles to cars driving down a street in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul. —AFP

Child beggars fill Mosul streets

Scars of bloody 9-month IS offensive still visible

MOSUL: Every day little Mohammed Salem roams the streets of Mosul, left with no choice but to hawk tissues after his father was killed by jihadists who overran Iraq's second city. A year on from Iraqi forces announcing the "liberation" of Mosul from the Islamic State group, the scars of the bloody nine-month offensive to oust the militants are still visible in the city.

After losing parents either in the battle or during IS's brutal three year occupation of Mosul, dozens of children have turned to street peddling or begging to survive. "I sell tissues... I go out every day from seven in the morning to 10 at night," 12-year-old Salem tells AFP, wiping sweat from his face as the sun beats down on the Nabi Younis junction in eastern Mosul.

His mother's only child, Salem hopes to scratch out a living for the two of them. His father was killed by jihadists before the push to retake Mosul began, leaving the family without a breadwinner. According to the group Orphan's Joy in Nineveh, encompassing Mosul and the wider province, there is no official data on the number of children who have lost their parents. But the group's research has pointed to the "presence of 6,200 orphans in Nineveh, of which 3,283 whose parents were killed in the latest events in Mosul", the organization's head, Kedar Mohammed, told AFP.

'Our house was destroyed'

Mosul's two orphanages—one for boys and one for girls—have seen large numbers of children aged six to 18 seeking shelter, according to administrators. Each day, dozens of children spread out across Mosul's intersections and traffic signals to ask for money. Thin and dressed in tattered clothes, they trail pedestrians and extend hands to passing cars. Some wash windows or sell tissues and water. "My family was killed and our house was destroyed in the bombardment of the Old City," 10-year-old Ali Bunyan told AFP, unable to hold back his tears. Fighting destroyed nearly 90 percent of western Mosul's Old City, which now lies in ruins and is devoid of any major reconstruction projects.

"I have no relatives now. I have to beg to support myself... I've been unable to find work because I'm young," said Bunyan, who like many of the other children refused to speak about his current place of residence. Nineveh provincial council member Khalaf al-Hadidi

said that "until now, there is no real project or study either from the federal or local government to deal with this phenomenon". Finding a solution was becoming increasingly important, he said, "especially as the street children are exposed to various kinds of exploitation".

A 'damaged generation'

Residents say gangs are turning the street children into organized groups, or forcing them to pay a fee to beg in public places. "One day, as I was waiting for my appointment at a medical clinic, I watched an employee at the reception kick out a small girl that was begging," said 35-year-old Mosul resident Abu Hamid. "As she left, she told me she had been kicked out for refusing to increase the

weekly agreed-upon fee," he said. According to social researcher Fatima Khalaf, "conditions in Mosul have left children vulnerable to numerous violations in the street". "If they are left out in the streets... they will



After losing their parents dozens of children beg to survive



MOSUL: An Iraqi child peddler sells water bottles to cars driving down a street in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul. —AFP

become useless members of society, and perhaps some of them will become criminals," she said. Ghabeb Ahmed, a 20-year-old Mosul municipal employee, thinks it would be better to target the top of the "gangs and systems that manage the begging and exploit the children". "This phenomenon counts as a criminal project and terrorism, and it creates a corrupt and psychologically damaged generation," he said. —AFP

India tycoon Mallya shrugs off threat of UK asset seizures

SILVERSTONE: Embattled Indian tycoon Vijay Mallya said yesterday he will comply fully with court enforcement officers seeking to seize his British assets, but there was not much for them to take as his family's lavish residences were not in his name. India wants to extradite the 62-year-old former liquor baron from Britain to face charges of fraud as a group of Indian banks seek to recover more than \$1 billion of loans granted to his defunct Kingfisher Airlines.

A verdict is expected by early September, with July 31 the final date for closing oral submissions and appeals likely whatever the outcome. Speaking to Reuters at the British Formula One Grand Prix, where he is principal and co-owner of the Force India team, Mallya said he would hand over British assets held in his name. But a luxury country residence belonged to his children and a house in London belonged to his mother, making them untouchable.

"I have given the UK court on affidavit a

statement of my UK assets. Which, pursuant to the freezing order, they are entitled to take and hand over to the banks," he said. "There's a few cars, a few items of jewelry and I said 'OK, fine. You don't have to bother to come to my house to seize them. I'll physically hand them over. Tell me the time, date and place.'" "There's no question of being homeless because at the end of the day, they are entitled to take my assets in my name declared on oath to the court. They can't go one step beyond," he said.

'Fugitive economic offender'

Mallya said a super-yacht he used for entertaining at races in Monaco and Abu Dhabi, which was recently sold at auction in Malta after a dispute over unpaid crew wages, was not his problem either. "I have not owned the Indian Express boat for more than seven years now," he said. It had belonged to "a Middle Eastern gentleman", whose name he would not disclose, in a deal that gave Mallya use of it for one month a year, he said.

Mallya has been in Britain since he left India in March 2016, unable to travel after his passport was revoked, so the annual British Grand Prix is the only race he has been able to attend since then. The Indian government's Enforcement Directorate, which fights financial crimes, is seeking to declare him a "fugitive economic offender" and to confiscate 125 billion rupees worth of his assets. Mallya has denied the charges, decried a "political witchhunt" and

has said he is seeking to sell assets worth about 139 billion rupees (\$2.04 billion) to repay creditors.

"I think the overriding consideration that everybody seems to be missing is that I have put \$2 billion worth of assets in front of the Karnataka high court which is more than sufficient to repay the banks and indeed everybody else," he said. "So the question of attaching assets either in the UK or whatever should not arise." Mallya repeated recent complaints on Twitter that Indian criminal enforcement agencies had frozen assets in India so he could not sell them, while banks continued to tot up interest. He said the enforcement directorate had also attached assets inherited from his father, including properties acquired in the 1920s, under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

"How can those be proceeds of crime? This is the injustice that is happening," he said. The former billionaire, at one time dubbed the 'King of Good Times' and a former member of the upper house of the Indian parliament, bridled at being branded a 'fugitive'. "I was always a resident of England and a non-resident of India. So where else do I come back to? So where's the running away concept? It's just become too political," he said. "And now in an (Indian) election year, I guess what they want to do is bring me back and hang me on the holy cross and hope to get more votes." —Reuters

Nepal war crime laws risk sparing worst offenders

KATHMANDU: Nepal's legal efforts to deliver justice to victims of its bloody civil war do not meet international standards and risk letting the worst offenders go unpunished, rights groups warned yesterday. The latest draft legislation to address wartime abuses still makes it difficult to prosecute serious crimes, Human Rights Watch and the International Commission of Jurists said in a joint statement.

The tiny Himalayan nation has been rebuked for repeated delays in implementing a peace process more than a decade after fighting with Maoist rebels ended in 2006. In 2015, the Supreme Court of Nepal ruled that laws passed by the government to remedy war-era grievances did not meet international scrutiny. But a fresh amendment currently under consultation has done little to close these loopholes, rights groups said. Crimes like torture and enforced disappearances remain undefined, meaning major offenders may slip through the cracks.

"For a successful, internationally accepted process, the authorities in Nepal should focus on providing justice to victims, not engage in trying to get perpetrators off the hook," said Human Rights Watch Asia director Brad Adams. A provision in the proposed legislation for community service as an alternative punishment to prison time has riled campaigners who say it amounts to impunity. "We've waited years, but the draft is still incomplete and fails to satisfy the victim's demand for justice," Bhagiram Chaudhari, President of Conflict Victims Common Platform told AFP.

More than 60,000 complaints have been filed with two commissions set up to investigate crimes committed by security forces and Maoist insurgents during the decade-long conflict. Rights groups say both commissions have been hamstrung by a lack of funding and political will, and just a handful of cases have appeared before a court. More than 17,000 people were killed, 1,300 disappeared and thousands displaced during the war which ended with a peace deal between Maoist insurgents and government forces. The pact also heralded the end of the Hindu monarchy, which was abolished after the former rebels won power in Nepal's first post-war national elections. —AFP

International

Philippines probe spate of brazen politician murders

Third deadly attack by gunmen against local officials

MANILA: Philippine authorities were yesterday investigating the brazen killing of a vice mayor near Manila, the third deadly attack by gunmen against local officials in less than a week. The country has a violent, often deadly political culture, but watchdogs are concerned President Rodrigo Duterte's drug war may be emboldening assailants. Police said there was no clear connection between the slaying Saturday of Alexander Lubigan, vice mayor of the city of Trece Martires south of Manila, and the killings of two mayors just days before.

However Wilnor Papa, Philippine spokesman for Amnesty International, told AFP that while political violence was not new, "Duterte he has aggravated it through his pronouncements." "The Duterte administration is empowering vigilante killings," he added, citing Duterte's calls for ordinary citizens to kill drug dealers and his vow to protect officers who get sued while pursuing his drug campaign. A sniper shot Mayor Antonio Halili, who was on Duterte's list of allegedly narcotics-linked officials, during a public ceremony at the city hall in nearby Tanauan on Monday.



Duterte's drug war 'may be' emboldening assailants

researcher Carlos Conde told AFP, noting the next polls were 10 months away.

"The difference here really is the way Duterte has threatened officials with death and then they are being killed one after the other. That's hardly coincidence," Conde added. According to a count by police, more than two dozen people were killed in "election-related violence" during campaigning for the May 2016 national elections.

At least 10 mayors including Halili and Bote have been killed since Duterte took office, while Lubigan, a member of a political party allied with the president, was the fifth vice mayor killed in that period. Duterte ran on a law-and-order platform that included promises to kill thousands of people involved in the drug trade, including officials. Authorities have acknowledged killing more than 4,200 drug suspects who resisted arrest, but rights groups say the actual number of dead is at least triple that and could amount to crimes against

humanity.

Senator Francis Pangilinan, president of the opposition Liberal Party, on Sunday urged the government to do more to stop the killings. "What we want is a safe, secure, and peaceful society, not a gangster land," Pangilinan said in a statement. National police chief Oscar Albayalde told reporters Sunday the authorities were looking into possible motives for the killings, while noting it was a well-established fact that deadly attacks against elected officials spike "before, during and after the elections". "There is nothing to fear because these (killings) are not systematic. It does not constitute a pattern," he added. — AFP



MANILA: This file photo shows Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte gesturing during the change of command ceremony of the Armed Forces of the Philippines at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines. — Reuters

Nicaragua leader Ortega rules out early elections

MANAGUA: Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega on Saturday ruled out early elections as demanded by opposition protesters in the country where more than 220 have died in unrest since April. "Here the rules are set by the Constitution of the Republic, through the people. You don't just change them overnight because a group of coup plotters got the idea to do so," Ortega said at a rally of his supporters. Roman Catholic bishops are working to mediate dialogue between the government and opposition in a bid to end the protests and government repression that have wracked the country since April 18.

Ortega, 72, had previously remained silent on a proposal by the influential Catholic hierarchy to bring forward elections scheduled for 2021 to March of next year. The mediation committee said on Thursday they would convene a new round of talks on Monday at 10:00 am. Meanwhile, Silvio Baez, auxiliary bishop of Managua, said in response to Ortega's speech that "the Church is not afraid" and that it "stands with the poor and the victims." The protesters demand the resignation of Ortega, a former leftist guerrilla who came to power with the popular uprising that defeated dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979, and retook the presidency in 2007 after a vote. Activists accuse him-together with his wife Vice President Rosario Murillo-of establishing a dictatorship characterized by nepotism and brutal repression. "We shall see if the people will give their vote to the coup plotters who in these past weeks have carried out so much violence," Ortega said, stressing that "There will be a time for elections. Everything has its time."

Struggling peace talks

Thousands of Ortega supporters attended the rally in Managua Saturday, where he branded his opponents "murderers" and "criminals." Murillo, meanwhile, vowed opposition "terrorists" and their financial backers would be brought to justice. "Down with the coup plotters!", "Not one step backward!", "Stay, my commander stays!", "We want peace," supporters shouted, waving flags of the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front. The march set out from the Plaza de las Victorias toward the Hugo Chavez Rotunda, where a colorful metallic structure of the bust of the deceased Venezuelan socialist leader is surrounded by gigantic metal



MANAGUA: Supporters of embattled Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega carry a flag of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) as thousands march during the government-called 'Walk for Security and Peace' in Managua. — AFP

life-sized trees installed by Ortega's wife. "I'm supporting Comandante Ortega, the only one who has watched over the poor against the right-wing coup, which is lying... the hooded are theirs, the ones who are assaulting people," Guillermo Ramirez, a 43-year-old mason, told AFP. An opposition march also scheduled for Saturday was postponed until next Thursday, with the opposition Civic Alliance also announcing a second national strike on July 13. Elsewhere in the opposition bastion Masaya, anti-government demonstrators turned out against Ortega. "They wanted to silence us, but here are the people demanding that he leaves," said student leader Yubrank Suazo, whose home was burned by Ortega supporters this week.

The US has also cranked up the pressure on Ortega to make progress in the struggling peace negotiations. Washington's Treasury on Thursday put National Police Commissioner Francisco Javier Diaz Madriz and Fidel

Antonio Moreno Briones, secretary of the Managua mayor's office, on its financial blacklist, citing their roles in killings and beatings of anti-government protesters. Also sanctioned was Jose Francisco Lopez Centeno, an oil executive the US Treasury alleged had siphoned off millions of dollars from two government-linked companies for his own benefit and that of Nicaragua's leaders. On Thursday, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein urged the government to take measures to prevent further bloodshed. "The violence and repression seen in Nicaragua since demonstrations began in April are products of the systematic erosion of human rights over the years, and highlight the overall fragility of institutions and the rule of law," Zeid said.

"I call on the government to cease state violence and to dismantle the pro-government armed elements that have been increasingly responsible for repression and attacks." — AFP

Ethiopian and Eritrean leaders meet in Asmara

ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed was warmly greeted by Eritrea's President Isaias Afwerki in the capital Asmara yesterday at the start of a meeting to repair relations between the neighbors. Eritrean state television showed footage of the two men embracing while Abiy's chief of staff, Fitsum Arega, tweeted photographs saying, "The visit offers a spectacular opportunity to decidedly move forward peace for the good of our people."

In a scene unimaginable just weeks ago, Abiy stepped from an Ethiopian Airlines plane at the airport in Asmara, greeting Isaias and hugging him before the pair strode off along a red carpet. They made no comment before heading to a meeting. "The visit is part of efforts to normalize relations with Eritrea. [Abiy] is expected to talk with the Eritrean leadership [about] how to mend fences," Ethiopian foreign ministry spokesman Meles Alem told AFP.

The historic meeting came after Abiy's announcement last month that Ethiopia would cede to Eritrea land along the countries' border it occupies in violation of a 2002 United Nations-backed boundary demarcation. Ethiopia's refusal to implement the demarcation deadlocked relations between the two even after the end of a 1998-2000 boundary war that killed 80,000 people. — AFP

Trump faces 'carnival of protest' on trip to Britain

EDINBURGH: A barrage of nationwide protests will greet US President Donald Trump's four-day trip to Britain from Thursday, with organizers hoping to stage one of the country's biggest demonstrations in decades following a series of diplomatic spats. The divisive American leader, arriving after a NATO summit in Brussels, will be largely away from London during a tour expected to bring at least tens of thousands of people onto British streets. "We are confident that there will be huge demonstrations against Trump wherever he visits," said Chris Nineham, of the Stop the War Coalition, which is helping to stage the so-called "carnival of protest".

"The protest against Trump will be a real celebration of the diversity that we love in the UK and will give a strong signal that his message of hate and division is not welcome in this country." The US president appears unpopular in Britain, where his brash style and headline "America First" policies have caused consternation across the political spectrum and society. He was severely criticized last November, including by Prime Minister Theresa May, after sharing three inflammatory anti-Muslim videos posted by far-right group Britain First.

Opposition lawmakers, backed by an online petition signed by nearly 1.9 million people, called on May to cancel the state visit offered when she met Trump in Washington after his inauguration in January last year. Following the incident and several other diplomatic spats, his first trip to Britain since taking power was repeatedly delayed and scaled back, with speculation it has now been designed to avoid the demonstrations. The US ambassador in London told reporters Friday that Trump was "aware" of the planned protests but "is not avoiding anything". "The president is simply trying to get as impactful a trip as he can get in a 24-hour period," Woody Johnson said.

'Biggest insult'

The centerpiece of the organized opposition will be a march through central London ending in a rally on Trafalgar Square. Organizers are laying on buses from more than a dozen British cities to the protest, urging attendees to "bring banners, loudhailers, sound systems and everything you need to kickstart the revolution". A giant inflatable "Baby Trump" balloon will be flown near the Houses of Parliament ahead of the protest. The blimp will then be used at a protest planned in Scotland, his mother's homeland, when Trump goes there for the weekend.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan, who has sparred with Trump online over combating terrorism, has permitted the floating blimp for two hours Friday morning. Firebrand politician and Trump ally Nigel Farage labelled the move "the biggest insult to a sitting US President ever" but others have welcomed the playful rebuke. "For a US president who retweets far-right Britain First propaganda, insults Londoners at times of tragedy, and refuses to condemn white supremacist marches at home, this insult is well deserved" said Labour MP David Lammy.

'Stop Trump Coalition'

The "Stop Trump Coalition", a network of grassroots campaigns, unions, NGOs and politicians, said in a statement on Facebook that Friday "could be a march of millions". It pointed to polling last year showing up to two million people could take part in anti-Trump actions. Mass protests in 2003 against the Iraq War saw an estimated record 750,000 to two million turn out in London.

Trump will be holding talks at that time with May at Chequers, the 16th-century manor house outside London that serves as her official country retreat. The coalition has pledged multiple demonstrations along every step of his planned itinerary, which will include meeting Queen Elizabeth II at Windsor Castle on Friday. It has vowed to gather near the US ambassador's residence in London, where Trump and First Lady Melania Trump will stay Thursday night, and outside Blenheim Palace, wartime leader Winston Churchill's birthplace, which hosts the pair for dinner prior. — AFP

India Kashmir in a lockdown amid tensions

SRINAGAR: Indian authorities imposed a lockdown in the Kashmir valley yesterday, anticipating fresh unrest as separatists urged protests to mark the anniversary of a popular rebel leader's death. Tension had been building ahead of the anniversary with three civilians, including a teenage girl, killed during clashes on Saturday between protesters and Indian troops. Mobile internet services were shut down across Indian-administered Kashmir, roads into the restive valley were blocked and restrictions on movement were imposed in Srinagar. Authorities have clamped a total curfew in Tral, the native home of rebel commander Burhan Wani.

The charismatic young leader's death in 2016 sparked months of violent street protests that left nearly 100 dead and countless more blinded by pellet fire following an Indian crackdown. Separatist leaders urged shopkeepers to keep their businesses closed in protest to mark

Wani's death. Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since the end of British colonial rule in 1947, but both claim the former Himalayan kingdom in full. India has

about 500,000 soldiers deployed to its half of Kashmir, where armed groups have for decades been fighting for independence or a merger with Pakistan. — AFP



SRINAGAR: An Indian paramilitary trooper stands guard during a one-day strike called by separatists in Srinagar. — AFP

International

N Korea slams 'gangster-like' US in denuclearization talks

Japan, South Korea praise Pompeo efforts

TOKYO: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo brushed off North Korean charges that he used "gangster-like" diplomacy in negotiations in Pyongyang, saying yesterday after meeting his Japanese and South Korean counterparts that he would continue to pursue denuclearization talks with North Korea. Pompeo said in Tokyo there was still a lot of work to do, but he was confident North Korean leader Kim Jong Un would stick to a commitment to abandon nuclear weapons he made during a summit with US President Donald Trump in Singapore last month.

Pompeo's meeting with Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Taro Kono and South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha followed Pompeo's two days of talks in Pyongyang that ended on Saturday. "When we spoke to them about denuclearization, they did not push back," Pompeo told a news conference. "The road ahead will be difficult and challenging and we know that critics will try to minimize the work that we've achieved." Pompeo spoke after North Korea said the talks "brought us in a dangerous situation where we may be shaken in our unshakable will for denuclearization, rather than consolidating trust."

The statement was carried by the official KCNA news agency on Saturday soon after Pompeo left Pyongyang, raising questions about the future of the talks in which he is trying to persuade Pyongyang to give up a nuclear weapons program that threatens the United States. Kim made a broad commitment in Singapore to "work toward denuclearization" but did not give details on how or when he would dismantle North Korea's nuclear program. Trump in turn offered security guarantees to Pyongyang and pledged a halt to large-scale military drills with South Korea.

North Korea's latest comments, which came after Pompeo said talks had made progress, were a reminder of the difficulties that previous US administrations have had negotiating

with the reclusive state. Leaked US intelligence findings have concluded that North Korea does not intend to give up its nuclear program completely.

Military danger remains

Pompeo said he did not meet Kim on his latest visit to Pyongyang, as he had done twice before, and he had not anticipated doing so. The White House said before the trip that he would meet Kim. In a speech later on in Vietnam, Pompeo urged North Korea to follow the example of Vietnam, saying he believed Pyongyang could replicate Hanoi's path to normal relations with Washington and to prosperity.

"The United States has been clear on what we seek from North Korea..." Pompeo said in Hanoi. "The choice now lies with North Korea and its people. If they are able to do this, they will be remembered, and Chairman Kim will be remembered, as a hero of the Korean people." Some analysts have expressed alarm that the talks appear to have run into difficulties, although others see a possible

Pompeo brushes off charges, sees hard road ahead



North Korean negotiating ploy.

Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, said on Twitter there was a danger military action could be called for because Trump might now claim he had tried diplomacy but was betrayed by Kim. "But a rushed summit and demands that NK denuclearize in short order or else is not a serious test of diplomacy," Haass tweeted. Japan's Kono thanked Pompeo and said the three allies had reaffirmed a commitment to keeping sanctions on North Korea until it abandoned nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles of all ranges.

"We confirmed that security assurances will be provided to North Korea as agreed in the summit. At the same time we have reaffirmed that the international community will contin-



HANOI: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, left, meets Vietnam's Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong at the Party's head office in Hanoi. —AFP

ue to fully implement relevant UN Security Council resolutions," Kono said. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe earlier at his residence in Tokyo praised Pompeo. "I would like to pay my tribute to the strong leadership you have demonstrated in negotiating with North Korea," Abe told Pompeo. "This really shows the unwavering bond of the Japan-US alliance."

South Korea's Kang said her country did not believe the United States had softened its demands on Pyongyang, as

some US officials and analysts have suggested. "Secretary Pompeo's visit to Pyongyang this time has taken the first steps," she said. "We expect this to be followed up by further constructive and productive negotiations." Pompeo said on Twitter after he met Kono he was in Tokyo to discuss the US alliance with Japan and maintaining "maximum pressure" on North Korea, an expression Trump's administration had backed away from after the Singapore summit. —Reuters

Italy wants EU sea missions to take migrants elsewhere

ROME: Italy will seek commitments from European Union partners to have migrants rescued at sea by ships from anti-trafficking and border control missions taken to other countries, its interior minister said yesterday. The request will be made on Thursday at a meeting of European interior ministers in the Austrian city of Innsbruck, far-right Interior Minister Matteo Salvini said in a statement. Italy's new government, which took office on June 1, has helped thrust immigration back on to the European agenda by closing its ports to humanitarian ships that rescue migrants off the coast of Libya, where they are sent out on overcrowded boats by people smugglers.

Some 650,000 migrants, mostly from Africa and the Middle East, have landed on Italian shores since 2014, though many later headed north toward other European countries. "After having stopped the NGO ships, I'll ask European partners on Thursday in Innsbruck to block from Italian ports the arrival of ships currently on international missions in the Mediterranean," Salvini said in a statement. The announcement comes a day after an Irish patrol vessel brought more than 100 migrants to the Sicilian port of Messina after rescuing them. The ship is part of the EU mission to fight people smuggling, known as Operation Sophia.

The request is likely to cause friction with Italy's European partners where migration is a source of internal political tension. Last week, Germany, Austria and Italy said they would hold talks in Innsbruck about how to shut down the Mediterranean route. Germany wants to process migrants in police facilities within 48 hours on its southern border with Austria, and in turn Austria has said it may be forced to protect its own southern border with Italy and Slovenia to stop migrants transiting from the south.

Harder Italian line

Italy's transport ministry last month said it wanted the EU border agency, Frontex, to stop working in the Mediterranean. Frontex runs an operation off the coast of Italy that works closely with the local coast guard. The EU missions have helped rescue thousands of migrants at sea, all of whom were disembarked in Italy. Spokespeople at Frontex and Sophia did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Italy has so far refused to take back any migrants stopped at the German border. "Before receiving even one asylum seeker from another European country, we want to see a precise commitment-giving the timetable, costs, means, men and resources-on how the EU plans to help us defend our external borders," Salvini said last week.

Aid groups and United Nations' agencies on Friday asked Italy open its ports to rescue ships because the policy could have a high human cost. More migrants could die at sea, or they could be trapped indefinitely in inhumane detention centers, they said. Yesterday, Salvini said the previous government had agreed to welcome migrants rescued by ships participating in the EU sea missions. "With our government, the music has changed and will change," Salvini said. —Reuters

Family of French police shooting victim plans to file a lawsuit

NANTES: A relative calm began to return to the western French city of Nantes yesterday after days of rioting over a police officer's fatal shooting of a black man, whose family plans to file a lawsuit over a killing which has cast a fresh spotlight on tensions in deprived urban areas. The officer who shot 22-year-old Aboubakar Fofana, after pulling over his vehicle last Tuesday, has been charged with manslaughter after admitting he had falsely claimed self-defense.

But he has said he fired accidentally while reaching through the car window to try to wrest control of the vehicle as Fofana tried to flee, according to prosecutors, a version of events dismissed by many residents. "How can it be an accidental shooting when you take out your gun and remove the safety?" said Said, a manager of a community association in Breil, the neighborhood where the shooting took place and which is home to a large public housing estate with a history of gang violence. "We are gathering witnesses and nobody has seen any scuffle. The officer

was standing, hands outstretched and he fired," according to Said, who declined to give his last name. Loic Bourgeois, a lawyer for Fofana's mother and sister, told AFP on Saturday that they would file a civil lawsuit against the officer today. For now, "they want to be left alone to deal with this tragedy," he said.

'Anger far from over'

News of the killing sparked fierce riots in several areas of Nantes starting overnight Tuesday to Wednesday, with dozens of cars torched and several buildings vandalized while police tried to disperse crowds with tear gas. The nightly violence began to ease Friday after the officer was charged, while police said 18 vehicles were burned and no arrests were made yesterday. Like other cities across France, Nantes has several poor neighborhoods with large immigrant communities where youths often accuse police of heavy-handed tactics and racial profiling. Prime Minister Edouard Philippe has promised "the fullest transparency" in investigating the circumstances of Fofana's death, amid concerns the unrest could spread.

A protest march has been scheduled in Paris yesterday afternoon. "The anger is far from over and it won't end as long as there is no justice," a 36-year-old named Chris, who described himself as a social mediator in Breil said. "We are going to keep trying to convince those who are

US, Afghan forces clear Islamic State from east district

DEH BALA: US and Afghan Special Forces are completing an operation to clear Islamic State fighters from a remote district in Nangarhar, the eastern province where they have their main stronghold in Afghanistan, officials said on Saturday. The operation in Deh Bala, on the border with Pakistan, began at the end of April and was largely complete in early June but final mine clearance operations are still under way, said Lt Col Josh Thiel, from the US First Special Forces Group. "This was one of the main green zones that did two things. One, it provided money, finance, logistics to ISIS (Islamic State) and we've taken that away from them," he said. "Additionally, ISIS was using this as a site to prepare and move high-profile attacks on Kabul and Jalalabad."

The operation, involving three companies of Afghan commandos supported by US air strikes and American Special Forces teams, began with troops arriving by helicopter and setting up an operations base near the village of Gargari, where the Islamic State fighters were trying to establish a local capital. Several days of heavy fighting ended in early June with 167 Islamic State fighters killed and large quantities of equipment captured.

The fight against Islamic State and other militant groups including Al-

Qaeda is at the heart of the US counterterrorism mission being conducted alongside the NATO-led Resolute Support operation that trains and advises Afghan security forces. Intended to prevent Afghanistan being used as a base for future attacks against the United States, it is in large part fought against irregular forces in remote valleys on the far eastern edge of the country, an area crisscrossed by smuggling routes into the tribal areas of Pakistan.

Militants loyal to Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP), the movement's local affiliate, first started appearing in Nangarhar around four years ago. Since then, the movement has gained a reputation for brutality extreme even by the standards of the Afghan conflict, making a trademark of executions by beheading or explosion. The fighters in Deh Bala, next to Achin district where the US military dropped its largest non-nuclear bomb last year, were funding themselves by illegal logging and talc mining, as well as exploiting local villagers.

However a clear link between fighters in places like Gargari, a mudbrick village down the road from Deh Bala's district capital, and the militants behind a series of sophisticated suicide attacks in Kabul or Jalalabad is elusive. "The network is very fungible..." said Brigadier General John Brennan, Resolute Support commander in eastern Afghanistan. "I wouldn't say the actual suicide bombers came from Deh Bala, but facilitation runs all along the border and part of it used to come through here." —Reuters



NANTES: Firefighters work to put out a fire from a burning car in the "Le Breil" neighborhood of Nantes. —AFP

reluctant to testify to do so," he said. Anger had already bubbled over last year when a young black man in another Paris suburb suffered severe anal injuries caused by a truncheon during his arrest. And in 2005 riots erupted across the country after the deaths of two black teenagers who were electrocuted in a Paris suburb while hiding from the police.

The simmering tensions mean security forces themselves are often targeted.

Prosecutors said Saturday police had detained a second suspect sought in the brutal beating of two off-duty officers, a husband and wife, who were attacked in front of their three-year-old daughter in a northeastern suburb of Paris on Wednesday. A police source said the attackers recognized the policewoman because she had recently stopped them for an ID check in the high-crime suburb of Aulnay-sous-Bois. —AFP

Minister defends UK's Brexit plan amid concerns

LONDON: A senior British minister yesterday defended the government's plan to adopt EU rules on goods after Brexit, amid anger from MPs who want a cleaner break and concerns it will still harm business. Environment Secretary Michael Gove, a leading Brexit supporter, admitted the proposal thrashed out by cabinet ministers during a day-long meeting on Friday was not perfect.

But he told the BBC: "I'm a realist", adding: "All of the important areas where an independent country chooses to exercise sovereignty, Britain will be able to do so." He stressed that Britain was leaving the European Union as planned in March, adding: "You shouldn't make the perfect the enemy of the good." Prime Minister Theresa May said that after agreeing a common approach, she now expected years of ministerial in-fighting on Brexit to end. But yesterday's newspapers were full of reports of rebellion within her Conservative party.

"There is a lot of unhappiness," eurosceptic MP Bill Cash told Sky News television, questioning if the proposal would lead to a "proper Brexit". On the other side of the debate, more than 100 British entrepreneurs and business leaders said the plan was not enough to avoid disruption, and urged Britain to stay in the EU's customs union. Dutch electronics giant Philips also warned that any changes

to current free trade agreements posed a "serious threat" to the competitiveness of its British operations.

Johnson's criticism

May's plan would create a free trade area with the EU for goods, to protect supply chains in areas such as manufacturing, while maintaining flexibility for Britain's dominant service sector. It is unclear whether Brussels will accept this, after repeatedly warning Britain it cannot "cherry-pick" bits of its single market. Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, a leading Brexit supporter, was widely reported to have described the plan as a "turd" before agreeing to support it. Former Conservative leader Iain Duncan Smith said it appeared to run contrary to promises to leave the EU's single market and customs union. "If the public perceive that not to be delivered then the government, I'm afraid, will suffer the consequences at the next election," he told the Sunday Telegraph newspaper.

Business warnings

The opposition Labour party, by contrast, said the plan was "unworkable" and urged MPs to back Britain's continued membership of the customs union, which will be put to a vote in the House of Commons on July 16. A group of entrepreneurs, including the founders of Innocent Drinks, food chain Pret a Manger, bookshop Waterstones and fashion retailer Net-A-Porter among others, urged them on. "The cost, complexity and bureaucracy created by crashing out of the customs union and adopting alternative arrangements is the last thing that our businesses need as we seek to grow," they said in an open letter reported in The Times. —AFP

Business System Analyst
 Gulf Takaful Insurance Company
 Kuwait

You will be responsible to coordinate and plan activities between business areas and IT teams, and provides functional assistance with related system features, enhancements. Handle requests for new Requirements and enhancements to existing ones, and assist business areas with documenting their requests.

Apply Now [JB3815549](#)

Food Development Manager
 Al Sayer Franchising
 Kuwait

You will be responsible to develop products and liaise with food suppliers in order to share best practices and stay up to date with new trends and food innovations, work on timely procurement of required food products and related services, coordinate brands product specification and source cost effective products for the business.

Apply Now [JB3815512](#)

Cost Controller
 Venture Foods
 Kuwait

You will be responsible to liaise closely with the Food & Beverage Department on various operational and cost related issues, check and maintain portions, quality and cooking times in all locations, perform test checking on the receiving of goods at all locations and to see that the procedures we followed correctly.

Apply Now [JB3815139](#)

Retail Sales Consultant
 Kuwait Automotive Imports Co.
 W.L.L. - Kuwait

You will be responsible to understand the Brand & Products DNA's, presentation as per Standards after identifying customer needs, advise on right product, features, benefits & financing, pro-actively follow-up and close leads.

Apply Now [JB3815074](#)

Accountant
 Ambition Academy
 Kuwait

You will be responsible to maintaining reliable and accurate accounting records, preparing monthly accounts for cost and revenues activities, preparing profit and loss accounts and balance sheets by preparing accurate and timely financial information including Monthly and year-end accounting and taxation reports.

Apply Now [JB3815062](#)

IT Security Consultant
 Jobskey
 Kuwait

You will be responsible to reviewing systems architecture / design to assess and improve information security, assess the current state security posture, envision future state and provide implementation roadmaps to our clients in IT security projects.

Apply Now [JB3814862](#)

Sales Executive
 AB Tech
 Kuwait

You will be responsible for looking for candidate must have experience in government sector or private sector that previously has experience in laboratories and research field, maintaining and developing relationships with existing customers via meetings, telephone calls and emails.

Apply Now [JB3814766](#)

Accountant
 National Takaful Insurance Co.
 Kuwait

You will be responsible to receive and audit financial transactions, ensure their conformity with the company approved rules and procedures, receive bank advices, ensure their conformity with the company accounts, prepare accounts settlements statements.

Apply Now [JB3814724](#)

Cashier
 Haji Husein Alireza & Co. Ltd.
 KSA

You will be responsible to itemizes and totals purchases by recording prices, departments, taxable and nontaxable items; operating a cash register, collects payments by accepting cash, check, or charge payments from customers; making change for cash customers.

Apply Now [JB3806763](#)

Chief Accountant
 BALLAN CO LTD
 KSA

You will be responsible for preparation of monthly, quarterly and annual financial reports and budget execution reports, maintaining accurate and up to date records of all financial transactions, recording, classifying, and summarizing financial transactions and events in accordance with accepted local accounting principles and financial reporting standards.

Apply Now [JB3815414](#)

QA/QC Manager
 Saudi Pan Kingdom For Trading,
 Industrial and Contracting Co.
 Ltd (SAPAC) - KSA

You will be responsible for ensuring that the products produced by Co. achieve supreme quality and reliability levels and meet customer specifications, ensuring compliance of products with Saudi quality standards as well as compliance with government procedures, rules and regulations.

Apply Now [JB3815225](#)

Distribution Officer
 Saudi Air Navigation Services
 SANS - KSA

You will be responsible to carefully plan and coordinate daily orders distribution scheduled with all departments, in collaboration with all department , regularly generate beneficiary distribution list, ensure that all distribution is authorised subscribers, ensure that all data and information is readily available, up to date and accessible to all relevant parties both within and outside of the SANS.

Apply Now [JB3812894](#)

Accountant
 Lobo Management
 UAE

You will be responsible to prepare, examine, and analyze accounting records, financial statements, and other financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness, and conformance to reporting and procedural standards, report to management regarding the finances of establishment.

Apply Now [JB3815540](#)

IT Vendor Performance Specialist
 ADCB Abu Dhabi Commercial
 Bank - UAE

You will be responsible to manage the bank's vendor deliveries by ensuring that the vendor performance management framework is efficiently followed to deliver optimized services in accordance with the respective contractual agreements.

Apply Now [JB3815491](#)

Student Advisor
 Global Edmissions
 UAE

You will be responsible for handling all queries and leads generated through different sources, Effective follow-up with the leads and walk-ins for the allotted countries to meet the monthly sales targets. Clearing doubts of all prospective and enrolled students and providing solutions at all stages.

Apply Now [JB3815376](#)

Project Manager
 Bounce
 UAE

You will be responsible to coordinate internal resources and third parties/vendors for the flawless execution of projects, ensure that all projects are delivered on-time, within scope and within budget, assist in the definition of project scope and objectives, involving all relevant stakeholders and ensuring technical feasibility.

Apply Now [JB3815179](#)

Account Manager
 Dallah Holding
 Qatar

You will be responsible for maintaining and improving relationships with assigned Clients, conducting market research and acquiring new Clients, as per the given target and directions from the Sales Director, own and team's orders; from Request for Quotation to Collection of payment and Client feedback.

Apply Now [JB3815059](#)

Marketing Executive (Alfardan Real Estate Co.) - Alfardan Group
 Qatar

You will be responsible to coordinate marketing related projects with the appointed marketing agencies as per set guidelines by the Marketing Manager, constant follow-up, updates and regular meetings with third party consultants, agencies and suppliers.

Apply Now [JB3815132](#)

Social Media Officer
 Carriage Logistics General
 Trading - Qatar

You will be responsible to manage Social Media marketing campaigns and day-to-day activities, curate relevant content to reach the company's ideal customers, create, curate, and manage all published content (images, video and written), monitor, listen and respond to users in a "Social" way while cultivating leads and sales.

Apply Now [JB3815035](#)

Florist
 Al Mana
 Qatar

You will be responsible for creating unique and aesthetic floral designs in line with customer specifications, retail sales of flowers including upselling and cross selling, delivery of the highest Customer Service, providing recommendations to our customers and advice for after care of floral arrangements.

Apply Now [JB3814923](#)

Analysis

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian GulfTHE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYANEditor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYANEDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24835619
COMMERCIAL : 24835618P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.netPlastic is light,
versatile and
here to stay
-for now

Because of their role in global pollution, plastics are hugely controversial. But the resilient, supple, light and malleable materials play a key role in our lives and, according to experts, will remain crucial for a long time to come. Here are a few things to know about the world of plastic.

How it's made

The classic production process involves the distillation and refining of fuel or natural gas, breaking down hydrocarbons.

Various raw materials make up the building blocks of the resulting plastic. Monomers build more complex molecules called polymers—the scientific name for plastics. There are two families of polymers. Thermoplastics, accounting for some 80 percent of global plastics consumption, melt when they are heated and then harden when cooled. Then there are thermosets, which do not soften after moulding.

How it's used

Five polymers account for the majority – 71 percent of global plastics consumption. First, there is polyethylene, found above all in single-use packaging, then polypropylene, used in car bumpers, dashboards and drinking straws. Next up is polystyrene, used for packaging, insulation panels and yoghurt pots. There is also polyvinyl chloride—better known as PVC—used in windows and drains—and then polyethylene terephthalate (PET), commonly used for synthetic fibres or bottles.

Lighter is better

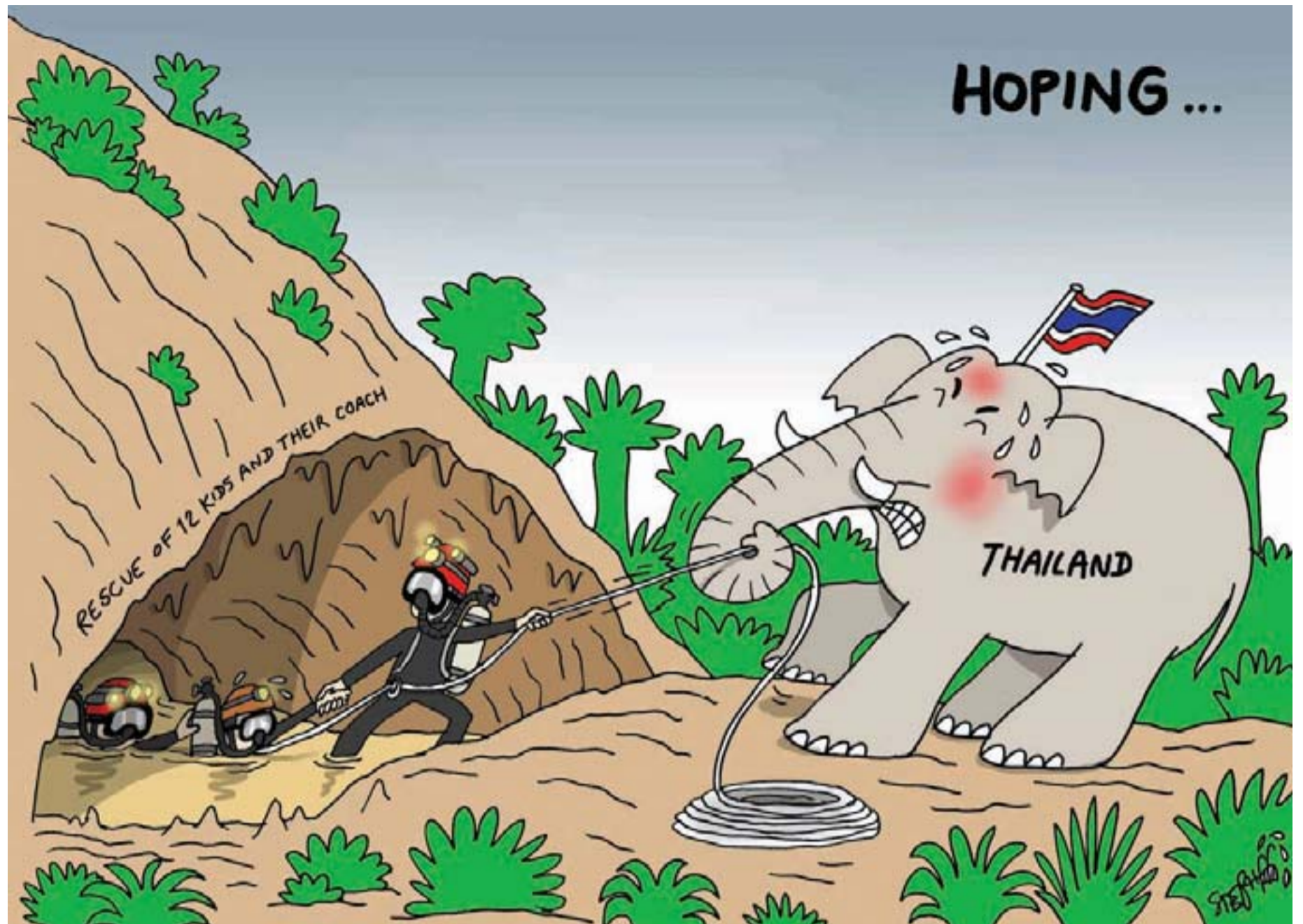
There is much innovation in conventional plastics, with new properties being added to maximise performance. Lighter is better, and slimming the volume of plastic is a constant challenge, not least to reduce the amount of plastic clogging the oceans and to wage war on waste. But lighter plastic also means lighter finished products, including in transport. “The need for (greater) lightness in auto transport is a massive innovation factor,” Christophe Cabarry, founder and president of SpecialChem, an online platform connecting sellers and buyers of chemicals and materials, told AFP. A few grams a year are being shaved down, even on products as mundane as plastic bottles.

What about the environment?

The wait is on for the breakthrough of bioplastics—plastics made using biodegradable materials or natural recyclable materials. “There is much innovation in the sector,” says Cabarry. But of the 2.05 million tons of bioplastics produced worldwide last year less than half was actually biodegradable, according to European Bioplastics, an industry association. The association put their market penetration at barely 0.75 percent in 2017, owing to bioplastic's much higher costs.

But we recycle, right?

Europe managed to re-use around 31 percent of 26 million tons of plastics waste in 2016. “Europe has initiated a transition from a linear towards a circular and resource efficient society”, says the PlasticsEurope association of manufacturers. But the rate in the United States is much lower, at 10 percent, and across the world, only 9 percent of the nine billion tons of plastic produced to date has been recycled, a recent UN report said. Some 12 million tons per year, mostly in the form of single-use packaging, are dumped into the world's oceans, creating an ecological nightmare, according to Greenpeace. — AFP



Battle over Franco's imposing tomb in Spain

A 150-metre-high cross on top of a basilica, carved into a mountain by the tomb of General Francisco Franco. Decades after the military dictator was buried, in the divisive monument in the Valle de los Caídos (Valley of the Fallen) near Madrid, his remains may soon be exhumed. “As an established and European democracy, Spain cannot allow for symbols that divide Spaniards,” Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez declared as his Socialist government announced plans to transfer the remains this month.

Francisco filled the basilica with the bodies of thousands of his supporters and Republicans alike, bringing together in death those who had once fought each other so bitterly during the civil war. But critics say this was a forced “reconciliation” and charge it is unacceptable to give such ostentatious recognition to a man who once ruled Spain with an iron-fist. Located just 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of Madrid in a tranquil, mountainous area full of pine trees, the giant cross is visible kilometers away.

It looms over a giant esplanade and a basilica watched over by Benedictine monks where the late dictator rests, fresh flowers laid on his tomb every day.

As visitors enter, a stone plaque reminds them that Franco inaugurated the place on April 1, 1959. A little further, two massive angels carrying swords stare down at passers-by. Then comes a large and gloomy nave carved into the mountain rock, with a floor of black marble, which

leads into a dome dominated by an altar. On one side is the tomb of Jose Antonio Primo de Rivera, founder of Spain's fascist Falange party who was shot dead by Republicans during the civil war. On the other side lies Franco's tomb. Both are covered with roses and carnations.

Family objections

For many, the valley is a symbol of a past that Spain still finds difficult to digest after authorities opted to draw a veil over the civil war and ensuing dictatorship as the country transitioned to democracy. “Generations have come and gone and we continue to be divided by a war that we didn't experience,” said Cristina Campo, a 42-year-old visiting with her family. But would taking away Franco's remains heal wounds? “Exhuming the remains isn't difficult in itself,” explained Gabino Abanades, who on November 23, 1975 managed the team tasked with burying Franco's embalmed body, three days after his death. “It can be done in around one hour,” he said in front of the monument, surrounded by tourists.

He added that it would be “logical and normal” for the remains to be transferred to the vault which the Franco family has in the El Pardo cemetery near Madrid. But Franco's descendants are completely opposed to moving his remains. “The seven grandchildren have all signed a letter that they have handed to the prior of the Benedictine abbey, in which they voice their opposition to the exhumation,” said Juan Chicharro, president of the Francisco Franco

Foundation, which defends the dictator's memory.

Unequal treatment

Some 20,000 political prisoners were forced to participate in the construction of the monument between 1940 and 1959. Using dynamite, they bored through the cliff where the basilica now lies and built the Benedictine monastery and a hostel. In the mountain lie the remains of some 27,000 fighters loyal to Franco and around 10,000

Republicans. The families of the Republicans were never told about their transfer to the valley. The names of the Franco fighters, says historian Julian Casanova, are all written down in “a register marking their departure from the cemetery and a register marking their entry into the Valle de los Caídos”. “Where the Republicans are concerned... there was no departure register when they were taken, and the entry register is very inaccurate. That's a problem.” — AFP



A sticker reading 'Do not touch The Valley' and depicting a portrait of General Francisco Franco is pictured in a street of Madrid. — AFP

Migrants dreaming
of Spain live off
Moroccan dump

Under a blazing sun, Youssouf picks food from a Moroccan rubbish dump, one of many young people who scavenges to survive while dreaming of life in nearby Spain. “My mother would be sick if she saw this,” said Youssouf, a 20-year-old from Guinea. “We are going through a very difficult period. There's no work, we eat from bins, we don't have a choice.”

The foul-smelling rubbish dump is on the hills above Fnideq, a seaside city not far from where Morocco's King Mohammed VI spends his holidays. The Spanish enclave of Ceuta sits on the horizon, the last stop on the African continent for thousands of migrants who spend months or years trying to reach Europe. Youssouf has attempted to breach the Ceuta border numerous times during his five years in Morocco, after a lengthy journey which took him through Mali and Algeria. “Each person here has their dreams, to study, work, play football. I dream of studying in Spain,” said Youssouf, while his companions dig up rubbish with a pickaxe.

Fintor, a 22-year-old from Mali, also wants to reach Spain—ideally to play football. “Doing this makes us feel ashamed. Our families don't know that we do this,” he said of their forage for food. The migrants throw themselves onto a newly arrived rubbish truck, eager to stock up before the load gets buried in the dump. Fintor discovers a theatre mask and puts it on, entertaining his friends. Before trying his luck in Morocco, he spent months in Libya but “didn't have the means to pay for the crossing” to Europe.

Kidnapping risk

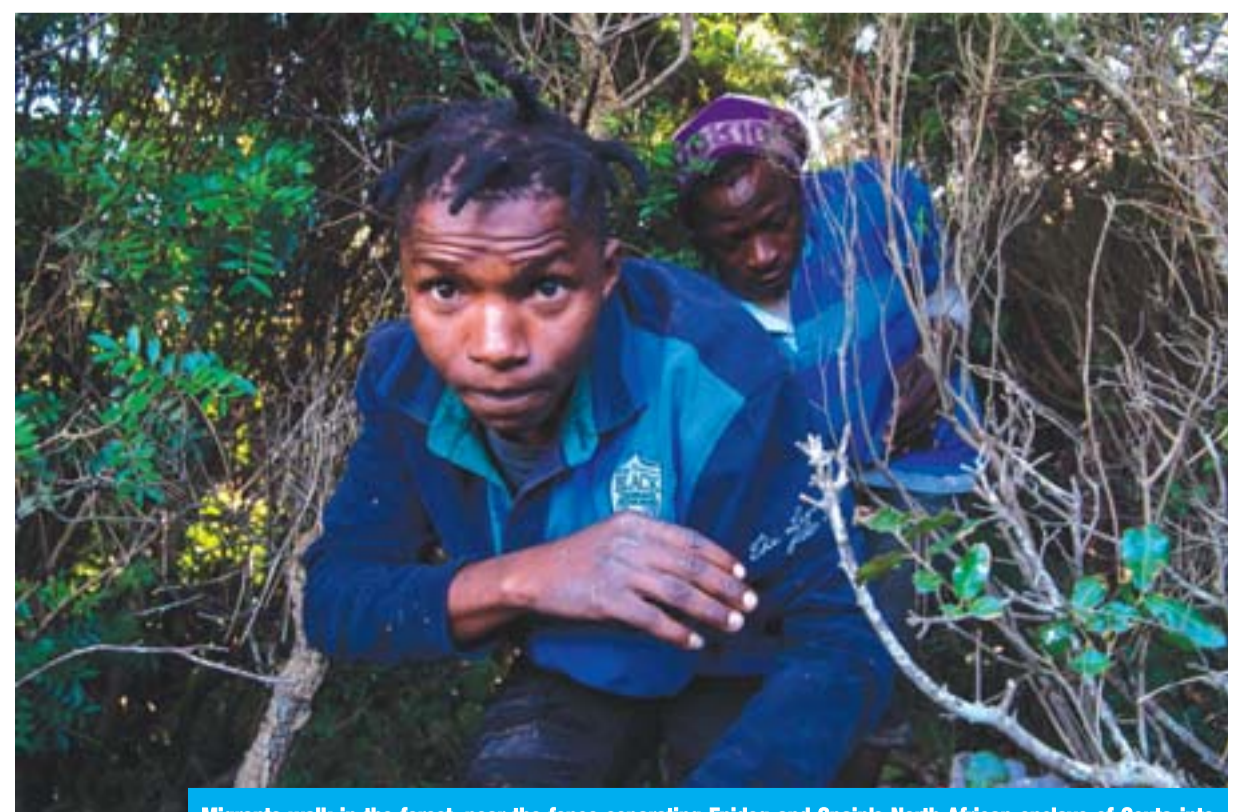
While the land route through Ceuta or the second Spanish enclave of Melilla is popular, many more migrants are increasingly reaching Spain by boat. More than 22,000 people made the crossing in 2017, while so far this year more than 15,000 have reached Spain by sea, according to figures from the UN refugee agency. The numbers are comparable to Italy, which this year has seen

nearly 17,000 people arrive, while close to 14,000 have made it to Greece by sea, the UNHCR data show.

All options pose risks—of drowning, abuse by smugglers or even kidnapping. A Europol operation detailed last month uncovered a trafficking network which smuggled more than 100 children from Morocco to Spain, charging them each 2,000 to 8,000 euros (\$2,350-\$9,400). A second gang kidnapped the young migrants and forced their families in Morocco to pay 500 euros for their release, the EU's law enforcement agency said. The US State Department in a recent report found irregular migrants “highly vulnerable to trafficking in Morocco”, while noting a lack of proactive measure to prosecute traffickers or identify their victims.

Scarred hands

Unable to pay for the sea crossing, Youssouf and his friends will try to break through the barbed wire surrounding Ceuta. More than 6,000 people succeeded in crossing into Spain by land last year, while nearly 3,000 have done so in 2018. One hoping to follow in their footsteps is Aboubakar, who lives in a forest close to the Ceuta border fence. “I got in three times and they made me leave, but I kept my cool,” said the 18-year-old Guinean, his scarred hands a testament to the failed attempts. While he hides out and waits, Aboubakar has gone weeks without washing. “It's not good for my health, but I've got no other options. I have to pass through here” and reach the other side, he said. — AFP



Migrants walk in the forest, near the fence separating Fnideq and Spain's North African enclave of Ceuta into Morocco. — AFP

Business

MONDAY, JULY 9, 2018

12 The prisoner's dilemma:
US is starting a trade war**13** Danske Bank's money-laundering
scandal spinning faster**14** Kuwait witnesses grand opening of
Germany's Hafele Design Studio

LONDON: In this handout image, members of Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May's cabinet mingle in the Great Hall at the Prime Minister's rural country residence, Chequers, west of London. — AFP

'Hard' Brexit could see Philips quit UK: CEO

Minister defends Britain's Brexit plan amid party, business unrest

THE HAGUE/LONDON: Dutch electronics giant Philips warned yesterday it may shift production out of Britain in the event of a "hard" Brexit, saying it was "deeply concerned about competitiveness" of its operations there. The Amsterdam-based group employs some 1,500 people in Britain, most notably at its baby care products-for-export factory at Glensford in Suffolk.

"I am deeply concerned about the competitiveness of our operations in the UK, especially our manufacturing operations," Philips chief executive Frans van Houten said.

"We estimate that the cost of the (Philips') exported products will increase substantially under any scenario that is not maintaining the single customs union," he said in a statement emailed to AFP. Any changes in current free trade agreements, the single customs union and current EU product certifications "is a serious threat to the competitiveness of this factory," Van Houten added, saying "we need to do worst case scenario planning." Philips is the latest company in a chorus of major industrial players—which also includes Jaguar Land Rover, BMW and Airbus—to warn about the negative impact of an acrimonious split between the UK and EU.

"At the moment we are considering all scenarios, including one in which there is a so-called 'hard Brexit'," Philips spokesman Steve Klink told AFP. "In that case, it could include the departure of our manufacturing for export," said Klink. Van Houten however emphasized: "Philips remains absolutely committed to its current and prospective future

customers in the country" including hospitals. British Prime Minister Theresa May on Friday persuaded her eurosceptic ministers to back a plan for closer trade ties with the EU after Brexit. After marathon talks at her country retreat, May's divided cabinet agreed on a new "free trade area" where Britain would accept EU rules for goods. But the British premier still has to sell the plan to Brussels, which could keep Britain tied to the bloc for years after Brexit, even if officials stress parliament would reserve the right to diverge.

May expressed hope the deal would end two years of public splits that sparked exasperation among European leaders and businesses seeking a clear path. "We are faced with the continued ambiguity and uncertainty of Brexit," said Van Houten yesterday. "Europe is at risk of falling behind the US and China, as they move ahead focused on strengthening their geo-economic leadership," he said.

British plan

A eurosceptic cabinet minister yesterday defended Britain's plan to adopt EU rules on goods after Brexit, amid anger from MPs who want a cleaner break and concerns it

will still harm business. Environment Secretary Michael Gove admitted the proposal, thrashed out by warring ministers during a day-long meeting on Friday, was not everything he wanted but said: "I'm a realist."

Prime Minister Theresa May said that after agreeing a common approach, she now expected years of ministerial infighting on Brexit to end. But yesterday's newspapers were full of reports of rebellion within her Conservative party. "There is a lot of unhappiness, there is a great deal of concern," veteran eurosceptic MP Bill Cash told Sky News television, questioning if the proposal would lead to a "proper Brexit".

Leading Brexit supporter Boris Johnson, the foreign secretary, was widely reported to have described the plan as a "turd"—before he agreed to support it. Former Conservative leader Iain Duncan Smith said it appeared to run contrary to promises to leave the EU's single market and customs union.

"If the public perceive that not to be delivered then the government, I'm afraid, will suffer the consequences at the next election," he told the Sunday Telegraph newspaper.

But Gove told the BBC: "All of the important areas where

an independent country chooses to exercise sovereignty, Britain will be able to do so." He stressed that Britain was leaving the European Union as planned in March, adding: "You shouldn't make the perfect enemy of the good."

Open letter

May's plan would create a free trade area with the EU for goods, to protect supply chains in areas such as manufacturing, while maintaining flexibility for Britain's dominant service sector. But more than 100 entrepreneurs and business leaders signed an open letter to MPs warning that this was not enough, and calling for Britain to stay in the EU's customs union.

"The cost, complexity and bureaucracy created by crashing out of the customs union and adopting alternative arrangements is the last thing that our businesses need as we seek to grow and employ more people," it said, according to The Times. Organized by Richard Reed, the co-founder of Innocent Drinks, it was signed by the founders of food chain Pret a Manger, bookshop Waterstones and fashion retailer Net-A-Porter among others.

The House of Commons will vote on July 16 on a legislative amendment to keep Britain in the customs union, and the opposition Labor party yesterday urged pro-European MPs to back it. It is unclear whether the government's proposal will be accepted by Brussels, which has warned it will not accept attempts to "cherry-pick" bits of its single market. — AFP



May sees years of ministerial infighting

Former Conservative leader Iain Duncan Smith said it appeared to run contrary to promises to leave the EU's single market and customs union.

"If the public perceive that not to be delivered then the government, I'm afraid, will suffer the consequences at the next election," he told the Sunday Telegraph newspaper.

But Gove told the BBC: "All of the important areas where

US farmers now caught in trade war with China

HARVARD: Terry Davidson expects to be farming long after the US-China trade tariffs that took effect Friday become a distant memory. The Illinois soybean grower is more optimistic than that things will work out, but many farmers in the Midwestern farm belt are not so sure, following the opening salvos in a trade war. All are caught in the middle, after Washington on Friday imposed 25-percent duties on \$34 billion worth of Chinese machinery, electronics and high-tech gear.

Beijing had already said soybeans would be among US products it would retaliate against, and fought back dollar for dollar immediately after the US tariffs took effect in line with President Donald Trump's repeated criticisms of China's economic practices.

"We've survived since the 1800s and we're still going," said Davidson, 41, a fifth-generation farmer and a Democrat among mostly

Republicans. "So, I think we'll keep going." In the meantime, he is unsure how the tariffs will affect the prices he can command for his crop when harvest time comes in a few months. "Other countries are trying to stock up on US soybeans. They're taking the place of what China has done to us," Davidson told AFP, striking a note of cautious optimism at his farm outside Harvard, Illinois, a two-hour drive and a world away from Chicago.

But other farmers—and the interest groups that represent them—are sounding the alarm.

Soybean growers are especially concerned. They sell most of their crops overseas, and China is their biggest and fastest-growing market. While many farmers support Trump's stated efforts to negotiate better trade deals, many are unsure tariffs are the best approach and fear the economic damage they could cause.

Mixed views

Illinois is the nation's top soybean producer and home to about 43,000 farmers who grow the crop. Soybeans, they say, are relatively cheap to grow and are in demand overseas, helping farms stay profitable even through the boom-and-bust cycles inherent in agriculture.

The crop is easy to spot in Harvard, cover-

ing miles and miles (kilometers) of land, including on Davidson's family farm. Half of his land is set aside for soybeans, the other half for corn. The thick rows of soybeans Davidson walks through are already three feet (one meter) tall, with broad leaves hiding the small bean pods. He plans to harvest in early autumn.

Because he has no storage facility, he will have to sell the crop immediately after harvesting and accept whatever price he can get.

"I've never heard of a tariff on soybeans before by one of our biggest buyers in China," said Davidson, his hair bleached almost white by hours spent under the blazing sun.

"But I'm not worried about it at all, because I truly believe it's gonna end by harvest season." Tariffs can potentially wreak havoc on soybean prices, which began dropping in May in anticipation of a trade war. "In the short term right now, we're taking a hit," said Kentucky farmer Davie Stephens, 52.

"There's not been a lot of tariff wars that have come along, so some of us have been experiencing this for the first time," he said.

The American Soybean Association has been encouraging farmers to speak out in a social media hashtag campaign, hoping at least to help keep the tariffs short-lived. — AFP

EU has 'card to play' in trade war: Lagarde

BRUSSELS: The European Union has "a card to play" if it offers a united front in its response to the trade war pitting the United States against China, International Monetary Fund director Christine Lagarde said.

"In the show of force we see coming to bear... between the United States on the one hand and China on the other, who represent two totally different forms of capitalist impetus, Europe can play a very particular card," Lagarde told an economic forum in the southern French city of Aix-en-Provence.

"Europe is strategic for the one as for the other (the United States and China)" when it comes to trade, said Lagarde a week ahead of a bilateral EU-China summit which the latter will host July 16 and 17 in Beijing. She added

Europe had the power to balance out the commercial powerplay between Washington and Beijing with neither enjoying sufficient leverage to swing it to either camp.

"The Europeans together are a force, a power. When they are united they have a true voice" which can count, said Lagarde, adding that the EU could be a "source of inspiration for many other countries in the world."

Lagarde said that a proposed joint euro-zone budget could be designed with conditions so that it does not become a no-strings-attached transfer of rich countries' cash to poorer members.

The leaders of France and Germany agreed last month on a proposal for such a budget that would be used to smooth out economic difference between euro zone countries and stabilize their economies when facing shocks. The Franco-German idea, at the heart of French President Emmanuel Macron's plans for deeper euro zone integration, quickly ran into opposition from a dozen other EU countries, led by the Netherlands, concerned about how the money would be raised and used. — Agencies

Business

Kuwait witnesses grand opening of Germany's Hafele Design Studio

The ultimate partnership between All Wood Design and Hafele



KUWAIT: Extending its leadership and success in the industry, All Wood Design- a subsidiary of Mohamed Al-Mahmoud Company signs an agreement with a well-reputed German company Hafele. This agreement was established to create a joint design studio between All Wood Design Studio and Hafele.

This ultimate partnership will enable All Wood Design to offer its customers with an enhanced custom experience for all sorts of wood works. Their partnership was celebrated during the grand opening of Hafele Design Studio that took place on July 3rd, 2018. The showroom was specifically designed to highlight All Wood Design's modern and exceptional products operated by Hafele technical solutions.

Commenting on this partnership is Eng. Mohamed Al Mahmoud, General Manager of Mohamed Al Mahmoud Company: "We are pleased to announce that Hafele has confidently chosen us as a partner to open the first in the middle east Hafele Design Studio being introduced here in Kuwait. Through this joint showroom we are offering customers with a wide range of cabinets, doors and furniture

enabling customers a peace of mind as it an internationally designed and developed technology."

Speaking on behalf of Hafele is its Regional Manager, Younis Saeed: "We have established a well-reputed name in the international marketplace while using our products. Today we begin a new journey with All Wood Design that is a subsidiary of Mohamed Al Mahmoud Company, as we have come to realize that they share our same vision and strategy of offering customers sophistication in furniture design while assimilating high quality; hence our integration comes about to establish for the first time in the middle east here in Kuwait Hafele's Design Studio."

Mohamed Al Mahmoud Group is one of the prominent companies in Kuwait that manufacture metal and wooden

doors and all its accessories and supplies. It successfully established its name in the local market gaining market confidence, and thus making itself the preferred company of choice for many leading projects in Kuwait such as individual and corporate clients.

The Group's most renowned projects include: Kuwait Central Bank, Al-Hamra Tower, Rotana Al-Manshar Hotel, Al-Farwaniya Hospital, and Al-Asima Tower.

The Group owns a factory to manufacture wood works to suit any clients' needs, that is well equipped with the latest industrial technology of equipment and machinery.

The factory is run by professional and high-level engineers and technicians. The plants' production capacity is able to produce more than 150 finished doors per day. The engineering team within the factory is committed to

adhere to the highest standards of quality and accuracy of production to produce the final desired product, which provides customers with the highest levels of satisfaction of the quality.

For more information about All Wood Design please follow @AllWooddesign on Instagram to keep update with their latest innovations.

Hafele is one of the world's leading door and furniture accessories manufacturers, as it international market experience of a 100 years. The company employees more than 7,600 employees in various productive and engineering sectors, and includes agents in 37 other centers around the world. The company produces a wide array of high quality and durable accessories including sling hinges, bolt fasteners, drawer rails, regular and electronic locks, office tables and supports, drawer doors, cabinets and lighted shelves, and other small engineering pieces and accessories for doors and furniture. For more information about the company please visit: www.Hafele.com and follow @HafeleKuwait on Instagram to stay informed with their latest launches.



For the first time in the Middle East

Al-Tijari announces the winner of Al-Najma draw

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced the winner of the weekly draw for Al-Najma as follows :- Weekly draw prize KD 5,000 - Alsayed Khalaf Ahmad Mohammad.

The draw was conducted in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative Latifa Al-Jeean. Al-Najma Account was recently revamped by adding several benefits to the prize program through which now the account provides its customers the chance to win the biggest annual cash prize offered by a bank in Kuwait and over the globe as much as KD 1 million and half (KD 1,500,000) so that customers' dreams can easily turn into reality. The bank stated that the account prizes this year are featured by the highest cash prize and diversity of prizes throughout the year clarifying that Al-Najma Account will offer a weekly prize of KD 5,000, a monthly prize of KD 20,000 and a semi-annual prize of KD 500,000 in addition to the grand prize (the biggest prize in the world) of KD 1,500,000 for which the draw will be held in January 2019.

Al-Najma Account can be opened by depositing KD 100, and customers should maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 to be eligible to enter all draws on Al-Najma Account prizes. As for the chances of winning, the more balance a customer maintains in Al-Najma Account, the more chances the account holder will get to win, where each KD 25 will



give the customer one chance to win. The account also offers additional benefits like the ATM card, a credit card against customer's account and all CBK banking services that customer can enjoy.

Now CBK existing customers can open an Al-Najma Account through Al-Tijari Online and enter all draws without visiting the Bank's branch. However, CBK non-customers can submit account opening applications via the Bank's website where the Bank's Sales Unit will call them to arrange a visit to the customers to complete the account opening formalities. Customers can obtain further information on Al-Najma Account by either calling the service center or by visiting the Bank's website www.CBK.com and they can also visit their nearest CBK branch where the Bank staff will be ready to serve them and respond to their queries. For more information related to the latest offers and services launched by the bank please visit the Bank's social sites.

Business booming for plastic giants as change beckons

PARIS: It's the worst enemy of environmental campaigners, but people around the world use mountains of plastic every day and business is booming for manufacturers.

Much to the chagrin of activists, an increasingly restrictive regulatory environment appears to have put little dent in the industry's power so far. That is changing, however, and plastic giants are starting to adapt. From 2006 to 2016, global plastic output rose from 245 million to 348 million tonnes, according to the PlasticsEurope trade association. Production rose by 3.9 percent in 2017. In 2016 the growth rate stood at 4.0 percent, and in 2015 at 3.5 percent. Demand for thermoplastics alone—which includes the most common kinds of plastic, such as PET used in water bottles, polypropylene, polyethylene and PVC—has soared by 4.7 percent yearly from 1990 to 2017. "Is this going to continue in the coming years? We can assume it will," said Herve Millet, technical and regulatory affairs manager at PlasticsEurope. "The reasons why plastic (production) is growing worldwide are not just going to go away all at once," he added. The growth of the plastics industry goes hand-in-hand with economic development, Millet said.

The more an economy grows, the more plastic is used in construction, infrastructural development, electrical and electronic industries, and transport. Single-use plastic packaging—the nemesis of environmental activists—is also in strong demand in developing countries.

China leads the pack

Even in Europe, where anti-plastics campaigning has been especially vigorous, packaging accounts for 40 percent of consumption. But the world's leading producer of plastic is China. Today it holds a whopping 29 percent of the market share, up from 15 percent just a decade ago. European, US and Japanese plastic manufacturers have meanwhile



In this file photo, scavengers collect valuable waste at Sidoarjo garbage dump in East Java. — AFP

seen their market share shrink. Where Western producers are doing especially well is in the development of so-called specialty plastics used in the construction, automobile, medical and other industries. New polymers are also being used in the aviation and space industry, as well as in the creation of specialty athletic footwear. Pierre Gadrat, who heads the chemicals and materials division of France-based consulting firm Alcimed, said this sector "is just as dynamic, if not more, than before". The growth of the plastic industry defies concerted efforts from activists around the world, as well as an increasingly hostile regulatory environment.

Under pressure from campaigners, the European Union, Britain, India and even fast food giants like McDonald's have all made some headway towards bringing the use of disposable plastic straws to an end. Plastic bags are also being phased out in countries around the world, while France is set to introduce a ban on plastic plates, cups and cutlery in 2020. Emmanuel Guichard of French plastic packaging federation Elipso said the

drive to end the use of single-use plastic "does not weigh massively on growth in the sector". However, "with all these regulatory measures coming into force, we can't imagine that they won't have an impact at some stage", he added.

As public awareness grows about the terrible harm plastic pollution causes to the world's oceans and seas, manufacturing giants are starting to worry about their image. "Plastic as a whole is becoming stigmatized," Millet of PlasticsEurope said.

In a bid to keep their names clean, plastic industry leaders are recycling more, following the lead of product manufacturers. "Under regulatory pressure, plastic waste could potentially become... less seen as waste and more as a valuable raw material," Gadrat said. Producers of other raw materials such as metals, glass and cardboard have already fully integrated waste into their production cycles. "This is the future of plastic: a scenario where the industry manages its raw materials and its recycled resources," said Paris-based waste management company Citeo's chief scientist Carlos de Los Llanos. — AFP

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 Otolology and Audiology (Hearing loss, Tinnitus & balance disorders)
- ◆ Facial Plastic and reconstructive surgeries (Rhinoplasty, Otoplasty, Fillers & Botox injections)
- ◆ Diagnosis & treatment of snoring & obstructive sleep apnea in clinic without surgery
- ◆ Diagnosis & Treatment of voice and swallowing disorders
- ◆ Diagnosis & Treatment of Head and Neck benign & malignant tumors.

@Malhajry **Salmiya, Belajat Street, Tel: 1881122**

To advertise on this Page

Call: 24833199 ext:101,102
or Direct line: 24835616 / 24835617
or email: ads@kuwaittimes.com

Global Medical Center Welcomes
Dr. Marzouq Al-Bader
Consultant vascular and general surgery

All general and specialized surgeries such as:

- All critical and non-critical arteries and veins surgeries
- All methods of treating varicose
- Special department for care of injured diabetic foot
- Carrying out delicate procedures such as removing the extra rib
- Treating excess perspiration
- AV connection for dialysis

Global Medical Center, Bneid Al-Qar
Bour Saeed Street, Block-1, Building-128.
Telephone: 1871111 **@globalmedcenter**
www.globalmed-center.com

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).

دار الشفا مستشفى دار الشفا
Dar Al Shifa Hospital
Tele:1802 555 **daralshifa**

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

alsalam.int.hospital

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.

alsalam.int.hospital

IC INTERNATIONAL CLINIC
Member of the Society of American Gastrointestinal & Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)
Higher specialization in Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary surgery & Organ Transplantation
Member of many prestigious surgical societies.

- ◆ Day case surgeries
- ◆ Minor surgeries (lipoma, sebaceous cyst, ingrowing nail)
- ◆ Diagnosis, treatment and follow up of all surgical emergencies
- ◆ Hemorrhoids, fistula & anal fissure surgeries
- ◆ Surgery for morbid obesity (sleeve, gastric bypass)
- ◆ Breast surgeries
- ◆ Hernia repair
- ◆ Thyroid & adrenal surgeries
- ◆ Surgery for reflux disease
- ◆ Cholecystectomy & laparoscopic appendectomy
- ◆ Liver, pancreas & bile ducts surgeries

Dr. Hani Haider **http://www.international-clinic.com** **Tel: 1886677** **ic_kwt**

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

دار الشفا مستشفى دار الشفا
Dar Al Shifa Hospital
Tele:1802 555 **daralshifa**
Email: aalhaddad@daralshifa.com

DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM
Consultant Pediatrician

Consultant Pediatrician-Canadian & American Board in Pediatrics-Canadian Board in Pediatric Emergency

Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368 **Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St.1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B**

DR. WALEED S BUHAIMED
Consultant of General Surgery
Laposcopic and Bariatric Surgery

Academic Certificates - Training

- ◆ Kuwait Board of General Surgery.
- ◆ (IFSO) member .
- ◆ Faculty member of (BEST).
- ◆ Member of Kuwait Surgical Association.

Scope of clinical Practice.

- ◆ Bariatric surgeries.
- ◆ Gallbladder stones surgeries.
- ◆ Abdominal wall and hernia surgeries.
- ◆ G.I. surgeries.
- ◆ Thyroid and para - thyroid surgeries.
- ◆ Anal surgeries.

email: wbuhaimed@gmail.com **Tel.: 965 22269411/ Mob.: 965 99212228** Jabriya, 4th Ring Road, Block 1A Floor 9 - Clover Center Mazaya Building

What's On



TEC opens Sun Beach



As part of its long-term development plans, Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC) launched one of its most exciting summer offerings for families yet - Sun Beach. This latest attraction is located next to the Swimming Pool Complex, offering one of the finest locations on the seafront. The beach is an ideal setting for those looking to lounge in the sun or take part in surf and sand activities in the summer.

On this occasion, Assistant Chief Executive Officer of Recreation Affairs at TEC Ghazi Faisal Al-Hajri said: "As a result of TEC's focus on developing and rejuvenating the tourism and entertainment sectors in Kuwait, as well as its commitment to creating unique leisure experiences for everyone, we decided to renovate the beach area next to the Swimming Pool Complex. The renovation has made Sun Beach into the ideal summer destination for the entire family; featuring a large, scenic sandy area equipped with beach umbrellas and showers perfect for swimming, kayaks, paddle boats and other recreational water activities suitable for all ages."

Al-Hajri also noted that Sun Beach features the largest inflatable water activities in Kuwait, Sea-Venture. A one-of-a-kind inflatable water structure, Sea-Venture covers an area of 1,200 square meters, comprised of obstacles, slides and platforms for jumping into the water, climbing, including trampolines, monkey bars, slides, climbing walls, swings and much more. Promising non-stop entertainment for the whole family, Sea-Venture is an engaging way to experience the summer and splash straight into the fun.



Jumeirah partners with Visa to enhance FIFA experience

Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa, Kuwait's idyllic resort, has teamed up with Visa, the world's leader in digital payments, to take football fever in Kuwait to new heights. The Football Fever Viewing Party, presented by Visa, in the specially created football tent at Garden Cafe at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa, enhances the experience of fans catching all the action in the town's best venue.

With large screens showing all the matches, football fans with their friends and families can cheer on their favorite teams in a lively atmosphere as the tournament reaches the crucial stages, while enjoying the buffet of the famous restaurant along with flavored sheesha. Football Fever Viewing Party will boost excitement levels with a range of fun activities such as raffle draws, with coveted prizes on offer including VISA's exclusive Party in a Box prize which contains an Xbox One S + FIFA '18 + Extra Controller and many other branded items.



Guests watching the semi-finals and final in the Garden Cafe will have the opportunity to win one of these prizes. "The World Cup is always an exciting occasion and is unique in that it brings together people of all communities, from diehard football fans to those who wouldn't ordinarily watch football and we at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa are proud to offer such a captivating venue in which people can cheer on their favorite team in an extraordinary ambiance," said General Manager, Savino Leone. "Through our partnership with Visa we enhance the football-watching experience and welcome all football fans to join us for the rest of this exciting tournament," he added.



Lifestyle

MONDAY, JULY 9, 2018



An 'aloitador' struggles with a wild horse in the 'curro' (arena) during the 'Rapa Das Bestas' (Shearing of the Beasts) traditional event in the Spanish northwestern village of Sabucedo, some 40 kms from Santiago de Compostela. During the 400-year-old horse festival, hundreds of wild horses are rounded up from the mountains, trimmed and marked. — AFP

Race to restore Myanmar's film classics for a second screening

The restoration of a 1934 black-and-white action movie, famed for high-octane stunts including a hot-air balloon escape and a jungle shootout against teakwood thieves, has energized efforts to salvage more of Myanmar's decaying cinematic heritage. The survival of Myanmar's earliest film still in existence, "Mya Ga Naing" (The Emerald Jungle), and its rise to international acclaim is perhaps as unlikely a feat as its lead role's triumph over pythons and bandits with his bare hands. The Southeast Asian country's once flourishing film scene hit a major setback with the arrival of a military junta in 1962 that enforced stringent censorship and gutted the economy during a 50-year reign.

As the creative climate withered, Myanmar's merciless heat, torrential rains and stifling humidity took its toll on delicate film reels in a country that had neither the resources nor know-how to store them properly. Some reels were recycled to save money and now only a dozen of the country's early black-and-white pictures remain. "Mya Ga Naing", originally a silent movie that later had music and printed title cards added, is the oldest to have been found so far. It languished in the state archives for decades before specialists in Italy spent one year painstakingly retouching the film frame-by-frame, screening the restored version in 2016.

Experts spent hundreds of hours at the laboratory of L'Immagine Ritrovata (The Rediscovered Image) in Bologna removing every small scratch and spot from the film and digitizing using various resources including some film found in archives in Berlin—a testament to how far the original movie travelled. "Each time the restoration progressed, it

was like a new birth for the film," said Severine Wemaere, co-founder of MEMORY! Cinema, which oversaw the restoration and raised funds from donors for the \$100,000 price tag. "It was very moving because we could tell that we were in a country of cinema."

Sound or color?

The classic has also played at festivals in Singapore, Thailand and Switzerland as well as enjoying regular screenings at home in Myanmar. A live group of musicians accompanied a recent sold-out performance in Yangon, staying true to an original soundtrack added in 1954 that mixes local traditional music with western jazz. The film gained further international acclaim this year after UNESCO awarded the film a place on its Asia-Pacific list of "documentary heritage of influence"—a nod not just to the movie, but also to Myanmar's cinematic tradition.

The country's first-ever film was screened in 1920. By the 50s, the industry was in its heyday with Myanmar filmmakers pumping out scores of features each year. But the plot turned in the latter half of the 20th century as military rulers crushed creativity and closed the country off to foreign influences and technology. While nearly all the earliest movies have been lost, the successful revival of "Mya Ga Naing" is spurring a movement to preserve what remains. The next film to be restored in 2017 was Pyo Chit Lin (My Darling), a 1950 comedy shot on such a tight budget that director Tin Myint had to choose between sound or color. He opted for the latter—making it the country's earliest known surviving color film.

Every second counts

Contemporary Myanmar filmmaker Maung Okkar is playing a lead role in the effort to salvage his country's classics. Few could be better placed—the 31-year-old has moviemaking in his blood with both his father and grandfather renowned directors. In 2012, Maung Okkar realized with horror that some of his family's original reels were damaged beyond repair while others were slowly decaying in his storeroom. "Some films could not be restored and, for me, it was as if I had lost one of my parents," he remembered. "I learned there were other old films which were not looked after properly and decided to do it myself." After receiving training in restoration and archiving techniques in Italy, he launched "Save Myanmar Film" in 2017 with a group of fellow filmmakers.

Their slogan is "Every Second Counts!" and they aim to find and preserve as many old reels and other cinematic paraphernalia—including cameras, projectors and film posters—as possible. Some two thousand people viewed an exhibition and screenings held by the group this May in Yangon's prestigious former parliamentary building, and plans are under way to restore a third film. The clock is ticking, with all of the surviving films still piled up in metal tins in Yangon's crumbling state archive building.

Round-the-clock air conditioning is an improvement from the past but the temperature, at 16 degrees Celsius (61 degrees Fahrenheit), is still far above the optimal level of four degrees Celsius. Actress Grace Swe Zin Htaik, 65, starred in many of Myanmar's biggest films in the 70s and 80s and faces the challenge of organising the upcoming



100th anniversary of the country's movie industry. "People in this country have no idea how to value the old movies," she said wistfully while tracing her finger along the ramshackle shelves that are home to the remnants of the country's cinematic heritage. "(Through) old movies we can see our history, we can see our culture, we can see our identity and values." — AFP

Audience viewing the classic 'Mya Ga Naing' or The Emerald Jungle, Myanmar's oldest film shot in 1934 by Myanmar director Maung Tin Maung.



This picture shows a vintage movie camera displayed at the Myanmar film heritage exhibition at the historic Secretariat Building in Yangon. — AFP photos



A visitor view vintage film projector displayed at the Myanmar film heritage exhibition at the historic Secretariat Building in Yangon.



Former actress Grace Swe Zin Htaik viewing storage of old films at the state archive building in Yangon.

Rihanna is make-up artist's 'dream'

Rihanna has been hailed a "make-up artist's dream". The 'Work' hitmaker may be a global superstar but she's able to put the people around her at ease and Priscilla Ono has described working with the star as just like "hanging out" with a friend. In an interview with Capital FM, Priscilla said: "It's a make-up artist's dream... it's just a really amazing experience. It's like hanging out with your girlfriends, painting your toes, rollers in your hair! It's

like that vibe. "When you're with her all of that [fame] goes away and she's just like your girlfriend, it's one of the best feelings, really." Priscilla admitted that the 'Diamonds' hitmaker is extremely accomplished in beauty, and she's even picked up tips from her famous client. She said: "She's amazing at doing her own make-up; we call her a make-up artist in her own right. "I think that from working in this industry for so long she's really perfected her face and she

knows her face better than anyone.

"So for me as a make-up artist, at the beginning it was intimidating, like 'Wow she can do her own make-up so well', but she's actually taught me a few things along the way as well. Priscilla takes Rihanna's advice when using the stars own range, Fenty Beauty, and the singer has come up with a bizarre way of measuring her look.

She said: "This palette really embodies her, it's obvi-

ously inspired by a spice market in Morocco but I use this on her 90% of the time. We describe it as a spice level - are you mild medium or spicy AF? "Because she creates these [Fenty Beauty] products she knows how they look best and she's always coming up with new fun ways and that's a great collaboration between her and I as we share ways to use them." — Bang Showbiz



Zuhair Murad's fashion show



Models present creations by Zuhair Murad during the 2018-2019 Fall/Winter Haute Couture collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP photos

Lewis Hamilton uses fashion to express himself

Lewis Hamilton doesn't mind making fashion "mistakes". The four-time world champion racing driver used to try and "blend in" with his style, but he's now found his "own direction", even though that's taken some time and meant he's tried some questionable looks along the way. In an interview with City A.M, the 33-year-old driver said: "As a kid, I wanted to blend in. It's taken a long time to find my own direction, which you can see in what I wear. I've made lots of mistakes, but that's how you find your own style. "I like to go to the shows because you see the craziest, wackiest stuff. It's how it makes you feel that's important. Fashion is a very personal thing. I don't care what anyone else thinks."

The Formula One driver has just created a clothing line with Tommy Hilfiger, and wants to learn all he can from the designer. He said: "I'm all about positive energy. The first time I met Tommy, he comes up to

me, this icon I've always looked up to, and he says 'You look great! I love what you're wearing. You look like a rock star!' I was just so happy he recognized me." Lewis is nervous to see the reaction to his clothing line, especially because he would like to pursue fashion when his Formula One career ends.

"Before a race I always sleep fine because I know what I do. When it comes time for people to see this collection I'm not going to sleep at all. "This is an extension of who I am an expression of my character. I've put so much effort into it, so I'm super tied to it and conscious of how people are going to react. "It means a lot to me because this is potentially the beginning of a future beyond F1. I couldn't sleep before my first F1 test, and then I got the call and got the job and my career began." — Bang Showbiz

Jamie Lomas is the new face of Jacamo

Jamie Lomas will be the new face of Jacamo. The 43-year-old actor - who was last seen on TV screens on reality show 'I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!' - is fronting the menswear retailer's summer 2018 collection which includes swimwear and casual clothes. The 'Hollyoaks' star shot his campaign in Blackpool and even took a dip in the sea for some photos, but got a shock from the cold water. Jamie said: "Taking part in a modeling shoot was a nice change from acting. The team were great which made it a fun shoot to be involved in.

"Plus, you can't help but have a good time in Blackpool... I even went into the sea - it was not as warm as it looks! Being a Manchester lad, it's great to be working with Jacamo, a brand which originates from the same city as me." Jacamo is also a size specialist retailer catering for men of all body shapes and sizes from small to 5XL, and advocates inclusivity for all men. The range works for those who want casual day wear or are looking for something a little jazzier for the beach.

Jamie - who was previously married to 'Coronation Street' actress Kym Marsh - added: "I'd describe my style as quite simple, but I must admit, the shoot encouraged me to have a play round with outfits that I wouldn't usually wear - such as white jeans or the patterned twinset. "But I loved all the different looks and it all came home with me and is already packed for my next holiday."

The campaign was shot in Blackpool, in keeping with Jacamo's northern origins, with a colorful background setting that reflected the style of the summer range. Jamie is in wonderful shape after his stint in the jungle and can be seen modeling pieces from the summer range which include Flamingo printed swim shorts, Flintoff by Jacamo print shirt, and the Jacamo Buddy shirt. — Bang Showbiz

ASHLEY GRAHAM: I WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Ashley Graham wants to "change the world". The 30-year-old beauty has emerged as one of the world's best known models over recent years, and the curvaceous star has revealed she's determined to "redefine the global definition of beauty". Ashley explained: "I'm always going to be me, but this isn't only about standing up and saying, 'Hey, I am who I am.' My goal is to make a change in the world. It's about women - all women - saying 'I'm included in this.' "We need to work together to redefine the global definition of

beauty as beyond size." The American star has already walked the runway for the likes of Michael Kors, Christian Siriano and Prabal Gurung.

But Ashley - who is famous for her fuller figure - has admitted she can still hear gasps when she puts her curves on display. Speaking in the Harper's Bazaar August 2018 issue, Ashley shared: "You know, I sometimes still hear gasps when I turn the corner on a runway. "But it's creating a conversation. I may be the only curvy girl in a show, but I feel that I am representing the

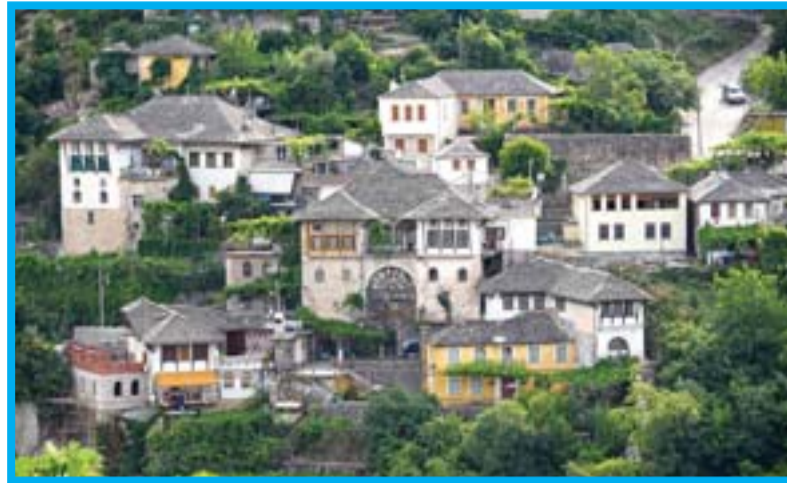
majority of women when I'm wearing that dress." Ashley recent starred in a campaign for her swimwear brand, Swimsuits For All, and she insisted that none of her photographs were retouched. Ashley has now explained why she felt so passionate about ensuring the images were not altered with. She said: "I was flicking through my tagged photos on Getty Images and the Daily Mail overnight, and let me tell you, people were freaking out: 'CELLULITE!' And I was like, 'God forbid, cellulite! Never not had it.

And back fat! Get her off the beach!" "So I said to the team: 'what if we used those photos? If you want to do something meaningful then you show what a woman actually looks like.' It isn't just about body shape. It's about being OK inside. And it's really about being able to love who you are." Read the full interview in the Harper's Bazaar August 2018 issue - on sale July 5th. Also available as a digital edition. — Bang Showbiz

Lifestyle | Feature



A view of the damaged Karaulli house, in the UNESCO protected city of Gjirokastra.

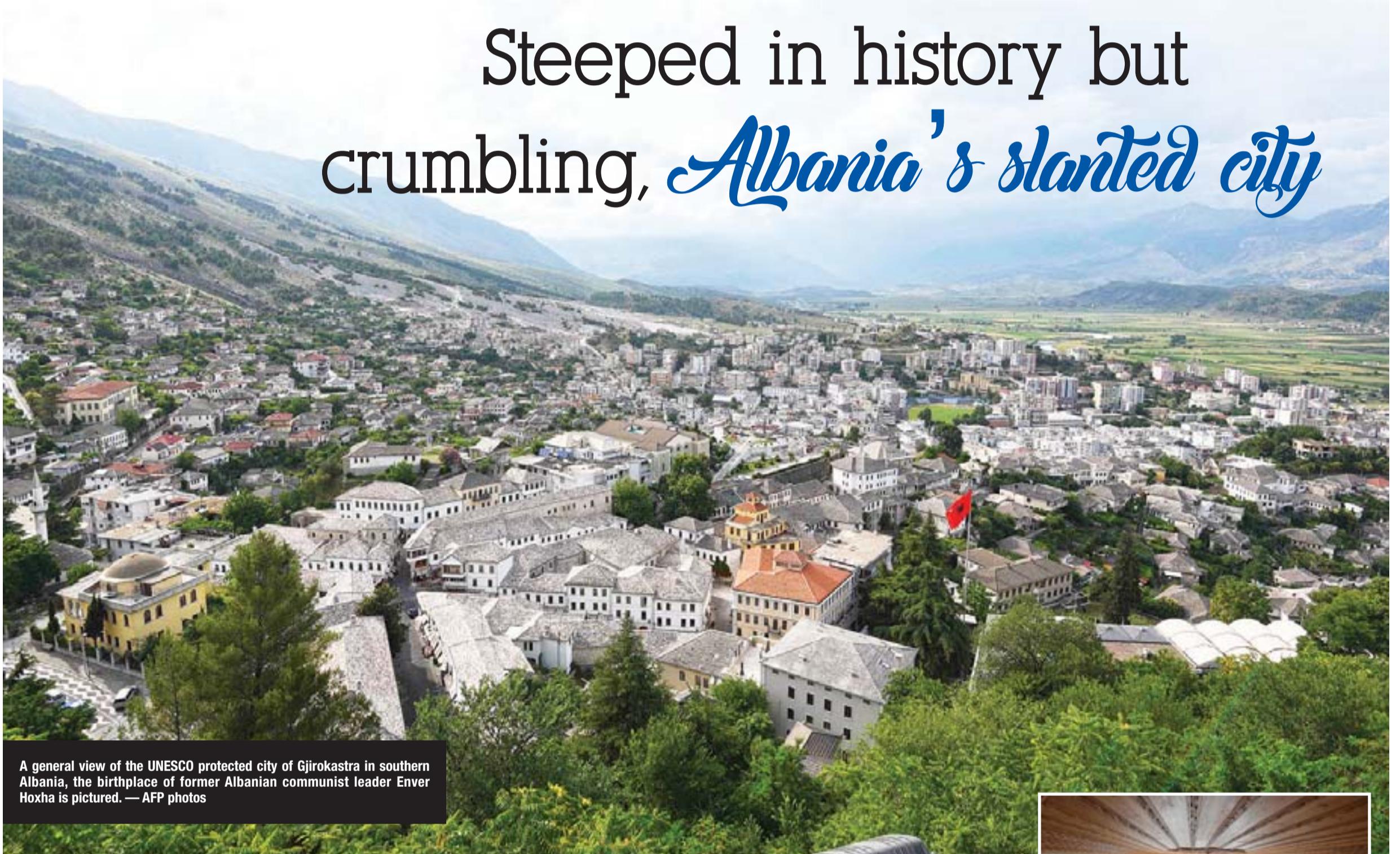


A general view of the UNESCO protected city of Gjirokastra in southern Albania, the birthplace of former Albanian communist leader Enver Hoxha is pictured.



Tourists visit the Skenduli house in the UNESCO protected city of Gjirokastra.

Steeped in history but crumbling, *Albania's slanted city*



A general view of the UNESCO protected city of Gjirokastra in southern Albania, the birthplace of former Albanian communist leader Enver Hoxha is pictured. — AFP photos

The Lolomani dwelling, formerly the home of the Ottoman period family of that name, was once an impressive sight in the mountainside town of Gjirokastra in southern Albania. Now the house lies in ruins, like dozens of others in the "City of Stone", defined by its castle, steep cobblestone roads and silvery-coloured limestone structures with views of the Drino Valley near the border with Greece. Many of the

2011 to less than 25,000, according to Engjell Seriani, head of tourism at the town hall. Its houses are named after their original owners, dignitaries of the Ottoman Empire such as Lolomani, Karaulli, Fico, Zeko, Babameto, whose power was measured by the number of chimneys on their homes. Today, Sokol Karaulli, a descendant of one of those noble families, says his way of life is a far cry from the ostentation of his home's substantial five chimneys.

A former soldier but not yet eligible for his pension, he says they only survive thanks to the salary of his pastry chef wife. "The day when we will say 'Once upon a

Small stalls tout souvenirs to tourists, 77,000 of whom visited the citadel last year. Their numbers grow 10 to 15 percent annually. "However Gjirokastra is not only the bazaar and those emblematic places," said architect Lejla Hadzic, of the NGO Cultural Heritage without Borders (CHWB).

Elsewhere, "the situation... is getting worse day by day," she told AFP. In 2014, the NGO had warned of the "rapid destruction" of the historic districts of the town, where Albania's former communist dictator Enver Hoxha grew up. Of the 650 buildings it took into account, CHWB said that 40 were in a very poor condition, 34 were in ruins while 15 were on the verge of collapse. Now, the number in ruins has gone up to 47, it says.

'Only one Gjirokastra in the world'

Today about 80 houses are uninhabited, raising the possibility that a leaky roof will affect the wooden structure. "Every day, I see something that is wrong, as if the building is whispering to me to do something," said deputy mayor Vangjel Muco. But with a total overall budget of 2.5-3.0 million euros, his municipality cannot tackle the issue properly. Albanian Culture Minister Mirela Kumbaro insists the town "is no longer in danger" and that the government has taken the problem in hand. Since 2013 structural changes to Gjirokastra houses have been banned. She also has high hopes for a newly passed law on cultural foundations, as well as for tourism after the conversion of about 20 houses into hotels.

But the CHWB believes that Gjirokastra can hope for "no more than 10,000 euros" from the national budget. And renovating the Babameto house alone cost 160,000 euros which came from Sweden. Just to reinforce all the ruins would take another 1.2 million euros, according to Hadzic. "All the actors dealing with cultural heritage should really take it seriously and intervene as fast as possible because there's only one Gjirokastra in the world," she warned. — AFP

“ I feel pain for every stone, every wall that is getting damaged ”

centuries-old, fortified buildings, which won the town a place on the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage List in 2005, are a tourist attraction but at risk of disappearing.

Some are deserted or have not been maintained for years, others underwent changes that have destroyed their historic value, or have too many owners to agree on the necessary work or too poor to do it. Authorities in the Balkan nation don't have the means to restore them either. "I feel pain for every stone, every wall that is getting damaged," sighs Email Nacaj, a 58-year-old house painter, who remembers the collapse of the Lolomani house in winter 2016.

Below, the roof of his own house has half fallen in. "I'm scared here, but my mother does not want to leave," he says. Even if he had the money, he couldn't do anything—his cousin, who lives in the capital, Tirana, and is a co-owner, refuses. Out of 615 monuments in the town's historic center "more than half are subjected to illegal or out-of-context constructions, while 169 are in critical condition or at risk of collapse," warned Europa Nostra, a pan-European federation of heritage NGOs, early this year.

'Once upon a time...'

Most of the buildings date from the 17th and 18th centuries, although the town's origins go back further and its walls were built in the 3rd century. Albania's most famous writer Ismail Kadare famously described his native Gjirokastra as the "slanted city, set at a sharper angle than perhaps any other city on earth". "It was surely the only place in the world where, if you slipped and fell in the street, you might well land on the roof of a house," he wrote in his 1971 novel "Chronicle In Stone". Massive emigration has compounded the buildings' fate, as Gjirokastra has not been immune to the trend plaguing Albania.

The town's population has dropped from 34,000 in



A general view of the old bazaar part of the UNESCO protected city of Gjirokastra.

time there was Gjirokastra' can happen," the 60-year-old warned. Karaulli cut off the electricity on the first floor and placed plastic washing-up bowls to collect the leaking water that had already rotted the wooden frame of his crumbling house.

'Worsening daily'

Around the town's bazaar, the clean facades are down to a three-million-euro (\$3.5-million) restoration footed by an Albanian-US association and the World Bank.



A man points to the damage to a house belonging to the Lolomani family in the UNESCO protected city of Gjirokastra.



An ariel view of the old bazaar part of the UNESCO protected city of Gjirokastra.



The guest reception room at the house of Albanian writer Ismail Kadare at the UNESCO protected city of Gjirokastra.



A man walks in the grounds of the Lolomani family home, in the UNESCO protected city of Gjirokastra.



People walk in the old bazaar of the UNESCO protected city of Gjirokastra.



The clock tower, part of the fortress, is pictured in the UNESCO protected city of Gjirokastra.



Flydubai- Boeing 737 MAX 8

Flydubai- Boeing 737 MAX 8

flydubai marks first direct flight between Dubai and Sicily

flydubai, as part of its partnership with Emirates, offers greater frequency and easier access from Catania to Dubai and to more than 200 global destinations

A senior delegation from Dubai, including Liborio Stellino, the Ambassador of Italy in the UAE, Jeyhun Efendi, Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations for flydubai, Thierry Aucoc, Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations (Europe & Russian Federation) for Emirates, arrived at Catania International Airport (CTA) to mark the start of direct flights between Dubai and Sicily. The delegation was met on the ground by Muhannad Alnaqbi, Deputy Head of the UAE Mission to Italy and by Nico Torrisi, Chief Executive Officer for Societa Aeroporto Catania (SAC). On arrival, the flight was met with a traditional water cannon salute.

Liborio Stellino, Italy's Ambassador to the UAE, said: "The new flydubai connection with Catania will enable, in an effective way, for the South of Italy to be directly linked to Dubai's extensive air network. It is therefore favorably perceived as part and parcel of the multifaceted and comprehensive Italy-UAE partnership. Such a positive development in connectivity is going to become immediately a very useful tool for both countries, a win-win approach, creating enhanced results and a successful impact on the tourism and trade sector."

flydubai offers direct flights to Catania and through its partnership with Emirates this service will operate as part of its codeshare offering

unmatched travel options. flydubai's route network in Europe includes 27 points in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland (from October), Greece, Italy, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey and Ukraine.

Exceptional travel experience

Jeyhun Efendi, Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations for flydubai, said: "We were the first airline in the Middle East to take delivery of the Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft. As part of today's inaugural, we have announced that Catania is one of the destinations on our growing network to be regularly served by the newest aircraft in our fleet. The convenience of direct flights to Dubai as well as onward connections opens up the world to our passengers. flydubai's professional and friendly service onboard and the comfort of our new aircraft with a flat-bed in Business Class will ensure our passengers enjoy an exceptional travel experience."

flydubai's brand-new Boeing 737 MAX 8 offers passengers more comfort and an enhanced

Emirates will codeshare on this route as part of the Emirates flydubai partnership announced in July 2017. For bookings under the codeshare, Emirates passengers will receive complimentary meals and the Emirates checked baggage allowance on flights operated by flydubai in Business and Economy classes. With the partnership, passengers from the hundreds of destinations spanning six continents in over 80 countries will have an opportunity to travel to Catania via Dubai.

Local travellers

Thierry Aucoc, Senior Vice President, Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations (Europe & Russian Federation) for Emirates said, "Our partnership with flydubai enables travellers in Catania and the greater surrounding area to easily access destinations across Emirates network, particularly Dubai, Thailand, Australia, Egypt and China, all of which are popular for local travellers. We also expect the route to boost the number of visitors to the region, particularly from key inbound markets like Melbourne and Sydney."

ing it popular among tourists from Dubai, Far East Asia, Australia and New Zealand. In addition, it will further stimulate trade and help to attract direct investment to Sicily."

The inaugural program in Sicily included a press conference for local media as well as journalists from Rome and Milan and concluded with a Dinner for key travel trade partners. In addition, flydubai brought a group of media and social media influencers from the UAE, GCC and India to showcase Catania and Sicily as a preferred tourist destination.

Flight details

flydubai's flights from Catania started on 13 June 2018.

flydubai flight FZ768/FZ767 operates between Catania Airport (CTA) and Terminal 2, Dubai International (DXB).

Business Class return fares from Catania to Dubai start at EUR 2,009 and are inclusive of all taxes and 40kg checked baggage. Economy Class return fares from Catania to Dubai start at EUR 453 including 7kg of hand baggage.



flydubai inaugurates Catania service



flydubai inaugurates Catania service



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

Dubai is popular for its pristine beaches, sand dunes, luxury resorts and diverse dining and shopping experiences. Burj Khalifa, an 830m-tall tower, dominates the skyscraper-filled skyline. At its foot lies Dubai Fountain, with jets and lights choreographed to music. Dubai attracted more than 1.5 million tourists in 2017 and the numbers of tourists are keep growing.

Nico Torrisi, Chief Executive officer for Societa Aeroporto Catania (SAC), said: "The launch of new direct flight between Catania and Dubai provides easy access to Sicily from a major world aviation hub. This supports the promotion of Sicily as a unique destination with rich art and history mak-

Flights can be booked through flydubai's website (flydubai.com), the official flydubai app, Contact Centre in Dubai on (+971) 600 54 44 45, the flydubai travel shops or through our travel partners. For competitive travel packages visit Holidays by flydubai which provides passengers with thousands of hotel options that suit all budgets and ancillary services including airport transfers, sightseeing packages, UAE visa facilitation, car rental and excursions all available within a single booking process.



The Greek Theatre of Taormina, Catania



Catania, Italy



TAN-TAN: Horsemen ride in a choreographed cavalry in a fantasia during the 14th Tan-Tan Moussem Berber festival yesterday in the western Moroccan desert town of Tan-Tan. The festival, which is recognized by UNESCO as a "Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity", is organized every year to promote local traditions and brings together nomadic tribes from northern Africa. — AFP

Transatlantic ties hang in the balance

BRUSSELS: European leaders say they no longer have any illusions about Donald Trump as they welcome the US president at a NATO summit this week, but they fear his "America first" agenda may force a moment of reckoning that works to no-one's benefit. After searching for stability and familiarity in US foreign policy in Trump's first year in office, America's friends in Europe have come to accept the president as an unpredictable political insurgent. But that does not make it any easier to see their own priorities undermined.

Germany's Foreign Minister Heiko Maas warned in a recent speech that "old pillars of reliability are crumbling", in a veiled reference to the US withdrawal from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal to tariffs on EU metals exports and the threat of more to come on cars. On

NATO's old foe Russia, the administration has sent mixed messages by intensifying a US military build-up in Europe while railing against fellow NATO members on defense spending and failing to coordinate on new sanctions on Moscow in 2017.

The US president - the de facto leader of the nearly 70-year-old North Atlantic Treaty Organization - has indicated what his message will be at the two-day meeting from Wednesday: other governments must dramatically step up military spending and lower import tariffs. "I'm going to tell NATO: You've got to start paying your bills. The United States is not going to take care of everything," Trump told a rally last week, adding: "They kill us on trade."

US officials and politicians regularly say Washington spends 70 percent of its defense budget on NATO, a claim that is flatly denied in Europe. One senior EU official said the number is more like 15 percent. Like many of the officials and diplomats quoted for this story, he asked not to be named because he was not authorized to speak on the record. EU officials also contend EU tariffs on most US imports are already low. — Reuters

Turkey sacks 18,500 staff in...

Continued from Page 1

The latest period is officially due to end on July 19. Critics say Erdogan is using the extra powers permitted under emergency rule, renewed seven times, to target opponents, with human rights defenders including Amnesty International lambasting the purges as arbitrary. But the government says they are necessary to remove multiple terror threats inside state institutions. Erdogan today will be sworn in as president after his outright victory in June 24 elections under a new executive presidency, following that there will be a lavish ceremony and then the new cabinet will be announced.

The current parliamentary system will end today after constitutional changes were approved in a 2017 referendum.

During the election campaign, pushed by his opponents' promises including his main opposition rival Muharrem Ince, Erdogan vowed to lift the state of emergency if he was re-elected. "The new government will be announced on Monday, the cabinet will start to work and the state of emergency will be completed," outgoing Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said last week, although he reiterated that the latest extension was due to end mid-July.

Purge continues

Turkey accuses US-based Muslim preacher Fethullah Gulen of orchestrating the attempted coup. The majority of those fired under the emergency are accused of links

to Gulen. The government refers to the movement as the "Fethullah Terrorist Organization" but Gulen strongly denies any coup links and insists his movement is a peaceful. Over 110,000 public sector employees have been removed from their jobs via emergency decrees since July 2016, while tens of thousands more have been suspended in a crackdown criticized by Ankara's Western allies. In the new decree, 3,077 army soldiers were also dismissed as well as 1,949 air force personnel and 1,126 from the naval forces.

Another 1,052 civil servants from the justice ministry and linked institutions have been fired as well as 649 from the gendarmerie and 192 from the coast guard. Authorities also sacked 199 academics, according to the new decree, while 148 state employees from the military and ministries were reinstated. Earlier this year, the government said more than 77,000 people had been arrested over alleged links to Gulen. The detentions show no sign of slowing down after hundreds of people including soldiers were taken into custody last week over Gulen links.

Associations, newspapers closed

Thousands have also been dismissed, suspended or arrested over suspected ties to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has waged a bloody insurgency against Turkey since 1984. The PKK is blacklisted as a terrorist group by Ankara, the EU and the United States. Yesterday's decree shut down 12 associations, many of them in the education sector, across the country as well as three newspapers and a television channel. One of the newspapers closed was the Kurdish-language daily Welat based in the southeastern province of Diyarbakir as well as the pro-Kurdish Ozgurlukcu Demokrasi whose Istanbul offices were raided by police in March. — AFP

Kuwait before July 8 will be different from the period afterwards, a reference to expected actions. MPs Tabtabai and Harbashi both issued brief statements, declaring they accept the ruling. Activist Rashed Al-Fadhlah, who was acquitted, said all will not rest before they see that situation in the country has improved to the best.

Pro-government MP Ahmad Al-Fadhli, however, welcomed the rulings saying that the dark chapter in the country's history has now been closed. He said the ending proves that the tribes and parties are not above the country. Opposition MP Riyadh Al-Adasani strongly blasted Fadhli for issuing the statement accusing him of attempting to make political gains and by undermining Kuwaiti tribes.

Islamist opposition MP Mohammad Hayef said the case is political and it has not ended here because there will be more political moves. Only the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah can commute the sentences or pardon those sent to jail. But they are not likely to be politically and legally repatriated to be able to fight the election any more.

MP Faisal Al-Muslem, one of those jailed, said

6 boys rescued from flooded...

Continued from Page 1

morning. The group became trapped in a cramped chamber deep inside Tham Luang in a mountainous area of northern Thailand on June 23, when they went in after football practice and got caught behind rising waters. Their plight transfixed Thailand and the rest of the world, as authorities struggled to devise a plan to get the boys-aged between 11 and 16 - and their 25-year-old coach out.

'Mission Impossible'

The rescue of the first six was a stunning victory in an operation Narongsak had earlier dubbed "Mission Impossible", and led to cautious optimism that the others would also be saved. Another official involved in the rescue operation said the initial six who had been saved formed a first group. A second group made up of the others had also begun the journey from the chamber where they had been trapped, a rescue worker told AFP. The quick extraction came as a surprise after one of the operation commanders said yesterday morning the rescue efforts could take several days to complete.

The group was found disheveled and hungry by British cave diving specialists nine days after they ventured in. Initial euphoria over finding the boys alive quickly turned into deep anxiety as rescuers struggled to find a way to get them out. The death of a former Thai Navy SEAL diver who ran out of oxygen in the cave on Friday underscored the danger of the journey even for professionals. After a short deluge of rain on Saturday night and with more bad weather forecast, Narongsak yesterday said authorities had to act immediately.

"There is no other day that we are more ready than

today," he said. "Otherwise we will lose the opportunity." Between the base camp inside the cave and the trapped boys were twisting, turning cave passageways with torrents of water gushing through. The water in the cave was muddy and unclear, with one diver comparing it to a cafe latte. Ropes were installed to help guide the boys through the darkness. Narongsak said yesterday morning two divers would escort each of the boys out of the cave.

Rescue efforts

Officials had looked at many different ways to save the boys and their coach. One early potential plan was to leave them there for months until the monsoon season ended and the floods subsided completely, but that idea was scrapped over concerns about falling oxygen levels and waters rising too high. More than 100 exploratory holes were also bored-some shallow, but the longest 400 meters deep-into the mountainside in an attempt to open a second evacuation route and avoid forcing the boys into the dangerous dive. American technology entrepreneur Elon Musk even deployed engineers from his private space exploration firm SpaceX and Boring Co. to help. Meanwhile rescuers fed a kilometers-long air pipe into the cave to restore oxygen levels in the chamber where the team was sheltering with medics and divers.

Emotional notes

On Saturday, Thai Navy SEALs published touching notes scrawled by the trapped footballers to their families, who had been waiting for them agonizingly close by outside the cave entrance. The boys urged relatives "not to worry" and asked for their favorite food once they were safely evacuated, in notes handed to divers. In one, Pheerapat, nicknamed "Night", whose 16th birthday the group were celebrating in the cave when they became stuck on June 23, said: "I love you, Dad, Mum and my sister. You don't need to be worried about me." — AFP

Death toll hits 81; Japan scrambles...

Continued from Page 1

"I'm most grateful to the rescuers," said Shigeyuki Asano, a 79-year-old patient who spent a night without electricity or water. "I feel so relieved that I am now liberated from such a bad-smelling, dark place."

Kurashiki, with a population of just under 500,000, was among the hardest hit by rains that pounded many parts of western Japan, with the death toll exceeding the 77 killed in heavy rains and landslides in 2014 and the highest since a typhoon that killed 98 people in 2004. Television footage showed a massive rescue operation, with 2,310 rescued in the city by evening, according to NHK, while search and rescue teams continued to look for others.

Landslides

The overall death toll from the rains in Japan rose to at least 81 yesterday after floodwaters forced several million people from their homes, media reports and the Fire and Disaster Management Agency said. Another 58 were missing, NHK said, and more rain was set to hit some areas for at least another day. The rain set off landslides and flooded rivers, trapping many people in their houses or on rooftops. "This is a situation of extreme danger," an official at the Japanese Meteorological Agency (JMA) told a news conference.

A three-year-old girl whose home was hit by a landslide in Hiroshima prefecture was found dead by a search team. "It's very painful," said one elderly man watching nearby. "I have a granddaughter the same

age. If it were her, I wouldn't be able to stop crying." Japan's government set up an emergency management centre at the prime minister's office and some 54,000 rescuers from the military, police and fire departments were dispatched across a wide swath of western and southwestern Japan.

'Sudden disaster'

"There are still many people missing and others in need of help, we are working against time," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said yesterday morning. Two sisters from an elementary school of just six pupils on the small island of Nuwa in Ehime prefecture were among the dead. The younger, a first-grader, was a star and the hope of the depopulated island, the principal told NHK. "It was such a sudden disaster, I just cannot come to grips with it," the principal said.

Emergency warnings for severe rain in 11 prefectures - the most since a new warning system was introduced in 2013 - had been lifted by evening, but advisories for heavy rain and landslides remained in effect in many areas. TV footage showed convenience stores with shelves mostly bare while elsewhere, residents lined up to receive water. Some 276,000 households were without water supply, Kyodo said. Roads were closed and train services suspended in parts of western Japan while Shinkansen bullet train services resumed on a limited schedule after being suspended on Friday.

The rain began late last week as the remnants of a typhoon fed into a seasonal rainy front. Automakers including Mazda Motor Corp and Daihatsu Motor Co suspended operations at several plants on Saturday and were to decide later on plans for the coming week. Electronics maker Panasonic Corp said one plant in Okayama, western Japan, could not be reached due to road closures, although it had been closed for the weekend anyway. A decision about next week would be made today, it said. — Reuters

Sports



Cult of Gareth Southgate grows, England World Cup fever mounts

England, basking in a long summer heatwave

LONDON: England is basking in unexpected World Cup success as coach Gareth Southgate is elevated to national hero status, cathedral organs belt out football anthems and the country prepares to shut down for Wednesday's semi-final. Clean-cut, waistcoated manager Southgate was not even supposed to be in Russia. Now he's about to lead England against Croatia with a place in Sunday's final beckoning. When the 47-year-old was appointed in November 2016 after Sam Allardyce left his post following a newspaper sting after just 67 days in charge, there was little fanfare.

That's all changed now. "Southgate" trumpeted the Sun on Sunday. "Cry God for Harry, England and St George!" said the Sunday Telegraph. England, basking in a long summer heatwave, is starting to believe the team can reach their first final since 1966 after the young side saw off Sweden 2-0 in the quarter-finals on Saturday.

Almost 20 million people in Britain tuned in, not accounting for the many more who watched in pubs and public viewing areas. Streets were deserted as people crammed into sweaty pubs, gathered around big screens or stayed home to watch the national side reach the last four of a World Cup for the first time in 28 years.

Marks and Spencer, official tailors to the England team, declared Saturday #NationalWaistcoatDay in honour of Southgate and the team. The manager has even been promised a lifetime supply of waistcoats from a firm in London.

"I'm so impressed with Southgate's performance, and with his choice of attire," the founder Sir Plus, Henry Hales, told the London Evening Standard. Exeter Cathedral, in southwest England, tweeted a video of an organist playing the unofficial team anthem "Three Lions (Football's

Coming Home)" in a tweet entitled "To Russia With Love". The song itself, released by the Lightning Seeds and comedians Frank Skinner and David Baddiel for Euro '96, hosted in England, is storming up the charts again. Fans have also adapted another song, "Whole Again" by Atomic Kitten. "Looking back on when we first met, I cannot escape it, I cannot forget," the fans chant. "Southgate you're the one. You still turn me on and football's coming home again."

SOCIAL MEDIA STAR

Southgate was an accomplished defender for England and a clutch of Premier League clubs, but his managerial experience is limited to a spell at Middlesbrough and with the England Under-21s. He famously appeared in a pizza advertisement that played on his penalty miss in the Euro 96 semi-final shootout against eventual champions Germany. But he has gone from fall guy to hero, taking social media by storm, with the hashtag #GarethSouthgateWould used thousands of times by people imagining how he would help them out.

"#GarethSouthgateWould siphon the petrol out of his own car and put it into yours, if he saw you parked up on the hard shoulder on a motorway out of fuel. He'd wave you off, then he'd wait for the AA (Automobile Association) to come get him, because that was his last few drops," tweeted @DrawtyDevil. AmnestyUK tweeted: "#GarethSouthgateWould ensure we retain all our hard-won #humanrights after #Brexit." Former British Paralympian Tanni Grey-Thompson tweeted: "#GarethSouthgateWould come all the way to London to make sure there was a ramp to get me off the train when he was only popping to Boro to get some milk." —AFP



SAMARA: England's coach Gareth Southgate (R), England's defender John Stones (C) and England's forward Harry Kane (L) celebrate after winning the Russia 2018 World Cup quarter-final football match between Sweden and England at the Samara Arena in Samara on Saturday. — AFP

Russian team's success has captivated nation

MOSCOW: Russia's elimination from the soccer World Cup on Saturday poses a challenge for the Kremlin: How to manage public anger over reforms that will hit voters' pockets without the distraction of national sporting success. After months of delaying a change it knew was liable to anger voters, the government said it was pushing back the retirement age. It made the announcement on the day of the tournament's opening game, when many Russians were distracted by their team's emphatic win against Saudi Arabia. Since then, Putin's popularity rating has suffered a rare dip, opinion polls show. A separate survey found that most Russians take a negative view of the plan to raise the pension age to 65 for men and to 63 from 55 for women. Russia's unexpected passage to the

quarter-finals—their best World Cup since the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union—has captivated the nation and kept the reform out of mind. But after Saturday's defeat to Croatia and with the tournament due to end on July 15, the reforms are bound to resurface in Russia's collective psyche, political analysts say.

Though perceived outside Russia as an all-powerful ruler unruffled by what people think, Putin's authority in fact depends in large part on his ability to command popular support, which he and his aides devote massive energy to nurturing.

Following the polling backlash, officials were now considering ways to soften the pension reform, two sources familiar with discussions told Reuters. "Any victory comes and goes. People forget," said Nikolai Petrov, a political analyst at Moscow's Higher School of Economics.

"...Every day people will remember that they could be receiving their pension but are not getting it because of this bad government," referring to how some people were likely to perceive Putin's administration.

SHIFTING AGENDA

A survey conducted by FOM before Russia's World Cup exit showed Putin's approval rating down six points

at 75 percent. Another by state pollster VTsIOM showed a five percentage point drop. The World Cup took some of the sting out of that unpopularity. A survey conducted by the independent Levada Centre before Russia were eliminated showed the competition was occupying Russians' thoughts more than the pension plan.

Levada Centre sociologist Stepan Goncharov said this situation would now change. "It's fair to say that the issue of pension reforms will return to the top (of the agenda) after the end of the tournament," he said.

The extent of popular outrage at the plan, which aims to ease pressure on state coffers from an ageing population and a struggling economy further weakened by sanctions, would depend on what the government did next, he said. A final decision on what form it will take is expected in autumn. Thousands of Russians protested this month against the planned rise in the retirement age, but there were no demonstrations in World Cup host cities because of security restrictions in place during the tournament.

The Kremlin this week shrugged off the idea it might face greater public pressure over the reforms once the World Cup ended. "It is the job of experts to reach these conclusions," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. "Let them do that." — Reuters

Martinez strikes right balance for Belgium's 'golden generation'

SAINT PETERSBURG: Roberto Martinez has emphatically silenced those who doubted whether he was the right man to lead Belgium's "golden generation" in their bid for World Cup glory following his struggles with Premier League club Everton.

Belgium are in the last four for just the second time in their history, and will meet France in Saint Petersburg on Tuesday after claiming their biggest-ever World Cup scalp by beating Brazil 2-1 in the quarter-finals.

In going beyond the last eight, Martinez has already succeeded where his predecessor Marc Wilmots failed, following quarter-final defeats to Argentina four years ago and in shock fashion to Wales at Euro 2016.

However, it is the manner in which Martinez has masterminded that route to the semis that has vindicated the Belgian federation's decision to hire a manager seen as damaged goods in 2016 after three largely unsuccessful seasons at Goodison Park.

A side boasting some of the Premier League's finest talents in Kevin De Bruyne, Eden Hazard and Romelu Lukaku were heading for another embarrassing early exit when trailing 2-0 to Japan in the last 16.

FLEXIBLE FELLAINI

But Martinez's substitutions saved the day.

Marouane Fellaini and Nacer Chadli came off the bench to help complete a stunning three-goal turnaround in the final 21 minutes. Fellaini's physical presence had been used as a battering ram against the Japanese as he headed home a wonderful Hazard cross. But despite retaining his place against Brazil, Fellaini performed a very different role.

The Manchester United midfielder acted as an extra shield in front of the defence, freeing up De Bruyne to play much further forward. In an old tactic from their time together at Everton, Lukaku also moved to the right of the attack and it was from his lung-bursting run that De Bruyne drilled Belgium into a 2-0 first-half lead. "I think when you play Brazil you have to get a tactical advantage," said a beaming Martinez afterwards. "It was a difficult tactical plan and the way they believed it was incredible."

So impressive was Martinez's tactical set-up to send the five-time champions home that the first question in his post-match press conference was whether he would be interested in the vacant post as Spain boss.

Martinez downplayed that speculation but, as a Spaniard, his background as neither a native French nor Flemish speaker has also removed one traditional barrier to Belgian success for a country divided down linguistic lines. Instead, the whole squad converse in English.

"I've got no background in all the culture and diversity in Belgium," Martinez said earlier in the tournament. "I'm making all my decisions based on football." Another of Martinez's decisions from early in his reign could also give Belgium an extra edge for Tuesday's semi-final, with France's all-time top goalscorer, Thierry Henry, sat alongside him on the bench.

Henry was part of France's own golden generation that won the World Cup in 1998 and the European Championship two years later.



KAZAN: Belgium's coach Roberto Martinez gestures during the Russia 2018 World Cup quarter-final football match between Brazil and Belgium at the Kazan Arena in Kazan on Friday. — AFP

"He's someone who has been in the situation of having to develop a mentality in a team of chasing the dream of winning something special for his country," said Martinez when asked what Henry would bring as his assistant. Thanks to Martinez's tactical flexibility, that dream is now just two games away. — AFP

Russia players find solace in thousands of World Cup fans

MOSCOW: Thousands of cheering and flag-waving Russian fans thanked their disappointed players yesterday after the host nation's fairytale World Cup run came to a crushing end with a shootout loss to Croatia. Coach Stanislav Cherchesov led his team onto a stage to a heroes' welcome in a Moscow fan zone on a sunny day that was meant to put a patriotic exclamation point on Russia's ability to beat the odds. The long-suffering Russians entered the biggest event in sport as its lowest-ranked nation but ended up coming up just short of reaching their first World Cup semi-final in 52 years.

They lost to Croatia 4-3 on penalties after extra-time ended with the sides deadlocked at 2-2 in the Black Sea resort of Sochi on Saturday. "You were not the 12th player—you were the 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th players," Cherchesov told the crowd gathered on a scenic hill overlooking Luzhniki Stadium.

"We felt your support from the first second." The national team has been gaining followers and drawing increasing political attention from government leaders with every win. President Vladimir Putin has invited Cherchesov and his charges to the Kremlin and Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev came down into the players' locker room after the loss.

The men in red themselves sounded inconsolable on Saturday. Their mood appeared to have brightened by the time they had returned to Moscow to greet their worshipping fans. Forward Fedor Smolov received a rousing reception despite making a mess of Russia's penalty kicks.

"I am so happy to be a citizen of Russia," he told the crowd. "No other team in the world has fans like we do." Midfielder Denis Cheryshev dedicated his four goals-tied for second-most in the tournament behind England forward Harry Kane's six-to "the whole country".

"Of course we wanted to go further," he admitted. "Thank you from the bottom of my soul—we love you." Other players took turns thanking supporters before the ceremony ended with a rousing rendition of the Russian national anthem.

The entire ceremony was aired live on national TV. "Yesterday, there were tears," said defender Sergei Ignashevich. "I had them and the guys did. They were tears from the loss, and tears of happiness. Thank you." The 38-year-old came out of international retirement to play for Russia one last time after injuries depleted their defence. He called an end to his playing career earlier in the day. —AFP

Sports



Belgium and France face off in mouth-watering semi-final

France are slight favourites to go through according to most bookmakers

ST PETERSBURG: Roberto Martinez's swashbuckling Belgium side head into tomorrow's semi-final with familiar foes France as the World Cup's leading scorers, but their old rivals have evolved as the tournament has progressed and will also be full of confidence.

Belgium have scored 14 goals in five matches and were hugely impressive in their 2-1 quarter-final victory over Brazil, with Romelu Lukaku, Eden Hazard and Kevin de Bruyne combining to devastating effect to oust the five-times world champions.

In contrast, France sleep-walked through the group stages, eking out wins over Australia and Peru before a stultifying 0-0 draw with Denmark. Their early struggles had 'Les Bleus' being written off in some quarters, but all that changed when they faced Argentina in the last 16 in what must be a leading contender for the most exciting match of the tournament.

Didier Deschamps tweaked his formation, effectively freeing up Kylian Mbappe on the right to run at the Argentine defence, and what followed was a wonderful display of attacking football that France won 4-3.

The victory boosted France's morale, and they followed it up with a workman-like 2-0 win over Uruguay that was impressive because of how well they managed to control the game against tricky opponents. Belgium faced a heart-stopping moment of uncertainty in the first knockout round against Japan, when Martinez's decision to rest players in their final group match against England almost backfired spectacularly.

Belgium's returning first team players made a sluggish start against the Samurai Blue and suddenly found themselves trailing by two goals with time

ebbing away. Stung into action, Martinez sent on Marouane Fellaini and Nacer Chadli in the 65th minute, and both were heavily involved as Belgium pulled off a late comeback, with Chadli securing victory with practically the last kick of the game.

Against Brazil in the quarters, Martinez showed tactical adventure, as he pushed target man Lukaku to the wing to allow De Bruyne to operate as a 'false nine'. The strategy worked, and De Bruyne scored his first goal in Russia.

Tomorrow's clash in St Petersburg has all the makings of a classic, with fans and viewers likely to be treated to the sight of two wonderfully attacking teams going toe-to-toe. "It's a super exciting game with great players on both sides," France defender Benjamin Pavard said. "It's going to be a man's match and we will have to step up." France, world champions in 1998, are slight favourites to go through according to most bookmakers, but Belgium tend to step up their game against these particular European rivals, if history is anything to go by.

Of the 73 meetings between the teams, Belgium have won 30 and France 24, with 19 draws between them, although if Belgium are to reach their first World Cup final they will have to do so by beating France at the tournament for the first time.

France came through their quarter-final unscathed, and Deschamps has his entire squad to choose from, while Belgium are only slightly worse off. Full back Thomas Meunier is suspended after picking up a second yellow card of the tournament against Brazil, with Martinez likely to bring in Yannick Carrasco in his place. — Reuters



ISTR: (From L to R) France's defender Presnel Kimpembe, forward Ousmane Dembele, forward Florian Thauvin and defender Djibril Sidibe attend a training session at the Glebovets stadium in Istra, some 70 km west of Moscow, on Saturday, ahead of their Russia 2018 World Cup semi-final football match against Belgium. —AFP

FIFA probes Croatia over pro-Ukraine celebration of Russia win

MOSCOW: Croatia defender Domagoj Vida faced possible disciplinary sanctions from FIFA after posting a clip dedicating his country's victory over Russia in the World Cup quarter-final to Ukraine. Vida scored an extra-time goal and one of Croatia's penalties in a 4-3

shootout win over the World Cup hosts in Sochi on Saturday. Croatia will play England in the semi-final on Wednesday and some Russian officials are calling on FIFA to take the toughest measures possible against the Balkan country.

The ponytailed 29-year-old shouted "Glory to Ukraine!" in a video posted by former Croatia international Ognjen Vukojevic shortly after the match. The two both spent parts of their careers playing for Ukraine's Dynamo Kyiv. FIFA, world football's governing body, said it was investigating. "FIFA is processing the different reports of the said match as well as potential evidence concerning the matter referred to in your message," a FIFA spokesperson told AFP.

"Until we have evaluated all information available, we cannot comment further," Vida later told Russian media that he meant no offence. "I love Russian peo-

ple," Vida was quoted as saying. "It was just a joke." "Glory to Ukraine!" was a slogan of the former Soviet republic's pro-EU revolution that toppled a Russian-backed president in 2014. The revolt was condemned as illegal by Moscow and sparked a crisis in relations between the two neighbouring states.

It was followed by Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea peninsula and a pro-Kremlin separatist war in eastern Ukraine that has claimed more than 10,000 lives. Vukojevic added in the video: "This victory is for Dynamo (Kyiv) and for Ukraine! Croatia onwards!"

The clip was picked up by Russian state media and drew condemnation from some officials. "Such actions should be punished," parliament's sports committee member Dmitry Svishchov told the RIA Novosti state news agency. "Political, nationalist and racist slogans are not welcome at the World Cup." — AFP

'Scapegoat' Ozil should quit German team, says father

BERLIN: Mesut Ozil's father said yesterday his son should quit Germany's national squad after he was made a "scapegoat" for their shock first-round defeat at the World Cup. Ozil, 29, has come in for sharp criticism in Germany after the holders crashed out in Russia, finishing bottom of their group. Pressure had already been mounting on the Arsenal midfielder in the run-up to the tournament over a controversial photograph with Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, which sparked questions about his loyalty to Germany. On Thursday, team boss Oliver Bierhoff suggested that perhaps Germany should have considered dropping Ozil, who has Turkish roots, after his failure to explain himself over the issue.

But the midfielder's father, Mustafa Ozil, in an interview with Bild am Sonntag, said: "This statement is insolent. In my opinion, it is aimed at saving one's own skin." Bierhoff had backtracked on Friday, saying that he "was wrong" to put Ozil under undue pressure.

But German Football Federation chief Reinhard Grindel has now waded in, arguing that Ozil must go public. His failure to speak out "has disappointed many fans, because they have questions and expect answers", Grindel told Kicker magazine in an interview to be published today.

"They are rightly expecting this answer. That's why it is absolutely clear to me that for his own interest, Mesut should speak out when he returns from his holidays." Ozil senior defended his son for not clarifying his position publicly. "He no longer wants to explain himself, he no longer wants to have to defend himself all the time. He has been playing for nine years in the German team... including becoming world champions with the A-team. "He has contributed a lot for this country. It has always been: if we win, we win together."

"But when we lose, we lose because of Ozil? He is now getting whistled at and made a scapegoat. I can understand if he feels insulted," said the midfielder's father. Mesut had agreed to have a photograph taken with Erdogan only out of "politeness" and it was never meant to be a political statement, he added. Calling his son's treatment "unfair", Ozil senior said "he needs to decide for himself. But if I were in his place, I'd say thanks a lot but that's it."

"The hurt has grown too strong. And who knows what'll happen at the next match? In Mesut's place, I would step down. But that's just my very personal opinion," he said. — AFP

Much focus has been on Southgate himself who, in a country where few politicians enjoy much popularity, has received universal approval ratings. "Southgate is a gentleman to use old-fashioned language. He's polite and self-deprecating, but - and this is crucial - he is ambitious and successful with it," Observer columnist Nick Cohen told Reuters.

"He's a million miles away from the Boris Johnsons and Piers Morgans who fill our TV screens. He comes from a better version of England than we are used to seeing," he said. Southgate's approach, refreshingly free of the usual football management cliches, has had an impact beyond that of his tone, however.

England's final warm-up game before heading to Russia was held not at London's Wembley Stadium but at Leeds United's Elland Road in Yorkshire, with Southgate explicit that he wanted to engage with fans from outside the capital.

In a heavily centralised country where so much media focus is on London, the current team is drawn from across the land, with the starting line-up for the 2-0 win over



Mesut Ozil's

Sweden featuring seven players from the North of England and just skipper Harry Kane born in the capital.

The team also features several players of Afro-Caribbean heritage including Raheem Sterling who was born in Jamaica. "The players come from the multi-ethnic working class. They look like the country we've become, and they too are behaving like admirable men. Also we're actually winning matches, and that is a welcome change," said Cohen.

The success has seen many social media feeds that were until recently full of partisan content around Brexit, taken over by memes about the England team and the now ubiquitous "Three Lions" song. On the surface at least, football appears to have healed some of the division caused by the referendum. David Goodhart, whose book "The Road to Somewhere" examined the differences between Remain-voting urban cosmopolitans and Leave voters who emphasise local community ties and traditional values - groups which he called "Anywheres" and "Somewheres", senses that the World Cup has had an impact. — Reuters

Harry Maguire: The remarkable rise of England's unlikely new hero

SAMARA: Harry Maguire travelled to watch England as a fan at Euro 2016, but two years later he is a pillar of the defence as the country prepares for its first World Cup semi-final in 28 years. After celebrating Hull's 2015-16 promotion to the Premier League, Maguire and a group of friends made the trip to France to see England's 0-0 group-stage draw with Slovakia.

Those same friends are now out in Russia, but this time the 25-year-old Maguire is playing a crucial role in England's improbable World Cup quest. It has been an amazing ascent for the Sheffield-born defender, who only made his England debut in a 1-0 qualifying victory over Lithuania in October.

The 2016-17 campaign was Maguire's first season as an established player at the top level, and although Hull were condemned to relegation from the Premier League, his performances persuaded Leicester to sign him on a five-year deal.

It proved a shrewd move as the powerfully built Maguire, who stands 1.94 metres (six feet four inches) tall, played every single minute of the Premier League during his debut season with the Foxes. He was rewarded with two Leicester player of the year awards from the players and the fans-but his rise to unlikely World Cup hero would not have been possible without Gareth Southgate.

The England manager showed a great deal of faith in Maguire as he set about forging a new team identity after taking over from Sam Allardyce in 2016. "When I was watching him during the season I was so keen that he stayed fit because I thought this was a stage I was certain he could show he could play at," Southgate said after Maguire scored his first international goal in the 2-0 quarter-final win over Sweden.

"I'm not sure he's always believed that. His first game in (Lithuania) he talked about just being desperate not to make a mistake."

'CHILLED OUT'

Southgate's decision to use a back three, as they did in reaching the semi-finals at Euro 96 and the 1990 World Cup, has played into Maguire's favour. As a youngster he spent much of his time patrolling midfield before transitioning to centre-back in his mid-teens, and those past experiences are serving Maguire well. "I think he's a super-talented player," said Southgate. "His use of the ball is as good as any centre-back in the tournament, so hopefully he's gaining belief from the performances at this level."

Maguire has started four of England's five matches-coming on as a half-time substitute in the loss to Belgium-projecting an air of confidence as the stakes increase. "I'm quite laid back, quite chilled out so I've come across like that and I try to take it onto the pitch as well," Maguire told the England FA's YouTube channel. — AFP

25 Martinez strikes right balance for Belgium's 'golden generation'

26 Mark Reynolds' walk-off home run lifts Nationals to 3-2 win over Marlins

27 'Scapegoat' Ozil should quit German team, says father



Sagan wins Tour second stage

Sagan's 'special day' winning stage and yellow in front of family



MOUILLERON-SAINT-GERMAIN: Slovakia's Peter Sagan, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, celebrates on the podium after winning the second stage of the 105th edition of the Tour de France cycling race between Mouilleron-Saint-Germain and La Roche-sur-Yon, western France, yesterday. — AFP

LA ROCHE-SUR-YON: World champion Peter Sagan said he had three reasons to be cheerful as he won stage two and took the overall leader's yellow jersey in front of family and friends from Slovakia on the Tour de France yesterday.

Sagan edged Sonny Colbrelli in a reduced sprint finish at La Roche-sur-Yon after a late crash in the peloton. Overnight leader Fernando Gaviria came down in a mass high speed crash just 1.3km from the line, which Sagan and around 15 other riders avoided to set up a frantic finish.

Sagan leads Gaviria by six seconds in the overall standings, with champion Chris Froome trailing by 1min7sec. Froome avoided a repeat of his first stage tumble, the Team Sky leader staying out of trouble as he goes in pursuit of a record-equalling fifth Tour tri-

umph. But another Briton Adam Yates was delayed by a fall and two of his Mitchelton Scott teammates were both also involved in separate falls. Sagan, riding for Bora-Hansgrohe, edged a field of nine lined up for the final reckoning but had to deal with French specialist Arnaud Demare and the Italian Colbrelli, who came within a hair's breadth of the win with a daring last second wheel push to come second.

Sagan said: "It was something special with my father here and friends from my hometown. "It was also our last realistic chance to get the yellow jersey with the team time-trial tomorrow." "It's a great start for the fans," he added. "Fernando won yesterday and now I'm the one with the yellow jersey," it's been exciting. "I could see it was going to be a good year," said Sagan, who was thrown off the Tour last year after

being judged culpable of a fall that ended fellow sprinter Mark Cavendish's Tour. "This makes up for last year," he said, adding he hadn't seen today's crash. "My team got me into the mix," he said.

"Then Arnaud Demare went for it first and I just tried to stay on his wheel." "It was a mess over those last five kilometres all up and down and then going up the hill there was a headwind," he said. The Slovak led the pack in the intermediate sprint behind solo escapee French veteran Sylvain Chavanel, and is now also top of the green jersey standings.

Overnight leader Colombia's Gaviria, who is just 23, said he was happy to be in the white best young riders jersey. "We're happy, we had the yellow and that's part of history, Tomorrow's another day," he said, with his Quick Step team amongst the favourites

to win in today. Germany's Andre Greipel was fourth but never really involved in the struggle for first with the other three.

The stage began in sizzling heat with local hero Chavanel of the Direct Energie team based in this Vendee Western France region being cheered all along the 155km of a solo break. Luis Leon Sanchez of Astana pulled out of the race after falling on a traffic island and getting up covered in cuts and climbing crying into the team car. Tsgabu Grmay of Ethiopia also retired.

Today's third stage is a 35.5km team time-trial where the agenda for a tricky first week should be set with some significant time gaps expected on a slightly rolling course around Cholet in the same region as the first two stages. — AFP

Sharma hits 100 as India edge England in T20 finale

BRISTOL: Rohit Sharma backed up the heroics of pace bowler Hardik Pandya by hitting 100 not out as India clinched the T20 international series at Bristol. Sharma became only the second Indian to pass 2,000 runs in this format as India chased down their target of 199 with eight balls and seven wickets to spare. England batted first and threatened to post a huge score before stuttering at the end and finishing on 198-9 after their 20 overs. Pandya took 4-38, his best figures in T20 cricket and wicketkeeper MS Dhoni became the first player to take five catches in international T20 and ran out Chris Jordan on the last

ball of England's innings for good measure.

Then Pandya was promoted up the order to produce a quickfire 33 not out that got India home in front of a crowd that was mostly fans supporting the away team. Sharma praised Pandya's calmness, saying: "He has done that a few years now. He is used to it now and he is doing it perfectly. The way he bowled gave him confidence to bat."

The 30-year-old Sharma produced his best batting of the series and put on 89 with his captain Khohi, the other Indian with 2,000 T20 runs, for the third wicket as India might the task look easy. Sharma also became the second man, after Colin Munro of New Zealand, to score three international T20 centuries.

Virat Khohi made 43 as the pair took advantage of some short boundaries at the County Ground to pepper the stands with sixes until Khohi fired a return catch to Jordan. Earlier Jordan had taken a stunning running and diving catch to dismiss KL Rahul in the deep to add to a stunning effort from Jake Ball at backward square leg that removed Shikhar Darwan.

After England squared the series in Cardiff

last Friday India needed to win to make it seven successive international T20 series win in succession. England captain Eoin Morgan said: "On a small ground on a good wicket we would expect to score more than 198. This series for us has produced three different performances."

England had threatened to run away with the game and post a massive total until Pandya and Dhoni intervened and kept the chase total, on a small ground, realistic. The hosts got off to a flier thanks to Joss Buttler and Jason Roy.

Deepak Chahar's first over in international T20 cricket, and the first of the innings, cost 13 runs with Buttler accounting for 12 of them and within four overs England were 43-0. Roy hit 67 from 31 balls, including seven sixes which equalled the most by an England batsman in T20. England looked set for score of over 240 before Pandya applied the brakes. He dismissed Alex Hales, Eoin Morgan, the returning Ben Stokes and Jonny Bairstow all after conceding 22 off his first over. But with a total in excess of 240 looking likely the England middle order imploded to a combination of Pandya and the gloves of Dhoni. — AFP



BRISTOL: India's players celebrate with the series trophy after the third international Twenty20 cricket match between England and India at The Brightside Ground, Bristol yesterday. — AFP