

3 Silk City project puts Kuwait on global investment map



9 Turkey detains televangelist on fraud, sex abuse charges



24 Muslim scholars meet in Makkah, plead for peace in Afghanistan



28 Federer shocked by Anderson as Djokovic makes semifinals



Trump stuns NATO allies with call to double defense spending

US president slams 'captive' Germany, Merkel hits back



BRUSSELS: NATO heads of state watch a helicopter fly over after a family photo at the NATO summit at the NATO headquarters yesterday. — AFP

BRUSSELS: US President Donald Trump shocked allies at a fraught NATO summit yesterday by suddenly demanding that members double their defense spending commitments. Trump's surprise demand came after he clashed with Chancellor Angela Merkel, calling Germany a "captive" of Russia because of its gas links and singling out Berlin for failing to pay its way. The summit in Brussels is shaping up as the alliance's most difficult in years, against a backdrop of deepening transatlantic tensions in fields ranging from trade to energy and defense.

NATO allies agreed at their Wales summit in 2014 to try to spend two percent of GDP on defense within 10 years, but the White House said Trump suggested that was not enough. "During the president's remarks today at the NATO summit he suggested that countries not only meet their commitment of two percent of their GDP on defense spending, but that they increase it to four percent," White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said. "The president raised this same issue when he was at NATO last year. President Trump wants to see our allies share more of the burden and at a very minimum meet their already stated obligations."

Bulgarian President Rumen Radev confirmed that Trump had made the demand

and asked what it meant for the future of the alliance that has been the bedrock of European security for 70 years. "NATO is not a stock exchange where you can buy security. NATO is an alliance of sovereign countries united by strategic targets and common values," he told reporters.

All 29 NATO leaders including Trump backed a joint statement committing themselves to greater "burden sharing" and to the alliance's founding commitment that an attack on one member is an attack on them all - with no mention of the four percent. Trump arrived on the back of a barrage of criticism of Europe on issues ranging from trade to energy and above all his claims that the continent freeloads on the back of America for its defense.

He then set the tone for the day with a blistering attack on key ally Germany at a breakfast meeting with NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg. "Germany is a captive of Russia because it is getting so much of its energy from Russia," Trump said, taking particular aim at the proposed Nord Stream II gas pipeline, which he has previously criticized. "Everybody's talking about it all over the world, they're saying we're paying you billions of dollars to protect you but you're paying billions of dollars to Russia."

Continued on Page 24

News in brief

Guard shot in armed heist

KUWAIT: An Egyptian security officer was shot in the thigh yesterday after three unidentified armed robbers tried to intercept a secured money transport vehicle and rob the money in it in Shuwaikh industrial area. The guard's two companions were uninjured. Security sources said the three robbers in an SUV intercepted the vehicle with a firearm, an axe, a cleaver and a hammer with the intention to break open the safe and steal the money. They added that the armored vehicle driver accelerated, colliding into the suspects' vehicle, which made them fire several shots, one of which hit the guard, before the suspects fled the scene. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress to identify and arrest the suspects. — Hanan Al-Saadoun

IOC, PAS officials meet

KUWAIT: A delegation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), a number of Kuwaiti sports officials from the Public Authority for Sport (PAS) started a meeting to discuss lifting the suspension on Kuwaiti sports. The meeting was attended by Director General of PAS Hmoud Al-Fulaiteh, Board Member Mohamed Al-Faily and Commission Advisor Saqr Al-Mulla. The delegation of the IOC, headed by Deputy Director-General and International Relations Officer of the Commission Peru Miro, accompanied by Chairman of the Committee on Governance, Jerome Boavi, head of Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) James Carr, Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) honorary life vice-president Wei Jizhong and Director of OCA Haider Farman. PAS received a letter from the IOC last month showing its desire to come to Kuwait to complete the discussion of final solutions to lift the suspension on Kuwaiti sports. — KUNA

OPEC warns of trade war 'risks'

PARIS: The OPEC cartel yesterday warned that global trade tensions could have a negative impact on the oil market by pushing down demand for crude. In its monthly report, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries said buoyant world trade in 2017 and 2018 had helped impulse economic growth, and therefore demand for crude. But this may change further down the line, OPEC said, as the United States and China fired the latest shots in their escalating trade war. According to OPEC, "this may then start to negatively impact investment, capital flows and consumer spending, with a subsequent negative effect on the global oil market." — AFP

Thai boys wave to the world in first video

CHIANG RAI, Thailand: The 12 boys rescued from a Thai cave were sedated and passed on stretchers along the twisting, narrow passageways of the Tham Luang complex, a rescuer said yesterday as the first footage emerged of an astonishing mission that has captivated the world. The video of the rescue, which ended on Tuesday when the final four boys and their 25-year-old coach emerged from the cave, was released by authorities who had until late yesterday closely guarded the details of the seemingly unprecedented operation.

Other video footage shows sev-



CHIANG RAI: Members of the "Wild Boars" football team are seen at a hospital yesterday. — AFP

eral of the boys in hospital, in quarantine and wearing face masks but seemingly in good health as they nod, wave and flash peace signs to the camera. The nerve-shredding three-day operation ended on Tuesday when the final members of the "Wild Boars" were freed from

the cave which had held them captive since June 23. The rescue sparked jubilation with Thais heaping praise on the rescue team of foreign and local divers as the triumphant tagline "Hooyah" pinballed across social media.

Continued on Page 24

MPs plan to meet political leadership; Adasani rues corrupt MPs remain free

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Opposition MP Majed Al-Mutairi said yesterday that he and a number of lawmakers are coordinating to form a parliamentary delegation to meet the "political leadership" and try to secure an amnesty for MPs and activists who have been sentenced to jail over storming the National Assembly. The term "political leadership" normally refers to HH the Amir, but the lawmaker did not explicitly say this. Under the Kuwaiti constitution, only the Amir has the constitutional powers to commute sentences or pardon convicts.

The country's highest court on Sunday sentenced two serving and six former MPs, in addition to five

Continued on Page 24

Croatia set up final clash with France



MOSCOW: Croatia's forward Mario Mandzukic (center) shoots and scores his team's second goal during the 2018 World Cup semifinal match between Croatia and England at the Luzhniki Stadium yesterday. — AFP (See Page 28)

How could Iran disrupt Gulf oil flows?

ANKARA/LONDON: The commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards said last week that Tehran would block all exports through the Strait of Hormuz in the Gulf if countries heed US calls to stop buying Iranian oil from November. A fifth of global oil consumption passes through the Strait from Middle East crude producers to major markets. Outlined below are previous confrontations in the Gulf involving Iran, the military capabilities of the various parties and the diplomatic context of the latest threats:

Iran cannot legally close the waterway unilaterally because part of it is in Oman's territorial waters. However, ships pass through Iranian waters, which are under the responsibility of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Navy. In 2016, the Guards interrogated and held US sailors overnight after they entered Iranian territorial waters elsewhere in the Gulf. A year earlier, Iran fired shots at a Singapore-flagged tanker which it said damaged an Iranian oil platform and held a container ship and its crew for a week over a debt dispute after diverting it with patrol boats in the Strait. In 2007, Iran detained British sailors further north in the Gulf.

Iran also performs annual war games and tests medium range cruise and ballistic missiles. The deputy head of IRGC, Hossein Salami said in 2014 that Iran could use its cruise and ballistic missiles and drones, mines, speedboats, and missile

Continued on Page 24

Amir, Crown Prince receive state officials at Bayan Palace



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem.



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



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



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



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber

Al-Sabah. His Highness also received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem. His Highness later received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-

Hamad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah

Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister and acting Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. — KUNA

Amir's generous humanitarian aid extolled

GENEVA: Director-General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Ambassador William Lacy Swing, said yesterday that "the words of thanks are not enough to convey to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his generous support for international humanitarian work."

This came in a statement following his meeting with Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim to discuss Kuwaiti support for the organization's programs in Yemen.

"Three years of conflict in Yemen has caused the suffering of millions of civilians, and as armed conflict continues and the peace process ceases, Yemen remains in the grip of a devastating humanitarian and development crisis," Swing said. "Kuwait's support for the organization is the oldest of its kind among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. His Highness the Amir has

always been a pioneer in contributing to humanitarian work," he added.

He pointed out that His Highness the Amir's efforts have always been praised in every international occasion concerned with humanitarian files. "The Amir of the State of Kuwait is always in a race to respond to the humanitarian appeals launched by the United Nations organizations to deal with the crises. Kuwait was the first to contribute either to Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq or Yemen, which is of a solid nature," he said.

At the same time, Swing explained that this support is not a surprise to His Highness who has been described by the United Nations as a leader of humanitarian work, adding that IOM has all respect and appreciation to His Highness. He added that he had received the honor of meeting His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, but he intends to go to Kuwait to meet with him again to bid farewell before leaving office this year.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim said that the State of Kuwait has not and will not hesitate to support the humanitarian work carried out by international humanitarian organizations to stop the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Yemen. "At the same time, the State of Kuwait stresses the strengthening of long and fruitful relations with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which ultimately serve international humanitarian work," he added. — KUNA

EPA wins global award in GIS 2018

KUWAIT: Kuwait Environment Public Authority (EPA) won the outstanding achievement award in Geographic Information System (GIS) for the year 2018, for its environmental information system (eMISK), it was announced yesterday. The announcement came during an awards ceremony as part of ESRI users conference held currently in San Diego, California, USA. The director of environmental data management Hessa Al-Khalid received the award on behalf of the Director General of the Authority, Sheikh Abdullah Ahmed Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

Upon receiving the award, Khalid said this global recognition reflects EPA's efforts in protecting the environment, using modern technologies in the monitoring processes, and supporting the decision-making process in the State of Kuwait. EPA launched the first phase of the system in 2012 aiming for establishing and maintaining a comprehensive environmental geographical database in Kuwait with an enterprise-wide GIS system to access, update and analyze environmental data, she explained.

Second update on the system was launched in 2017; data were used to develop the environmental work through developing tools, processing and modeling of geo-environmental data to support the staff of EPA in carrying out their functions. EPA was awarded the ESRI International Prize for the first time after launching the first phase of the system. — KUNA

Cultural Office in US launches new electronic system

WASHINGTON: Kuwait's cultural office in Washington DC has launched a new electronic system to facilitate communication between the students and the office in regard to their academic and financial affairs. The Cultural Counselor and Director of Cultural Office in the Embassy of Kuwait, Aseel Al-Awadhi said yesterday that the first phase will be applied by new students who wish to enroll in English language institutes or universities under the supervision of the Washington office.

The head of the office added that the second phase of the system will include all 7,400 students supervised by the Cultural Office in Washington, to ease exchange of their information with the Ministry of Higher Education. She explained that the system will be implemented later in the Los Angeles office "which ensures the provision of similar services for students and link the two cultural libraries electronically."

Awadhi affirmed that the new system comes as a result of concerted efforts between the Kuwaiti Cultural Office in London, which introduced and applied the system for years with the Cultural Office in Washington, and was involved in developing a system harmonious to the different nature of the United States' educational system. She thanked the Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Hamid Al-Azmi and Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Dr Sabih Al-Mukhaizeem for their support of the project and for overcoming the obstacles. Awadhi called on new students wishing to join educational institutions affiliated with the Cultural Office in Washington to register through the website of the office. — KUNA

FREE

Subscribe & Read

Kuwait Times



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

Enjoy the paper
right on your phone

Local

Silk City to put Kuwait on the global investment map

\$86 billion project to be built over area of 250 square kilometers

KUWAIT: The state of Kuwait is on a steady track to achieve the noble desire of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to transform Kuwait into an international trade and financial hub and to achieve Kuwait's vision 2035. The Silk City project is spearheading the vision of Kuwait 2035 and considered the largest marine front project that will bring Kuwait back on the world map of tourism and investment.

In the coming period, Kuwait will focus on attracting foreign investors for their importance in developing economic activities, as well as achieving security and stability for the region and creating the most suitable atmosphere for foreign investors. Being constructed over the total area of 250 square kilometers in Subiya, the Silk City is planned to be built in individual phases to be completed within 25 years with an estimated cost of \$86 billion.

The city will be connected to Kuwait city via Jaber Causeway which is still under construction, and it is highly anticipated due to the numerous attractions it is going to comprise upon its completion. The main attraction of the Silk City is Mubarak Al-Kabeer tower, which will stand at 1001 meters, and is going to comprise 234 floors with the capacity to house 7,000 people. The tower will consist of seven vertical villages that include hotels, residences, offices as well as entertainment amenities.

Moreover, the Jaber bridge, the fourth longest one in the world, constitutes a key factor in developing and setting up the free economic zone in northern Kuwait where five islands are expected to be established as part of the enormous project. The project of setting up the five islands includes the establishment of Mubarak Al-Kabeer port, which will help the country to open to the world commercially and economically, and serves Kuwait's interests.

The port will be a pivotal key of regional transport linking the earth to sea via several means of transportations like highways and railways. With the capability of housing up to 700,000 people, the Silk City is going to comprise multiple other attractions like an Olympic Stadium, nature reservation area over the area of two square kilometers, a new airport and a duty free area in addition to multiple amenities including business, leisure, athletic and environmental



KUWAIT: Artist renderings of the Silk City.

areas and conventions.

In addition to the above, the city will include a center for environmental studies and vast green spaces. On the other hand, the whole Silk City will be surrounded by a green belt of gardens and vast green spaces to guarantee the visitor an unpolluted atmosphere for his visit. The city will be divided into four quarters or villages, which will include hotels and resorts, sports academy, medical center, national parks, reservations for wild animals and rare planets as well as nature reserves for immigrating birds from central Asia and Africa.

As for the legal considerations to establish and manage Silk City, it will be done through establishing a wholly-owned government corporation of the state (Silk City project company), and its power and role lie in preparing a draft law to regulate the establishment and implementation of the Silk City by including all the powers necessary to achieve the objectives of the project. The company will divide the city into stages that include parts of the economic, commercial and residential projects. —KUNA



The Mubarak Al-Kabeer tower in the heart of the Silk City.



Part of Kuwait 2035 vision

Four quarters make up Silk City

The Silk City will be divided into four quarters, or villages:

- **The Financial Village:** Located right in front of Kuwait city and near the new airport, this section of the project will comprise the business center, conference halls and amenities and it is planned to be an important center for international and regional trade flow.
- **The Leisure Village:** Located near the canal that connects the Arabian Gulf to the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, this section of the project comprises hotels and resorts, as well as a world-class sports academy, a medical center and a marine sports' center.
- **The Cultural Village:** This section of the project comprises three districts: the academic district, the diplomatic district and the political district.
- **The Ecological Village:** Located at the center of Silk City and spanning 45 square kilometers, the ecological section includes national parks and reservations for wild animals and rare planets as well as nature reserves for immigrating birds from central Asia and Africa. (Source: weetas.com)



The four quarters of Silk City.



The Silk City's location on Kuwait's map. The Jaber Causeway cuts the distance between it and Kuwait City to 25 minutes, instead of 50 minutes.



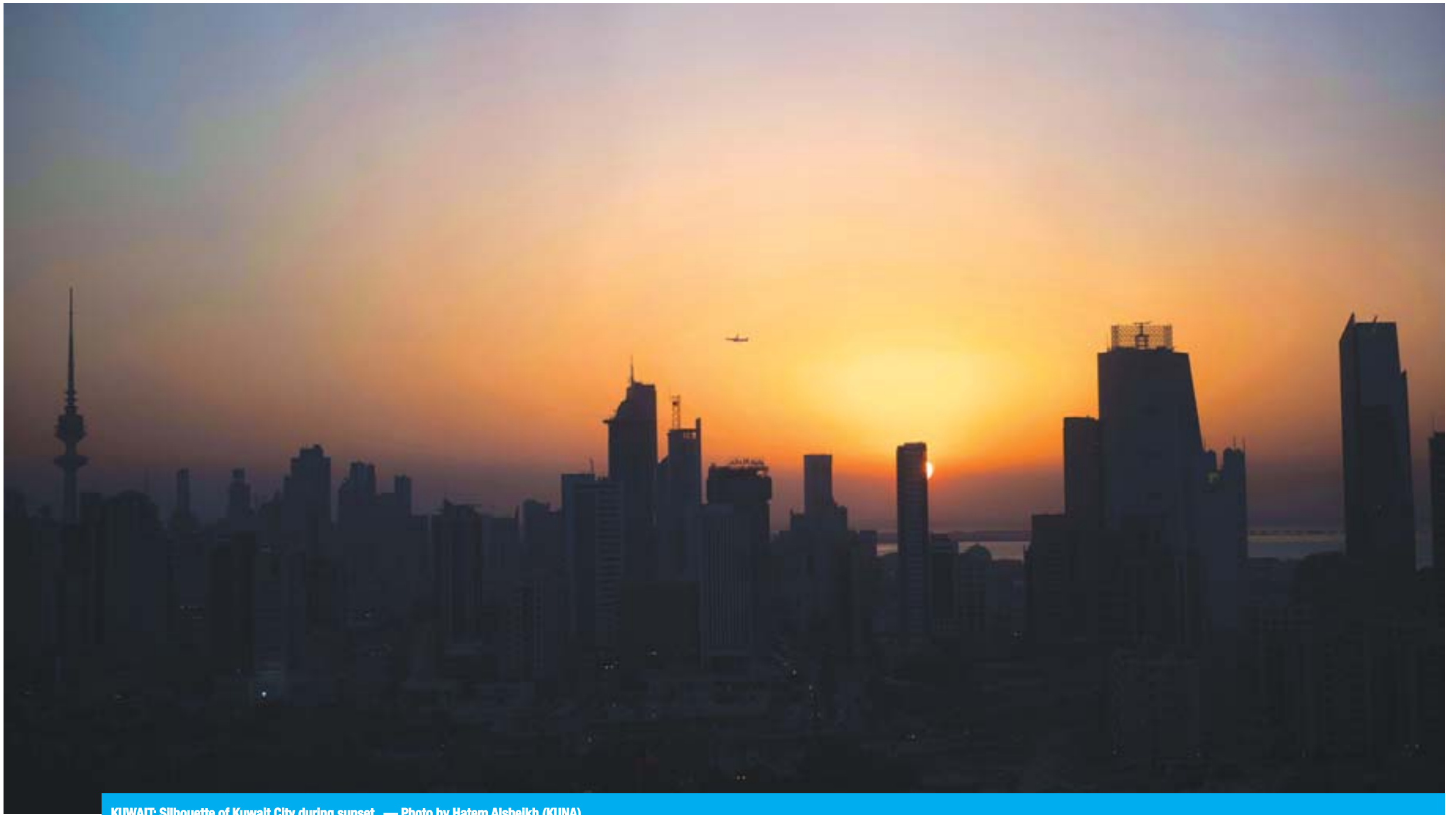
A detailed painting showing the proposed Silk City and the Jaber Causeway connecting it to Kuwait City.



The Silk City.

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Silhouette of Kuwait City during sunset. — Photo by Hatem Alshelkh (KUNA)

Ministry of Health ready for new hajj season: Official

Nominations open for cancer awareness campaign

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health said yesterday it has taken all necessary steps to ensure a safe Hajj (pilgrimage) season this year for all willing Kuwaiti pilgrims. After meeting with the committees tasked with forming teams to organize the process of receiving pilgrims, assistant undersecretary for public health affairs Dr Majida Al-Qattan, in a press statement, said that such readiness is part of the ministry's strategies to ensure the health of Kuwaiti pilgrims.

The meeting discussed three stages: before, during and after the return of pilgrims, Qattan noted. It also discussed accommodation procedures to make sure that residential units comply with the ministry's requirements, she noted. The committee formed three teams, each including a preventive health doctor and a member from the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, to ensure the safety of selected buildings and hotels, Qattan said.

Cancer awareness

In other news, the Gulf Federation for Cancer Control (GFFCC) announced yesterday opening nominations for physicians wishing to apply to join the cancer 'awareness without borders' campaign in Mauritania between November 2-9. Dr Khaled Al Saleh, General Secretary of the Board of GFFCC, told KUNA that the campaign is part of the Federation's programs.

The GFFCC was established in 2012 by a group of doctors who visited Arab countries that need health and humanitarian assistance, Saleh, also vice chairman of Cancer Awareness National Campaign (CAN), noted. Furthermore, the campaign aims at promoting health awareness, early detection and diagnosis of the most common diseases in the Arab region, as well as cancer, he said. — KUNA



Pilgrims are seen during last year's Hajj season. — KUNA

AUB launches product to finance medical services with 0% profit

KUWAIT: In order to enhance its financial products to meet the needs of customers, Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced the launch of a product to cover the cost of medical treatment and services (Musawama) with 0 percent profit in cooperation with Al-Seef Hospital.

Ahli United Bank set up a special booth at Al-Seef Hospital from 3 to 5 of July 2018 to raise the awareness to the Hospital's vis-

itors and employees of the bank's offered services and products. This approach also underscores an increasing cooperation between the bank and the hospital.

The bank announced in a press: "The sharia-compliant treatment financing product, launched by Ahli United Bank for the first time to cover the cost of treatment and medical services at Al-Seef Hospital, offers finance of up to KD 15,000, along with providing free Takaful insurance service that would cover the total value of the finance."

The bank added: "The treatment financing product, launched by Ahli United Bank in cooperation with Al-Seef Hospital, enjoys an array of credit benefits through flexible monthly installments. In addition it does not require the transfer of salary to the bank as the product is offered to AUB and other banks' customers, subject to terms and conditions."

Commerce Ministry receives 16 inquiries

KUWAIT: Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced that Commercial Supervision and Consumer Protection Department has received 16 complaints and inquiries from citizens. Ministry's spokesperson said in a statement that the Undersecretary for Commercial Supervision and Consumer Protection Department Eid Al-Rashidi received citizens at his office and listened to their complaints and inquiries in accordance with the open door policy upon instructions of the Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudan. He said that complaints can be filed every Tuesday by consumers from 9am to 1pm local time at the ministry's main headquarters. — KUNA

Company used 60,000 sq m state land

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Director of safety at Mubarak Al-Kabeer municipality Maisa Bushehri said a field tour result-

ed in issuing a violation for a company that used state land covering an area of 60,000 sq m. The violation is valued at KD 176,000.

Meanwhile, Ahmadi municipality violations removal team inspected 560 shops and issued 104 citations for violations including license expiry, neglecting shop signs, not placing the license in a clear place and using areas in front of the shop without a license. Three shops were closed.



AUB's booth at Al-Seef Hospital.

Landline subscribers urged to pay due bills

KUWAIT: Landlines subscribers should pay their bills or face service cut-offs this month, said the State Ministry for Services Affairs yesterday. The Ministry said in a press release that the automatic cut-off of the phone services will be preceded by two warning text messages on July 15th to be followed by another one on July 22nd before actual termination of the service on July 29th. The statement indicated that the landlines, used for either domestic or commercial purposes, will face termination if the due amount on lines exceeded KD 50 (nearly \$165) or KD 100 (nearly \$330) respectively. The cut-off would also reach landlines whose owners failed to pay their installments. The Ministry is facilitating the payments of phone bills via either visiting its branches or its e-government official website. — KUNA

Local

Education Ministry seeks to hire teachers from Tunisia, Jordan

Ministry lowers standards for hiring teachers due to low number of applications

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Education Minister Hamed Al-Azmi issued a decision forming a special committee to examine, interview and hire teachers from Tunisia from July 15 to 19, said informed sources, noting that the committee will be headed by the Capital education area director Badriya Al-Khalidi. The sources added that Azmi issued another decision on forming a similar committee headed by Ahmadi educational area director Waleed Al-Oumi to do the same during the same period in Jordan.

In another educational concern, informed sources said the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) recently handed over nine newly-built schools in various areas to the Ministry of Education (MoE) so that the schools could be opened by the beginning of the new academic year. The sources added that the new schools will need around 1,000 teachers and administrative staff members, and that MoE was awaiting approval from the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to send delegations abroad to hire teachers.

The sources added that in view of the low numbers of local applications, MoE exempted applying English and French teachers from the experience condition and

lowered this condition from two to only one year of experience for various scientific subjects' teachers. The sources explained that MoE's assistant undersecretary for public education Fatima Al-Kandari had officially requested the exemption so that enough teaching staff



7,000 pilgrims registered so far

members, including non-Kuwaitis, GCC nationals and bedoons, could be hired.

7,000 pilgrims

Head of the hajj convoys union Ahmad Al-Dowaihi said that over 7,000 citizens and expats have so far

registered to perform hajj this year, or 80-85 percent of the convoys' capacity. Dowaihi added that the first flights would leave for Saudi Arabia on Aug 14 and that the first return flight would arrive on Aug 26. Dowaihi stressed that special arrangements had been made with the civil aviation authorities to avoid the luggage problem that happened last year.

New power plant

The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) explained that the third phase of the south Zour power plant covers an area of 50,000 sq m and that the project scheduled to be concluded by June 2019 will cost KD 62 million. Civil engineer Mohammad Al-Jowaisri said the plant will cover Kuwait's need of electricity by adding 250 megawatts to the national grid capacity by using environment-friendly technologies.

Separately, MEW Undersecretary Mohammed Boshehri stressed that co-ops would be treated like the commercial sector in terms of the new electricity tariffs because they have commercial licenses. "Thus, they will pay 5 fils instead of 2 fils per kilowatt and KD 2 per 1,000 gallons of water instead of 800 fils," he stressed. Speaking during a meeting at the Kuwait Union of



Consumer Co-operative Societies, Boshehri said that in view of the extreme heat of 49 degrees centigrade recorded on Sunday, MEW registered the highest rate of power consumption of 13,780 megawatts, adding that the predicted maximum consumption during the summer would reach 14,500 megawatts, while the grid reserves reach 16,000 megawatts. Boshehri warned that using water to wash vehicles or houses' inner and outer yards is wasteful and legally punishable.

Authorities coordinate for start of shrimp fishing season

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Kuwait Fishermen Union's Chairman Thaher Al-Sowayan highly commended the efforts exerted by the Public Authority of Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) Director Sheikh Mohammed Al-Yousef Al-Sabah and his understanding of the union's demands. Sowayan added that PAAAFR invited the union to attend a meeting with the coast-

guards, the marines, the Environment Public Authority and the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition to discuss fishing boat traffic upon launching the shrimping season on August 1. He added that the union will hold a seminar for fishermen to brief them on how to deal with emergencies at sea and how to contact the coastguards to request assistance or report any suspicious sightings.

Authority's budget

Director of the public authority for disabled affairs Dr Shafiq Al-Awadhi said the authority's budget for 2017-2018 is KD 177,734,000, of which 98 percent (KD 174,963,559,649) was spent on internal expenses. She also pointed out that 95 percent of the expenses were special aid for the disabled. Awadhi added that KD 30 million was spent as school subsidies, while 98 percent of the KD 1.5 million budget allocated for assistive devices was spent.



KUWAIT: A vendor displays fresh imported shrimps at the Sharq fish market during a daily auction on July 5, 2018. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Speaker heads to Lebanon for Arab Economic Forum

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem left for Beirut, Lebanon yesterday accompanied by a parliamentary delegation to participate in the 26th edition of the Arab Economic Forum, slated for July 12. Ghanem, who has been invited to the event as an honorary guest, is to address the forum about challenges facing Arab economy and prospects of reform in that regard, parliament's Aldustor media network reported. Furthermore, the Kuwaiti top lawmaker will also hold a series of talks with President Michel Aoun, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri and Prime Minister-designate Saad Al-Hariri, under whose auspices the forum will be held. —KUNA

Pregnant woman, children hurt in Bayan accident

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and agencies

KUWAIT: A car accident in Bayan resulted in injuring six people. The injured include a 40-year-old pregnant woman who suffered a cardiac arrest, a 17-year-old girl who suffered a suspected fracture in her spine and pelvis, an 8-year-old boy with head injury, a 7-year-old girl who suffered a suspected broken right arm and a four-year-old girl who suffered internal bleeding, while an 18-month-old girl suffered minor injuries. All those involved are Kuwaiti.



KUWAIT: The victims' vehicle is seen after the accident.

Drugs confiscated

Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Criminal Security Affairs Maj Gen Khalid Al-Dayeen said 288.112 kg of hashish, 3.405 kg of marijuana, 6.91 kg of heroin, 39.260 kg of qat, 23.106 kg of synthetic marijuana, 1.878 kg of opium, 338,891 illicit tablets and 8,934 bottles of liquor were confiscated during the period from April 1 to June 30, 2018. He said Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khalid Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah gives drugs fighting special attention, and has asked to unify efforts of all state departments and NGOs to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drugs.

No injuries in fire

Fire broke out in the basement of an Abu Halifa building, prompting Mangaf and Fahaheel fire stations to respond. The five-storey building was evacuated, and the fire was put out without injuries. An investigation was opened to determine the cause of the fire.

Sorcery

An Iraqi man in violation of residency law resorted to sorcery. Police noticed a nervous driver in Maidan Hawally, so he was pulled over. When they checked his ID, they found his residency permit had expired several years ago. Police searched his car and found sorcery tools. He was sent to concerned authorities.

Mugging

A father was worried after his 11-year-old son was beaten and robbed at a Khaitan club, and he was afraid this will keep children from practicing sports during the summer break. He said he found his son crying, and when he asked him what happened, he said a man he does not know ridiculed and beat him, then took his pocket money. He also threatened to take his money every time he saw him. The suspect is being sought by police. Meanwhile, Salhiya police arrested a Bangladeshi man who targeted shoppers, particularly women. Citizens and expats complained about thefts in the vicinity of Fahd Al-Salem Street. Detectives' investigations led them to the Bangladeshi, who was arrested red-handed and confessed to the crimes.

Robbery

Airport police prevented an Egyptian man from traveling because he opened the bag of an Asian traveler and stole KD 250. Police noticed through cameras a man sound asleep, while another man next to him opened a small bag and removed Emirati dirhams from it worth KD 250. The money was returned to its rightful owner, while the suspected thief was taken to the security center. Separately, a Syrian man accused a relative of stealing KD 3,600 from his apartment, which he broke into. The Syrian asked Abu Halaifa police to help him recover the money. Police and forensic officers went to the apartment and lifted fingerprints and other evidence. In another case, an Egyptian man who works for a car rental office told police that an Asian man named "Shaikh Fali" rented a car for 10 days, but it has been a month since then and he hasn't returned the car. The Asian's name was placed on the wanted list.

Property damage

A woman accused her ex-husband of damaging her luxury cars due to disputes between them. The woman told police that she noticed scratches on her new car, and said she thinks her ex-husband is behind it. Police will summon him for questioning.

Under the influence

An elderly man called police and told them his drunken son beat him and his wife, so patrols responded and arrested the son, who was clearly intoxicated. The man was taken to the proper authorities for further action.

Drugs

Two people, Kuwaiti and Egyptian, were sent to the Drugs Control General Department after police found psychoactive drugs with one of them and a substance suspected of being heroin with the other.

KALYAN JEWELLERS

SHOP AT KALYAN JEWELLERS AND MAKE GOING BACK HOME, EVEN MORE EXCITING!

Get a chance to win exciting gifts like American Tourister trolleys, backpacks, branded watches, gadgets, home appliances and many other gifts through our Scratch and Win offer!

GET 1

SCRATCH & WIN COUPON

ON PURCHASE OF ANY JEWELLERY WORTH KWD 200

GET 3

SCRATCH & WIN COUPONS

ON EVERY PURCHASE OF GOLD OR PRECIOUS STONE JEWELLERY WORTH KWD 500

GET 4

SCRATCH & WIN COUPONS

ON EVERY PURCHASE OF DIAMOND OR UNCUT JEWELLERY WORTH KWD 500

-OFFER VALID TILL 27 JULY 2018-

FAHAHEEL - 23921533 | OPP. SOUK AL-WATIYA, MALIYA - 22287633 | OPP. FRIDAY MARKET, AL RAI - 24752933 | AL SALAM MALL, GROUND FLOOR, SALMIYA - 22251534

122 BRANCHES SPREAD ACROSS INDIA AND MIDDLE EAST | WWW.KALYANJEWELLERS.NET | FOLLOW US ON: KALYANJEWELLERSMIDDLEEAST | KALYANJEWELLERS



Russia pursues Jehovah's Witnesses as 'extremists'

Peace, love and no bodyguards for Mexico's president-elect



BRUSSELS: French President Emmanuel Macron (center left) and US President Donald Trump (center right), flanked by France's Minister for Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian (left) and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (right), make a statement to the press after a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) summit, at the NATO headquarters yesterday. — AFP

World 'more dangerous' than two years ago

Concerns rise over politically motivated violence, WMD

LONDON: Most people think the world is more dangerous today than it was two years ago as concerns rise over politically motivated violence and weapons of mass destruction (WMD), according to a survey released on Tuesday. Six out of ten respondents to the survey, commissioned by the Global Challenges Foundation, said the dangers had increased, with conflict and nuclear or chemical weapons seen as more pressing risks than population growth or climate change.

The results come as NATO leaders prepare to meet in Brussels amid growing tensions between the United States and fellow members over defense spending, which some fear could damage morale and play into the hands of

Russia. "It's clear that our current systems of global cooperation are no longer making people feel safe," said Mats Andersson, vice chairman of the Global Challenges Foundation, in a statement. Andersson said turbulence between NATO powers and Russia, ongoing conflict in Syria, Yemen and Ukraine and nuclear tensions with North Korea and Iran were making people feel unsafe.

A separate survey commissioned by the Global Challenges Foundation after North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un met US President Donald Trump found people were largely not reassured. Less than a third of the nearly 5,000 respondents reported feeling less concerned about

weapons of mass destruction. "War is more likely," said Dr Patricia Lewis, director of international security at the think tank Chatham House. "We have a great deal of instability and that is so often a precursor to wars."

"Two large powers are disrupting the established rules. We saw the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and we see the US starting a trade war, ripping up agreements which the rest of us are trying to abide by," said Lewis. Founded to deter the Soviet threat in 1949, NATO is based on deep cooperation with the United States, which provides for Europe's security with its nuclear and conventional arsenals. It has found renewed purpose since Russia's 2014

annexation of Crimea, sending battalions to the Baltics and Poland to deter potential Russian incursions.

Of the 1,000 people surveyed in Russia as part of the Global Challenges Foundation analysis, 91 percent thought weapons of mass destruction were the greatest risk to global insecurity. The survey findings are based on responses from more than 10,000 people in 10 countries surveyed by polling firm ComRes in April this year. The Global Challenges Foundation promotes discussion of the greatest threats to humanity - issues that could wipe out more than 10 percent of the population - in order to find solutions. — Reuters

Asylum-seekers spark backlash in South Korea

JEJU: A few hundred asylum-seekers from Yemen have sparked an unprecedented wave of xenophobia in ethnically homogenous South Korea, echoing the anti-immigrant sentiment that has swept Europe and helped propel Donald Trump to the White House. More than a million migrants arrived in Germany after its borders were opened in 2015 to asylum-seekers-many fleeing war-which deeply divided the country and its neighbors.

And the United States, by far the world's most popular destination for migrants, detains thousands of illegal arrivals at its border with Mexico every month. President Trump has vowed to build a wall to keep them out of the country. But when just 550 or so people from war-ravaged Yemen arrived over several months in South Korea, the reaction was uncompromising.

"Is the government crazy? These are Muslims who will rape our daughters!" was one of the top comments, liked by thousands, on Naver, the country's top Internet portal. Hundreds protested in Seoul last month urging authorities to "kick out fake refugees" while nearly 700,000 — a record-signed a petition on the presidential website calling for tightening what are already some of the world's toughest refugee laws.

"Europe may have historical baggage with countries (former colonies)... but South Korea has no such moral obligation," the petition said. Refugees are largely an alien concept in the Asian country where only around four percent of the population are foreigners, mostly from China and Southeast Asia. Discrimination against them is widespread. Many are openly mocked on public transport for being "dirty" or "smelly", and refused entry to fancy restaurants or public baths. A government survey in 2015 showed that 32 percent of South Koreans do not want a foreigner as a neighbor-far higher than 14 percent in the US and China's 12.2 percent.

The Yemenis took advantage of visa-free access to the tourist island of Jeju. The loophole, intended to boost visitors to the destination, has been closed to other Yemenis following the uproar. A recent opinion poll showed about half of South Koreans oppose accepting the Yemeni asylum-seekers, with 39 percent in favour and 12 percent undecided. Park Seo-young, a 20-year-old college student from Daejeon, was against. "I heard that Yemen has a very poor record in



JEJU, South Korea: Yemeni asylum seekers prepare lunch at the Olle Tourist Hotel in Jeju. — AFP

women's rights... and I'm afraid that the island will become more dangerous than before and the crime rate will go up," she told AFP. Another student, Han Eui-mi, added: "Why should they come all the way to Korea when there are many countries nearby?"

'Dead bodies everywhere'

Around 40 of the new arrivals are staying at a nondescript hotel in Jeju City. Packed four to a room to save money, they take turns to cook traditional Yemeni meals in a basement communal area. Mohammed Salem Duhaish has been given refuge by a local family, along with his wife and eight-month-old son. Formerly a worker at Sana'a international airport, he fled after Houthi rebels—who are fighting a Saudi-led military alliance-blew up a nearby airbase. There were "dead bodies beside you everywhere, and fighting, gunshots and bombs," he told AFP.

Duhaish paid a broker \$600 for a visa to Oman. From there, he went to Malaysia, where he worked illegally for three years. The 33-year-old had once hoped to go to the US, where he has several relatives, but gave up on the idea once the anti-immigration Trump became president. Instead, he decided to head for South Korea. Duhaish said he learned about the country from the Korean television dramas popular across Asia, adding: "We want the Korean government and Korean people to accept us and deal with us as people who need help." — AFP

Living a double life: Indonesia's atheists fear jail or worse

JAKARTA: As a university student, Luna Atmowijoyo prayed five times a day, refused to shake hands with men who weren't relatives and was "more fundamentalist" than her pious Muslim parents. But a decade later, Atmowijoyo has turned her back on Islam and is among a small number of atheists in Indonesia who live in fear of jail or violent reprisals from religious hardliners. Leading a double life-devout Muslim on the outside, non-believer on the inside-is often the only choice for atheists in the world's biggest Muslim majority country. Atmowijoyo, who lives with her parents, still wears an Islamic headscarf to escape the wrath of an abusive father who knows nothing of his daughter's change of heart, which started when she was told to avoid friendships with non-Muslims.

"A lot of simple things started to bother me," said the 30-year-old, who asked AFP not to use her real name. "Like I couldn't say Merry Christmas or Happy Waisak to people of other religions," she added, referring to a Buddhist holiday also known as Vesak or Buddha's Birthday in other parts of Asia. Treating gay people as abnormal was another problem and it soon became impossible for Atmowijoyo-once a conservative Islamic party member-to square the Koran's teachings with science. Then the unthinkable crept into her mind: God does not exist.

Blasphemy

The sprawling Southeast Asian archipelago is officially pluralist with six major religions recognized, including Hinduism, Christianity and Buddhism, while freedom of expression is supposed to be guaranteed by law. But criticizing religion-particularly Islam, which is followed by nearly 90 percent of Indonesia's 260 million citizens-can land you in jail. This year, a university student was charged for a Facebook post that compared Allah to the Greek gods and said the Koran was no more scientific than the Lord of the Rings. He faces up to five years in prison.

Alexander Aan was jailed for 30 months in 2012 for posting explicit material about the Prophet Mohammed online and declaring himself an atheist. The prosecutions fit a wider trend of discrimination against the archipelago's sizeable population of minorities, observers said. Authorities, however, insist atheist beliefs are not illegal-as long as they're not aired in public. "Once somebody disseminates that idea, or the concept of atheism, that will be problematic," said Abdurrahman Mas'ud, head of the research and development agency at the Ministry of Religion.

'Fear for my life'

Two decades after the fall of dictator Suharto—who kept the country running along secular lines-conservative Islam has exploded into Indonesia's public life in lockstep with the rise of hardliners and religiously motivated violence. The country has grappled with Islamist militancy for years, including the 2002 Bali bombing that killed more than 200 in Indonesia's worst-ever terror attack. More attacks followed and this year, 13 people were killed in a wave of suicide bombings claimed by the Islamic State group that targeted Christian congregations. Buddhist temples have also been attacked, while this year an angry mob rampaged through a small community of the Ahmadiyya Islamic minority on the island of Lombok, destroying homes and forcing dozens of members to flee.

Atheists interviewed by AFP said they worried that hardliners, encouraged by populist politicians, could turn their attention to them next. "The worst thing that can happen in Indonesia is we can be killed," said one 35-year-old graphic designer who was raised as a Catholic. "I genuinely fear for my life." Many apostates-particularly those from conservative Muslim backgrounds assume two identities, like Atmowijoyo. "As long as they keep quiet there is not much risk," said Timo Dulle, a researcher at the University of Bonn who has studied atheism in Indonesia. "That is the reason that most atheists I talked to prefer to stay incognito."

No one knows how many atheists there are in Indonesia. While small groups hold regular meetings in large cities, most have sought out like-minded individuals online. The "You Ask. Atheists Answer" open forum on Facebook has nearly 60,000 members, and there are more like it online. Karina, based in Singapore, said when she found a private Facebook page for fellow atheists in her native Indonesia she finally felt she was "not alone". — AFP

International

Suicide bomber hits anti-Taleban party rally; ANP candidate killed

Son of slain anti-Taleban politician among 20 dead

PESHAWAR: A suicide bomber blew himself up at a rally by an anti-Taleban political party in Pakistan, killing 20 people, including a candidate in July 25 elections, police and hospital officials said yesterday. Awami National Party (ANP) candidate Haroon Bilour was killed in the late Tuesday blast in the northwestern city of Peshawar. His father, senior ANP leader Bashir Bilour, was killed in a suicide bombing in late 2012, in the run-up to Pakistan's last election.

The Pakistani Taleban claimed responsibility for the Tuesday attack. "The death toll from last night's suicide attack has reached 20 while we have 65 injured, some of them in critical condition," Zulfikar Ali Babakhel, a spokesman for Peshawar's main Lady Reading Hospital, told Reuters. The ANP is a predominantly secular, ethnic Pashtun nationalist party, which has long competed with Islamist parties for votes in Pakistan's volatile Pashtun lands, along the border with Afghanistan.

Islamist militants have attacked the party numerous times over the years, including in the run-up to the last election, in 2013. The Pakistani Taleban, a loosely aligned umbrella group of several militant and sectarian bands,

have been waging a war against the Pakistani state for over a decade, condemned the party in its claim of responsibility. "The anti-Islamism of the ANP is not hidden from anyone, and this secular party martyred many members of the Muslim community during its previous government," militant spokesman Mohammad Khurasani said in a statement. Haroon Bilour had hoped to win a provincial assembly seat in July.

Overall, violence in Pakistan has decreased in recent years after several military offensives against militant strongholds in the northwest. But many militants have escaped into neighbouring Afghanistan, from where Islamabad says they launch attacks back into Pakistan. Last month, a US drone strike killed Pakistani Taleban chief Mullah Fazlullah in eastern Afghanistan.

Fazlullah had claimed responsibility for most of the attacks against the ANP before the 2013 election on the grounds that it had supported an army offensive against the militants. The military announced on Tuesday it would deploy more than 371,000 troops to ensure peaceful and fair and free elections on July 25. — Reuters



PESHAWAR: Pakistani residents carry the coffins of blast victims, who were killed in a suicide bombing at an election rally, during their funeral in Peshawar yesterday. — AFP

Drivers rejoice as Damascus dismantles checkpoints

DAMASCUS: In his beloved yellow taxi, Abu Ayman zigzags through the streets of Syria's capital Damascus, delighted that the security checkpoints that choked the streets for years have been removed. With the capital declared under full government control earlier this year, authorities have dismantled at least 15 roadblocks along main thoroughfares, where they stopped and searched passing vehicles.

The barriers left some areas completely inaccessible to cars, while clogging up other streets with long lines of vehicles carrying fuming passengers. But since Syria's army announced in May it had ousted jihadists and rebels from the outskirts of Damascus, city authorities have started cutting back those measures. Coming off a main highway into the capital's famed Abbasid square, the remnants of a former checkpoint come into view: an empty stall painted with the colors

of the Syrian flag, cement blocks pushed to the side of the street, and metal sheets perched nearby.

Metres away, a portrait of President Bashar Al-Assad in a suit and tie overlooks the post. Passing by the abandoned checkpoint in his Hyundai, Abu Ayman beams. "I'm happy every time they remove a new checkpoint—my customers breathe a sigh of relief and even my car relaxes," he tells AFP, dressed in a maroon-and-grey striped shirt. At 62, Abu Ayman has spent nearly every day of the last 40 years driving through Damascus looking for customers. "Moving around has gotten easier. Traffic has gone down and there are no more stop-and-searches," he says.

Threat diminished

A year after Syria's conflict erupted in 2011, Damascus came under threat. Car

bombs and other attacks hit the city, often claimed by jihadists. Rebels based in the Eastern Ghouta suburb or in the city's south regularly launched rockets and mortars into residential neighborhoods. To protect the city, security forces set up checkpoints to meticulously search vehicles entering Damascus or moving across its congested streets. "Between the traffic and the search, we used to wait anywhere between 30 minutes to a full hour at each checkpoint in Damascus," says Abu Ayman.

"Many times, my customers would start fuming because of the traffic, so they'd pay me and just walk across the checkpoint on foot," he recalls. Abu Ayman says his trunk is even damaged from being repeatedly slammed shut over the years after being searched at checkpoints.

"I fixed it four times then decided to just stop. Soldiers can open it now without me

getting out," he jokes. Soldiers were particularly tough on any cars coming from Ghouta or the southern edges of the capital, where jihadists from the Islamic State group were based.

But both those areas were retaken this spring in military operations and large-scale population transfer deals, paving the way for Damascus security officials to authorize the removal of the checkpoints. That brought an economic windfall to the Al-Jed petrol station, one of the largest in Damascus. Employees can be seen rushing from car to car, filling up tanks for an influx of customers the likes of which they have not seen in years. In 2013 nearby checkpoints sealed off car access to the street where the petrol station is located, says its accountant Abdulrahim Awwad. "Our sales dropped from more than 100,000 liters in 2013 per day to just 4,000," says Awwad.

Back in business

But everything has changed in the last few weeks, with daily sales climbing "after all the roads leading to the station were reopened," Awwad, 60 said. "Just two weeks ago, we turned all of the station's eight pumps back on and our sales increased to 39,000 liters a day," he says, counting a stack of cash at his desk. The newly unblocked roads have even revived traffic at the Al-Hal Souk, one of the most vibrant in Damascus. A queue of cargo trucks, horns blaring, is parked near the market's entrance as muscular workers unload cans of cooking oil and cleaning supplies.

"The checkpoint we see today is actually making it easier for us—the soldier there searches us with a machine," says truck driver Abu Nur, 56. "Until only recently, we sometimes had to unload all our cargo at checkpoints so it could all be searched, and we'd have to show receipts for the goods," he tells AFP. —AFP



The home of Kuwait Airways links you to the world
T4, Kuwait Airways

5 Million passengers yearly



International

Germany's Neo-Nazi murder gang member jailed for life

Murders shook Germany, reopened debate on far-right

MUNICH: A member of a German neo-Nazi gang was jailed for life yesterday for her part in the murders of 10 people during a seven-year campaign of racially-motivated violence. Beate Zschaepe, 43, showed no reaction as the judge read out her sentence at the end of one of the most closely watched court cases in Germany's post-war history. She was part of the National Socialist Underground (NSU), whose members killed eight Turks, a Greek man and a German policewoman from 2000 to 2007, the Higher Regional Court in Munich ruled. The murders shook a country that believed it had learned the lessons of its past. A report later said police had "massively underestimated" the risk of far-right violence and that missteps had allowed the cell to go undetected.



Gang killed eight Turks, Greek man, and policewoman

Appeal
The judges said Zschaepe bore "particularly heavy guilt" and handed her the heaviest possible sentence. She had denied any knowledge of the murders during the five-year trial. But she said later she regretted not stopping two male members of the gang, Uwe Boehnhardt and Uwe Mundlos, from carrying out the killings. Those men killed themselves in 2011 when police discovered the gang by chance. Prosecutors said she had played a key role behind the scenes, planning the crimes and arranging money and alibis.

"This is a just punishment for the NSU's cold-

blooded and unprecedented series of crimes," Bavarian Interior Minister Joachim Herrmann said in a statement. Five of the 10 murders took place in Bavaria, the most violent attacks of their kind in Germany since the far-left Red Army Faction's two-decade killing spree that ended in 1991 and left at least 34 dead. "What the perpetrators did cannot be made up for. The victims will never be forgotten," said German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas. He said Germany needed to tackle racist violence with diversity and the strength of law.

Zschaepe was also found guilty of membership of a terrorist organization, of being co-perpetrator in two bombings, and of arson. Four men were also found guilty of supporting the NSU in various ways, including procuring weapons, and handed sentences from 2-1/2 to 10 years. A group of people in the court applauded when one of the men received a lower sentence than expected. Zschaepe's lawyer, Mathias Grasel, said he would appeal against yesterday's ruling. "The verdict is wrong!" Grasel said in a statement.

"Conviction for complicity is legally untenable. The fact is: Ms Zschaepe was demonstrably present at no crime scene and never fired a weapon or detonated a bomb." Turkey's foreign ministry said the trial had not uncovered the full story of the murder of its citizens and the other victims. "Unfortunately, the ruling made



MUNICH: Protesters hold up signs with pictures of the victims of neo-Nazi cell National Socialist Underground (NSU) before the proclamation of sentence in the trial against Beate Zschaepe, the only surviving member of the NSU behind a string of racist murders. —AFP

today has not brought to light the real criminals, the background of the NSU murders and the connection between the deep state and intelligence to its full extent," it said, without going into further detail.

Relations between Germany and Turkey deteriorated sharply after Ankara's crackdown on suspected supporters of a failed military coup in 2016, but have begun to improve lately. —Reuters

News in brief

Court jails Thai woman

GENEVA: A Swiss court yesterday sentenced a Thai woman to 10 and a half years behind bars for her role in a forced prostitution ring, in one of Switzerland's biggest ever human trafficking cases. The regional Bern court ruled that the 58-year-old, whose name was not released, was guilty of human trafficking, as well as promoting prostitution, incitement to illegal entry and residency in Switzerland and money laundering, the ATS news agency reported. She had brought 75 women and transgender people from Thailand to Switzerland, and forced them into prostitution across the wealthy Alpine nation, it said. Her operation, which was active between 2010 and 2014 in a range of Swiss cantons, was at the heart of one of the country's biggest human trafficking cases ever, according to the court. —AFP

Germany holds Iran 'spy'

BERLIN: German prosecutors said yesterday a court had remanded in custody an alleged Iranian spy accused of plotting to bomb an Iranian opposition rally in Paris on June 30. The suspect, a Vienna-based accredited Iranian diplomat whom opposition groups have named as Assadollah Assadi, 46, was one of several suspects detained in Germany, Belgium and France. They had allegedly planned to bomb the rally by an exiled Iranian opposition group in Villepinte near Paris that was attended by several US politicians. German prosecutors said yesterday that a court had two days earlier remanded Assadi in custody on charges of foreign intelligence activities and conspiracy to murder. They added that these charges did "not preclude" Assadi's extradition requested by Belgium. —AFP

26 killed in NW Nigeria

KANO: Twenty-six people were killed in two days of violence blamed on cattle thieves in northern Nigeria, the National Emergency Management Agency said yesterday. Bandits on motorcycles attacked several villages on both sides of the border between Sokoto and Zamfara states on Monday and Tuesday, shooting residents, burning homes and stealing cows. "At the moment, 26 dead bodies have been recovered from the attacks," NEMA spokesman Suleiman Kadir said. "The toll may rise with the latest attack from yesterday (Tuesday)." Two of the affected villages were in the Rabah district of Sokoto, he said, adding that more than 1,000 people had been made homeless and travelled to the town of Gandi. Kidnapping and cattle rustling gangs operate just over the state border, he added. The violence was "not unconnected", he said. —AFP

Sri Lanka to hang criminals

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka announced yesterday it would start hanging drug dealers, ending a near-half century moratorium on capital punishment as officials promised to "replicate the success" of the Philippines drug war. President Maithripala Sirisena had told the cabinet he "was ready to sign the death warrants" of repeat drug offenders, government spokesman Rajitha Senarathne said yesterday. "From now on, we will hang drug offenders without commuting their death sentences," he said. Sri Lanka has commuted death sentences for serious crimes to life in prison since 1976, when the last execution took place. Senarathne said there were 19 drug offenders whose death sentences had been commuted to life. It was not clear if they would be hanged under the government's policy shift. But authorities say a tougher approach is needed to combat what they say is an increase in drug-related crime. —AFP

Monsoon floods, and landslides kill 15 in India

NEW DELHI: At least 15 people died in floods and landslides in India yesterday, officials said, pushing the death toll from the annual monsoon rains pounding the country closer to 200. Landslides swept at least nine people to their deaths in Manipur in India's remote and hilly northeast, said the state's chief minister Nongthombam Biren. "I am deeply saddened to know that nine precious life lost due to landslide at three places in Tamenglong headquarter," he wrote on Twitter.

Eight of the victims were children, including several from one family, local media reported. Separately, six people were killed in floods and landslides in Uttarakhand, a Himalayan state in India's north, officials there said

Wednesday. Four members of one family were swept away by a landslide and two others drowned in a river swollen by heavy rain, state emergency department official Piyush Kumar told AFP. The arrival of the monsoon, which lasts roughly from June to September, is heralded by millions of Indian farmers but the relentless rain wreaks death and destruction every year.

Already 34 people in Assam, another hilly state neighboring Manipur, have been killed since May. Nearly 2,000 others have been forced from their homes by floodwaters. In Maharashtra in western India, 62 people have died since June due to flooding and landslides, said the state's revenue minister Chandrakant Patil. Another close to 60 deaths have been recorded in the country's far south in Kerala since the monsoon hit the Indian mainland, officials said.

At least six others were reported dead in western Gujarat state this week following days of heavy showers. Monsoon rain has also pounded Mumbai since the weekend, causing floods that



MUMBAI: Indians push a stranded car on the flooded street during heavy rain showers in Mumbai. —AFP

have interrupted transport services and stranded thousands. The financial capital floods every year, but in 2005 more than

1,000 people died when around 950 millimeters (37 inches) of rain fell on Mumbai in just 24 hours. —AFP

Russia pursues the Jehovah's Witnesses as 'extremists'

MOSCOW: With masks and rifles, police came to Anatoly Vilitkevich's door in the early morning and made him pack a bag. He was wanted for religious extremism-as a Jehovah's Witness. "Forget it," they told his wife, Alyona, taking away the couple's tablet devices, computers and phones. "Go and find a new phone, a new tablet and a new husband," Vilitkevich, who lives in the industrial city of Ufa, was one of more than 20 members of the US-founded Christian movement detained across Russia in recent months. They risk up to 10 years in jail, according to Human Rights Watch.

Various groups have been targeted under a 2016 anti-extremism law. An additional 2017 Supreme Court ruling targeted the Jehovah's Witnesses specifically, ordering their dissolution in Russia. "Officially, it's a totalitarian sect of extremists. But in fact, these are people who because of their faith are not susceptible to propaganda," said a man identified as a Russian FSB secret service officer by Radio Liberty. "The system sees them as a threat because they are organized and independent. One day they may seek power," he told the station in an interview this year.

Spreading the word

The Jehovah's Witnesses told AFP that 22 of their members were in jail in Russia, including a couple detained together on July 4. Human Rights Watch said police threatened the Jehovah's Witnesses in raids, in some cases holding guns to people's heads. "We don't see any reasonable explanation for it," said Yaroslav Sivulsky, a senior Jehovah's Witnesses representative in Russia. "But we do not forget the words of Christ: 'Just as I have been persecuted, so will you be persecuted'. For us, that explains it." Alyona Vilitkevich, 35, said investigators classed their Bible readings and prayer groups as "extremist activity". "It is humiliating. It is unjust. We are peaceful citizens, far from any kind of extremism. But they consider us crimi-

nals," she told AFP by phone from Ufa. "I talk to people as the constitution permits. I share with them what I have gained from the Bible as I think it can help them."

Orthodox rivalry

Jehovah's Witnesses are a Christian denomination that originated in the United States in the late 19th century. They have spread worldwide, seeking converts and giving out leaflets. They say they number nearly 172,000 in Russia, an Orthodox Christian country of 144 million. "They are close to the people, they preach and promote their religion openly, so that makes for competition and rivalry with the Russian Orthodox Church," said Maria Kravchenko, an expert at the SOVA Centre, a civil research group. A senior Russian bishop, Hilarion Alfeyev, said Jehovah's Witnesses "destroy people's minds and destroy families". But he insisted the prosecutions were a judicial matter, not a religious one.

"The Church generally does not call for the prosecution of heretics, sectarians or dissidents," he told television channel Russia 24 in April. "Such a decision is made by the state, not on the basis of any doctrinal guidelines, but because the sect is engaged in extremist activities," Kravchenko noted that the crackdown has come at a time of high tension between Russia and the West. "Maybe this decision of the Russian authorities to ban all Jehovah's Witness organizations in Russia could be connected with this recent anti-Western trend," she told AFP.

'Campaign of persecution'

In a report last month, Human Rights Watch accused the Russian authorities of a "sweeping campaign" of "harassment and persecution" against the movement. "The Jehovah's Witnesses are simply peacefully exercising their right to freedom of religion," said Rachel Denber, the NGO's deputy Europe and Central Asia director. "Authorities should stop this religious persecution of its worshippers now." The Jehovah's Witnesses say about 200 of their members have fled from Russia to Finland and thousands more to other countries. Anatoly Vilitkevich, 31, was held for nine days in April and then transferred to house arrest pending trial. He is not allowed to talk to journalists. His wife Alyona said they are appealing his case at the Supreme Court and the European Court of Human Rights. "I will not renounce my faith. It is my life, my principles," she said. "I cannot live any other way." —AFP

Defense spending by NATO members

BRUSSELS: A row over how much NATO members spend on defense will overshadow a summit of alliance leaders this week, with US President Donald Trump set to tell allies in blunt terms to boost their military budgets. Trump has repeatedly berated European NATO members and Canada for lagging on a pledge to aim to spend two percent of GDP on defense, and he harangued them again on Twitter on Monday.

How much does US spend?

Trump claimed on Monday that the United States was "paying for 90 percent of NATO", though it is not clear how he arrived at this figure. According to alliance figures, the US will account for just under 70 percent of defense spending in NATO in 2018 - \$706 billion out of the just over \$1 trillion spent by all 29 members this year. In raw terms, Britain is the next biggest defense spender with an estimated \$62 billion in 2018, followed by France with \$52 billion and Germany with \$51 billion.

The 'two percent' pledge

Raw expenditure figures, however, do not take into account the relative size of each country's economy, and NATO countries have made defense spending commitments based on their gross domestic product. In 2006 NATO defense ministers agreed as a guideline that they should spend at least two percent of their GDP on defense. But as the financial crisis hit, many cut military budgets. At the Wales summit in 2014, alarmed by declining military spending across the alliance and as the Ukraine crisis raged, NATO members pledged to "aim to move towards the two percent guideline within a decade". Trump has repeatedly used this pledge to say that NATO countries which are not already hitting the two percent target are breaking a promise, but diplomats point out that this is not strictly speaking what was agreed-though almost all agree they need to spend more. If all NATO allies did hit the two percent target it would translate into an extra \$110 billion spent on defense.

Who's hitting 2% target?

The US is by far NATO's biggest spender in terms of GDP as well as raw expenditure, shelling out an estimated 3.5 percent of GDP on defense in 2018, according to NATO figures. Greece is second, with 2.27 percent-albeit of a much smaller economy-followed by Estonia with 2.14 percent and Britain with 2.1 percent. Latvia comes in at exactly two percent, while Poland, Lithuania and Romania are all expected to clear the threshold later this year. Germany, Europe's economic powerhouse, lags on 1.24 percent and has come in for withering criticism from Trump, though his defense chief Jim Mattis last month praised Berlin's efforts to step up spending on its creaking armed forces. The sheer size of Germany's economy-total GDP in 2017 was around \$4 trillion, compared with just \$250 billion for Greece-makes it difficult for Chancellor Angela Merkel to quickly boost the percentage of GDP spent on defense. —AFP

International

Turkish police detain Muslim televangelist on fraud charges

TV preacher and followers accused of fraud, sexual abuse

ANKARA: Turkish police yesterday detained on fraud charges a televangelist notorious for propagating conservative views while surrounded by scantily-clad women he refers to as his "kittens". Adnan Oktar, a bizarre and controversial figure who also denies evolution, was detained alongside dozens of mainly female alleged supporters on accusations of fraud, bribery and sexual assault. Oktar, who critics see as the leader of a cult, gained notoriety for his programs on the online A9 television channel and had regularly been denounced by Turkey's religious leaders.

He presented programs surrounded by scantily-clad and heavily made-up women who appeared to have had plastic surgery—who he dubbed "kittens". In a major crackdown on his group, he was taken into custody in Istanbul as part of a probe by the city's police financial crimes unit, state-run Anadolu news agency said. A total of 235 arrest warrants were issued and at least 166 people have been detained so far in helicopter-backed raids in Istanbul, Ankara and also southern Turkey, Anadolu said. NTV television said 100 of those detained are female.

Oktar was caught as he was trying to run away, the Istanbul public prosecutor said in a statement, quoted by the Hurriyet daily. His lawyers were also detained. He is also accused of "setting up an organization with the aim of committing crime", "committing fraud through abuse of religious belief and sentiment", Anadolu said. Oktar's assets were seized, Anadolu said, adding that authorities

appointed a trustee to his companies, associations and foundations. Weapons including guns and rifles were also found during the raids, the agency said.

'British deep state'

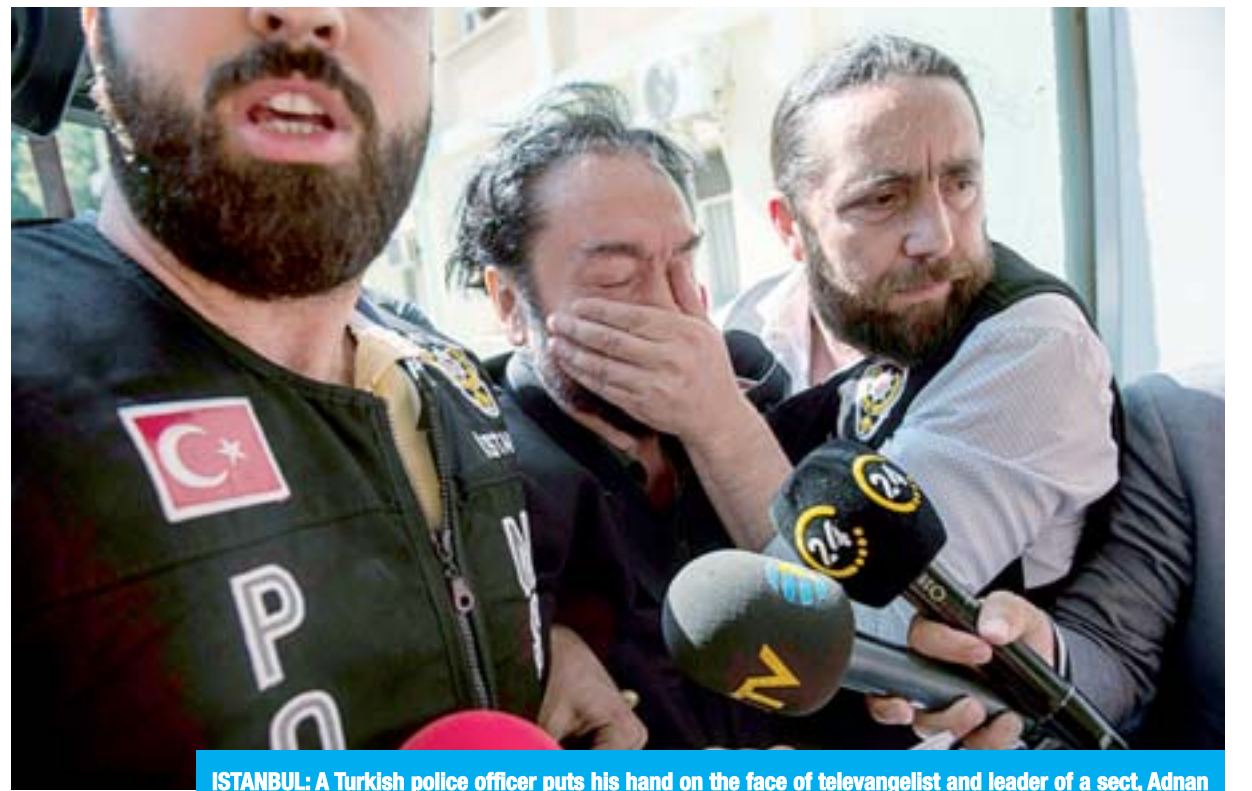
Before officers took him for a medical check, Oktar told waiting media that the claims were "lies", adding: "This is a game by the British deep state." He often rails against the so-called "British deep state" in his program and in one video, he says it has "sneakily disguised itself" and is linked to criminal groups.

Oktar gained notoriety for his programs on online A9

Oktar is himself accused of political and military espionage by authorities. Oktar is a creationist who rejects the Darwinian theory of evolution and has written a 770-page book "The Atlas of Creation" under the pen name, Harun Yahya. Oktar first came to media attention in the 1990s when he was the leader of a sect caught up in multiple sex scandals. As a result, he had

faced similar criminal charges of setting up a criminal organization. One of the "kittens" Ceylan Ozgul said in March that she ran away and slammed the lack of freedom but another woman, Tulay Kumasci, said Ozgul left of her own free will.

The head of Turkey's Diyanet religious affairs agency Ali Erbas said earlier this year that Oktar had "likely lost his mental balance", prompting a war of words with the televangelist. In February, workers from the Turkish Diyanet and Foundation Workers' Union (Diyanet-Sen)



ISTANBUL: A Turkish police officer puts his hand on the face of televangelist and leader of a sect, Adnan Oktar (center) as he escorts him in Istanbul, following his arrest on fraud charges. —AFP

launched a legal complaint against Oktar over various allegations including insulting sacred values. In the same month, Turkey's audiovisual authority RTUK ordered a

program presented by Oktar to cease broadcasting five times and handed down a fine because it violated gender equality and belittled women. —AFP

Peace, love and no bodyguards for Mexico's president-elect

MEXICO CITY: Mexico's president-elect is vowing radical change. And nowhere has it been more visible than in his jaw-dropping decision to forgo bodyguards, and let fans mob him—leaving security experts aghast. Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, the anti-establishment leftist elected in a landslide on July 1, has promised to lead his anti-corruption, pro-austerity charge by example, forswearing the presidential residence, the presidential jet, half the presidential salary and even the presidential security detail. "Even if I end up without the shirt on my back, there is going to be austerity," the man known as "AMLO" said recently.

Even since the election, Lopez Obrador, 64, has continued riding around Mexico City in his Volkswagen Jetta, as hordes of journalists, fans and onlookers swarm around him. Some of those fans managed to breach the security perimeter at the stately National Palace last week when Lopez Obrador arrived for a meeting with outgoing President Enrique Pena Nieto. One woman in the crowd that burst through the army and police cordon thrust herself straight into Lopez Obrador's arms. He gave her a kiss on the cheek. "Let this be clear: I don't want bodyguards. That means the citizens are going to take care of me," said Lopez Obrador, who takes office on December 1. "I just hope they don't crush me," he added with a grin.

No 'paraphernalia of power'

That approach has come in for criticism. "It's a total error. It's whimsical, not strategic," said Alejandro Hope,



MEXICO CITY: Mexico's President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (AMLO) shakes hands with a supporter as he leaves the party's headquarters in Mexico City. —AFP

a security consultant and former Mexican intelligence agent. The issue is bigger than just Lopez Obrador, he said: his wellbeing and that of his family, the secrecy of his communications and the protection of visiting dignitaries are now matters of national security. "The cure is going to be worse than the disease," Hope said.

Lopez Obrador's own team is also concerned. "The administration of the president of the republic must obviously have a security system to protect it, because governability and the stability of the state are at stake," his pick for interior minister, Olga Sanchez, said in a recent television interview. Lopez Obrador's bold approach to his security is an issue for other countries, too. On Friday, the president-elect is due to meet with

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and top presidential adviser Jared Kushner in his offices-located in an aging house with minimal security.

He acknowledged it was an unusual venue to welcome high-level dignitaries. "My office is right here behind us. It's not very big because the next government doesn't want ostentatious offices. We're going to put an end to the paraphernalia of power," he said Tuesday. He made the comment at a press conference in the house's front courtyard, where AFP reporters saw just two private security guards on duty as a horde of journalists crowded inside with no security check. —AFP

Thai cave drama: Five rescues that defied the odds

MAE SAI: The dramatic mission to save 12 boys and their football coach from a flooded cave in Thailand captivated global attention and sparked an outpouring of joy when the young team emerged safe and sound. The Wild Boars squad, aged 11 to 16, had entered the Tham Luang cave on June 23 with their 25-year-old coach, but a sudden downpour flooded the complex and trapped them inside. Nine days later British divers found the group, dishevelled and hungry, on a ledge four kilometers (2.5 miles) from the entrance and surrounded by murky water.

A worldwide audience followed every twist and turn of the week-long operation by cave divers, survival specialists and medics as they raced against rising waters to get the boys out. The death of a retired Thai Navy SEAL underlined the difficulty of the operation. But sorrow turned to joy as the team were brought out in groups of four or five, and by Tuesday night they were recovering in hospital. Here are some other amazing rescues that also ended happily despite enormous obstacles.

French cave, 1999

On November 22, 1999, rescuers reached seven men who had been trapped in a cave system in southwest France for 10 days. The men, all experienced cavers, became trapped in the caves at Vitarelles when heavy storms caused flooding, cutting them off from the exits. The unprecedented rescue mission riveted France, with experts drilling multiple

shafts into the rock in a bid to find the men. They eventually reached them after squeezing into one of the shafts and following an underground river. The men had carefully rationed their food and still had enough water and lighting gas for two days when they were rescued. All were in good health.

Russian submarine, 2005

The seven-man crew of a Russian Priz mini-submarine were running out of air after three days trapped under water when they were finally rescued. Their submarine became entangled in marine debris on August 4, 2005, and the Russian crew was powerless to move from the position around 190 metres (625 feet) below the ocean surface. The incident immediately drew comparisons with Russia's Kursk submarine accident five years earlier, which ended in tragedy with the deaths of all 118 crew. But the Priz crew were rescued after a British undersea robot cut the vessel free. Russian President Vladimir Putin awarded medals to the British team who rescued the submarine crew and Moscow announced it would purchase several of the type of underwater robots used in the rescue.

Chilean miners, 2010

The plight of 33 men trapped in a Chilean mine 600 metres (2,000 feet) underground after a rock collapse on August 5, 2010 captured international headlines. The men had been virtually given up for dead when a probe sent down through a narrow borehole struck lucky, 17 days later. The men had been surviving on dwindling rations, with just 15 cans of tuna between them, said survivor Franklin Lobos. "We ate a teaspoon of it every 24 hours, then every 48 hours and finally we were eating a teaspoon every 72 hours. It was horrible." Even after the men were located and



MAE SAI: This handout video grab shows a rescue diver during the rescue operation for members of the 'Wild Boars' Thai youth football team inside the Tham Luang cave in Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park. —AFP

supplies were sent to them, it took weeks before rescuers were finally able to bring the miners to the surface. In all, their ordeal lasted nearly 70 days.

Miners in Peru, 2012

Nine miners, including a father and son, spent seven days trapped underground after a cave-in in southern Peru on April 7, 2012. Rescuers led the men out wrapped in blankets and wearing dark glasses to protect their eyes after so many days without sunlight. The rescue operation at the illegal mine was hampered by fears of additional collapses as rescuers dug through rock and soil. Huddled in an opening 250 metres (800 feet) underground, the men joked and exercised to pass the time and stay positive. "This moment, it's like being reborn," said one of the rescued men after a tearful reunion with his family.

German cave, 2014

More than 700 emergency personnel worked to rescue Johann Westhauser after he sustained a serious head injury deep inside a German cave system on June 8, 2014. The 52-year-old was with two other people when a rockfall caused the head injury. One made the hours-long walk back to the surface to raise the alarm, while the other stayed with Westhauser. His injury made it impossible for him to move, and rescue workers and medical professionals from five countries worked to medically evacuate him from a spot 1,000 metres (3,300 feet) below ground. His rescuers battled dangerous conditions and near-freezing temperatures as they methodically negotiated a treacherous network of tunnels and chambers, underground lakes and ice-cold waterfalls. —AFP

News in brief

India gay legislation

NEW DELHI: The Indian government yesterday signaled it would not oppose a move to decriminalize homosexuality, as the country's top court chewed over appeals to overturn a colonial-era ban. Section 377 of the penal code, a relic from 1860s British legislation, bans gay acts as "carnal intercourse against the order of nature" and allows for jail terms of up to life. The Supreme Court began hearing petitions against the ban on Tuesday, in the latest twist in a legal tussle between social and religious conservatives and more liberal Indians. Settling out New Delhi's position yesterday, senior government lawyer Tushar Mehta said Delhi would leave whether to decriminalize homosexuality "to the wisdom" of the court. The court on its part also appeared to be in favor of overhauling the archaic law, according to the NDTV news network. —AFP

Bus, tanker collide; 11 die

TEHRAN: At least 11 people died yesterday when a fuel tanker collided with a bus in western Iran, state media reported. The vehicles crashed shortly after midnight in Sanandaj, the capital of Iran's Kurdistan province, around 400 kilometers (250 miles) west of Tehran, according to state television. The IRNA news agency said four bus passengers and three passers-by were also injured in an "enormous explosion" following the collision. Local authorities have declared three days of mourning in the province, it said. While its roads are in generally good shape, Iran has a poor record on traffic safety, with accidents caused by reckless drivers killing thousands of people each year. —AFP

Ashes of Japan cult guru

TOKYO: The cremated remains of the executed guru of the Japanese doomsday cult behind a deadly 1995 sarin gas attack will be scattered at sea to avoid creating a pilgrimage site for his followers, media reported yesterday. The lawyer representing the youngest daughter of Shoko Asahara, the charismatic leader of the Aum Shinrikyo sect, announced the plan a day after she agreed to collect his ashes. The plan comes amid reports of a battle between other members of Asahara's family, including his wife, for his remains. His wife and several other children remain in an Aum successor cult. Asahara's youngest daughter, whose name has not been made public, is the only one of his children to break with it. "Asahara's ashes bear grave importance to his followers," said lawyer Taro Takimoto, according to Kyodo News. —AFP

Malaysian financier flees

HONG KONG: A financier at the centre of a massive financial scandal that helped topple Malaysia's corruption-plagued former regime is likely to have fled to China, the South China Morning Post reported yesterday. Jho Low, accused of being a key figure in the scandal surrounding sovereign wealth fund IMDB, was believed to have travelled through semi-autonomous Hong Kong and Macau before crossing into the mainland. A flamboyant playboy known for partying with Hollywood A-listers, he is a close associate of toppled prime minister Najib Razak and allegedly conspired with him to loot the investment vehicle. The Post cited a security source in Macau as saying it was "almost without doubt safe to say Low is now on the mainland. In fact, that is probably one of the reasons he came to Macau in the first place". —AFP

Analysis

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian Gulf

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

Editor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24835619
COMMERCIAL : 24835618

P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

The week Brexit got real: Britain turns pragmatic

A week ago Britain had strict red lines on Brexit, pro-EU lawmakers were "traitors" and the plan for Britain's future ties with the European Union after leaving the bloc were a jumble of platitudes and overweening ambition. Fast-forward a few days and Brexit hardliners are on the defensive, while the government is showing a willingness to compromise and outlining a more pragmatic vision for a country half-in, half-out of the European Union.

"The momentum and the situation call for ruthless realism. Dreaming of a world that had turned out differently is not enough," former Conservative leader William Hague, an influential voice in the party, wrote in *The Daily Telegraph*. Prime Minister Theresa May, who campaigned to stay in the European Union in the 2016 referendum, has tried to balance moderates and hardliners in her party ever since coming to power two years ago at a time of political upheaval.

She was forced to show humility again after calling an early general election in June last year only to lose her party's majority after a wooden performance on the campaign trail. A year later, commentators said recent events show she has firmly chosen the moderate side with a plan for Brexit, to be fully detailed today, that envisages close regulatory alignment with the EU to allow unhindered trade in goods. "Mrs May has recognized that the only pragmatic approach to decoupling from the EU is a softer version of Brexit," the *Financial Times* said in an editorial.

'A Remainer coup'

The plan has unleashed a rebellion by Brexit hardliners who fear it may prevent Britain from concluding free-trade agreements with third countries and effectively turn the country into a "vassal state" or "colony" of the EU. It prompted the resignation of Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and Brexit Minister David Davis, as well as several other Conservative Party figures, but analysts say that May has been able to face down the rebellion so far. In the pro-Conservative *Spectator* magazine, Brendan O'Neill wrote that there had been "a Remainer coup" - a reference to Johnson's replacement Jeremy Hunt, who also supported staying in the EU but says he has now changed his mind.

"Brexit will be softened, which is to say undermined: turned from a passionate cry for democratic independence into a bureaucratic exercise of pursuing slow-motion semi-divergence from the EU while actually kind of staying in," O'Neill wrote. A lot will depend on how the proposals are received in Brussels but the initial signs have been encouraging. "If the UK is able to relax some of its red lines, then the European Union should be flexible too," Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar told a session of the Irish parliament. "I think perhaps we are now entering into that space," he said.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, speaking at the Western Balkans summit in London on Tuesday, said it was a "good thing" that there was a British proposal on the table. "What we want to do now is to bring the negotiating progress forward," she said. British ministers have also sounded more conciliatory.

Pragmatists and fantasists

Justice Minister David Gauke said on Tuesday that the option of walking away from negotiations advocated by some Brexit hardliners was not "pain-free" and would have "a negative impact on our constituents, on the British public". "It's a negotiation. That requires compromise on both sides if we are to reach an agreement," he told BBC radio. Commentators have also observed a new firmness shown by May in the negotiations and her increasingly overt challenge to the "Brexiters" to try to take her down.

"May seems to have emerged stronger - at least in the short term - from Davis and Johnson's high profile resignations," said Constantine Fraser, an analyst at TS Lombard, an economic research consultancy. But Fraser warned of challenges ahead for May, particularly given the loss of parliamentary support from hardliners. "How on earth will May get that through parliament?" he asked, referring to future votes on any Brexit deal.

Steve Peers, a professor at the University of Essex, said he believed the Conservative Party had in effect split into two groups. "The pragmatists recognize that Brexit forces a trade-off between sovereignty and the economy... The fantasists deny that such a trade-off exists," he said. "The cabinet now clearly consists of the pragmatists, with the fantasists on the back benches. But time will tell if this can last," he said. — AFP



App looks to serve up gender equality

Fatima Nasser's new business had barely got off the ground when she was accused of being a foreign spy for giving women employment opportunities in Libya, her war-torn home country. The accusation was a measure of the opposition working women face in the conservative Muslim country, which has been in turmoil since a NATO-backed revolt toppled long-time leader Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. Just one in four Libyan women is employed, according to World Bank data - a situation Nasser, 21, hopes to change with a new food delivery app that allows them to earn money from their own kitchens.

"I'm just doing something to help women that I know deserve better. They need opportunities, just like males," Yasser told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. The app, Yummy, connects women who cook at home with customers wanting to order food, in much the same way as Uber connects private drivers with would-be passengers. It acts as a conduit, offering anonymity options for the cooks, and allows women to take food orders from men without having to speak to them.

"You have a society that has been closed for 100 years, you can't just open a communication gate between two genders that were not supposed to talk to each other unless they were married to do business," said Nasser. She now has 300 cooks ready to start work, having trialed the service successfully with 20 in the southern Libyan city of Sabha - among them 26-year-old Ekhlal Ekrim. Ekrim has been cooking and selling her food on Yummy for four months in Sabha, where a lack of security and ongoing fighting between rival armed groups have prevented her from going out to work to earn much-needed cash.

"Here they won't accept that women work. Here your father or brother is responsible to give you money and everything that you need as a woman in the house," said Ekrim, who lives with her parents, two brothers and two sisters, via WhatsApp. "Working with Yummy is wonderful and has made things a lot easier. The work itself is not hard, society is."

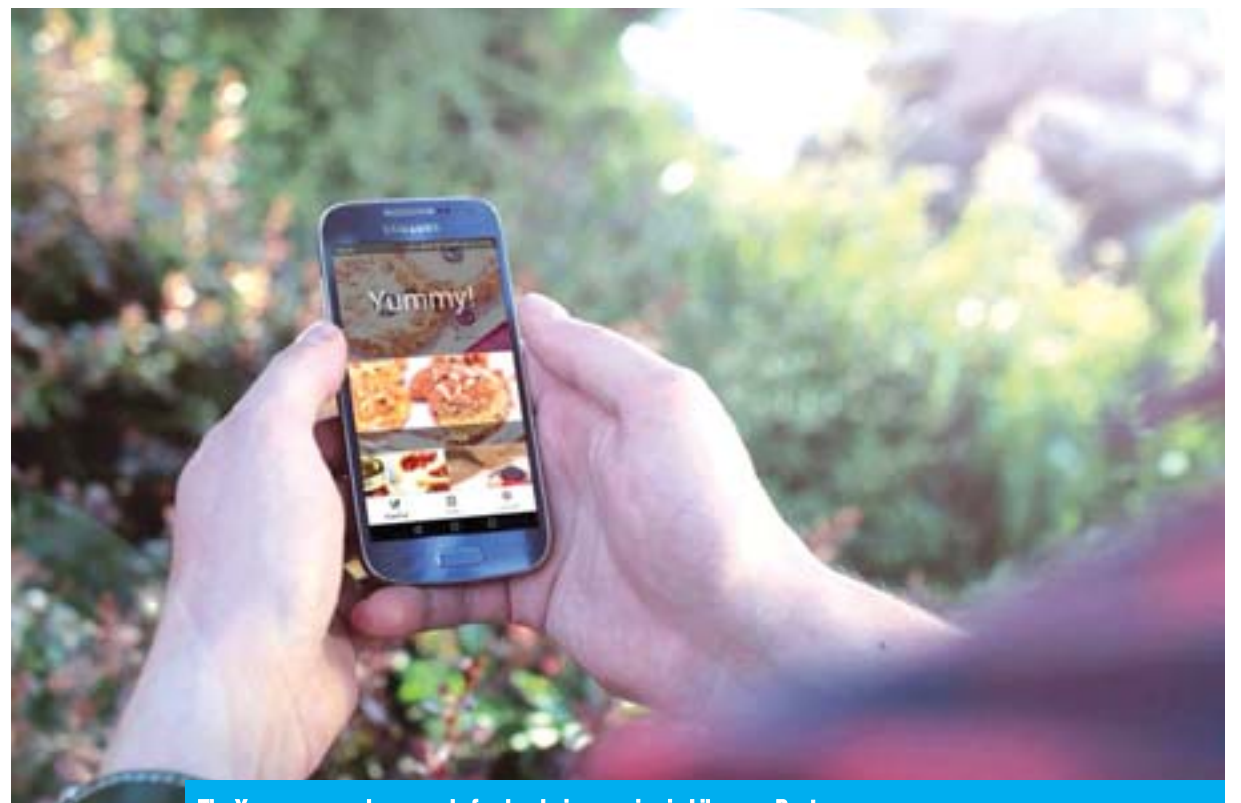
Hope for change

Oil-rich Libya was once one of the wealthiest countries in the Middle East, but its economy has been crippled by

conflict and political division. Security in many parts of the country is poor and the protracted conflict has meant more women having to earn a living as men go off to fight, says development organisation MEDA, which teaches business skills to women in Libya. "Culturally it's maybe not as appropriate for women to work outside the house. An app like that could circumnavigate some of those issues," said MEDA director Adam Brumm.

Last year Yummy was one of three winners of the nationwide Enjazi competition, which aims to encourage

entrepreneurship to help diversify Libya's oil-dependent economy. Nasser won business training and advice from the MIT Enterprise Forum of the Pan Arab Region and Tatweer Research, which support entrepreneurship in the region. The prize included a trip to Britain to meet and learn from successful entrepreneurs. "If a woman started a start-up (in Libya) she would not have the same encouragement and support that her brother had," she said. "But hopefully this will change. People are starting to believe in females more and more now." — Reuters



The Yummy app, a homemade food ordering service in Libya. — Reuters

New Togo port stokes coastal erosion fears

The fishing village of Agbekope and other seaside communities along Togo's coast have long lived with the consequences of erosion from the strong winds and waves of the Atlantic Ocean. "Several multiple-storey houses have already collapsed and our cemetery has been affected as well," said village chief Jean-Dolayi Duevi. "We have had to exhume 47 bodies and move them to the cemetery in Baguida" near the capital, Lome, he told AFP. Erosion affects coastal communities around the world but is becoming a major environmental and social problem in Togo, where some 22,000 people rely on fishing to make a living.

Relentless wind and wave action is washing away between five to 10 m of shoreline every year, according to Togo's environment ministry. But in some places, it is eating into the coast by up to 25 m. Houses have been swept into the sea and others teeter on the brink, affecting most of the tiny country's 56 km of coastline, some estimates suggest. Togo is one of six West African nations to receive \$210 million in World Bank funding to fix dunes, build seawalls and dykes. Rising tides as a result of climate change as well as human activity are blamed for the problem.

In Agbekope, locals blame the damage on the construction and expansion of the deep sea port in Lome since the late 1960s.

Others point the finger at a new nearby fishing port that has been under construction since April last year.

Disrupted sediment

The new port is expected to open in February and has been mostly funded by 14.4 billion CFA francs (\$25 million) from Japan's overseas development agency. Togo's government has contributed an additional 2.1 billion CFA francs. The 178 fishing boats using the dilapidated and overcrowded existing port will operate from the new berths, allowing them to prepare for trips, land catches and to moor more safely. It will also accommodate 300 or so people who are involved in fish product distribution.

But fishing communities fear the new port could also harm those it is supposed to help, by increasing erosion and forcing residents to move inland. "The building site of the new fishing port that is right next to our village frightens us," said Ben Vonor, 57, who lives in Agbekope. "The sea was advancing before as well but much slower. Since they started putting stones everywhere, it is progressing much faster and changes can be seen daily."

Tchamibi Bakatimbe, a project manager at Togo's environment ministry, said expansion of the deepwater port in recent years has disrupted the accumulation of sediment. The direction of water currents has changed and sand is prevented from being deposited. Instead, sediment on the beach is taken away. Local residents also contribute to coastal erosion by collecting sand and gravel to build houses as a source of income. There was no immediate comment from the authorities at the main port, which handles the bulk of Togo's international trade and is a transit hub for land-

locked neighbouring countries.

Relocation, compensation

Agbekope chief Duevi is also the coordinator for the village development committee, which has represented several seafaring communities since 2016. The body now wants the government to take steps to relocate entire villages inland and pay them compensation for the loss of their livelihoods. Some villagers - mistrustful of the government after being let down by false promises in the past - are wary of getting a response in time and are making their own arrangements.

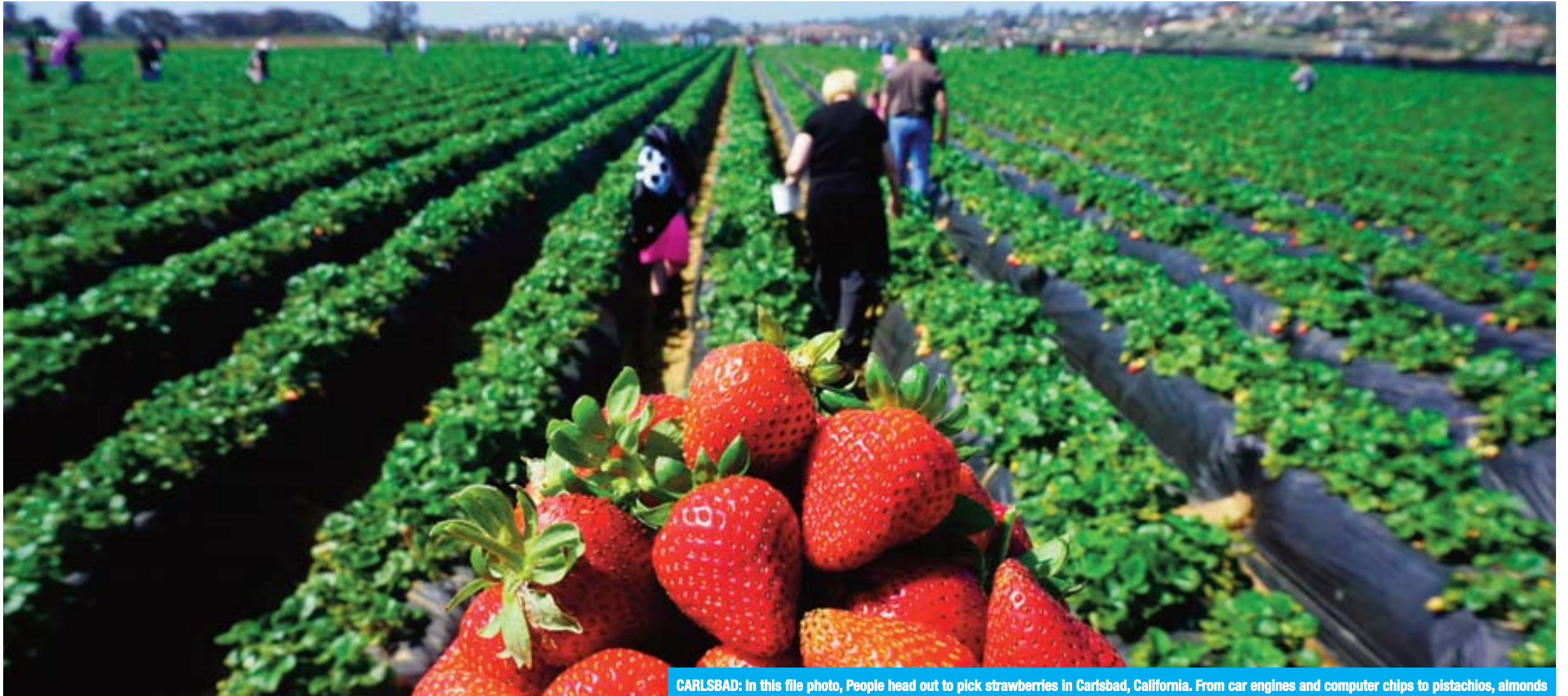
Jeremy Assogbe, a 62-year-old security guard, said: "This is the third time that I will have to move. I have been on the coast for at least 10 years... I will no longer stay on the coast this time because I have suffered too much here. It is too tough here." Others are more optimistic, hoping that once in use, the new port will allow them to catch more fish. But even then there are dangers. Fishing banks could be pushed back into the ocean, forcing fishermen to venture further from the shore, leaving them and their small wooden boats at the mercy of the powerful waves. — AFP



A picture taken in Lome, on June 2, 2018 shows huts belonging to a fishermen village near at the site of the construction of the new port. — AFP

Business

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2018

12 Kuwait GDP set to rebound to 2.5%; non-oil growth steady**14** Alghanim Industries wins Adam Smith Awards 2018 in London**15** Murdoch's Fox ups Sky bid to \$32.5bn, all eyes on Comcast

CARLSBAD: In this file photo, People head out to pick strawberries in Carlsbad, California. From car engines and computer chips to pistachios, almonds and wine: the powerful economy of California will be seriously impacted if the trade war between the United States and China deepens. — AFP

China cries foul as US threatens fresh tariffs

US to impose 10% tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods

BEIJING/WASHINGTON: China accused the United States of bullying and warned it would hit back after the Trump administration raised the stakes in their trade dispute, threatening 10 percent tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods.

China's commerce ministry said yesterday it was "shocked" and would complain to the World Trade Organization, but did not immediately say how it would retaliate. In a statement, it called the US actions "completely unacceptable". The foreign ministry described Washington's threats as "typical bullying" and said China needed to counter-attack to protect its interests.

"This is a fight between unilateralism and multilateralism, protectionism and free trade, might and rules," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular briefing yesterday. Beijing has said it would hit back against Washington's escalating tariff measures, including through "qualitative measures," a threat that US businesses in China fear could mean anything from stepped-up inspections to delays in investment approvals and even consumer boycotts.

China could also limit visits to the United States by Chinese tourists, a business state media said is worth \$115 billion, or shed some of its US Treasury holdings, Iris Pang, Greater China economist at ING in Hong Kong, wrote in a note. The \$200 billion far exceeds the total value of goods China imports from the United States, which means Beijing may need to think of creative ways to respond to such US measures. On Tuesday, US officials issued a list of thousands of Chinese imports the Trump administration wants to hit with the new tariffs, including hundreds of food products as well as tobacco, chemicals, coal, steel and aluminum, prompting criticism from some US industry groups.

It also includes consumer goods ranging from car tires, furniture, wood products, handbags and suitcases, to dog and cat food, baseball gloves, carpets, doors, bicycles, skis, golf bags, toilet paper and beauty products. "For over a year, the Trump administration has patiently urged China to stop its unfair practices, open its market, and engage in true market competition," US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said in announcing the proposed tariffs.

"Rather than address our legitimate concerns, China has begun to retaliate against US products ... There is no justification for such action," he said in a statement.

Last week, Washington imposed 25 percent tariffs on \$34 billion of Chinese imports, and Beijing responded immediately with matching tariffs on the same amount of US exports to China. Each side is planning tariffs on a further \$16 billion in goods that would bring the totals to \$50 billion.

Stocks fell and metals prices slumped to their lowest in a year yesterday, as US threats of tariffs on an additional \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods pushed the world's two biggest economies ever closer to a full-scale trade war. The detailing overnight of US President Donald Trump's already-threatened 10-percent tariffs dampened hopes that Washington will eventually step back from the escalating row.

The clock now starts ticking on a two-month period of

public comment before the levies get imposed. Trump has said he may ultimately target more than \$500 billion worth of Chinese goods - roughly the total amount of US imports from China last year.

Inevitably, Shanghai markets were hardest hit, with stocks there closing down almost 2 percent and the yuan weakening towards last week's 11-month lows.

Trump has said he may ultimately impose tariffs on more than \$500 billion worth of Chinese goods - roughly the total amount of US imports from China last year. The new list published on Tuesday targets many more consumer goods than those covered under the tariffs imposed last week, raising the direct threat to consumers and retail firms and increasing the stakes for lawmakers in Trump's Republican party facing elections in November. The list is subject to a two-month public comment period before taking effect.

'Tariffs are taxes'

Some US business groups and lawmakers from Trump's own Republican Party were critical of the escalating tariffs. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch said the announcement "appears reckless and is not a targeted approach." The US Chamber of Commerce has supported Trump's domestic tax cuts and efforts to reduce regulation of businesses, but does not back Trump's aggressive tariff

policies. "Tariffs are taxes, plain and simple. Imposing taxes on another \$200 billion worth of products will raise the costs of every day goods for American families, farmers, ranchers, workers, and job creators. It will also result in retaliatory tariffs, further hurting American workers," a Chamber spokeswoman said.

Louis Kuijs, Hong Kong-based Head of Asia Economics at Oxford Economics, said while he expects China to strongly condemn the US moves, its policy response is likely to be limited for now.

"In part because they have only limited ammunition and in part because it's still early in the process on the US side," Kuijs said, Trump has been following through on pledges he made during his presidential campaign to get tough on China, which he accuses of unfair trade practices including theft of intellectual property and forced technology transfer that have led to a \$375 billion US trade deficit with China.

China's exports have mushroomed since it joined the World Trade Organization in 2001, making it the world's second-largest economy and prompting widening criticism in recent years from trading partners that it has unfairly used global trade rules to its advantage. As its dispute with Washington deepened, Beijing has been calling on other countries to support global free trade and has talked up efforts to ease investment rules. During a visit to Germany this week by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, the countries signed business deals worth more than \$23 billion.

"China stands in line with the international community on the correct side of history to together protect the rules of the multilateral trade order," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua said yesterday. — Reuters

MSCI representatives meet Boursa Kuwait during their local tour

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait management met with MSCI representatives during their visit to Kuwait to engage with several key entities. The meeting took place after MSCI's recent announcement to include the MSCI Kuwait Index in its 2019 Annual Market Classification Review for a potential reclassification from Frontier Markets to Emerging Markets status.

Organized by Boursa Kuwait, MSCI's visit aims at discussing the potential reclassification with the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS), the Central Bank of Kuwait, Kuwait Investment Authority, Capital Markets Authority and Kuwait Clearing Company.

During the meeting with Boursa Kuwait, MSCI officials Henry Fernandez, MSCI Chairman and CEO; and Robert Ansari, MSCI Executive Director-Head of the Middle East met with Khaled AbdulRazzaq Al-Khaled, Boursa Kuwait CEO, to discuss the proposed reclassifi-



MSCI Chairman and CEO Henry Fernandez



Khaled AbdulRazzaq Al-Khaled

cation, which would be reflected in all relevant global and regional composite indexes.

MSCI's Chairman and CEO Henry Fernandez commented in Kuwait: "we are pleased to announce the addition of MSCI Kuwait to the

watch list for potential reclassification to MSCI Emerging Markets. International institutional investors have continued to share positive feedback with MSCI on the reforms and evolution of the Kuwaiti capital markets framework. Adding MSCI Kuwait to the watch-list sets MSCI on a path to solicit detailed feedback over the course of next year and we look forward to forging strong ties with Kuwait as we share investor feedback on the country's ambitious program."

Commenting on the visit, Boursa Kuwait CEO Khaled AbdulRazzaq Al-Khaled said: "It was great meeting MSCI representative post the announcement unveiled earlier in June. Meetings were fruitful and we look forward to next steps when MSCI consults market participants on the proposed reclassification of the MSCI Kuwait Index."

Raising the standard

"The inclusion in the watch list shows that we have successfully raised the standards of the Kuwaiti capital market and gained stakeholders' trust in our rules and regulations. With a progressive legal and regulatory framework governing our market today as well as a solid level of transparency, I am proud to say that we are up to par with some of the most reputable and advanced stock exchanges in the



KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait management meets with MSCI representatives during their visit to Kuwait.

region. We have also continuously improved the local market infrastructure, including the clearing and settlement system, and created a level playing field for international investors," added Al Khaled.

MSCI will announce its decision in June 2019 for potential implementation with the May 2020 Semi-Annual Index Review. The simulated MSCI Kuwait index would have a

potential weight of 0.3 percent in the MSCI Emerging markets index.

MSCI is one of the world's top providers of research-driven insights and tools for institutional investors. The reclassification from frontier to emerging markets is a major achievement for any country which typically brings with it large capital inflows from international investors.

Business

India cuts Iranian oil imports in June ahead of US sanctions

US, Indian officials to meet next week in New Delhi

NEW DELHI: Indian refiners cut imports of Iranian oil last month as they started weaning their plants off crude from the country to avoid sanctions by the United States that are set to take effect in November. India's monthly oil imports from Iran declined to 592,800 barrels per day (bpd) in June, down 16 percent from May, according to data from industry and shipping sources.

The United States in May said it would reimpose the sanctions after withdrawing from a 2015 agreement with Iran, Russia, China, France, Germany, and Britain, where Tehran agreed to curb its nuclear activities in return for the lifting of earlier sanctions. The government of India, Iran's top oil client after China, asked refiners last month to prepare for drastic reductions or even zero Iranian oil imports. The first set of sanctions will take effect on Aug. 6 and the rest, notably in the petroleum sector, following a 180-day "wind-down period" ending on Nov. 4. US officials said in June they would push countries to reduce their Iranian oil imports to zero. The

Indian refiners will want to comply with the limits to maintain their access to the US financial system.

"Trump administration will push for zero crude, condensate and products exports from Iran," said Sri Paravaikkarasu, Head of East of Suez Oil at energy consultancy FGE. "The zero tolerance policy and the pace with which it is moving no doubt concerns Iran's current crude buyers."

Overall, India's oil imports in June rose 10.1 percent from a year ago to 4.82 million bpd, the data showed. Overall purchases climbed on a higher intake of crude from Mexico, the United States and Azerbaijan. Imports from other Middle East suppliers also increased.

Lower purchases by private refiners dragged down India's

June imports from Iran although state refiners stepped up purchases. Sources told Reuters last month that private refiners Nayara Energy and Reliance Industries Ltd plan to halt Iranian oil imports. The two firms significantly cut their imports from Iran in June. HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd continued to skip Iran oil imports for a second month in June, the data showed. State refiners, accounting for about 60 percent of India's nearly 5 million bpd of refining capacity, lifted 10 percent more Iranian volumes in June compared to May, at about 454,000 bpd, the data from the sources showed. The

sources declined to be identified since they are not authorized to speak to the media. On a yearly basis, India's imports from Iran were 19.5 per-

cent higher, the data showed. Indian state refiners had cut Iranian oil imports in the 2017/18 financial year because of a dispute over the development rights for an Iranian natural gas field. However, the state refiners raised their imports in the current fiscal year starting in April after Iran offered free shipping and an extended credit period of 60 days.

For the first six months of 2018, India's Iranian oil imports increased by 8.4 percent to 585,000 bpd.

In April to June 2018, the first quarter of this fiscal year, India's oil imports from Iran rose by about 24 percent from the previous quarter to about 647,000 bpd, the data showed. Imports by state refiners during the period more than doubled to about 413,400 bpd from 191,700 bpd, the data showed. Indian refiners will likely gain more clarity on how much the United States would like them to cut after a meeting with US officials scheduled for July 16 to 17, said an official with a state-run refiner who declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the matter. — Reuters



Private refiners cut imports, state firms buy more



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

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

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

Taking into consideration some of the best performance models in Kuwait, the Q30 that starts at a leasing amount of only KD 149 per month is Infiniti's signature design, a premium compact vehicle that is popular among the younger drivers. Q30 comes with a double-arch grille with a unique 3D mesh and is powered by 1.6L or 2.0L Turbo engines in a 2WD configuration. For enthusiasts, the 2.0L Turbo is also offered with an optional AWD drivetrain. The 2.0L Turbo engine is a power-horse as it delivers 208hp and 350Nm torque while at peak performance, the INFINITI Q30 goes from 0-to-100kph in 7.3 seconds.

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

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

Al-Babtain Group was founded in 1948 to present a model of honesty, integrity and total dedication and to gain bright reputation in Kuwait and the Middle East area. Today Al-Babtain Group has licensing rights for some of the world's leading brands stretching the globe from the USA to the Far East. For 70 years Al-Babtain Group has experienced continued success, and large measure of this success came from the Group's advanced flexible management style and long term vision. These astounding results were achieved due to a versatile strategic formula focusing on growth amongst its sphere of activities; including automotive, technology, investment, information, industrial and Finance. The automotive sector is the main structure of the Al-Babtain Group's business, which owns some of the best-selling and demanded brands in Kuwait, in addition to heavy equipments. The Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co and Trading and Contracting Company is proud to be the authorized agent and distributor of many Japanese, Chinese, and European (French) vehicles in Kuwait such as Nissan, Infiniti, Renault, Citroen.

Libya resumes oil exports from key eastern ports

TRIPOLI: Libya is resuming oil exports from its eastern production heartland, its National Oil Corporation said yesterday after a showdown between the war-torn country's rival authorities. The internationally recognized NOC was handed back control of four terminals in the oil crescent yesterday morning, it said in a statement, adding that "production and export operations will return to normal levels within the next few hours".

The disruption had underscored the continued turmoil in Libya, which has been wracked by chaos since the 2011 NATO-backed uprising that toppled and killed long-time dictator Muammar Gaddafi, with two rival authorities vying for control.

Exports from all four of the eastern ports had been suspended after military strongman Khalifa Haftar's self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA) regained full control of the region from a rival militia in June.

The move added to supply worries on world markets at a time of rising crude oil prices. The NOC had declared force majeure on oil loadings at the ports, a legal measure that frees parties to a contract from their obligations due to circumstances beyond their control.

But yesterday it announced "the lifting of force majeure" at the Al-Hariga, Zweisina, Ras



A general view shows an oil refinery in Libya's northern town of Ras Lanuf yesterday. — AFP

Lanuf and Al-Sidra ports, which are conduits for much of the crude, gas and petrochemical sales that form the lifeblood of Libya's economy. The NOC said in early July that the crisis had slashed crude production by over four fifths and cut the country's heavily oil-dependent public revenues by some \$67.4 million (57.9 million euro) per day.

Haftar's LNA recaptured Ras Lanuf and Al-Sidra in June after they were attacked and briefly seized by armed groups led by militia leader Ibrahim Jadhra, who had controlled them from 2011 to 2016.

Haftar's forces said they would hand the installations and their revenues to an eastern administration that rivals the United Nations-

backed Government of National Accord (GNA) in the capital.

But the GNA urged the UN to block any "illegal" oil exports, and the NOC in Tripoli said it was the "only recognized Libyan entity" responsible for oil production and exports.

The clashes had forced the NOC to suspend operations at Ras Lanuf and Al-Sidra in mid-June, and early this month it declared force majeure on the ports of Zweisina and Al-Hariga after accusing the LNA of imposing a blockade. But it said yesterday the facilities had been handed back to its control, and added that its board "commended (Haftar's forces) for putting the national interest first". — AFP

Services and motor vehicles lift US producer prices in June

WASHINGTON: US producer prices increased slightly more than expected in June amid gains in the cost of services and motor vehicles, leading to the biggest annual increase in 6-1/2 years. The report published by the Labor Department yesterday also showed a pickup in underlying producer inflation last month. The data supports views of steadily rising price pressures, which will probably allow the Federal Reserve to increase interest rates two more times this year.

The producer price index for final demand

climbed 0.3 percent last month after rising 0.5 percent in May. In the 12 months through June, the PPI advanced 3.4 percent, the largest gain since November 2011. Producer prices increased 3.1 percent year-on-year in May. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the PPI gaining 0.2 percent in June and rising 3.2 percent year-on-year. A key gauge of underlying producer price pressures that excludes food, energy and trade services rose 0.3 percent last month. The so-called core PPI edged up 0.1 percent in May.

In the 12 months through June, the core PPI advanced 2.7 percent after increasing 2.6 percent in May. Manufacturers have been facing a rise in the cost of inputs, but so far have not passed on most of the increases to consumers.

Inflation is gradually rising against the backdrop of a labor market that is viewed as being near or at full employment.

The Fed's preferred inflation measure, the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index excluding food and energy, hit the US central bank's 2 percent target in May for the first time in six years. The Fed raised interest rates in June for the second time this year and has forecast two more rate hikes by the end of 2018. US financial markets were little moved by the data. — Reuters

Kuwait Times

Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call:
+965 248 35 616 / 617
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
ads@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

15-R006

Hot Summer DEALS

- Intel Celeron
- 4GB RAM
- 500GB
- 15.6" Display

15-B5008-15

84

دين

99

قبل

وفر 15

- Intel Core i5-7200U
- 4GB RAM + 1TB Storage
- 2GB Dedicated Graphics
- 15.6" Display

15-BS129-17

149

دين

179

قبل

وفر 29

- Intel Core i7
- 16GB RAM - 2TB Storage
- 4GB Dedicated Graphics
- 15.6" HD Display

15-BS129-17

249

دين

299

قبل

وفر 49

- Intel Core i7
- 16GB RAM - 2TB Storage
- 4GB Dedicated Graphics
- 15.6" HD Display

بيت
AL-YOUSIFI

• Kuwait 1 (the New str.) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Kuwait 3 (Souq Sharq) • Hawalli 1 (Tunis str.) • Hawalli 2 (Bin Khalid str.) • Shuwaikh (4th Ring road) • Al-Rai (4th Ring road) • Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) • Farwaniya (Behind police Station) • Fahsheel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op.) • Airport (Departure Hall)

Shop Online www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809

Business

Alghanim Industries wins Adam Smith Awards 2018 in London

Recognized for its payment process excellence project

KUWAIT: Alghanim Industries, one of the largest privately owned companies in the region, was recently recognized at the Adam Smith Awards 2018 on June 21. The awarding ceremony, which took place in the prestigious Plaisters' Hall in London, included representatives of more than 60 companies from 35 countries around the world.

Representing Alghanim Industries, Richard Quinlan, Corporate Controller, Sonal Gupta, Head of International Accounts and Pramod Bhattiprolu, Senior Manager, Corporate Treasury received the award for the Best in Class Treasury Solution in the Middle East category, for completing the Payment Process Excellence project. Launched and completed within 12 months without compromising workflow, the Payment Process Excellence Project unifies transactions in Alghanim Industries' 300+ bank accounts, spread across more than 20 business units, with a new system. The new system centralizes all payments securely across different business units of Alghanim Industries, working integrally with built-in systems.

This new wide-reaching solution is in line with Alghanim Industries' ongoing efforts to enhance corporate finance and funding, risk management, governance, and cash management across all its businesses and bank accounts. Having the new system in place automates processes and creates an easier workflow,

improving financial visibility and increasing security throughout the transaction process: in essence, implementing the Payment Process Excellence Project has allowed the company to improve its infrastructure in ways that are groundbreaking to the local market.

Robert Etman, Chief Support Services and Chief Financial Officer at Alghanim Industries, said: "We are very happy to be receiving the prestigious Adam Smith 'Best-in-Class' Treasury Solution Award. This award is another wonderful achievement and a true testament to the professional skills of our Treasury team at Alghanim Industries. We will continue to pursue the best practices and strive for excellence in the future to ensure delivering the best products and services to our various segments of customers."

The award is yet another testament to Alghanim Industries' long record of accomplishments over the past years. Last year, the company was awarded the 2017 Corporate Treasury Team of the Year Award from the Association of Corporate Treasurers (ACT). Treasury Today's Adam Smith Awards were first introduced 11 years ago, with the aim to highlight the best of corporate treasury achievement of Treasurers, CFOs and Finance Directors. This year's edition saw hundreds of submissions from 35 countries from around the world competing in 18 categories.



Alghanim Industries representatives during the Adam Smith Awards ceremony

NBK customers first to use 'SelfiePay' for online shopping in Mideast, Africa

KUWAIT: The first in the Middle East and Africa regions, the National Bank of Kuwait launched the NBK Mastercard ID Check- "SelfiePay", exclusively enabling its customers to easily and safely authenticate and complete transactions online by using face recognition or fingerprint.

The new authentication solution comes as part of NBK's continued commitment to offer customers the most advanced technologies and solutions to enhance their banking experience and follow suit with their fast-paced lives. The service is provided to holders of NBK Mastercard Credit Cards and is available for free.

"NBK endeavors to deliver an innovative and safe banking experience to customers with the introduction of the revolutionary authentication solution in partnership with the globally-renowned payment provider Mastercard," explained Mohammed Al-Othman, General Manager of Consumer Banking Group, National Bank of Kuwait. "Our customers are the first to experience the innovative solution in the Middle East



and Africa regions, once again giving them more advanced solutions to satisfy their everyday needs."

NBK SelfiePay is available through the 'Mastercard ID Check for NBK' app available on both the Apple Store and Google Play Store. Customers should visit NBK Online banking first to register for the service, and after downloading the app, they can securely reg-

ister their biometrics, either their face recognition or fingerprint, on their personal smartphone. Once registered, customers will receive a notification through the app prompting them to authenticate their identity using their preferred choice of biometrics to complete every purchase or transaction they make online.

Customers can visit nbk.com/tutorials to watch the tutorial video and get a step-by-step guide on how to activate NBK SelfiePay.

Al-Othman concluded "We are focused on providing a unique banking experience based on trust and convenience at par with international standards and advancements. As we look forward to introduce new technological solutions, the NBK SelfiePay is another milestone in our continuous effort to respond to our customers need, allowing them to enjoy the ease of technological advancements."

NBK is the leading bank in Kuwait to launch the SelfiePay and endeavors to introduce the latest innovative products and technologies to ensure clients enjoy a safe, easy and convenient banking experience that suits their lifestyle and needs.



Mohammed Al-Othman

Global proposes KD 7.5m cash distribution to shareholders



KUWAIT: Global Investment House ("Global" or the "Company"), a regional asset management and investment banking firm headquartered in Kuwait, with offices in major capital markets in the MENA region, announced the resolution of the board of directors' meeting held yesterday.

In backdrop of continued profitability in the past five years, accompanied with a conservative asset allocation, high levels of cash and other liquid assets on the balance sheet, the board of directors has proposed a KD 7.5 million cash distribution to shareholders by capital reduction. The BoD's proposal is subject to the regulatory and shareholders' approval in the extra-ordinary general assembly of the shareholders. The capital reduction will be implemented by cancelling 75 million shares and shareholders will be paid KD 0.100 cash for each share cancelled. The share cancellation will be applied pro-rata to the holdings of all shareholders excluding the treasury shares. On conclusion of the capital reduction, the authorized, issued and fully paid share capital of the Parent Company will be reduced to KD 49.5 million. Following the distributions, the Company will have adequate capital and liquidity to fund its core fee business.

The Board of Directors also approved the resignation of Maha Al-Ghunaim and Bader Al-Sumait from their membership in the Board, thanking them for their active contribution and added value. In addition, Abdul wahab Al-Halabi was elected as Vice Chairman and Sulaiman Mohammed Al-Rubaie was named as Interim CEO.

Select flydubai flights to operate from Terminal 3, Dubai International

KUWAIT: Dubai-based carrier flydubai has announced yesterday that flights to 10 of its destinations will move from its current operating base of Terminal 2 and relocate to Terminal 3 at Dubai International (DXB). Other services will continue to operate from Terminal 2, Dubai International (DXB) and Dubai World Central (DWC).

This next step follows earlier announcements regarding the innovative partnership with Emirates, which goes beyond code-sharing to a number of initiatives spanning commercial, network planning, airport operations, the alignment of the frequent flyer programs and an enhanced customer journey.

Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al-Maktoum, Chairman of flydubai, said: "last July, we announced the extensive codeshare partnership which has seen Emirates and flydubai work closely together to offer customers



unmatched opportunities to travel. As part of this next phase flights to 10 flydubai destinations will operate from Terminal 3 optimizing connectivity for their passengers from the world's busiest airport."

From 02 December 2018, flights to Belgrade, Bishkek, Bucharest, Catania, Dushanbe, Helsinki, Krakow, Prague, Rostov-on-Don and Salalah will operate from Terminal 3, Dubai International. Flights to these destinations before 02 December will continue to operate from Terminal 2.

Passengers booked to travel to these destinations will be able to check-in for their flight at the Business Class and Economy Class desks in the departures area

of Terminal 3. Business Class passengers will be able to use fast track on the ground and enjoy other Business Class services, whilst transiting passengers will have a smooth and quick transit time.

Destinations have been chosen to help improve the connection between Emirates and flydubai. Further flights operating from Terminal 3 will be added in the summer schedule in 2019.

Passengers who have booked to travel to these destinations from this period will receive communications from flydubai in advance of their date of travel informing them of the change in flight number and terminal.

US says 'reckoning' over China trade is too big for WTO

GENEVA: A "reckoning" over China's unfair trade policies is urgent and is too big for the World Trade Organization to handle, US ambassador Dennis Shea told a WTO meeting yesterday.

Washington has raised the stakes in its trade dispute with Beijing, threatening 10 percent tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods. In response, Beijing accused the United States yesterday of bullying and said it would complain to the WTO. However, Shea said the Geneva-based WTO was not the place to settle the row. "Given China's very large and growing role in international trade, and the serious harm that China's state-led, mercantilist approach to trade and investment causes to China's trading partners, this reckoning can no longer be put off," he said.

"It is clear, moreover, that the WTO currently does not offer all of the tools necessary to remedy this situation," Shea told the two-yearly WTO review of China's trade policies.

Under President Donald Trump, the United States has demanded that the WTO's dispute system is changed to stop the United States getting what he regards as an "unfair deal". To back up his demands, Trump has blocked appointments to the WTO's appeals chamber to replace judges as their terms

expire. Unless he relents, the world's trade dispute system will be unable to operate by the end of 2019 or sooner. Trump has also made a veiled threat to leave the WTO.

Vice Commerce Minister Wang Shouwen defended China's record at the meeting, and acknowledged the severe challenges facing the WTO, according to a Geneva trade official.

Speaking before Shea, he called on all WTO members to stand up to bullying, protectionism and unilateralism, and called on them to tackle the systemic threats posed by Trump's tariffs on steel, aluminium and cars, as well as his tariffs directed solely at China.

Shea said the Chinese state's role in the economy had increased. Foreign firms doing business in China or competing with Chinese rivals faced deeper and broader obstacles, he said, adding that Beijing was providing "massive, market-distorting subsidies" and "skewing the playing field... in myriad ways".

The WTO's dispute system focused narrowly on specific policies, and could not deal with a broader situation where state-led policies prevailed over market forces. New WTO rules were unlikely to be negotiated to deal with the situation, and would in any case take too long.

"The best solution is for China finally to take the initiative to fully and effectively embrace open, market-oriented policies," he said. Many other WTO members addressed the meeting, mostly acknowledging China's efforts to modernize its policies and urging it to continue. Some, such as Japan, Canada, the European Union and Switzerland, aired concerns such as cybersecurity, excess capacity and the state's role in the economy. —Reuters

Brexit to create 3,500 finance jobs in Paris: Group

PARIS: Britain's moves towards exiting the European Union are already expected to create some 3,500 finance and banking jobs in Paris as leading players in the sector move their operations out of London, an industry group said yesterday.

The figure "is much higher than the direct job transfers to other European financial capitals," Gerard Mestrallet, president of the lobby group Paris Europlace, said at the opening of the group's annual conference.

The US asset management giant Blackrock and the bank Citigroup are among the companies planning to move some activities to Paris, according to British

media reports. On top of an estimated 3,500 jobs seen as likely so far, the transfers could generate an additional 20,000 indirect jobs in the French capital, said Mestrallet. He attributed the shifts to Paris to labor law overhauls and other measures taken by President Emmanuel Macron, a former Rothschild investment banker who is pushing to make France more attractive to foreign investors.

"We've made more progress in the past two years in Paris than over the previous 13 years," he said, citing in particular the end of a wealth tax on financial assets and a new flat tax on capital income, including dividends and interest payouts. London has long been Europe's top financial centre, and analysts have predicted a wave of job transfers to the continent by banks and insurance companies as Britain prepares to leave the union in March 2019.

Leading companies in other sectors have also warned they might move operations out of the country, including Airbus, BMW and Siemens. Paris has several rivals for the post-Brexit business, including Frankfurt, Amsterdam and Dublin. —AFP

Technology

Murdoch's Fox ups Sky bid to \$32.5bn, all eyes on Comcast

Investors expect Comcast to counter offer

LONDON: Rupert Murdoch's 21st Century Fox has raised its offer for Britain's Sky in an agreed deal valuing the pay-TV group at \$32.5 billion, seeing off rival bidder Comcast for now.

Fox, which has been trying to buy the pan-European group since December 2016, offered to pay 14 pounds per share, a 12 percent premium to Comcast's offer, but below the 15.00 pounds Sky shares were trading at yesterday.

Analysts said the bid threw down the gauntlet for Comcast, the world's biggest entertainment company, to return with a higher offer. The US cable group gatecrashed Murdoch's attempt to buy the 61 percent of Sky his group did not already own in February, when Fox was still firmly stuck in the regulatory process. One top-40 Sky shareholder said they expected Comcast to come back with a counter bid for Sky.

"The end price really depends on the appetite of those companies and how much they are willing to take their leverage up and at what stage their shareholders say enough is enough," the shareholder, who did not wish to be identified, said. The fight for Britain's leading pay-TV group is part of a bigger battle being waged in the entertainment industry as the world's media giants offer tens of billions of dollars in deals to be able to compete with Netflix and Amazon.

Comcast and Walt Disney are locked in a separate \$70 billion-plus battle to buy most of Fox's assets, which would include Sky. Disney secured conditional US approval to buy the assets last month, giving it an edge over Comcast's bid.

Hong Kong-based hedge fund Case Equity

Partners, a Sky investor, said the fact Disney was in a slightly more favorable position for Fox's US media assets meant Comcast would fight even harder to get Sky. "Today's Fox bid is unlikely to be the end game as we see a final Sky deal outcome at well over 15 pounds per share," said managing partner Michael Wegener. Comcast declined to comment on Fox's new offer.

Gilbert welcomed the move. "This offer reflects the strong position the business is in and is an attractive premium for shareholders," he said.

However, British regulators have indicated that if Disney succeeds in buying Fox, including the 39 percent stake in Sky, it would be required to offer the same price for the remainder of Sky. According to some shareholders, that has set an implied higher floor for Sky's shares.

Hedge funds including Elliott have bought into Sky in recent months and other vocal shareholders such as Crispin Odey have demanded that the independent directors secure a better deal.

"It's too low," Odey, a former son-in-law of Murdoch whose eponymous hedge fund is a Sky shareholder, said of the sweetened Fox offer.

"Disney's internal forecasts now, on the basis of the cash flows they've published for Sky, would value it at 16 pounds," he said. Investors argue that Sky's continued strong trading performance, and its deal this year to secure the rights to English Premier League football at a lower than expected price, meant it warranted a higher offer.

Fox said the performance of Sky since 2016 justified its new bid. Analysts said it was not a knock-out, and Fox did not say it was its final offer. "Fox coming back in for Sky isn't a surprise in itself, but the fact the offer is slightly behind what some had anticipated brings another twist," said George Salmon, equity analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown. The British government is expected to finally allow Fox to buy Sky this week, after the US group agreed to sell Sky's



Fox agrees 14 pounds per share deal

Prime time drama

Present in 23 million homes across Europe, Sky is a prized asset, with a direct relationship with its customers and a slate of top sport and original drama content. "This transformative transaction will position Sky so that it can continue to compete within an environment that now includes some of the largest companies in the world," Fox said. Its offer represents an 82 percent premium to Sky's shares in 2016 before the takeover drama started, and a multiple of 21 times 2017 earnings per share. Sky's senior independent director Martin



SUN VALLEY, ID: (Left - right) Rupert Murdoch, chairman of News Corp and co-chairman of 21st Century Fox, and Jerry Hall arrive at the Sun Valley Resort of the annual Allen & Company Sun Valley Conference on Tuesday in Sun Valley, Idaho. — AFP

award-winning news channel to prevent Murdoch from owning too much of the British media. Fox, run by Rupert's son James who is also the chairman of Sky, has made a string of guarantees to help secure backing for its deal, including investment in British TV production, technology and the protection for Sky News. Murdoch had previously tried and failed

to buy Sky in 2011 when a phone hacking scandal at his News of the World tabloid sparked a political backlash over his role in Britain. The opposition has not completely subsided despite the plan to spin off Sky News.

"There are enough sub-plots in the race to acquire Sky to commission a prime-time drama," Salmon said. — Reuters

UK watchdog warns financial firms over Big Data

LONDON: Britain's banks and insurers must take the lead in spelling out how they will use data collected from customers or they could face new rules, Financial Conduct Authority Chair Charles Randall said yesterday.

Financial firms have been using Big Data on customers, which can include social media use, for example to price motor or health insurance more accurately. But the trend has worried regulators and consumer groups. The use of Big Data requires good communication so that consumers understand and accept a firm's approach to using their data and don't end up being "disenfranchised", Randall said.

"By good communication, I don't mean pages and pages of obscure disclosures, disclaimers and consents. I mean short and readable statements which make it clear what firms will and won't do with their customers' data," Randall told a Reuters Newsmaker event.

"These need to be developed with consumers, not imposed on them," Randall said in his first major speech since becoming chair of the FCA in April. "A number of firms do this already but many do not. Should all businesses have a data charter? Should these be developed through voluntary codes of practice? Will the industry take the lead or should they be a regulatory requirement?"

Any regulation would aim not to be too prescriptive given the pace of technological change,

Randell said in answer to a question. "I don't see this as an area where a 13-foot-high rule book would be your best approach."

"Robust procedures"

Matt Cullen, head of strategy, data and analytics at the Association of British Insurers, said that while Big Data could bring benefits for customers, "we're also aware that the issues it raises need to be carefully considered". He added that insurers would "always have robust procedures in place".

In September 2016, the FCA dropped plans for a formal review of whether Big Data might make it harder or more expensive for some customers to buy a car or home insurance, but said it would look at the risk of some customers being excluded. Randall said the power of Big Data corporations and their central place in providing services that are now essential in everyday lives raise significant questions about the adequacy of global frameworks for competition and regulation.

Britain's information regulator said yesterday it intends to fine Facebook 500,000 pounds (\$663,550), the maximum possible, for breaches of data protection law as the watchdog investigates how millions of users' data was improperly accessed by consultancy Cambridge Analytica. "The ordinary consumer may in practice have no choice in whether to deal with these corporations on terms which are non-negotiable and are often too general to be well understood. And without access to the data which consumers have signed - or clicked - away, new businesses may find it very difficult to compete," Randall said.

"If you add all these factors together, they call into question the adequacy of the traditional liberal approach to the relationship between financial services firms and their customers. And regulation is central because it will help define whether AI and Big Data liberate customers, or disenfranchise them." — Reuters

Du collaborates with Cisco to drive transformation journey

DUBAI: Du, from Emirates Integrated Telecommunications Company (EITC), in collaboration with Cisco, yesterday unveiled a white paper outlining its transformational journey towards becoming an 'ICT service provider' by 2021. Titled 'EITC Infrastructure Outlook 2021', the white paper sets the framework for the company's digital transformation in terms of technology adoption, transition to digital services, as well as customer centricity and uniformity of experience. It describes how adopting a software-defined approach will help du deliver innovative services, ensuring its longer-term success, in line with supporting the UAE Vision 2021 strategy.

"As du drives its transformation agenda to spur expansion into new growth areas, we have been working diligently towards bringing next generation technologies such as 5G, IoT, AI, and blockchain into our network," said Saleem AlBlooshi, Chief Infrastructure Officer, EITC. "We are collaborating with Cisco to map out how we will power a new breed of solutions and services for our customers over the coming five years, and are excited about the opportunities this will bring to the UAE's ICT ecosystem."

Du's key strategic pillars in driving change include a seamless customer experience across channels, innovative services and solutions, and agility in operations, with an underlying element of continuous innovation behind each pillar. As a leading technology provider, Cisco provides the foundation for digital transformation through its comprehensive product and services portfolio and digital solutions that

bring together connectivity, security, automation, and analytics. "The ongoing transformation of our industry merges with the pace of technology innovation to create a data-driven economy and an environment where business models thrive in collaborative ecosystems. This makes it imperative for us to transform not only our technology infrastructure, but also the way we operate so as to embrace the agility required by the new economic order. We are excited about our transformational journey as outlined through our new whitepaper," AlBlooshi added.

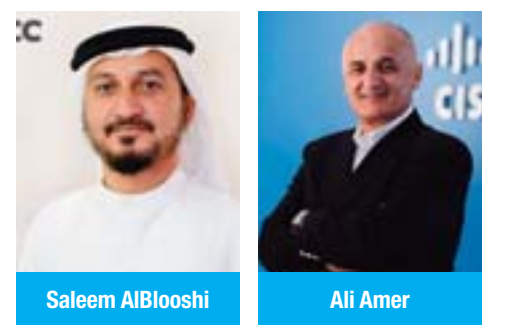
"Continuously evolving digital technologies and digital user experiences are raising the bar for telecom service providers like du to transform themselves into ICT services providers," said Ali Amer, Managing Director, Global Service Provider Sales, Cisco Middle East and Africa. "Service providers around the world are witnessing immense changes that are forcing them to adapt accordingly. As a technology leader, Cisco is collaborating with du to evolve their offerings beyond traditional connectivity services to incorporate a wider gamut of digital lifestyle and enterprise offerings."

Shifting connectivity

The Internet of Things (IoT) is shifting connectivity from end-user devices to machine-to-machine (M2M) connections. Cisco estimates that M2M modules will account for 51 percent of all networked devices in 2021, while 43 percent of all networked devices will be mobile-connected, of which smartphones will account for half.

"Global service providers are now redesigning for efficiency and making rapid adaptation to market shifts by leveraging technologies such as virtualization and software-defined everything. The landscape is no more about 'big eat small', it has changed to 'fast eat slow,'" added Ali Amer.

Today, consumers expect great service experience and continuity in interaction across channels and platforms and a high degree of interactivity and personalisation. Customer



Saleem AlBlooshi

Ali Amer

expectations are evolving at Internet speeds with continuous introductions of newer digital experiences and services from global OTT players. Always connected, and everywhere, digital consumption is expanding faster in newer dimensions of 'augmented' and 'virtual reality'.

According to Cisco's survey of Middle East and Africa enterprise customers in 2017, five times as many visitors as the resident population visit Dubai during the six months of tourism season.

This creates a need for flexibility in usage of resources to serve the seasonality. Seventy two percent of customers express interest in Virtual Managed Services (VMS), where all or some of the capabilities delivered by customer premises equipment (CPE) are delivered either fully or through hybrid cloud solutions. Eighty eight percent of enterprise customers surveyed want a bundled security service with network service.

In its journey since it was established, du has strived to delight customers with simplicity and natural experiences across its three major customer categories: individual customers, business and government. Leveraging its fibre optic network infrastructure and high-speed wireless internet, du has launched a country-wide initiative called WiFi UAE to provide WiFi access to the public, in line with UAE Vision 2021, and is a strategic partner for Dubai government's Smart Dubai initiative to integrate technologies like ICT and IoT into its infrastructure.

Uber exec Hornsey resigns in email to staff following discrimination probe

SAN FRANCISCO: Uber Technologies Inc's Chief People Officer Liane Hornsey resigned in an email to staff on Tuesday, following an investigation into how she handled allegations of racial discrimination at the ride-hailing firm.

The resignation comes after Reuters contacted Uber on Monday about the previously unreported investigation into accusations from anonymous whistleblowers that Hornsey had systematically dismissed internal complaints of racial discrimination. Hornsey is head of Uber's human resources department and one of the firm's top spokespeople on diversity and discrimination issues.

She had been in the role for about 18 months, as the company was rocked by claims of widespread issues of gender discrimination and sexual harassment.

The allegations raise questions about Chief Executive Dara Khosrowshahi's efforts to change the toxic culture of the firm after he took over in August last year from former CEO Travis Kalanick following a series of scandals.

Khosrowshahi praised Hornsey in an email to employees, which was seen by Reuters, as "incredibly talented, creative, and hard-working." He gave no reason for her departure.

Hornsey acknowledged in a separate email to her team at Uber, also seen by Reuters, that her exit "comes a little out of the blue for some of you, but I have been thinking about this for a while." She also gave no reason for her resignation and has not responded to requests for comment about the investigation. The allegations against her and Uber's human resources depart-

ment more broadly were made by an anonymous group that claims to be Uber employees of color, members of the group told Reuters.

They alleged Hornsey had used discriminatory language and made derogatory comments about Uber Global Head of Diversity and Inclusion Bernard Coleman, and had denigrated and threatened former Uber executive Bozoma Saint John, who left the company in June.

"This person ultimately was the reason behind (Saint John's) departure from Uber," the anonymous employees said in an email, referring to Hornsey. Saint John joined Uber from Apple Inc in June, 2017 but left only a year later to join Endeavor, the parent company of several talent agencies. She declined to comment, telling Reuters by phone: "I don't have anything to say about my experience there."

Coleman, who came to Uber in 2017 after serving as the chief diversity and human resources officer of Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign, also declined to comment.

Some of the allegations were substantiated, investigators from law firm Gibson Dunn told the employees in a May 15 email that was seen by Reuters. It is not clear which of the allegations were substantiated, but the investigators shared their "thoughts regarding several options to address concerns regarding Ms. Hornsey" with Khosrowshahi, they wrote in the email. The investigators added that they were commencing another investigation after receiving a complaint from another anonymous Uber employee regarding "allegations that appear to relate in some ways." — Reuters



Liane Hornsey

Britain to fine Facebook over data breach

LONDON: Britain's data regulator said yesterday it will fine Facebook half a million pounds for failing to protect user data, as part of its investigation into whether personal information was misused ahead of the Brexit referendum.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) began investigating the social media giant earlier this year, when evidence emerged that an app had been used to harvest the data of tens of millions of Facebook users worldwide.

In the worst ever public relations disaster for the social media giant, Facebook admitted that up to 87 million users may have had their data hijacked by British consultancy firm Cambridge Analytica, which was working for US President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign.

Cambridge Analytica, which also had meetings with the Leave.EU campaign ahead of Britain's EU referendum in 2016, denies the accusations and has filed for bankruptcy in the United States and Britain. "In 2014 and 2015, the Facebook platform allowed an app... that ended up harvesting 87 million profiles of users around the world that was then used by Cambridge Analytica in the 2016 presidential campaign and in the referendum," Elizabeth Denham, the information commissioner, told BBC radio.

Yesterday's ICO report said: "The ICO's investigation concluded that Facebook contravened the law by failing to safeguard people's information." Without detailing how the information may have been used, it said the company had "failed to be transparent about how people's

data was harvested by others". The ICO added that it plans to issue Facebook with the maximum available fine for breaches of the Data Protection Act—an equivalent of \$660,000 or 566,000 euros. Because of the timing of the breaches, the ICO said it was unable to impose penalties that have since been introduced by the European General Data Protection, which would cap fines at 4.0 percent of Facebook's global turnover. In Facebook's case this would amount to around \$1.6 billion (1.4 billion euros). "In the new regime, they would face a much higher fine," Denham said.

"Doing the right thing"

"We are at a crossroads. Trust and confidence in the integrity of our democratic processes risk being disrupted because the average voter has little idea of what is going on behind the scenes," Denham said. "New technologies that use data analytics to micro-target people give campaign groups the ability to connect with individual voters. But this cannot be at the expense of transparency, fairness and compliance with the law."

In May, Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg apologized to the European Parliament for the "harm" caused. EU Justice Commissioner Vera Jourova welcomed the ICO report. "It shows the scale of the problem and that we are doing the right thing with our new data protection rules," she said. "Everyone from social media firms, political parties and data brokers seem to be taking advantage of new technologies and micro-targeting techniques with very limited transparency and responsibility towards voters," she said. "We must change this fast as no-one should win elections using illegally obtained data," she said, adding: "We will now assess what can we do at the EU level to make political advertising more transparent and our elections more secure."



Hefty compensation bill

The EU in May launched strict new data-protection laws allowing regulators to fine companies up to 20 million euros (\$24 million) or four percent of annual global turnover.

But the ICO said because of the timing of the incidents involved in its inquiry, the penalties were limited to those available under previous legislation. The next phase of the ICO's work is expected to be concluded by the end of October. Erin Egan, chief privacy officer at Facebook, said: "We have been working closely with the ICO in their investigation of Cambridge Analytica, just as we have with authorities in the US and other countries. We're reviewing the report and will respond to the ICO soon."

The British fine comes as Facebook faces a potential hefty compensation bill in Australia, where litigation funder IMF Bentham said it had lodged a complaint with regulators over the Cambridge Analytica breach-thought to affect some 300,000 users in Australia.

IMF investment manager Nathan Landis told The Australian newspaper most awards for privacy breaches ranged between Aus\$1,000 and Aus\$10,000 (US\$750-\$7,500). This implies a potential compensation bill of between Aus\$300 million and Aus\$3 billion. — 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.

Salmiya, Belajat Street, Tel: 1881122

@Malhajry

DR. FAHAD S BUHAIMED
Consultant Cosmetic Dermatologist & Hair Transplant, NY

ACADAMIC CERTIFICATES:

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

SPECIALIZED IN:

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

SHARQ, Ahmad Aljaber st., Building 54, Floor 13.
Tel: (+965) 22060777
@DrFahadS, @FahadSabb, @decdonabb
Email: drfahadmed@beautybeyond.com.kw

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).

**مستشفى دار الشفاء
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 Eurpean 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
American Board Certified in General Surgery
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 appendicectomy
- ◆ Liver, pancreas & bile ducts surgeries

Dr. Hani Haider
General Surgery Consultant
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

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
Laprosopic 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

Kuwait College of Science and Technology sponsors graduation ceremonies



Kuwait College of Science and Technology sponsored 16 graduation ceremonies amongst the Public Authority for Applied Education, and High Schools, held throughout May and June as the first private university in Kuwait to sponsor such a large number of graduation ceremonies, by the Public Relations and Marketing Department.

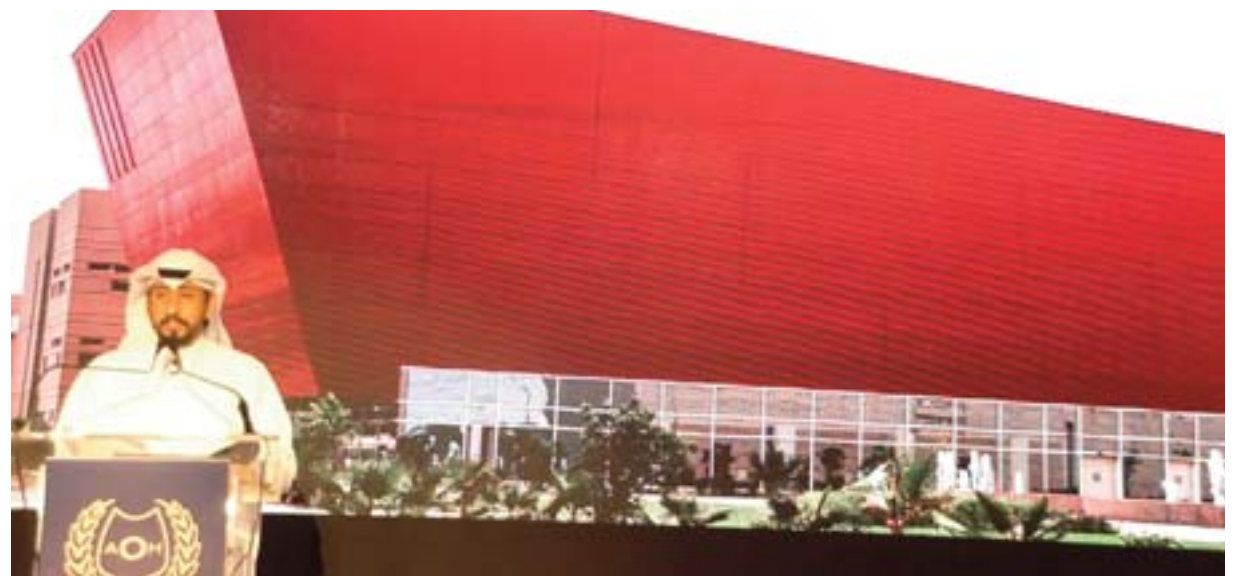
Professor Khalid Al-Begain, President of Kuwait College of Science and Technology, expressed his satisfaction with the university's sponsorship of such celebrations as an expression of the University's support for all students from all educational institutions. Professor Begain explained that the sponsorship of graduation ceremonies stems from the principle of social responsibility, which the university administration seeks to confirm its presence, and urging students to complete their educational journey with the need to



choose the appropriate disciplines for the needs of the Kuwaiti labor market that adequate with their abilities and skills. As the university offers new engineering subjects, including the first Bachelor's Degree presented in Kuwait, "Bachelor of Electronics and Communication Engineering."

The Director of Public Relations and Marketing at the University, Ibrahim Bader Al-Mutawa, said that this is the first time that a university has sponsored graduation ceremonies for students of applied educations and high schools. He also stated that Kuwait College of Science and Technology is the first sponsor of such celebrations and it will not be the only time doing so, but will be followed by many upcoming graduation ceremonies. He added that all the graduation ceremonies are the result of a fruitful and friendly cooperation from all those who are taking out graduation ceremonies worthy of graduates, and invited students and prominent political and media figures who did not hesitate to participate in the joy of graduation. The following are the names of the institutions and schools whose graduation ceremonies were sponsored by the university:

1. Public Authority for Applied Education and Training
2. Um Al-Hayman school - girls
3. New English School
4. Jassem Al-Kharafi High School - Boys
5. Abdullah Al-Otaibi High school - Boys
6. Fatima Bint Al Waleed Secondary Girls School
7. Sharqiya High school - Girls
8. Al-Jazaer High school - Girls
9. Latifa Al-Shamali High School - Girls



10. Jaber Al-Mubarak High School - Boys
11. Suad Bent Salamah High School - Girls
12. Noria Al-Subeeh High School - Girls
13. Rita Bint Al-Harith High School - Girls
14. Fatima Al-Sarawi High School - Girls
15. Mounira al-Sabah High School - Girls
16. Maria Qobtia High School - Girls

On another note, Ibrahim Bader Al-Mutawa announced that the university's entrance to the university is continuing for those who wish to apply to the university at its own expense, with the student being

given the opportunity to transfer to the higher education account, and provided that 30 credits are passed at a cumulative average of 2.5 points. He also added that the door of the internal scholarship for the diploma holders will begin next month (August 2018) for those who wish to complete their studies to obtain a bachelor's degree in engineering and technology. The applicant must submit official papers to open the file, and conduct the required capacity tests, and to submit together Diploma certificate so that the student can enroll in the next PUC plan for the diploma campaign.



Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah recently welcomed inventor Tahani Al-Hajeri, who recently won three awards from Archimedes Exhibition in Moscow, Russia. The governor also welcomed Lt Col Fahad Al-Hajeri to honor him for his contributions in serving his community.

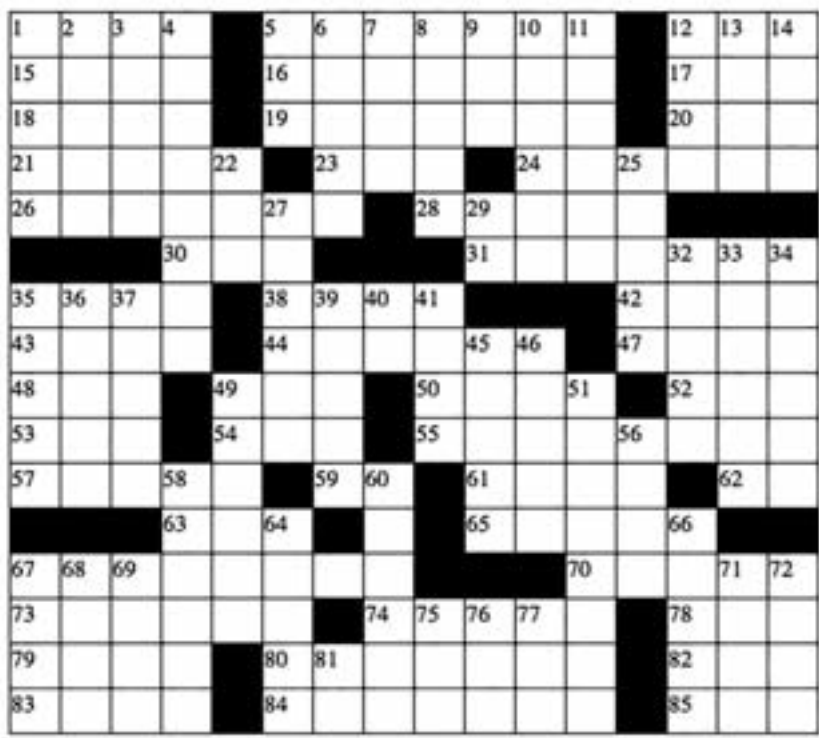


Ahmadi Governorate hosted a ceremony to honor 45 winners who were selected among 450 competitors who took part in the fourth annual Quran Memorization and Recitation Ramadan Competition. Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah attended the ceremony, which took place at the Union Center of Kuwait Oil Company in Ahmadi.



Stars

CROSSWORD 1957



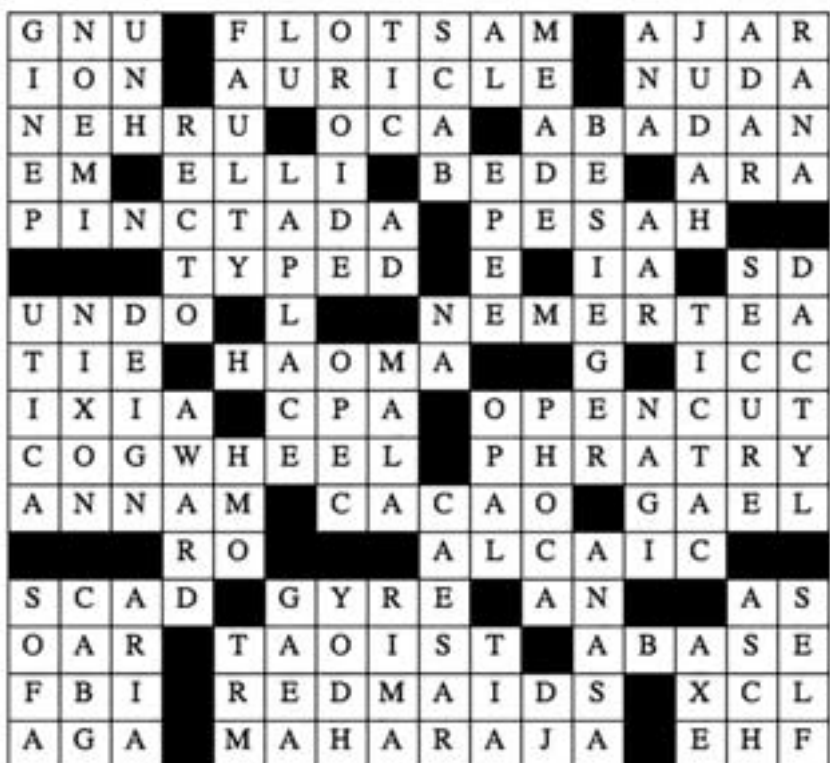
ACROSS

1. The event of something ending.
5. A Chadic language spoken in the Mandara mountains in Cameroon.
12. Standard time in the 6th time zone west of Greenwich, reckoned at the 90th meridian.
15. Goddess of fate.
16. Relating to or like or divided into areolae.
17. South American wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers.
18. A small but appreciable amount.
19. Wheelwork consisting of a connected set of rotating gears by which force is transmitted or motion or torque is changed.
20. A rotating disk shaped to convert circular into linear motion.
21. An active and efficient cause.
23. An index of the cost of all goods and services to a typical consumer.
24. Source of a tough elastic wood.
26. Type genus of the Carimidae comprising only the crested carima.
28. Be going to.
30. An accountant certified by the state.
31. Become quiet or quieter.
35. Interface consisting of a standard port between a computer and its peripherals that is used in some computers.
38. Lacking or deprive of the sense of hearing wholly or in part.
42. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
43. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
44. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
47. In bed.
48. A unit of length of thread or yarn.
50. A pilgrim who journeys to Mecca.
52. (informal) Of the highest quality.
53. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
54. Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.
55. Carnations and pinks.
57. Sediment that has settled at the bottom of a liquid.
59. 1/10 gram.
61. An established ceremony prescribed by a religion.
62. A unit of weight equivalent to 1000 kilograms.
63. Aromatic bulb used as seasoning.
65. Submerged aquatic plant having narrow leaves and small flowers.
67. Feed excessively.
70. Bottle that has a narrow neck.
73. A long piece of brightly colored cloth (cotton or silk) used as clothing (a skirt or loincloth or sash etc.) in India and Pakistan and Burma.
74. A low triangular area where a river divides before entering a larger body of water.
78. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
79. Resembling or similar.
80. The father of your father or mother.
82. A barrier constructed to contain the flow or water or to keep out the sea.
83. A nearly horizontal passage from the surface into a mine.
84. Any of several free-flowering tropical or subtropical shrubs of the genus Hamelia.
85. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. Wood of a sumac.
2. Type genus of the Trifidiae.
3. The fur of an otter.
4. An ancient maritime country (a collection of city states) at eastern end of the Mediterranean.
5. (informal) A witty amusing person who makes jokes.
6. Any of several tall tropical palms native to southeastern Asia having egg-shaped nuts.
7. A less than average tide occurring at the first and third quarters of the moon.
8. (Greek mythology) Wife of Nereus and mother of the Nereids.
9. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
10. Soviet physicist who worked on low temperature physics (1908-1968).
11. Wild sheep of semidesert regions in central Asia.
12. A South American shrub whose leaves are chewed by natives of the Andes.
13. A fraudulent business scheme.
14. Flat and uninspiring.
22. The sound made by a gentle blow.
25. Fleshy spore-bearing inner mass of e.g. a puffball or stinkhorn.
27. Characterized by undue haste and lack of thought or deliberation.
29. The military installation from which a commander performs the functions of command.
32. A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.
33. The cavity in which the large intestine begins and into which the ileum opens.
34. First in order of birth.
36. Clear to the mind.
37. Sudden mass fear and anxiety over anticipated events.
39. Worn or shabby from overuse or (of pages) from having corners turned down.
40. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
41. King of Saudi Arabia since 1982 (born in 1922).
45. (in Scotland) A child.
46. A genus of Plateala.
49. Turn basic and less acidic, of solutions and substances.
51. The Palestinian uprising (beginning in 1987) against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
56. A bluish shade of green.
58. Tall coarse perennial American herb having small white flowers followed by blackish-red berries on long drooping racemes.
60. Expletives used informally as intensifiers.
64. English film actress (1913-1967).
66. (Irish) Chief god of the Tuatha De Danann.
68. (law) Lacking any legal or binding force.
69. (Sumerian) Water god and god of wisdom.
71. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
72. God of love and erotic desire.
75. The compass point midway between northeast and east.
76. A lipoprotein that transports cholesterol in the blood.
77. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
81. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today may find you with deep feelings. A day of soul searching and deep thoughts about your position in life may be your focus. You yearn to have a deeper understanding of your experiences in life and how they molded you into the person you are today. This could be a very nice time for you today and you learn more about who you are and take the time to learn the same about others who are a part of your world. You have no need for superficial relationships in your life. You want to surround yourself with long lasting relationships that will stand the test of time. You realize these relationships have to stand on firm ground and your focus today is ensuring the strength in the foundations of these bonds.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may find yourself in a more conservative mood today. This may be a time you feel you need to take a step back and regroup and reorganize not only your feelings but also your surroundings. This should be a smooth transition for you. Others begin to value and notice you, as you are seen as unique and one of a kind. You may find a great sense of support from someone close to you. Now is a great time for new beginnings and a time to start fresh. You may find this to be a great time to put some of your ideas in motion. Do not be surprised if you feel as if your new ideas are not met with immediate acceptance and approval.



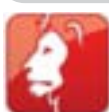
Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Today may find you feeling unorganized and as if nothing is going your way. You may find you are in a situation that cramps your style and leaves you feeling awkward. You have a lot to focus on at one time and feel as if you are being pulled in many directions. Don't over react, better yet, don't react at all. This feeling will be short lived, and these problems will work themselves out. Now is not the best time for change. Stick to your old tried and true way of doing things and this will work best for you. You may have a friend in need and being able to redirect your focus on someone else's problem may be just the distraction you need today.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Today may find you a bit unsatisfied with your surroundings. It may be someone or the physical place you are in that is just not sitting right with you. You may feel as if someone or something is holding you back or may just feel frustrated by your life in general. This may be a great time for an evening out and about. Change your surroundings. Clear your head but choose your company wisely to avoid any conflict as this is a time you need to have fun. You have to find a comfortable balance between work life, family, and social life. Cancer, remember it is good for you to get out and enjoy yourself from time to time. This will relieve stress and keep you motivated.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You may be facing a very emotional issue in your life today. It may seem your desire to be respected by others is very strong. You may find yourself even demanding this from others today. You may find yourself becoming very organized and structured. A strong will takes hold. You may discover you may not only have a knack for organizing things, but you have one for organizing people as well. This makes you a great leader and this quality could be acknowledged in the workplace today. Leo, your ability to work with haste and little emotion makes you a natural in a position of leadership or management.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may feel it is time to get serious about your health. A gym membership, meal planning, or a new exercise program is a high priority for you. Not only do you desire to feel good about yourself physically you have a desire to feel good about your choices and the way you handle all of the situations life brings your way. You find yourself desiring a closer relationship to someone in your life. You want to ensure this is a lasting relationship and want to nurture every aspect of it. You will learn lessons along the way and getting to know this person on a deeper more intimate level will help you know yourself even better and you may find you like the person you are becoming because of this.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You feel a desire to understand not only yourself but others also. You like to read people. Learn who they really are and what makes them make the choices they make. You know well that actions have consequences and sometimes these consequences change a person deep within. Even though you may not agree with decisions those close to you make you are more determined now than ever before to be sympathetic and gain understanding of what past experiences may have caused them to make the decisions. Your emotions are deep. You are forgiving and kind today. All that is spiritual within you seems to be driving you to find a true meaning for your life. Libra, You want to fit in. But you desire strong roots and much stability.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Today may be a great day to pick up that journal and express yourself in through writing. You may find this the most peaceful way to express all the thoughts and issues you have been struggling with. You may find it very beneficial to take a walk down memory lane with your siblings or childhood friends. This could bring happiness and a sense of clarity into your world. The workplace will be very enjoyable for you today. You may be admired for your ability to set goals and accomplish them with ease. Scorpio, you could handle the greatest of tasks and others admire you for this quality.



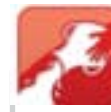
Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your primary goal will be to do things that make you proud of yourself and the way that you get things completed. You have an opportunity this afternoon to relax in a new surrounding that is quite enjoyable. Diet, exercise and work all will somehow mean more to you at this time. Finding a place for all of your interests is a good thing. Organization will probably be something you are very focused on. You have a desire to feel as if you belong to something on a deep level. Sagittarius, Your hard work is paying off and the success you desire is right around the corner.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Emotionally you are feeling extremely secure. You want to ensure the roots of your relationship with those closest to you, are strong and the foundation is solid and everlasting. You feel as though you have truly found your place in this world and a sense of belonging comes over you. It seems as though everything is working in your favor exposing all that is unique and special about you. Others seem to truly take notice of who you are and what you represent. It seems you are greatly admired for these qualities. The support you seem to be feeling from others seems to have your confidence level elevated and you are able to accomplish great tasks and even turn your ideas into new inventions. Capricorn, You may feel as though you can conquer the world.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You feel there are no limits to what you can accomplish. Why not is a question that rings in your ears. You were always told as a child that you could be anything you wanted when you grew up and you are truly beginning to believe that. You may find yourself choosing to surround yourself with new friends. More idealistic groups seem to draw you in. You may find your old ways seem to bore you. You are intrigued by all that is unique and different now. You may find good things come your way from your new outlook on life.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You could be feeling an urgency to get total control over your life, you may find yourself with a greater interest or experience in healing and investing. You seem fascinated by the great mysteriousness of life and death. Sensual needs are but one of the life issues that you could find being emphasized for you now. You feel a great need to break out of old patterns and long for fresh starts and new beginnings. All that is unique and different catches your eye and seems to draw you in. This is a time of exploration and new experiences for you. A time to grow spiritually and a time of great understanding of who you truly are.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Summer

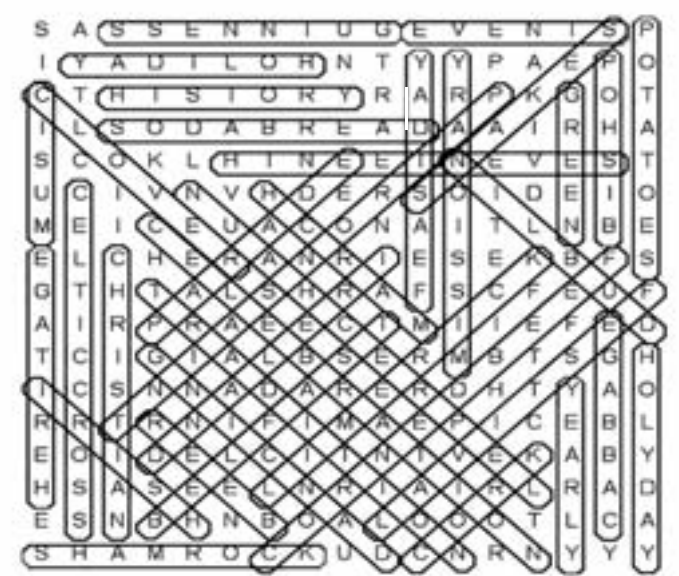
Find and circle all of the summer words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional summer item.



- | | | | |
|----------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| ANTS | FISHING | JULY | SUNBURN |
| AUGUST | FLIES | JUNE | SUNGLASSES |
| BARBECUE | FLOWERS | MOSQUITOES | SUNSCREEN |
| BASEBALL | GARDENING | NO SCHOOL | SUNSHINE |
| BEACH | GOLF | PICNIC | SUNTAN |
| BEES | GREEN GRASS | ROLLER BLADES | SWEAT |
| BICYCLE | HAT | SANDALS | SWIMMING |
| BLUE SKY | HIKING | SKATEBOARD | U V RAYS |
| BOATING | HOLIDAYS | SOCCER | WASPS |
| BREEZE | HOT | SOLSTICE | WATER FIGHTS |
| CAMPING | ICE CREAM | SPRINKLERS | WATERMELON |

Yesterday's Solution

St. Patrick's Day



- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| BEER | DANCING | HOLY DAY | POTATOES |
| BELFAST | DUBLIN | IRELAND | SEVENTEENTH |
| BISHOP | EVENTS | IRISH | SHAMROCK |
| CABBAGE | FEAST DAY | LEPRECHAUN | SNAKES |
| CELEBRATION | FESTIVAL | LIMERICK | SODA BREAD |
| CELTIC CROSS | GREEN | MARCH | TRADITION |
| CHRISTIAN | GUINNESS | MUSIC | MISSIONARY |
| CLOVER | HERITAGE | MUSIC | YEARLY |
| CORK | HISTORY | PARADE | |
| CORNED BEEF | HOLIDAY | PARADE SAINT | |

The hidden message is: SAINT PATRICK LIVED IN THE FIFTH CENTURY

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2018



A model displays an outfit of Spanish designer Ana Locking Spring/Summer 2019 collection during the Madrid's Mercedes Benz Fashion Week. — AFP

CREATIVE WAYS TO THANK TEACHERS

A great teacher is a gift that can last a lifetime. So how to show our thanks? Many teachers say their favorite gifts are homemade. Presents that speak to a child's genuine feelings for the teacher, or reflect the teacher's interests, are the most authentic. Time and thought trump money. Gifts can be from your individual child, or something a whole class can participate in. Oh, and don't forget to also show gratitude to your school's security folks, kitchen staff, administration, maintenance crew ... all the people who make the school tick.

At my kids' school in New York City, a small group of parents created a Cookie of the Month initiative. Every month, a couple of grades are asked to bake a specific type of cookie, which changes month to month. Parents and kids can volunteer to bake a batch, and then the cookies are collected in the cafeteria on a certain day and distributed in cookie jars and cute containers with signage saying thanks. The baking responsibility is distributed among all grades throughout the year, and many parents and kids take the opportunity to bake together. Some other ideas:

Crafty projects

Older kids can make tote bags with appreciative messages written in permanent markers, or decorate the classroom door with notes and artwork as a surprise. Little kids can create a tote bag with, say, handprints in non-washable paint; word clouds with words and phrases that the kids associate with their teacher; thumbprints collected on a sturdy poster board that can be turned into a bouquet of balloons or leaves on a tree.

"I loved when my students put together a 'Thank You' teacher booklet where all the children completed a page and the book was bound with a spiral type of binding," says Kathleen Casey, who teaches second grade in Fairlawn, New Jersey. "My favorite all-time gift was an original superhero comic book starring me as the superhero who saves the world by teaching important lessons!" Pam London, a preschool art teacher in Springfield, Virginia, said, "One year a family gave me an envelope with a bunch of Polaroids of their child with her favorite cre-

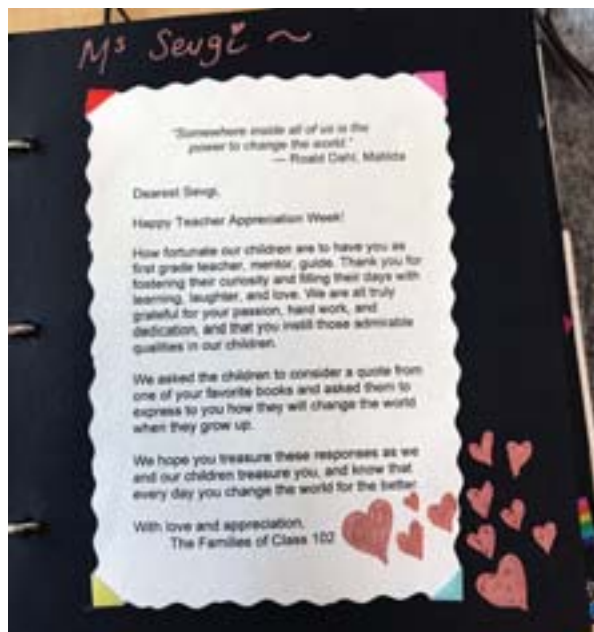


Photo provided by Sevgi Unay shows a hand-bound book of student reflections to thank a teacher in New York.

ations from class. I just loved that."

It's simple to have each kid in the class make a card, and bind them together with a pretty ribbon. Anna Moshura, an assistant principal at the Brooklyn School of Inquiry in New York and a former science and kindergarten teacher, fondly remembers receiving a personalized calendar adorned with student artwork and class pictures. A good old-fashioned handwritten note, drawing or other type of artwork would also make a teacher happy, she says.

Individually inspired items

If you know your teacher loves a particular smoothie or coffee drink, get a gift card from his or her favorite place. Keep the amount small if it's from a single child, but if the

whole class is chipping in, then you can think about larger purchases, like a certificate for a pottery class or new running shoes.

Antonia Fusco, an elementary school reading teacher in New York City, appreciated receiving "a charm bracelet with different trinkets, symbolizing my different likes and interests." Or consider a ball jar of a teacher's favorite color pencil (with a cute label), a baseball cap from her favorite team or a mug with a funny on-point saying. Add a personal note to any store-bought item.

Gifts that last

Name a star for a teacher, adopt a penguin in their name from the World Wildlife Fund, or give a personalized leather book cover to the teacher who likes to journal. "Perennial plants are lovely gifts and help me to remember my students," Casey added. "I've been gifted tiny rose bushes over the years that are now enormous!" And there's no statute of limitations on saying thanks.

Jennifer Preuss, a first-grade teacher in Encino, California, recently received an email from a mom whose son she had taught five years earlier. The boy was asked during an interview for middle school which four people he would most like to have dinner with, and he included his first-grade teacher. She was delighted to know her teaching had made such a lasting impact.

Homemade food

A prettily wrapped quick bread, a small basket of cookies, jams and other preserves, herbed vinegars, homemade granola - there are many delicious ways to express appreciation for a teacher. Moshura loves getting baked goods from students, sometimes with the recipe attached. Finally, you can always go with the classic shiny red apple (a hand-picked one is a good call). — AP

Did ancient Romans whale the Mediterranean?



Ancient Roman hunters may have precipitated the disappearance of grey and right whales from the Mediterranean, a study said yesterday, suggesting commercial whaling is much older than we thought. Bones belonging to the two species were uncovered around the Strait of Gibraltar south of Spain, where they were never thought to have existed at all, a research team reported. The finding suggests right and grey whales were "common" in the North Atlantic 2,000 years ago, likely navigating the strait to calve in the temperate Mediterranean Sea.

"The evidence that these two... species were present along the shores of the Roman Empire raises the hypothesis that they may have formed the basis of a forgotten whaling industry," researchers wrote in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*. The Basques of northern Spain and southwestern France who lived about 1,000 years ago, are widely considered as being the first large-scale whalers. But the latest discovery of bones, identified as belonging to right and grey whales through DNA analysis, appear to challenge that timeline. The bones were found among the remains of ancient Roman fish salting plants.

A forgotten Roman industry?

"The Romans may have hunted these two species in the same way the Basques did about 1,000 years later, by approaching the whales (which tend to keep to the coast) with small row boats, harpooning them, then finishing them off with spears and hauling them to land," study co-author Ana Rodrigues of France's CNRS research institute told AFP. Right whales were wiped out in eastern half of the North Atlantic by commercial whaling, the researchers said, while grey whales disappeared from the entire North Atlantic in "still-mysterious circumstances". Today, there are only about 500 North Atlantic right whales left - in the western part near the American coast - less than six percent of the estimated original population. The grey whale is found only in the North Pacific where it, too, was heavily whaled. Although the findings do not prove the existence of a Roman whaling industry, such an interpretation would explain an earlier finding that the Atlantic grey whale population had already declined substantially before the onset of Basque whaling, they said. The results "provide an ecological basis to the hypothesis of a forgotten Roman whaling industry," the team wrote. — AFP



Photo provided by Katie Workman shows a jar of homemade cookies in New Milford, Conn., which was made for the teachers and staff at a school to show student and family appreciation.



Photo provided by Sevgi Unay shows a Teacher Appreciation Box in New York, filled with notes from students, as well as memories and experiences created together, such as the Chick Hatching Project, shown on the front of box.



Photo provided by Sevgi Unay shows a page in a hand-bound book of student reflections to thank a teacher in New York. — AP photos



The Bergman Center, an exhibition and conference structure, is pictured on Faro, Sweden, an island in the Baltic sea where Swedish director Ingmar Bergman shot several motion pictures and partly settled from the mid-1960s. — AFP photos



In this file photo taken in the 60' legendary Swedish filmmaker and theater director Ingmar Bergman drinks a cup of tea while shooting a movie.



In this file photo taken in the 60' legendary Swedish filmmaker and theater director Ingmar Bergman is pictured during shooting a movie in Sweden.



In this file photo taken in the 60' Swedish film-making legend and theater director Ingmar Bergman is pictured in the 1960s in Stockholm during a theater rehearsal.

BERGMAN'S SANCTUARY ISLAND FARO, A SITE OF PILGRIMAGE FOR FANS

Endless winters, sparse pine trees rising from infertile soil, few sheep and even fewer people: the Baltic island of Faro is not only a natural film set for Ingmar Bergman, but his sanctuary and final resting place. The Swedish filmmaker, who would have turned 100 on July 14, died on July 30, 2007. Here on this stony island, where fishermen and peasants settled centuries ago, Bergman is buried next to his wife Ingrid von Rosen at a site which has turned into a place of pilgrimage for his admirers.



Swedish director Ingmar Bergman's grave is pictured on June 18, 2018 on Faro, Sweden, an island in the Baltic sea where he shot several motion pictures and partly settled from the mid-1960s.

The director was already an internationally-acclaimed star when he explored Faro for the first time in 1960 while trying to find a location for "Through a Glass Darkly". There he discovered the island's pebble beaches, distinctive rock formations, bogs and meagre pastures, its ports, church and lighthouse. "It was love at first sight," he wrote on exploring Faro which lies just off the northern tip of Gotland, Sweden's largest island, and stretches 110 square kilometers (around 42 square miles). Until 1998, Faro was off-limits to foreigners as a protected military zone. "This is your landscape, Bergman. It corresponds to your innermost imaginings of forms, proportions, colors, horizons, sounds, silences, lights and reflections," he wrote in his autobiography, "The Magic Lantern".

After "Through a Glass Darkly", which won an Oscar in the best foreign language film category, Bergman filmed "Persona" (1966), "Shame" (1968), "The Passion of Anna" (1969) and "Scenes from a Marriage" (1973) on Faro.

He also made two documentaries, paying tribute to the workers he employed at his estate, who would also set up dolly rails for tracking shots and play extras. Some remember well the napalm fires set up to represent the horrors of war in "The Passion of Anna". According to one piece of local lore, Bergman paid well, so well in fact that when visitors asked where his house was, loyal islanders would usually point in the opposite direction.

'Moliere and the Golden Helmet'

When Bergman discovered the beach at Hammars in 1966 while filming "Persona", he decided to build a one-storey house in the area. He spent several years there with the Norwegian actress Liv Ullmann, who later spoke of her memories of enduring dark winters while Bergman isolated himself. The artist also bought a barn and a stable which he turned into a private cinema. There he trucked in reels of films from Stockholm, including several of his favorite works-among them "Moliere" (1978) by French director Ariane Mnouchkine and Jacques Becker's "Golden Helmet" (1952) as well as a string of classics by Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton.

Several years after Bergman's fifth and last wife Ingrid passed away in 1995, he sold his apartment in Stockholm, moving permanently to Faro in 2003. The son of a Lutheran priest, Bergman struck up an acquaintance with local pastor Agneta Soderdahl, whom he described as having a beautiful voice. "He once told me, 'I knew you could sing well, but not that well,'" she told AFP, laughing at the memory as she stood outside the island's only church.

Describing Bergman as a "skeptical believer", she said he sought to free himself from his childhood education of religious "condemnation, punishment and morality" which left an imprint on his entire life. His tombstone now lies under the trees at the island's only cemetery, a little distance from the other inhabitants whom he learnt to love and who loved him back.

Monoliths are pictured on Faro, Sweden, an island in the Baltic sea where Swedish director Ingmar Bergman shot several motion pictures and partly settled from the mid-1960s.

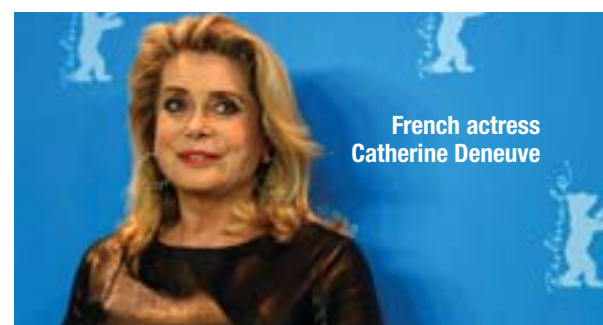


'Bergman safaris'

In a documentary, he predicted a slow decline in the island population as the amount of fish and seal dwindled. While the locals thought he was pessimistic, "the future proved him right," says Kerstin Kalstrom, housekeeper of Bergman's properties. "Farmers sell their land to rich tourists and the land becomes too expensive for young people." But hope is not lost, she grins: "The island registered four births in 2018!" With fewer than 500 people living there the whole year round, tourism has become vital for Faro, which is due in no insignificant part to Bergman.

Thousands of visitors come every summer to visit the Bergman Center, a cultural association which was set up in 2009 to focus on his life and achievements. Every June,

it hosts "Bergman Week" where visitors watch screenings or performances, hear a reading or attend a lecture related to his work in an event which has drawn guests such as US actor Willem Dafoe and German filmmaker Wim Wenders. There is also the "Bergman safari" exploring his film locations, including part of a reconstructed set from "Persona". And the massive house at Hammars beach has been transformed into a residency for artists. Next month, French-Danish director Mia Hansen-Love will begin making her own film called "Bergman Island", which was inspired by her residency at the artist's home. — AFP



French actress Catherine Deneuve

French film legend Deneuve wins Japan's top art prize

The veteran French actress Catherine Deneuve was awarded one of the world's most lucrative arts prizes yesterday. The star of such classics as "The Umbrellas of Cherbourg" and "Belle de Jour", who made her name in the 1960s playing aloof, alluring beauties, is one of three French people honoured by this year's Praemium Imperiale, which is backed by Japan's royal family. Deneuve, 74, sparked a worldwide feminist backlash earlier this year by defending men's right to "hit on" women in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

She later tried to row back on an open letter attacking the #MeToo movement she co-signed in the French daily Le Monde, insisting that there was not "anything good about harassment". Every year five international artists are honoured with the Praemium Imperiale prize worth 15 million yen (117,000 euros, \$137,000). The French Pritzker-winning architect Christian de Portzamparc, 74, was also honoured this year along with the 90-year-old Franco-Belgian surrealist artist Pierre Alechinsky, one of whose paintings now hangs in French President Emmanuel Macron's office.

Japanese artist Fujiko Nakaya, 85, famed for her fog sculptures which have misted up galleries across the world, and Italian conductor Riccardo Muti, 77, will also receive prizes from Prince Masahito, the younger brother of Emperor Akihito, at a ceremony in Tokyo on October 23. A parallel prize for young artists went to Britain's Shakespeare Schools Foundation, which organizes the world's largest youth drama festival. Nearly 150 artists have been awarded the prize down the years including the late Swedish director Ingmar Bergman and US composer Leonard Bernstein. — AFP

ROME'S GREEN-FINGERED INMATES PLANT SEEDS FOR FUTURE

It's 7:30 am at Rome's Rebibbia prison as inmates pile into a minibus headed for a day of freedom-and a taste of life after incarceration. Some of the many green spaces in the Italian capital are now in the hands of prisoners under a new scheme that drafts them in to maintain or spruce up gardens and parks. The initiative, a joint project of the city and justice ministry, aims to smoothe prisoners' reintegration into society once they have served their terms.

"Who knows, maybe one day one of us will do this as a job, to stay on the outside rather than ending up back in prison," says Umberto, one of the younger members of the group. "At first, people were keen because it was an outing, but now it's good because we come home feeling exhausted but invigorated," adds the 30-something inmate as he prunes a hedge at the Elsa Morante cultural centre in the south of the city.

'Good day's work'

Supervising the prisoner-gardeners, Claudio Iacobelli jokes: "If they escape, I won't chase them." But, he says: "Not only does this project make them feel

useful, but for them, every minute spent outside is one minute less spent in prison." About 100 inmates at Rebibbia prison will take part in the project overall, getting down to work after receiving training at a gardening school in Rome. From 9 am to 3 pm on weekdays they apply their newfound skills under the guidance of the city's official gardeners. The prisoners must first volunteer and then be selected for the work-no former mafiosi or lifers are eligible.

"We work together, we get organized, we talk... on our way back in the minibus in the evening we look at each other and we are satisfied," Umberto says. "We recognize that we have done a good day's work, and the next day we pick up where we left off."

'Matter of trust'

The prisoners are allowed to roam the open spaces freely and handle all kinds of sharp implements, shears and trimmers under the supervision of the guards. "It's a matter of trust. I make a pact with them," Iacobelli says. "They know that at the slightest deviation, the project will be aborted"-and they will return to the tedium of life

behind bars, where they cost the state an average of 180 euros (\$211) a day regardless. It is not just the inmates who benefit from the work.

The Eternal City has barely 100 gardeners tending its 40,000 hectares (100,000 acres) of green areas, and their numbers have steadily dwindled because of budget cuts and corruption-the city counted 1,500 gardeners back in 2000."The project is very positive. The prisoners are happy and the inhabitants are even happier they are there," says Pinuccia Montanari, deputy to the mayor in charge of the environment who has come to visit the workers." It is also very important for our city because the city hall has very few resources," she adds.

Other cities

The initiative is a pilot project set to last six months, with similar ones planned for Milan, Palermo and Naples. In Rome, Iacobelli mused about extending the project beyond the city's gardens. "Why not then take a look at the roads?" he asks. "That would really come in handy in Rome, we're world famous for them," he adds, referring to the capital's notorious potholes. Pierfrancesco Liberti, a 29-year old inmate, says the gardening project makes him feel like an individual again. "Very often we are all considered the same. In reality this is not the case," he says, wiping sweat off his brow. — AFP



Inmates of the Rebibbia prison, work using garden tools, sharp implements, shears and trimmers, as part of a gardening project called 'the beach on the Tiber' (spiaggia sul Tevere) on the model of 'Paris Plages' in the French capital, in front of the Tiber river at Marconi bridge, in Rome. — AFP photos





DAREDEVIL TOURISTS ENJOY LUXURY BANQUET... 6,500FT IN THE AIR

Hundreds of hardy tourists ate seafood and drank on the side of Mount Laojun in China some 6,500ft in the air. The luxury repast, which was part of a summer festival in Henan Province, was held on tables set up over a six-foot-wide footpath attached to the side of the rockface. — www.thenational.ae

These photos show aerial views of a banquet held along the edge of a cliff, at Laojun Mountain in Luoyang in China's central Henan province. — AFP photos



Pure Gold Jewellers to roll out seven new jewellery concept stores in Kuwait, UAE and Oman

Award-winning jewelry retailer, Pure Gold Jewellers, has opened seven new concept stores in Kuwait, UAE and Oman, providing an uptick in positive sentiment to the regional jewellery retail sector and an impetus to the brand's long-term growth strategy. The new stores are located in the new Al-Kout Mall in Kuwait, in UAE at Al-Ain Mall, World Trade Centre and Yas Mall in Abu Dhabi, Sahara Centre and Central Souk in Sharjah, City Centre Ajman, and City Centre Sur in Oman, adding to the existing portfolio of Pure Gold Jewellers 150 stores in the Middle East and Asia.

Karim Merchant, Group CEO & Managing Director of Pure Gold Group, said: "We continue to invest in the future of the region's gold and jewellery business believing that an upward trend is inevitable in the economic cycle even though worldwide jewellery demand in the first three months of 2018 fell by one per cent from the first quarter of 2017 according to the World Gold Council.

"Both Kuwait and UAE are global destinations for luxury retail and are incredibly important markets for us to attract gold and jewellery aficionados from around the globe. Oman too is seeing major investments in the luxury

goods industry and has great potential for the jewellery business. We have invested over \$10 million in these new stores to provide a more immersive retail experience to our customers and showcase our exquisitely crafted jewellery in an intimate setting."

Designed by one of London and Dubai's most prestigious luxury design consultancy, the stunning new stores feature a modern, stylish and minimalist boutique concept. The store elements and branding has been mastered to look drastically different from the 'traditional jewellery store' layout.

Redefining the meaning of luxury, the store space focuses on a curated selection of products ranging from unparalleled premium diamond collections to intricately designed 18-karat and 21-karat handcrafted Italian gold jewellery in trendy, fashion-forward and elegant classic designs, delivered in a stimulating, contemporary setting.

Merchant added: "Our new stores also provide a preview of our forward-looking interior identity. It showcases a glamorous satin-brass detailed showroom entrance with halo illumination, sleek distinctive store windows, innovative luminous frosted glass display frames, elegant wall cabinets and bespoke lighting combined with luxe interior décor accented in soft gold taken from the branding."

The stores are also equipped with experiential tables allowing customers, especially millennials to interact and engage with jewellery with the help of augmented reality, further elevating their shopping experience.

The elegantly conceptualised stores will feature Pure Gold Jewellers' exclusive brands including the vibrant nature-inspired Fareeha collection, the timeless and beautiful Eternity, Circle of Life pendants and rings capturing the beauty of life, Solitaire diamonds, and many more. The collections are created to attract a diaspora of customers irrespective of their nationalities.



Lifestyle | Feature

FREE THE ADVENTUROUS SPIRIT WITHIN. COME PLAY!

Stare straight into the eyes of an enormous Great White shark, with only a cage between you. Feel every sense explode into life as you bungee from the spectacular Bloukrans Bridge, or hold on tight for a white-knuckled, white-water ride down famous rivers. Get your hiking boots on for a week and explore the Otter Trail, or take on Table Mountain for a view of Cape Town that will stay with you forever.

From skydiving, quad biking, windsurfing, treetop zip lining, international cycle races and sporting events to relaxing strolls along perfect promenades and even a quiet game of golf - there's no shortage of adventures here, in some of the world's most beautiful settings.

TOP OF THE ADVENTURER'S LIST

Whether you're after exhilarating moments or a relaxing new hobby, these are some of South Africa's most popular action and outdoor activities:

The world's highest commercial bridge bungee at Bloukrans Bridge

Bloukrans Bridge Bungee is one of the world's highest commercial bridge bungee at 216 meters (709 ft) above the Bloukrans River. It is situated at Bloukrans Bridge on the N2 Highway at the border between the Eastern Cape and the Western Cape in the Tsitsikamma area of South Africa's Garden Route. It has been operated by Face Adrenalin commercially since 1997.

In 1990, the Bloukrans River Bridge became the first African bridge for bungee jumping. Face Adrenalin has been operating the Bloukrans Bridge Bungee accident free since 1997. As part of South Africa's responsible tourism, the operators of Bloukrans Bridge Bungee, Face Adrenalin, employ 60 people from neighbouring communities - Coldstream, Thornham, Storms River, Covie, and The Crags - as part of the Bloukrans Bridge Bungee operation. A significant percentage of turnover has been paid over to the local community trust since 1998.



runs from March to September but can vary a little from year to year. Another advantage of being in False Bay is that it does help keep the sea conditions a little calmer being in the Bay so the chance of cancelled trips is not so high. Then for those members of the party who do not venture onto the sea there is plenty to do and see in Simon's Town while the others are out on the ocean searching for Great Whites.

Other marine animals often sighted on the Seal Island trip include whales, dolphins, seals, penguins and sharks, so when you are next in Cape Town exploring one of the most beautiful cities in the world, why not add a little adventure to your trip and book a Cape Town shark-cage diving trip in False Bay. There is a reason why shark-cage diving has become one of South Africa's top exports in the last few years, so come and experience it for yourself, an adventure you will never forget.

Raft down the Orange River

The Northern Cape's Orange and Vaal Rivers are ideal for canoeing and rafting, with the 2 340km long Orange being the favourite, with its long stretches of open flat water punctuated by rapids and, to top it all, the water is warm and the weather near perfect all year round.



The Orange River and The Richtersveld have a lifelong partnership. This river rafting adventure is rated as one of the best entry level rafting adventures in South Africa. An outdoor adventure for the whole family and friends. Visit the Richtersveld and river raft the longest river in South Africa. Feel the flow from the Maloti mountains in the Drakensberg while paddling through the Richtersveld desert. Let the experienced team of river guides open your hearts to the Richtersveld and natural surroundings of The Orange River.

Go abseiling in Knysna's Storms River Gorge

If you're not afraid of heights and you have a craving for the extreme, then abseiling in South Africa might just be for you. Abseiling involves using specialized ropes, harnesses and other safety equipment, to make a controlled descent down a jagged cliff face. For beginners and first

timers, this descent is usually very slow, very nerve-wracking and always aided by a professional.

Abseiling in South Africa has only quite recently matured into a mainstream sport. It's rapidly grown in popularity with its claim to having the highest commercial abseil of 112m. This legendary descent can be found on the cliffs of Table Mountain in Cape Town. For a reasonable fee, you can book the services of a professional abseiling company who'll guide you through the in's and out's of abseiling and then help you to face your fears as you repel off the cliff and drop 112m back down to terra firma.

The unique vantage points that abseiling in South Africa provides you with, will allow you to enjoy uninterrupted views of incredible mountain rock faces, valley and gorges. Whilst your first abseiling experience will probably not include much sightseeing on the way down, once you're accustomed to it, the views and experiences that you'll enjoy are unparalleled.

A four hour drive along the Garden Route will bring you to the spectacular sea side town of Knysna which is home to a number of options for the abseiling enthusiast. Whilst Knysna boasts of being one of the most scenic areas in South Africa, the view will more than likely be the last thing on your mind as you brave the cliff faces and make your steady descent to the ground below. Abseiling

in Knysna provides the opportunity to make a breathtaking descent on a totally exposed cliff with the waves crashing into the rocks below - an experience for only the very brave, or the slightly crazy abseiling enthusiast.

An hours drive past Knysna will bring you to Storms River Gorge, an area that is jam-packed with exciting adventure sports. There are adventure combination packages available that will allow you to have an adrenaline filled day involving an amazing 100m abseil into a stunning valley, a tube ride down the river and finally an invigorating cycle to the Storms River village.

Other abseiling combination packages can be found inland near the Hartbeespoort Dam. Those who're keen to try abseiling, but who don't feel quite up to the challenge of a 100m drop, can test their limits at the abseiling spots around Crocodile River. A combination abseiling package includes a 40m abseil into a magnificent mountain gorge, followed by an exciting river-rafting trip through Grade 1 and Grade 2 rapids.

Once you've tried it a few times and the 112m abseil on Table Mountain isn't so hair-raising anymore, then abseiling's big brother, 'rapp jumping' awaits you. Rapp jumping is quite similar to abseiling in that you're descending frightful drops in a matter of minutes, but it offers something more. With abseiling, the harness is attached to your front, so you descend the mountain backwards. With rapp jumping however, the harness is attached to your back. Your descent is made going forwards and is a lot faster than abseiling. In the concrete jungles of Durban and Johannesburg cities, rapp jumpers can be seen sprinting down the sides of office blocks in what seems like a surrealist defiance of gravity.

So if you're keen to get your adrenaline pumping, to experience views that few others will see and push the limits of excitement, then abseiling in South Africa is not to be missed.

Surfing in Jeffreys Bay (J'Bay)

At the heart of the Eastern Cape's Sunshine Coast, Jeffreys Bay is rated one of the top 10 surfing spots in the world. Jeffreys Bay, less than an hour's drive from Port Elizabeth, is a surfer's haven on the Sunshine Coast. South Africa's premier wave is at Supertubes, a right-hand point break that is internationally famous for its consistency and length of ride.

But Jeffreys Bay, with its beautiful beaches, has more attractions to offer than just surfing. If all you want is to unfurl your towel on the sand then head for Dolphin Beach, a stretch of sand and surf awarded international Blue Flag status - an eco-grading given to beaches or marinas that meet the highest safety and environmental standards. Here, there are always fully trained lifeguards on duty, making it a place where the family can spend a glorious day in the sun.

With its many surf shops and restaurants, Jeffreys Bay is also a great place to simply hang out and indulge in a bit of retail therapy. Or get active and take part in a multitude of outdoor activities such as learning to surf, stand-up paddle boarding, kite surfing, sand boarding, whale and dolphin watching, diving or beach horse rides. Jeffreys Bay's wave season runs from June to August, but good waves can be had as early as April or as late as September. So don't forget to bring your board, but remember that this is South Africa's winter so pack a good wetsuit as well.

Jeffreys Bay is less than an hour from Port Elizabeth. Port Elizabeth's airport offers for domestic and connecting flights and is about 70km from the Jeffrey's Bay. Cape Town's International Airport is about 750km from Jeffrey's Bay.



Horse riding

No matter if you are a galloping professional or an apprehensive beginner, horse riding in South Africa is an incredible experience. No matter if you are a galloping professional or an apprehensive beginner, horse riding in South Africa is an incredible experience. Exploring long sandy beaches, lush vineyards or mystic mountains on horseback is an entirely unique experience. Discover the diverse wildlife, birdlife and many picturesque South African treasures whilst horse riding. Let the horse do the work whilst you relax, breathe in the fresh air and admire the beautiful sights around you.

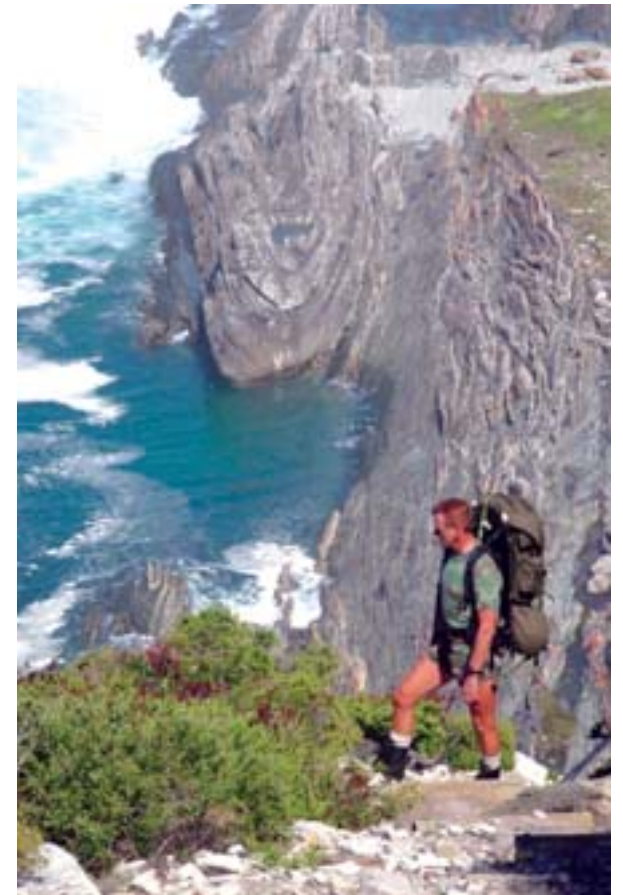
There are countless places to enjoy horse riding in South Africa. The Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, North West Province, Northern Cape and the Western Cape all offer numerous awesome horse riding trails. There are also quite a few South African horse riding trails tailored for the disabled or otherwise handicapped. In northern KwaZulu Natal you can enjoy the beauty of Lake Bhangazi and St Lucia on horseback. You can choose to enjoy a day trip around the lake, or stay overnight and enjoy the area at night time too.

Limpopo is home to South African horse riding safaris



with excellent game viewing in the Waterberg area. There are a number of companies that offer day horse rides as well as the option to spend up to 10 days out in the wild - experiencing the beautiful Hermanus and Overberg areas on horseback. The Western Cape's gorgeous white sandy beaches provide many an opportunity for fast gallops through the waters, or casual meandering through the dunes on horseback - truly a day well spent.

South African horse riding safaris in South Africa's game reserves allows you the unique opportunity of getting incredibly close to the wildlife in the area. The smell of the horses sweat overpowers the smell of humans and animals like giraffe, elephant and rhino can be viewed sometimes from just a few meters. It's a breathtaking experience to be so close to these powerful and awe-inspiring creatures.



The Waterberg Mountains in Limpopo have sweeping grasslands that offer fast riding opportunities, while the mountainous areas can be explored at a slower pace. Bokpoort Horseback Adventures in the eastern Free State has short rides near a farm or multi-day trails that embrace the Lesotho border and head up into the beautiful mountains. You have the choice between comfortable and affordable accommodation or backpacker-style accommodation.

Biggarsberg Horse Trails on Larksend Farm near Ladysmith in KwaZulu Natal offers the beginner and experienced rider the opportunity to combine the excitement of horseback riding and the comfort of first-class accommodation in an area of implausible natural beauty.

The Amadiba Adventure Project Trail is a horse-riding trek through the remote northern coastline of the Wild Coast. It is run and managed by the local community. Therefore everybody gets a share of the income by providing horses, accommodation, food, bag carrying and any other services that might be needed. This is an awesome opportunity to explore the beautiful escarpments of this area and discover true African heritage.

Whether you are planning to take a few days off and enjoy a safari on horseback, or just a quick gallop down the beach, horse riding in South Africa is sure to be a memorable experience.

Walk the Otter Trail

The Otter Trail follows the magnificent Garden Route coastline from Storms River Mouth to Nature's Valley in the Tsitsikamma National Park. The trail is 42,5 kms long and takes 4 to 5 days to complete. The Otter Trail follows the rugged, rocky shoreline ranging in elevation from sea level to a height of more than 150m.

Most of the trail follows cliff tops returning to sea level to cross rivers. The Otter Trail is justifiably considered by many to be the top hiking trail in South Africa. Although it is only 42.5 kms long it is not an easy trail by any means. This is a very popular trail and more applications are received for bookings than can be accommodated. The trail is worth the patience needed in obtaining a booking.



In 2003, Bloukrans bungee was recognised as the world's highest commercial bungee jump. In 2008 Bloukrans bungee was part of two more world records. Ms Veronica Dean performed 19 bungee jumps in one hour and Bill Boshoff performed 101 jumps in a 24 hour period. Mr Bill's world record was subsequently surpassed in 2011 by Mr Scott Hunty to regain the world record with 107 jumps in the 24 hour period. Bloukrans bungee operations is open 365 days of the year during all weather conditions (except gale force winds) the primary focus is on maintaining the highest quality safety standards on the operations so that bungee jumping can be experienced and enjoyed by all.

Moses Mabhida Stadium Big Rush Big Swing

Moses Mabhida Stadium was built for the FIFA World Cup soccer games in 2010, and it's really a work of art.

“ Discover South Africa's most popular action and outdoor activities ”

Beautiful white arches rise 100 meters into the air over the city of Durban. For the ultimate ride of your life the 'Big Rush Big Swing' at the Moses Mabhida Stadium is a must. This is the world's only stadium swing and the biggest swing of any kind, anywhere. Jump into the void 106 meters above the world cup football pitch and swing out in a huge 220 meter arc under the iconic arch. All equipment and instruction is provided by fully qualified staff.

Big Rush have a shop at the stadium (shop 15) where they run check in and registration for the jump as well as retail clothing, video and still photos of clients jumping. They also have a coffee lounge where you can relax and watch videos of people jumping.

The jump operates every day, weather permitting. There is no age limit and they have jumped clients as young as 8 years and as old as 75. Comfortable walking shoes must be worn. Swing Clients have the added bonus of walking up the arch from where they can stop and admire the spectacular views of Durban and the Indian Ocean. A viewing area is set aside within the stadium for family and friends to watch their relations jump from the platform. Cameras are allowed.

Dive with the Great Whites

Great White shark-cage diving, breaching and surface viewing, all in one trip - Seal Island False Bay. The season



Classifieds

Thursday, July 12, 2018



Now you can browse
www.kuwaittimes.net
e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



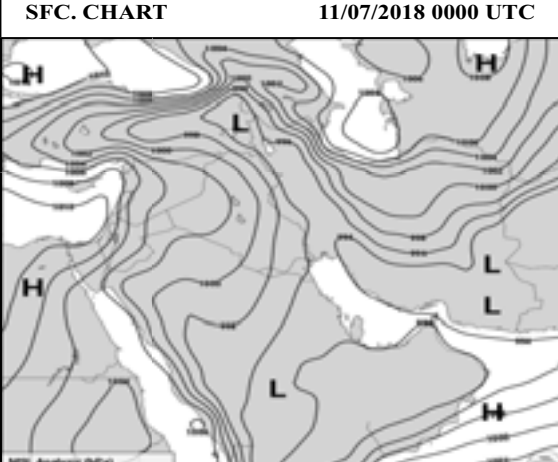
Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 6817
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Very hot with moderate to fresh north westerly wind, with speed of 20 - 50 km/h causing rising dust and some high clouds will appear.

BY NIGHT: Relatively hot with light to moderate freshening at times north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 42 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 11/07/2018 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	48 °C	35 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	48 °C	36 °C			
ABDALY	48 °C	33 °C			
BUBYAN	00 °C	00 °C			
JAHRA	48 °C	35 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	47 °C	33 °C			
SALMIYAH	46 °C	35 °C			
AHMADI	44 °C	37 °C			
NUWAISIB	48 °C	35 °C			
WAFRA	48 °C	35 °C			
SALMY	46 °C	31 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Thursday	07/12	Very hot causing rising dust over open areas and some high clouds will appear	49 °C	36 °C	NW	15 - 45 km/h
Friday	07/13	Very hot causing rising dust	49 °C	36 °C	NW	20 - 45 km/h
Saturday	07/14	Very hot causing rising dust	49 °C	35 °C	NW	25 - 50 km/h
Sunday	07/15	Very hot	48 °C	35 °C	NW	10 - 40 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:23
Sunrise	04:57
Zuhr	11:53
Asr	15:28
Sunset	18:50
Isha	20:21

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	49 °C
MIN. Temp.	36 °C
MAX. RH	19 %
MIN. RH	06 %
MAX. Wind	N 57 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Pushpa Narayan Kambali, Passport No: L5936300, Civil ID No: 264123001432, has changed my name to Ayesha Mohammad Kamil. (C 5407)

I, Gadi Karimulla s/o. Gadi Gafoor Basha, holder of Indian Passport No. K8035636, Civil ID No. 280051008394, has changed my name to Shaik Karimulla, father Shaik Gaffar Basha, hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5408) 9-7-2018

إعلان
تقدم أحمد محمدر البرارشي
توربة محمد أحمد البرارشي
أسحاب الشركة أن أم للشركة للتجارة
العامة أ ذات مسئولية محدودة بطلب إلى
إدارة الشركة هذه الوزارة، تغيير الكيان
القانوني للشركة لتصبح من ذات مسئولية
محدودة إلى ذات الشخص الواحد.
يرجى من له اعتراض بتقديم الالتماس
الذموري خلال ثلاثين يوماً من تاريخ نشر
الأعلان باقتراض خطي من لقا به مستند
التبريرية والألا فأن يؤخذ بعين الاعتبار

ACCOMODATION

Full room with attached bathroom ready for occupancy any Philippine or Indian nationality at Hawally Tunis Street opposite MC Donald, new Canary Matam, anyone interested please contact: 97470947 after 3 pm. (C 5406) 8-7-2018

EMERGENCY
112

Airlines		
Kuwait Airways		171
Jazeera Airways		177
American Airlines		22087425
		22087426
Jet Airways		22924455
FlyDubai		22414400
Qatar Airways		22423888
KLM		22425747
Royal Jordanian		22418064/5/6
British Airways		22425635
Air France		22430224
Emirates		22921555
Air India		22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines		22424444



Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Thursday 12/7/2018				Departure Flights on Thursday 12/7/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	405	Sohag	00:05	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
FEQ	441	Asyut	00:05	MSC	502	Alexandria	00:10
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	MSR	2615	Cairo	00:30
SAI	441	Lahore	00:50	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	FEQ	344	Sohag	01:05
KAC	102	London	00:50	MSC	406	Sohag	01:05
GEL	616	Baku	01:00	KAC	417	Manila	01:45
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	THY	773	Istanbul	01:45
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	SAI	442	Lahore	01:50
JZR	539	Cairo	01:35	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC	677	Dubai	02:00
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	WAL	351	Luxor	02:00
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	GEL	613	Dubai	02:30
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	JZR	502	Luxor	02:30
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:45
RJA	267	Beirut	02:10	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:55
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
THY	768	Istanbul	02:40	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:10
WAN	714	AGP	02:45	JZR	122	Bahrain	03:20
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
RBG	212	Sohag	03:05	THY	769	Istanbul	03:35
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	JZR	142	Doha	03:45
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	RBG	216	Sohag	03:45
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	MSC	404	Asyut	04:05
MSC	403	Asyut	03:05	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
JZR	553D	Alexandria	03:05	MSR	607	Luxor	04:05
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	MSR	606	Cairo	04:15
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	PGT	831	Istanbul	04:25
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	JZR	540	Cairo	04:40
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	JAI	571	Mumbai	05:00
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
KAC	152	Istanbul	04:15	QTR	1077	Doha	05:15
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	KAC	446	Amsterdam	05:20
THY	784	Jeddah	04:30	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:35
THY	1414	Dubai	05:05	FDB	070	Dubai	06:00
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	JZR	1542	Cairo	06:40
KAC	544	Cairo	05:20	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	RJA	643	Amman	07:00
KAC	332	Chennai	05:30	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	KAC	356	Mashhad	07:15
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	KAC	167	Paris	07:20
KAC	362	Colombo	06:00	WAN	133	Doha	07:20
BAW	157	London	06:10	RBG	550	Alexandria	07:30
JZR	123	Bahrain	06:15	KAC	173	Munich	07:35
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:25	KAC	413	Bangkok	07:40
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	KAC	193	TXZ	08:00
QTR	8511	Doha	06:35	JZR	238	Amman	08:00
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	JZR	778	Jeddah	08:00
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	QTR	8512	Beirut	08:00
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	WAN	713	AGP	08:10
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	BAW	156	London	08:20
JZR	605	Ahmedabad	07:05	KAC	177	Vienna	08:30
JZR	143	Doha	07:20	KAC	054	Dubai	08:35
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	791	Madinah	09:00
WAN	352	Luxor	08:00	KAC	613	Bahrain	09:00
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	KAC	117	New York	09:05
KAC	358	Kochi	08:05	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	WAN	415	Beirut	09:10
IRA	673	Ahwaz	08:35	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
JZR	503	Luxor	08:35	IRA	672	Ahwaz	09:35
KAD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC	561	Amman	09:40
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	ABY	126	Amsterdam	09:40
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05	KAC	773	Riyadh	09:45
SAW	703	Damascus	09:30	JZR	534	Cairo	09:45
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:55
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	KAC	101	London	10:00
SYR	341	Damascus	10:00	KAC	515	Tehran	10:00
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
THY	1516	TXZ	10:05	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	797	Taif	10:05
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	IRA	668	Mashhad	10:10
WAN	134	Doha	11:00	KAC	617	Doha	10:15
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25
JZR	529	Asyut	11:05	SAW	704	Damascus	10:30
JZR	165	Dubai	11:35	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40
AHY	5101	Baku	11:55	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:20	SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00
SAW	709	Latakia	12:30	SYR	342	Damascus	11:00
MSC	411	Asyut	12:30	IAW	158	Amman	11:00
KAC	284	Dubai	12:45	THY	1415	TXZ	11:05
THY	766	Istanbul	12:45	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
ABY	121	Sharjah	12:55	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
JZR	239	Amman	13:00	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00				
JZR	1543	Cairo	13:05				
JZR	357	Mashhad	13:05				

Irish Senate backs law banning trade with Israel settlements

DUBLIN: The Irish Senate gave its support yesterday to a draft law prohibiting the import of goods produced in occupied territories around the world, including Israeli settlements considered illegal under international law. Israel reacted angrily to the proposal calling it "populist, dangerous and extremist", while a spokesman for the PLO expressed "sincere appreciation" for the initiative. The proposed law was introduced by an independent senator and drew support from all of Ireland's major political parties, except the governing Fine Gael party.

The Irish government said the measure, unprecedented for a European Union member, was unworkable because it would impose a trade barrier within the European Union's single market and could harm Irish influence in the region. Senators voted in favor of the Control of Economic Activity (Occupied Territories) Bill by 25 votes to 20, with

applause rippling through the chamber after an impassioned debate. It will now undergo further scrutiny in a senate committee, with the government set to continue trying to block it becoming law. "We may have a long path ahead of us," said Senator Frances Black, the bill's author. "But I believe... we've made the case clearly."

Calling Israeli settlements a "war crime", she compared her proposal to early Irish efforts to oppose apartheid in South Africa, adding Ireland "will always stand on the side of international law, human rights and justice." But Foreign Minister Simon Coveney warned it risked "fanning flames" in the Middle East. "I respect this house and its decision but respectfully disagree," he said.

Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon said the vote would have "a negative impact on the diplomatic process in the Middle East". "The absurd

in the Irish Senate's initiative is that it will harm the livelihoods of many Palestinians who work in the Israeli industrial zones affected by the boycott," he said. "Israel will consider its response in accordance with developments regarding the legislation," he said. Saeb Erekat, Palestine Liberation Organisation secretary-general, welcomed the move. "This courageous step builds on the historic ties between Ireland and Palestine, as well as it shows the way forward for the rest of the European Union," he said.

Israel has acted angrily to such moves in the past, heavily criticizing the EU after it backed labelling products produced in its settlements in 2015. It summoned the Irish ambassador for clarifications over the proposed legislation when it was first introduced in January. Fadi Quran, Palestinian senior campaigner at pressure group

Vavaa, who was in the senate when the bill passed, heralded July 11 "Palestine's St Patrick Day". "The settlements are immoral and illegal under international law, and Ireland is the first country to practice what the whole world preaches," he said. "Now, others need to follow the Irish example."

Proponents of the measure argued Israel is profiting from its illegal settlements in the Palestinian territories and the stalled peace process shows no signs of yielding a resolution. "The status quo has failed... that is why we are seeking a change," said Senator Colette Kelleher, who co-signed the bill. "I'm asking you to lead Europe," she added, addressing her comments to Coveney. But those opposed to the move said it could draw Ireland into trade disputes over contested territories in places like China, Cyprus and Crimea. — AFP

Muslim scholars plead for peace in Afghanistan

JEDDAH: More than 100 Muslim scholars from around the world meeting yesterday in the Saudi holy city of Makkah issued an urgent appeal for peace in Afghanistan as they ended a two-day conference. "The solution to the cause of the Muslim Afghani must particularly go through mutual understanding and direct peaceful negotiations," read the closing declaration. "Reconciling between battling Muslims is one of the greatest and most honored acts of worship," it said.

The international gathering, which focused on prospects for peace in Afghanistan, was sponsored by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, based in nearby Jeddah. Yousef Al-Othaimeen, the head of the 57-member pan-Islamic organization, ended the meeting by urging a ceasefire for Afghanistan. "The OIC calls on all parties to observe a truce, respect a ceasefire and enter into direct negotiations," he told reporters at the close of the conference.

The scholars were received yesterday by Saudi King Salman, who

expressed his country's commitment to a peaceful resolution in Afghanistan, according to state news agency SPA. The Taliban ignored an invitation from the OIC to attend the Makkah conference, Saudi daily Asharq al-Awsat reported yesterday. Thus far, the Taliban have not responded to Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's offers for dialogue, instead demanding to sit down with the United States, which has dismissed this proposal.

Attacks occur on a near-daily basis in Afghanistan, where the US toppled the Taliban from power 17 years ago. Yesterday, an unclaimed attack on an education department facility in eastern Afghanistan left at least 11 people dead. A recent ceasefire between Afghan security forces and the Taliban during the Islamic holiday Eid had raised hopes that an end to hostilities in the war-weary country was possible. But the Taliban refused the government's request to extend their three-day ceasefire, launching attacks that have seen scores killed or injured. — AFP



A model of the moon hangs above the Olympic swimming pool at the National Aquatics Center, known as the Water Cube, in Beijing yesterday. The moon model is part of an exhibition about China's moon exploration technology and achievements. China landed its first rover on the moon in 2013 and plans to land a rover on the far side of the moon later in 2018. — AFP

Thai boys wave to the world...

Continued from Page 1

But Thai authorities have been coy on how a group of boys, many of whom could not swim and none with diving experience, could have navigated the treacherous narrow and submerged passageways of the Tham Luang complex, even with expert diving support. After days of mounting speculation, a former Thai Navy SEAL diver broke the silence, revealing the boys were sleeping or partially-conscious as they were passed from diver-to-diver through the cave.

"Some of them were asleep, some of them were wiggling their fingers... (as if) groggy, but they were breathing," Commander Chaiyananta Peeranarong told AFP. "My job was to transfer them along," he said, adding the "boys were wrapped up in stretchers already when they were being transferred" and were monitored at regular intervals by doctors posted along the kilometres-long escape route. He did not say if the coach, the only adult with the boys for nine days before they found, was able to dive and walk out unaided.

Footage released by the Thai Navy SEALs showed foreign and Thai divers using pulleys, ropes and rubber piping to haul stretchers bearing two of the barely moving young footballers to safety, their exit framed by the jagged cave overhead. Junta leader Prayut Chan-O-Cha on Tuesday said the boys had been given a "minor tranquilizer" to prevent anxiety during the complex extraction bid. But he had denied they were knocked out for an operation the chief of the rescue had dubbed "mission impossible".

The rescue was fraught with danger, a point underscored last Friday by the death of a retired Thai Navy SEAL diver as he ran out of air in the flooded cave complex. Then, with the final divers slowly exiting the

cave on Tuesday, the pumps suddenly failed pushing the water level up towards head height in a previously wadeable section of the cave. "If you didn't use the water pump in that location, you could only come out with an oxygen tank," ex-SEAL Commander Chaiyananta said. That left 20 or so divers scrambling to flee the rising waters, he said, explaining they narrowly made it out time.

Thailand spent yesterday celebrating the successful mission. It received blanket coverage in Thai media with newspaper The Nation running the headline "Hooyah! Mission accomplished" and the Bangkok Post emblazoned with "All Wild Boars saved". Despite spending days in the dark, dank, cave health officials said the boys - who are aged 11 to 16 - are in good physical and mental health and eating normal food. "It might be because they were all together as a team," public health ministry inspector general Thongchai Lertwilairatanapong told reporters.

The saga of the "Wild Boars" gripped the world, with the lives of the group hanging in the balance as the threat of heavy rain injected urgency to an already perilous extraction bid. Closer to home, Chiang Rai locals rejoiced at the odds-upsetting rescue bid. Duangduen Sittiwongsa, a classmate of 16-year-old Pheeraphat "Night" Sompieengjai, whose birthday fell on the same day the team entered the cave, said they would give him cake when he came back to school. "We will sing a song for him," she said.

Rescuers had weighed up several options to save the boys, including keeping them in the cave through the months-long monsoon season. But they were prodded into the dangerous task of bringing the team through submerged chambers and claustrophobic passages as oxygen levels in the cave plummeted and rains menaced. The group was taken out in three batches by a team of 13 international divers flanked by the Thai Navy SEALs, who greeted each successful rescue with a "Hooyah" on their Facebook page. That sign off quickly turned into a hashtag shared across social media, where luminaries of business, politics and sport extended their best wishes to the team and the rescuers. — AFP

edged that Trump had expressed himself in "very direct language" but insisted that away from the fiery rhetoric the allies all agree on fundamental issues: the need to boost NATO's resilience, fight terror and share the cost of defence more equally.

NATO officials and diplomats will try to promote an image of unity at the summit in the face of growing unease about the threat from Russia, but with the row between Merkel and Trump and the new spending demand mean it may prove difficult to paper over the cracks. The mercurial tycoon said before leaving Washington that his meeting in Helsinki with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday "may be the easiest" part of his European tour, which also includes a trip to Britain, where the government is in crisis over Brexit.

Trump ramped up his rhetoric ahead of the talks, explicitly linking NATO with the transatlantic trade row by saying the EU shut out US business while expecting America to defend it. EU President Donald Tusk stepped up to the fight with his own salvo against Trump on Tuesday, telling him to "appreciate your allies" and reminding him Washington that Europe had come to its aid following the 9/11 attacks. European diplomats fear a repeat of last month's divisive G7 in Canada, when Trump clashed with his Western allies before meeting North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un at a summit and praising him as "very talented". — AFP

How could Iran disrupt...

Continued from Page 1

launchers in the Gulf area to confront the United States. In 2015, the Guards staged a drill, shown on state television, in which a replica of a US aircraft carrier was destroyed with missiles and speedboats loaded with explosives while the guards practiced laying mines in the Strait.

In recent years, there have been periodic confrontations between the Guards and US military in the Gulf. The US navy has said that from Jan 2016 to Aug 2017 there was an average of 2.5 "unsafe" or "unprofessional" interactions per month between US Navy and Iranian maritime forces, including an Iranian drone flying near a US Navy warplane and Iranian military boat sailing close to a US Navy vessel. Tehran has accused US forces of provocation. "Their security and the security of their interests in the region are in our hands" the Guards' Salami said this year, although the number of incidents has dropped in recent months.

During the Iran-Iraq war in 1980-1988 the two sides attacked ships in the Gulf to hamper one another's oil exports in what was known as the Tanker War. In 1988, a US frigate struck an Iranian mine, blowing a hole in its hull and breaking its keel, the US Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) said. The United States destroyed two Iranian oil terminals, sank an Iranian warship and damaged another in response, the ONI said.

The US Fifth Fleet, based in Bahrain, is tasked with protecting commercial ships in the area. US officials have said closing the Strait would be crossing a "red line" and have pledged to take action to reopen it. "We have the forces we need to maintain free flow of commerce and the freedom of navigation," Navy Capt Bill Urban, US Central Command spokesman told Reuters. Western navies also stage military exercises in the Gulf and Arab states across the Gulf from Iran, particularly Saudi Arabia and the UAE, have high-tech naval capacities.

MPs plan to meet political leadership...

Continued from Page 1

opposition activists, to three and a half years in jail for storming the Assembly during an anti-corruption protest in Nov 2011. The court, whose rulings are final, also sentenced three other activists to two years in jail, acquitted 17 and refrained from punishing 34 others despite finding them guilty. Mutairi said the aim of the mediation bid is to defuse tensions on the domestic front, adding that it's time to close the years-old case.

Hundreds of opposition MPs and activists stormed the National Assembly following a demonstration in protest against reports that former lawmakers had received millions of dinars in bribes to win their support in crucial voting in the Assembly elected in 2009. Opposition MP Riyadh Al-Adasani yesterday said he was outraged how honest people who protested

An ONI report said last year that Iran's Guards' naval doctrine was "based on speed, numbers, stealth, survivability, and lethality" and that it had acquired fast attack craft, small boats, anti-ship cruise missiles and mines. "Individually, these improvements cannot compete with Western technology. However, taken together, they could create an overall capability that is greater than the sum of its parts, particularly when employed in tight operational spaces like the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz," the ONI said.

The US has said it would use minesweepers, warship escorts and potentially air strikes to protect the free flow of commerce but reopening the Strait could be a lengthy process especially if the Guards laid mines. Michael Connell, head of the Iran program with US non-profit research body CNA, said of all Iran's capabilities, mines were probably the one that caused the most concern. He also said a misjudged incident which would trigger direct fire was a more likely scenario than a blockade of the Strait. "I would be less worried about a bolt out of the blue attempt to close the Strait and more worried about stumbling into a conflict," he said.

Iranian officials differ over the significance of the latest threat to close the Strait. "By calling on countries to cut their oil exports from Iran, America has already declared war on Iran," a senior Iranian official and a former Revolutionary Guards commander who served during the 1980s war with Iraq told Reuters. "If we come to that point of not being able to export any oil, we will surely close the waterway."

Another official, who like the first declined to be named because of the sensitivity of the matter, placed the threat in the context of talks with world powers on the future of the nuclear deal. Iran has said it would remain in the deal, which frees it from international sanctions in return for curbs on its nuclear program, only if its interests were guaranteed. "The Strait issue gives Iran an upper hand in the talks. Everyone should know that Iran cannot be pressured," the second senior Iranian government official said. "Iran has never closed the waterway ... even under the worst conditions and mounted pressure on the country." — Reuters

against corruption have been sent to jail while those legislators who accepted bribes remain free more than a decade after the crime.

Adasani said although he was against the storming of the Assembly building by the activists, he remains shocked how no criminal charges have been pressed against corrupt lawmakers, a number of whom remain members of the current National Assembly. The lawmaker said he was a member of the parliamentary committee that investigated the case in 2012 and again a year later. He said 13 former (and current) MPs have been found to have received millions of dinars in bribes, and this has been well-documented by the Assembly panel.

But he said that the case had been shelved by the public prosecution for administrative reasons, and accordingly, these corrupt lawmakers had not been acquitted or cleared by the judiciary but they have never been tried in court. Adasani said that based on the findings of the committee, 13 former lawmakers received between KD 700,000 and KD 9.7 million in cash bribes that were deposited in their bank accounts. He said that the case should be revived and sent to court so that the corrupt MPs are punished.

Trump stuns NATO allies with call to...

Continued from Page 1

Merkel, who grew up in communist East Germany, shot back that she knew what it meant to be under Kremlin domination and Germany had the right to make its own policy choices. "I myself have also experienced a part of Germany being controlled by the Soviet Union," she said. "I am very glad that we are united today in freedom as the Federal Republic of Germany and that we can therefore also make our own independent policies and make our own independent decisions." The pair later met for a one-on-one meeting and while Trump insisted they had a "very very good relationship", their frosty body language suggested otherwise. Merkel said she welcomed the chance to have an "exchange of views" with Trump.

Trump has long complained that European NATO members do not pay enough for their own defence, singling out Germany for particular criticism. Germany, Europe's biggest economy, spends just 1.24 percent, compared with 3.5 percent for the US. Stoltenberg acknowl-

Sports



Clock is ticking as Qataris watch WCup and start to dream of 2022

‘It’s not only big for Qatar, it’s big for the region’

DOHA: In four years' time, Qatar's Khalifa International Stadium will host a World Cup quarter-final, but on Tuesday it had to make do with a big screen. Some 4,500 people packed out the stadium's fan zone as it showed France beating Belgium in the semi-final in Russia, knowing that the clock is ticking for Qatar's World Cup in 2022.

Atef, a 30-year-old local who is supporting Belgium, says he has enjoyed the tournament. "It's competitive, it makes it more interesting, to see someone new in the World Cup," he says. But he admits the unpredicted success of Russia has put more pressure on Qatar to follow-up with a tournament equally as good. "To be honest, yes, there is much pressure. This will be the first World Cup in the Middle East," says Atef.

"It's not only big for Qatar, it's big for the region." The game has attracted people from all over Doha, mostly men, but there are plenty of families and women in attendance. Fans drawn from Qatar, Kenya, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan are glued to the screen, screaming and jumping at several near misses.

Popcorn and soft drink sellers move among the crowd and people are still pouring in some 30 minutes after kick-off. The stadium is air-conditioned and needs to be as the humidity of a Doha summer makes it feel like the temperature is above 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit), past nine o' clock in the evening.

It is clear that Belgium are the fans' favourites in the Khalifa stadium—though some supporters are in French replica shirts—but the game also shows the global

appeal of the World Cup. One Indian fan, Pooja, admits she does not really like football, but takes an interest in the game every four years when the World Cup comes around. Nearby, Mohamed, a Qatari teacher is there to watch the match with his family, but is also thinking four years' ahead. "I think we can make it better than Russia, because there have been more sports in Doha beforehand," he says.

Qatar's World Cup bid has been hit by several controversies over allegations of corruption, human rights' abuse and the vexed issue of alcohol for fans when some 1.5 million supporters are expected to descend on Doha in 2022. Qatar, a conservative Muslim country, is not a dry state, but it has strict rules on the purchase of alcohol. Booze will be sold at the tournament, but the plan so far is for it to be restricted to certain zones. Mohamed though is not bothered. "There's no problem with that, if you want to drink, drink," he says. But won't locals be offended? "No, I don't believe that," adds Mohamed.

'I AM SO EXCITED'

Teenager Jassim from Bangladesh, is dressed in a Qatari robe and says he cannot wait to watch games live in four years' time. "This makes me so excited, I will go to games in 2022," says the 15-year-old. High in the seats provided for fans sits Alex, 29, a security guard from Kenya, was cheering Belgium because a former Belgian national team player, Divock Origi, has Kenyan roots.



SAMARA: File photo shows Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani waits for the start of the Russia 2018 World Cup round of 16 football match between Brazil and Mexico at the Samara Arena in Samara on July 2, 2018. — AFP

But his mind is as much on 2022 as the semi-final. He has been in the Gulf for two years and one of the reasons he come to Qatar is the World Cup. "It will be a privilege for me to see the World Cup," he says excitedly. "If my visa expires, I will have to find a way to extend it so I am here for 2022." — AFP

Ticket offers, tributes as world soccer toasts Thai cave boys' rescue

BANKOK: With victory dedications, soccer shirts and offers of tours and match tickets, some of soccer's biggest names are cheering the rescue of 12 Thai boys and their coach from a flooded cave, a drama as gripping as the World Cup now at the semi-final stage.

The last of the "Wild Boars" football team and their coach were brought out of the cave late on Tuesday after a dangerous rescue that unleashed joy across Thailand, and earned the boys celebrity plaudits from Italy and Spain to England and Brazil.

France midfielder Paul Pogba called them "heroes of the day" and dedicated to them his country's 1-0 win over Belgium, a victory that catapulted Les Bleus into the World Cup final for the first time in 12 years.

"Well done boys, you are so strong," Pogba said on Twitter. England are determined to meet France and will play Croatia in the other semi-final in Moscow yesterday. Two members of the Three Lions squad, defender Kyle Walker and goalkeeper Jack Butland offered to send kit to the Thai boys.

Walker tweeted a picture of one of the boys in the cave, who wears a red England shirt, and asked where he can send them jerseys. "Amazing news that all of the Thai kids are out of the cave safely!" he said.

Former Real Madrid, Inter Milan and Brazil striker Ronaldo had earlier urged the boys to be strong while awaiting rescue, as did



CHIANG RAI: This handout video grab taken from footage released by The Thai government public relations department (PRD) and Government spokesman bureau yesterday shows members of the "Wild Boars" football team being treated at a hospital in Chiang Rai. — AFP

Austrian defender Christian Fuchs, who won the English Premier League title with Thai-owned Leicester City.

'A REAL HERO'

Italian club AS Roma called the successful mission "the best football news of the summer", and offered its condolences to the family of former navy diver Samarn Kunan, who died during the rescue last week, after delivering the boys oxygen. It said he was "a real hero". A Thai health official yesterday said most of the boys, who are aged 11-16, had lost some weight but were in good condition and showed no signs of stress, despite more than two weeks trapped deep in the cave. The boys were in quarantine in hospital yesterday, where they will remain for a week for tests.

since Unai Emery was appointed Arsene Wenger's successor in late May—joins from Ligue 2 outfit Lorient Guendouzi, who began his career in the youth system at Paris Saint Germain before moving to Lorient in 2014, told Arsenal's website for him the move is a dream come true.

"Arsenal have always been the team closest to my heart and a side I've wanted to join since I was a child," said Guendouzi. "It gives me great pride—it's incredible. I hope I can do great things here."

"It doesn't get any better than coming to a club like this, with so much history, like Arsenal. I'm hugely proud. "I want to become part of the club's history and to achieve great things here." Emery, who was appointed to the Gunners post after he lost his job at Paris

That means they will not be taking soccer's world governing body FIFA up on its offer to attend Sunday's World Cup final in Russia. "We will look into finding a new opportunity to invite the boys to a FIFA event to share with them a moment of communion and celebration," it said. But the "Wild Boars" will get their chance to go on tour once fit. The foundation of Spanish side Barcelona has invited them to attend an international tournament of the club's academy, and watch a match at the Nou Camp stadium. The boys and those who saved them can also look forward to a trip this season to the "Theatre of Dreams", otherwise known as Old Trafford, the home of English giants Manchester United. "We would love to welcome the team from Wild Boars Football Club and their rescuers," the club Tweeted. —Reuters

Saint Germain, said Arsenal had fended off several other clubs in securing the signature of Guendouzi, who has been capped at three different age categories by France.

"He is a talented young player and a lot of clubs were interested in him," said Emery. "He has big potential and gained good first-team experience last season with Lorient (in all he made 26 appearances since he made his debut in 2016). "He wants to learn and improve and will be an important part of our first-team squad."

Guendouzi joins Uruguayan international midfielder Lucas Torreira, veteran Swiss defender Stephan Lichtsteiner, German goalkeeper Bernd Leno and experienced Greek defender Sokratis Papastathopoulos as new arrivals at the Gunners. — AFP

Five times VAR made a difference at the WCup

ST PETERSBURG: The following fact-box details five times a Video Assistant Referee (VAR) made an impact at the World Cup.

France 2-1 Australia
June 16, 2018
Group C

France's first game against Australia was the first time VAR was used to award a penalty at the World Cup. Antoine Griezmann was through on goal and inside the penalty area before he went down under contact from Josh Risdon. Referee Andres Cunha allowed play to continue, but stopped the game after being alerted by the VAR. The referee checked replays on a pitch-side monitor and awarded a penalty from which Griezmann opened France's account.

Brazil 2-0 Costa Rica
June 22, 2018
Group E

The game was scoreless with 12 minutes remaining and Brazil were pushing for an equaliser when Neymar went to ground under a touch from Giancarlo Gonzalez, leading referee Bjorn Kuipers to award a penalty. The VAR intervened, and the referee watched the replays and reversed his decision, marking the first time a VAR review had cancelled the award of a penalty at the World Cup.

Iran 1-1 Portugal
June 25, 2018
Group B

Portugal captain Cristiano Ronaldo was fouled in the box and the referee awarded a record 19th penalty at the World Cup before the knockout rounds. Ronaldo missed his spot kick, but the decision eclipsed the previous record tally of 18 penalties awarded at the 2002 World Cup hosted by Japan and South Korea. VAR was used on two more occasions of note in the same match when Ronaldo was shown a yellow card for an elbow and to award Iran a penalty for handball in extra time that allowed the Asian team to level the score.

Spain 2-2 Morocco
June 25, 2018
Group B

At nearly the same time as Iran was scoring their penalty to level with Portugal, Iago Aspas had scored a late goal to draw Spain level with Morocco, but his celebrations were cut short by the linesman's flag for offside. Referee Ravshan Irmatov was alerted by the VAR to check the replays and overturned the linesman's decision and awarded the goal, sending Spain through to the knockout stages as group winners ahead of Portugal.

Sweden 1-0 Switzerland
July 3, 2018
Round of 16

Sweden were 1-0 up and under pressure from Switzerland late in the game when they broke through the Swiss cordon and launched a quick counter-attack. Martin Olsson was bearing down on the Swiss goal when he was fouled by Michael Lang and the referee awarded a penalty and showed Lang a red card. After consulting the VAR, the referee realised the foul had taken place outside the area and changed his decision, giving the Swedes a free kick instead. — Reuters

Guendouzi achieves childhood dream in joining Arsenal

LONDON: French teenage midfielder Matteo Guendouzi says he wants to become part of the history of Premier League side Arsenal after signing for them yesterday for a fee reported to be £7million (\$9.2million).

The 19-year-old-Arsenal's fifth signing

Past LeBron foe Stephenson joins 'King James' on Lakers

LOS ANGELES: Lance Stephenson, who once blew in the left ear of LeBron James trying to disrupt the NBA superstar, signed a new contract Tuesday to join James on the Los Angeles Lakers. The 27-year-old American guard played for Indiana the past two seasons, each campaign ending with a first-round playoff loss to James and the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Stephenson has a history with James, including a choke sign to Miami's bench after James missed a late free throw in a lopsided Indiana playoff win in 2012, trash talk and the ear-blow incident when Miami met Indiana in the 2014 Eastern Conference finals and striking James in the groin when the star drove to the hoop in a game last November.—AFP

Sports

Machado hit two home runs as Orioles beat Yankees 6-5

Votto hit three-run double to give Cincinnati a shocking win

BALTIMORE Jonathan Schoop's bases-loaded single with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning gave host Baltimore a 6-5 win over New York on Tuesday, the Orioles' first walk-off win since Opening Day. With the score 5-5, the Orioles got two runners on with one out against New York right-hander Dellin Betances (1-3). Manny Machado, who already had homered twice and was 3-for-4, was intentionally walked. Mark Trumbo struck out, but Schoop followed with a single just past first base to give the Orioles their second win in three games. It was the first time Betances had allowed a run since May 23, a span of 18 consecutive scoreless appearances and 19 2/3 innings. Zach Britton (1-0) got the win after a scoreless ninth inning. Greg Bird collected four RBIs for the Yankees, and Didi Gregorius had three hits.

ASTROS 6, A'S 5 (11 INNINGS)

Kyle Tucker scored on an 11th-inning throwing error by Oakland catcher Jonathan Lucroy, giving host Houston a wild victory. After the Athletics fashioned a four-run, ninth-inning rally to pull even, Stephen Piscotty homered for a fourth straight game, belting a two-out solo home run to left in the 11th off Collin McHugh (5-0) to provide Oakland its first lead of the game at 5-4. But the Astros rallied against All-Star Blake Treinen in the bottom half. After the first two Astros reached in the 11th, Josh Reddick scored on a fielder's choice grounder from Tony Kemp when Lucroy couldn't handle the throw home from shortstop Marcus Semien. Two batters later, Alex Bregman eluded the tag of Lucroy after his swinging bunt rolled fair mere feet from home plate, and when Lucroy attempted to retire Bregman at first, his throw sailed wide.

RED SOX 8, RANGERS 4

Xander Bogaerts hit a two-run triple to cap a five-run third inning for Boston en route to victory against visiting Texas. Jackie Bradley Jr. and Andrew Benintendi each had RBI doubles in the frame and Mitch Moreland added an RBI single for the first of his two RBIs on the night for Boston, which has won eight straight games. Rougned Odor hit a solo home run and Joey Gallo ripped a two-run double for Texas, which has dropped seven of nine.

REDS 7, INDIANS 4

Joey Votto hit a three-run double on a 3-2 count with two outs in the top of the ninth inning to give Cincinnati the shocking win after a seven-run ninth inning at Cleveland. Cody Allen (2-4) took over with a 4-0 lead in the ninth and left with the advantage 4-3. Dan Otero replaced Allen and faced Votto, who lined a bases-clearing double to right field. Eugenio Suarez's second single of the inning brought Votto home to cap the seven-run outburst. The Indians, who lost their fourth in a row, wasted eight scoreless innings by Trevor Bauer. The right-hander allowed three hits, walked four and struck out 12. It was his seventh consecutive quality start with eight or more strikeouts and no homers allowed, the longest such streak in the live-ball era (since 1920), per STATS LLC.

BLUE JAYS 6, BRAVES 2

Russell Martin drove in the go-ahead run in a five-run eighth inning as visiting Toronto took advantage of poor Braves defense to win at Atlanta. The Atlanta infield had three errors overall, including two in the decisive eighth inning. The team's infielders had not committed an error since June 27. The Toronto uprising

came against A.J. Minter (3-2), who gave up four runs (three earned) on three hits in one-third of an inning, and Shane Carle, who allowed one run on two hits in 1 2/3 innings. Both starting pitchers, Toronto's Marcus Stroman (2-6) and Atlanta's Julio Teheran, pitched into the seventh and allowed one run each.

BREWERS 8, MARLINS 4

Christian Yelich, in just his second major league game as a visitor at Marlins Park, drove in four runs to lead Milwaukee past Miami. Yelich, traded by the Marlins to the Brewers in the offseason, went 3-for-5 and drove in the tying and go-ahead runs with a single in Milwaukee's four-run second inning. He added a two-run double in the ninth. Milwaukee's Travis Shaw hit his 16th homer of the season, a solo shot in the eighth. Jhoulys Chacin (8-3) allowed seven hits, three walks and four runs in 5 2/3 innings. Marlins rookie Pablo Lopez (1-1) took the loss, allowing five runs in six innings.

PHILLIES 7, METS 3

Enyel De Los Santos won his major league debut by tossing 6 1/3 solid innings, and Maikel Franco hit a three-run homer to lead Philadelphia to a victory at New York. The Phillies have won the middle two games of the four-game series and eight of their last 10. The Mets have lost four of five and 15 of 20. De Los Santos (1-0) won a duel of pitchers making their debuts. He allowed three runs on five hits and three walks while striking out six. Drew Gagnon (0-1) allowed six runs on seven hits and one walk while striking out three over 4 2/3 innings.

NATIONALS 5, PIRATES 1

Anthony Rendon hit a two-run homer, and Washington added three runs in the sixth inning to win at Pittsburgh. Daniel Murphy went 4-for-4 with a run, and Juan Soto went 3-for-4 with a run and an RBI for the Nationals, who broke a two-game slide and won for the fourth time in six games to climb a game over .500. The Pirates, whose seven hits were all singles, saw their two-game winning streak end and lost for the sixth time in eight games.

CARDINALS 14, WHITE SOX 2

Dexter Fowler hit a grand slam as part of a seven-run sixth inning, and visiting St. Louis romped past Chicago. The Cardinals racked up 16 hits to back the strong pitching of All-Star Miles Mikolas, who allowed two runs on three hits in six innings. Mikolas (10-3) struck out six and walked one. Kolten Wong led the Cardinals with four hits, including a homer, and Jose Martinez added three hits and two RBIs. Dylan Covey (3-5) surrendered five runs, four earned, and nine hits in five-plus innings. The loss was the sixth straight for the reeling White Sox, who managed just five hits off four St. Louis pitchers.

RAYS 5, TIGERS 2

Wilson Ramos blasted a three-run homer to highlight a five-run third inning, and five Tampa Bay pitchers combined on a five-hitter in downing visiting Detroit. Willy Adames and Kevin Kiermaier each drove in a run and scored another. A trio of Rays pitchers—starter Ryne Stanek, Jose Alvarado and Jaime Schultz—tossed two scoreless innings apiece. Alvarado (1-3) was credited with his first major league victory. Sergio Romo got the last out for his 10th save. Detroit averted its 12th shutout of the season by scoring two runs in the ninth. The Tigers have lost three straight and 17 of their past 21 games.



BALTIMORE: Manny Machado #13 of the Baltimore Orioles celebrates a two run home run in the seventh inning with Adam Jones #10 and Mark Turbo #45 during a baseball game against the New York Yankees at Oriole Park at Camden Yards on Tuesday in Baltimore, Maryland. —AFP

ROYALS 9, TWINS 4

Adalberto Mondesi homered and drove in a career-high four runs, and Brian Flynn pitched four innings of one-hit relief for his first win of the season as Kansas City snapped a season-worst, 10-game losing streak in beating Minnesota at Minneapolis. It was just the fifth win in 33 games for the Royals. Kansas City also snapped a 30-game streak of not scoring more than five runs in a game, the longest by an American League team since the 1972 Texas Rangers had a 33-game slump—a year before the designated hitter rule was adopted by the AL. Alex Gordon added a two-run homer in the ninth. Whit Merrifield had two doubles and scored a pair of runs while extending his hitting streak to 12 games for the Royals.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, ROCKIES 3

David Peralta hit a go-ahead homer in Arizona's four-run seventh inning, and the Diamondbacks rallied to beat Colorado in Denver. A.J. Pollock and Nick Ahmed also homered, and Randall Delgado (2-0) got the win in relief of starter Patrick Corbin. Brad Boxberger pitched the ninth for his 22nd save. Nolan Arenado went deep and Tyler Anderson struck out eight in six innings of one-run ball in a no-decision for the Rockies.

PADRES 4, DODGERS 1

Rookie Eric Lauer came within an out of a shutout, and Austin Hedges and Wil Myers homered in a four-run fifth inning as host San Diego beat Los Angeles. Hedges hit a three-run homer, his fourth, to break the scoreless tie. Myers' homer was his sixth in four games and eighth of the season. Lauer (5-5) held the Dodgers scoreless on three hits and two walks for 8 2/3 innings before Max Muncy homered to left-center for the Dodgers' lone run. Lauer finished with eight

strikeouts—fanning both Matt Kemp and Logan Forsythe the three times. Kirby Yates struck out Kemp for the final out.

CUBS 2, GIANTS 0

Addison Russell raced home from second base on a wild pitch and subsequent errant throw to break a scoreless tie in the seventh inning as visiting Chicago got a combined three-hit shutout from four pitchers in blanking San Francisco. Jose Quintana (8-6) went the first six innings before Carl Edwards Jr., Justin Wilson and Steve Cishek tag-teamed to get the final nine outs, sending the Cubs to a ninth win in their past 11 games. Derek Holland (5-8), an 11th-hour replacement when San Francisco elected to push scheduled starter Johnny Cueto back a day, was the hard-luck loser, allowing one run in 6 1/3 innings. Holland took a four-hit shutout into the seventh before Russell's one-out double got the difference-making uprising going.

ANGELS 9, MARINERS 3

Los Angeles got three hits apiece from Kole Calhoun and Andrelton Simmons at the top of the lineup, leading the way to an easy win over Seattle in Anaheim, Calif. However, the win came at a price with the club potentially losing No. 1 pitcher Garrett Richards for an extended period of time. Richards, who was just activated from the disabled list on July 4 after missing three weeks with a strained left hamstring, had to leave Tuesday's game with two outs in the third inning because of right forearm irritation. He will have an MRI exam today. Calhoun homered, singled twice, scored three times, drove in two and walked once from the leadoff spot to lead the Halos' 15-hit attack. Four Angels relievers—Noe Ramirez (4-3), Cam Bedrosian, Jose Alvarez, Hansel Robles and Taylor Cole—combined to blank Seattle over the final 6 1/3 innings. —Reuters

Indian women's cricket coach quits over training methods

NEW DELHI: The Indian women's cricket coach has quit just over year into the job after a string of defeats and apparently alienating players, four months before the World Twenty20. Tushar Arothe, who was instrumental in India reaching the final of the women's World Cup in England last July, stepped down from his post Monday citing "personal reasons".

But a senior official in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) told AFP that a few senior players were not happy with Arothe's style of training. "Some players and selectors met BCCI administrators to convey that they were not comfortable with Arothe's method of training," the official said on condition of anonymity.

Arothe, 51, was appointed last April after his predecessor, the former women's captain Purnima Rau, was sacked by the board. The team also had a dismal Twenty20 tri-nation tournament against England and Australia in March and then lost a one-day international series against Australia.

However, it was the twin defeats against minnows Bangladesh in the Asia Cup, including one in the final in Kuala Lumpur last month, that hurt the most. The 10-nation ICC women's World T20 is scheduled to take place in the West Indies November 9-24.

The Indian men's team also witnessed a similar situation last year when former captain Anil Kumble quit as coach after his relations with skipper Virat Kohli became "untenable". — AFP

Du Plessis backs Steyn to roar back in S Lanka Tests

GALLE: South Africa skipper Faf du Plessis yesterday backed "dangerous" paceman Dale Steyn and the rest of his bowlers to wreak havoc in Sri Lanka on the eve of the first Test. Steyn "gets one wicket and he is up there with the most dangerous bowlers in the world because he is so skilful. I am hoping to see Dale bowl really quick again," du Plessis told reporters.

"In our bowling attack that we have, we have the ability to get 20 wickets on whatever the surfaces. I think this series will be won where the batters need to stand up for both teams," he said. Steyn, who is returning from an injury and last played a Test in January, is expected to be a part of South Africa's potent pace attack in the first of two Tests starting in Galle on Thursday.

The 35-year-old speedster needs three wickets to add to his 419 scalps and surpass retired quick Shaun Pollock (421) to become South Africa's leading wicket-taker in the five-day format. Du Plessis said he was also banking on Kagiso Rabada to swing it South Africa's way and eventually to step into Steyn's shoes as their foremost attack paceman.

Rabada, 23, is returning from a lower-back injury that saw him miss the Indian Premier League, but is still the year's leading wicket-taker with 38 in seven Tests. "The remarkable thing about KG (Rabada) is how quickly he learns. He has the ability to swing the bowl both ways which I think not many bowlers have," said Du Plessis.

"KG will take over that mantle (from Steyn). He has got the skills, pace and control to do well in all the conditions of the world," he added. But Sri Lankan batsman Roshan Silva also struck a confident note, saying they will make most of the home advantage in conditions that favour spin more than seam.

"At the moment they, South Africa, are the number two team in ranking. We expect them to come really



Faf du Plessis

hard at us. (But) we have prepared and we will give our best," said Silva, who has played six Tests since making his debut in India last year.

"If you take Bangladesh and in India, we did well (during those tours). We will have a good fight and we hope to win the series." The two sides are also scheduled to play five one-day internationals and one Twenty20 international after the Test series. — AFP

Ponting backs Australian turnaround ahead of next year's World Cup

CANBERRA: Australia still have the best depth of any cricket nation, former skipper Ricky Ponting has said while backing them to turn around their poor one-day international form in time to defend their World Cup title in England and Wales next year. Five-time World Cup winners Australia were white-washed 5-0 by hosts England in the ODI series which concluded last month, extending their poor ODI run having won only 16 of their last 18 matches.

"There are 16 one-dayers to be played between now and the next World Cup," the 43-year-old said at a Channel Seven promotional event. "I'll guarantee you when you put the Australian group of 15 players down on a sheet of paper, that group will line up as good as any other team in the world." Ponting, who captained Australia in their 2003 and 2007 World Cup victories, said the ODI series against England helped young players to get some games and he believes the team will keep producing great players.

"One thing I do know is we've got still the best depth of any cricket nation in the world and I will continue to say that," he added. Ponting also supported coach Justin Langer who took over reins of the team in May this year.

"The environment Justin Langer will create around that team will be a place that everyone will just get better, they'll just improve, they'll love the environment," he said. "I'm really excited about what the future holds not just right now but for the next 20 years." Australia will host South Africa in November for three ODIs and one Twenty20 and will then host Virat Kohli-led India for three T20s, four test matches and three ODIs. — Reuters



SNIPPETS



France holds collective breath as World Cup feats fuel joy and hope

Soccer buffs shared space with more light-hearted commentators

PARIS: Millions of jaded but jubilant French were recovering yesterday after a night of celebration following the team's 1-0 World Cup semi-final win against Belgium, a victory that has generated a rare but contagious mood of optimism.

For those who returned to work, many had barely slept after the spontaneous explosions of revelry, dancing and car-horn blaring from the streets of Paris to the smallest village squares of a nation heaving to the beat of football chants.

The Champs Elysees and the vast circle around the Arc de Triomphe were packed with an estimated 200,000 fans, who danced, sang and drank late into the night. The immediate question on most people's minds on Wednesday was who will reach the final to face Les Bleus. England and Croatia play in the other semi-final in Moscow at 1800 GMT.

There was no consensus about which team would be a preferable - meaning easier - opponent for France and its hopes of triumphing in a competition it has won just once before, on home soil in 1998.

On social networks, soccer buffs shared space with more light-hearted commentators, some of whom were more interested in the historical and political ramifications of a final face-off between arch-rivals England and France.

"Winning the final over England would be sublime, but losing to them would be so awful that I'm hoping for Croatia," said one Twitter fan by the name of Antoine. Another contributor made fun of France's rivals on the other side of the channel, saying: "Just spoke to an English friend. He tells me England's playing Croatia on Wednesday. So I'm like, 'What a coincidence. We're playing them on Sunday.'"

French TV channels and radio stations talked about little but soccer, relegating coverage of weightier issues such as a fractious NATO summit to a few seconds. An estimated 19 million of



BRUSSELS: French supporters celebrate after watching the Russia 2018 World Cup semi-final football match between France and Belgium in Jette district, center of Brussels, on Tuesday. —AFP

France's 67 million population watched the Belgium game, with that number only likely to grow for the final.

Football pundits and celebrities waxed lyrical about the young French side, particularly lightning fast striker Kylian Mbappe, one of the stand-out stars of the tournament. In Paris, graffiti popped up on one wall reading "Liberte, Egalite, Mbappe!", a play on the national motto of "Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite" (Freedom, Equality, Brotherhood).

In the Belgian capital Brussels, yesterday morning commuters had to endure more than the

pain of the previous evening's loss. Honouring a bet between the cities' respective metro operators, the Brussels subway train company piped music by late French singer Johnny Hallyday over its sound system.

One member of the French team, towering midfielder Paul Pogba, took to Twitter to dedicate his side's triumph to the team of young Thai soccer players rescued after 17 days trapped in a flooded cave in the country's far north. Alongside photos of the 12 rescued boys, Pogba wrote: "This victory goes to the heroes of the day, well done boys, you are so strong." — Reuters

Sadness as Belgium's 'golden generation' exit World Cup

BRUSSELS: Belgium's defeat to France in their World Cup semi-final produced a mixed reaction of sadness and gratitude from fans at home on Tuesday, who bemoaned a missed opportunity for their "golden generation".

A second-half goal from Samuel Umtiti in Saint Petersburg gave France a 1-0 win, earning them a

place in Sunday's final in Moscow against either England or Croatia. Bravo @BelRedDevils for your performance and having thrilled us until the semi-final," Belgium Prime Minister Charles Michel tweeted. At cafes and other fan gatherings, disappointment showed on Belgian faces after the team-known as the Red Devils-were eliminated. "It's really too bad to lose to France, Belgium's national bad luck," Alice Cordier told AFP in a fan zone in Waterloo, south of the capital Brussels. "But we are still proud to be Belgian," the 27-year old fan added in the town where French emperor Napoleon was defeated by a mix of European forces in a huge battle in 1815. Some echoed the love-hate relationship and inferiority complex many French-speaking Walons have with their bigger neighbour France. "We will hear it spoken about for 100 years," one Belgian fan said. "The French will take the mickey out of us." French speakers, who share a country with Dutch

and German speakers, are particularly sensitive to what they see as France's condescending attitude toward them.

It's only the second time in history that Belgium have reached the World Cup semi-final, 32 years after Diego Maradona's Argentina beat them at the same stage in Mexico in 1986 before going on to win the tournament. France won the World Cup in 1998 and are now in their third final. For many observers, this generation of talented players including Eden Hazard, Kevin De Bruyne, Vincent Kompany and others had a real chance to come home victorious.

"Regrets are eternal. It will not be our day of glory on this 10 July," a presenter of Belgium's French-language RTBF television station said after the final whistle. But he thanked the team. "Thanks for having allowed, thanks to football, to forget everything a bit and enjoy moments of pleasure." —AFP

Sagan clinches another Tour de France stage

QUIMPER: Slovakia's Peter Sagan clinched his second stage win of the 2018 Tour de France yesterday, beating Sonny Colbrelli and Philippe Gilbert at the uphill finish of stage five. Defending champion Chris Froome (Team Sky) and the other overall contenders finished in or close to the main group as overnight leader and Olympic road race champion Greg van Avermaet (BMC) retained the yellow jersey. Belgian Philippe Gilbert sparked the hostilities early on the uphill finish of the 204.5 km ride from Lorient, but the Quick Step rider failed to open up a significant gap on the chasing bunch.

Van Avermaet, wearing the yellow jersey, then pulled to the front in a bid for the stage win as the finish line approached but peaked too early. The race leader was left powerless when Sagan sped past on his left. Colbrelli pushed the Slovakian all the way but, as he did on stage two, finished second best to Sagan. Sagan said following the yellow jersey had helped land him the stage. "I'd like to thank Greg (van Avermaet) because he did me a favour when he went for it, I don't know if he did it on purpose but he dropped a lot of people," said Sagan, who has tightened his grip on the points classification's green jersey.

Asked if it would be a battle all the way to Paris with Fernando Gaviria for the green jersey prize, Sagan said: "I hope not!" The pair have two stage wins each from the first five and Sagan had predicted Tuesday the Colombian might struggle with



LORIENT AND QUIMPER: Slovakia's Peter Sagan celebrates on the podium after winning the fifth stage of the 105th edition of the Tour de France cycling race between Lorient and Quimper, western France, yesterday. — AFP

the climbs. "The fact he wasn't in the sprint was good for me," Sagan said.

With five categorised climbs to be negotiated over the narrow, tree-lined Brittany roads a break-away was to be expected. An escape group featuring Sylvain Chavanel embarked on a long range bid with Van Avermaet's BMC doing most of the work at the head of the chasing peloton, and Bora

joining the chase late. Today's sixth stage is expected to shake up the peloton as it culminates in the double ascension of the feared Mur de Bretagne climb, a 2km long 6.9 percent gradient affair. On paper, it looks a step too far for Sagan. Lighter, more agile riders like Van Avermaet, Alejandro Valverde, Julian Alaphilippe and Gilbert are expected to shine. — AFP

25 Ticket offers, tributes as world soccer toasts Thai cave boys' rescue

26 Machado hit two home runs as Orioles beat Yankees 6-5

27 Sagan clinches another Tour de France stage



Croatia in first-ever WCup final

Mandzukic breaks England hearts, will face France on July 15



MOSCOW: Croatia's defender Dejan Lovren (C) celebrates his team's victory at the end of the Russia 2018 World Cup semi-final football match between Croatia and England at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow yesterday. — AFP

MOSCOW: Mario Mandzukic scored the winning goal deep in extra time as Croatia beat England 2-1 in an utterly gripping World Cup semi-final in Moscow on Wednesday to set up a final date with France. The Juventus forward netted in the 109th minute to complete a remarkable comeback from a shattered Croatian team and take the small nation of little more than four million people into the World Cup final for the first time in their short history.

Kieran Trippier's magnificent early free-kick had seemingly set England on course to reach their first final since they lifted the trophy on home soil back in 1966. But it wasn't to be, as Croatia came roaring back in the second half and equalised through Ivan Perisic before somehow finding the energy to win despite being taken to extra time for the third time in 10 days.

The biggest winners of the night could well be France, who have had an extra day's rest for Sunday's final after edging out Belgium 1-0 on Tuesday. That will not matter too much right now for Croatia, who are the smallest nation to make it to the final since Uruguay back in 1950.

England had been the ones hoping to make history, in what was their first appearance in the semi-finals in 28 years. Then they were beaten on penalties by West Germany. Having ended their famous penalty curse by beating Colombia in a shootout in the last 16, they might have fancied repeating here.

But Croatia, having won on penalties against Denmark and Russia in the last two rounds, saw the game out, dousing the World Cup dream of Gareth Southgate's side that had gone from the improbable to the possible over the last month in Russia.

Southgate stuck with the same starting line-up as that which eased past Sweden in the quarter-finals, while Inter Milan's Marcelo Brozovic replaced Andrej Kramaric in the Croatia line-up.

They were looking to the inspirational Luke Modric to control the game, but instead it was he who gave away the early free-kick from which Trippier put England ahead. It was a fantastic curling effort from 25 yards from the Tottenham Hotspur full-back, and England's first goal direct from a free-kick at the World Cup since David Beckham against Ecuador in 2006. England could not have imagined a better start. Croatia were stunned, and Ivan Rakitic, usually so accomplished, was especially off his game.

Zlatko Dalic's side did gradually grow into the contest, but they could still be relieved to go in at half-time only one goal down, especially as Harry Kane was denied by a



MOSCOW: Croatia's forward Ivan Perisic (back) heads the ball past England's defender Kieran Trippier during the Russia 2018 World Cup semi-final football match yesterday. — AFP

combination of goalkeeper Danijel Subasic and the woodwork on the half-hour mark.

Croatia hung on and it was to their immense credit that they turned the tide after the break in what developed into an epic encounter. Shooting towards the end of the Luzhniki Stadium where most of their fans were gathered, they equalised in the 68th minute, as Sime Vrsaljko crossed from the right and Perisic stole in front of the stooping Kyle Walker to score with his left foot.

Having looked so comfortable earlier, England's young side were rattled, and they were lucky not to go behind soon after as Perisic sent a low shot across Jordan Pickford and off the far post. Unable to get the second goal while they were on top, Croatia were forced into extra time again. Vrsaljko cleared a John Stones header away from in front of the line, but England had Pickford to thank for a brilliant save as Mandzukic connected with a devilish Perisic cross.

It was a wonder the Juventus forward did not break a limb as Pickford crunched into him. He managed to carry on after treatment, and he was on hand to sweep the ball low past Pickford after Perisic's header back into the area caught the England defence on the hop to finally decide a brilliant contest. — AFP

Federer shocked by Anderson, Djokovic makes semis

LONDON: Eight-time champion Roger Federer was sensationally knocked out of Wimbledon yesterday, surrendering a two-sets lead and a match point at the hands of South African giant Kevin Anderson. Defending champion Federer, chasing a 21st Grand Slam title, lost a Court One epic, 2-6, 6-7 (5/7), 7-5, 6-4, 13-11 as 32-year-old Anderson became the first South African in the Wimbledon semi-finals since Kevin Curren in 1983. "Down two sets to love I tried my best to keep fighting. Beating Roger Federer here at Wimbledon will be one I remember, especially in such a close match," Anderson said.

"I kept telling myself to keep believing. I said today is going to be my day." In a nail-biting four hour and 13 minute classic, it was 36-year-old Federer's earliest exit at the All England Club since his shock second round defeat against Sergiy Stakhovsky in 2013.

"Sometimes you don't feel good, and you try your best. Today was one of those days. I didn't see it coming," said Federer. "I think it went in spells a bit also, how I was able to return his serve. "I had moments where I was great, I felt like I was reading his serve, other moments where I don't know where the hell I was moving to." Eighth seed Anderson will play 2016 runner-up Milos Raonic or American ninth seed John Isner on Friday for a place in Sunday's final. Three-time champion Novak Djokovic, meanwhile, reached his first semi-final at the majors in more than two years by seeing off Japan's Kei Nishikori 6-3, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2.

The 12-time Slam champion will face either world number one Rafael Nadal or Juan Martin del Potro for a place in the final. For the only the second time at Wimbledon, Federer was beaten after holding a two-set lead, with his previous loss from that position coming against Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the 2011 quarter-finals.

Djokovic reached his eighth Wimbledon semi-final and 32nd at the majors after a stormy Centre Court clash against Nishikori. It will be the 31-year-old Serb's first semi-final at a Slam since the 2016 French Open



LONDON: Switzerland's Roger Federer returns against South Africa's Kevin Anderson during their men's singles quarter-finals match on the ninth day of the 2018 Wimbledon Championships. — AFP

when he completed the career Grand Slam.

The 12-time major winner prevailed despite picking up two code violations and accusing umpire Carlos Ramos of "double standards". "I think the first warning was unnecessary," said Djokovic, who was sanctioned in the second set for spearing his racquet into the court. "It didn't harm the grass. Kei did the same in the fourth set but wasn't warned."

"The umpire said he didn't see it. I don't think it's fair but it is what it is." Despite his anger and picking up a time violation in the fourth set-12th seed Djokovic still reeled off 10 of the last 12 games. Nishikori was bidding to become the first Japanese man to make the semi-finals in 85 years. — AFP



LABTI GENERAL CONTRACTING CO.LLC



The "OASIS" Villas project offers top facilities to our tenants with large halls, five bedrooms and a swimming pool on the roof. All completed with high end finishing, connected to satellite and serviced by an elevator.

Masayel Block 1, Street 111, Villa 185
Tel: 97279904 - 98972146
Email: Info@labti.com