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Kuwaiti, Saudi FM's sign deal to establish coordination council

Body to be a launch pad for shared endeavors



KUWAIT: (Left) HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir yesterday. (Right) Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Jubeir sign a deal to establish a "coordination council" yesterday. — KUNA

KUWAIT: The foreign ministers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have signed a deal to establish a "coordination council" as a launch pad for shared endeavors between the two Gulf neighbors. The initiative, undertaken by Kuwait's acting prime minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his Saudi counterpart Adel Al-Jubeir, reflects the Kuwaiti and Saudi leaders' collective desire to deepen the intense camaraderie both nations enjoy, read a statement by the Kuwaiti foreign ministry yesterday.

Prior to putting their signatures on the dotted line, the Kuwaiti and Saudi foreign ministers held talks focusing on the latest happenings in the region as well as global events. Earlier yesterday, Jubeir met HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace. Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah said on Tuesday the coordination council aims at further boosting bilateral relations between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Jubeir's visit also aims at consulting and coordinating over a variety of issues, he added. — KUNA

Lawmakers slam maids' company for serving expats

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Two lawmakers yesterday slammed the Durra Company for the recruitment of maids for serv-

ing expatriates and demanded to either stop serving expatriates or at least give priority to Kuwaitis. MPs Khalil Al-Saleh and Ahmad Al-Fadhli claimed that recruiting maids for expatriates has made it tough for Kuwaitis to benefit from the services of the company, which was established to break the monopoly and high cost of recruiting domestic helpers from abroad.

Saleh demanded that the company should provide its services to Kuwaitis only at this stage and expressed outrage that it opened its doors to serve expatriates, "thus exhausting citizens to wait in long queues". "Amid a crisis over domestic helpers and after a long wait for

the start of the company's services, it is unacceptable that citizens face another dilemma caused by expatriates," Saleh said in a statement. He said the company was essentially established to end the sufferings of the citizens from the expensive cost of hiring maids and not to renew these sufferings through the long queues. Saleh called on authorities to resolve this problem by ordering the company to serve citizens only, adding that the government must issue a decision urgently. Saleh, who heads a parliamentary committee to speed up replacement of expatriate employees in government

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Khalil Al-Saleh



Ahmad Al-Fadhli

News in brief

MoI tightens traffic laws

KUWAIT: To make citizens comply with the traffic law and obtain and renew driving licenses, and to limit vehicles of expats, sources said the interior ministry has begun implementing new rules. A circular sent to service centers states that a citizen or expat must have a valid driving license to register or renew the registration of vehicles in their name. If the license has expired and is not renewed, the system will not allow the renewal of a vehicle's registration. If the profession of an expat changes, the license will be revoked, especially if the new profession does not meet the conditions mentioned in the ministerial decision. — Al-Anbaa

Trump asked Rouhani 8 times to meet

TEHRAN: The chief of staff to Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said yesterday that his US counterpart Donald Trump asked for a meeting eight times during the UN General Assembly last year. "During Rouhani's last visit to New York for the UN General Assembly session, Trump asked the Iranian delegation eight times to have a meeting with the president," Mahmoud Vaezi told reporters yesterday, according to the conservative Mehr news agency. He said the Iranian team had not responded to the requests. "We have a transparent policy and clear position with regard to our relations with the US... that (we) will not yield to pressure," Vaezi said. A Trump-Rouhani meeting would have been the first between the presidents of the two countries since Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution. — AFP

Iran builds new centrifuge rotor factory

TEHRAN: Iran has built a factory that can produce rotors for up to 60 centrifuges a day, the head of its atomic agency said yesterday, upping the stakes in a confrontation with Washington over the Islamic Republic's nuclear work. "Instead of building this factory in the next seven or eight years, we built it during the negotiations but have not started it," said Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran. The factory would have the capacity to build rotors for up to 60 IR-6 centrifuges per day, he added. Separately, Salehi said that Iran now had a stockpile of up to 950 tons of uranium. He said Iran had imported 550 tons of uranium before the nuclear agreement and had acquired approximately another 400 tons after the agreement was finalized, bringing the total stockpile to between 900 and 950 tons. — Reuters

Google hit with record €4.3bn EU antitrust fine

BRUSSELS: The EU hit Google with its biggest ever fine yesterday, imposing a €4.34 billion penalty on the US tech giant for illegally abusing the dominance of its operating system for mobile devices. Brussels accused Google of using the Android system's near-stranglehold on smartphones and tablets to promote the use of its own Google search engine and shut out rivals. The decision, which follows a three-year EU investigation, comes as fears of a transatlantic trade war mount because of President

Donald Trump's decision to impose tariffs on European steel and aluminium exports.

"Google has engaged in illegal practices to cement its dominant market position in internet search," EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said as she announced the huge fine. The new sanction nearly doubles the previous record EU anti-trust fine of €2.4 billion, which also targeted Google, in that case for the Silicon Valley titan's shopping comparison service in 2017. Denmark's Vestager ordered Google to "put an effective end to this conduct within 90 days or face penalty payments" of up to five percent of its average daily turnover.

The Google decision comes just one week before European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker is due to travel to the United States for crucial talks with US President Donald Trump

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Thai cave boys relive moment of 'miracle' rescue

CHIANG RAI, Thailand: Twelve Thai boys and their football coach who were rescued by divers after being trapped in a flooded cave for over two weeks spoke publicly yesterday of their incredible ordeal. Appearing at a press conference beamed worldwide, the "Wild Boars" team members appeared healthy and happy despite the nine days they spent in the dark before being found by an international rescue team and extracted days later.

A packed crowd greeted the youngsters after they were discharged from hospital in Chiang Rai,

and watched as they played with footballs on a small makeshift pitch before taking their seats. "It is a miracle," Adul Sam-on, 14, said of the rescue, as the boys were gently quizzed about their terrifying experience by a moderator before dozens of cameras. The team had no food at all until they were found deep in the complex, surviving only on water that dripped down the side of the cave. "We drank water that fell from the rocks," said Pornchai Khamluan, 16.

Coach Ekkapol Chantawong told reporters that they prayed before the first night they went to sleep in the cave, and later tried to find a way out by themselves. "We tried to dig out as we thought we cannot only wait for authorities to get us," he said. Doctors said all 13 were in good physical and mental health after recuperating in hospital.

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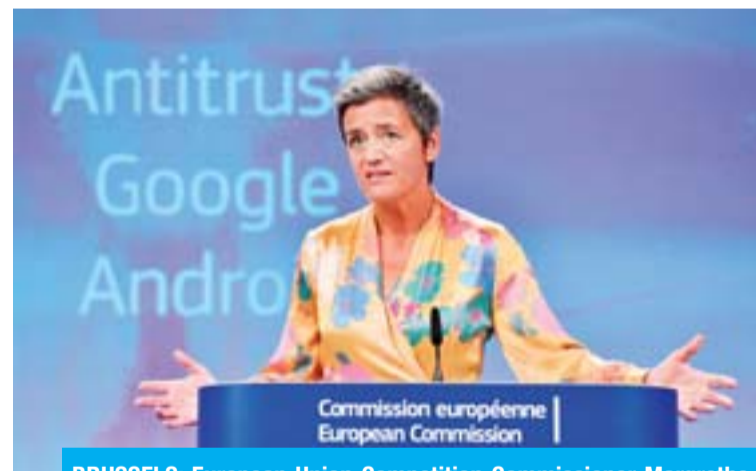
Japanese envoy conquers Iraqi hearts and minds

BAGHDAD: While foreign diplomats often struggle to win over ordinary Iraqis, Japan's departing ambassador has stolen hearts - thanks to witty social media videos in classical Arabic and local dialects. Fumio Iwai has been in post in Baghdad for less than three years, but his fan base reaches far beyond the heavily fortified walls of the diplomatic Green Zone. Hundreds of thousands have been reeled in by his humble charm. And never more so than when

the bespectacled and wiry ambassador recorded a missive wearing an Iraq football jersey ahead of a potentially divisive World Cup qualifier. The opponents? Japan.

Iraqi civil servant Haydar Al-Banna remembers this dispatch by Iwai - in June last year, since watched by over 730,000 people - fondly. The ambassador said "I will be happy if our team (Japan) win, and I will be sad if the Iraqi team loses", recalls 35-year-old Banna. Moments like this have seen Iraqis claim the diplomat as their own, impressed by his deft navigation of a country still engulfed by chaos 15 years after the US-led invasion that toppled dictator Saddam Hussein. "We say he is an Iraqi - he is like someone who has lived here for 50 years," Banna says.

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BRUSSELS: European Union Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager gives a joint press at the EU headquarters yesterday. — AFP



CHIANG RAI, Thailand: Twelve Thai boys and their football coach, rescued from a flooded cave after being trapped, attend a press conference yesterday following their discharge from the hospital. — AFP



Japanese Ambassador Fumio Iwai rides in a pick-up truck during a handover ceremony of vehicles provided by Japan to the Iraqi police on March 21, 2018. — AFP

Local

Amir, Crown Prince receive 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 Al-Ghanem.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the outgoing Ambassador of Spain to Kuwait Carlos Saenz de Tejada.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khudher.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Kuwait's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

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

Marzouq Al-Ghanem, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the outgoing Ambassador of Spain to Kuwait Carlos Saenz de Tejada. Deputy Amiri Diwan Minister Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah Al-Mubarak

Al-Sabah attended the meetings.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, as well as Interior Minister and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. His Highness also received Chief of

the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khudher, Minister of Finance Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf and Kuwait's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. —KUNA

Council to further boost Saudi-Kuwait relations: Jarallah

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah said Tuesday Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir's visit to Kuwait aimed at signing a document to establish a joint coordination council. The council aims at further boosting bilateral relations between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Jarallah told reporters on sidelines of a reception held by the Egyptian Embassy marking July 23 revolution.

Jubeir's visit also aim at consulting and coordinating over a variety of issues, he noted. Jarallah was asked if the coordination council would be discussing re-operation of common border oil field, and said the two sides were discussing the issue and an agreement would be reached, God willing. On Tuesday's meeting between the government and parliament over the developments in Iraq, Jarallah said the two sides discussed a common vision to address these issues.

Meanwhile, Minister of State for National Assembly and Acting Information Minister Adel Al-Kharafi commended deep-rooted relations and cooperation with Egypt. Kharafi, speaking to reporters on sidelines of the reception, said Kuwait and Egypt were bound to a strategic partnership in economic, military and cultural sectors.

Jarallah meanwhile said that the Kuwait-Egypt joint committee would be meeting end of this year in Kuwait. Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Tareq Al-Qooni said diplomatic relations with Egypt were established in 1957, and ties have been progressing ever since. Qooni praised His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's support to Egypt. He said trade exchange exceeded USD three billion, and Kuwait was the third largest Arab investor in Egypt. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Officials cut the cake during a reception held by the Egyptian Embassy on Tuesday marking July 23 revolution. —Photos by Joseph Shagra



Ambassadors and other dignitaries attend the event.



Dignitaries in attendance.



Military personnel pose for a group photo.

Kuwait to host donor conference to promote education in Somalia

BRUSSELS: Ambassador of Kuwait to the European Union, NATO, Belgium and Luxembourg, Jassem Al-Budaiwi, has announced that Kuwait is to host a Donors Conference in Support of Education in Somalia. "We, in Kuwait, firmly believe that education is one of the most important, if not the most important tool, in combating extremism, terrorism, and poverty," he said speaking in a forum on Somalia Tuesday evening.

"This conference in Kuwait, will serve as a cornerstone to secure the future generations of Somalia, and we call upon the international community, to join our efforts and actively participate in it. Once you educate a child, you educate a generation," said Kuwait's top diplomat in Brussels. Budaiwi noted that this forum is an "excellent opportunity for the international community to renew its commitment to supporting Somalia's stability and development."

"Together, my friends, we will continue the efforts of the United Nations in supporting Somalia's transitional phase in every aspect. We have a responsibility towards the Somali people and they need to feel our commitment on the social and economic levels, and in their day to day life," he stressed. He pointed out that in 2017 only, the State of Kuwait provided \$50 million in response to international calls to support the humanitarian situation in Somalia. Furthermore, Kuwait has provided \$1.5 million in agricultural technical assistance, as well as grants worth \$28 million allocat-



BRUSSELS: Participants in a forum in support of Education in Somalia pose for a group photo. —KUNA

ed to airport development. In addition, the Kuwait Fund recently decided to ease the debt burden of Somalia. "Now is the time to switch from crisis mode to investment mode in Somalia," he added.

Turning to the Somali President, Budaiwi said "Mr President rest assured that nothing has gone unnoticed and, you are extremely appreciated by the international community for all the great and steadfast efforts you

have taken to revitalize your country in every aspect." The Somalia Partnership forum was co-chaired by EU High Representative Federica Mogherini, President of Somalia Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed and Margot Wallstrom, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden. Representatives from 58 countries and six international took part in the two-day forum and issued a joint communique saying they agreed on commitments to

strengthen peace, security and economic recovery in Somalia. Somalia is on an upward trajectory and is making progress in a number of critical areas despite extraordinary challenges, it said. However, progress in Somalia cannot be taken for granted. Institutional capacities need to be strengthened, as well as the required accountability mechanisms that underpin long-term progress, said the communique. —KUNA

Local

Agreement signed to provide private sector jobs for Kuwaiti retirees

Egyptian economist argues Kuwait's Bedoons could benefit from new citizenship regulations

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Management and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) Secretary General Fauzi Al-Majdali and manager of the national project for retirees Salah Al-Abdul Qadir Abdul Jadir signed a memorandum of understanding to invest in Kuwaiti retirees and provide suitable job opportunities for them. Majdali stressed that MGRP is keen on utilizing retirees' expertise in various private sector jobs. Abdul Jadir said the project's main purpose is to make

retirees contribute to national sustainable development plans.

Egyptian citizenship

Egyptian daily Al-Masry Al-Youm quoted economist Wael Al-Nahas saying that amending the residency and citizenship laws in Egypt and allowing non-Egyptians to apply for Egyptian citizenship after depositing seven million pounds in a bank for five years would open doors for stateless people in various countries, namely Kuwait, where bedoons are rich, to get Egyptian citizenship.

18,000 students

Public Authority for Applied Education and Training's (PAAET) dean of registration Rabah Al-Nejada said the final lists of students accepted for the next academic year will be announced by the end of this month, predicting the lists to include 18,000 students including citizens, children of Kuwaiti women, children of non-Kuwaiti military personnel, bedoons and non-Kuwaitis. Nejada explained that scholarships granted to non-Kuwaitis by the minister of education might reach 120, and those granted by the PAAET

director would be 100.

Marine control building

The Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) has already obtained approval from relevant authorities to offer for public bidding the marine control building on Salmiya Cape, after obtaining approval from the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT), acting deputy director Marzouq Al-Azmi said. The building will house all marine patrols that are currently harbored at the Yachts Club, a

maintenance workshop, a fuel station and other services, Azmi added. Furthermore, Azmi said that monitoring bodies are reviewing another tender to purchase nine speedboats to be used as marine patrol boats.

In addition, Azmi said PAAAFR also obtained the needed approvals for a fish farming project in Subbiya near Um Al-Maradem island, adding that the project is currently being reviewed by the Municipal Council. Azmi expected the project to annually produce 3,000 tons of shrimp compared to only 2,000 tons during the entire shrimping season.



KUWAIT: A municipality bulldozer removes a shack built without a license during a recent campaign.

Driver crashes into Shamiya bank branch

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A citizen suffered bruises after his car crashed into a Shamiya bank branch. Police and paramedics rushed to the scene and found the citizen suffered a medical episode, causing the accident. He was rushed to the hospital.

Threats and insult

"Behave, otherwise I will smash you and your office". This is what a citizen told a bank manager, as a dispute occurred while she was preparing a transaction. Bank employees prevented matters from escalating. The manager called police, but the suspect had already left, so she went to the police station and lodged a complaint. The suspect is being summoned to face charges of threats and insult.

Employees' union

Responding to reports about the ministry's civilian employees' union, the relations and security information department at the interior ministry said that the security establishment complies with the law and rules that regulate the mechanism of work and seniority. It said that all employees are an indivisible part of the working system, and their efforts are very clear in making achievements and the progress the ministry is witnessing at the current time. The department said the administrative affairs department has an integral role in meeting the interests of employees according to the civil

service law, and exerts all efforts to resolve any obstacles that employees may face.

Crackdowns

Municipality branches in Jahra and Ahmadi carried out a campaign which resulted in removing 50 unlicensed facilities - 40 in Jahra and 10 in Ahmadi.

Travel ban

Farwaniya detectives arrested an Egyptian man who works at the sentences implementation department after he colluded with a citizen and a compatriot in lifting a travel ban for KD 400. Farwaniya detectives received tips about the Egyptian's activity, so they got a warrant and sent an undercover agent to him to remove the travel ban on him, and he was arrested red-handed.

Thieves identified

Forensics officers collected evidence unidentified thieves may have left behind when they stole KD 8,500. A security source said a lawyer lodged a complaint saying the company he works for was broken into and a safe was cracked open.

Prostitution

Police discovered the activity of Asian prostitutes who promote immoral services through an app to attract customers along with the price of each service they offer. These women arrived in Kuwait as masseuses, but they posted their phone numbers on an application with their nude images, and asked those who wish to contact them to use "hi" as a code word. As soon as the code reaches the girl's phone, the client receives a price list: "KD 30 for one shot, KD 60 for one hour". The girl then sends more photos of her along with the address. The women promote their activities publicly, which raises questions on the influence they rely on and why they are not afraid of legal action. Vice detectives continue fighting such illicit activities.

Forged diplomas discovered, ministry employee arrested

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Ministry of Higher Education announced yesterday the discovery of a number of forged diplomas issued by an Arab country in the past few months for various university stages and the arrest of an expatriate accomplice working in the ministry. The ministry said in a statement that as per the instructions of the Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Hamed Al-Azmi, the legal sector represented by the Department of Cases and Investigations in the Ministry began investigating what was circulated in the social networking sites about the arrest of one of the expatriates working in the ministry and his role in this regard.

It added that the investigation was carried out in cooperation with the Department of Equivalence of Scientific Degrees in the Ministry and the competent cultural office, which resulted in the transfer of many forged diploma holders to the Public Prosecution as well as the withdrawal of the equivalence of diplomas issued by the Ministry during the past months. It pointed out that coordination with the Criminal Investigation Department of the Ministry of Interior was conducted to detect the accomplices responsible for forging such diplomas, pointing out that the constructive cooperation between the concerned parties led to the arrest of an expatriate working in the ministry. — KUNA

Court rejects cop's compensation demand

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The court of misdemeanor yesterday rejected a police officer's demand for KD 20,000 in compensation from two citizens who had assaulted him while on duty on grounds that the court had already fined them.

In other news, the Kuwait Nursing Society announced suing organizers of a local play for alleged slandering of the nursing profession. Kuwait Nursing Society Chairman Bandar Nashmi Al-Enezi said the society hails His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's efforts to achieve development and that it also looks forward to achieving the 2035 vision adopted by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, as well as his instructions to develop nursing. Enezi also announced plans to file a report with the public prosecutor against the cast of a local play 'Mabrook Ma Yakom' (Congratulations on the Baby) because the actors slandered the nursing profession onstage.

Dust storms big challenge to sustainable development: Kuwait

NEW YORK: Kuwait has stated that sand and dust storms constitute a big challenge to sustainable development, calling for international cooperation to address this phenomenon. This came in Kuwait's speech delivered on Tuesday, delivered by second secretary Abdullah Al-Sharrah, a member of Kuwait's permanent delegation to the UN, during an interactive dialogue on sand and dust storms at the headquarters of the UN.

The State of Kuwait stressed the need of regional and international cooperation regarding weather forecasts through early warning systems among the exporting and receiving countries of storms to address the causes and sources of these storms, and mitigate their effects, Sharrah said. He added that the country's participation in this dialogue is a step on the right track to express attention on better and accurate awareness and understanding on this phenomenon.

Sand and dust storms have caused a problem to Kuwait and the region over the last decades that has a

desert climate with high temperature and drought due to rare rains, he said. This position has not been improved to face storms, which prompted Kuwait to take effective regional and national measures and arrangements, which require international cooperation, partnership and support, he noted. Kuwait is part of the world, but it is greatly affected by these storms, he said, calling for international and collective cooperation to address this reality and achieve the desired goal.

All countries have responsibility to face such storms and this principle is mentioned in the Paris Climate Agreement, he said. The principle constituted a new stage for facing climate change and a roadmap supported by international, regional and national efforts so as to guarantee environmental sustainability to enable the developing countries to fight poverty in line with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), he made clear. He stated that efforts made in 2015 led to the adoption of key results topped with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Agreement.

Kuwait is keen on exerting all efforts in this regard, taking into consideration new opportunities derived from technological and scientific progress to face obstacles and address the issue of these storms, he stressed. Sharrah lauded the key role of UN programs and systems, mainly the UN Environment Program, in implementation of the UN General Assembly's resolutions on combating sand and dust storms. He reiterated Kuwait's continued cooperation with the UN and international partners to face sand and dust storms so as to make a positive change in this field. — KUNA

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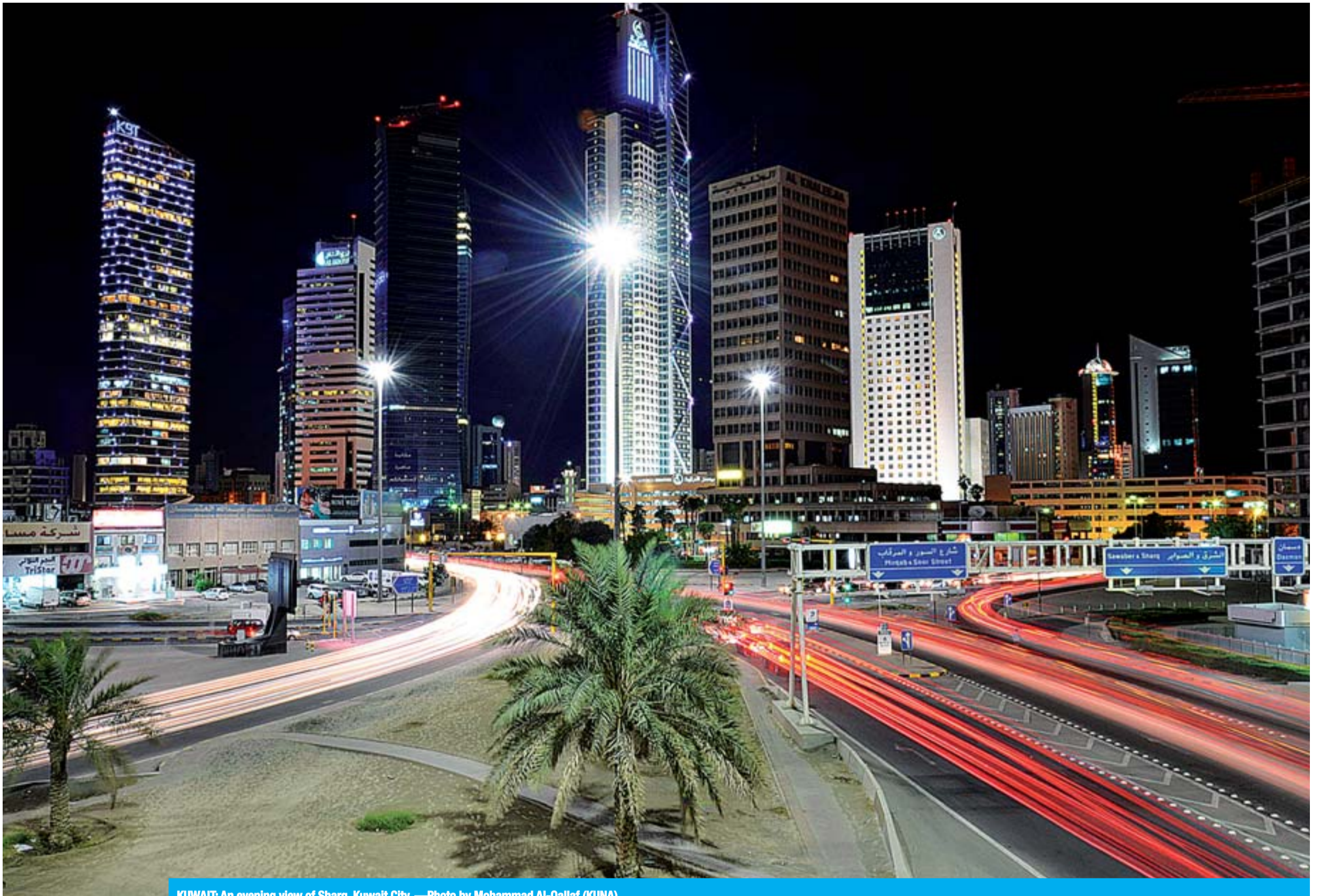
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Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: An evening view of Sharq, Kuwait City. —Photo by Mohammad Al-Qallaf (KUNA)

US Ambassador Silverman's NUKS-USA pre-departure orientation remarks

KUWAIT: US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman made the following statement during a function held recently by the National Union of Kuwaiti Students - USA branch:

I would like to thank the National Union of Kuwaiti Students - USA branch for organizing this event and for giving me the opportunity to speak with all of you this evening.

I would also like to thank my friend, Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Hamed Al-Azmi and his staff for their efforts to ensure that Kuwaiti students have the financial and other support needed to pursue studies at top-quality American universities.

To all of the students, *alf mabruk* — congratulations on your academic accomplishments. I applaud your decision to study in the United States. I am particularly pleased that some of the parents are in the audience this evening. First, to all the parents, congratulations. You are a great part of your children's success.

So students, don't forget to thank your parents for creating this opportunity for you to study abroad and to create the foundation for your success in life. Promise them you will work hard and make them proud, because

US Ambassador to Kuwait
Lawrence Silverman

they worked hard to give you this chance. Parents, rest assured that in sending your children to American universities - the best universities in the world - you have invested wisely both in their education and careers and in their future as responsible adults and global citizens.

To the students, I am confident that months from now, you will conclude that you made the right decision that your time spent in America - both academically at your universities and the time you hopefully will spend among American society and traveling around the United States will further develop you as adults and enhance your career prospects.

The United States and Kuwait enjoy a strong and enduring partnership in education that spans five generations. Your higher education in the United States will provide further strength to the already solid foundation of friendly, mutually beneficial Kuwait-US relations.

So far this year, more than 900 new Kuwaiti college students have received Ministry of Higher Education scholarships to study in the United States, and we expect that number to grow significantly.

More Kuwaiti students choose to study in the United States than in any other country, and Kuwait ranks in the top 20 of foreign student populations at US universities. This is good for the United States and good for Kuwait.

Here at the US Embassy in Kuwait, we are dedicated to helping you succeed academically in the United States so you can succeed professionally in Kuwait. And I think you will find that the faculty and advisors at the schools in which you are enrolled will help you succeed as well. Please get to know them and work with them. US colleges

and universities take pride in providing welcoming environments for all their students, and I want to stress how welcome you are in the United States.

Many American universities have come together to send a specific and direct message to international students through the #YouAreWelcomeHere Campaign on Twitter.

Ladies and gentlemen, you are about to begin what may be the most memorable period of your lives. It will be a time of new beginnings, exciting new experiences, and some tough challenges. You do not face those challenges alone.

Beyond the staff of your universities, there are many people out there to support you and to help you succeed on your voyage of discovery in the United States. You have the support of your families and friends, NUKS-USA, the Kuwait Cultural Offices in Washington and Los Angeles, the Ministry of Higher Education, and the vibrant Kuwaiti student communities that already exist at many schools. Seek out that assistance and support as you need it.

Some of you will first improve your English language skills before beginning your regular university courses. There is nothing more important you can do to maximize the benefit of your American educational experience than this.

That is why the US Embassy in Kuwait is organizing and funding training courses for English language teachers here in Kuwait before you go on to college, so that all Kuwaiti students will have the best chance to succeed in their careers.

Students, you will succeed in the United States because

you went to class, you studied for your tests, you thought about and absorbed what you were being taught, and you remained a student in good standing, all while enjoying everything that American college life has to offer.

This may be the first time that you are living on your own. It will be an exciting time, but also a time to remember your personal responsibility as representatives of your families, your communities, your nation.

For those of you who have not yet finalized your choice of US school, we are ready to help you choose the college or university that is right for you.

Our educational adviser, Carine Nassrallah, is here to provide you with information about academic programs and universities in the United States. Nassrallah, along with representatives from our Consular Section, will be on hand to answer all your questions, including those about the student visa application process and maintaining your student status.

And if you have broader questions and what it's like to be a university student, I will be happy to offer my thoughts. It's been a long time since I was in college and graduate school, but I am the proud parent of two children who graduated within the past few years, including one interviewing right now for a place in graduate school.

On practical matters, I encourage you all to apply early for your student visa. Appointments for student visas are a priority for the US Embassy. You can schedule an appointment at any time, and in order to meet the student demand, we have special days dedicated to student applications and interviews. Thank you again for choosing to study in the United States of America. You'll be very glad you did!

NBK launches 2nd session of Summer Internship Program

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) launched the second session of Summer Internship Program 2018. A two week courses custom-made for high school and college students aged between 14 and 21 years. It is worth mentioning that LOYAC is participating in NBK's annual summer internship program for the second time this year. LOYAC will be offering students educative training programs that aim at developing knowledge and responsibility towards society. Also this year, NBK Capital will be taking part in the sessions provided.

Sulaiman Al-Marzouk, NBK-Kuwait Deputy CEO, NBK General Manager Treasury Group, participated in the opening of the second session that witnessed the attendance of 31 students. The Summer Internship Program this year is made up of four different sessions, five-hour daily over two weeks each. The third session starts on the 29th of July, while the fourth will take place on 12th of August.

The program features a mixture of theoretical and practical training dedicated to provide the interns with invaluable knowledge on a variety of subjects such as: teamwork, creative thinking, the means of self-expression and modern banking, in addition to helping them having a



greater exposure to daily banking work procedures.

It has been 17 years since the establishment of the program. The program features a mixture of theoretical and practical training dedicated to provide the interns with invaluable knowledge on a variety of subjects such

as: teamwork, creative thinking, the means of self-expression and modern banking, in addition to helping them having a greater exposure to daily banking work procedures.

This annual program demonstrates NBK's long-

standing social involvement as well as its national commitment towards providing young generations with the appropriate opportunities to experience how the actual professional banking issues and transactions are handled and processed.

Local

Kuwaiti youngsters to set sail for 30th pearl diving journey

Nearly 200 young men on board of 13 dhows

KUWAIT: Under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, nearly 200 young Kuwaiti sailors are ready to set sail today on board of 13 dhows for the 30th annual pearl diving journey. The youngsters aim to revive traditions of one of the most significant and memorable professions and practices in Kuwait's history, embodying their grandfathers' struggles and sacrifices for their country's development and prosperity. The annual event on July 26, organized by the Marine Heritage Committee of Kuwait Sea Sports Club (KSSC) has always been sponsored by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah due to its historic significance and positive impact on young men's determination and desire to revive some glorious moments of Kuwait's past. It is also considered as a milestone for reviving the Kuwaiti sea heritage and culture on the national, regional, and international arenas, and it had gained a wide popularity and interest on the public, official, and media levels.



KUWAIT: Young Kuwaiti men participate in a ceremonial dance before they commence their 30th annual Pearl Diving trip today. — KUNA



A young participant in the pearl diving trip prepares a dhow for sail.

Furthermore, the event represents an opportunity to remind Kuwaiti youngsters of the historic sacrifices made by their fathers and grandfathers, who journeyed and dove into regional seas and oceans, risking their lives to provide good, prosperous life and welfare for their families and country. In the past, Kuwaitis took up pearl diving, a hard and rigorous occupation and business at that time, to make a good living. They sailed across unknown seaways in the Gulf and other nearby regions hunting for pearl, not knowing the type of risks and dangers facing them.

The ancient people of Kuwait relied on the stars to know the sea routes and their trends. They measured the depth of the sea and knew the type of soil. The 1930s were, perhaps, the best years for pearl diving in Kuwait, during which the old sea practice prospered drastically through the making of various wooden ships, known as dhows, that were built in different sizes and shapes with names such as "Boom," "Sanbouk,"

"Baqarah," "Jalbout," and "Shouie." Their voyages would last for at least four months, during which divers search for oysters, and eventually, recover pearls from the oysters they collect. The most desired targets were the big pearl such as "Dana," "Hasba," and "Jawhara," in addition to the small and, sometimes, medium-sized "Qumasha" due to their rarity and high commercial value.

The endurance of Kuwait's ancestors was evident when faced with the dangers of the sea such as eardrum explosion from the strong pressure of the depth of the sea and some skin diseases. Despite its difficulty and dangers, pearl diving has contributed, in a

way, in boosting determination and patience of the Kuwaiti sailors, and empowered them to outdo the job itself to make good and respectful living, and face all life challenges and needs. It also strengthened the sentiments of brotherhood and cooperation among fellow sailors, and boost feelings of respect, obedience, and loyalty towards their leader, the ship's skipper. Kuwait's revival of such a historic and cultural tradition aims at bolstering those sentiments,

skills, and spirits gained and fostered by yesterday's fathers and grandfathers inside today's youngsters, especially love of their country and loyalty towards their leadership.

The Kuwait Sea Sports Club has organized the first traditional pearl diving trip in 1986, starting with five vessels provided by the Ministry of Information. In 1987, the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who strongly supported the event and encouraged more Kuwaiti youth to participate in it, donated seven new vessels to the Club that were made in Kuwait for the second annual journey.

In 1990, all of the Club's sea activities, including the pearl diving trips, were halted due to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August, during which the Iraqi soldiers destroyed a number of wooden vessels. In 1991, the Club resumed its activities after the liberation of the country and organized the fifth pearl diving trip on board of a ship donated by one of Kuwait's old prominent sailors, Captain Rajab Ali. In 1994, the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah donated six new vessels to the Club and continued to support the pearl diving trips and events with approximately

200 people in the following years.

Speaking on the occasion, KSSC's Secretary General Khaled Al-Foudery said that Al-Dasha event starts at 8:30 am at the club's headquarters in Salmiya, adding that a special ceremony with traditional marine songs would be held on the occasion. He also stressed that this activity always represents a national and regional special event that helps revive marine traditions and heritage. "This expedition gains its significance from the fatherly patronage of His Highness the Amir, who ordered the resumption of the tradition that had been started by the late Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad. It also gains much importance from the public and media interest in such a heritage-reviving function," he added. Foudery noted that the event is important to help young people "not lose sight of the past and the hardships that Kuwaitis' ancestors had to go through in order to build up a flourishing present for us and prosperous future for our children."



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On 100th birthday, S Africa pays tribute to Mandela

UK's Labour Party hit by fresh anti-Semitism row



BRUSSELS: US President Donald Trump casts a shadow as he addresses a press conference on the second day of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit. — AFP

Trump says he misspoke on Russia meddling

'Russia is trying to undermine democracy itself'

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump on Tuesday moved to limit the damage from his summit with Vladimir Putin, claiming he misspoke in appearing to accept the Russian leader's denial of election meddling — in a rebuke to US intelligence chiefs. At their meeting in Helsinki on Monday, Trump failed to challenge Putin over the 2016 presidential election, seeming to accept at face value the strongman's denial that Moscow interfered in a bid to undermine Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton.

But faced with outrage at home, with even some of his political allies demanding that he reverse course, Trump — in an extraordinary postscript to the summit — sought to walk back his remarks. Trump said he accepted the intelligence community's assessment that Russia had meddled in the election, and offered a rambling explanation of his assertion that he could not see "any reason" why Russia would interfere.

"In a key sentence in my remarks, I said the word 'would' instead of 'wouldn't'," Trump said, speaking at the White House ahead of a meeting with Republican lawmakers.

"The sentence should have been, 'I don't see any reason why it wouldn't be Russia.' Sort of a double negative," he added — repeating the laborious clarification several times. But while the US leader expressed his "full faith and support for America's great intelligence agencies," he insisted that "Russia's actions had no impact at all on the outcome of the election." And he again floated the idea that "other people" could be involved. Top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer was quick to pounce. "President Trump tried to squirm away from what he said yesterday. It's 24 hours too late, and in the wrong place," Schumer said.

'Undermine democracy'

Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian meddling and possible collusion with the Trump campaign has increasingly put pressure on the White House. The president — who regards the probe as an attack on his legitimacy — has dubbed it a "witch hunt," and again said Tuesday there were "no collusion at all." But the investigation is progressing, as evidenced by the

indictment of 12 Russian military intelligence agents on Friday — timing that was embarrassing ahead of the summit with Putin. Trump initially sounded a defensive note on Tuesday, insisting his meeting with Putin had been "even better" than his one last week with traditional allies NATO — a testy gathering seen as having badly strained trans-Atlantic ties. But the US president found precious little support for his decision not to confront the Russian leader — on either side of the political aisle.

Former House speaker and longtime Trump ally Newt Gingrich put it bluntly. "It is the most serious mistake of his presidency and must be corrected — immediately," he tweeted as Trump headed home.

By Tuesday afternoon when he faced the cameras, Trump had changed tack. "We're doing everything in our power to prevent Russian interference in 2018," the president said. After his remarks, the White House released a fact sheet on how the US is "standing up to Russia's malign activities" — a clear bid to counter the notion that Trump had been soft on Putin.

And on Tuesday evening, Trump was feisty on Twitter again as he defended his meeting with Putin and took aim at one of his favorite targets. "The meeting between President Putin and myself was a great success, except in the Fake News Media!" Trump wrote. Former president Barack Obama appeared to allude to his successor in a speech in South Africa on Tuesday, blasting "strongman politics" — without naming Trump.

While Trump was not entirely without defenders, the bipartisan consensus was broadly hostile to his stance in Helsinki — as the top Republican in Congress, House Speaker Paul Ryan made clear at a press conference Tuesday on Capitol Hill. "We stand by our NATO allies and all those countries who are facing Russian aggression," Ryan said. "Vladimir Putin does not share our interests, Vladimir Putin does not share our values." "We just conducted a year-long investigation into Russia's interference in our elections. They did interfere in our elections. It's really clear," he said. "Russia is trying to undermine democracy itself." — AFP

Indian building collapse kills five, more feared trapped

NEW DELHI: More than 100 Indian rescue workers were using steel cutters and drills yesterday to try and free those still feared trapped under the rubble of a collapsed six-storey building outside Delhi.

Five bodies have been pulled out of the wreckage since the building gave way late Tuesday, according to rescue officials.

A rescue official told AFP it was not yet possible to determine how many people were still trapped underneath tons of concrete and metal debris. Eyewitnesses and neighbors said one of those still missing was a one-year-old child from one of two families thought to be under the debris and who had moved in only days before.

"My friend was living here with his family since last Saturday. I spoke to them last night but have not had any contact with them since 9:00 pm," local resident Sandesh Kumar told Indian television news channel NDTV. "I am just hoping they are alright," he said. Sniffer dogs were also brought in to assist with the search, which officers said would continue through the night.

Authorities said the structure, which was still under construction, collapsed onto an adjacent newly constructed four-storey residential building. Both are part of a residential complex in one of the many satellite towns dotted around Delhi growing fast to house the fast-expanding population of the 20-million-strong megacity. Parts of Greater Noida are notorious for rampant and unregulated construction, with many projects flouting building regulations and cutting costs and corners with substandard materials.



UTTAR PRADESH: Members of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) carry out the body of a victim at the site of a collapsed building in the village of Shah Beri village in Greater Noida, a satellite town east of the Indian capital. — AFP

Police arrested three people, including the landowner, over the latest accident. "We are questioning them to ascertain the kind of partnership they had with the builder... Strict action will be taken against those responsible," local officer

Avnish Kumar said. Building collapses are common across India, especially during the monsoon season from late June to September, although it was unclear whether this latest disaster was due to recent heavy rain in the Delhi region. At least 18 people died in May when a flyover collapsed in northern India, crushing vehicles and passengers under tons of concrete. Last year at least 30 people were killed in Mumbai after a 100-year-old house caved in. — AFP

Hungary's Orban set for controversial Israel visit

JERUSALEM: Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban arrives for a controversial visit to Israel yesterday as he and his counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu find common cause in their right-wing views. Orban's visit has provoked concern in Israel over allegations he has stoked anti-Semitism in Hungary with nationalist rhetoric and a campaign against US Jewish billionaire philanthropist George Soros.

Netanyahu has brushed aside those concerns as he seeks closer ties with European nations willing to provide strong backing to Israel. He and Orban also both strongly support US President Donald Trump. A year ago, Netanyahu made the first trip to Budapest by an Israeli prime minister since the fall of communism in 1989, thanking Orban for "standing up for Israel in international forums".

He also denounced "absolutely crazy" EU demands of Israel, such as those related to Israel's occupation of the West Bank, in closed-door remarks picked up by a microphone and overheard by journalists. Netanyahu has extended his praise to all of the so-called Visegrad group, which includes Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, and whose nationalist stances have been a thorn in Brussels' side.

Orban arrives later Wednesday and is due to hold talks with Netanyahu on

Thursday, according to Israel's foreign ministry. He will tour the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial on Thursday afternoon and visit the Western Wall in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem on Friday before leaving. In a break with protocol for EU leaders who usually meet Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas in Ramallah during such visits, he has no scheduled talks with Palestinian leaders.

Orban, a virulent opponent of Muslim immigration who has been in power since 2010, has come under fire for his battle against Budapest-born Soros. Many in Hungary's 100,000-strong Jewish population — one of Europe's largest — have accused Orban of encouraging anti-Semitism. A government poster campaign last year, attacking Soros for his alleged support of mass immigration, drew heavy criticism over what some saw as its use of anti-Semitic imagery.

Orban has stressed that the campaign was about Soros's political views and that Hungary has "zero tolerance" toward anti-Semitism. Netanyahu has also criticized Soros for backing human rights groups critical of the Israeli government. Orban's praise of wartime leader and Hitler ally Miklos Horthy as "an exceptional statesman" for rebuilding Hungary after World War I has also sparked criticism. — AFP

International

Militant group backs former cricket star's party ahead of Pakistan polls

Fake news spreading on WhatsApp being monitored

ISLAMABAD: A US-designated terrorist group has announced its support for Imran Khan and his party in nationwide elections on July 25, the latest controversial outfit to back the former cricket star's bid to lead the country. The Al Qaeda-linked Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (HuM) announced their support for Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in a Facebook post Tuesday along with a photo of the group's leader posing with a PTI candidate.

"Maulana Fazal ur Rehman Khalil along with hundreds of his followers have joined PTI and announced their support for its candidates," wrote PTI hopeful Asad Umar. Umar later edited the post saying Khalil and other clerics had only announced their support for PTI. A PTI spokesman also confirmed yesterday that Khalil was backing their party in elections but will not be joining their ranks officially as a party member.

Khalil, an Islamabad-based cleric, is accused by the United States of plotting terror attacks in Pakistan, Afghanistan and India and of nurturing close links with Osama bin Laden, who was killed in Pakistan's northern city of Abbottabad during a raid by US special forces in 2011. The US State Department describes HuM as "a Pakistan-based terrorist organization that seeks the annexation of

Kashmir into Pakistan and poses a direct risk to US, Afghan, and allied interests in Afghanistan".

Pakistan earlier this year amended its anti-terror laws to ban those listed as terrorists by the United Nations from running in elections. Former cricketer Khan—who led Pakistan to World Cup victory in 1992 — has repeatedly called for holding talks with



Earning him the moniker 'Taleban Khan'

militants, earning him the moniker "Taleban Khan" in Pakistan. Khan was also lambasted by critics for entering into a political alliance earlier this year with Sami ul Haq—the so-called Father of the Taleban whose madrassas once educated Taliban supremos Mullah Omar and Jalaluddin Haqqani.

The hugely popular WhatsApp messaging service began a week-long publicity campaign in Pakistan yesterday offering tips to spot fake news, days before the country holds a general election. "Together we can fight false information," says the full-page ad in Dawn, Pakistan's leading English-language daily, listing ten tips on differentiating rumors from fact. "Many messages containing hoaxes or fake news have spelling mistakes. Look for these signs so you can check if the information is accurate," it says. "If you read something that makes you angry or afraid, ask whether it was shared to make you feel that way. And if the answer is yes, think twice before sharing it again."

WhatsApp also announced the implementation in the country of a new feature allowing recipients to see if a message is original or forwarded. The company had bought full-page advertising in India on July 10 after a wave of lynchings in the country were linked to viral "fake news" spread by WhatsApp about alleged child kidnappings. WhatsApp, owned by Facebook, had come under pressure from Indian authorities to put an end to the spread of rumors, which have caused the deaths of more than 20 people in the past two months.

Millions of people use WhatsApp in neighboring



QUETTA: Pakistani cricketer-turned-politician and head of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan (C) prays along with others for Siraj Raisani, a candidate of provincial seat who was killed on July 13 suicide bombing in Mastung during an election campaign, during a press conference. — AFP

Pakistan, where rumors, false information and conspiracy theories are ubiquitous. Such messages spread quickly, with no real way for recipients to check their veracity. Pakistan also has a history of

mob violence, and videos such as the murder of Mashal Khan — a journalism student accused of blasphemy who was killed by a mob in April 2017 — circulate rapidly. — AFP

Elite engineers lead challenge to India's homosexuality ban

NEW DELHI: When Akhilesh Godi was depressed and contemplated suicide while questioning his sexuality, he could not bring himself to see a therapist. Godi, raised by liberal parents in the southern Indian IT hub of Hyderabad and an engineering graduate from the elite Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), is by his own admission, privileged.

But he says that seeking help in socially conservative India — where a ban on homosexuality was reinstated in 2013 — was not an option until he had to be taken to hospital suffering from severe depression after his parents noticed he wasn't eating properly and had become much thinner. "The tag of a 'criminal' makes it worse," said Godi. "You can't even talk about this to a psychiatrist. You don't know how they will react."

Godi is one of the 20 openly gay students and alumni of various IITs across India whose position as products of some of the country's most elite schools has made them one of the most high-profile groups challenging a colonial-era law that criminalises homosexuality. "We got a lot of attention because of the IIT tag," says management professional Balachandran Ramiah, another member of the group, whose petition against the 157-year-old ban on gay sex was heard by India's Supreme Court this month.

The IITs enjoy an elite status similar to the U.S. Ivy League universities, and attract some of India's best and brightest students, who are typically scooped up by tech giants like Google, Microsoft and Apple. Godi's group, which includes two women and a transgender woman, feels its presence in the courtroom lends a more mainstream voice to gay rights in India, which have largely been championed by activists and non-profit organizations.

"This time, most of the petitions, and particularly the IIT petitions, have actually shown that 'we exist,'" says Debottam Saha, who began a PhD at IIT in New Delhi last year. "This is our story and it's high time that you hear our story". The IIT-associated petitioners represent a pan-IIT group of around

350, largely comprising gay men, called "Pravritti" — which in Sanskrit roughly translates to "different thoughts". "The group was made to enable people to have a safe space to share issues," Ramiah said. Pravritti has enlisted lawyers including prominent Supreme Court advocate Menaka Guruswamy, and has raised funds internally to cover legal fees, the petitioners said. Supreme Court judges, in their 2013 judgment, had said that the earlier decriminalization of homosexuality by a lower court had overlooked that only a "minuscule" section of the population were homosexual.

"The words 'minuscule minority' hurt us a lot," said Godi, speaking by phone from Bengaluru. "The number of individuals that identify as LGBT within India is probably the size of a country." On Tuesday, the Supreme Court, after hearing challenges against the homosexuality law, said it would reserve its judgment.

'Slit your throat'

Activists say the law at issue, commonly called Section 377, is used to harass and blackmail gay people. Because homosexuality is seen as illegal, gay and transgender people say they also face severe discrimination when they seek jobs or housing. Saha says he was blackmailed by a man he met through a dating service, who threatened to expose him as gay and even slit his throat. "I was so scared and petrified ... whatever money I had in my account, I just gave it to him." Because of Section 377, Saha says he could not file a police complaint against the man.

"You really need legal protection," he said. "(Otherwise) you're not even in a position to register a complaint." The Hindu caste system adds another layer of discrimination, and LGBT people from so-called lower castes suffer greater discrimination than others as a result, activists say. While some within Pravritti say the group isn't diverse enough because it largely comprises upper-class gay men from the so-called higher castes, many group members say they feel their voice is important so that the less privileged may also benefit. "I had such a great support system. I'm this privileged gay man who grew up in Delhi, who has liberal friends, and who works in an LGBT-friendly company," says Pravritti petitioner Uday Bhardwaj, who graduated from IIT at Kharagpur last year and recently came off medication after battling depression. "If I don't do this, then who will?" — Reuters

Police in Philippine town on the rack for anti-rape advice

MANILA: Police in a Philippine town have told women to shun skimpy clothing to avoid rape, sparking outrage in a country that prides itself as an early Asian adopter of liberal Western cultural values. Women's groups demanded that police take down Tuesday's "victim-blaming" anti-rape advice. But it remained on a police social media site yesterday, with the national police chief calling it "brotherly advice".

"Don't wear skimpy clothing," warned the 10-point posting on the official Facebook page of the police force of Angono, a town on Manila's outskirts. "When on a date, don't drink alcohol," read the list, which also urged women to learn self-defense, carry tear gas or pepper spray and not to walk alone in the dark. "Clothes don't cause rape, rapists do," Senator Risa Hontiveros said in a statement. "Instead of 'teaching' women how to dress 'appropriately' and limit our choices, our police force should help in educating the public, especially men," she added.

The mainly Catholic Philippines, a former

US colony, prides itself on its culture of promoting gender equality. But critics allege it took a step backward by electing President Rodrigo Duterte, known for his inflammatory remarks about women. During the 2016 election campaign Duterte joked during a speech that he "should have been first" while recalling the rape and murder of an Australian female law minister in a 1989 prison riot.

Early this year Duterte said he would tell soldiers to shoot female communist rebels in their private parts because "if there is no vagina, (the woman) has no use". Philippine police chief Oscar Albayalde sought to play down the rape advice controversy. "They (women) can have it their own way, they just have to make precautions and probably you should dress in accordance with the place, with the occasion," he told reporters. "I think that's what our policemen are trying to say, just brotherly advice," said Albayalde. He said nationwide rape cases were down 29 percent from a year earlier in the first three months of 2018 but did not give figures. — AFP

After two-year purge, Turkey to end state of emergency

ISTANBUL: Turkey's state of emergency which was imposed after the failed 2016 coup is to end yesterday but the opposition fears it will be replaced by even more repressive legislative measures. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared the state of emergency on July 20, 2016, five days after warplanes bombed Ankara and bloody clashes broke out in Istanbul in a doomed putsch bid that claimed 249 lives.

The measure, which normally lasts three months but was extended seven times, has seen the detention of some 80,000 people and about double that number sacked from jobs in public institutions. The biggest purge of Turkey's modern history has targeted not just alleged supporters of Fethullah Gulen, the US-based preacher blamed for the coup, but also Kurdish activists and leftists. The former leaders of the opposition pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) — Figen Yuksekdag and Selahattin Demirtas—are still languishing in jail following their arrest in November 2016 on charges of links to Kurdish militants.

Same measures, different name

During last month's presidential election campaign, which he won, Erdogan pledged that the state of emergency would end. And it will at 1:00 am on Thursday (2200 GMT Wednesday), simply by virtue of the government not asking that it be extended. But the opposition has been angered by the government's submission of new legislation to parliament that apparently seeks to formalize some of the harshest aspects of the emergency.

The bill, dubbed "anti-terror" legislation by pro-government media, will be discussed at commission level on Thursday and then in plenary session on Monday. The main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) said the new measures would amount to a state of emergency on their own. "With this bill, with the measures in this text, the state of emergency

Govt forces capture Nicaragua oppn stronghold city

MASAYA: Nicaragua's government said Tuesday that forces loyal to President Daniel Ortega have seized control of the opposition stronghold city of Masaya, following fierce clashes with activists in the flashpoint neighborhood of Monimbo that rights groups say left at least two people dead.

Police and government-backed paramilitaries launched the organized attack on Masaya as international calls mounted for an end to months of deadly violence in the Central American country. The government said on its website "today was the turn of Monimbo, Masaya, which now has streets that have been liberated from blockades," adding that now people can "move freely."

Alvaro Leiva, secretary of the Nicaraguan Association for Human Rights (ANPDH), told AFP that the pro-Ortega forces had taken control of the city after several hours of combat and "excessive use of force." The head of the Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights, Vilma Nunez, said at least two people were killed—an adult woman and a police officer.

The offensive on Masaya came on the heels of a bloody siege of student protesters holed up in a church in the capital Managua over the weekend, suggesting Ortega was intensifying the use of lethal force to quell dissent. His government says it is carrying out a "liberation" of towns and cities where protesters have been active. Police and masked paramilitary units toting assault rifles on Tuesday sealed off all roads leading to Monimbo, from which gunfire could be heard. Videos posted on social media showed rebels inside the zone firing back, some with homemade mortars.



ISTANBUL: In this file photograph taken on July 15, 2016, people shout slogans as they carry a flag on a street near the Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge during clashes with military forces. — AFP

will not be extended for three months, but for three years," said the head of the CHP's parliamentary faction, Ozgur Ozel. "They make it look like they are lifting the emergency but in fact they are continuing it," he added.

almost two years on terror charges, in a case that raised tensions with Washington. But at Brunson's latest hearing on Wednesday, the court ordered that he should stay in jail.

'Anti-terror fight won't end'

The authorities have also shown no hesitation in using the special powers of the emergency-right up to its final days. Following a decree issued on July 8, 18,632 people were sacked — 8,998 of them police officers—over suspected links to terror organizations and groups that "act against national security". The move came just two weeks after Erdogan was reelected under a new system that gives him greater powers than any Turkish leader since the aftermath of World War II.

The new executive presidency means government ministries and public institutions are now centralized under the direct control of the presidency. Erdogan says it is necessary to have a more efficient government but the opposition claims it has placed Turkey squarely under one-man rule. "The end of the state of emergency does not mean our fight against terror is going to come to an end," said Justice Minister Abdulhamit Gul. — AFP



MANAGUA: Masked opposition demonstrators take part in a nationwide march called "United we are a volcano". — AFP

State media confirmed the death of the policeman but gave no other toll from the assault. A group of journalists, including AFP, that tried to enter Monimbo to verify the situation were shot at by pro-government gunmen to prevent them approaching. More than 1,000 men firing automatic weapons entered the city of 100,000 people early Tuesday, residents said.

"They're attacking us from various entry points in Monimbo," Cristian Fajardo, a leader of a student protest movement, said in a WhatsApp message. "They're attacking Monimbo! The bullets are reaching the Maria Magdalena parish church, where the priest is sheltered," archbishop Silvio Baez wrote on Twitter. "May Daniel Ortega stop the massacre! People of Monimbo I beg you, save yourselves!" The US warned Ortega against pur-

suing the assault on Masaya. It called for a halt to the deadly crackdown on anti-government protests that has left some 280 people dead over the past three months. "We strongly urge President Ortega not to attack Masaya," tweeted Francisco Palmieri, the US principal deputy assistant secretary of state for Western hemisphere affairs. "Continued gov't-instigated violence and bloodshed in #Nicaragua must end immediately. The world is watching." "They are shooting at houses in an irresponsible way. The message is that anyone who pops their head out will be killed: it's a message of terror," said ANPDH head Leiva. The operation follows a violent week in Nicaragua in which students and opposition groups calling for Ortega's ouster came under attack several times amid widespread civil action. — AP

International

On 100th birthday, S Africa pays tribute to Mandela

Celebrated annually around the world with charitable works

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa yesterday marked 100 years since Nelson Mandela's birth, with Barack Obama hosting a youth leadership project as archbishop Desmond Tutu led emotional tributes to the late anti-apartheid icon. Mandela's birthday on July 18 is celebrated annually around the world with charitable works and the Nelson Mandela Foundation called for people to "take action and inspire change" in his name on the centenary year.

In Johannesburg, Obama told 200 young people attending a leadership course he has set up that Mandela had been a key inspiration in his life. "Most people around the world think of Mandela as an older man, with hair like mine," he joked. "What people of course don't recall is that he started as a very young man-your age-trying to liberate his country. He then inspired me."

Obama on Tuesday delivered the centerpiece address of the celebrations to a crowd of 15,000 at a cricket stadium, recalling the "wave of hope that washed through hearts all around the world" when Mandela was released from jail in 1990. "Through his sacrifice and unwavering leadership and, perhaps most of all, through his moral example, Mandela... came to embody the universal aspirations of dispossessed people," Obama said. Retired archbishop Desmond Tutu, 86, recalled fond memories of his fellow campaigner against white-minority rule and fellow Nobel Peace Prize winner. "The most extraordinary thing about Nelson Mandela was his ordinariness. He was just a particularly fine example of humanity," Tutu said in a video message. "The principles on which he led his life are universal principles of love, fairness and respect of others built on understanding of the vulnerabilities that

we all share." Tutu recalled Mandela's willingness to apologize when wrong, and laughed as he remembered that the two used to tease each other over Mandela's famous colorful shirts and Tutu's purple clerical robes.

'He led us from oppression'

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, a protégé of Mandela who took office this year, said he would mark "Mandela 100" by donating half his salary to charity and called for others to do the same. "He led us from the wilderness of conflict and oppression into the land of promise, of freedom, democracy and equality," Ramaphosa said. Ramaphosa spent Mandela Day in Mvezo in Eastern Cape province, Mandela's birthplace, at celebrations including the opening of a clinic, a tree planting ceremony and distributions of blankets to elderly citizens.

Machel Graca, Mandela's widow, led a short walk to promote Mandela's legacy, while the centenary was marked with the release of a new book of his prison letters and a commemorative bank note. Among a series of exhibitions, music festivals and sports events worldwide, a memorial stone was also due to be unveiled at a special service in London's Westminster Abbey.

Delivering the Nelson Mandela Annual Lecture on Tuesday, Obama warned that the world had plunged into "strange and uncertain times", in a speech containing a series of apparent veiled attacks on US President Donald Trump. Obama made no direct reference to his successor but warned that "politics of fear and resentment" were spreading, driven by leaders who scorned facts and told lies with an "utter loss of shame".

Obama delivered the centerpiece address



DURBAN: A child from Northlen Primary school sticks a poster on the chalkboard of former South African President Nelson Mandela. —AFP

The former US president met Mandela only briefly in 2005 but gave a eulogy at his funeral, hailing him as "the last great liberator of the 20th century". Mandela was imprisoned under apartheid rule in 1962 and only freed in 1990, when he went on to lead the African National Congress party to victory in the first multi-

race elections in 1994. He served one term as president before stepping down in 1999. He died in 2013. The year commemorating Mandela's birth will finish with a concert in Johannesburg in December starring Beyoncé, Jay-Z, Ed Sheeran, Pharrell Williams and Cassper Nyovest. —AFP

UN warns of AIDS rebound risk as flat funding threatens gains

PARIS: Great strides in preventing AIDS deaths and new infections risk being halted, even reversed, if funding and focus continues to dwindle, the UN warned yesterday. Announcing the lowest annual death toll in two decades for 2017, and a record number of people on life-saving treatment, UNAIDS cautioned that a creeping "complacency" threatened these achievements.

"We are sounding the alarm," the agency's executive director Michel Sidibe said at the unveiling of a global status report in Paris ahead of next week's International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam. "Entire regions are falling behind, the huge gains we made for children are not being sustained... resources are still not matching political commitments," he lamented.

The report showed the number of people living with the immune system-attacking virus grew from 36.3 million in 2016 to 36.9 million last year thanks to widening access to antiretroviral therapy (ART). There were 1.8 million new HIV infections, down from 1.9 million in 2016 and 3.4 million at the peak of the epidemic in 1996. The number of deaths dropped by 50,000 year-on-year to 940,000, compared to 1.9 million in 2005 when a mere 2.1 million infected people had access to life-lengthening ART.

Last year, the number on treatment jumped to a record 21.7 million-three in five carriers of the virus, said UNAIDS. This leaves 15.2 million people still without treatment. "We are not moving at the pace we had set ourselves," Sidibe told journalists. "We wanted 30 million people on treatment by 2020." But for this, money is needed. And the global effort is short about \$7 billion (six billion euros) per year, according to UNAIDS. In 2017, about \$20.6 billion was available for AIDS programs in low- and middle-income countries which funded about 56 percent from their own budgets, said the report. This was up eight percent from 2016. —AFP

Europe urged to tackle airspace bottlenecks as delays soar

GENEVA: The world airline body yesterday urged European governments to urgently fix the region's airspace bottlenecks, saying that delays had more than doubled during the first half of the year. The International Air Transport Association called on the European Commission, member states and ANSPs (air navigation service providers) to "take urgent action" to address the problem.

It pointed to recent data from Eurocontrol, the Brussels-based agency in charge of monitoring the continent's skies, showing delays of some 47,000 minutes per day during the first six months of 2018 — 133 percent more than during the same period last year. "We are in the summer season in Europe. Travellers want to get to their holidays on time.

And too many will be disappointed because of air traffic delays," IATA chief Alexandre de Juniac said in a statement. "We should be making progress, but delays are double those of last year," he said. He acknowledged that "there is no quick fix for this year," but added that "the needed solutions are well-known. With the correct investment and planning by governments and ANSPs we can, and must, make next year better." —AFP

UK's Labour Party hit by fresh anti-Semitism row

LONDON: Britain's main opposition Labour Party was embroiled in a fresh row yesterday over anti-Semitism within its ranks after its new code of conduct designed to address the issue was condemned by Jewish groups and MPs.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has been accused of allowing anti-Semitism to spread in the left-wing party. Labour MP John Woodcock, a prominent critic of Corbyn, said he was quitting the party over the issue. Matters came to a head in March when British Jewish leaders wrote a joint letter claiming "enough is enough", and protests were held outside parliament. The letter claimed a "repeated institutional failure" within Labour to tackle the problem and accused Corbyn of siding with anti-Semites "again and again".

In response, Labour drew up a new code of conduct on anti-Semitism, which was approved by its governing body on Monday in the face of intense criticism from the Jewish community. The code states explicitly that "anti-Semitism is

racism" and it is "unacceptable". However, it stops short of signing up in full to the definition drawn up by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. Many British institutions use the full IHRA definition.

In a joint statement, the leaders of the main British Jewish organisations said the "watered-down definition" would be regarded with "incredulity and outrage by the overwhelming majority of the UK's Jews." The "distorted and diluted" definition of anti-Semitism seems aimed at protecting "those who are part of the problem", they said.

According to the Huffington Post, Labour MP Margaret Hodge confronted Corbyn in parliament, calling him an "anti-Semite and a racist". "You have proved you don't want people like me in the party," she was quoted by the news website as telling Corbyn. The new code endorses the IHRA's working definition of anti-Semitism and has sections of it copied word-for-word. But it omits four examples from the IHRA list: Accusing Jewish people of being more loyal to Israel than their home country; Claiming that Israel's existence as a state is a racist endeavor; Requiring higher standards of behavior from Israel than other nations; and Comparing contemporary Israeli policies to those of the Nazis.

Thousands mark 100 years since murder of the last Russian tsar

YEKATERINBURG: Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill led some 100,000 people in a nighttime procession yesterday to mark 100 years since the Bolsheviks murdered tsar Nicholas II and his family, amid a simmering conflict between the state and the Church over their remains. The procession began in the early hours of yesterday from the murder site in the Urals city of Yekaterinburg to a monastery commemorating the slain tsar, his German-born wife and five children, regional authorities said.

Many of the fervent believers came from across Russia and abroad to take part in the colorful ceremony during which many carried icons. Another 20,000 people joined the commemorations when the procession arrived at the monastery in Ganina Yama after covering the distance of 21 kilometers regional authorities said.

The monastery was built at one of the sites where the burnt bodies of the last Russian tsar and his family were taken after their execution in the aftermath of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, although they were later moved. The Bolsheviks shot the abdicated tsar, his wife and their five children along with their servants

and doctor on the night of July 16 to 17, 1918 as they were living under guard in the Urals city of Sverdlovsk, now Yekaterinburg.

Addressing the pilgrims, Patriarch Kirill said Russia should draw lessons "from this difficult and bitter experience." "We truly should have lasting immunity against any ideas and any leaders who call on us to embrace some new, unknown happy future through the destruction of our life, our traditions and our faith," the 71-year-old powerful Church leader said in a possible dig at the opposition to President Vladimir Putin. The Kremlin planned no official commemorations although officials from culture and defense ministries were scheduled to take part in a memorial event in Moscow. The regional authorities said the popularity of the annual event has grown steadily over the past years, adding that just 2,000 people took part in a similar procession in 2002.

State growing exasperated

The Russian Orthodox Church is still divided over the authenticity of the remains of the family, whose members were all made saints in 2000. The bones of Nicholas, his wife and three of their children were interred in Saint Petersburg in 1998 but the Orthodox Church refused to give them a full burial service. The remains of the tsar's only son Alexei and his daughter Maria were found separately in 2007 and have never been buried.

Their charred remains were kept in the Federal Archives before they were handed to the Church in 2015. For the Russian Orthodox Church the issue is extremely sensitive because it has canonized the ex-tsar and his family as mar-



LONDON: Britain's opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn addresses the crowd in Trafalgar Square as protesters against the UK visit of US President Donald Trump gather after taking part in a march. —AFP

The Labour Against Anti-Semitism group condemned the adoption of the new guidelines. Spokesman Euan Philipps said: "The Labour movement has lost its moral compass, appears to have an institutional anti-Semitism issue and can no longer claim to represent the values of solidarity, justice and equality." The Jewish Labour

Movement said: "The Labour Party has acted in a deliberate and offensive reckless manner in believing it understands the needs of a minority community better than the community itself." Allegations of anti-Semitism have been a problem for veteran socialist Corbyn ever since his improbable leadership win in 2015. —AFP



VINTIMILLE: People hold a banner reading "Ventimiglia, open city, freedom of movement" during a demonstration at the call of an Italian association "Progetto 20K" to help migrants in Ventimille, northern Italy, close to the french border on July. —AFP

tyrs, making their bones holy relics. Clerics also fear alienating numerous people who believe in multiple legends including that one or more of the children may have survived.

Ksenia Luchenko, an expert on the Russian Orthodox Church, said the Kremlin had little interest in celebrating the centenary because Nicholas' "unsuccessful reign and meek passing" could not be used for propaganda purposes. But she said Moscow authorities were growing exasperated with the persistent refusal of the Church to recognize the remains of the tsar and his family.

"The state has for many years wanted to finally put the matter to rest - to

bury all of Nicholas II's children next to their parents," she wrote in a column for the liberal daily Vedomosti. On Monday investigators announced that fresh genetic tests on bones of Russia's last tsar and his family had confirmed their authenticity, a sign Luchenko said that the authorities' patience with the Church may be running thin. The tests involved exhuming Nicholas's father Alexander III, proving "they are father and son," investigators said. Tikhon Shevkunov, the senior cleric put in charge of the Church investigation and who is reportedly close to Putin, said Monday the results of the DNA tests would be taken into account. —AFP

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Analysis

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Home of Brent crude gets new lease of life

Oil giant BP's Eastern Trough Area Project off the coast of Scotland wasn't supposed to be viable beyond 2018. But government and industry working together have given ETAP a new lease of life that is being closely watched by countries and companies eyeing other ageing projects around the world. When ETAP was launched 20 years ago today, some experts predicted the UK sector of the North Sea would cease most production by 2030.

Government efforts to keep producers in the basin, home to the Brent crude that underpins the price benchmark, gained urgency with the 2014 oil price crash. Cheaper oil also forced the industry to upgrade technology and find more efficiencies. From original plans to stop production at ETAP, BP decided to invest \$1 billion in 2015. "One has to take stock of the potential going forward and make an intervention that allows for the right investment to extend life," Ariel Flores, BP's North Sea Chief, told Reuters. "We've done that on ETAP."

ETAP's example shows how efforts to extend the production in the North Sea are succeeding, providing lessons for producers in other fields near exhaustion such as those in the Gulf of Mexico and southeast Asia. ETAP produces around 37,000 barrels per day of oil now against as much as 217,000 bpd in 2000. But BP production in the entirety of the North Sea is set to double in 2020 to 200,000 bpd from 2014 as fields such as Clair Ridge west of Shetland islands come on line, Flores said.

"There are a number of fields in the central North Sea area waiting for final investment decisions (FIDs). And for some of those, the potential host is ETAP," Flores said. Long-established oil giants such as BP, Royal Dutch Shell and Total as well as smaller, nimbler North Sea-focused producers such as Enquest and Premier Oil are all finding business opportunities in the area. The region has also seen something of a changing of the guard in recent years. Shell, BP, OMV, and Engie have sold fields and infrastructure to smaller players, many of which are backed by private equity or specialize in squeezing more life out of mature assets, such as Chrysaor, Siccar Point and Neptune.

Chrysaor acquired around half of Shell's North Sea portfolio last year and is now one of the largest operators in the basin, boosting reserves by drilling wells around ageing fields, such as the Armada field. "Six years ago you went to the US raising money and everyone was talking about fiscal instability, decommissioning, a basin in decline, and that has completely changed," Chrysaor CEO Phil Kirk told Reuters. "Now people talk about opportunity, about a change in the ownership of the basin."

Government

Oil and gas companies invested billions in the North Sea in the late 2000s to meet surging demand from Asia but the subsequent oil price rally masked huge inefficiencies and waste. When the bottom fell out in 2014 as shale producers in the United States competed with OPEC for market share, output had already dwindled to around 1 million barrels per day from a peak of 2.6 million in 1999. Investments were drying up and many operators were focused on plugging wells and dismantling fields.

That's where the UK government stepped in. Scottish oil and gas magnate Ian Wood was commissioned in 2013 to look at how government could stem the outflow from an industry that provides 300,000 jobs in the region. The 2014 Wood report led to the creation of the independent Oil and Gas Authority (OGA) and a regulatory overhaul, including scrapping a 50 percent petroleum revenue tax and, starting in November, allowing the transfer of the tax history of an asset to the buyer who can then offset tax on decommissioning.

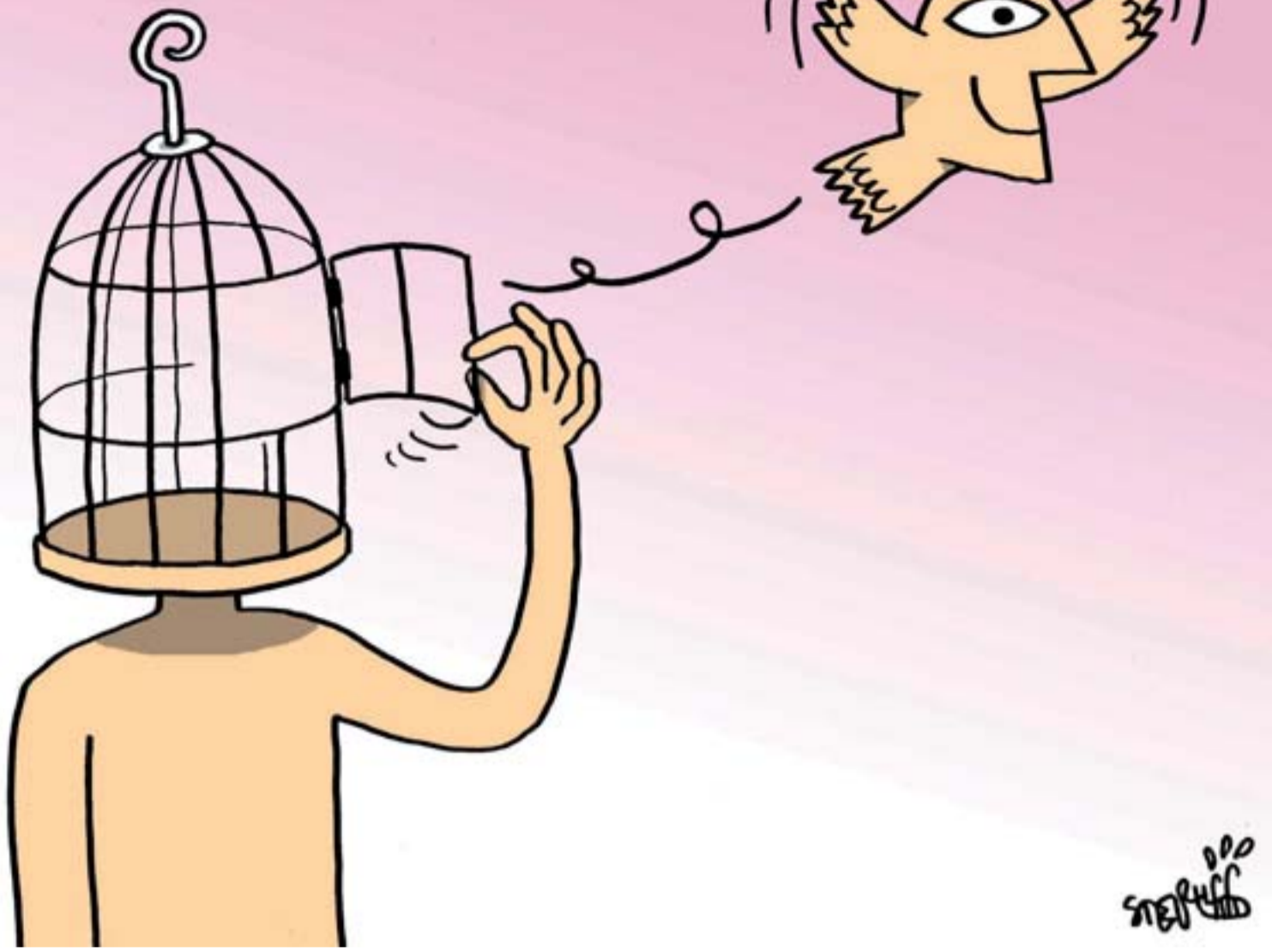
"On the decommissioning side ... they (operators) can see that it's more manageable, they can see there are improvements happening, they can see that the government has listened," OGA Director of Operations Gunther Newcombe told Reuters. Tax cuts for the industry in 2015 and 2016 alone amounted to 2.7 billion pounds, the government says. The OGA also started working hand-in-hand with North Sea operators to assemble and share cost benchmarks. "Some thought the UK North Sea was facing a terminal decline but it wasn't for lack of resource in the ground, it was investment appetite, it was portfolio issues and perceived barriers for investment," said Chrysaor's Kirk.

Industry

Industry made its own changes. Using simpler field designs, replacing custom-made kit from paints to seabed pumps with off-the-shelf equipment, and increasing cooperation among producers to save on transportation and development costs, the North Sea today can compete with other offshore basins and in some cases, even onshore US shale.

Sensors that BP has installed on drilling equipment and pumps now detect minuscule vibrations that give engineers precious extra hours, or even minutes, to change a valve or shut down a unit, preventing serious damage and minimising downtime for a field, for example. "We are looking at things more collaboratively, trusting contractors to be able to come up with solutions for us," Flores said. "At times there had been duplication of work, checking and recalculating calculations. Now there's a drive towards eliminating that." —Reuters

Cartoon for the Soul



In Iraq, old grievances fuel deadly protests

In the heat of battle against the Islamic State group, Iraqis united against a common enemy. But just a few months after Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi declared victory over the militants, social grievances that once simmered on the back burner have boiled over in a series of protests that have spread to several cities. After erupting in oil-rich Basra province on July 8, unrest has quickly spread, as people have vented their anger over unemployment, high prices, power cuts and a lack of usable water.

From Basra to the capital Baghdad, the question on people's lips has been: "Where is the government?" That query is made all the more pertinent by the failure of May's elections - thus far - to produce a new administration, as a record abstention rate highlighted Iraqis' contempt for their political leaders. Eight people have been killed during the demonstrations so far, multiple sources say, while there has been a brief internet blackout and the authorities claim over 260 security personnel have been wounded.

'Explosion of rage'

The protests represent "an explosion of rage at an entire system that has brazenly robbed Iraqis of the chance for a better life," says Iraq expert Fanar Haddad. With the jihadists in retreat, "the failings of the Iraqi political classes in all aspects of governance and economic management come into sharper relief," adds Haddad. For more than a week protesters have taken to the streets, questioning how a country that is the second largest producer in the OPEC oil cartel

can leave its 38 million citizens so bereft of basic services.

In some cases security forces have fired live rounds into the air, including to deter protesters who set fire to public property and political parties' headquarters. The authorities say troublemakers have turned peaceful protests violent. In an effort to restore calm, Abadi flew to Basra last week from Brussels, after a NATO meeting where the continued threat of IS was on the agenda. The premier announced investments of \$3 billion for Basra province and pledged additional spending on housing, schools and services.

And several cabinet ministers summoned powerful tribal chiefs in southern Iraq, urging them to use their clout to restore order in their provinces. When Abadi was elected in 2014, the prime minister pledged to tackle endemic corruption and vowed to rid Iraq of the jihadists, who at that stage held a third of the country. He has won plaudits for overseeing the war effort - but the battle against corruption will take time, his supporters say. Iraq is ranked the 12th most corrupt country in the world by Transparency International.

'Cosmetic concessions'

The promises of investment for Basra will fail to satisfy the demonstrators who know Abadi may well not lead the next government, political analyst Hisham Al-Hashemi says. The elections placed the premier's Victory Alliance third. And while his bloc tentatively allied itself with nationalist cleric Moqtada Sadr in June, the combined forces would still take only 96 out of 329 parliamentary seats. But



Iraqi protesters demonstrate against unemployment and a lack of basic services outside the oilfields of Al-Zubayr, about 20 km southwest of the southern city Basra on Tuesday. —AFP

despite the political chaos - two months after the elections, even the fragmented results are subject to a recount in some areas - Hashemi expects the protest movement to fizzle out.

"They don't have a leadership, a political identity or media support (to further their) legitimate demands," he says. And alongside the offer of carrots, sticks are being deployed. The authorities have ordered the arrest of dozens of activists who encouraged others to take to the streets by posting pictures of the protests online. On Saturday, the Internet was cut across the country, as demonstrations threatened to spread. Authorities said the shutdown was due to

maintenance work and Iraq was largely back online Monday. But Iraqis were still unable to connect on social networks.

An end to the protests could lie in offering temporary solutions until political and meteorological temperatures cool, Haddad says, noting that anger over public services has historically tended to boil over during the summer. It is "likely that the Iraqi political classes will bunker down and wait for the storm to pass while offering cosmetic concessions and promises of reform," he says. But the problems facing the country are long-term ones "that require far more than Iraq's self-interested political classes are likely to be able to offer". —AFP

50 years after Concorde, US startup eyes supersonic future

Luxury air travel faster than the speed of sound: A US start-up is aiming to revive commercial supersonic flight 50 years after the ill-fated Concorde first took to the skies. Blake Scholl, the former Amazon staffer who co-founded Boom Supersonic, delivered the pledge this week in front of a fully-restored Concorde jet at the Brooklands aviation and motor museum in Weybridge, southwest of London. Boom Supersonic's backers include Richard Branson and Japan Airlines and other players are eyeing the same segment.

The company aims to manufacture a prototype jet next year but its plans have been met with skepticism in some quarters. "The story of Concorde is the story of a journey started but not completed - and we want to pick up on it," Scholl said. The event coincided with the nearby Farnborough Airshow. "Today... the world is more linked than it's ever been before and the need for improved human connection has never been greater," Scholl said. "At Boom, we are inspired at what was accomplished half a century ago," he added, speaking in front of a former British Airways Concorde that flew for the first time in 1969.

'Very unattractive'

Boom Supersonic's aircraft, dubbed

Baby Boom, is expected by the company to fly for the first time next year. "If we can't continue where you left off, and build on that, then the shame is on us," Scholl said, addressing himself to an audience that included retired Concorde staff. "Our vision is to build a faster airplane that is accessible to more and more people, to anybody who flies." Boom Supersonic is making its debut at Farnborough and hopes to produce its new-generation jets in the mid-2020s or later, with the aim of slashing journey times by half.

The proposed aircraft has a maximum flying range of 8,334 km at a speed of Mach 2.2 or 2,335 km per hour. If it takes off, it would be the first supersonic passenger aircraft since Concorde took its final flight in 2003. The Concorde was retired following an accident in 2000 in which a Concorde crashed shortly after takeoff from Paris, killing 113 people. Some analysts remain skeptical over the push back into supersonic. "Supersonic is not what passengers or airlines want right now," said Strategic Aero analyst Saj Ahmed, stressing that many travellers wanted cheap low-cost carriers instead. Ahmed said supersonic jets were "very unattractive" because of high start-up development costs, considerations



Boom Supersonic co-founder, Blake Scholl, poses for a photograph in front of an artists' impression of his company's proposed design for a supersonic aircraft, dubbed Baby Boom, at the Farnborough Airshow in southwest London yesterday. —AFP

about noise pollution and high prices as well as limited capacity.

'Untried and untested'

Independent air transport consultant John Strickland also noted supersonic travel was unproven commercially. "Business traffic, on the face of it, is the most lucrative for airlines," Strickland told AFP. "But if there is an economic downturn or something happens where the market for business class traffic drains away, then you have nothing else left to do with that aircraft. "I think it's

going to be some time before we see whether it can establish a large viable market... in the way that Concorde never managed to do."

These concerns have not stopped interest from other players. US aerospace giant Boeing had last month unveiled its "hypersonic" airliner concept, which it hopes will fly at Mach 5 - or five times the speed of sound - when it arrives on the scene in 20 to 30 years. And in April, NASA inked a deal for US giant Lockheed Martin to develop a supersonic "X-plane". —AFP

Business

THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2018

12 EasyJet ups profit forecast despite travel disruption

13 US housing starts hit 9-month low dealing a blow to market

14 Huawei, Audi sign MoU for strategic cooperation



Passengers pose for a selfie picture inside an Ethiopian Airlines flight who departed from the Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to Eritrea's capital Asmara yesterday. — AFP

Flags, flowers greet Ethiopian flight in Eritrea

Families separated by war board Ethiopian Airlines jets after 20 years

ASMARA: The first commercial flight from Ethiopia to Eritrea in 20 years landed safely in Asmara yesterday to be greeted by dancers waving flags and flowers, cementing a stunning rapprochement that has ended a generation of hostility in a matter of days.

As Ethiopian Airways flight ET 0312 made the momentous switch from Ethiopian to Eritrean airspace, chief executive Tewolde GebreMariam took to the on-board intercom to remind the 315 passengers they were part of history. "This is the first time that this is happening in 20 years," he said, to cheers and applause from passengers and crew on the brand new Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

Families separated from loved ones since the start of a brutal 1998-2000 border war sat next to dignitaries on the flight, one of two that took off from Ethiopia yesterday morning. Passenger Senait Tesfaye told Reuters she had not seen her grandmother Abrehet for more than two decades. Abrehet, she said, was deported to Eritrea alongside tens of thousands of Ethiopian residents of Eritrean origin at the start of the conflict.

"We have been longing to see her for all these years," the 37-year-old said as she cradled her three-month-old son

Naby. "He will now get to spend time with her more than I ever did as a child. Words cannot express the joy we feel as a family." Other passengers carried flags and wore t-shirts with slogans celebrating the advent of peace.

The airline marked the departure of the planes, the other a Boeing 737, with a message on its Facebook page: "The bird of peace has just flown to #Asmara #Familyreunion #Ethiopia #Eritrea."

The two 90-minute flights were the icing on the cake of a peace push by new Ethiopian prime minister Abiy Ahmed, whose three months in office have turned politics in his country - Africa's most populous after Nigeria - and the wider East African region on its head. With the 41-year-old former intelligence officer at the helm, the ruling EPRDF coalition has ended a state of emergency, released political prisoners, restored phone links and announced plans to open up the

economy - including letting foreigners take stakes in state-run Ethiopian Airlines.

The airline - which operates Africa's biggest fleet - stands to save millions of dollars a year by using Eritrean airspace instead of taking circuitous routes to some Middle East destinations, Tewolde told Reuters. "This is a big occasion for us," he said. The importance for ordinary Ethiopians is far greater. Surafel Demissie, an Ethiopian priest whose parents died during his childhood, had never been to Eritrea - the country of his mother's birth - nor met any family members.

"God is about to bring us together. Today, God dismantled the wall," he said. Abiy's predecessor as prime minister, Hailemariam Desalegn, told Reuters on board one of the flights that he felt "heartfelt joy". "There has been hatred between us for the last twenty years - now that has been reversed," he said.

In his boldest move since coming to power in April, Abiy offered last month to make peace with Eritrea 20 years after the conflict in which an estimated 80,000 people died, many of them scythed down by machine-gun fire in World War One-style trench warfare.

Full-blown fighting ended in 2000 but troops have faced off ever since, depriving Ethiopia of access to Red Sea ports and leaving Eritrea to rely on lengthy military conscription to repel the threat from its giant neighbor. Indefinite national service is the main reason thousands of young Eritrean men flee every month, many making the perilous journey across the Mediterranean in search of a better life in Europe.

Acknowledging that the conflict was placing an unsustainable economic burden on both sides, Abiy has since visited Asmara and Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki reopened his nation's embassy in Addis Ababa on Monday.

The countries barred their citizens from visiting each other during the conflict and foreigners wanting to travel from one country to the other had to connect via a third country. "It is crazily expensive," said one Kenya-based Eritrean businesswoman. — Reuters



Peace will save airline millions of dollars: CEO

Burgan Bank net income reaches KD 50.5m in H1

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank Group announced yesterday its first half earnings for the financial year 2018 reporting KD 50.5 million (\$168 million) with a growth of 30 percent. During the second quarter the Bank registered KD 30.1 million (\$100 million) growing 43 percent in comparison to the same period last year. The set of results for the period ending in 30th June 2018 demonstrated solid operating capabilities and efficiencies. Earnings per share grew for the first half by 34 percent year-on-year reaching 20 fils, and achieving return on tangible equity (ROTE) of 14.7 percent for the same period.

During the first half of 2018 and compared with the same period of 2017, operating income grew by 13 percent to reach KD

139.2million (\$462 million). Asset quality measured by the Non-performing loans (NPL) to gross loans ratio, was significantly enhanced when compared to the same period in 2017, with NPL to gross loans ratio declining from 4.3 percent to 2.8 percent while NPL coverage ratio reached 168.5 percent.

Majed Essa Al-Ajeel, Chairman of Burgan Bank Group said: "We are very pleased with the overall performance of Burgan Bank Group. Our strategy continues to deliver, our business model is solid, and our execution and deliverables are well ahead of expectations."

"We trust our operating capabilities. Our domestic and international Banking arms are delivering and we are reaping the diversification benefits with our international operations contributing 42 percent thus diversifying risk, enhancing our revenue stream composition, and grasping the opportunity to benefit from operating higher growth markets. Our business pipeline remains strong with a focus on prudence and selective growth," added Al-Ajeel.

"On behalf of the board, I take this oppor-



tunity to thank our customers and shareholders for their confidence in our capabilities. I would also like to thank our executive management team for their leadership and the excellent execution of the corporate strategy, and to our staff for their continued support and commitment," concluded Al-Ajeel.

The consolidated financials encompass the results of the Group's operations in Kuwait, and its share from its regional subsidiaries, namely Burgan Bank - Turkey, Gulf Bank Algeria, Bank of Baghdad, Tunis International Bank. Burgan Bank Group has one of the largest regional branch networks with 169 branches across Kuwait, Turkey, Algeria, Iraq, Tunis, Lebanon and representative office in Dubai-United Arab Emirates.

Trump efforts to split EU 'are in vain', says Juncker

BRUSSELS: European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker said US efforts to split the EU on trade "are in vain," in a message yesterday to President Donald Trump before their talks in Washington next week.

Juncker, who heads the powerful executive arm of the 28-nation European Union, will visit the White House on July 25 to try to convince Trump to drop tariffs on metals and avoid further duties on cars. He told a press conference that he "would like to make the US president understand" a key point on trade while admitting he had tried unsuccessfully with him before. "The European Union and its single market are indivisible," the former Luxembourg premier said when asked about Trump's bid for bilateral deals. "All the efforts to divide the Europeans are in vain."

Juncker said. "It seems to me all these efforts to have bilateral ties, which must take place between our partners and the commission and therefore the EU, must be better explained," he added.

"I go there calmly," he said. The Commission said Juncker and Trump will focus on improving transatlantic trade and forging a stronger economic partnership. But Washington has shown no sign of compromise as it pursues its "America First" policies across a range of issues, even if it means alienating traditional allies.

Trump imposed duties of 25 percent on steel imports and 10 percent on aluminum in March, but had given temporary exemptions to the EU and some other close trading partners as talks continued. But those exemptions were lifted in early June, prompting a raft of retaliatory tariffs by the EU, and Trump is now considering whether to impose hefty levies on European automobiles.

Besides the tariffs, the US has threatened European companies with huge fines if they continue to operate in Iran, after Trump reimposed far-reaching sanctions while pulling out of the landmark 2015 deal on curbing Tehran's nuclear program. A French finance ministry source told AFP on Tuesday that US officials have rejected a joint request made by Paris, London, Berlin and the EU last month to exempt their companies operating in Iran from the sanctions. — AFP

NBK INTERNATIONAL MARKETS REPORT

Financial conditions tighten amid rising trade tensions

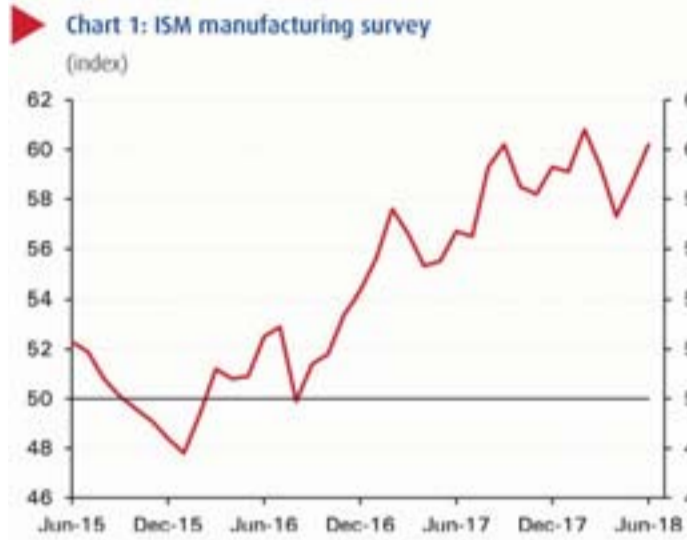
Capital outflows from emerging markets increase

KUWAIT: Trade tensions continued unabated and are likely to accelerate. On July 6, the US imposed 25 percent tariffs on hundreds of Chinese products, and is considering another 10 percent duty that may result in \$200 billion in tariffs. China did retaliate with tariffs of its own on some American products. Europe has detailed a plan to slap tariffs on \$300bn of US products if Trump goes ahead with his plan to hit European cars with punitive tariffs. These tensions have raised risks and rattled markets, with China's stock market and the renminbi coming under severe pressure. China experienced large capital outflows as part of a more generalized phenomenon in emerging markets.

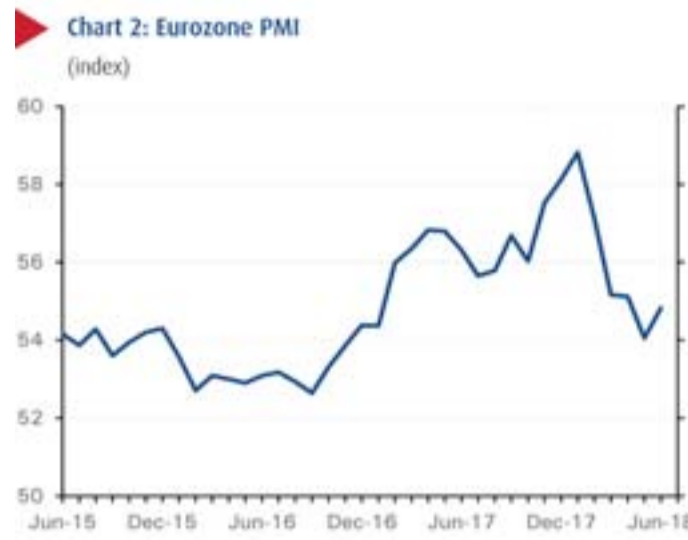
Investors continue to pull out of emerging economies, with outflows accelerating in June, prompted by higher interest rates, a strong US dollar and trade tensions. According to the IIF, the flight to safety from emerging markets increased to \$8.0 billion in June following an exodus of \$6.3 billion in May. These outflows were split evenly between debt markets, which recorded a net loss of \$4.2 billion, and equity markets at \$3.8 billion. Outflows are set to continue in the months ahead with the expected further tightening in the US. Growth in highly indebted emerging markets will take a hit on the back of an appreciating US dollar, and will be compounded by likely further interest rate hikes by the emerging economies as they move to stem the loss of capital.

US continues good performance

US strong growth momentum continued apace with a steady flow of robust data in the second quarter, following a soft start in the first quarter of the year. Both May and June's economic indicators were good. Inflation logged its sixth straight rise this year, increasing to 2.9 percent in June, while the economy added a more-than-expected 213,000 new jobs. May's figures were also revised higher. Unemployment, however, ticked up slightly from May's 18-year low of 3.8 percent to 4.0 percent in June as more idled workers rejoined the labor market encouraged by the improved employment prospects. The ISM manufacturing survey registered its second consecutive strong pick-up, reaching 60.2. Business sentiment, however, was down partly on trade tensions, with the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia business outlook survey easing to 19.9 in June from 34.4 in May. With strong economic performance and inflation approaching its



Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream



target, the case for an increase in the Fed policy rate has been strengthened. It is now expected that the Fed will hike the rate twice before year-end and possibly three more times in 2019. In its just-released US consultations report, the IMF called for a faster pace of increase in the rate given the large tax cuts and the increase in spending which would lead to larger budget deficits and higher public debt, which is already judged to be unsustainable.

Eurozone monetary policy

Europe has not been performing as well as the US. The second quarter PMI averaged 54.7, the weakest in six quarters, but it improved slightly in June to 54.8, driven by higher new orders and hiring. Meanwhile, economic sentiment eased less than expected and still hovered at levels that bode well for future growth.

Nevertheless, headwinds persist, with trade worries and political uncertainties weighing heavily on the eurozone's outlook. Trump's threat to impose heavy tariffs on car imports could have a severe impact, mainly on Germany's auto industry (one third of total EU cars produced), with the German ZEW survey for economic sentiment retreating significantly to -25 in July, the lowest since 2012. An EU summit over immigration revealed a changing

European political landscape that has perhaps cast some doubt on the durability of the Union's status quo and Chancellor Merkel's survival, which was briefly challenged last month by the threat of her interior minister to resign and bring to an end the nascent coalition. However, things are calmer now but still fraught with risks.

June's inflation in the eurozone rose to 2 percent for the first time since 2013 on higher energy prices, but core inflation remained low; this may justify further caution from the ECB going forward. The European Central Bank announced in its June meeting that asset purchases will end in 2018, as expected. However, Draghi later announced that the ECB was not in a rush to raise the policy rate and the next hike was pushed from June to the autumn of 2019.

Oil markets

Oil prices closed in June back up at \$79/bbl for Brent and \$74/bbl for WTI. Oil's rise to near three-and-a-half year highs came despite OPEC+ agreeing to resupply the markets with a nominal 1 mb/d of crude over the next six months to prevent oil prices from spiking amid supply declines in Venezuela, Angola, Libya and potentially Iran once US sanctions kick-in. With spare production

capacity among OPEC+ members limited to Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait and Russia, the real output increase could turn out to be less.

Moves by the US to apply the maximum pressure on importers of Iranian crude by pursuing a 'zero-tolerance' policy on sanctions waivers has also buoyed prices amid further production outages in Libya, a refinery closure in Canada and further US crude stockpile drawdowns, which indicate that oil demand continues to be robust. The Trump administration, facing higher rather than lower gasoline prices ahead of the US midterms, has since called for the Saudis to ramp up production to prepare for a more sizeable loss of Iranian crude than had been the case in the previous Obama-era round of sanctions.

However, oil prices dropped by around 5 percent during a single trading day last week in reaction to the resumption of production in a Libyan field, and the possibility of the US allowing sanction waivers to some importers of Iranian crude.

Improved GCC outlook

The regional outlook is improving amid higher oil prices and regional government's economic stimulus programs. GCC non-oil activity continues to improve, with real GDP data for IQ18 showing

Saudi Arabia's non-oil sector growing by 1.6 percent y/y in IQ18, Kuwait's by 3.1 percent y/y and Qatar's by an impressive 5.0 percent y/y. The UAE, for its part, redoubled its efforts to improve the local business environment and attract FDI. Abu Dhabi in turn announced an economic stimulus package of \$13.6bn to boost growth.

In a boost to GCC financial markets, the \$520 billion Saudi bourse entered the MSCI EM index for the first time in June, while Kuwait's stock market was included on MSCI's watchlist for potential reclassification to EM status in 2019. Meanwhile, Bahrain's currency and bonds were the focus of intense speculation in June after concerns resurfaced about the kingdom's ability to refinance its obligations in the context of its large fiscal deficits and debt levels.

The sell-off saw the Bahraini dinar fall to a 17-year low against the US dollar, the kingdom's main CDS on five year debt climb to a near 10-year high of 571 bps and the spread between its US dollar conventional bonds and its Islamic bonds swell to record levels. The pressure prompted the central bank to reaffirm its commitment to the US dollar peg. Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Kuwait pledged to support Bahrain, leading to a rebound in the market. However, the timing and size of this support package have not been announced.

Japan tightening Export growth rose 8.1 percent y/y in May, amid a pick-up in demand for manufacturing equipment, cars and car parts, while import growth accelerated from 5.9 percent y/y to 14.0 percent y/y on imports of aircraft and higher oil prices. Meanwhile, Japan's trade surplus with the US fell to its lowest level since 2013 due to US aircraft and coal imports. Japan, like China and the EU, albeit to a lesser extent, has come under pressure from the US about unfair trade policies. Inflation in May came in at 0.7 percent y/y, suggesting that monetary policy tightening will not take place soon.

China's renminbi took a tumble in June and into early July, prompting the central bank to intervene to stabilize the market.

The Chinese currency witnessed its worst month ever in June after falling by 3.3 percent against the US dollar. Downward pressures on the currency have largely stemmed from a strong US dollar, some looser domestic monetary policy and lingering concerns over a brewing trade war with the US.

Goldman Sachs names new CEO as it targets Main Street growth

NEW YORK: Goldman Sachs named David Solomon as its new chief executive on Tuesday, implementing a much-telegraphed succession plan as it expands beyond its Wall Street roots to the broader consumer market. The prestigious investment bank said Solomon, 56, will move from president to the top executive job on October 1, succeeding longtime chief Lloyd Blankfein, 63.

Solomon also will take over the chairman's seat at the end of the year when Blankfein steps down. The appointment comes as Goldman expands efforts aimed at Main Street customers through online banking and other ventures such as credit cards, even as the bulk of revenues still come from businesses such as merger and acquisition advising. Deposits in this newer business grew to over \$23 billion at the end of the second quarter. Chief Financial Officer Martin Chavez said Tuesday on a conference call.

Chavez also announced plans to enter the British deposit market later this year, the first overseas move for the division. Part of the reason for the shift—which brings Goldman into competition with JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America and others with retail branches—has been the tighter regulatory environment on banking in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis that has curtailed some riskier activities.

Part-time deejay

A former Bear Stearns banker who joined Goldman in 1999, Solomon worked for a

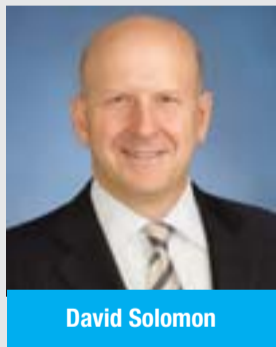
decade as co-head of investment banking at Goldman prior to being tapped as co-president in December 2016. His hobbies include deejaying under the moniker "DJ D-Sol," a pursuit that has included gigs in Miami and the Bahamas, in addition to New York where Goldman is based. "I am honored and humbled to have the opportunity to lead Goldman Sachs," Solomon said in a statement. "I am excited about the opportunities for growth and know how vital our culture of client service and teamwork is to our success."

With Blankfein's departure, Jamie Dimon at JPMorgan Chase is the last remaining chief executive still at a big Wall Street bank from that pre-crisis period. "Our firm has demonstrated great resiliency and strength over the last 12 years," said Blankfein, who led the firm in a period that included heavy political and public criticism of Goldman and other large banks after the 2008 crisis.

The leadership announcement came as the bank reported a 44 percent jump in second-quarter earnings to \$2.3 billion thanks largely to strong revenues in advising clients on mergers, initial public offerings and other transactions. Shares finished 0.2 percent lower at \$231.02. The announcement was expected after Solomon's main rival for the top job, former co-president Harvey Schwartz, retired in March, leaving Solomon as the last remaining candidate.

The firm, first founded in 1869, is known not only for being a financial powerhouse but also as a pipeline into the most senior levels of US government. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin is the latest former Goldman executive to serve in that post.

Goldman announced its first major entry into consumer banking in October 2016 with the establishment of the Marcus online banking platform. It then acquired a personal finance application in March and reportedly is developing a credit card with Apple that carry the iPhone maker's digital wallet logo. — AFP



David Solomon

EasyJet ups profit forecast despite travel disruption

LONDON: EasyJet expects full-year profit to be higher than expected as increased passenger numbers offsets disruption from striking air traffic controllers and bad weather, the British no-frills airline said yesterday. EasyJet and European rivals have been hit in particular by striking French air traffic controllers.

Alongside yesterday's earnings update, chief executive Johan Lundgren told reporters that EasyJet would be filing a legal complaint to the European Commission over the strikes, "most likely next week". This follows similar action by Ryanair and IAG, owner of British Airways and Iberia—while the European Union has vowed not to limit air traffic controllers' right to strike. For its full-year ending in September, EasyJet said it expects pre-tax profit of between £550 million (\$719 million, 618 million euros) and £590 million. This compares to a previous guidance of between £530 million and £580 million. In reaction,



LONDON: EasyJet CEO Johan Lundgren (fourth left) and Britain's Transport Secretary Chris Grayling (fifth right) pose for a photograph after disembarking from the company's new Airbus A321neo passenger aircraft at the Farnborough Airshow, south west of London yesterday. — AFP

EasyJet's share price rose almost three percent in early deals. "With EasyJet on track for a positive summer trading period during the fourth quarter, we are raising our guidance for full year headline profit before tax for financial year 2018 to between £550 million and £590 million," Lundgren said in an earnings statement. It comes as EasyJet said that in the third quarter to the end of June revenue rose

by 14 percent to £1.6 billion and ancillary income from increased add-ons such as allocated seating advanced more than a fifth to £328 million.

"EasyJet has delivered a strong performance in the third quarter with robust customer demand driving outperformance in our passenger and ancillary revenue growth," the company said. — AFP

Ethiopia says reforms 'to unleash private sector'

ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopia is open to selling off a host of state-owned firms, either partially or entirely, as part of major economic reforms designed to "unleash the potential of the private sector", its information minister said yesterday.

In an interview with Reuters, Ahmed Shide said the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed - which has announced a slew of shake-ups since coming into office in April - would retain majority holdings in the state-run airline, logistics, telecoms and energy companies. However, everything else, from hotels to sugar farming to cement production, could be up for sale, with the sole exception of the tightly controlled financial services sector whose fate was yet to be decided, he said. "The main objective of this is to encourage private sector development in the country," Ahmed said, making clear that the nation of 100 million was turning the page on decades of reliance on the state to drive economic growth.

"The role of the private sector is very fundamental. We did a lot of state development projects. Now we need to unleash the potential of the private sector," he said.

Ahmed did not give a time-frame for the privatizations but said the government was tendering for advice from global business consultancies including McKinsey and PwC.

"The detailed planning is not complete but precautions will be made not to have mistakes," he said. "So we will do it with caution." Having come to power less than four months ago, 41-year-old Abiy has turned the Horn of Africa nation - the most populous in Africa after Nigeria - on its head with his bold plans to reshape politics and the economy. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.090
Canadian Dollar	231.655
Sterling Pound	402.860
Euro	356.635
Swiss Frank	304.625
Bahrain Dinar	806.030
UAE Dirhams	82.925
Qatari Riyals	84.160
Saudi Riyals	81.720
Jordanian Dinar	428.770
Egyptian Pound	16.949
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.894
Indian Rupees	4.434
Pakistani Rupees	2.437

Bangladesh Taka	3.626
Philippines Pessio	5.671
Cyprus pound	18.035
Japanese Yen	3.695
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.767
Malaysian Ringgit	76.110
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.815
Thai Bhat	10.110
Turkish Lira	62.910

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.394583	0.408483
Czech Korune	0.005713	0.015013
Danish Krone	0.043577	0.048577

Euro	0.347702	0.361402
Georgian Lari	0.122969	0.122969
Hungarian 0.001008	0.001198	
Norwegian Krone	0.033428	0.038628
Romanian Leu	0.059286	0.076136
Russian ruble	0.004851	0.004851
Slovakia	0.009055	0.019055
Slovenia	0.030373	0.035373
Swedish Krona	0.297844	0.308844
Swiss Franc		

Australasia

Australian Dollar	0.217155	0.229155
New Zealand Dollar	0.200869	0.210369

America

Canadian Dollar	0.225755	0.234755
US Dollars	0.299350	0.304650
US Dollars Mint	0.299850	0.304650

Asia

Bangladesh Taka	0.003102	0.003903
Chinese Yuan	0.043958	0.047458
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036889	0.039324
Indian Rupee	0.003889	0.004661
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002613	0.002793
Korean Won	0.000259	0.000274
Malaysian Ringgit	0.071405	0.077405
Nepalese Rupee	0.002623	0.002963
Pakistan Rupee	0.001833	0.002603
Philippine Peso	0.005507	0.005807
Singapore Dollar	0.217553	0.227553
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001610	0.002190
Taiwan	0.009816	0.009996
Thai Baht	0.008811	0.009361

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.789699	0.806199
Egyptian Pound	0.014325	0.020043
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000197	0.000257
Jordanian Dinar	0.423694	0.432694
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020554	0.044554
Omani Riyal	0.781864	0.787544
Qatar Riyal	0.079060	0.084000
Saudi Riyal	0.079833	0.081133
Syrian Pound	0.001286	0.001506
Tunisian Dinar	0.111779	0.119779
Turkish Lira	0.056816	0.067116
UAE Dirhams	0.081193	0.082893
Yemeni Riyal	0.000987	0.001067

Business

US housing starts hit 9-month low dealing a blow to market

Building permits decrease 2.2%, housing starts fall 12.3%

WASHINGTON: US homebuilding fell to a nine-month low in June and permits declined for a third straight month, dealing a blow to the housing market as it struggles with a dearth of properties available for sale. Higher lumber prices and shortages of land and labor are constraining homebuilding. The housing market is lagging overall economic growth, which appears to have accelerated in the second quarter after hitting a soft patch at the start of the year.

family home construction declined in June. Data for May was revised down to show starts rising at a 1.337 million-unit rate instead of the previously reported 1.350 million-unit rate. Starts fell in all four regions last month.

Building permits dropped 2.2 percent to a rate of 1.273 million units, also the lowest level since September 2017.

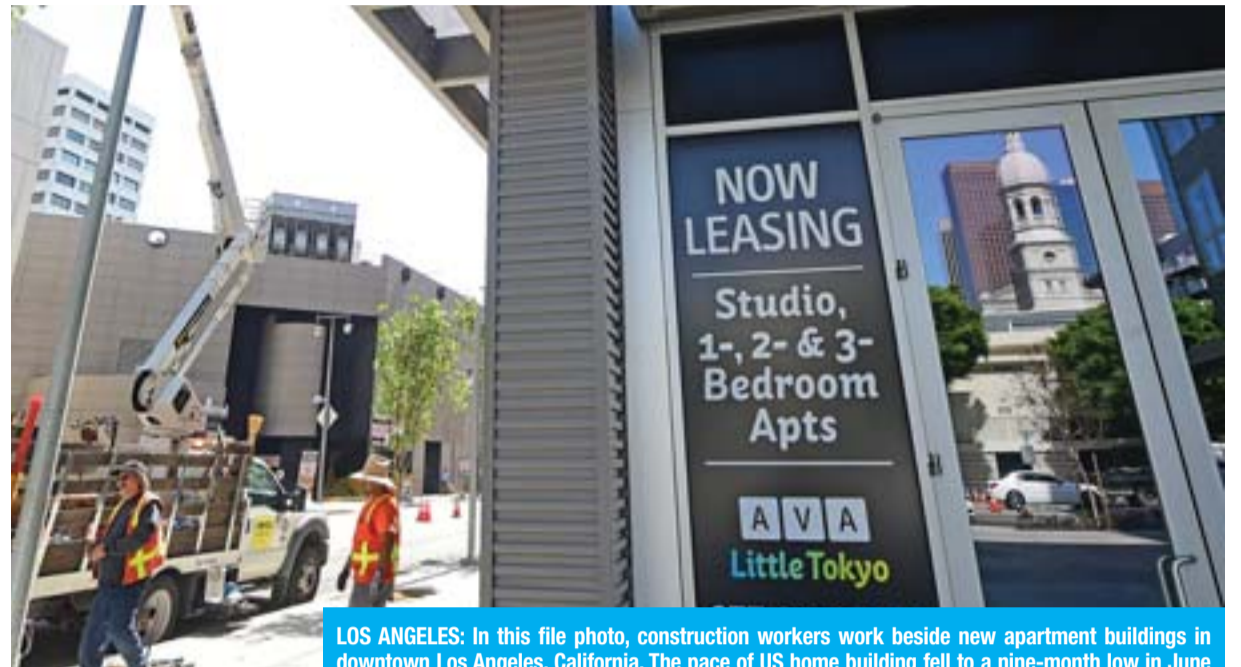
Economists polled by Reuters had forecast housing starts falling to a pace of 1.320 million units last month and permits rising to a rate of 1.330 million units. The dollar slightly extended losses against a basket of currencies after the data while prices for US Treasuries rose. Single-family homebuilding, which accounts for the largest share of the housing market, decreased 9.1 percent to a rate of 858,000 units in June. Single-family homebuilding has lost momentum since hitting a pace of 948,000 units last November, which was the strongest in more than 10 years.

A survey on Tuesday showed confidence among single-family homebuilders unchanged in July, with builders continuing to be "burdened by rising construction material costs."

The Trump administration in April 2017 imposed anti-subsidy duties on imports of Canadian softwood lumber, which builders say have boosted the price of a new single-family home.

Residential investment contracted in the first quarter. June's sharp drop in homebuilding could impact on economists' forecasts for second-quarter growth, which are as high as a 5.3 percent annualized rate. The economy grew at a 2.0 percent pace in the first quarter.

While permits to build single-family homes rose 0.8 percent in June to a pace of 850,000 units, they continued to trail starts. This suggests moderate gains in single-family homebuilding in the months ahead. Starts for the volatile multi-family housing segment plunged 19.8 percent to a



LOS ANGELES: In this file photo, construction workers work beside new apartment buildings in downtown Los Angeles, California. The pace of US home building fell to a nine-month low in June as apartment construction plunged, according to government data released yesterday. — AFP

rate of 315,000 units in June. Starts for buildings with five units or more fell to a 10-month low.

Permits for the construction of multi-family homes dropped 7.6 percent to a pace of 423,000 units. The housing inventory squeeze is unlikely to ease. Housing completions were unchanged at a rate of 1.261 million units in June. The number of single-family houses com-

pleted last month fell 2.3 percent. Realtors estimate that housing starts and completion rates need to be in a range of 1.5 million to 1.6 million units per month to plug the inventory gap. The stock of housing under construction slipped 0.5 percent to 1.121 million units. Single-family homes under construction last month dipped 0.2 percent to 515,000 units. — Reuters



Single-family starts drop 9.1 percent

"We're seeing pressure on both sides of the market, from increasingly expensive inputs on the supply side to prices that are charging ahead of wage growth on the demand side, and the result is that neither builders nor buyers can keep up," said John Pataky, chief consumer and commercial banking executive at TIAA Bank in Jacksonville, Florida.

Housing starts tumbled 12.3 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.173 million units last month, the lowest level since September 2017, the Commerce Department said yesterday. The percent drop was the biggest since November 2016 and both single and multi-



CBK receives winner of Al-Najma weekly draw

KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently received the winner of its Al-Najma weekly draw's KD 5000 prize: Mohammed Taher Bahoul Khan.

Khan was received by the head of CBK's individual banking services,

Noura Kayed who presented the prize and congratulated the winner.

Kayed also explained that Al-Najma account could be opened by a minimum of KD 100 and that the account should include the minimum of KD 500 to enter all draws.

Airbus unveils pioneering solar-powered drone Zephyr

FARNBOROUGH: European air giant Airbus yesterday unveiled a solar-powered drone called Zephyr that will fly at a high altitude and fulfil the same functions as a satellite.

The project was presented at Britain's Farnborough airshow, where Airbus revealed that the Zephyr S took off on July 11 for its maiden flight from Arizona in the United States.

"This maiden flight of the Zephyr S aims to prove and demonstrate the aircraft capabilities," Airbus said in a statement. The High Altitude



Pseudo-Satellite (HAPS) has a wingspan of 25 meters (82 feet) and weighs less than 25 kilograms (55 pounds).

It can fly at an altitude of 21,000 meters above the weather and conventional air traffic. Another model planned, the Zephyr T, would have a wingspan of 33 meters. "The only civil aircraft that used to fly at the altitude was Concorde," as well as the military reconnaissance U2 and SR-71 Blackbird planes, Airbus

said. The plan is for the drones to fly for three months in the stratosphere, with a descent that would last around 30 hours.

Zephyr "is a mix between a satellite and a UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) with the capabilities of a satellite and the flexibility of a UAV," Jana Rosenmann, head of the drones division at Airbus, told AFP.

The drone is equipped with battery technology that saves energy during the day, releasing it at night. Seven models are planned to be produced in 2018 and seven more in 2019, Rosenmann said. The drones will have both military and civilian applications, including maritime surveillance, border patrol missions and forest fire detection. Britain's defense ministry is the first customer. Airbus said it intended to collaborate closely with regulatory authorities around the world in the absence of international rules on such drone flights. —AFP

US to respond to concerns over trade policy at G20: Official

WASHINGTON: US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin will have the opportunity to address concerns about Washington's trade policies during a meeting of the world's leading finance ministers this weekend, a senior Treasury official said Tuesday. However, the official said Mnuchin has no plans for a separate meeting with Chinese officials to try to resolve the trade conflict that has led to an exchange of tariffs on tens

of billions of dollars in trade between the two countries. Finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of 20 leading economies are due to meet in Buenos Aires Saturday and Sunday, where Mnuchin "will respond to concerns on US trade policies," the official told reporters in a conference call.

Group of Seven officials on hand for the broader meeting will also hold a one-hour session during which they will again discuss "concrete action with regard to China and its economic aggression," the Treasury official said. That includes subsidies China used to create excess steel production capacity "burdening workers around the world," as well as heavy reliance on state-owned enterprises and export credits, the official said.

President Donald Trump has taken a con-

frontational stance on trade policy, imposing steep tariffs on steel and aluminum, which angered allies and prompted swift retaliation, as well as 25 percent duties on tens of billions of Chinese goods, with more on the way.

Although Mnuchin recently testified to Congress that the administration is willing to reengage with Beijing to try to resolve the dispute, the Treasury official said no meeting was scheduled with his Chinese counterparts.

"The secretary has had substantial contact with Chinese officials so there's not the imperative at this meeting to have a formal bilateral," the official said.

The trade tensions are caused by China's policies that "have moved in a non-market direction over the years and creates problems for many countries," the official said. —AFP

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Business

KAMCO Economic Report

IMF maintains global growth forecasts for 2018 and 2019

Oil prices to remain bullish to support GCC fiscal initiatives

KUWAIT: International Monetary Fund (IMF) kept global GDP growth estimates for 2018 and 2019 unchanged at 3.9 percent for both years, in its World Economic Outlook (WEO) update released in July-18. However, the agency mentioned that growth has become less synchronized across both Advanced Economies and Emerging Market and Developing Economies, and alluded to the emergence of more downside risks to the global economy. Advanced Economies growth for 2018 lower than Apr-18 forecasts: Regionally, the growth of Advanced Economies was lowered by 10 bps for 2018 (2.4 percent) from their April-18 forecast, but 2019 GDP growth was left unchanged (2.2 percent).

Key factors that led to the reduction of growth in 2018 was ascribed to moderation of growth witnessed in the euro area, Japan and the UK in early 2018. Growth of Emerging Market and Developing Economies as a group was kept stable from April-18, but the outlook for individual economies was recalibrated based on the expected impact from emerging global trends like rising oil prices, USD appreciation, global trade and geopolitical developments.

Saudi Arabia's growth for 2018 raised by 20 bps: IMF estimates Saudi Arabia's GDP growth for 2018 to be higher by 20 bps at 1.9 percent. GDP growth forecast for 2019 (1.9 percent) was left unchanged. However, we believe that 2019 growth forecasts still have room for revisions, as the oil GDP forecast depends on the nature of the OPEC+ agreement in 2019, and global trade developments in the near term.

Oil demand and price signaling from global events significant for the GCC: The backdrop of current oil

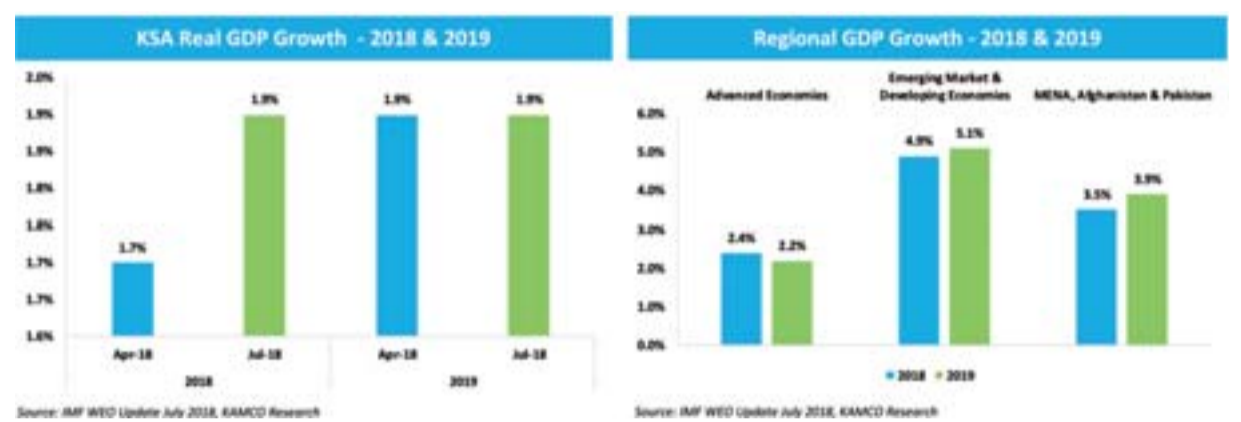
prices gives GCC countries ample flexibility in terms of their ongoing fiscal consolidation plans and managing their current accounts balances. However, more protectionist global trade policies and mounting trade tensions could impact the region through lower global oil demand and volatility in oil prices. This should push GCC countries to expedite their diversification plans, and their individual fiscal consolidation plans targeting both additional revenues and expense optimization going forward.

Oil prices and GCC fiscal initiatives

IMF forecasts average oil prices to increase by \$17.4/b in 2018, from an average of \$52.8/b achieved over 2017 to \$70.2/b, based on oil price futures. Further, a marginal decrease to \$68.9/b is forecasted for 2019. Oil revenues for the GCC in 2018 are likely to be higher than budgeted by GCC countries, as prevailing oil prices are higher than the oil price assumptions of fiscal budgets. However, uncertainty still looms over the continuation of this trend into 2019, which could affect faster fiscal recoveries of GCC countries. Moreover, rate hikes and higher resultant interest rates are also likely in 2019. We believe this could prompt individual countries in the region to further expedite their fiscal consolidation plans in the latter part of 2018.

US growth kept intact

US growth was left unchanged for 2018 and 2019. IMF expects the fiscal stimulus along with strong private demand to keep growth higher, while lower unemployment rate reaches multi-decade lows and creates inflationary pressure. The euro area is expected to be



Emerging economies

Emerging and developing economies are forecast to grow at 4.9 percent in 2018 and 5.1 percent in 2019, in line with April-18 expectations. India and China remain the fastest growing large economies in the region, however, India's GDP growth for 2018 and 2019 were lowered by 10 bps and 30bps to 7.3 percent and 7.5 percent respectively due to effects of higher oil prices on domestic demand and faster than anticipated monetary tightening. MENAP (Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan) growth for 2018 and 2019 was pushed up by 10 bps and 20 bps respectively to 3.5 percent and 3.9 percent respectively, driven by the improved outlook for oil exporting countries. Nevertheless, IMF stated that the outlook for oil importers remains fragile, while several economies still require significant fiscal consolidation improvements.

France and Italy are expected to grow slower than expected earlier, as per the IMF, as activity in France during Q1-18 was weaker than expected, while lower domestic demand is expected to impact Italy in a period of political uncertainty. Germany's GDP forecasts for 2018 was also lowered by 30 bps to 2.2 percent. Lower activity in early 2018 also led to a downward revision of UK's GDP growth to 1.4 percent for the current year. The contraction witnessed in Japan during Q1-18 was behind the 10bps downward revision for the country's 2018 GDP growth forecast (1.0 percent). However the IMF expects the Japanese economy to remain strong over the rest of 2018 and 2019, driven by strong private consumption, external demand and investment activity.

Wataniya Airways clarifies the technical error on its flight from Beirut

KUWAIT: Wataniya Airways, the newest airline in Kuwait, released the details of the technical error that took place on its flight from Beirut to Kuwait on July 16, 2018 which required the rerouting and landing of the plane at Aqaba Jordan Airport.

The company explained that the flight took off normally from Beirut airport after the completion of the inspection, safety procedures and full air traffic coordination with the Civil Aviation Administration at Beirut Airport. However, during the flight in the Jordanian airspace, one of the engines faced a sudden relative malfunction. As a result, the captain of the aircraft, Captain Nasser Al-Ajmi, immediately decided to land at Aqaba Jordanian Airport for the safety of the passengers, and communicated with the Civil Aviation Administration at Aqaba Airport to ensure the landing of the flight, and securing hotel accommodation for passengers until the technical inspection of the aircraft is cleared.

Once the plane landed safely and the safety of all passengers was ensured, they were then accompanied to a hotel in preparation for their flight back to Kuwait. Meanwhile, a thorough technical inspection was conducted to determine the type and nature of the technical defect that affected the engine. Wataniya Airways confirms that it is committed to the highest standards of world-class professional quality control and inspections, and in cooperation with the world's largest companies to ensure the best performance of their aircrafts, and that safety procedures are an absolute priority.

Wataniya Airways thanks its passengers on this flight for their full cooperation with the crew, and recognizes the captain and the service crew as well as the civil aviation authorities at Aqaba Airport for their effective cooperation, and we wish our passengers continuous safety.

Burgan Bank announces winner of Al-Thuraya salary account draw

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, announced yesterday Zuber Ali Shokat Ali as the lucky winner of the Al-Thuraya Salary Account monthly draw. The draw rewards new and existing customers who transfer their salary to Burgan Bank by offering them a chance to win a Nissan Patrol SUV every month. With every KD 10 available in the account, the customer receives one chance to enter the draw.

The Al-Thuraya account holders have the option to hold money in Kuwaiti dinar and other major currencies and can access account-related services such as standing orders, loans and credit cards, and benefit from the discounts and offers throughout the year.

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the youngest commercial bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Burgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Burgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. 'People come first' is the foundation on which its products and services are developed.

KFH: 10 customers win KD 250 each in 'Hesabi' for Youth Draw

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the winners of draw "Hesabi" for Youth, thus reiterating KFH focus on customers and its continuous endeavor to provide best services to customers.

Winners of the KD 250 prize are as follows: Abdullatif Mohammed Al-Khunnah - Moudhi Abdulkarim Al-Oraifi - Alaa Ahmed Al-Dhafaeri - Mohammed Jamal Mohammed - Hala Sultan Al-Qahtani - Naser Badee Al-Raqam - Rahaf Mohammed Saad - Mai Khaled Abdul-Aziz - Hanan Hamad Al-Mutairi - Bashayer Mohammed Al-Enizi.

KFH offers "Hesabi for Youth" with a variety of privileges as part of its continued endeavor to provide adequate customer care, innovate new products and services and fulfill the needs of all customers of various age categories and interests. Services and products are tailored to suit customers' needs and provide distinguished serve as per global standards in regard to quality, accuracy and speed.

Hesabi" program has been designed to meet the needs of youth and aspire for their active life style. This program presents for youth many exclusive offers and a wide range of privileges including Hesabi ATM card with a unique design, eligibility to issue Hesab prepaid card (as per credit regulations of KFH), distinguished offers and discounts etc. KFH continues to launch marketing campaigns to

Huawei, Audi sign MoU for strategic cooperation

KUWAIT: Huawei has gained a strong partner for the development of intelligent connected vehicles. The information and communications technology company signed a memorandum of understanding for a strategic cooperation with the German automobile manufacturer Audi in Berlin yesterday.

The GCC is considered one of the leading regions for implementing advanced technologies, and is establishing itself as a global model of mobility in the field of self-driving cars. In Kuwait, the Public Authority for Civil Information is currently developing a road survey system to enable self-driving vehicles to travel smoothly across all roads in the country. Other GCC countries have the advanced ICT infrastructure and the necessary elements to adopt new technologies, which will enable them to quickly follow the example of developed countries in the field of self-driving cars.

"We are entering a new era of

intelligent vehicle that will see the emergence of new technological synergies between information and communications technology and the automotive industries," commented Veni Shone, President of LTE Solution, Huawei, adding: "With increased innovation in mobile connectivity, Huawei is committed to transforming the driving experience."

Intelligent connected vehicles allow relevant information to be exchanged with the surrounding environment. To achieve this, cars need a high-quality, stable data connection. The expansion of this communication requires intensive research and development. The cooperation between Huawei and Audi is also intended to facilitate the ongoing advancement of intelligent driving and the digitalization of services in the vehicle environment. To this end, the parties have additionally agreed to jointly develop training programs in order to strengthen the skills of technology experts in both of these areas.

"We are intensifying our joint research with Huawei in the area of intelligent connected vehicles," explained Saad Metz, Executive Vice President of Audi China, adding: "Our aim is to improve safety and optimize traffic flows in order to create intelligent cities. The concepts will initially be concentrated on the Chinese market."



reward youth customers in Hesabi campaign namely "On My Account" campaign which has met with wide acceptance among program owners, thus offering exclusive offers and many privileges to suite their expectations.

Hesabi for Youth represents the ambitions and expectations of youth category and copes with KFH aspirations to attract the largest portion of youth who represents the major part of Kuwaiti society. Also, the account represents KFH initiative to diversify banking services and products.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and customer service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 480 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's customers in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, and the UAE.



Working in cooperation with Huawei and the Chinese authorities, Audi became the first foreign automobile manufacturer to participate in the first-time deployment of "LTE-V" on public roads in the megacity of Wuxi in eastern China in 2017. "LTE-V" is a mobile communication standard, which is specially tailored for connected cars. Drivers were provided with real-time traffic information via connections to traffic light systems and video monitoring at intersections.

In September 2018, the project will

enter its next phase at the "World Internet of Things Exposition" in Wuxi with an even broader range of applications. Before the signing of this MoU, Huawei and Audi have cooperated in many areas related to intelligent connected vehicles in recent years. The two companies initiated the telecom-vehicle cross industry organization 5GAA and have held several joint demos/trials in various countries including Germany, Spain and China, ensuring the vibrant growth of the intelligent connected vehicles domaine Intelligent.

Technology

In China, robots deliver snacks to your home

'Little yellow horse' to deliver 1 bn packages daily



BEIJING: Liu Zhiyong, right, founder and CEO of Zhen Robotics, and a colleague carry a delivery robot out of a Suning supermarket during a demonstration of the robot in Beijing.—AFP photos



BEIJING: In this photo, a Suning worker loads a delivery robot with groceries outside a Suning supermarket.



BEIJING: A woman picks up groceries delivered by a Zhen Robotics delivery robot at a residential compound.

BEIJING: Along a quiet residential street on the outer edges of Beijing, a yellow and black cube about the size of a small washing machine trundles leisurely to its destination. This "little yellow horse" is an autonomous delivery robot, ferrying daily essentials like drinks, fruit and snacks from the local store to the residents of the "Kafka" compound in the Chinese capital. Equipped with a GPS system, cameras and radar, the robots are seen by their creator as the future of logistics in China, where he says one billion packages will eventually be delivered every day.

Travelling at a less than overwhelming three kilometers per hour—a slow human walk—the robot has room for improvement, said one customer as she removed a packet of nuts from its bowels. "The weak point is that it cannot deliver directly to the door like a human," said the customer, who does not live on the ground floor. "But it's still quite practical. The robot delivers

relatively quickly," she said. The robot takes advantage of Chinese consumers' love of cashless payments and smartphone shopping.

China is the world's biggest online shopping market with more than half of its population making at least one smartphone purchase per month, according to professional services firm PricewaterhouseCoopers. This compares to 14 percent in the rest of the world. Whether buying electronics or toilet paper, avocados or clothes, Chinese are used to simply tapping a button on their smartphone and getting a home delivery—sometimes several per day. To get a delivery via the "little yellow horse", the customer selects the desired products, taps in the address and pays via their phone. The supermarket staff places the items in the robot, and the robot bustles off.

Liu Zhiyong, founder and CEO of Zhen Robotics, which manufactures the robot, sees a bright future for his yellow creation. "At the

moment, there are 100 million packages delivered every day in China. It will be one billion in the future," Liu said. "There will not be enough humans to make the deliveries. We need more

“Cannot deliver directly to the door like a human”

and more robots to fill this gap in manpower. And to reduce costs," added the CEO. These costs are especially high in the last kilometer of a delivery, where precision is key and a customized service

is required to get the product to the front door.

At the moment, the yellow robots in the Kafka compound have little to trouble them, moving along a wide pavement with no obstacles—and no cars. Weighing 30 kilograms (around 65 pounds) and with a theoretical top speed of 12 kilometers per hour on their six wheels, the robots have four cameras constantly scanning the world around them and a laser tele-detection system allowing them to avoid obstacles. Liu's firm has already signed up Suning, a large electronics firm that also runs a network of small supermarkets.

But not everyone is convinced the robots are a long-term logistics solution. Shao Zhonglin, former deputy secretary-general of the China Express Association, noted they were useful "over a short range". "It's not certain however that they can be a broad solution for the final kilometer of delivery. Because the client still has to come down to get his package," added Shao.

"Plus the costs remain quite high: buying and maintaining the robots, operating costs, etc."

Not re-sellable

But Zhen Robotics is convinced the costs will come down over time. CEO Liu also says the robot will soon be equipped with the necessary technology to operate a lift, meaning it will no longer be confined to ground-floor deliveries. In the meantime, deliveries in China are increasingly being made by autonomous means. In recent months, several firms have received the green light to operate drones, either to deliver directly to the customer or to ferry goods between hubs.

And Liu has a warning for anyone trying to vandalize or steal the yellow robot. "With GPS, we are constantly tracking them, cameras are filming and it can sound an alarm," he said. "Anyway, what would a thief do with it? It's not exactly re-sellable." —AFP

Walmart, Microsoft team up to take on Amazon

WASHINGTON: Walmart said Tuesday it was entering into a strategic partnership with Microsoft on "digital transformation" for the onetime retail industry leader. The move is aimed at helping Walmart compete better against Amazon, which is taking a growing share of retail sales in the United States and globally. The two firms said the partnership was focused on using artificial intelligence and other technology tools to help manage costs, expand operations and innovate faster.

"Walmart's commitment to technology is centered around creating incredibly convenient ways for customers to shop and empowering associates to do their best work," said Walmart chief executive Doug McMillon, Walmart CEO. Microsoft's business cloud computing platform known as Azure will help Walmart manage operations ranging from refrigeration and air conditioning to improving its supply chain and transportation.

"The world's leading companies run on our cloud, and I'm thrilled to partner with Walmart to accelerate their digital transformation with Microsoft Azure and Microsoft 365," said Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft. Walmart is already using Microsoft services for some applications and will expand that to tap into Microsoft's machine learning, artificial intelligence, and data platform, according to the statement.

Earlier this month, the research firm eMarketer said Amazon's surging growth would enable it to capture 49.1 percent of US online retail sales this year, up from 43.5 percent. Amazon is far ahead of online rivals like eBay, with 6.6 percent of e-commerce, and Apple, at 3.9 percent, according to eMarketer, which estimated Walmart's share at 3.7 percent. According to the research, Amazon now controls nearly five of the total US retail market, including online and offline. —AFP

Australia scientists develop world first melanoma blood test

SYDNEY: Australian researchers said yesterday they have developed a blood test for melanoma in its early stages, calling it a "world first" breakthrough that could save many lives. The scientists, from Edith Cowan University, said the new test could help doctors detect the skin cancer before it spreads through a person's body. "Patients who have their melanoma detected in its early stage have a five-year survival rate between 90 and 99 percent," lead researcher Pauline Zaenker said in a statement.

She added that survival rates fell to less than 50 percent if the cancer spread in the body. "This is what makes this blood test so exciting as a potential screening tool because it can pick up melanoma in its very early stages when it is still treatable," Zaenker said. The research, published in the journal *Oncotarget* yesterday, included a trial involving 105 patients with melanoma and 104 healthy people. The procedure detected early stage melanoma in 79 percent of cases, the scientists said. Melanoma is currently detected using a visual scan by a doctor, with areas of concern cut out surgically and biopsied. Zaenker said the new process involved identifying auto

antibodies, a person's body produces in response to the cancer. "We examined a total of 1627 different types of antibodies to identify a combination of 10 antibodies that best indicated the presence of melanoma in confirmed patients relative to healthy volunteers," she added.

Cancer Council Australia chief executive Sanchia Aranda said the test would be important for high-risk groups, who have to undergo regular inspections of their spots and moles that can be difficult and time-consuming. She cautioned that the test did not pick up other types of less deadly, but more common, skin cancers such as squamous cell and basal cell carcinoma.

"People need to be very aware of whether they've got sun damage or UV damage on their skin, and be alert to changes in any spots or moles," she said. The scientists will conduct another clinical trial lasting three years to validate the findings, and hope to have a test that clinics can use after that. One in every three cancers diagnosed is a skin cancer, according to the World Health Organization, with Australia having among the highest incidences of melanoma in the world. —AFP

Massive diamond cache beneath Earth's surface

WASHINGTON: There's a load of bling buried in the Earth. More than a quadrillion tons of diamonds to be exact—or one thousand times more than one trillion—US researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology reported this week. But don't expect a diamond rush. These naturally occurring precious minerals are located far deeper than any drilling expedition has ever reached, about 90 to 150 miles below the surface of our planet.

"We can't get at them, but still, there is much

more diamond there than we have ever thought before," said Ulrich Faul, a research scientist in MIT's Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences. "This shows that diamond is not perhaps this exotic mineral, but on the scale of things, it's relatively common." Using seismic technology to analyze how sound waves pass through the Earth, scientists detected the treasure trove in rocks called cratonic roots, which are shaped like inverted mountains that stretch through the Earth's crust and into the mantle.

These are "the oldest and most immovable sections of rock that lie beneath the center of most continental tectonic plates," explained MIT in a statement. The project to uncover deep Earth diamonds began because scientists were puzzled by observations that sound waves would speed up significantly when passing through the roots of ancient cratons. —AFP

Android software puts Google at heart of mobile life

SAN FRANCISCO: The Google Android operating system, the target of a long-running EU antitrust investigation, powers the vast majority of the world's smartphones and firmly rules the mobile world. Android software acts as the brains for mobile devices, coordinating tasks from phone calls and map directions to games, Twitter posts, or online searches. Google, the revenue-pumping heart of corporate parent Alphabet, makes Android available free to device makers, earning money from ads, content or subscriptions at online services crafted to work smoothly with the operating system.

According to industry-tracker Gartner, Android dominated the smartphone market with a share of 85.9 percent last year, to around 14 percent for Apple's iOS. Some 1.3 billion Android smartphones were sold last year, compared with approximately 215 million running on iOS and 1.5 million with other operating systems, according to the research firm. The first version of Android was released a decade ago.

In a playful way, Google has named Android iterations after tasty treats including Kit Kat, Marshmallow and Nougat. A fresh version, Android P, is in beta testing mode and is expected to be given a yummier moniker before it is officially released.

Free to tinker

Android is "open source," meaning that device makers can use it free of charge and customize it as they wish. This led to complaints that the world of Android was "forked," with compatibility of applications inconsistent and device makers slow or reluctant to push updated versions or security patches to users. Apple, in contrast, tightly controls its software and hardware, so an application that works on one device works on all. Apple also prides itself on pushing the most up-to-date version of iOS out to mobile devices.

While Android operating system software is

Teens glued to phones risk modest rise in ADHD symptoms

TAMPA: Could teenagers suffer symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder after engaging in excessive smartphone use? A new study out Tuesday says digital overload could be linked to a "modest" but significant rise in new ADHD behaviors, offering a warning to parents about the potential dangers of too much screen time. The findings in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* were based on nearly 2,600 Los Angeles teens who answered survey questions over a two-year period-making it one of the largest and longest studies on the topic to date.

The more social media, streaming video, text messaging, music downloads or online chats they engaged with, the more likely they were to report symptoms like difficulty organizing and completing tasks, or trouble remaining still. About 10 percent of youths who said



FRANCE: This file photograph shows a statue donated by Google during its inauguration in Montelimar, as Google launches a new version of the android operating system called 'Android 7.0' or 'Nougat'. — AFP

free, EU authorities claim Google uses its leverage to get mobile device makers to install its other mobile apps like YouTube, Chrome, Gmail, Maps and Translate to cement its dominant position. Android is used by a host of mobile device makers, including South Korea-based Samsung, which is the world's top smartphone maker in terms of volume. Before Google shook up the market with Android, gadget makers paid to license operating systems or relied on their own. Microsoft took that approach with the operating system for Windows Phone, before surrendering the market in the face of runaway success by Android and Apple.

Pixel

Google makes its own premium Pixel smartphones, which showcase the capabilities of Android and are kept up to date with software improvements. Pixel smartphones account for only a small sliver of the market. According to EU investigators, Google has required device makers to install its search engine and the Google Chrome browser on phones, and to set

Google Search as the default, as a condition for licensing some Google apps.

The California tech giant disputes this, saying mobile device manufacturers, if they wish, can install applications that compete with those offered by Google.

For example, Samsung smartphones can come new with Chrome and another web browsing program built-in, or offer both Google Pay and Samsung Pay digital wallets for use. Android users are free to patronize online venues other than the Google Play Store for apps, games, music or other digital content.

Google does promote its own services as being optimized for Android, and backed by "cloud" computing capabilities for backing up data and being able to shift seamlessly between devices such as smartphones and laptop computers. Daniel Castro of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, a Washington think tank, said Google's strategy tries to "limit fragmentation across Android devices" so as to attract application makers and protect the reputation of the brand. —AFP

they commonly used digital media platforms frequently showed new ADHD symptoms over the study period, said the report. In contrast, 4.6 percent of students who were not frequent users of any digital activity showed ADHD symptoms.

Researchers cautioned that the rise in ADHD symptoms was "modest" and at least some of the effect might be explained by confounding factors. Also, since the study was observational in nature and was based on survey responses by the teens themselves, researchers said they could not prove that smartphone use actually caused ADHD symptoms. Still, the findings offer a solid basis for more research because "this was a statistically significant association," said Adam Leventhal, a professor of preventive medicine and psychology at the University of Southern California. "We can say with confidence that teens who were exposed to higher levels of digital media were significantly more likely to develop ADHD symptoms in the future." Previous studies have shown that ADHD, a psychiatric condition involving persistent difficulty sustaining attention, hyperactivity and impulsivity, affects about seven percent of youths in the United States and may be on the rise in some populations.

Earlier studies examining the effect of tele-

vision watching and playing video games found modest increases in ADHD among children. According to Jessica Agnew-Blais, a postdoctoral research fellow at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience at King's College London, the authors were "rightfully cautious not to over-interpret" their findings.

"The authors only assess ADHD symptom frequency, so it remains unclear whether relatively small changes in ADHD symptom frequency over these two years are disruptive or impairing in everyday life," she said. "It is worth noting that over 80 percent of students reported high frequency use of digital media, and the vast majority of these students do not have elevated ADHD symptoms."

Another expert who was not involved in the study, Andy Przybylski, an associate professor at the Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford, described the research as "interesting" but "tentative." "The study is a proof of concept that tells us we need very large samples when we design future studies because the possible effects are extremely small," he said. The next studies on the topic should move away from self-reported survey answers and include clinical diagnoses and external measurements of device use, experts suggested. —AFP

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

Specialized in:

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

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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 appendectomy
- ◆ 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
Laposcopic and Bariatric Surgery

Academic Certificates - Training

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

Scope of clinical Practice.

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

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

What's On

LOYAC organizes special workshops for trainees



LOYAC organized special workshops for around 400 trainees accepted in its summer training program in the period of June 23 until July 7, 2018 at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel and AUK's Center for Continuing Education (CCE) where they were trained on

basic vocational skills prior to starting a career. Speaking on the occasion, LOYAC programs coordinator Ala Nassr stressed that LOYAC has always been keen on developing youth skills through specialized workshops presented by accredited self-development specialists.

On her part, coach Sara Al-Shemhari said that taking part in the program for the second year had changed her life style after dealing with humongous numbers of trainees. Also speaking about the program, senior self-development coach Nada Ali said it was annually pre-

sented four times and explained that this year's first workshop was held for six weeks (February-March), the second was held for four weeks during Ramadan, the third one for five weeks (July-August) and the fourth one will be held in October/November-December.

Enjoy summer at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa

If you are looking for an escape this summer and have eyes on a memorable stay or a day of fun closer to home, make Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa, Kuwait's idyllic resort, the destination of choice for you and your family. The resort is the epitome of luxury hospitality for families from Kuwait and around the Gulf, catering to the needs of each and every guest - from couples seeking privacy and tranquility to families and young guests with a sense of adventure.

"Summer is the time of the year when families can really switch off from the daily routine and get away to spend quality time together. We know how important that time together is and have ensured that each and every guest will enjoy memorable experiences when staying with us," said General Manager, Savino Leone.

Named Hotel & Spa of the Year 2018 by Travel & Hospitality Awards, and Luxury Family Friendly Hotel of the Year 2018 by the Luxury Travel Guide, the resort caters for individuals and large families with a hybrid of contemporary and traditional elegance across its diverse rooms, suites, residences and villas, going way beyond the conventional with access to a private beach and pools, that truly reflect Jumeirah's promise to Stay Different.

This summer, guests can enjoy the 'summer flavors' offer with special rates for the Deluxe Room starting KWD 69 and KWD 92 for the Grand Deluxe, complimented by an international breakfast buffet for two people and access to the resort's facilities. Adventurous guests can head to the beach for kayaking, fishing, snorkeling or a sunset cruise and stay refreshed with signature snacks from the poolside Mint Café. Guests can also take on the energetic aqua zumba classes held by the resort's Latin instructor every Monday at 5pm at the main pool.

Children can escape to the Sinbad Kids' Club and Teen Scene Club complete with fun activities from the latest board games, movies at the private kids' cinema, and Arts & Crafts.

Meanwhile, the resort's prestigious Talise Spa is the place to go to beat the heat and cool off with restorative treatments, rituals and therapies complimented by exclusive facilities for the ultimate wellness experience.

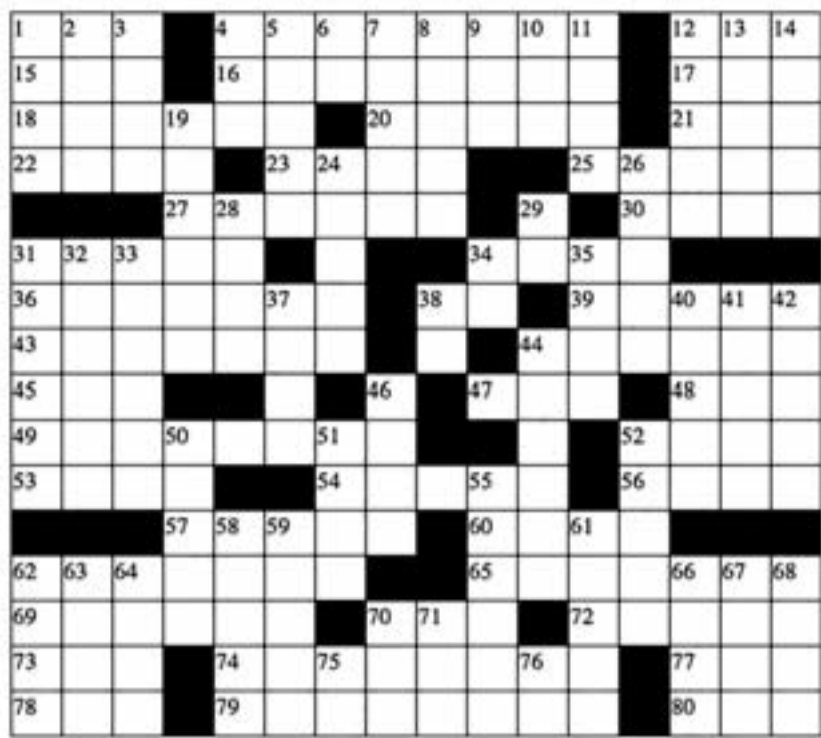
The resort boasts seven restaurants, cafés and lounges, from award-winning seafood at Salt Seafood & International Restaurant, which is now open for lunch, to delicious premium steaks and prime cuts in Pepper Steakhouse Restaurant, or the authentic tastes of Italy in Olio Italian Restaurant and a complete experience of local and international flavors in Garden Café.

This summer, the resort offers as well a special 25 percent discount for those who have an upcoming event in July or August and are on the lookout for exceptional catering services. The resort's talented culinary team and catering professionals ensure to provide guests with the best experience to complement any function from private meetings to corporate social gatherings in the hotel's unique venues or in private outdoors spaces.



Stars

CROSSWORD 1963



ACROSS

1. An advantageous purchase.
4. Lacking a label or tag.
12. A dark-skinned member of a race of people living in Australia when Europeans arrived.
15. Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
16. In a secure manner.
17. The network in the reticular formation that serves an alerting or arousal function.
18. A member of a nomadic Berber people of the Sahara.
20. A Nilotic language.
21. (computer science) A coding system that incorporates extra parity bits in order to detect errors.
22. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
23. A fencing sword similar to a foil but with a heavier blade.
25. Deciduous shrub of North America.
27. United States writer remembered for his stories (1783-1859).
30. (used especially of vegetation) Having lost all moisture.
31. Squash bugs.
36. Decorate tastelessly.
39. The seventh month of the Moslem calendar.
43. A festival featuring African-American culture.
45. An accidental happening.
47. The federal department responsible for safeguarding national security.
48. The federal agency that insures residential mortgages.
49. A resident of Arizona.
53. Large genus of tropical shrubs or herbs some of which yield fibers of mucilaginous substances.
54. A married man.
56. Not easy.
57. French revolutionary leader (born in Switzerland) who was a leader in overthrowing the Girondists and was stabbed to death in his bath by Charlotte Corday (1743-1793).
60. Any competition.
62. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
65. A republic in southeastern Europe.
69. A short trip that is taken in the performance of a necessary task or mission.
72. Someone whose business is advertising.
73. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
74. Being one more than seventeen.
77. Gone by.
78. God of the earth.
79. Housing that someone is living in.
80. A unit of length equal to one thousandth of an inch.

DOWN

1. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- (Sumerian) Sun god.
- Not only so, but.
- The act of using.
- A desert in southern Israel.
- A crystalline metallic element not found in nature.
- American poet (born in England) (1907-1973).

8. Norwegian composer whose work was often inspired by Norwegian folk music (1843-1907).
9. (British) Informal term for information.
10. Large northern deer with enormous flattened antlers in the male.
11. Two items of the same kind.
12. Large west African tree having large palmately lobed leaves and axillary cymose panicles of small white flowers and one-winged seeds.
13. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
14. An annual award by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for achievements in motion picture production and performance.
19. Dried grape.
24. Division of a usually pinnately divided leaf.
26. (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
28. Harass with persistent criticism or carping.
29. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
32. Himalayish language spoken in the Kathmandu Valley of Nepal.
33. Extinct small mostly diurnal lower primates that fed on leaves and fruit.
34. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
35. A small nail.
37. Earn on some commercial or business transaction.
38. A radioactive transuranic element.
40. A port in western Israel on the Mediterranean.
41. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
42. The hair growing on the lower part of a man's face.
44. A member of the Finno-Ugric-speaking people living in eastern European Russia.
46. King of Denmark and Norway who forced Edmund II to divide England with him.
50. Any of various cycads of the genus Zamia.
51. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
52. Having the leading position or higher score in a contest.
55. A sultanate in northwestern Borneo.
58. (of complexion) Blemished by imperfections of the skin.
59. (combining form) Indicating radiation or radioactivity.
61. United States writer (1871-1900).
63. A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
64. Lacking in liveliness or charm or surprise.
66. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
67. Medium-sized tree having glossy lanceolate leaves.
68. An organic compound that contains a hydroxyl group bonded to a carbon atom which in turn is doubly bonded to another carbon atom.
70. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet.
71. (of securities) Not quoted on a stock exchange.
75. A metric unit of weight equal to one thousandth of a kilogram.
76. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today may find you a bit at odds with others. Keep your nose clean and hold your tongue. You may find that your thoughts may not quite align with your feelings and could find yourself at odds with others if you are not careful. You will be able to exhibit self-control, and this will work in your favor as others admire the way you are able to handle adversity. You may find yourself the object of much admiration in the workplace today. Others appreciate your ability to make practical decisions. You find yourself able to make clear decisions concerning others at this time. You may find that through reflection and a bit of time to yourself that you truly appreciate where you are in life and find yourself being very kind to those around you.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Today may find you with a desire to climb out of the rut you feel as if you have been in. Something new is on the menu for the day. You are ready to spread your wings and live a little. You are ready for new experiences and to see what all this world has to offer. This new desire and thought pattern may bring great reward in the workplace as a new insight on an old problem may bring an instant and brilliant solution. With a new outlook and new desires, comes a new appreciation for your life. A deeper love and appreciation for everything around you. You desire to connect with those closest to you. You are especially drawn toward spending time with someone younger today.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

A little escape may be coming your way. You may find yourself at odds with others and feel a break is in order. You may find yourself in a dreamy mood with a desire to let reality escape you. You don't often have this feeling, and this is a great time to just roll with it. You may find a movie, a road trip, or something as simple as lighting the candles and soaking in the tub, may bring you a needed rest. We all need to take time to ourselves and you are no exception. Rest your mind, body, and soul, Gemini. You may find you are highly productive after taking a day for yourself.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Today is a great day to clean out that closet or organize that cabinet. You may be in the mood to declutter and organize. This includes mental and physical aspects of your world. It may be a time you find it necessary to bite your tongue. Be sure and think before you speak to prevent yourself from offending someone today. This may be harder than you think. You find yourself being leaned upon for emotional support or someone may confide some very personal issues with you. You are sympathetic and very compassionate with those you care about and today you may find satisfaction in being able to make a difference in someone's life.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You may find yourself wanting to broaden your horizons. You know this is a big world and your life is contained in a tiny square of it. It may be time to take a step out of that box and find what the world has to offer you. You could find it difficult to communicate with others today because you find your mind is a million miles away. Curiosity has taken a hold on you and you can't seem to stay focused on the here and now. You may find yourself longing to belong. You may find yourself focusing on building stronger relationships with those close to you. Leo, this is a great time for you to participate in any team project that comes your way.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

A new start with an old situation brings the opportunity to win. Your unique way of looking produces an answer to a sensitive situation. You're able to speak to several people in such a way that makes a positive difference. You are publicly acknowledged for your success. Sticking to your plan gets you where you need to be. You are comfortable with your surroundings. Your communication skills are at all time high and you have the ability to interact with ease to all who surround you. Virgo. Follow your hunches, but don't force things as you will be better off just going with the flow.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You feel as if you need to be appreciated and loved. Children, your loved ones, and family are who you crave to have near you at this time. You tend to give of yourself freely and those closest to you appreciate this. Now is a time that taking a chance can result in receiving a big reward. Someone close to you may share some very personal issues with you and seek your advice. You may become and mentor this person who has a great deal of respect for you. You are always able to get to the root of the problem and have a solution ready at hand. You are not only the friend others want to have. You are the friend others try to be like.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may very well have tunnel vision and a great sense of determination as you are extremely focused on your goals right now. You may feel you have no place for clutter or trivial matters today. You feel very driven and determined to let nothing or no one stand in your way. You may feel very analytical today and others may look to you for your advice. You may be admired for drive and focus, Scorpio. This will be a very productive and satisfying day for you. Enjoy the praise you receive from your peers today.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

To infinity and beyond, that is where you have your sites set. You wish to broaden your horizons. You may desire a change of scenery, friends, or goals. There is a great big world out there and you feel trapped in a little square of it. You may experience some sort of emotionally charged drama concerning law, travel, or religion. You can always expect some sort of adversity to come with change. Change seems to make those close to you uncomfortable. You are a creature of habit and when that starts to vary from your norm, others start to become uneasy because they don't know what to expect next. Keep them on their toes.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This may be a time where stepping out on a limb and taking a chance could bring big rewards into your life. The timing is right. You may find others truly understand you when you share your spiritual beliefs with them. This is a great time to open up with others and share your beliefs and you may find this results in you being able to step in and truly guide someone close to you to finding peace in their life. You have been feeling a little harder to be admired and appreciated. You may find that guiding and caring for others will in turn bring great rewards into your world. It seems as everything is going your way and you truly are a guiding light to those in your world.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You seem to be able to get your point across with ease. You find yourself to not only be understood by others but to be very understanding of them as well. What a great time for communicating with those around you! You feel a strong desire to care for those around you. You want to make sure all is well with the world. You may find your needs are best satisfied by taking care of those around you. You tend to give freely. Virgo. It is nice when you find someone that makes you feel as if your needs are just as important to them. You may find this to be a very magical time in your life as it seems everything is just going your way.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Bite that tongue, take a breath, or count to ten before you speak. You could easily find yourself blurting out the wrong thing at the wrong time today. It may seem the ideas and thoughts that usually come so easy to you are no where to be found. Wrong decisions, and conflict could be on the horizon. This is a great day to be more reserved and just keep to yourself. A good book or a good movie would be the perfect escape for you today. Not every day can be your day, and this is looking like it will not be the best for you. Talk a walk and get away from it all for a while.

Wordsearch Puzzle

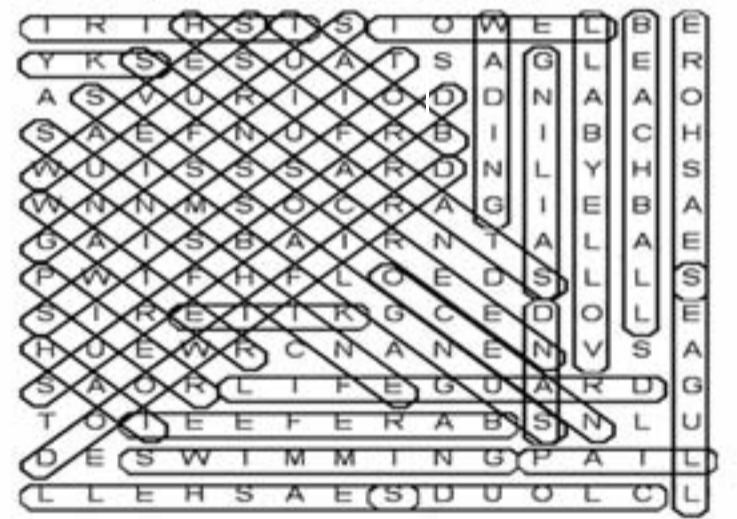
The Raven

Find and circle all of the words from the poem "The Raven" that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an Edgar Allan Poe quotation.



- | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|------------|-----------|----------|
| ANGELS | DOOR | GRIM | NAPPING | QUOTH |
| BEAK | DREAMS | HEART | NEPENTHE | RADIANT |
| BEGUILING | DREARY | HORROR | NEVERMORE | RAPPING |
| BIRD | EBONY | LATTICE | OMINOUS | RAVEN |
| BLACK | ENTRANCE | LORE | FALLAS | RUSTLING |
| BLEAK | EYES | LORE | FALLID | RUSTLING |
| BURNING | FEATHER | MAIDEN | FERCHED | SHUTTER |
| BUST | FEND | MELANCHOLY | FLACID | SOUL |
| CHAMBER | FLITTING | MIDNIGHT | PLUME | TAPPING |
| CROAKING | FLUTTER | MORTAL | PLUTONIAN | VISITOR |
| DARKNESS | FOWL | MYSTERY | PROPHET | WEARY |
| DECEMBER | GHASTLY | NAMELESS | QUAFF | WIND |

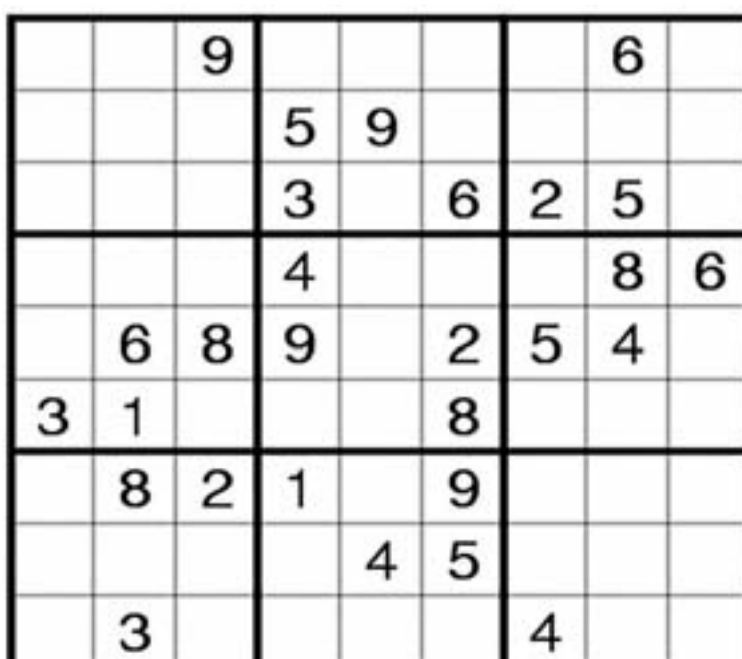
The Beach



- | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| BARE FEET | SAILING | SURFBOARD |
| BEACH BALL | SAND | SURFING |
| BOAT | SEAGULL | SWIMMING |
| CLOUDS | SEASHELL | SWIMSUIT |
| DRIFTWOOD | SEASHORE | T SHIRT |
| HAT | SKY | TOWEL |
| KITE | STARFISH | VOLLEYBALL |
| LIFEGUARD | SUNGLASSES | WADING |
| OCEAN | SUNSCREEN | WATER |
| PAIL | SUNSHINE | WAVES |
| PIER | | |

The hidden message is: SANDCASTLE

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2018



Venice as you've never seen it before with freerunner Petkuns

Freerunner Pavel Petkuns travelled to Venice for his latest parkour video as the Latvian searched for true love in one of Italy's most romantic settings. Here is all you need to know:

Petkuns and his girlfriend visit the City of Love for the annual Festa del Redentore (The Feast of the Redeemer) when the freerunner falls into the water leaning over the railing of a ferry boat. The 25-year-old then leaps over bridges, canals and gondolas through stunning backdrops such as St Mark's Square, the Acqua Alta bookshop and Punta della Dogana to find her before the unforgettable firework display that marks the July 14 celebration in the city.

The three-time Red Bull Art of Motion champion's technical and athletic abilities have

made him one of the best freerunners on the planet, however the narrow and crowded streets packed full of tourists were a new challenge for him to overcome. His recent study of silent films from the 1920s has enabled Petkuns to produce memorable action scenes in videos like this and Pasha: Lost and Found in Medellin. The Festa del Redentore combines religion and spectacle against the unique backdrop of St Mark's Basin with lights and reflections making a kaleidoscope of colors that frame the spires, domes and campaniles of the Venetian region's crown jewel. — Reuters



Photos show Freerunner Pavel Petkuns that travelled to Venice for his latest parkour video production as he searched for true love in one of Italy's most romantic settings. — Reuters photos

Two eds better than one: Two Sheerans seen but real Ed stays away

Fans of British singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran could not believe their eyes when they came to the unveiling of his wax figure in Berlin's Madame Tussauds and saw him - or at least what they believed to be him - emerging from a limousine. The waxwork museum had Nico Eckl, Ed Sheeran's best-known lookalike, unveil the model of the chart-topping musician on Tuesday since the real Sheeran couldn't come due to concerts, the museum said. "We had him drive up in a limousine and hoped that the fans would go berserk and that is exactly what happened," said Nina-Kristin Zerbe, the spokeswoman of

Madame Tussauds. "The people shouted, wanted pictures with him," Zerbe said.

Eckl, with sunglasses covering his eyes, posed for photographers and fans with the waxwork of Sheeran, which was dressed in a blue checked shirt and featured some of the singer's arms tattoos plus a guitar. "A lot of expertise and love for details went into this. As you can see - the freckles. It is not that easy to put freckles on a person. Or to prick in the eye-lashes, the brows," Zerbe said.

London's Madame Tussauds last month unveiled a different model of Sheeran at Lady Dinah's Cat Emporium in

London, where customers sip their drinks surrounded by felines. Sheeran was named the world's best-selling artist of 2017 by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) thanks to his album "Divide" and singles "Shape of You" and "Perfect." "I saw Ed Sheeran ... actually I don't know if he is real or fake ... It's quite surprising, but it's OK," said Riccardo di Stefano, an Italian fan. — Reuters



Nico Eckl (Right), lookalike of Ed Sheeran poses beside a wax figure of musician Ed Sheeran in the Madame Tussauds wax museum in Berlin, Germany — Reuters

Lifestyle | Features

Migrants in Lebanon to break stereotypes with new radio show

Since arriving in Lebanon, Sudanese migrant worker Abdallah Afandi has been turned away from beach resorts, mistaken for a cleaner and prevented from renting an apartment - all because of the color of his skin. Now he is hoping to challenge the "racism and prejudice" he says he has encountered by taking part in Lebanon's first radio show to be hosted and produced by migrants from countries such as Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia and the Philippines. The aim is to give Lebanese people a greater under-

standing about where migrants come from to create the tolerance and respect that local migrant rights groups say is lacking. "Many Lebanese see Sudanese only as cleaners and workers - we want them to see us in a different way," Afandi told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. The 27-year-old came to Lebanon seven years ago when he no longer felt safe in his home of Darfur in western Sudan, where conflict had raged since 2003.

He now earns a living preparing food in a restaurant and doing maintenance work in a Beirut residential building. Afandi's episode is one of a series airing on Voice of Lebanon, a popular inde-

pendent radio station, featuring migrants talking about their own food and culture as well as the issues they face in Lebanon. In it, he and two other Sudanese migrants discuss their country's pyramids and interview Sudan's ambassador to Lebanon on migrant rights. "I want to use my voice so that people in Lebanon understand where I come from, my culture, music, food - so they will look beyond what I do for a living, and the color of my skin," he said.

Kafala

Migrant workers in Lebanon and much of the Middle East work under the kafala sponsorship system, which binds them to one employer. Rights groups have blamed the system for abuse of migrant workers and say it leaves them vulnerable to exploitation by denying them the ability to travel or change jobs. Race is also a factor - last month two Kenyan women migrant workers suffered an attack that Lebanon's justice minister condemned as "shocking" and "abhorrently racist" after footage of them being beaten was circulated on social media.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) said projects like the Lebanese radio program could be used across the region to change attitudes towards migrants. "This radio show is a brilliant example to be replicated across the region, and to bring attention to stories 'by migrants'," said spokeswoman Farah Sater Ferraton.

'Not foreign'

The show - whose name "Msh gharib" means "not foreign" in Arabic - has been in the works since 2017 and was created by the Anti-Racism Movement, a local non-government organization, with the help of migrants from the community center it runs. "The title of the show really communicates its purpose - migrants are not 'the other'. Their voices and stories shouldn't be 'foreign' to Lebanese," said Laure Makarem, spokeswoman for the center. "Migrant domestic workers can be treated like they are invisible, and this radio show can change the way they are perceived by illustrating and highlighting the multi-faceted dimensions of their identities and lives."

The 15 episodes will air in the next few months and are mainly in Arabic, with small sections in the hosts' native language - particularly when talking about their rights in Lebanon. Tarikwa Bekele, a 33-year-old domestic worker, is working on one episode with fellow Ethiopians, who make up the biggest migrant group in Lebanon at more than 100,000 people. They are planning to talk about Ethiopian traditions, famous athletes and a famous



model in the hope of showing Lebanese that Ethiopians are not "just working in houses and cleaning bathrooms," said Bekele. "There are so many Ethiopians working in Lebanon," said Bekele. "Once they can see that we are like them - like any other country - I think they will treat us better. Treat us with respect." — Reuters

Abdallah Afandi (right), a Sudanese migrant, tapes an episode for 'Msh gharib' radio show meaning 'not foreign' in Arabic, with the help of journalist Christine Habib (left) in Beirut, Lebanon. — Reuters



A portrait of Lucy Giles, the first woman to be commander of Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, as featured in the 'First Women UK' exhibition by photographer Anita Corbin. — Reuters photos



A portrait of Deta Hedman, the first woman to defeat a man in a televised UK open darts championship, as featured in the 'First Women UK' exhibition.



A portrait of Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin, the first British woman to be made the Chaplain of the Speaker of the House of Commons, as featured in the 'First Women UK' exhibition.

From spy to surrogate, exhibition celebrates Britain's female trailblazers

From the first British woman to command a naval base to the first to head spy agency MI5 and the first to become a surrogate mother, a photo exhibition has documented the achievements of British women a century since they won the right to vote. Photographer Anita Corbin spent more than a decade photographing 100 British women who have led their fields - including the arts, sports, military and science - for the exhibition at the Royal College of Art in London.

"It not only celebrates the 100 years of how far women have come, but it also shows the world if you set your mind to something, what you can do as a pioneer," said Anita Corbin ahead of her 'First Women UK' exhibition opening on Friday. "Once you're a first, you're always a first. The most important part of the picture is the woman and her energy and pioneering spirit," she said in a phone interview with the Thomson Reuters Foundation. The commercial photographer said she wanted to document the lives of "trailblazing" women, who often worked in male-dominated environments.

Her subjects include Dany Cotton, first female head of the London Fire Brigade; Elspeth Beard, the first British woman to ride a motorcycle around the world; and Nicola Sturgeon, the first female first minister of Scotland. "A lot of the women have had very difficult passages to get to those positions as you can imagine. They're trailblazing in some of the hardest environments," Corbin said.

Few women in Britain hold top positions and salary differences have attracted significant public attention, with large businesses required to publish pay gap figures this year. Women working for the BBC have complained they are paid less than men in equivalent jobs and accused managers of misleading them about their pay to hide widespread gender discrimination at Britain's public broadcaster.

The overall gender pay gap in Britain stands

at 18.4 percent, according to government data published last year. Corbin said there was still much more work to do to reach gender parity. "It's a positive celebration, a big pat on the back for everybody to get this far. It took a hundred years and this is where we are and there's still a lot to do, there's still a lot to change," she said. "But I hope the collection will give people inspiration and hope that it's possible to do what they want to do." — Reuters



A portrait of Elspeth Beard, the first woman to ride a motorcycle around the world, as featured in the 'First Women UK' exhibition.



A portrait of Kelly Gallagher, the first woman to win a British Winter Paralympic gold, as featured in the 'First Women UK' exhibition.

McQueen, suicide and the dark side of the celebrity fairy tale

When celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain and fashion icon Kate Spade killed themselves within the space of three days in June, many couldn't fathom the tragedy of two people who seemed to have it all. The suicides followed a slew of similarly shocking headlines in recent years about rock stars Chester Bennington and Chris Cornell, Hollywood figures Tony Scott and Robin Williams, to name only a few.

Spade's demise, in particular, resurrected painful memories of the suicides of fellow designer Alexander McQueen, whose life and 2010 death at the age of 40 are explored in filmmaker Ian Bonhote's new documentary, "McQueen." The feature-length film, which hits US theaters on Friday, combines archive footage and new interviews to arrive at an authentic portrait of a tortured artist with a singular vision.

"Though all suicides leave a trail of desperate loss and confusion in their wake, celebrity suicides make a particularly palpable imprint," therapist and academic Denise Fournier wrote after Bourdain's death. "In a culture that idolizes celebrities and holds fame and fortune high on the aspirational totem pole, the notion that someone who's reached those heights would choose to end it all is incomprehensible."

'Cool Britannia'

Born and raised in working-class east London, McQueen-known by his given first name Lee to friends and family-was destined to follow his father into a life of manual labor. Instead, he was discovered by Isabella Blow, a wealthy socialite with a nose for uncovering raw fashion talent who brought his entire graduation collection when he completed his studies at the prestigious Central Saint Martins school. An almost traditional romanticism combined with a mischievous, punky side made McQueen an icon of the 1990s-era "Cool Britannia," a British youth culture explosion the likes of which hadn't been seen since the Swinging Sixties.

At the height of his powers, he designed stage costumes for David Bowie, directed videos for Bjork and dressed stars from Sarah Jessica Parker and Nicole Kidman to Madonna and Rihanna. "My shows are about sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. It's for the excitement and the goosebumps. I want heart attacks. I want ambulances," McQueen once said. From his apprenticeship at a Savile Row tailor to his final show before his suicide, McQueen reveals himself to be an unmatched creative talent.

A showman at heart, he sent models down the runway with wolves, used armor and masks to hide some of the world's most recognizable supermodels, drenched his runway in rain and blanketed it with snow. He experimented with nudity, constructed dresses out of electrical tape and invented the deliberately provocative "bumster" trouser, cut to expose the buttocks and base of the spine. "He told them, 'You've got to put your pubic hair in Anna Wintour's face. It was just very naughty behavior,'" Blow's husband, Detmar, remembers.

At 27, with only eight collections under his belt, McQueen was named the creative director at venerated French house Givenchy, whose signature since the early 1950s has been genteel elegance, embodied by Audrey Hepburn. But McQueen never really felt at home in Paris, longing for his friends, London and his dogs, while the French fashion media did not share Britain's appreciation of the designer's rebel spirit.

Lonely, trapped, depressed

He fell out with Blow over money and she began a downward spiral that also ended in suicide. At the same time, McQueen had transformed himself via liposuction and was



In this file photo taken on March 02, 2007 British designer Alexander McQueen acknowledges the public at the end of his Autumn/Winter 2007/2008 ready-to-wear collection show in Paris. — AFP photos

abusing drugs and alcohol. He sold a controlling stake in his eponymous label to Gucci for \$50 million but couldn't enjoy the money, feeling lonely, trapped and depressed by Blow's suicide-and then the death of his beloved mother Joyce. He had told friends his "Plato's Atlantis" spring-summer 2010 ready-to-wear collection would be his last.

By the time it hit the high street, McQueen was dead-not lying peacefully among mourners in a funeral parlor, nor surrounded by rapturous fans, but by his own hand, alone at home. A US government report published in June, around the time that Bourdain and Spade took their own lives, found that suicides have increased by more than 25 percent since 1999 to become the 10th-leading cause of US deaths.



In this file photo Anthony Bourdain attends the Turner Upfront 2017 at The Theater at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

Some 45,000 Americans aged 10 or older-mostly with no mental health diagnoses-killed themselves in 2016, according to the report. That's one every 12 minutes, more than double the number of homicides that year. Celebrity suicides are unique though because they present the public health challenge of "suicide contagion"-a rise in vulnerable people taking their lives after a high-profile death. "Celebrities, no matter how rich or famous they may be, are bound by the human condition," Fournier, the therapist, said in a commentary for Psychology Today. "Their external circumstances might be exceptional, but their internal experience is commonplace-they suffer and struggle like the rest of us." — AFP

Singer Cliff Richard wins BBC privacy case, sparking media alarm

Veteran British pop star Cliff Richard won a privacy case against the BBC yesterday after it broadcast live on television a police raid on his home, in a ruling the broadcaster warned risked press freedom. High Court Judge Anthony Mann said the BBC had infringed Richard's rights in a "serious" and "somewhat sensationalist way" and awarded him at least £210,000 (\$274,000, 236,000 euros) in damages. The 77-year-old singer, who was never charged with any offence, was applauded by fans as he left court, and they sang his hit song "Congratulations".

"I'm choked up. I can't believe it. It's wonderful news," said Richard, Britain's first home-grown pop star. The BBC said it would consider an appeal, saying the ruling "represents a dramatic shift against press freedom and the long-standing ability of journalists to report on police investigations". Richard's home was raided in 2014 as part of an investigation into an allegation of sexual assault involving a young boy dating back to the 1980s.

The BBC's live coverage, including a helicopter, was picked up around the world, but the singer was never arrested or charged and was told in 2016 there was

insufficient evidence against him. "My life was effectively turned upside down and my reputation, worldwide, was unnecessarily damaged," Richard said at the start of the case.

'Sorry for the distress'

The BBC heard about the investigation by South Yorkshire Police and cut a deal in which they agreed to delay breaking the story in return for a tip-off about the raid on Richard's home. The judge awarded £190,000 in general damages plus another £20,000 "aggravated damages" because the BBC nominated the story for a "Scoop of the Year" award, which it did not win. Richard is also entitled to further sums for the financial impact of the case, which will be decided another time. The police force has already agreed to pay Richard £400,000 after settling a claim. In a statement, the BBC said it was "sorry for the distress Sir Cliff has been through".

It admitted there were "things we would have done differently, however the judge has ruled that the very naming of Sir Cliff was unlawful". "So even had the BBC not used helicopter shots or ran the story with less prominence, the judge would still have found that the story was unlawful; despite ruling that what we broadcast about the search was accurate," it said. The ruling "will make it harder to scrutinize the conduct of the police and we fear it will undermine the wider principle of the public's right to know", it said.

'Shockingly bad'

"We don't believe this is compatible with liberty and press freedoms," the statement said, adding that it was "looking at an appeal". Tony Gallagher, the editor in chief of Britain's best-selling The Sun tabloid, also railed against the "shockingly bad" ruling.

"Victory for (alleged) criminals and money-grabbing lawyers. Terrible for media," he tweeted. In the House of Commons, an MP suggested formally changing the law to



In this file photo British musician Cliff Richard sits on Centre court. — AFP

make it illegal for the media to name suspects until they are charged.

But Prime Minister Theresa May, who looked into the issue in her previous job as interior minister, expressed skepticism. She noted "there may well be cases where the publication of a name enables other victims to come forward and therefore, to strengthen the case against an individual". She said it was an "issue for careful judgment" in which both police and media must recognize their responsibilities.

Richard, who burst onto the pop scene in the late 1950s, is the third biggest-selling artist in British singles chart history, behind The Beatles and Elvis Presley. His hits include "The Young Ones", "Living Doll", "Summer Holiday", "Mistletoe And Wine" and "The Millennium Prayer". There has been a wave of accusations of historical sex abuse against prominent figures in Britain since 2012, when the late BBC presenter Jimmy Savile was revealed to be a serial pedophile. — AFP

Cliff Richard: A life in dates

Here are key dates in the life and career of British pop legend Cliff Richard, who won a landmark privacy case against the BBC yesterday for filming a raid on his house:

- October 14, 1940: Born Harry Rodger Webb at Lucknow, India, to English parents. Moves to Britain at the age of seven.
- 1958: Adopts the stage name Cliff Richard and, with his backing band later called The Shadows, is signed by EMI to their Columbia label. Their first single, "Move It", is released soon afterwards and becomes a hit.
- 1962-1963: Richard stars in the film musicals "The Young Ones" (1962) and "Summer Holiday" (1963), huge successes in Britain and beyond.
- 1966: Publicly declares his Christian faith in front of thousands of people at a London rally of American evangelist preacher Billy Graham.

- 1968: Runner-up at the Eurovision Song Contest with "Congratulations", which goes on to be an enduring hit.
- 1973: In his second Eurovision appearance, he comes third with "Power to all our Friends".
- 1995: Is the first British rock star to be knighted, becoming Sir Cliff Richard in honour of his charitable work.
- 2013: Releases his 100th studio album, "The Fabulous Rock 'n' Roll Songbook".
- 2014: Police open an investigation into allegations of decades-old sexual abuse; it is closed after two years without charges ever being laid.
- July 18, 2018: Wins a privacy case against the BBC after it broadcast live on TV a police raid on his home over the sexual abuse allegations. — AFP

Cobain's daughter says time for US to get over mental health taboo

Kurt Cobain's daughter said on Tuesday the United States should overcome its taboo about mental health and addiction almost a quarter of century after her rock star father took his own life. Frances Bean Cobain was speaking in Ireland at the launch of a new exhibition of the Nirvana front-man's belongings. Cobain died in 1994 aged 27 from a self-inflicted gunshot while struggling with heroin addiction. "There is an association that is shameful and it shouldn't be," Frances Bean said, who has also struggled with addiction. "It's taboo ... despite the fact that it is present in our society every single day. And I think that in Europe it is a little less taboo, I think in America it is very, very frowned upon," she told Reuters.

Frances Bean, Cobain's sister Kim, and mother, Wendy O'Connor, attended the opening of the exhibition at the Museum of Style Icons in Newbridge, 50 km (30 miles) southwest of Dublin. From his sketches and drawings to clothing and a car, "Growing Up Kurt Cobain" displays dozens of Cobain's personal items, some of them never seen before by the public. Fans of Cobain, who popularized grunge rock in the early 1990s, can see the striped green sweater he wore in the video for Nirvana's 1991 hit "Smells Like Teen Spirit" and his MTV Video award for the same song. The singer's childhood drawings of cartoon characters, handwritten lyrics and powder-blue 1965 Dodge Dart car are also on display. "It felt like the right time to show who Kurt really was as a child growing up. To go back to his roots of being a child, where he was happiest," Cobain's sister Kim Cobain said.



Kurt Cobain's daughter Frances Bean Cobain poses for a photograph at the opening of 'Growing Up Kurt' exhibition featuring personal items of Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain at the museum of Style Icons in Newbridge, Ireland — Reuters

The small museum in County Kildare held the exhibition in part because its owner knows Cobain's family. The museum also has outfits worn by the likes of Audrey Hepburn, Elizabeth Taylor and Grace Kelly on display, and has previously hosted exhibitions dedicated to Michael Jackson and Prince. Asked about what Cobain would have made of the current political climate in the United States, Frances Bean said she would like to think he would have taken a stand. "The violation of basic human rights that seems to be a prevalent theme in our country right now ... I would like to believe that Kurt wouldn't have stood for that or accepted that," she said. — Reuters

Nyong'o and Ronan are the new faces of Calvin Klein

Lupita Nyong'o and Saoirse Ronan are the new faces of Calvin Klein. The luxury brand is releasing its first fragrance since 2016, and the 'Black Panther' actress and the 'Lady Bird' star have been selected to front the new bare faced campaign. Lupita, 35, shared a campaign teaser on Instagram of herself and 24-year-old Saoirse meeting for the first time looking fresh faced without any visible makeup. In the video, the '12 Years a Slave' actress expresses her happiness about teaming up with the 'Mary Queen of Scots' star. Lupita said: "You're such an intelligent and thoughtful actor, and to be associated with you was really an honor and I'm happy to be meeting you on this pink couch, and you're really funny!" Saoirse replied: "I am hilarious, you're right; I definitely think we're going to be best friends." Lupita wrote alongside the footage: "WOMEN - A new @CalvinKlein fragrance and campaign starring Saoirse Ronan and me. #IAMWOMEN. Who are your women? [sic]" The stars have reflected on women who they admire, and gave them inspiration for this campaign.



Lupita Nyong'o and Saoirse Ronan

Lupita said: "Eartha Kitt and Katharine Hepburn are examples of people who didn't accept the status quo; they made room for themselves. "I am drawn to their integrity, and their ability to speak up and speak out for what they believe in, to change the course of history. Saoirse said: "Sissy Spacek has this openness to her, this presence. She seems to have a willingness to try anything and go anywhere. She was free - and a pioneer. "Nina Simone was able to share the music industry and herself, make it into what she needed it to be. What it boils down to is - does somebody else's work affect you? "Does it strike a chord? Seeing people doing something that they're passionate about is inspiring. It encourages you to do the same, to feel the same." This isn't Lupita's first fashion campaign - she's been a face of makeup brand Lancome since 2014, however, this is Saoirse's first time promoting a brand. — Bang Showbiz



Andy Garcia poses on the red carpet upon arrival for the world premiere of the film 'Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again'. — AFP



Lily James, Cher and Amanda Seyfried pose on the red carpet upon arrival for the world premiere of the film 'Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again' in London. — AFP

'MAMMA MIA!' SING-ALONG RETURNS WITH STAR-STudded SEQUEL PREMIERE

Amid olive trees and plenty of ABBA tunes, the musical world of "Mamma Mia" took over a London theatre on Monday for the film sequel's world premiere with Oscar winner Meryl Streep and pop diva Cher among the attendees. Ten years after the movie version of the hit theatre musical, "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again" sees old faces return and new ones join the ABBA sing-along set on a picturesque Greek island where stars belt out tracks by the hugely popular Swedish band. The plot follows on from the first film, which grossed over \$600 million at the box office, but this time has flashbacks explaining how Meryl Streep's character Donna arrived in Greece.

While fans have highly anticipated the sequel, ABBA founding members Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus said they were not so keen on the idea at first. "We were kind of protective of the first one because we were very proud of it, it was very good and it became kind of a cult movie ... and we thought what's the point of risking ... taking away from that legacy, so we were reluctant," Ulvaeus told Reuters.

But the film writers' idea of making the movie a sequel and prequel at the same time helped change their minds, he said. "I laughed out loud many times when I read the script's first draft. It was funny, it was moving so we said

go ahead and here we are." Chanting "Waterloo", "Super Trouper" and "Dancing Queen", fans cheered as Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth, Amanda Seyfried and Christine Baranski - who starred in the 2008 film - arrived. The sequel's cast additions include Lily James, who plays the younger Donna, and Cher, who portrays Donna's mother. "I don't know what I was expecting but I walked onto the set and I just thought everyone's just having fun," Cher said.

Like the first film, the sequel has plenty of colorful and comic scenes. It also has touching moments, cast members said. "It's a great time for this movie to be out in the world, because we're all feeling a little down about the world right now," Baranski said. "I think people are going to be transported to this beautiful Greek island with all these beloved characters and all these fabulous songs."

"Mamma Mia!" the musical originated more than 20 years ago and has gone on to have productions around the world with generations of fans still singing and dancing to ABBA songs some 40 years after their release. "It's so humbling and I'm grateful but I cannot say I understand quite how that happened. It's kind of a miracle," Ulvaeus said of the band's success. "Never in our wildest dreams did we think that these songs that we wrote would last for such a long time".

After movie, Cher to release album of Abba covers
Cher announced an album of Abba covers as she stars in a film sequel to "Mamma Mia!". The musical inspired by the iconic Swedish group. In a fresh burst of activity by the 72-year-old singer and actress, Cher said that her creative spirit was rekindled after singing one of the signature tunes on "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again," which is coming out this week.

"After I did 'Fernando,' I thought it would be really fun to do an album of Abba songs, so I did," Cher said on the NBC television daytime show "Today." "It's not what you think of when you think of Abba, because I did it in a different way," Cher said without revealing a tracklist or release date.

The album would be Cher's first studio work since the dance music-driven 2013 album "Closer to the Truth." The former half of folk duo Sonny and Cher enjoyed a career revival in the 1990s and holds the record for the longest gap between number-one songs on the US chart at nearly 25 years. Cher in recent years has mostly concentrated on a residency show in Las Vegas. She had not appeared in a film since providing her voice to a lion in the 2011 movie "Zookeeper." — Agencies

Universal Music Group to open Nigeria division

Vivendi's Universal Music Group (UMG) will launch a new division in Nigeria as part of efforts by the world's largest music label to expand into Africa's most populous nation and the wider region. The music entertainment group said on Tuesday its new strategic division, Universal Music Nigeria, will operate from Nigeria's commercial capital Lagos. Nigerian music, much like its Nollywood film industry, is popular across much of Africa. Nigerian music artists have popularized the Afrobeats musical genre and gone on to sign record deals, sell out concerts and work with international artists to increase the global reach of African music.

Music revenue in Nigeria - mostly derived from sales of mobile phone ringtones - grew 9 percent in 2016, year-on-year, to reach \$39 million and is expected to rise to \$73 million by 2021, auditing firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) said last year. Siphon Dlamini, Managing Director of Universal Music South Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa said that the Nigeria division will focus on developing artists and musicians from West African countries, particularly Nigeria, Ghana and Gambia. "Our Nigeria team will support, nurture, and help develop artists, while creating opportunities for new talent from the region to reach the widest possible audience," said Dlamini.

UMG said the new division will work alongside the label's existing operations in Ivory Coast and Morocco. Universal Music Nigeria also plans to open a recording studio in Lagos, which would be the label's second fully purposed studio in Africa alongside another in Johannesburg, South Africa. Nigeria's music industry faces an array of challenges ranging from the lack of proper legal structures, to piracy and difficulties in distributing and monetizing content. The country's arts, entertainment and recreation sector contributed 0.29 percent to real GDP in the first quarter of this year, the statistics office said. — Reuters

Lifestyle | Feature



An archeologist works in a laboratory inside the museum of the Dino Park.



A Tyrannosaurus is pictured at the Dino Park.



A visitor takes a picture at the Dino Park.



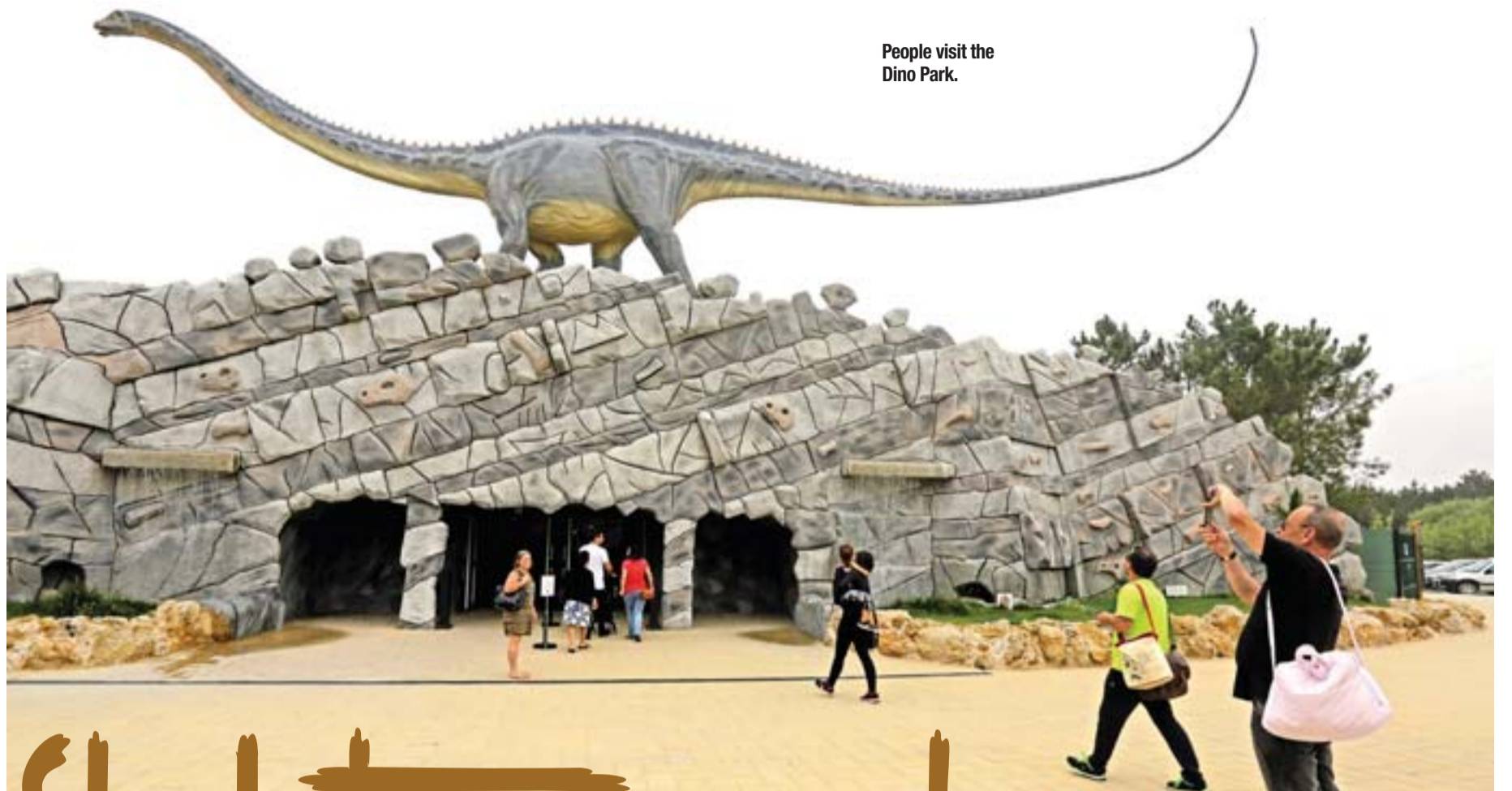
People visit the Dino Park, an outdoor museum with more than 120 models of dinosaurs, in Lourinha. — AFP photos



Children play with a dinosaurs' skull at the Dino Park.



A woman visits the Dino Park.



People visit the Dino Park.

Skeletons and scares at Portugal's dino park

Eyes popping in astonishment, his mouth hanging mutely open, seven-year-old Joel approaches the four-meter-high monster and stands nose-to-nose with one of the deadliest killing machines the world has ever known. The full-scale Tyrannosaurus rex is just one of the prehistoric highlights on display at Portugal's self-proclaimed "dinosaur capital", a new theme park in one of the most fossil-rich regions in Europe. "We have 120 large-scale reproductions of 70 different species, spread over 10 hectares (24.7 acres)," Simao Mateus, Dino Park's scientific director told AFP. Although only recently opened, the park sits in a part of Portugal long famous among palaeontologists for its extraordinary array of fossilised remains.

The nearby town of Lourinha, an hour's drive north of Lisbon, has been dinosaur-mad ever since the remains of a dozen of the creatures were discovered in the late 19th century. It already has a dinosaur museum and dinosaur statues in metal or resin can be seen on its roundabouts, while pavements are decorated with paintings of dinosaur footprints. "Lourinha is quite particular about its dinosaurs, so we should all enjoy" the new facility, Mateus said. Visitors to the park are greeted by the rearing neck of a giant model Supersaurus—one of the largest dinosaur genera—announcing a collection as impressive as anything else to be found in Europe.

Imported from Germany, the resin statues are dotted throughout a forest route guiding budding palaeontologists through the eons when dinosaurs stalked the Earth. Pride of place goes to two models of dinosaurs actually discovered in the town. Lourinhasaurus was a sauropod—an immense, four-legged herbivore similar to Brachiosaurus or Diplodocus—that roamed the rainforests of western Laurasia around 150 million years ago. That gentle giant is not to be confused with Lourinhanosaurus, a sharp-fanged and crafty hunter the size of a crocodile that lived in roughly the same era as Lourinhasaurus.

'Creatures from their dreams'

Mateus says interest in the park has started strong, with 175,000 visitors through the gates in the six months since opening, despite a prolonged period of poor weather. On this visit, to the backdrop of the roars and squawks of dinosaurs of all shapes and sizes, a gaggle of young schoolchildren gape up in awe at the T-rex, its huge jaws capable of gobbling each one in a single gulp. Other little ones cluster around a model Iguanodon—a Cretaceous-era grazer—though one boy keeps his distance from the reptile's giant spiky thumb.

For park employee Filipa Pedro, who has been handing out stone blocks, hammers, chisels and other tools to this next generation of geologists, the experience offers children a glance of a long-lost part of the planet's past. "Children love dinosaurs, they are like these mysterious creatures that come from their dreams," she says. "Thanks to lots of cartoons and films on the subject, their knowledge is impressive. So this park is bound to please them." — AFP



People visit the Dino Park.



People visit the Dino Park.



People visit the Dino Park.



People visit the Dino Park.

TV



- 01:50** Creed
04:05 Sacrifice
06:00 My Stepdaughter
07:45 Creed
10:05 Sacrifice
11:55 Hunting The Phantom
13:45 Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story
16:15 Time Trap
17:50 Colossal
19:45 Stratton
21:25 Harsh Times
23:25 The Assignment



- 00:30** Hangar 10
02:05 Boys In The Trees
04:00 Beta Test
05:40 Cyber Case
07:30 The Quiet Hour
09:00 Beta Test
10:40 Cyber Case
12:30 Fort McCoy
14:20 Take Down
16:15 The Tower
18:20 Andron
20:00 Septembers Of Shiraz
22:00 Godesend
23:45 Masquerade



- 01:00** Punching Henry
02:35 Megan Levey
04:35 Smurfs: The Lost Village
06:20 Hope Springs Eternal
07:45 Mothers And Daughters
09:20 Spotlight
09:50 Viceroy's House
11:40 My Little Pony: The Movie
13:20 Surf's Up 2: Wavemania
14:45 So B. It
16:25 Florence Foster Jenkins
18:20 Mother's Day
20:20 Patriots Day
22:35 Jigsaw



- 01:30** Eat Locals
03:15 Christmas Trade
05:00 Big Stone Gap
07:00 Double Trouble
08:45 Christmas Trade
10:45 Big Stone Gap
12:45 Double Trouble
14:30 Love The Coopers
16:30 A Date With Miss Fortune
18:15 Angus Thongs And Perfect Snogging
20:15 Baby, Baby, Baby
22:00 Blame It On Rio
23:45 Kung Fu Hustle



- 00:50** The Wish Fish
02:15 Rock Dog
03:50 Dinosaur: The Origin
05:25 Last Wizard
06:50 Help And Freedom
08:25 Caroline And The Magic Potion
09:55 The Secret Of Kells
11:25 Bunny Tales
12:45 Rock Dog
14:20 Dinosaur: The Origin
15:55 Free Birds
17:25 The Secret Of Kells
18:55 Simba: The King Lion
21:00 Hocus Pocus: Alvie Atkins
22:25 Free Birds
23:55 Caroline And The Magic Potion



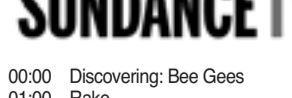
- 00:00** Amistad
02:35 Buena Vista Social Club: Adios
04:25 The Man Who Knew Infinity
06:25 Tumbledown
08:05 Dragonheart
09:45 Newsies: The Broadway Musical
11:55 Once I Was A Beehive
13:55 Dirty Dancing
16:05 Daylight
18:00 Last Chance Harvey
19:35 The Proposal
21:35 Knight And Day
23:35 Martha Marcy May Marlene



- 01:00** Friday The 13th Part II
02:30 Children Of The Corn IV: The Gathering
04:00 Ultimate Countdown
04:45 Ultimate Countdown
06:00 Ultimate Countdown
06:45 Ultimate Countdown
07:30 Ultimate Countdown
08:20 Days Of Our Lives 12
09:00 Days Of Our Lives 12
09:45 Neighbours S1
10:15 The Fifth Monkey
12:00 Days Of Our Lives 12
12:45 Neighbours S1
13:15 Girl In The Box
14:45 Faithful
16:20 Days Of Our Lives 12
17:00 Neighbours S1
18:00 Who Killed Jonbenet
19:30 On The Line (2001)
21:00 Adventure Land
22:45 Proof



- 01:15** America's Sweethearts
03:00 The Imitation Game
05:00 Foxcatcher
07:15 Step Up
09:00 Mighty Fine
10:30 Stardust
12:45 Face The Music
14:30 America's Sweethearts
16:15 P.S. I Love You
18:30 We'll Never Have Paris
20:00 Avengers: Age Of Ultron
22:15 Being Flynn



- 00:00** Discovering: Bee Gees
01:00 Rake
02:00 Janet King
03:00 Hap And Leonard: The Two-Bear

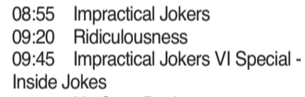
- Mambo**
04:00 Babylon
05:00 Everybody's Fine
06:40 Ringo
07:00 Smoke Signals
08:35 Listen Up Philip
10:30 Rendezvous
10:45 Frank Serpico
12:25 A Bronx Tale
14:25 Smoke Signals
16:00 Close Up With THR
17:00 Indie Game: The Movie
18:45 Rendezvous
19:00 Frank Serpico
20:40 It's Not Yet Dark
22:00 Bombshell: The Hedy Lamar Story
23:30 Movie Talk Legends - Marlon Brando



- 00:45** Doctor Foster
01:45 The Split
02:45 Benidorm
03:40 EastEnders
04:10 Father Brown
05:00 Death In Paradise
06:00 EastEnders
06:30 Doctor Who
07:50 The Moonstone
08:40 The Moonstone
09:30 Death In Paradise
10:30 Father Brown
11:20 Doctor Who
12:10 EastEnders
12:40 EastEnders
13:10 Death In Paradise
14:10 Doctor Who
15:00 EastEnders
15:30 Father Brown
16:20 Father Brown
17:10 Doctor Who
18:00 Casualty
19:00 Death In Paradise
20:00 Poldark
21:00 Benidorm
21:50 The Level
22:45 Father Brown
23:35 Doctor Foster



- 00:05** Inside Amy Schumer
00:30 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
00:55 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
01:20 The Meltdown With Jonah And Kumail
01:45 Tosh.0
02:10 Inside Amy Schumer
02:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:25 Inside Amy Schumer
03:50 Tosh.0
04:15 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
05:05 Hillbillies For Hire
05:30 Hillbillies For Hire
05:55 Disaster Date
06:20 Ridiculousness
06:50 I Used To Be Fat
07:40 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
08:30 Disaster Date
08:55 Impractical Jokers
09:20 Ridiculousness
09:45 Impractical Jokers VI Special - Inside Jokes
10:10 Lip Sync Battle
10:35 Lip Sync Battle
11:00 IdiotSitter
11:25 Impractical Jokers
11:50 The It Crowd
12:15 The It Crowd
12:40 Impractical Jokers VI Special - Inside Jokes
13:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
13:55 Friends
14:20 Friends
14:45 The It Crowd
15:10 The It Crowd
15:35 IdiotSitter
16:00 House Of Food
16:55 Friends
17:20 Friends
17:45 Punk'd (Bet)
18:10 Punk'd (Bet)
18:35 Impractical Jokers VI Special - Inside Jokes
19:00 The It Crowd
19:25 The It Crowd
19:50 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
20:12 Friends
20:35 Friends
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Chappelle's Show
22:00 Why? With Hannibal Buress
22:25 The Meltdown With Jonah And Kumail
22:50 Demetri Martin: Stand Up Comedian
23:40 Chappelle's Show



- 00:00** Lethal Weapon
01:00 Star
01:50 Criminal Minds
02:40 For The People
03:30 Reverie
04:20 Lethal Weapon
05:20 The Fosters
06:10 Grey's Anatomy
07:00 Switched At Birth
08:00 Good Morning America - The Weekend
09:00 The View
10:00 Reverie
11:00 Criminal Minds
12:00 Grey's Anatomy
13:00 Supernatural
14:00 For The People
15:00 The View
16:00 Live Good Morning America
17:00 Grey's Anatomy
18:00 The Good Doctor
19:00 Supernatural
20:00 Falling Water
22:00 Harrow
23:00 Beyond



- 00:15** The Middle
00:40 The Middle
01:05 The Drew Carey Show
01:30 The Drew Carey Show
01:55 Saturday Night Live
03:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
04:00 Kevin Can Wait
04:25 Kevin Can Wait
04:50 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
05:40 Community
06:05 Us And Them
06:30 Black-ish
06:55 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
07:20 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:10 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
09:00 Kevin Can Wait
09:25 Kevin Can Wait
09:50 The Good Place
10:15 The Good Place
10:40 Community
11:05 Us And Them
11:30 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
12:20 Black-ish
12:45 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
13:10 The Middle
13:35 The Middle
14:00 The Drew Carey Show
14:25 The Drew Carey Show
14:50 Ghosted
15:15 The Good Place
15:40 The Good Place
16:05 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
17:00 Black-ish
17:30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
18:00 The Middle
18:30 The Middle
19:00 The Drew Carey Show
19:30 The Drew Carey Show
20:00 Baskets
20:30 Baskets
21:00 The Simpsons
21:30 The Simpsons
22:00 Future Man
22:30 Family Guy

- 23:00** The Detour
23:25 Late Night With Seth Meyers



- 00:40** For The People
01:30 Reverie
02:20 Lethal Weapon
03:20 The Fosters
04:10 Grey's Anatomy
05:00 Switched At Birth
06:00 Good Morning America - The Weekend
07:00 The View
08:00 Reverie
09:00 Criminal Minds
10:00 Grey's Anatomy
11:00 Supernatural
12:00 For The People
13:00 The View
14:00 Live Good Morning America
16:00 Grey's Anatomy
17:00 The Good Doctor
18:00 Supernatural
19:00 Falling Water
20:00 Harrow
21:00 Beyond
22:00 Lethal Weapon
23:00 Star
23:50 The Good Doctor



- 00:05** Westworld
01:05 Boardwalk Empire
02:05 Grace
03:00 Life According To Sam
04:35 State Of Play: Game Of Borders
05:05 Into The Storm
06:45 El Espiritu De La Salsa
07:40 Hostile Waters
09:20 Living With Lincoln
10:35 Vendetta
12:40 Schmatz: Rags To Riches To Rags
14:00 Warm Springs
16:05 Sugar
18:10 Unscripted
18:45 Veep
19:20 Lucifer
20:20 John From Cincinnati
21:20 Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
22:00 Big Little Lies
23:00 American Crime Story: The Assassination Of Versace



- 00:00** Lethal Weapon
01:00 Star
01:50 Criminal Minds
02:40 For The People
03:30 Reverie
04:20 Lethal Weapon
05:20 The Fosters
06:10 Grey's Anatomy
07:00 Switched At Birth
08:00 Good Morning America - The Weekend
09:00 The View
10:00 Reverie
11:00 Criminal Minds
12:00 Grey's Anatomy
13:00 Supernatural
14:00 For The People
15:00 The View
16:00 Live Good Morning America
17:00 Grey's Anatomy
18:00 The Good Doctor
19:00 Supernatural
20:00 Falling Water
22:00 Harrow
23:00 Beyond



- 00:40** Dark Matter
01:25 Colony
02:15 Morlocks
03:45 Halo: The Fall Of Reach
05:00 Face Off
06:00 Secrets In The Walls
07:30 Smallville
08:25 Smallville
09:20 Stargate SG-1
10:10 Stargate SG-1
11:00 Drone Wars
12:35 Dark Matter
13:30 Face Off
14:20 Flight Of The Navigator
16:00 Smallville
16:50 Smallville
17:40 Dark Matter
18:30 The Flash
19:20 Stargate SG-1
20:10 Stargate SG-1
21:00 The Flash
22:00 Warehouse 13
22:50 Scream 2

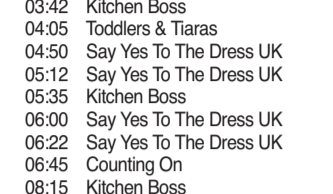


- 00:00** Say Yes To The Dress: Atlanta
00:30 Say Yes To The Dress: Atlanta
01:00 Say Yes To The Dress: Atlanta
01:30 Say Yes To The Dress: Atlanta
02:00 Grey's Anatomy
03:00 Married At First Sight: The First Year
04:00 Project Runway
05:00 Mistresses
06:00 Say Yes To The Dress: Atlanta
06:30 Say Yes To The Dress: Atlanta
07:00 Say Yes To The Dress: Atlanta
07:30 Say Yes To The Dress: Atlanta
08:00 Grey's Anatomy
09:00 Married At First Sight: The First Year
10:00 Project Runway
11:00 Mistresses
12:00 Say Yes To The Dress: Atlanta
12:30 Say Yes To The Dress: Atlanta
13:00 Say Yes To The Dress: Atlanta
13:30 Say Yes To The Dress: Atlanta
14:00 Grey's Anatomy
15:00 Married At First Sight: The First Year
16:00 Project Runway
17:00 Mistresses
18:00 The Fashion Fund
19:00 The Fashion Fund
20:00 Grey's Anatomy
21:00 Married At First Sight: The First Year
22:00 Project Runway
23:00 Mistresses



- 00:20** Cake Boss
00:42 Cake Boss
01:05 Hodges Half Dozen

- 01:50** 7 Little Johnstons
02:35 90 Days To Wed: Before The 90 Days
03:20 Kitchen Boss
03:42 Kitchen Boss
04:05 Toddlers & Tiaras
04:50 Say Yes To The Dress UK
05:12 Say Yes To The Dress UK
05:35 Kitchen Boss
06:00 Say Yes To The Dress UK
06:22 Say Yes To The Dress UK
06:45 Counting On
08:15 Kitchen Boss
08:37 Kitchen Boss
09:00 Cake Boss
09:25 Toddlers & Tiaras
10:10 Say Yes To The Dress UK
10:32 Say Yes To The Dress UK
10:55 Our Little Family
11:40 Counting On
13:10 Little People, Big World
13:55 Toddlers & Tiaras
14:45 Kitchen Boss
15:10 Kitchen Boss
15:35 Our Little Family
16:25 Cake Boss
16:50 Cake Boss
17:15 Say Yes To The Dress UK
17:40 Say Yes To The Dress UK
18:05 Say Yes To The Dress UK
18:30 Say Yes To The Dress UK
18:55 Kitchen Boss
19:20 Our Little Family
20:10 Cake Boss
20:35 Cake Boss
21:00 Seeking Sister Wife
21:50 Return To Amish
22:40 Return To Amish
23:30 90 Days To Wed: Before The 90 Days



- 00:15** Fast N' Loud
01:05 Dangerman
01:50 Heavy Rescue
02:35 Land Rush
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Alaska Monsters
04:50 Deadliest Catch
05:35 Storage Hunters UK
06:20 Beetle Crisis
06:23 Dallas Car Sharks
06:45 Storage Hunters UK
07:10 How Do They Do It?
07:35 Alaska Monsters
08:20 Beetle Crisis
08:45 Dallas Car Sharks
09:10 Deadliest Catch
09:55 Dangerman
10:45 Heavy Rescue
11:30 Land Rush
12:20 Beetle Crisis
12:43 Dallas Car Sharks
13:05 Storage Hunters UK
13:30 How Do They Do It?
13:55 Fast N' Loud
14:40 Fast N' Loud
15:30 Dangerman
16:15 Heavy Rescue
17:05 Land Rush
17:50 Alaska Monsters
18:40 Deadliest Catch
19:25 Fast N' Loud
20:15 Fast N' Loud
21:00 Outback Truckers
21:50 Gold Divers
22:40 Alaska: Battle On The Bay
23:30 Alaska Monsters



- 00:45** Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
01:40 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
02:35 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
03:25 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
04:15 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
05:02 Untamed & Uncut
05:49 Untamed & Uncut
06:36 Escape To Chimp Eden
07:30 Escape To Chimp Eden
07:25 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
08:15 Untamed & Uncut
09:10 The Bronx Zoo
10:05 Africa's Super Seven
11:00 Snake Sheila
11:28 Snake Sheila
11:55 Snake Sheila
12:23 Snake Sheila
12:50 Snake Sheila
13:18 Snake Sheila
13:45 Snake Sheila
14:13 Snake Sheila
14:40 Snake Sheila
15:08 Snake Sheila
15:35 Monsters Inside Me
16:30 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
17:25 Untamed & Uncut
18:20 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
19:15 Great White Shark: Uncaged
20:10 Intruders
21:05 Wildest Middle East
22:00 Monsters Inside Me
22:55 Pit Bulls & Parolees
23:50 Great White Shark: Uncaged



- 00:00** Britain's Darkest Taboos
01:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
01:55 Nightmare In Suburbia
02:50 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
03:45 Homicide: Hours To Kill
04:30 Homicide: Hours To Kill
05:15 Cold Case Files
06:00 Cold Case Files
07:00 It Takes A Killer
07:20 The First 48
08:05 Homicide Hunter
08:50 Nightmare In Suburbia
09:35 Crimes That Shook Britain
10:30 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
11:25 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
12:20 Homicide: Hours To Kill
13:15 Cold Case Files
14:10 Homicide Hunter
15:05 It Takes A Killer
15:35 It Takes A Killer
16:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
17:00 The First 48
18:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
19:00 The Murder Of Laci Peterson
20:30 It Takes A Killer
21:00 Deadly Wives
22:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
23:00 Crimes That Shook Australia



- 00:30** Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
01:20 How It's Made
04:15 Kids Do The Craziest Things
06:20 How It's Made
07:00 Kids Do The Craziest Things
07:50 My Cat From Hell
08:40 How It's Made
09:30 Tanked
10:20 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
11:10 Kids Do The Craziest Things
12:00 How It's Made
12:50 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
13:40 Somebody's Gotta Do It
14:30 How It's Made
15:20 My Cat From Hell
16:10 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
17:00 My Cat From Hell
17:50 Tanked
18:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things
19:30 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
20:20 React To That
21:10 How It's Made
22:00 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
22:50 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
23:40 React To That



- 00:45** Diabolical: Deadly Love
01:40 Dead Silent
02:35 Dead Silent
03:30 Dead Silent
04:25 Dead Silent
05:20 Betrayed
06:10 Florida's Craziest Crimes
07:00 California Investigator
07:25 Florida's Craziest Crimes
08:15 Swamp Murders
09:10 I Am Homicide
10:05 Reasonable Doubt
11:00 Evil Talks: Chilling Confessions
11:55 Florida's Craziest Crimes
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:45 I Am Homicide



- 00:10** Wicked Tuna
01:00 Dictators Rulebook
02:00 Seconds From Disaster
03:00 Taiwan: Island Of Fish

- 14:40** Reasonable Doubt
15:35 Married With Secrets
16:30 I'd Kill For You
17:25 Swamp Murders
18:20 I Almost Got Away With It
19:15 I Am Homicide
20:10 Reasonable Doubt
21:05 Baby Vanished: People Magazine Investigates
22:00 The Real Story With Maria Elena Salinas
22:55 Diabolical: Deadly Love
23:50 Pandora's Box: Unleashing Evil



- 00:15** Fast N' Loud
01:05 Dangerman
01:50 Heavy Rescue
02:35 Land Rush
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Alaska Monsters
04:50 Deadliest Catch
05:35 Storage Hunters UK
06:20 Beetle Crisis
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09:10 Deadliest Catch
09:55 Dangerman
10:45 Heavy Rescue
11:30 Land Rush
12:20 Beetle Crisis
12:43 Dallas Car Sharks
13:05 Storage Hunters UK
13:30 How Do They Do It?
13:55 Fast N' Loud
14:40 Fast N' Loud
15:30 Dangerman
16:15 Heavy Rescue
17:05 Land Rush
17:50 Alaska Monsters
18:40 Deadliest Catch
19:25 Fast N' Loud
20:15 Fast N' Loud
21:00 Outback Truckers
21:50 Gold Divers

News

Planemakers work to cut pilot numbers

FARNBOROUGH, SINGAPORE: Airplane manufacturers are working to adapt jets to reduce the number of pilots needed for long-haul flights and to build new cockpits designed for a single aviator in order to ease a global pilot shortage and cut airline costs. Airbus SE and Thales SA expect the number of cockpit crew on long-haul flights, typically three or four, could be reduced to two from 2023 thanks to new technology to reduce pilot workload.

"That's not an absurd date. Reducing crew on long-range looks to be the most accessible step because there is another pilot onboard," Jean-Brice Dumont, Airbus head of engineering, told Reuters at the Farnborough Airshow. Boeing Co is examining the possibility of having reduced manning in the cockpit of a proposed mid-sized jet that it aims to have in service by 2025 if it proceeds with a launch decision next year, according to UBS analysts. Boeing did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"You can see the drivers from both angles," said Graham Braithwaite, Director of Transport Systems at Britain's Cranfield University. "The technology to fly an aircraft on automatic is brilliant. The other driver in all this is that we're really short of pilots. They're a very expensive resource." The proponents of reduced numbers in the cockpit say the move, which could begin with cargo flights, is inevitable, just as pilot numbers were cut from three to two in the 1980s when the flight engineer position was axed due to improved design on new jets like the Boeing 757.

Airlines globally could save around \$15 billion a year by going down to a single pilot, UBS said, and at a time of a pilot shortage this would help ensure there are enough aviators to serve a fast-growing industry. Replacing the vast array of knobs and switches with more digital interfaces familiar to today's teenagers

could also help to shorten the amount of time it takes to train pilots, thus easing the shortage.

Ultimately, the goal would be for a fully autonomous commercial jet along the lines of a driverless car, although that technology, which requires clean-sheet jet designs from the major manufacturers, could take until 2040, according to an estimate from Thales. "I would compare autonomy to an open-heart surgery of our systems. All of our systems are specified to have permanently two persons in the cockpit," Airbus' Dumont said. Critics, however, say there are good safety reasons for having more than two pilots in the cockpit on long-haul flights and at least two on shorter journeys, with the costs outweighed by the benefits.

For example, reducing cockpit numbers to one in the cruise phase of a long-haul flight could increase fatigue and vulnerability in the event of an unexpected in-flight incident while the other pilot is resting, said three pilots who spoke to Reuters, pointing to the Air France 447 crash in 2009. Even with three pilots on board, the A330 was not recovered from a high altitude stall. In that case, the two more junior aviators were at the controls and the captain, once retrieved from resting, was unable to intervene in time to save the plane.

"I have experienced the simulation of what they went through and, even being aware that it is about to happen, it is very disconcerting," said Murray Butt, the president of the Qantas pilots union. "I can't imagine what it would be like for two low-time pilots in the middle of the night."

Other concerning scenarios include the deliberate crash of a Germanwings jet by one of its pilots in 2015 and the risk of a single pilot suffering from an in-flight health problem. Moving to a single pilot would also create training difficulties, said Stuart Beveridge, an Australian commercial pilot and aviation researcher, because the first officer role is considered an apprentice step before taking on the responsibilities of a captain.

The financial benefits of reducing crew numbers could also be marginal, said aviation consultant James Halstead, because airline cost savings would likely be passed through to passengers in the form of lower ticket prices. "On long-haul, crewing is a tiny proportion of the cost, compared to the fuel and the capital cost of the equipment," he added. — Reuters

Aston Martin unveils 'sports car for the skies'

FARNBOROUGH: James Bond would love it. Aston Martin, maker of the luxury sports cars favoured by the fictional British spy, has now come up with a futuristic personal aircraft it has dubbed "a sports car for the skies". Aston Martin unveiled the three-seater hybrid-electric vehicle this week at the Farnborough Airshow and, though the concept remains for now the stuff of science fiction, believes it could help one day to revolutionize travel.

The Volante Vision Concept design has vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) capabilities and will be able to hit speeds of around 322 kph, "so you can go from the center of Birmingham to the center of London in about 30 minutes," Aston Martin's Simon Sproule told Reuters. Aviation and technology leaders are working to make electric-powered flying taxis a reality, including Airbus, US ride-sharing firm Uber and a range of start-ups including one backed by Google co-founder Larry Page, called Kitty Hawk.

Aston Martin believes it could corner the market for luxury flying vehicles in the future. "The same way that you have Uber and you have an Aston Martin, you'll have 'Uber in the skies' and you'll have 'Aston Martin in the skies,'" said Sproule, adding that such an aircraft won't come cheap. "This is clearly a luxury object - it's a sports car for the skies - so pricing is going to be commensurate with that, so certainly into the seven figures."

The company has partnered with Cranfield University, Cranfield Aerospace Solutions and British jet engine maker Rolls-Royce to develop the concept vehicle,



FARNBOROUGH: A model of the Aston Martin Vision Volante Concept aircraft is displayed at the Farnborough Airshow on Tuesday. — AFP

including artificial intelligence-powered autonomous capabilities. "It feels like a fighter jet but at the same time it has the Aston Martin luxury," said David Debney, chief of future aircraft concepts at Rolls-Royce. Commenting on how to pilot the vehicle, Cranfield's Helen Atkinson said: "You've got to detect what's going on in the external environment and then turn that around incredibly quickly in the computer system with the artificial intelligence built in to actually achieve the necessary level of autonomy."

Separately at Farnborough, Rolls-Royce unveiled plans for a flying taxi - an electric vertical take-off and landing (EVTOL) vehicle which could carry four to five people at speeds of up to 400 km per hour for approximately 800 km. The company said it was starting a search for partners to help develop a project it hopes could take to the skies as soon as early next decade. — Reuters

smartphones that run on rival operating systems based on the Android open source code, it said. In addition, Google gave "financial incentives" to manufacturers and mobile network operators if they pre-installed Google Search on their devices, the commission said. Under EU rules Google could have been fined up to 10 percent of parent company Alphabet's annual revenue, which hit \$110.9 billion in 2017.

Vestager's campaign against Silicon Valley giants in her four years as the 28-nation European Union's competition commissioner has won praise in Europe but angered Washington. Brussels has repeatedly targeted Google over the past decade amid concerns about the Silicon Valley giant's dominance of internet searching across Europe, where it commands about 90 percent of the market. As well as the Android and Google Shopping files, a third investigation is under way, into Google's AdSense advert-placing business.

Vestager's other major scalps include Amazon and Apple. The EU ordered Apple in 2016 to pay Ireland €13 billion in back taxes that the maker of iPhones and iPads had avoided through a tax deal with Dublin. It has also taken on Facebook over privacy issues after it admitted that millions of users may have had their data hijacked by British consultancy firm Cambridge Analytica, which was working for Trump's 2016 election campaign.

But Brussels has had US tech giants in its sights for a decade and a half, having imposed a huge €497 million fine on Microsoft in 2004 for anti-competitive behavior and ruled it must make changes to its Windows system. Vestager played down the likelihood that the Google announcement would have any impact on Juncker's talks with Trump, saying that "it will never be the right timing". — AFP

offered the service. He said that because the number of expatriates is almost four times higher than citizens, Kuwaitis were frustrated and depressed as they could not get their turn.

Fadhil said following hard work by lawmakers in the National Assembly to establish the company and after a long wait, the company began operations and succeeded in reducing the recruitment cost to under KD 500, but it was expatriates who benefited from this. The Durra Company was established after lawmakers passed a law in the Assembly when the cost of the recruitment of maids from abroad skyrocketed to over KD 1,000 by private recruitment offices.



A US Predator unmanned drone armed with a missile stands on the tarmac of Kandahar military airport June 13, 2010. — Reuters

US offers India armed version of Guardian drone

FARNBOROUGH: The United States has offered India the armed version of Guardian drones that were originally authorized for sale as unarmed for surveillance purposes, a senior US official and an industry source told Reuters. If the deal comes to fruition, it would be the first time Washington has sold a large armed drone to a country outside the NATO alliance. It would also be the first high-tech unmanned aircraft in the region, where tensions between India and Pakistan run high.

In April, President Donald Trump's administration rolled out a long-awaited overhaul of US arms export policy aimed at expanding sales to allies, saying it would bolster the American defense industry and create jobs at home. The plan included a new drone export policy that allowed lethal drones that can fire missiles, and surveillance drones of all sizes, to be more widely available to allies. One administrative hurdle to the deal is that Washington is requiring India to sign up to a communications framework that some in New Delhi worry might be too intrusive, the US official said.

The drones were on the agenda at a canceled meeting between Indian and the US ministers of state and defense that was set for July, the sources said. The top level meeting is now expected to take place in September. Last June, General Atomics said the US government had approved the sale of a naval variant of the drone. India has been in talks to buy 22 of the unarmed surveillance aircraft, MQ-9B Guardian, worth more than \$2 billion to keep watch over the Indian Ocean.

Besides potentially including the armed version of the drone, the sources said the number of aircraft had also

changed. An Indian defense source said the military wanted a drone not just for surveillance but also to be able to hunt down targets at land and sea. The military had argued the costs of acquisition did not justify buying an unarmed drone. The cost and integration of the weapons system are still issues, as well as Indian assent to the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) which Washington insists on as a condition for operating advanced defense systems.

India, the defense source said, has shed its opposition to the agreement after an assurance from the United States it would apply largely to US-procured weapons systems such as fighter planes and drones and not to the large Russian-origin equipment with the Indian military. US drone manufacturers, facing growing competition overseas, especially from Chinese and Israeli rivals which often sell under lighter restrictions, have lobbied hard for the changes in US export rules.

Among the changes will be a more lenient application by the US government of an arms export principle known as "presumption of denial." This has impeded many drone deals by automatically denying approval unless a compelling security reason is given together with strict buyer agreements to use the weapons in accordance with international law. A second US official said the new policy would "change our calculus" by easing those restrictions on whether to allow any given sale.

The MTCR - a 1987 missile-control pact signed by the United States and 34 other countries - will still require strict export controls on Predator-type drones, which it classifies as Category 1, those with a payload of over 500 kg. However, the Trump administration is seeking to renegotiate the MTCR accord to eventually make it easier to export the larger armed drones. The head of Pentagon's Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) told Reuters at the Farnborough Airshow that he was unable to comment on any pending deals that had not been notified to Congress. — Reuters

Japanese envoy conquers Iraqi...

Continued from Page 1

Iwai's journey in the Arab world began 30 years ago, on his bosses' orders. "The Japanese foreign ministry ordered me to learn Arabic," the 67-year-old tells AFP. The young diplomat spent two years in Egypt, living with a family and immersing himself in the language. Iwai says Arabic is "one of the most difficult (languages) in the world, because of the vast number of words and expressions". Three decades on, he claims he is still at "the start of the road" in his efforts to master the language.

But Iraqis beg to differ. Mention Iwai's name in Baghdad, and the response is invariably the same - "have you seen his latest video?" In a country obsessed by smartphones and social media, the ambassador knows how to play to a modern gallery, while respecting traditions. The videos are short - typically between one and two minutes - allowing him to grab and maintain the attention of social media users.

Thai cave boys relive moment of...

Continued from Page 1

The briefing was tightly controlled, with experts warning of possible long-term distress from their ordeal inside the Tham Luang cave in northern Thailand.

The public relations department in Chiang Rai solicited questions from news outlets in advance, which were forwarded to psychiatrists for screening. Thailand's junta leader Prayut Chan-O-Cha urged the media to be "cautious in asking unimportant questions" that could cause unspecified damage. Interest in the saga has been intense, with film production houses already eyeing a Hollywood treatment of the drama. Doctors have advised families of the players, aged 11 to 16, that they should avoid letting them contact journalists for at least one month.

The boys, who were to return to their families yesterday night, announced their plan to temporarily ordain as monks to honor the death of Saman Kunan, a Thai Navy SEAL who died during the rescue. Khameuy Promthep, the grandmother of 13-year-old Dom, one of the boys rescued from the cave, told AFP at their family shop in Mae Sai near the Myanmar border yesterday that she was very excited. "This is the happiest day of my life," she said.

The daring Thai-led international effort to rescue the team captivated the world after the football team walked into the cave on June 23 and were trapped by rising floodwaters. After nine days without food, they were found emaciated and huddled in a group on a

But he still manages to cram in a thundering "Salam Aleikum" and other Muslim formalities, before zeroing in on a chosen theme. On Japan Day, Iwai recorded a video at Baghdad's international fair, in traditional Iraqi dress, with a black and white Iraqi keffiyeh scarf slung across his shoulder. "Look how beautiful I am! Today, I am a full-blooded Baghdadi!" he beamed in that dispatch.

The ambassador is surprised other diplomats haven't taken to social media to try to connect directly with host citizens. "Several ambassadors speak Arabic, but it is rare that they use it to speak to the people," Iwai tells AFP. The diplomat says he will miss certain things about Iraq, like "dolmas" - stuffed vegetables some dub Iraqi sushi. But there is one thing Iwai will not miss. "The main difficulty is the weather," he says, lamenting summertime temperatures that often surpass 50 degrees Celsius.

"Each time I come back here I feel it's getting hotter and hotter," he adds. "That might be related to concrete walls, less green land and air pollution." While Iwai is due to depart this month, his fans want him to become an Iraqi citizen. And some netizens even eye him as a future Minister of Reconstruction. But ever the diplomat, Iwai has politely avoided causing red faces, by pointing out that Japan does not permit dual citizenship. — AFP

muddy ledge by British divers several kilometers inside the cave complex. One of the boys said that after they were found they played games, including checkers, and that a Thai Navy SEAL staying with them won most of the time. "We called him king of the cave," said 14-year-old Ekkarat Wongkukchan, known by his nickname Bew.

Rescuers debated the best plan to bring them out but ultimately decided on a risky operation that involved diving them through waterlogged passages while they were sedated to keep them calm, and carrying them out in military-grade stretchers. Not even the foreign cave diving specialists who took part were sure the mission would work. Many expressed huge relief after the final five were rescued on July 10.

Further attention was drawn to the rescue by a highly public row between entrepreneur Elon Musk and a British caver who took part in the rescue. Tesla CEO Musk called Vernon Unsworth a "pedo" in an extraordinary social media attack, after the caving expert had ridiculed Musk's plan to recover the trapped group using a miniature submarine. Musk yesterday apologized to Unsworth over the slur, for which he had provided no justification or explanation. "(H)is actions against me do not justify my actions against him, and for that I apologize to Mr Unsworth and to the companies I represent as leader," Musk wrote on Twitter. "The fault is mine and mine alone." Musk's attack on Unsworth had drawn widespread outrage and briefly sent shares in Tesla tumbling.

Towards the end of their introduction to the world the "Wild Boars" were asked what they wanted to be when they grew up. Many said they want to be either professional footballers or Thai Navy SEALs. "This is my big experience that makes me stronger," said 11-year-old Chanin Wiboonrungrueang. — AFP

Google hit with record €4.3bn...

Continued from Page 1

on the tariffs dispute and other issues. But Vestager - who was reportedly dubbed by Trump the "tax lady" who "hates the US" after she took on a string of Silicon Valley giants - insisted that she was not anti-American. "I very much like the US... but the fact is that this (case) has nothing to do with how I feel," she said.

Google chief Sundar Pichai immediately said the firm would appeal. "Today's decision rejects the business model that supports Android, which has created more choice for everyone, not less. We intend to appeal," Pichai said in a blog post. Google provides Android free to smartphone manufacturers and generates most of its revenue from selling advertisements that appear along with search results. The EU says Android is used on around 80 percent of mobile devices, both in Europe and worldwide.

But Vestager said Google had shut out rivals by forcing major phone makers including South Korea's Samsung and China's Huawei to pre-install its search engine and Google Chrome browser. They were also made to set Google Search as the default, as a condition of licensing some Google apps. As a result, Google Search and Chrome are pre-installed on the "significant majority" of devices sold in the EU, the European Commission says.

Google also prevented manufacturers from selling

Lawmakers slam maids' company...

Continued from Page 1

jobs, also urged officials at the company to provide priority to Kuwaiti citizens.

Fadhil also echoed similar sentiments, saying that the company has made available a small number of maids, but those were taken by expatriates because they were

Sports

WELCOME ON BOARD:
HAVANANFL's Cowboys top Forbes
most valuable teams list

GM Keim suspended by Cardinals for DUI

DALLAS: The Dallas Cowboys have been ranked the world's most valuable sports team for a third consecutive year, an annual list published by Forbes showed yesterday, with the National Football League accounting for more than half of the top 50. The NFL's Cowboys were valued at \$4.8 billion, a 14 percent jump compared to last year, Forbes said in a statement. Soccer teams Manchester United (\$4.12 billion), Real Madrid (\$4.09 billion) and Barcelona (\$4.06 billion) occupied the next three spots. Major League Baseball's New York Yankees, who were second on the list last year, rounded out the top five with a value of \$4 billion, up 8 percent from a year ago. The average value of the 50 teams on the list is \$2.74 billion, the highest to date, up from last year when the average value was \$2.5 billion.

"There has never been a better time to own a top-notch pro sports franchise," said Kurt Badenhausen, a senior editor at Forbes. "Blockbuster TV contracts and owner-friendly collective bargaining agreements are fueling record sale prices across major sports leagues." Teams from the NFL, whose lucrative broadcast contracts dwarf those of other leagues, took up 29 of the top 50 spots. The National Basketball Association had eight teams on the list, led by the Los Angeles Lakers (\$3.3 billion) in eighth place, followed

by European soccer and MLB, who had seven and six teams. No ice hockey, Formula One or Nascar teams made the cut.

Keim suspended

In another development, Arizona Cardinals general manager Steve Keim pleaded guilty to extreme DUI in Chandler, Ariz., on Tuesday, shortly before the team announced it has suspended Keim for five weeks and fined him \$200,000, which will be donated to the Arizona chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said the Cardinals have been in communication with the league since the arrest and advised the NFL of disciplinary action. The league will not take further action, so there will be no further punishment under the league's personal-conduct policy.

"As stated at the time of the incident, this behavior is indefensible and completely unacceptable," the Cardinals said in a statement. "While Steve has accepted full accountability and responsibility for his actions, that does not diminish their gravity nor the severity of the consequences that result from them." According to the Chandler Police Department forensics report, Keim's blood-alcohol content was .19 when he was arrested early on the morning of July 4, exceeding the extreme DUI benchmark of .15 and more than doubling

the legal limit of .08. A Class I misdemeanor, an extreme DUI conviction can require as many as 30 days, and no less than 24 hours, in jail, with the length of sentencing depending on probation terms.

Cooks' 5-year extension

The Los Angeles Rams announced a five-year extension for wide receiver Brandin Cooks, putting him under contract through the 2023 season. Terms of the deal were not announced, but ESPN reports it is worth \$80 million over the five years of the extension, bringing the total to around \$88.5 million over six seasons. A source told NFL Network that the deal is worth \$81 million, including \$20.5 million fully guaranteed upon signing and \$50.5 million in total guarantees.

Cooks, whom the Rams acquired from the New England Patriots this spring for a first-round pick and a swap of later-round picks, was entering the \$8.5 million fifth-year option of his rookie contract. Yet to turn 25 as he enters his fifth NFL season, Cooks topped 1,000 yards for the third consecutive year in 2017, finishing with 65 grabs for 1,082 yards and seven scores in 16 games (15 starts). Defensive end Randy Gregory of the Dallas Cowboys has been reinstated by the NFL on a conditional basis, the league announced.—Agencies



Steve Keim

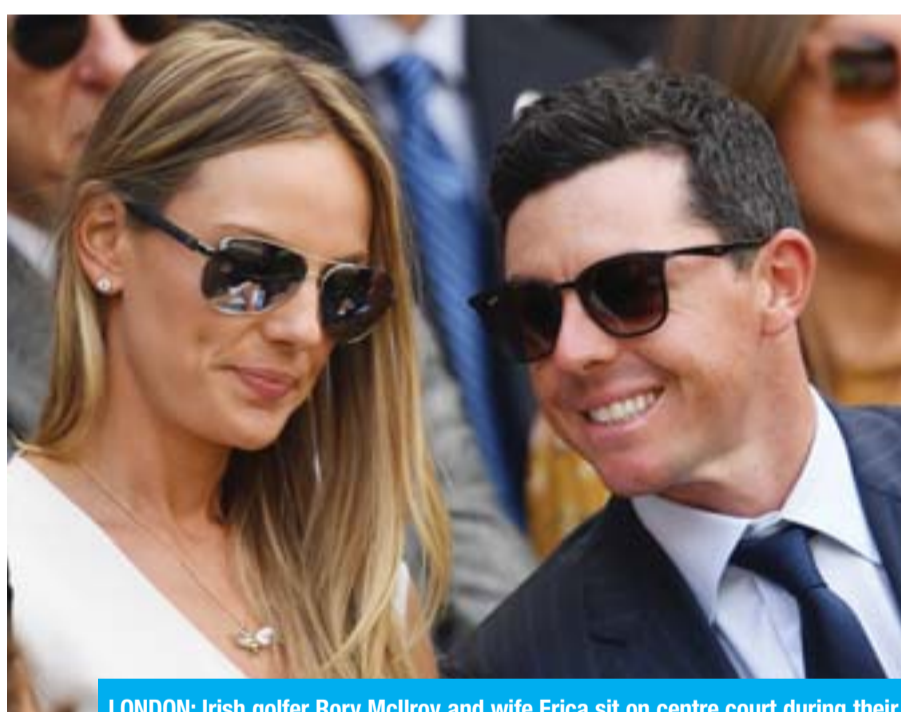
Unrealistic to win
majors at
Tiger-like pace,
says McIlroy

CARNOUSTIE: Rory McIlroy says it is unrealistic to expect him to continue winning majors at the same rate as early in his career, but it is not for the want of trying that he has been treading water the past few years. McIlroy won four majors in his early twenties in three years between 2011 and 2014, but will tee off in the British Open at Carnoustie on Thursday trying to end a 14-major drought.

"My performances in the majors at that point wasn't my normal level," the Northern Irishman told a news conference on Wednesday. "That was above my normal level and then you go back down, and then you build yourself back up again. There are going to be times when you struggle with this and with that."

"What (Tiger Woods) did-it was 11 years and he won 14 major championships-I mean that's pretty ridiculous in anyone's book. I'm certainly not expecting to go on that sort of a tear but as long as I give myself chances ... hopefully, you'll find a way to get it done." McIlroy, 29, comes into the Open with questions over whether he has lost his old magic after being overshadowed recently by a bunch of American players younger than himself. A poor finish at the US Masters in April, when he started the final round in second place but was never a factor after failing to make a short putt at the second hole, was followed by a missed cut at the US Open.

McIlroy points out that winning is tough at any time, though he did not find it too demanding when he blew away the field for his first major win, by eight strokes, at the 2011 US Open. "I'm trying my best every time I tee it up," he said. McIlroy recently read a book that offers advice on being disciplined and paring life down to the bare essentials, focusing on a few important things, rather than spreading oneself too thin. "I try to see the bigger picture and try to have some perspective in my life," he said. "While I



LONDON: Irish golfer Rory McIlroy and wife Erica sit on centre court during their men's singles quarter-finals match in Wimbledon, southwest London. — AFP

do have this career (though), I'm trying to make the most of it. Golfers are touchy at the best of times so I think it just depends what day you get them on." — Reuters

Vettel, Mercedes
both hungry for
a home success

HOCKENHEIM: Sunday's German Grand Prix could be Sebastian Vettel's last chance to win on home soil but Lewis Hamilton will be doing all he can to deny Ferrari's Formula One championship leader that particular pleasure. Hockenheim is also home for Hamilton's employers Mercedes and after Vettel beat the Briton at Silverstone a week ago, there is plenty of desire to get one back on a rival who grew up in nearby Heppenheim.

Regardless of the expected clash between the title contenders, the weekend will still be special because the race was not on the calendar last year and its future remains uncertain. Hockenheim's contract expires after this year's race and, despite the sport's commercial rights holders Liberty Media saying how keen they are to keep historic venues, the two sides appear at odds. "We would like to have a contract which will take the risk from us. This is the basic point... we cannot continue in the same way," Hockenheim-Ring marketing director Jorn Teske said in May.

"A lot of people might want a risk-free contract but that's not our business model," Formula One's commercial managing director Sean Bratches said in response. Hockenheim was already alternating with the Nuerburgring before that circuit pulled out for financial reasons and there are no obvious permanent replacements. All of which makes this year's gathering in the Rhine valley a standout for the fans, who have been bringing with them a party atmosphere since the Michael Schumacher glory days. "I saw my first Formula One race here in 2000, and since there are always friends and family here, Hockenheim is something very special for me," Vettel remarked.

Fourth win

The German, whose only home win to date was with Red Bull at the Nuerburgring in 2013, leads his fellow-four times world champion by eight points, while Ferrari are 20 clear in the constructors' standings. Hamilton won at Hockenheim in 2016 and will be going for a fourth German GP win to rival Schumacher's record tally.

"Going to Hockenheim always feels like coming home: it's only about a 90 minute drive from the Daimler headquarters in Stuttgart," Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff said. "We will fight hard to not only put on a good show for our friends and fans in Hockenheim, but also get the result that they will be hoping for." Sunday also marks the second half of the season, even if the natural divide comes with the August break that follows Hungary the weekend after Germany. Mercedes have dropped important points in the last three races through misfortune and mechanical problems, and have work to do if they are to claim both titles for the fifth year in succession.—Reuters

Warriors hand Kerr
contract extension

SAN FRANCISCO: The Golden State Warriors handed head coach Steve Kerr a contract extension on Tuesday, locking in the man who has led the franchise to three NBA Finals crowns in four seasons since 2015. A statement from the Warriors quoted general manager Bob Myers as saying that Kerr, 52, would lead the team for the "next several years." "We're excited to have Steve under contract ... Myers said. "Under his guidance, we've been fortunate enough to win three NBA titles in four years and his ability to thrive in all facets of his job is certainly a primary reason for our success."

"He's a terrific coach, but more importantly an incredible human being." Terms and conditions of the contract extension were not disclosed but reports said Kerr's deal would make him one of the highest paid coaches in the NBA. Kerr turned down an offer from the New York Knicks in 2014 and signed a five-year, \$25 million contract with the Warriors. Since taking over, Kerr has overseen the rise of the Warriors as the dominant force in the NBA.

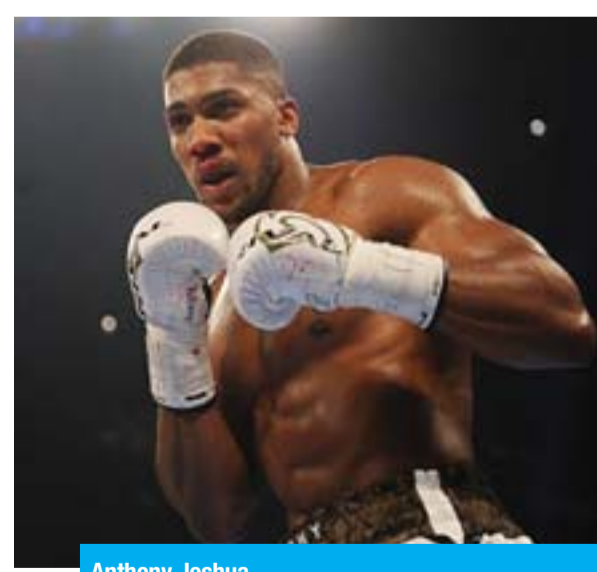
Only Phil Jackson (1991, 1992, 1993) and John Kundla (1949, 1950, 1951) have won three NBA titles in their first four seasons in charge. In playoffs, Kerr has a record of 63 win and 20 defeats, the highest winning percentage in NBA history amongst head coaches who have coached a minimum of 25 playoff games, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.—AFP

'I want to cement
my legacy': Joshua
plans history bid

LONDON: Anthony Joshua has set his sights on joining boxing's all-time greats as the heavyweight champion builds up to his title defense against Russia's Alexander Povetkin. Joshua, the reigning WBA, IBF and WBO champion, faces mandatory challenger Povetkin at Wembley on September 22 amid mounting expectation the British fighter will then get in the ring with WBC champion Deontay Wilder. Negotiations between Joshua's camp and Wilder's team are still on-going and the unification clash could be lined up for April 13, with Wembley reportedly booked for that date.

Before that, former Olympic gold medalist Joshua must put his belts on the line when he tangles with Povetkin. Joshua isn't over-looking the 38-year-old Povetkin, also a former Olympic champion, but he has reached the stage in his career where it is his legacy that motivates him rather than emerging unscathed from individual duels. "It's not just about Povetkin and Wilder. It's about proving my worth as a heavyweight champion. It's about me, my legacy and achieving my potential," Joshua told a press conference at Wembley yesterday.

"Now it's more, I know I'm good at this. I've built my mindset over the last 10 years. I've got 10 years left in boxing and I want to cement my legacy." (George) Foreman, Bernard Hopkins, (Wladimir) Klitschko went on until 40. I believe I can do that with the advances in sports science. I've been 12 rounds, I've been dropped, I've put on weight, I've lost weight, I've learnt boxing specific



Anthony Joshua

training. "I think back to the gold medal."

It was a tournament I had to get through. I'm back in the tournament. It's great. It resonates with people." Promoter Eddie Hearn agrees that Joshua is more than capable of adding more polish to his already glittering CV. "The pace that this young man is moving at and the challenge he is willing to take is fantastic for the sport of boxing," Hearn said. "Anthony wants to create a legacy and the only way you do that is by fighting real fighters."

Joshua won his first world title in 2016 and has made five defenses, taking his record to 21-0 with 20 knockouts. The 28-year-old beat Joseph Parker of New Zealand by unanimous points decision in Cardiff on March 31. Povetkin knocked out David Price on the undercard of Joshua's victory over Parker.—AFP

Sports

Pakistan crush Zimbabwe, take 3-0 lead in ODI series

Pakistan beat Zimbabwe by nine wickets in one-day match

BULAWAYO: Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed hailed "a great performance" after his team sealed a series win by strolling to a nine-wicket victory over Zimbabwe in the third one-day international yesterday. Seamer Faheem Ashraf was the pick of a bristling Pakistani attack, taking a career best five for 22 as the hosts were skittled for just 67. Opener Fakhar Zaman then continued his good run of form to see Pakistan home in the 10th over with an unbeaten 43. "First of all, a great performance," said Ahmed. "Ashraf is getting better day by day. He's an allrounder, and we need him."

Once again Zimbabwe won the toss and opted to bat first, but their slide began as early as the second over. Prince Masvaure, on his debut, was caught out by a lifter from Usman Khan and Zimbabwe were under immediate pressure at 1 for 1. The hosts were wobbling at 26 for 3 when Ashraf came on as first change in the 10th over, and he quickly had Peter Moor brilliantly caught in the slips by Babar Azam before trapping Chamu Chibhabha leg before wicket with a skidding full delivery. He then had Elton Chigumbura caught behind and bowled Ryan Murray as Zimbabwe slipped to a perilous 54 for 8.

Clean bowled

Tailenders Wellington Masakadza and Blessing Muzarabani clung on for seven overs, but leg-spinner Shadab Khan eventually removed Muzarabani with a

googly and Ashraf then returned to end the innings with a pinpoint yorker. That delivery clean bowled number 11 Richard Ngarava, giving Ashraf his maiden international five-wicket haul. Zimbabwe's 67 was their lowest ever total against Pakistan, and the lowest score ever recorded in 78 ODIs at Queens Sports Club. "I try to bowl in good areas and a stump to stump line," said Ashraf.

"Our bowling coach [Azhar Mahmood] puts in a lot of effort. He's really helped us to get better, and a lot of credit for my first five-for in international cricket goes to him." In response, Pakistan lost Imam ul Haq to the first ball of the chase, gloving a quick bouncer from Muzarabani through to wicketkeeper Ryan Murray. Zaman was also struck on the grille of his helmet by a short one from Ngarava, but he quickly recovered his composure and ended the match in a flurry of boundaries. He struck seven fours in the space of 10 deliveries to seal the match and give Pakistan an unassailable 3-0 lead in the series. "A bit of a disaster really," said Zimbabwe captain Hamilton Masakadza. "Today we've gone quite a long way backwards, but these things happen in cricket. As a batting group, we have a lot of hard questions to ask ourselves," he said. "The main thing is to stay positive, because once you go in that direction and get down on yourself it's very hard to come back." The teams will play two further matches, on Friday and Sunday, at the same ground.—AFP

SCOREBOARD

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe: Completed scoreboard in the third one-day international between Zimbabwe and Pakistan at Queens Sports Club yesterday:

Zimbabwe		Pakistan	
P. Masvaure c Ahmed b U Khan	1	I. ul Haq c Murray b Muzarabani	0
C. Chibhabha lbw b Ashraf	16	F. Zaman not out	43
H. Masakadza c Shah b J Khan	10	B. Azam not out	19
T. Musakanda c Ahmed b J Khan	0	Extras (w7)	7
P. Moor c Azam b Ashraf	1	Total (1 wkt, 9.5 overs)	69
R. Murray b Ashraf	8	Did not bat: S. Malik, A. Ali, S. Ahmed, F. Ashraf, S. Khan, Y. Shah, J. Khan, U. Khan	
E. Chigumbura c Ahmed b Ashraf	9	Fall of wickets: 1-0 (ul Haq)	
T. Chisoro b Shah	0	Bowling: Muzarabani 5-0-43-1 (6w); Ngarava 4.5-0-26-0 (1w)	
W. Masakadza not out	10	Result: Pakistan won by 9 wickets	
B. Muzarabani lbw b S Khan	4		
R. Ngarava b Ashraf	1		
Extras (lb3, w4)	7		
Total (10 wkts, 25.1 overs)	67		
Fall of wickets: 1-1 (Masvaure), 2-18 (Masakadza), 3-25 (Musakanda), 4-29 (Moor), 5-32 (Chibhabha), 6-42 (Chigumbura), 7-43 (Chisoro), 8-54 (Murray), 9-66			

Tendulkar links up with Middlesex to form an academy

LONDON: Indian cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar and English county Middlesex are joining forces to launch an academy to teach young girls and boys about the sport, they announced yesterday. The children aged between nine and 14 will be put through a comprehensive cricket curriculum at the "Tendulkar Middlesex Global Academy" (TMGA). There will be several cricket camps beginning at English school Merchant Taylor's from August 6-9 but then venturing to Mumbai, London and further afield.

"The academy will provide young girls and boys between the age of 9 and 14 an opportunity to learn from two of the most respected and renowned institutions in world cricket—Sachin Tendulkar and Middlesex Cricket," read a joint statement. "The comprehensive training curriculum developed by the professional coaches at Middlesex and the Master himself will help young and budding cricketers with various aspects of cricket, includ-

ing insights into athletic development, sport psychology, tactical development and technical modifications.

"With talent identification at the core of the academy, TMGA will also provide opportunities for talented underprivileged children with 100 scholarships available." Tendulkar, regarded as one of the greatest batsmen of all time having accrued the most runs in international cricket, said the ambition for the academy was two-fold. "I am delighted to be partnering with Middlesex Cricket on this new venture," said the 45-year-old. "The objective is not only to produce good cricketers but also good global citizens of the future.

"Through this association, Middlesex and I are focused on providing the very best in cricket education, as much as possible, for our students." Richard Goatley, chief executive officer of Middlesex, said it had been the culmination of half a year's collaboration. "It has been a great privilege over the past six months to work with Sachin Tendulkar and his team in developing what we believe will be the market leading coaching program in the world," he said. "Our established academy program, twinned with the unique insight, knowledge and ability of the most successful cricketer of all time will provide kids with a unique experience that they will never forget."—AFP

Sri Lanka seeks 'clear rules' on ball tampering

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's sports minister called on the International Cricket Council to establish "simple, clear rules" yesterday after skipper Dinesh Chandimal was punished for ball tampering. "Laws governing the offence / act of altering the condition of the ball are somewhat vague and lack clarity," Faiszer Musthapha said in a statement. "I invite the ICC to revisit the applicable laws and ensure that a set of simple, clear and certain rules and procedures are put in place."

He did not elaborate but the statement came after Chandimal, coach Chandika Hathurusingha and manager Asanka Gurusinha were sanctioned following a tampering scandal. Chandimal refused to take the field for two hours on the third day of the second Test against the West Indies last month after he was accused of ball tampering on the previous day. Chandimal as well as Hathurusingha and Gurusinha were banned for two Tests and four one-day internationals

for violating the spirit of the game by holding up the second Test against West Indies by two hours. At the start of the first Test against a touring South African team last week, Chandimal and his tourist counterpart Faf du Plessis said they wanted a list of do's and don'ts from the ICC match referee. Although the use of saliva or sweat to shine the ball is an accepted practice, using any other substance—such as sugary residue from sweets—is prohibited. Chandimal was slapped with a 100 percent fine of his match fees and banned from the third Test against the West Indies last month after he was found guilty of tampering. Match referee Javagal Srinath said Chandimal applied saliva containing the residue of something he had in his mouth to the ball, in violation of the ICC Code of Conduct.

The ICC last week unveiled tougher sanctions for ball tampering and sledging in a bid to improve on-field behavior in the sport. The changes came in the wake of a ball-tampering scandal in South Africa in March that saw Steve Smith stripped of the Australian captaincy and suspended from international and domestic cricket for a year. His teammates David Warner and Cameron Bancroft were also banned. Du Plessis said tougher sanctions would make players think twice before putting something in their mouth and then using saliva to shine the ball.—AFP



COLOMBO: Sri Lankan cricket team captain Suranga Lakmal takes part in a training session at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) cricket stadium in Colombo yesterday, ahead of the second Test match between Sri Lanka and South Africa.—AFP

Root century seals England series win

LEEDS: Joe Root became England's leading one-day international century-maker as an innings of exactly 100 not out on his Headingley home ground saw the hosts to an eight-wicket victory over India on Tuesday and a 2-1 series win. This was Root's second unbeaten century in successive innings after his 113 not out helped England level the three-match contest with an 86-run win at Lord's on Saturday. This latest hundred was also Test skipper Root's 13th in ODIs, taking him past the England record of 12 he had previously shared with Marcus Trescothick.

Tuesday saw Root and one-day captain Eoin Morgan (88 not out) share an unbroken third-wicket stand of 186 as England, first in the ODI rankings to their opponents' second, ended India's run of nine straight bilateral series wins in style. England, who will be bidding to win the World Cup for the first time when they stage next year's edition, had said they would treat Tuesday's match as a dress rehearsal for a winner-takes-all game at the showpiece tournament. And that made the comprehensive manner of their victory all the more satisfying for Morgan's men.

'Bowlers set the tone'

It was England's bowlers who set up this win, with Adil Rashid and David Willey, two of the five Yorkshire cricketers in their XI, taking three wickets apiece. But, after left-arm quick Willey had kept things tight early on, it was leg-spinner Rashid who did significant damage by taking two wickets in an over. He bowled India captain and star batsman Virat Kohli (71), as well as dismissing Suresh Raina, on his way to three for 49 in a maximum 10 overs. Willey, who took three for 40 in nine overs, received excellent new-ball support from Durham quick Mark Wood (one for 30). Root, who was dropped from the final match of England's preceding 2-1 Twenty20 series loss, told Sky Sports: "It feels fantastic. 'To come into a big series like this and per-



LONDON: England's Joe Root plays the last shot of the third One Day International (ODI) cricket match between England and India, for four runs and reaching his century, at Headingley Stadium in Leeds, northern England on July 17, 2018. England won by 8 wickets with a score of 260.—AFP

form how we have as a side is great."

Morgan added: "I think we were outstanding. I think the tone was set by the bowlers early on, David Willey and Mark Wood were on the money. From that point there was no let up." Meanwhile Kohli accepted his side had been outplayed. "I thought we were never on the mark as far as runs on the board were concerned, we were 25-30 short, and England were really clinical with the bat and in the field as well," he said. After Morgan won the toss, Rohit Sharma, who scored a superb century during India's eight-wicket win in the series-opener at Trent Bridge, struggled to make two off 18 balls, his innings ending when he flicked Willey to Wood at deep square leg.

Opening partner Shikhar Dhawan made a fluent 44 before was run out by Stokes's direct hit. Dinesh Karthik, preferred to KL Rahul for this match, then made 21 before he was bowled between bat and pad by Rashid. Kohli pressed on, however, completing a 55-

ball fifty before Rashid struck twice in six balls as India slumped to 158 for five. He bowled Kohli with a superb leg-break and had Raina caught low at leg-slip by Root. James Vince, called up in place of the injured Jason Roy cut the first ball of England's reply, from Bhuvneshwar Kumar, for four.

Vince's frustrating England career has seen him repeatedly get out on Tuesday he fell for a run-a-ball 27, although it needed a brilliant one-handed take by wicket-keeper Dhoni, from Hardik Pandya's throw, to run him out. But by then England were 74 for two inside 10 overs, well above the required run-rate. Root, stumped off a Yuzvendra Chahal no-ball on 69, went to his century when he pulled Pandya through midwicket for his 10th four in 120 balls as England won with 33 deliveries to spare. An elated Root celebrated by dropping his bat to the ground - the 'mic drop' gesture more associated with rock stars and stand-up comedians than cricketers.—AFP

Pant in India squad for England tests, Saha ruled out

MUMBAI: Rishabh Pant has been included as the second wicketkeeper in an 18-man India squad for the first three tests of the five-match series against England after regular starter Wriddhiman Saha failed to recover from a left thumb injury. Saha picked up the problem playing in the domestic Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 tournament, an injury that also ruled him out of a one-off test against Afghanistan last month. The 20-year-old Pant, who has played four T20 internationals for India, is renowned for his swashbuckling batting and will be the second choice keeper behind Dinesh Karthik in the squad named yesterday. The Virat Kohli-led side will also be without Jasprit Bumrah for the opening test at Edgbaston from Aug. 1 after the paceman injured his thumb in a T20 match against Ireland last month.

"Jasprit Bumrah, who has been included in the squad, will be available for selection from the second test onwards based on his fitness," the Indian cricket board (BCCI) said in a statement. Seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar aggravated a lower-back condition in the third one-day international against England at Headingley on Tuesday and was missing from the squad. "His condition is being assessed by the BCCI medical team and



Rishabh Pant

a call on his inclusion in the test squad will be made soon," the statement added. The India selectors met in Leeds to pick the squad, which also contains three spin bowlers.

Left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav was included alongside frontline slow bowlers Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja after a strong showing in the limited-overs matches against England, a series the hosts won 2-1. There was no place for Rohit Sharma, who scored two hundreds against England in the limited-overs matches, however, with the selectors preferring Karnataka batsman Karun Nair over him for a middle-order spot. Murali Vijay, Shikhar Dhawan and Lokesh Rahul were the three opening batsmen in the squad, though the latter came in at number three against Afghanistan, pushing Cheteshwar Pujara down a spot in the absence of a rested Kohli.—Reuters

Sports

Faster, higher, hotter: Tokyo weather prompts 2020 fears

Japan scorched by an intense heatwave

TOKYO: As the two-year mark approaches for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, Japan is being scorched by an intense heatwave that has prompted fears of similar extreme weather when the sporting showpiece takes place in the country. More than a dozen people have died as temperatures soared above 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) for the first time since 2013, and the thermometer hit 43 Celsius during an Olympic Stadium media tour yesterday.

The opening ceremony will be held at the venue on July 24, 2020, a time of year when Tokyo records average temperatures of around 25 Celsius, which combined with severe humidity will create tough conditions for athletes and spectators alike. Earlier this year, experts warned of the risks of heatstroke at the Games, which runs until Aug 9, with conditions reaching levels at which sporting activities would normally be halted. The issue is one Tokyo 2020 organizers are taking seriously as they consider a raft of counter measures to battle the extreme heat.

These include increased shelter and cooling fans provided for spectators, and the installation of a 'Wet Bulb Globe Temperature' device designed to provide constant feedback to assess levels of heat stress at each venue. The data provided will help organizers adjust conditions for supporters depending on the weather. The scheduling of events, set to be announced later on following an International Olympic Committee (IOC) meeting with Games organizers in Lausanne, will also

be designed with the protection of athletes and supporters in mind.

Heat policy a priority

Tokyo 2020 organizers also told Reuters that they were looking to establish guidelines on whether a scheduled event would be allowed to go ahead if they were worried by the danger posed of extreme temperatures. Speaking at the stadium media tour, officials from the Japan Sports Council (JSC) said solutions for tackling heat would be a priority for the Olympic Games. While beams for the stadium's inner roof-made with wood supplied from all 47 prefectures-are meant to project warmth and hospitality, JSC official Keiji Kato explained they were also designed to circulate air to keep spectators cool.

Mist fans would also be installed, Kato added. Outside the stadium, Japan has had a long-standing love affair with the marathon but spectators will likely need to wake up very early to watch the races in Tokyo, with organisers likely to schedule a dawn start for safety reasons. Yet yesterday, despite the heat, there were still several joggers braving the conditions to run the circuit around Tokyo's Imperial Palace, with the most committed of them admitting they had struggled. "I have been running (this route) for the past five years, but for the first time, I could not complete the track both last week and this week," 44-year-old Tatsuro Abe told Reuters. "It has been truly intense this time round." — Reuters



TOKYO: This general view shows the construction site for the new National Stadium - venue for the upcoming Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, in Tokyo. — AFP

Hazard, Courtois futures in board's hands, says coach

LONDON: The futures of star Belgian duo Eden Hazard and Thibaut Courtois can be decided by the Chelsea board said the club's new manager Maurizio Sarri yesterday. The 59-year-old Italian speaking at his unveiling, after being appointed the successor to sacked compatriot Antonio Conte, admitted to being disinterested by the transfer market. This will be music to the board's ears as one of the reasons for Conte falling out badly with them shortly after guiding the club to the Premier League title in 2017 was his carping over a lack of say in buying new players and the ones being bought were not of the same level to those who left.

Hazard and Courtois both shone at the World Cup - the latter winning The Golden Glove for goalkeeper of the tournament as Belgium finished a best ever third-but with their contracts running down have been linked with moves to Spain. Hazard said after the Belgians beat England 2-0 in the third place play-off last Saturday it "Might be time to discover something different," and Real Madrid are prepared to pay a reported £200million (\$260million, 224million euros) for the Belgian playmaker.

Sarri, who forged his reputation in charge of Napoli guiding them to runners-up twice and third in his other season, said of course it would be for the better to keep the best players. "Clearly we would always like to keep all the strongest players," said Sarri, who began in English but switched to his native Italian so he did not

"say anything wrong". "This is what any manager wants to do, this is what any club wants to do. "Then we will have to see how the transfer market goes over the next few days. "I think that I am one of the few managers who is bored by the transfer market. "I don't want to talk about the transfer market and I'm not that interested in it."

Sarri described Hazard as one of the top two or three players in Europe and said he would like to meet with him. Hazard, though, is on holiday and Sarri admitted phoning him would not be sufficient. "A telephone call without looking them in the eye would not give me any certainty," said Sarri. "I'd like to meet them face to face. I would also like a player to come on the (training) pitch four or five days to have a clear idea."

'Extremely difficult challenge'

Sarri, a chain-smoking former banker, said he came to the Chelsea job with an open mind and had chosen not to ask his successor at Napoli and former Chelsea handler Carlo Ancelotti for any advice or insight into a post that has seen many different faces down the years since Roman Abramovich bought the club in 2003. "Well, for me this is a difficult challenge, but a fascinating one," said Sarri. "I know it will be very difficult and here we have the strongest coaches in the world and the strongest players in the world. "I know this will be an extremely difficult challenge for me. "I have not asked anything of anyone." Despite having won no silverware Sarri was named Serie A coach for the 2016/17 season and has praised Conte for what he had achieved in his two year spell at the club.

Conte won the FA Cup last term, but crucially failed to secure them a spot in this season's Champions League. "This is a post-World Cup time," said Sarri. "It will take some time to build a slightly different way of playing. "All good things Antonio Conte did must be



LONDON: Chelsea's newly appointed manager, Maurizio Sarri, holds up a team football shirt as he poses for photographs on the pitch following his unveiling press conference at Stamford Bridge in west London yesterday. — AFP

left. They must not be changed." Sarri, whose methods are admired by title winners Manchester City's manager Pep Guardiola, said he would not go into the discussions he had had with Abramovich. "They have just asked me to build a season to be competitive in all competitions," said Sarri. "Then during the season we'll see whether or not we want to have more specific objectives." — AFP

Once halted by Progres, Rangers advance in Europa

LONDON: A year after being humbled by Luxembourg part-timers Progres Niederkorn, Rangers advanced to the second round of the Europa League qualifiers with a 2-0 aggregate win over FC Shkupi but manager Steven Gerrard concedes his new side are way short of where they need to be. The Scottish club's defeat at the same stage of the competition last year is regarded by many as the worst in their 146-year history, and while avoiding a similar fate at the hands of the Macedonians was the priority, Gerrard said they must improve.

Rangers carried a 2-0 first-leg lead into the return match in Skopje on Tuesday and while they were comfortable throughout a drab 0-0 draw, there was little to suggest they will have a long run in Europe's second-tier club competition. "At the moment, I am a bit mixed right now," Gerrard told RangersTV, adding that while Rangers looked solid defensively they were poor going forward. "I am pleased with the one side of the game, but there is certainly a hell of a lot of work to do on the other." The 38-year-old former Liverpool great singled out new centre backs Connor Goldson and Nikola Katic, as well as returning goalkeeper Allan McGregor, for praise after the match at the Philip II Arena in the Macedonian capital.

"I set the players a challenge before the game - a clean sheet and we are through. I think there is still a little bit of a mental block going on, especially with what happened 12 months ago," said Gerrard, who was in charge of Liverpool's academy before taking up his first senior managerial position in May. Gerrard has brought in nine players as he looks to end the dominance of Glasgow rivals Celtic, who have won the league for seven straight years and completed an unprecedented 'double-treble' last season. Rangers have won a record 54 league titles but are struggling to recover from the financial problems that saw them reformed in the bottom tier of Scottish football in 2012. They open their Scottish Premiership campaign at Aberdeen on Aug 5. — Reuters

France WCup win triggers spike in hate speech: NGO

WARSAW: A Polish anti-racism NGO said yesterday that it has filed several dozen hate speech complaints with prosecutors after a spike in racial posts by Polish internet users against members of France's winning World Cup team. "The comments insult the French football players due to the color of their skin, comparing them to monkeys and using extremist racial epithets that are considered criminal in Poland," Konrad Dulkowski, head of the Warsaw-based Center for Monitoring Racist and Xenophobic Behavior, told AFP.

Hate speech carries a penalty of up to three years behind bars under article 257 of Poland's criminal code. Prosecutors have a month to decide whether they will launch investigations into the complaints. The organization has filed over 30 complaints so far and plans to file dozens more in the coming weeks, Dulkowski said. There were "thousands" of racist posts linked to the World Cup, but "not all meet the formal legal criteria required for prosecution," he added.

"Social media users began to send us links to hate speech posts right after the World Cup final on Sunday. Then we began to monitor football-related internet sites in Poland. "We found racist and hate speech posts under each news item," he said, adding that there had been a similar spike in racially based hate speech after Poland lost to Senegal in the group stage of the World Cup on June 19th. Rights groups in EU member Poland have warned that a spike in racist rhetoric and behavior has coincided with the rightwing, nationalist agenda pursued by the Law and Justice (PiS) government since it took office in 2015. — AFP

Asian Games venues '95 percent ready' but pitfalls remain

JAKARTA: Asian Games venues will be ready before Indonesia hosts the showpiece event in a month, organizers say, but the threat of terror attacks and endless traffic jams still looms over the huge tournament. An army of laborers has been toiling around the clock to finish building work, widen roads and plant trees in a breakneck bid to beautify Jakarta, a teeming metropolis that many visitors find tough to love. The athletes' village looks ready, but some competitors may need nose pegs — it backs out onto a toxic, foul-smelling river.

Jakarta and Palembang in Sumatra are set to host about 11,000 athletes and 5,000 officials from 45 Asian countries for the August 18 to September 2 Games, the world's biggest multi-sport event behind the Olympics. Apart from a still-unfinished squash complex, most venues appear nearly done. The Gelora Bung Karno main stadium, used when Indonesia last hosted the Games in 1962, has undergone a major renovation for the 30 trillion rupiah (\$2 billion) event. "I think all the venues, from what I see... 95 percent should be finished by end of July," chief organizer Erick Thohir, a media tycoon who is chairman of football club Inter Milan, said last week.

Epic traffic jams

Indonesia started with less time than most host countries. It agreed to host the Games when Vietnam pulled out, citing concerns over preparations and the heavy financial burden. Jakarta then moved the 40-sport Games forward by a year to 2018 to avoid a clash with national elections. But organizers insist it won't be a repeat of the 2004 Athens Olympics when the main stadium was completed just weeks before the opening ceremony, or Brazil's 2014 World Cup which went ahead in unfinished venues. The worst-case scenario remains New Delhi's 2010 Commonwealth Games, where problems ranged from filthy conditions at the athletes' village to collapsing infrastructure.

Indonesia had problems with the 2011 Southeast Asian Games following corruption scandals and a deadly stampede at the football final. But the biggest headache at the Asian Games may be getting athletes to venues on time. Jakarta has some of the world's worst traffic and choking air pollution that has forced organizers to come up with



YOGYAKARTA: Indonesian dancers perform during a procession with the Asian Games flame to the Ratu Boko temple in Yogyakarta yesterday. Indonesia will host the 2018 Asian Games on August 18 to September 2 in Jakarta and Palembang. — AFP

drastic solutions. Athletes and officials will travel on dedicated road lanes while Jakarta has put an odd-even licence plate system in place to limit congestion. Schools will also be closed to take the daily commute of millions of pupils out of the equation.

Security fears

Security is another concern with the Games coming just a few months after terror attacks in Indonesia's second-biggest city Surabaya killed a dozen people and reignited concerns about Islamist militants. Some 100,000 security staff will be deployed in Jakarta, Palembang and West Java, where several events are taking place.

"All safety elements are already in place," said national deputy police chief Syafruddin, who goes by one name. "We did not only think about security of the athletes, but we are also preparing safety measures for all aspects related to the games... of course the main priority is security." Police say they have been rounding up terror sus-

pects and petty street criminals in a pre-Games crackdown - and even fatally shooting some who resisted arrest. Many Jakartans seem unaware that their city is hosting a major event though, with promotion of the Games noticeably lacking. "What is it (the Asian Games)? I'm not too sure," said Jakarta-based entrepreneur Widi Astari.

Some who do know about the Games have complained about ticket prices, which range from about 50,000-300,000 rupiah (\$3.5-\$21) in a country where many live on a few dollars a day. "I think it will be great if the organizer provides tickets for the middle-lower class spectators because I think everybody wants to watch," said Ari Fajar. About one quarter of the 40,000 tickets available for the opening ceremonies - the cheapest are 750,000 rupiah - were snapped up in first week of sale on June 30. While the Games may not be picture perfect, Jakartan Nia is betting that her country won't embarrass itself. "At least the outside world will know Indonesia has tried its best," she said. — AFP

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AL punch NL in All-Star Game slugfest

Astros heroes power American League to Baseball All-Star win



WASHINGTON: Jean Segura #2 of the Seattle Mariners and the American League celebrates with third base coach Gary Pettis #8 of the Houston Astros after hitting a three-run home run in the eighth inning against the National League during the 89th MLB All-Star Game on July 17, 2018. — AFP

WASHINGTON: Back-to-back home runs by Houston Astros stars Alex Bregman and George Springer, part of a record 10-homer slugfest, powered the American League over the National League 8-6 in Tuesday's Major League Baseball All-Star Game. Each side blasted a record five homers to shatter the old combined All-Star Game mark of six last managed in 1971, but the decisive blasts came in the 10th inning from two members of the World Series champion Astros.

Two outs from defeat in the ninth inning, the National League equalized at 5-5 on pinch-hitter Scooter Gennett's two-run homer off American League relief pitcher Edwin Diaz. But AL third baseman Bregman, named the All-Star Game Most Valuable Player at age 24, homered to open the 10th and outfielder Springer followed with another blast off Los Angeles Dodgers right-hander Ross Stripling for a 7-5 American League lead. "To be able to hit the go-ahead homer is, I don't know, I'm on cloud nine," Bregman

said. "I kind of went into battle mode. Tried to hit a liner down the middle and it went yard. That was kind of cool."

They were only the sixth back-to-back homers in All-Star Game history and the first to occur in extra innings. Bregman helped the United States win the World Baseball Classic last year before his first full major league season, then played a key role in Houston's run to its first World Series title. "He just never ceases to amaze me with how well he shows control in pressure situations," said AL and Astros manager A.J. Hinch. "His heart beats big for us in the big moments." Jean Segura, who belted a three-run homer in the eighth to give the AL a 5-2 edge, singled after Springer and later scored the only run not produced by a homer on a Michael Brantley sacrifice fly.

Joey Votto led off the National League 10th with a homer to create the final margin, but Toronto Blue Jays left-handed pitcher J.A. Happ, who wasn't expected to

take the mound, retired the next three batters to end the three-hour, 34-minute spectacle. "It didn't make me happy we were going to extra innings but I was happy for J.A. Happ," Hinch said. "To get the last out for him was pretty meaningful." The American League took a 44-43 lead with two drawn in the all-time rivalry before a crowd of 43,843 in the first meeting of select squads in the US capital since 1969. It was the American League's sixth consecutive victory and 18th in the past 21 contests.

Diaz was the winning pitcher with Stripling the loser and Happ getting the save in the highest-scoring All-Star Game since 2002, which had 25 strikeouts as well as 10 homers. "Standard operation these days," Hinch said. "At the start we wondered if anyone was going to get a hit that wasn't a home run. At the end it was, 'Are we going to have enough pitching to get out of this mess?' We had just enough left in the tank." Chicago Cubs catcher Wilson Contreras, Colorado shortstop

Trevor Story and Milwaukee outfielder Christian Yelich also hit solo homers for the National League. New York Yankees slugger Aaron Judge and Mike Trout also hit solo homers for the American League.

Family ties to legend

Bregman said last year's intense situations playing for titles helped him come through in the All-Star Game. "I like going head-to-head and best man win. I feel like I've been in those situations a lot in two years," said Bregman. "Each time you fail gets you better the next time you're in that situation. To come through in that situation was cool." Bregman's grandfather was an attorney for the Washington Senators, who moved to Texas in 1971, and helped the club land baseball legend Ted Williams, for whom the All-Star MVP trophy is named, as the club's general manager. "My dad grew up on Ted Williams' lap," Bregman said. "So to see Ted Williams MVP on this trophy is pretty special." — AFP

Wenger regrets staying at Arsenal for 22 years

PARIS: Arsene Wenger has said staying at Arsenal manager for nearly 22 years may have been the biggest mistake of his career and that he regrets sacrificing "everything" for the job. The 68-year-old Frenchman, who was appointed in Oct. 1996, left the north London club at the end of last season after winning three Premier League titles and seven FA Cups. In an interview with French outlet RTL, Wenger said he will make a decision on his future "in the next few months". When asked what was the biggest mistake of his career, Wenger said: "Perhaps staying at the same club for 22 years. 'I'm someone who

likes new things, likes change. But I also like challenges. I was a little bit of a prisoner to my challenge each time."

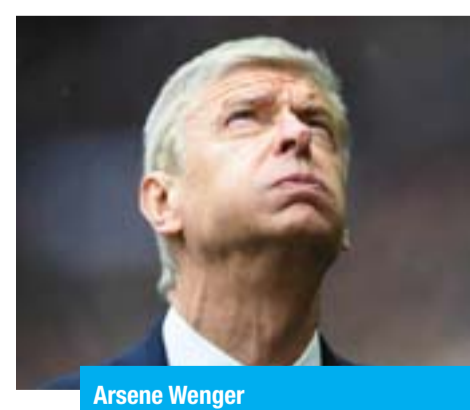
Wenger admitted he was obsessed with ensuring Arsenal's success on the pitch, adding that sacrifices in his personal life were one of the hardest parts of being a manager. "I regret having sacrificed everything I did because I realize I've hurt a lot of people around me," he added. "I've neglected a lot of people. I've neglected my family, I've neglected many close ones. Deep down though, the obsessed man is selfish in his pursuit of what he loves. He ignores a lot of other things. But it's a bone to chase at the same time." Wenger was also confident that former Arsenal players Thierry Henry and Patrick Vieira, who are now pursuing coaching careers, have the qualities to succeed at the top level.

Vieira recently became Nice coach, while Henry, assistant to Belgium boss Roberto Martinez at the World Cup, has quit his Sky Sports punditry role to focus on becoming a manager. However, Wenger warned the French pair of the sacrifices involved in fol-

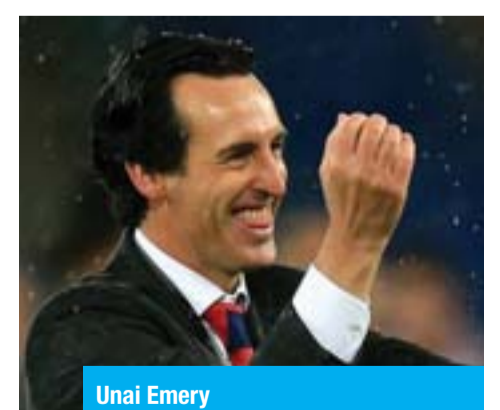
lowing a coaching career. "Often, I'm asked if Thierry Henry and Patrick Vieira will be good managers and I always answer yes," he said. "They have all the qualities; they are intelligent, they know football, they have excellent skill sets, but do they want to sacrifice what needs to be sacrificed to do only that? It's an obsession which bounces around your head day and night."

Arsenal's 'best signing'

Arsenal made their best signing of the transfer window when they appointed Spaniard Unai Emery as their new manager, the Premier League club's former winger Robert Pires has said. The north London outfit chose Emery, a former Sevilla and Paris St Germain boss, to succeed long-serving manager Arsene Wenger in May and the 46-year-old has already signed five new players as he overhauls the squad. "The best signing for me is Unai Emery, the manager. Of course I believe in the players, and especially the new players," Pires, who played under Wenger for six years between 2000-06, told Sky Sports News. "He won in Spain.



Arsene Wenger



Unai Emery

He won in France. He has a lot of experience and I hope for him and Arsenal that he is successful with the club."

Uruguay international Lucas Torreira and teenager Matteo Guendouzi became Arsenal's latest arrivals last week, while long-serving midfielder Jack Wilshere left the club earlier this month to join league rivals West Ham United. Emery took charge of his first match in Saturday's 8-0

win over fifth-tier side Boreham Wood but will face sterner tests against Spain's Atletico Madrid and former club Paris St Germain in a pre-season tournament in Singapore next week. The Spaniard has been tasked with improving on Arsenal's sixth-placed league finish and their run to the Europa League semi-finals last season. The Gunners also suffered a shock third round exit in the FA Cup. — Agencies