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CSC targets forgers as MPs urge action on fake degrees

Assembly to discuss jailing of MPs in next term • MP seeks clarity on banks' merger

By B Izzak and Agencies

KUWAIT: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has taken several measures against suspects accused of forging educational certificates and diplomas. CSC President Ahmad Al-Jassar announced yesterday. The action was taken after the CSC received a document from the ministry of higher education containing the names of several suspects.

The measures included withdrawing administrative decisions issued based on the forged documents, Jassar said. He also pointed out that some of the procedures also insisted on "the recovery of all the finances that were spent unjustly on the suspects". Jassar affirmed that CSC operates according to the law and will not tolerate or hide those named in the list by the education ministry.

The decisions taken by CSC came within the framework of the fight against corruption and applying the law on everyone equally, Jassar added. CSC, under the

supervision of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh and leaders of CSC, conducted the necessary research with utmost accuracy and speed to cooperate with the ministry of higher education on this matter of grave importance, he affirmed.

National Assembly Speaker Marzouk Al-Ghanem and several MPs have called for taking tough action against those who allegedly obtained fake university degrees and even managed to register them at the ministry of higher education after paying bribes. Ghanem called for taking all the legal actions against such people and for publishing their names after they are convicted by courts.

The new calls come after Education Minister Hamed Al-Azmi said 40 such degrees have been referred to the public prosecution for criminal action against those involved, amid reports that the number of such illegal degrees is as high as 400. "I would like to thank Dr Al-

Azmi and the entire staff of the education ministry for their efforts to get to the bottom of this issue," Ghanem said in a statement.

MP Mohammad Al-Dallal said the education minister is required to publicize the names of those who are trying to prevent investigations into the fake degrees. He said the revelations regarding this issue have shocked the society and have clouded the education network with suspicion, adding that an Assembly panel on employing Kuwaitis will meet soon to discuss the issue. MP Mubarak Al-Harees called on the minister to continue with his reforms and to expand investigation to include previous years so as to expose this issue.

Meanwhile, reports said that the minister has referred the degree of a well-known professor to the public prosecution on suspicion that the degree is fake. Also, Manpower and Government Restructuring Program Secretary General Fauzi Al-Majdali said in a bid to

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Mercedes-Benz abandons 64-year Kuwait partnership in questionable want for change

By Khaled Al-Yousef

Daimler AG, the multinational automotive corporation and maker of Mercedes-Benz vehicles, has ended its 64-year relationship with its longstanding Kuwaiti partner Abdul Rahman Albisher & Zaid Alkazemi Company. On June 11th, 2018, a leaked letter circulated throughout Kuwait confirming the rumor of a looming termination from Daimler to end its six-decade relationship with their local partner.

With a relationship older than 95 percent of the Kuwaiti population, changing partners given such strong brand association is deeply damaging to the brand. Reasons for such a burden on the brand remain unknown, though it is believed to be due to a years-long quarrel between different shareholders of the Kuwaiti partner - an internal issue characteristic to many such companies in the region, but rarely culminating in termination.

Who is Daimler and why did it file for this ugly divorce in Kuwait? To give some context on them, it seems that the past decade has shed new darkness on the company. A slew of anti-corruption lawsuits brought against Daimler in the United States, Germany, and the EU have severely tainted their reputation and cost them plummeting profits and market share.

Arguably, the first high-profile case brought against Daimler this decade was in 2010, where it was embroiled in an anti-bribery case filed by the US Justice Department and Securities and Exchange Commission. Daimler was accused of bribing foreign government officials with gifts and money in order to secure contracts worldwide. The SEC investigation exposed around 200 cases in over 22 countries that earned the company \$1.9 billion in revenue and no less than \$91.4 million in purportedly illegal profits. This includes a charge of breaching the United Nations' Oil for Food Program in Iraq during the Saddam Hussein regime, where Daimler offered the Iraqi government 10 percent in kickbacks of contract values. The suit ended with a settlement of \$185 million - a mere slap on the wrist.

Daimler seemed to pay little heed to sterilize their workforce from corruption as the years to follow only brought more scandals and lawsuits. In Germany, and in the EU, Daimler was ordered to recall millions of their cars that were found to have installed an illegal software that disguised diesel emissions. And to add insult to injury, this year, Daimler along with Deutsche Telekom AG were impelled to pay \$3.8 billion to the German government to end a decade-long dispute over a faulty software that was not able to calculate and accurately collect truck tolls.

Moreover, in the US, Daimler were put under scrutiny after a series of racial harassment cases rose to the surface, casting light on the company's ethical misconduct. Daimler, in 2017, were forced to pay \$750,000 to an African American worker who was subjected to a hostile work environment. Previously in 2014, they paid \$2.4 million to six other minority workers to settle a racial discrimination and sexual harassment suit.

It seems clear then that Daimler has a recurring and critical issue: An untrustworthy or amoral management. Due to the notoriety of these cases, Dr Dieter Zetsche, chairman of Daimler's management board, in an evident acknowledgement of souring sentiments surrounding the company's volatile road of the past few years, released a seemingly penitent statement. "We have learned a lot from past experience," he said, adding, "Today, we are a better and stronger company, and we will continue to do everything we can to maintain the highest compliance standards."

This brings us to their latest debacle: Their mysterious change of heart with their Kuwaiti partner, Abdul Rahman Albisher & Zaid Alkazemi Company, the company with whose name the Mercedes-Benz brand has come to be inextricably bound over the decades.

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Rouhani: Conflict with Iran would be 'mother of all wars'

TEHRAN: Iran's President Hassan Rouhani warned the United States not to "play with the lion's tail" yesterday, saying that conflict with Iran would be the "mother of all wars". Addressing his US counterpart Donald Trump, Rouhani said: "You declare war and then you speak of wanting to support the Iranian people. "You cannot provoke the Iranian people against their own security and interests," he said in a televised speech at a gathering of Iranian diplomats in Tehran.

Rouhani repeated his warning that Iran could shut down the strategic Strait of Hormuz, a vital shipping lane for international oil supplies. "We have always guaranteed the security of this strait. Do not play with the lion's tail, you will regret it forever," he said. "Peace with Iran would be the mother of all peace and war with Iran would be the mother of all wars."

Continued on Page 24



TEHRAN: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani attends a meeting with foreign ministry officials yesterday. — AFP

Embassy clarifies \$10K deposit to be paid by maid recruitment firms

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: The Philippine Embassy yesterday clarified that domestic worker recruitment agencies in Kuwait will have to deposit \$10,000 in an escrow account as required by Manila, and not for each worker hired. "We are trying our best to lower the cost of hiring domestic helpers, which is now KD 990. Even this amount is not a regulation from the Philippine government - it is demanded by local recruitment agencies," said Ma Teresa Olgado, Assistant Labor Attache to Kuwait. "We are in serious discussions with the authorities"

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Israel evacuates hundreds of White Helmets to Jordan

JERUSALEM/AMMAN: Hundreds of Syrian "White Helmet" rescue workers and their families fled advancing government forces and slipped over the border into Jordan overnight with the help of Israeli soldiers and Western powers, officials said. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a brief video statement yesterday he had helped the evacuation at the request of US President Donald Trump and other leaders - and there had been fears that the workers' lives were at risk.

The group, known officially as Syria Civil Defense, has been widely hailed in the West and credited with saving thousands of people in rebel-held areas during years of bombing attacks by Damascus and its allies. Its members, known for their white helmets, say they are neutral. But Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad and his

Continued on Page 24



DARAA, Syria: In this file photo taken on April 8, 2017, White Helmets remove a victim from the rubble of his house following an air strike by government forces on a rebel-held area. — AFP

Sisi: Rumors main threat to Arab countries

CAIRO: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi warned yesterday that Arab countries, including Egypt, were vulnerable to imploding from within under what he described as a barrage of rumors aimed at spreading instability. Addressing a military academy graduation ceremony in Cairo, Sisi said that his government had detected 21,000 false rumors over a period of three months.

"The real danger is blowing up countries from within. Rumors, acts of terrorism, loss of hope and feeling of frustration, all these work in a grand network

aimed at one objective, only one objective, and that is to move people to destroy their country," Sisi said, speaking in Arabic. "Destroying our countries will not happen unless it came from within. We must be alert and pay attention to what is being spun against us in secret," he added, without naming any party. He said that while he understood the economic hardships that ordinary Egyptians are enduring due to economic reforms, nothing justifies "causing chaos and destroying the state".

At the ceremony, which was attended by senior army officers including former army chief Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi, Sisi also lavished praise on army officers who overthrew the monarchy in 1952 in what is known as the "July 23 Revolution", including the late presidents Mohammed Naguib, Gamal Abdel Nasser and Anwar Sadat. — Reuters



CAIRO: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi shakes hands with cadets during the graduation ceremony of new officers at the army academy in the capital yesterday. — AFP

Amir, Crown Prince receive top officials at Seif 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 Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



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



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



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

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

Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also received Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem and Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister,

Interior Minister, and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Khaled Al-Saleh. — KUNA

Kuwaiti port operations back to normal

KUWAIT: Maritime traffic has resumed across Kuwaiti ports after a palpable improvement in weather conditions, the country's port authority said yesterday. Navigation operations have resumed at Shuwaikh, Shuaiba and Doha ports

after the weather has stabilized, Kuwait Port Authority (KPA) said in a statement. Maritime traffic had been paralyzed in Kuwaiti ports a day earlier as a result of deteriorating weather conditions, KPA said. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Images from the dust storm that hit Kuwait on Saturday. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

AIPU lauds Kuwait's support towards Palestinians: Speaker

KUWAIT: The 28th extraordinary session of Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), held in Cairo on Saturday, lauded the Kuwaiti brave stance with the Palestinian people and their rights for self-determination and freedom, said Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem yesterday. Speaking to the press at the National Assembly's headquarters, Speaker Ghanem said that the final communique of the AIPU session had reflected a strong Arab position against the Israeli occupiers who are continually trying to strip the Palestinians from their national identity and rights. The AIPU had displayed an unwavering stance against Israeli attempts to oppress Palestinians especially with the 'Jewish nation-state' legislation passed lately by the Knesset, said Ghanem who affirmed that Kuwait and the Arab world will continue their efforts to oppose Israel both regionally and internationally.

Ghanem had returned home from Cairo along with the Parliamentary delegation accompanying him, after the conclusion of the AIPU extraordinary session on Saturday. On his arrival, Ghanem was received at the airport by the Minister of State for National Assembly Adel Al-Kharafi and the Secretary-General of the National Assembly Allam Al-Kandari, as well as Egypt's Ambassador to Kuwait Tareq Al-Qouni. The delegation accompanying Ghanem included National Assembly Secretary Dr Odeh Al-Rowaie and Deputies Ali Al-Deqbasi, Dr Khalil Abul, and Al-Humaidi Al-Subaie. The 28th extraordinary session of the AIPU discussed the developments in the occupied Palestinian territories and the continued Israeli attacks on the Palestinian people.

Kuwait's support

Members of the AIPU had commended Kuwait's support of the Palestinian cause at all levels and different conferences. The AIPU members, in a final statement following an urgent session on Palestine held at request of Ghanem, praised Kuwait's role within the UN

Security Council, UN General Assembly and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to rallying support for the Palestinian cause. They refused the US recognition of Jerusalem as capital of Israel as well as moving the American embassy to the city.

This decision, they said, was destroying the peace process and all international agreements related to the Palestinian cause. The US is therefore no longer a true broker of peace process and has become a party that supports aggression rather than justice and peace, which contradicts with the declared American position as a neutral sponsor of the peace process in the Middle East and bringing justice for the Palestinian people to establish their independent state, they said. They called for setting up an international framework to sponsor the Middle East peace process, paving way for a just and lasting solution for the Palestinian cause.

US veto

The Arab MPs condemned the US veto of a draft UN resolution that would have stopped recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moving of the embassy. This veto, they said, was siding with injustice, by also aborting a draft UN resolution to protect the Palestinian people. They urged the UNGA to adopt all necessary measures to implement its resolutions. The MPs said Arabs were supporting just peace that would guarantee rights of the Palestinian people. They condemned the Israeli inhumane aggression against unarmed Palestinians in Jerusalem, Gaza Strip and all occupied lands.

They condemned Israel's annexation of Palestinian lands to build Jewish settlements, force deportation of Palestinians in an attempt to change the demographic status of Palestinian lands. The AIPU members urged Arab parliaments and governments to boost support for the Palestinian people to enable them defend their lands and holy sites. They condemned Israel's seizure of financial assets of Palestinian prisoners and martyrs, calling for their return. They also denounced the Israeli parliament, Knesset, Jewish nation law which not only contravened with human rights principles but undermined international endeavors to solve the Palestinian cause. The Arab MPs rejected cut of funding from UNRWA, commended Egypt's role in reconciling between Fatah and Hamas and praised Saudi Arabia's support of the Palestinians. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Parliament Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem returns home after attending the AIPU session. — KUNA

Local

377,000 Captagon tablets busted at Abdaly border

Parcel containing four kilograms of cannabis arrives at post office

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

KUWAIT: Abdaly customs officers caught a Syrian driver with 377,000 Captagon tablets upon his arrival from Iraq. The tablets were hidden in the truck's chassis and were detected by a newly-installed x-ray system. The suspect was sent to concerned authorities.

Meanwhile, Customs General Department Director Jamal Al-Jalawi said the recent repeated achievements by custom inspectors at various border exits are the result of these inspectors' sense of responsibility and alertness to prevent smuggling drugs and other banned items into the country. Speaking while supervising the seizure of the Captagon pills in Abdaly, Jalawi said Abdaly customs 'hawks' had managed to stop the driver's attempt. "This came a few days after seizing 96,000 pills with a Gulf bus driver," he added. Land exits manager Meshaan Al-Saeedy said that these achievements were made by faithful work, constant training, daily instructions and well-structured planning.

In a separate case, Hitteen postal department foiled an attempt to smuggle four kilograms of cannabis that arrived from an Asian country. The parcel was sent to concerned authorities.



KUWAIT: Bags containing Captagon tablets busted with a driver who tried to smuggle them into Kuwait through the Abdaly border crossing.



Customs officers remove the drugs from a hidden place inside the suspect's truck.



This picture released by the Interior Ministry shows a vehicle stolen by two citizens who were arrested yesterday.

Ahmadi crackdown

The Relations and Security Information Department of the Interior Ministry said a campaign in Ahmadi resulted in the arrest of 30 persons wanted over debts, nine absconders, seven without IDs, two residency violators and an Asian with 91 liquor bottles. Several traffic citations were filed and 11 vehicles were impounded.

Thieves caught

Ahmadi detectives solved the mystery of robberies as two citizens were arrested and confessed to committing the crimes. The two said they committed several thefts in various areas around Kuwait, as the number of similar crimes reached 23 felonies and 29 misdemeanors. They were sent to concerned authorities.

Negligence

A police source said when a citizen went to his ex-wife's house to see his 10-year-old son, he noticed a wound, which the boy said he sustained while playing with his friends. The father took the boy to hospital

and obtained a medical report, then lodged a complaint against the boy's mother for negligence.

Bootlegger in custody

Police in Rehab arrested an Indian man who works at a laundry shop for selling liquor. The arrest was made at a checkpoint after police could smell alcohol from inside the driver's car. When the vehicle was searched, 66 locally-made bottles were found. He was sent to concerned authorities.

Fugitive nabbed

A citizen wanted to serve a seven-year jail sentence for sexual molestation was arrested in Farwaniya. He was pulled over, then when his ID was checked, he was found to be wanted, and sent to concerned authorities.

Drug possession

Police in Fintas pulled over a car with four men onboard, who were all in an abnormal condition after using drugs. They were asked to get out of the car. The three citizens and a Saudi were found wanted over

debts totaling more than KD 67,000. They had shabu, hashish and drugs paraphernalia. They were sent to the Drug Control General Department.

Swindling

Naeem police station's investigator ordered the arrest of a bedoon for swindling a citizen out of KD 35,000. The citizen submitted a copy of a cheque he gave to the suspect. The bedoon asked the citizen to partner with him in a general trading company and share the profits, but he later discovered he was cheated.

Fight

A bedoon man beat his brother who works as a policeman, and left him suffering from cuts and bruises. The beating was due to differences between the brothers, and arguments escalated to a fight. The policeman lodged a complaint against his brother and investigations have commenced.

Domestic problems

A citizen who returned to his Qasr apartment found



Contrabands busted with suspects arrested during a recent security campaign in Ahmadi.

most of its contents missing, particularly electronic systems. He accused his wife of stealing the equipment after domestic problems between the two, after which the wife left the house. He lodged a complaint at Naeem police station.

Sexual harassment

Ahmadi prosecutor ordered an Egyptian man to be detained at Fahaheel police station, as he was charged with sexual harassment. A Filipina woman who works in a Fahaheel supermarket told police she was harassed by a man as she was leaving work. Passersby responded to her screams and caught him. The suspect denied her claims, and investigations are underway.

Multiple arrests in Ahmadi crackdown



Fire destroys dhow near Sharq fish market

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A dhow was totally destroyed when a huge fire broke out onboard while it was docked near the fish market in Sharq yesterday, said security sources. Strong winds helped flames spread to two other boats,

which forced other boat owners to quickly sail away in order to avoid the flames, the sources added. The fire was controlled without reporting any casualties. Separately, a car was completely engulfed in flames in front of its owner's Qairawan home. Firemen responded and put out the fire, which destroyed the car and the front facade of the house. Preliminary investigations revealed that the fire was deliberate as gasoline was poured on it. The owner accused three people, two bedoons and a Syrian, of the arson due to previous disputes with them. Two of the accused were arrested while one bedoon man is still at large. Meanwhile, firemen tackled a blaze in a Farwaniya carpenter shop located in the basement of a building. Firemen evacuated the building and put out the fire quickly.



KUWAIT: Flames engulf a dhow near the fish market in Sharq yesterday. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh



Firefighters are seen at the site of a carpenter shop in Farwaniya.

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Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: The Avenues Mall lit up in red to mark the Inclusion Day in Kuwait City on July 20, 2018. Light Up for Inclusion is part of the Special Olympics' 50th anniversary celebrations and represents a global display of unity with over 170 landmarks across the world being lit up in red. — AFP photo

Society calls for new ministry to enhance transparency, fight corruption

Ten state departments included into civil defense committee

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

KUWAIT: Chairman of Kuwait Transparency Society (KTS) Majed Al-Mutairi said Kuwait is in dire need to establish a special ministry responsible for enhancing the concepts of transparency and fighting corruption, and act as the official front of executives. There is an urgent need to establish such a ministry, he said, adding that it matches international requirements, especially in view of the government's agenda that prioritizes fighting corruption.

Mutairi noted that the new ministry would complement the jurisdictions and liabilities of the Public Anti-Corruption Authority, also referred to as 'Nazahah' (integrity) in Arabic. "It will encourage Nazahah to do its job perfectly and provide it with the needed political status," he added, noting that administrative development and strategic planning should be part of the new ministry's duties in addition to highlighting the government's efforts in enhancing Nazahah and coordinating with various bodies to promote national and public awareness in this regard.

Mutairi added that KTS' new board of directors prioritizes effective participation in the national anti-corruption

strategy that will improve Kuwait's ranking in the international Corruption Perception Index (CPI), which requires constant contact with the government and the parliament.

Civil defense

The Cabinet issued resolution number 962/2018 to include 10 government bodies into the civil defense committee. This includes assistant undersecretaries from the Finance Ministry, Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI), Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA), Public Authority for Industry (PAI), Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART), the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW), Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA), Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) and Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR).

Notably, the civil defense committee, headed by the interior minister, is responsible for coordinating civil defense plans' implementation amongst various bodies. The committee already includes representatives of the Ministry of Interior (MoI), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), Defense Ministry, Ministry of Electricity

and Water (MEW), Ministry of Health (MoH), Oil Ministry, Ministry of Services, Information Ministry, Ministry of Public Works (MPW), Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MSAL), Kuwait National Guard, the Environment Public Authority (EPA), the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), Kuwait Municipality, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD), the Customs General Department and Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS).

Kuwait's population

The total number of Kuwait's population reached 4,588,148 as of the end of June 2018, including 1,385,960 citizens and 3,202,188 non-Kuwaitis, of which 680,000 are domestic helpers, according to Public Authority for Civil Information's database. Moreover, statistics issued last January showed that citizens represent only 31 percent of the total population, whereas citizens were 63 percent of the population in Saudi Arabia, 56 percent in Oman, 47 percent in Bahrain, 21 percent in Qatar and 19 percent in UAE. Meanwhile, citizens in all GCC states form only 52 per-

cent of the total GCC population, Al-Anbaa reported, quoting the statistics.

Biometric access control

The Ministry of Education (MoE) decided to commit private school directors and their assistants to use the biometric access control systems after the related tender procedures to install fingerprint scanners are completed and the devices are installed by the beginning of the second term of the upcoming school year, said educational sources. Fingerprinting will be mandatory for all staff working in public schools and government employees working in private schools, the sources added. Notably, the private education general department appoints a director and assistant director in every private school to run them and follow up implementation of MoE regulations.

Labor dormitories

Minister of the Municipality Hosam Al-Roumi issued a decision amending ministerial resolution number 206/2009 pertaining with organizing construction of industrial facilities to allow building labor dormitories on no more than 10 percent of the industrial plot's total area.

TEC lights up Kuwait Towers with Special Olympics logo

KUWAIT: In celebration of the 50-year anniversary of the launch of the Special Olympics, the Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC) lent its support by lighting up Kuwait Towers in red and projecting the Special Olympics logo on the national landmark. With this, TEC joined the global celebrations which took place from the 19th to the 21st of July, where some of the most famous landmarks and monuments across the globe lit up in red to support the worthy cause.

This initiative came as a result of TEC's collaboration with Kuwait's Al-Tamooh Sports Club; a sports association for persons with intellectual disabilities in Kuwait and also Kuwait's official regional and international representative in the Special Olympics. TEC's participation in this global initiative comes as part of its efforts to support young talented athletes with intellectual disabilities and members of the Kuwait Special Olympics.



It is worth noting that this is not the first time that Kuwait Towers have lit up in support of a worthy cause or initiative. This comes as part of TEC's commitment to its social responsibility and its efforts to promote social awareness across diverse segments within the local community.

KFSD, Kuwait University sign agreement

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Director General of Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) Lt Gen Khalid Al-

Mikrad and Kuwait University Rector Hussein Al-Ansari signed a three-year memorandum of understanding to serve the country. The signing reflects KFSD's belief in the impor-

tance of sustained development and to support means of scientific, cultural and technical cooperation between the two sides, KFSD said in a statement.



Kuwait University Rector Hussein Al-Ansari signs the agreement.



KUWAIT: Director General of Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) Lt Gen Khalid Al-Mikrad signs the agreement.

Local

Private sector's social responsibility projects contribute to Kuwait's development

Bridging the gap between businesses and the general populace

KUWAIT: Social responsibility campaigns carried out by the private sector are contributing to the overall development of Kuwait and its governance system. By allocating a percentage of its profits to aid social campaigns, the private sector is not only spreading community awareness, it is also bridging the gap between businesses and the general populace. For example, the banking sector had contributed around KD 544 million (\$1.7 billion) between 1992 and 2017 to social causes, reflecting keenness on providing a helping hand to the people.

Speaking on the matter, a number of banking associates, company personnel and economic experts stressed the importance of giving back to society. General Manager of Boubyan Bank Waleed Al-Yaqout said that social responsibility campaigns had become a priority for many private sector entities who acknowledge positive impact of such activities. Most companies nowadays focus on future social campaigns that would spread awareness and

help society to develop as a whole, said Al-Yaqout who added that such campaigns were also good for business because consumers were keen on dealing with social conscious entities. Boubyan Bank had



**KD 544 million
contributed
between 1992
and 2017**

launched 100 social projects last year and will continue to do so to benefit society, said Al-Yaqout.

Social-oriented projects
Group Communications Director at

Kuwait Projects Company (KIPCO) Eman Al-Awadhi said that the company prioritized social-oriented projects knowing it was an integral part of overall development. Awadhi stressed that social responsibility should be based on total transparency that would ensure fair and reasonable competition amongst private sector entities. KIPCO donates around one percent of its profits to charity, said Al-Awadhi who revealed that the company had contributed around KD seven million (\$23 million) to help in the construction of the Sheikhha Salwa Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Stem Cell and Umbilical Cord. She added that the company also supported youth-initiated projects through the annual Tamkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs.

Meanwhile, Senior Manager of Sponsorships, CSR and Social Media at Ooredoo telecom company Youssef Al-Shallal affirmed that they were keen on annually partaking social responsibility



projects, which considered as part of the company's national duty. The telecommunication sector is one of the most important components of the national economy and it

is natural that Ooredoo is keen and willing to provide all necessary social assistance to aid in Kuwait's development both economically and socially, said Shallal. — KUNA

Gulf Bank concludes summer internship program



KUWAIT: Gulf Bank concluded its first summer internship session that saw a mix of university student backgrounds. The program is developed to create a practical understanding of the banking sector in general and Gulf Bank culture in particular.

The students greatly benefited from their interaction with Gulf Bank staff and saw how the Bank operates through their presence at Gulf Bank's branches and departments. Throughout their internship, the interns got a sense of what is required to succeed in a banking career and understood that a bank has many career opportunities

for graduates from different academic backgrounds. Generally, the internship experience at Gulf Bank sought to empower interns to help them understand the functioning of the bank with both theory and practical applications.

The internship strategy at Gulf Bank is to help prepare students interested in pursuing a banking career develop the right mind-set, attitude, and skills required to succeed in a future banking career. Another key aspect that is central to the internship process is to help the students manage the transition from the world of academia into the corpo-

rate world, which sometimes can be tough for those not adequately prepared.

Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager of Human Resources at Gulf Bank, said: "We look forward to raising the bar further, as this initiative complements other initiatives that we as a Bank engage with that aspire to give back to the local community and help prepare the leaders of tomorrow by empowering them to undergo a distinct experience." This initiative comes in line with the Gulf Bank's overall strategy to become the 'Employer of Choice' for National Graduates that are keen on building banking careers.

Ahli Bank conducts vocational orientation for students at ACK

KUWAIT: Continuing its efforts towards empowerment of youth, Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) conducted a vocational orientation at the Australian College of Kuwait. The one-day event, exclusive to ABK, was held on July 17, 2018, in line with the College's Career Day initiatives within its campus.

As part of this event, ABK's human resources specialists organized a presentation where students were given a first-hand opportunity to understand roles and responsibilities within the banking sector. The bank's representatives also provided

personal feedback to students and answered questions regarding career development opportunities within ABK.

ABK also made on-the-spot offers to exceptional talent in order to give them the opportunity to work at ABK. To date, ABK has participated in numerous career fairs with the purpose of offering career development support to talented and educated Kuwaiti youth. In addition, the bank has sponsored students and existing employees looking to further nurture their skills through university scholarships.



KUWAIT: Fadel Al-Jazzaf, Ghaliyah Al-Saheh and Al-Anood Al-Ghanem from ABK participate in the orientation meeting at ACK.

KAPP calls on companies for electricity, water projects

KUWAIT: Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) yesterday called on local, regional and international companies to apply for investment in power plants and water desalination projects in Kuwait by November 18. Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) said in a press release that competent international, regional, and local companies are invited to submit Expression of Interest (EOIs) for Al-Khairan phase 1 and Al-Zour North 2 and 3 IWPP Projects.

The projects will be procured as public private partnership (PPP), in accordance with the Law 39/2010 and its executive regulations along with any applicable provisions under the Law 116/2014 and its executive regulations. KAPP pointed out. The objectives of the Projects are to introduce the private-sector practices and capital to sectors that are traditionally under the control of the public sector and reduce overall costs to the State of Kuwait for provision of power generation and water production. Along with improving reliability of power generation and water production capacities, it would also introduce competition to the electricity and water sectors, and promote efficiencies.

Al-Zour North 2 and 3 Project will be the second phase of the IWPP Al-Zour North and will be located on the Al-Zour North site adjacent to the west boundary of the Al-Zour North 1 IWPP and to the North boundary of



KUWAIT: Al-Zour North Power and Desalination Plant.

the existing Al-Zour South power complex, approximately 100 km south of Kuwait City on the Arabian Gulf coast. The scope of Al-Zour North 2 and 3 Project is to design, build, finance, operate and transfer a power generation and water desalination plant using a gas turbine combined cycle technology with a net power capacity about 2700 MW at reference site conditions and net water capacity of 165 MIGPD.

Al-Khairan Phase 1 Project will be located on the Al-Khairan site adjacent to the south boundary of the existing Al-Zour South power complex, approximately 100 km south of Kuwait City. The scope of Al-Khairan Phase 1 Project is to design, build, finance, operate and transfer a power generation and water desalination plant using a gas turbine com-

combined cycle technology with a net power capacity of approximately 1,800 MW at reference site conditions and a net water capacity of 125 MIGD.

All interested and competent companies are requested to visit the following website of the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects www.kapp.gov.kw/en/Procurement in order to obtain the Request for EOI document, which is available free of charge. EOIs for the Project must be submitted by e-mail to IWPP@kapp.gov.kw and be in accordance with the submission requirements set out in the Request for EOI document, by no later than 12 noon (Kuwait time) on Sunday November 18, 2018. The EOI process will be followed by a Request for Qualification phase to be announced at a later date. — KUNA

NBK participates in Loyac's 'KON' program

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) participated in Loyac's social entrepreneurship program 'KON'. The program is a social entrepreneurship program that is co-created with Babson College. It aims to introduce young adults between the ages of 12 to 16 to the world business and to turn their ideas into action.

Throughout the five-week program, NBK Business Banking Team Manager, Bader Al-Ansari along with a group of professional leaders, mentors and trainers, encouraged the participants to cre-

ate a profitable business that solves a social problem.

NBK's participation in the program comes as a part of its continuous support to Loyac. NBK is dedicated towards supporting talented young people and empowering them towards achieving their goals. 'KON' is one of these initiatives that help invest and support young youths. NBK is elated with the outcome of the program and looks forward to seeing the participants moving into key leadership roles in their near future.

NBK is committed to supporting talented and qualified youngsters and empowering them to realize their potentials. The 'KON' program goes along with NBK's initiatives to invest in youth and support their aspirations. NBK believes that investing in human resources is investing in our future. NBK looks forward with high expectations for the outcomes of 'KON'.





In rural Zimbabwe, the novel taste of a peaceful election

Pakistan candidate gets life term in drug case



KABUL: A member of the Afghan security forces gestures as he stands near bodies of victims following a suicide attack. — AFP

11 dead in attack on Kabul airport

Suicide bomber targets supporters of VP Dostum returning from exile

KABUL: A suicide bomber killed at least 11 people and wounded 14 at the entrance to Kabul international airport yesterday, officials said, as scores gathered to welcome home Afghan Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum from exile. Senior government officials, political leaders and supporters were leaving the airport after greeting the powerful ethnic Uzbek leader and former warlord when the explosion happened. Dostum, clad in a Western suit and sunglasses and travelling in an armored vehicle, was unharmed, said his spokesman Bashir Ahmad Tayanj.

Kabul Police spokesman Hashmat Stanikzai said 11 people had been killed and 14 wounded. He did not give a breakdown. The suicide bomber was on foot, interior ministry spokesman Najib Danish said, adding that civilians, including a child, and security force members were among the casualties. Dostum, who is linked to a catalogue of human rights abuses in Afghanistan, was mobbed like a celebrity as he left the chartered plane from Turkey where he has lived since May 2017.

His return, which has been the subject of much specula-

tion, comes amid violent protests in several provinces across northern Afghanistan, his traditional power base. Thousands of Dostum's supporters have taken to the streets in recent weeks, shuttering election and government offices and blocking sections of highways to demand the release of a pro-government militia leader and call for Dostum's return.

Expectations of the return did little to quell the unrest, with protesters vowing yesterday to continue demonstrating until the burly leader of the Uzbek ethnic minority tells them otherwise. "We don't trust the government. We will continue our protests unless General Dostum tells us to stop," Ehsanullah Qowanch, a protest leader in Faryab province, told AFP. Qowanch also repeated calls for the release of Nezamuddin Qaisari—a district police chief and

Dostum's provincial representative in Faryab—whose arrest earlier this month ignited the protests. Another protester, Massoud Khan, said: "We have been on the streets for 20 days now. We are not going to stop our protests unless our demands are met."



Linked to a catalogue of human rights abuses

a political rival. He had denied the allegations and said his departure was for medical check-ups and family reasons. Ghani in 2009 described Dostum as a "known killer." Yet he chose him

as his running mate in the 2014 presidential election, underlining the sometimes uncomfortable ethnic realities of Afghan politics. Presidential spokesman Haroon Chakhansuri said Saturday that Dostum had been "treated" and would resume his duties upon his return. Seven of Dostum's bodyguards have been convicted of the sexual assault and illegal imprisonment of Ahmad Ishchi, a former governor of the northern province of Jowzjan, in 2016. Dostum allegedly had Ishchi abducted in Jowzjan and then kept him hostage in his private compound for several days, where the captive was said to have been tortured and sodomised. Chakhansuri deflected questions about whether Dostum would face charges over the incident, saying "the judiciary is an independent body, the government does not interfere in their decisions". Dostum is one of several controversial figures whom Kabul has sought to reintegrate into mainstream politics since the US-led invasion in 2001. His heroic status in the north belies the barbarities for which he is known. Dostum, who helped the United States oust the Taliban regime in 2001, allegedly allowed hundreds of Taliban prisoners to be suffocated in shipping containers. — AFP

Woman killed in US supermarket hostage drama

LOS ANGELES: A gunman took hostages inside a supermarket in Los Angeles on Saturday after a gun battle with police, leaving a store employee dead before the suspect handcuffed himself and surrendered, police said. The drama began at another location when a man became "involved in a family dispute which resulted in him shooting his grandmother and a female," Sergeant Barry Montgomery told journalists.

"That suspect fled the location in his grandmother's vehicle, taking that female victim with him," and eventually entered a Trader Joe's supermarket in the Silver Lake neighborhood, he said. While police chased him, the suspect "fired on officers multiple times" before an "additional gun battle" outside the Trader Joe's,

Los Angeles Police Chief Michel Moore told reporters. "Inside the store a young woman was shot and killed," Moore said, adding that officers rescued her but she could not be revived.

There were contradictory reports about whether the victim, whom US media identified as store employee Melyda Corado, was shot by the gunman or in the crossfire with the police. The gunman took "numerous victims, of citizens as well as store employees, hostage," the chief said. Officers freed some workers and customers, while the hostage-taker released others himself. About three hours after the ordeal began, negotiations led to the man "handcuffing himself and coming outside and surrendering to SWAT officers," the police chief said.

'Bullets flying everywhere'

During the earlier shootout the suspect was wounded in the arm, Mayor Eric Garcetti said. The incident injected chaos — and scores of police and fire vehicles — into the busy commercial area of shops and apartment buildings. Don Kohles was standing outside the store when

the suspect's car slammed into a pole. Then Kohles heard two shots. He ran into the exit door of the Trader Joe's, looked back at the street and saw two police officers shooting at a man, he said. "The bullets were flying everywhere — through the front of the store and across the parking lot," Kohles told the Los Angeles Times.

The gunfire shattered the glass doors, Kohles said, and the gunman ran inside and "down the middle aisle." Devin Field, who said he was walking into the store when the incident unfolded, described his experience in a series of tweets. "I was walking in when a car... running from the police crashed into street lamp in front of the entrance. Gunman got out and started shooting at the cops. I hid behind a retaining wall with three cops until they had me crawl out," wrote Field, whose Twitter account identifies him as a writer for the TV show "Jimmy Kimmel Live". "Gunman walked in shooting. He went into the back and took hostages. Employees snuck out through back emergency exits. Employee says blood was all over the floor, unclear from where," he wrote. — AFP

Pro-opppn former editor assaulted in Bangladesh

DHAKA: A prominent former editor and critic of Bangladesh's government was assaulted yesterday by ruling party student activists after a court hearing, police and witnesses said. The cadres of the Chhatra League, the student wing of the ruling Awami League, attacked Mahmudur Rahman, 66, with bricks and bamboo sticks, his colleague Mohammad Abdullah said.

The attack happened when he got into a car after being bailed out of a defamation case by a court in the western town of Kushtia. "It was a brutal attack. (They) hit the right side of his head with a brick."

We are now heading to Jessore city on an ambulance," Abdullah said. Images on social media showed Rahman bloody but conscious and able to walk. Rahman was the editor of the

mass-circulation pro-opposition Bengali daily Amar Desh, which was shut down by the government in 2013. He also heads a pro-opposition professional group.

Abdullah said Rahman had been confined to the courtroom for five hours after more than 100 of the activists took up position outside. "Some 60-70 people took part in the attack," he said, accusing police of inaction. A police officer said they were busy providing security for a religious event. Images of a bloodied Rahman went viral on social media. Police confirmed the attack on Rahman was by ruling party student activists. "After he got bail, Chhatra League activists attacked his car with brick pieces. He was hit by broken glass of the car," a police official said. — AFP

International

As Seattle gentrifies, blacks no longer feeling welcome

The only panther to be seen serves as mascot

SEATTLE: Not so long ago, few whites wanted to live in Seattle's diverse Central District, so it housed the people who had no choice. Synagogues point to the neighborhood's long-gone Jewish past, an immigrant community that was joined by Japanese-Americans. Their internment in World War Two left the way clear for a wave of African Americans, who settled in big numbers and turned the area into the heart of Seattle's black community. Now things are changing once again and the district's long-term black residents don't much like it.

After a hearty breakfast of bacon, eggs, pancakes, sausage and potatoes, Michael Brown reminisced about local life 50 years ago, recalling the tense nature of relations between the city's police and its African-American residents. "Every time the police came, it would draw groups of people," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Brown, then just nine, remembered police landing en masse one day, how he was instructed to run at full speed to the nearby office of the Black Panther Party, a political organization founded in 1966 to monitor US police forces and challenge any brutality meted out to blacks. Today, that old Panther office is an Ethiopian travel agency, a lone immigrant business on an otherwise establishment block of wine shops, cafes, and boutiques - fancy businesses that anchor a neighborhood of million-dollar houses. The only panther to be seen in this rapidly rising district is the one that serves as mascot for the local elementary school, a beacon of hope far removed from its activist roots.



Less than one in five residents is black

African-American activist group started out in Oakland. The Panthers - in trademark berets and leather jackets - established themselves in majority black neighborhoods and were known for militant politics, preaching self-determination and armed self-defense in the face of police brutality and widespread discrimination. The Seattle Panthers also provided essential social services to an underserved community, offering free breakfasts - later turned into a federal program - grocery deliveries for the elderly and a free health clinic that still operates today. Yet much else has gone in the intervening half century.

Many of the old-timers who convened for the anniversary celebrations said they no longer recognized their own neighborhood after a decade of intense population growth. Freda Burns, a retiree who volunteers at the city's African-American history museum, moved to Seattle as a child in 1950, a time when non-whites in the United States were restricted by real estate covenants and mortgage loan policies to certain neighborhoods, a practice known as "red lining".

Seattle's red-lined neighborhood was the Central District, an enclave of single-family homes east of downtown and home to the first black-owned bank west of the Mississippi River. When the Panthers kept watch, its black population topped 70 percent, creating a strong sense of community. "Growing up as a child I always thought there were a lot of black people in Seattle," Burns said, even though in the 1950s, census data shows that the city was 94 percent white.

In today's Central District, less than one in five residents is black, according to census figures. Brown attributes the drop to rapid redevelopment in one of the fastest growing US cities, fuelled by developers who buy older bungalows from black families and replace them with multiple townhouses that sell at or above the neighborhood's average home price of \$800,000. "We're not losing people



SEATTLE: A mural commemorates the story of the Seattle chapter of the Black Panther Party. —Reuters

one for one," Brown said. "One black family moves out and they build four to six houses."

Those who can afford the new houses, meanwhile, are more likely to be white and work in the booming high-tech sector. Nor is this trend just hitting Seattle, perched high in the Pacific Northwest. Brown pointed to similar waves of white gentrification and black displacement on the East Coast, transforming Harlem in New York City and the seat of government in Washington, DC. "This ethnic cleansing thing is going on all over the country," he said.

"I don't know of any place that did it better than Seattle - they completely dismantled the community."

Seizing on the Panthers' legacy, some locals now hope to get political and turn the tide. K Wyking Garrett is a third-generation resident of the district who acutely diagnoses the city's current paradox. "Seattle is booming but black Seattle is busting," he said. So Garrett started Africatown, a community land trust that has acquired land for redevelopment into affordable homes, marketed to blacks who cannot afford the district's hefty rents and home prices. —Reuters

Trump aide's 'Russia ties' alleged in secret US documents

WASHINGTON: The FBI believed that a former Trump campaign advisor had ties to Russia as it sought to influence the 2016 US presidential election, top secret documents released to US news organizations revealed on Saturday. The October, 2016 application to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court named Carter Page, a former foreign policy advisor to the campaign of Donald Trump, according to the documents which The New York Times published.

The newspaper, along with USA Today and others, filed Freedom of Information Act lawsuits to obtain the material, which the Justice Department released but with many details redacted. "The FBI believes Page has been the subject of targeted recruitment by the Russian government," the initial FBI application says before it is blacked out and continues: "undermine and influence the outcome of the 2016 presidential election

in violation of US criminal law." Release of the documents comes just over one week after Special Counsel Robert Mueller, probing possible collusion between Trump's 2016 campaign and Russia, indicted 12 Russian intelligence officers, accusing them of hacking Democratic challenger Hillary Clinton's campaign to steal documents, which were then publicly released. The surveillance of Page became in February the subject of intense rivalry between Republican and Democratic lawmakers.

The former, from Trump's party, released a memo claiming that Democratic-funded research prompted the FBI to spy on Page. Trump defied his own FBI director and the Justice Department to declassify the four-page Republican document, which was based on the much larger secret court application record which has now been released.

The White House initially blocked release of a counter-memo from the Democrats, which argued the surveillance warrant request "was based on compelling evidence and probable cause." In the documents released Saturday, the FBI cited a source which, it said, had a history of providing reliable information regardless of the source's reasons for conducting



WASHINGTON DC: In this file photo taken on November 01, 2017 showing Carter Page, former foreign policy adviser for the Trump campaign, speaks to the media after testifying before the House Intelligence Committee. —AFP

research into Trump's ties to Russia. Trump is not named in the document but identified only as "Candidate #1."

A judge approved the initial wiretapping application, which was renewed three times by other judges, The New York Times said. The FBI, in its initial application the month before Trump won the election, said it "believes that the Russian Government's efforts are

being coordinated with Page and perhaps other individuals associated with Candidate #1's campaign." It added that "Page has established relationships with Russian Government officials, including Russian intelligence officers." Page has not been charged. On Twitter Saturday he said the documents reflect "shocking" civil rights abuses and "complete ignorance" regarding Russia. —AFP

French drug smuggler home after being held 18 years in Indonesia

PARIS: A Frenchman detained for 18 years after trying to smuggle drugs into Bali arrived in Geneva yesterday and was on his way home after being deported in a case that sparked outrage in France over Indonesia's tough narcotics laws. Police arrested Michael Blanc on the day after Christmas in 1999 at the tropical island's airport with 3.8 kilograms (8.4 pounds) of hashish hidden inside scuba diving canisters.

Blanc, now 45, was given a life sentence - narrowly escaping the death penalty which has been handed to some other foreign drug traffickers, including two members of the notorious Bali Nine who were executed in 2015. His prison term was later cut to 20 years, and in 2014 Blanc won something that few foreigners get in Indonesia - parole, though he was not allowed to leave the country immediately. The three-year parole period ended in July 2017, and he then had to wait another year while on probation.

The former cook was escorted by immigration officials to Jakarta airport Saturday accompanied by his mother, Helene Le Touzey, who gave up her life in France to spend nearly two decades in Indonesia campaigning for his release. "He has indeed arrived in Geneva," Martial Saddier, a parliamentary lawmaker for Blanc's native Haute-Savoie

region in western France who is close to Blanc's family, told AFP.

He was met by his father Jean-Claude Blanc and other relatives out of sight of the journalists gathered to cover his return, and they later left by a side door. "I may be almost as nervous as he is," Jean-Claude Blanc told AFP while waiting for his son's plane to land. Saddier said Blanc was going to remain several days in an undisclosed location. "He's going to recover from these past nearly 20 years before making any public appearances," he said.

Years of efforts

The life sentence handed out by an Indonesian court, which rejected Blanc's claim that he was carrying the drug-filled gear for a friend, was criticised in France as unduly harsh. The country has some of the world's toughest laws against drug use and trafficking, and several convicted suspects have been executed since President Joko Widodo took office in 2014.

Paris raised the issue at the highest levels, with the then-prime minister Francois Fillon bringing it up during a visit to Indonesia in 2011. In 2008, Blanc's sentence was cut to 20 years thanks in large part to his mother's efforts. She later helped secure her son's parole in 2014, despite the fact that



TANGERANG, Indonesia: French national Michael Blanc poses for a picture before being deported at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport on Saturday. —AFP

Indonesian law does not usually allow conditional release of foreigners after serving just two-thirds of their sentence.

More than 70 people, including 42 foreigners, are facing the firing squad for drug offences, according to the Coalition for the Abolition of Death Penalty in ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations). Among them were foreign nationals, including two Bali Nine members arrested in 2005 for an attempt to smuggle heroin from Indonesia to Australia.

The executions of Australian ring-leaders Andrew Chan and Myuran

Sukumaran sparked diplomatic outrage and a call to abolish Indonesia's death penalty. Although Jakarta suspended executions last year, Widodo has said the country is facing a "drug emergency" and previously ordered police to shoot traffickers who resist arrest. High-profile cases like that of Australian national Schapelle Corby, who spent more than nine years behind bars for smuggling marijuana into Bali, have stoked concern that Indonesia is becoming a drug destination. Corby was deported in 2017 after several years of parole. —AFP

Poll-topping Brazil far-right candidate to enter elections

RIO DE JANEIRO: Controversial extreme-right candidate Jair Bolsonaro was expected to formalize his candidacy yesterday for Brazil's October presidential elections, boosted by strong social media support and polls that show him headed to a second round. Less than three months from a race whose outcome is uncertain, the former army officer who professes nostalgia for the country's military dictatorship, is firmly rejected by part of the population sickened by his racist, misogynistic and homophobic insults.

Others see him as a savior of the country undermined by repeated corruption scandals. Bolsonaro, 63, yesterday plans to rally supporters in his Rio de Janeiro stronghold and is expected to officially become the Social Liberal Party (PSL) candidate. He rejoined PSL in March after many switches during his political career.

"I have people who support me throughout Brazil. Some of them even like me," he said Thursday in Goiania city, where he reiterated his promise to loosen Brazil's tight gun ownership restrictions to allow self-defense. As he often does, he triggered controversy, this time by provoking a young girl to make the shape of a gun with her fingers. —AFP

US struggles to convert N Korea promises into progress

WASHINGTON: The US appeal at the United Nations for "full enforcement" of sanctions against North Korea underscored the difficulty of attaining real progress on denuclearization, more than a month after the much-vaunted Donald Trump-Kim Jong Un summit. In their joint declaration after the historic meeting June 12 in Singapore, the North Korean leader "reaffirmed his commitment" to the "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." But the actual details of the process, including how and by what timetable the North's nuclear program is to be dismantled, have yet to be negotiated.

At the time, the US administration insisted on the "urgency" of denuclearization, which was supposed to begin "very quickly." "We're hopeful we can get it done" by 2020, before the end of Trump's current presidential term, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said at the time. Pompeo has been charged with the challenge of putting meat on the bare bones of the Singapore commitment. But 40 days and one apparently fruitless visit by Pompeo to Pyongyang later, the tone of the American side has clearly changed. "We have no time limit," Trump told reporters on Wednesday. "We have no speed limit."

Asked about the change in tone, State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert sought to reassure: "We have teams in place that are working very hard on this issue every day," she said. "We have said there's a lot of work left to be done." —AFP

International

In rural Zimbabwe, the novel taste of a peaceful election

‘The youngsters are supporting their own parties’

NYAHUKWE: From a ruling party rally in the east, to opposition door-to-door canvassing in the northwest, Zimbabweans have been experiencing the novelty of a relatively free and peaceful election campaign. Sitting on a wind-swept rocky slope in Nyahukwe, villagers listened to politicians from President Mnangagwa's ZANU-PF party in an atmosphere they said was noticeably more relaxed than under former ruler Robert Mugabe.

“This one stands out as the most peaceful campaign. No one is being beaten,” Patrick Makonde, 59, who has voted in every election since independence from Britain in 1980, told AFP. Makonde says he has seen real differences to previous elections. “We are free to campaign for whosoever we like,” he said. “The youngsters are supporting their own parties, while we stick to our own party.”

Some 200 kilometers northwest, activists for the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) campaigned door-to-door in the village of Domboshawa outside Harare, wearing their distinctive red colors as they distributed pamphlets. “This year is good, people are free to speak their mind, to exercise their rights, something which was previously impossible,” said Rabina Madziva, an unemployed mother of one, after meeting the MDC team. “Under Mugabe, politicians ruled with an iron fist — whatever they said, you should do.”

Violent past

Elections since the creation in 1999 of the MDC — the most credible opposition party — have been

marred by violence, with rural voters bearing the brunt of violence, coercion and intimidation. In 2008, then opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai pulled out of the presidential run-off after attacks orchestrated by the state and ZANU-PF claimed at least 200 of his supporters. The run-up to this year's election on July 30 has not been violence-free — a blast narrowly missed Mnangagwa at an election rally, killing two people.

And “We The People”, a group of 7,000 citizens monitoring incidents, said it had recorded 105 reports of threats of violence and 19 cases of actual violence during the week July 9 to 15. Perpetrators have threatened “extreme violence should ZANU-PF lose, or should the presidential election proceed to a run-off,” said the group. “Acts of violence included people being beaten, acts of arson, and attempted assaults,” according to the group.

Police earlier this month said they had received fewer reports of election-related violence than in previous campaigns. And an Afrobarometer poll of 2,400 people countrywide found “a somewhat more open political atmosphere” with the opposition allowed to campaign more freely. Mnangagwa, a ZANU-PF loyalist who took over from the ousted Mugabe in November, has vowed a free and fair vote and invited in international poll observers — including previously-banned European Union and Commonwealth teams.

Disputed result?

But Human Rights Watch's Southern Africa director, Dewa Mavhinga, warned intimidation was occurring in some rural areas, and that violence could increase if the



BULAWAYO: Zimbabwe main opposition party Movement for Democratic Change Alliance (MDC) supporters hold MDC and Zimbabwe flags as they gather to listen to their leader Nelson Chamisa during an election campaign rally on July 21, 2018 at White City stadium. — AFP

vote looks close or is disputed due to alleged fraud. “Mnangagwa wants legitimacy from this election and this is why he is preaching peace... but those at the bottom in ZANU-PF are uncertain and jittery,” said Mavhinga.

“The default factory setting for ZANU-PF is violence,” he said, adding when it occurs it would be “sudden and swift because the machinery of violence remains intact. It's just not being used.” For now, rural voters hope the election will bring stability and economic revival after years of decline. “I was born and raised up in a country in crisis. We hear from our parents that back then, life was good, that there was real money, money with value,” said Joseph Mvere, 22, who says he will vote for the first time this year. “I was still very young in 2008, but that election was terrible,” added newly married Mvere, as he headed home from buying pea seedlings for his vegetable garden. “The situation has changed. Now we are campaigning more like civilized people.” — AFP

Pakistan candidate gets life term in drug case

ISLAMABAD: A candidate for the party of Pakistan's ousted former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has been jailed for life by an anti-narcotics court, just days before a general election. Hanif Abbasi, seen as a strong candidate for the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) in Wednesday's poll, was sentenced in a rare late-night session Saturday.

The six-year-old case was related to the supply of ephedrine to a drug smuggler. Critics have long accused Pakistan's powerful military, including its Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) agency, of meddling in politics and judicial affairs, a charge it denies. Nawaz Sharif himself has accused the generals of targeting his party, including intimidating his candidates to switch allegiances—particularly in Punjab province.

Earlier Saturday an Islamabad High Court judge, Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui, publicly accused the ISI of manipulating judicial decisions. “ISI is fully involved in manipulating judicial process. ISI people get their choice of benches formed in the courts, cases are marked,” he told lawyers in the garrison city of Rawalpindi.

The political involvement of the military and ISI is rarely discussed openly due to fear of repercussions. Rights defenders have long accused the ISI of kidnapping and torturing rights activists, journalists and dissenting voices. Journalists in Pakistan say they have



RAWALPINDI: A woman supporter of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) holds a picture of Hanif Abbasi, a party candidate who was jailed for life, as she takes part in an election campaign rally. — AFP

come under unprecedented pressure from the authorities before the election. The military asked the supreme court Sunday to probe Siddiqui's allegations.

“In order to safeguard the sanctity and credibility of the state institutions, Honourable Supreme Court of Pakistan has been requested to initiate appropriate process to ascertain the veracity of the allegations and take actions accordingly,” a statement said. Nearly 106 million Pakistanis, including more than 19 million new voters, will be eligible to cast their ballots on Wednesday.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, which took power in 2013, hopes for a new mandate under leader Shahbaz Sharif, a

brother of the ousted Nawaz. Its biggest challenger is the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, led by former national cricket captain Imran Khan. The Pakistan Peoples Party of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari-son of murdered premier Benazir Bhutto—could become kingmaker by forming a coalition with one of its rivals.

Meanwhile, an election candidate and his driver were killed by a suicide bomber in northwest Pakistan yesterday, police said, three days before the country's general election. Ikrumullah Gandapur, a member of cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, was contesting polls for the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa provincial assembly. — AFP

Afghan siblings killed by blast as they took out trash

KABUL: Every day Shah Mahmood's children took it in turns to dump the family's trash near their Kabul home. But this simple chore turned deadly yesterday when a blast in the street killed two of them and wounded another. No one appears to have witnessed the explosion on the quiet, dusty street divided by a putrid open drain, but police told AFP they believe a magnetic bomb hidden in a pile of garbage had detonated after the children touched it.

It is a tragic scene played out across war-torn Afghanistan almost every day — children killed or maimed by explosive devices left over from decades of conflict, carelessly discarded or deliberately planted. “This is our life all around the city — it happens everywhere,” a tearful Mahmood told AFP, as he stood with a dozen male mourners in a narrow dirt lane outside his house. “I was working as normal at the vegetable market, my children were throwing out the garbage and the bomb went off and they were killed.”

Mahmood, who has nine children, said his daughter Shabnam, 13, and his eight-year-old son Nisar died in the explosion. Their small bodies were thrown several meters by the force of the blast, according to people who found them. Another daughter, nine-

year-old Rukhsar, was taken to the trauma facility run by Italian NGO Emergency where she underwent major surgery for multiple shrapnel wounds. She was in critical but stable condition.

“Some people said the bomb was hidden under the (shipping) container and others were saying it was in the garbage (on the ground). It is difficult to know,” Mahmood said. Behind the mud and brick wall of Mahmood's home in a poor area of Khair Khana neighborhood came the sound of grieving women wailing. Civilians, including children, have borne the brunt of the country's nearly 17-year conflict. UN figures show 3,179 children were killed or wounded in 2017, accounting for almost one-third of the total civilian casualties for the year.

Improvised explosive devices, such as remotely detonated or pressure-plate bombs, killed or wounded 545 of them. Unexploded ordnance claimed the lives of 142 children and wounded 376 in the same period. “Conflict-related violence continues to erode the rights of children to education, healthcare, freedom of movement and other fundamental rights, as well as family life, playing outdoors and simply enjoying a childhood free of the brutal effects of war,” UNAMA's human rights chief Danielle Bell said in a report recently. — AFP

India withdraws controversial tax on sanitary pads

NEW DELHI: India has withdrawn a controversial tax on sanitary pads following a vocal campaign led by activists and Bollywood stars to boost female education and empowerment. Saturday's announcement is part of a slew of changes to the national goods and services tax (GST) intended to reduce the prices of around 90 key consumer goods, many of which target urban middle classes ahead of next year's general election.

“I think all women will be happy to know that sanitary pads will now have 100 percent exemption. There will be no GST on sanitary pads,” India's acting finance minister Piyush Goyal told journalists on Saturday. Activists, Bollywood actors and some politicians had opposed the 12 percent tax, citing a lack of access and affordability for a key hygiene product as a key barrier to female empowerment in the country. A national survey report released earlier this year said around 60 percent of young women aged between 16 and 24 years did not have access to sanitary pads. The figure was as high as 80 percent for some of India's poorer central and eastern states.



MUMBAI: In this file photo taken on April 10, 2018 Indian employees at the Myna Mahila Foundation prepare sanitary pads at their office. — AFP

Reports in the last few years have linked absence of basic infrastructure such as toilets at Indian government schools outside big urban centres, and lack of access to sanitary pads, with higher dropout rates among girls.

“One of those days when a news brings tears of joy as a cause close to our heart gets fulfilled,” Akshay Kumar, one of Bollywood's most popular stars, wrote on Twitter. Kumar was the lead actor in Padman, a Bollywood movie released earlier this year about the life of an activist who created a line of low-cost

sanitary napkins for rural India. “Thank you ... for understanding the need for menstrual hygiene and exempting sanitary pads from tax. I'm sure crores (tens of millions) of women in our country are silently sending gratitude our way,” he added. The new national GST (goods and services tax) was introduced last July under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and was the country's biggest tax overhaul in a generation. It was meant to unify the over \$2 trillion economy into a single market, with four tax rates of 5, 12, 18 and 28 percent. — AFP

Dozens injured in clashes at Nepal health care protest

KATHMANDU: Dozens of protesters in Nepal have been injured in clashes with police at a demonstration in support of a hunger-striking doctor seeking better healthcare in the impoverished Himalayan country. Thousands took to the streets on Saturday in solidarity with Dr Govinda KC, who has been on a hunger strike for nearly a month demanding reforms in the medical sector and education.

Protestors from Nepal Tarun Dal, the youth wing of the opposition party Nepali Congress, were injured when police fired multiple rounds of teargas and used batons as they entered a restricted area near the parliament in capital Kathmandu. Activists yesterday said they planned more protests following the clashes. “We are protesting

against the government's authoritarian-like behaviour. They are not listening to the people and to the just demands of Dr Govinda KC,” Bhubendra Jung Shahi, general secretary of Nepal Tarun Dal, told AFP. Viewed by his supporters as a medical Robin Hood, Dr KC is well known in Nepal for his philanthropic work, travelling to some of the country's most remote communities to provide medical care and train local health workers. Dr KC, 61, has gone on hunger strike 15 times over the past six years in an attempt to pressure the government to improve healthcare. He began his current hunger strike, the longest at 23 days, on June 30 in remote Jumla district and was airlifted to Kathmandu by the government amid protests last week as concerns for his health grew.

A key sticking point has been a medical education bill registered in the parliament earlier this month seeking to overturn an ordinance by the previous government that met Dr KC's demands to regulate doctor training and curtail commercialization in medical education. Dr KC has demanded a withdrawal of the bill before sitting down for talks with the government. — AFP

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Analysis

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Islamists push religion to center of Pak election

Pakistani cleric Hafiz Saeed is one of the United States' most-wanted terrorist suspects, accused over the 2008 Mumbai attacks that killed 166 people. At home, his charities are banned, as is a new Islamist political party launched by his followers. None of that has stopped Saeed from hitting the campaign trail for Pakistan's July 25 general election, denouncing the outgoing government as "traitors" and whipping up support for the more than 200 candidates he backs. "The politics of the American servants is coming to an end!" Saeed thundered at a rally this month in the eastern city of Lahore, where supporters showered him with rose petals.

The main race in Wednesday's vote is between the party of now-jailed former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, which is seeking a second consecutive term despite its leader's downfall on corruption charges, and the party of former cricket star Imran Khan, perceived as the favorite of the powerful military. But a bumper crop of ultra-Islamist groups are also contesting the poll, with the potential to reshape the political landscape of the nuclear-armed Muslim country of 208 million people with anti-Western rhetoric and calls for ever-stricter interpretation of sharia, or Islamic law.

The proliferation of religious parties appears to be a fulfillment of a proposal made by Pakistan's military to "mainstream" armed Islamists and other extremists into politics, though the parties and the army deny any links. Even if, as expected, they win few seats, liberal and secular-minded Pakistanis say the sheer number of religious party candidates, combined with their ultra-conservative rhetoric, has already shifted the agenda in their direction.

With the new parties routinely accusing opponents of blasphemy or treason, mainstream parties have echoed their language in attacking Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). "The ostensible attempt to mainstream the religious right-wing is not making these parties take relatively moderate positions," said Saroop Ijaz, a lawyer for Human Rights Watch. "But rather, it's radicalizing the mainstream."

Violent rhetoric

Religious parties - some new, others established - are fielding more than 1,500 candidates for national and provincial assemblies, compared with a few hundred in 2013. While Pakistan has always had Islamist parties, the new entries are notable for their alleged links to militants and their rhetorical attacks on mainstream politicians' piety or patriotism. Pakistan's three main parties all stress devotion to Islam, but the new religious parties portray them - especially the PML-N - as leading Pakistan down a Western-inspired path away from the country's Islamic values.

One new party, Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan, campaigns under the rallying cry "death to blasphemers" and is fielding 566 candidates. Its candidates rail against the PML-N as blasphemers for a small abortive change last year to election law, which was quickly reversed after nationwide protests in which at least seven people were killed. The change was to the swearing-in oath for candidates - from a religious vow to a simple declaration - stating the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was God's last messenger, a central tenet of Islam.

In May, a man police identified as a Labaik supporter shot and wounded then-Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal as he left a meeting. He told interrogators Iqbal had to die because he was a blasphemer. Tehreek-e-Labaik leader Khadim Hussain Rizvi condemned Iqbal's shooting. But this month, he said the party could not be held responsible. "We didn't instigate anyone. These are the emotions of the nation," Rizvi told Reuters, adding, "In a way, it rightly happened."

Leaders of the mainstream opposition parties all condemned the attack on Iqbal. Still, Imran Khan has also invoked the blasphemy controversy in campaign speeches, defending such language in a recent interview with Reuters. "You cannot be a Muslim if you don't believe that the Prophet, our Prophet, is the last prophet," Khan said. "So to reiterate and support it is just standing with your faith."

Banned groups

While Tehreek-e-Labaik is a legally registered party, other movements fielding candidates are officially banned in Pakistan but have bypassed the legal restrictions. Pakistan's Election Commission this year rejected Saeed's Islamic charity's application to register a political party, the Milli Muslim League, but the group later registered candidates under the name of an existing party, Allahu Akbar Tehreek, which now campaigns with Saeed's image on its posters.

Saeed is accused of masterminding the 2008 attacks on India's financial capital. The United States offers a \$10 million reward for his conviction over the attacks, in which several Americans were killed. Saeed denies any involvement. Another party, the Sunni extremist Ahl-e-Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ), is also fielding dozens of candidates under a different name, even though it is banned as the political wing of Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ), which has killed hundreds of minority Shiites. The party denies links with LeJ.

Last month, ASWJ leader Muhammad Ahmed Ludhiani's name was removed by a caretaker government from Pakistan's terrorism watchlist, cementing his own candidacy. A spokesman for the Election Commission of Pakistan, Altaf Khan, asked about the banned groups' candidates, said no illegal group had been registered. — Reuters



Imran Khan: Playboy cricket hero turned reformist politician



Imran Khan

Imran Khan was catapulted to global fame as a World Cup cricket champion, but the man known in the West as a celebrity playboy is now seeking to lead Pakistan as a populist, religiously devout, anti-corruption reformist. Khan's shot at becoming prime minister in elections on July 25 - believed to be his best chance since entering politics two decades ago - is colored by allegations the electoral playing field is being fixed for the erstwhile fast bowler by the powerful military.

Khan has denied the claims and decried the venality of Pakistan's political elite, promising to build an "Islamic welfare state" if his Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) party form the next government. Recent polls show PTI's popularity climbing nationally, while arch-rival Nawaz Sharif's incumbent Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party limps into the contest. The PML-N complains this is the result of military pressure, with party activists calling out "blatant" attempts to manipulate the polls.

Former prime minister Sharif was ousted last year and has been behind bars since returning to the country earlier this month to face a corruption conviction, removing Khan's most formidable foe from the contest. In contrast Khan has cut a relaxed image on the campaign trail, looking increasingly confident of his chances. In the West, the man who led Pakistan's 1992 World Cup champion cricket team is typically seen through the prism of his celebrity and memories of his

high-profile romances, including a nine-year marriage to British socialite Jemima Goldsmith.

Back home the thrice-married 65-year-old cuts a more conservative persona as a devout Muslim, often carrying prayer beads and nurturing beliefs in living saints. Earlier this year, he married his spiritual advisor Bushra Maneka, with wedding photos showing the new bride clad in an ultra-conservative veil - an astronomical departure from his days plastered in the

British tabloids. And just last month he roused the ire of women after saying feminism has "degraded the role of a mother".

Khan is also described as impulsive and brash, too tolerant of militancy and fostering close links to Islamists, amid speculation over his ties to Pakistan's military establishment. But to his legions of fans, he is uncorrupted and generous, spending his years off the pitch building hospitals and a university. "We want change because the current system is corrupt, and we are going to have to face many difficulties," said PTI supporter Jamil Ahmed.

'End the hatred'

Khan entered Pakistan's chaotic politics in 1996 promising to fight graft. For his first decade and a half as a politician he sputtered, with PTI never securing more than a few seats in the national assembly. "Sports teaches you that life is not in a straight line," he told

AFP earlier this year. "You take the knocks. You learn from your mistakes." In 2012 PTI's popularity surged with hordes of young Pakistanis who grew up idolising Khan as a cricket icon reaching voting age. Khan admits his party was ill-prepared to capitalize on the gains during the 2013 election. But that was then. "For the first time, we'll be going into elections prepared," he has said previously of 2018.

Five years later PTI is running a nationwide campaign including areas far from its northwestern and urban strongholds. To shore up its chances of winning, PTI has begun luring candidates away from Sharif's party, stirring controversy among long-time party loyalists who say Khan is relying on the same corrupt politicians he once denounced. Some fear Khan's mercurial nature is unsuited to being prime minister. He has raised eyebrows by increasingly catering to religious hardliners, particularly over the hugely inflammatory charge of blasphemy, spurring fears his leadership could embolden extremists.

"It's hard to judge anyone when they're in opposition because the real challenge is when you take over," said journalist Arifa Noor. "On the downside he's playing up the religion card." Khan has also been attacked for his repeated calls to hold talks with militants and for his party's alliance with Sami ul Haq, the so-called Father of the Taliban whose madrassas once educated Taliban stalwarts Mullah Omar and Jalaluddin Haqqani.

And earlier this month, the Al-Qaeda-linked Harkat-ul-Mujahideen announced their support for Khan's party, with pictures of the US-designated terrorist group's leader posing with PTI hopefuls posted online. Still, many, including Khan, believe this is the best political opportunity he will ever have. "After the 25th of July, God willing we will reunite this divided nation," he said during a rally in Lahore days before the polls. "And end the hatred." — AFP

From gutters and war zones, five colorful candidates

There is the ecologist, the "semi-corrupt", the opportunist, and the indestructible. Alongside Pakistan's mainstream politicians a battery of flamboyant candidates are contesting nationwide elections on July 25. Here are five who each embody the myriad challenges facing the country.

Ayaz Memon Motiwala, the ecologist:

To make his point, Ayaz Memon Motiwala campaigns from the gutters. Running as an independent in Pakistan's largest city of Karachi, Motiwala prefers to get his anti-corruption, pro-environment message out as he lies in pools of sewage - all while draped in Pakistan's green and white flag. "If they do not cover the gutters then this is my right to sit inside the gutter and protest," Motiwala tells AFP. Motiwala has chosen the water tap as his election symbol. Water is a highly charged issue, with experts saying Pakistan faces "absolute scarcity" - less than 500 cu m available per person nationwide - by 2025. "Vote for me - but even if you don't - please remember that clean water is the need of hour," Motiwala tells voters.

Radesh Singh Tony, the brave:

Radesh Singh Tony is the first independent candidate from Pakistan's Sikh minority to run in conservative, northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The odds are already heavily stacked against Tony in a constituency populated with around 130,000 mostly Muslim registered voters, compared to just 160 Sikhs. His two opponents come from parties backed by hard-line religious organizations with links to militant groups. The contest comes just months after local Sikh community leader Charanjit Singh was shot dead, and weeks after a bomb attack killed over 20 people at an election rally in the provincial capital. If elected, Tony has vowed to serve all communities equally, but is still wary of simmering threats. "We are vulnerable targets," Tony says. "We are campaigning in an atmosphere of fear."

Ali Wazir, the indestructible:

Hailing from militancy-racked South Waziristan, Ali



In this picture taken on July 12, 2018, Nawabzada Amber Shahzada distributes pamphlets to residents on a street during his election campaign in Lahore.

Wazir's losses in the country's long war with insurgents are horrifying. Wazir has had 10 relatives killed by militants, who have also destroyed his home, orchards and petrol station since the military first took the fight to the Pakistani Taliban more than a decade ago. But he has never backed down. As a rare vocal critic of both the Taliban and Pakistan's powerful security establishment, Wazir has risen to prominence for taking the military to task over heavy-handedness against local civilians during the fight with insurgents. "I am contesting elections at the demands of my people," said Wazir in an online video. "I will struggle for their rights."

Nawab Amber Shahzada, 41 times defeated:

Shahzada's moustache is surmounted by sunglasses and a garnet headdress, while a thin red scarf adorns the neck of a candidate seeking to be the "king of politics". But Shahzada is a lonely king at the head of a party of which he is the only member, who in the last 32 years has competed in 41 elections, and never won one. In 1990 his party was refused registration when he vowed to provide Pakistanis with residential plots on the moon. In 2013 he won just seven votes. But he says it's all satire. "Politicians are making us fools, they are misleading the public, and I try to make people aware with my funny style," he told AFP. His slogan? "Need-based corruption". If elected, Shahzada vows to be "semi-corrupt". That is opposed to the "full-corrupt" politicians currently in power, he says.

Mir Abdul Karim Nousherwani, the weathervane:

Opportunism is his ideology. Since 1985, Abdul



In this picture taken on July 9, 2018, Ayaz Memon Motiwala holds the Pakistan national flag as he lies partially submerged in garbage at a dump during an election rally in Karachi. — AFP



In this picture taken on July 3, 2018, Radesh Singh Tony distributes pamphlets during his door-to-door election campaign in Peshawar.

Karim Nousherwani of southern Balochistan, Pakistan's poorest and most unstable province, has changed party seven times and been elected twice as an independent. This time he will compete for the Balochistan Awami Party, a local provincial organization. By aligning with the ruling parties that he gets development projects for his territory, he says.

"The moment he feels the power ship is sinking, he will be the first to jump out for another ship," says another parliamentarian, on condition of anonymity. Nousherwani, who first worked as a driver, was unable to run in the 2002 and 2008 elections because he did not graduate from school. — AFP

Business

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KFH considering strategic option with AUB

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Chairman Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq said the Bank is currently deliberating with Ahli United Bank - Bahrain (AUB) the possibility of creating one of the largest Islamic banks in the Middle East. This step comes in line with KFH's strategy of growth and expansion in the region and the world.

Marzouq added in a press release, that the financial and economic circumstances in the region necessitate thinking seriously about such directions which aim to create large financial entities that are capable of withstanding shocks, while having financial capacity and internal resources to compete regionally and globally, yet maintaining a

strong capital base.

He noted the expectation of having positive benefits with this strategic move be it at the level of improved profitability or asset quality or at the level of risk diversification and geographical distribution, which would be reflected on KFH and AUB along with their respective shareholders.

Marzouq stressed that the advantages of creating a large entity would enable the Bank to play an active role in providing advanced Islamic banking services to its customers as well as the ability to provide the proper financing for mega projects both inside and outside Kuwait. Creating large banks comes in line with the consolidation of

Kuwait's position as a regional financial hub and in line with translating the wise vision of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait, and the Kuwait "2035 vision" of transforming Kuwait into a regional financial and commercial hub.

He added that the study of this strategic option will be implemented in multiple stages. The first stage is the evaluation study by international consultants in this field in order to determine the initial fair trade price between the shares of AUB and the shares of KFH based on their published financial statements.

The second phase will be the due diligence assessment on the two banks in case they agreed on the initial exchange

ratio. The Central Bank of Kuwait, Central Bank of Bahrain and other regulatory authorities will be contacted for the necessary approvals before the due diligence procedures begin.

In the event of completing the two phases and the agreement of the two banks on their results, the third and final phase requires preparation of the future business plan for the new banking entity and the executive procedures, whether in Kuwait or in the Kingdom of Bahrain or in any other country. He concluded: "The final approvals for the acquisition will be subject to the approval of the Central Bank of Kuwait and other regulatory authorities as well as the general assemblies of the two banks."



Hamad Al-Marzouq

G20 calls for greater dialogue on trade

Buenos Aires: Finance ministers and central bankers from the world's largest economies meeting in Argentina said heightened trade and geopolitical tensions risk derailing global growth and called for greater dialogue, according to a draft communique.

The weekend talks in Buenos Aires come amid an escalation in rhetoric in the trade conflict between the United States and China, the world's largest economies, which have so far slapped tariffs on \$34 billion worth of each other's goods. US President Donald Trump raised the stakes on Friday with a threat to impose tariffs on all \$500 billion of Chinese exports to the United States unless Beijing agrees to major structural changes to its technology transfer, industrial subsidy and joint venture policies.

The draft reviewed by Reuters, which is subject to possible revisions, noted that the global economy was growing and unemployment was at a decade low but warned that growth was becoming less synchronized among major economies and downside risks over the short- and medium-term had increased.

"These include rising financial vulnerabilities, heightened trade and geopolitical tensions, global imbalances, inequality and structurally weak growth, particularly in some advanced economies," the draft said. A spokesman for Argentina's Treasury Ministry, which coordinates the country's G20 presidency, said the ministers were still debating the communique's final language.

The ministers reaffirmed the conclusions from G20 leaders at their most recent summit in Hamburg in July last year, when they emphasized that trade was an engine of global growth and that multilateral trade agreements are important. "We...recognize the need to step up dialogue and actions to mitigate risks and enhance confidence," the draft said. "We are working to strengthen the contribution of trade to our economies."

The draft language marked an incremental toughening from the communique issued at the previous ministerial meeting in March, which had only noted that the leaders "recognize the need for further dialogue."

Allies angered

Trump has angered European allies by imposing import tariffs of 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum, causing the European Union to retaliate with similar amounts of tariffs on Harley-Davidson Inc motorcycles, Kentucky bourbon and other products.

Trump, who frequently criticizes Europe's 10 percent car tariffs, is also studying adding a 25 percent levy on automotive imports, which would hit both Europe and Japan hard. US Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin has sought to use the meeting to woo Europe and Japan with the offer of free-trade deals,

as Washington tries to gain leverage with allies in its dispute with China.

However, French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire rebuffed the overture on Saturday, saying that Washington must drop its tariffs before any talks could start.

European Council representative to the G20 Hubert Fuchs struck a more cautious tone yesterday, saying the United States' removal of tariffs was not a necessary precondition for trade talks to begin and he welcomed the candid approach adopted by Mnuchin at the meeting. "Even the Minister of the Treasury of the United States says that he's in favor of fair and free trade, but the problem is that the United States understands something different under fair and free trade," he said.

The draft communique emphasized that structural reforms were needed to enhance the potential growth of economies, and reaffirmed commitments from March's ministerial meeting to refrain from competitive devaluations that could have adverse effects on global financial stability.

It noted that emerging market economies were now better prepared to adjust to external shocks but still faced challenges from market volatility and reversals of capital flows. The US dollar fell the most in three weeks on Friday against a basket of six major currencies after Trump complained again about the greenback's strength and about Federal Reserve interest rate rises, halting a rally that had driven the dollar to its highest in a year.

A Japanese finance ministry official said late on Saturday that Tokyo might need to convince Washington its monetary easing was not aimed at weakening the yen but beating persistent deflation in Asia's second-largest economy.

US woes Europe

"If Europe believes in free trade, we're ready to sign a free trade agreement," Mnuchin said, adding that such a deal would require the elimination of tariffs, non-tariff barriers and subsidies. "It has to be all three issues." Trump has angered European allies by imposing import tariffs of 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum, causing the European Union to retaliate with similar amounts of tariffs on Harley-Davidson motorcycles, Kentucky bourbon and other products.

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French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said the European Union would not consider launching trade talks with the United States unless Trump first withdraws the steel and aluminum tariffs and stands down on a car tariff threat. — Reuters

AUB reports a net profit of \$357.4 million for H1 2018

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank B.S.C. (AUB) reported a net profit attributable to its equity shareholders of \$357.4 million for the six months ended 30 June 2018. The net profit reflected a robust growth of 14.8 percent in H1/2018 as compared to the net profit of \$311.3 million achieved in H1/2017. The Q2/2018 net profit of \$182.7 million represents a 20.3 percent improvement over the Q2/2017 quarter reported profit of \$151.9 million. The Basic Earnings per Share (EPS) in H1/2018 were US 4.3 cents, compared to US 3.7 cents in H1/2017 (EPS US 2.1 cents in Q2/2018 versus US 1.7 cents in Q2/2017).

Net interest income improved by 12.3 percent to \$467.2 million during the first six months of 2018 (Q2/2018: +12.3 percent versus Q2/2017) driven by improved margins and prudent growth in loan and investments. Increases in net interest income and other fee, trading and investment income resulted in a rise in operating income by 11.8 percent (Q2/2018: +16.0 percent versus Q2/2017). Furthermore, adoption of a consistent and disciplined intelligent spend approach together with operational efficiencies resulted in a lower cost to income ratio of 26.1 percent (H1/2017: 27.3 percent).

Asset quality

Solid asset quality levels were sustained with a gross non-performing loans ratio of 2.0 percent (31 December 2017: 1.9 percent) while specific provision coverage ratio increased to 89.2 percent (31 December 2017: 85.1 percent). The total provision coverage ratio, inclusive of expected credit loss provisioning under IFRS 9 but excluding significant non-cash collaterals available, improved to 228.9 percent as at 30 June 2018 (31 December 2017: 154.3 percent).

The Group's Return on Average Equity (ROAE) for H1/2018, increased to 18.8 percent, compared to 16.7 percent achieved in the first half of 2017. Return on Average Assets also increased to 2.3 percent for H1/2018 (H1/2017: 2.1 percent).

Hamad Al-Humaidhi, AUB Chairman, commented: "Our results demonstrate AUB's strong ability to deliver sustainable core earnings on a consistent basis through its diversified business initiatives and strategic investments across the Gulf and MENA region. Growth was underpinned by robust risk management, effective cost efficiency measures and continuing focus on the sourcing of remunerative cross border business flows."

MoU with KFH

Al-Humaidhi also commented that "the MOU signed today with Kuwait Finance House (KFH) provides a non-binding framework to explore the establishment, in a structured manner, of a major regional banking institution capable of competing more effectively in its existing and new potential markets."

He explained that the proposed transaction comprised three stages. The first stage involves both banks agreeing a fair exchange ratio for their shares based on valuation studies to be conducted by the selected international investment banks. Subject to such agreement on valuation and securing the necessary regulatory approvals, the second stage would commence in terms of conducting detailed due diligence on both banks with a view to finalizing the share exchange ratio. The third stage will involve the assessment of the business prospects and opportunities of the combined entity and the submission of necessary applications to secure the required regulatory and statutory consents to consummate the combination.

Al-Humaidhi added "The signed MOU is in line with the longstanding strategy adopted by AUB's Board of Directors since inception in 2000, for pursuing inorganic growth in our targeted markets through mergers and acquisitions. This particular transaction involves a potential transformational deal to create a market leader in the regional and global banking space and to provide a very solid platform for achieving shareholder aspirations".



Buenos Aires: Handout picture released by the G20 Press Office showing the Governor of the Bank of England Mark Carney on a screen (not seen) as he speaks during a meeting on digital technology as a key to financial inclusion, on the second day of the G20 meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, in Buenos Aires, yesterday. — AFP

Business

NBK Money Market Report

US dollar rally ends after Trump accuses EU, China of manipulation

US economic fundamentals overshadowed by Trump

KUWAIT: The US dollar managed to extend its strength throughout most of the week backed by hawkish sentiments from the Federal Reserve and potential new trade agreements with partners. However, the dollar plummeted on Friday erasing most of its gains after President Trump accused the EU and China of manipulating their currencies.

In his semi-annual congressional testimony, Fed Chairman Jerome Powell told lawmakers that the US job market had continued to strengthen and that the US central bank believed it was best "to keep gradually raising" interest rates. He continued that growth had accelerated in the second quarter of 2018, boosted by "robust job gains, rising after-tax incomes and optimism among households. To the market's relief, Powell did not signal more concern by trade tensions and the flattening yield curve which leaves the Fed on track with their plans.

President Donald Trump's economic adviser Larry Kudlow stated at an investor conference that he was hearing from sources that European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker will be bringing a "very important" free trade offer when he comes to Washington next week. The comments have raised optimism that the Trump administration may not follow through on threats to impose tariffs on auto imports from the EU. In addition, President Trump told reporters that the US and Mexico are "getting closer" to reaching a trade deal to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement after a "very good session with Mexico, with the new President". He noted that separate talks with Canada could be advanced later. The slight easing of trade tensions combined with clear monetary guidance is encouraging a stable US dollar appreciation.

The US dollar suffered a steep sell-off on Friday after Trump accused China and the European Union of manipulating their currencies.

He continued saying a stronger dollar and higher interest rates are hurting America's "competitive edge." Undermining the US Fed, he claimed monetary tightening damages the economy and that "the United States should not be penalized for doing well." In his comments, Trump broke decades of tradition that US presidents should avoid commenting directly on the dollar or the path of US monetary policy. In addition, Trump attacked China's trade policies in a Friday interview. He said the US has been "ripped off by China for a long time" and that he was ready to increase tariffs to cover \$500 billion worth of Chinese imports. To put things into perspective, that was roughly the value of all US imports from China in 2017. As with most Trump statements, it remains unclear if the comments were made on impulse or to be taken seriously. The US dollar index opened the week at 94.682 rose to a twelve month high of 95.652 before closing at 94.462.

Sterling pressured

The British pound was heavily pressured last week losing around 1.45 percent of its value before rebounding on US President Trump's comments. The fall was driven primarily by heightened political uncertainty revolving around the Brexit issue. British Prime Minister Theresa May narrowly avoided defeat in parliament against pro-EU lawmakers from her own party. Parliament voted 307 to 301 against an amendment to trade legislation that would have forced the UK to try to negotiate a customs union arrangement with the EU if it had failed to negotiate a free trade deal by January 21, 2019. While a customs union and free trade agreement both allow for free trade between the UK and the EU, the key distinction involves their approach to non-treaty nations. A customs

union requires all parties to establish identical external tariffs with non-treaty nations, members of a free trade area are free to establish whatever trade agreements with non-signatory nations. Losing the vote would have enraged May's supporters and forced her to go back on her word that Britain will not be part of any customs union after leaving the EU.

The UK also released weaker than expected inflation figures for June. The annual rate of core inflation continued to fall to 1.9 percent in June which was the lowest rate since January of last year. It now stands well below the peak from January at 2.7 percent. It provides further evidence that the inflationary impact from the weaker pound has been fading more quickly than expected which has already been acknowledged by the Bank of England. Weaker retail sales also played a role in dampening inflation pressures in June.

While retail sales declined by 0.5 percent in June, British sales rose the most in over a decade, up 2.1 percent in the first three months of 2018. Headline inflation was also still broadly in line with the BoE's May forecast. Furthermore, a tight labor market and building evidence of a pick-up in economic growth in Q2 should give the BoE more confidence to continue gradually raising rates with policy still very loose. Market polls from Reuters are still pricing in a 70 percent chance for an August interest rate hike.

Eurozone inflation

Eurozone inflation rose to 2.0 percent year on year in June, from 1.9 percent in May. The pick-up in inflation was mainly driven by energy prices, up 8.0 percent on a yearly basis, from 1 percent in May. Core inflation, however, fell back to 0.9 percent which is the lowest reading since last December, excluding April (0.8 percent)



which was affected by the volatility generated by the Easter holiday. The fall of core inflation suggests the Euro zone still lacks the 'convincing upward trend' the European Central Bank has been looking to attain before exiting its accommodative policy. But with Mario Draghi having already announced the end of QE in December and economic growth in the zone appears to have firmed in Q2, it remains unlikely for the ECB to shift paths.

China GDP

Official data showed China's economy grew 6.7 percent in the second quarter of 2018, down from the 6.8 percent seen in the last three quarters. The slowdown is attributed to the

effects of a multi-year crackdown by Beijing on riskier lending that has driven up corporate borrowing costs. Also, June factory output growth weakened to a two-year low in a worrying sign as a heated trade war with the United States threatens to drop exports. As the risks from the US-China trade war will be a drag on overall growth in the next few years if China's trade surplus against the US narrows substantially, Beijing is likely to continue easing monetary policy going forward.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30250
The USDKWD opened at 0.30250 yesterday Morning.

IAM awards membership to Easy Move Logistics

KUWAIT: Easy Move (<https://easymovekw.com/>) is proud to announce that we just became a member of the International Association of Movers (IAM).

The International Association of Movers (IAM) represents more than 2,000 companies in over 170 countries. More than movers, these companies are partners and innovators in the delivery of moving, forwarding, shipping, logistics and all other related services. IAM affiliation increasingly signifies strength, trust, diversity, ethics, reliability, and accountability. The International Association of Movers is an elite association comprised of companies of a well-defined quality and level. And that in itself can say a lot about the hard work and devotion that Easy Move (<https://easymovekw.com/about-us/>) offers. We care about our clients and we offer them a smooth and hassle-free relocation experience.

Easy Move (<https://easymovekw.com/>) offers advanced and professional logistics & transportation services (<https://easymovekw.com/logistics/>) for the needs of our clients. We understand that not everyone has the same requirements when it comes to relocation of property. This is why our logistics department (<https://easymovekw.com/logistics/>) is always here to determine the best course of action. Depending

on your cargo size and the distance, we will determine the fastest transportation route and method. This will go towards ensuring that your belongings reach their final destination within arranged deadlines and in mint condition. This is important to us since we value time-efficiency and productivity. We are firm believers in the concept of planning and organization. And this is why we provide our customers with a detailed plan of the forwarding process from point A to point B.

Being a member of an organization that represents the gold standard in our industry is a great honor for us. This membership means a lot and it serves as a great confirmation of what our company stands for and represents. And we will do everything in our power to continuously satisfy our clients and their moving needs, just like we have done so in the past, but this time in honor of our new membership and the next stage in the development of our business. An international moving and logistics company such as ours is only as strong as the partnerships and cooperation it has with other companies in the same niche. So, it is our belief that this step will allow Easy Move (<https://easymovekw.com/>) to cooperate with many moving companies internationally which will make global relocations much easier and more trackable.

This is yet another confirmation that the work we do matters and makes a difference, not only to us but to the countless clients that hire us. And so, it will be our pleasure and mission to continue following this path and developing towards bigger and greater acknowledgments of the work we do, just as this membership in the International Association of Movers (IAM) represents.

Turkish finance minister sees bright outlook for economy

ANKARA: Turkey is continuing its strong economic growth trend and the foundations of its economy are strong, new Finance Minister Berat Albayrak was quoted as saying by state media yesterday.

Concerns about the central bank's independence intensified after President Tayyip Erdogan appointed his son-in-law Albayrak as treasury and finance minister, boosting expectations that the president - a self-described "enemy of interest rates" - will look to exercise greater influence over monetary policy.

The Turkish lira has been hammered this year, losing a fifth of its value against the US dollar, on concerns about the central bank's ability to rein in double-digit inflation, while Erdogan has repeatedly called for lower interest rates. Albayrak, who is in Argentina for a G20 meeting, was quoted by state-run news agency Anadolu as saying the government's recent policies were aimed at maintaining prudent fiscal policies, seeing healthy credit growth,

carrying out structural reforms and strengthening Turkey's monetary policy framework. "Turkey's economy continues its strong growth momentum. Our economic foundations are going to be strong and our outlook is promising," Albayrak said.

With Erdogan having merged the Treasury and the Finance Ministry, Albayrak's appointment effectively saw him replace both Mehmet Simsek and Naci Agbal in a cabinet that now has no obvious investor-friendly ministers.

Albayrak's comments, therefore, are closely watched by investors for clues on whether he will seek to calm financial markets by adopting a more orthodox approach to monetary policy or reiterate Erdogan's views that high interest rates stoke inflation.

Following his appointment, Albayrak said the central bank is independent and will do whatever economic realities and market conditions necessitate. The central bank's monetary policy committee, which has raised rates by 500 basis points since April in an effort to put a floor under the currency, will meet on July 24. On the sidelines of the G20 summit in Buenos Aires, Albayrak said on Twitter that he had met with his US, Chinese, German, Brazilian, South Korean, French and Indonesian counterparts. —Reuters

Kuwait Times

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Business

Italian media, politicians hail Marchionne as Fiat era ends

New CEO Manley to implement strategy outlined in June

ROME: Italian media and politicians saluted Sergio Marchionne yesterday, who has stepped down following 14 years heading auto giant Fiat owing to serious health problems believed to be life threatening.

"Marchionne, the end of an era," was Corriere della Serra's headline after an emergency board meeting of Fiat Chrysler (FCA), Ferrari and CNH Industrial, the three groups controlled by the Agnelli family, who met Saturday to announce the end of his tenure.

Marchionne, 66, suffered serious complications following surgery on his right shoulder last month and La Repubblica said his condition was giving cause for major concern. The paper said there had been a further "deterioration" in his condition Friday and that "this time there is no return—the patient is no longer responding" to treatment.

The hospital treating him would not comment when contacted by AFP, citing patient confidentiality. "This is terrible news," said Marco Bentivoglio, general secretary of the CISL metalworkers union. "We have not seen eye to

eye on certain things... but together we challenged little lazy Italy which prefers to close plants rather than roll up its sleeves." In his 14 years at the helm, Marchionne revamped Fiat, Italy's premier private enterprise, from top to bottom turning it into a sector mastodon, merging it in 2009 with US automaker Chrysler, then hiving off its industrial vehicles to create CNH Industrial in 2011 before a successful spinoff of luxury brand Ferrari in January 2016.

Some politicians joined the media in eulogizing Marchionne, including former center left prime minister Matteo Renzi. "Marchionne has been a great protagonist of economic life for the past 15 years... he has succeeded in giving Fiat a future when that seemed impossible. He created jobs, not unemployment. I take my hat off to him," said Renzi.

Marchionne was close to Renzi for some years before keeping his distance later, albeit he did not go as far as taking up a suggestion by another former premier, media magnate Silvio Berlusconi, to head up a conservative coalition in the March legislative elections.

Italy's new coalition government was discreet in its reaction to Marchionne's departure and passing of the torch to Briton Mike Manley, previously head of the group's Jeep brand. Far-right Interior Minister Matteo Salvini offered Marchionne his "recognition and respect along with best wishes" for a recovery. As speculation continued on his health media speculated on the future for Fiat. For Dario Di Vico, editorialist at Corriere, Marchionne had "incarnated in the history of our country the very idea of modern industry."

But he expressed concern "for the life of one of the world's most highly-regarded managers" as well as posing "legitimate questions on the future of the world's seventh-largest automaker."

Fiat Chrysler named on Saturday its Jeep division boss Mike Manley to take over immediately from Chief Executive Sergio Marchionne, who is seriously ill after suffering major complications following surgery.

The carmaker said British-born Manley, who also takes responsibility for the North America region, will



TURIN: A picture shows the Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) headquarters in former Fiat historical building "Lingotto". —AFP

push ahead with the mid-term strategy outlined last month by Marchionne, who had been due to step down next April. —Agencies

Mudon Ahlia warns of imbalances in distribution of commercial services

KUWAIT: Mudon Ahlia Real Estate Company recently warned of what it described as imbalances in distribution of commercial services and shopping and commercial malls in various governorates, as indicated by PACI information.

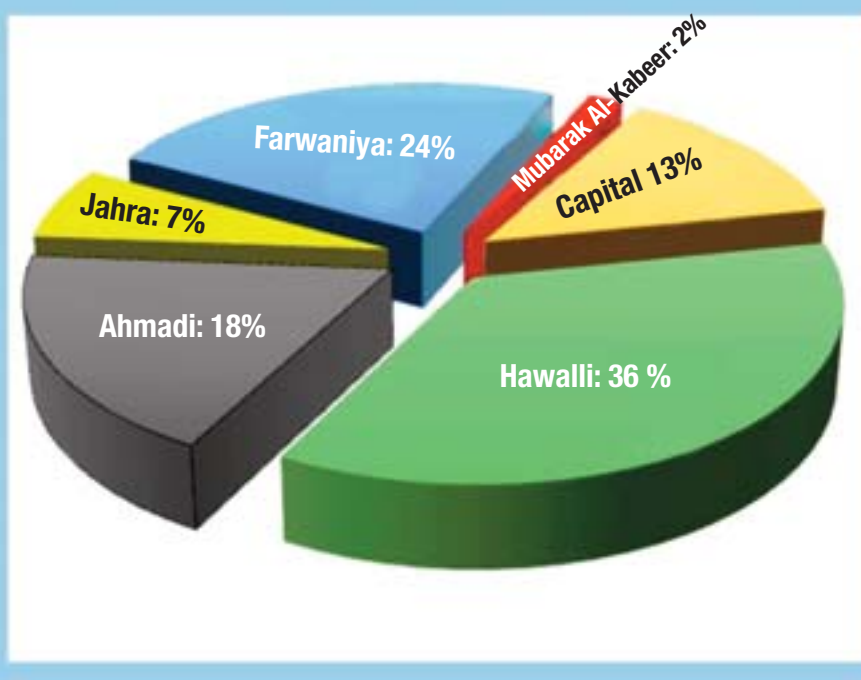
In its monthly real estate report, Mudon Ahlia stressed that data and statistics issued by PACI and the Central Statistical Bureau showed that only 9 percent of 576 malls in Kuwait were in Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Jahra by the end of 2017, while 36 percent were in Hawally, 24 percent in Farwaniya, 18 percent in Ahmadi and 13 percent in the Capital governorate.

The report also noted that 41 percent of the 4,381 other commercial buildings in Kuwait were in the Capital governorate, followed by Farwaniya with 26 percent, Ahmadi with 13 percent,

Mubarak Al-Kabeer with 9 percent, Jahra with 6 percent and Hawally with only 5 percent. The report indicated that considerable numbers of retail activities were still done outside integrated commercial complexes, noting that there were over 140,000 stores, bodies and commercial offices and units in Kuwait by the end of 2017, which is a humongous number compared to around 5,000 malls and commercial buildings mentioned above.

Finally, the report suggests that local markets still need more integrated and specialized commercial complexes to absorb more retail activities, which would develop the sector and improve the services provided to match Kuwait's environment, climate and local market needs, as well as cope with related international and regional developments.

Malls in Kuwait per governorate as of the end of 2017



German industry groups warn US on tariffs before Trump-Juncker meet

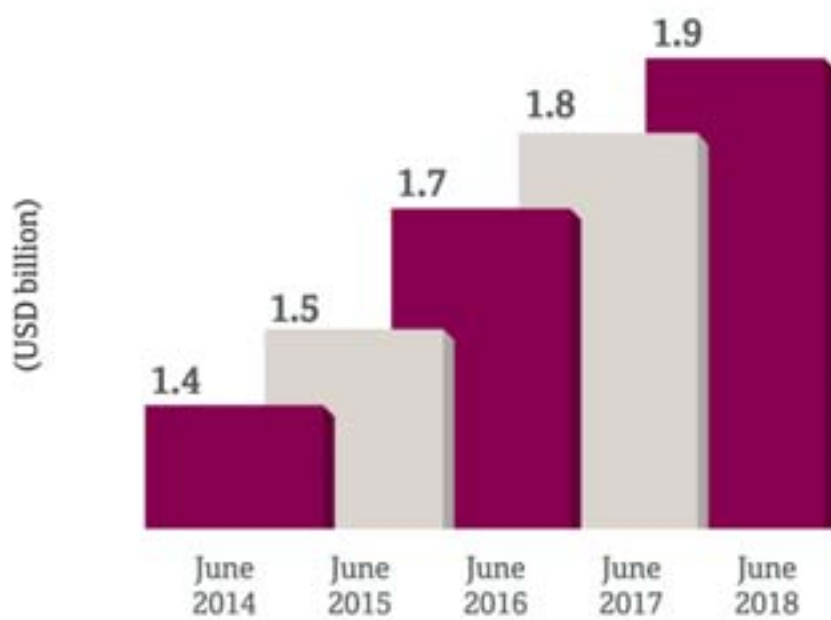
BERLIN: German industry groups warned yesterday, before European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker meets US President Donald Trump this week, that tariffs the United States has imposed or is threatening to introduce risk harming America itself.

Citing national security grounds, Washington imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from the EU, Canada and Mexico on June 1 and Trump is threatening to extend them to EU cars and car parts. Juncker will discuss trade with Trump at a meeting on Wednesday.

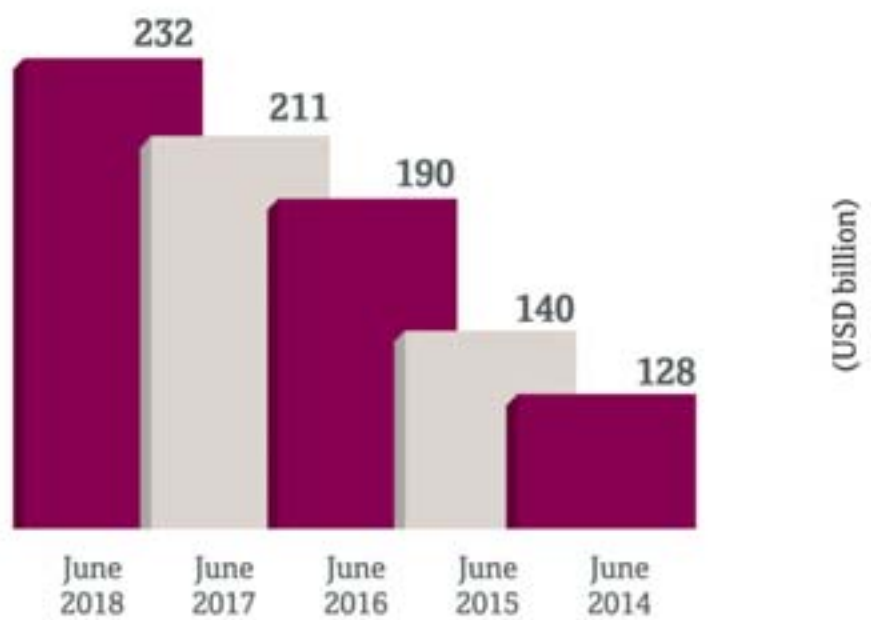
"The tariffs under the guise of national security should be abolished," Dieter Kempf, head of Germany's BDI industry association said. Juncker should tell Trump that the United States would harm itself with tariffs on cars and car parts, he told Welt am Sonntag newspaper. —Reuters

QNB Group, the largest financial institution in the MEA region delivers another record result for the six months ended 30 June 2018

Net Profit US\$1.9 billion, up by 7% on June 2017



Total Assets US\$232 billion, up by 10% on June 2017



QNB Group achieves record financial results for the six months period ended 30 June 2018.

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Business

'Score with Zain' campaign offers valuable prizes to customers

Weekly cash prizes, gold bar, and BMW X6 mega prize

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the continuation of its latest promotional campaign 'Score with Zain', which offers customers the chance to win exciting prizes that include a weekly cash prize of KD 500, a Gold Bar, and the BMW X6 mega prize at the end of the campaign.

Zain launched this campaign as part of its continuous efforts to offer its customers the latest innovative solutions in the world of Value Added Services. The company is

always keen on offering the best and most advanced services to the largest family of subscribers in Kuwait.

As soon as a customer subscribes to the Score with Zain service, they will automatically enter the draw for a chance to win one of the exciting prizes offered as part of the campaign. The prizes include a weekly cash prize of KD 500, a Gold Bar worth KD 6,900, as well as the BMW X6 M Pack mega prize at the end of the campaign.

Score with Zain offers customers inform-

ative sports content and exclusive videos through SMS on a daily basis, including facts about the best athletes, the most exciting tournaments, and the most important sporting events around the world. Customers can subscribe to the service by sending "Win" to 99915 for 150 fils daily only, giving them the chance to enter the draw on one of the exciting valuable prizes offered by the campaign.

Zain strives to offer customers the latest services and solutions in the world of Value

Added Services, all with the aim of surpassing customers' expectations. The company will continue leading the market by launching unprecedented services, products, and solutions in addition to value added services geared at maintaining its leading position in Kuwait.

Zain launched this exciting promotional campaign to reinforce its leadership position and its pledge in offering the best products and services to meet its customers' personal and professional telecommunications needs.



Lufthansa Group wins four Skytrax awards

FRANKFURT: Lufthansa was elected as the "Best Airline in Europe" and the "Best Western European Airline". The awards were presented to Lufthansa on the occasion of a ceremony held by Skytrax in London. The market research institute Skytrax specializing in the aviation industry had previously surveyed about 20 million passengers from more than 160 countries worldwide.

Passengers from across the globe voted in favor of the German premium airline and thus also acknowledged the service provided by Lufthansa. "We would like to thank our customers for this vote of confidence and our employees for their commitment and customer orientation", says Andreas Otto, Product Manager of the Lufthansa Group for the premium airlines and Chief Commercial Officer of Austrian Airlines. "We are well aware of the challenge of living up to this award at all times. For this reason, we see this recognition as an incentive to fulfil the promise we



make to our customers", he adds. Austrian Airlines was given two awards. The employees were given the award as the "Best Airline Staff Service in Europe". Moreover, Austrian Airlines is champion in the category "Best Business Class Onboard Catering".

The survey was carried out by the market research institute Skytrax specializing in the aviation industry. Passengers were asked to assess the offering on board and services of the airlines at the airports. Skytrax has been conducting this survey on an annual basis since 1999.



Huawei CBG's market share in MEA increases by 31.25%

KUWAIT: Huawei Consumer Business Group (CBG), has increased its market share in the MEA by 31.25 percent, according to the GFK May 2018 report, showing strong device performance and steady growth in the region. In May 2018, GFK reported that Huawei CBG market share in the Middle East and Africa was 21 percent, an increase of 31.25 percent when compared with the brand's market share in December 2017. Huawei's value share also increased 35.7 percent from December 2017, rising to 19 percent in May 2018.

Huawei's dedication to the Middle East and Africa

region, and commitment to innovation has spearheaded exceptional growth in the brand's consumer business, shown through a rapid increase in smartphone shipments in H1 2018. Huawei's market share across countries in the region exceeds 20 percent, including Levant at 37.4 percent, Oman at 30 percent, Saudi Arabia at 27 percent, Iraq at 25 percent, Egypt at 24 percent, Pakistan at 22.2 percent and the UAE at 20 percent.

Huawei recently launched its critically-acclaimed flagship HUAWEI P20 series, featuring an AI-powered triple camera that takes unprecedented professional-quality photographs. Praised by top tier media around the world, the HUAWEI P20 series has exceeded 6 million units in total sales volume worldwide, just a short three months since its release in March 2018. This is an 81 percent increase compared to global HUAWEI P10 Series' performance in 2017.

Huawei is expected to launch further innovations in the smartphone category in the coming months, paving the way for continued growth and investment in the MEA region.



Gene Jiao, President of HUAWEI CBG, Middle East & Africa

KFH-Bahrain announces 'Libshara' winners

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain (KFH-Bahrain) announced the 'Libshara' winners for May 2018 at its headquarters located in the Bahrain World Trade Centre. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism and in the presence of Subah Abdullatif Al-Zayani, Deputy Head of Retail Banking Group at KFH-Bahrain along with several officials from the bank.

The May 2018 winners included Rabab Husain Ahmed who received the grand prize of \$50,000; Ali Mohamed Bursaid and Mohamed Khalifa Albenjasim who each won a cash prize of \$10,000; while Yusuf Ebrahim Aljasim and Abdulrahman Yusuf Albaloooshi both won a cash prize of \$5,000 each. In additional 80 winners also received various other cash prizes for other categories and segments.

On this occasion, Subah Al-Zayani said: "We would like to extend our congratulations to Rabab Husain for winning 'Libshara' grand prize for May 2018. KFH-Bahrain is always committed to provide our customers with the best products and financial services to meet their banking needs. We have recently launched our new platform 'Jazee' on both Apple and Google stores, which includes the feature to open a 'Libshara' account for all citizens and residents of the Kingdom within a few minutes, without having to visit the branch.

We invite everyone to download this platform, open and invest into a Libshara savings account and stand a chance to win many more Grand Prizes of apartments and cash, as well as other monthly cash prizes."

The Grand Prize winner, Rabab Ahmed said, "I'm very fortunate to have won this prize as it serves as motivation to continue investing in the 'Libshara' Savings Investment Account. I would also like to thank the bank's employees and management for their efforts towards providing the best banking services and products within the Islamic banking sector of the Kingdom of Bahrain. I also encourage everyone to



Subah Al-Zayani with the grand prize winner Rabab Ahmed

open a 'Libshara' account and extend the duration of their investments and the amount in order to boost their chances of becoming a monthly winner"

The 'Libshara' campaign will reward winners with luxury apartments located at Marrasi Al Bahrain, a leading project in Diyar Al-Muharraq. Also, an additional 85 winners will benefit from monthly prizes worth \$140,000; this includes a grand prize of \$50,000; two prizes of \$10,000; and two prizes of \$5,000. Furthermore, 40 winners will receive USD1,000 each and ten winners from the 'special' accounts categories, namely 'Our Ladies', 'Our Children', 'Our Savers' and 'Our Cards' - will receive \$500 each.

The 'Libshara' Savings Investment Account is a Sharia'a compliant savings scheme that offers clients valuable monthly prizes. For every BD50 or its equivalent in USD saved for a period of 30 days prior to the end of the month, clients are entitled to enter the raffle and can increase their chances of winning one of the many exciting prizes. An investment period of 90 days is equal to one chance at entering the raffle draw, whereas 180 days gives two chances and 360 days is three chances.

The 'Libshara' Savings Investment Account is available to citizens and residents of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the GCC who are 18 years and above or by a legal guardian on behalf of a minor. It is also available to establishments and corporations. The account can be opened in Bahraini dinars or US dollars.

Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi account draw



KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, the second largest in terms of assets, announced yesterday the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners are:

1. Afzal Mahmood Mohammad Sharif
2. Mariam Adel Haidar Alhasan
3. Fahad Mohammad Alshawaamrah
4. Minor / Bader Mesalem Falah Alhebedh
5. Abdullah Ali Habeb Esmael

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, wherein the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.

Al-Tijari announces winner of Al-Najma weekly draw program

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced the winner of the weekly draw as follows :-

Weekly draw prize KD 5,000 - Ahmad Darweesh Ahmad Abdullah

The draw was conducted in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative Latifa Al-Jean.

The bank stated that the account prizes this year is featured by the highest cash prize and diversity of prizes throughout the year clarifying that Al-Najma Account will offer weekly prize of KD 5,000 and monthly prize of KD 20,000 and a semi-annual prize of KD 500,000 in addition to the grand prize (the biggest prize in the world) of KD 1,500,000 for which the draw will be held in January 2019. Al Najma Account can be opened by depositing KD 100, and customer should maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 to be eligible to enter all draws on Al-Najma Account prizes. As for the chances of winning, the more balance a customer maintains in Al-Najma Account, the more chances the account holder will get to win, where each KD 25 will give the customer one chance to win, the account also offers additional benefits like the ATM card, a credit card against customer's account and all CBK banking services that customer can enjoy.

Now CBK existing customers can open Al-Najma Account through Al-Tijari Online and enter all draws without visiting the Bank's branch. However, CBK non-customers can submit an account opening application via the Bank's website where the Bank's Sales Unit will call them to arrange a visit to the customers to complete the account opening formalities.



Technology

From high school drop-out to Korean gaming superstar

eSports to be held as demonstration event

SEOUL: A high school drop-out dubbed the "Michael Jordan of eSports" has helped make South Korea a major power in video-gaming-and is now leading its push to be recognized by the mainstream. The bespectacled, floppy-fringed 'Faker', real name Lee Sang-hyeok, is the world's top League of Legends gamer and in hyper-wired Korea, he enjoys similar fame and fortune to top basketball or baseball players.

Faker, 22, will be one of the biggest stars at next month's regional Olympics, the quadrennial Asian Games in Indonesia, where eSports will be held as a demonstration event for the first time. It marks a step forward in gaming's efforts to be considered a genuine sport, possibly even gaining a slot at the Olympics in the future-good news for global eSports powerhouses like South Korea. The South enjoys ultra-fast broadband and a vibrant Internet culture, and internet cafes armed with powerful high-end computers catering to school-age gamers can be found on many street corners.

"eSports player" consistently ranks among children's most popular future jobs, coming eighth in an education ministry survey of elementary school pupils last year-higher than "scientist". Faker started playing video games in elementary school, and excelled at League of Legends-an online battle game introduced by Riot Games in 2009. As he climbed the online LoL rankings speculation mounted about his identity, and he formed a team with friends to compete at amateur tournaments. He dropped out of high school after being offered a job as a professional, making his debut in 2013 and thrashing top players one after another as he made his way to stardom.

eSports fully embraced

Korea's eSports scene is reminiscent of Germany's soccer culture, with grassroots talents nurtured from a young age, some of

them making their way to amateur leagues and, after years of competition and effort, professional teams. Many leading firms have their own eSports teams, with Faker believed to be paid at least 3 billion won a year by his sponsor SK Telecom, the South's top wireless operator.

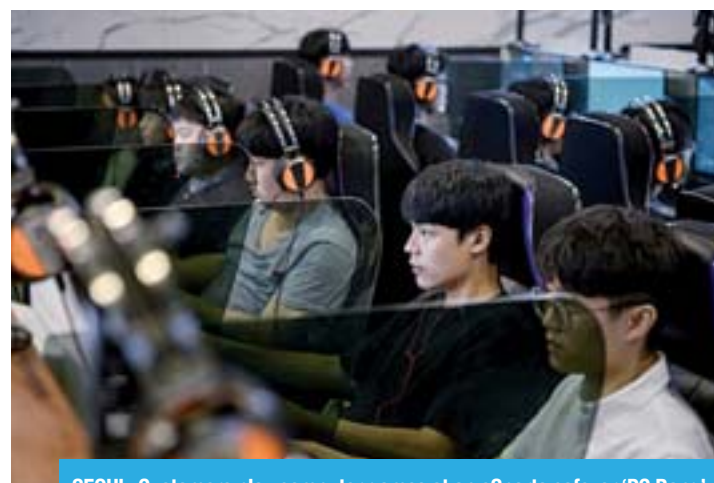
"This is a country where eSports has been fully embraced as a type of sport among youth, and even college sports championships have eSport events," said Kim Cheol-Hag, secretary general of the Korea eSports Association. Last year, eSports was ranked the third most popular sport among South Koreans aged 15-29 after soccer and baseball, according to a survey by Nielsen Korea.

Multiple TV channels are dedicated to broadcasting eSports competitions, held at large football stadiums to roars from tens of thousands of fans, or sleek special arenas designed to showcase the games. "Playing games became a full-time career in the South in the mid-2000s when many pro eSports teams were established, ahead of other countries," Kim said.

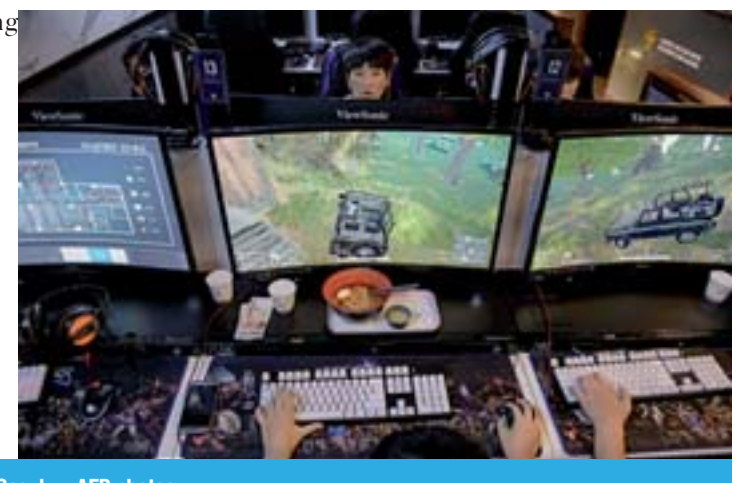
With 25 million players-half the population-the South is the world's sixth-biggest video game market. But many South Korean players and coaches have been hired to work for top teams around the world, including China and the US-eSports' two biggest markets. "Now the US and China have the same systems and have caught up with us," Kim told AFP, "but we have know-how and culture that has been accumulated for decades helping us stay at the top of the game".

Improve your social standing

South Korea's obsession with video games dates back to the 1990s when Starcraft-a US science fiction strategy game-enjoyed huge popularity, so much so that the South accounted for more than half its worldwide sales. Nowadays teenagers



SEOUL: Customers play computer games at an eSports cafe, or 'PC Bang', in Seoul. —AFP photos



SEOUL: Spectators watch as professional eSports teams 'Griffin' and 'Afreeca Freaks' prepare to compete.



SEOUL: Members of professional eSports team 'Griffin' prepare to compete in a 'League of Legends' competition in Seoul.



SEOUL: Spectators watch as professional eSports teams 'Griffin' and 'Afreeca Freaks' prepare to compete.

hoping to become professional players-or popular among their game-crazed peers-flock to a growing number of private, after-hours schools coaching them how to play video games better.

A typical "game academy" features a rows of teenagers or men in their 20s play-

ing Overwatch or League of Legends, with a coach-usually a former pro-watching their performances and suggesting better moves. "If you become a good gamer, it can improve your social standing and help you make more friends," game academy student

Kim Han-eol told Seoul's YTN news channel. Six other players will accompany Faker to Indonesia next month to compete. "The Asian Games is not an event only watched by gamers but something watched by the whole nation," Faker told reporters. "I will win the game no matter what." —AFP

Cloud brightening, 'sun shields' to save Barrier Reef

SYDNEY: Australia announced plans Friday to explore concepts such as firing salt into clouds and covering swathes of water with a thin layer of film in a bid to save the embattled Great Barrier Reef. The UNESCO World Heritage-listed reef, about the size of Japan or Italy, is reeling from two straight years of bleaching as sea temperatures rise because of climate change. Experts have warned that the 2,300-kilometre (1,400-mile) long area could have suffered irreparable damage.

While the government has pledged to tackle climate change-the greatest threat to the world's largest living structure-there has also been a push to explore short-term measures to buy the reef some time. Canberra in January offered Aus\$2.0 million (US\$1.5 million) to attract innovative ideas to protect the site, which is also under pressure from farming runoff, development and the predatory crown-of-thorns starfish. Six schemes selected out of a total of 69 submissions will be tested to see if they are feasible.

One selected concept is cloud brightening where salt crystals harvested from seawater are fired into clouds, making them more reflective and therefore deflecting solar rays back into space. David Mead, a researcher at the Australian Institute of Marine Science, said the idea might seem wacky but the proposal has real potential. "The team have been looking at using a very fine nozzle to pump small droplets of salt water at the rate of several billion per second," he



QUEENSLAND, Australia: This file photo shows an aerial view of the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of the Whitsunday Islands, along the central coast of Queensland. —AFP

told national broadcaster ABC.

"The water vaporises and you're left with a salt particle which will float around, and if you can introduce those into the system you can increase the amount of sunlight reflected back." Another idea was a biodegradable "sun shield", where an ultra-thin film containing light-reflecting particles covers some reef waters to protect corals from heat stress. "The great thing about the film is it is only a molecule thick so you can swim straight through it and it'll just keep self-

forming," Andrew Negri from the Australian Institute of Marine Science told the ABC.

Other short-listed projects include mass producing coral larvae with the aid of 3D-printed surfaces to support new growth, and large-scale harvesting and relocation of larvae. The experimental commissions came as Canberra said Friday it was updating its Aus\$2.0 billion "Reef 2050" plan-first unveiled in 2015 — to protect the reef, with further measures to improve water quality. —AFP

Neanderthal man knew how to make a fire

PARIS: Neanderthal man knew how to make a fire by striking stone to create sparks, researchers said Thursday after analyzing several tools found at sites in France dating from 50,000 years ago. It was already known that Neanderthals used fire but it was mostly thought to have occurred by natural causes such as lightning or volcanic eruptions, although perhaps they did know techniques for creating a flame. The latter is what scientists of a study published in Scientific Reports have claimed.

"We present here the first direct artefactual evidence for regular, systematic fire production by Neanderthals," they wrote in the study. "We found the lighters that Neanderthal man used to make a fire," Marie Soressi, professor of prehistory at Leiden University in the Netherlands and co-author of the study, said. The researchers found dozens of flint with traces on the two faces of the prehistoric stone tool, or biface. They appear to indicate that the tool could have been used to strike at a ferrous mineral such as pyrite or marcasite.

Piercing the pyrite would produce sparks

which Neanderthal man could make fall on dry grass or leaves and blow on them to get a fire going. Andrew Sorensen, also from Leiden University and the lead author of the study, says the scientists know the traces on the stone tools were not natural, but instead made by these primitive men living in Europe in late Palaeolithic times.

"The traces we see occur in discrete zones, with the striations almost always oriented parallel to the long axis of the tool. If the scratches were natural, we would expect them to occur all over the surface of the biface and to be oriented randomly," he told AFP in an email. "The fire making traces appear with the naked eye as clusters of C-shaped percussion marks... often indicating unidirectional, oblique (glancing) blows (ideal for fire making)," he wrote.

Debate will continue

Under a microscope, the researchers also found striations that appeared to show the tool had a specific usage. They also tried using the biface for different tasks, and it was while the flint was hitting the pyrite that the marks it caused most closely resembled those found on the Neanderthal's biface. A fire making skill would have had a major impact on the Neanderthals' way of life. "If they could make their own fire, then they could produce it when and where they needed it and not have to worry about collecting lots of extra fuel to keep the fire going," said Sorensen.



PARIS: This file photo shows a molding of a Neanderthal man's face displayed for the Neanderthal exhibition at the Musee de l'Homme in Paris. —AFP

He added that it would have been especially important "during colder periods when France was covered by steppe and tundra and wood fuel sources were drastically reduced." Sorensen also said he wouldn't be surprised to one day find bifaces even more ancient which were used to make fire. But

when asked if the study was definitive proof Neanderthals could start a fire with tools, he said it could still be debated. "Within the field of microwear (or use wear) analysis, nothing is 'definitive'. We provide 'interpretations'. I am sure the debate will continue," Sorensen said. —AFP

Big tech firms agree on 'data portability' plan

SAN FRANCISCO: Facebook, Google, Microsoft and Twitter unveiled plans Friday to make it easier for users to take their personal data and leave one online service for another. The "Data Transfer Project" revealed by the companies responds to concerns about the growing influence of internet platforms and internet user concerns about control of their personal information shared online. "Users should be in control of their data on the web, part of this is the ability to move their data," the companies said on the project website.

Data portability has been a goal of many privacy activists, and is enshrined in some country regulations including Europe's new General Data Protection Regulation. Currently, people can download their data from an online service, without a guarantee it will be possible or feasible to upload the information to a new service. The situation can result in people feeling anchored to a service or app, even if they are unhappy with it or an enticing option arises, because of photos, contacts, posts and other accumulated data.

"Making it easier for individuals to choose among services facilitates competition, empowers individuals to try new services and enables them to choose the offering that best suits their needs," the project said at its website. "There are many use cases for users porting data directly between services, some we know about today, and some we have yet to discover." —AFP

Facebook probes whether data firm violated policies

WASHINGTON: Facebook has suspended a Boston analytics firm from its site and says it is investigating whether the company's contracts with the US government and a Russian non-profit violated policies, the Wall Street Journal reported. The firm, Crimson Hexagon, says its platform allows clients-which include major US corporations-to analyze audiences and to track brand perception and campaign performance. Citing people familiar with the business, the Journal said the government contracts of Crimson Hexagon, which pulls public data from Facebook, were not approved by Facebook in advance. Since 2014, US government agencies have paid Crimson Hexagon more than \$800,000 for 22 contracts, the Journal said, citing government procurement data. Crimson Hexagon has sold its proprietary analytics platform abroad, including to Turkey and Russia, where in 2014 it worked with a non-profit tied to the government, the Journal reported late Friday.

It said Crimson Hexagon appears at least once to have mistakenly received private data from Facebook's Instagram service. Facebook had requested further evidence from Crimson Hexagon but the Journal quoted a spokesman for the social network as saying that "based on our investigation to date, Crimson Hexagon did not obtain any Facebook or Instagram information inappropriately." —AFP

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What's On



SACGC concludes summer camp workshops in Jahra



Under auspices of Jahra governor, retired lit. general Fahad Ahmed Al-Amir, Sabah Al-Ahmed Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC) recently concluded its applied sciences workshops' summer camp in Jahra. Speaking on the occasion, governor Al-Amir said that KFAS and its SACGC play a vital role in supporting and investing in youth potentials adding that the summer workshops program in Jahra started two years earlier.

Al-Amir expressed his pride in the outcome of the workshops and thanked parents for encouraging their children to take part in the workshops to make use of their free time. On his part, SACGC general manager Dr. Omar Al-Bannai stressed that organizing the workshops in various governorates contributes to discovering youth talents and creativity, which the center works on investing for the best interest of Kuwait.



Local Arab Recipes

Kabsa

Kabsa is an exuberant looking family of dishes made from basmati rice, meat, vegetables, and a unique blend of spices. Kabsa originated from Yemen and is served as a traditional dish in Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Qatar, Jordan and Kuwait. Kabsa can be made in a number of ways, the recipe differs in almost every household! But as long as it looks grand, you got your kabsa right.

Ingredients

- 1 kg chicken (cut into pieces)
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 2 sliced onion
- 12 oz tomato puree
- 2 medium chopped tomatoes
- 4 chopped cloves of garlic
- 2 grated carrot
- 1 grated orange
- 4 cloves

- 4 Cardamom
- 3 Cinnamon sticks
- Pepper and salt to taste
- 1 kg rice
- 1/4 cup Raisins
- 1/4 cup sliced almonds

Method

Saute 2 medium sliced onion until it begins to brown. Add chopped tomatoes, tomato puree, chicken pieces and garlic and stir for 5 min over low heat. Stir in 3 cups of hot water, grated orange, grated carrot, salt, pepper and spice. Cook over medium heat for about 20-25 min, until chicken is done. Set aside to keep warm. Stir rice into the liquid in the pan and cook. Cover the pan over low heat for about 35-40 min or until liquid is absorbed. Put rice on a serving platter, with chicken pieces spread all around. Toss almonds and raisins over and serve.



Humus

Humus is a traditional, local Arabic dip. It is mostly served with warm pita bread. It is a popular cuisine from Arab locals especially in Turkey, Morocco, Dubai, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Ingredients

- 2 lemon juice
- 3 tsp sesame seeds
- 300 gm chickpeas
- 2 chopped garlic cloves
- Salt (to taste)
- 1 tsp olive oil (for garnishing)
- 1 tsp Paprika (for garnishing)
- Spring parsley (finely chopped for garnishing)

Method

Soak chickpeas for overnight and boil in a deep saucepan until tender. (cooking time : 135 - 140 min) Reserve the cooking water. Grind chickpeas in a blender with lemon juice, garlic, salt and sesame seeds. Add cooking water into the blender and blend the mixture to make a dip of soft creamy consistency. Garnish with parsley, paprika and olive oil.



Manakeesh

Manakeesh is the Arabic pizza of sorts. It is made of authentic Arabic Lebanese flat breads, topped with an exquisite selection of marinated meat, vegetables, and a multitude of Arabic spices and herbs. It is difficult to think of a lavish breakfast table in the Middle East without a manakeesh at its centre. Here is the low down on how to make this delicious Arabic food.

Ingredients

- 2 1/4 lb flour
- 2 cup of warm water
- Fresh zaater oil
- 2 tbsp dry yeast
- 4 tbsp olive oil
- 1/3 cup grated akawi cheese
- 1 tsp salt

Method

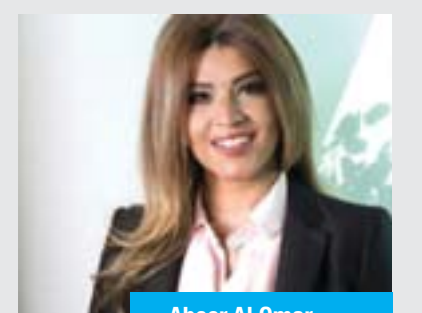
Stir yeast in 1/4 cup of warm water and leave it aside for an hour to become active. Add 1 tsp of salt in flour, along with some olive oil over it. Add the remaining cups of water on it and mix them together into a soft dough. Roll out the dough into a medium sized thickness and spread the fresh zaater oil all over the surface. Place the dough on the baking sheet and top it up with 1/3 cup of grated akawi cheese. Bake in your oven for about 6 min at 650 F. Serve with fresh tomatoes and pickled cucumber.



KIPCO continues to support Proteges

For the sixth consecutive year, Kuwait Projects Company Holding (KIPCO) will be joining The Proteges as a strategic partner on their annual trip this year taking place in Swansea, Wales represented by Ms. Abeer Al Omar Director of Corporate Social Responsibility. The Proteges is a mentorship program designed to positively impact youth and push them towards owning their potential.

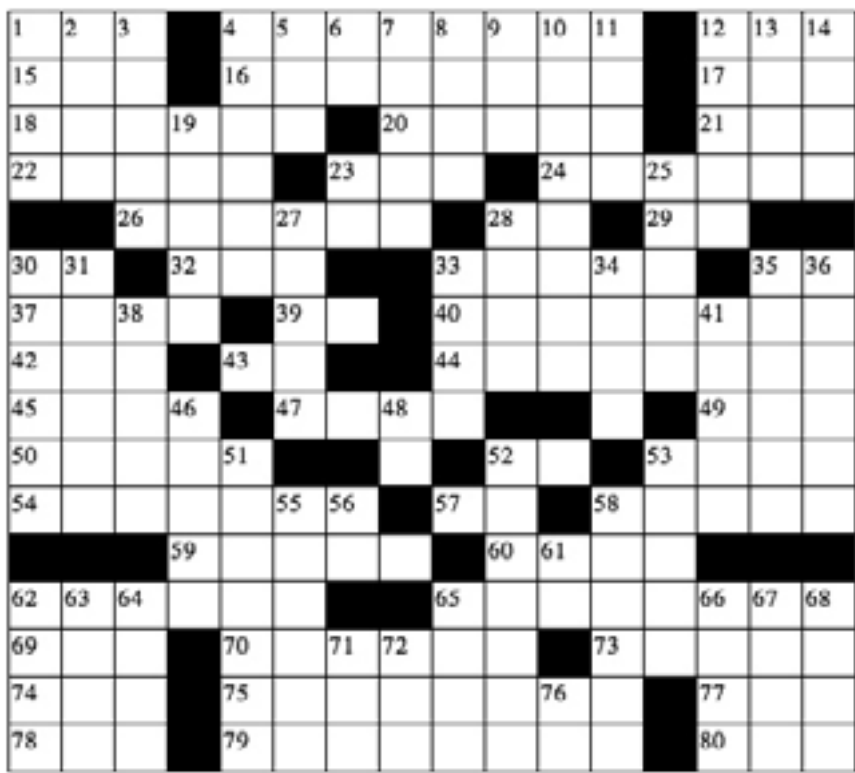
The trips are designed to exercise the students mind and body, every day starts with an early morning workout that helps the students develop healthy lifestyle choices and includes many cultural and social experiences that allow students to hone and develop their potential with the help of their mentors. "The ProtEGE program has proved to deliver extraordinary young individuals full of potential, we are excited to see what the Generation 8 Proteges will come up with, and we proudly continue to empower Kuwait's youth in owning their own success", said Abeer Al Omar, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility at KIPCO.



Abeer Al Omar

Stars

CROSSWORD 1966



ACROSS

1. A room or establishment where alcoholic drinks are served over a counter.
4. Marked by great carelessness.
12. Chiefly perennial grasses of cool temperate regions.
15. A lyric poem with complex stanza forms.
16. Plant bearing large mild thick-walled usually bell-shaped fruits.
17. A drug combination found in some over-the-counter headache remedies (Aspirin and Phenacetin and Caffeine).
18. The upper house of the parliament of the Republic of Ireland.
20. A set of clothing (with accessories).
21. A spacecraft that carries astronauts from the command module to the surface of the moon and back.
22. (Sumerian) God of the air and king of the Sumerian gods.
24. Having two faces or fronts.
26. Contemptibly small in amount.
29. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
30. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
32. Being ten more than one hundred thirty.
37. The organ of smell and entrance to the respiratory tract.
39. A doctor's degree in optometry.
40. A native or inhabitant of ancient Etruria.
42. Bulky grayish-brown eagle with a short wedge-shaped white tail.
43. A physician who is not a specialist but treats all illnesses.
44. Any of several trees of the genus Cinchona.
45. A thrusting blow with a knife.
47. The clock time given by a clock carried on board a spacecraft.
49. Estrangement from god.
50. One of the often brightly colored and branching hornlike structures on the back of the nudibranch (and other related mollusks) that serve as gills.
54. Informal terms.
57. A state in midwestern United States.
59. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
60. (Norse mythology) God of thunder and rain and farming.
62. The face or front of a building.
69. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
70. An architectural support or base (as for a column or statue).
73. (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the unconscious.
74. Imperial dynasty that ruled China (most of the time) from 206 BC to 221 and expanded its boundaries and developed its bureaucracy.
77. Consisting of or covered with oil.
77. A rotating disk shaped to convert circular into linear motion.
78. An insecticide that is also toxic to animals and humans.
79. A historical region of Croatia on the Adriatic Sea.
80. The basic unit of electric current adopted under the System International d'Unites.

3. A domain in which something is dominant.
4. Type genus of the Spalacidae.
5. Either of two folds of skin that can be moved to cover or open the eye.
6. Before noon.
7. Resembling swine.
8. A notable achievement.
9. (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
10. Tenaciously unwilling or marked by tenacious unwillingness to yield.
11. A member of the Shoshonean people of northeastern Arizona.
12. A republic in the western central Pacific Ocean in association with the United States.
13. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
14. The highest level or degree attainable.
19. A daughter of your brother or sister.
23. Being nine more than forty.
25. The soft tissue of the body of a vertebrate.
27. Wet feed (especially for pigs) consisting of mostly kitchen waste mixed with water or skimmed or sour milk.
28. Tree of low-lying coastal areas of southeastern United States having glossy leaves and racemes of fragrant white flowers.
31. An adrenal-cortex hormone (trade names Hydrocortone or Cortef) that is active in carbohydrate and protein metabolism.
33. A beckoning gesture.
34. (quantifier used with mass nouns) Great in quantity or degree or extent.
35. A starch made by leaching and drying the root of the cassava plant.
36. (Sumerian) Consort of Dumuzi (Tammuz).
38. Make off with belongings of others.
41. Ratio of the hypotenuse to the opposite side.
46. A coffee cake flavored with orange rind and raisins and almonds.
48. 30 to 300 kilohertz.
51. A several-seeded dehiscent fruit as e.g. of a leguminous plant.
52. Weapon consisting of a fighting ax.
53. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
55. Any of various deciduous or evergreen ornamental shrubs of the genus Abelia having opposite simple leaves and cymes of small white or pink or purplish flowers.
56. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
58. Ruffed grouse.
61. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
63. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
64. A fractional monetary unit of several countries.
65. An inactive volcano in Sicily.
66. Any of various minerals consisting of hydrous silicates of aluminum or potassium etc. that crystallize in forms that allow perfect cleavage into very thin leaves.
67. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
68. Providing sophisticated amusement by virtue of having artificially (and vulgarly) mannered or banal or sentimental qualities.
71. Not in good physical or mental health.
72. Game in which matchsticks are arranged in rows and players alternately remove one or more of them.
76. A complete metric system of units of measurement for scientists.

DOWN

1. Indian physicist who with Albert Einstein proposed statistical laws based on the indistinguishability of particles.
2. Chief port of Yemen.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

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 this evening that a good book may be just what you need to find this escape you have been searching for. A good time for rest and relaxation is in order for you.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

The sky is the limit. You have set your goals high and by this point you may be look down on them as you soar above and beyond all expectations you had for yourself. You are on fire. You filled with optimistic feelings and on top of the world. This is a great day for your relationship wise as well as in the workplace. You exude confidence today that so many will find as attractive. Your desires are leading you to crave something new. You are willing to try anything today with your bring it on attitude. High energy and happiness fill your world today. Enjoy! You may feel led to take chances concerning your relationship that are led by deep emotions today.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Today finds you all about you! Your hard work and dedication seem to have finally paid off and you are on top of the world. You are admired by your peers and it seems as if the world is raining sunshine directly on you. You are on fire and seem to find sharing the spotlight with others and showering them with kindness, appreciation, and gratitude is extremely rewarding to you. You want to share this feeling and make sure others around you feel your gratitude and love. You feel as if you want everyone to feel this feeling. You are full of love of life and love of those all around you. A sense of pride and accomplish will fill your world for days to come.



Cancer (June 21-July 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 this evening that a good book may be just what you need to find this escape you have been searching for. A good time for rest and relaxation is in order for you.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are optimistic and faith that all things good will come your way. The sky is the limit as far as you are concerned today. You may feel as if there is nothing you can not accomplish. Bring it on! In your personal life you may be ready to take a huge risk. Today may find you down on one knee, considering a move, or opening up and expressing your deepest feelings to someone. You are in a sort of daredevil mode and high on life. Your confidence level is at an all-time high and you are just the person who can make your desires become reality. Today, Leo, there is just no stopping you! This is a day you realize how important it is to sometimes put yourself first. Each gesture will truly come from your heart today as you will be just the one who makes others feel good about themselves.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

As you are frequently focused on the happiness and well-being of others, today is a time for you to put yourself first. You need to be all about you! You are high energy and full of light. You are the person others long to be like. You are admired and respected and your success has gained much admiration from your peers. You have remained focused and dedicated and even when you felt as if you were not being appreciated or noticed others were not only admiring you from afar they were striving to be more like you. Your hard work has paid off and put you in a great position. Congratulations on your success today.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This is your time to shine. You are full of pride and proud of your accomplishments. You are being noticed in the workplace and have been excelling at your job. You are very observant of the feelings of those around you and are able to make them feel good about themselves. You feel much support from your peers and family. Everything in your world is beginning to feel healthy and come naturally. You begin to feel as if something doesn't come from the heart it is irrelevant in your world. You surround yourself with people you feel are real and true friends. This is a great time for you and others begin to admire you not only for your accomplishments that the way you make them feel about themselves.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may be feeling drawn and even turned on by that which is taboo. Sex, power, and the pursuit of wealth are beginning to be a driving force behind your emotions. You are fascinated by people. What makes the do the things they do that makes them tick you desire a fresh start in your life and major changes. You know this may only be accomplished by turning your back on all you believed and starting over with an open mind and a new outlook on life in general. Scorpio. Sometimes a fresh start is just what we all need to succeed.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

The sky is the limit. You may feel as if no problem is too big nor can anything stand in your way today. Your mindset is more self-centered focusing only on the matters that have a direct effect on you and yours. This is a very analytical mood you find yourself in. Even though relaxing may be just what you would love to be doing today, your focus is strong and determined. You may find this day will be very productive. Sagittarius. You will be very successful in accomplishing any goal set before you today.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may feel as if the sky is the limit today. You are on fire and nothing can stop you from achieving any goal you set your sights on. This day finds you full of optimism and you have faith in yourself. This may be a higher level of self-confidence than you have ever felt in the past. This may lead you to take chances on an emotional level that you would never have considered before. Today you may find the rewards to be much greater than the risk you were willing to take. What a great day for you. Capricorn! Let no one dull your shine as you continue to reach for the stars.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your peers are appreciative of your ability to be able to make constructive suggestions or to help them with practical decisions, which relate to group issues. Knowing exactly what the public wants at this time is yet another feather in your hat. Your name and reputation are spreading quickly. Expect an upgrade soon in your job identity and pay. The idea of value or a greater appreciation for things of value is fun to comprehend this afternoon. It is most assuredly a time when tangible things have a great deal of importance. Your emotions or the feelings of those around you should be quite clear, making it a great time to reflect and truly understand individual family members and your connection in the family.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

The sky is the limit for you today. You are optimistic and can accomplish anything you set your mind to. You have faith and are willing to take chances on an emotional level that may bring great reward and happiness your way. You may be deep within your feelings and have a desire to experience something new. An emotional wanderlust, if you will, is the desire of your heart. Today you are all about you. Your wants, needs, and desires, take over and all you can do is pursue what your heart wants. This is a very productive day for you physically and emotionally. You will find peace and happiness in accomplishing the goals you have set for yourself today.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Treasure Island

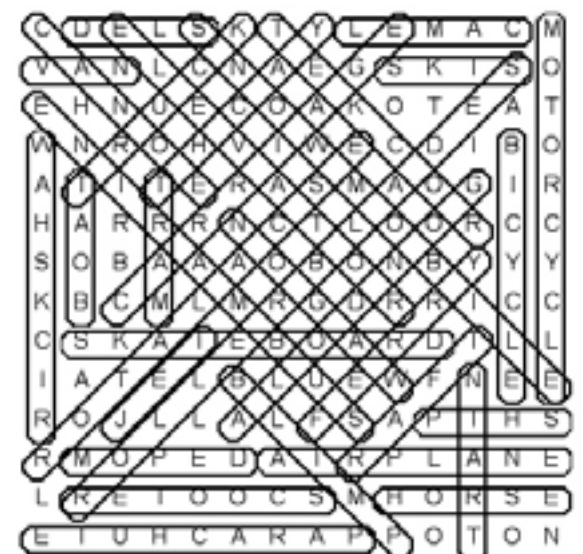
Find and circle all of the words and names from the book Treasure Island. The remaining 46 letters spell a secret message.



- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| ADMIRAL BENDOW INN | CAPE | ISLAND | QUARTERMASTER |
| APPLE BARREL | CAPTAIN FLINT | ISRAEL HANDS | SAIL |
| ASHORE | CAPTAIN SMOLLETT | JIM HAWKINS | SCHOOONER |
| BEACH | CHEST | JOLLY ROGER | SEAFARING |
| BEN GUNN | COAST | LOGBOOK | SEAMEN |
| BILLY BONES | COMPASS | LONG JOHN SILVER | SHIP |
| BLACK DOG | COVE | MARDONED | SKELETON |
| BUCCANEER | CREW | MUSKET | SPY-GLASS |
| BURIED GOLD | CUTLASS | MUTINY | SQUIRE TRELAWNEY |
| CABIN BOY | DR. LIVESEY | PARROT | THE BLACK SPOT |
| CANNON BALLS | GUINEAS | PRATES | TREASURE |
| CANNONS | HISPANIOLA | PISTOL | WALRUS |

Yesterday's Solution

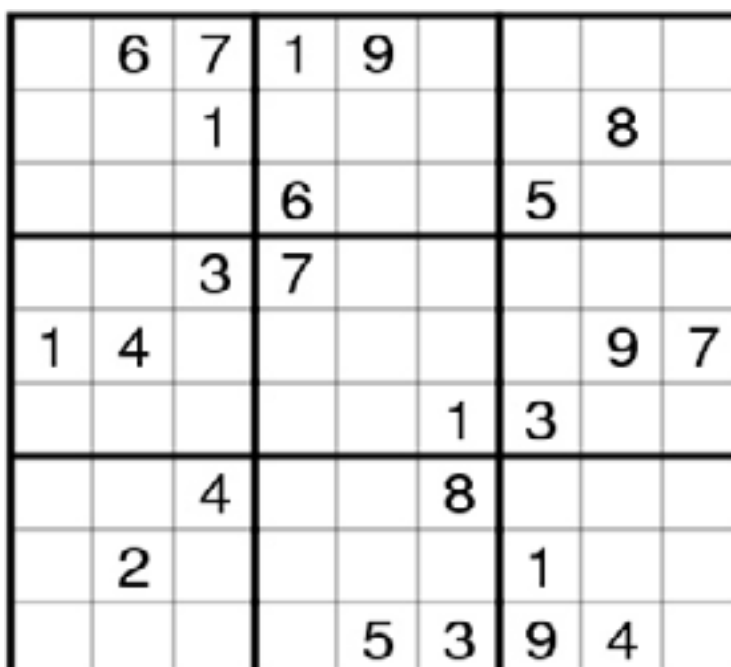
Transportation



- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|---------------|------------|
| AIRPLANE | FERRY | RIKSHAW | SNOWMOBILE |
| BICYCLE | GONDOLA | ROCKET | SUBMARINE |
| BLIMP | HORSE | ROLLER BLADES | TRAIN |
| BOAT | JET | SCOOTER | TRAM |
| CAMEL | MOPED | SHIP | TRUCK |
| CANOE | MOTORCYCLE | SKATEBOARD | VAN |
| CARRIAGE | PARACHUTE | SKIS | WAGON |
| ELEVATOR | RAFT | SLED | YACHT |
| ESCALATOR | | | |

The hidden transportation method is: HOT AIR BALLOON

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

MONDAY, JULY 23, 2018



This picture shows a man holding his handmade Tezutsu hanabi (handheld fireworks) dedicated to the Yoshida Shrine as a part of a Shinto ritual, on the eve of the Toyohashi Gion festival, in Toyohashi, central Japan. Every year, each male member of the shrine makes his own set of fireworks from bamboo covered by straw ropes with a loaded gun and metal powder, in a tradition that has been practiced for more than 350 years, according to an old document at the shrine. — AFP

Egypt archaeologists find 4,500-year-old pottery workshop



Photo shows a Blue Morpho butterfly landing on a plant during a photo call for hundreds of tropical butterflies being released, to launch the Natural History Museum's Sensational Butterflies exhibition in London.

Britain has a summer job for you: Count the butterflies

What to do during Britain's hottest summer in years? Why, count butterflies, of course.

Britain is holding a Big Butterfly Count to help experts assess the state of the wildlife environment. The count is being backed by celebrities, including naturalist David Attenborough, and depends on people devoting 15 minutes to counting butterfly species. More than 60,000 volunteers took part in the Butterfly

Conservation survey last year.

The annual survey began in 2010 and the group says it's become the largest butterfly monitoring project in the world. The group says butterflies react very quickly to environmental changes, making them excellent indicators of biodiversity. It says a decline in butterflies is "an early warning" of other wildlife losses. The count, which also helps to identify threatened species, goes until Aug 12. — AP



File photo shows John Miano of Destin, Fla, holds a monarch butterfly on his fingertip as he waits for the newly tagged insect to take flight during the Panhandle Butterfly House's Monarch Madness festival in Navarre, Fla. — AP photos

These handout pictures released by the Egyptian Antiquities ministry show the oldest workshop for the pottery industry of the old state discovered by a mission working in the groundwater reduction project in the Temple of Kom Ombo in Aswan. — AFP photos



Egyptian archaeologists have uncovered a pottery workshop dating back some 4,500 years, officials said Thursday, a rare discovery providing a glimpse into daily life from millennia ago. The find—which included a stone pottery

wheel—was made close to the southern city of Aswan during work around the Temple of Kom Ombo on the banks of the Nile River, the antiquities ministry said.

The workshop was built during the Fourth Dynasty of ancient Egypt (between

2613 and 2494 BC), a statement said, the same period in which the famous pyramids of Giza were constructed. "It is one of the rare finds that sheds light on daily life, industrial activities and the development of art in ancient Egypt," Mostafa Waziri, sec-

retary general of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, said in the statement. Waziri said the discovery showed "the improvement and adaptation" of tools during the period as people "responded to the demands of daily life". — AFP





Gomez would love to be in a Bollywood movie

The 'Heart Wants What It Wants' hit maker wants to work with composer A. R. Rahman and lend her vocals to a song. She told Mid Day: "I have been following a few musicians in India and I believe they are wonderful. I like AR Rahman's work. He is a global figure today. I would love to sing or be part of his compositions. I think it would be beautiful to sing for a Bollywood movie." Meanwhile, Selena is gearing up to release her new album but is unsure of "the right moment" to drop the record. She said: "I don't know when the right moment is. And I really mean that, not in a way that I'm trying to be mysterious or cool. It's hard to have a voice and make sure that your content means something." Last year, the brunette beauty admitted she wasn't sure which

direction she wanted to take her third studio album because all of the songs sound 'different'. She explained: "I've been in the studio for a year. So I can technically say I have an album, but I don't know where I want to go with it because of how different everything sounds. I'm not just saying that because I feel like, 'Oh, that's exciting!' Every song I'm setting up to be a single is just completely separate from each other and I love that. So, I don't know where it's gonna go, but I can say I have an album because it's a lot of music."

Lindsay Lohan wants to adopt

The 'Mean Girls' actress - who is currently single - wants to have a large family of her own one day, and while she's not ready to have kids just yet, Lindsay has admitted she would rather take on the care of a disadvantaged youngster than get pregnant. She said: "I've always said that I would love to have two or maybe four kids, but I have no plans to start my own family yet. "I am more likely to adopt a child first." The 32-year-old actress is "happiest being single" and thinks she's become a better person in the last few years. She told Closer magazine: "Ever since I turned 30, I've felt like a different person. "It's knowing who I am as a person and taking control of my life and not having the distractions of Hollywood and guys around me. "I am just a very independent woman. Ha, that sounds so cliché. But I really do feel that I have finally found me." The 'Scary Movie 5' actress recently explained that being assaulted by her ex-fiancé, Russian socialite Egor Tarabasov, in public two years ago proved to be a turning point in her life. She recalled: "It happened, here in Mykonos, on the beach. And that was the moment where I switched and I was like, 'I'm going to take control of my life completely, and fire everyone and just rehire them when I'm ready.' And that's why I'm here today, because it was on that beach where I got hit. "I said, 'You know what? If there's anything I can do, I'm going to get that beach. It's going to be my beach."



Khloe Kardashian thinks about getting nose job 'every day'

The 34-year-old reality star has admitted she is tempted to go under the knife to make adjustments to her nose because she isn't happy with the way it looks, but insists that for now she disguises it with contouring because she's too "scared" to follow through with the procedure. After posting a picture of herself on Instagram, many fans were curious about the size of her nose, with one asking: "did she get hernoise done or just really flecky contouring (sic)" To which Khloe - who gave birth to her daughter True, whom she has with Tristan Thompson, three months ago - replied: "one day I think I'll get one because I think about it every day. But I'm scared so for now it's all about contour (sic)" Another fan then asked if the 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' star had "done anything to her nose" to make it look smaller, and the star revealed it was all the work of great make-up. She wrote: "great contouring!! We go overboard but my nose spread during pregnancy so I'm just waiting for it to go back lol (sic)" This isn't the first time the 'Revenge Body' star has spoken about plastic surgery, as she dispelled rumors of having work done to her face in 2016 when she said she doesn't "feel pressure" to go under the knife. She said at the time: "I don't [feel pressure to get plastic surgery]. And I appreciate that I didn't succumb to what everyone has always said in the past, like, 'You gotta get a nose job, you gotta get a nose job.' "If I felt like I wanted one, I would've. And if I want to do something, I'll totally do it - I don't care and I'll be the first one to say, 'Look what I just did! This is my doctor, let's do an interview with him and give me the free nose job!'"

Hilton 'never' had any Botox or plastic surgery

The DJ and socialite refuses to go under the knife and instead gets her amazing skin because she's "obsessed with skincare". She told People magazine: "I've always been obsessed with skincare. I've never done any Botox, filler - no plastic surgery in my life." The 'Simple Life' star previously confessed she feels skincare is a very important part of her life and thus why she wanted to create her own line, including an anti-aging line called Pro D.N.A. She shared: "After years of trying everything out there, I decided to look into creating my own line with all the ingredients that have worked to keep my skin healthy and looking great. I have always been into skincare and being all natural, so I wanted to create the perfect skincare line for anti-aging. So many

young girls are turning to cosmetic surgeries and invasive procedures, at an even younger age than before, and I want to help show them that there is a better way and it is possible to stay looking young and radiant without all of that." Paris and her fiancé Chris Zylka even bond over their shared skincare routine, which they always do together every single night. She said: "Chris has been using all of the formulations since we began development. He loves the line. I wanted to make [a range] for both men and women. At night before we go to bed, we have our skincare regimen and do it together!"

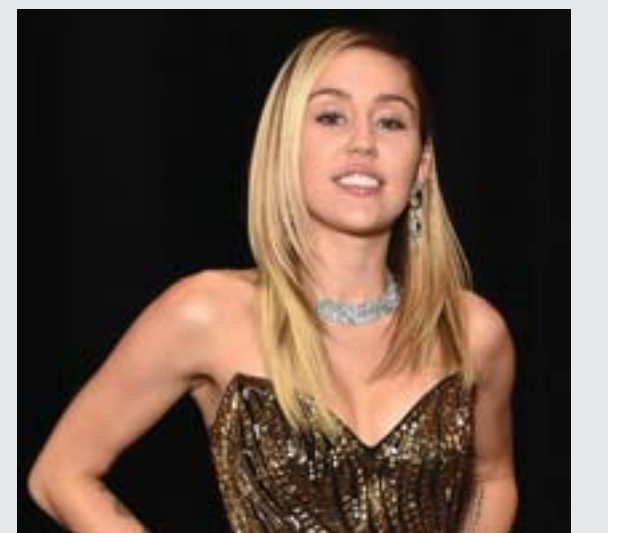


Cyrus taking 'long needed break' from social media

The 'Wrecking Ball' hit maker shocked fans when she removed all her pictures and videos from her Instagram account and she is looking forward to showing off the "changes" she has made. A source told Entertainment Tonight: "When Miley removed all the photos from her Instagram, she knew everyone would wonder why. Her decision to do it wasn't earth-shattering, Miley says she simply likes to change things up! She is taking a long needed break and she feels it's healthy. She is working on new music and plans to come back with a brand new

Instagram, with photos to promote her new music. "She enjoys being a renegade and she likes to form her own style and when she is ready she will do it again. She loves change and doesn't feel like the same person she was when she started this account. She wants her new account to reflect the new Miley." Meanwhile, the 25-year-old singer is reportedly "happier than she has been in years" and is very settled with Liam Hemsworth. A source said: "She and Liam think the rumors of their breakup are funny. Everything is fine between Miley and Liam. She does want people to know that any spec-

ulation that a breakup is about to happen, is wrong! Miley is happier than she has been in years. "She's had her ups and downs and finally feels as if she's found herself and her purpose. She looks and feels healthier today. At this point, Liam is exactly who she wants in her life and they find every way possible to spend as much time together as they can. Even with their non-stop schedules."



MAX GEORGE HAS THERAPY

Max George thinks fame would have sent him "insane" if he hadn't had regular therapy. The 'Barcelona' singer "struggled" with anxiety when his group The Wanted enjoyed their first number one single, 'All Time Low', in 2010 because he didn't know how to "handle" life in the spotlight. He said: "I struggled for about three months. We got to number one and it was everything we dreamed of but I didn't know how to handle it. "I suffered bad anxiety. I was struggling with becoming Max from The Wanted, rather than just Max George. I couldn't sleep. I had bad shakes and was just trapped in my own head. "Thankfully with the right people around me I got out of it, otherwise I could have gone insane." And Max struggled again after leaving Warner Music in America. He said: "I had a similar episode for a few months when I wasn't doing so much. I was living in LA and trying to figure out what to do next." The 29-year-old singer still makes time for regular counseling sessions because they help him to "feel good". He admitted in an interview with the Daily Star Sunday newspaper: "I've had therapy throughout The Wanted and afterwards. I see counselors when I'm not suffering from any problems as well. It's not just a therapy for anxiety but just to help me feel good." Max has released 'Barcelona' on his own label, SilverMAX, because he was "worried" fans would never get to hear his solo material, but now he's looking forward to the future. He said: "It is hard to get signed to major labels nowadays. "I was worried that it might not see the light of

day but the response has been incredible. "I have done over 100 songs. So there are loads to choose from. "We are already talking about the follow-up single in September and then hopefully an album will follow."



Gary Numan doesn't listen to music

Gary Numan no longer listens to any music at home. The 'Cars' hitmaker has admitted that whilst he used to run home from school just to listen to his favorite records, he "can't remember" the last time he put some music on whilst he was relaxing around the house. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, he said: "I don't listen to music much anymore. I just don't like it a bit embarrassing actually. "Nah it's shocking really when I saw a kid it was all I did I came home from school listened to music I dreamed about being a pop star and that was my life went to see bands all the time all you do with your mates, your mates would come round you'd put a record on and you'd just listen to music and talk about pop stars and magazines and it was, that was my life as a kid and now I've been doing it for a living for my entire life I cannot remember the last time I sat down at home and just put some music on I cannot remember I think it's been years since I've done that." Despite not listening to music at home, the 60-year-old rocker - who released his 21st studio album 'Savage: Songs From A Broken World' in September last year - does still try to head to concerts when he can. He added: "I do go to see bands fairly regularly so I get it that way, when I go to gigs, go to clubs but to actually sit down I don't have the radio on in the car ever I find it annoying I don't have an apple music account I just don't listen. "I'm just not into it, in fact one of the things that I think I need to do, I do need to listen more, I need to

absorb more of music. I think I've cut myself off too much from it actually and I need to have more influences coming in you know, I don't need to rip people off but just to refresh myself on what is out there and what you can do musically you know." Numan will be returning to the UK for a series of special concerts this November, at which he will be accompanied by The Skaparis Orchestra. The tour kicks off on November 12 at St David's Hall in Cardiff and after four more dates, including a concert at London's iconic Royal Albert Hall on November 19, it concludes at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow on November 20.



Lifestyle | Gossip



THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE QUEEN ALBUM COMING THIS YEAR

Damon Albarn has confirmed The Good, The Bad, and The Queen will release a new album this year. The Blur and Gorillaz frontman - who is joined in the super group by The Clash's Paul Simonon, The Verve's Simon Tong and afrobeat drummer Tony Allen - is juggling his live commitments with recording sessions in the UK on the follow-up to the band's self-titled 2007 debut. He told Consequence of Sound: "I'm on tour in Europe doing festivals, but I'm coming home in between them [to finish the record]. "I'm working all weekend doing festivals and then come home Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday-that should be a weekend. But because I've stupidly started and want to make this record right, I don't have any weekends." After releasing a new Gorillaz album, 'The Now Now', already this year, the 50-year-old singer - who hasn't performed with The Good, The Bad, and The

Queen since they did a one-off show in 2011 - joked he's worried fans will get tired of him. He said: "What I would really like never to do is for people to get sick of me, because I was putting out too much stuff. If that ever happens, like you do to elderly relatives, put your arm around me and wheel me off please." Damon's update came after producer Tony Visconti previously spoke of how long he'd been working on the record. He said: "In the middle of 2017, I started working with Damon Albarn. "We're about two thirds of the way through and taking a break, as Damon is off on a Gorillaz tour, but we will resume in April and it will be probably be out before next Christmas."

Rob Zombie confirms new album



Rob Zombie has confirmed his new album will be released in 2019. The horror rock icon has hailed the upcoming collection as "the best record" he and his band have made, and claimed it combines catchy hooks with "intricately structured" parts. He told Loudwire: "The record's done. It'll get out next year, early next year. I think this and so do the guys in the band-I think it's the best record we've made. "Parts of it are the heaviest, parts are the weirdest, it's the most complex record we've ever made, but at the same time it's always very catchy and listenable, but it's the most intricately structured record." The star - whose latest film '3 From Hell' is also set to his big screen next year - admitted lots of artists claim their new material is their best, but insisted he always wants

to be improving each time. He explained: "I know everybody says, 'Oh, our new record's the best record. Blah, blah, blah.' No one cares. "I never want to look at things like, 'Oh, you know, the best shit we did was long ago.' A lot of bands these days have given up on making records it seems. I don't understand that." He also stressed his love for records that go "all over the place", citing The Beatles' influential 1968 LP 'The White Album'. Zombie is hitting the road with rocker Marilyn Manson, and the two stars recently covered the Fab Four's heavy hit 'Helter Skelter' as a teaser for the live shows.



Radiohead

hold silence in Toronto show

Radiohead held a moment of silence during their Toronto show this week in memory of the drum tech who was killed during a stage collapse in the city in 2012. The band returned to the Canadian city for the first time since the incident six years ago, when their drum technician Scott Johnson was killed after the stage they were due to perform on in Downsview Park collapsed. And in memory of Scott, the 'Creep' hit-makers held a moment of silence, but not before frontman Thom Yorke slammed those involved for being "held accountable" for their actions. He said: "We wanted to do a show in Toronto, the stage collapsed, killing one of our colleagues and friends. The people who should be held accountable are still not being held accountable in your city. The silence is fucking deafening." The silence was held just before the group performed 'Karma Police'. Last September, it was announced that the case against Live Nation and other parties implicated in Scott's death would not be going to court, after a judge moved to stay the charges. In November, it was announced by the chief coroner of Ontario that an inquest was being launched into Scott's death. Radiohead said in a statement at the time: "While this is welcomed it does not bring those responsible for Scott's death to account, and it provides no justice for Scott and his family." And earlier this week, Radiohead drummer Philip Selway appeared on BBC's 'Newsnight' to vent his frustrations at the halted court case. He said: "The court case broke down on a technicality. So there have been no real answers. Without the answers we can't ensure that an accident like this can't happen again."

Dave Bautista defends James Gunn

Dave Bautista has spoken out to defend James Gunn after the director was fired from 'Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3'. The 51-year-old filmmaker - who wrote and directed the first two installments of the film series - has been booted from the helm of the upcoming movie after offensive social media posts he had made in the past resurfaced online but the franchise's star has admitted he is "not OK" with the "loving and caring" helmsman's dismissal. He tweeted: "I will have more to say but for right now all I will say is this...@JamesGunn is one of the most loving, caring, good natured people I have ever met. He's gentle and kind and cares deeply for people and animals. He's made mistakes. We all have. Im NOT ok with what's happening to him (sic)" 'Ant-Man' actor David Dastmalchian didn't address the controversy but has also lend his support to the director of his 2016 horror-thriller 'The Belko Experiment'. He shared a photo of them together and wrote on Instagram: "i've been saying this FOR YEARS! @jamesgunn is one of the most amazing people i've ever known - both professionally & personally. there are so many people in our lives that we would never have known without the incredible magnet of talent & goodness that is james (& his awesome partner in life, @jenniferholland), thanks for making us a part of your family, buddy. (sic)" Comic Rufus Hound called out Walt Disney Studios for their decision to fire Gunn for his previous actions. He tweeted: "Disney, your stories are so often about redemption. To fire James Gunn for jokes made as a younger man, jokes for which he has already apologized, goes against the moral code you taught us all when we were kids. No sense in cutting loose a good man. I urge you - rehire him." Gunn previously issued his own statement on the incident, where he apologized for the comments he made in the past. He wrote on Twitter: "Many people who have followed my career know when I started, I viewed myself as a provocateur, making movies and telling jokes that were outrageous and taboo. As I have discussed publicly many times, as I've developed as a person, so has my work and my humor. It's not to say I'm better, but I am very, very different than I was a few years ago: today I try to root my work in love and connection and less in anger."



Ethan Hawke is a super fan of Christian Bale

Ethan Hawke has been writing a fan letter to Christian Bale for years - but has never sent it to his acting peer. The 'First Reformed' star thinks the 'Machinist' actor is "amazing" and has kept an email expressing his admiration for his fellow former child actor in his drafts folder for a long time as he doesn't know where to send it. Speaking to Empire magazine, he said: "I've written a lot of fan letters in my time. I wanted to write Christian Bale a fan letter, because he and I both started really young and he's just turned into an amazing actor. "I meant to write it for about three years but I keep keeping it in drafts in the email because I'm not exactly sure how to find him. But he deserves a fan mail letter." The 47-year-old actor - who has children Maya, 20, and Levon, 16, with ex-wife Uma Thurman and Clementine, 10, and Indiana, seven, with spouse Ryan Shawhughes - admitted he no longer sits through movies if he's not totally captivated by what's on screen. He said: "Truthfully, I think I walk out of a lot of movies. Because I have four kids, I've gotten really impatient. I talked my son into going to see one of those old Italian Spaghetti Westerns. Not the Sergio Leone/Clint Eastwood ones, but some more off-the-radar one. I promised him it was gonna be great. About halfway through he was so unspeakably bored. I was like, 'Do you wanna go?' He was like, 'I really do.'" But Ethan doesn't always have a short attention span. He boasted: "I've never known anybody with the ability to play with Matchbox cars as long as me."



Kidman embraced tough water scenes

Nicole Kidman was "pummeled" by water in her first 'Aquaman' scene - but wanted more. The Oscar-winning actress portrays Queen Atlanna in the upcoming action adventure and has been hailed a "trooper" by director James Wan for the way she dealt with her punishing first moments on camera. Speaking at Comic Con, Nicole said: "My opening shot in the film is being washed up on a rock, and I got to lie there with these massive waves crashing over me. I'm thinking, 'The bigger, the better! Come on, James. Give it to me. That's why I'm doing this movie.'" James added: "Nicole was a trooper, because really, we were pummeling her with this massive water tank that shoots rainstorms, just coming down on her. When you get hit with those, it's like being pelted with rocks." But while Nicole, 51, relished being hit by the water, her co-star Amber Heard, who por-

trays Mera, wasn't such a fan of feeling constantly cold and soggy. She said: "I didn't have to swim for this [film], because we were attached to harnesses for most of it, but I had to be wet. "And so I'd come into work first thing in the morning, already cold, get on a freezing cold sound stage, and I'd stand there, as a grown ass woman at work, getting hosed down." Meanwhile, Nicole revealed the director was determined to land her for her role as the powerful mermaid because from the start of his working on the film, he'd envisioned her for the part. She told 'Entertainment Tonight': "It's so funny because James said to me, 'I so want you to do this.' "And he said, 'I'll prove to you that I've always wanted you to do this. In all of my renderings, I drew you. So what're you going to say?'"



Custom tailoring from Hamilton

Introducing the new Jazzmaster Thinline Automatic with interchangeable leather straps

With the new Jazzmaster Thinline Automatic collection, Hamilton offers you the opportunity to create a timepiece tailored to suit your individual style. With four different colored dials and a range of additional refined leather straps to choose from, you can create a watch that reflects the real you. The clean, streamlined appearance of the Jazzmaster Thinline with its 40mm polished stainless steel case underlines the refined style and quality the Jazzmaster range is known for. There are four different curved, sunray dials and strap color combinations to choose from. The slate

gray dial contrasts with the cherry leather strap, midnight blue is offset by tan leather; bronze dial and black leather offer a classic look and the white champagne dial is paired with an olive green strap. Once you've chosen your ideal dial, it becomes all about customization. All of the other leather straps are available separately so you can change them to suit your mood. Whether you want your strap to match with other accessories, to create a greater contrast with your chosen outfit or just to change up your look, there's something to suit even the most discerning dresser.

The EasyClick system means the soft calf leather straps can be removed and replaced in a matter of seconds without the need for tools or worry about losing pins. This is the first time Hamilton has created additional straps for a customizable look for one of our watches. The Jazzmaster Thinline Automatic was designed for men who appreciate fine tailoring. With a color combination that's uniquely you, you'll feel at your best getting ready for a business meeting, after-work dinner, or when putting on your wedding suit for the most important day of your life.

Hamilton was founded in 1892 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, USA. Hamilton watches combine the American spirit with the unrivalled precision of the latest Swiss movements and technologies. Known for its innovative design, Hamilton has a strong foothold in Hollywood, with products appearing in more than 450 films. The brand also boasts a strong aviation heritage. Hamilton is a member of the Swatch group, the largest watch manufacturer and distributor in the world.

Lifestyle | Features



Mexican-American artist Ken Gonzales-Day speaks about his current exhibition of his 2006 series 'Erased Lynchings' at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. — AP photos



Mexican-American artist Ken Gonzales-Day, left, speaks to a group of hispanic recent high school graduates as he is currently exhibiting his 2006 series 'Erased Lynchings' at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery.

Smithsonian gallery explores diversity in US lynchings

The Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery acknowledges that people of color have long been missing in the works it exhibits. Now the museum is tackling the issue in an unusual way. The Portrait Gallery is currently showing about 20 works by Los Angeles-based artist Ken Gonzales-Day that examine lynchings, mostly in the American West, and probe the history of racial violence in the United States. "Latinos were a very small number" of those lynched in the US, Gonzales-Day told The Associated Press during a recent interview at the Portrait Gallery. "Native Americans, Chinese, even smaller numbers." "But when you think of it as a spectrum of radicalized violence, then we can see it is part of a continuing (history) in the United States that dates back to its founding," he said.

Equal Justice Initiative, an Alabama-based nonprofit, documented more than 4,400 lynchings of black people in the United States between 1877 and 1950. Gonzales-Day published a book in 2006

in which he verified 354 cases of lynchings in California between 1850 and 1935. Of those, 140 were Latinos - the largest group - while minorities made up two-thirds of the total. To avoid re-victimizing those who were killed or causing pain to their families, Gonzales-Day's works remove the body and the rope from each image. His ultimate goal is to spotlight racial violence in the US in a broad sense.

"Traditionally, when people talk about the Wild West, they say, 'Yes, there were some instances of Latinos being lynched, but they were all bad guys.' My project was (to) prove that race was a factor," he said. Gonzales-Day sees a continuation of racially motivated violence today, citing the recent separations of migrant children from their parents at the southern US border as an example. He hopes his audience thinks of current issues when looking at his work. "The question is empathy. Can you empathize with another person who is not like yourself, with a different cultural background,

with a different language?" he asked. "This challenge of empathy is our nation's challenge."

"UnSeen: Our Past in a New Light" also includes 17 paintings and one sculpture by artist Titus Kaphar, who recreates well-known paintings to include those traditionally left out by smearing tar, erasing with white paint and shredding canvas into strips. "This exhibition talks about those absent histories, and about the many ways in which systems have been set in society to say the white Anglo person is worth more than the African-American, or the Native American or the Latino," the museum's Curator of Latino Art and History, Taina Caragol, told the AP. The exhibition runs through January. — AP



A visitor looks at prints by Mexican-American artist Ken Gonzales-Day.



Johnny Depp speaks onstage at the Warner Bros. theatrical panel during Comic-Con International 2018 at San Diego. — AFP

Wand-waving Depp appears as 'Fantastic Beasts' character

Actor Johnny Depp gave Harry Potter fans a look at his coming portrayal of the pale and disheveled villain Grindelwald, delivering a monologue in character to a cheering audience at San Diego Comic-Con on Saturday. Depp surprised the crowd of science fiction and pop culture fans by stepping out of the darkness with blonde hair and in full costume, drawing applause from 6,500 fans in a cavernous convention hall.

"The great gift of your applause is not for me, but for yourselves," Depp said in his character's English accent as he waved a magic wand over the crowd. Depp's appearance followed a panel discussion with Eddie Redmayne, Jude Law and other stars of upcoming movie "Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald," the second movie in a five-part spinoff of the beloved Harry Potter films. In his on-stage speech, Depp as Grindelwald explained the character's view of Muggles, the ordinary humans without magical powers.

"I do not hate them," he said. "I say the Muggles are not lesser, not worthless, but of other value. Magic blooms only in rare souls." "The moment has come to rise up and take our rightful place in the world," he added. Depp did not participate in the panel discussion and did not take questions following his appearance.

"Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald," written by Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling, is scheduled to debut in theaters in November. The movie from ATT Inc's Warner Bros. studio stars Redmayne as "magizoologist" Newt Scamander and Law as a young Dumbledore, the headmaster of the Hogwarts boarding school where Harry Potter and his friends learned to become wizards. Rowling has said she thinks of the younger Dumbledore as a gay man who fell in love with Gellert Grindelwald, who later turned out to be evil and violent. Law said the new movie may be the darkest look into the world created by Rowling. "The wizards within the wizarding world are suddenly asked what side they are on, what side they choose to join," he said. "Everything is at stake." — Reuters

MANILA'S 'GOLDEN GAYS' SING FOR THEIR SUPPER

Al Enriquez sheds his threadbare street vendor clothes like dead skin and develops a voguish, winking air once he slips into a gauzy gown and wig of tight blond curls. He's 82 years old and is one of the stars in a beauty pageant for elderly and poor gay men that's about to start in a banquet hall on a run-down Manila street. But this is not a rowdy, hooting drag show for tourists—instead it is part of the decades-long work of a collective of men like him to take care of their own. They call themselves the Golden Gays and they mean it. "When I'm dressed like this I feel ecstatic and I feel that I don't have any sadness in me," Enriquez told AFP. "I'm gay and I'm not embarrassed that I'm gay."



Street vendor and Golden Gays member Al Enriquez, 82, also known as "Carmen Dela Rue", holding one of his gowns at his home in Manila.

The Philippines has a reputation of openness toward homosexuality, but experts say legal protections are lacking and the nation's weak social safety net especially fails older gay people. That's why the Golden Gays have recruited corporate and private sponsors who pay for their members to get a decent lunch and a few days' worth of groceries after the pageants they hold at least once a month. "The show is just our way of saying thank you", says the group's 68-year-old organizer Ramon Busa, known as Monique de la Rue once in heels and make-up.



This photo shows the winners of the Golden Gays of Manila Beauty Pageant in Manila.

'My mother was angry'

Most of the 48 members are in their 60s and are among the millions of Filipinos who survive on less than five dollars per day. In real life they are dishwashers, street hawkers or scavengers, but for the afternoon the door will be closed on reality. Ahead of the performance, the air in the room smells of perfume and the fried food that will be served for lunch. The men tug their dresses into place and scrutinize themselves in handheld mirrors. The show starts with music firing at distortion volume from battered speakers as the 18 performers shimmy down the catwalk and strike poses—or land on the laps of the dozen or so friends and supporters in the audience.

The shows have been going on for years, but the Golden Gays' roots are even deeper. Back in the mid-1970s they got their start in Manila's urban sprawl at the Home for the Golden Gays—a house where homeless or poor older gay men could spend the night. However, the home belonged to their founder, activist and columnist Justo Justo, and when he died in 2012 his family evicted the group within days. This setback did not break up the group, which serves as the family that many of its members don't have.

Federico Ramasamy, a long-time Golden Gay, was rejected by his parents once they learned of his sexuality. He made his way to Manila and never looked back. "I was born in the late 50s, so family values were very high," he said. "My mother was very, very angry at me when she learned that I was a gay. She sent me away."

'Hand to mouth'

The Golden Gays became his family and a refuge from the real life in which he makes about two dollars a day for a 15-hour shift as a dishwasher. "But I feel good, especially when it comes to what happened today, the Golden Gays. We all get together," said Ramasamy, 60, after the pageant. The age and precarious lives of the Golden Gays mean the group has lost more than a few members to death. The most recent loss was 71-year-old George Fernandez, who died in June of a blood infection. Anthropologist Michael Tan said life is a struggle for elderly Filipinos in general because social safety nets like pensions and healthcare are quite weak compared to those in more developed nations. "But it is worse for gay men because of heightened vulnerabilities: not having children to turn to—although many do support nephews and nieces or have adopted children—and again being vulnerable to violence," he said.

The Catholic Church, which counts a majority of the nation's 105 million people as believers, remains a major force in Philippine society and has resisted anti-discrimi-



Street vendor and Golden Gays member Al Enriquez, 82, also known as "Carmen Dela Rue", wearing a pearl necklace before the Golden Gays of Manila Beauty Pageant.



Street vendor and Golden Gays member Al Enriquez, 82, also known as "Carmen Dela Rue", introducing himself to the crowd during the Golden Gays of Manila Beauty Pageant at a restaurant in Manila.

nation laws, he added. Busa, the Golden Gays organizer, shrugs at the challenges of life and says what the group really needs is a permanent new home—preferably paid for by a generous benefactor. With or without a house of their own the Golden Gays will survive, he said. "That's how we live—hand to mouth. But we have to maintain our poise, our will to live," Busa said. "It's truly difficult but there's no choice." — AFP



Street vendor and Golden Gays member Al Enriquez (lower center), 82, also known as "Carmen Dela Rue", and other contestants taking part in the Golden Gays of Manila Beauty Pageant at a restaurant in Manila. — AFP photos

Classifieds

Monday, July 23, 2018

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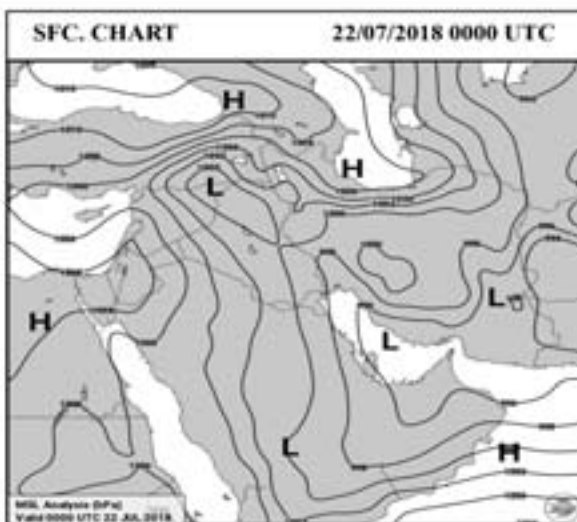
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

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

BY NIGHT: Relatively hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 32 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING: No Current Warnings

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	45 °C	34 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	46 °C	34 °C
ABDALY	46 °C	30 °C
BUBYAN	--- °C	--- °C
JAHRA	47 °C	33 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	43 °C	30 °C
SALMIYAH	40 °C	34 °C
AHMADI	43 °C	35 °C
NUWAISIB	46 °C	34 °C
WAFRA	46 °C	32 °C
SALMY	44 °C	28 °C



DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Monday	07/23	Very hot	47 °C	33 °C	NW	15 - 38 km/h
Tuesday	07/24	Very hot	48 °C	32 °C	NW	15 - 38 km/h
Wednesday	07/25	Very hot and some high clouds will appear	48 °C	32 °C	NW-VRB	12 - 32 km/h
Thursday	07/26	Very hot + dust + clouds	47 °C	35 °C	NW	20 - 55 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:31
Sunrise	05:02
Zuhr	11:54
Asr	15:29
Sunset	18:46
Isha	20:15

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	45 °C
MIN. Temp.	34 °C
MAX. RH	22 %
MIN. RH	09 %
MAX. Wind	N 68 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Hospitals

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

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
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Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
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Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

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Contact 99724761

CHANGE OF NAME

K2086240, Civil ID No. 256061602493, hereby change my name to Saleha Jaffer Ali Sayed. (C 5409) 23-7-2018

I, Sayed Salibhai Sayed Jaffar D/o Jaffar Ali, holder of Indian Passport No.

K2086240, Civil ID No. 256061602493, hereby change my name to Saleha Jaffer Ali Sayed. (C 5409) 23-7-2018

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Jazeera Airways	177
Wataniya Airways	22 066 536
American Airlines	22087425
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8



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DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Monday 23/7/2018				Departure Flights on Monday 23/7/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
FEQ	441	Asyut	00:05	AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	KAC	417	Manila	00:25
THY	1516	TZX	00:40	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	MSR	2615	Cairo	00:30
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
KAC	102	London	00:50	PIA	206	Lahore	01:00
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	FEG	344	Sohag	01:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	JZR	528	Asyut	01:05
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	KAC	677	Dubai	01:30
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	THY	1415	TZX	01:40
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	THY	773	Istanbul	01:45
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	363	Colombo	01:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	285	Dhaka	01:50
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	JZR	502	Luxor	01:55
THY	768	Istanbul	02:40	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:15
THY	1404	AYT	02:45	WAN	311	Asyut	02:45
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
JZR	651	Lahore	02:55	KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	THY	769	Istanbul	03:35
MSC	415	Sohag	03:10	JZR	142	Doha	03:45
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	MSC	416	Sohag	04:10
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:25
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	JAI	571	Mumbai	04:40
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	JZR	571	Doha	05:00
JZR	1541	Dubai	04:35	QTR	1077	Mumbai	05:15
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:35
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	FDB	070	Dubai	06:00
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:20	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	RJA	643	Amman	07:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	KAC	167	Paris	07:20
BAW	157	London	06:10	WAN	133	Doha	07:25
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:25	RBG	550	Alexandria	07:30
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	KAC	173	Munich	07:35
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	KAC	413	Bangkok	07:40
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	JZR	238	Amman	08:00
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	JZR	778	Jeddah	08:00
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	KAC	193	TZX	08:00
JZR	143	Doha	07:20	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30	BAW	156	London	08:20
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	691	Muscat	09:00
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	KAC	161	Geneva	09:00
KAC	358	Kochi	08:05	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	117	New York	09:05
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	561	Amman	09:40
WAN	312	Asyut	09:05	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	JZR	534	Cairo	09:45
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	KAC	773	Riyadh	09:45
SAW	703	Dammam	09:30	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:55
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
MSC	405	Sohag	10:15	KAC	101	London	10:00
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	617	Doha	10:10
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	IRA	666	Esfahan	10:15
SYR	341	Dammam	11:00	JZR	750	Madinah	10:15
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25
JZR	1539	Cairo	11:05	SAW	704	Dammam	10:30
WAN	134	Doha	11:10	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:30	IAW	158	Al Najaf	11:00
SAW	701	Dammam	12:30	MSC	406	Sohag	11:15
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	AXB	890	Mangalore	11:20
THY	766	Istanbul	12:45	JZR	788	Doha	11:20
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
JZR	239	Amman	13:00	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
RJA	644	Amman	13:20	SYR	342	Dammam	12:00
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:30	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05
JZR	779	Jeddah	13:45	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
FEG	341	Sohag	13:50	RBG	554	Alexandria	13:10
IAW	157A	Al Najaf	13:55	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	SAW	702	Dammam	13:30
THY	767	Istanbul	13:40				
MSR	611	Cairo	14:00				
UAE	872	Dubai	14:15				
RJA	645	Amman	14:15				
FEG	342	Sohag	14:50				
IAW	158A	Al Najaf	14:55				
KNE	206	Lahore	15:00				
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00				
KAC	673	Dubai	15:00				
FDB	060	Doha	15:05				
QTR	1079	Doha	15:15				
JZR	124	Bahrain	15:40				
SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45				
KAC	775	Riyadh	15:55				
KNE	530	Jeddah	16:00				
KAC	785	Jeddah	16:00				
JZR	606	Kochi	16:00				
KAC	743	Dammam	16:05				
KAC	563	Amman	16:10				
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15				
KAC	619	Doha	16:15				
OMA	646	Muscat	16:20				
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20				
KAC	121	AGP	16:20				
KAC	615	Bahrain	16:40				
KAC	191	Tbilisi	16:45				
KAC	547	Alexandria	16:55				
SAW	706	Dammam	17:00				
FDB	052	Dubai	17:20				
QTR	1073	Doha	17:25				
KAC	361	Colombo	17:35				
UAE	858	Dubai	17:40				
KAC	381	Delhi	17:45				
NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50				
KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55				
KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00				
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15				
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20				
JZR	184	Dubai	18:20				
JZR	608	Hyderabad	18:25				
JZR	240	Amman	18:30				
JZR	538	Cairo	18:35				
WAN	135	Doha	18:40				
THY	1283	TZX	19:05				
JZR	266	Beirut	19:15				
QTR	1081	Doha	19:20				
KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20				
KAC	151	Istanbul	19:25				
MSR	621	Cairo	19:30				
GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50				
FDB	064	Dubai	19:50				
RJA	641	Amman	20:00				
ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00				
JZR	552D	Alexandria	20:05				
KAC	357	Kochi	20:30				
JZR	602	Mumbai	20:30				
FDB	058	Dubai	20:30				
UAE	876	Dubai	20:35				
JAI	215	Delhi	20:35				
DLH	624	Dammam	20:50				
KNE	232	Riyadh	21:00				
OMA	648	Muscat	21:05				
MEA	403	Beirut	21:15				
KAC	301	Mumbai	21:35				
QTR	1089	Doha	21:50				
DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50				
KAC							

In Damascus, war amputees walk again on Syrian-made prosthetics

DAMASCUS: Propped up by a mobility frame in a rehabilitation center in Syria's capital, Abdulghani Ghayyana carefully inches forward on two artificial legs, as he walks for the first time in over a year. "I want to be able to stand on my own two feet again," says the 48-year-old veterinarian, his anxious son trailing him across the busy ward. A specialist also carefully monitors double amputee Abdulghani's progress, as he gets a feel for the locally made prosthetic limbs. "I'm doing my best so that I can help myself and do the job I love," says the father-of-seven from the central province of Hama.

Tens of thousands of people have lost limbs in Syria's seven-year conflict. And Abdulghani is one of hundreds helped back on his feet by the Damascus physical rehabilitation center - for free. Patients of all ages try on artificial limbs for size, as staff bring brand new prosthetics from a nearby room. Abdulghani lost both his legs in March last year, after being hit during shelling as he rode home on his motorbike from a job vaccinating livestock. "After I was injured, I felt really desperate. I couldn't move and I constantly needed help... It was a lot to bear," he says. "I was deeply embarrassed for my son whenever I had to go anywhere," adds Abdulghani.

'Back on my legs'

A doctor in Hama referred Abdulghani to the Damascus center, which is run by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent with support from the International Committee of the Red Cross. Every day, dozens of patients arrive from across Syria, whether they have lost limbs in the war or as a result of illness. "Right now I'm in the final phase - being fitted with artificial limbs and practicing" walking, Abdulghani says. "In a week, I should be back on my legs again."

Across the ward, a younger man tries to walk with a new artificial leg, his hands gripping rails running along a ramp for support. A boy lies nearby on a bed, as a medic fits a prosthetic sock over his partially amputated leg, before fitting a replacement limb below the knee. A World Health Organization report said last year that 86,000 Syrians had suffered wounds that led to amputation. In an adjacent room, a Syrian prosthetist and his assistant put the final touches to plastic and metal limbs, supervised by an ICRC expert. A newly finished artificial leg sits on an immaculately tidy work bench, under a board of neatly aligned screwdrivers and other tools. Legs and arms



DAMASCUS: Amani, a 10-year-old Syrian amputee from the eastern province of Deir Ezzor, tries to walk with her new artificial limb at the Syrian Arab Red Crescent facility on July 15, 2018. — AFP

of various sizes await the outside world, labelled with the names of their new owners.

Patients 'perk up'

The center started making its own prosthetic limbs in 2010, director Nazeer Kanaan says, but became more active after the civil war began the following year. The number of amputees "increased due to the crisis, accidents, gunshots, (shell and rocket) fragments and landmines", Kanaan says. Production jumped from 250

artificial limbs in 2014 to double that last year - and since May, the center's workers have been churning out 50 a month.

The facility mainly makes prosthetics for people whose legs have been amputated above and below the knee, says 28-year-old supervisor Ayat Ezzadeen. "Sometimes a patient turns up who's really down, but we give them an artificial limb and they perk up", she says. Amani, 10, is wearing new pink-laced trainers for a second practice session with her new leg. She comes

from the eastern province of Deir Ezzor, where the Islamic State group has lost significant ground in recent years.

The militants planted landmines as they retreated under pressure from the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces on one front and Russia-backed Syrian regime troops on another. Amani "went out of the house to play in our village and a mine exploded, causing her leg to be amputated below the knee," the girl's 28-year-old aunt says. "Thank God, she will now walk again." — AFP

Israel evacuates hundreds of White...

Continued from Page 1

backers, including Russia, have dismissed them as Western-sponsored propaganda tools and proxies of Islamist-led insurgents. There was no immediate response from Damascus on Sunday.

A Jordanian government source said 422 people were brought from Syria, over the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights frontier and into Jordan, down from a figure of 800 announced earlier by the foreign ministry in Amman. The evacuees will be kept in a "closed" location in Jordan and resettled in Britain, Germany and Canada within three months, the source added. A second non-Jordanian source familiar with the agreement said the original plan had been to evacuate 800 people, but only 422 made it out as operations were hampered by government checkpoints and the expansion of Islamic State in the area. Syria and its Russian allies have launched an offensive on rebels in the sensitive southwestern border zone.

Netanyahu said Trump, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and others had spoken to him recently asking for help in extracting the White Helmets. "The lives of these people, who have saved lives, were now in danger. I therefore authorized their transfer via Israel to other countries as an important humanitarian gesture," Netanyahu said. Trump did not mention the operation during a series of tweets yesterday. Britain hailed the evacuation, saying it and other allies had requested it. "Fantastic news that we - UK and friends - have secured evacuation of White Helmets and their families - thank you Israel and Jordan for acting so quickly on our request," tweeted British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt.

German weekly magazine Bild, which broke news of the evacuation and published footage of buses used to transport the Syrians across Golan, said 50 of them would be granted asylum by Berlin. "Humanity dictates that many of these brave first-aiders should now find protection and refuge, some of them in Germany," it

quoted German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas as saying. A spokeswoman for the German interior ministry said Berlin would take in eight White Helmets plus their families. It was not immediately clear whether that amounted to the same 50 people.

A Canadian Foreign Ministry statement on Saturday said the White Helmets "have witnessed vicious atrocities committed by the Assad regime and its backers". It added: "We feel a deep moral responsibility to these brave and selfless people." Russia's embassy in the Netherlands welcomed the White Helmets' departure. "Definitely there will be less chances of new so-called #CW (chemical weapon) attacks in Syria after forced evacuation by the collective West of the notorious #WhiteHelmets," it tweeted. Damascus and its allies have accused rebels and their supporters of staging chemical attacks in an attempt to frame the government. Western powers have accused Syria of attacking rebel-held areas with illegal chemical weapons.

It was unclear how many White Helmet volunteers remained in both the Daraa and Quneitra provinces after the evacuations. But a volunteer in Daraa city, who asked to remain anonymous, said he had decided to stay despite being given the choice to leave. "It's our country and we have a right to live in it in safety," he told AFP, however adding he was among a minority who wished to remain. "We are first and foremost a humanitarian organization, not a military one, or a terrorist one as the regime alleges."

The White Helmets have rescued thousands of civilians trapped under the rubble or caught up in fighting in opposition-held zones along various fronts of Syria's seven-year conflict. Since its formation, when Syria's conflict was nearing its third year, more than 250 of its volunteers have been killed. The group's motto - "To save one life is to save all of humanity" - is drawn from a verse in the Holy Quran, although the White Helmets insist they treat all victims, regardless of religion.

Some members have received training abroad, including in Turkey, returning to instruct colleagues on search-and-rescue techniques. The group receives funding from a number of governments, including Britain, Germany and the United States, but also solicits individual donations to purchase equipment such as its signature hard hats. — Agencies

few years have seen a fall in overall market demand and sales of luxury cars, Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait was the only local luxury car distributor to actually see a growth in sales volume in 2017. It seems that the shareholder quarrel didn't impede on sales or the public image of the company.

It is difficult to comprehend how the cause would've justified the severity of the action taken in what is increasingly appearing to be one of the more egregious terminations of a long-running business relationship witnessed in the country. While time will be the ultimate arbiter of outcomes, public perception in the days following the announcement thus far has been indicative of the market's negative regard of

the move, broadly viewed as self-detrimental of Daimler and uncharacteristic of the straight-dealing it is accustomed to from German companies.

It therefore seems likely that what we are witnessing here is another corruption case rising to the surface. Interestingly, it is now apparent that one of the contenders in the running is the Mercedes-Benz distributor in Iraq: a country where Daimler was previously charged with corruption. Given Daimler's history and questionable termination of its 64-year Kuwaiti partnership, could it be that they are setting themselves up for yet another scandal, one so close to home?

Embassy clarifies \$10K deposit to...

Continued from Page 1

and recruitment agencies here to lower the cost from KD 990 because we believe abuses are connected to high costs as well. Employers won't easily give passports and days off in fear that the helper could run away," she told Kuwait Times.

According to Olgado, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration's rules state that upon application for accreditation by foreign recruitment agencies, they will be required to set up and maintain an escrow account with a bank authorized by the Philippine Central Bank with a minimum deposit of

Rouhani: Conflict with Iran would be...

Continued from Page 1

Rouhani spoke ahead of a much-trailed speech by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo later yesterday, seen as part of Washington's efforts to foment unrest against the Islamic government in Iran. The US is seeking to tighten the economic screws on Iran, abandoning a landmark 2015 nuclear deal and re-imposing stringent sanctions. Washington has also launched concerted propaganda efforts in Iran, including social media campaigns, designed to exacerbate popular discontent.

"You are not in a position to incite the Iranian nation against Iran's security and interests," Rouhani said, in an apparent reference to the efforts by Washington to destabilize Iran's Islamic government. In Washington, US officials familiar with the matter told Reuters that the Trump administration has launched an

\$10,000. "This is to protect the interests of our workers and provide better protection, especially to household service workers, but is not required for each and every Filipino hired. The escrow deposit will primarily be for the settlement of all valid and legal claims and satisfaction of all judgment awards arising from violation of contracts of employment," she said.

Agency owner Lailah Venturina told Kuwait Times no such amount is mentioned by the Philippine government to be collected from employers; however, many foreign recruitment agencies are not willing to pay an additional KD 3,000 in escrow deposits since they had already paid a bond of KD 40,000 in Kuwait. Notably, the Indian government last year rescinded a 2014 condition mandating every employer in Kuwait wishing to employ an Indian female domestic worker to provide a bank guarantee of \$2,500 (KD 720) after tensions with the Kuwaiti government over this clause.

offensive of speeches and online communications meant to foment unrest and help pressure Iran to end its nuclear program and its support of militant groups. Current and former US officials said the campaign paints Iranian leaders in a harsh light, at times using information that is exaggerated or contradicts other official pronouncements, including comments by previous administrations.

"Whenever Europe has sought an agreement with us, the White House has sown discord," Rouhani said. But he added: "We must not think that the White House will remain forever at this level of opposition to international law, against the Muslim world." Separately, a top Iranian military commander warned that the Trump government might be preparing to invade Iran. "The enemy's behavior is unpredictable," military chief of staff General Mohammad Baqeri said, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported. "Although the current American government does not seem to speak of a military threat, according to precise information it has been trying to persuade the US military to launch a military invasion (of Iran)," Baqeri said. — Agencies

Mercedes-Benz abandons 64-year...

Continued from Page 1

It seems that both their actions in the termination and in the selection process for the next Kuwaiti distributor put in question Daimler's aforementioned statement.

The selection process is apparently causing a ruckus, where various Kuwaiti business groups are vying for the distributorship in a biased and non-level field. The process seemed to have begun months before the termination was even served to their Kuwaiti partner. According to several sources, the Daimler team in Dubai were seen in January this year dining with potential bidders (now confirmed in the running). They were also reported to be meeting those bidders earlier this year while in Kuwait when they were supposedly there to meet now former local partner.

The question arises - why was the termination necessary? According to a source in Abdul Rahman Albisher & Zaid Alkazemi Company, although the past

CSC targets forgers as MPs urge action...

Continued from Page 1

protect public funds and recover national labor support allowances unlawfully paid to citizens holding fake certificates, MIGRP has demanded a list of these citizens' names to stop paying their allowances, retrieve the sums they had unlawfully received and take legal action against them.

Separately, Ghanem said yesterday that he has received notifications from the head of the judicial council regarding the jail terms passed against MPs Waleed Al-Tabtabaei and Jamaan Al-Harbash, who were convicted for storming the National Assembly. The two lawmakers along with six former MPs and five activists were sentenced to three and a half years in jail each, while three other activists received a two-year sentence.

Ghanem said that the Assembly's legal and legislative committee will study the issue and prepare its report before the next term opens in October. He said the report will be debated in the first regular session of the Assembly's next term, adding that there will be no emer-

gency sessions during the summer recess.

The Assembly is expected to agree to unseat the two lawmakers and announce by-elections to fill the two seats in the second and third constituencies. Both Tabtabaei and Harbash are currently outside the country. MPs and political figures have called for a peaceful solution to the issue by urging the political leadership to pardon the jailed MPs and activists.

In the meantime, MP Riyadh Al-Adasani yesterday urged the government to announce the goals and objectives of the planned merger between Kuwait Finance House and the Bahrain-based Ahli United Bank, to become one of the largest Islamic banks in the region. He said that the government holds large stakes in both banks and accordingly should announce its benefits from the merger and also called for studying any clash of interests in the proposed deal.

Kuwait Finance House and Ahli United Bank have signed a memorandum of understanding and a non-disclosure agreement, besides selecting two international banks to start legal procedures for the merger. Adasani said that government agencies hold a 48 percent stake in KFH and the state-owned Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) owns 18.7 percent of Ahli United Bank (AUB). He added PIFSS and AUB are chaired by the same person, so the government must study any possible conflict of interests in the deal.

Sports

Cardinals' Carpenter homers in 6th straight game; Cards split DH

Tigers maul Red Sox 5-0; Astros down Angels

ST LOUIS: Matt Carpenter made Cardinals history by homering in his sixth straight game Saturday night as St. Louis earned a split of a doubleheader by coming from behind for a 6-3 victory over the host Chicago Cubs in the nightcap at Wrigley Field. Carpenter's streak appeared endangered when he didn't start the second game, but he entered the contest as part of a double-switch in the sixth and extended his record run in dramatic fashion an inning later, when he began the Cardinals' comeback from a 3-1 deficit by homering off Randy Rosario. Carpenter is the second player in franchise history to homer in six straight games but the first to do so in a single season. Mark McGwire homered in the final two games of the 1997 season and the first four games of his 70-homer 1998 campaign. The major league record for most consecutive games with a homer is eight, shared by Dale Long (1956), Don Mattingly (1987) and Ken Griffey Jr. (1993). Carpenter, who hit three homers Friday, has eight homers and 12 RBIs during his streak. His seven homers in the last five games tie a team record previously set by Jim Bottomley from July 5-9, 1929.



Brewers beat Dodgers 4-2

Milwaukee took advantage of a two-out error to score two unearned runs against Clayton Kershaw in the sixth inning, rallying past visiting Los Angeles to snap a seven-game losing streak. After Ryan Braun sandwiched a double between two outs, Kershaw (3-5) got what appeared to be an inning-ending grounder to third baseman Max Muncy. But Muncy couldn't handle the chopper, allowing Braun to score the eventual game-winning run. Keon Broxton followed with a triple to right-center that made it 4-2. Brewers relievers Josh Hader and Corey Knebel took it from there, with Hader striking out four

Brewers 4, Dodgers 2

in two shutout innings before Knebel recorded his 12th save. Hader received a warm reception from the home crowd in his first appearance since drawing criticism for years-old hateful tweets that surfaced during the All-Star Game.

Pirates 6, Reds 2
Rookie Nick Kingham pitched effectively into the seventh inning as Pittsburgh extended its winning streak to a season-high eight games with a win at Cincinnati. Corey Dickerson hit solo homers on consecutive pitches in consecutive at-bats as the Pirates also won for the 10th time in 11 games. He homered in the third inning and again in the fifth off Anthony DeSclafani (4-3). In his 10th career start, Kingham (5-4) allowed a two-run homer to backup catcher Curt Casali among four hits.

Pirates 6, Reds 2

Rockies 6, Diamondbacks 5
Tom Murphy hit a pinch-hit homer in the eighth inning, and Colorado moved into second place in the National League West with a victory at Arizona. Ian Desmond had two hits and an RBI for the Rockies, who have won seven straight and 15 of their last 18 to leapfrog the Diamondbacks while moving within one game of the Los Angeles Dodgers for the division lead. Steven Souza Jr. had three hits and two RBIs, Ketel Marte had two hits and scored twice and Nick Ahmed had two RBIs for the Diamondbacks, who have lost 12 of 18. Yoshihisa Hirano (2-2) took the loss.

Rockies 6, Diamondbacks 5

Indians 16, Rangers 3
Yonder Alonso smacked two homer runs and had three RBIs and Tyler Naquin also homered and drove in three to help Cleveland roll to victory at lava-hot Texas. Melky Cabrera went 3-for-5 as the Indians racked up a season-best 21 hits while winning their third straight game. The temperature was 107 degrees at first pitch. Texas designated hitter Shin-Soo Choo went hitless in four at-bats to end his streak of reaching base at 52 games. He fell six short of matching the franchise mark held by Will Clark, who began his streak in 1995 before it ended in 1996.

Indians 16, Rangers 3

White Sox 5, Mariners 0
Dylan Covey allowed two hits in 8 1/3 scoreless innings as Chicago blanked host Seattle. Outfielder

White Sox 5, Mariners 0

Yankees 7, Mets 6
Aaron Judge collected three hits, including his 26th homer, as the New York Yankees survived a shaky ninth inning by Aroldis Chapman and held off the New York Mets at Yankee Stadium. Judge highlighted his second three-hit game in two days by hitting a homer into the wind in the seventh off Tim Peterson to give the Yankees a 6-3 lead. Yankees right-hander Sonny Gray (7-7) allowed three runs (two earned) on three hits in 5 1/3 innings. Chapman allowed a bases-loaded walk to Jose Reyes in the ninth and hit Brandon Nimmo with a pitch before being replaced by Chasen Shreve, who recorded his second career save.

Yankees 7, Mets 6

Tigers 5, Red Sox 0
Jose Iglesias homered and drove in four runs, Mike Fiers delivered another quality start and Detroit blanked visiting Boston. Iglesias had a two-run double and two-run homer as the Tigers bounced back from losing 1-0 to the Red Sox on Friday. Jeimer Candelario contributed two hits, a run scored and an RBI while Victor Martinez scored twice. Fiers (7-6) consistently worked out of trouble, scattering seven hits and walking three while striking out six in 6 1/3 innings. The loss was Boston's second in its last 15 games.

Tigers 5, Red Sox 0

Astros 7, Angels 0
George Springer homered for the first time in more than a month, Justin Verlander produced his seventh scoreless start of the season and Houston rolled to victory at Los Angeles. Springer capped a

Astros 7, Angels 0

Marlins 3, Rays 2
Cameron Maybin homered and rookie right-hander Pablo Lopez earned the win as visiting Miami defeated Tampa Bay. In the seventh inning, Maybin pulled a would-be double that went just foul down the left field line. Two pitches later, he slugged a line-drive homer to left. The Rays lost shortstop Adeiny Hechavarria, a former Marlins player, who was removed due to an oblique injury. That forced Tampa Bay to shuffle its infield, including placing Gold Glove outfielder Carlos Gomez at second base for just the second time in his professional career.

Marlins 3, Rays 2

Blue Jays 4, Orioles 1
Marcus Stroman struck out seven in seven innings, Randal Grichuk and Luke Maile had RBI hits

Blue Jays 4, Orioles 1

Braves-Nationals, ppd.
The night game between Washington and Atlanta at Nationals Park was postponed roughly five hours prior to first pitch due to rain. No makeup date for the contest was announced.

Braves-Nationals, ppd.

Padres-Phillies, ppd.
The night game between host Philadelphia and San Diego at Citizens Bank Park was postponed roughly four hours prior to first pitch due to rain. The contest will be made up Sunday as part of a split doubleheader.—Reuters

Padres-Phillies, ppd.

Storm take over at the top of NRL
SYDNEY: Defending champions Melbourne Storm went top of Australia's National Rugby League with a hard-fought 12-6 win over the New Zealand Warriors in Auckland yesterday. The Storm outlasted the Warriors two tries to one to claim their seventh straight win and move above St. George Illawarra and South Sydney on points differential in the standings. The Warriors slipped a spot to eighth behind Brisbane on points differential and hold a four-point buffer over the West Tigers in eighth place six rounds out from the play-offs.

Storm take over at the top of NRL

St. George Illawarra Dragons leapfrogged Souths into second place with their 24-10 win over North Queensland. Following South Sydney's shock 22-6 loss to the Wests Tigers, the Dragons were convincing four tries to one winners in Townsville to snap a two-game losing streak. Wests Tigers posted one of their best wins of the season in Robbie Farah's 250th game for the club, ruining John Sutton's historic 300th game milestone for Souths and keeping the Tigers' finals hopes alive.

The loss ended a nine-game winning run for the Rabbitohs, but kept the Tigers in striking distance of the top eight. There was no love lost between Farah and his former teammates following his mid-season move as he was ironed out in the first half by a Sam Burgess high shot, with the Englishman then screaming at a prone Farah for what he believed was a dive to earn a penalty. Canberra's late finals charge was scuppered by a controversial try ruled against them in Cronulla's 28-24 win.—AFP

Most iconic swimming race; Thousands swim between continents

ISTANBUL: Thousands of people, some serious racers but others plucky amateurs, swam from Asia to Europe across the Bosphorus Strait in Istanbul yesterday in Turkey's most iconic swimming race. About 2,400 swimmers took part in the Samsung Bosphorus Cross-Continental Swim, organized by the Turkish Olympic Committee, for the 30th race since the tradition began in 1989. The event is hugely popular, with only a limited quota for international swimmers, who snatched up all their available places in less than half an hour after registration opened, organizers said.

Swimmers came from 55 different countries. The competitors were taken by one of Istanbul's famous ferries to the start of the race on the Asian side of the city in the shoreside district of Kalinca. When the race began they moved off the ferry onto a pontoon to dive—or for the more nervous jump—into the waters of the Bosphorus that divides Europe and Asia. From there it was a tough 6.5-kilometre (four-mile) swim in the direction of the Sea of Marmara to Kurucemesne on the European side of the city, close to the first bridge to span the Strait which is now named after the victims of the July 15, 2016 failed coup.

Navigating the current

The Bosphorus is usually thronged with oil tankers, cargo ships and ferries making it one of the most choked shipping lanes in the world. But the Strait was closed to traffic for the duration of the race, allowing swimmers an uninhibited passage



ISTANBUL: Swimmers compete in the Bosphorus river as they take part in the Bosphorus Cross Continental Swim event yesterday. The race takes participants 6 kms down the Bosphorus Strait from the Asian side of Istanbul to the European side.—AFP

across the waters, which were dotted with individual swimmers and the white crests in their wake. The current pushes swimmers towards their destination, but good navigation is key because if they lose their way the swimmers risk being swept away and missing the finish.

A team of rescue boats kept a careful eye on the progress of the swimmers. "The hardest thing is the current," said swimmer Viktoria Reshetilova, one of many from Russia, which formed the largest foreign

contingent. "The toughest part is not to be swept away and miss the finish. The best is being part of a movement." Osman Sirin, a Turkish 46-year-old, expressed pride at the finish. "The most difficult were the waves, especially during the last two kilometers. The best thing is being here now!" The fastest swimmer was Turkish Cypriot Dogukan Ulac, who swam the 6.5 kilometers in just 46 minutes and 58 seconds. The fastest woman was Hilal Zeynep Sarac, who finished in 50 minutes and 30 seconds.—AFP



NEW YORK: Giancarlo Stanton #27, Aaron Judge #99, and Aaron Hicks #31 of the New York Yankees celebrate a 7-6 win against the New York Mets during their game at Yankee Stadium on July 21, 2018.—AFP

Avisail Garcia, making his return from his second stint on the 10-day disabled list because of a right hamstring strain, hit a three-run homer for the White Sox. Covey (4-5) walked two and struck out five. Dee Gordon broke up the no-hit bid by lining a single up the middle with one out in the sixth inning. The only other Mariners hit was Jean Segura's one-out single in the ninth, which ended Covey's night.

Athletics 4, Giants 3 (11 innings)

Jonathan Lucroy drove in Matt Chapman with a two-out, walk-off single, allowing Oakland to overcome a blown save by closer Blake Treinen to defeat visiting San Francisco. Chapman got the uprising going with a two-strike single up the middle, after which Chad Pinder lashed a first-pitch hit to left field, putting the potential winning run in scoring position. Lucroy, a late-game defensive replacement, then came through with a two-strike liner to right field to end it. The Giants were down to their last strike before improbably rallying into a 3-3 tie in the top of the ninth inning. Treinen struck out Alen Hanson for what appeared to be the final out of the game, but the pitch in the dirt got away from A's catcher Josh Phegley, allowing Hanson to reach base. Hunter Pence then laced a double down the right field line, scoring Hanson all the way from first.

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Padres-Phillies, ppd.
The night game between host Philadelphia and San Diego at Citizens Bank Park was postponed roughly four hours prior to first pitch due to rain. The contest will be made up Sunday as part of a split doubleheader.—Reuters

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Sports

Thrilling climax in store as wind blows at Carnoustie

Woods off to promising start as Spieth, Kisner slip

CARNOUSTIE: Tiger Woods made steady progress at the start of his final round in the British Open at Carnoustie yesterday with two birdies in the first six holes to turn up the pressure on the leaders. Woods picked up a birdie at the fourth and then another at the long sixth hole to climb to seven under par for the championship, just one shot behind leaders Jordan Spieth and Xander Schauffele. The latter two had been in an overnight share of the lead at nine-under alongside Kevin Kisner, but reigning champion Spieth and Schauffele both bogeyed the fifth to drop back to eight-under.

Meanwhile, in breezy conditions on the Scottish links, Kisner got off to an awful start with a double-bogey at the second and then another dropped shot at the third. However, he then holed out from a greenside bunker at the sixth for a birdie four to move back to seven under par. Italy's Francesco Molinari, playing with Woods, started solidly to sit at six-under, while England's Eddie Pepperell was safely in the clubhouse at five-under after a four-under-par round of 67.

Predicted stiff breezes yesterday arrived at Carnoustie as the British Open geared up for a thrilling climax with defending champion Jordan Spieth in a three-way tie for the lead. After the benign conditions of Saturday when the old links yielded 288 birdies and 41 players carded under-par rounds, a testing westerly breeze arrived to add another ingredient into the battle for the Claret Jug.

Spieth hit a 380-yard drive onto the first green on Saturday to launch a round of 65 which put him level on nine under with fellow Americans Xander Schauffele,

who he will partner in round four, and Kevin Kisner. That will almost certainly not happen with the par-four first straight into a breeze that forecasters say could be gusting to 25mph by the time Spieth tees off 1345GMT. Yesterday's early starters certainly found the 7,402-yard layout less docile although there were still chances with the par-five 14th, playing downwind, birdied by 13 of the first 15 players with first man out Beau Hossler eagling it.

American Luke List and 2016 Open champion Henrik Stenson both carded 69s while Denmark's Thorbjorn Olesen was the first man to make an impression on the leaderboard as he birdied two of his first three holes to reach five-under-par. The dangers lurking for the title contenders were all too apparent though with Shaun Norris, playing partner of an inspired Tiger Woods on Saturday, making a quadruple-bogey eight on the first hole.

Woods, who electrified the galleries on Saturday with his best Open round since he won at Hoylake in 2006, a sizzling 66, will start on five-under with playing partner Francesco Molinari. The 42-year-old American is bidding to win his first major for a decade. Only five strokes separated the top 19 players on the leaderboard going into yesterday's conclusion with four-times major winner Rory McIlroy in the mix as are Justin Rose and Tommy Fleetwood who hope to become the first English player to win the Open since Nick Faldo in 1992.

Spieth, at 24, is seeking to become the youngest player to retain the Claret Jug since Tom Morris jr in the 1870s. The thousands of fans descending on the



CARNOUSTIE: US golfer Kevin Kisner plays out of a green-side bunker on the 18th hole during the 147th Open golf Championship at Carnoustie, Scotland. —AFP

course could have a rollercoaster afternoon in store though with Spieth predicting it would be like a "new tournament". Double US Open champion Brooks Koepka predicted anyone within five shots could win

the tournament. "It's all going to be based off the wind, how much the wind blows," he said after finishing with a one-under 70. "I'm sure anybody within four or five shots can win." —Agencies

Langer shows old swingers can still shine in majors

CARNOUSTIE: German golfing great Bernhard Langer is threatening to make what could be his last British Open a memorable farewell after a fine third round on Saturday. Looking sprightly for 60, and still with with blond locks, he carded a three-under-par 68 at Carnoustie to move to one-under in a tournament he ruefully admits is the one he really wanted but got away during his stellar career. "It could well be my last," said Langer, twice a Masters champion and twice an Open runner-up, of his appearance here this year. He qualified for Carnoustie thanks to his victory in last year's Senior Open, entering the field with fellow 60-year-old Sandy Lyle, another former Masters champion who missed the cut on Friday.

"That's the only way I'm going to get back in the tournament is by winning the Senior Open Championship because I'm not going to go qualify," Langer, who also made the cut at this year's Masters, said ruefully he would have loved to have lifted the Claret Jug once. "Yeah, it's been a good run," he said. "I've looked at it, and I've had seconds and thirds, several of them. "Come close. It's the one I wanted, and I didn't get. What can you do? I've been blessed with two Masters titles and many other victories."

The most recent of those titles came in 1993, and Langer turned professional in 1972. That highlights the unique nature of a sport that allows players of his age to keep competing with those far younger. "You can really only do that in the game of golf," said Langer, who was 47 when he finished tied for fifth in the 2005 British Open. "You can't do it in tennis or in soccer or whatever because it's all physical. "Golf, there's a lot more to it. It's very technical. It's very mental. It's consistency. It's strategy. "And especially on links golf, you can play every hole three different ways or two different ways for sure."

'It's not easily done'

Langer says he does not practice anymore, as having competed since he was 18 his joints are feeling the wear and tear, but at least he can keep playing, while retired athletes from other sports might look on enviously. "Some of them say it, and some I can feel it or whatever," said Langer. "It's pretty unique. There's not too many of us that are still playing at this level into the 60s. It's not easily done, let's put it that way."

"It's a very difficult game, as we all know, and I've been fortunate enough to be healthy enough and love the game enough that I still work at it and enjoy working at it and been blessed with a very long career. So very fortunate." Langer, who has had a greatly successful time on the seniors tour, said not all golfers were cut from the same cloth and he understood why some preferred the comfort of the television commentary booth to playing on another tour. "I can understand that other guys hang it up and do TV work or become a club pro or whatever they were doing, retire. Not everybody is made of the same-you know what I'm trying to say." — AFP

Baker wins London Diamond League 100 meters after Coleman injury

LONDON: World Indoor 60 meters bronze medalist Ronnie Baker emerged victorious from a hotly-contested 100m on Saturday's opening day of the London Diamond League after injury struck his US team-mate and rival Christian Coleman. Baker might have expected to challenge the 9.88 seconds leading time in the world this year he holds with Noah Lyles - another American pushing for global prominence in the post-Usain Bolt era - when he won his heat in a blistering 9.90sec at the London Stadium. Coleman, the world indoor 60m champion, withdrew from his heat because of a hamstring problem, but Baker had to work hard to simply claim victory in the final, clocking 9.90sec again, after losing ground with a sluggish start Britain's Zharnel Hughes took second place in 9.93, with South Africa's Commonwealth champion Akani Simbine third in 9.94 "I definitely felt fast today, running two 9.90s," said Baker. "Consistency is what it's about in sprinting, so I'm laying down a marker. Hopefully I can take that world lead and better it." Coleman has been struggling to overcome a hamstring problem all summer and, despite returning after a 44-day absence with a 100m victory in Rabat eight days ago, the 22-year-old American suffered a recurrence on the warm-up track before the heats.

Fraser-Pryce confounds doubters

Meanwhile Jamaica's two-time Olympic 100m champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, on the comeback trail after giving birth to son Zyon in August last year, overhauled



London : (Left to right) Winner US Ronnie Baker, fourth place Jamaica's Yohan Blake, second place US Zharnel Hughes, third placed South Africa's Akani Simbine compete in the Men's 100m event during the anniversary games at the London stadium in London. —AFP

Dezerea Bryant of the United States to take the women's 100m in 10.97sec — her first sub-11 seconds time for the distance for two years. "I'm so excited," said Fraser-Pryce, adding: "I didn't pay attention about what others were saying about coming back as a mother at 31."

Day one of this two-day meeting did not quite hit the stellar heights of the dazzling Diamond League meeting in Monaco on Friday but the 20,000 crowd dotted around the 2012 Olympic Stadium were treated to an outdoor world-best by Britain's Tom Bosworth in the 3000m walk, with the former circus performer clocking a time of 10 minutes 43.84 seconds. Competing in a French national football shirt, Renaud Lavillenie looked on course to celebrate his country's World Cup football success as he nailed first-time clearances from 5.61 meters to 5.86 meters in the pole vault.

However, when the bar was raised to 5.92m the world record-holder was unable to clear and with two further

failures at 5.97m, Lavillenie found himself trumped by world champion Sam Kendricks of the United States. Kendricks nailed 5.92m at his first attempt and had two unsuccessful vaults at a potential US record height of 6.06m. Like Kendricks, Norway's Karsten Warholm also enjoyed a happy return to the track where he won world championship gold last year, the former decathlete setting a Norwegian record of 47.65sec in the men's 400m hurdles.

Kirani James was a 19-year-old sensation when he won the Olympic 400m title on the London track in 2012. But six years on, the tall Grenadian is on the comeback trail after being diagnosed with Graves' disease and, in his first Diamond League race for two years, he found himself overshadowed on Saturday by Qatar's world championship bronze medalist Abdallah Haroun. James had to settle for third place in 44.50sec as Haroun finished like a train to claim victory in a Qatari record of 44.07. Paul Dedwo of the USA took second in 44.43. — AFP



TOKYO: Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games mascots Miraitowa (left) and Someity ride on a boat during a parade in Tokyo yesterday. Japanese organizers formally introduced their doe-eyed 2020 Olympic mascots to the world yesterday, christening them with superhero names that could provide a tongue-twisting challenge to some. — AFP

Someity, Miraitowa unveiled as Tokyo Olympic mascots

TOKYO: The mascots for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games were named during a ceremony in the Japanese capital yesterday. The Olympic mascot, a blue-checked pointy-eared figure, was named as Miraitowa - combining the Japanese words 'mirai', meaning future, and 'towa', which means eternity. The Paralympic counterpart, who is pink-checked and wears a cape, was named Someity after a variety of cherry blossom called Someiyoshino. Games organizers also said the name sounded similar to "so mighty" in English.

The mascots were revealed in February but remained

unnamed until yesterday. They were designed by illustrator Ryo Taniguchi, who won a nationwide competition that was determined by Japanese children, with his entries clinching more than half the total votes. Tokyo 2020 president and former Japanese prime minister Yoshiro Mori was present at the unveiling and delivered a message of inclusion. "You are part of the Olympics as well," Mori told the assembled children. "You chose these two characters. We had roughly five million students who chose these so the Olympics belongs to everyone, not just the athletes, everyone. "We are hoping everyone will unite as one and we hope to achieve a great success and to do so we will need everyone's cooperation." In a country that has a fondness for mascots, Tokyo 2020 organizers sought to create lovable characters for the Games with both selections said to have superpowers and an ability to teleport between the digital world and reality. After the ceremony, the mascots reappeared on a boat that cruised down the Sumida river, waving to children on the riverbank as they passed some of Tokyo's most iconic landmarks. — Reuters

Joint inter-Korea team wins mixed doubles at Open

SEOUL: A joint table tennis team from the two Koreas on Saturday won the final in mixed doubles at the Korea Open, claiming the first gold in the latest installment of sporting diplomacy on the peninsula. Jang Woo-jin, a male player from the South, and Cha Hyo Sim, a female player from the North, defeated China 3-1 at the mixed doubles final at the international tournament held in the South's city of Daejeon. It was the first gold medal won by an inter-Korea sports team in nearly three decades after a women's joint table tennis team scored a shock victory over reigning champion China in the world championship in Japan in 1991.

The Chinese pair of Wang Chuqin and Sun Yingsha won the first set 11-5 before the Korean team thrashed them 11-3, 11-4 and 11-8 in consecutive sets as some South Korean fans chanted in unison "We are one!" "I really wanted to win this game... and the cheers from the crowd gave me goosebumps," Jang told reporters after the game. The "I saw Hyo Sim crying during the ceremony and it broke my heart that we have to say goodbye soon," he said. All civilian communication between the two countries - which remain technically at war after the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice instead of a peace treaty - is banned.

But North Korea's decision to participate in the Winter Olympics in the South last February triggered an ongoing rapprochement between the two nations. Athletes from the two Koreas marched together behind a unification flag at the Games' opening ceremony, while the South's President Moon Jae-in seized the opportunity to broker talks between Pyongyang and Washington. Moon also held a summit with the North's leader Kim Jong Un in April, during which the two men vowed to strengthen cooperation in sports. — AFP

Sports

Historic Martinez's hat trick lifts Atlanta over Rooney's DC United

Red Bulls blank Revolution 2-0

LOS ANGELES: Josef Martinez produced his Major League Soccer-record sixth career hat trick Saturday to lead Atlanta United to a 3-1 victory over Wayne Rooney and DC United. With a league-leading 22 goals in 22 appearances this season, Venezuelan-born Martinez is on pace to break the MLS season scoring record of 27 goals held by Roy Lassiter, Chris Wondolowski and Bradley Wright-Phillips.

"I think that when one has the possibility to have someone in the kind of form that Josef is in right now all you can really do is sit back and watch and try to enjoy it," said Atlanta manager "Tata" Martino. "I'm pleased with the way he's scoring the goals, that it's coming as a function of the team and that leaves me calm." In a clash between league-leaders Atlanta and a DC United team languishing in last place in the Eastern Conference, it was visiting DC that struck first.

A one-touch pass from Rooney found Paul Arriola in flight. Arriola's pass freed Zoltan Stieber and the Hungarian fired past Atlanta keeper Brad Guzan for a 1-0 lead in the eighth minute. Martinez knotted the score at 1-1 in the 30th, heading home Hector Villalba's cross from close range. Martinez put Atlanta ahead in the 54th minute, heading home a deflected cross at the far post. He completed his hat trick on a counter attack after a Miguel Almiron

through ball was blocked but fell favourably to Martinez who easily rounded DC goalkeeper David Ousted to score in the 73rd.

Martinez broke the MLS record for career hat tricks he had shared with Stern John and Diego Serna. John played for Columbus in the late 1990s and Serna played for the now defunct Miami Fusion. Martinez's exploit meant Atlanta spoiled former England star Wayne Rooney's first start for his new club DC United. The 32-year-old Rooney, England's all-time leading goal scorer, was the centre of attention when he came on as a substitute in his DC United debut July 14, playing a role in two goals from Arriola as DC beat Vancouver 3-1.

After gaining the starting nod from manager Ben Olsen, Rooney was replaced by Darren Mattocks after a relatively quiet 66 minutes. Elsewhere, Zlatan Ibrahimovic delivered a goal and an assist as the Los Angeles Galaxy stretched their unbeaten run to seven games with a 3-1 win over the Philadelphia Union. Ibrahimovic's game-winner came in the 63rd minute off a crisp pass from substitute Romain Alessandrini. The Swedish star set up the equalizer earlier in the half with a well-placed through ball to Ola Kamara.

Red Bulls v Revolution

Bradley Wright-Phillips and Daniel Royer each scored goals and Luis Robles

picked up his sixth shutout of the season as the New York Red Bulls blanked the New England Revolution, 2-0, on Saturday night at Red Bull Arena in Harrison, NJ. It was the 13th goal of the season and 99th of his career for Wright-Phillips, who ranks second in the MLS in goals this season behind Atlanta United's Josef Martinez's 22. Robles had a highlight-reel point-blank save on Teal Bunbury in the 36th minute en route to picking up his 55th career shutout.

It was the fifth win in six games for New York (12-5-2, 38 points) which improved to 8-1-1 in home games this season. The Red Bulls, who also improved to 9-0-4 in their last 13 home matches against New England, moved within two points of second place New York City FC in the Eastern Conference standings. It was the third straight loss for the Revolution (7-7-7, 28 points) who remain one point ahead of sixth place Montreal for the final playoff berth in the Eastern Conference. Matt Turner had one save for the Revs.

New York just missed taking a 1-0 lead in the second minute of the game when defender Aaron Long broke free in front of the six-yard box and headed Sean Davis' corner shot into the middle of the crossbar where it popped up and went out of bounds. New England's best scoring chance in the first half came in the 36th minute when midfielder Diego Fagundez curled a crossing pass from outside the right side of



Wayne Rooney of DC United heads the ball. —AFP

the penalty box to the edge of the six-yard box where Robles stopped a charging Bunbury's close attempt with his chest.

Royer broke the scoreless tie in the 69th minute with his fifth goal of the season off an assist by midfielder Marc Rzatkowski. Rzatkowski curled a left-footed free kick from near the right corner which sailed

over several defenders and to the charging Royer, who redirected it into the net with his left foot. Thirteen minutes later, Wright-Phillips made it 2-0 when he broke free in the middle of the penalty box and headed a crossing pass by Alejandro Romero Gamarra past a diving Turner and inside the left post for the game-clinching goal.

Neymar: I couldn't look at a football after World Cup

PRAIA GRANDE: Brazil superstar Neymar admits that after his nation's quarter-final defeat to Belgium at the World Cup he couldn't look at a ball and didn't want to see any of the remaining matches. "I wouldn't go as far as to say I didn't want to play again but, I didn't want to see a ball, or to see any more football played," 26-year-old Neymar told AFP in an exclusive interview on Saturday. The Paris Saint Germain forward was talking at his Neymar Praia Grande institute where the Red Bull Neymar Jr 5s (five-a-side-soccer) tournament was being played.

Dressed in a sleeveless t-shirt, with his six-year-old son Davi Lucca sat upon his knee, the striker was however in a relaxed mood as he explained his post-World Cup blues. "I was in mourning, I was really sad about it, but sadness passes, I have my son, my family, my friends and they don't want to see me moping around. I've got more reason to be happy than sad," said Neymar, reflecting on his team's 2-1 quarter-final defeat to Belgium. Asked about reports in Spain linking him with a transfer to Real Madrid the forward said "that's all speculation from the press."

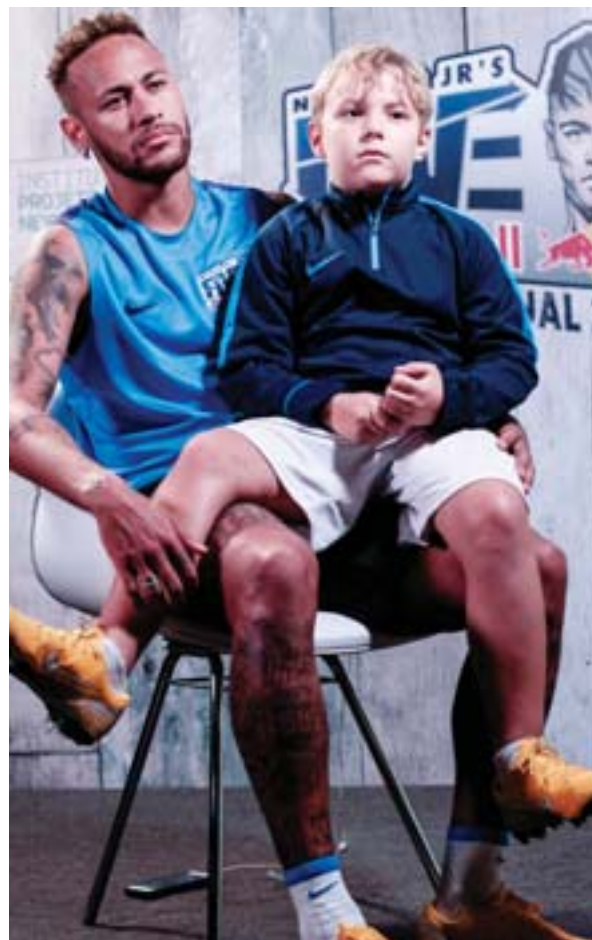
"The guys who come up with these stories seem to know more about my life than I do. I won't respond to this type of question because nothing happened," he scoffed. The Brazilian superstar, who moved to PSG for a world record 222 million euros (\$264 million) last year, insists that the burden of expectation on his shoulders — whether with his club or country — does not weigh heavily. "No, all the great players feel pres-

sure," he said. "It's true that when it comes to me, there are double standards. I have been aware of this responsibility, not only for Brazil, but also in club football, since I was 17, 18 years old. "I have prepared myself to handle this pressure and I know that when the results are not what they should be then that pressure increases." Neymar has been hit by a barrage of criticism for the theatrical rolling around after being fouled at the World Cup, but says he should have been better protected.

'Criticism of me exaggerated'

"People were faster to criticize the one being fouled than the one doing the fouling," he insisted. "I went to the World Cup to play, to beat the opposition, not to get kicked. The criticism of me was exaggerated, but I'm a big boy, I'm used to dealing with this kind of thing. "And I can't be the referee and play at the same time, but there are times I wish I could," he said. Earlier this week, Neymar took a swipe at his critics with a tongue-in-cheek video in which he teaches children how to fall to the ground. "One, two, three, go!" shouts Neymar on the Instagram video as around a dozen youngsters fall to the ground of a parking lot. "That's a free-kick!" screams the Brazilian breaking into fits of laughter.

The video was released with a hashtag #ChallengeDAFALTA, the free-kick challenge in Portuguese. During the recent World Cup, the player's antics sparked the "Neymar Challenge" where he was widely mocked. In Mexico, a football club even organized a competition in which contestants attempted to roll the entire length of the pitch. Meanwhile, Neymar described PSG's new coach Thomas Tuchel as a great addition to the club. "He's a great coach and we're hoping for a great season," he said. "I'm really looking forward to it." Neymar said of his second season in Paris. "We have signed a football legend (Italian goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon) who will bring with him all his experience and that will be a great help for this coming season." —AFP



PRAIA GRANDE: Brazilian football star Neymar, with his son Davi Lucca, offers an interview to AFP at his charity Neymar Junior Project Institute in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where he hosted a five-a-side football tournament. — AFP

Iniesta's Japan debut falls flat in 3-0 reverse

KOBE: Spanish legend Andres Iniesta's Japanese debut ended on a flat note yesterday as Vissel Kobe crashed to an embarrassing 3-0 home defeat by J-League strugglers Shonan Bellmare. The former Barcelona playmaker came off the bench after 58 minutes with Kobe already trailing by two goals and, despite one or two trademark flicks, failed to inspire a comeback in front of a crowd of 26,000. Meanwhile, Iniesta's one-time Spain teammate Fernando Torres also tasted defeat in his J-League debut for Sagan Tosu, who flopped 1-0 at home to Vegalta Sendai.

Expectant fans, many of them clutching Spain flags, were disappointed to learn that Iniesta had been named among the substitutes for his first game since joining Kobe in the summer. The 34-year-old's first touch was a silky turn on the halfway line, releasing teammate Takuya Yasui, who promptly gave the ball straight to an opponent, underlining the gulf in class between the J-League and La Liga. Visiting Bellmare, who began the day two spots above the relegation zone, had clearly not read the script as goals from Keisuke Saka and Mitsuki Saito gave them a two-goal lead.

Iniesta, who has reportedly signed a three-year deal on a J-League record annual salary of \$30 million, watched helplessly as Bellmare went 3-0 up thanks to a Shunsuke Kikuchi tap-in 10 minutes after the Spaniard joined the fray. The 2010 World Cup winner had fans

off their seats late on when he blazed a left-foot volley wide, but ultimately there was little he could do to prevent Kobe slipping to their sixth J-League defeat of the season. "It's a shame we lost because I don't like losing," Iniesta told reporters. "But this is just the first step of an amazing new adventure. It was a physical game that showed the quality of the J-League."

Commercial success

Kobe could at least point to the silver lining that Iniesta's arrival has already proven a commercial success after slipping to sixth in the table. Analysts have predicted the Spanish maestro has generated over \$100 million in tickets sales and merchandising revenue. Iniesta, who lifted 32 major trophies and made 674 appearances for Barcelona, joined Vissel after turning down an offer to move to China. He produced several cute touches after finally making his debut but cut a forlorn figure as he trudged off the pitch after the final whistle. Iniesta's decision to choose Kobe arguably represents Japanese football's biggest transfer coup, with many top players now moving to cash-rich Chinese clubs in the twilight of their careers.

It also comes as a timely boost to the J-League, which used to attract luminaries such as Brazilian great Zico and former England striker Gary Lineker when it began in 1993 but has struggled to attract big-name players in recent years. Torres arrived in Japan over the summer to comparatively less fanfare than Iniesta to join Sagan, who remain marooned in the J-League drop zone after their ninth defeat of the campaign. The former Atletico Madrid and Liverpool striker had a header saved but had few other clear-cut opportunities after coming on as a substitute early in the second half. — AFP



KOBE: J-League club team Vissel Kobe's new signing, Spanish player Andres Iniesta (right), kicks the ball during a football match against Shonan Bellmare at Noevir Stadium in Kobe, Hyogo prefecture yesterday. — AFP

Ozil defends controversial picture with Erdogan

BERLIN: Footballer Mesut Ozil said yesterday he had no regrets about his controversial photograph with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan that sparked questions about his loyalty to Germany's national squad ahead of the World Cup. Breaking his silence over the snapshot that caused outrage during the tournament, the Arsenal midfielder said in a statement on Twitter that he was true to both his Turkish and German origins and insisted he did not intend to make a political statement.

"Like many people, my ancestry traces back to more than one country. Whilst I grew up in Germany, my family background has its roots firmly based in Turkey," he said. "I have two hearts, one German and one Turkish." Ozil, 29, said he had first met Erdogan in 2010 after the president and German Chancellor Angela Merkel watched a Germany-Turkey match together in Berlin. "Since then, our paths have crossed a lot of times around the globe," he said. "I'm aware that the picture of us caused a huge response in the German media, and whilst some people may accuse me of lying or being deceitful, the picture we took had no political intentions."

'Not about politics'

Ozil said that despite the timing of the picture with teammate Ilkay Gundogan and Erdogan—shortly before the president won re-election in a poll endowing him with sweeping new powers—"it wasn't about politics or elections, it was about me respecting the highest office of my family's country". "My job is a football player and not a politician, and our meeting was not an endorsement of any policies," Ozil said.

"I get that this may be hard to understand, as in most cultures the political leader cannot be thought of as being separate from the person. But in this case it is different. Whatever the outcome would've been in this previous election, or the election before that, I would have still taken the picture." Germany is home to more than three million people of Turkish origin. Ozil and Gundogan, who both have Turkish roots, were booed by German fans in pre-World Cup friendlies after posing with Erdogan in May in London.

Manchester City midfielder Gundogan presented him with a signed club shirt on which he had written "to my president". After the tournament, Ozil came in for stinging criticism in Germany for the side's shock first-round defeat at the World Cup. Team boss Oliver Bierhoff suggested after the debacle that Germany should have considered dropping Ozil after his failure to explain himself over the Erdogan picture. Bierhoff later backtracked, saying that he "was wrong" to put Ozil under undue pressure, but the picture continued to draw scorn from fans on social media. Meanwhile, former captain Lothar Matthaus accused Ozil of no longer looking comfortable in the Germany shirt.

'Right-wing propaganda'

Ozil said he could abide criticism of his performance on the pitch but not when it was linked to his ethnic background. "If a newspaper or pundit finds fault in a game I play in, then I can accept this," he said. "But what I can't accept are German media outlets repeatedly blaming my dual-heritage and a simple picture for a bad World Cup on behalf of an entire squad," he added, calling it "right-wing propaganda". "This crosses a personal line that should never be crossed, as newspapers try to turn the nation of Germany against me." He angrily denounced the broadside by Matthaus, who he noted "met with another world leader a few days back and received almost no media criticism" in an apparent reference to an appearance with Russian President Vladimir Putin. —AFP

25 Cardinals' Carpenter homers in 6th straight game; Tigers win



25 Thousands swim between continents in famed race



27 Neymar: I couldn't look at a football after World Cup



Pakistan thrash Zimbabwe for ODI series sweep

Record man Zaman leads Pakistan to 364/4 against Zimbabwe



BULAWAYO: Pakistan's team pose with the trophy during the prize ceremony after winning the fifth One-Day International (ODI) series final cricket match against Zimbabwe at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo yesterday. — AFP

BULAWAYO: Pakistan completed a series whitewash over Zimbabwe with a 131-run win yesterday in the fifth and final match at Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo. On another record-setting day for the visitors, Fakhar Zaman became the fastest player in history to reach 1,000 career runs in one-day international cricket as Pakistan amassed 364 for 4. Zaman broke the previous record of 21 innings by reaching the mark in his 17th innings in the course of a fluent half century. His opening partner Imam-ul-Haq was also in the runs once again, the pair adding their fourth century stand of the series. They took the score to 168 in the 25th over before Zaman was caught behind for 85.

While he missed out on what would have been his third hundred of the series, Zaman did also claim the records for most runs in a five-match bilateral series with 515 and most runs scored between dismissals in ODIs, having scored 455 runs since he was last dis-

missed in the first match of the series. On a morning for batsmen, Imam-ul-Haq went on to reach his third century of the series, and though Shoaib Malik and Asif Ali fell cheaply, the carnage continued with Babar Azam then racing to a century of his own from 72 deliveries, his second fifty haven taken just 17 balls.

In response, Zimbabwe showed much more stickability with the bat than had been the case in the first four games of the series. Hamilton Masakadza and Tinashe Kamunhukamwe got going with a 66-run opening stand, Zimbabwe's best of the series, and though Zimbabwe never looked like threatening Pakistan's total, the middle order did at least hold firm. Prince Masvaure made 39 and Ryan Murray contributed 47 - personal bests for both players in their short careers - and Peter Moor finished off with 44 not out in a 67-run stand with Elton Chigumbura, allowing Zimbabwe to reach 233 for 4.—AFP

But Perera finally got his man for 37, leaving South Africa 80 for two, from which they quickly slipped to 113 for five as Hashim Amla went for six, Faf du Plessis for seven and Keshav Maharaj first ball. Amla had his off stump levelled by a straightening Herath delivery. Du Plessis was the first victim in Dananjaya's late double strike, when a ball he had inside-edged on to his pad popped up for a catch to slip. By stumps, number-three batsman Theunis de Bruyn, who survived two very close lbw shouts early in his innings, was 45 not out, with a chance of recording his team's first half-century of the series. Temba Bavuma, who came to the crease with Dananjaya on a hat-trick, remained 14 not out.

But the South Africans are still staring down the barrel of their first series defeat by Sri Lanka since 2006, when they also suffered a whitewash - the last time the Proteas faced such a humiliation anywhere. The world's number-two-ranked Test side have only three recognized batsmen remaining and two full days left to survive against Sri Lanka, currently ranked sixth after a string of defeats in recent times. "It's been a totally different kind of tour for myself personally and the team as well," Elgar said. "We have been outplayed and outclassed in this series, and I'll be man enough to say that Sri Lanka have been better than us in this particular series."

King Karunaratne

Earlier, Sri Lanka added a further 125 runs to their already-mammoth 364-run lead, as acting captain Suranga Lakmal delayed the declaration until after halfway through the second session. Dimuth Karunaratne made 85 — the third time in four innings he has top-scored for Sri Lanka -

SCOREBOARD

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe: First innings scoreboard in the fifth one-day international between Zimbabwe and Pakistan at Queens Sports Club yesterday:

Pakistan	Total (4 wkts, 50 overs)	364
I. ul Haq lbw b W Masakadza	110	Did not bat: S Khan, M Nawaz, M Amir, H Ali, J Khan
F. Zaman c Murray b Roche	85	Fall of wickets: 1-168 (Zaman), 2-245 (ul Haq), 3-280 (Malik), 4-316 (Ali)
B. Azam not out	106	Bowling: Mpofo 10-0-67-1 (2w); Chatara 10-0-79-1 (1w, 1nb); Tiripano 7-0-67-0 (4w); Roche 10-1-65-1 (4w); W Masakadza 10-0-66-1 (1w); Masvaure 3-0-19-0 (1w)
S. Malik lbw b Chatara	18	
A. Ali c Chatara b Mpofo	18	
S. Ahmed not out	6	
Extras (lb1, nb1, w19)	21	

Sri Lanka closing in on whitewash of South Africa

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka closed in on a series whitewash against South Africa yesterday, with the visitors five down and with a mountain to climb after the third day of the second Test. By stumps, spinners had ripped their way through the Proteas batsmen yet again to leave them reeling on 139 for 5 in an impossible-looking 490 victory target in Colombo. Against batsmen who clearly decided that attack was the best form of defence, off-spinner Akila Dananjaya and left-arm spinner Rangana Herath took two wickets apiece, and off-spinner Dilruwan Perera dismissed Dean Elgar.

The wickets fell despite a comedy of repeated errors from Sri Lanka, who dropped two catches, wasted both their reviews - on successive balls - and could have had Elgar out twice beforehand had Perera not overstepped. He was reprieved on six when Perera bowled him, and later on 23 when caught behind. On the second occasion, he had even gone right back into the dressing room before being recalled to the middle. "I was quite happy with that. That's never happened in my career," Elgar said afterwards.



COLOMBO: South African cricketer Theunis de Bruyn (center) plays a shot as wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella (left) looks on during the third day of their second Test match between Sri Lanka and South Africa at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) international cricket stadium yesterday. — AFP

while Angelo Mathews completed a 29th career half-century before eventually being dismissed for 71. Those were the only two breakthroughs South Africa could manage, as Sri Lanka's batsmen negotiated testing spells from the opposition quicks and their lone frontline spinner.

Left-arm spinner Maharaj took his match tally of wickets to 12 when he had Mathews caught at slip, and fast bowler Lungi Ngidi was the man to remove Karunaratne,

having him caught behind for 85. Dale Steyn went wicketless in this match, which means he has not yet broken the South Africa record for most wickets. Steyn has been tied with Shaun Pollock at the top of his country's wicket-takers' list since the first Test in Galle, with 421 dismissals. South African bowlers toiled for 47 overs yesterday but managed to dismiss just the overnight pair of Karunaratne and Mathews.—AFP