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رمضان كريم
Ramadan Kareem

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Frenchman commits suicide at Makkah's Grand Mosque

Man throws himself off the roof of Grand Mosque

Ramadan Kareem

Signs of God

By Teresa Leshar

Just like this newspaper is a sign of the intelligence, planning and productive ability of human beings, the universe is a sign of the omniscience, will, and omnipotence of a Creator. The Quran recounts many natural phenomena as 'signs' of the existence and power of God. Many of these phenomena we see on a daily basis and, perhaps for that reason, we don't consider them miraculous. But if we really give thought to these phenomena, we will see a powerful presence behind it. Following are just a few of the many signs presented in the Quran.

"Blessed is He who has placed in the sky great stars and placed therein a [burning] lamp and a luminous moon" - (25:61). "It is Allah who made for you the night that you may rest therein and the day giving sight. Indeed, Allah is full of bounty to the people, but most of the people are not grateful." - (40:61). "Do you not see that ships sail through the sea by the favor of Allah and that He may show you of His signs? Indeed, in that are signs for everyone patient and grateful" - (31:31).

People have stopped wondering how ships that weigh tons can float on the water, even though a mobile phone, when dropped in the water, quickly sinks! Similarly, when we see an airplane flying high or low, we rarely pause to think what a miracle it is. It is, I believe, a mighty sign of a generous Lord. "And we placed therein gardens of palm trees and grapevines and caused to burst forth there from some springs - that they may eat of His fruit. And their hands have not produced it. So will they not be grateful?" - (36:34-35).

The fact that a fruit-bearing tree can sprout from a tiny seed is a sign of Allah's power and care. Even though we may create the best conditions for a plant's growth, we have no real power over it when it withers and dies. "And it is He who produced for you hearing and vision and intellect. Little are you grateful." - (23:78). If I asked you to sell me your eyes, you would refuse, knowing that your sight is priceless, as are your abilities to hear and reason. Doesn't the granter such precious things deserve our gratitude?

"And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought." - (30:21). Our Creator has not only given us a comfortable environment, nutritious foods to eat, the ability to travel far and wide, and abilities so that we can acquire and share knowledge, He has also satisfied our social needs for love, family and belonging. His intention for our relationships is clear: tranquility, affection and mercy.

These are just a few of the 'signs' of a powerful, generous, caring Creator. Compared to these great feats, there is little we can do to return such favors and blessings. However, as the verses imply, we should at least be grateful and, by doing so, acknowledge God and believe in Him. If you need a little help along the way, the Quran will guide you. It is described at the outset of chapter 14 as "A Book We have send down to you so that you [Muhammad] may bring humanity out of darkness into the light by the permission of their Lord." The Quran is one of the greatest signs of God - truly a miracle of miracles.

Courtesy of the TIES Center, whose mission is to empower Kuwait's expats through social and educational services that promote a positive and productive role in society, and to facilitate opportunities for intra- and interfaith interactions that promote social solidarity. For more information, please call 25231015/6 or e-mail: info@tiescenter.net.

RIYADH: A Frenchman has committed suicide by throwing himself off the roof of the Grand Mosque in Islam's holiest city of Makkah, Saudi and French officials said yesterday. "A foreigner threw himself from the roof of the Grand Mosque in Makkah" to the courtyard below, "resulting in his

instant death", Saudi police told the official SPA news agency. A French foreign ministry official told AFP in Paris that the dead man was French but gave no further details.

The rare act was not the first of its kind to take place in Makkah, the holiest city in Islam-which, like other monotheistic reli-

gions, prohibits suicide. The body was transported to hospital, with an investigation underway "to determine the victim's identity, what led to the act and how he was able to commit it despite the existence of a metal fence", SPA said. Last year, a Saudi man tried to set himself on fire in

front of the Kaaba the square stone building in the centre of the mosque compound-but was stopped by security forces. Every year, millions of Muslim pilgrims from across the world travel to Makkah and Medina, Islam's second holiest site, also in western Saudi Arabia. — AFP

Trump urges end to 'unfair' trade practices

LA MALBAIE: President Donald Trump quit the G7 summit in Quebec early yesterday having made no concessions to his allies' anger at his imposition of tariffs designed, in his eyes, to rebalance world trade. In fact, the US leader instead boasted he had made progress in convincing his counterparts from the world's richest democracies of the need to change the rules of the game in America's favor.

Trump left the summit for Singapore and his historic nuclear summit with Kim Jong Un in much the same position as he had come in-alone in the face of the six other G7 members working together to defend multilateral trade rules. An official

from French President Emmanuel Macron's office said there was still hope a joint communique would be signed, with Washington opting out of clauses on climate and the environment, but that US negotiators are opposing language on strengthening international trade oversight.

The French side still expect the text to signal support for "rules-based" multilateral cooperation rather than for Trump's preference for bilateral deals with American partners designed to reduce US trade deficits. Trump was upbeat, however, arguing that he could tell from the smiles of European leaders around the table that they knew that "the gig is up" and that they would be obliged to negotiate terms with Washington.

"They can't believe they got away with it," he declared, repeating his mantra that G7 members have been taking advantage of the naivety of his predecessors for decades.

Continued on Page 24



BAGOTVILLE AIR FORCE BASE: US President Donald Trump boards Air Force One prior to departure from Canadian Forces Base Bagotville in Canada yesterday. Trump travels to Singapore to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on June 12. — AFP

Kuwait, Saudi, UAE seek ways to help Jordan

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Jordan will meet today to discuss ways to support Amman as it looks to tackle an economic crisis in the wake of protests. Riyadh said in statement yesterday that King Salman called the rulers of the three other nations to set up a meeting in Makkah after demonstrations rocked Jordan over a proposed tax hike.

"They agreed to hold a meeting comprising the four countries...to discuss means of supporting Jordan to overcome its current crisis," the statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency said. Cash-strapped Jordan, a close US ally that relies heavily on donors, is struggling to curb its debt after securing a \$723-million loan from the International Monetary Fund in 2016. Austerity measures tied to the loan have seen prices of

basic necessities rise across the kingdom-culminating in a week of angry protests over tax proposals that forced prime minister Hani Mulki to resign.

The authorities on Thursday announced they were withdrawing the unpopular legislation, but still face a mammoth task to balance popular demands with the need to reduce the public debt burden. Jordan blames its economic woes on instability rocking the region and the burden of hosting hundreds of thousands of refugees from war-torn Syria, complaining it has not received enough international support. The World Bank says Jordan has "weak growth prospects" this year, while 18.5 percent of the working age population is unemployed.

Saudi Arabia and the United States are two of the major donors providing vital economic assistance to Jordan.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, accompanied by an official delegation, will leave for Saudi Arabia tomorrow to attend a meeting aiming at supporting Jordan which is undergoing an economic crisis.— Agencies



AMMAN: Jordanians buy second-hand shoes in an open air market in central Amman. Jordan's authorities may have shelved a proposed income tax hike after a week of protests-but they still face the tricky task of balancing popular demands with the need to fix the economy. — AFP

Afghan shoppers go online to avoid bombs, harassment

KABUL: Shoppers in the Afghan capital are going online for everything from fashion to furniture to avoid bomb attacks and sexual harassment, with dozens of start-ups doing a brisk trade where there were few on the ground two years ago. Suicide bombings and other attacks in Kabul have killed and wounded hundreds of people this year and security had been expected to deteriorate ahead of elections planned for October. Sexual harassment on the street is widespread.

Talebans insurgents on Sunday announced a surprise three-day ceasefire for the Eid holiday next week, marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadan, days after the government offered a ceasefire until June 20. The new retailers, with names like AzadBazar.af, afom.af, JVbazar.com and zarinamas.com, sell goods ranging from cosmetics, computers, kitchenware and furniture to cars, rugs and real estate. One website advertises foreign brands including Rolex, Adidas and Zara.

Student Asila Sulaimani described online shopping as a "good experience" in a country at war, with UN figures putting those under 25 at more than 60 percent of



HERAT: Afghan burqa-clad women receive aid by a charity during the holy month of Ramadan in Herat province. — AFP

the population, the vast majority of them enthusiastic smartphone users. "Who dares go out shopping these days?" she said. "I am sure there are some people, but for me it has always been difficult ... Fears of an explosion, an attack and the most common thing, harassment, follow me like my shadow."

Tamim Rasa, 28, is the founder of Rasa Online which he started with \$30,000 eight months ago. He has since signed contracts with more than 60 stores and traders, with 80 percent of his customers women and cosmetics "a big part of business". The store has no physical presence in terms of stock, just an office of eight. "We work as a connecting bridge between people and large stores

Continued on Page 24

Kushner, Kuwait envoy meeting 'constructive'

WASHINGTON: The recent meeting between Kuwaiti Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Jared Kushner (assistant to US President Donald Trump) was "constructive", and there was no tension between them, the White House announced. They "had an honest and constructive discussion," said a statement released by Raj Shah, White House deputy press secretary. During the meeting, they discussed the Mideast peace process and actions at the United Nations. The two "have a strong relationship based on mutual respect and shared strategic goals," Shah added. The Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs had dismissed local reports on alleged US dissatisfaction with Kuwait's position at the UN Security Council (UNSC) regarding some issues, stressing deep relations between Kuwait and the US. — KUNA

Local

Defense Minister attends anti-IS talks at NATO HQ

Sheikh Nasser meets Gulf, Western defense officials



BRUSSELS: First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah attends the anti-IS talks at NATO HQ. — Defense Ministry photos



First Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets with Qatari Minister of State for Defense Affairs Dr Khaled Al-Attiyah.



First Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets with US Defense Secretary James Mattis.

BRUSSELS: Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah attended counter Islamic State coalition defense ministers' talks at the NATO headquarters on Friday. Kuwait's participation comes to ensure its commitment to the global efforts aimed at tackling terrorism and ensuring global security and stability under the directions of the Kuwaiti leadership, mentioned a statement.

The Defense minister presented an explanatory report outlining Kuwait's role within the coalition in providing humanitarian support to nations affected by terrorist groups. The meeting is aimed at reviewing ongoing plans made in relation to the ever-changing situations and most recent occurrences worldwide and to ensure that these plans are successfully implemented.

This particularly comes after the victories made by the coalition in its military campaign against the group, which have led to a significant loss in its numbers due to the success of cooperative global efforts. US Defense Secretary James Mattis praised Kuwait's role in hosting the recently-held Iraqi reconstruction international donors' conference. Attending ministers also agreed to an 'ideology' aimed at fighting terrorist and fundamen-

alist thought amid steps to limit the threat worldwide.

Sheikh Nasser also met in Brussels Friday with Qatari Minister of State for Defense Affairs Dr Khaled Al-Attiyah. The two men discussed military cooperation between the



Kuwait, Saudi mull defense cooperation

two countries as well as issues of mutual interest. Sheikh Nasser also met with Mattis and means of cementing military collaboration between Kuwait and Washington. Sheikh Nasser met with British Defense Secretary Gavin Williamson in Brussels, and discussed military issues of mutual interest.

The Kuwaiti senior official also met with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and discussed cooperation between the two sides. Sheikh Nasser said in a statement later the meetings were part of collective military



First Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets with British Defense Secretary Gavin Williamson.

cooperation and coordination to achieve common objectives.

Defense cooperation

On Thursday, Sheikh Nasser received Saudi military delegation led by Deputy Minister of Defense Mohammad Al-Ayesh. The meeting, held on the fringe of the meeting of the defense ministers of the state parties to the global coalition against the so-



First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets with Saudi Deputy Minister of Defense Mohammad Al-Ayesh.

called Islamic State (IS) in Belgium, reviewed the defense cooperation and issues of common concern. Sheikh Nasser expressed desire to further cement the relations between the two sisterly countries, according to a statement by the moral guidance and public relations dept. of the Kuwaiti Ministry

of Defense. The meeting gathered Kuwait Ambassador to Belgium Jassem Al-Bedeiwi, Saudi Ambassador to Belgium Abdulrahman Al-Ahmad and Saudi Chief of General Staff General Fayyadh Al-Roweili as well as members of the Kuwaiti delegation to the ministerial meeting. — KUNA

Saudi King receives Kuwait's chief lawmaker

MAKKAH: Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud received Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem Thursday at Al-Safa Palace in Makkah.

Ghanem was attending an iftar banquet held by the Saudi King in honor of a number of world dignitaries, Al-Dostor

news network reported. The banquet was also attended by President of Guinea Alpha Conde and Bahrain's Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of Bahrain Defense Forces and First Deputy Premier Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. — KUNA



MAKKAH: Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud meets with Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. — KUNA

Zain renews sponsorship for LOYAC activities

KUWAIT: Zain, Kuwait's pioneer telecommunications company, recently announced renewing

its sponsorship for LOYAC's activities for the fourteenth year in a row. In this regard, LOYAC's board member Fetouh Al-Dallali stressed that cooperation with Zain was one of the foundation's principle elements in its annual plan. She added that both parties share the same aims, namely in terms of supporting the youth and their projects.

Meanwhile, Zain's corporate communication and relations director Waleed Al-Khashti said that he was glad for continuing the cooperation

with LOYAC for the 14th year, and stressed that LOYAC plays a significant role in serving the youth and the entire community. He also noted that this cooperation comes within the company's social responsibility activities.

Zain sponsors LOYAC's 'Kon Entrepreneurship Program'; the scholarship provided by IFAD for Kuwaiti accounting, finance and economy students, LOYAC's AC Milan Soccer academy and many other programs.



Kuwait secures gains during UNESCO heritage event

PARIS: Kuwait Representative to the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Adam Al-Mulla said his country's mission made significant gains during the seventh session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention.

The conferees elected Dr Walid Al-Saif, the advisor to the office of the director general of Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), as rapporteur to the seventh General Assembly. Ambassador Mulla said on Thursday, "Kuwait also won uncontested seat at the intergovernmental committee of the Arab group at the convention for a four-year term," he said. "The approval by 18 Arab countries of Kuwait assumption of this post signals the exemplary relations between Kuwait and the other Arab countries as well as Kuwait's eminent status at regional and international cultural forums," Mullah added.

Dr Saif meanwhile took pride in his election as rapporteur to the seventh session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention. "The Kuwait mission to the Organization will work out reports on the implementation of the provisions of the World Heritage Convention relating to the conservation of the intangible cultural heritage," he said.

"We will also prepare files for adding to the world heritage list some Kuwaiti cultural activities such as 'diwanias' and naval arts," he added. The seventh session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention was held in Paris, France between June 3 and 6.

High concern

Kuwait's historical heritage is of high concern and well cared for by the country's political leadership, with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on top, Minister of Information Mohammed Al-Jabri has said.

This is prompted by the fact that heritage is a "message of peoples and a means of communication and convergence, through the ages," Jabri, who doubles as Minister of State for Youth Affairs, added in a press statement issued by the Information Ministry on Friday.

Meanwhile, the minister, who is also Chairman of the NCCAL, said that Kuwait's attainment of a seat in the government committee, of the Arab group, in the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage for a four-year term, has reiterated the distinctive Kuwaiti-Arab ties on all levels.



PARIS: Advisor to the office of the director general of Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) Dr Walid Al-Saif attends the seventh session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention. — KUNA photos



Kuwait Representative to the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Adam Al-Mulla attends the session.

It also reveals Kuwait's leading role on the regional and international levels through the various UN organizations, especially the UNESCO. He pointed to Kuwait's significant contribution to the efforts seeking to achieve

the UNESCO goals. The minister congratulated NCCAL Advisor Dr Saif on being elected rapporteur of the recent 7th session of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. — KUNA

Local

6,893 Kuwaitis hired in private sector in five months

Job-rejecting candidates to have applications frozen

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Recent statistics by the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) showed 6,893 citizens were appointed in the private sector and 5,883 in the public sector (the government) over the past five months, which adds up to 12,776 citizens. Statistics also showed that the total number of citizens seeking jobs who had been registered with MGRP for over six months now and still unemployed, who do not get any pension and are not registered in any educational facility is 11,473, including one holding a PhD degree, 95 holding masters degrees, 5,633 holding university degrees, 1,598 holding diplomas, 1,771 holding high school certificates, 1,743 with intermediate school certificates, 79 with vocational training and 532 who have not finished intermediate school.

Member of the parliamentary replacement and employment committee MP Saleh Ashour said 5,000 citizens who had not finished high school and are registered with the Civil Service Commission's (CSC) employment program are likely to have their applications frozen, especially those who had rejected certain jobs such as students' escorts and those who do not update their information with CSC. Ashour added an

ad would be published soon urging applicants to update their information to avoid freezing their applications. He added that applications of those who reject available jobs will also be frozen.



Ministry not receiving students' grievances

all ministries, especially in the last quarter of the fiscal year

in the form of hospitality expenses, parties, official missions, newspapers and training abroad. Hajraf added that the ministry has also set new system to approve public projects as well as a new strategy to cut subsidies and re-price public services to help rationalize the use of public facilities and control their operational cost.

No more grievances

The Ministry of Education (MoE) has stopped receiving grievances from high school students concerning their final exams, said informed sources, noting that hundreds of students had filed such grievances to look into allowing them sit for the second session exams. The sources added that the majority of the applicants are students who had been prevented from taking the exam after being caught cheating and stressed that MoE will examine some applicants' exam papers and make its final decision this week.

Wasteful expenditure

Finance Minister Nayef Al-Hajraf stressed that the ministry is working on fighting wasteful expenditure without affecting investments that increased in the fiscal year 2018-2019 from 17 to 18 percent. Hajraf added that the ministry is keen on stopping waste through the national economic and financial sustainability program. He added that cutting government expenses is in progress at

local spotlight

Expatriate remittances fall



By Muna Al-Fuzal
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Local newspapers published reports on a decline in remittances by expatriate workers in Kuwait by at least 13 percent in the first quarter of 2018, and that the decline has been continuing since 2017. Official figures last year showed remittances fell 9 percent - from KD 4.56 billion in 2016 to KD 4.14 billion in 2017. An exchange company said the monthly transfer amount by foreign workers, excluding domestic laborers, was an average of \$626 per person per month, but recently dropped to \$545.

According to Central Bank data, average remittances in Kuwait exceed KD 4 billion annually - up to \$15 billion. Clearly, the figures show that in the past two years, remittances in Kuwait have been very volatile. According to the National Bank of Kuwait's research unit, the decline in remittances reached its lowest level since 2012 due to the increase in the cost of living and reduced subsidies, as well as high fees of some services and goods. The national employment policy (Kuwaitization) also has a role in reducing demand for expatriate labor.

At the beginning of this year, the parliamentary finance and economic affairs committee approved a proposal to impose fees on expatriate transfers. This proposal resulted in many negative reactions and rejections. Experts said imposing taxes on expatriates will only have negative consequences in the future. Meanwhile, other alternatives were proposed to take advantage of the amounts transferred by expat workers, such as investment opportunities for expatriates, allowing them to buy property or even keep their savings in local banks with a decent deposit rate.

Personally, I was against this proposal, especially since those who would be affected the most will be poor workers, who are already hit by rising costs. A tax on them would lead them to resort to illegal and informal channels that would increase security risks and hamper regional efforts to combat money laundering, counterfeiting and terrorist financing. I believe that labor transfers in Kuwait contribute to improving the economy in their home countries, for example, and we should not threaten this just to make some profit in the short term. For example, the Central Bank of the Philippines revealed that remittances by Filipino workers from Kuwait decreased by 13.3 percent in January and February to reach \$106 million. The fall came in tandem with the announcement by the Philippine president to ban sending Filipino workers to Kuwait after the killing of a Filipina maid, as well as the parliamentary proposal to approve a tax on remittances in Kuwait.

The Central Bank of the Philippines recently said remittances by Filipino workers from Kuwait improved significantly during the month of March, in conjunction with the new agreement for the employment of domestic workers in early May.

I know that the proposal to impose taxes on remittances is not limited to Kuwait, but was preceded by other countries, whether Gulf or otherwise, except there has been different methods for this. It is known that the past years have been characterized by a decline in oil prices that affected several sectors in the country, and the high and expensive cost of living forced some men to send their families home to cut expenses.

I think the subject of remittances must be studied well regardless of a tax proposal. It is necessary to study how expatriates can benefit from the money they earn here, such as opening up new ways of investment and establishing one-person companies to stimulate the economy away from bureaucracy and excessive conditions, such as the requirement of a Kuwaiti sponsor. There should be no impediment for expatriates to own small businesses. There are concerns an expatriate can flee in the event of financial loss or involvement in a crime, and so they are forced to have a Kuwaiti sponsor, but this can happen to anyone, whether they are citizens or expatriates.

We are a developing country and we need expatriate workers, so their rights must be respected. We must allow them to feel that they are in their second home, especially since we have expats who have been living in Kuwait since the 1940s and 1950s.

Eid holiday to extend to Monday

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Cabinet is due to endorse the Eid Al-Fitr holiday as suggested by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) in its weekly meeting tomorrow. CSC sources said Sunday and Monday, June 17 and 18, will be included in the Eid holiday whether it falls on Friday, June 15 or Saturday, June 16. The sources added that work will resume on Tuesday, June 19 and that Thursday, June 14, will be an official working day for all employees.

Eid Attire project

Kuwait Food Bank announced launching its Eid Attire project 2018 and urged benevolent donors to contribute to help provide thousands of needy families inside an outside Kuwait with Eid clothes for their children. In this regard, KFB's manager, Salem Al-Hamar said that donations will be accepted 24/7 by calling 98885551 and 98885552, SMS to 50487 for VIVA lines and 94122 for Zain lines, through online banking at www.kuwaitfoodbank.org or through local banks.

Blood donation

Health Ministry's acting assistant undersecretary for assisting medical services Dr Majida Al-Qattan announced launching a mobile blood donation campaign with the aim of maintaining the stability of strategic blood reserves. Qattan added the campaign launched by the beginning of the last 10 days of Ramadan until the Eid vacation aims at collecting 1,300 blood bags in order to provide safe blood and blood derivatives for all patients. "Only 750 bags have been collected so far," she underlined, urging both citizens and expats to donate blood to save lives.

Saudi Arabia to host 1,000 bedoons from Kuwait for Hajj

KUWAIT: Saudi authorities have agreed to host 1,000 bedoons (stateless residents) from Kuwait to perform upcoming pilgrimage, Minister of Justice Dr Fahad Al-Afasi announced on Thursday. Justice Al-Afasi, also the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, said in a statement that the Saudi approval came in line with consent of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz. Kuwaiti authorities addressed the request to allow bedoons in Kuwait to perform the annual religious rituals at the sacred sites in the kingdom.

Saudi Hajj Ministry submitted the request to the monarch who approved it. Minister Afasi expressed gratitude to King Salman and the Saudi Hajj Minister for the approval as well as for their efforts to serve the pilgrims. He also lauded contributions in this vein by the Kuwaiti Ambassador to the kingdom, Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who had exerted tremendous efforts in this respect. The Ministry of Awqaf will offer all possible facilities to help this segment of the population of Kuwait - such as attaining reasonable prices for travel and other hajj requirements. — KUNA



Dr Fahad Al-Afasi

Kuwait, China discuss investments on Kuwaiti islands

KUWAIT: Officials of Kuwait's department for developing the Silk City and Boubyan Island have held talks with Chinese officials who expressed readiness to cooperate for investing on the Kuwaiti islands. The meeting, held in China, grouped the Chief Executive Officer of the apparatus for developing the Silk City (in Al-Sabbah) and Boubyan Island, Faisal Al-Medlej, members of the board of trustees Badr Al-Hajri, Tareq Al-Sultan, Rapporteur Abdulwahab Al-Reshaid and Sheikh Al-Onoud Al-Sabah with the head of the Chinese committee for development and reforms and other officials.

The Chinese officials expressed readiness for full cooperation to study feasibility of economic investments on the Kuwaiti islands, Kuwait's Ambassador to China Samih Johar Hayat said in a statement on Thursday. He indicated that this round of talks with the Chinese officials dealt with coordination for restoring 'the silk road', revealing that the strategic Kuwaiti-Chinese friendship relationship would elevate significantly soon, with a number of planned accords in key sectors-to be inked by governments of the two countries. Kuwait's participation in China's 2013 silk road initiative depicts His Highness the Amir vision to transform Kuwait into a hub at the financial, commercial and cultural levels, Ambassador Hayat said. — KUNA

Liquor brewery busted in Hawally

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: In collaboration with the Drugs Control General Department, Hawally detectives raided an alcoholic drinks' brewery yesterday run by a citizen and three Asians, said security sources. Case papers indicate that tenants of a building complained about foul odors, and on raiding the place, detectives arrested the four suspects while 66 barrels of alcohol, including nine empty ones, 572 bottles filled with liquor and 128 cartons of empty bottles were found. A case was filed.

Two fires

A fire broke out Thursday in a power unit in Hitteen before iftar, said security sources, noting that Mishref and Subhan firefighters rushed to the scene. Power was disconnected before firefighters managed to control the flames. No casualties were reported. Another fire broke out minutes earlier in a residential building in Salmiya, said security sources, noting that on rushing to the scene, firefighters found that the fire was in an apartment on the seventh floor. All tenants had to be evacuated while a rescue team rescued seven people trapped by the fire. A third team contained the flames. No serious casualties were reported.



Smoke coming out from a seventh floor apartment in Salmiya.



Flames coming out from a power unit in Hitteen.

Municipality crackdown

Kuwait Municipality's teams launched an inspection campaign to remove violations on state property in Kabd, said Jahra municipality manager Mohammed Al-Arabi, noting that his inspection teams removed 13 unlicensed auctions held on state property.

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* This campaign is limited to participants in Kuwait only. Ministries and their departments, companies and NGOs cannot enter the festival.
* Kuwait Times employees, spouses and their second-degree relatives also cannot participate.

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Local



KUWAIT: Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait Alaa Majid Al-Hashemi hosted a ghabqa recently on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. Officials, diplomats and other dignitaries attended the event. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Turkish Airlines celebrates Ramadan with local partners



Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Ayse Hilal Sayan Koytak

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Office of Turkish Airlines, Europe's best airline for the sixth year in a row, recently hosted its annual Ramadan ghabqa with local dignitaries, civil aviation senior officials, travel agencies, employees, media partners and corporate customers at Arraya Ballroom, Marriot in Kuwait City.

The celebratory event was attended by the Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Ayse Hilal Sayan Koytak who were all immersed in the authentic Turkish hospitality and music by Turkish artists namely Tahir Cagman and Veysel Celikdemir including an exquisite sand drawing performance that narrated the story of Islamic culture with Turkish heritage.

Sami Aydogan, General Manager, Turkish Airlines Kuwait, said: "It gives me great pleasure in sharing this special occasion with our many distinguished guests and partners in growth. The Holy Month of Ramadan is a true testament to the deep cultural and religious ties between Turkey and Kuwait. Turkish Airlines continues to strengthen its presence in

Kuwait bringing the two countries closer with more than 52 flights to Turkey every week."

During the ghabqa, Aydogan gave an expose of the noteworthy Ramadan activities that the Turkish Airlines Kuwait Office carries out in vulnerable communities around the world. As a responsible partner who contributes to the Kuwaiti society, Turkish Airlines Kuwait office successfully partnered with the International Islamic Charity Organization and Abdullah Ali Abdul-Wahhab Al-Muttawah Charity Foundation to distribute 44,000 iftar meals to people in countries like Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Abkhazia, Myanmar (Rakhine), Palestine and Afghanistan through schools, orphanages, and mosques. In the spirit of Ramadan, Turkish Airlines management also visited Kuwait's Elderly Home in the Ministry of Social Affairs contributing valuable gift baskets to the elderly community. Additionally, Turkish Airlines visited the orphans at the Ministry of Social Affairs and shared in the joy of the season by gifting them sweets.



Local



History of Kuwait



KUWAIT: A traditional market as it appeared in early 1960. Shoppers walk by as traders are seen sitting in front of their shops and waiting for their customers. (Source: 'Pictures of the old markets of Kuwait' by Ali Al-Rais, Center of Research and Studies on Kuwait 2017. Researched by Mohammad Zakaria Abu El Ella, heritage researcher in the Ministry of Information)

Qatayef: The sweet of Ramadan

By Faten Omar

Kuwait Times celebrates Ramadan in Kuwait with 30 days of the Icons of Ramadan. We highlight our favorite activities, events, symbols and foods that are popular during this holy month, along with Kuwait's Ramadan culture, history and traditions.

Qatayef are thin and lacy stuffed pancakes mostly served only in Ramadan in most countries. There are two types of qatayef - regular and mini. After the main meal is over, it is traditional to follow up with qatayef, which is a favorite Ramadan dessert for Arabs. And it's best to get your fill of these delicious treats as they are only made and available during the month of Ramadan.

The regular ones are usually stuffed with a cheese or nut filling. They are then sealed and baked or fried and served with syrup. The mini qatayef can be served without cooking. They are usually filled with cream and dipped in pistachios.

Qatayef are made with a yeast-risen batter including flour, water and milk, are cooked on one side before being folded around a cheese or a nut mixture, then typically deep-fried or baked and soaked in sugar syrup. The bakeries in the country cook them all day long to meet the demands of the people. They cook thousands of the pancakes and one can buy them by the half-kilogram or one kilogram.

Email us at local@kuwaittimes.com with your favorite symbols of Ramadan and Ramadan photos.



KFH distributes iftar meals, organizes prayers

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) continues 'Feed the Fasting' campaign in distributing iftar meals in different locations in Kuwait while participating in organizing Al-Qiyam prayer held at the state's Grand Mosque part of its Ramadan program 'Increase Good Deeds in Ramadan 4', that reflects the commitment in the corporate social responsibility and efforts to strengthen ties with the all segments of the society, especially in the month of Ramadan.

KFH voluntary team provided hospitality service to worshippers and the personnel at the mosque. The team worked in collaboration with the concerned parties to organize Al-Qiyam prayer at the grand Mosque.

Meanwhile, KFH voluntary team prepares and distributed iftar meals daily at four locations in collaboration with the Capital and Hawalli Governorates. The locations are: Nayef Palace, Alshaman Mosque, Souk Al-Mubarakiya and Hawalli Park, in addition to the participation with Ramadan Aman campaign for distributing iftar meals.

KFH's Ramadan program 'Increase Good Deeds in Ramadan 4' includes various visits and voluntary work,



social and humanitarian events and activities stemming from the bank's endeavors to solidify its commitment towards the society, while supporting all social and humanitarian initiatives.

KFH's efforts in Ramadan underline the bank's pioneering role in the social responsibility, while contributing in strengthening the social ties. KFH voluntary team prepares and distributes iftar meals daily on different locations until end of Ramadan.



KUWAIT: The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) distributed aid to needy families in Sulaibikhat, Jahra and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh in cooperation with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS).



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Trump and Kim lookalikes hold Singapore 'summit'

US fears of 'mystery weapon' revived by new China cases



MAZAR-I-SHARIF: In this photograph taken on Friday, an Afghan barber cuts the hair of a customer in his barbershop. — AFP

Taleban agree to Eid ceasefire

36 Afghan police, soldiers killed in attacks

KABUL: The Taleban announced their first ceasefire in Afghanistan since the 2001 US invasion yesterday, with a three-day halt in hostilities against the country's security forces that was greeted with relief by war-weary Afghans. But the group warned the suspension of fighting for the first three days of Eid, the holiday that caps off Ramadan, did not extend to "foreign occupiers", who would continue to be targeted by the militants.

The unexpected move came two days after the Afghan government's own surprise announcement of a week-long halt to operations against the Taleban. It is the first time in nearly 17 years of conflict that the militants have declared a ceasefire, albeit a limited one. "All the mujahideen are directed to stop offensive operations against Afghan forces for the first three days of Eid-al-Fitr," the Taleban said in a WhatsApp message to journalists. But it added that "if the mujahideen are attacked we will strongly defend (ourselves)".

The Taleban said "foreign occupiers are the exception" to the order sent to its fighters around the country. "Our operations will continue against them, we will attack them wherever we see them," it said. Hours before yesterday's announcement, Taleban militants launched two separate assaults on Afghan security forces in the western province of Herat and the northern province of Kunduz, killing at least 36 soldiers and police, officials said. Even a brief cessation of hostilities would bring welcome relief to civilians in the war-torn country, where they are paying a disproportionate price in casualties as a result of the conflict. In recent years the resurgent militants, along with the Islamic State group, have stepped up their attacks on Kabul in particular, making it the deadliest place in the country for civilians. "Only three days the Taleban are not killing us."

The Taleban have won our hearts, if they strike a peace deal with the Afghan government, the Afghans will take them on their shoulders with love," Shah Jahan Siyal, a resident of Nangarhar provincial capital Jalalabad, wrote on Facebook. Dewa Niaza, a women's rights activist in the same province, posted: "Long live the Taleban! Finally we can breathe a deep sigh of relief on Eid days. I hope these three days of ceasefire turn to a permanent ceasefire."

But not everyone was satisfied. "We shouldn't be happy with just a three-day ceasefire," a woman in Kabul told AFP. "It is not sufficient and our president also shouldn't be happy... We should reach for sustainable peace throughout the country." President Ashraf Ghani welcomed the Taleban's move in a tweet from his official Twitter account. Defense ministry spokesman Mohammad Radmanish told Tolo News he hoped the "ceasefire continues". The UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Tadamichi Yamamoto, said in a statement he hoped the ceasefires would "serve as a stepping stone" towards peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taleban.

afghan political analyst Haroon Mir said it was "too early to be very optimistic". "We don't know what will happen in the next few days or afterwards," he added. Ghani on Thursday declared an apparently unilateral week-long ceasefire with the Taleban. It would last "from the 27th of Ramadan until the fifth day of Eid-al-Fitr", Ghani tweeted, indicating it could run from June 12-19.

The move was greeted with optimism from NATO, with General Curtis Scaparrotti, NATO's supreme commander in Europe, giving an upbeat assessment this week of the struggle against the Taleban. "I have dealt with this for quite a number of years and personally, I sense a different set of conditions today, and perhaps more potential," he said in Brussels ahead of the Taleban ceasefire announcement.

Ghani's move came days after a gathering of Afghanistan's top clerics in Kabul called for a ceasefire and issued a fatwa against suicide bombings and attacks.

An hour after the fatwa was issued, a suicide bomber detonated outside the gathering, killing seven people. In February Ghani unveiled a plan to open peace talks with the Taleban, including eventually recognizing them as a political party. At the time he also called for a ceasefire.

The insurgents did not officially respond, but announced the launch of their annual spring offensive in an apparent rejection of the plan, one of the most comprehensive ever offered by the Afghan government. Last month, the Pentagon said that senior Taleban officials have been secretly negotiating with Afghan officials on a possible ceasefire. — AFP



Move greeted with optimism, skepticism

A Western analyst in Kabul told AFP the ceasefires were a "confidence-building measure" which, if successful, could help pave the way to the negotiating table. But others were more cautious, warning that the Taleban and its brutal arm the Haqqani Network could launch attacks on behalf of the Islamic State group, which they are believed to have done previously. "I don't think the Haqqani Network will be on board (with the ceasefire)," a foreign diplomat in Kabul told AFP. "I wouldn't be surprised if some incidents happen and are claimed by Daesh," he said, using the Arabic acronym for Islamic State.

Iran deal
The SCO meets this year after Trump controversially pulled Washington out of the 2015 international pact with Iran that placed limits on its nuclear program in return for easing economic sanctions. Though not officially on the agenda, analysts say the summit may focus on whether Iran will be allowed to become a full member state, which it has been unable to achieve while subject to UN sanctions.

The 2015 nuclear deal lifted that barrier. In his meeting with Putin, Rouhani said a "more serious and important" dialogue between Russia and Iran was needed regarding the nuclear deal following Washington's "illegal" withdrawal from the pact, according to a Kremlin transcript. Speaking to AFP in Lithuania's capital Vilnius, senior Iranian official

Massoumeh Ebtekar said Iran hoped European powers, Russia and China would confirm their willingness to uphold the deal "as soon as possible because Iran cannot wait forever". "We have been a faithful player to this commitment, we've done our best, we've shown our good intentions. We are facing a very volatile region," she said. Now in the wake of the US withdrawal from the pact, "SCO members may use granting full membership to Iran as a way to demonstrate support for (Tehran) and the nuclear agreement," said Dawn Murphy, professor of international security studies at the US Air War College.

Trade and security
Trade, investment and development cooperation issues will also feature prominently at the SCO. Murphy said, given the climate of "rising anti-globalization",

stoked by Trump's nationalist "America First" policy. SCO nations may discuss the potential of a joint free-trade area, she said. China has promoted its Belt and Road global infrastructure project but may be hindered from gaining robust support for it at this summit due to India, the only SCO member that does not endorse it, she noted.

Regional security issues will also feature, because terrorism is the most severe security challenge facing the SCO, according to Liao Jinrong, a Chinese ministry of public security official. "No matter what country has terrorists, we must strengthen our regional cooperation and not allow them to affect regional security," he told reporters, adding that the SCO bloc had stopped "hundreds" of terrorist acts. — AFP

armed vans lined the streets of Qingdao for the SCO's 18th annual gathering. Authorities cleared an entire oceanside swathe of the city - moving aside shopkeepers and day-trippers to make way for Xi, Putin and Rouhani, Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain and the prime minister of archrival India, Narendra Modi, are also in attendance. Hotels were emptied of all regular customers and banned from selling beer, providing razors or even metal dining knives to journalists.

QINGDAO, China: Russian President Vladimir Putin meets Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit yesterday. — AFP



QINGDAO, China: Russian President Vladimir Putin meets Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit yesterday. — AFP

Xi hails 'unity' of security bloc led with Russia

QINGDAO, China: Chinese President Xi Jinping yesterday opened a regional security summit attended by Russia and Iran with boasts of the bloc's "unity", just as a fractious G7 gathering was mired in divisions between Europe and the US. On the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in the coastal Chinese city of Qingdao, Russian President Vladimir Putin met his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani and expressed his support for Tehran joining the SCO. Rouhani, for his part, denounced the "illegal" US withdrawal from the international nuclear deal with Tehran.

Iran, currently an observer member of the SCO, has sought since 2008 to become a full member of the China- and Russia-led security group. SCO states also include four ex-Soviet central Asian republics and new members Pakistan and India. Xi spoke at an opening banquet in the Qingdao Olympic Sailing Center before taking in a fireworks display.

Standing before a serene seascape painting, he hailed the bloc's guiding "Shanghai spirit", which "focuses on seeking common ground while setting aside differences and pursuing mutually beneficial cooperation". He noted that it was the first meeting since India and Pakistan joined as member states, and stated that this year they would "draw up a blueprint for (the SCO's) future growth".

The SCO gathering comes as US President Donald Trump meets America's closest allies in Canada for a two-day G7 summit, which concluded yesterday. There, he has found himself in a minority of one - pitted against peers angered at tariffs that could trigger a wider trade war. The last leader to arrive, Trump is expected to be the first to leave as he heads to Singapore for an unprecedented encounter on Tuesday with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

News in brief

US commando killed in Somalia

WASHINGTON: An American commando was killed Friday in an attack in southern Somalia that also wounded four US military personnel along with a Somali soldier, officials said. The attack occurred in Jubaland, where a large force comprising about 800 Somali, Kenyan and US troops were working to clear a large area of Al-Qaeda-aligned Al-Shabaab fighters. The multinational force "came under mortar and small-arms fire at approximately 2:45 pm Mogadishu time (1145 GMT), killing one US service member and injuring four US service members and one partner force member," the US military's Africa Command said in a statement. A military official told AFP the dead American was a special operations commando, but further details were not being released pending notification of next of kin. US President Donald Trump offered his condolences via Twitter. — AFP

Special counsel indicts Russian

WASHINGTON: US Special Counsel Robert Mueller filed charges on Friday against a political operative with alleged ties to Russian intelligence, bringing his probe into possible collusion by the Trump presidential campaign a step closer to the Kremlin's door. The indictment, filed by Mueller in District of Columbia federal court, included new counts against Trump's former campaign chair Paul Manafort and the operative, Manafort aide Konstantin Kilimnik, for tampering with witnesses about their lobbying for Ukraine. It was the third time Mueller had added to charges against Manafort since he was indicted in October. Manafort has pleaded not guilty to a raft of charges, from money-laundering, to failing to register as a foreign agent, to bank and tax fraud. — Reuters

International

Israeli troops kill 4 Palestinians; protest resumes at Gaza border

UN General Assembly meeting called for Wednesday

GAZA: Israeli troops killed four Palestinians and wounded hundreds of others on Friday with live fire and tear gas used against protesters at the Gaza border, medics said. Israel said it was defending the frontier against crowds that threw stones and burned tyres in an attempt to cross. It said at one location at least two Palestinian militants fired guns at its forces and others had thrown grenades. The protests tapered off around sunset when many demonstrators left border camps for the evening meal that breaks their fast during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The Palestinians killed on Friday were three adult men and a 15-year-old boy, Gaza medics said. Of 620 people wounded, 120 were from live fire, they said. Friday's deaths bring the total number of Palestinians killed at the Gaza border to 124 since protests there began on March 30, including 60 people killed in a single day last month. Israel's deadly tactics in confronting the protests have drawn international condemnation.

Palestinians say the protests are a popular outpouring of rage against Israel by people demanding the right to return to homes their families fled or were driven from on Israel's founding 70 years ago. Israel says the demonstrations are organized by the Islamist group Hamas that controls the Gaza Strip and denies Israel's right to exist. Israel says Hamas has intentionally provoked the violence, a charge Hamas denies.

The Palestinian United Nations envoy condemned the Friday killings and said that representatives of the Arab Group and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation had asked the president of the U.N. General Assembly to resume an emergency session to discuss a resolution aimed at protecting Palestinian civilians. The General Assembly meeting was called for 3 pm EDT (1900 GMT) on Wednesday. The resolution, Ambassador Riyad Mansour said, would be simi-

lar to a Kuwaiti-drafted resolution that last week received enough support to pass a vote in the Security Council but was vetoed by the United States. Mansour said the US veto triggered the request and that Friday's violence "adds to our argument and to the urgency of providing international protection" to Palestinian civilians.

Protests will continue

Among those wounded on Friday were an Agence France-Presse photographer and a 23-year-old man who was on life support after a tear gas canister penetrated his face, medical officials said. The Israeli army said that it had repelled around 10,000 Palestinians who converged on five points of the border. Organizers in Gaza said that the protests will continue in the coming days and weeks. They had tagged this Friday's demonstrations as the "Friday of Jerusalem" to commemorate the 1967 war in which Israel captured East Jerusalem, with the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Three men, 15-year-old boy killed

The bloodiest day of the protests took place last month as the United States opened its embassy in Jerusalem after recognising the city as the Israeli capital. Palestinians also want the capital of a state there, and most countries say the city's status should be resolved in future peace talks. "There is no such state called Israel that could have a capital called Jerusalem," Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum said in Gaza. He said the demonstrations would continue until Palestinians achieve their demand for a right of return to ancestral lands.

'Narrow factional interests'

Around 2 million people live in Gaza, most of them the stateless descendants of refugees from what is now Israel. The territory has been controlled by Hamas for more than a



GAZA: The mother (center) and other relatives of 15-year-old Haitham Al-Jamal mourn over his death during his funeral in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday, one day after he was fatally shot by Israeli soldiers. — AFP

decade, during which it has fought three wars against Israel. Israel and Egypt maintain a blockade of the strip, citing security reasons, which has caused an economic crisis and collapse in living standards there over the past decade. On Thursday Israel dropped leaflets in Gaza urging Palestinians not to take part in protests or try to breach the fence on Friday, "and not to allow Hamas to use you for its narrow factional interests, which Iran is inspiring". At one location on Friday, at least two Palestinians fired guns at an army post and others threw grenades or used helium balloons and kites to fly flammable materials or explosive devices over the border, the army said.

There have been no Israeli casualties from the more

than two months of confrontations but farmland on the Israeli side has been damaged by fire from the kites and balloons. "We are not asking for the moon," said Amer Abu Khalaf, a 20-year-old business administration student who took part in Friday's protest. He said it aimed to "break the siege and have the world recognize our right to return".

Emmanuel Nahshon, spokesman for Israel's Foreign Ministry, described Gaza protesters on Twitter as "hateful morons" and "Hamas Jugend", the latter a play on "Hitler Youth" in German. Israel has long refused to admit Palestinian refugees, saying they belong in a future Palestinian state. Statehood talks have been frozen since 2014. — Reuters

'We have nowhere': S Africa's landless vent their fury

KHAYELITSHA, South Africa: "I've waited for a government house for 21 years," complained Andiswa, a 45-year-old mother of three. She and around 200 other destitute, frustrated families have taken over a plot of land outside Cape Town, where they have erected ramshackle shelters they now call home. Illegal land seizures of this kind have surged in recent months, overwhelming police. With an eye on nationwide elections next year, the ruling African National Congress (ANC) party has vowed to accelerate land reform in favor of the country's black majority who were systematically disenfranchised under apartheid.

To restore "dignity" to impoverished black voters, the government has promised a political watershed for South Africa - to expropriate land without compensation. To the political left of the ANC sits the radical Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) party. It has gone further than the ANC, calling for poor and landless South Africans to forcibly seize land - a potentially dangerous call to arms in a country still bitterly divided along racial and economic lines.

Andiswa, 45, was interviewed inside her tiny, windowless shack, built on the fringes of the sprawling Khayelitsha township about 35 km from central Cape Town. Like others who spoke to AFP on this highly sensitive issue, she insisted that her family name be withheld. "We are born here. Where can we go? We have nowhere," said Andiswa. "We don't have jobs. We have nothing." In the first four months of the year, the city of Cape Town has been gripped by a wave of protests over land. The city's anti-land invasion squad has responded robustly, destroying illegal structures and illicit demarcation markers erected on squatted land.

In 2017, 15,000 illicit structures and markers were removed, compared to 26,000 so far this year. Among them, Andiswa's tumble-down home as well as those of her neighbors, which were hit three times in a matter of months. After each clearance, the displaced families gather together their things and rebuild their shacks in the same location with dented corrugated plastic, old wooden boards and faded fabric. "They say we must not take land but they don't build us houses," said Andiswa. "(The ANC) promised to give us houses but it was empty promises. They are just feeding themselves."

A quarter of a century after the end of apartheid, authorities have built 4.3 million social housing units - but the demand remains enormous as millions of black South Africans still wait for decent shelter. Eleven million families, 95 percent of whom are black, live in poverty and their frustration is spilling into the open. In April a desperate father threw his baby from the roof of an illegally-constructed structure as police prepared to level it. — AFP



KHAYELITSHA, South Africa: People go about with their daily life among shacks built with sheets of metal in this makeshift illegally established and informal settlement on May 17, 2018. — AFP

Years after IS, Kurds rebuild Kobane alone

KOBANE, Syria: After giving up on getting help from Syrian Kurdish authorities, Ahmed Saleh relied on relatives abroad to repair his home in Kobane after it was heavily damaged in a battle against militants. Much of the border town along Syria's northern frontier with Turkey was left in ruins after US-backed Kurdish forces ousted the Islamic State group from it in early 2015. Saleh fled to Turkey in the battle's early stages and came back a year later to find two of his home's three rooms destroyed. "We returned to Kobane after the battles had stopped and were shocked by the huge destruction in the town," Saleh said.

The one-time shoe repairman hoped authorities would step in, but said he eventually "lost hope". "We had to live in these homes and weren't going to wait for these empty promises," said the 45-year-old. Instead, he turned to family members abroad, who sent remittances. "My son in Germany and my brother in Iraqi Kurdistan helped me so my children and I could return home," he

said. So far Saleh has spent the equivalent of \$1,150 fixing up his house, little by little. All it needs now is a final coat of paint. Other homes in his eastern neighborhood of Butan have also been roughly restored. Bullet holes are still visible, but many walls have been re-erected and painted.

'No one helped us'

Mohammad Naesan, who lives in the nearby Martyr Kawa district, repaired his one-storey house by hand and with his own savings. "Our home was completely destroyed by IS," the 76-year-old Naesan told AFP, clutching a Quran and sitting on his front stoop with his wife and children. "The municipality came and recorded all the damage to the buildings. But then they didn't do a thing," he said. "No one helped us. Rebuilding was so expensive, and it cost me a lot."

Central government forces withdrew from Kurdish-majority areas in northern Syria in 2012, leaving local authorities to set up semi-autonomous institutions. As IS began grabbing swathes of northern Syria it attacked Kobane in late 2014. The four months of fighting it took to push the militants out pulverized about half the city, mostly in its north and east, said Anwar Muslim, the town's top official. "Five thousand homes were destroyed in Kobane, about 70 percent of which have been



KOBANE: A Syrian woman walks past destroyed buildings on May 27, 2018. — AFP

rebuilt," Muslim told AFP. He said remittances were crucial for rebuilding individual homes as authorities did not have the budget to help.

They focused instead on rehabilitating the gutted infrastructure, bringing water and electricity to residents, and rebuilding a dozen schools. But power cuts and water

shortages remain rampant and Muslim said he felt disappointed by the lack of support from the US-led coalition, the Kurds' key partner in the anti-IS fight. "So far, the coalition hasn't provided any support despite us speaking dozens of times about the fact that, as we beat IS together, we should rebuild together." — AFP

Criticism as EU justice mission leaves Kosovo

PRISTINA: As an EU judicial mission prepares to leave Kosovo, the assessments of its decade-long mandate are mixed - hailed by officials but criticized by the public. The EU's rule of law mission (EULEX) that will cease its judicial operations on June 14 was set up in December 2008, 10 months after Kosovo unilaterally declared independence from Serbia. Spending several hundred million euros over the decade, hundreds of judges and police officers served with EULEX, the political bloc's largest civilian mission ever.

They were dealing with some of the most serious crimes committed during and after Kosovo's 1998-1999 war between ethnic Albanian guerrillas and Serb forces, the fight against corruption and organized crime as well as boosting citizen confidence in the judiciary. "I have every reason to be dissatisfied with EULEX," said 46-year-old Silvana Marinkovic, an ethnic Serb. Her husband Goran was abducted in the aftermath of the war and his fate, like those of about 1,600 other people, still remains unknown. "They did not even try to solve my problem," she told AFP.

'Visible legacy'

Alexandra Papadopoulou, a Greek diplomat tasked with winding up EULEX's mandate, defended what she described as a "visible legacy in Kosovo with many achievements that are evident". European judges delivered over 648 verdicts, including for corruption, organized crime, money laundering, war crimes and human trafficking, she said.

The authorities share her assessment of EULEX's achievements. "It has been a worthy decade for Kosovo," President Hashim Thaci said.

"Kosovo institutions have benefited greatly from cooperation with EULEX." Even so, Kosovo is ranked



PRISTINA: A car drives past the headquarters of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) on Friday. — AFP

only 85th out of 180 countries on Transparency International's corruption perception index, above Albania and below Serbia, albeit up from 110 in 2014.

In its latest report the European Commission said "corruption is widespread and remains an issue of concern" for the country of 1.8 million people.

The Zeri newspaper referred sarcastically to EULEX's initial pledge to tackle "big fish", saying the mission eventually remained a "mission of small fishes". Of three key ethnic Albanian rebel leaders who were put on trial, Sami Lushtaku and Fatmir Limaj were acquitted of war crimes charges, while Sylejman Selimi was sentenced to eight years in jail for torturing prisoners. Among unsolved cases is the assassination of prominent journalist Xhemal Mustafa, who was shot dead at his home in 2000.

In his columns, the former advisor to late president Ibrahim Rugova had denounced violence committed by Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) guerrillas against opponents. For his daughter Beriane Mustafa, EULEX is "completely a failed mission". "It is not clear to me how it is possible that an EU mission with all those resources has failed to solve any of these murders," Mustafa, 36, told AFP, referring to a series of post-war political assassinations. Kosovo's war claimed 13,000 lives. But EULEX eventually solved only 25 war crimes cases, according to the Humanitarian Law Centre rights watchdog. — AFP

Banned weapons stoke deadly Nigeria violence

KANO, Nigeria: A flood of illegal small arms has swamped Nigeria, bringing with it a surge of violence that has left hundreds dead. Boko Haram Islamists, whose insurgency has killed at least 20,000 in the northeast since 2009, have long been reputed to have received weapons smuggled from North Africa. But a recent influx of small arms is also fuelling violence in other arenas, including clashes between cattle herders and farmers in central states. It is also adding to the plague of kidnapping and cattle-rustling by gangs in the north of the country, and of armed robbery and attacks on oil installations in the south.

"Without the firearms... we would not have the kind of violence of the magnitude we have today," Interior Minister Abdurrahman Dambazau said in January. In April, Kano state police commissioner Rabiu Yusuf said the solution to illegal weapons was clear: "We need to put them out of circulation." Doing that is a tall order, however. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament (UNREC) has said more than 350 million small arms and light weapons are circulating in Nigeria - nearly two for every member of its population. Nigeria accounts for some 70 percent of the 500 million or so weapons thought to be in West Africa, UNREC director Anselme Yabouri told a conference in Abuja in December last year. Periodic seizures are made: on May 31, soldiers on patrol in the southwest intercepted three trucks carrying boxes of ammunition from Benin. But with some 4,000 km of borders - most of them porous - Nigeria has struggled to stem the tide.

In Nigeria, there is no legal right to gun ownership and regulation is by the president. Civilians are banned from owning handguns, military rifles or machine guns. Licences can be obtained from the police for double-barrel shotguns and hunting guns, but permission for this has been suspended because of the security situation. President Muhammadu Buhari has blamed the 2011 fall of Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi and its chaotic aftermath for the rise in the smuggling of prohibited arms. — AFP

International

US fears of 'mystery weapon' revived by new China cases

Unlike Cuba, Washington has taken care not to implicate Beijing

HONG KONG: A US health alert issued for China over a mysterious illness has revived fears of a rumored sonic weapon that first surfaced after a scare involving American diplomats and their families in Cuba two years ago. Staff who fell ill after hearing strange sounds are being examined by doctors at a consulate in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, with several evacuated to the US and at least one diagnosed with brain trauma.

The new cases eerily echo the odd noises and subsequent illnesses suffered by 24 US diplomats evacuated from Cuba since 2016, deepening a baffling medical enigma. But the incident also poses a diplomatic conundrum - how to respond to what some fear may be a deliberate attack against Americans by shadowy foes on Chinese soil. According to a New York Times report, US officials have privately raised questions about whether China, or Russia, might have separately or in tandem targeted the diplomats.

Washington has so far taken care not to implicate Beijing, which has told US officials it is investigating the incident. "Until they are certain of the cause, it seems premature to make accusations," said Bonnie Glaser, a China expert at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. "I don't think the

US is calling it an 'attack'."

It is in stark contrast to the US handling of the Cuba case, when the State Department lashed out at Havana for failing to protect its diplomats. Washington expelled 15 Cuban diplomats, arguing the authoritarian state must have either carried out the assaults or known who was behind them. President Donald Trump said he held Cuba responsible, although Havana denied any involvement. There are clear reasons for the US to avoid rocking the boat so readily this time.

As a rising superpower, Beijing possesses significantly greater clout than impoverished Havana, with the cases coming at a precarious moment in US-China relations. Ongoing talks to avoid a full-blown trade war are balanced on a knife edge, and Beijing's cooperation is likely to be key if hopes for North Korea's denuclearization ahead of this week's summit between Trump and Kim Jong Un are to be realized.

Many theories, no proof

Still lacking proof to support allegations against Cuba, US officials could also be facing up to claims there were no "sonic attacks" after all. Although the American victims heard strange noises - described as static or the sound of metal sheets waving - studies have cast doubt on the "acoustic weapon" hypothesis. A University of Pennsylvania team examined 21 affected staff from the Cuba embassy, and found they suffered symptoms typical of concussion such as headaches and memory loss. "There is no known mechanism for audible sound to injure the brain," said study author Douglas Smith. "We are pretty certain that it was not the sound itself that caused the injury". A Canadian investigation into similar illnesses among its own diplomats in Cuba in April said a sonic attack was "now considered unlikely", while FBI agents sent to Havana reportedly found no evidence to support the theory. This has not stopped speculation

about other possible weapons potentially using microwaves, infrasound or ultrasound, despite technical difficulties in projecting these types of energy over long distances and through structures.

A University of Michigan study in March posed an alternative theory, suggesting the illnesses could be caused by bugging or surveillance jamming devices. The study showed ultrasonic signals from such devices could clash with each other to create the strange sounds heard by diplomats. Importantly, this theory would suggest there was no malicious intent - and even that the US' own equipment could be the cause. Others have claimed the illness may simply be psychological and dismissed the whole affair as mass hysteria.

China sceptical

In China, analysts have queried the absence of a suitable motive for an attack. "If the Chinese government did it, then why?" said Zhu Feng, a professor of international relations at Nanjing University. "Is it happy to drive the diplomats out of China? I can't see the reason behind it." "The Chinese government will not express its dissatisfaction with the US in this way," added Wu Xinbo, a US politics expert at Fudan University. "I think the whole event is nonsense." —AFP

“ I think the whole event is nonsense ”

Eight months on, #MeToo conquering US

NEW YORK: A "Miss America" pageant without swimsuits, tougher sexual harassment laws, more women running for office: Eight months after the downfall of Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein, the #MeToo movement reverberates across America. At first, #MeToo, a social media movement against sexual misconduct, made its mark through accusations against high-profile men accused of sexual abuse in a range of sectors from entertainment to media and politics. Many were forced out of their positions, and #MeToo's influence spread around the world.

In January, the birth of the Time's Up movement marked a new stage. Victims of abuse moved to action, taking to court their alleged harassers and broadening the fight to male-female discrimination such as salary gaps in the workplace. Since then, hardly a day passes without the #MeToo spirit dominating news in the United States. The momentum has touched the powerful National Football League, which is being sued by cheerleaders from three teams over their treatment.

Then on Tuesday, Gretchen Carlson, chairwoman of Miss America's board of trustees, said the pageant is dropping its swimsuit and evening gown competition and will no longer judge contestants on their physical appearance. The pageant was a type of "institutionalized misogyny," said Timothy Patrick McCarthy, of the Harvard Kennedy School Carr Center for Human Rights Policy. #MeToo "is extending and having an influence on a whole range of conversations and practices," he said.

It grew after nearly 100 women said they were harassed or sexually abused by Weinstein over more than two decades. He has pleaded not guilty in New York to two charges, rape and sexual assault. Former president Bill Clinton found himself drawn into the #MeToo conversation this week, which overshadowed his tour to promote a thriller novel he co-wrote with best-selling author James Patterson. Clinton was repeatedly asked whether, in light of #MeToo and the abuses of male power it exposed, he should have resigned over his relationship more than two decades ago with an intern, Monica Lewinsky.

The scandal led to his impeachment by the House of Representatives but he was later acquitted by the Senate and stayed in office. Even the death of Philip Roth in May unleashed on social media an avalanche of commentary about the supposed misogyny of the giant of American literature. #MeToo and Time's Up have also scored points in the political arena. About a dozen US states have re-examined their laws on sexual harassment.

Some have forbidden, or plan to outlaw, employers from imposing staff confidentiality clauses which prevent them from filing public complaints. Two senators, one Democratic and the other Republican, on Tuesday presented a federal bill along similar lines. Feminists hope the #MeToo spirit will soon allow adoption of an amendment to the US Constitution that would enshrine equal rights for men and women.

'We are going to win'

Approval by only one more state will meet the constitutional requirement for the Equal Rights Amendment to take effect. It has been envisaged since the 1920s but has not yet received ratification by the 38 states necessary for it to come into force. "I think we are going to win, we are going to have that in the next couple of years," Toni Van Pelt, president of the National Organization for Women, told AFP. She sees continued force in the #MeToo movement. "I don't think it is going to play out. I don't think this is going to stop," especially with a record number of women running in November's mid-term congressional elections. —AFP

Rewriting history? HK education turns political battleground

HONG KONG: The culling of key phrases from a history textbook and a push to instill Chinese national identity in students has raised fresh concerns that education in Hong Kong is under pressure from Beijing, as it seeks to stamp out any hint of pro-independence sentiment. Student-led protests demanding democratic reform for semi-autonomous Hong Kong and the emergence of an independence movement have posed an unprecedented challenge to Chinese authorities in recent years.

To quell youth rebellion, officials on both sides of the border are emphasizing the need for students in the city to learn more about mainland history and to understand Hong Kong in a national context. But critics accuse the government and Beijing of "brainwashing". The blacklisting last month of commonly used terms in a school textbook raised questions about whether history was being rewritten altogether. "Our concern is about whether there is direct interference or if there is any self-censorship involved," Ip Kin-yuen, lawmaker for the education sector and a democracy advocate, told AFP.

A review panel reporting to the education bureau rejected as "inappropriate wording"

phrases referring to Hong Kong's colonial past in a history textbook that had been submitted to them for approval before publication, according to documents leaked to local media. The offending terms included "The transfer of Hong Kong's sovereignty to mainland China" and "China recovered Hong Kong". Questioned about the amendments, education secretary Kevin Yeung told lawmakers China had never given up sovereignty of Hong Kong. Some pro-democracy figures accused him of doing Beijing's bidding and erasing Hong Kong's past.

China ceded Hong Kong to the British when the first Opium War ended in 1842. After more than 100 years of colonial rule, Britain returned the territory to China in 1997. Schoolbooks must be passed by a review panel to gain inclusion on the government's recommended reading list. Panel membership is confidential but includes teachers, academics and staff from the education bureau, which has defended the review system as a fair "professional" process.

But one industry executive, who did not want to be named, said publishers had discussed the need for more transparency on acceptable phrasing after the textbook incident and had suggested the government share a glossary of terms "to avoid misunderstandings". Concerns about Beijing's influence on Hong Kong's book industry were fuelled after a recent investigation by local channel RTHK discovered China's liaison office indirectly owned more than half the city's bookshops.

'Brainwashing education'

Earlier attempts to introduce a patriotic "national education" curriculum into Hong Kong schools galvanized tens of thousands to take to the streets in 2012, forcing it to be shelved. However, the push to instill a sense of

Spain govt emerges from strong feminist movement



MADRID: Spanish new government members pose for a family photo after holding their first cabinet meeting at La Moncloa palace on Friday. —AFP

MADRID: With nearly twice as many women as men in ministerial posts, Spain's new Socialist government has emerged from a strong feminist movement that permeates all areas of society and which culminated in an unprecedented women's strike earlier this year. Headed by Pedro Sanchez, who ousted conservative veteran Mariano Rajoy in a no-confidence vote last Friday, the executive has the biggest proportion of women than any other country in Europe. Of 17 ministers, 11 are women and their portfolios include the key economy, finance, justice, labor, education and health ministries. Sanchez has also decided to re-establish the equality ministry, created in 2004 by the previous Socialist government of Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, who was beaten in 2011 elections by Rajoy.

Fighting gender violence

Constitutional law professor Ana Maria Ovejero believes the appointments of women mark an important step, even if Sanchez's government is a minority one with little room for real maneuver. She points out, for instance, that the equality minister Carmen Calvo has also been given the high-profile role of deputy prime minister. That should give her more leeway to push through policies in

the areas of wage equality, women in leadership roles in big companies and the fight against domestic violence.

The Socialist party has also announced that the first bill to be debated in the lower house is one stipulating that employees in the judiciary will be given gender violence awareness training. Spain is already a pioneer in that domain. In 2004, under Zapatero's government, Spain passed a landmark law against gender violence that the European Council upheld as an example to follow. The legislation helped create a telephone hotline, whose number would not appear on callers' phone bills. It also established free legal aid and special courts for victims. Spain also has a special Gender Violence Observatory.

Female deputy PMs

On the streets, the composition of the new cabinet has drawn mixed reactions. "It is a little about image, but you can see that the women chosen are competent for the work they will do," said Adriana Asensio, a young clothes vendor in the center of Madrid. "I think that Pedro Sanchez has started off quite well" with a government that appears "more inclined towards dialogue" than that of Rajoy, she said in her shop, decorated with packaging adorned with words such as "equality" and "sexual revolution". —AFP



HONG KONG: In this picture taken on June 6, 2018, customers browse books at JP Books, which after a recent investigation by local channel RTHK was found to be indirectly owned by China's liaison office, along with more than half the city's bookshops. —AFP

Chinese national identity is now regaining prominence in government rhetoric. In her first policy address last year, city leader Carrie Lam announced that Chinese history would be taught as a compulsory subject at junior secondary level from the end of 2018. This would help students become knowledgeable and responsible citizens "with a sense of our national identity, and contribute to our country and our society", she said.

A new draft of the Chinese history curriculum released last month puts Hong Kong's past within a national context, an approach the

education bureau said was "natural, reasonable and logical" and supported by teachers, in a statement to AFP. But democracy campaigner Joshua Wong told AFP he believed the government was using "subtler ways to promote their brainwashing education". Wong led the 2012 education protests as a 15-year-old school pupil. Pro-establishment politicians have also taken aim at liberal studies, a mandatory subject for senior secondary school pupils which covers political topics and has been blamed for stoking anti-government sentiment. —AFP

Vienna discussed as host for Putin, Trump summit

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed during a visit to Austria this week the possibility of Vienna playing host to a summit with his US counterpart Donald Trump, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said yesterday. "It was mentioned that Vienna could be such a city" Peskov was quoted as saying by the RIA Novosti state news agency after being asked if Putin discussed whether the city could hold such a meeting when he met with Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz on Tuesday.

Peskov's comments come a day after Trump called for Russia to be readmitted to the group of the world's leading nations, known as the G7, a step that would end Russia's international isolation over its 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine. Speaking from China where Putin was attending a regional security summit, Peskov said that in their last telephone conversation on March 20 the Russian and US leaders had also mentioned possibly meeting in Vienna.

"You know, the two presidents discussed the necessity of holding such a meeting in their last telephone call. Including that Vienna could be such a city" for the summit, said Peskov. He added, however, that no concrete agreements have been reached and no concrete discussions were underway. Under the conservative Kurz, Austria has strived to act as a mediator between Russia and the West.

While the EU-state imposed sanctions on Russia over Crimea along with the rest of the bloc, Austria did not expel Russian diplomats like other Western nations following the March poisoning of a Russian former double agent and his daughter in Britain, an attack London has accused Moscow of being behind. "We have continued our cooperation even during difficult times," Kurz said after his talks with Putin on Tuesday. Putin said in a Russian television interview that a meeting with Trump would be "useful."

"Dialogue may prove to be constructive," he said in the interview, the full version of which was released yesterday. He added that Russia was ready to "develop, deepen and normalize ties with the United States," noting that the next move was for Washington to make. Putin indicated that he did not like "a lot" of the US authorities' decisions but praised Trump for his consistency. "Trump fulfills his pre-election promises," he said. —AFP

Analysis

Kuwait Times
The First Daily in The Arabian Gulf

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Afghanistan's chequered history with Taleban talks

An unprecedented ceasefire between the Afghan government and the Taleban has sparked hopes the move may open the door for a new push for peace talks in the bloody, nearly 17-year conflict.

The fall

The US military invade Afghanistan on October 7, 2001, in the wake of the September 11 attacks by Al-Qaeda, and force the Taleban from power within weeks.

The resurgence

In February 2007 the Taleban's growing reach is brought home when insurgents attack a US base in Afghanistan as vice president Dick Cheney visits, killing 24 people.

The talks

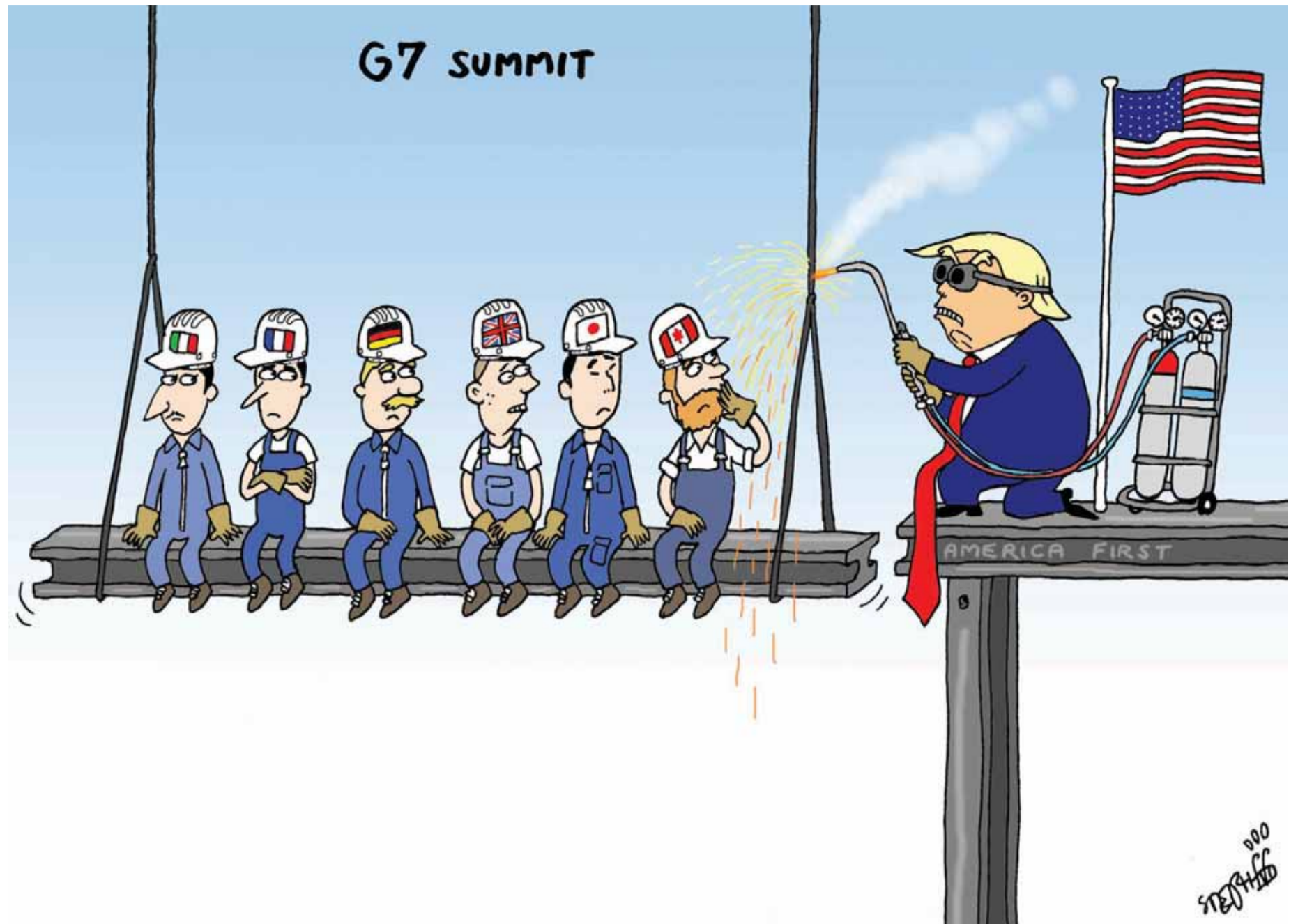
The Taleban open an office in Qatar in June 2013 following secret back-channel negotiations with US officials in a first move towards a possible peace deal.

The ceasefire?

In the following years security deteriorates in Afghanistan, particularly Kabul, with the nascent Islamic State group adding to the challenges faced by struggling security forces.

It is the most comprehensive offer by Kabul, but it is snubbed by the Taleban, who view Ghani's government as illegitimate, and instead step up attacks.

The Taleban do not immediately respond, and analysts are sceptical, as social media is flooded with Afghans calling on the insurgents to agree.



Trump embraces G7 diplomatic demolition derby

Donald Trump came to the G7 summit Friday as an outcast among allies-arriving last, leaving first and loving every minute of the fight.

Signs of relief

Hours before his arrival, White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders announced that Trump would be leaving the summit early.

In the hours before he boarded Air Force One, Trump seemed to be relishing the idea of a punching match more and more.

Until the last moment, White House officials nervously joked that they could not be sure Trump would even get on the plane to Canada.

"The president campaigned on standing up for American workers and against unfair trade deals that ship our jobs and wealth overseas," said Marc Lotter.

The anti-semitism awareness act is back: Free speech is at risk

Dr James J Zogby President Arab American Institute

Back in 2016, without debate or an actual vote, the US Senate stealthily passed a disturbing and dangerous piece of legislation called "The Anti-Semitism Awareness Act of 2016" (AAA).

Last week, the bill was reintroduced with minor changes. As I wrote back in 2016, the AAA was (and still is) "dumb and dangerous".

In developing the definition and guidance, the DOS adopted language used by the European Union Monitoring Center on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC).

This description of anti-Semitism is both correct and instructive, as are several examples of contemporary anti-Semitism mentioned in the guidance.

stereotypical allegations about Jews - or the power of Jews - as a collective".

Where the guidance goes "off the rails" is when they try to expand the definition to include "anti-Semitism relative to Israel", citing, as examples, speech that demonizes or delegitimizes Israel or that applies a double standard to Israel.

This language is so vague and open to interpretation that when the University of California Board of Regents was being pressed to apply the working definition to California campuses.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has added that "if this bill becomes law, political speech critical of Israel will likely be censored...

If the bill is dangerous and even unnecessary, then why was it introduced? Reading the "fact sheet" attached to the legislation revealed the AAA's sinister political intent - and that is, silencing campus student movements and activities that are critical of Israel.

If students were to call Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu "a monster" or accuse him and the Israeli military of "a barbaric assault on Gaza" - would they be accused of "demoniz-



Members of Oxfam dressed as the G7 leaders protest in Quebec City yesterday, during the G7 Summit. —AFP

ing"? Or what if students spoke about Israel's 1948 "ethnic cleansing" of Palestinians or focused their political work on criticizing Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands.

At the same time that these efforts will act to intimidate and silence pro-Palestinian activity on campuses, they will also serve to embolden pro-Israel student groups to file repeated and frivolous complaints against pro-Palestinian organizations and professor.

What I find most ironic here is the degree to which this entire discussion has turned reality upside down. I understand awful and hurtful things have been said and that some pro-Israel students may feel "uncomfortable" in some instances.

They are the ones targeted by well-funded campaigns and subjected to threats and harassment. And when Arab Americans write opinion pieces in school newspapers, the comments' sections are filled with bigotry and hate.

That's what we need. What we don't need is a ham-fisted effort by government to silence debate which will only create more hostility and less civility.

According to the ACLU, during his time heading a group that monitored anti-semitism, Marcus encouraged Jewish student groups to file complaints with the ED "precisely because they pressure schools to suppress speech critical of Israel.

Business

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2018

12 Trump widens the cracks in world order's foundations**13** Second jobs, once rare in Japan, reshaping attitude**13** Jazeera Airways launches its Ride & Fly transport service

AMMAN: Youssra Moheiddin prepares iftar for her family in the Lifta neighborhood of Amman. Jordan's authorities may have shelved a proposed income tax hike after a week of protests but they still face the tricky task of balancing popular demands with the need to fix the economy. — AFP

Jordan's poor have little hope of change

Protests shine the spotlight on economic hardships

AMMAN: Protests over a proposed tax hike might have shone the spotlight on economic hardships in Jordan, but the poorest in the kingdom's capital remain voiceless as they struggle to survive. Gaunt men sit on the ground of a rubbish-strewn alley in Amman's Nazzal neighborhood, absent the traditional lights and cheerful decorations that usually come with the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. One the capital's poorest areas, the breaking of the daily fast in Nazzal is far from festive.

On the top floor of a dilapidated building, Yusra Moheiddine stands timidly at the door of her apartment, her daughter clinging to the hem of her black niqab robe. "I'm ashamed," the mother mutters, of the impoverished conditions in which her family lives. Mass protests against rising costs and the proposed new tax law have rocked Jordan in recent days as the cash-strapped government pushes austerity measures to slash the country's debt in the face of an economic crisis.

The authorities shelved the tax proposals in the face of public ire—but for Moheiddine the victory for the demonstrators means little. Her family of three survives on the five dollars (six euros) a day her sick husband makes collecting cans. For them, their struggle has long been one of day-to-day survival.

'Sewage and insects'

Since getting married, 38-year-old of Palestinian origin has lived in seven different apartments—driven out each time by landlords tired of being shorted on the rent. Holding her daughter in her arms, Moheiddine insists that the young girl "wants to be a school teacher when she grows up". But the hurdles she'll have to overcome to do so may prove too much. As the summer sun dips below the horizon in the city of seven hills, millions of people gather over sumptuous meals to break their daily fasts. In Nazzal, this hard-up family break the fast

with a yellowish porridge, garnished with a few pieces of cucumber. Down the road, 37-year-old Rania lives with her husband and three children in a small house where "only sewage and insects dare go". "In the winter, when it rains, we are drowned in sewage," she says, not giving her surname. They've dug a hole in the corner of the yard to serve as a septic tank. "I have to empty it every week, otherwise it's a disaster," said Rania. In the house's only bedroom, torn foam mattresses are arranged side-by-side and the walls are splotted with mould stains.

'Where would I go?'

"Everyone tells me to leave, but where would I go?" she asks. Her husband makes a pittance selling corn on the cob and the family can't afford to live elsewhere. On the neighborhood's main streets, a bit more lively than the surrounding

alleyways, shops reopen after dark—as is customary during Ramadan. Children line up to buy neon-yellow sugary drinks, girls stroll arm-in-arm, and groups of elderly men sit on plastic chairs earnestly discussing the world's problems. Jihad, a fruit and vegetable seller in his 50s, is fatalistic. "Our turnover has dropped by more than 50% compared to last year, but I get it... who wants to buy a melon or a watermelon when he can't even buy bread?" He doesn't believe the recent demonstrations will make much of a difference. "Nothing will change. The only one who can save us is God," he said. On the adjacent sidewalk, Abboud Agraba, dressed in a long beige robe, bursts into laughter. "Don't believe a word they're telling you. We're happy here, we're not in need of anything. Rising prices? Taxes? Never heard of them," he said sarcastically, before his grin quickly faded. "I have a degree in engineering, but I've been unemployed for years," he said. — AFP

Ooredoo demonstrates 5G network capabilities

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait held a special event Thursday event to demonstrate the power of its new 5G network which was announced earlier. The event was attended by media and social media influencers and was held at the company's head office in the heart of Kuwait City on Soor Street. During the event, Ooredoo showcased the power of its new 5G network in comparison to the 4G network. The new network is projected to be released across Kuwait during the upcoming year.

During the event, Ooredoo demonstrated the network's

ability to operate videogames comparing both networks, which require fast data speed, in addition to a live feed in 4K Full HD of drone footage of the event, and a speed test corner with devices equipped to utilize the new network capacity. In a statement to the press, Ooredoo Kuwait's Corporate Communications Senior Director Mijbil Alayoub underscored that the launch embodies the company's core values of caring, connecting, and challenging, and demonstrates its commitment to enriching people's experiences through embracing leading in digitalization.

He added, "We are pleased to showcase to our esteemed guests tonight the great speed and power of our new network, which will be launched in selected areas this year as we gradually launch it across Kuwait. Over the years, we have worked tirelessly to deliver the best in-class services to our esteemed customers, no matter their needs. Through that, we are exercising our role as a private sector entity in the New Kuwait Vision 2035, and we aspire to deliver comprehensive telecom services with international standards in the Kuwaiti market under one roof."

Internet of the future

Ooredoo Kuwait's Acting Chief Technology Officer Shaima Al-Najdi explained that the company launched 5G mobile internet in test sites, which delivers a speed of up to 10 Gbps. Al-Najdi added, "Ooredoo Kuwait's Technology Department works to deliver the most innovative technologies and modalities in a highly competitive market, despite the many challenges, because we are aware that Kuwaiti consumers are very quick to adopt the latest international trends. We're happy to launch 5G internet in test sites as we prepare to deliver this service to all our esteemed customers."

She noted that using the technology will depend on the users' devices and their readiness to connect to this new network, which comprises the future of mobile internet around the world. She added that a testament to the fact that the world's leading technology innovators are creating flagship

smart and IoT devices that are ready for 5G, in preparation of the service's launch across the world.

In addition to providing high-speed internet, the new 5G network will broaden the horizons of customers as the world embraces digitalization, serving customers and businesses alike. The trends that benefit from this technology include virtual reality, ultra-high definition multimedia, in addition to supporting the infrastructure of smart cities, wireless sensor networks, Internet of Things (IoT), connected cars, and the automation of several key industries.

Ooredoo Kuwait last week announced the launch of 5G mobile internet for its customers. The launch comes in tandem with the international Ooredoo Group's plans to launch this technology across its markets, after it launched the new high-speed mobile internet in Doha through Ooredoo Qatar. Towards the end of last year, Ooredoo announced the completion of a major network upgrade operation in more than 1100 locations across Kuwait, aimed at increasing network capacity by upgrading the current infrastructure. The major project was completed in a record time of 5 months, without compromising the services provided to customers.

The Fifth Generation

The new network will witness significant improvement in speed and latency, allowing billions of devices to connect online. In terms of speed, the new network will allow customers to download high-definition media files in seconds. The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) set up the speed of the new network to be up to 10 Gbps during the test phase starting 2018.

The new network will offer latency of 1 millisecond, an almost instant speed to transfer data which in effect is the speed between sending the command to the network and the time it takes to load the page content on the user's browser or software. The faster the latency, the more capable devices and networks will be. This will be significant to operate Internet of Things (IoT) applications, in addition to contribut-



Business

Second jobs, once rare in Japan, reshaping attitudes about work

Japan's lifetime employment at crossroads

TOKYO: Kazuhiro Hasegawa has been driving a taxi in Tokyo for three years. It's a job he enjoys, despite 18-hour shifts. But recently, he said, it has not been enough to make ends meet. The 4.5 million-4.8 million yen (\$41,110-\$43,850) a year he makes from his primary job is far short of what he needs to cover a mortgage and university for his son, Hasegawa said. "I have no choice but to work two jobs, as income is unstable," said Hasegawa, 51, who earns several thousand yen a month from a side job shooting and editing videos for businesses. "There's no rest. I try to avoid being short of sleep as that would cause trouble driving a taxi." Japanese workers like Hasegawa are signing up for second jobs in record numbers to earn extra cash as wages stagnate, stirring hopes of a rise in consumer spending but adding to fears of overwork in a society notorious for long hours.

Facing a labor crunch, many companies welcome the influx of part-time workers. And the government has loosened rules that banned or discouraged employees from taking second jobs. The result is that a record 7.44 million Japanese will work at least two jobs this year - or about 11 percent of the workforce - up from 5.33 million in 2015, according to Lancers Inc, which helps freelancers find jobs. That lags behind countries like the US, which have been embracing the "gig economy" for longer. About 20 percent of the US workforce

had second jobs in 2017, data show. The shift in Japan aligns with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's goal of creating a workforce that can adapt to economic changes and offer more individual freedom, which he says will promote growth. Indeed, people working two jobs will contribute an estimated 7.8 trillion yen to the economy, Lancers data showed. But there is a dark side. Japanese workers need to put

response to cases of "karoshi," literally death by overwork. "It could raise the risk that one person ends up working over 100 hours (of overtime) by assuming 50-hour jobs at two firms," said Kotaro Kurashige, an attorney of Anzai Law Office, who represents management in labor disputes. "What the government is trying to do is full of inconsistencies," he said. "Making up for cuts in overtime pay by assuming side jobs elsewhere is like putting the cart before the horse."

200,000 yen a month from her full-time job as a university staffer and an additional 20,000 yen from a side job as a writer and translator. She does not get overtime pay, nor has she gotten a raise. "I have started doing a second job last year to earn spending money," she said, adding that the extra work gives her a sense of security as well.

ble workers," Watanabe said. "We also feel that workers need to acquire skills that can be used anywhere as you never know what may happen in this era of uncertainty."

New rules

After Abe called for more labor mobility, the government has tried to clear the way for companies to allow side jobs. In January, the labor ministry removed a rule banning second jobs without an employer's permission. Now workers must only inform their employer before taking on another job. But recent cases of people working themselves to death have also led Abe's government to propose labor reforms such as a cap on overtime of 100 hours per month.

Many workers count on overtime pay, however, and caps would reduce that income, said Hisashi Yamada, research director at Japan Research Institute. So as long as people can skirt that by taking additional jobs, the trend of working for more than one company will probably continue, Yamada said. But if it spreads workers too thin, it could erode Japanese employment culture, Yamada said. "Many Japanese firms still want employees to focus on their main job, so Japan won't turn into a country like America right away, where gig economy jobs are widely available," he said. — Reuters



Labor shortages prompt firms to offer flexible workplaces

in roughly 11 percent more hours than they did in 1997 to make the same salary. In the meantime, Tokyo's annual cost of living for an average household is about \$3,300 a month, government data shows, a 6 percent decrease from 1997.

Working two or three jobs to make ends meet undercuts the government's "work-style reform" efforts, including proposed caps on overtime in

Lifetime employment

The emerging trend highlights the decline of Japan's lifetime employment system, in which workers in the decades after World War Two were guaranteed job security in exchange for devotion to their employers. Such positions are much rarer these days. A large number of workers taking second jobs would traditionally be nearing retirement age; nearly half of Japanese workers with two jobs are older than 50, according to Lancers.

"There's no such thing as lifetime employment anymore," said Masaki Shimizu, 32, who on top of his regular job at internet start-up En Factory Inc, runs a coffee shop where patrons can pet live hedgehogs and has two other side jobs. "I need these side jobs to master new skills and expand my own strengths," Shimizu said. Natsumi Anastasia Ariyama, 25, said she earned about

Attracting talent

Japanese companies have traditionally demanded that their workers be fully committed to their employers. But more are softening their views on the subject, including Rohto Pharmaceutical Co, SoftBank Group Corp, photocopy maker Konica Minolta Inc and Shinsei Bank Ltd. Diaper maker Unicharm Corp in April started letting its 1,500 full-time employees hold second jobs.

The decision was made partly to lure workers amid a labor shortage and to encourage current employees to acquire new knowledge and skills. "We judged that benefits from side jobs outweigh potential risks such as overwork, leakage of information and brain drain," said Yukinari Watanabe, a senior human resources manager of Unicharm. So far only one employee, a man in his 50s, has responded, asking to become a basketball coach for middle and high school students. "We need to be a company that will attract capa-

NBK announces the winners of Al Shabab 'Triple Your Allowance'

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has announced the winners of its 'Triple Your Allowance' daily draw campaign, which invited students in Kuwait to transfer their allowance to NBK for the chance to win a KD 400. On a daily basis, between 1st and 31st May, new and existing NBK Al Shabab account holders who entered the draw were awarded KD 400. The Al Shabab account is designed to provide Kuwait's younger customers with all their required banking services, and is available to students attending university or college, or anyone between the ages of 15 and 23.

'Triple Your Allowance' campaign winners are: Alaa Hani Mohamed Alkhars; Abdullah Ebrahim Esmael Ahmad Behbahani; Ali Adnan Abed Ali Ashkanani; Ahmad Mohammad Ahmad Alojairi; Rakan Khaled Hamad Aljandoul Aldosari; Anfal Dawoud Ahmad Gabazard; Othman Hamad Othman Alhadhram; Nofoud Dabbous Faisal Aldabbous; Shahd Sulaiman Dawod Alshatti; Fajer Mohammad Jaber Aziz; Awwadh Ahmad Awwadh Aldaihani; NouraBaddah Khaled Alathab; Zainab Jaber Ahmad Alsalmam; Laalea Jaber Ahmad Alsaqoubi; Najla Mashaan Rakhees Albarazi; Anwar Shabnan Hamdan Alrasheedi; Ghezlan Salah Mohammad Alkhalifan; Salman Jaber Ali Mandni; Eiman Hussain Hassan Abdulla;



Amal Al-Duwaisan

Your Student Allowance is 3 Times More
KD 600 With NBK

Abdullah Mohammad Abdullah Alqudaifi; Zainah Ali Hamad Alajmi; Shahad Bassam Hamad Al Juwaid and Lulwa Naser Mohammad Alarbash. Commenting on the draw announcement, Amal Al-Duwaisan, Senior Manager Consumer Banking Group, National Bank of Kuwait said: "We're pleased to announce the winners of our 'Triple Your Allowance' daily draw campaign, aimed at our new and existing Al Shabab account customers. This was a great opportunity for younger customers to transfer their allowances to NBK, and thereby benefit from our wide range of services and products, which are tailored to their specific needs. As Kuwait's leading bank, we have a clearly defined duty to support the next generation in their financial journey, and the Al Shabab account is an excellent place from which they can start." The NBK Al Shabab account includes a free prepaid Visa card, with numerous benefits and rewards designed specifically to meet the needs of Kuwait's young banking clientele. The Al

Shabab prepaid Visa card includes a range of exciting features, as well as the ability to transfer money from the card to the customer's account. Customers may also use the prepaid Visa card to withdraw cash, without a fee, from any NBK ATM. Other benefits include 50% discounts on Talabat.com, exclusive 50% discounts on weekend tickets at Cinescape. Al-Duwaisan continued: "As with all NBK customers, our main commitment to Al Shabab account holders is to deliver industry-leading solutions and services that will make daily transactions as easy as possible. This commitment is at the heart of our mission to provide a truly seamless product offer. In addition, we seek to positively impact our customers' lives, by promising new and innovative rewards and benefits." Students who want to transfer their allowance to NBK and set up an Al Shabab Account can do so by visiting NBK.com or one of NBK's local branches.



Jazeera Airways launches Ride & Fly transport service

KUWAIT: Jazeera Airways, Kuwait's leading low-cost airline, operating regionally and internationally, yesterday announced the launch of its Ride & Fly transport service that will serve passengers from 17 dedicated stops across residential areas in Kuwait and to the Jazeera Terminal (T5). The Ride & Fly double-decker buses were fitted to provide the highest level of comfort to passengers. Passengers are checked-in on-board the bus and their baggage tagged and collected to enable passengers to easily proceed to the passport control desks at the Jazeera Terminal.

Jazeera Airways Chief Executive Officer, Rohit

Ramachandran, said: "The new Ride & Fly service is another innovation developed by Jazeera Airways to make travel easier for our customers. It is a mobile downtown check-in service which means you just speed through our new Jazeera Terminal when you arrive." The new service operates two routes, the first starting from Khansa Street in Salmiya and the second from Dabbous Street in Fahaeel. Ride & Fly serves the schedule of flights to Cairo (J9 534, J9 538 and J9 1538), Alexandria (J9 552, J9 554 and J9 550), Hyderabad (J9 608), Mumbai (J9 602) and Sohag (J9 562). Passengers can reserve their seat by calling the Jazeera Airways call center at 177.

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Technology

More building blocks of life found on Mars

‘There are organic materials preserved in some of the harshest environments’

TAMPA: A NASA robot has detected more building blocks for life on Mars—the most complex organic matter yet—from 3.5 billion-year-old rocks on the surface of the Red Planet, scientists said. The unmanned Curiosity rover has also found increasing evidence for seasonal variations of methane on Mars, indicating the source of the gas is likely the planet itself, or possibly its subsurface water.

While not direct evidence of life, the compounds drilled from Mars' Gale Crater are the most diverse array ever taken from the surface of the planet since the robotic vehicle landed in 2012, experts say. "This is a significant breakthrough because it means there are organic materials preserved in some of the harshest environments on Mars," said lead author of one of two studies in Science, Jennifer Eigenbrode, an astrobiologist at NASA's Goddard Spaceflight Center.

"And maybe we can find something better preserved than that, that has signatures of life in it," she told AFP. NASA's Curiosity rover has previously found organic matter on Mars. A smaller discovery was announced in 2014. "This is the first really trusted detection," co-author Sanjeev Gupta, a professor of Earth science at Imperial College London, told AFP.

"What this new study is showing in some detail is the discovery of complex and diverse organic compounds in the sediments. That doesn't mean life, but organic compounds are the building blocks of life," he added. "This is the first time we have detected such a diverse array of these sorts of things."

Clue to 'something bigger'

The compounds might have come from a meteorite, or from geological formations akin to coal and

black shale on Earth, or some form of life, Eigenbrode said. Their precise source is still a mystery. "We have detected the bits and pieces of something bigger," said Eigenbrode. The samples were drilled from the base of Mount Sharp, inside a basin called Gale Crater that is believed to have held an ancient Martian lake.

"That is a good place for life to have lived if it ever existed on Mars," she said. The mudstone rock was drilled from the top five centimeters (two inches) of the Martian surface and heated in a miniature analysis lab located on board the rover. A French-built instrument revealed "several organic molecules and volatiles reminiscent of organic-rich sedimentary rock found on Earth, including: thiophene, 2- and 3-methylthiophenes, methanethiol, and dimethylsulfide," said the Science report.

Methane study

The other paper in Science reported on new details in the search for the source of methane on Mars, which has wide spikes and dips according to the seasons. Methane, the simplest organic molecule, ranges "between 0.24 to 0.65 parts per billion, peaking near the end of summer in the Northern hemisphere," said the report, based on three years of data.

The source is still unclear, but it may be stored in the cold Martian subsurface in water-based crystals called clathrates, researchers said. "Both these findings are breakthroughs in astrobiology," wrote Inge Loes ten Kate, of the University of Tübingen in Germany, in an accompanying commentary in Science. "The detection of organic molecules and methane on Mars has far-ranging implications in light of potential past life on Mars," she said.

"Curiosity has shown that Gale crater was habit-

able around 3.5 billion years ago, with conditions comparable to those on the early Earth, where life evolved around that time. "The question of whether life might have originated or existed on Mars is a lot more opportune now that we know that organic molecules were present on its surface at that time."

Next missions

According to Ariel Anbar, a professor at Arizona State University who directed the college's NASA-funded astrobiology program from 2009 to 2015, the work "definitely moves the ball down the court in

important ways." It "defines how questions will be asked and pursued in the next stage of Mars exploration," Anbar, who was not involved in the study, told AFP by email.

Scientists hope to further the search for signs of life on Mars with the European and Russian rover, ExoMars, scheduled to land in 2021. It will drill even deeper than any prior instrument, up to two yards (meters) deep. NASA also has another rover in the works with its Mars 2020 mission, which plans to drill cores and set them aside for a possible future pickup and return to Earth. —AFP



This NASA photo released June 7, 2018 shows a low-angle self-portrait of NASA's Curiosity Mars rover vehicle at the site from which it reached down to drill into a rock target called "Buckskin" on lower Mount Sharp. —AFP

Facebook privacy settings 'bug' affecting 14m users

SAN FRANCISCO: Facebook acknowledged a software glitch that changed the settings of some 14 million users, potentially making some posts public even if they were intended to be private. The news marked the latest in a series of privacy embarrassments for the world's biggest social network, which has faced a firestorm over the hijacking of personal data on tens of millions of users and more recently for disclosures on data-sharing deals with smartphone makers.

Erin Egan, Facebook's chief privacy officer, said in a statement that the company recently "found a bug that automatically suggested posting publicly when some people were creating their Facebook posts." Facebook said this affected users posting between May 18 and May 27 as it was implementing a new way to share some items such as photos.

Flying car backed by Google founder offers test flights

SAN FRANCISCO: A flying car project backed by Google co-founder Larry Page was closer to take-off on Wednesday, with a model for test flights by aspiring buyers. Kitty Hawk, funded by Page, unveiled a "Flyer" model it described as "an exciting first step to sharing the freedom of flight." The company was created last year in Google's home town of Mountain View, California, and has been testing a prototype in New Zealand.

Images and details were available at a freshly launched website at flyer.aero, and CNN posted coverage of a reporter taking to the air in a Flyer over a lake at a test site near Las Vegas. Kitty Hawk chief executive Sebastian Thrun, who founded the Google X lab devoted to "moonshots" such as self-driving cars and internet-synched eyewear, was quoted by CNN as saying piloting Flyer was as easy as playing the video game "Minecraft."

"Making Flyer accessible, which is what we do at our Lake Las Vegas training facility,

helps more people experience the freedom and possibilities of vehicles of the future," a Kitty Hawk spokeswoman told AFP. "Our immediate priority is to invite small groups of people—customers, influencers, media and community members—to experience the freedom of flight here in our newly opened training facility."

People interested in buying Flyers were invited at the website to apply for an invitation to do so, with no price specified. An early version of Flyer was shown off last year. The electric aircraft had 10 small lift rotors on its wings, making it capable of vertical take-off and landing like a helicopter.

Kitty Hawk said that at 15 meters away, it sounded about as loud as a lawn mower, while from 250 feet away the volume was on par with a loud conversation. Test flights by first-timers were over water, with the top speed limited to 32 kilometers per hour (20 mph) and the altitude to no more than three meters.

The uncovered cockpit appeared big enough for one person, with their head poking out as it might from a go-kart. "Flyer is designed to be easy to fly and flown for recreational purposes over water and uncongested areas," the website said. "Flyer is Kitty Hawk's first personal flying



This undated and un-located handout image released on Wednesday by Kitty Hawk shows the Flyer.

vehicle and the first step to make flying part of everyday life."

The new flying machine is one of several concept vehicles being tested, with Uber and others in the mix. Page and Sergey Brin founded Google in 1998, starting out in a



MENLO PARK: In this file photo taken on March 21, 2018, a lit sign is seen at the entrance to Facebook's corporate headquarters. —AFP

Mark Zuckerberg was grilled in Congress about the hijacking of personal data on some 87 million Facebook users by Cambridge Analytica, a consultancy working on Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign. —AFP

China's Ant Financial raises \$14bn, becomes biggest fintech firm

SHANGHAI: Chinese digital payments giant Ant Financial said Friday it had raised \$14 billion in its latest financing round, making it the world's largest fintech company ahead of an expected mammoth IPO. The cash infusion for Ant, an affiliate of e-commerce heavyweight Alibaba, provides fresh resources as its payments platform Alipay battles Tencent for supremacy in the vast and growing market for global digital transactions and other financial services.

Ant said in a statement that the funds will be invested in new technologies and to accelerate Alipay's expansion abroad and into new sectors. Alipay and Tencent's WeChat Pay are China's online-payments leaders, profiting handsomely as consumers throw themselves into e-commerce, ordering goods and services via mobile apps and online. Ant Financial did not provide a total value for the company, but Bloomberg News recently reported it was raising funds at a \$150 billion valuation.

Bloomberg said the latest round makes the company, based in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou, the world's largest fintech firm. Ant Financial is believed to be planning an IPO expected to become one of the largest in years, amid speculation it could list on one of China's two exchanges. Alibaba and other big tech companies such as Baidu and Tencent previously chose to list on Wall Street or in Hong Kong.

But China has been making moves to encourage future listings on domestic markets to keep a new generation of technology titans closer to home as it pushes to challenge the US for primacy in the strategic sector. Ant Financial says Alipay and its overseas partners in several countries serve around 870 million annual active users globally, and over 15 million small businesses in China. Ant said the latest financing came from unnamed domestic investors, as well as foreign entities including Singapore wealth funds GIC and Temasek Holdings, the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, and global private equity firm Warburg Pincus. —AFP

Buzzfeed to shut French website

PARIS: US news website BuzzFeed is to shut down its French version after four years online, staff told AFP. All 14 staff at BuzzFeed France, which like its US equivalent publishes both viral content such as quizzes and traditional news stories, are set to lose their jobs, two of them said. The French site's chief editor Stephane Jourdain blasted the "brutal and completely unexpected"

decision in a Twitter post, saying BuzzFeed France had just enjoyed "four great months in terms of news and traffic".

One staffer said the news had been announced to the Paris team by Scott Lamb, BuzzFeed's New York-based head of international growth. A spokeswoman at BuzzFeed's US headquarters declined to confirm the closure, saying: "We are taking steps to reconsider our operation in France given the uncertain path to growth in the French market." She added: "We have begun a consultation process with BuzzFeed France and will follow up when we have more information to share."

Buzzfeed launched in the United States in 2006 and has since become a major international media player. Initially best known for its light-hearted viral content, it has gone on to hire veteran journalists around the world to develop its serious news coverage. BuzzFeed France launched in 2013 and "was right in the middle of a period of growth and investment," one staffer said.

"Traffic was going out and the site has published its biggest scoops in 2018," they added, notably allegations of systematic discrimination against Arab customers at a Paris restaurant favoured by celebrities like Kim Kardashian. The

site also recently ran scoops on the far-right National Front backing candidates that it knew had made extremist statements, and on sexual harassment allegations at television station TNT.

Buzzfeed had announced late last year that it was sacking around 100 people from its US and British operations, in an earlier sign that its advertising-dependent model was in trouble. US media had reported in November that BuzzFeed had dropped plans to launch on the stock exchange for the immediate future, worried that its failure to meet ambitious growth targets would scare off investors. —AFP

Health

Tempers fray and fists fly in India's daily battle for water

NEW DELHI: When the water truck finally chugged into the Delhi slum, there was a stampede. It is a scene repeated daily across India as temperatures rise and the vital resource gets ever scarcer. Young men clambered onto the roof and jammed a tangle of multicolored hoses inside, passing the other ends to friends waiting with containers in the shouting crowd below. All 10,000 litres were gone in minutes, lugged away in jerry cans and buckets dangling on bike handlebars. As the lorry left, people ran after it, desperate for any last drops.

"It's a real battle, every man for himself," Raj Kumari, one of dozens of people in the Sanjay Camp slum who wait hours for this brutal daily ritual, told AFP. "There are fights and arguments, even injuries," the young woman said. "We have to get (our containers) filled even if someone gets crushed or loses an arm or leg." No one was hurt this time but injuries are common and anger is growing at the authorities. Earlier this year a 60-year-old man and his student son died in the capital after scuffles over a water tanker, reports said, prompting protests by hundreds of angry locals.

Elsewhere, scores of people in the northern city of Jammu this week blocked an express train to Delhi in a protest against water shortages. And in the Himalayan hill resort of Shimla, the former summer capital of the British Raj, residents staged street demonstrations after water ran out. Foreign tourists were asked to cancel bookings, hotels

began closing and police had to escort water tankers through Shimla's winding streets.

Ever hotter, ever thirstier

Summer temperatures in parts of India are currently passing 45 degrees Celsius and data show that the country of 1.25 billion people is getting hotter. A 2017 study by the Indian Institute of Science said that the frequency and magnitude of heatwaves accompanied with drought had increased over the past three decades. The India Meteorological Department said in 2017 that 2016 was the warmest year since 1901. India's top five hottest years have been recorded in the last 15 years.

Several million people rely on daily visits by tankers and on bore wells for their daily needs. The supply from pipes is puny, irregular and often filthy. Millions of farmers are almost entirely dependent on monsoon rains for irrigation. Water levels in some key reservoirs have plummeted in recent years, particularly during long summers. Experts blame the shortages not just on the changing climate but also on inadequate planning, especially in India's fast-growing cities whose aged infrastructure cannot cope.

Experts also say that water-intensive farming, especially for rice and sugar cane to feed India's growing population, has depleted and polluted the underground water table. Studies by the United Nations and other groups have warned that the country's water crisis will worsen unless action is taken.

Back in the Delhi slum, 29-year-old laborer Yogendra Kumar said, "We spend around four hours on most days doing this." "Most people get enough supplies to last a few hours. They will start queuing again around 2:00 pm, for the same routine," he added. "There are days when families don't get water. You have to save some water to use on the days when you don't get any," added fellow resident Shashi Kumar Singh. — AFP



NEW DELHI: In this picture taken on June 6, 2018, residents sit as they wait for freshwater supplies to arrive at a water distribution point in the low-income eastern neighborhood of Sanjay camp. — AFP

Inaugural celebratory iftar brings together Kuwaiti GOSH patients

KUWAIT: This Ramadan, children from across Kuwait who once received treatment at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children (GOSH) in London have come together, with their families, for a celebratory iftar in Kuwait to express their gratitude to all parties who made their care abroad possible.

At the annual iftar, which was hosted at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel in Kuwait, former patients and family members were greeted by local healthcare professionals and referrers who have an important role in facilitating the referral process from Kuwait to GOSH. As well as reuniting families, the event served as an opportunity for local healthcare professionals to develop collaborations, share knowledge and cement relationships for the good of children's health in the region.

GOSH treats sick children from 90 different countries for rare, complex and multiple conditions, which includes 1,500 children from the Middle East every year. Through their special events and celebrations, the London-based hospital caters to a variety of different cultures and religions.

One patient who attended the celebration was one-year-old Kuwaiti baby, Laila Almazidi, who went to GOSH in 2017 to be treated for laryngomalacia. Laryngomalacia is the softening of the larynx and can stop the child from swallowing properly. Depending on severity, it can lead to food going down the wrong tube to the esophagus or to the lungs, resulting in infections.

Speaking about her daughter's condition, Laila's mother, Sukaina Adel, said, "Laila was diagnosed with type three laryngomalacia. This is the severest type which requires surgery to fix so this is why we went to GOSH in London. Dr Ben Hartley and the London team were able to treat her within 3 months. Laila is all better now and



Sukaina Adel and her daughter, Laila.

doesn't require any major follow ups. GOSH is 'oh my GOSH' - it was an amazing experience. The ward, the staff, the treatment - it's all of this which is down to her recovery. If it wasn't for the team there, it wouldn't have been the same."

Also in attendance was Dr Alya Hasan Askar, specialist paediatric neurosurgeon at Ibn Sina hospital, who expressed how collaboration with GOSH helps many Kuwaiti patients with rare and complicated neurological conditions. "We've recently had outreach from Dr Sue Chapman on how to manage the patient before they reach GOSH," explains Dr Alia. "This was a great experience as it meant we were able to discuss the patient with GOSH consultants before they arrived at GOSH so they had better preparation and knowledge of the nuances they were going to experience. I hope this collaboration continues

and we're able to continue to pass the baton over in a positive way so patients continue to get the best treatment and transition possible."

Commenting on the importance of this annual iftar gathering for their international patients and their families, Trevor Clarke, Director of the International and Private Patients Service at GOSH said, "Events like this are extremely important to us at GOSH as part of our mission to ensure all of our patients, past and present, are part of the global GOSH family."

This iftar not only re-connects former patients and parents in a positive and fun atmosphere in their home country but also helps to show our appreciation, during this special month of Ramadan, to the Kuwaiti Government, local healthcare professionals and referrers who help make children's treatment abroad possible."

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What's On

KFH takes part in girgian event for Kuwait Society for Guardians of Disabled

Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in the confectionary (girgian) celebration for Kuwait Society for Guardians of the Disabled. This comes as part of KFH's Ramadan program "Increase Good Deeds in Ramadan 4" that affirms the pioneering role of the bank in the social responsibility, while contributing in strengthening the social ties.

The event included many activities that had a positive effect on the guardians of the disabled, who believe that such activities organized by a prestigious institution, play a role in strengthening the society ties, while allowing the disabled to intermingle with the society around them.

KFH team distributed confectionary (girgian) to the disabled which contributed to put a smile on their faces. It is worth noting that KFH is keen to hold similar events every year, as part of its social responsibility, which reinforces the values of the society.

KFH Ramadan program includes various visits and voluntary work, social and humanitarian events and activities stemming from the bank's endeavors to solidify its commitment towards the society, while supporting all social and humanitarian initiatives.



The teaching staff union at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) hosted its annual ghabqa on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. PAAET officials, teaching staff and other members attended the event which took place at Symphony Hotel.

ICSK Amman goes green on World Environment Day

The Indian Community School Kuwait, Amman celebrated World Environment Day on June 5, 2018 for encouraging awareness and action for the protection of the environment. Various programs were organized by the school senate to educate the students to be one with nature by adapting natural ways of life and protecting the environment. The day began with the senate members addressing the school through Radio Amman on the significance of the day and interactive session with parents and teachers on various issues related to environment and pollution.

'Beat Plastic Pollution', the theme for World Environment Day 2018 is to call for action from all of us to come together to combat one of the greatest environmental challenges of our time - plastic pollution. Special assembly was conducted on the occasion and the Principal Rajesh Nair distributed saplings to teachers who come from different parts of Kuwait and were the green ambassadors of the day carrying the green wave motion all over Kuwait on their way back home. The program was well appreciated and students took part in a number of competitions like slogan writing, poster and chart making and inter house quiz competitions.



Ahli United Bank celebrates girgian with children

In continuation of its social program for the Holy Month of Ramadan, Ahli United Bank (AUB) organized visits of staff to Amiri Hospital, Mubarak Hospital and the Al-Kharafi Activity Center for children with special needs to share the joy of girgian with the children in commemoration of this traditional event, and as a part of the Bank's continued annual participation in charitable, humanitarian, social and cultural initiatives.

Through these visits, made in conjunction with LOYAC volunteers, the Bank was keen to reach out to the children in the hospitals and in the Activity Center and surprise them with gifts and girgian enjoyments. This was done so as to spread the spirit of sharing and giving, which is encouraged in Islam and considered to be one of the most important features of Kuwaiti society.

On this occasion, Sahar Dashti, AUB's Deputy General Manager responsible for the Bank's Corporate Social Responsibility Program said, "We were very happy to visit the children and share the joy of girgian with them bringing smiles to their faces."

Dashti also noted, "The initiatives reaffirm AUB's commitment to continuously communicate with various social and humanitarian organizations across Kuwait, seeking to strengthen philanthropic ties between the Bank and the wider society - a key driver that was apparent during the Bank staff visit to children while distributing girgian."



TSK celebrates girgian

The Sunshine Kindergarten (TSK) celebrated girgian recently, recreating some of the heart-warming traditions that take place in Kuwait. Since Ramadan is now falling within the school year, it presents a wonderful opportunity for young children to celebrate the flavor of girgian.

Staff and students wore traditional dress, danced to traditional music and sang some great songs, their favorite of course to sing along and dance to was 'girgian'. Parents too loved taking part, and sent in girgian treats for their children to give out to others. "It's a wonderful girgian, thank you to all teachers" was a comment made by many of the parents.

It was then a short walk over the road to visit our Founder, Madam Vera Al-Mutawa MBE. Children presented her with girgian treats and they too sang along to 'girgian'. It was a fabulous moment for them to share.

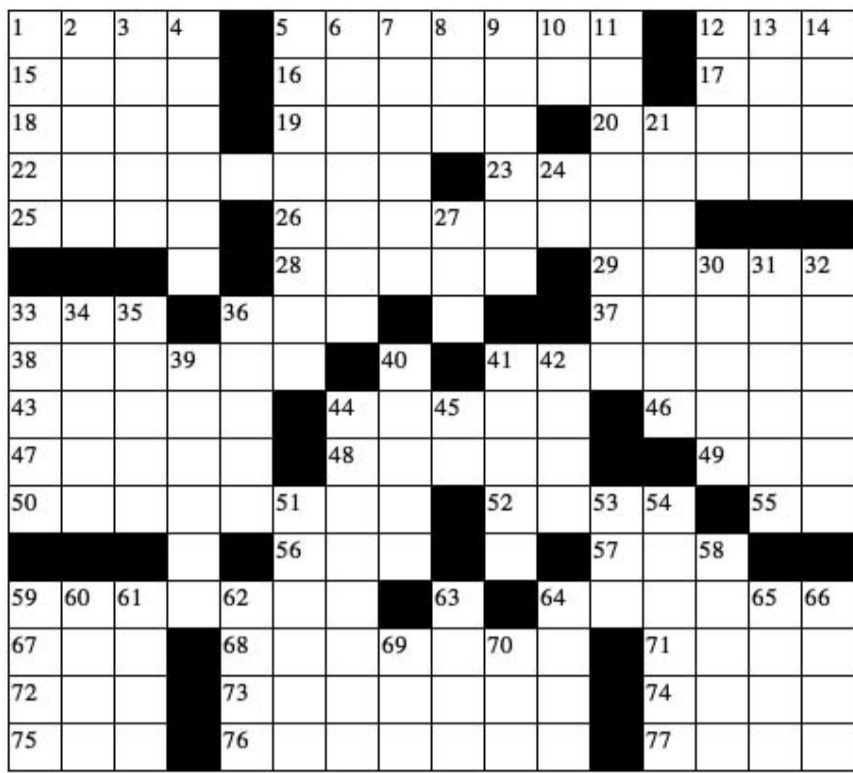
The TSK Principal, Miss Heather Holsgrove explained some of the reasons why girgian is such an important occasion at TSK. "I am from Wales and we are very patriotic. When I was a young girl in school, we always celebrated different traditions in. One of the biggest was St David's day where we would dress up in traditional Welsh costumes and try delicious food such as Welsh cakes. I want our students to experience the same. It is paramount that we maintain these cultural traditions. Each and every child feels that they are valued and special when we do. Part of this is celebrating their own nationality and home country and the other important aspect is celebrating the country where they live and go to school. Kuwait is our 'home away from home' and it is important that we experience some of the fabulous traditions that Kuwait has to offer." TSK celebrates many events throughout the year ensuring that each and every child in their care feels valued. The main events in their school calendar include



International Day, National Day and girgian. Miss Heather continued; "We must thank our fabulous parents for trusting us with their beautiful children. Without such great parents and amazing children, these events would not be such a resounding success. We are very lucky at TSK to have such a strong home-school partnership."

Stars

CROSSWORD 1931



ACROSS

1. A mound of fatty tissue covering the pubic area in women.
5. Any plant of the genus *Amorpha* having odd-pinnate leaves and purplish spicate flowers.
12. Fiddler crabs.
15. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
16. Regarded with great favor, approval, or affection especially by the general public.
17. A boy or man.
18. The language of the nomadic Lapp people in northern Scandinavia and the Kola Peninsula.
19. Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
20. The Mongol people living the the central and eastern parts of Outer Mongolia.
22. (British) Farm devoted to raising sheep.
23. Deeply affected or marked by mental or physical pain or injury.
25. A British peer ranking below a Marquess and above a Viscount.
26. A mountain peak in the Andes in Bolivia (21,201 feet high).
28. Long-tailed arboreal mustelid of Central and South America.
29. A river that rises in central Germany and flows north to join the Elbe River.
33. A woolen cap of Scottish origin.
37. Large antelope with lightly spiraled horns of desert regions of North Africa.
38. An agency of the United Nations responsible for programs to aid education and the health of children and mothers in developing countries.
43. A member of a people who have no permanent home but move about according to the seasons.
46. Surpassing the ordinary especially in size or scale.
47. Selected as the best.
48. Jordan's port.
49. (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
50. Determining or having the power to determine an outcome.
52. In bed.
55. A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.
56. The cry made by sheep.
57. Committee formed by a special-interest group to raise money for their favorite political candidates.
59. An implement for practical use (especially in a household).
67. An anxiety disorder characterized by chronic free-floating anxiety and such symptoms as tension or sweating or trembling of light-headedness or irritability etc that has lasted for more than six months.
68. Excessive desire to eat.
71. Spanish cubist painter (1887-1927).
72. An honorary law degree.
73. A resident of Nevada.
74. Long-bodied long-tailed tropical American wildcat.
75. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
76. Proceed or issue forth, as from a source.
77. Radioactive iodine test that measures the amount of radioactive iodine taken up by the thyroid gland.

DOWN

1. A shot in billiards made by hitting the cue ball with the cue held nearly vertically.
2. A member of the Siouan people formerly

- living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
3. A person who gives a name or names.
4. A protective covering or structure.
5. Taken before a meal as an appetizer.
6. Constructed with standardized units or dimensions allowing flexibility and variety in use.
7. In an open way.
8. Beyond or deviating from the usual or expected.
9. Colorless watery fluid of blood and lymph containing no cells and in which erythrocytes and leukocytes and platelets are suspended.
10. (astronomy) The angular distance of a celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith crossing.
11. A resident of Arkansas.
12. (Norse mythology) One of the Aesir known for his beauty and skill with bow and skis.
13. A block of solid substance (such as soap or wax).
14. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
21. Beautiful daughter of Minos and Pasiphae.
24. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
27. A strong emotion.
30. (Babylonian) A demigod or first man.
31. Goods carried by a large vehicle.
32. A bet that you can pick the first and second finishers in the right order.
34. Small arboreal tropical American insectivorous lizards with the ability to change skin color.
35. Constituting an imitation.
36. Yellow-fever mosquitos.
39. A positively charged atom.
40. Australian shrubs and small trees with evergreen usually spiny leaves and dense clusters of showy flowers.
41. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
42. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
44. A skirt consisting of a rectangle of calico or printed cotton.
45. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
51. In the same place (used when citing a reference).
53. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
54. A short knife with a pointed blade used for piercing or stabbing.
58. Genus of large deciduous nut-bearing trees.
60. The basic unit of money in Western Samoa.
61. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
62. 100 sene equal 1 tala.
63. Large genus of tropical subshrubs or herbs some of which yield fibers of mucilaginous substances.
64. A unit of force equal to the force that imparts an acceleration of 1 cm/sec/sec to a mass of 1 gram.
65. Little known Kamarupan languages.
66. (Old Testament) The eldest son of Isaac who would have inherited the Covenant that God made with Abraham and that Abraham passed on to Isaac.
69. Airtight sealed metal container for food or drink or paint etc..
70. Tastelessness by virtue of being cheap and vulgar.

Friday's Solution

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

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You live, and you learn. Today may find you very sympathetic for others and emotional. You may find great satisfaction in resolving issues for yourself and also for others. You may be facing some big decisions, but you need to face these on your own. Outside influences do not always have your best interest at heart. Continue to do that soul searching, Aries. You may even find yourself feeling a bit disconnected. Stability and peace will satisfy a deep emotional need within you. Turn on your music and sit back and relax.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Sometimes you just get that gut feeling that something isn't right. You seem to be feeling that now. You may feel as if someone close to you is not being honest. The need to get to the bottom of this may become an obsession. Redirect your focus on organization and getting your own affairs in order. Now may be a time to work on yourself and even keep to yourself. You may find yourself finding difficulty in social situations and some time alone may be just what you need to weather this storm.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are feeling much peace and stability in your life now. This is satisfying a deep yearning you have had for years. Music seems to be your personal escape. Turn on the tunes and sit back and relax. This is a great time to do some soul searching. Your mood may lead you into a deep conversation and connection with a love one on an intimate level. Gemini, you can expect to be the recipient of many compliments today as others are drawn to how at peace you are.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Today may find you more materialistic than usual. You have your mine set on acquiring a few new items. You work hard and believe you deserve to reward yourself. You have found yourself very peaceful and stable in your situation. Stability plays a profound role in your world. It has been a long road, but you feel as you have finally reached your goal. All is well in your world. Cancer, this day finds you content with a great sense of accomplishment.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

The word ambitious is not quite strong enough to describe you today. You have something in mind and you are determined to obtain it. You have your mind focused on your career and refuse to settle for any less than you desire. You want to be in control, you want to call the shots, and woe be to anything or anyone that tries to stand in your way. You will gain power and success because you will refuse to stop climbing until you reach the top of the ladder. It is this quality that you will find others admire most about you. Stability is a major focus for you, Leo, and you are on the right track to obtain it.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You feel as though you have hit the jackpot today. Every direction you turn should bring good news and opportunity your way. What a wonderful day! Problems will be easy to solve. You may find yourself being rewarded and acknowledged at work and you may find yourself surrounded by friends and loved ones today. You may greatly benefit from spending time with someone you look at as a mentor to you today. The advice coming from anyone else may not mean as much but your respect for this person will find you receptive and this will pay off. Virgo, today you are on top of the world.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Your values and what you hold dear may be interfering with your career at this time. Something could possibly be holding you back from progressing. This may be that your focus on spending time with loved ones is interfering with your willingness to work longer hours. This may cause conflict in the workplace and you may find yourself at odds with someone who is older or in a position of authority over you. You may find that a need to re-balance your time is in order. You may mind that being at odds with others is making you uncomfortable and you need to re-think some of your decisions to bring a sense of harmony back into your world.



Scorpio (October 23-November 19)

You may be feeling a strong desire for change, a need for something new and different. It may be time to throw out the old and start fresh. Let your creative side be your guide. Step above and beyond the boundaries you have allowed yourself to become so comfortable with and let your hair down. You may find those close to you are drawn to the new and different version of you and find great ease when communicating with them. This could be a great time to study and take some time to broaden your intellectual horizons. Reach out to a love one whether by a phone call or possibly a letter. You may find they are very open to what you have to say and old barriers between you have since dissolved.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You seem to have put major focus on your relationship with your significant other at this time. Whether you are focused on a spouse or longing to find one, this is high priority for you. You desire to love and be loved. You desire a deep connection with someone. You seek your other half. The one that will make you feel complete. You have great appreciation for those close to you and your focus turns to making sure you show that love and appreciation as often as you can. This is a great time to connect with this person on a much more intimate level than you have previously connected with anyone. You may find that you are not only able to clearly communicate your feelings, but you may find yourself hearing clearly what someone has to say to you.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Follow your gut. You may have always felt you have a gift of insight, never knowing if it was from the vast amount of common sense you possess or from a true psychic ability. Open your mind and let these feelings guide you. You may be very pleased where they lead you. This is a wonderful time for your personal relationships whether with friends or love ones. Let your creative juices flow. All is well in your world and you are thriving in every aspect. Keep your focus on friends and family as this is what is most likely bringing the most happiness into your world now.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may find yourself in a bit of an emotional conflict today. This may be challenging because you may be caught in a situation that just don't feel right. Sit back and relax and turn up the volume while you play your favorite tunes. You may begin to feel at peace on an emotional level at this time. Aquarius, this a time you may feel great appreciation for your ability to be a real go getter. Avoid any situation that makes you feel less than wonderful about yourself. Enjoy this day and take an evening to relax and recharge.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may find yourself desiring a change. A type of spiritual wanderlust, is what you desire. You long to broaden your horizons and reach for the unknown. You find this fascinating and exciting. Your thoughts are deep and your long to turn your dreams into reality. You may find yourself in a heated confrontation regarding matters associated with politics, religion, or law. You are passionate about these subjects and well educated. Someone younger may look up to you and lean on you for advice. You may be drawn to this person and take on the role of mentor in their life. Answers you are seeking pertaining to your own life situation may presents themselves to you while helping this person.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Pet Dog

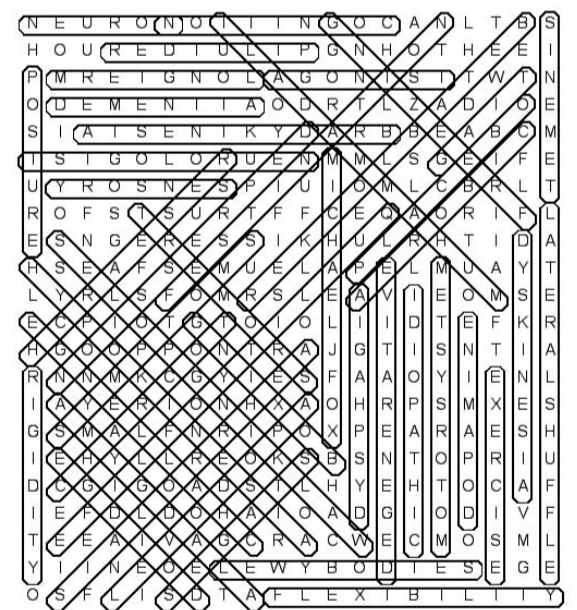
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 26 letters spell a secret message.

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

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------|--------|------------|
| BARK | FEED | ID TAG | PUPPY |
| BATH | FETCH | JUMP | ROLL OVER |
| BONE | FOOD | KENNEL | SHAMPOO |
| BOWLS | FRIEND | LEASH | SLEEP |
| CANINE | GROOM | LICK | TRAIN |
| CHASE | GROWL | LOYAL | TREATS |
| CHEW TOY | GUARD | OWNER | TRIM NAILS |
| COLLAR | HAIR | PANT | WAG TAIL |
| COMPANION | HARNES | PAWS | WALK |
| FAITHFUL | HOUSE | PLAY | WATER |

Friday's Solution

Parkinson's Disease



- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| AEROBIC | DOIDGE | LATERAL SHUFFLE | QUALITY OF LIFE |
| AGONIST | DOPAMINE | LEVO DOOPA | RED TULIP |
| AMYGDALA | DYSKINESIA | LEWY BODIES | RESEARCH |
| BETA BLOCKER | DYSPHAGIA | LONG TERM | RIGIDITY |
| BOXING | EXERCISE | MICHAEL J FOX | SENSORY |
| BRADYKINESIA | FESTINATION | MOTOR SYSTEM | SIALORRHEA |
| CHALLENGE | FLEXIBILITY | MUHAMMAD ALI | SINEMET |
| CHARCOT | FREEZING | NEUROLOGIST | STAGES |
| COGNITION | GAIT | NEURON | SYMPTOMS |
| DEGENERATIVE | HYPOKINESIA | PLACBO | TREMORS |
| DEMENTIA | IDIOPATHIC | POSTURE | WALKING POLES |
| DEPRESSION | | | |

The hidden message is: ALTHOUGH THE WORLD IS FULL OF SUFFERING, IT IS FULL ALSO OF THE OVERCOMING OF IT

Daily SuDoku

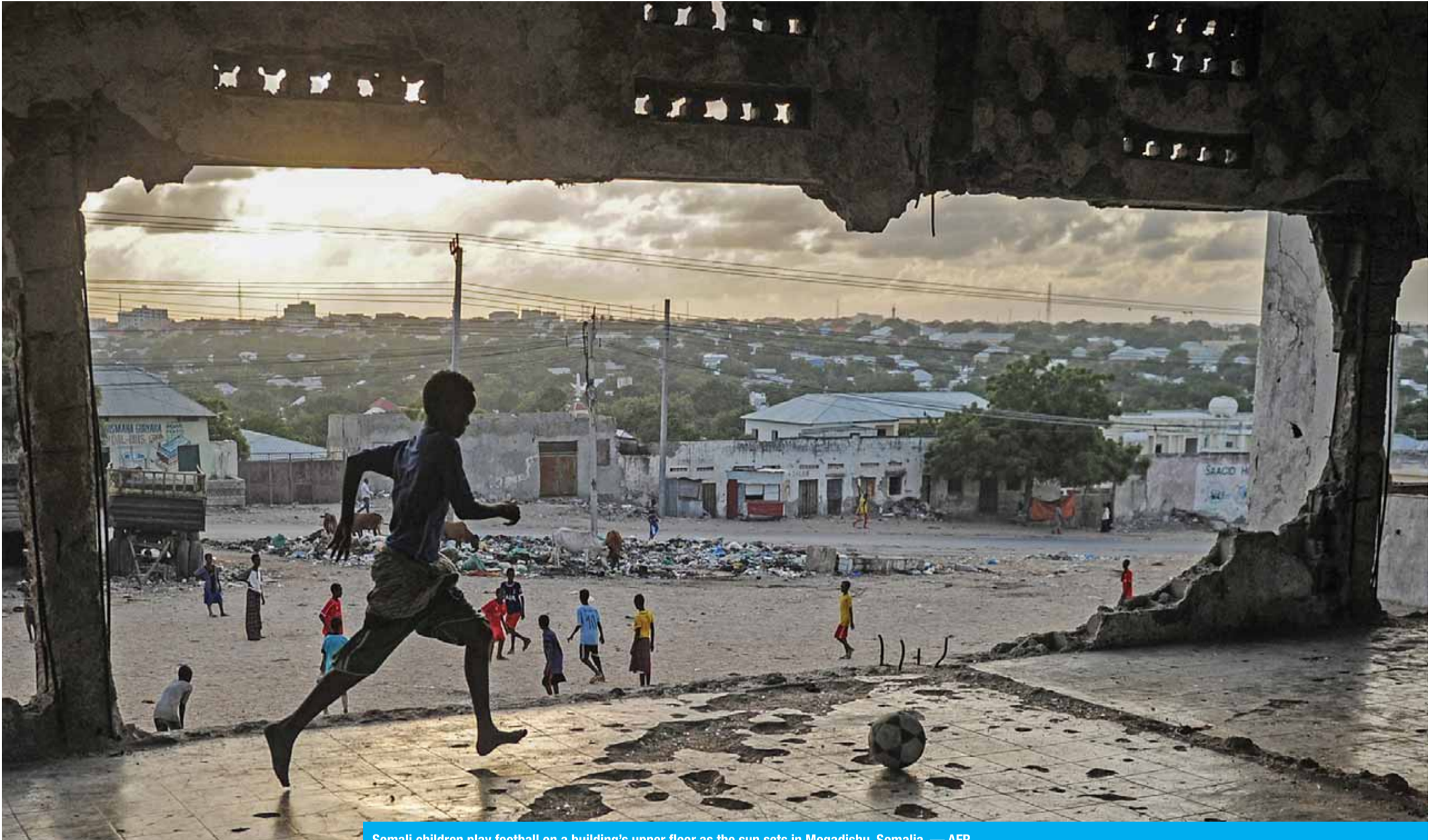
5					
1	7		5	8	9
		6	1	2	5
2			8		
4		3		8	2
			4		7
3			6	4	5
	8		3	2	6
					4

Friday's Solution

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

Lifestyle

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2018



Somali children play football on a building's upper floor as the sun sets in Mogadishu, Somalia. — AFP

Strangers break bread at Ramadan tent in London park

As dusk falls, shoes come off and hundreds of hungry diners sit cross-legged in a London park to break bread. It is iftar: the traditional sundown dinner that follows 19 hours of fasting in London, part of an annual ritual observed by Muslims the world over to mark the holy month of Ramadan. One of the sacred pillars of Islam, Ramadan calls on Muslims to abstain from all food, drink and even sipping water during the month's daylight hours.

So dinner takes on a special significance at the "open iftar" staged each year in a central London park. Held in Bloomsbury, an elegant London district known for its garden squares and literary past, the "open iftar" is laid on for 30 nights by a small community group - The Ramadan Tent Project, which invites all comers to join them and eat for free. "I was a bit uncertain as I'm not a Muslim," said retired psychotherapist Anthony Royle, who attended with two friends. "The more we can understand of each other's particular points of view, I think it's an essential part of us all sharing in a community. It's very easy to put people into little enclaves."

The project began in 2013 when Omar Salha, then a post-graduate student, decided to set up a "home from home" for international students living in the city. It has far surpassed Salha's first vision. At least 300 hungry Londoners gathered in the park on Tuesday evening, from suited executives to the homeless, as strangers sat side-by-side on the ground.

Many said the atmosphere challenged perceptions that it was a time of mistrust between communities in Britain, home to some 2.7 million Muslims, according to census data. But terror attacks, rising anti-immigrant sentiment and disputes over what it means to be British have bred division. Sajid Javid, Britain's first Muslim interior minister, said this week the threat posed by Islamist militants remained high but that Muslims were not responsible "for the acts of a tiny minority who twist their faith". Britain's largest Muslim group, The Muslim Council of Britain, has logged more than 100 hate incidents against Muslims since Britons voted in 2016 to



leave the European Union, an outcome fuelled in large part by anti-immigrant sentiment.

Picnic grows up

In its infancy, the dinner drew just a handful of students who sat on newspapers and shared a jumbled picnic on the grass. Now, up to 400 people gather each night under a large marquee, with lighting and a sound system, served by a slick operation of 90 volunteers. Its founder said the project was a way to celebrate diversity and offer Londoners an escape from urban life.

"It's very easy to get sucked into the 'us and them' narrative," Salha told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "The 'open iftar' experience is about turning strangers into friends, breaking down barriers ... and doing it through the act of sharing a meal." Once the sun set, a volunteer performed a live call to prayer as parched men and women happily broke their fast.

Diners ate grilled chicken, rice, stuffed peppers and sticky baklava - all shared with strangers from any and no faiths. "'Open iftar' in the heart of London provides a means for people to stop, take a moment, come together and connect," Tabetha Bhatti, an organizer at the Ramadan Tent Project,

told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. It was the first time for faster Wahil Gouraya. "In a big city like London, it can be easy to be isolated," said the 18-year-old student. "This gives people an opportunity to go out and meet people that they might not usually meet."

It was the third visit for Umayair Ullah, who said the meal mattered more when misconceptions about Islam were so rife. "Islam has definitely been misrepresented in the media so I think what 'open iftar' is doing is really important," he said. "It's like reclaiming the narrative ... it makes me really happy." PR professional Laura Bannister came with her Arabic class, while television anchor Jon Snow praised the spirit of communality in the bustle of a big city. "I pay tribute to your generosity, which is what after all we celebrate at an iftar, and what we then try to practice after Ramadan," he told the group. The open dinner idea, which began in London, has spread to other venues, with similar events taking place in three other British cities as well as Toronto and Portland in north America, Istanbul in Turkey and Zambia's second city of Ndola. — Reuters



Volunteers and Londoners from all walks of life come together in a tent in a park in London to share a Ramadan iftar meal. — Reuters photos



Smashing Pumpkins classic lineup reunites

Alternative rock icons The Smashing Pumpkins on Friday released the first song with most of their classic lineup in nearly two decades-heavy guitar-driven tune "Solara." The new track comes as the Chicago band opens a tour on July 12 that for the first time since 2000 will bring together Pumpkins songwriter and frontman Billy Corgan with fellow guitarist James Iha and drummer Jimmy Chamberlin.

"Solara" opens with a metal-like power chord before building heavier as Corgan sings, "Bring down the sun." The song, recorded with veteran metal and hip-hop producer Rick Rubin, has only a touch of keyboard, which figured prominently in much of the Pumpkins' music from the mid-1990s onward. Smashing Pumpkins was one of the most successful bands in the boom of alternative rock in the 1990s but, while much of the genre became identified with hipster culture, Corgan has spoken out about his love of heavy metal.

In a recent joint appearance with Metallica's Lars Ulrich on Apple Music's Beats 1 radio, Corgan blamed classism for prevailing attitudes toward metal. "It gets into weird class politics. Most of the people who criticize people like us for being who we are, what we are, or what we represent had better backgrounds than we had," said Corgan, who has spoken of his working-class roots and, unusually for a prominent artist, has appeared to support President Donald Trump.

Corgan for years scoffed at playing Pumpkins hits for the crowds but on the upcoming tour is going unabashedly for the nostalgia market, saying the concerts will feature music only from the band's first five albums. The Pumpkins' classic lineup last released an album together in 2000. But the reunion will still lack one member-bassist D'arcy Wretzky, who has long had a tense relationship with Corgan. Wretzky, who has struggled with drugs, has blasted Corgan for the reunion and alleged that he needed money after the flop of a side project of starting a professional wrestling league. — AFP

Lifestyle | Features



This photo taken on May 17, 2018 shows new mothers doing yoga exercises under the instruction of an instructor at the Lake Malaren International Postpartum Care Centre in Shanghai. — AFP photos



A Chinese staff member taking care of newborn babies at the Lake Malaren International Postpartum Care Centre.

Yoga and cheesecake for mums in plush Chinese 'sitting centers'

Yoga class starts shortly, the pristine massage centre is open for business and cheesecake is served on a platter of pastries and fruit. And then the muffled cry of a baby emerges down the hallway. The setting may resemble a five-star hotel, but this is a "sitting centre" on Shanghai's outskirts where mothers pay up to 70,000 yuan (\$11,000) a month to stay with their newborns.

Chinese culture dictates that mothers confine themselves after giving birth, also known as a "sitting month". Such confinement was once widely practiced in many areas of the world and continues to be popular in other parts of Asia. But as incomes rise in China, the sitting month no longer means being cooped up at home without bathing or visitors. "We prefer to find a professional facility to take care of our baby. We have no experience in taking care of the baby or ourselves after birth," said Yu Xueting, 34, a first-time mother, her weeks-old son "Kangkang" lying contentedly beside her.

Both appear well looked-after at the private Lake Malaren International Postpartum Care Center in a modern building embellished with turrets and intended to mimic old northern European architecture. Mother and son are accompanied at all times by a nanny who sleeps in the same room. Numerous specialists, nurses and cooks are on hand. A photography studio captures those precious early days of life, while a "Mother's Classroom" runs lectures for new mums to learn how to care for their baby—and themselves.

Dads can stay too, but usually just visit. Yu, who works for IT firm Hewlett-Packard, said the lengthy stay "liberates our family". "If we do it at home (take care of the baby), then the whole family can't sleep well. I can take maternity leave, but my husband needs to go to work."

Long tradition

"Sitting month", or "Zuoyuezi", stretches back to about 200 BC and the Han Dynasty, said Elizabeth Hui-Choi, a lecturer at Hong Kong University's School of Nursing. Empresses would be well looked-after following childbirth, including a special diet and lifestyle to restore their "broken" body and prevent future illness, said Hui-Choi. "They believed that treating the mother well would also bring good things to the baby, and it is still believed to be that way."

Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) "also plays a very important part" in how most Chinese women still think after childbirth, dictating they should eat more of certain foods, such as ginger, and cut out others such as fruit, she said. Some stop showering, washing their hair, or even brushing their teeth for the month, and won't venture outside—TCM says these can upset the body's balance.

Yu did not wash her hair for a week, but doctors told her that was unnecessary and the centre recommends a more



A view of the Lake Malaren International Postpartum Care Centre.

scientific approach that blends TCM and Western medicine. Hui-Choi, a registered midwife trained in Western medicine, said some of the old rituals are unhygienic and that studies suggest strict observance of tradition can make women feel isolated, risking post-partum depression.

Rapid growth

According to the Legal Daily, a state newspaper, the number of sitting centers in China has "exploded" from dozens in 2000 to more than 4,000 in 2017. One reason is that Chinese today are now giving birth later in life—meaning grandparents are older and may not be able to help as much. And Chinese are increasingly able to afford places like the Shanghai centre, where staff fuss over every baby snuffle.



A Chinese staff preparing a meal for a mother.

Demand has also ramped up since China began phasing out its one-child policy in 2015. Families can be too stretched with their first child to cope with a second, especially if there is no extended family to help out. Sitting centers or self-proclaimed experts in "Zuoyuezi" are found almost anywhere that ethnic Chinese are found, including in North America, making it a big business with global reach. However in Britain, doctors recently warned about the dangers of Chinese mothers locking themselves away after childbirth, fearing post-natal depression may go unnoticed or mums may avoid seeing a doctor for physical problems.

Six meals a day

Xu Jingfang, baby son Kirk gurgling away beside her, said her British husband was initially skeptical. "At first he thought it was a weird idea. He said, 'You're having a baby, not heart surgery,'" said the 30-year-old Xu, one of about 80 other mums at the Shanghai establishment. Xu scouted similar centers including one in a high-end hotel, saying "all our friends and relatives" now opt for such care.

"It's much easier. Here, you've got 24-hour care for the baby and someone to cook for you six meals a day," added Xu, a phalanx of carers on hand to whisk away Kirk at the first hint of a whimper. Xu said that while her parents and grandparents did not wash for weeks after birth, they accept that times have changed. So will it be a shock to finally go home? "I've hired a nanny at home. I guess life will be more interesting than here—sometimes I do get a bit bored—but also tougher." — AFP

Scottish titles industry prompts global rush

Fancy joining the ranks of Scottish nobility? An industry has grown up in Scotland allowing ordinary people to do just that—some with more legal justification than others. One company, Highland Titles, has ennobled—at least on paper—around a quarter of a million people in countries as far afield as Australia, Canada and Russia.

For just £29.99 (34 euros, \$40) anyone can buy a certificate which proclaims them the "lord" of a square foot of land in the majestic hills of the Scottish Highlands. Peter Bevis, managing director of the Channel Islands-based firm, said the revenues were being used to maintain nature reserves. He also insisted his customers were under no illusions that they had really become aristocrats overnight.

"Everybody here enjoys the fact that they are 'little lairds' of a square foot," he said. "They're not trying to pretend that they have become great landowners or the rivals of the great clan chiefs of Scotland." However, some critics have raised doubts about the transactions and say the actual land still belongs to Highland Titles. Scottish lawmaker Andy Wightman, a land reform expert, told AFP: "You cannot in law, in Scotland, own a square foot of land."

'We do it for the fun'

Some of the 100 "lords and ladies" with Highland Titles who convened in the western village of Glencoe this month said it was well worth the money. "We do it for the fun. It's a pleasure to be part of the community with nice people who try to make a better world," Steven Scholte, 73, from the Netherlands, told AFP.

Victoria Zohner, 31, from Alberta in Canada, said: "This definitely is not a waste of money. Coming out just to do the tour has been incredible, you get to see the work that's actually going on here." Local business owners said they were also more than happy with the influx of tourists inspecting "their" land. "They are bringing a significant amount of business to the area. People come to visit, they come to see the bits of land that they have bought," said David Cooper, owner of Crafts & Things in Glencoe. "If they want to call themselves a lord or a lady—that's up to them."

Elizabeth Roads, keeper of the records of the Court of the Lord Lyon, the main heraldic authority in Scotland, told AFP that some souvenir plot-holders have come away with the impression that they have been genuinely ennobled. "We have had people that have assumed from what they have been told that they are in some way entitled to call themselves 'lord' and seek a coat of arms — that is not the case," she said.

"You cannot buy a lordship... There is no legal status to a souvenir title," she said. "Or you can buy what was once upon a time known as a feudal barony, which is now a floating entity divorced from the land."

Baronies for sale

Baronies were originally bestowed by Scottish kings and came with vast tracts of land—but in 2004 the Scottish Parliament uncoupled the baronies in its drive to reform land ownership in a country where half the land is owned by fewer than 500 people. Brian Hamilton, a partner at Scottish Barony Titles, currently has two baronies for sale near Aberdeen and Dundee for £85,000 apiece—but some baronies change hands much more. "The barony of McDonald was sold in the late 1990s and that reached a very high price," he told AFP.—AFP

Damas strengthens presence in Kuwait with new store in Al Kout Mall

Damas Jewelry, the leading jewelry brand in the GCC, has opened doors to a new Damas Jewelry Collections store in Kuwait. The new outlet, located at Al Kout Mall, features exclusive in-house brands including Farfasha, Avani, Legacy, Al Manthourah, Damas Classics, Vera, Rangoli and many more and the international brand Leo Pizzo. The boutique offers an exquisite shopping experience that is perfected by an enhanced customer service, which aims at crafting long-term relationships with Damas customers in Kuwait. It offers a large collection of 18k, 21k & 22k gold jewelry, diamond and pearl jewelry, as well as watches.

Anan Fakhreddin, Chief Executive

Officer, said: "We are delighted to expand our Kuwaiti portfolio with this latest addition of Damas Collections that is tailored to the tastes of our clientele and reflects all of the elements that make Damas truly special. Kuwait is one of our strongest markets and we want to continue offering our loyal customers the shopping experience that they have come to associate with our brand." Building upon its rich legacy of more than a hundred years, Damas Jewelry commands an outstanding industry reputation for exemplary quality, unique designs and unmatched craftsmanship.

Tissot, the number one Swiss Traditional watch brand, will be lending its expertise to the 18th Asian Games Jakarta Palembang 2018 as Official Timekeeper. For the first time in Asian Games history, two cities will co-host the event. It will take place in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta and the capital of Indonesian province of South Sumatra, Palembang, from August 18 to September 2, 2018.

Tissot and the Asian Games share values such as tradition, precision and passion. Like the watch brand, The Asian Games, held every four years, have a rich history dating back to 1951, representing the oldest and most prestigious event in the calendar of the Olympic Council of Asia. Gathering the highest number of participants worldwide, it is the largest multi-sport Games. Athletes from 45 NOCs will have the opportunity to show what they are made of in the 6767 various disciplines. In addition to all the traditional sports such as swimming, athletics, basketball and cycling, the Asian Games also feature sports such as sepak takraw, pencak silat, wushu and kabaddi that are traditional to Asian culture. A novelty this year, will be the eSports that are making their big debut.

Tissot acquired the expertise to provide the many disciplines with the utmost precision thanks to a deep-rooted passion. The passion translated into a comprehensive schedule of high-profile timekeeping partnerships over the years. They include basketball with the NBA and FIBA; cycling with the Tour de France and the UCI World Cycling Championships; motorsports with Moto GP and the FIM World Superbike Championship and rugby with the European Rugby Champions and Challenge Cups and the TOP14.

Tissot, official Timekeeper of the 18th Asian Games Jakarta 2018

Tissot is also the Official Timekeeper of the World Championships of fencing and ice hockey. Furthermore, this marks the 20th anniversary since Tissot first timed the Asian Games in Bangkok, in 1998. For Tissot, it is a perfect platform for demonstrating its dedication to precision in action, which is why it will be continuing to do so, the agreement having also been signed for the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou in 2022. Active involvement in all of these sports brings the brand closer to fans all over the world, whether they are watching live, on television or taking part in the action by wearing one of the associated special edition watches, which Tissot will produce in honor of this impressive event.

Tissot President, Francois Thiebaud stated "The Asian Games reflect the Tissot spirit per-

fectly by their diversity and dynamism and allow us to set ourselves apart with impeccable time-keeping and the most accurate measurement, which further confirms the quality of our watches. Even though we have provided our services to the Asian Games before, we strive to bring even more precision and innovation on every occasion, as we do for our watches. "Innovators by tradition" is our motto and we stand by it." The Asian Games will definitely be an event to be proud of. Whether it is for those taking part in the organization, the athletes themselves or the billions of fans and supporters across Asia, this partnership promises to put on a show which is not to be missed.



Lifestyle | Features



In this file photo taken on February 25, 2013 Chef Anthony Bourdain (L) addresses attendees while Saverre magazine editor-in-chief James Oseland (C), and Chef/Spice Market Owner Jean-Georges Vongerichten look on during The Inaugural World Street Food Congress 2013 at Spice Market in New York City.



In this file photo taken on April 13, 2018 Chef Anthony Bourdain and Italian actress Asia Argento attend the 2018 Women In The World Summit at Lincoln Center in New York City. — AFP photos

Celebrity chef, author, food show host **Anthony Bourdain** dead at 61

Anthony Bourdain, the affable American celebrity chef and author who shared his voracious curiosity for the world's food and cultures with millions through his popular television shows, has died at the age of 61. Bourdain committed suicide while in France filming an episode of his Emmy-winning CNN food and travel program "Parts Unknown", the network said Friday. French authorities said Bourdain died by hanging at a luxury hotel, the Chambard, in the village of Kayersberg in the Haut-Rhin region of Alsace.

“His talents never ceased to amaze us”

“At this stage, we have no reason to suspect foul play,” prosecutor Christian de Rocquigny du Fayel said. CNN said Bourdain's body was found in his hotel room by his close friend Eric Ripert, the French executive chef of New York restaurant Le Bernardin. Bourdain's sudden death drew tributes from around the world—from the current as well as former US presidents to celebrated chefs to ordinary people who vicariously joined him on his globe-trotting travels.

“Anthony was my best friend,” Ripert said on Twitter. “An exceptional human being, so inspiring & generous.” “His love of great adventure, new friends, fine food and drink and the remarkable stories of the world made him a unique storyteller,” CNN said in a statement. “His talents never ceased to amaze us and we will miss him very much.” President Donald Trump said Bourdain was “quite a character” and described his death as “very sad”.

“I'm devastated, I couldn't believe it, he was one of the best at it for all the shows. Every Sunday I enjoyed watching him,” said Norbert Wirsching, a patron at Le Bernardin restaurant. A gifted storyteller, Bourdain promoted haute cuisine and street food alike in his travels, encouraging viewers to “eat and drink with people without fear and prejudice.” “We ask very simple questions: What makes you happy? What do you eat? What do you like to

cook?” Bourdain said in a 2014 Peabody Award acceptance speech. “And everywhere in the world, we go and ask these simple questions. We tend to get really astonishing answers.”

‘To make us a little less afraid’

Bourdain delighted in introducing people to new cuisines. In one episode of “Parts Unknown”, he showed president Barack Obama how to slurp Vietnamese noodles at a restaurant in Hanoi. “He taught us about food—but more importantly, about its ability to bring us together,” Obama said in a tweet. “To make us a little less afraid of the unknown. We'll miss him.”

After a start washing dishes in a restaurant, the New York-born Bourdain gradually rose through the ranks to become a chef. His 2000 best-seller “Kitchen Confidential” introduced readers to the workers toiling anonymously behind the scenes in American restaurants, many of whom are Spanish-speaking immigrants. The book kicked off his celebrity career and led to his becoming a television host, starting with “A Cook's Tour” on the Food Network.

He went on to host a show called “No Reservations” on the Travel Channel before moving to CNN. On the network, anchors struggled to hold back tears as they remi-



In this file photo taken on September 12, 2015 Chef Anthony Bourdain, winner of the award for outstanding informational series or special for “Anthony Bourdain Parts Unknown,” poses in the press room during the 2015 Creative Arts Emmy Awards at Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

nised about their late colleague and urged people faced with despair or who know people struggling with depression to call a suicide hotline. CNN anchor John Berman remembered Bourdain as a “human contradiction”.

“He loved food. He wrote about food. He lived food. He thought we obsessed about food too much,” Berman said. “He once said to me, ‘I wish people would stop taking pictures of food and have more sex.’ You know, because what he really wanted to do was to show people life.”

‘Beyond devastated’

Bourdain rhapsodised about the joys of food and drink but was candid about his struggles with own demons, including alcohol and drug abuse and depression. He leaves behind a young daughter Ariane, from his relationship with his ex-wife Ottavia Busia. He had been dating Italian actress Asia Argento since 2017 and became an outspoken advocate for the #MeToo movement after she revealed she had been sexually assaulted by the movie producer Harvey Weinstein.

“I came out of a brutal, oppressive business that was historically unfriendly to women,” Bourdain said in an interview in January with “The Daily Show”. “I knew a lot of women, it turned out, who had stories about their experience, about people I knew,” he said. Argento said she was “beyond devastated” by his death and asked for privacy both for herself and his family.

“His brilliant, fearless spirit touched and inspired so many, and his generosity knew no bounds,” Argento said on Twitter. “He was my love, my rock, my protector.” Bourdain's death comes just days after the suicide of another American celebrity, 55-year-old handbag designer Kate Spade. “Success does not protect you from depression. It doesn't protect you from suicide,” Jodi Gold, director of the Gold Center for Mind Health and Wellness, said on CNN.

According to statistics released on Thursday by the US Centers for Disease Control, the suicide rate across the United States has risen 30 percent since 1999, and nearly 45,000 people took their lives in 2016. Suicide presents a “growing public health problem”, with significant increases in 44 of the 50 states, said the CDC report. — AFP

HBO gives go-ahead to 'Game of Thrones' prequel

HBO said on Friday it is moving ahead with a prequel for its hit television series “Game of Thrones,” the first green light for five potential spinoff projects for the award-winning medieval fantasy. HBO said it had given a pilot order to a prequel that will take place thousands of years before the events of “Game of Thrones,” the biggest international hit for the Time Warner channel. If all goes well with the pilot, the network will order a full TV series.

The as yet untitled prequel was created by British screenwriter Jane Goldman with author George R.R. Martin, whose novel series “A Song of Ice and Fire” is the basis for the “Game of Thrones” television series, HBO said in a statement. It will chronicle “the world's descent from the golden Age of Heroes into its darkest hour,” and look at the secrets of the history of the warring families in the fictional kingdom of Westeros.

News of the prequel comes ahead of the eighth and final season of “Game of Thrones,” which is due to be broadcast in 2019. The series, which has won multiple Emmy awards, is HBO's biggest hit ever with some 30 million viewers in the United States and an army of devoted fans worldwide. HBO gave no timescale for when the prequel series might air but executives have said any spinoffs would not be broadcast until at least a year after the final season of “Game of Thrones” in 2019.

Martin said a year ago that he is working with at least four other writers on ideas for other spinoffs but details have remained under wraps. But HBO and Martin have said some of them may not even be set on Westeros, and that fans should not expect them to feature the same characters as “Game of Thrones.” “This story, A Song of Fire and Ice, is done. There's no revival, reboot, spinoff talk,” HBO programming president Casey Bloys told the Hollywood Reporter earlier this year. — Reuters



Disney exec quits amid scandal over 'unwanted hugs'

Disney animation chief John Lasseter said Friday he is quitting, six months after acknowledging in an internal memo that he had made staff feel “disrespected or uncomfortable” with unwanted hugs. The 61-year-old executive, best known for transforming Pixar from a small graphics department at Lucasfilm into the world's most successful animation studio, was the pioneering director of “Toy Story” and “Toy Story 2”.

Lasseter apologized last November to “anyone who has ever been on the receiving end of an unwanted hug or any other gesture they felt crossed the line” and promptly went on sabbatical. “The last six months have provided an opportunity to reflect on my life, career and personal priorities,” the executive said in a statement released by Disney. “While I remain dedicated to the art of animation and inspired by the creative talent at Pixar and Disney, I have decided the end of this year is the right time to begin focusing on new creative challenges.”

The Oscar-winning filmmaker and senior executive conceded when the scandal broke that he had been “falling short” in ensuring a culture of “trust and respect” at his animation studios. The admission followed a flood of complaints of sexual abuse and harassment by numerous powerful entertainment industry figures, most notably Harvey Weinstein, who posted bail of \$1 million last month after being charged in New York with multiple sex crimes.

‘The Lasseter’ move

Lasseter's issues were unearthed in an investigation by entertainment trade paper The Hollywood Reporter, which described a “pattern of alleged misconduct detailed by Disney/Pixar insiders”. The weekly's report—never confirmed by Disney or Lasseter—quoted a longtime Pixar employee claiming Lasseter was known for “grabbing, kissing, making comments about physical attributes”.

Multiple sources were quoted alleging that Lasseter was a heavy drinker at company social events and that some women at Pixar knew to turn their heads quickly when encountering him to avoid his kisses. Another move known as “the Lasseter” was deployed to prevent their boss from placing his hands on their thighs, the report said. One source told the paper of “awkward encounters” with Lasseter, who liked to hug in meetings.

“You'd hug him and he'd whisper in your ear, a long time,” the source said. “He hugged and hugged and everyone's looking at you. Just invading the space.” Disney said in a statement that was effusive in its praise for Lasseter that the veteran filmmaker would assume a consulting role

before leaving in the New Year. “John had a remarkable tenure at Pixar and Disney Animation, reinventing the animation business, taking breathtaking risks, and telling original, high quality stories that will last forever,” Disney chief Bob Iger said. “We are profoundly grateful for his contributions, which included a masterful and remarkable turnaround of The Walt Disney Animation Studios.”

One indication that Lasseter could be on his way out, noticed mostly by Hollywood insiders, was his absence for Tuesday's premiere of “Incredibles 2”. The Disney-Pixar film, which comes out on June 15 — a full 14 years after “The Incredibles”—is expected to become the highest debut ever for an animated film at the North American box office. The Hollywood Reporter asked “Incredibles 2” director Brad Bird about Lasseter and whether he should return. “We only know what you know,” Bird told trade publication. “John was very involved with this film, and The Incredibles never would have been made at Disney if John hadn't defended us when we were in our early days.” — AFP



In this file photo taken on November 01, 2011 Director John Lasseter poses for a photo in front of characters from his movie “Cars” at his Hollywood Walk of Fame star presentation ceremony, in Hollywood, California. — AFP

New film explores war's dark shadow over Croatian youth

“Mum, am I a Srbenka?” Nina Batinic recalls asking as a seven-year-old in a new film that highlights Croatia's still fragile inter-ethnic relations more than two decades on from the country's bloody war. Not only did the young Croatian girl not know the correct word for a female ethnic Serb—it should be Srkinja—but she had no inkling that she was one — a revelation that shocked and filled her with fear.

The true scenario provided the inspiration for “Srbenka”, an award-winning documentary by Croatian director Nebojsa Slijepcevic about a generation born years after Croatia's 1990s conflict but still deeply affected by its legacy. Nina is a “victim of something a child should not be aware of at all-ethnicity,” Slijepcevic said in an interview with AFP.

“For me, it was horrible that a child in Croatia, many years after the war... cries over not being an ethnic Croat,” the Zagreb-born director said. Ethnic Serbs are still Croatia's largest minority, accounting for four percent of its 4.2 million people, and protecting their rights, as well as those of other ethnic groups, was one of the key conditions for Croatia's European Union membership in 2013. Nevertheless, there are signs of intolerance. A petition, launched by a right-wing group in May to curb the rights of ethnic Serbs and other ethnic minorities has gathered more than 390,000 signatures, or 10 percent of the electorate.



Croatian movie director Nebojsa Slijepcevic poses during a photo session on May 23, 2018, in front of the Croatian National Theatre in Zagreb. — AFP

12-year-old's execution

The documentary originated from a theatre play set against the backdrop of the 1991-1995 war, sparked by Croatia's proclamation of independence from Yugoslavia which rebel Serbs opposed. Slijepcevic shot the movie during rehearsals for the play, which focused on the true story of a 12-year-old ethnic Serb girl, executed in cold blood at the start of the war in Zagreb. In December 1991, members of the Croatian reserve police shot dead the father of Aleksandra Zec in front of their house and abducted and executed her and her mother hours later on a mountain above the capital.

Aleksandra, hands tied behind her back, was shot six times in the head. No one was convicted of the killings, one of the most gruesome crimes committed by Croatian forces during the conflict. While attending the rehearsals in the northern port of Rijeka, Slijepcevic realised that one 12-year-old actor seemed troubled, biting her lips, and he instinctively turned his camera on the girl, whose name was Nina. “A few days later I learned her story,” he said.

‘Croat, not a Serb’

“Of the four girl actors, she was the only ethnic Serb and remembered the exact day when she discovered she is not a Croat,” he said. Aged seven, she heard it accidentally from her parents and the news was devastating—crying for days, she feared the reaction of her schoolmates.

“I wasn't glad at all... I've tried to find ways to show to others I'm a Croat not a Serb,” Nina says in the movie. “Srbenka” won the prestigious Doc Alliance Selection Award, presented during last month's Cannes film festival, but awarded by several documentary festivals. The play, directed by Oliver Frljic premiered in 2014 in Rijeka and sparked protests for depicting Serb, and not Croat victims. For many Croatsians, war crimes committed by their own forces are still a difficult issue to deal with.

‘Fear of being different’

In the Balkan country, fear of being different is not limited to ethnic minorities, Slijepcevic said. “In Croatia it is difficult to be a minority in general—a gay, an asylum-seeker, any minority.” Incidents are not the main reason as “there are fools everywhere”, the director said, adding that it was, rather, the way political leaders deal with them that caused the difficulty.

In recent years, Croatia has seen a growing climate of intolerance, marked notably by hate speech against ethnic minorities. “For the fourth consecutive year, hate speech, calls to violence and its different forms, intolerance speech and historic revisionism are taking root and are still tolerated in public space and institutional communication,” Croatian Serb leader Milorad Pupovac told reporters last month, presenting an annual report on ethnically motivated violence and discrimination against Serbs.

Hardline conservatism in the staunchly Catholic country is also on the rise. A binding treaty safeguarding women's rights in Croatia recently provoked protests by Church-backed conservatives who argue it promotes what they call a “gender ideology” undermining the traditional family. And rights groups, anti-fascists as well as Croatian Serbs and Jews have accused authorities of tolerating pro-Nazi ideology and trivializing the role of Croatia's World War II Nazi-allied regime—AFP



Polish musician and instrument-maker Mateusz Raszewski works on a kalisz bass at his workshop on May 10, 2018 in the village of Kamiensko, just north of the western Polish city of Poznan. — AFP photos

POLISH FOLK INSTRUMENT REVIVAL BRINGS LOST MUSIC TO LIFE

Dancing couples spin, whirl and pirouette on their heels transported by the lively tempo of traditional Polish folk dances brought to life on rustic instruments, some plucked straight out of the Middle Ages. The spirited rhythms of dances like mazurkas, obereks or owjoks played at a popular annual folk music festival in the Polish capital, Warsaw, emerge from the belly of the Kalisz bass.

The distant cousin of Renaissance and Baroque-era bass viols, it was made by peasants living near the eponymous small central town until the early 20th century and then all but forgotten. Musician and instrument-maker Mateusz Raszewski is reviving the art of designing, building, stringing and playing this unique bass, traditionally carved by hand out of a single block of softwood like poplar or willow.

Its design was "only officially documented in the 1950s and it exists only in a small region near the river Proсна," the bearded 38-year-old, dressed in a thick flannel shirt and leather apron, told AFP, in his workshop in the village of Kamiensko, just north of the western Polish city of Poznan. It is reminiscent of a cello, but with a shorter, thick neck and just two, or sometimes three, strings. One foot of its bridge pierces its front panel to act as a sound post sending vibrations to the back panel of the sound box. "This is a very old design that one finds in the Welsh crwth," Raszewski says, referring to an archaic type of bowed lyre, a string instrument, popular in medieval Europe. "God only knows how these Kalisz peasants managed to find this design," he added.

'Like in the forest'

Each instrument was unique, depending on the technical know-how, materials and tools available to the peasants. "Some used a candle to cast a shadow of a bass on the wall so they could copy its design," Raszewski said, recounting an old trick of the folk instrument trade. Raszewski uses axes, saws and chisels similar to those that would have been used centuries ago. He also uses metal nails to build the basses, saying that this would be



"unthinkable to modern luthiers" who use pegs and glue.

"Its sound is raw, hoarse, dull. It provides the bass line and rhythm on which the violinist plays his melody," says Raszewski, of the Kalisz bass. "It's just like in the forest: we hear the hornets' drone and the song of a blackbird perched high on a tree," he adds. Raszewski learnt by coincidence a decade ago that his grandfather had been a luthier in Poznan, but the Nazis forced him out of business during World War II after they found out he worked with Jews.

The discovery encouraged Raszewski, who already made guitars, typical folk fiddles and various types of folk drums, to add another string to his bow. He decided to develop his skills by researching old folk instruments in museums,

archives, attics and by meeting elderly musicians. "I met an old musician playing the Kalisz bass after first finding him on a photo from the 1950s—nobody was interested in what he had been doing for over 50 years," Raszewski said.

'Last chance'

According to Katarzyna Zedel, an expert at the Szydłowiec Museum of Traditional Instruments in central Poland, the Kalisz bass was forgotten when accordions arrived on the scene in the late 19th century. "This old world no longer exists," she said. War and politics have also taken their toll, destroying cultural artifacts, communities, customs and local know-how. The advent of electricity, the radio, rock and roll also undermined folk culture, while Poland's Communist party distorted it for propaganda purposes before the regime fell in 1989.



commentator on Polish popular culture. Authentic folk culture was regarded as "representing a backward society that was no longer wanted: poor, without electricity, without toilets, shameful!" he says.

A revival began around 30 years ago when followers of celebrated Polish theatre director Jerzy Grotowski — who developed an eclectic theatrical style that included a wide range of vocal expression including folk songs—discovered elderly musicians near Warsaw who were still playing authentic folk music. According to Piszczatowski, "it was a last chance" to preserve an art form with deep cultural, historic and artistic value. "Some experts believe that mazurkas were dances created by peasant serfs—wild, simple, primitive and energetic tunes," he said. The revival has gained steam in recent years, with rural folk dance halls springing up and the annual "All Mazurkas of the World" folk music festival in Warsaw drawing ever greater numbers of both young and old. — AFP

“It's just like in the forest: we hear the hornets”

"Peasants were dressed up in costumes that they had never worn at home and were told what to sing and how to dance. "Some of the costumes were beautiful but nobody identified with them," says Piotr Piszczatowski, a musician and leading



On Prince's 60th birthday, a wild take on a spiritual

On the day that Prince would have turned 60, his label on Thursday announced a posthumous album that features a frenzied improvisational take on a popular spiritual. The pop legend died in April 2016 from an accidental overdose of powerful painkillers, leaving behind a vast trove of songs that Prince had stored without any clear release plans.

Warner Bros Records, Prince's label and sometime nemesis with which he reconciled before his death, said it would release an album on September 21 of nine songs he recorded in 1983 at his home studio in Minnesota. The album showcases Prince, better known for his theatrical guitar skills, singing as he plays a piano without accompaniment—a format he revived for his final tour before his death.

The songs on the album, entitled simply "Piano and a Microphone 1983," range from a version of Prince's signature hit "Purple Rain" to the never-released "Cold Coffee and Cocaine." A first song was released on Thursday—Prince's unique take on "Mary Don't You Weep," one of the most celebrated African American spirituals which has been recorded by artists from Aretha Franklin to Bruce Springsteen.—AFP

Another week, another Kanye - this time, darker

The omnipresent Kanye West returned Friday with his second album in as many weeks, this time a darker take on life's anxieties with his protege Kid Cudi. After a year of silence in which he sought treatment for mental health, West roared back in April with typical headline-grabbing antics as he became a rare African American celebrity to support President Donald Trump. West on June 1 returned with his eighth studio album, "Ye," in which he turned introspective about his insecurities but, with a hasty seven tracks, showed himself to be less ambitious than when he put out sprawling opuses a decade ago.

The rap superstar made good on the schedule promised over his Twitter feed as he released another seven-track album on Friday, a collaboration with Kid Cudi called "Kids See Ghosts." While "Ye" harked back to the soul samples and danceable beats of early West, "Kids See Ghosts" is much more a work of Kid Cudi, whose trippy electronic clouds accentuate the dark reflections in his rhymes. "Freeee (Ghost Town

Part 2)" opens with an inspirational quote from the early 20th-century pan-Africanist Marcus Garvey before the rap duo respectively say that they have found peace.

"I don't feel pain anymore! Guess what, babe? I'm free!" they each rap separately, West presumably about the furor over his controversial comments and Kid Cudi likely on his struggles with depression. The album closes on a track that is based on Kurt Cobain's "Burn the Rain," a downcast acoustic guitar riff released as part of the "Montage of Heck" documentary on the late Nirvana frontman. "Lord shine a light on me / Save me, please / Stay strong!" they rap together. Proving himself ever topical, West inserts a line in the song saluting Alice Marie Johnson, who spent nearly 22 years in prison for a non-violent drug offense until Trump commuted her sentence Wednesday following an appeal by West's wife, reality television star Kim Kardashian. — AFP



Lost John Coltrane album set for release

Missing for more than 50 years, recordings by jazz legend John Coltrane leading the quartet behind his masterpiece "A Love Supreme" are coming out as a posthumous album. Impulse! Records announced Friday that it will release "Both Directions at Once: The Lost Album," recorded in 1963 and never heard before publicly, on June 29. The new album is "like finding a new room in the Great Pyramid," 87-year-old Sonny Rollins, Coltrane's friend and the last in his generation of iconic jazz saxophonists, said in a statement.



Coltrane recorded the seven tracks with his classic quartet—Jimmy Garrison on bass, Elvin Jones on drums and McCoy Tyner on piano—at the New Jersey studio of jazz enthusiast Rudy Van Gelder, an initially makeshift space in a living room that became a go-to spot for artists. The quartet would return to the Van Gelder studio in late 1964 to record "A Love Supreme." Coltrane's exploration of his spiritual quest toward happiness that is often described as the greatest jazz album of all time.

The lost tapes were discovered by the family of Coltrane's first wife, Juanita Naima Coltrane, who had preserved them at the family home in Queens. Two songs on the upcoming album have never been heard in any form and feature Coltrane performing on soprano saxophone, not the tenor for which he was better known. The recordings also include an alternative version of "Impressions," one of Coltrane's better-known compositions without the usual piano.

Coltrane, who died in 1967 from cancer, was at the forefront of the free jazz movement, which broke away from the conventional confines of the music to encourage flowing experimentation. Coltrane took jazz in a further fresh direction by turning toward India, incorporating the raga form and the Hindu spiritual tradition into his music and lifestyle. The jazz legend found an artistic home in Impulse! Records, joining the fledgling label with his big band-style 1961 album "Africa/Brass" before his recordings with the quartet that also included "Coltrane" and "Crescent." — AFP

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Sunday, June 10, 2018

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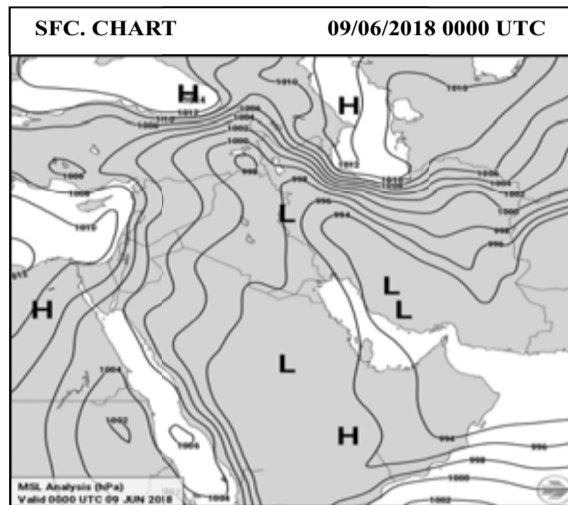
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

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

BY NIGHT: Relatively hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 35 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING No Current Warnings

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	46 °C	35 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	48 °C	36 °C
ABDALY	49 °C	32 °C
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C
JAHRA	48 °C	36 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	44 °C	32 °C
SALMIYAH	42 °C	34 °C
AHMADI	41 °C	38 °C
NUWAISIB	46 °C	33 °C
WAFRA	47 °C	33 °C
SALMY	48 °C	32 °C



DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Sunday	06/10	Hot and rising dust	46 °C	35 °C	NW	20 - 45 km/h
Monday	06/11	Hot and rising dust	44 °C	34 °C	NW	20 - 45 km/h
Tuesday	06/12	Hot	45 °C	32 °C	NW	15 - 35 km/h
Wednesday	06/13	Hot	44 °C	33 °C	NE-VRB	08 - 30 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:13
Sunrise	04:48
Zuhr	11:47
Asr	15:21
Sunset	18:46
Isha	20:18

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	48 °C
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MAX. RH	24 %
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Sunday 10/6/2018				Departure Flights on Sunday 10/6/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	WAN	341	Sohag	00:05
KAC	102	London	00:50	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	MSC	502	Alexandria	00:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	KAC	417	Manila	00:25
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	MSC	406	Sohag	00:30
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	MSR	2615	Sohag	00:30
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	516	Dubai	00:30
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	KAC	677	Dubai	01:30
JZR	267	Beirut	02:10	THY	773	Istanbul	01:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	363	Colombo	01:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50
AEE	956	ATH	02:25	JZR	502	Luxor	01:55
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	WAN	351	Luxor	02:00
THY	768	Istanbul	02:40	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:15
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:10
RJA	648	Amman	03:05	AEE	957	ATH	03:15
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	JZR	142	Doha	03:20
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	THY	769	Istanbul	03:35
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15
JZR	551	Alexandria	04:05	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:25
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	JAI	571	Mumbai	05:00
JZR	1541	Cairo	04:35	QTR	1077	Doha	05:15
THY	1414	TZK	05:05	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:35
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	103	London	05:45
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30
QTR	8511	Doha	05:30	JZR	530	Asyut	06:45
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	KAC	153	Istanbul	07:00
BAW	157	London	06:10	RJA	649	Amman	07:00
WAN	342	Sohag	06:20	QTR	8512	Beirut	07:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	WAN	311	Asyut	07:20
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:25	KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:50
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	JZR	238	Amman	08:00
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	JZR	778	Jeddah	08:00
JZR	143	Doha	07:00	BAW	156	London	08:20
KAC	358	Kochi	07:40	KAC	165	Rome	08:25
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	KAC	177	Vienna	08:30
WAN	352	Luxor	08:00	KAC	613	Bahrain	09:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:00	KAC	791	Madinah	09:00
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	KAC	117	SNN/New York	09:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:05
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	WAN	415	Beirut	09:10
IRC	528	Ahwaz	09:00	KAC	561	Amman	09:40
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	KAC	741	Dammam	09:45
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	JZR	534	Cairo	09:45
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	773	Riyadh	09:45
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
SAW	703	Damascus	10:30	KAC	203	Lahore	22:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	101	London	22:05
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	ALK	230	Ahwaz	10:00
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	617	Doha	10:10
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:20	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
THY	766	Istanbul	12:45	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
JZR	239	Amman	13:00	KAC	411	Bangkok	23:15
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	WAN	337	Alexandria	23:40
JZR	531	Asyut	13:10	JZR	560	Sohag	23:45



BERLIN: Protesters take part in a Quds-day Demonstration on the occasion of the so-called 'Al-Quds day' in Berlin yesterday. The 'Quds day' (the day of Jerusalem), a commemoration first initiated by Iran in 1979 to fall on the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan expresses support for displaced Palestinians and against the presence of Jewish settlements in Israeli-occupied territories. — AFP

Firm friends? Macron handshake leaves mark on Trump

LA MALBAIE: They once shook hands for an eye-watering 29 seconds, with neither man willing to show a hint of weakness. Now Emmanuel Macron has left a firm impression on Donald Trump in their latest squeezing contest. Photos that have gone viral show how Macron turned part of Trump's hand pale with a blood-squeezing grip when they met Friday on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Canada.

Another picture appears to show the 71-year-old

Trump wincing slightly as he struggles to get to grips with his 40-year-old counterpart. The relationship between the two alpha males has been something of a rollercoaster ride since they first met last year, epitomized by their infamous handshake marathon in Paris during Bastille Day celebrations last July.

Although Macron was given the honor of the first state visit of the Trump era in April, one of the most enduring images of the trip was when Trump brushed some flecks of dandruff off the Frenchman's jacket in the White House. The two men also traded jibes on Twitter in the build-up to the summit in Canada, which has been soured by Trump's decision to impose tariffs on steel and aluminum exports from the European Union. Despite their differences, the two men seem at least to enjoy a mutual respect. "We have a very really good relationship, very special," Trump told reporters after Friday's handshake. — AFP

ed to elevate to the top level meetings already held by the countries' finance ministers to tackle burning economic issues.

From G7 to G8

During the 1980s, tensions between the East and West during the Cold War gave a more political slant to the meetings. The Williamsburg summit in 1983 adopted, for the first time, a declaration on security in Europe. The text of support for the policies of US president Ronald Reagan towards Moscow was adopted despite the reservations of French president Francois Mitterrand. The collapse of the Soviet Union in late 1991 proved a gamechanger. Russia, which attended the summit as a guest in 1992, was in 1998 allowed for the first time to attend all summit meetings. The grouping was officially renamed the "G8".

Exclusive club criticized

From 1999, during a period of successive financial crises, the G8 was criticized for being an exclusive club. The rich powers therefore also started meeting with emerging countries in the new "G20" grouping, in an attempt to resolve or avoid these crises. In 2001 the G8's summit in Genoa, Italy, was overshadowed by violent demonstrations by anti-globalization protesters which left one person dead. The protesters challenged the usefulness and legitimacy of the G8 and called for the cancellation of the poorest countries' debts. Protests dogged other G8 summits, which from then on were held under tight security. — AFP

G7/G8: Where the big powers meet

PARIS: The G7, which ends a two-day summit in Canada yesterday against a background of tensions, is an informal grouping of major powers created in 1975. Originally established as a vehicle for leading industrialized democracies to discuss the global economy, it has expanded its scope to issues such as peace, the environment and terrorism.

Often the atmosphere between the partners becomes tense in the run-up to the annual summit, held in the country which holds the rotating presidency. However G7 summits traditionally end with a face-saving joint declaration regarding the most important outcomes of the meeting. This year's summit promises to be fractious due to new import tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump on his partners. He has also called for the reintegration of Russia, a member of the group between 1998 and 2014 and which was thrown out after it annexed Ukraine's Crimea peninsula.

Origins in global economy

The meetings date back to Rambouillet in France in 1975, in the wake of the first oil shock, during which oil prices soared. Six countries—Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States—took part in this first "G6", and were joined a year later by Canada making the "G7". The initiative came from French president Valery Giscard d'Estaing who want-

Trump urges end to 'unfair'...

Continued from Page 1

"We want and expect other nations to provide fair market access to American exports and ... we will take whatever steps are necessary to protect industry and workers from unfair practices, of which there are many. "But we're getting them worked out, slowly but surely."

The text of the annual G7 joint communique is usually all but final before the leaders meet for two days of glad-handing and group photo opportunities, but this year officials were negotiating even as Trump headed for his plane. If the G7 fails to agree a final communique-or if it is watered down too far for the sake of appeasing the "America First" economic agenda-Canada's G7 will be remembered mainly for fierce disagreements over Trump's tariffs and his surprise request to return Russia to the fold.

While diplomats wrangled in private, summit host Prime Minister Justin Trudeau gathered the other leaders for a breakfast session on women's equality. Trump arrived 17 minutes after the planned 8:00am start time and after Trudeau's opening remarks. He was seated next to a luminary of the multilateral system, IMF direc-

tor Christine Lagarde.

Even before he flew out of Washington on Friday to hook up with the rest of the group, Trump managed to rile his counterparts by declaring that it was time that Russia be brought back into the G7. The idea was swiftly shot down. With his wife Melania back home in Washington, Trump cut a lonely figure on arrival at the golf resort in rural Quebec as he posed with his host Trudeau and his wife Sophie and other first couples.

He was then confronted with a litany of complaints over his decision to impose tariffs on imports of steel and aluminum when the leaders held roundtable talks chaired by Trudeau. A member of Macron's team characterized the talks as "frank and robust," with Trump first repeating his lengthy diatribe about what he regards as unfair trade restrictions-before the Europeans responded with facts and figures they felt would blunt his argument.

Trudeau told Trump that it was "unacceptable" to cite national security when targeting a military ally like Canada with tariffs. "The Prime Minister pressed the President to reconsider the US tariffs imposed on Canadian steel and aluminum, and encouraged him to work with Canada to address unfair trade," Trudeau's office said. The summit was wrapping up just as Chinese President Xi Jinping begins hosting the leaders of Russia and Iran at a two-day regional security meeting in a symbol of the power-play between East and West. — AFP

Jordan faces tough economic path as protests scupper income tax hikes

AMMAN: Jordan's authorities may have shelved a proposed income tax hike after a week of protests-but they still face the tricky task of balancing popular demands with the need to fix the economy. The controversial legislation sparked some of the biggest economic demonstrations to hit the country in the past five years, forcing a change of prime minister, with Hani Mulki stepping down in favor of Harvard-trained economist Omar Al-Razzaz. The ill-fated plan was to raise taxes on individuals by at least five percent and on companies by between 20 and 40 percent-the latest in a series of austerity measures linked to a \$723-million IMF loan agreed in 2016.

Analysts say citizens of all social classes have hit the limits of their tolerance, after repeated price hikes as the government looks to slash the country's debt. In the streets of Amman, the atmosphere is somber, despite the apparent victory. The tents and music that usually enliven the capital's streets during Ramadan are largely absent this year. "The capacity of citizens to pay is nearly zero and any increase in taxes means a decline in income," says analyst Labib Kamhawi. Since January, the price of bread has doubled and there have been five hikes to petrol prices. And electricity bills have shot up 55 percent since February. The World Bank says Jordan has "weak growth prospects" this year, while 18.5 percent of the working age population is unemployed.

'Not remotely fair'

"What happened is unprecedented," Kamhawi says of the week-long protests that rocked the capital and provincial towns. The events represent "a convergence of the interests of all social classes the rich, poor, middle class, businessmen, industrialists (and) traders," he adds. Jordan has been under the tutelage of IMF programs for nearly 30 years, but

popular frustration has built up a head of steam over the last two years because the government has refused to listen, says Ahmad Awad, head of the Jordan Centre for Economic Research.

The tax bill was the straw that broke the camel's back, he says, adding that the withdrawal of the tax bill was inevitable. The proposals "did not remotely constitute a fair basis for tax. It would have exacerbated the economic slowdown by further reducing households' spending power," says Awad. The withdrawal of the proposals on Thursday were celebrated on social media and protests stopped overnight. "We must give Mr Razzaz a chance", protestor Hadil Ghassan posted on Facebook, while warning unrest will resume if social ills remain unaddressed.

Analysts say the new government's main challenge will be to cobble together a long-term economic strategy that avoids repeating the "errors" of the past. The government is committed to reducing its debt to 77 percent of GDP by 2021, from 94 percent in 2015, but has so far relied on raising levies, says Kamhawi. Instead, it should focus on bringing spending under control and reducing the corruption that plagues the economy, he adds.

'Historic opportunity'

New premier Razzaz on Thursday pledged that any tax rise would systematically be matched by improvements in the health, education and transport sectors. The 58-year-old represented the World Bank in highly-indebted Lebanon between 2002 and 2006. "His post requires a very solid personality, capable of confronting all the corruption that is rotting public bodies and standing up to international financial institutions," says Kamhawi.

But Jordan faces major strains on its budget. Hosting hundreds of thousands of refugees from Syria's war is a major burden on Jordan's public finances, with the government regularly calling on the international community to provide more help. "The equation is very difficult," Kamhawi says. Political analyst Adel Mahmoud agrees, but believes "Razzaz faces a historic opportunity." The new premier must choose a ministerial team capable of correcting the past mistakes governments that "have only used citizens' pockets for solutions", he says. — AFP

Afghan shoppers go online to avoid...

Continued from Page 1

and traders. A month ago, we were hardly managing to earn our expenses - we were making a loss - but now we are making a profit of 1,000 to 3,000 afghanis (\$14 to \$42) a day. It shows we are growing."

He is now looking to expand to Herat province in the west, Kandahar in the south, Balkh in the north and Nangarhar, neighboring Pakistan, in the east. Esmatullah, 27, owner of Afghan Mart, which he set up just over a year ago, has a shop with 500,000 afghanis (\$7,000) worth of goods. "Big companies contact me to sell their imported goods. An average of 50 customers call me daily and we deliver," he said, adding that he too is looking to expand into the provinces by the end of the year.

Diversivory tactics

The biggest challenge, he said, was security in a city where one bomb blast can be followed by a second in the same area. Many people who have to go out take diversivory routes through narrow side alleys, some-

times through people's homes and gardens, to avoid the threat and traffic of major roads and intersections. "We have seen more bomb blasts in Kabul that delayed our delivery services," Esmatullah said. "When that happens, we stop delivering in that direction or that part of the city. But the insecurity is one of the reasons that our business has found its way. And besides the insecurity, there is a bad culture of street harassment that unfortunately our women face in cities."

Goods are delivered by motorcycle or public transport where possible and the deliverymen get paid up to 8,000 afghanis (\$112) a month. Commerce Ministry spokesman Musafar Qoqandi described online shopping as "unique" for a country at war for more than four decades, with about 50 companies in business, most of them unlicensed.

"The culture of online stores only started two years ago in Kabul and right now more than 20 online stores have a license to trade - there are many more that have yet to get their license and we encourage them to come forward. "Around the world, online stores are dealing with billions of dollars annually. It is time for us to join this convoy ... It is hope-giving when we see the growing number of such stores in Afghanistan." Student Roya Shakeb agreed. "I needed some books for my exams. I searched shops and libraries without success - then I came across online stores. The book was on my doorstep the next day. Unbelievable." — Reuters

Sports

Pocock shines as Australia beat Ireland in Brisbane

Carbery kicked three penalties for Six Nations champions

BRISBANE: David Pocock returned to test rugby with a bang yesterday to help Australia to a hard-fought 18-9 win over Ireland in Brisbane and give the Wallabies a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. The openside flanker, who sat out 2017 on a sabbatical, scored Australia's second try in the 72nd minute and was a constant menace at the breakdown as the Irish fell to a first defeat in 13 tests.

Flyhalf Bernard Foley scored the rest of Australia's points at Lang Park with a try, a conversion and two penalties, the second of which gave Australia a two-point lead with 12 minutes remaining. "We got that win tonight with attitude and some silky play and silky finishes," said Australia skipper Michael Hooper, who led from the front as the hosts outmuscled the Irish at times.

"It was tough for us to get out of our area, but we did that well so I'm pleased." Irish flyhalf Joey Carbery, getting a rare start ahead of Johnny Sexton, kicked three penalties for the Six Nations champions in a tight match that will whet the appetite for the remaining tests in Melbourne and Sydney.

"Every test match we play against each other is of incredible intensity and physicality and I thought it was the same again tonight," said Ireland skipper Peter O'Mahony. "I thought credit to Australia, they came out on top in a lot of physical battles."

The match opened at a frenetic pace and it was Australia who got the first points on the board when Foley landed the first of his penalties in the second

minute. Hooper put in a huge hit on Carbery in the 13th minute but the flyhalf got back up, brushed himself off and levelled the scores from the kicking tee a minute later.

Prolific Irish winger Jacob Stockdale had to showcase his defensive skills in the 20th minute when he made a try-saving tackle on Marika Koroibete as his opposite number was charging for the line.

Carbery edged the tourists in front with his second penalty in the 26th minute and the Irish kicking from hand continued to keep the hosts penned in their own half. The first try came in the 34th minute when the hosts finally got the ball out wide in the Ireland half with winger Dane Haylett-Petty and centre Samu Kerevi linking well on the left before Will Genia's quick pass sent Foley over in the corner.

Foley was unable to convert so the hosts went into halftime 8-6 ahead but the Irish came out from the break firing and number eight CJ Stander soon stormed through the midfield and crossed the line

only to be held up.

Ireland went through 19 phases from the ensuing five metre scrum before a Pocock turnover ensured the visitors would come away with no points. Pocock was penalised in the 54th minute, though, and Carbery's last act before making way for Sexton was to put Ireland 9-8 ahead.

Fullback Israel Folau thought he had given Australia the lead with a try just after the hour mark but play was called back for a foul brought to the



BRISBANE: Ireland's Bunde Aki attends the captain's run training session at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane on Friday, ahead of the rugby match between Australia and Ireland. — AFP

attention of the referee by the TV official. Australia would not be denied, though, and Foley slotted his second penalty after a scrum infringement before Pocock put the icing on the cake by flashing across

the line from close range. "He was outstanding," Hooper said of his back row partner. "He can do some great things over the ball. His presence on the field is fantastic." — Reuters

“ We got that win tonight ”

Justify favourite to win Belmont

NEW YORK: Unbeaten Justify was a 4/5 odds-on favourite on Friday to win the Belmont Stakes in New York, but far from a shoo-in to complete American horse racing's triple crown today. Bob Baffert-trained Justify arrived in town on Wednesday ahead of his attempt to become the 13th horse to complete the triple crown, and the second in four years, after American Pharoah in 2015.

Showers are possible for the 1 1/2 mile (2400m) race on the Belmont Park dirt in Elmont, New York. The Belmont Stakes, to be held for the 150th time, is the longest of the triple crown races. Justify won the Kentucky Derby by 2 1/2 lengths and triumphed narrowly at the Preakness Stakes—both races run in sloppy conditions.

"I think he's got to run better than he did in the Preakness but we know going in he's got the most talent," NBC horse racing analyst Randy Moss said on Friday. Justify had never raced until February.

Should he win, he will be only the second undefeated horse to complete the triple crown, joining Seattle Slew (1977). Ridden by two-times Belmont Stakes winning jockey Mike Smith, Justify has drawn the inside barrier.



ELMONT: Triple Crown and Belmont Stakes contender Justify trains with Humberto Gomez up prior to the 150th running of the Belmont Stakes at Belmont Park on Friday in Elmont, New York. —AFP

After wearing mainly white silks in the previous two triple crown races, Smith will don the colours—red with yellow stars—of the China Horse Club, part owner of the three-year-old colt. Hofburg, a 9/2 shot ridden by Irad Ortiz Jr., is rated by punters as the most likely to beat Justify. He has not run since a seventh placing at the Kentucky Derby five weeks ago.

Bravazo and Vino Rosso, both 8/1, are also considered legitimate threats. Luis Saez-ridden Bravazo nearly ran down a fading Justify in the final yards of the Preakness before finishing second, a half-length behind. Vino Rosso, ridden by John Velazquez, had a bad start at the Kentucky Derby but battled on to finish ninth after starting from a wide barrier. — Reuters

CRYchess 2018 concludes

KUWAIT: Organized by FOCC (Friends of CRY Club, Kuwait), the CRYchess 2018 successfully concluded on May 11, at the Gulf Indian School, Fahaaheel. FOCC is highly grateful to GIS for providing the facilities for the last 4 years and hope we continue our relationship well into the future. The event was sponsored by Talal & Lulwa Education Fund, supported by Dr Hind Al Bahar, and we are highly indebted to her for her continuous support to the FOCC mission.

Our mission of supporting deprived children back home is met through our allocated project "School the Spark", which supports children in rural areas. The other face of our mission is to sensitize children in Kuwait on the main purpose behind participating in CRYchess.

CRYchess tournament is open to all school-going children in Kuwait, with no minimum age limit. Just as in the past, we are delighted to see children starting at a very young age. The youngest player this year, Nitesh Vidyasagar was just 5 1/2 years old, whereas the total number of participants topped 165. Thanks also to the parents for supporting their children and CRY.

Children and parents moved about freely in the open, between the auditorium and the chess rooms. The Kid's Corner, with exciting games and gifts, and the Buy for Cry stalls kept the children busy between the rounds. Both the stalls are entirely run by the "CRYbuddies", children who have dedicated their time and effort contributing towards the FOCC mission. Big thanks to all of them - Qaisarali Merchant, Hamza Kachwala, Andrew



John, Kiruthika Sruthi Saravanan, Kiara Reaven, Kiruthika Deepti Saravanan, Insiya Ibrahim Patanwala. Amma Kitchen offered delicious meals and snacks, thanks for their continued support to FOCC. All our arbiters and technical team are volunteers, offering their services for the cause, who have a good chess playing background. FOCC thanks all arbiters for their continued support and time.

Participating children were placed in one of the 6 groups, based purely in the descending order of their age - maximum 32 children in each group. The names of the participants in each group are entered in a Swiss-Pairing software, where the first round pairing is done by the software in a random order. In every subsequent round, they are paired based on their ranking. Each participant plays all the five rounds. After the 5th round, only one person would be in 1st rank, provided he has won all the 5 rounds. In case of no one winning all the 5 rounds, children are listed in the order of their round wise wins. Depending on the ratings of the opponents defeated, the software gives a clear ranking to all players. This was not a knockout system.

Thus even after losing any one game, a child could still hope to be a winner in his group, based on the ranking. There were 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies in each group.

The winners in each group were (in the order - first, second and third place): White Opal Group (youngest) : Rose Sanju Thomas, Ashwanth Saravanan and Aahanashree Ramakrishnan; Yellow Citrine Group: AlenShinu, Chenul Methsuka Ranasinghe and Dhaanu Balan P.V. Blue Sapphire Group: Maheshwar Sibi, Rosanraj Balamurugan and Aaron Sanju Thomas; Red Ruby Group: Krishna Green Emerald Group :Chaitanya Koduri, Ditto Ben Joseph and Swastik Goth; Daniel Liang Mohan, Aman Mansoori and Akshat Jain; Violet Amethyst Group (senior-most) :Ebin Shibu Nanthalathu, Karthik Thomas Mathew and Allen Thomas Molekunnel.

All the participants were awarded medal and a certificate. The round-wise results for all groups and the event pictures are published on our website www.fockkuwait.org. Congratulations to all the children. "With CRY, everybody wins".

Japan get flash to bash Italy in big rugby win

OITA: Japan conjured a hat-trick of magical scores to floor Six Nations side Italy 34-17 yesterday in the first game of their two-match rugby series. The Brave Blossoms, who finished with four tries to Italy's two, produced moments of breathtaking skill as Amanaki Mafi, Kenki Fukuoka and Lomano Lemeki scored for the home side in Oita, western Japan.

Japan fly-half Yu Tamura made six out of seven kicks in a confident performance for the 2019 World Cup hosts. "That was Test match rugby—this is what it's all about," said Japan captain Michael Leitch.

"We had pressure moments during the game which we capitalised on. I'm proud of the team and how they handled the game." The Italians, currently ranked 14th in the world, three places below Japan, began brightly in balmy conditions,

prop Tiziano Pasquali opening the scoring with an opportunistic try after 15 minutes.

But a slick exchange of passes between Leitch and the impressive Fukuoka allowed Mafi to restore parity. Fukuoka added another try for the Brave Blossoms after 28 minutes when the jet-heeled winger escaped the clutches of two beefy Italians to score.

Tamura slotted a penalty before Italy flanker Braam Steyn bulldozed over for a try, converted by Tommaso Allan, to reduce Japan's half-time lead to 17-14. Allan and Tamura traded penalties early in the second half before Japan blew it wide open with one for the highlights reel.

Tamura intelligently kicked wide for Shota Horie to touch the ball back inside for Lemeki to complete a peach of a try. Kotaro Matsushima added a fourth try for Japan after 65 minutes to dash Italian hopes of a comeback.

"Obviously we weren't good enough today," said Italy captain Leonardo Ghiraldini. "It was a tough match and Japan played really well so congratulations to them. We have many areas to improve on but first of all in defence because they scored too many tries." The teams meet again in Kobe next weekend. — AFP

Johnson grabs PGA St Jude lead

LOS ANGELES: Dustin Johnson, tuning up for the US Open and aiming to regain the world number one ranking, fired a seven-under par 63 on Friday to grab the second-round lead at the FedEx St. Jude Classic.

Johnson holed out for an eagle and nabbed six birdies as he built a 10-under par total of 130 at TPC Southwind in Memphis, Tennessee. Johnson had a one-shot lead over fellow Americans Ryan Blaum and Andrew Putnam.

"I feel like I'm playing really well," said Johnson, who lost the number one ranking to Justin Thomas last month after reigning for 64 straight weeks. "I'm swinging the club well. I know if I can drive it in the fairway I'm going to give myself a good look for birdie. I felt like I did that pretty much all day. I hit a lot of great shots in there, had a lot of good looks at birdie." Johnson opened with a birdie at the 10th. After bogeys at 12 and 13 he bounced back with birdies at 14 and 16. He jump-started his round with an eagle at the first, where he holed out with a wedge from 111 yards.

Johnson's approach at the second left him less than a foot for birdie, and he

added birdies at three, six and nine—and needed only 24 putts in the round. "I'm rolling it down the line I'm looking," Johnson said. "If I can get a good read and good speed, they're going to go in."

Blaum had seven birdies in a six-under 64 and as did Putnam as they shared second on nine-under 131. Taiwan's C.T. Pan and American Wesley Bryan were a further stroke back and Brandt Snedeker was on 133 after a sizzling 62 that featured eight birdies without a bogey.

Snedeker, coming back this season after injury sidelined him for much of 2017, said it was encouraging to see his work paying off. "Until you start seeing results, you start questioning what you're doing," he said. "You need to see these positive days, where it's, 'OK, I am doing the right stuff, and it's coming around. I'm not losing my mind.'"

Five-time major winner Phil Mickelson, trying to build momentum for a run at the US Open title that has so long eluded him, followed up his first-round 66 with an even par 70. "It's tough to get the ball on the green if you don't drive it in the fairway," Mickelson said. "And around the greens it's tough because the rough is challenging. I made a few bogeys because I struggled with the difficulty around the greens."

"I didn't really have it today, but I was able to close out the round with a couple of birdies and get it back to even and I'm in a decent position." — AFP

Sports

Nationals lose opener to Giants as Stephen heads for MRI on right shoulder

Chicago win for fifth time in eight games

WASHINGTON: Andrew McCutchen and Gorkys Hernandez homered as the San Francisco Giants defeated the Washington Nationals 9-5 on Friday night at Nationals Park. Washington starter Stephen Strasburg (6-6) left after just two innings. He allowed three runs on five hits, including the McCutchen homer, and this was his shortest outing of the season. The right-hander threw only 35 pitches. Nationals manager Dave Martinez said after the game that Strasburg had inflammation and tightness in his throwing shoulder and will have an MRI on Saturday. Washington wound up allowing 15 hits overall as San Francisco repeatedly came up with offensive chances. The Giants went 6-for-14 with runners in scoring position and stranded six.



Thompson's hit aided a strong start

easily beating Jay Bruce's off-target throw home for his first big league run. However, he appeared to slow down on his final two steps and was replaced in the bottom of the inning as the result of stiffness in both hamstrings.

WHITE SOX 1, RED SOX 0

Trayce Thompson ripped a go-ahead RBI single off Boston ace Chris Sale in the seventh inning to help visiting Chicago to victory. Thompson's hit aided a strong start from White Sox right-hander Dylan Covey (2-1), who allowed three hits and walked one with seven strikeouts over six-plus innings. Chicago won for the fifth time in eight games after losing six of seven. Sale (5-4) suffered his third straight loss despite striking out 10 and giving up six hits and a walk over eight innings. Slugger J.D. Martinez, who leads the majors in homers (20), sat out with a stiff back and is expected to play Saturday.

INDIANS 4, TIGERS 1

Jason Kipnis blasted a tiebreaking, three-run homer in the ninth inning and Trevor Bauer collected his third win against Detroit this season as visiting Cleveland won its third straight. Kipnis' fourth homer of the season came off Detroit closer Shane Greene (2-3). Jose Ramirez drew a one-out walk and Yonder Alonso hit a two-out single, setting up Kipnis' drive to right-center field. Bauer (5-4) overpowered the Tigers, holding them to one run on seven hits with one walk and 12 strikeouts. Bauer has posted 36 strikeouts over his last three starts.

CUBS 3, PIRATES 1

Kris Bryant had three hits and scored a run in his first career start in the leadoff spot and Ben Zobrist had two RBIs as Chicago continued to roll with a victory over visiting Pittsburgh. Jason Heyward and Willson Contreras each had two hits and left-hander Mike Montgomery (2-1) gave up one run in six innings as the Cubs won for the 10th time in 12 games.

Josh Harrison, Austin Meadows and Colin Moran



ST PETERSBURG: Carlos Gomez #27 of the Tampa Bay Rays hits during a game against the Seattle Mariners at Tropicana Field on Friday in St Petersburg, Florida. — AFP

each had two hits for the Pirates (31-32), who have lost 10 of 13 to fall below .500 for the first time this season.

BREWERS 12, PHILLIES 4

Ryan Braun homered twice and knocked in five runs to lead Milwaukee past host Philadelphia. Christian Yelich also homered and had two hits, while Lorenzo Cain and Orlando Arcia each added two hits for the Brewers.

Phillies starter Vince Velasquez (4-7) allowed a career-high 10 earned runs in 3 2/3 extremely shaky innings, giving up nine hits while walking two. Cesar

Hernandez had three hits for the Phillies.

BLUE JAYS 5, ORIOLES 1

Russell Martin, Randal Grichuk and Kevin Pillar each hit a solo home run. J.A. Happ allowed one unearned run and two hits in seven innings and Toronto defeated visiting Baltimore. Happ (8-3) allowed two walks and struck out three in winning his fourth straight decision over his past five starts. The victory was the 100th of Happ's career. Orioles starter Andrew Cashner (2-8) allowed three runs, nine hits and two walks in six innings. The right-hander struck out four. Craig Gentry had three of Baltimore's five hits. — Reuters

Legendary Brazil tennis player Maria Bueno dies

SAO PAULO: Maria Bueno, the Brazilian "queen" of tennis, who won three Wimbledon and four US championship singles titles, died Friday in Sao Paulo at age 78, the hospital where she was being treated said.

She had been suffering from mouth cancer since last year and was hospitalized in May. Nicknamed the "Sao Paulo Swallow" for her ability to dominate the net, Bueno was a teen prodigy despite having no formal coaching, according to the International Hall of Fame, which she entered in 1978.

She swept the Brazilian scene, then the Caribbean circuit, and grabbed international attention by winning the Italian Championships in 1958, beating the best English and Australian players. That same year she went on to win the Wimbledon doubles alongside American Althea Gibson. And although she once told reporters "I'm afraid of everyone I play," her glory days were only just beginning.

Bueno's death dominated Brazilian Twitter on Friday night, with tributes pouring in. Brazilian President Michel Temer, writing on his official account, said Bueno "will always be remembered as the number one of tennis in the hearts of all Brazilians."

On and off the court, Bueno "always showed a lot of fight," Brazilian tennis player Bia Haddad said. "She was a pioneer in our country, where few people knew the sport and at a time when everything was much more difficult," said tennis player Thomaz Bellucci.

Known for her stylishness and her exciting way of playing, she was the first South American woman to win the Wimbledon singles title. One tennis writer, John Barrett, called her "the elegant queen of Brazilian tennis."

Her one major title of the open era, when big tournaments opened to professionals, was the 1968 US Open doubles alongside Australian legend Margaret Court. Another doubles partner was Billie Jean King, with whom she won the Wimbledon title in 1965.

"In my era, tennis was totally amateur. I'd only take two rackets to a tournament and the prize for winning Wimbledon was a £15 voucher," she said in a 2015 interview with YouTube channel Esporte Ponto Final.

Nadal eyes 11th French Open title as clock ticks

PARIS: Rafael Nadal admits that his desire to clinch an 11th French Open title today is fired by his growing realisation that the end of his career may not be too far away. The 32-year-old Spaniard, with 16 majors to his name, will play his 24th Grand Slam final at Roland Garros against Dominic Thiem who is in his first.

Victory today will give Nadal an 11th title in Paris and equal Margaret Court's all-time record for wins at the same Slam event-in her case, the Australian Open from 1960 and 1973. Nadal still trails great rival Roger Federer by four major titles although the Swiss star is more than four years older.

"For me, the motivation to play here always is high, high as possible," said Nadal after breezing past Juan Martin del Potro 6-4, 6-1, 6-2 in Friday's semi-finals in what was his 85th win in Paris against just

two defeats. "But for me, I believe that there are limited chances in your career. "I have lost a lot of opportunities through injuries, and I know the years are going quick. So there is not 10 more chances to keep playing here."

The statistics illustrate Nadal's concerns-he has missed at least eight Slam tournaments in his career through a legacy of wrist and knee problems. Such is his motivation to win his 17th Grand Slam on Sunday, that the task facing Austrian 24-year-old Thiem was described as "almost impossible" by Del Potro.

The Argentine believes that Nadal is playing better than he has for years. "It is almost impossible to beat Rafa," said Del Potro who had his chances in the semi-final but failed to convert any of his seven break points before his challenge petered out into weary hopelessness.

Nadal raced away with 14 of the last 17 games. "He's too strong. He's improving his backhand a lot. That's why he's the No. 1 and beating all the guys. He is fresh, healthy. He looks fresh. He is healthy. And the strength that he has and the mentality, everything is perfect, works perfect for him playing on clay."

There have, however, appeared to be

one or two chinks in his armour at Roland Garros this year. On Friday, del Potro was by far the better player in the first set while, in the quarter-finals, Diego Schwartzman won the first set of his clash with Nadal.

It was the first time in three years that Nadal had dropped a set in Paris. "You can win a set, but not a match against Rafa," said Del Potro keen not to over-egg any hint of weakness in Nadal's game. At least Thiem has in the past found the key to unravelling the Nadal clay court enigma.

He is the only man to beat the world number one on clay in the last two years-in Madrid this spring and in Rome last year. In Madrid, Thiem thrived in the quicker, higher altitude conditions to win their quarter-final in straight sets.

But that was only after Nadal had allowed him just two games in a last-eight mauling in Monte Carlo. In Madrid, Thiem said the key was to be positive against Nadal. "If I want to beat him, I have to play that way like I did in Rome and in Madrid. But I'm also aware that here it's tougher," said Thiem, the first Austrian in a major final since Thomas Muster won in Paris in 1995. — AFP



SAO PAULO: In this picture taken on July 24, 2016 Brazilian ex-tennis player who won 19 major titles Maria Esther Andion Bueno (L), holds the Olympic torch amid Paulista Avenue during the torch relay in Sao Paulo, Brazil ahead of Rio's 2016 Olympic games. — AFP

"But through sport I got things that money can't buy. I even met the pope and Princess Diana." For years after retirement she was a commentator on Brazil's SporTV. World number one in 1959, 1960, 1964 and 1966, Bueno was Brazil's best ever

player, winning 19 Grand Slam titles. These included Wimbledon singles titles in 1959, 1960 and 1964, and the US National Championship-precursor to today's US Open-in 1959, 1963, 1964 and 1966. She also got to the finals of the French championship in 1964 and the Australian in 1965. Bueno was a consultant for several years for Sportv and commented on matches with Gustavo "Guga" Kuerten, the other Brazilian tennis legend. Always smiling in her television appearances, Bueno continued playing until last year, when she was stricken by disease. — AFP

ALSAYER holds award distribution ceremony for winning teams

KUWAIT: As part of its commitment towards society, ALSAYER Group Holding Corporate Excellence Department recently concluded 2018 football and cricket tournaments for employees by organizing prize distribution ceremony for winning teams and participants from various business divisions. The ceremony which was held at ALSAYER Head Office Auditorium was attended by Faisal Al Sayer Chairman, Mohamed Naser Al Sayer board member along with top management team, representatives from Corporate Excellence Department and participants of the tournament.

Champions and individual winners of the football tournament were awarded in which 16 teams displayed thorough sportsmanship. The first, second and third spots were secured by RC Cola, Finance and Human Resources team respectively. Mohamed Gouda Awad from Toyota Alrai Service Garage won the Best Player Award and Wahid Said of Finance Department won the Best Goalkeeper Award. Eng Alaa Abu Zaur received a special award for being chosen as the Best Organizer.

ALSAYER Corporate team emerged as champions of the 12 teams in the cricket tournament, meanwhile Group Sales Toyota Warehouse and Toyota Service Ghazali were the 1st and 2nd runners up respectively. Individual awards were distributed to Jassim Arshad of Bahrah for best batsman, Mohamed Soheil of finance for best bowler and Mustansar Hassan of Group Spare Parts for man of the series.

According to Eng. Nehad Al-Haj Deputy Group Manager Corporate Excellence "We are committed towards the wellbeing of the employees by organizing such engaging sporting events to maintain the work life balance among colleagues. This will also help to develop their interest in sports as a hobby off the work hours, with a purpose of the physical fitness in a sedentary life style."

Corporate Excellence thanked the Top Management for their continued support and the organizing committee of both tournaments for their efforts towards the successful completion of the sporting events.



Chairman and top management with cricket tournament winners.



Chairman and management with football tournament winners.

Sports

Neymar's Brazil look strong as Germany, Argentina tackle problems

Spanish are back among the genuine contenders

MOSCOW: Neymar's acclaimed return ahead of the World Cup supplied Brazil with an immeasurable boost, but holders Germany and Argentina arrive at the tournament confronting inconsistent form and disrupted preparations.

The Paris Saint-Germain superstar's swashbuckling display in a 45-minute appearance against Croatia last weekend largely dismissed lingering concerns over his fitness after more than three months out with a fractured foot.

The 26-year-old admitted he was only at "80 percent" but promised he would be raring to go come Brazil's first game at the finals against Switzerland on June 17. "For the first match back I actually expected less from him! I would have been happy with a quieter performance," Brazil coach Tite said of Neymar. "What he did was really extraordinary."

Brazil's form under Tite, appointed midway through a faltering qualifying campaign, suggests it will be difficult to stop the five-time world champions from adding another title in Russia. A reinvigorated Selecao have won 16 of 20 matches with the former Corinthians boss at the helm, a 1-0 loss to Argentina last year in Melbourne the only defeat since he took charge.

Spain, unbeaten since Julen Lopetegui was named coach after Euro 2016, are back among the genuine contenders after a catastrophic 2014 World Cup and another early exit the European Championship.

"Spanish football has lived through an extraordinary, historic period in 2008, 2010 and 2012, but after that the team has not found the same consistency or success," Lopetegui told AFP. "We have to grow again as a team. We have the biggest ambitions but we are also very aware that we arrive at this World Cup feeling humble and wanting to prove ourselves."

Spain cruised through a qualifying section featuring Italy, and delivered a further warning to their World

Cup rivals with a 6-1 demolition of Argentina in March. But they will be tested immediately in Russia when they launch their group stage campaign against Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal on June 15.

TROUBLE AHEAD FOR GERMANY?

Manuel Neuer's comeback following eight months out with a foot injury has given Germany a much-needed shot in the arm, with Joachim Loew's side struggling to hit their stride ahead of their title defence.

An unconvincing 2-1 win over Saudi Arabia on Friday halted a five-match winless run, although Ilkay Gundogan was booed by Germany supporters after meeting Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan and calling him "my president".

"The fact that a national player is booed like that helps nobody," Loew told broadcaster ARD, insisting the incident be put in the past.

"He took a picture, okay, but he has addressed it with the press and underlined his support for German values."

"The topic has to be ticked off."

Argentina's build-up was jolted by the cancellation of a controversial friendly against Israel in Jerusalem, a fixture set to be their final outing ahead of the World Cup.

The sold-out game had been due to take place on Saturday but was hotly opposed by Palestinians, who claim the eastern part of the city, annexed by Israel, as the capital of their future state.

With goalkeeper Sergio Romero already ruled out, Argentina's plans were further complicated by the loss of Manuel Lanzini to injury, but team manager Omar Souto believes all is in place for a successful competition.

"I have been at five World Cups and this is the best set-up because it has everything... there's never been a place like this for the national team," he told AFP, with Argentina due to arrive at their Bronnitsy training base,



VIENNA: Brazil's forward Gabriel Jesus (L) and midfielder Casemiro attend Brazil's training session at Ernst Happel stadium in Vienna, Austria, yesterday, on the eve of their friendly football match against Austria. — AFP

40km southeast of Moscow, later on Saturday.

POGBA WORRY FOR FRANCE?

A hugely talented France squad head to Russia with high expectations, but Didier Deschamps is still struggling to find a system that will enable him to unlock the full potential in his team.

Paul Pogba, who will have a huge role to play if France are to succeed, was jeered by a smattering of home fans after an underwhelming performance in a recent 3-1 win over Italy.

"People talk a lot about Paul. He's a midfielder, he's

not a number 10, nor a forward," said Deschamps.

"He has the ability to score goals and create them, which he does often. He's a complete midfielder: he can do everything but he can't do everything."

Unburdened by modest expectations, England's youthful side will go into the tournament riding a 10-match unbeaten run that stretches back nearly a year.

Gareth Southgate admitted he faces a selection dilemma after Marcus Rashford starred in a 2-0 win over Costa Rica, but a reasonable draw could allow them to reach a first World Cup quarter-final since 2006. — AFP

Brazil's blind footballers see way to their own World Cup glory

SAO PAULO: Brazil's all-conquering blind footballers kick off their blind world cup campaign Friday knowing they're not only top dogs-but top targets. The International Blind Sports Federation's Blind Football World Championships began in Madrid Thursday and runs through 17 June. Reigning world and Paralympic champions, the Brazilian team hopes to strike gold yet again, setting the example for their colleagues at the World Cup in Russia.

Brazilian star Ricardinho, who already has three Paralympic golds, says he's ready to battle for a back-to-back world title, starting with Friday's game against Mali. "Everybody wants to take down the reigning champs, Brazil, and we want to get the title again. It will be complicated but we're going to fight a lot," he said.

Ricardinho, 29, was born to play soccer. Even as a tiny kid, when he still had good eyesight, admiring neighbors told his father to take him for trials at the big clubs. However a problem in his retina that appeared at six year old left him totally blind at eight.

"In addition to the shock that I couldn't see, I was in pain because I thought I'd never play football again," he said at Brazil's Paralympic football field in Sao Paulo before leaving for Spain. At 10, though, he discovered blind football, which is five-a-side and uses a ball with a bell. Only the goalkeepers are sighted. "I started to train. It was a second chance to chase a dream I'd had since I was very small," he said.

Sterling relishes World Cup stage as England's number 10

LONDON: Fresh from the best season of his career, Raheem Sterling has been handed the responsibility and role he craved by England manager Gareth Southgate to deliver on his abundant potential at the World Cup.

Sterling scored 23 goals in all competitions as Manchester City romped to the Premier League title in record-breaking fashion and lifted the League Cup. Yet in keeping with his career so far, there was still a feeling that more is to come if his finishing can match the quality of his skill and movement. "The moment he is going to be able to increase (the number) of goals he will become one of



MADRID: Blind football players vie during the match Brazil against Mali of the International Blind Sports Federation's Blind Football World Championships in Madrid on Friday. — AFP

Lacking access to the proper blind footballs, he'd wrap regular balls in plastic, so that they'd make noise, allowing him to practice. Then his family moved to the seaside city of Porto Alegre so that he could attend a specialized school.

At 17, he played in his first world championship and he went on to score more than a century of goals for the national team, earning two world titles-and now gunning for his third.

Every player on a team of the blind has his own compelling story. Ricardinho's teammate Mauricio Dumbo escaped war in Angola and was brought to Brazil at 11. Childhood measles robbed him of his sight but not his love of football and now at 28 he plays winger

for Brazil. His sporting idols, whom he always followed by listening to radio commentaries, are France and Real Madrid legend Zinedine Zidane and Brazil's own World Cup champion striker Ronaldo "the Phenomenon." But Dumbo's true sights go much further. Although he arrived in Brazil all but unable to read, he now has a law degree, and he wants the public to recognize him and his teammates as top-flight winners. "My dream is that we be seen as professional athletes, which is what we are," he said. That 2016 Olympics gold medal in Rio de Janeiro also brought rewards of another kind: a chance to return to Angola and hug his mother again for the first time in 15 years. — AFP

and then Liverpool as a 15-year-old.

He shot to fame as part of a free-flowing Liverpool side that just missed out on a first league title for over two decades in 2013/14 to force his way into England's World Cup team four years ago, and was one of few bright sparks in a group stage exit.

A £49 million move to Manchester City followed in 2015, but it wasn't until Guardiola's arrival as coach a year later that Sterling started to deliver on his potential. Unlike at City, where Guardiola still largely utilises Sterling's pace on the wing, Southgate has handed him the number 10 shirt to create from a central role just off England's talisman Harry Kane.

"I know I shouldn't mention it but I've got a tattoo of it on my arm!" he said this week of the No.10 after some unwanted attention for tattoos. "It's something I've always wanted to do: wear the number 10 for England. I feel, because I'm really fast, that's one of the reasons I've been put out there (on the wing), and now I'm closer to the goal and the area I want to be." — AFP

Ghana football boss resigns after being banned by FIFA

ZURICH/ACCRA: The head of Ghana's soccer federation, Kwesi Nyantakyi, said on Friday he had resigned after he was suspended by global soccer body FIFA for possible ethics violations having been accused of taking kickbacks.

Nyantakyi, a member of FIFA's decision-making Council, also apologised to Ghana president Nana Akufo-Addo and the government for what he called his "indiscretion". "After a meeting of the Executive Committee this afternoon I decided to resign as President of the Ghana Football Association (GFA)," he said in a statement.

Nyantakyi, who has been GFA president since 2005 and was elected to the FIFA

Council in September 2016, was filmed by an investigative journalist in a hotel room appearing to take a \$65,000 bribe from a supposed businessman seeking to sponsor the Ghanaian football league. FIFA said on Friday it was suspending Nyantakyi for 90 days. The Ghanaian government has begun a process to dissolve the national soccer body, Information Minister Mustapha Abdul-Hamid said on Thursday. On Friday, Ghana's police locked down the GFA offices, declaring the building a crime scene.

Segments of the recording by undercover journalist Anas Aremeyaw Anas appeared to show Nyantakyi also demanding kickbacks to pass on to top government officials, including the presidency. Ghana president Nana Akufo-Addo has called for criminal investigations against Nyantakyi. FIFA has not yet commented on whether any action will be taken over the government's plan to dissolve the GFA. The global soccer body does not accept any third party, including government, interference in its member associations. — Reuters

Germany survive late scare to end winless streak

MADRID: World champions Germany survived a late scare to see off Saudi Arabia 2-1 on Friday and claim a first victory this year, putting a five-game winless run behind them as they finalised their World Cup preparations.

There were also wins for Iran, Croatia and Switzerland, while Poland were held to a 2-2 draw by Chile. Germany looked to be heading for a comfortable win as they sought to put their worst run of form for 30 years behind them as Timo Werner opened the scoring and Omar Hawsawi's own goal doubled their lead on the stroke of halftime.

Yet Saudi Arabia, who will also be in Russia, fought back, looking particularly dangerous on the counter. They grabbed a lifeline as Taisir Al-Jassim smashed in the rebound after a Mohammad Al-Sahlawi penalty was saved by Marc-Andre ter Stegen five minutes from fulltime.

Al-Sahlawi then had strong claims for a second spot kick waved away in stoppage time as he went down under

a challenge from Mats Hummels as Germany hung on to claim a morale-boosting victory. There was frustration for Germany coach Joachim Low, as Ilkay Gundogan's every touch was booed for the second game in a row. German fans are angry over a picture he took with Turkish president Tayyip Erdogan last month, addressing him in a message as "my president".

"He's a member of the national team and that (booing) does not help anyone," said an irritated Low. The coach went on to voice his discontent at his side's performance, but was adamant they will be ready when they face Mexico in their opening World Cup game next Sunday.

"Today we missed a lot of chances, were really open in defence and allowed too many counter attacks from Saudi Arabia. In the end we were lucky to win," he said. "I'm not worried because I know we're going to keep on improving. When it gets going, we'll be ready. Next week we'll be sharper, more dynamic and have even more power."

Croatia battled back from an Ismaila Sarr opener to defeat Senegal 2-1 thanks to second-half goals from Ivan Perisic and Andrej Kramaric and Switzerland continued their impressive form with a 2-0 win over Japan.

Iran scored a late winner to defeat Lithuania 1-0, while Poland blew a 2-0 lead to draw 2-2 with Chile, who did not qualify for Russia. — Reuters

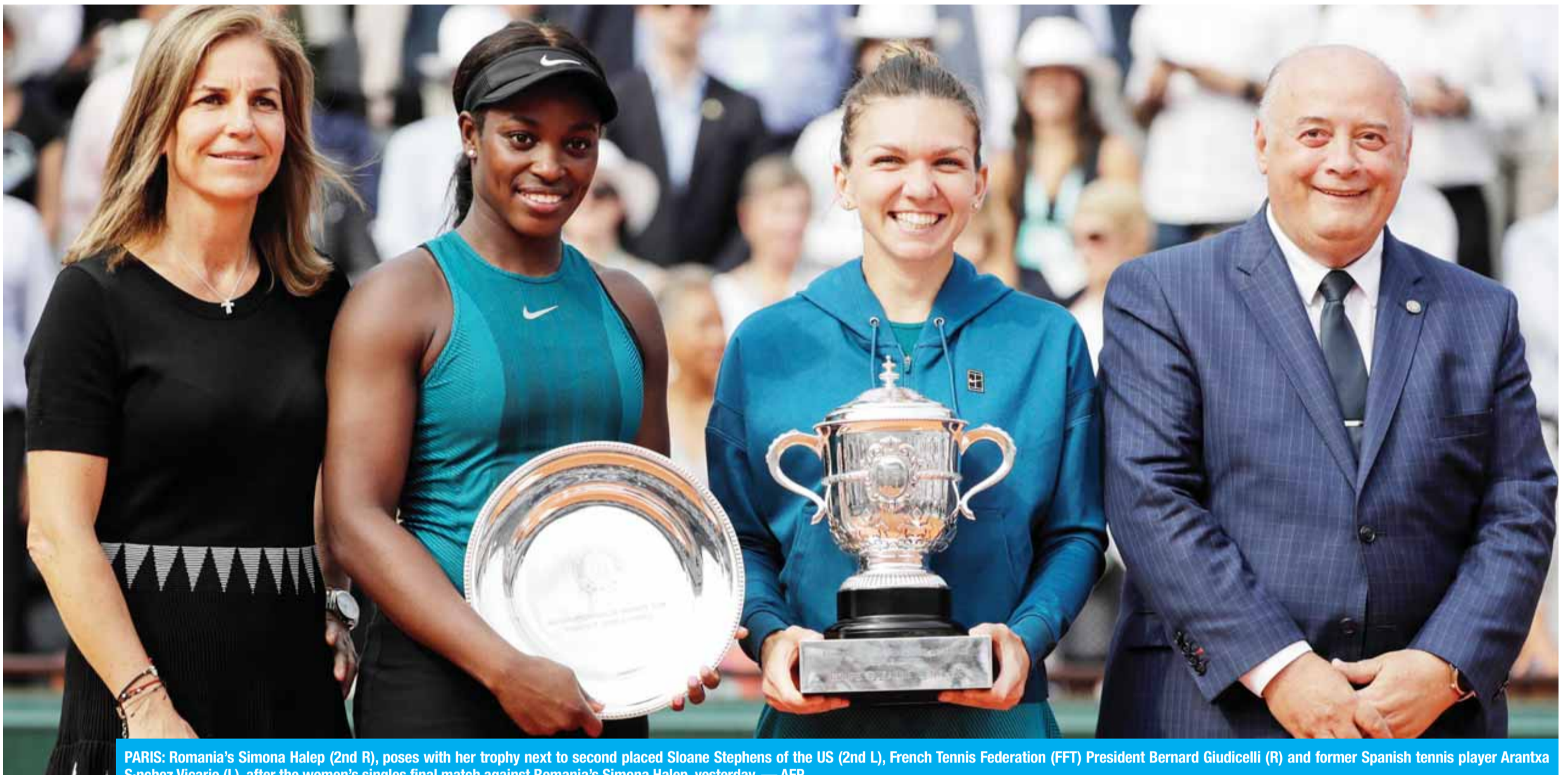
25 Pocock shines as Australia beat Ireland in Brisbane



26 Nationals lose opener to Giants as Stephen heads for MRI on right shoulder



27 Brazil's blind footballers see way to their own World Cup glory



PARIS: Romania's Simona Halep (2nd R), poses with her trophy next to second placed Sloane Stephens of the US (2nd L), French Tennis Federation (FFT) President Bernard Giudicelli (R) and former Spanish tennis player Arantxa S-nchez Vicario (L), after the women's singles final match against Romania's Simona Halep, yesterday. — AFP

Halep fights back to win French Open

'It's a dream and it's so special to do it here in Paris'

PARIS: Simona Halep fought back from a set and a break down to finally achieve her "dream" of winning a Grand Slam title, beating Sloane Stephens 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 in a gruelling French Open final yesterday.

The world number one had lost all three of her previous major finals, including two at Roland Garros, and said she struggled to contain her emotions after staging a thrilling comeback. "In the last game I felt like I could not breathe anymore", said Halep. It was the perfect way for the Romanian to banish the demons of her painful final defeat by Jelena Ostapenko 12 months ago, when she blew a lead of a set and 3-0.

"Last year it was tough to talk because I lost this match," added Halep, only the second Romanian to win a Slam after Virginia Ruzici who won the 1978 French Open. "But it's emotional to be making this speech as a winner. I've been dreaming of this since I was 14."

US Open champion Stephens had looked set to lift a second Grand Slam trophy when leading 6-3, 2-0,

but the American 10th seed wilted in hot conditions and Halep pounced. "It's been amazing here for me," said Stephens. "It's not the trophy I wanted, but it's still beautiful."

Halep played a scintillating deciding set in which she made only five unforced errors, breaking her major duck in style after two hours and three minutes. The 26-year-old celebrated her victory in a way usually seen at Wimbledon, climbing into her box to greet friends and family. "I tried to not do the same thing as last year. It's a dream and it's so special to do it here in Paris," she said.

"When I was down a break in the second set I just tried to relax and enjoy the match." The fans at Roland Garros preceded the match with a standing ovation for seven-time Grand Slam champion Maria Bueno after the Brazilian's death on Friday aged 78.

Halep had vocal support from the start on Court Philippe Chatrier, but Stephens was the better player in the baseline rallies and made an early breakthrough as

two big forehands left the top seed scrambling. The early exchanges were brutal in the Paris heat, but it was the world number one who found herself being forced onto the defensive as Stephens moved 4-1 ahead.

The 25-year-old, who was ranked 957 in the world less than a year ago after her injury woes, was using her bigger forehand to good effect as Halep struggled to make any inroads into her opponent's serve. She did manage to make Stephens serve for the set, though, and was stepping into the court with more authority, bringing up her first break point. But Halep wasted the chance with her 10th unforced error and Stephens made her pay, drilling an unreturnable backhand into the corner to wrap up the set after just 41 minutes.

A first-ever Grand Slam final defeat in straight sets for Halep looked likely as soon as Stephens claimed the first game of the second set on her fourth break point. The Romanian knows better than anyone how Grand Slam finals can turn though after her 2017 heartbreak

against Ostapenko, and she broke back to love to the delight of the crowd.

Suddenly Halep had won 12 of 13 points and snatched the momentum, and she made it four games on the spin as Stephens dumped consecutive forehands into the net. Stephens briefly looked out on her feet, but raised her game by shortening the points to break straight back before levelling the set at 4-4, helped by the first ace of the match.

But Halep dug deep, squaring the final by winning the next two games, as Stephens fired a backhand wide on the first set point. The American had fatigued irreparably, and it was her turn to fall 2-0 down at the start of the deciding set. The match was all but ended as Halep clinched the double break in game four after some magnificent defending in one of the points of the match. Stephens managed to land a couple of late blows, but Halep confidently served it out, sealing victory on her first match point when her opponent netted a return. — AFP

Warriors rout Cavs to complete NBA Finals sweep

CLEVELAND: An overpowering Golden State Warriors squad captured their third NBA crown in four seasons on Friday, routing Cleveland 108-85 to complete a sweep in the best-of-seven NBA Finals. Stephen Curry scored 37 points and Kevin Durant was named the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player for the second consecutive year after 20 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists-his first finals triple double.

"To win in a sweep, it feels pretty good," Durant said. "Just knowing the work you put in paid off means something. It feels great to go out there and win a championship with these guys the way we did it. To finish it off with a sweep feels so good." The Warriors inflicted the first 4-0 NBA Finals blanking since the Cavaliers were swept by San Antonio in 2007. "It's an unbelievable feeling to come here with a mission and get the job done," Curry said. It was the fourth year in a row the Warriors and Cavaliers met in the finals, Golden State winning in 2015 and the past two years.

"This is so hard to do and to do it three years out of four years is incredible," Warriors guard Klay

Thompson said. Golden State claimed the sixth crown in club history, matching the Chicago Bulls for third on the all-time list. The Warriors won in 1947 and 1956 when based in Philadelphia plus 1975, 13 years after their move to the San Francisco Bay area, and the latest run.

"This was the hardest one we've had by far," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "It was definitely the toughest from the standpoint that it's the fourth year in a row that we've attempted to get back to the finals. It was hard and it gets more and more difficult as you go through."

Cavaliers star LeBron James revealed after the game he had been playing with a broken right hand for the past three games. "Self-inflicted, post-game after game one. Very emotional. For a lot of different reasons," James said. "I let the emotions get the best of me. Pretty much played the last three games with a broken hand." James struck for 51 points in the opener, the fifth-best game total in finals history but it was a post-game punch out of frustration, into a blackboard according to ESPN, that caused the injury. James saw a referee call reversed against him and J.R. Smith forego a final shot with the score level, thinking the Cavs were ahead.

James, playing his eighth consecutive finals, scored 23 points, grabbed seven rebounds and passed off eight assists on Friday but fell to 3-6 in the finals for his career. At 33, James might have played his final game for the Cavaliers. He can opt out of his contract and become a free agent next month. — AFP



CLEVELAND: The Golden State Warriors celebrate with the Larry O'Brien Trophy after defeating the Cleveland Cavaliers in Game Four of the 2018 NBA Finals at Quicken Loans Arena on Friday. — AFP