



Max 45°
Min 32°

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6 As G7 feuds, Xi and Putin play up their own club



24 Jordan pinning hopes on oil-rich Gulf states



27 Salah's fitness uncertain as Egypt arrive in Russia



رمضان كريم Ramadan Kareem	
IMSAK	03:03
FAJR	03:13
DHUHR	11:47
ASR	15:21
MAGHRIB	18:47
ISHA	20:19

MP Mutair threatens to grill PM over a newspaper report

MP Dallal warns against growing signs of tribalism, sectarianism

Islam in a nutshell

By Teresa Leshner

The essence of Islam can be found in a single statement, the 'kalimah,' which embodies both its doctrine and practice. We hear this statement five times a day from the minarets: "There is no god except Allah and Muhammad is His messenger." Any true religion should offer sound doctrine and clear practice, and this simple statement sums it up. The doctrine is that our Creator - the Lord of the universe - is the only one deserving of our worship; all matters of faith revolve around that.

To understand the significance of this statement, consider Islamic art- the geometric, symmetric, and possibly infinite continuation of lines, curves and patterns - which always begins with a single point on a page or canvas. It is from this point that a line or circle is first drawn, and from which a beautiful work of art takes shape. Without that point of reference, without the consideration that each line and curve originated from that point, and without respect for the relation that every intersecting point has with the original one, the whole pattern will be imperfect, unbalanced and eventually unrecognizable.

Islam, as the inspiration for this beautiful art form, is identical in that it, too, has as its epicenter - a single point from which every thought, intention, action and hope begins. That point of reference is God. When someone makes God the single reference point in his life, from which all expression originates, his life can be one of both precision and beauty, of discipline and creativity. In Islamic art, the original point is simply a dot on a page. In Islam, a single, unique God is the focal point, around which all of life revolves.

Continued on Page 24

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Opposition MP Mohammad Al-Mutair yesterday warned he would grill the prime minister if he does not refer a local newspaper to investigation and for not discussing the resignation of a senior oil executive. The lawmaker said he would file the grilling if Al-Rai Newspaper was not referred to the Public Prosecution for publishing "false" news deemed detrimental to the interests of the state.

Mutair did not elaborate on the nature of the news but Al-Rai carried a story two days ago about a meeting between Kuwait's ambassador in Washington and top US President aide Jared Kushner. The paper published that Kushner threatened actions against Kuwait for its stance toward the Palestinian cause. The White

House has denied the report. Mutair also said he would grill the prime minister if the government does not sit with Hashem Hashem, the head of the new oil complex in Al-Zour, who submitted his resignation. The lawmaker wants the government to support Kuwaiti employees in the oil sector. He said Hashem had stepped down in support of Kuwaiti employees. Mutair warned that the grilling will be filed soon.

In a related development, MP Mohammad Al-Dallal yesterday called for stopping what he called "external hands" that are trying to take control of the oil sector or exploit it to serve their personal interests. MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri yesterday asked Oil Minister Bakheet Al-Rasheedi about the number of Kuwaiti employees whose services have been terminated since January 1, 2016. The lawmaker objected to appointing

Kuwaitis to work with contractors dealing with oil companies rather than appointing them directly in the oil companies.

Muwaizri charged that four expatriates working in the oil sector and responsible for contracts have seen their salaries increased from just KD 350 monthly to over KD 4,000. MP Dallal meanwhile submitted a proposal to strengthen the domestic front against growing signs of tribalism and sectarianism amid reports of a video posted on social media and containing material highly critical of Kuwaiti tribes. The Public Prosecutor has ordered a speedy action to uncover those who posted the video and take appropriate actions against them. In the meantime, MP Saleh Ashour yesterday warned the Public Manpower Authority against interfering in the affairs of trade unions.

Three civilians killed as Yemen rebels hit Saudi

RIYADH: Houthi rebels in Yemen fired a 'projectile' at the southwestern Saudi province of Jazan killing three civilians Saturday, the Saudi-led coalition fighting the insurgents said. "The terrorist Iranian-Houthi militia has targeted civilians with a projectile" killing three civilians in Jazan, coalition spokesman Colonel Turki Al-Maliki said.

Maliki, quoted by the official Saudi Press Agency, did not identify the type of "projectile" but said it was "launched deliberately to target civilians" and warned of retaliation. "The Joint Forces Command of the coalition will strike with an iron fist all those who threaten the safety and security of Saudi nationals, residents and critical capabilities" he said. The Iran-backed Houthi rebels have ramped up missile attacks against neighboring Saudi Arabia, which leads a military coalition that has fought the insurgents since 2015.

Continued on Page 24



AL HAJJAH: Pro-government fighters dance after engaging fire with Houthis, near the city of Al Jah in the Hodeida province, 50 kilometers from the port city of Hodeida, which the Iran-backed Houthi insurgents seized in 2014. — AFP

UAE president makes a rare appearance

ABU DHABI: United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan has met with family members in France, UAE media reported yesterday, one of his rare appearances since a stroke in 2014. The official WAM news agency published photos of white-bearded Abu Dhabi Amir Sheikh Khalifa, 70, chatting with relatives at his residence in the French resort town of Evian.

Sheikh Khalifa in 2004 succeeded his father, the late UAE founding president

Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, as ruler of Abu Dhabi—the largest and wealthiest of the seven-member United Arab Emirates. Sheikh Khalifa has previously made only one public appearance since undergoing an operation following a stroke in January 2014, marking the Muslim Eid Al-Fitr holiday last year. Khalifa has withdrawn from day-to-day decisions, allowing his half-brother and crown prince, Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed, to assume greater power.— AFP



EVIAN: A handout picture released by the United Arab Emirates News Agency WAM yesterday, shows UAE President Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan (center) meeting with family members at his residence in the French resort town of Evian, one of his rare appearances since a stroke in 2014. — AFP

Trump and Kim in Singapore for a historic summit

SINGAPORE: US President Donald Trump arrived in Singapore yesterday for a historic summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un that could lay the groundwork for ending a nuclear stand-off between the old foes and the transformation of the isolated state. Trump flew into Singapore's Paya Lebar Air Base aboard Air Force One looking to strike a deal that will lead to the denuclearization of one of America's bitterest foes, following a divisive meeting in Canada with some of Washington's closest allies that further strained global trade ties. After stepping down from Air Force One on a steamy tropical night, Trump was greeted by Singapore Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan.

Asked by a reporter how he felt about the summit, Trump said: "Very good". He then got into his limousine for the drive to his hotel in central Singapore. North Korea's Kim landed in Singapore earlier yesterday. When Trump and Kim meet tomorrow at Sentosa, a resort island off Singapore's port with a Universal Studios theme park and man-made beaches, they will



SINGAPORE: North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un (left) shakes hands with Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong during his visit to The Istana, the official residence of the prime minister, following Kim's arrival in Singapore. — AFP

be making history. Enemies since the 1950-53 Korean War, leaders of North Korea and the United States have never met previously - or even spoken on the telephone. Kim arrived at Singapore's Changi Airport after his longest trip overseas as head of state, wearing his trademark dark "Mao suit" and distinctive high cut hairstyle.

Arriving on a plane loaned by China, he was also greeted by Balakrishnan. Travelling with Kim were top officials including Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho and Kim

Continued on Page 24

Trump's trade fury torpedoes the G7 summit in Canada

QUEBEC CITY: The G7 summit ended in farce and a renewed threat of global trade war as US President Donald Trump abruptly rejected the text of a consensus statement and bitterly insulted the Canadian host. Just minutes after a joint communique Saturday that had been approved by the leaders of the Group of Seven allies was published in Canada's summit host city Quebec, Trump launched a Twitter broadside from aboard Air Force One.

The US leader left the meeting early en route for Singapore and a historic nuclear summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un, only to take exception to comments made by Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at a news conference. "Based on Justin's false statements at his news conference, and the fact that Canada is charging massive Tariffs to our US farmers, workers and companies, I have instructed our US Reps not to endorse the Communiqué as we look at Tariffs on automobiles flooding the US Market!" Trump tweeted. "PM Justin Trudeau of Canada acted so meek and mild during our @G7 meetings only to give a news conference

after I left saying that ... he 'will not be pushed around.' Very dishonest & weak."

'Insulting'

Earlier, Trudeau had told reporters that Trump's decision to invoke national security to justify US tariffs on steel and aluminum imports was "kind of insulting" to Canadian veterans who had stood by their US allies in conflicts dating back to World War I. "Canadians are polite and reasonable but we will also not be pushed around," he said. Trudeau said he had told Trump "it would be with regret but it would be with absolute clarity and firmness that we move forward with retaliatory measures on July 1, applying equivalent tariffs to the ones that the Americans have unjustly applied to us."

After Trump's angry tweets, Trudeau's office issued a brief response: "We are focused on everything we accomplished here at the G7 summit. The Prime Minister said nothing he hasn't said before-both in public, and in private conversations with the President." The outburst against Trudeau, and by association the other G7 members, is only the latest incident in which Trump has clashed with America's closest allies, even as he has had warm words for autocrats like Kim and Russia's Vladimir Putin. French President Emmanuel Macron's office reacted Sunday by saying that "international cooperation cannot be dictated by fits of anger and throwaway remarks".

Continued on Page 24

Kuwait Airways: Qataris not banned from Umrah flights

Premier commends authorities, workers for completing Airport T4

KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways has refuted news reports alleging that it had received directives from Saudi authorities to ban Qatari passengers from boarding its planes to perform Umrah (Lesser pilgrimage). Kuwait Airways Chairman Yousef Al-Jasem said in a press statement that the Kuwaiti national carrier has never received a request from the Saudi authorities to ban Qatari passengers from using the company's aircraft to perform Umrah. However, it has received a request calling to permit Qatari passengers to board the company's planes without a prior consent, he confirmed. The Saudi authorities have designated King Abdulaziz airport in Jeddah and Prince Mohammad bin Abdulziz airport in Madinah to receive the Qatari passengers wishing to perform Umrah.

In other news, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah Saturday commended authorities and workers for exerting efforts to complete and operate Kuwait International Airport's Terminal Four (T4), which is due to open next month. Minister of State for Housing and Minister of State for Services Jenan Bushehri quoted His Highness the Prime Minister as saying during a visit to T4 to get acquainted with preparations to complete the new facility, to be used by Kuwait Airways. His Highness the Prime Minister also commended efforts of all authorities and workers to mod-

ernize infrastructure of air transport and cargo sector in Kuwait Airport, honoring His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's 2035 New Kuwait vision that is aimed at transforming Kuwait into a financial and trade hub.

His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak also met Kuwaiti engineers and supervisors of T4, who emphasized the project was executed according to schedule, said Bushehri. The minister thanked His Highness the Prime Minister for his overwhelming support for the completion of T4. She noted that Terminal 2 was due to be open in 2020. She thanked the General Directorate for Civil Aviation, Kuwait Fire Directorate, Ministry of Interior and General Custom Department for contributing to improvement of air transport sector. His Highness the Prime Minister was received upon his arrival by Bushehri and Civil Aviation President Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah.

Terminal 4, which contains 14 gates, aims at reducing the traffic on the current terminal. The \$127.6 million project is designed to contain 4.5 million passengers per year, and is expected to augment the existing terminal, which

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New terminal opens next month



KUWAIT: An artist's rendition for the new Terminal Four (T4) at Kuwait International Airport. — KUNA

has been operating beyond capacity for years, until the under-construction Terminal 2 becomes operational in

2020. The \$4.3 billion Terminal 2 has a design capacity of 25 million passengers annually.

Animal rights in Kuwait



By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

I am sure many of you have already heard on social media, blogs or even on the international news about the unfortunate incident of a Kuwaiti influencer who mistreated a dog by leaving it in the scorching heat inside the trunk of his car, which led to what the influencer referred to as "suicide" after the dog was found dead at the bottom of a pool.

His actions are inhuman, but are they illegal too? And if so, what may be the consequences? And more importantly, can officials take action against him due to his posts on social media?

Animal abuse in Kuwait is illegal, but it hasn't always been that way. Before a law was passed, only animals that belonged to someone were protected, and abusing them was considered a criminal act. Hence, stray animals were exempted! But the new law focuses on animals regardless if they are pets or feral.

Will the officials use the information they have from the influencer's social media to take him into trial? We have seen a lot of influencers posting legal violations all the time and I wonder if social media posts will soon be considered as evidence for violations in Kuwait. Regardless of the law and the incident that happened, I really hope that we respect each other and be kind to one another as well as animals. Please don't leave any animals in the heat. Please read up and research about a pet before owning one. Be safe.

For questions or queries, please email us at info@ftl-legal.com.

Three child rapists arrested

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Following a report submitted by a bedoon (stateless) man about the kidnap and rape of his 14-year-old son in Jahra, the Interior Ministry's relations and security media department announced that police detectives identified three suspects - all stateless - and arrested one of them who had been in hiding for a while. The suspect then led police to his two accomplices.

Brewery busted

The Interior Ministry's relations and security media department said in collaboration with the Drug Control General Department, Jahra detectives arrested six Asians for running a liquor brewery in Saad Al-Abdullah. Case papers indicate that while raiding the place, detectives found 250 barrels and 980 bottles filled with liquor, in addition to 180 cartons filled with bottles ready for sale, and three copper barrels used in the brewing process.



KUWAIT: Barrels containing homebrewed alcoholic drinks busted inside a liquor brewery in Saad Al-Abdullah.

Crackdown against bachelors in residential areas

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Minister of Public Works Hosam Al-Roumi stressed all municipal managers have been instructed to launch inspection tours in various private residential areas to warn and evict bachelors living there and receive residents' complaints. The crackdowns will target houses where units are rented to single expatriate men in violation of the law, which bans renting rooms or annexes in government houses.

E-lease contract

Well-informed sources expected that a unified e-lease contract will be in use before the end of this year and stressed that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) is currently preparing the contract's final form. The sources added that the Kuwait Real Estate Brokers Union had prepared an e-form of the contract with clauses that protect both tenants' and owners' rights. He added that if approved, the new unified lease contract will be issued from real estate brokers' offices instead of the current contracts sold in bookshops.

Meanwhile, a number of real estate owners stressed the new contract will put an end to various cases of manipulation, reveal true rent values and put an end to many prob-



Hosam Al-Roumi

lems facing both tenants and landlords, as well as protect both sides' rights. Notably, many regional countries have already started using e-contracts, while Kuwait still uses over seven types of contracts to which additional clauses can be added.

12 projects

Finance Minister Nayef Al-Hajraf said revenues made from the new rent values of 12 projects built according to the public-private-partnership (PPP) rules had added over KD 16 million to the state budget. Hajraf added that the projects' old rent value was only KD 3,624,903, while the new one is KD 20,068,390. Hajraf added it is still early to assess the use of the fingerprint system in various ministries, noting that initial indicators in most of them show that employee discipline is on the rise. He added 44 finance ministry employees had resigned since the use of the fingerprint system.

Fake certificates

Education Minister Hamed Al-Azmi stressed that the ministry of higher education is currently examining all certificates presented to it including recent ones and those presented in earlier years. Azmi added that in case any are suspected to be fake, it would be referred to the public prosecution at once. He also noted that the ministry will prepare periodic statistics about fake certificates and those involved.

Scrap owners demand better work environment

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Director of Kuwait's Public Authority for Industry (PAI) Abdul Kareem Taqi promised 100 owners of land plots at Amghara scrap market to discuss their demands and study the remarks they made about the company running the project. Speaking to demonstrators who peacefully gathered in PAI's yard, Taqi stressed all the remarks are being taken care of by Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalid Al-Roudhan himself and that both the country's and investors' best interests will be taken into consideration. Notably, demonstrators objected to the way the company runs the site, demanded improving the work environment, directly contracting with PAI and attending PAI's meeting with the company. Furthermore, demonstrators named Abdul Rahman Al-Ressh to represent them in any meetings with PAI or the minister of commerce and industry.

Media plan

Municipal Council member Maha Al-Baghli suggested forming a team to set an annual media plan for the council including elements with the experience needed to match the Municipal Council's goals and vision and help convey innovative and professional images about the council's role, strategic goals and future vision. Baghli said article 3 of the Municipality law number 33/2016 concerning the liabilities and responsibilities of both the Municipality and the Municipal Council elaborates more on the Municipality's tasks, leaving Kuwait's public in the dark concerning the Municipal Council's duties. "Citizens even have a negative impression towards the Municipal Council," she added, noting that this calls for better media representation for the council.

Automated services

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) is working on automating all its services and transactions pending full implementation of e-government transactions, Undersecretary Khalid Al-Fadhel announced. Fadhel said the ministry has gone a long way in automating its services, and that it is getting closer to stopping paper transactions. Fadhel also stressed that MoCI will start using e-signatures within the coming few months in all transactions, starting with directives and administrative correspondence amongst the ministry's various departments.

Syrian refugees

Kuwait Food Bank Manager Salem Al-Hamar said the bank recently launched a project to provide Syrian refugees in Jordan with food supplies in an attempt to cheer them up since Ramadan is coming to an end and Eid Al-Fitr is approaching. Hamar said the supplies include basic staples found in any Arab household enough for around one month, and that each package costs KD 15. "The bank will continue its aid to provide refugees with more food, medical and winter supplies," he added.

Kuwait plans oil drilling in Western region

KUWAIT: Kuwait intends to issue a tender for oil drilling services in the Western region within ongoing plans by the Gulf OPEC member to expand its hydrocarbon production capacity, a local newspaper reported yesterday. The 'integrated drilling services' project for 29 Jurassic wells in West Kuwait involves the installation of rigs, training of local workers and other services.

"Tenders are expected soon for this turnkey project in West Kuwait," the Arabic language daily, Al-Anbaa said, citing local oil industry sources. The project plans to boost oil output in that area from 520,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 540,000 bpd in 2019 and 550,000 bpd in 2020, the paper said, adding that this would support Kuwait's target to pump 3.65 million bpd by 2020 and nearly four million bpd by 2030. — Reuters



KUWAIT: A view of the sunset at Shuwaikh Beach. — KUNA

Local

Amir, Crown Prince meet top state officials at Seif Palace

Amir offers condolences to Bahraini King

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Seif Palace yesterday. His Highness also received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness then received Acting National Assembly Speaker Issa Al-Kandari before receiving First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince met with His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Acting Speaker Kandari and Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad. His Highness also met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and Deputy Premier and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh.

In other news, His Highness the Amir sent a cable of condolences to Bahrain's King Hamad Bin Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa over the passing away of Sheikh Hala Bin Duaij Al Khalifa, asking Almighty Allah to bestow mercy upon her soul. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister sent similar cables to the Bahraini King. — KUNA



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



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



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



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Acting National Assembly Speaker Issa Al-Kandari.

Defense minister back after attending anti-IS talks

KUWAIT: Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah arrived home on Saturday after a visit to Brussels where he attended ministerial counter Islamic State global coalition talks. During the talks held at the NATO headquarters, the Defense Minister had underlined that tackling terrorist

and fundamentalist ideologies was just as crucial to the fight on terror as the military aspect. Receiving Sheikh Nasser at Kuwait International Airport was Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces Lt Gen Mohammad Al-Khedhr and the Defense Ministry's Undersecretary Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. — KUNA



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah is seen upon his arrival back in Kuwait on Saturday. — KUNA

Deputy FM meets British ambassador

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah held talks yesterday with British Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Davenport. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with British Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Davenport. — KUNA

KRCS delivers aid to poor ahead of Eid holiday

KUWAIT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) is handing out coupons worth KD 30 (\$100) each to needy families as the Islamic Eid Al-Fitr holiday fast approaches. The endeavor is yet another altruistic act on the part of the venerable Kuwait charity, its director of local aid Mariam Al-Adsani said in a statement yesterday. Meanwhile, she pointed out that the aid allows the impoverished families to stock up on staple goods for the Eid holiday, an occasion marked with jovial family gatherings. She went on to commend the Kuwaiti people for their penchant for philanthropy, saying that the beneficiaries of Kuwaiti aid include the destitute in the country and abroad.



KUWAIT: A Kuwait Red Crescent Society member hands out aid to needy families. — KUNA

Eid Al-Fitr is a religious festival celebrated by all Muslims worldwide marking the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting. — KUNA

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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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‘Daring Greatly Gets You to the World Cup’ initiative’s winners announced at Cadillac Alghanim ghabqa



The Winners from Cadillac Alghanim

KUWAIT: Through its ‘Daring Greatly Gets You to the World Cup’ initiative, Cadillac Alghanim offered its customers the chance to win eight all-inclusive trips to the FIFA 2018 World Cup in Russia when purchasing an all-new luxurious Cadillac, as well as a variety of other incentives depending on the model.

Constantly seeking to provide an exceptional experience in line with the luxury standards of its cars, Cadillac Alghanim launched in March an outstanding initiative bestowing customers the chance to attend the world’s most anticipated sports festival, the 2018 World Cup. The initiative entitles Cadillac customers to win eight prizes, five all-inclusive five-star trips to attend the semi-final games, and three all-inclusive five-star trips to attend the FIFA World Cup Finals.

Amidst a charming Ramadan ambience, Cadillac Alghanim held the much-awaited raffle draw during its

annual ghabqa reflecting on the brand’s grandeur and class. The luxurious event was attended by Cadillac customers, Cadillac management, along media representatives who praised the company’s echo-making initiative and witnessed Cadillac Alghanim customers winning an exclusive trip to the 2018 World Cup Finals.

Cadillac Alghanim was honored as well with the presence of representatives from the US embassy, Ms. Patricia Fietz, Acting USA Ambassador and the Chargé d’affaires, and Jeff Hamilton, US Embassy Senior Commercial Officer, who came especially to share these celebratory moments and Nikolay Alexandrov, the First Secretary of the Russian Embassy in Kuwait, in addition to heavy media presence.

The ‘Daring Greatly Gets You to the World Cup’ initiative is a mere reflection of Cadillac Alghanim’s effort to materialize made promises to customers. These 8

prestigious prizes are much more than gifts; In fact, Cadillac is offering its customers once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

Commenting on the initiative, Mohamed El-Talkhawi, General Manager Cadillac Alghanim, said: “Cadillac is the epitome of luxury and we are committed to providing our customers in Kuwait with the best possible experience. By giving the chance to win a premium trip to the must-see World Cup, we are offering an unforgettable opportunity to our customers who are always on the lookout for exclusive and premium experiences, and it doesn’t get more exclusive and special than an event that only happens every four years.”

“Our full lineup of Cadillac models caters to individuals who dare to stand out from the crowd and live their passions, while taking into account a variety of needs and lifestyles,” Talkhawi added.

Running in time with the 70th anniversary of Cadillac Alghanim, the 2018 FIFA initiative qualified car buyers of the full 2018 Cadillac product lineup in Kuwait to enter its epochal draw. The prestige vehicles from Cadillac Alghanim includes everything for everyone as the luxury brand is offering the XT5 synonymous of sophisticated crossovers, the flagship SUV Escalade, the CT6 that has all the size, supremacy and technology of a large luxury sedan, the redesigned spacious and comfortable premium sedan XTS, the CTS displaying precise craftsmanship, ingenious technology and assured performance, and finally the Cadillac CTS-V sedan, tested at the track and ready for the road. All customers can benefit from Cadillac Alghanim’s trade in offers this month across the Cadillac lineup, and receive up to KD 2500 on Escalade, up to \$3000 on CT6 and CT5, and 0 percent interest on CTS and ATS.



Patricia Fietz, Acting USA Ambassador (center), Mr. Jeff Hamilton, US Embassy Senior Commercial Officer (left), with Mohamed Eltalkhawi (second right), Savino Leone and Doaa Yousry.



Nikolay Alexandrov, the First Secretary of the Russian Embassy (second left) in KW with Mohamed Eltalkhawi (left) and Savino Leone (second right)



Nikolay Alexandrov, the First Secretary of the Russian Embassy in Kuwait (second right)



Mohamed Eltalkhawi (right) with Abdelaziz Eshkenani (center) and Jeff Hamilton



Mohamed Eltalkhawi General Manager Cadillac Alghanim



Local



Iranian Embassy hosts annual ghabqa

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Iranian Embassy in Kuwait held its annual ghabqa at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Friday. Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Ali Reza Enayati said Ramadan is a great opportunity to be closer to God. "We pray to God that all Islamic countries enjoy peace and stability, and that they all cooperate to build a bright future for our nations. We work hard to eliminate conflicts and use diplomacy and dialogue instead to resolve any issue that may cause conflict or affect our future," he said as he welcomed the guests.

The bilateral relationship between Kuwait and Iran is very strong and historical. "Our relationship with Kuwait is friendly and wise, and we aim to improve this relationship even more," said Enayati. Iran praises the wise efforts of Kuwait in resolving regional issues. "We completely support the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in using dialogue to resolve conflicts. We also praise the honorable acts of Kuwait in defending the right of the Palestinian people in fighting Israel in all occasions. We also praise Kuwait's actions at the Security Council, rejecting any decision against the Palestinian right, which is a very honorable act," he pointed out. "This is a special month, during which people gather or visit each other and relations get stronger through visiting. The embassy holds this ghabqa and gathering annually to maintain the connections between people, and we are happy with all the guests who attended this event," concluded Enayati.



KUWAIT: Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Ali Reza Enayati. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Traditional games' competitions in Ramadan

By Nawara Fattahova

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.

Video games like PlayStation, online games and games on mobile phones have replaced traditional games, which have become abandoned and forgotten. Yet some older people are still playing them, while the new generations do not know much about them. This motivated some clubs and traditional cafes to encourage young people to play these traditional games in competitions held especially in Ramadan.

These competitions of traditional games have become a fixture in the holy month. People, especially the youth, are excited to participate and compete. There are competitions of various traditional games including card games like kot and hand, dominos, carrom and many more. But the most popular game is dama (draughts).

Dama is played by both young and old people. It is played by two players who place small round wooden pieces in two colors - black and white - on squares drawn on a square piece of cloth or wooden board. The board is about 60 x 60 cm, and consists of 64

small squares of equal size. The most popular Kuwaiti card game is kot, in which six players compete, while hand is also popular in other Arab countries.

Domino is an international game which is also included in some Ramadan competitions. Carrom is an old game played in Kuwait, consisting of a wooden square board with four holes in four corners. Players have to pocket small wooden round pieces into the holes by hitting them with a plastic striker. This game is included in Ramadan competitions as well.

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



KIB visits orphanage to spread girgian joy

KUWAIT: In celebration of girgian, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) organized a visit to the Kuwait Orphanage, a community care center under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor. The visit aimed at enhancing the lines of communication with children, as well as spreading happiness and joy amongst them on this highly anticipated day in Ramadan.

Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, said: "We are partners and members of the community; we are a 'Bank for Life'. Accordingly,

we have always sought to organize initiatives in line with our new strategy, which has fueled our commitment to this annual tradition to support children and orphans. Our visit also included the distribution of a number of girgian sweets amongst children to spread the joy of girgian with wonderful memories that will last a lifetime." Najia added that KIB always strives to sponsor and organize a number of community-based events and activities that aim at serving the entire community, particularly children. Accordingly, the bank's encompassing Ramadan campaign includes various humanitarian and social activities to build a greater sense of social responsibility.

As part of its commitment to its social responsibility program in Ramadan, KIB continuously sponsors and organizes a diverse number of activities that target children and youth, which the bank believes to be an important segment that plays a key role in building a brighter future for the nation.

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The American University of Kuwait received its Institutional Accreditation from the Private Universities Council (PUC), Ministry of Higher Education in the State of Kuwait, and has a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation with Dartmouth College (Hanover, New Hampshire - USA).



Nicaraguan protesters build own mortars

Conte, Italy’s novice PM, completes G7 baptism of fire



QINGDAO, China: Heads of states members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) (from left) Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Kyrgyz President Sooronbai Jeenbekov, Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain attend a signing ceremony yesterday. — AFP

As G7 feuds, Xi, Putin play up SCO

Regional security bloc puts on a show of unity

QINGDAO, China: The leaders of China and Russia yesterday praised the expansion of their regional security bloc at a summit which put on a show of unity in stark contrast to the acrimonious G7 meeting. President Xi Jinping gave the leaders of Pakistan and India a “special welcome” to their first summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), in the eastern Chinese city of Qingdao, since their countries joined the group last year.

Founded in 2001, the SCO also includes the former Central Asian Soviet republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani, whose country is an observer member, also attended the meeting as he seeks Chinese and Russian support following the US withdrawal from the nuclear deal with Tehran. Warning that “unilateralism, trade protectionism and a backlash against globalization are taking new forms”, Xi spoke up for the “pursuit of cooperation for mutual benefit”.

While never mentioning the United States by name, he added: “We should reject the Cold War mentality and confrontation between blocs, and oppose the practice of seeking absolute security of oneself at the expense of others, so as to obtain security of all.” Xi, whose government is locked in tough negotiations with the United States to avoid a trade war, said World Trade Organization rules and the multilateral

trading system should be upheld to build an open world economy. “We should reject self-centered, shortsighted and closed-door policies,” said Xi, whose own country has been accused of restricting broad access by foreign firms to its huge market.

Addressing the SCO leaders, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the addition of Pakistan and India means that the organization “has become even stronger”. The show of unity was in marked contrast to the calamitous end to the Group of Seven meeting in Quebec City, after US President Donald Trump disowned a joint summit statement and lambasted Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as “dishonest” and “weak”.

Responding to criticism of Russia in the G7 statement, Putin told reporters that the group should “stop this creative babbling and shift to concrete issues related to real cooperation”. The G7 text made no mention of Russia being invited back into the group despite Trump’s support for such a move. Russia was expelled in response to its

2014 annexation of Crimea. Putin did not miss an opportunity to thumb his nose at the club of leading industrialized democracies, saying that the combined purchasing power of the SCO outstripped the G7. The People’s Daily newspaper, the ruling Chinese Communist party mouthpiece, also took a jab at the group by tweeting two pictures side by side. The first was the now famous photo of German Chancellor Angela Merkel flanked by leaders such as a furrow-browed French President Emmanuel Macron, all tensely facing off against Trump - the only one seated, with his arms crossed. The second depicted Xi at the center of the SCO leaders striding forward together in smiling unison, a grinning Putin by his side. “G7 vs SCO: two meetings on the same day,” it taunted.

Trump vs G7

While Xi feted his peers with fireworks, SCO members have their own disagreements, with India concerned about China’s trade infrastructure project in disputed territory in

arch-rival Pakistan. China and India had their own heated border dispute in the Himalayas last year. But no disharmony was evident during the two-day summit in Qingdao. Xi touted security cooperation - the original raison d’etre of the SCO - and announced that China would open a 30 billion yuan (\$4.7 billion) special lending facility within the bloc’s interbank consortium. Putin said trade and investment among SCO countries was growing and Russia and China would propose a Eurasian economic partnership for all member states. With the president of aspiring full member Iran looking on, Putin said Moscow still supports the Iran nuclear deal that Trump recently abandoned. The US withdrawal, he said, “can further destabilize the situation” but Russia is in favor of the “unconditional implementation” of the pact. Putin, however, voiced his support for Trump’s summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore tomorrow.

For his part, Rouhani said the “US effort to impose its policies on others is an expanding danger”. Rouhani said the US was monitoring the global reaction to its withdrawal from the nuclear deal, and a weak response would encourage it to carry on acting unilaterally. “This will have many harmful consequences for the global community,” he said. The Iranian president said his country was ready to cooperate with the SCO against terrorism, extremism and separatism. — AFP

G7 duel between image-conscious world leaders

LA MALBAIE, Canada: The G7 summit was coming down to the wire. The leaders of the world’s richest democracies had promised some kind of compromise statement despite their deep divisions on trade. Donald Trump is seated amid a crowd of officials. Across a narrow table, Angela Merkel and Emmanuel Macron are standing, holding copies of a draft text, arguing for their position. One key moment in a two-day meeting. Five official photos. Five opposing stories.

The first view outsiders got of the scene came at 10.45 am, when White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders released a photo taken inside the room. In the US version, we see Donald Trump face on, apparently calm, leaning back confidently with a skeptical almost sarcastic air, his arms crossed in a rebuff to the other leaders, bent towards him pleadingly.

Ten minutes later, the French president’s office responded with a quite different view of the very same scene. Taken from the opposing angle, the French photo shows Macron negotiating with his American counterpart, gesticulating to make a point. The other leaders have fixed him with their regard, apparently fascinated. Merkel’s face is hidden by a neighboring official’s head.

This would not stand, and when Merkel’s press team responded they brought the big guns. Taken by Jezco Denzel, a photographer working the German government and winner of a category



LA MALBAIE, Canada: US President Donald Trump (right) talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel (center), surrounded by other G7 leaders, during a meeting of the G7 Summit. The photo went viral, popping up all over social media, sometimes in its original form sometimes altered for humorous or satirical ends. — AFP

award in this year’s prestigious World Press Photo award, the German picture shows Merkel dominant. Her fists planted on the table, she looms above an apparently nervous Trump, looking up at her and listening without response. Macron is masked by the crowd, Britain’s Prime Minister Theresa May invisible. Something about the photo caught the imagination of the web, and it was the German version that went viral, popping up all over social media, sometimes in its original form sometimes altered for humorous or satirical ends. Italian premier Giuseppe Conte’s version when it came was relatively humble, perhaps reflecting that he has been in the jobs for fewer

than three full days. He is seen from behind, clutching a document, addressing Merkel and Macron. So it fell to the hosts, Canada, to have the final word in the war of the images, releasing their picture just after 2:00 pm on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s account. As befits his role as annual chairman of the G7, and perhaps Canada’s tradition of peacekeeping operations, the picture is taken from the side, impartially showing Trump dealing with his counterparts as equals. All appear to be working in tandem to resolve their differences - albeit under the keen but paternal eye of Trudeau, appearing in the figure of a referee. — AFP

Fire hits Iraq’s biggest ballot warehouse before recount

BAGHDAD: A fire ripped through Iraq’s biggest ballot warehouse yesterday where votes for the eastern Baghdad district were stored, before a recount ordered by parliament, a security official said. The cause of the blaze was not immediately known but it comes as Iraq prepares for a manual recount of around 10 million votes following allegations of fraud during the May 12 legislative election that saw a surprise victory for populist Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr.

The senior security official, speaking to AFP on condition of anonymity, said the fire broke out in a warehouse located in Al-Russafa, one of the largest voting districts in eastern Baghdad. Around 60 percent of Baghdad’s two million eligible voters had cast their ballots in the May election in Al-Russafa district. A column of black smoke billowed from the warehouse and could be seen across the capital. Two hours after the

blaze erupted firefighters backed by 10 trucks were still struggling to put out the fire, an AFP reporter said. “The room where voting machines and other election equipment were stored was destroyed by the fire,” Imed Jamil, an election commission official for Al-Russafa told AFP. “The ballot boxes were stored in another room,” he said, adding that the fire would not affect the recount. Interior ministry spokesman General Saad Maan insisted the scene and told reporters that “most of the ballot boxes were stored in another building and have been preserved”.

On Wednesday Iraq’s parliament ordered a manual recount at all polling stations - although no timetable has been announced - and sacked the commission which oversaw the polls. The election was won by Sadr’s electoral alliance with communists, with long-time political figures pushed out by Iraqi voters who were hoping for change.

But the result was contested following allegations of fraud namely by the veteran politicians, including parliamentary speaker Salim Al-Juburi. According to intelligence services, tests of electronic voting machines - used for the first time in Iraqi elections - produced varied results, appearing to give credence to the fraud claims. — AFP

Jordan's squeezed middle class in vanguard of austerity protests

Landlocked country blighted by jobless rate of 18.5%

AMMAN: From doctors to lawyers, teachers and architects, when angry Jordanians stood up to the government over austerity measures and the rising cost of living, the struggling middle class was at the forefront. In some of the biggest economic protests to shake the resource-poor kingdom in years, several thousand demonstrators flooded the streets each night for a week calling for the withdrawal of an IMF-backed income tax bill. "In other countries, protest movements like this may seem ordinary, but in Jordan publicly opposing power is a true act of bravery," said Rahme Jaafar, who did not miss a single demonstration.

The 24-year-old business administration graduate works for an NGO but does odd jobs on the side to get by. She will forgo the traditional big party when she soon marries and hopes to move with her future husband into a small apartment in a working-class district in northern Amman. "It doesn't matter - we didn't want to start our life together in debt," she said. Her fiance Mohammed Hassan, 23, works 12 hours a day as a chef in a restaurant but his salary is not enough to make ends meet. "During the weekends I give diving or climbing lessons," he said. "Jordan's youth have enormous ability, but our dreams are crushed and we're pushed to emigrate."



AMMAN: Mohammed Hassan changes a gas canister as his fiancée Rahme Jaafar looks on Saturday in their future apartment that are going to move into after their marriage in the Jordanian capital. — AFP

ister and the withdrawal of the tax bill in a victory for demonstrators, but the debt-laden country still faces major challenges.

Majd Jabali had to stop studying and start working to provide for his family after his father's business collapsed in 2012. "I did all kinds of odd jobs and for a few years I've been a driver for foreign tourists but in the low season work is scarce," the 29-year-old said. He rents a car to work 14 hours a day as an Uber driver in Amman. After the rental cost, he takes home about 15 dinars (\$21) each evening, a pittance in a city ranked the Arab world's most expensive in terms of cost of living in a recent report by the Economist Intelligence Unit. He doesn't think about the future much anymore. "My priority now is to provide for my parents and siblings."

'Empty pockets'

Mohammed Khalil Tahbub, who is in his 60s, has seen the property company that he created more than two decades ago wither in the harsh economic climate. "The real estate sector has experienced a marked

recession in recent years. Since 2014 I've been selling almost nothing," he told AFP as he toured one of his apartments for sale. Only two of 10 apartments have sold in the building aimed at low-income households that he built in 2016, even though "we offer knockdown prices among the cheapest in the capital," he said. "People have nothing left in their pockets and the banks are no longer giving out loans. "When citizens can no longer afford basic necessities, how can they hope to buy an apartment?" said Tahbub, who took part in two general strikes this month called by trade unions.

Maysun Al-Khurasat, an architect, also joined in the strikes because "it's not normal that taxes are so high" with hardly anything to show for it in education, health or transportation. The mother-of-two in her 30s started her own business a year ago but is finding it tough, especially because of what she called the "excessive" tax burden. "When I started a family with my husband we had all kinds of dreams. Today all that's been put on hold," she said. —AFP

Iraqi extradited after 'confessing' to teen's murder

FRANKFURT: A failed Iraqi asylum seeker arrived by plane back in Germany on Saturday after admitting raping and murdering a teenage girl, Iraqi Kurdish officials and German media reports said. "I am delighted the suspect sought by justice is back in Germany," said Interior Minister Horst Seehofer in a statement, adding he hoped Ali Bashar, 20, would now "rapidly" face trial. Bashar is alleged to have strangled 14-year-old Susanna Maria Feldman after raping her in the German city of Wiesbaden.



Ali Bashar

He was detained in northern Iraq on Friday following an outcry in Germany after police hunting the fugitive admitted he had fled with his family. Despite the absence of a formal extradition treaty between Iraq and Germany, he was put on a Lufthansa flight to Germany from the Kurdish regional capital Erbil, German media reports said. He was expected to face a remand hearing after landing in Frankfurt and being transferred by helicopter to the police prefecture at nearby Wiesbaden, police said.

Bild daily said German police chief Dieter Romann, who has developed close relations with the Iraqi authorities, had personally travelled to Erbil to facilitate the handover. The case has put renewed

pressure on Chancellor Angela Merkel's government over the decision to open Germany's borders at the height of Europe's refugee crisis in 2015, resulting in the arrival of more than a million asylum seekers. Demonstrators held a minute's silence in cities across Germany on Saturday, notably in the teenager's hometown of Mainz. On Friday, a senior official in the autonomous Kurdistan region had told AFP that authorities were working to transfer Bashar quickly back to Germany to face trial. "During interrogation following his arrest, the young man originally from Kurdistan confessed to killing the German girl," said Tariq Ahmad, police chief for the Dohuk province of Iraqi Kurdistan. "He said that the two of them were friends but that they had a dispute, and that he killed her when the girl threatened to call the police," Ahmad said.

Bashar arrived in Germany in 2015 along with his parents and five siblings. He should have been deported after his request for asylum was rejected in Dec 2016, but he obtained a temporary residence permit pending his appeal. During this time, he got into trouble with the police on several occasions, including for fights, alleged robbery and possession of an illegal switchblade. He was also among the suspects for the sexual assault of an 11-year-old girl living in the same refugee shelter. Seehofer said Bashar's return was but "small consolation" for the victim's parents who he said were in his thoughts. "For the state of our society it is important these crimes be cleared up and that the suspects be brought to justice," he added. —AFP

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International

US farm belt trying to head off another surge in suicides

Farm industry officials bolstering outreach, counseling programs

NEW YORK: Responding to signs of rising despair in rural America over a farming downturn exacerbated by the current trade war fears, agricultural leaders are mobilizing to try to prevent another suicide crisis. Two high profile deaths in the past week, of celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain and fashion designer Kate Spade, have shined a spotlight on the issue of depression and suicide in the United States, where the latest data show rates are rising, especially in rural states.

Farm industry officials are bolstering outreach and counseling programs throughout the American farm belt and calling for more action from Washington. "Things are tough in the countryside," said John Sorbello, a vegetable and nursery farmer in upstate New York and a director of the state's farm bureau, an affiliate of the nation's biggest farm group. Dairy farmers are facing especially tough times, he said. "There's nothing to do over the pricing of milk, they are worried about NAFTA, about the surplus in dairy products all over the world," Sorbello said. "It seems you have no control over it and it's stressful."

Earlier this year, one of the large dairy cooperatives took the drastic step of including suicide prevention information with the monthly check. "Some people thought it was too extreme," Sorbello said. "But it got everybody's attention." The outreach push comes amid a big surge in suicides throughout the United States. The suicide rate rose nearly 30 percent between 1999 and 2016 - and in many states by more than that - according to a report this week from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The report did not break out individual industries, but 2016 CDC data showed US farmers have five times the rate of suicide as the broader population. The US farm belt also has bad memories of the 1980s when a bruising industry downturn saw an explosion of agricultural workers taking their own lives.

Crisis
"Farmers and ranchers already have the highest suicide rates of any occupation," said Matt Perdue, of the National Farmers Union. Those who work in rural areas point to myriad factors, including commodity price volatility, more extreme weather and worsening isolation as more young people leave for the cities. And making matters worse, "About 60 percent of rural residents live in areas that suffer from a mental health professional shortage," Perdue said.

The CDC study also pointed to research that suggests chronic exposure to pesticides "might affect the neurologic system and contribute to depressive symptoms." Financial stress is one factor that can lead to suicide and farm incomes have fallen around 50 percent since 2013 and revenues are expected in 2018 to come in at the lowest level since 2006. The National Farmers Union, at the urging of members who see growing numbers of growers fearful of losing the family farm, urged the US Department of Agriculture to "proactively address the farm suicide crisis."

Lawmakers voted in 2008 to bolster mental health services in agricultural communities as part of an omnibus farm bill, but no funds have been allocated to the effort. There is a chance Congress could provide support in a bill now being considered, but "it's too early to make a prediction one way or the other," Perdue said. The troubles facing farmers extend well beyond the United States. France in early 2018 boosted its funding for anti-suicide programs following a rise in the number of calls for help. And India has also suffered a wave of farm suicides after many in the sector became mired in debt.

'Not an occupation'
NY FarmNet at Cornell University, which was founded in 1986 amid a rash of suicides, provides free aide to farmers in need. "We send one financial consultant and



NEW YORK: A man looks at notes and photographs left in memory of Anthony Bourdain at the closed location of Brasserie Les Halles, where Bourdain used to work as the executive chef, on June 8, 2018. —AFP

one farm family consultant to each case, as we have found that even if the case presents itself as purely a financial matter, there are almost always underlying personal or communication issues that need attention," said Hal McCabe, outreach director at NY FarmNet.

Hearing of rising concern in rural communities, the group has conducted suicide prevention workshops aimed mainly at agricultural services workers, such as bankers, suppliers or farm maintenance staff. "While we cannot speak to suicides, as that data is very hard to ever come by, the types of calls we are getting are far more dire than in the past five-10 years," McCabe said. Ted Matthews, director of mental health outreach for

the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and a psychologist by training, will meet or phone any farmer under duress at no charge. "This is important because when you are in a medical environment, for the insurance, you have to get people to come in," Matthews said. But helping farmers is more complex than most people realize, he said. "One of the biggest problems is that non-farmers don't understand farmers, and they think they do," Matthews said. "Farming is not an occupation, it's a way of life. You don't go to your job to farm, it's part of who you are," he added. "Telling them to sell their lands to pay off their debts is like telling them to cut one arm." —AFP

Brexit donor held undisclosed meetings with Russian envoy

LONDON: A major Brexit campaign donor held two previously undisclosed meetings with the Russian ambassador before and after the 2016 referendum and was offered a deal on six gold mines in Russia, The Sunday Times reported. Arron Banks, the outspoken founder of the Leave.eu campaign, was introduced to London envoy Alexander Yakovenko by Alexander Udod, a "suspected Russian intelligence officer", the report said.

Banks has also reportedly admitted that he handed over phone numbers for members of Donald Trump's transition team to Russian officials, after meeting with the US president-elect in November 2016 in New York. Asked about the report at the G7 summit in Canada on Saturday, Prime Minister Theresa May said: "I am sure that if there are any allegations that need investigation the proper authorities will do that."

Senior cabinet minister David Lidington told the BBC yesterday that the allegations were "serious" and should be looked into by the authorities. The paper said the revelations raised "explosive questions about attempts by Russia to influence the referendum result" but Banks dismissed them as part of a "witch-hunt" against Brexit and Trump.

'Family trip' to Moscow

Banks, an insurance industry millionaire, has previously said he had "a six-hour boozy lunch" with Yakovenko at the Russian embassy on Nov 6, 2015. Citing email correspondence, the Sunday Times said that meeting was set up by Udod and that he was one of 23 suspected Russian spies expelled by Britain following the poisoning of former double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in March. The paper quoted Andy Wigmore, a close associate of Banks who was present at the meeting, as saying that they did not offer "any information to (the ambassador) or any Russian any details of our campaign".

The report said Banks and Wigmore met with Yakovenko again for a cup of tea on November 17 at a meeting that also included mining magnate Siman Povarenkin to discuss a deal involving six gold mines in Russia. Banks, who is married to a Russian woman, then visited Russia in February 2016 at the height of the EU referendum campaign for what he said was "a family trip" that involved no meetings with Russian officials.

The paper said the Brexit campaigners subsequently invited Yakovenko and Udod to a drinks party in London's Notting Hill hosted by Banks, and the Russian ambassador was also asked to attend their results party in Westminster. Banks and Wigmore were invited back to meet Yakovenko after they, and Brexit firebrand Nigel Farage, met with Trump in Nov 2016 shortly after his election. "The ambassador was obviously keen to know how our meeting (with Trump) went," Wigmore said. —AFP

Conte, Italy's novice PM, completes G7 baptism of fire

LA MALBAIE, Canada: A month ago, he was a little-known law professor. On Saturday, Giuseppe Conte was heading home to Italy as a fully-fledged member of the most exclusive club of world leaders. And he may just have found a new ally in Donald Trump. After the political novice took over as premier on June 1, commentators were swift to question his ability to stand shoulder to shoulder with the likes of Trump and Germany's Angela Merkel at this weekend's G7 summit in Canada.

While Europe's leaders have often allowed Germany and France to coordinate a common stance at international gatherings, Conte raised eyebrows at the start of the summit by siding with Trump on the issue of Russia's readmission to their club. Conte turned to Trump's favorite medium Twitter to make his point, in a sign that he is another world leader willing to use social media to bypass journalists.

He later appeared to fall into line with Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron by agreeing it was in fact still too early for

Moscow to be brought back into the fold, four years after it was expelled for annexing Crimea. But Italy's left-wing Repubblica newspaper pointed out how Conte watched the evening's entertainment sat alongside Trump, who might otherwise have found himself isolated in Canada. And the Italian also received an early invite to the White House although a date has yet been set. "Just met the new Prime Minister of Italy, @GiuseppeConteIT, a really great guy. He will be honored in Washington, at the @WhiteHouse, shortly," Trump said on Twitter after flying out of Canada. "He will do a great job - the people of Italy got it right!"

Taking on Brussels

That Conte should find common ground with Trump should be no great surprise given that they both owe their rise in large part to a backlash against globalization and the political establishment. But if Trump is the unabashed one-man leader of a movement, the mild-mannered Conte has been portrayed as the puppet of Italy's far-right League party and the anti-establishment Five Star Movement (M5S).

Trump has railed against the "swamp" establishment in Washington, and Conte made it clear on his international debut that he was willing to take on powerbrokers from Brussels. After talks with European Union Commission supremo Jean-Claude Juncker and European Council president Donald Tusk, Conte told reporters he had insisted on an overhaul to the so-called Dublin Regulations which require people seeking



LA MALBAIE, CANADA: Italy's Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte (left) shakes hands with US President Donald Trump on the first day of the G7 Summit on 8 June, 2018. —AFP

asylum to register in the first EU state they enter.

Italy has long argued that the rules as they stand are unfair given so many migrants trying to seek asylum from across the Mediterranean land in boats on its southern coast. The topic is expected to feature at an EU summit in Brussels at the end of the month, but Conte said that he

had expressed "Italy's total dissatisfaction with the proposals" that are currently on the table in his meeting with Juncker and Tusk. "Italy has been left on his own on this issue but we must have reforms and we want to see some more solidarity within Europe," he told Italian reporters. —AFP

Putin says 'premature' to divulge detail of Ukraine prisoner swap

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said yesterday it was too early to discuss in detail a possible prisoner exchange with Ukraine, amid hopes for the release of film director Oleg Sentsov and others during the World Cup. But the Kremlin leader indicated that backdoor negotiations were apparently underway, raising hopes for the release of dozens of prisoners including Sentsov, who is on a high-profile hunger strike at a high-security prison in Russia's far north.

"It's so far premature to say how this issue will be solved," Putin told reporters at a summit in the Chinese city of Qingdao, adding he would not want to comment for now "so as not to violate anything here and not to disrupt anything." Putin and Ukrainian leader Petro Poroshenko discussed a possible exchange of prisoners in a rare phone call Saturday and agreed that officials from the two countries would visit their prisoners "in the near future". Putin said

Poroshenko initiated the discussion.

Fears have grown in recent weeks that Sentsov, a 41-year-old Ukrainian director and author who is serving a 20-year prison sentence on terrorism charges in Russia, could die behind bars. He went on hunger strike on May 14 to demand Russia release dozens of Ukrainian political prisoners, timing his protest to coincide with the month-long football extravaganza that begins on Thursday. The father of two said he was ready to die in prison, drawing comparisons with Soviet-era dissident Anatoly Marchenko, who starved himself to death in prison in 1986 after he demanded Moscow release prisoners of conscience.

'I will not back down'

Sentsov, who has agreed to be administered a glucose drip, has already lost eight kilos and doctors have threatened to soon begin force-feeding him, his lawyer Dmitry Dinze has told AFP. In letter to rights activists released on Saturday, Sentsov said he felt "normal" and that he had recently been transferred to the prison infirmary and given a separate room. "So now I am a sick prisoner and not just a prisoner. :)) ", he wrote in the letter, a copy of which was published by Ukrainian TV channel Hromadske. "Everyone understands that I will not back down."

Ukraine's rights ombudsman Lyudmyla Denysova said on



Oleg Sentsov

Friday that Kiev and Moscow were in the process of agreeing lists of prisoners and other details. She would inform Poroshenko of the date she would travel to Russia to visit Ukrainians on Monday, her office said. Moscow's ombudsman Tatyana Moskalenkova told Russian media for her part that she would visit Ukraine no earlier than Wednesday, a day before the World Cup begins in Russia. —AFP

Liberia leader looks abroad for help tackling poverty

MONROVIA: After stoking expectations among Liberia's voters for rolling back poverty, President George Weah is facing the twin pressures of time and money to carry out his promises. On January 22, Weah became president of the one

of the world's poorest countries after vowing to improve the daily life of a population desperate for electricity, running water and other basics. The former soccer star succeeded Africa's first elected woman head of state, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who restored stability after brutal civil wars but failed to raise living standards.

"It is time now to consolidate the peace and to develop the country to be economically independent and prosper," Liezelle Kumalo, a researcher at the South African think-tank the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), told a seminar in Monrovia in May. "This is a huge challenge." She suggested Weah should not only keep the gains of Sirleaf's

term in office, but see them "multiplied at high speed" to meet the expectations of young people who massively backed him at the polls.

Youth account for some 60 percent of Liberia's population of 4.7 million. "Most of them are not yet trained to the level where we can find them jobs. Jobs are also not adequate to give to them," Interior Minister Varney Sirleaf said at the seminar. Weah himself seems clearly aware of the burden of expectation. He sought to set an example at the start of his mandate by cutting his own salary by 25 percent. Then he ordered a 20-percent cut in the price of rice, which is a staple food in Liberia but entirely imported. —AFP

International

Door already ajar: Trump may struggle to isolate DPRK again

Neighboring countries step up engagement, talks

DANDONG, China/SEOUL: North Korean officials have toured China to discuss economic development. Speculators are snapping up property along their common border. And South Korea is studying ways to boost engagement with its isolated neighbor to the north. Across the region, there are signs that US President Donald Trump's campaign of "maximum pressure" on Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons is weakening ahead of his summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore on Tuesday.

Trump, along with leaders like South Korea's President Moon Jae-in, have credited the pressure campaign with bringing Kim to the negotiating table through a combination of international sanctions, political isolation, and threats of military action. However, unless there is a major provocation or resumption of nuclear testing or missile launches by North Korea, strategists and academics say it is unlikely that maximum pressure will ever fully return.

"Trump's campaign is over," said Kim Hyun-wook, a professor at the Korea National Diplomatic Academy. "The diplomatic openings with North Korea have already been taking a toll on the maximum pressure campaign." Trump has himself said he doesn't want to use the term "maximum pressure" anymore because of improving relations with North Korea. Joseph Yun, the United States' former top negotiator with North Korea, told a Senate hearing on Tuesday: "Practically it is not possible to continue maximum pressure when you're talking with your adversary. I don't think you can have serious engagement as well as maximum pressure." Preparations are already underway in China, South Korea and Russia, which share land borders with North Korea, for better ties with the isolated nation. Officials from South Korea visited a shuttered joint economic project in Kaesong, North Korea, on Friday, part of a government effort to prepare for a possible easing of sanctions. Although they are wary of rushing into an unpredictable political situation, South Korean businesses representatives and North Korea experts gathered at a conference in Seoul on Thursday to discuss potential inter-Korean cooperation. "From a company's perspective, that (maximum pressure campaign) may be

gone this time, given the North-US summit is happening soon and Kim Jong Un's will to develop the country's economy is visible," an official from a major South Korean construction firm told Reuters on the sidelines the conference, asking to remain unnamed as he was not authorized to speak publicly.

Renewed ties

Along China's border with North Korea, speculators are buying land and traders are stockpiling cheap North Korean coal amid hopes that restrictions will soon be lifted. "It'll be good if North Korea opens up," said a hat seller in the border city of Dandong, who only gave her name as Yang. "The people there are so poor, it's like China in the 1980s." She said the number of North Koreans shopping in the city had dropped in recent months after the



Singapore hopes peace will bring 'bountiful harvest'

sanctions were tightened. But now, she said, property prices in Dandong were being driven up by speculators betting that trade would revive. Other local people in Dandong said North Korean workers were returning, prompting the opening of some restaurants and hotels. The owner of one Korean restaurant was training staff on presenting a new menu in preparation for more visitors from other parts of China, including people intending to visit North Korea. The Liuji Restaurant, which was shut after its owner was investigated in 2016 for dealings with North Korea, reopened in March after Kim's visit to China, his first trip out of the country since taking office. It was not clear what happened to the investigations or who the new owner was. The restaurant's North Korean staff explained the closing as "renovations".

On June 5, state carrier Air China announced it would resume regular flights between Beijing and Pyongyang, which officials had indefinitely suspended in November, citing poor demand. Although the first Air China flight had only around 20 passengers, tour operators said busloads of Chinese tourists were in Pyongyang, their numbers surging in recent weeks because of the lowered tensions.

"I went to the train station (in Pyongyang) and it was the busiest I've ever seen it," said the founder of the Dandong-based INDPK tour company, who goes by the name Griffin Che. "I'd guess about 100 Chinese tourists arrived by train today. In the past I would see a maximum of 30-40 tourists." Che said the prospect of new economic opportunities in North Korea has him interested in branching out beyond tourism into investment and coal trading. US lawmakers have raised concerns that traders in China are already skirting sanctions, but Beijing-based diplomats say that there is no evidence that China is abandoning its UN Security Council commitments.

Political isolation

Diplomats say all the major players, including Russia, China, and South Korea, are expected to continue to enforce the letter of any United Nations sanctions. Beyond sanctions, US officials say they successfully persuaded more than 20 countries to downgrade or end diplomatic ties with North Korea. Some of that political isolation has been reduced, however, by Kim Jong Un's meetings with leaders of China and South Korea, and this week's summit with Trump. At the end of May, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov landed the first meeting between a Russian official and Kim as head of state, and extended an invitation for the North Korean leader to visit Russia. Russia has long been sceptical of the sanctions regime, and South Korea's Moon has proposed a three-way study on potential joint projects, including railways, gas and power linking Siberia to the Korean peninsula. "Even if the summit fails and US-North Korea tensions resurface, Russia is unlikely to support new rounds of sanctions on North Korea," said Artyom Lukin, a professor at Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok.



SINGAPORE: North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un (left) is welcomed by Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong during his visit to The Istana, the official residence of the prime minister, following Kim's arrival in Singapore yesterday. — AFP

"If previously adopted UN sanctions continue to be in effect, Russia will abide by them, but it will probably find some legal ways and loopholes to make their enforcement as mild as possible." Kim has met Chinese President Xi Jinping two times in recent months and analysts say Beijing's willingness to maintain last year's level of pressure on North Korea is waning.

'Business as normal'

Singapore Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan also visited Pyongyang on Thursday, to discuss preparations for the summit. He later told reporters: "If a breakthrough is achieved during the summit in Singapore, if peace comes, there will be a bountiful harvest. Primarily of course, with the Korean peninsula but also the rest of us, including Singapore as well." Across Southeast Asia, many countries took steps to curtail or completely end most major trade with Pyongyang last year, but in some cases state-owned North Korean restaurants have continued to operate, potentially supplying Pyongyang with a trickle of cash. Two North Korean restaurants in

Jakarta have shut down. In Vietnam, two North Korean restaurants in Ho Chi Minh City closed in October last year, but there is still one in Hanoi, owned by a Vietnamese businessman who also runs a shipping company. The country's once-close ties with North Korea have been strained over North Korea's alleged use of a Vietnamese citizen in the assassination of Kim Jong Un's half brother, Kim Jong Nam, in Kuala Lumpur in February last year.

In March, Vietnam filed a report to the United Nations in which the country said it has "always fully implemented" sanctions on North Korea. In response to US pressure, Thailand said annual trade with North Korea fell by 94 percent, although some North Korean businesses have continued to operate in the country, including two restaurants in Bangkok. At the Pyongyang Haemaji Restaurant, North Korean waitress Pak Il Sim said tables were routinely full of customers, most of them Japanese. When asked if the restaurant had come under pressure from Thai authorities to close, she said: "No, business as normal". — Reuters

Nicaragua crisis talks in limbo

MASAYA, Nicaragua: Masaya, a city battling at the front lines of Nicaragua's heated anti-government protests, once again became the scene of fierce street battles that a rights group said saw one man die of a bullet wound to the heart. Firearm bursts rang out on Saturday in the city home to 100,000 people, where riots that started midday grew increasingly violent as masked demonstrators wielding homemade mortars and slingshots fought to fend off armed security forces.

Alvaro Leiva, head of the Nicaraguan Association for the Protection of Human Rights (ANPDH), said at least one sexagenarian had died after a bullet struck his heart. Leiva said the gunman was a sniper - implying a member of Ortega's security forces or government-backed vigilantes. The mortal wound came hours after the Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights (CENIDH) had raised to 137 the death toll in the Central American country, where demonstrations demanding President Daniel Ortega's ouster have raged since April 18.

At least two people had died in violent protests overnight, the CENIDH told AFP, one in the northern city of Jinotega and another in Managua. Leiva said conditions were growing increasingly grave "because we are talking about crossfire, not tear gas or rubber bullets." "The situation in this moment in Nicaragua is a crisis," he said. "We are asking the world to pay attention to Masaya."

The city just outside of the capital - known before for its tree-lined streets, traditional crafts and nearby volcano of the same name - has taken on the appearance of a war zone. Demonstrators, many of them young men, huddled Saturday behind barricades constructed from cobblestones, felled trees and sheet metal, the ground littered with broken glass and spikes to further guarantee no cars would pass. "We are fighting here because of the massacre of many people, the death of many children," one protestor told AFP, saying he's been actively demonstrating in Masaya for 15

Man arrested over deadly Japan stabbing spree

TOKYO: A man was arrested in central Japan after stabbing one person to death and injuring two others aboard a bullet train on Saturday night, a rare violent assault in the Asian nation. The suspect, identified as Ichiro Kojima, attacked the victims around 10:00 pm (1300 GMT) aboard the shinkansen train which was travelling from Tokyo to a station in Osaka, police and news reports said. Police officers stormed into the rail carriage and took the man into custody after the train, carrying some 880 passengers, made an emergency stop at Odawara station.

Police arrested the 22-year-old unemployed suspect on suspicion of attempted murder, a



MADRID: A woman holds a placard reading "Enough" during a demonstration to protest against the political situation in Nicaragua in Colon Square yesterday. — AFP

days. "We can say that between the government and the police, the police are supposed to protect the people," he said. "They're the ones who are shooting bullets at us."

No political will

The young man who died in Jinotega was killed during an armed attack on protesters who were guarding a road barricade intended to keep security forces back, according to student organizers. "Paramilitaries linked to the government gunned down boys who were fighting in the streets for liberty and democracy," said a statement from the city's student movement, calling it "a night of terror."

In Managua, a young motorcyclist died from a bullet to the neck after two armed men aboard motorcycles chased and shot him, according to local press. Demonstrators continued to block roads throughout Nicaragua as part of the mass protests demanding the removal of Ortega, a

former guerrilla who has held office for 11 years but who faces increasing opposition, even from onetime allies. "Unfortunately they still aren't showing political will - they continue to kill people," one student leader, Victor Cuadras, told journalists upon landing in Managua after a trip to Washington. "They shed blood yesterday and early today," he said of Ortega's ruling Sandinista party.

The crackdown was triggered by relatively minor demonstrations against pension cuts that mushroomed into mass protests against Ortega, who first came to power in 1979 as the head of a communist junta following the overthrow of dictator Anastasio Somoza. A major force in Nicaraguan politics over the past four decades, Ortega slipped out of power in 1990 but retook the presidency in 2006. Now in his third consecutive term, he is expected to remain as the country's leader until 2022. A key demand of protesters is to expedite that election. — AFP



MASAYA: An anti-government demonstrator fires a home-made mortar during clashes with riot police at a barricade in this town on Saturday. — AFP

Facing gunfire, Nicaraguan protesters build own mortars

MASAYA, Nicaragua: "No smoking" signs dot a forested enclave outside Nicaragua's flashpoint city Masaya, but tobacco is not the concern: The area harbors explosive material used to fashion homemade mortar rounds. Demand for the makeshift shells has jumped in recent weeks as anti-government protesters seek to fend off President Daniel Ortega's riot police, who are accused of unleashing deadly violence as the Central American country faces a sociopolitical crisis. In the clandestine outpost, a man sporting sunglasses and an azure-blue face protector hand-mixes the mortar bombs, a concoction of potassium chlorate with carbon, sulfur, aluminum and a bit of sand for weight. "We're living in a critical moment," he says, refusing to give his name for security reasons. That same day a Nicaraguan rights group announced that a 19-year-old student had been shot and killed, the 135th death linked to the unrest that has gripped the country since April 18.

Speaking from the makeshift workshop he dubs "Monimbo Makers" - named after the Masaya neighborhood that championed the rebellion that brought Ortega to power, but where residents are now turning on the leftist ruler - he says mortars are a form of protest and self-defense that "don't leave mortal wounds." "This is a way to protect ourselves during this struggle," he says.

'Resist the massacre'

Opponents of the Ortega government deploy the mortar rounds by slipping them

into light muzzleloader-style launchers, which are also generally handmade, and setting them alight. Masaya mechanic Alvaro Torres and his neighbors craft the launchers using tubes and soldering equipment. Their collaborative effort was "organized on the block to help resist the massacre of these people," he says. The mortars help "repel the enemy," the 47-year-old says. Making mortars - each one requires about an hour to produce, he says - is vital "to being prepared".

The devices are mostly used as a scare tactic: when lit, mortar rounds explode almost immediately, emitting smoke and an impressive, concussive blast. Getting hit with mortar shells could hurt, concedes a 20-year-old known simply as "El Fox". But they are meant not to be lethal, intended rather to push government forces back from the street barricades manned by protesters. Mortar wounds consist "of a burn, or a cut, but it's not deadly," El Fox said.

The Masaya resident said protesters are ultimately fighting an asymmetric battle, anyway: "Police carry AKs; they carry shotguns." "They are the only ones who have access to weapons," he says. "The people have been able to repel them with stones, Molotov cocktails and mortars - with the only things we can use to fight."

Peace, not war

Twelve mortar rounds normally go for 400 to 450 cordobas (\$12 to \$14), but prices have been rising since the government clamped down on gunpowder sales - causing the homemade market to burgeon. What's more, the craftsman at "Monimbo Makers" says, the companies selling chemicals needed for the homemade rounds have been closed, making it hard to procure ingredients. But he will keep trying, he says, because the mortars are a way to drive security forces back and help the protesters in their pursuit of "peace in Nicaragua - not war." — AFP



ODAWARA, Japan: The suspect of a stabbing attack on a bullet train, identified as Ichiro Kojima, leaves Odawara police station after being arrested in Kanagawa prefecture early yesterday. — AFP

Analysis

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Abe tries to keep Japan on Trump's radar ahead of Singapore summit

In dozens of conversations, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has counseled President Donald Trump to avoid making concessions to North Korea that could upset East Asia's balance of power, including a military retreat from South Korea that would leave Tokyo alone on the front lines against China's growing power. "The big picture is that any withdrawal of US forces from the peninsula would benefit China," said a source from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's policy circle.

"In 10 years, the US could be out of Korea and Taiwan could be like Hong Kong," he added, asking not to be identified because he was not authorized to speak to the media. Any outcome from Trump's meeting with North Korea's Kim Jong Un in Singapore on Tuesday that makes that scenario more likely may force Japan to accelerate preparations to survive without US military power, sources familiar with the nation's security planning said. Already, Japan has reinforced islands along the edge of the East China Sea, sought new regional allies, such as Australia and India, to balance China's power and, more recently, made a diplomatic push to reduce tensions with Beijing.

US forces in Korea

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Thursday restated that Washington wants "complete, verifiable and irreversible" denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. But he added that the US would work to guarantee Pyongyang's security if it abandoned a nuclear arsenal it says it built to deter US aggression. The United States has 28,500 troops in South Korea, a legacy of the Korean War. Japan hosts 50,000 US military personnel, including the biggest overseas concentration of US Marines, and an aircraft carrier strike group.

"Any reduction in US force levels in Northeast Asia will be seen as a relative retreat by the US. This is one of China's key strategic objectives," said a former senior US military commander in Asia. With no US forces in Korea, "the US-Japan alliance really stands alone in Northeast Asia," Japanese leaders see the same dynamic unfolding, and it has been a key part of Abe's message to the White House. "A US military pull out from the Korean peninsula would create a power vacuum. The Pentagon understands this and Japan is also saying this to Trump," a senior Japanese defense ministry official said.

Fear of China

China says its intentions are peaceful and rejects any suggestion it harbors territorial ambitions in Asia. Japan, nonetheless, fears China's growing strength. Its military is fed by annual defense spending increases that Tokyo, hemmed in by welfare spending to support a rapidly aging population, is unable to match. Japan's military outlays have grown for the past six years, and a policy paper discussed by ruling Liberal Democratic Party lawmakers in May proposed Japan adopt a North Atlantic Treaty Organization-style commitment to spending 2 percent of GDP on defense.

Even at that level, however, Japan's military budget would still only be about half of what China plans to spend in 2018. "Unlike the 1930s, Japan cannot militarize and neither can it go nuclear. Japan has no option but to strengthen diplomacy," said the source from Abe's policy circle. "Abe is a realist." Abe's diplomacy push included a meeting last month in Tokyo with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, the first such visit to Japan since 2010. The two agreed to establish a security hotline to help defuse unexpected incidents.

Lines of communication

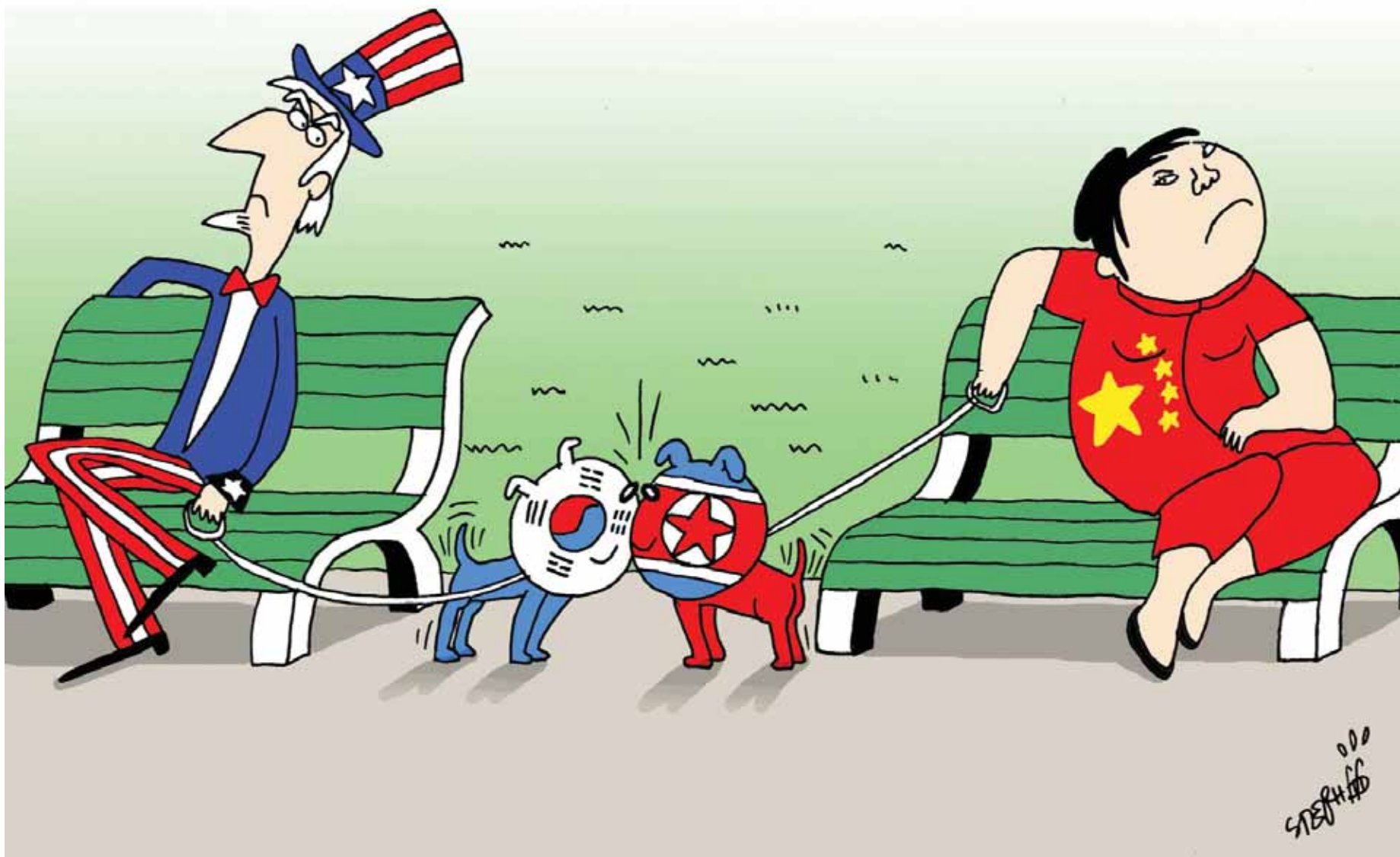
Throughout, Abe has stuck close to Trump to keep him committed to pressing Kim on denuclearization. Abe met Trump in Washington on Thursday, the 31st time the two leaders have spoken since Trump took office, more than twice as often as he talked with President Barack Obama during the whole of his second term.

"In the last 18 months, we really spent many hours to discuss this issue. We shall never repeat the past mistakes," Abe said at a joint briefing with Trump following their latest tete-a-tete. Abe said sanctions on Pyongyang should not ease until it agrees to complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization. Tokyo has also demanded that Kim reveal the fate of Japanese citizens abducted by North Korea to train its spies. Japan will hold back economic assistance to North Korea, Abe has said, until all those issues are resolved.

Trump, who has suggested he wants to drop the term "maximum pressure," has focused more on trade. "The Prime Minister and I have been working to expand our cooperation in a range of areas, including defense and commerce, which is what we discussed today," he said. The Japanese public is more pessimistic than their US counterparts about the prospects of the summit, according to a survey conducted in May and June by Japanese think tank Genron and the University of Maryland. They gathered 1,000 responses in Japan and 1,215 in the United States.

Only 6.2 percent of Japanese respondents agreed that the talks would deliver significant progress on denuclearization, compared with 21.8 percent of Americans in the survey. —Reuters

HISTORIC KOREAN SUMMIT



Find the leader: Kim's cat-and-mouse journey

North Korea's capacity for distraction and sleight of hand was on show yesterday as leader Kim Jong Un flew to Singapore for his summit with US President Donald Trump. No fewer than three aircraft made their way to Singapore from Pyongyang airport, a facility that frequently sees fewer than three international flights a day. One of them was the ageing Soviet-made Ilyushin-62 that is Kim's personal jet-officially known as "Chammae-1", or Goshawk-1, after the North's national bird but perhaps more memorably dubbed "Air Force Un". But while Singapore is well within its range, questions have been raised about its reliability and Kim, it turned out, was not on board.

Instead he flew on an Air China Boeing 747. According to flight tracking website Flightradar24, it took off using flight number CA122, a standard designation for the airline's route from Pyongyang to Beijing. In midair it changed its callsign to CA061 and headed south. In Singapore its high-profile passenger was met by Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, who tweeted a picture of himself shaking hands with Kim, who wore a dark lapel-less suit. Kim was driven into the city-state in a convoy of more than 20 vehicles, including an ambulance, with North Korean television cameramen filming his progress through the sunroofs.

Hundreds of Singaporeans lined the streets to capture images of their own of

his black Mercedes Benz stretch limousine with tinted windows-not normally allowed in Singapore, even for the country's prime minister. Reporters and photographers packed the pavements outside the St Regis hotel where Kim was to stay. Covers had been hung over the driveway and hotel security brought out additional potted plants to obstruct the view of the lobby. Aside from three official photographs released by the Singapore government, there had been no public sighting of Kim nearly two hours after he landed.

Eye-wateringly expensive

Located just off Singapore's diplomatic district and a stone's throw away from the Orchard Road shopping belt, the modernist St Regis is tucked between an ageing building dotted with carpet shops and a sleepy high-end neighborhood mall. Rooms at the establishment start at Sg\$320 (\$240) a night. On the 20th floor, the ostentatiously opulent 335-square meter (3,606 square feet) Presidential Suite, where Kim was believed likely to stay, features a Marc Chagall artwork and a white baby grand piano.

Its rooms are "lined with gold, and accented with precious metals like brass, onyx and silver", the hotel says on its website. It does not give prices but the list price of a similar facility in New York is \$35,000 a night. Who will pick up the bill for the North Koreans' stay has been the subject of much speculation-the North's

economy has suffered from years of mismanagement and is now subject to multiple sanctions over its nuclear ambitions.

Pyeongyang has a history of trying to have others pay for its travel-Seoul paid for its delegates to this year's Winter Olympics in the South. But a Seoul presidential spokesman said it was "not considering it at all at the moment", while the US has insisted it will not foot the bill-and is

not asking anyone else to do so. Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said Sunday his government was spending around Sg\$20 million to host the summit, around half of it on security. "It's a cost that we are willing to pay. It's our contribution to an international endeavor which is in our profound interests," he said. He did not mention the North Koreans' hotel bill. —AFP



The official car carrying North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un leaves the Istana, the official residence of the prime minister, after his meeting with the Singaporean prime minister in Singapore

Kim Jong Un: The young leader at the centre stage

North Korea has been isolated and ostracized for decades, but leader Kim Jong Un will share centre spot on the world stage Tuesday at his Singapore summit with US President Donald Trump. His father and grandfather restricted their overseas trips to the Communist bloc or non-aligned countries-with his father Kim Jong Il having a notorious fear of flying. But Kim, who is still in his mid-30s, repeatedly showed an ability to stamp an outsized footprint on the global stage without ever leaving home, taking his country to unprecedented nuclear heights and sending tensions soaring.

Until this year, the most prominent American he had met was basketball star Dennis Rodman, with whom he struck up an unlikely friendship. But in an abrupt turnaround, Singapore will host the first-ever meeting between a North Korean leader and a sitting US president, the climax of a series of summits in less than three months. Kim arrived Sunday for the event. Last year Kim called Trump a "mentally deranged US dotard" but he now appears to have embraced a new diplomatic approach, coming across as polite and even charming in two meetings each with Chinese leader Xi Jinping and the South's President Moon Jae-in.

Family values

Kim is the third member of his dynasty to rule the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as the country is officially known, and inherited power in 2011 when he was still in his 20s. At the time he was considered untested, vulnerable and likely to be manipulated by senior figures. But he has established his authority over both the ruling Workers' Party and the military, proving his mettle by ruthlessly purging potential rivals.

The most senior victim was his uncle and mentor Jang Song Thaek, who was suddenly executed in 2013, denounced by state media as "despicable human scum" and proclaimed guilty of a variety of colorful crimes and political sins. And last year his eldest half-brother Kim Jong Nam was brazenly assassinated in broad daylight, smeared with a deadly nerve agent as he walked through Kuala Lumpur's international airport in a hit which most

analysts say could only have come from Pyongyang. In contrast his sister Kim Yo Jong has emerged as one of his closest advisers, constantly at his side during his diplomatic travels and acting as his envoy to the Winter Olympics in the South in February.

Eternal President

Rights groups say abuses are rampant in the North, where between 80,000 and 120,000 prisoners languish in political prison camps. But Kim has also been keen to project a softer side, at least in official propaganda. Unlike his father, who rarely smiled or spoke in public, the carefully vetted images of Kim Jong Un's heavily choreographed appearances show a more garrulous figure, laughing and joking with officers, soldiers and civilians during field trips, as well as giving speeches to packed halls of party functionaries. He has noticeably modeled his image on that of his grandfather Kim Il Sung, appearing to mimic his hair-style, dress, mannerisms and public speaking style.

Pyeongyang is extremely sensitive and protective when it comes to the image of the ruling family, and Kim's father and grandfather are ubiquitous, their portraits adorning every home and office in the country while their bodies lie in state at the capital's Kumsusan Palace. The North's

founder Kim Il Sung remains the country's Eternal President despite having died in 1994, and the current leader's key governmental title is instead the unwieldy Chairman of the State Affairs Commission.

Lap of luxury

Unlike his grandfather, whose youth was dominated by the anti-Japanese struggle, Kim has led a life of luxury. He was born to his father's third wife, Japan-born ethnic Korean dancer Ko Yong Hui, who is believed to have died of breast cancer in 2004. Much of his early history is still surrounded in mystery-so much so that even his precise date of birth is unclear. He is said to have known that he would become North Korea's leader from his eighth birthday, when he received a general's uniform and the country's military top brass bowed to him. Kim was sent to school in Switzerland, where he was looked after by his maternal aunt Ko Yong Suk and her husband. School staff and friends, who were reportedly unaware that he was a member of North Korea's ruling family, remembered him as a shy boy who liked skiing. Hollywood tough guy Jean-Claude Van Damme and basketball. Now, all eyes will be on the wily young leader as he meets the President of the United States. — AFP



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un arrives at Singapore International airport in Singapore. — AFP

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2018

13 Trump's trade war drawing retaliation from close allies



13 France and Germany push for compromise on eurozone reform



15 ZTE, Huawei to face closed doors in US



HERAT: In this photograph taken on June 9, 2018 an Afghan dry fruits vendor arranges his products while waiting for costumers ahead of the Eid Al-Fitr festival, which marks the end of Islamic holy month of Ramadan, at a roadside stall in Herat province. Muslims throughout the world are marking the month of Ramadan, the hollest month in the Islamic calendar during which devotees fast from dawn until dusk. — AFP

Nigeria moves to boost cocoa sector

Agriculture was once the mainstay of Nigeria’s economy

IBADAN: Cocoa House in Ibadan, southwest Nigeria, was built with the earnings from exports of cocoa beans and at 26 storeys was once the country's tallest building. Profits from sales of the commodity-prized around the world as the basic ingredient for chocolate-used to be ploughed into providing free education and health services, rural development and other infrastructure projects.

But today, like the sector from which it takes its name, Cocoa House is a shadow of its former self: the paint is faded, the roof is failing and offices lie empty. "Cocoa House used to be the glory of the west," said Pa Olusina Adebiyi, referring to Nigeria's former Western Region, which was re-organized into smaller, separate states from 1967. "If you go there now, it's an eyesore with all sorts of characters loitering in the area," the 85-year-old former clerk in the building said.

Agriculture was once the mainstay of Nigeria's economy and provided jobs for more than 70 percent of the population until the discovery of oil. President Muhammadu Buhari and his government are now trying to revive agriculture to diversify the oil-dependent economy that has been battered by the fall in global crude prices.

One sector seen as ripe for development is cocoa and the Cocoa Association of Nigeria (CAN) has outlined a 10-year action plan to boost production. "We have made laudable recommendations that can change the cocoa story in Nigeria," said CAN president Sayina Riman. "We hope those

recommendations will be faithfully implemented in the interests of the industry."

Price differences

Riman pointed out that Nigeria's oil industry, which accounts for some 70 percent of government revenue and 90 percent of foreign earnings, was initially developed using cocoa money. As oil's stock rose, cocoa's declined and since the 1970s, it has been the West African giant's "most neglected commodity", he added. Production in 2016 was 237,000 tons, according to data from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. Ivory Coast produced 1.47 million tons and Ghana 859,000 tons. Nigeria has two cocoa harvests: the smaller mid-crop from April to June and the main crop from October to December. On his three-hectare cocoa farm in the village of Sofolu in Ogun state, Oluranti Adeboye was busy with a cutlass and a long stick. "The weather has been good this year. Early rains have boosted my crop," said the skinny 62-year-old former civil servant, as he prepared to harvest ripe cocoa pods.

"These cocoa pods are better than what I got last season." Bare-chested, he gathered the pods into sacks to ferment before drying them in the sun for sale to buyers for export. Adeboye said farmers were losing crops to pests and black pod disease—a fungus that affects cacao trees—while they had limited access to better seedlings. "These trees were planted more than 10 years ago. They are old and worn-out. We need new seedlings and improved varieties but the resources are not

there," he said. Adeboye grumbled about young people's lack of interest in cocoa farming while Sunday Ojo Folorunso, from neighboring Ondo state, complained about commodity prices. "Currently, we sell a kilogram of cocoa for 650 naira at the farm while a metric ton is between 650,000 naira and 680,000. This is far too small for our efforts," he said. "Farmers in Ivory Coast and Ghana are well-motivated to increase productivity because they are paid handsomely for their crops."

Funding problem

Experts and scientists said Nigeria can boost production with improved seedlings, fertilisers, new farming methods, pesticides and better coordination among research bodies. "There is great future for the industry in Nigeria," said Ranjana Bhattacharjee of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Ibadan. "Farmers can be assisted to raise output from an average of 300kg per hectare to 800kg per hectare to boost their productivity and income."

"What is needed is concerted effort by all the stakeholders on how to provide farming materials to farmers to boost their output," Bhattacharjee said. Nigeria should take a cue from Ivory Coast and Ghana which process cocoa beans into chocolate and other products to earn more money. Nigeria used to have more than 20 processing factories but poor electricity supply and other amenities cut



OGUN STATE: Farmer Oluranti Adeboye, 62, harvests cocoa at Sofolu village. — AFP

that back to three. One scientist at the state-run Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN), who asked not to be identified, said funding was an issue for research. "At CRIN, you will find aged trees that are no longer producing. Some of them are as old as the institute itself," he said. CRIN was set up over 60 years ago. — AFP

US jobs bonanza all but ensures Fed rate hike

WASHINGTON: The US Federal Reserve this week will raise the key interest rate for the second time in 2018, working to stay one step ahead of inflation. A hiring spree in May helped drive the unemployment rate down to levels eerily similar to those recorded almost 50 years ago—just before an era of high inflation and economic pain that many Americans still recall with a shudder.

It took years of high lending rates for the Fed to rein in prices and see growth restored in the world's largest economy, and the central bank since has been focused on avoiding a repeat. Even before last month's expectations-shattering jobs report — 223,000 net new positions were created and unemployment hit the lowest in 18 years at 3.8 percent—members of the Federal Reserve's interest rate-setting Federal Open Market Committee had signaled they were ready to move.

And even Fed Governor Lael Brainard, an influential voice who spent much of 2017 urging fellow policymakers to wait before raising rates, has sounded somewhat more hawkish of late. She recently said gradual rate increases are now justified and downplayed worries possible signs in financial markets of trouble ahead for the economy.

Recent data show the number of job openings now exceeds the population of job seekers for the first time on record, dating back to 2000. And in such a tight labor

market, anecdotal reports collected by the Fed show employers are having to raise wages to prevent other companies from poaching their workers, re-hire retirees, or begin recruiting directly from trade schools.

Queasiness about unemployment

It all adds up to an increase coming in the benchmark lending rate that affects loans on cars, homes and everything else. Futures markets on Friday put the odds of an increase next week at better than 90 percent. "Labor force growth is well below where we're seeing payroll growth. It seems that unemployment's going to get lower," John Ryding, chief economist at RDQ Economics said.

By year end the jobless rate could fall to 3.5 percent for the first time since 1969, he said, and then go as low as three percent by the end of 2019 — which would be the lowest level since September 1953. "The Fed wants to cool the job growth so that we don't keep pushing the unemployment rate ever lower," Ryding said.

Fed officials likely would—and in the past have—argued with that description, since they are focused on price stability and full employment, but in practice central bankers are always wary of a very low jobless rate since it will tend to push wages higher, and therefore raise prices. The 3.5 percent unemployment rate in December 1969 was followed by a dark period that included the "great" inflation of the 1970s, when US prices hit their 20th century peak, sometimes exceeding 10 percent amid an oil shock, and unemployment reached nine percent.

In today's economy, rising oil prices, December's sweeping tax cuts, a weakened US dollar and synchronous global growth, not to mention a brewing trade war with America's largest economic partners, all suggest price

pressures could soon rise. A June hike appears to be a sure thing and futures markets also are betting on a third increase in September.

A jump in inflation?

But, while many economists now expect a fourth rate hike in December, markets currently are split on the chances of this. While signaling they will raise rates in June, Fed members also describe their inflation target as "symmetric"—meaning they may let it run somewhat higher than their two percent target to compensate for the six year stretch during which it remained stubbornly low.

Ryding and other economists also say the link between unemployment and rising prices is not a simple one. "I expect it to have an impact but I think it's just hugely exaggerated," said Dean Baker, senior economist at the Center for Economic and Policy Research. While inflation did rise following the extremely low unemployment rates of the 1960s, it did not suddenly explode, but rose progressively instead.

And life for workers today is vastly different: the collapse of unionization, declining bargaining power and the rise of outsourcing mean that scarce workers do not always translate directly into higher pay and mounting prices. Current estimates for wage growth also show it is moving up slowly, just ahead of inflation, so it is not fueling an acceleration of prices.

A key measure of the Fed's preferred inflation gauge, the "core" Personal Consumption Expenditures price index, held steady at 1.8 percent in April, no higher than it was in November 2016. Baker said if he had been asked to predict the rate three years ago, "I would have said it would have accelerated." — AFP

EU pledges 20m euros to aid Jordan's economy

AMMAN: European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini announced yesterday 20 million euros (\$23.5 million) in aid for Jordan following a wave of anti-austerity protests that led to the prime minister's resignation. The EU will support Jordan "with all possible means at our disposal including economic and financial means," Mogherini said during a visit to Amman.

"This is a country that has a vital role to play in the region," she told a news conference. "You will have always the EU at your side fully supporting your reform work." The funds would "address in particular the needs of Jordanians that are particularly vulnerable," Mogherini said. Cash-strapped Jordan, a close US ally that relies heavily on donors, is struggling to rein in its debt after securing a \$723-million loan from the International Monetary Fund in 2016.

Austerity measures have seen prices of basic necessities rise across the kingdom, culminating in angry protests over tax proposals—later withdrawn—that forced Prime Minister Hani Mulki to resign on June 4. Jordan blames its economic woes on instability rocking the region and the burden of hosting hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing war in neighboring Syria. The World Bank says Jordan has "weak growth prospects" this year, while 18.5 percent of the working age population is unemployed. — AFP

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You will be responsible to create highly engaging complex Graphic icons and symbols, work with the team to understand the project scope and objectives prepare conceptual layouts and storyboards for the motion graphic project, participate in brainstorming sessions to share new design perspectives and ideas.

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You will be responsible to check the incoming IT Service requests and assign it to the appropriate IT Sections which include Communication, Network and Information system or to IT staff delegated at the location, and provide IT assistance to employees on telephone and advice employees to raise IT request in case of a major problem.

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Retail Operations Manager Jashanmal & Partners Limited Kuwait

You will be responsible to maximize turnover by ensuring accurate, timely and commercial sales planning and reforecasting, covering both like-for-like and new stores, produce sales and margin plans and forecasts `by store by week`, drives correct attitude for brand development to fully potentialise turnover.

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Senior Systems Analyst Burgan Bank Kuwait

You will be responsible to conduct detailed investigation and documentation of user requirements. Carry through the agreed and scheduled development reference to the banks SDLC, review system capabilities, workflow and scheduling limitations to determine if requested system or system changes are possible to implement within the current environment.

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You will be responsible for defining the right target and acquire contacts, arranging and managing campaigns, creative and innovative ideas to drive the sales.

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Procurement Specialist - Quality Assurance - National Housing Company - KSA

You will be responsible for reviewing and develop procurement policy and procedures manual, ensure all procurement processes are compliant with NHC policies and the updated version of Procurement Methods & Techniques, enhance and share knowledge of procurement policy and procedures with all NHC employees.

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Junior Supervisor Detecon Al Saudia Co. Ltd KSA

You will be responsible for executing, monitoring, reporting and/or coordinating projects, plan and dispatch civil team activities as per the project, update the daily/weekly/monthly report to management, project activity progress and quality of work, and ensure the following of HSE & PPE requirements.

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Showroom Manager Sayegh Group KSA

You will be responsible to define, plan, manage and monitor retails sales of the showroom in all over KSA, manager requisition and delivery of goods within budget and on time. Additionally, in conjunction with Sales personnel establish and maintain the budget for showroom.

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Finance Manager Emirates Macarony Factory UAE

You will be responsible to negotiate terms for banking facilities and maintain good relationship with the banks, manage the Accounting & Financial system (ERP, Financial Statements, Receivable & Payable process), supervise the preparation of MIS Reports to the Executive Management on financial performance, fund management, etc.

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Techno Commercial Administrator John Crane - UAE

You will be responsible to provide excellent customer service by providing on-time delivery and timely and accurate responses to customer queries, preparation of job quotations, including coding and pricing, in coordination with relevant Sales Manager and sister companies, and support external sales team with specific customer account information.

Apply Now JB3808947

Marketing Manager Cobalt Recruitment UAE

You will be responsible to develop and lead the implementation of the PR plan for the practice, develop and oversee the delivery of press and media communications, editorial/press calendars, special promotions, and general information on press, conduct media relations efforts; establishes and maintains contacts with key media personnel.

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IT Project Manager ADCB Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank - UAE

You will be responsible to manage the implementation of technology projects and changes, provide subject matter expertise of various complexities based on an in-depth understanding of the bank's systems, processes and functional business requirements and help design and develop technical solutions while supporting business with the management and maintenance of business systems.

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General Counsel Qatar District Cooling Company Qatar

You will be responsible to provide sound and well researched legal advice and expertise to Qatar Cool in order to mitigate legal concerns and risks, and resolve related problems and disputes, develop systems, processes and procedures for effective implementation of legal requirements and adopt a pro-active approach to manage Qatar Cool's legal activities to ensure regulatory compliance.

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Business

NBK Money Market report

Trump's trade war drawing retaliation from close allies

'It's difficult to assess what President Trump decides to do next'

KUWAIT: Donald Trump is under fire from his allies in the G7, a group of the largest advanced economies in the world, representing more than 62% of the global net wealth. The American President has failed to even keep his closest allies happy after a series of decisions that could not be described as "friendly". After pulling out of the international nuclear deal with Iran, Trump has put a strain on historical relationships as he imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum. Other members of the G7 condemned Trump, with the Canadian Finance Minister Bill Morneau saying: "We're concerned that these actions are actually not conducive to helping our economy, they actually are destructive," and that is consistently held across the six countries that expressed their point of view to Secretary Mnuchin.

President Donald Trump has to deal with Mexico after it followed Canada's footsteps in announcing retaliatory tariffs on the US. Trump continued to face backlash against his decision to levy tariffs on most of his trading partners. Following retaliation from his neighbors, the European Union has followed in the footsteps of Canada and Mexico in announcing retaliatory tariffs on US imports. Starting in July, the EU plans to target euro 2.8bn of annual US imports. Jyrki Katainen, the EU commission's vice president, indicated that the decision was merely a defense of the EU's industries and legitimate interests. He also added that while "it's difficult to assess what president Trump decides to do next", it was in the interests of both sides to avoid a further escalation or widening of the trade war. "There are no winners," he said.

For now however, the US President will likely flaunt the fact that the US trade deficit has fallen to 7-month low. A rise in exports and a decline in imports dropped the American trade deficit by \$1bn over the course of a month. The trade deficit is currently a national focal point, after Trump went through with his campaign promise of implementing import tariffs on most of his trading partners - neighbors and allies included. While Mr. Trump may hail the figure as evidence of immediate success of his protectionist trade policy, we have yet to see the effect of the reciprocal tariffs against the US. Note that China alone has threatened tit-for-tat tariffs on US goods worth up to \$150 billion.

France, Germany push for compromise on eurozone reform

PARIS: France and Germany are "determined" to reach a compromise on President Emmanuel Macron's proposals for a shake-up of the eurozone, a French government source said yesterday after marathon talks between the two countries. Paris and Berlin are racing to bridge the gap between Macron's ambitious EU reform agenda and Chancellor Angela Merkel's more prudent approach by a crunch eurozone summit on June 29.

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire spent nearly 14 hours holed up with his German counterpart Olaf Scholz at a Paris hotel on Saturday, the source told AFP. While the talks, which lasted into the early hours yesterday, did not yield an agreement the ministers discussed "all the unresolved issues" and made "substantial progress", the source said.

As far as the North Korean deal situation, Trump has held a joint press conference with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. In the conference, Trump said that he would invite Kim Jong Un to the US and even in the white house if summit negotiations go well. At the same time, he said that he's totally prepared to walk away from the summit if necessary. The president's decision to cancel the summit and then call it back again, squeezed the time frame for planning the Singaporean summit that is set to take place Tuesday; he did mention that the summit is still subject to change. "I think I'm very well prepared," Mr. Trump said of the expected summit. "I don't think I have to prepare very much. It's about attitude. It's about willingness to get things done. But I think I've been prepared for this summit for a long time."

In the currencies market, the Greenback had started the week strong but kept slipping with all the retaliation that Trump has been facing with his decisions. The dollar finally managed to brake four straight days of declines were it started to rebound with the Dollar Index closing the week at 93.397.

Services PMI surges

The US services sector looked better than forecasted in May, with the ISM non-manufacturing PMI rising to 58.6 in May from a dip to 56.8 in April, and surpassing the forecasted 57.5. Investors are taking the services PMI, in addition to the forecast-beating jobs report of last Friday as a sign that the Federal Reserve will probably stick with its plans for two more interest rate rises this year, and maybe an extra.

UK & EUROPE

ECB officials to push the Euro higher

The Euro reached a two week high of 1.1834 following hawkish comments from the European Central Bank ahead of its meeting next week. The ECB may finally be ready to unwind its quantitative easing program after a period of robust euro zone growth and increasingly evident wage pressures. ECB chief economist Peter Praet indicated that "both the underlying strength in the euro area economy and the fact that such strength is increasingly affecting wage formation support our confidence that inflation will reach a level of below, but close to, 2 percent over the medium

term". Praet also added that market expectations that the ECB will halt its vast bond-buying program by the end of this year "are plausible".

Mixed UK economic figures

The British week started with the Construction PMI figure showing that construction activity steadied in May after a gloomy start to the year. The figure was unchanged last month from April's number of 52.5, slightly surpassing analysts' expectations of a lower figure of 52.0. The data does confirm the consensus that the industry is bouncing back from a sharp contraction in the first quarter due to snow putting building projects to a halt, and dragging down the rate of growth in the economy as a whole. With that said, the underlying trend still looked weak as new orders declined for the fourth time in five months.

It is worth noting that the strongest growth in May was in residential house building rather than commercial construction and civil engineering. Respondents to the PMI survey blamed the slowdown to the political and economic uncertainty and a subdued retail sector. The combination of the modest comeback in conjunction with a weakening long-term trend suggests that the economy is indeed growing more strongly than the first quarter of the year, but has not yet reached the point that will make the Bank of England raise interest rates.

The following day was a more positive day for the British economy, as it looked more and more like it was set to rebound from its first-quarter slump. The services PMI showed that the British services sector hit the best level since February, with the figure coming at 54 in May up from 52.8 the month before and surpassing analysts' expectations of a modest rise to 52.9. Although the latest PMI surveys add to evidence that domestic inflationary pressures are mounting, economists are still warning that the economy could slow again later this year. Inflow of orders has weakened, and manufacturers in particular are sustained by working through backlogs rather than new orders.

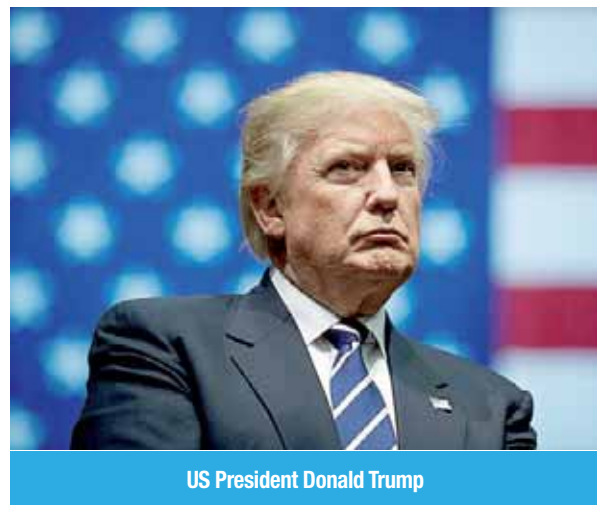
Bank of England deputy governor Dave Ramsden said on Thursday that the recent data supported the Bank's view that the sharp slowdown of growth in

European countries catch up in the areas of science, technology and innovation.

'Historic opportunity'

But the size of the fund remains a major bone of contention, with Merkel saying it should be "at the lower end of the double-digit billions of euros range" while Macron has called for a budget amounting to "the equivalent of several points of the GDP of the eurozone".

Merkel also detailed her proposals to upgrade the eurozone's bailout fund into a European Monetary Fund-under strict lending conditions and on condition that member states retain oversight over the body. Macron's office welcomed the concessions but during a visit to Berlin Friday Le Maire called on Germany "to go further". "It is a courageous response that goes in the right direction," Le Maire said. "Is it sufficient? No. We think you have to go further and that this is a unique, historic opportunity to make very significant progress toward better integration of the eurozone," he said. —AFP



US President Donald Trump

Britain's economy in a wintry start to the year would prove temporary. He also said that he backed the MPC's view that an ongoing tightening of monetary policy would be appropriate if the economy behaved as they expected. The Sterling pound closed the week at 1.3410.

ASIA

China's services sector stagnates

The Caixin services PMI in China remained unchanged at 52.9 in May, showing that business activity growth had remained modest last month. China is banking on a stronger services sector in order to offset a smaller contribution from heavy industry and fixed asset investment as policymakers look to emphasize more sustainable economic growth. Automated factories also push the need for a solid services sector as factories are looking to remove overcapacity. China's services sector already accounts for more than half of its economy, with rising wages giving its consumers more spending power at home and abroad. Caixin's composite PMI that covers both manufacturing and services sectors also remained steady in May at 52.3, suggesting that economic growth will remain resilient despite worries about rising borrowing costs, cooling investment and trade tensions with the US.



LA MALBAIE: French President Emmanuel Macron addresses a press conference at the conclusion of the G7 Summit. —AFP

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Business

Alghanim Auto and Ford Trucks hold 1st annual appreciation Ghabqa



KUWAIT: Ford Trucks & Alghanim Auto, the authorized dealer of Ford, Lincoln and Ford Trucks in Kuwait, held the first annual Ford Trucks Ramadan Ghabqa on the 27th of May 2018, since the appointment of Alghanim Auto as the official dealer of Ford Trucks heavy commercial vehicles in Kuwait.

The event took place at the Hilton Kuwait Resort- Al Mangafat the Grand Marquee tent and was attended by 80 business partners, Alghanim management, and Ford Trucks Middle-East Management, Mustafa Caner Sinanoglu, Managing Director of Ford Trucks, Bassem Hassan Altiya, Regional Sales Manager, and Isamil Can Tekin, Aftersales Manager of Ford Trucks, in recognition of their valued partnerships with Ford Trucks customers in Kuwait.

During the event, Ford Trucks and Alghanim Auto revealed the iconic 18 m3 refuse compactor that will be used for the cleaning project by Kuwait municipality. The refuse compactor is powered by the durable 9 Litre Ecotorq engine and Eaton gearbox 9S. The truck comes equipped with a host of safety features including ABS, and engine brake, which reduces the overall operational cost during the project period. The iconic refuse compactor was a result of the partnership with the Turkish upfitter, Katmercieler which is represented by Alghanim Auto in the Kuwaiti market.

Guests also had a chance to discover the Ford Trucks line-up of Tractor, Construction and Road series which were displayed on the beach front. They also indulged in a luxurious traditional buffet on the tunes of live oud music. The evening ended with the guests spending time outdoor, in the specially constructed Diwaniya set-up before leaving with

premium souvenirs from Ford Trucks mixing tradition with technology. Ending the night, one of the esteemed guests had the chance to win the raffle draw and leave with an iPhone X.

In his welcoming speech, Nihad Alkilani, Ford Alghanim General Manager of Heavy Commercial Vehicles, said: "Believing that the key to success is the establishment of long-term partnerships with our esteemed customers, our priority is to provide the best customer service and comprehensive aftersales offerings, always exceeding our customers' expectations".

Alkilani welcomed three special guests from Ford Trucks Middle-East who came specifically to celebrate this special occasion, the first annual Ghabqa of Ford Trucks in Kuwait. In his speech, Mustafa Caner Sinanoglu, said: "We are very proud of our partnership with Alghanim Auto and we clearly see that both companies are joined by a remarkable passion to provide the Kuwaiti market with high-quality products at a great value and, to top it all, with the best customer service".

Driven by the brand's strategic pillars of quality, durability and efficiency, Ford Trucks combine more than half a century of design and production experience with expertise in market specific product development. Alghanim Auto and Ford Trucks present a wide range of commercial trucks in Kuwait distinguished with their power, efficiency, fuel economy and technology, including tractors, construction trucks and road trucks with a high capacity payload:

Ford Trucks Tractor Series

Ford Trucks Tractor Series offers high performance with low fuel consumption, thanks to



the powerful Ecotorq engine. Long service intervals and conformity to different trailer options make it your loyal business partner all along the way. With the newly developed active safety features and the ergonomic cabin that enhances the driver's operating quality, Ford Trucks Tractor Series is the most reliable companion for those who are in for the long haul. Designed by Ford engineers and preferred all around the world, the profitability of Ford Trucks Tractor Series will instantly impact your operating costs.

Ford Trucks Construction Series

Displaying sheer power and stability under all conditions with the support of Ecotorq engines, Ford Trucks Construction Series always supports you with low fuel consumption, a strong engine brake system and extreme durability under all load conditions, while an all renewed ergonomic cabin enhances the driver's comfort and productivity.



The Ford Trucks Construction Series is powered by the new Ecotorq engine offering comfort for drivers with exceptional traction uphill and on rough terrains. The Construction Series delivers 430HP, as well as strong performance in demanding site conditions with 2150Nm torque value.

While climbing the steep slopes encountered especially in earthmoving and cutting sites with high torque, the new 400KW engine brake keeps the power continually under control. The optional 600KW Interarder option offered for even rougher conditions brings the total braking capability to 1000KW, ensuring that the heaviest loads can be safely carried on even the steepest slopes and hills. Functionality meets aesthetics with the Ford Trucks Construction Series, ensuring a comfortable journey for those carrying a heavy load. The Ford Trucks Construction Series also offers flexible solutions for various projects, thanks to an auto-

mated transmission option with different usage modes for road and terrain.

Ford Trucks Road Series

The new Ford Trucks Road Series comes with many innovative features that help increase profits and reduces operating costs. This is due to the new Ecotorq engine that provides fuel efficiency and effortlessly bears the burden of any business. Both economic and environmentally friendly, the new Ecotorq engine provides the most appropriate power for various kinds of use. Equipped with many high tech features for a safer and more powerful drive, the Ford Truck Road Series ensures that both your load and your business easily reach their goals. Ergonomic and technological innovations stand out in all models. A selection of 4x2, 6x2, 6x4 and 8x4 road trucks with different cab options and wheelbases accommodate your business needs and the superstructure application you want to use.

NBK gives customers double the chance to win car of their choice

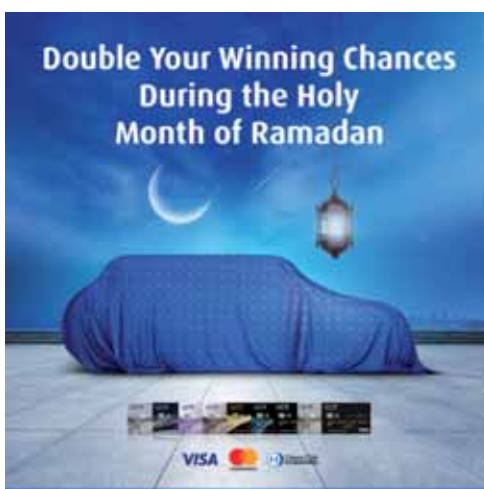
KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait rewards loyal customers during the Holy Month of Ramadan by doubling their chances to win a car of their choice valued up to KD 20,000 as part of the Bank's ongoing summer campaign.

Launched on May 3rd, NBK's summer campaign enables NBK Debit and Credit Cardholders to enter the draw to win a car when using their cards in Kuwait and internationally, whether for retail purchases, online payments or cash advances. For every KD 1 spent locally, NBK Credit Cardholders earn one chance in the draw. For every KD 1 spent internationally, NBK Credit Cardholders and NBK Debit Cardholders earn 3 chances. NBK customers who use their Credit Card during the Holy Month of Ramadan will double their chances to win, earning 2 chances for each KD 1 spent locally and 6 chances for each KD 1 spent internationally using NBK credit or

debit cards.

"By allowing customers an opportunity to win the value of a vehicle of their own choosing, NBK reaffirms its deep commitment to customer satisfaction and the building of lasting, loyal customer relationships," explained Hanadi Khazal, Chief Marketing Officer, National Bank of Kuwait. "Winners will be announced during the draw held on September 28th 2018. This campaign reflects our commitment to reward our customers with unique prizes all year long." Khazal added, "We've received great feedback from NBK customers since the launch of our summer campaign and we continue to invest all our efforts in launching new advanced services and products tailored to their needs, providing a safe and rewarding banking experience every day."

Five winners will be drawn at the end of the campaign, which runs from May 3rd to September 15th, 2018. Each of the grand prize winners will receive an NBK Gift Prepaid Card issued in the name of the Bank and loaded with KD 20,000 to be spent on the car of the winner's choice. The gift card may be used at any vehicle dealership inside Kuwait



for the purpose of purchasing a vehicle and car insurance. NBK offers customers the freedom of choice through a variety of products and services. NBK customers can choose the credit card tailored to their specific needs and requirements by visiting the award-winning nbk.com website and navigating through the online card comparison tool.

KAMCO appoints Alvarez & Marsal Middle East Limited

KUWAIT: KAMCO Investment Company (KAMCO), a leading investment with one of the largest AUMs in the region, appointed the Middle East office of renowned global professional services firm, Alvarez & Marsal, as the integration advisor for the acquisition of a majority stake in Global Investment House (Global).

KAMCO assigned Alvarez & Marsal Middle East Limited (A&M) this critical role in the acquisition process given the firm's strong track record and global exposure in successfully concluding complex transactions. A&M will provide KAMCO with guidance throughout the acquisition and integration process. This is targeted to strengthen KAMCO's integrated business model, while supporting the successful transformation, pre- and post-acquisition.

A&M is part of the Alvarez & Marsal group. Alvarez & Marsal is a leading global professional services firm that provides advisory, business performance improvement and turnaround management services. Alvarez & Marsal leverages its restructuring heritage to turn change into a strategic business asset, manage risk and unlock value at every stage of growth.

Commenting on A&M's appointment, Chief Executive Officer of KAMCO, Mr Faisal Mansour Sarkhou said, "We are confident in A&M's capability to deliver the best outcome for this transaction. A&M's experience and expertise in handling similar transactions throughout their years of operation further solidified our decision. With A&M's support and the cooperation of Global's team, we are keen to make this



Faisal Mansour Sarkhou



Dr Saeeda Jaffar

transition seamless for our valued clients and stakeholders. We also seek to make KAMCO a non-banking financial services powerhouse of the region." Dr Saeeda Jaffar, a Managing Director at A&M added, "We are delighted to be working on such a significant and complex transaction. Our experienced team of consultants and operators, combined with our operational heritage, will help realize the effective performance enhancements critical to unlocking value."

Al Tijari announces winner of Al-Najma prize program draw

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced the winner of the weekly draw as follows: Weekly Draw prize KD 5,000 - Mr Binson John Kutty. The draw was conducted in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative Ms Latifa Al Jeean. Al-Najma Account was recently revamped by adding several benefits to the prize program through which now the account provides its customers the chance to win the biggest annual cash prize offered by a bank in Kuwait and over the globe as much as 1 million and half Kuwaiti dinar (1,500,000) so that customers' dreams can easily turn to reality.

The bank stated that the account prizes this year is featured by the highest cash prize and diversity of prizes throughout the year clarifying that Al-Najma Account will offer weekly prize of KD 5,000 &

monthly prize of KD 20,000 and a semi-annual prize of KD 500,000 for which the draw will be held on 1st July 2018 in addition to the grand prize (the biggest prize in the world) of KD 1,500,000 for which the draw will be held in January 2019.

Al Najma Account can be opened by depositing KD 100, and customer should maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 to be eligible to enter all draws on Al-Najma Account prizes. As for the chances of winning, the more balance a customer maintains in Al Najma Account, the more chances the account holder will get to win, where each KD 25 will give the customer one chance to win, the account also offers additional benefits like the ATM card, a credit card against customer's account and all CBK banking services that customer can enjoy.

Boeing, Turkish Technic announce Global Fleet Care supplier agreement

KUWAIT: Boeing and Turkish Technic Inc, the maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) arm of Turkish Airlines, announced signing of a Global Fleet Care supplier agreement. Turkish Technic is now a strategic Boeing supplier for line maintenance, heavy maintenance of airplanes, component service and repair. Boeing and Turkish Technic will collaborate together in the training and certification of technicians from different parts of the world.

"We provide a broad portfolio of MRO services in 50+ International Line Maintenance locations as well as our existing base maintenance facilities in Istanbul and Ankara. In addition to the current services we provide, more will be available to our customers at our brand-new facilities, located Istanbul New Airport as of 29th October 2018. We are so glad to announce such a remarkable collaboration with Boeing today, which will significantly contribute and add value to our business in our new home base. Within the extent of Boeing Global Fleet Care program including aircraft maintenance, repair and training, Boeing operators will be



able to experience the world class quality of Turkish Technic's MRO services through this agreement," said Ahmet Karaman, General Manager of Turkish Technic Inc.

Last year, Boeing and the Turkish Government announced the Boeing Turkey National Aerospace Initiative, launched to support the growth of the Turkish aerospace industry, in conjunction with the targets set by Turkey's Vision 2023 that specially designed for the 100th establishment anniversary of the Turkish Republic. The initiative outlines a strategic framework that aligns Boeing investment and programs with the Turkish Government, Turkish airlines, aerospace service companies and industry suppliers in the areas of research, engineering and skills development.

"Turkey is one of the Boeing's top strategic growth countries, and we see strong capability and growth potential in aviation services and

maintenance in Turkey," said Marc Allen, President of Boeing International. "Positioning Turkey as a global player in aviation services is one of the key elements of the Boeing Turkey National Aerospace Initiative we announced last year. With this agreement, we are taking our successful collaboration with Turkish Technic one step further in a manner that aligns to the growth of Boeing and Turkey."

Through its Global Services division, Boeing provides technical support to more than 60 customers and over 2,500 airplanes through its Global Fleet Care program. This customizable portfolio offers engineering and planning activities associated with managing the technical performance of the airplane. A power-by-the-hour based offering, Global Fleet Care solutions in the form of Engineering, Materials and Maintenance programs bring inherent efficiency to airline operations.

Features unique all-you-can-play bundle offer with more than 1,000 popular games

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a red tank top, sits on a wooden bench. She is looking down at a book or papers in her lap. To her right is a light-colored wall covered in graffiti. The graffiti is painted in red and green. It reads "GOOGLE DU PETZE" in large, blocky letters. The word "GOOGLE" is in red, "DU" is in red, "PETZE" is in red, and there is a green "R" at the end. Below "PETZE" is a red star. Above the graffiti is a small white sign with black text that reads "H 150 1 2 5a". To the left of the woman is a dark structure, possibly a bus stop or a building entrance, with some posters or notices attached to it. The scene is outdoors, and the lighting suggests it is daytime.

A photograph showing the ZTE building, a modern structure with blue and white horizontal stripes and the ZTE logo. In the foreground, two men in blue shirts are standing near a white railing, looking towards the building. The scene is outdoors with trees in the background.

But Karygiannis said the danger is near-impossible to avoid in consumer electronics, since all devices have risks, and an overwhelming number of them are manufactured in China. It's impossible for a consumer to test the firmware on a phone, which is often updated automatically. Only large enterprises can really vet the technology they are getting, he said. Triolo said network operators can control what's on their equipment. The problem is proving it's clean. "It's really hard for the companies to prove the negative of this," he said. —AFP

Polio makes comeback in Venezuela after being eradicated for decades

Measles also rampant in devastated country



CARACAS: Patients and their relatives protest the lack of medicines and medical supplies in hospitals in front of the health ministry on June 5, 2018. — AFP

CARACAS: Polio has been reported in Venezuela, a crisis-racked country where the disease had been eradicated decades ago, the Pan-American Health Organization reports. The organization said the child had no history of vaccination and lives in an under-immunized extremely impoverished Delta Amacuro state. Polio, or poliomyelitis, is a crippling childhood disease caused by the poliovirus, and preventable through immunization.

Doctor Jose Felix Oletta, a former Minister of Health, told AFP that the last case of acute poliomyelitis in Venezuela was reported in 1989. "The virus especially affects people in conditions of malnutrition and unvaccinated, as this case," Oletta added. Oletta slammed health authorities in President Nicolas Maduro's government for taking more than a month to notify the PAHO that it had identified the virus. International health regulations require it to do so within 24 hours.

Venezuela, devastated by economic and political crises, also accounted for 85 percent of cases of measles reported across Latin America and the Caribbean over the past

year, the PAHO said. Of the 11 countries that reported cases, Venezuela had the overwhelming majority of cases, but also 35 deaths since mid-2017, the international organization said.

More specifically, "there were eleven countries that reported 1,685 confirmed measles cases across the region," of which 1,427 were in Venezuela, a PAHO report released Saturday found. The disease is on the rise in the South American nation led by leftist Maduro; the trend has continued this year where cases have been reported in 17 out of 23 states, and in the capital.

In neighboring countries, where Venezuelans have migrated due to grim economic conditions, many of the reported cases have been among Venezuelan immigrants, the report said. Venezuela says it does not have 85 percent of the basic medical supplies it needs even including vaccines. Maduro's government blames US sanctions for the woes. The government on April 6 launched a new vaccine campaign against 14 diseases including measles and TB. —AFP

Nurse survives Australia snakebite using training

SYDNEY: An Australian nurse has spoken about how he survived a bite from one of the world's deadliest snakes by using medical training to instruct his rescuers as he passed in and out of consciousness. Christian Wright, 33, was bitten on his foot by a brown snake at the bottom of a gorge in a remote part of Karijini National Park some 1,400 km north of Perth in Western Australia last month. "I looked at my foot, there was no puncture marks. No blood, no swelling, no nothing," Wright told commercial broadcaster Channel Seven Saturday. "I started losing my vision. I knew I was going to pass out."

The hospital midwife shouted to his friend Alex Chia, who caught him as he passed out. "His eyes were rolling back in his head, he was shaking and sweating, and then he went totally limp and heavy," Chia told The West Australian newspaper. "We were down a deep gorge, 30

metres tall, there was no one in sight. The hardest part was being in front of his lifeless body."

A nearby Austrian couple heard their cries for help and called emergency services with their satellite phone as they tended to Wright's leg using his own instructions. "I was just coming and going. I started getting really agitated as the neurotoxins started getting to my head. I was writhing all over the place and yelling out from the pain in my head," Wright told The West Australian.

A ranger was the first to arrive at the scene, followed by paramedics and other rescuers. But Wright's ordeal was not yet over, with the ranger having to enlist the help of 20 nearby tourists to carry the nurse out of the challenging terrain on a stretcher while keeping his head above his legs. It took more than an hour to carry him to an ambulance before he was driven to a hospital some 75 km away and given anti-venom to counter the poison. Brown snakes, whose bite is often painless, are known as nervous reptiles that strike with little hesitation. Deaths from bites are rare despite Australia being home to 20 of the world's 25 most venomous snakes. According to official estimates there are about 3,000 snakebite cases in Australia every year, with 300-500 needing anti-venom treatment. Only an average of two a year prove fatal. — AFP



This picture taken on Saturday shows a 370-year-old elephant named Bunta, found dead at a conservation area near Lokop in Indonesia's Aceh province. Bunta was found with a tusk missing, as rangers suspect poachers used poison to kill him. — AFP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

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Global Medical Center Welcomes Dr. Marzouq Al-Bader

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What's On

Celebrate Eid Al-Fitr with Hilton Kuwait's holiday offerings

Make Hilton Kuwait Resort your holiday destination this Eid Al-Fitr with a wide range of offerings including attractive deals on room packages and five-star dining options. With irresistible offers starting from KD 89,000 per night, Hilton Kuwait invites your family and friends to enjoy its premier array of accommodations from rooms and suites to chalets and villas for families. Guests can enjoy their well-deserved staycation in elegance, enhanced with flawless service by the friendly hospitality team at Hilton Kuwait Resort.

Eid Festivities at Teatro and Palm Court Terrace

An exquisite selection of Arabic and international buffet offerings welcome guests at Teatro restaurant for the Eid festivities. The three-day brunch buffet will open daily from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm which will feature live cooking stations along with live music performance. Creating a vibrant atmosphere perfect for the family, Teatro also houses a Kids' Corner that features face painting activity, cartoon movies and wonderful magic shows.

At night, the fun continues as Teatro restaurant also

offers dinner buffet starting at 07:00 pm to 11:30 pm with traditional Arabic buffet plus the delectable Kuwaiti Ouzi. A live music will be serenading the guests for a more enjoyable dining experience.

Guests also have an exciting option to feast on authentic Arabic cuisine matched with refreshing mocktails in an exclusive temperature-controlled beach tent at the Palm Court. After a meal, diners can relax longer with a traditional shisha flavor of their choice.

Holiday Unwinding at The Spa

For guests who are looking to pamper themselves, The Spa is the go-to place for relaxation. This Eid, all in-house guests can get a special 30 percent discount voucher for all spa treatments, massages and facilities.

Kids' Activities at Hilton Kuwait

A series of adult's and kids' activities will take place at Hilton main beach including fun games, face painting, Zumba and magic show. In addition to that, kids can enjoy the swimming competition in the family pool as well as play station and baby foot competitions in the Kids' Paradise and Games corner.



American University of Kuwait graduates its 2018 class

AUK held its annual graduation commencement for the Class of 2018 on Thursday, June 7, 2018 where 424 students-269 from the College of Arts and Sciences, and 155 from the College of Business and Economics-officially became AUK graduates, amongst whom were seven graduates with highest honors, 19 with high honors, and 20 with honors. The ceremony was held under the patronage of His Excellency Dr Hamed Al-Azmi, Minister of Education and Higher Education.

The graduation was attended by Shaikha Dana Naser Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Founder and Chair of AUK's Board of Trustees, Dr Habib Abul, Secretary General of Private Universities, members of the AUK Board of Trustees, diplomats, dignitaries, and the families and friends of this year's graduates.

Amal Al-Binali, Vice President for Admissions and Public Affairs, welcomed the guests and family members of the graduates to AUK's 13th graduation ceremony and officially inaugurated the ceremony by introducing the traditional processions of the faculty, gradu-

ates and President's Party.

Following the National Anthem and the Holy Quran recitation, AUK President, Dr Earl (Tim) Sullivan gave an opening speech, in which he offered his best wishes to the graduates after successfully completing an important phase in their lives. "To the graduates: We hope you will live life to the fullest and will contribute to the welfare of your family, community, and country. And we want you to know that you will always be welcome to come back home to AUK!" he said.

The commencement keynote address was given by AUK Founding Member of the AUK Board of Trustees and Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board, Dr Thomas Bartlett. In his speech, he delved into the different phases of change that the world had to endure from social and political, to economic and technological developments throughout history to modern day. Dr Bartlett stressed the importance of accepting and allowing oneself to explore the new changes happening in the world, saying, "For my part, I hope you will remember when AUK was encouraging you in your general education courses, the liberal arts, to be curious about the world, to keep learning beyond your profession or job, and understand that change is normal and inevitable, and can be exciting and creative and very positive."

Following the keynote address, the class valedictorians were announced by Dr Hanan Muzaffar, Dean of Student Affairs. This year, three valedictorians were chosen-from the College of Business and Economics, Jaber Al-Shammari who double majored in Accounting and Management (3.93 GPA); and from the

College of Arts and Sciences, Leena El-Hawary who majored in Graphic Design (3.93 GPA), and Abdulaziz Al-Mahmood who double majored in International Relations and English Literature (3.95 GPA) who also delivered the valedictorian speech.

AUK Provost, Dr Rawda Awwad, also gave a speech in which she affirmed the skills and knowledge possessed by the graduates to instill positive change in the world. "Our graduates have become our daughters and sons, and today we will be entrusting them back to a nation, a region and our world as members of a new generation of young women and men who are trained to aspire to make a difference and affect positive change that is forward looking and constructive," she said.

The event then proceeded to the part of the ceremony most anticipated by the students-the distribution of their earned degrees. Upon, the Recommendations of the Deans and the Provost, President Sullivan, conferred upon the graduates their respective degrees. The graduates were then awarded their diplomas by President Sullivan, H.E. Dr Hamed Al-Azmi, Dr Habib Abul, Provost Rawda Awwad, Dean Ali Charara for the College of Arts and Sciences, and Dean Ralph Palliam for the College of Business and Economics.

In keeping with the academic tradition, the graduates were requested to shift their tassels from right to left, thereby marking their official graduation from AUK. As the ceremony drew to its conclusion, the graduating class celebrated the occasion and took photos with their families and friends.



MACE Alumni Association Kuwait Chapter elects new office bearers

The new team of Office Bearers of MACEAA Kuwait Chapter was elected unanimously for the period 2018-2019, in the recently concluded Annual General Body meeting held at Seashell Julai'a Hotel and Resorts Kuwait on Friday, 11th May 2018 from 09:30 am to 09:30 pm.

The new committee members are:

Chairman: Shaji Hassan
Secretary: Prince U. Cheria
Treasurer: Saju P.K.
KEF GC Designate - Abdul Sageer
KEF Arts Committee Convener - Sudheer M.G.
Arts Secretaries: Jacob Zachariah and Anu Deline
Sports Secretaries: Joice Peter and Akash G. Ramanan
Area Representatives: Mangaf - Joseph George, Mahbouda- Nibu Vijayan, Abu Halifa - Jose George, Abbassiya - Maneesh M. Nair, Riggae and Farwaniya - Manoj Joseph, Salmiya - Bindu Finney and Dr Jose Kaitharam, Auditor - Sally Roy
Ladies Forum Members: Shabnam Sageer (President), Donia Georgy (Secretary) and Haripriya Suresh (Treasurer).

The election proceedings were controlled by P.C. George and Salu John.

The Annual General Body Meeting was remarkable by the huge number and active participation of all the members, as the association steps into its 37th year as a leading Keralite Engineers Alumni Association in Kuwait. The Chairman Jyothidas P.N. presided over the general body meeting, Jibi Joseph (General Secretary) presented annual report and Sandeep Damodaran (Treasurer) presented financial report for the year 2017- '18.

In the function, a warm farewell was given to Sasi Kodanad as he is leaving Kuwait on 24th May 2018 after his long 40 years of service in Kuwait.

A skit portraying the life of Sasi Kodanad was performed by MACEAA Kuwait Chapter to honor him on the occasion as he and his wife Shyla Sasi are leaving Kuwait to their home place at Kodanad (Kerala).

The AGM and the inception of the new committee members were followed with various cultural and fun filled activities like solo and group songs, dances, instrument music performances, skit, barbequing, beach swimming etc.



CSR initiatives by Malabar Gold and Diamonds continues

An air conditioned tent set up at Sajaa industrial area, Sharjah, UAE by Malabar Gold and Diamonds has seen increased number of beneficiaries when com-

pared to the last year. As the holy and blessed month of Ramadan is nearing to end, Malabar Gold and Diamonds, the prominent jewelry retailer is continuing its CSR initiatives in full strength. The firm is strengthening its CSR activities in GCC and the Far East region this Ramadan embracing the spirit of giving. As a part of their CSR activities this Ramadan, Malabar Gold and Diamonds has set up an air conditioned tent at Sajaa industrial area, Sharjah, UAE with the assistance and support from Sharjah Charity International is catering 900 beneficiaries per day throughout the holy month of Ramadan.

Commenting on the initiative, Shamlal Ahamed, Managing Director - International

Operations, Malabar Gold and Diamonds said "We are glad to be a part of this noble cause in the holy month of Ramadan, we have increased the number of iftar meals this year after seeing the increased number of beneficiaries. A total of 27,000 beneficiaries will benefit from this, furthermore the volunteers from Malabar Gold and Diamonds are actively involved in the iftar meals distributions."

Over 70,000 GCC and Far East residents to benefit from the CSR initiatives of Malabar Gold and Diamonds this Ramadan. Since its inception in 1993, Malabar Group has been actively involved in CSR activities with the aim of creating a difference to the community in and around their area of operations.



Farwaniya Governorate officials distributed girgian at social care homes of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor and the Public Authority for People with Special Needs. Those visits were sponsored by Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malik Al-Sabah.

CROSSWORD 1932

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ACROSS

1. An insecticide that is also toxic to animals and humans.
4. A member of an Indian people formerly living along the Gulf coast of Louisiana and Texas.
11. Cloak that is folded or wrapped around a person.
15. The quality of a color as determined by its dominant wavelength.
16. Arranged in or consisting of laminae.
17. A Loloish language.
18. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
19. Large Old World butterflies.
20. Very dark black.
21. Straggling shrub with narrow leaves and conspicuous red flowers in dense globular racemes.
23. Avoiding waste.
25. A long narrow passage (as in a cave or woods).
31. The Judeo-Christian God.
35. Type genus of the family Ostreidae.
37. 100 halers equal 1 koruna.
38. A monocotyledonous genus of the family Iridaceae.
40. A committee in the executive branch of government that advises the president on foreign and military and national security.
41. Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
42. A gradual decline (in size or strength or power or number).
44. Marked by great carelessness.
48. Armor plate that protects legs below the knee.
50. A Portuguese province on the south coast of China and two islands in the South China Sea.
51. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
52. A blue dye obtained from plants or made synthetically.
53. The portion of the vertebrate nervous system consisting of the brain and spinal cord.
55. An organic compound that contains a hydroxyl group bonded to a carbon atom which in turn is doubly bonded to another carbon atom.
57. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
59. (Babylonian) A demigod or first man.
62. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
66. A hostel for pilgrims in Turkey.
67. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
68. Commercially important fish of the North American Pacific coast.
72. A person of subnormal intelligence.
73. A legal document codifying the result of deliberations of a committee or society or legislative body.
74. Highly attractive and able to arouse hope or desire.
76. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
77. The syllable naming the sixth (submedian) note of a major or minor scale in solmization.
78. Lack of strength or vigor esp from illness.
79. (Norse mythology) God of war and strife and son of Odin.

DOWN

1. An Indian tree of the family Combretaceae that is a source of timber and gum.
2. Port city in the United Arab Emirates on the Persian Gulf.
3. The process of shedding tears (usually accompanied by sobs or other inarticulate

- sounds).
4. Having winglike extensions.
5. Thin fibrous bark of the paper mulberry and Pipturus albidus.
6. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
7. A case for containing a set of articles.
8. (Babylonian) The sky god.
9. A unit of astronomical length based on the distance from Earth at which stellar parallax is 1 second of arc.
10. A member of a North American Plains people (now living in Oklahoma and Wyoming).
11. In consequence of which.
12. Marked by excessive enthusiasm for and intense devotion to a cause or idea.
13. Sweet pulpy tropical fruit with thick scaly rind and shiny black seeds.
14. A river in western Thailand.
22. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
24. (Greek mythology) Greek god of war.
26. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
27. Discrimination against people who are overweight.
28. The apse of a Christian church that contains the bishop's throne.
29. Swiss writer (born in Germany) whose novels and poems express his interests in Eastern spiritual values (1877-1962).
30. A civil or military authority in Turkey or Egypt.
32. A switch made from the stems of the rattan palms.
33. Fragrant resin obtain from trees of the family Burseraceae and used as incense.
34. A tall perennial woody plant having a main trunk and branches forming a distinct elevated crown.
36. A nucleic acid that transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm.
39. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
43. A broad band that passes over the back of a horse and supports the shafts of a vehicle.
45. (informal) Of the highest quality.
46. Low stingless nettle of Central and South America having velvety brownish-green toothed leaves and clusters of small green flowers.
47. Something whose name is either forgotten or not known.
49. (pathology) An elevation of the skin filled with serous fluid.
54. A metallic element having four allotropic forms.
56. A long noosed rope used to catch animals.
58. Any of several tall tropical palms native to southeastern Asia having egg-shaped nuts.
60. Any of numerous plants widely cultivated for their showy single or double red or pink or white flowers.
61. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
63. Type genus of the family Arcidae.
64. Profane or obscene expression usually of surprise or anger.
65. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
69. An infection of the sebaceous gland of the eyelid.
70. Ancient Hebrew unit of liquid measure = 1.5 gallons.
71. The shape of a raised edge of a more or less circular object.
75. A hard malleable ductile silvery metallic element that is resistant to corrosion.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may feel a bit pushed to your limits today. This could make it difficult for you to stay calm and in control. Enjoy the beauty around you today. Take a moment to stop and take it all in. Resist the urge to overspend or indulge. Today is about finding beauty in the smallest of things. Keep today full of appreciation and simplicity. Aries, you will find great pleasure in having deep conversations with those you love. Be more practical today and don't be afraid to let your creativity flow. Aries, be sure and avoid confrontation today, sit back and relax without reaction.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may find that extra support you have been desiring. You have been craving recognition for your hard work and devotion to others. This is a great time you will feel the appreciation you have been desiring. You will find it seems easy to communicate with those around you and things seem to be going to your way in general. Expect your circle to become a bit tighter and relationships to be handled with ease and grace. Today is a great day for you as you will feel a general feeling of admiration and acceptance from others.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may find that extra support you have been desiring. You have been craving recognition for your hard work and devotion to others. This is a great time you will feel the appreciation you have been desiring. You will find it seems easy to communicate with those around you and things seem to be going to your way in general. Expect your circle to become a bit tighter and relationships to be handled with ease and grace. Today is a great day for you as you will feel a general feeling of admiration and acceptance from others.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a time of reflection. This day may have greeted you with a sense of wonder. How exactly did you get where you are in life is a question you may be asking yourself yesterday is gone and you live and learn. You are able to clearly understand how each decision and experience in your life has molded you into the person you are today. Your pleasant memories are your main focus and have you in a wonderful mood today. This revelation leaves you feeling a need to help others and find those close to you are very receptive and appreciative when you share these feelings with them today.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This is a time of reflection. This day may have greeted you with a sense of wonder. How exactly did you get where you are in life is a question you may be asking yourself yesterday is gone and you live and learn. You are able to clearly understand how each decision and experience in your life has molded you into the person you are today. Your pleasant memories are your main focus and have you in a wonderful mood today. This revelation leaves you feeling a need to help others and find those close to you are very receptive and appreciative when you share these feelings with them today.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may be experiencing a mental clarity at this time. You are paying closer attention to detail than ever before. This will be seen as a great quality by those close to you. You may be feeling a distance from loved ones due to your previous focus on work. You may be experiencing deep and intimate desires that are not being fulfilled. This would be a nice to time to change your focus a bit and make time for that special someone. Pay attention to their needs and you may find your needs being fulfilled on a deep emotional level. Virgo, remember you always need to take time for your personal life and keep your loved ones close. A more balance world may lead to a much happier life for you.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

It as if the fog has cleared. You may find you seem to mentally feel like you are at your best. You are sharp and quick and able to think on your feet. You are able to communicate well with others and find your friends drawn to you. This is a wonderful time to make decisions. You may find that you cross paths with someone whose opinions clash with yours. You may find this person difficult to communicate with a find yourself a bit frustrated. You may find yourself thinking clearly about your past today. Memories seem to run through your mind leaving you sentimental and in a very kind mood towards others. You may find yourself receiving compliments because your kind spirit will draw others in today.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Now is a great time to focus on some issues that have been bothering you. You may be having a strong desire to find yourself and make your own way in life. Don't let seeking these answers leave you frustrated. You may find yourself determined to get to the root of all that bothers you. Work on exercising your self-control and don't let this soul-searching venture leave you feeling overloaded. Remember, some issues take time to resolve, Scorpio. Timing is everything and the answers will come.



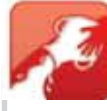
Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Open mouth, insert foot. Today may be one of those days. It may be best to bite your tongue to avoid blurring out something you truly need to keep to yourself. This could be a great day for you in the workplace as your superiors take note of your leadership skills. You may be asked to lead a project or assist other workers and act as a mentor. You are organized and efficient and these qualities are admired by your co-workers as well as your superiors. You may find you are able to develop a strong with relationship with a coworker today as you are able to be a team player and get much accomplished.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You tend to be a giving, sharing person. This brings you much pleasure in life. At this time, you will find great peace in not only giving material objects but giving of yourself. You will find that sharing your ideas and sharing your words of wisdom with someone younger brings great satisfaction. You are a leader and admired for how gracefully you handle all that life throws your way. You may be feeling love and support from all who are in your life, which makes this a very happy time for you.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Today you may feel as though you have hit a bump in the road. There may even be one person you feel is standing in your way. Aquarius, you will be able to be understanding and cut right through the smoke and mirrors to get to the root of the problem with this individual. You will be admired for your leadership skills. You may find yourself focusing on your sexual needs today. This may be an area you desire dominance and control. Aquarius. Relationships are very important to you.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are drawn to the what if's and why's of this world. Where many take things at face value, you search deeper. You believe there is a deeper meaning to all that surrounds you in this world and you long to discover it. You believe through research and exposure to a new group of friends these answers may be revealed to you. Others may not agree with the path you are following, and this may result in conflict within your former circle of friends. This may cause you to do a bit of soul-searching and discover you defiantly feel there is a void in your life and set out on a mission to fill it. Pisces, this is a time of self- discovery for you and you may find you exit this stage feeling more complete and at peace.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Photography

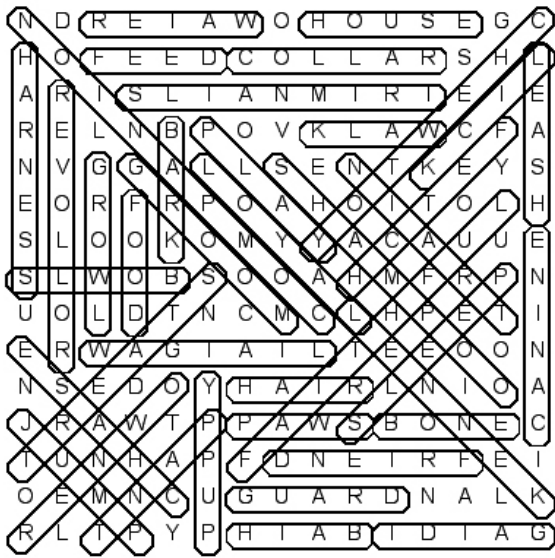
Find and circle all of the Photography terms that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of a type of camera.

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

APERTURE BALANCE BELLOWS BLOWUP CAMERA CLOSE UP COLOR CONTRAST CROPPING DARKROOM DEVELOPER ENLARGEMENT ENLARGER FILTER FIXING BATH FLASH FOCAL LENGTH FRAME HOT SHOE LIGHT METER LIGHTING NEGATIVE OVEREXPOSURE PANNING PANORAMA PARALLAX PHOTOFINISHER POSITIVE PRINT PROCESSING RANGEFINDER RETOUCHING SAFELIGHT SATURATION SHUTTER SLIDE STOP BATH TELEPHOTO LENS TINT TONE TRIPOD UNDEREXPOSURE VIEWFINDER ZOOM LENS

Yesterday's Solution

Pet Dog



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

The hidden message is: DOGS LOVE YOU UNCONDITIONALLY

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

Lifestyle

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2018



A woman stands before the Dome of the Rock holding an umbrella adorned with Palestinian keffiyeh patterns, during the last Friday prayers of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan at the Aqsa mosque compound in the old city of Jerusalem. — AFP

Waking up the neighbors: Indonesia's Ramadan alarm clocks



Youths sing and bang on improvised drums as they walk around their neighborhood to wake up residents for Sahur, the pre-dawn meal eaten before the start of the fasting day throughout the holy month of Ramadan, in Jakarta. — AFP photos

Most of Jakarta is fast asleep at 2:00 am, but for Fajar Ramadin and his pint-sized comrades it's time to wake up the neighborhood. The motley group of children yell and bang on tambourines and drums as they roam the quiet streets of Indonesia's capital on a mission to stir sleeping residents for a pre-dawn meal. It is Ramadan and millions across the world's biggest Muslim-majority nation are abstaining from eating, drinking, smoking or sex during daylight hours. The morning meal, known as Sahur, can be crucial to making it through until sunset without food or drink.

“Sahur! Sahur! Please wake up sir, madam!”

“Sahur! Sahur! Please wake up sir, madam!” hollers the 20-strong group of kids, aged seven to 15. It's music to the ears of dozens of other children who stream out of their houses to join in, adding the thump of empty paint cans and water jugs to the ensemble. “This tradition has been around for a long time—every kid is happy to do it,” said 13-year-old

Ramadin. “I like it because this not only entertains people, but also helps them wake up for the pre-dawn meal.”

Their entertainment value is probably a matter of debate. But many of the kids are part of a Quran study group run by the local mosque which has given its blessing to this mid-night madness. Complaining would be futile. “They are indeed noisy, but it helps me wake up on time,” offers local resident Rosimah, who like many Indonesians goes by one name. “We are used to it—happens every year,” she added. Smartphone alarms and digital clocks have seen this wake-up tradition gradually decline over the years.

But it is still found across the sprawling Indonesian archipelago – especially in smaller communities—which is home to about 260 million people. Nearly 90 percent are Muslim. Similar wake-up traditions are also practiced in some other Muslim nations during Ramadan, which ends in mid-June. Most of the Jakarta group's members are known as local troublemakers so conscripting them into religious service is a win-win situation for the neighborhood—and the mosque.

“Many of these kids have dropped out of school. Some never even went to school. They are unemployed and became street children who cause trouble,” Alvanali Panji Prasetyo, an Islamic teacher and group leader, told AFP. “Thanks to God, the kids are starting to change their attitude after joining the group.” — AFP

Islamic fashion
school cuts a faithful
figure in Indonesia

Indonesia's first Islamic fashion school is teaching students in the world's largest Muslim-majority country the usual skills of design, styling and marketing – but with a religion-specific twist. As demand grows for Islamic apparel, featuring variations on traditional headscarves and long, flowing dresses for women, while men are targeted with robes or shirts embroidered with religious motifs, about 140 students have signed up.



“We want our students to make unique designs and become leaders in modest fashion,” said Deden Siswanto, who founded the Islamic Fashion Institute nearly three years ago in Indonesia's third largest city of Bandung. “We also teach them about wearing clothes according to Islamic rules.”

Nearby sat a group of young women working at sketchboards and sewing stations in the school, which offers nine-month courses in fashion styling, marketing, and basic styling. Both men and women, whether Muslim or non-Muslim, may join. But teachers must be Muslim, to ensure familiarity with Islamic business practices. The trend towards garments that meet religious requirements is becoming more visible among the burgeoning middle class in Indonesia, where, for years, few Muslim women covered their heads, or opted for traditional batik or Western clothing.

The Indonesian websites of leading online retailers such as Lazada.com and Zalora.com now have pages dedicated to Islamic fashion. The country hosted its first Muslim Fashion Week in 2015 and the industry ministry aims to make Indonesia a “Muslim fashion hub” by 2020.

One of the students at the school, Runi Soemadipradja, said she started wearing a headscarf in 2007 but found few options suitable for Muslims. “I started designing my own clothes,” she said. “We are overwhelmed by this (demand). So far I have released 10 collections.” — Reuters



Youths sing and bang on improvised drums as they walk around their neighborhood to wake up residents for Sahur.



A youth bangs on improvised drums as he and others walk around their neighborhood to wake up residents for Sahur.



Mohammed Adin (left), a member of the Iraqi national weightlifting team, exercises during a training session at the local weightlifting club in the town of Badra near the Iraq-Iran border. — AFP photos



Raad Ameen, a member of the Iraqi national weightlifting team, exercises during a training session at the local weightlifting club in the town of Badra.



Salwan Jassim Abbood, an Iraqi heavy lifter in the 105 kilogram category, trains at the local weightlifting club.



Ali Hamza, a member of the Iraqi national weightlifting team, chalks his hands while exercising.



Ali Hamza (center), a member of the Iraqi national weightlifting team, exercises during a training session.



Iraqi boys lift weights while training.

In eastern Iraq, a small town builds weightlifting champions

While some towns in Iraq are known for producing oil or textiles, Badra boasts its own special conveyor belt-churning out weightlifting champions. In cafes along the main road dissecting the small town, 10 kilometers (six miles) from the border with Iran, chatter rarely veers far from the successes of local lifters. In the old days, “men measured their performance by lifting cast iron, often spare parts of cars,” said Khudeir Basha, who grew up nearby and became coach of the national weightlifting team. “In 1974, the youth of Badra decided to take part in the Iraqi championships,” the bespectacled coach recalled, referring to himself and his friends.

The hopefuls headed south to Diwaniya province, where they swept up “all the prizes”, astonishing fellow competitors who had never heard of Badra. Since then, he said, weightlifting has been synonymous with the town of 15,000, some 200 km east of Baghdad. A weightlifting training center, set up in 1993 in a Badra high school, is still in operation. The spartan hall echoes with shouts of encouragement by Basha, who sets an example by keeping himself in peak condition.

Heavy lifter Salwan Jassim Abbood, who is in the 105 kilogram category, returned from the Asian weightlifting championships in Turkmenistan last year with a silver medal. The new generation wants to “continue what Badra has launched in the weightlifting field”, the thick-set athlete said. With seemingly little effort, Abbood propelled a barbell from the floor to far above his head, the bar ends sagging slightly under heavy discs. In 2016, the 26-year-old took part in the Olympic Games in Brazil. Ten years previously, his brother Mohammad won silver at a contest in Qatar. “It’s up to us and the coaches to keep going so Badra remains a factory for champion weightlifters,” said Abbood, who will represent Iraq at the Asian Games in Indonesia this summer.

‘Capital of weightlifting’

Lifters here are acutely aware that they are upholding a tradition. Another medal winner, 28-year-old Ahmed Faruq, said he was “proud to



Iraqi athletes training at the local weightlifting club.

have made this small town Iraq’s capital of weightlifting”, noted for its victories in Asian and Arab competitions. “Big names have been here and we need to protect that identity,” he said. But despite those successes, the gym is in poor shape. Paint peeled from the pale green walls, a solitary fan recycled warm air and the upholstery on the leg press had worn away, disgorging yellow foam as if from a putrid wound. Iraq’s sports authorities are losing interest in Badra and the weightlifting club, coach Basha lamented.

The small management team has resorted to drumming up its own income to keep things ticking over. “Every year, the club generates 30 million dinars (\$25,000, just over 20,000 euros) by renting out shops it bought,” says Mohammad Kazem, a 55-year-old former athlete, now manager of the weightlifting club. And while that isn’t a lot, Kazem said he committed to training the

next generation of lifters for free. He and fellow talent scouts regularly tour schools and sports clubs in the town and beyond, to recruit “nursery champions” and ensure “there are people... to protect (Badra’s) reputation and keep the story going.” In the club, athletes regularly execute lifts exceeding their own weight.

The success of Abbood, Faruq and others “is proof that Badra is the number one weightlifting town (in Iraq) and also the most attached to the sport,” said Kazem. With schoolchildren among the disciplined lifters filling the gym, it seems the production line will keep grinding on, urged on by posters of past winners peering down from the peeling walls. — AP

Poldark series 4 to premiere exclusively in the Middle East on BBC First only on OSN from 11 June

The hotly anticipated Poldark returns for its fourth series, from 11 June at 20:00 KSA / 21:00 UAE, exclusively to BBC First on channel 215 on OSN, the Middle East’s leading entertainment network. The BAF-TA-award winning period-drama series resumes with Prime Minister Pitt (Edward Bennett) calling a general election resulting in uncertainty gripping the country.

Episode one is packed full of drama as we see Ross Poldark (Aiden Turner) watching on as Cornwall suffers under the power of Truro’s MP, George Warleggan (Jack Farthing); the Enyses contemplate having a child; Morwenna (Ellise Chappell) uses Osborne’s (Christian Brassington) affair with her sister Rowella (Esme Coy) to keep the reverend’s advances at bay; and Demelza seeks to reconcile rival local Lords Falmouth and Basset.

The fourth series draws on Winston Graham’s sixth and seventh Poldark books ‘The Four Swans’ and ‘The Angry Tide’. Want to see more of what BBC First has to offer viewers in the Middle East? In June, the following series will continue with new episodes exclusively on OSN:

Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators – every Saturday 20:00 KSA / 21:00 UAE, ends on 14 July

Good Karma Hospital series 2 – every Wednesday 20:00 KSA / 21:00 UAE, ends on 4 July.

Be the first to hear about OSN news by following @OSNnewsME on Twitter.



Lasseter, Pixar co-founder, to step down at end of year

John Lasseter, the co-founder of Pixar Animation Studios and the Walt Disney Co.’s animation chief, will step down at the end of the year after acknowledging “missteps” in his behavior with staff members. Disney announced Friday that Lasseter – one of the most illustrious and powerful figures in animation – will stay on through the end of 2018 as a consultant. After that he will depart Disney permanently.

Lasseter in November took what he called a six-month “sabbatical.” He apologized “to anyone who has ever been on the receiving end of an unwanted hug” or any other gesture that made them feel “disrespected or uncomfortable.” At the time, Lasseter signaled that he hoped to then return to Disney. Many in Hollywood were skeptical that was possible. “The last six months have provided an opportunity to reflect on my life, career and personal priorities,” Lasseter said in a statement. “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 61-year-old Lasseter, easily recognizable for his bright Hawaiian shirts, is the highest-ranking Hollywood executive to be toppled in the wake of the #MeToo movement that followed Harvey Weinstein’s downfall in October. A pioneer in digital animation, Lasseter has been a creative force behind every Pixar release as well as Disney hits like “Frozen,” “Moana” and “Zootopia.” Lasseter directed Pixar’s breakthrough feature “Toy Story” as well as its first sequel, “Toy Story 2” After Disney acquired Pixar in 2006, Lasseter was named



File photo shows John Lasseter arrives at the world premiere of ‘Toy Story 3,’ at The El Capitan Theater in Los Angeles. — AP

chief creative officer of Pixar as well as Disney Animation. Under Lasseter, the previously flagging animation studio was reborn through both Pixar and Disney releases that have amassed billions in box office and a string of Oscars.

Bob Iger, chief executive of Disney, praised Lasseter for his vision and assembling storytellers and innovators “to set the standard in animation for generations to come.” “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. We are profoundly grateful for his contribution, which included a masterful and remarkable turnaround of The Walt Disney Animation Studios. Pixar’s latest, “Incredibles 2,” is due out next week. Lasseter is an executive producer of the anticipated sequel, which is expected to be among the biggest box-office debuts for an animated release. Disney didn’t announce a successor to Lasseter. — AP



US actor George Clooney speaks after receiving the 46th American Film Institute Life Achievement Award at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood. — AFP photos



British-Lebanese barrister and wife Amal Clooney addresses the crowd during the 46th American Film Institute's Life Achievement Award Gala Tribute.



US actress Shirley MacLaine embraces US actor George Clooney after presenting him with the 46th American Film Institute's Life Achievement Award.



British-Lebanese barrister Amal Clooney speaks with Nick Clooney.



US actresses Courtney Cox (left) and Jennifer Aniston address the crowd.



US singer Miley Cyrus performs onstage.

AMAL CLOONEY SPEAKS FROM THE HEART AS GEORGE GETS LIFETIME AWARD

Amal Clooney on Thursday paid unprecedented public tribute to her movie star husband George Clooney, calling him a gentleman, an amazing husband and father and the love of her life. The human rights lawyer was addressing a star-studded lifetime achievement award ceremony in Hollywood for "Ocean's Eleven" star Clooney. But she said it was easier for her "to address a court on behalf of detainees than to speak publicly, as I am doing for the first time tonight, about my husband."

"I met George when I was 35 and starting to become quite resigned to the idea that I would be a spinster. Then we met," Amal Clooney told the audience, packed with friends and A list stars like Cate Blanchett, Jennifer Aniston, model Cindy Crawford and Diane Keaton. "Five years later, he is the person who has my complete admiration and also the person whose smile makes me melt every time," she added. Despite being one of the most celebrated couples in Hollywood after their 2014 marriage and the birth of twins a year ago, Amal and George Clooney rarely speak of their private life. On Thursday, Clooney was the center of attention as an American Film Institute lifetime honoree. Friends ranging from former US President Barack Obama to Julia Roberts and talk show host Jimmy Kimmel spoke of his wit, charm, generosity and work for causes including

refugees in the Darfur region of Sudan and victims of the 2010 Haiti earthquake.

"He always looks better than me, does the whole gray hair thing better than me, may be more debonair than me," joked Obama, appearing by video. "He is a good man, a good friend, a good citizen, and an outstanding maker of films." Clooney, 57, a producer, director, actor and double Oscar winner, made his name on the 1990s medical TV series "ER," before starring in movies ranging from comedies to thrillers and serious political dramas including "Up in the Air," "Syriana" and "Three Kings." Julianna Margulies, his love interest on "ER," called him "the most genuine, most stellar human being and friend." "And yes, he is a good kisser. Sorry!," she added. Clooney said that before meeting Amal he didn't believe he could "have it all." "I love this industry," he said, before signing off using the title of his 2005 journalism movie. "Good night, and good luck." In March, Amal Clooney joined the legal team representing two Reuters reporters jailed in Myanmar who are accused of possessing secret government papers in what has become a landmark press freedom case. — Reuters



US model Cindy Crawford and husband Rande Gerber attend the 46th American Film Institute Life Achievement Award Gala.



US actress Diane Keaton addresses the crowd.



In this file photo British actress Eunice Gayson reacts at the opening of a press preview of the Bond in Motion exhibition. — AFP

First Bond girl Eunice Gayson dies aged 90

British actress Eunice Gayson, who played the first Bond girl, has died at the age of 90, the official 007 Twitter account said Saturday. Gayson played the spy's love interest Sylvia Trench opposite Sean Connery in the 1962 film "Dr No", the first of the franchise, and then again in "From Russia with Love". Bond producers Michael G Wilson and Barbara Broccoli offered their condolences to her family in a statement posted on the 007 Twitter feed.

"We are so sad to learn that Eunice Gayson, our very first 'Bond girl' who played Sylvia Trench in DR. NO and FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE has passed away. Our sincere thoughts are with her family," they said. Gayson also appeared opposite Peter Cushing in 1958 Hammer horror film "The Revenge of Frankenstein", and in episodes of 1960s television series "The Avengers" and "The Saint". — AFP



File photo shows Daniel Radcliffe arrives at the Empire Live event in London. — AP

2 grown up Harry Potters will compete on Broadway soon

This fall, Broadway-goers will get a chance to see both Harry Potter and "Harry Potter." Daniel Radcliffe, who played the boy wizard in the J.K. Rowling franchise, will return to Broadway in "The Lifespan of a Fact," co-starring Bobby Cannavale and Cherry Jones. Leigh Silverman will direct.

The show will begin performances on Sept. 20 and will officially open on October 18. It will face-off against the Tony-nominated play "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child," which picks up 19 years from where Rowling's last novel left off and portrays Potter and his friends as grown-ups. "The Lifespan of a Fact" centers on the investigation of a Las Vegas teen's suicide. Radcliffe's Broadway credits include "Equus," "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" and "The Cripple of Inishmaan." — AP



MONTBLANC WHERE LUXURY MEETS HISTORY AND ART

By Sahar Moussa

In 1960, Montblanc was born. Today after 112 years, this German manufacturer of luxury writing instruments, watches, jewelry and leather goods has reached the highest level of excellence worldwide. Often identified by its “snow peak” logo, Montblanc is a global maison for men and women, a place where you can easily find the perfect and meaningful present for him/her and a haven for pen collectors who appreciate the art of writing. Being appointed as president of the luxury maison’s operations across the Middle East, India and Africa, Franck Juhel passionately shared in an exclusive interview with Kuwait Times the history, meaning and inspiration behind Montblanc’s collections. Based in Dubai, Juhel is responsible for 33 markets, with a focus on strengthening key partnerships and accelerating the development of Montblanc in the region. Juhel takes up his latest position following three years as president of Montblanc Latin America, Caribbean and Travel Retail Americas. His career at Richemont began in 2004 in the commercial department of Cartier in Paris, before assuming the marketing role for Cartier’s perfume and leather categories in the Latin American and Caribbean region. In 2006, he joined Jaeger-LeCoultre, where he held senior management positions as commercial director and regional director for Latin America and Caribbean, and as head of the company’s Spanish operations. Some excerpts:

Kuwait Times: There is a long relationship between Gulf customers and Montblanc - how do you describe this relationship?

Franck Juhel: It is a historical relationship due to the fact that Montblanc is a luxury company where craftsmanship is part of our DNA. Beauty and craftsmanship are also a part of Gulf countries and their inhabitants, and I think we are a match since many years now.

KT: Montblanc in the past was only based on black and white colors and strictly for writing instruments - however lately, you have broadened your color choices and categories. Can you tell us more about these changes?

Juhel: It is true that Montblanc was created based on writing instruments. This evolved in the past years, and today, Montblanc is a global brand and maison offering a whole universe from watches to leather goods to cufflinks to writing instruments. Everything we have done the same way we did with the writing instruments - it is always with innovation in mind and to make something better.

When we entered watchmaking many years ago, we did it through our two watch manufactories in Switzerland - one in LeLocle and the other in Villeret. This year we are celebrating our 160th anniversary in Villeret, which is one of the oldest factories in Switzerland that also gives us the heritage of the knowhow that is there and adds to our innovation.

KT: Can you tell us more about the ‘Le petite Prince’ collection?

Juhel: We launched the ‘Le petite Prince’ collection based on the writing instrument Meisterstück, which is an icon by Montblanc in writing instruments. Meisterstück has always been black and since we wanted to celebrate ‘Le petite Prince’ written by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry by doing something very meaningful. For the first time, we worked on changing the color of the Meisterstück with a beautiful deep blue shade. For us, everything we do has to have a meaning. We worked with our design department and historians to find this perfect blue, and we did a lot of research before we introduced this particular color. ‘Le petite Prince’ is a book that has been translated into 300 different languages and is a worldwide bestseller.

KT: Did it find popularity with customers?

Juhel: The collection was a big success with customers all over the world, because it was a perfect match between Montblanc and the book. The story is very meaningful, full of values known by everybody. The most interesting part about the ‘Le petite Prince’ story is when you read it as a kid and you read it again when you grow up, your level of understanding is completely different, because there are so many different levels of understanding within the book and values in the book. Many people should read it again to share and be reminded of the true and right values that need to be shared between us.



KT: Is it a limited edition?

Juhel: Yes, some references are limited. Everything is limited by time not number, and we have one reference that is limited by number.

KT: Montblanc mainly started as a male brand, and recently you have a few items for women. Do you have any future plans to add more items for the ladies?

Juhel: Today Montblanc is a whole universe. It is true it is more oriented towards men, but writing is a universal art, and time is also what we all need to look at. This is why we have dedicated collections of writing instruments and watches for women. For sure in the future, we are going to develop more lines for our feminine clientele, and we are already in the process of producing a whole new range for women. Ironically, did you know that approximately 65 percent of our clients are ladies? They usually buy for their fathers, husbands and even for themselves.

KT: You signed up AB de Villiers last year as your brand ambassador. Why did the choice fell on him?

Juhel: Everything takes time, and it is the same thing with the brand ambassador. It is very important for us. The same way we work with Beidoun here, is that we have to share the same values, and I’m convinced to have a real and true brand ambassador that presents the brand the way we want it to be presented - it is not only a contract, but a relationship that is built over time. AB was and still is a client of Montblanc in South Africa for different events. We have been in contact for many years now and naturally the story of the brand ambassador came up as an opportunity. But it was not the basis of our relationship - it was a natural way to continue the relationship we already have with AB.

KT: What about Hugh Jackman?

Juhel: He was also a client in the US. We have Hugh as a brand ambassador for four years now, and I think he is also a perfect match. Our relationship is a natural one - if we don’t have a natural relationship with our brand ambassadors, it wouldn’t work. You will know it is fake and fake is not part of our value.



KT: Do we see any possibility of signing up any Kuwaiti or Gulf star or personality as a Montblanc ambassador?

Juhel: Yes, definitely. We have great citizens from Gulf countries that are part of our family. We haven’t picked anyone yet, but I think with time it will come naturally. There are a few names in the region but we cannot announce them because there is no formal contract. They are not only regular customers, they are the maison’s friends. They come to support us - they love to be part of anything we do here, and we feel very privileged at the maison to have them.

KT: What will be your latest addition to your current collection? And do you customize for your clients?

Juhel: Luckily at Montblanc, there is no trend, because our products at the maison are a lifetime companion. However, we are launching next month a complete new line of luggage with different shapes and sizes. It will be unisex and you can personalize some colors. Every year we have a new collection in all categories, but the next big one to come is the luggage line.

Yes, we do customize all our product categories. We work with our customers on the design as well on the watches and leather goods. We bring our leather from our factory in Italy, and thanks to this, we are able to do bespoke and unique pieces that we develop with our customers exclusively for them, where they can choose the shape, color and type of leather.

KT: Do you consider Kuwait a key market for Montblanc?

Juhel: Yes, Kuwait is a key market because we have a historical presence here and the knowledge of our clients

is very high. Last night I met a few Kuwaiti Montblanc writing instrument collectors and some of them if not all knew about Montblanc products more than myself. It was amazing to share this passion and interest that we have in common.

KT: There are three stores of Montblanc in Kuwait - in 360 Mall, Avenues Mall and Al-Hamra. Are there any future plans to open a fourth store?

Juhel: For us, our main plan in Kuwait is based on three pillars - the first we have reached already, which is to have the same product availability that you can find anywhere else in the world, so Kuwaitis or people living in Kuwait don’t have to travel to find Montblanc products they want. The second pillar is service - to maintain and offer very high quality of service. The experience you get when you enter a Montblanc boutique in Kuwait has to be the same experience you get when you enter Montblanc in New York, London or India. The experience has to be of the same high-quality level. With our partner Beidoun, we are always listening to the market and which new mall is going to open, and how the market is performing. We always look at what the market needs and the shift from one mall to another - that’s why we have local partners and we are very lucky in Kuwait to have Beidoun.

KT: Can you tell me about your partnership with Beidoun?

Juhel: We have been partners with Beidoun since 1994 in Kuwait and it is very important to us to have partners that understand the brand and the high expectations that we have as a brand worldwide and locally. The Beidoun family and group have been amazing and we work hand in hand with them in order to see ways on how we can improve, not only in terms of sales, but also improve the quality of service and the whole Montblanc experience and universe in Kuwait. For us it is very important to choose the right partners and we have in this region partners since many years, and it’s thanks to them that we are able to talk and to do this interview in this beautiful boutique in Kuwait.



Classifieds

Monday, June 11, 2018



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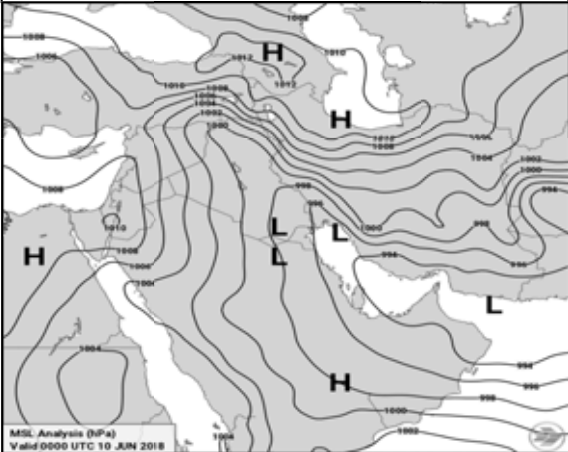
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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Very hot with moderate to fresh north westerly wind, with speed of 20 - 45 km/h causing rising dust over open areas.

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.	SFC. CHART 10/06/2018 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	46 °C	35 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	47 °C	31 °C		
ABDALY	47 °C	30 °C		
BUBYAN	--- °C	--- °C		
JAHRA	48 °C	35 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	47 °C	30 °C		
SALMIYAH	44 °C	35 °C		
AHMADI	46 °C	36 °C		
NUWAISIB	46 °C	32 °C	MSL Analysis (hPa) Valid 0000 UTC 10 JUN 2018	
WAFRA	47 °C	30 °C		
SALMY	46 °C	31 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Monday	06/11	Hot + raising dust	45 °C	32 °C	NW	20 - 50 km/h
Tuesday	06/12	Hot	46 °C	33 °C	NW	15 - 35 km/h
Wednesday	06/13	Hot + Relatively humid over coastal areas	45 °C	33 °C	NE-VRB	08 - 28 km/h
Thursday	06/14	Hot + Relatively humid over coastal areas	46 °C	31 °C	VRB-NW	06 - 26 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
MIN. Temp.	36 °C
MAX. RH	24 %
MIN. RH	06 %
MAX. Wind	N 50 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

EMERGENCY
 **112**

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1899988

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Sri Lanka Airlines

Egypt Air

Swiss Air

Saudia

Middle East Airlines

22087425

22087426

171

177

22924455

22414400

22423888

22425747

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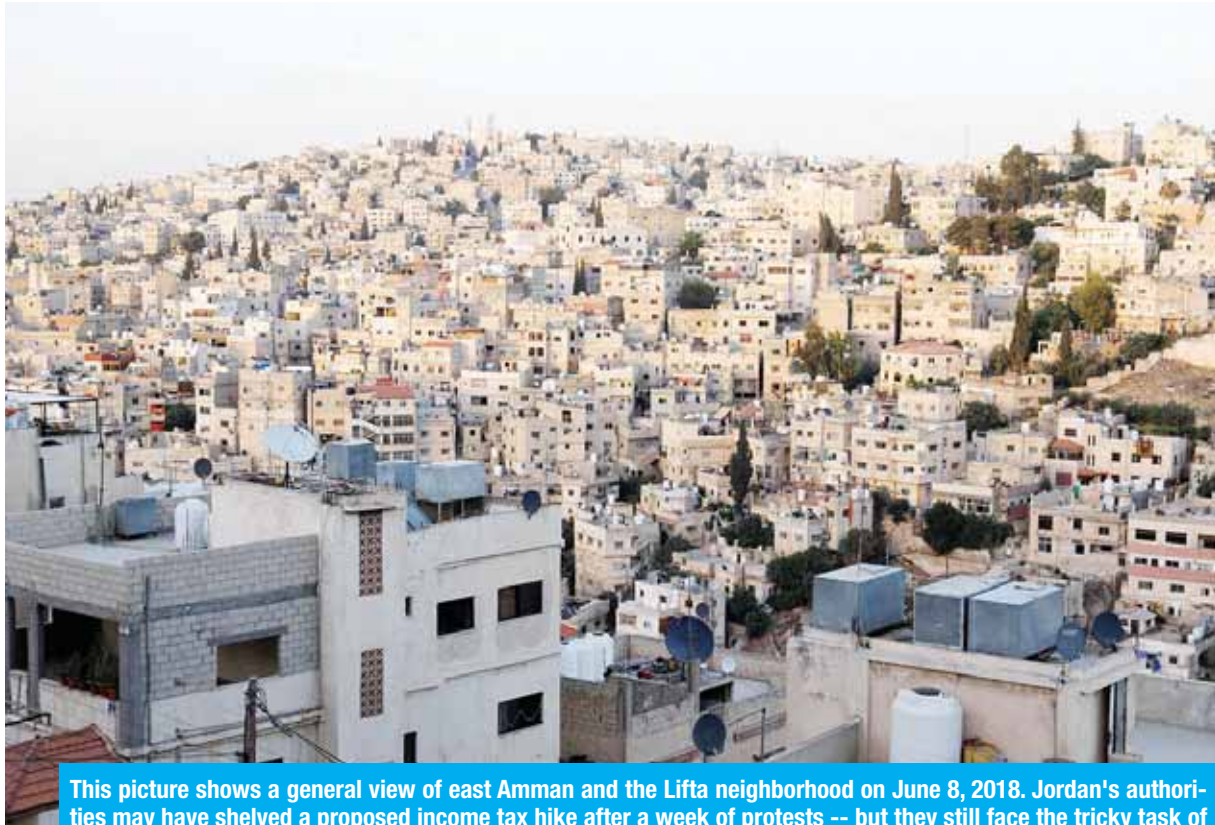
Flight Schedule

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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Monday 11/6/2018				Departure Flights on Monday 11/6/2018				Arrival Flights on Monday 11/6/2018				Departure Flights on Monday 11/6/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
FEG	441	Asyut	00:05	KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05	JZR	144	Doha	13:55
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	KAC	417	Manila	00:25	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	KAC	618	Doha	14:10	MSR	2615	Cairo	00:30	FEG	342	Sohag	14:50
KAC	102	London	00:50	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	IAW	158A	Al Najaf	14:55
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	KAC	286	Dhaka	14:25	PIA	206	Lahore	01:00	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	KAC	692	Muscat	14:25	JZR	528	Asyut	01:05	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
JZR	267	Beirut	01:25	JZR	751	Madinah	14:30	FEG	344	Sohag	01:05	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	KNE	537	Jeddah	14:35	KAC	677	Dubai	01:30	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:45	THY	773	Istanbul	01:45	KNE	538	Jeddah	15:25
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	JZR	789	Riyadh	14:45	KAC	285	Dhaka	01:50	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:55
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:50	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:55
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	304	Mumbai	15:05	JZR	502	Luxor	01:55	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:15	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:00
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50	JZR	606	Kochi	16:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	412	Bangkok	15:10	KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	OMA	645	Muscat	15:20	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	KAC	619	Doha	16:15
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	KAC	562	Amman	15:20	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
MSC	415	Sohag	03:10	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	JZR	142	Doha	03:45	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	KAC	502	Beirut	15:35	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	JZR	563	Sohag	15:40	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:40
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	MSC	416	Sohag	04:10	SAW	706	Damascus	17:00
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	SAW	705	Damascus	16:00	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15	FDB	052	Dubai	17:20
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	JZR	534	Cairo	16:10	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	JAI	571	Mumbai	05:05	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	FDB	051	Dubai	16:20	QTR	1077	Doha	05:15	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	KAC	118	New York	16:20	JZR	556	Alexandria	05:20	KAC	381	Delhi	17:45
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	542	Cairo	17:00	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:35	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	KAC	702	Taif	06:05	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	JZR	145	Doha	17:35	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35	RJA	643	Amman	07:00	JZR	608	Hyderabad	18:25
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	KAC	167	Paris	07:20	JZR	240	Amman	18:30
BAW	157	London	06:10	RJA	640	Amman	19:00	KAC	413	Bangkok	07:30	JZR	538	Cairo	18:35
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:25	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00	WAN	135	Doha	18:40
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	KAC	744	Dammam	19:10	KAC	778	Jeddah	08:00	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20	JZR	156	London	08:20	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:35	BAW	156	London	08:20	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
WAN	342	Sohag	06:55	KAC	156	Istanbul	19:35	KAC	691	Muscat	09:00	KAC	641	Amman	20:00
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	KAC	674	Dubai	19:40	KAC	161	Geneva	09:00	RJA	641	Amman	20:00
JZR	143	Doha	07:20	KAC	657	Dubai	19:50	KAC	117	SNN/New York	09:05	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30	FDB	054	Dubai	19:50	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:05	JZR	552D	Alexandria	20:05
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	KAC	616	Bahrain	20:00	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	DLH	624	Frankfurt	20:05	KAC	562	Sohag	09:30	JZR	602	Mumbai	20:30
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	OMA	647	Muscat	20:05	KAC	561	Amman	09:40	KAC	357	Kochi	20:30
KAC	358	Kochi	08:05	KNE	381	Taif	20:10	KAC	126	Sharjah	09:40	DLH	624	Dammam	20:50
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	620	Doha	20:15	ABY	773	Riyadh	09:45	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	KAC	535	Cairo	09:45	KAC	353	Bengaluru	21:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	QTR	1088	Doha	20:40	JZR	856	Dubai	09:50	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:00	UAE	101	London	10:00	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
SAW	703	Damascus	09:30	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00	JZR	1538	Cairo	21:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	ALK	229	Colombo	21:15	KAC	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00	KAC	1543	Cairo	21:20
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:15	ETD	617	Doha	10:10	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:35
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	KAC	168	Paris	21:20	KAC	750	Madinah	10:15	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
MSC	405	Sohag	10:15	KAC	162	Geneva	21:50	JZR	666	Esfahan	10:15	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50	IRA	155	Istanbul	10:25	KAC	203	Lahore	22:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	QTR	1082	Doha	22:05	KAC	704	Damascus	10:30	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:05
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	SAW	1071	Doha	10:40	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:10
JZR	703	Taif	11:00	KAC	786	Jeddah	22:15	QTR	056	Dubai	10:40	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25	FDB	158	Al Najaf	11:00	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:25
JZR	557	Alexandria	12:05	WAN	136	Doha	22:30	IAW	406	Sohag	11:15	KAC	383	Delhi	22:25
WAN	134	Doha	12:20	SVA	502	Jeddah	22:45	MSC	788	Riyadh	11:20	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:30	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:00	JZR	890	Mangalore	11:20	JZR	604	Ahmedabad	22:40
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	THY	764	Istanbul	23:15	AXB	214	Bahrain	11:35	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	AZQ	4565	Baku	23:30	GFA	405	Beirut	11:55	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
WAN	542	KTM	12:50	MSR	2614	Cairo	23:30	MEA	776	Jeddah	12:05	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35	JZR	1075	Doha	12:10	WAN	337	Alexandria	23:40
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:30	JZR	241	Amman	23:40					SVA	503	Jeddah	23:45
JZR	779	Jeddah	13:45												

News



This picture shows a general view of east Amman and the Lifta neighborhood on June 8, 2018. 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 pins hopes on billion dollar Gulf aid package

AMMAN: Jordan is pinning hopes on oil-rich Gulf states led by Saudi Arabia committing to a multi-billion dollar aid package to help it weather an economic crisis that sparked rare street protests over austerity plans, officials said. A palace statement said King Abdullah left for Jeddah to attend a summit called by Saudi King Salman who invited leaders of Kuwait and the UAE to discuss ways of helping the kingdom overcome deepening economic strains that sparked last week's peaceful protests.

Officials are hopeful the Jeddah meeting will approve a major package in line with a previous \$5 billion fund allocated to Jordan by Gulf monarchies in December 2011 to contain pro-democracy unrest that spread across the region. The funds that were tied to developments projects had helped spur its aid-dependent economy.

An official who requested anonymity told Reuters a deposit to cushion dwindling existing reserves of \$11.5 billion would have a significant impact on easing pressures on a deficit-ridden budget where spending goes mainly to covers public salaries. In the past, foreign aid

has sometimes financed almost half the country's budget deficit. The financing of highways, hospitals and ageing infrastructure by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates had indirectly relieved pressure on the kingdom by reducing the need for large capital spending, another official said.

Thousands of Jordanians hurt by price hikes took to the streets last week against the government's IMF mandated economic policies. The rare peaceful protests prompted King Abdullah to sack the government and appoint a new prime minister whose first pledge was to reverse plans was to shelve steep tax hikes. In a statement released by the royal palace, King Abdullah was quoted as saying Riyadh had stood by Jordan "in all circumstances". Western diplomats say the protests have worried conservative Gulf states who fear instability in the staunch US ally Jordan that has long backed their foreign policy positions could have repercussions on their own security.

Officials say the kingdom's economic strains have worsened with the end of the Gulf grant and little extra funds by Western donors in the last few years to cope with the burden of thousands of Syrian refugees the kingdom hosts. They say the Syrian crisis had also meant Jordan was losing out on business opportunities and foreign investment inflows. Jordan's key role in protecting geopolitical stability in the Middle East already makes it one of the highest per capita recipients of foreign aid in the world, according to figures from USAID, the US aid agency. — Reuters

Trump and Kim in Singapore for...

Continued from Page 1

Yong Chol, a close aide of Kim who has been instrumental in the diplomacy that culminated in tomorrow's summit. Kim Yo Jong, leader Kim's younger sister, was also spotted in his delegation. She emerged as an influential figure in Pyongyang's opaque leadership in February, when she led a North Korean delegation to the winter Olympics in South Korea.

Officials who arrived with Trump include Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, National Security Adviser John Bolton, White House Chief of Staff John Kelly and White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders. Bolton's hardline rhetoric last month infuriated North Korea and nearly derailed the summit. He called for North Korea to follow a "Libya model" in negotiations. Libya unilaterally surrendered its nuclear program in 2003, but its leader, Muammar Gaddafi, was killed in 2011 by NATO-backed rebels.

'Spur of the moment'

Trump, speaking in Canada on Saturday, said any agreement at the summit would be "spur of the moment," underscoring the uncertain outcome of what he called a "mission of peace". Senior US officials, echoing what Trump has said in recent days, said that at a minimum they would like the summit to serve as a start of a dialogue with North Korea.

They expect the North Koreans to ask for security guarantees, including a pledge that the United States and South Korea will not invade, and also a request for economic aid. The Trump administration has already said it does not seek "regime change" and has no intention of sending its forces into the country. Washington has refrained from promising economic assistance but has suggested this could come from South Korea, China and Japan if Pyongyang agrees to denuclearize.

Kim met Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong shortly after his arrival, driving from the St Regis Hotel where he is staying, through the famous Orchard Road shopping district, which was closed off for his tightly guarded motorcade. At the hotel lobby, grim-faced North Korean security guards warned other hotel guests not to take pictures as Kim walked to his Mercedes Benz limousine. In his first public comments

Islam in a nutshell...

Continued from Page 1

The second part of the statement instructs us of the practice of Islam: that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is God's messenger, a man whose role was to convey the message and implement it in all spheres of human conduct. Thus, he is a role model for humankind. He is the teacher with textbook in hand, and his role was to apply the teachings of the Book, answering the questions of his students along the way.

Not only did Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) relate God's Word to the world, he answered, with his sayings and conduct, one of the most important questions ever asked: "How are we supposed to live?" He provided guidance in all matters of life, whether in the

home, on the job, in the marketplace, or on the battlefield. He interacted with men and women, young and old, friends and foes. He taught us how to manage personal relationships and international treaties. He taught us to be fully human, yet quintessentially spiritual. The simple statement, "There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is His messenger" is a profound concept that sums up the thought and practice of a true Muslim. It is the vision, mission, objective and benchmark of life, all in one.

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.

Media workers, security offer glimpse into tightly regimented North Korea

SINGAPORE: During a security lockdown inside and outside Singapore's five-star St Regis hotel before the arrival of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un yesterday, only two journalists moved freely along the blockaded street, flanked by crowds penned back by police. In a sea of reporters and curious tourists, the two were North Korean media workers waiting to capture the image of their leader, who all North Koreans are duty bound to revere, arriving for a historic summit with President Donald Trump.

Dressed in identical in black suits, with lapel badges of former North Korean leaders, the two, flanked by Singapore police, were busy getting into the best position for Kim's arrival, setting up cameras in the middle of the cordoned-off road. The behavior of the media workers and of North Korean security guards, who later accosted tourists taking photos, offered a glimpse into how isolated, tightly regimented North Korea works, just as Tuesday's summit raises the prospect, perhaps still distant, that it might be about to take the first step towards emerging from its Cold War shell.

In authoritarian North Korea, where Kim's family has passed on power through three generations, images propagated by state media such as the Korea Central News Agency, the Rodong Sinmun newspaper and Korean Central Television, help build a leader's legitimacy and glorifying his status. As Kim's motorcade approached the St. Regis, another two North Korean video cameramen in black suits emerged through the sun roof of a black SUV, filming the crowd.



SINGAPORE: Armed police officers patrol outside the Shangri-La hotel where US President Donald Trump will stay ahead of the US-North Korea summit in Singapore. — AFP

Trump's trade fury torpedoes the G7...

Continued from Page 1

Reneging on the commitments agreed in the communique showed "incoherence and inconsistency", it said in a statement. Shortly after Trump tweeted, respected Republican Senator John McCain responded. "To our allies: bipartisan majorities of Americans remain pro-free trade, pro-globalization & supportive of alliances based on 70 years of shared values. Americans stand with you, even if our president doesn't," he tweeted.

'Creative babbling'

Russian President Vladimir Putin, in China on Sunday for a summit with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, dismissed G7 calls for Moscow to stop what the group described as attempts to undermine democracy and support for the Syrian regime. "I believe it's necessary to stop this creative babbling and shift to concrete issues related to real cooperation," Putin told reporters. The G7 also endorsed Britain's accusation that Moscow was behind the poisoning attack in England on former double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter - but Putin said they had "again" failed to provide evidence that Russia was behind the attack. Russia was kicked out of the group in response to its 2014 annexation of Crimea. Trump earlier said that the club would be better off if it brought Russia back.

World's 'piggy bank'

When Trump left Quebec it was thought that a compromise had been reached, despite the tension and determination of European leaders Macron and Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany to push back on Trump's assault on the world trade system. Officials

One car back, a photographer dressed identically stood out of the sun roof of another black SUV, taking shots down the length of the motorcade. North Korea's cameramen are nothing if not zealous in their efforts to get the best pictures of their leader. During a summit Kim held with South Korean President Moon Jae-in in April, the North's journalists repeatedly got in the way of South Korean cameramen to get shots. Security around Kim's hotel was extremely tight and guests were prohibited from going in and out, hours before Kim's black Mercedes Benz limousine cruised in.

While a dozen North Korean journalists flanked by dozens of North Korean security men worked to capture Kim's every movement, guests in the hotel lobby were repeatedly told by Singapore police and hotel staffs not to take pictures of any North Koreans, especially Kim. When a couple of guests were seen sneaking a photo, a North Korean official stormed up to them, demanding to check their phones. "I saw them taking a photo of our chairman. How dare they do so, they shouldn't," the official told Reuters later. He declined to be identified. Under the watchful eye of the official, and St. Regis staff, one browbeaten male guest deleted his photos. A woman guest, challenged by the same North Korean official, said she had only taken photos of the lobby and refused to show her phone.

After taking her to private area, hotel staff assured the North Korean official that the guest did not have photos of Kim. Other guests were bemused. "What do you expect? It's North Korea," said one Western tourist with a shrug. Nicola Harding, visiting from Britain, said that it was all "a little weird". But a human touch will always emerge, it seems. Several of the reporters who accompanied Kim to Singapore had also been to the demilitarized zone between the two Koreas in April for the inter-Korean summit. Recognizing a Reuters reporter from then, one North Korean journalist, who declined to give his name, said: "It's nice to see you again." — Reuters

from European delegations quickly leaked copies of the joint statement, and it was published online moments before Trump tweeted.

On board Air Force One an AFP reporter was told that Trump had approved the agreement, only to be told later of the tweets. A senior US administration official said that Trump had been angered by Trudeau's comments. The outburst suggested that any deal had collapsed and his threat to impose sanctions on car imports will outrage his ostensible allies-especially Germany and Canada, major exporters to the US market. Trump claimed that tariffs were necessary because the United States has been exploited as the world's "piggy bank" under existing arrangements, but his counterparts were determined to protect "rules-based" international trade.

'The gig is up'

The joint communique that was thrashed out over two days of negotiations vowed that members would reform multilateral oversight through the World Trade Organization (WTO) and seek to cut tariffs. "We commit to modernize the WTO to make it more fair as soon as possible. We strive to reduce tariff barriers, non-tariff barriers and subsidies," it said, reflecting the typical language of decades of G7 statements.

A German government spokesman said that his country "stands behind the communique which was collectively agreed upon." But Trump had already said he would not hesitate to shut countries out of the US market if they retaliate against his tariffs. "The European Union is brutal to the United States... They know it," he insisted in his departing news conference. "When I'm telling them, they're smiling at me. You know, it's like the gig is up." European officials said Trump had tried to water down the language in the draft communique on the WTO and rules-based trade. In the end, that language stayed in and it was only on climate change that no consensus was reached — AFP

Nearly 10,000 people have been killed since the alliance launched its intervention in Yemen in March 2015, contributing to what the UN has called the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to Saudi King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saudi on Saturday over the death of three Saudi civilians in missile attack on Jazan city. He strongly condemned the repeated attacks by the Yemeni Houthi militia on citizens and expatriates in Saudi Arabia, saying that such attacks run counter to all religious and moral values, and principle of the international law.

His Highness the Amir reaffirmed Kuwait's solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in all measures it might take to protect its security and stability. He prayed to Allah the Almighty to bestow mercy on the three martyrs and lodge them in paradise, expressing condolences to their families and the Saudi people and government. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to King Salman. — Agencies

Continued from Page 1

On Tuesday, Saudi air defenses intercepted a ballistic missile that targeted the western city of Yanbu after being fired from rebel-held territory in Yemen. It came as coalition-backed Yemeni forces advance on the rebel-held Red Sea port of Hodeida, the main conduit for humanitarian supplies into a country teetering on the brink of famine. In late May, air defenses intercepted Houthi missiles over the southern cities of Najran and Jizan but there were no casualties.

Riyadh accuses its regional rival Tehran of supplying the Houthis with ballistic missiles, a charge Iran denies. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and other Arab allies intervened in Yemen in 2015 to push back the rebels and restore the internationally-recognized government to power after the Houthis ousted it from swathes of the country including the capital Sanaa.

Sports

Former heavyweight champion Fury wins on boxing comeback

Seferi, was nearly five stones lighter and seven inches smaller

MANCHESTER: Former world heavyweight champion Tyson Fury declared himself completely happy with his four-round comeback win on Saturday night, despite a lack of action. Fury only got going in the fourth round and his brief exhibition of power convinced Sefer Seferi's corner to pull out the Switzerland-based Albanian before the start of the fifth round.

Fury, 29, did not take his task totally seriously early on and was told off by referee Phil Edwards for playing to the crowd, but the English boxer was pleased it was not a short fight after two years and seven months out of action. "He didn't come to fight, he came to run around the ring," Fury told a press conference.

"The opponent was small and light. But he took me a few rounds, which I was happy with. "I wouldn't change a thing, and we move on to the next one. I will go back home and have pizza and then get back on it tomorrow. "I could have knocked him out in the first round but what good would that have done me? I got four rounds in and TV exposure.

"He took a couple of hard punches and didn't want to know. I learned two and a half years is a long time to be out. I'll take my career very seriously this time and enjoy every moment."

Seferi, who was nearly five stones lighter and seven inches smaller, did show some ambition early on but Fury's height and movement ensured there was never going to be an upset at Manchester Arena.

It was always comfortable for Fury in his first fight

“He didn’t come to fight, he came to run around the ring”

since winning the World Boxing Association (WBA), International Boxing Federation (IBF) and World Boxing Organisation (WBO) titles from Ukraine's Wladimir Klitschko on points in November 2015. But Fury's reign was brief with rematches twice cancelled against Klitschko before he admitted to problems with depression, drink and drugs. Fury then piled on the pounds-he claimed to have lost eight stones in preparation for Seferi-and served a backdated drugs ban for testing positive for a banned steroid in February 2015.

Fury's titles are now in the hands of English rival Anthony Joshua, but promoter Frank Warren said fights against Joshua and Deontay Wilder, the World Boxing Council (WBC) champion from American, are a way off yet. Joshua and Wilder are in talks to face each other in early 2019, while Warren plans on keeping Fury active until a world title shot happens, with his next bout scheduled to be at Belfast's Windsor Park, Northern Ireland on August 18.

"Tyson will step up each time," Warren said at a press conference. "I've been realistic from the beginning that we're not going to put him in with big names early on. He needs to get the ring rust off. We picked Seferi because he had gone ten rounds with Manuel Charr. "The objective is to get him ready to fight for the world title as soon as possible. "I think Anthony Joshua is fighting Alexander Povetkin in September so he will not fight until next year now and I think Wilder has got a mandatory. In the meantime we have to get Tyson more competitive fights." — AFP



MANCHESTER: Britain's Tyson Fury (L) exchanges blows with Albania's Sefer Seferi during their heavyweight contest at the Manchester Arena in Manchester, northern England on Saturday. — AFP

Symphony Style Hotel scores with football legends from Brazil and Argentina



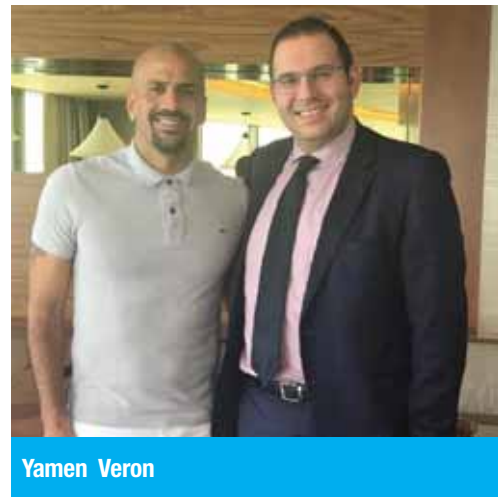
Cafu & Maged Hanna



Karim Romario



Milito Maged



Yamen Veron



The legend Veron with Symphony Style Hotel Managers.

KUWAIT: Football fever continues to grip fans around the globe ahead of the upcoming Mondial 2018 in Russia, and Symphony Style Hotel Kuwait, the Jewel of Kuwait City, recently got in on the action, scoring a visit from two footballing legends - Mondial - winning former Brazil defender Cafu and ex-Argentina forward

Diego Milito.

Cafu, won the Mondial twice (1994, 2002) with Brazil during a trophy-laden playing career spanning more 16 years, and Milito, who sealed UEFA Champions League glory and the Italian Serie A league title with Inter Milan during his career, spent time with Symphony Style Hotel

guests and staff during their stay in Kuwait.

Football fans will be able to watch all the action from the Mondial 2018 in Symphony Style Hotel's pool tent and the recently-opened Choco Garden, a fully air-conditioned indoor garden that provides the perfect setting and vibrant ambiance to catch a game and chat with friends.

Santa Cruz wins rematch to hold onto WBA title

LOS ANGELES: Mexican boxer Leo Santa Cruz retained his WBA belt by earning a unanimous decision victory over Abner Mares on Saturday in a rematch of a 2015 featherweight title fight. Santa Cruz improved to 34-1-1 with 19 career knockouts by winning on all three judges scorecards, 115-113, 116-112, 117-111 at the Staples Center arena.

"I did what I had to do to win the fight," Santa Cruz said. "Mares is a tough fighter. Thank God I got the victory." Santa Cruz won despite suffering a cut over his left eye which was the result of a head butt from Mares in the eighth round. The cut bled for the remainder of the fight but didn't appear to bother Santa Cruz much.

The pair fought once before on August 29, 2015 as Santa Cruz also won that one but by a majority decision. After that victory, Santa Cruz actually lost the title to Carl Frampton in

July 2016, but regained it back in January 2017.

Santa Cruz said he wasn't going to be slowed down by the cut over his eye. "A cut is a cut. It is just blood. It wasn't bothering my eyes. It just gives me more motivation," he said. Santa Cruz also said that he wants his next fight to be against Gary Russell for the WBC featherweight title.

Mares, also of Mexico, drops to 31-3-1 (15 KOs) as he pushed for a third fight between the two. "I am sorry I came out short," said Mares. "It is always a problem trying to get inside on him. I fought my heart out but at the end of the day I did my best. "Let's do a third fight." On the undercard, WBC super welterweight champ Jermell Charlo successfully defended his belt for the third time, by flooring Austin Trout twice en route to a 12-round majority decision. Charlo improved to 31-0 overall, while Trout fell to 31-5.

Earlier, unbeaten Terence Crawford punished Jeff Horn en route to a ninth-round technical knockout on Saturday to seize the Australian's World Boxing Organization welterweight world title.

America's Crawford, the former undisputed super lightweight world title holder, outclassed the Aussie who was defending the title he won in a huge upset of

Manny Pacquiao in July of last year in Brisbane. Horn defended the belt with a technical knockout of Gary Corcoran in December, but he was dominated by Crawford all the way at the Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

Crawford, who improved to 33-0 with 24 knockouts, battered Horn for eight rounds, knocking him down in the ninth with a flurry of blows. Horn beat the count, but Crawford unleashed another barrage and referee Robert Byrd called a halt at 2:33 of the round.

With the win Crawford claimed a world title in a third weight division. He defeated Julius Indongo last August to become the undisputed super lightweight world champion.

A former WBO lightweight world champ, Crawford made the move up to welterweight in impressive fashion. He won every round and was never really hurt by Horn, who fell to 18-1 with one draw and 12 knockouts.

A vocal Australian contingent among the crowd of 8,112 lustily backed Horn, but he was in trouble from the start as Crawford caught him with a hard left just seconds in. Crawford, using his speed and his ability to switch stances to good effect, landed almost at will, Horn absorbing the punishment without finding a way to answer. — AFP

Justify dominates Belmont to become 13th Triple Crown winner

NEW YORK: Justify became the 13th horse in history to win US racing's coveted Triple Crown with an electrifying triumph in the 150th Belmont Stakes on Saturday. In adding the Belmont to his Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes victories, the unbeaten Justify made Bob Baffert just the second trainer to saddle two Triple Crown winners.

Drawn in the unfavorable first post, Justify burst from the gate under jockey Mike Smith and never trailed in the 1 1/2 mile race dubbed the "Test of the Champion". I can't describe the emotion that's going through my body right now," Smith said as he made for the winner's circle. "This horse ran a tremendous race. He's so gifted. He's sent from heaven."

Despite drawing the rail, Justify went off as a 4-5 favorite and more than lived up to his billing. Gronkowski, a 24-1 shot trained by Chad Brown and part-owned by New England Patriots star Rob Gronkowski, came from well back to finish second under jockey Jose Ortiz.

Hofburg, trained by Bill Mott and ridden by Irad Ortiz-and reckoned by many as a contender to thwart Justify's Triple Crown bid-was third in the field of 10. Justify, unraced as a two-year-old, signalled his greatness with a Kentucky Derby victory on a rain-soaked Churchill Downs track in May.

He was the first horse since 1882 to win the Kentucky Derby without having raced as a two-year-old. A sore heel a day after that victory raised brief concerns, but two weeks later Justify dug deep at fog-shrouded Pimlico to claim the 1 3/16-mile Preakness.

It was a narrow victory, and some feared the 1 1/2-mile Belmont would be a stretch too far for the big chestnut colt. Instead, he powered to the front of the field on the sweeping Belmont track called "Big Sandy" and ran like a machine to the wire.

Justify's Triple Crown feat came 45 years to the day after another physically imposing chestnut, Secretariat, broke from the first post and won the Belmont by a stunning 31 lengths to complete the Triple Crown.

"He's just brilliant," said Smith, who at 52 became the oldest jockey to win the Triple Crown. "Did you see him in the gate? He was standing so still.

"I actually thought maybe he's not going to break today. I mean, he left like he was going 440 yards in Ruidoso, New Mexico!" Justify improved to 6-0 in a racing career that only began on February 18.

The only other unbeaten Triple Crown winner was Seattle Slew in 1977. Seattle Slew's Triple Crown-four years after that of Secretariat, was swiftly followed by Affirmed's in 1978. But it would be 37 years before the Baffert-trained American Pharoah would become the 12th Triple Crown winner in 2015.

As the drought dragged on, Baffert had reason to know how hard it was to achieve the feat. Three times-in 1997, 1998 and 2002 — he brought horses to the Belmont that had won both the Kentucky Derby and Preakness, only to see them falter. Now he has joined Jim Fitzsimmons, who conditioned Gallant Fox in 1930 and Omaha in 1935, as the only trainers to saddle two Triple Crown winners. "It's just amazing," said Baffert, his voice hitching. "It's very emotional for me."

Baffert admitted that the sweet-natured American Pharoah will "always be my first love" but said Justify richly deserved his star's status. "I wanted to see that horse's name up there," Baffert said. "We knew he was brilliant from day one.

"He was showing me the same signs (as American Pharoah," Baffert said. "He was showing me that brilliance-he could have won every race on the undercard today. He's just that kind of horse." — AFP



ELMONT: Jockey Mike Smith celebrates atop of Justify #1 during the 150th running of the Belmont Stakes at Belmont Park on Saturday in New York. — AFP

J.D. Martinez hits 21st HR as Red Sox beat White Sox 4-2

Aaron Judge hit tie-breaking homer as Yankees beat Mets

BOSTON: J.D. Martinez clubbed his major league leading 21st home run to break a 2-all tie in the fifth inning and send the host Boston Red Sox past the Chicago White Sox 4-2 in the second of a three-game series Saturday. Martinez crushed an 0-1 changeup from White Sox starter Carlos Rodon (0-1) approximately 391 feet into the Red Sox bullpen in right-center field, one at-bat after Xander Bogaerts reached on Jose Abreu's throwing error. Jackie Bradley Jr. also hit a solo homer, his third of the season, for Boston, which bounced back from a 1-0 loss in Friday's series opener. Red Sox starter David Price (7-4) allowed two runs on five hits and three walks with six strikeouts in six innings. Boston has won five of seven and 14 of its last 20 games.

YANKEES 4, METS 3

Aaron Judge hit the tie-breaking homer leading off the eighth inning as the Yankees came back to beat their cross-town rivals at Citi Field. The Yankees have won four straight and nine of 10. The Mets have lost the first eight games of a nine-game homestand and have scored just 11 runs in the process. The Mets' fortunes appeared to be changing in the first inning, when manager Mickey Callaway's revamped lineup scored three runs in a span of 15 pitches.

TIGERS 4, INDIANS 2 (12 INNINGS)

Jeimer Candelario drilled a two-out, two-run homer in the bottom of the 12th to give Detroit a victory over visiting Cleveland. Candelario was 0-for-5 until he crushed his 10th homer of the season off Indians closer Cody Allen (2-3). Miguel Cabrera set up the blast with a two-out single. Warwick Saupold (4-1) pitched two innings of shutout relief to get the victory. Victor Martinez had two hits and an RBI for Detroit.

ANGELS 2, TWINS 1

Albert Pujols and Ian Kinsler hit home runs, and starter Tyler Skaggs pitched seven strong innings as Los Angeles won its sixth straight game, topping Minnesota in Minneapolis. Pujols' solo shot in the sixth inning, his ninth of the season, tied him with Stan Musial for sixth place on baseball's all-time RBI list with 1,951. Kinsler homered for a third straight game, lifting a slider off Twins starter Kyle Gibson over the left-field fence with none on and two out in the third inning. It was Kinsler's eighth home run of the season and third of his career off Gibson.

CUBS 2, PIRATES 0

Jon Lester pitched seven scoreless, one-hit innings, and a couple of early runs held up for Chicago in a win over visiting Pittsburgh. Justin Wilson pitched a perfect eighth inning, and Steve Cishek had a perfect the ninth to complete the shutout and pick up his second save. Chicago is 8-1 in its past nine games. Rookie Austin Meadows

ripped a two-out triple to the right-field corner in the third for Pittsburgh's only hit.

BREWERS 12, PHILLIES 3

Pinch hitter Ji-Man Choi hit a grand slam and visiting Milwaukee trounced Jake Arrieta and Philadelphia. Choi's second homer of the season, in his 32nd plate appearance, was the only hit in the sixth inning for the Brewers. Milwaukee entered the frame trailing 3-2, and loaded the bases with one out on catcher's interference, a walk and a hit batsman. Arrieta (5-4) then exited after throwing 106 pitches. Right-hander Luis Garcia got a quick strikeout, but the lefty-hitting Choi ripped a 97 mph fastball down the left-field line for his first career slam.

NATIONALS 7, GIANTS 5

Bryce Harper increased his National League-best home run count to 19 while Anthony Rendon and Matt Adams each drove in two runs as Washington defeated San Francisco in D.C. Neither starter fared well in this game. San Francisco starter Dereck Rodriguez (1-1), son of former Washington catcher Ivan Rodriguez, gave up five runs and six hits in 2 2/3 innings and lacked command. Gio Gonzalez got an early 5-0 lead for the Nationals but lasted only 3 1/3 innings. He allowed four runs on six hits and walked four. Justin Miller (3-0) then came on, threw 1 2/3 hitless innings and got the win. Sean Doolittle recorded his 16th save.

CARDINALS 6, REDS 4

Yadier Molina hit a bases-clearing double in the third inning and Michael Wacha pitched effectively into the sixth as St. Louis continued its mastery of host Cincinnati. Molina's double, in his fourth game since returning from a groin injury, gave Wacha (8-1) a 5-0 lead and helped the Cardinals beat the Reds for the 13th straight time. It is their second-longest winning streak over the Reds, five behind the team record set July 4, 1930-May 23, 1931. Wacha (8-1) followed up taking a no-hitter into the ninth Sunday against the Pittsburgh Pirates by allowing two runs on four hits in 5 2/3 innings. The right-hander struck out six and walked three in a 96-pitch outing.

RAYS 7, MARINERS 3

Tampa Bay, wearing throwback jerseys from the inaugural season of 1998 when team was known as the Devil Rays, snapped an eight-game losing streak by beating Felix Hernandez and visiting Seattle. Left-hander Blake Snell (8-3), who tied an American League record last Sunday in Seattle by striking out the first seven batters of the game, allowed two runs (one earned) on seven hits. He walked two and struck out one. Rookie first baseman Jake Bauers got the first two hits of his major league career for the Rays, who dropped their first five games against the Mariners this season.



BOSTON: J.D. Martinez #28 celebrates with Eduardo Nunez #36 of the Boston Red Sox after hitting a two-run homerun at the top of the fifth inning of the game against the Chicago White Sox at Fenway Park on Saturday in Boston, Massachusetts. — AFP

PADRES 5, MARLINS 4

Travis Jankowski broke a 4-4 tie with a run-scoring single with two out in the top of the eighth to give visiting San Diego a victory over Miami. Hunter Renfroe started the game-winning rally by hitting a two-out, pinch-hit double off right-handed reliever Drew Rucinski. After Rucinski intentionally walked Raffy Lopez, Matt Szczur drew a walk to load the bases for Jankowski, who pulled a single into right to score Renfroe. Padres reliever Craig Stammen (4-0) picked up the win with Kirby Yates getting his second save by retiring the last two Marlins with the tying run on second. The Padres had used closer Brad Hand to pitch the eighth against the heart of the Marlins order.

ROYALS 2, ATHLETICS 0

Left-hander Danny Duffy outlasted minor league call-up Chris Bassitt in a pitchers' duel, helping Kansas City snap a six-game losing streak with a victory over at Oakland. Paulo Orlando drove in a run with a second-inning single and Alex Gordon belted his fifth home run of the season in the ninth, providing all the scoring needed for Duffy and two relievers to turn things around against the As after losses on the first two nights of the four-game series. Duffy (3-6) allowed three hits and three walks in seven innings. He struck out 10, just the fifth time in his career that he's reached double figures.

BLUE JAYS 4, ORIOLES 3 (10 INNINGS)

Mychal Givens walked Luke Maile with the bases loaded with two out in the bottom of the 10th inning and Toronto Blue Jays defeated visiting Baltimore. Randal Grichuk hit a home run for the Blue Jays, who have won the first three games of the four-game series, their first series win at home since April 17-18. They have won three games in a row for the first time since

April 29-May 1. Givens (0-2) walked Justin Smoak with one out in the bottom of the 10th and Kendrys Morales followed with a single. Grichuk was hit by a pitch to load the bases and Maile walked on four pitches.

DIAMONDBACKS 12, ROCKIES 7

Arizona first baseman Paul Goldschmidt had two homers and four RBIs, David Peralta had four hits and three RBIs and Nick Ahmed had three hits and three RBIs as Arizona twice overcame two-run deficits to top in host Colorado. Goldschmidt had his second straight two-homer game, a career first, and Ahmed doubled in the final two runs of a six-run eighth inning fueled when reliever Bryan Shaw committed a double error on a grounder back to the mound on the second batter of the inning. Colorado shortstop Trevor Story had three hits including two two-run homers and DJ LeMahieu had two hits, including a two-run homer that gave the Rockies a 7-5 lead after four innings. Story, who also homered in the first game of the series Friday, leads major league shortstops with 14 homers and 47 RBIs.

ASTROS 4, RANGERS 3

George Springer delivered a go-ahead, two-out RBI single in the seventh inning and Houston survived a wild game to defeat Texas in Arlington. Springer snapped a 3-all tie with his sinking line drive to left field off Rangers right-hander Jose Leclerc (1-2), scoring Max Stassi from second base. Texas left fielder Joey Gallo played the hit off the short hop, a prudent decision that prevented Tony Kemp from scoring behind Stassi. The Astros (41-25) led 2-0 and 3-2 before surrendering each advantage. Right-hander Charlie Morton struggled mightily commanding his offerings, issuing season highs in walks (six) and hit batsmen (four) over 3 2/3 laborious innings. Morton allowed only one hit, but the constant traffic resulted in an abbreviated outing, with Morton departing after 87 pitches. — Reuters

Langer hopes Ponting can get Maxwell back to his best

LONDON: Australia coach Justin Langer admitted the form of Glenn Maxwell was a worry ahead of a one-day series against England but said he hoped Ricky Ponting's arrival into his back-room staff would be a boost to the talented ball-striker.

Former Australia captain Ponting will combine his work as a commentator on the upcoming five-match one-day international campaign with stints working alongside Langer.

Maxwell was twice dismissed in single figures by spinners during Australia's warm-up matches against Sussex and Middlesex. Ponting was also Maxwell's coach at the Delhi Daredevils during this year's Indian Premier League Twenty20.

But despite having one of Australia's greatest batsmen in his corner, the 29-year-old Maxwell managed just 169 runs in 12 IPL innings at an average of 14. The Daredevils fared little better, finishing bottom of the points table following five wins in 14 games.

But there is no denying the ability of Maxwell, who has an ODI strike-rate of 123. Asked, following Australia's 101-run win over Middlesex at Lord's on Saturday, if Maxwell was a worry, Langer answered: "He is. But that said I have been super impressed with Glenn Maxwell, his preparation has been literally outstanding."

"I would be very surprised if he doesn't get a very big score very soon. There's been a lot of talk about Glenn Maxwell but I have been incredibly impressed with the way he goes about his business and even the way he has been batting in the nets."

Langer, appointed after fellow former Test batsman Darren Lehmann resigned as coach following the Australian ball-tampering scandal in South Africa in March, was sure Maxwell would eventually benefit from spending so much time with Ponting.

"He has just had a couple of months with 'Punter' (Ponting) in the IPL, to have the influence of someone like Punter is gold. 'Punter' is joining us again tomorrow (Sunday), so if he (Maxwell) keeps preparing well and keeps trusting his preparation it is not far until he becomes an absolute star, I think. He's got so much talent."

World champions Australia won their warm-up fixtures but failed to post a total of 300 when batting first in both games—a concern head of a series with 2019 World Cup hosts England that starts at The Oval on Wednesday.

Australia will want to atone for a 4-1 series loss at home to England, now number one in the ODI rankings, earlier this year. But as well as being without two world-class batsmen in



Ricky Ponting

former captain Steve Smith and his deputy, David Warner, who both received year-long bans following the ball-tampering incident in Cape Town. Australia are also missing their injured Ashes-winning fast-bowling trio of Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood.

As a result, it will be a novice pace attack that confronts England, with Kane Richardson (15 ODIs) likely to be spearheading a bowling unit where Andrew Tye (four), Billy Stanlake (two), Jhye Richardson (one) and the uncapped Michael Neser will be vying for places.

Langer said Queensland's Neser, who moved with his family to the Gold Coast from his native South Africa aged 10, should not be discounted just because he was summoned as Hazlewood's replacement on the eve of a tour that also includes a lone Twenty20 international. The 28-year-old Neser took three wickets in the two warm-up matches including a stunning reflex caught and bowled against Middlesex.

"One I am really impressed with is Michael Neser," said Langer. Neser also played a key role as the Adelaide Strikers won last year's edition of Australia's Bash Twenty20 tournament and was Queensland's leading wicket-taker in the domestic One-Day Cup.

The coach added that Neser's determined attitude made him think of two other former Queensland pacemen who had to battle hard to be selected for Australia. "He reminds me a bit of Andy Bichel and Michael Kasprowicz. "They're just great people in the team, always smiling, and they just compete."

"He's a really good person to have in the team, good competitor and could easily play in the first game." — AFP

Head backs Australia's bowlers to surprise England

LONDON: Australia batsman Travis Head is confident a new-look bowling attack will have the "firepower" to trouble England in an upcoming one-day international series. Head made a century as Australia completed their preparations with a 101-run win over Middlesex at Lord's on Saturday. Despite his 106, Australia were held to a total of 283 for six. It was the second time in two warm-up games they had failed to reach the benchmark score of 300, having made 277 for nine against Sussex at Hove in their tour-opener on Thursday.

But they still beat Sussex by 57 runs and the bowlers were even more dominant against Middlesex, who slumped to 182 all out with nine overs to spare. Middlesex were, however, without star batsman Eoin Morgan as the England 50-over captain is leading the national side in a lone one-day international against Scotland in Edinburgh yesterday.

World Cup-holders Australia suffered a 4-1 series loss at home to England, now top of the global ODI standings, earlier this year. The tourists will likely need to raise their game when a five-match series with England starts across London at The Oval on Wednesday but Head was unconcerned by their recent failure to break the 300 barrier. "It depends, if we bowl the way we have... We'll find that out pretty quickly, what's a good score," Head told reporters after Saturday's match. "The last two games have been good enough. We were under the pump at Hove but we were pret-

ty clinical in the way we went about it here," the South Australian added.

The 24-year-old opened the batting on Saturday, with Australia having arrived in England without regular opener David Warner and former captain Steve Smith after the pair were given year-long bans for their roles in March's ball-tampering scandal in Cape Town.

As well as the two star batsmen, Australia are also without their injured Ashes-winning fast-bowling trio of Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood for this white-ball only tour.

But Head backed pacemen Kane Richardson, Jhye Richardson, Billy Stanlake and Andrew Tye to fill the void. "They are all nasty in the nets, both Richardsons, Billy, even Nes (Michael Neser) can bowl quite sharply," he said.

"We've got firepower and the control on that side, mix that with AJ Tye, he's got unbelievable skills at the back end with (left-arm spinner) Ashton Agar, who is bowling as well as he probably has in his career," Head added. "If the guys can be consistent as they have been and the pace is up, it's always a hard task to face them."

For the second match in a row, Australia saw their run-rate slow when the spinners came on. "We were a bit slow, they bowled quite well so credit to them," said Head, who spent the early part of the English season with Midlands county Worcestershire.

Head said Australia knew what to expect from England who, under the guidance of Australian coach Trevor Bayliss, have adopted a far more aggressive approach to ODI cricket since a first-round exit at the 2015 World Cup where Australia beat co-hosts New Zealand in the final. "They won't change," he insisted. "We didn't play as well as we would have liked in Australia and they played quite well."

"They are pretty set in the way they go about things so I guess that's great for us in terms of planning." — AFP

Neymar set for start as Spain, France labour in warm-ups

Clock ticks down to Thursday’s World Cup opener in Moscow

MOSCOW: Neymar is set to make his first start since February in Brazil’s final World Cup warm-up yesterday as he battles for full fitness after Cristiano Ronaldo touched down in Russia with European champions Portugal.

And as the clock ticks down to Thursday’s World Cup opener in Moscow between hosts Russia and Saudi Arabia, fancied teams France and Spain failed to impress in their final friendlies.

Neymar, who broke a bone in his foot in February, made an explosive return to action against Croatia in Liverpool last weekend, scoring a stunning goal in a 2-0 win for the five-time world champions after coming on as a substitute.

The Paris Saint-Germain star declared himself “80 percent” fit and yesterday’s run-out in Vienna should leave him fully primed for Brazil’s opener against Switzerland on June 17. Brazil coach Tite is approaching Sunday’s game with a certain amount of trepidation.

“Emotionally, this match could be the most difficult,” he said. “That’s because it falls one week before our first World Cup game, and there’s a risk of injury, of a loss of confidence.” Although Neymar has trained normally this week, he may not play the full 90 minutes in Vienna, according to the Selecao’s doctor, Rodrigo Lasmar.

Drawn in Group E, Brazil, who are second behind defending world champions Germany in the FIFA rankings, will face Costa Rica and Serbia after Switzerland.

Ronaldo’s Portugal arrived on Saturday to begin final

preparations for a campaign that pits them against arch-rivals Spain in Group B. The European champions play their Iberian neighbours in the 2014 Winter Olympics host city Sochi in the opening match for both nations on Friday.

RONALDO WELCOME

Ronaldo and his compatriots received a traditional Russian welcome during a bread and salt ceremony upon arrival at their team base camp in Kratovo, a leafy village 40 kilometres (25 miles) southeast of Moscow.

Fernando Santos’s side will need no reminding of the importance of their opening match against Spain, after a 4-0 defeat by Germany in Brazil four years ago set the tone for a dismal group stage exit.

The winner on June 15 at Sochi’s Fisht Stadium will be in pole position to come out on top in a group that also includes Morocco and Iran. The top two teams from each group qualify for the last 16.

The Spaniards laboured to a narrow 1-0 victory against Tunisia on Saturday at their base in the southern Russian city of Krasnodar. Iago Aspas scored the only goal for the 2010 champions against fellow World Cup qualifiers Tunisia seven minutes from the end.

France looked flat in a 1-1 draw against the United States in Lyon on Saturday, despite an improved performance from Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba.

Julian Green gave the US, who failed to qualify for Russia, the lead on the stroke of half-time but Paris



VIENNA: Brazil’s forward Neymar scores past Austria’s goalkeeper Heinz Lindner during the international friendly football match Austria vs Brazil in Vienna, yesterday. — AFP

Saint-Germain teenager Kylian Mbappe equalised for the hosts. Pogba had been jeered a week ago in a 3-1 victory over Italy but it was his pass that teed up Mbappe to save face for the Euro 2016 finalists in a match they were expected to win. “We lacked a bit of

juice. But we created enough chances to win,” coach Didier Deschamps told TF1.

“But that’s the way it goes, against a young United States team that was very generous, who didn’t leave us a lot of space and tried to defend well.” — AFP

Gulf Bank congratulates ‘Women’s Football Tournament’ champions and organizers

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank announces successful conclusion of the second ‘Women’s Football Tournament’ as a sponsor. The female players showcased their soccer skills at the tournament which culminated in an exciting championship match on May 31st. The event was organized by Eighty Percent, a socially driven sports company established by three young Kuwaiti women dedicated to sports and fitness.

Held over a period of two weeks, the ‘Women’s Football Tournament’ included 192 players from Kuwait and the region who competed over 31 games and scored a total of 196 goals. Attendance was high at all matches with over 2300 attendees at the tournament, which took place at Jaber Al Ahmad Stadium. Team Jaguars won first place and were named champions of the tournament. Team “Nadi Al Fatah” took second place, while team “VAMOS” came in third place. A special award for ‘best team of the tournament’ went to “Al Oyoun Club”.

An awards ceremony was held after the championship match, with speeches from Ms. Maite Ventura the official representative of LaLiga, HE Sheikha Zain Al-Sabah, Undersecretary of the Ministry of State of Youth Affairs, the President of the Women Committee and Board Member at the Kuwait Football Association Ms. Fatma Masoud Hayat and Ms. Rawya Al Hajery, Founder of Eighty Percent.

Mrs. Lujain Al Qanaei, Management Associate at Gulf Bank said: “Gulf Bank is proud to have supported Eighty Percent’s football tournament for females for the second consecutive year. At Gulf Bank, we believe in supporting women’s empowerment initiatives and talented Kuwaiti entrepreneurs.



The Bank understands the important role sports and fitness in leading a healthy lifestyle as demonstrated throughout this exciting national tournament. The Bank congratulates the winning team on their victory and all the players for their participation and commitment. We also extend our best wishes to everyone who made the event a resounding success. Furthermore, we look forward to supporting more initiatives from young Kuwaiti entrepreneurs that showcase the expanding talent we have in our country.”

Mrs. Rawya Al Hajery, a member of the tournament’s organizing committee said: “We at Eighty Percent wanted to elevate the scale of women’s sporting events in Kuwait. We want to present a professional well-organized tournaments that rivals the well-es-

tablished men’s tournaments and I think we achieved that, by lifting the status of women’s football from social to a semi-professional. We would like to give special thanks to Gulf Bank who are helping us achieve our goal of creating a professional platform for women’s sports in Kuwait.”

During the Holy Month of Ramadan, Gulf Bank will be supporting and conducting several other activities. Some of these projects include the distribution of food boxes for the underprivileged, visits to hospitals to celebrate ‘Girgi’an’ with children, and also launching a Ramadan-themed television commercial. To find out more about Gulf Bank’s initiatives, please visit the Bank’s bilingual website at www.e-gulfbank.com, or their social media channels.

Felvidek, now part of Slovakia, pulled out just a few weeks before the tournament began.

“We were planning a holiday for everybody and they called us to say we could come here,” midfielder Alex Svedjuk, who scored Karpatalja’s third penalty, told AFP. “It was like a holiday present and that we have won is so excellent.” “We didn’t expect this but we are very happy.” Carpathian Ruthenia, in the far west of Ukraine, was mostly in Hungary before World War I. It is home to around 150,000 ethnic Hungarians. “I hope it puts Karpatalja on the map. Now people will know where Karpatalja is,” said Svedjuk.

CONIFA, the Confederation of Independent Football Associations, is the non-profit, volunteer-run federation for teams outside FIFA, the sport’s world governing body. With a wider interpretation of international identity, its 47 members include sovereign states, nations, minorities, isolated dependencies and cultural regions. Among the teams taking part in London 2018 were reigning champions Abkhazia, wildcards Tibet, Sri Lanka’s Tamil Eelam, Somali exiles Barawa, Pacific sovereign state Tuvalu and the crowd-funded Matabeleland of Zimbabwe.

Northern Italy side Padania came third, beating Szekealy Land, representing Hungarians in Romania, 5-4 on penalties after another goalless draw in the earlier bronze medal

match. Turkish Cypriots streamed to Donkey Lane from their nearby heartland in north London, while a double-header of games featuring Hungarian sides drew crowds of impassioned Magyar expats, who celebrated on the pitch with the winners. The match was refereed by former English Premier League official Mark Clattenburg, who oversaw the 2016 Champions League and European Championships finals.

“It was an incredible situation because we only knew a short time ago that we were coming to the tournament and we did not practice enough,” Karpatalja forward Gergo Gyrurki told AFP. “But I think early successes built up the team for the final. It was great teamwork. “It’s a very great thing for Karpatalja because we are really small. “But we played from our hearts to win the tournament for our people.”

The competition has thrown up memorable scenes, including Tibet blessing their opponents on the pitch and the near-continuous singing and dancing surrounding Matabeleland-for whom former Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar turned out, aged 60. There was pop duo Right Said Fred’s tournament anthem, the hippy vibe around North American Pacific coast newcomers Cascadia and the joyous atmosphere of teams which otherwise would never get a chance to shine on the international stage. — AFP

Egypt fans pin hopes on injured Salah for World Cup glory

CAIRO: Encircled by expectant cheers of Egyptian fans, Mohamed Salah appeared at the Pharaohs’ final pre-World Cup training session and kindled hopes he can overcome injury to aid Egypt’s first shot at the tournament in nearly three decades.

Liverpool’s star striker, who is recovering from a shoulder injury that saw him crash out of the Champions League final, strolled around the Cairo pitch talking to colleagues and supporters, but did not take part in the team’s last late night practice before heading to Russia.

Horns blasted, snack-sellers hollered and chants of “Come Salah, Come Salah!” rang through the capital’s stadium, crowded by thousands of fans keen to encourage their team ahead of their first World Cup appearance since 1990. Salah, who hit a stunning 44 goals for Liverpool last season following his move from Roma, is the linchpin of Egyptian hopes in Russia. He has been picked for the World Cup squad despite having been forced out of the Liverpool’s 3-1 Champions League final defeat to Real Madrid in tears clutching his left shoulder.

Many of his fans had feared he would miss the World Cup altogether, but his appearance in Cairo has reignited expectations in The Pharaohs’ key striker. “He will participate, God willing, he must,” said Seif Ibrahim, a 24-year-old salesman wearing Salah’s Egypt jersey.

Fans screamed in delight when Salah’s name was read out over the loudspeaker, while those able to get to the pitch took selfies with their hero. He gave fans a sliver of hope when he managed to briefly dribble the ball on

the corner of the pitch, before returning to the sidelines.

“I was so sad, but now I’m happy to see him in real life, and he seems to be doing fine even if he isn’t actually training with the others,” said Nahed Mostafa, 38, who attended the session with her young children.

The Pharaohs, record seven-time African champions, have qualified for the World Cup for only the third time. They begin their Russian campaign on June 15 against twice former winners Uruguay.

The Egyptian football federation said after Salah’s injury that he could be out for three weeks, meaning he would miss their opening Group A match but could then be available against Russia on June 19 and Saudi Arabia on June 25.

Supporters at the Cairo ground, waving the national flag, also yelled enthusiastic approval for the team’s other star players-goalkeeper Essam El Hadary and midfielder Abdallah El Said. Police in riot gear patrolled the stadium, which was filled to around a quarter of its capacity-a rare sight at Egypt’s highly-restricted football grounds.

Authorities imposed a ban on fans attending local matches after a 2012 stadium riot in Port Said left 74 people dead. The restriction was partially relaxed earlier this year. “This is an exceptional event because a whole generation has been excluded from stadiums,” said Mostafa Abdallah, a 64-year-old schoolteacher, who wore a checkered shirt and a delighted grin. “I came for this historic moment, and to admire my country’s team.” — AFP



CAIRO: This handout picture released on Saturday, by the Egyptian Presidency press service, shows Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi (R) shaking hands with Liverpool’s Egyptian forward Mohamed Salah. — AFP

Ukrainian Hungarians win alternative World Football Cup

LONDON: Karpatalja won the alternative CONIFA World Football Cup 2018 on Saturday in a remarkable triumph for a side drafted in as a last-minute replacement shortly before the tournament kicked off.

The team, representing ethnic Hungarians living in modern-day Ukraine, beat Northern Cyprus 3-2 on penalties after a goalless draw to win the biennial competition for football’s unrecognised nations and other outsiders.

The 16-team tournament was staged at non-league grounds around London and the final at Donkey Lane drew thousands of spectators, including flare-firing hardcore Hungarian football fans.

The 10-day competition has proved a colourful, more grassroots counterpart to the FIFA World Cup, which starts in Russia next week. Karpatalja was a late replacement for another side representing Hungarians living beyond the country’s modern-day borders.

25 Justify dominates Belmont to become 13th Triple Crown winner



26 J.D. Martinez hits 21st HR as Red Sox beat White Sox 4-2



27 Neymar set for start as Spain, France labour in warm-ups



PARIS: This combination of pictures shows Spain's Rafael Nadal posing with the Muskeeters trophy during his eleven victories in the men's French Tennis Open at the Roland Garros stadium. Nadal poses with his trophy on June 10, 2018 (R); (From top L to bottom R) on June 5, 2005; on June 11, 2006; on June 10, 2007; on June 8, 2008; on June 6, 2010; on June 5, 2011; on June 11, 2012; on June 9, 2013; on June 8, 2014 and on June 11, 2017. Rafael Nadal claimed an 11th French Open title yesterday with a 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 demolition of Dominic Thiem despite a worrying injury scare in the closing stages of the final. — AFP

Nadal wins 11th French Open title

Victory takes Nadal's record at Roland Garros to 86 wins

PARIS: Rafael Nadal claimed an 11th French Open title yesterday with a 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 demolition of Dominic Thiem despite a worrying injury scare in the closing stages of the final. The 32-year-old world number one now has 17 Grand Slam titles, just three behind great rival Roger Federer.

Nadal endured a nervy conclusion to the final, however, when he needed treatment in the fourth game of the third set for a finger injury before sealing victory on a fifth match point when Thiem fired a backhand long. "It's really incredible. I played a great match against a great player," said Nadal.

"I had tough moment in the third set with cramps in my hand. I was very scared but that's sport—it was very humid. "To win 11 times here—it's fantastic and not

something I ever dreamed of." Nadal joins Australia's Margaret Court as the only player to win 11 titles at the same major.

Victory also took Nadal's record at Roland Garros to 86 wins and just two losses. For Thiem, playing in his first Slam final, it was a tremendous letdown for a player who is the only man to have beaten the Spaniard on clay in the last two years.

With a celebrity audience—including actors Hugh Grant and Tim Roth as well as French stars Marion Cotillard and Jean Dujardin—watching, Nadal flew out of the blocks. He reeled off the first six points for a 2-0 lead before Thiem settled and repaired the damage for 2-2. The Austrian speared a 222 km/h ace just for good measure in the fourth game to save a break point.

He saved another two in the 11-minute sixth game, a performance cheered by the crowd who briefly became more animated when glum-looking French football icon Zinedine Zidane was spotted in the stadium. Despite matching Nadal forehand for forehand, Thiem was undone in the 10th game when three errors handed Nadal the opening set after 52 minutes on court. A wild, misguided forehand sealed his fate, one of 18 unforced errors to Nadal's 12 in the set.

In their previous nine meetings, all on clay, the man who took the opening set went on to win the match. That scenario loomed again with Nadal going to 2-0 in the second set on a fifth break point as Thiem fired another backhand wide. Thiem wasted a break point

in the seventh game as Nadal collected a time violation for taking too long to serve.

The world number one saved it and went on to secure a two sets lead when yet another backhand from the Austrian drifted wide. Thiem was under the cosh, saving four break points in the first game of the third set before Nadal inevitably broke for 2-1.

Bizarrely, Nadal then halted playing in the fourth game complaining of pain in his left hand and stretching his middle finger. He still won the game anyway before summoning the doctor and trainer courtside.

Whatever the problem, his dominance remained and a love game took him to 4-2 before he eventually sealed victory on a fifth match point when the Austrian fired another backhand long. — AFP

England manager Southgate demands break with the past

LONDON: England fly to Russia next week unencumbered by the usual great expectations, with manager Gareth Southgate promising a complete break from previous tournaments when they seldom lived up to their billing.

"We are nothing to do with the past," said Southgate in one of his final round of media interviews before they head to their camp in the village of Repino, which is approximately 30 miles from St. Petersburg.

"The past can inform us and help us but shouldn't shape us. We have got to be our own team. This is a diverse team with different sets of skills. They have got a chance to make their own history."

In plumping for an inexperienced squad whose average age is 26, Southgate has made a powerful statement of intent and observers have been impressed by the open approach he has encouraged the squad to what lies ahead.

Whereas two years ago former keeper Joe Hart memorably refused to reveal who won the team darts competition at Euro 2016, Fabian Delph has been happy to talk about the team-building exercises which Southgate has implemented, with Raheem Sterling apparently starring at table tennis and Delph himself prospering at pool.

Hart has not even made the squad this time, the experience of his 75 caps ditched in favour of likely No. 1, Everton's Jordan Pickford, who has

three, with Stoke's Jack Butland (8) and Burnley's Nick Pope (1) as back up. To put that into perspective, England's three Group G opponents have nine keepers with 334 caps between them.

Of course, results, not experience, are what ultimately count and it is no surprise that England, who have not even made the quarter-finals for 12 years and flopped in their last tournament outing at Euro 2016, are trusting a different approach.

Southgate is encouraging his players to dream big. "Why would I limit what they feel is possible?" the manager told the Sunday Telegraph. "My job is to allow people to dream - what's the saying? - 'make the impossible seem possible'. They are at an age with hunger, enthusiasm...

"We have got to improve to reach the latter stages of a tournament and that is going to take a lot of hard work over the next few weeks and a huge commitment but I am seeing evidence that we are embracing that challenge."

As a former England Under-21 manager, Southgate relies on many of the techniques which have brought success at youth levels. England enjoyed another triumph on Saturday by winning their third successive Toulon Under 21 Tournament and the senior players have been asked to remember the enthusiasm they had as children for previous tournaments and share photos of their younger selves in an England kit. Even the 47-year-old manager has dug out one of his 12-year-old self from 1982.

"I think there's been a disconnect from the fans with the players. We recognise that and part of it was maybe not knowing how much they care or their backgrounds. So we have tried to have an effect on that."

The relaxed approach has been extended to encouraging players to have a major input into tactics. "They know they can have an input, they



Gareth Southgate

have a good opinion on things and they are able to suggest solutions that they may think are better than those we propose," he said.

"They have a voice. We want them to have some ownership. When I decide, 'Okay, we are not going with that one but we will have a think about this one,' they really respect that." — Reuters

Czechs end Japan's Roland Garros doubles dream

PARIS: Eri Hozumi and Makoto Ninomiya's hopes of becoming the first all-Japanese pair to win a Grand Slam women's doubles title were swamped by a barrage of big hitting from Czech pair Barbora Krejčíková and Katerina Siniakova in Sunday's French Open final.

The sixth seeds won 6-3, 6-3 in just 65 minutes against Hozumi and Ninomiya who had stunned top seeds and Australian Open champions Kristina Mladenovic and Timea Babos in the semi-finals.

For the Czechs, it was their first Slam title. "I'd like to dedicate this victory to Jana Novotná," said Krejčíková in honour of her compatriot and 1998 Wimbledon champion who died of cancer in November last year at the age of 49. Siniakova paid tribute to the Japanese team. "You had an amazing two weeks and we hope we can play many more times in the future," she said. On Saturday, Japan had enjoyed two title victories at the French Open.

World number one Yui Kamiji won her third Roland Garros women's wheelchair championship with a 2-6, 6-0, 6-2 victory over Diede de Groot of the Netherlands. It was the sixth Slam singles title for the 24-year-old world number one. Shingo Kunieda then claimed the men's title, his seventh in Paris and 22nd overall at the majors. The 34-year-old defeated Argentine second seed Gustavo Fernandez 7-6 (7/5), 6-0. — AFP