



3 Merkel visits Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad School in Beirut



6 Erdogan, Ince trade blows on the eve of crunch polls



9 Anti-trafficking campaigners abducted and raped in India



28 Mexico beat South Korea 2-1, edge towards last 16



Saudi pledges 'measurable' oil supply boost; OPEC seals deal

OPEC deal with non-OPEC gives no specific targets

Belgium crush Tunisia 5-2



MOSCOW: Belgium's forward Eden Hazard (left) vies for the ball with Tunisia's forward Fakhreddine Ben Youssef during the Russia 2018 World Cup Group G football match between Belgium and Tunisia at the Spartak Stadium yesterday. — AFP (See Page 28)

VIENNA: OPEC agreed with Russia and other oil-producing allies yesterday to raise output from July, with Saudi Arabia pledging a "measurable" supply boost but giving no specific numbers. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries had announced an OPEC-only production agreement on Friday, also without clear output targets. Benchmark Brent oil rose by \$2.5 or 3.4 percent on the day to \$75.55 a barrel.

Yesterday, non-OPEC oil producers agreed to participate in the pact but a communique issued after their talks with the Vienna-based group provided no concrete numbers amid deep disagreements between OPEC arch-rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran. US President Donald Trump was among those wondering how much more oil OPEC would deliver. "Hope OPEC will increase output substantially. Need to keep prices down!" Trump wrote on Twitter after OPEC announced its Friday decision.

The United States, China and India had urged oil producers to release more supply to prevent an oil deficit that could undermine global economic growth. OPEC and non-OPEC said in their statement that they would raise supply by returning to 100 percent compliance with previously agreed output cuts, after months of underproduction. Saudi Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih said OPEC and non-OPEC combined would pump roughly an extra 1 million barrels per day (bpd) in coming months, equal to 1 percent of global supply.

Top global exporter Saudi Arabia will increase output by hundreds of thousands of barrels, he said, with exact figures to be decided later. "We already mobilized the Aramco machinery, before coming to Vienna, pre-empting this meeting," Falih said, referring to the Saudi state oil company. Russian Energy Minister

Alexander Novak said his country would add 200,000 bpd in the second half of this year. Asked to what extent the decision to increase supply had been driven by pressure from Trump, Novak said: "It is obvious that we are not being driven by tweets but base our actions on deep market analysis."

Iran, OPEC's third-largest producer, had demanded OPEC reject calls from Trump for an increase in oil supply, arguing that he had contributed to a recent rise in prices by imposing sanctions on Iran and fellow member Venezuela. Trump slapped fresh sanctions on Tehran in May and market watchers expect Iran's output to drop by a third by the end of 2018. That means the country has little to gain from a deal to raise output, unlike Saudi Arabia.

Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh said the real increase could amount to as little as 500,000 bpd because Saudi Arabia would not be allowed to pump more on behalf of Venezuela, where output has collapsed in recent months. "Each country which has produced less (than its allocation) can produce more. Those which cannot, will not... This means that Saudi Arabia can increase its production by less than 100,000 bpd," Zanganeh told Argus Media. But Falih said pro-rata quota reallocations did not have to be strict, meaning Saudi wanted to fill the gaps left by others. "Some of the countries ... are not going to be able to produce, so the others will. And that implies there will be indirectly a reallocation," Falih said.

He also said OPEC could hold an extraordinary meeting before its next formal talks due on Dec 3 or adjust deliveries in September, when its monitoring committee meets, if global oil supply fell further

Continued on Page 24

News in brief

Senior Iran officer killed

TEHRAN: Iran's Revolutionary Guards said yesterday that one of its senior officers had been killed in Syria while advising pro-government forces in an eastern town near the Iraqi border. "Brigadier General Shahrokh Daipour ... was martyred in the town of Abu Kamal in Syria during a mission to advise Syrian pro-government forces," according to the Guards' Sepah News. The brief report did not give the circumstances of the officer's death. He was described as a former unit commander who was wounded during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war before holding various positions involved with artillery. Iran, along with Russia, is a key supporter of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad. — AFP

UAE backs rebel pullout

ABU DHABI: The United Arab Emirates, whose troops have played a major role in a Yemeni government offensive against the port city of Hodeida, said yesterday that it was ready to support diplomatic efforts to secure a rebel withdrawal. But it said the pullout must be unconditional and from the whole city not just its vital docks, the entry point for three-quarters of Yemen's imports. "The coalition will achieve its goal, which is to free the city, including the port," UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, Anwar Gargash, tweeted, referring to a Saudi-led coalition which intervened in support of the Yemeni government in 2015. "In the meantime, it will support all efforts to secure a peaceful and unconditional withdrawal by the rebels," he added. — AFP

45 IS jihadists killed

BAGHDAD: Iraq said yesterday it had killed 45 jihadists from the Islamic State group, including senior members, in an air strike in eastern Syria, the second such operation in less than a month. Iraqi F-16 fighter jets carried out a "successful strike targeting a meeting of Daesh (IS) leaders" on Friday in the Hajin region, in the eastern Syrian province of Deir Ezzor, a military statement said. Among those killed, it said, were a senior member of the jihadists' "ministry of war", his deputy, a local commander and a media official. There was no independent confirmation. Three houses linked by an underground tunnel were also destroyed, it said, adding that the air strike was carried out based on "intelligence" and at the request of Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi. — AFP

Thousands call for 2nd Brexit vote

LONDON: Tens of thousands of people demonstrated in London yesterday calling for a second vote on Britain's departure from the European Union. The anti-Brexit campaigners marched on parliament to mark the second anniversary of the Brexit referendum, demanding a "people's vote" on whether to approve the final deal Prime Minister Theresa May strikes with the EU, if an agreement is struck at all. "I was in deep tears when the referendum happened, it looked like the future was pretty bad," said Chiara Liduori, a 40-year-old Italian living in London.

"Brexit is awful not only because we want to keep things like it is, but because it is important to be within, in order to make changes." The march, under a blue sky, set off from Pall Mall, before passing May's Downing Street office to the sound of boos and ended in Westminster, where anti-Brexit MPs including Liberal Democrat leader Vince Cable and Tory rebel Anna Soubry spoke. Demonstrators held placards reading "I am a European citizen", "I Love U" and "we demand a vote on final Brexit deal." Emily Hill, 55, told AFP she was "very much in favor of letting the people" confirm they really want Brexit.

"I think lot of the voting was a protest vote, some people genuinely are not supportive of the EU, but I don't believe it is the majority opinion in this country,"

Continued on Page 24



LONDON: Demonstrators carry banners and flags as they participate in the People's Vote demanding a People's Vote on the final Brexit deal, in central London yesterday. — AFP

Saudi women hit the road as driving ban ends

RIYADH: Women will hit the roads in Saudi Arabia today with the lifting of the world's last ban on female drivers, long seen as an emblem of women's repression in the conservative kingdom. The move, ordered last September by King Salman, is part of sweeping reforms pushed by his powerful young son Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who aims to transform the economy of the world's top oil exporter and open up its cloistered society.

"We are ready, and it will totally change our life," said Samira Al-Ghamdi, a 47-year-old psychologist from Jeddah, one of the first Saudi women to be issued with a driving license. The lifting of the ban, which for years drew international condemnation and comparisons to the Taliban's rule in Afghanistan, has been welcomed by Western allies as proof of a new progressive trend in Saudi Arabia.

But it has been accompanied by a crackdown on dissent, including against some of the very activists who previously campaigned against the ban. They will sit in jail as their peers take to the road legally for the first time. Saudi women with foreign licenses only began converting them earlier this month, so the number of new drivers is expected to remain low at first. It will be some time before others learning to drive at new state-run schools are road ready. And some women still face resistance from conservative relatives. Many accus-



JEDDAH: Daniah Al-Ghalbi, a newly-licensed Saudi woman driver, sits in her car during a test-drive in the Red Sea resort of Jeddah yesterday, a day before the lifting of a ban on women driving in the conservative Arab kingdom. — AFP

tomed to using a private driver say they are reluctant to take on the Muslim kingdom's busy highways.

"I definitely won't like to drive," said Fayza Al-Shammari, a 22-year-old saleswoman. "I like to be a princess with someone opening the car door for me and driving me anywhere." Concerns that women drivers will face abuse in a country where strict segregation rules usually prevent women from interacting with unrelated men prompted a new law last month with jail and hefty fines for sexual harassment. The Interior Ministry plans to hire women traffic police for the first time, but it is unclear when they will be deployed.

The decision to lift the ban in the tightly-controlled Muslim kingdom - where once-forbidden cinemas and concerts have also returned - is expected to boost the

Continued on Page 24

Ethiopian leader escapes grenade attack at a rally

ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopia's new Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed escaped a grenade attack yesterday at a rally in the capital that killed one person and left scores wounded, officials and witnesses said. The attack was launched by an unidentified assailant moments after 41-year-old prime minister, a former soldier who took office in April, finished his speech to tens of thousands of people gathered in the centre of Addis Ababa.

A witness saw Abiy whisked away by guards. Another witness said the assailant with the grenade had been wrestled to the ground by police before it exploded. Health Minister Amir Aman said one person was killed and 154 were wounded, with 10 of them in critical condition. Addressing the nation on television shortly after the blast and still wearing a green t-shirt he was handed at the rally, Abiy said the attack was an "attempt by forces who do not want to see Ethiopia united."

Abiy had promised the crowd in his speech in Addis Ababa's Meskel Square that he would bring more transparency to government and reconciliation to a nation of 100 million people that has been torn by protests since 2015. Eritrea, which has long been at loggerheads with Ethiopia over a border row that Abiy has sought to resolve, condemned the incident, as did the European Union and the United States.

Continued on Page 24

Local

Kuwait seeks UNESCO's World, Modern Heritage recognition for several sites

Including Failaka, Boubyan, Kuwait Towers, water and petroleum systems



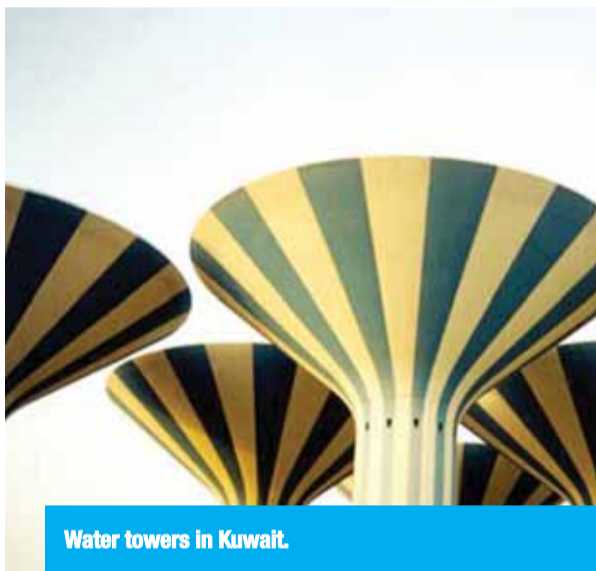
KUWAIT: Archeological sites in Failaka Island.— KUNA



Kuwait Towers.



The Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) building in Al-Ahmadi City.



Water towers in Kuwait.

KUWAIT: The National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL) is working rigorously to enroll several Kuwaiti locations in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World and Modern Heritage sites. Several sites - including Failaka and Boubyan islands, Kuwait Towers, archaeological sites in Subbiya, the water and petroleum management systems in the country - are amongst the list of proposed locations.

Head of the selection program and Kuwaiti representative at UNESCO Jaber Al-Qallaf said that he alongside his partner Zahra Alibaba were working very hard to forward the nominations to the international organization.

At first, the focus was on a number of archaeological sites in the island of Failaka; however, UNESCO experts saw that the island, as a whole, was worthy, said Qallaf. The Kuwaiti official affirmed that such consideration from one of the highest authorities on world heritage and culture required from local authorities to

work on plans to develop the island's infrastructure in a way to preserve its historical treasures and integrity.

Protecting cultural treasures is complimentary to the agenda of the UN Sustainable Goals 2030, said Qallaf who indicated that preserving heritage sites could contribute to the overall economic development of the world and achieve global prosperity. He added that the 1979-inaugurated Kuwait Towers as well as the 1980s-built water management systems and towers in the areas of Bayan, Al-Saddiq, Al-Adailiya, Sabhan, and Al-Ahmadi were also deemed eligible for nomination as modern heritage sites. The history of the petroleum industry and oil installations throughout the country may also be included in the Kuwaiti nomination file, he said.

Qallaf said that it was important to take quick steps to ensure that all significant sites in Kuwait were ready for nomination, indicating that NCCAL was eager to contribute to the preservation and development of the locations for the sake of future generations and their wel-



Jaber Al-Qallaf

fare. The 42nd Session of the World Heritage Committee will convene today in Bahrain until July fourth. The committee, founded in the early 1970s, is responsible for selecting location and including them in the World Heritage sites. — KUNA

Kuwait-UK panel to mull over Kuwaiti patients' conditions

KUWAIT: The joint UK-Kuwaiti Steering Group is set to look into the conditions of Kuwaiti patients in the UK, and bilateral cooperation to share expertise and doctors' mutual visits, a Kuwaiti diplomat said yesterday. A Kuwaiti delegation, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah, will fly to the UK today to discuss more facilities to Kuwaiti citizens visiting Britain, including online visa system. Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs Ambassador Walid Al-Khubaizi said.

The group will also address issues pertinent to the promotion of bilateral cooperation in the areas of security, air transport and cybersecurity, he pointed out. The Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized recent preparatory meetings on the agenda of the group's meeting, which is mainly meant to bolster Kuwaiti-UK cooperation, he said.

Other issues related to Kuwaiti students in the UK, together with closer cooperation in the domains of scientific and environment research, cultural and knowledge exchange and academic quality criteria, he added. Also to be considered during the event are ways and means of pushing forward strategic cooperation between both sides to address common challenges and cement bilateral training and military cooperation, he noted. Economically, he said both



KUWAIT: Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs Ambassador Walid Al-Khubaizi.—KUNA

sides will seek to increase trade exchange and joint investments, adding that agreements and memos of understanding would be hammered out in this regard. The Kuwaiti diplomat commended the distinguished level of Kuwaiti-UK relations, mainly the increasing number of high-level visits from both sides, mentioning in particular a planned visit by Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to London in July.

It will be a good opportunity for both sides to exchange views on the latest regional and internal developments, along with a number of Arab and Islamic issues, he said. The joint UK-Kuwaiti Steering Group's 12th meeting will be held between June 26-27. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) honored overachieving branch employees for the first quarter of 2018, during a recent ceremony attended by several bank officials.



Kuwait focuses on supporting overall development: Minister

VIENNA: Kuwait's Minister of Finance Falah Al-Hajraf said Friday that his country continuously takes part in international events and conferences to support worldwide development. The minister's remarks were made during his speech at the 39th meeting of Finance Ministers of the member states of the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), which concluded late Thursday in Vienna.

Kuwait is the third biggest contributor to the fund, which was established by OPEC member-states in 1976 to boost financial cooperation between these countries and other developing countries to end poverty, the minister said. He added that Kuwait contributed around 12.21 percent to OFID's capital, giving the country a priority in voting on different resolutions in the fund, compared to the other members.

During the event, Minister Hajraf met

with his Saudi, Emirati and Algerian counterparts. He also met with Kuwaiti employees at OFID to learn about their experience and their views on the fund. The meeting saw electing Saudi Arabia's Dr Abdulhamid Al-Khalifa as OFID director general for a five-year term, succeeding outgoing Chief Suleiman Al-Herbish. Over the past 16 years, Herbish has realized great achievements for the fund, doubling the fund's lending operation.

OFID provides financing to build essential infrastructure, strengthen social services delivery and promote productivity, competitiveness and trade. OFID's work is people-centered, focusing on projects that meet basic needs - such as food, energy, clean water and sanitation, healthcare and education - with the aim of encouraging self-reliance and inspiring hope for the future. —KUNA



Local

Merkel visits Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad School in Lebanon

Schools provide education hundreds of Syrian refugee students

BEIRUT: Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel paid a visit to Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah School in Ras Beirut neighborhood yesterday and observed Syrian refugee students' involvement in classrooms and sport activities. During her visit, Merkel toured the school facilities, viewed the education methods applied in some grade levels such as kindergarten and the fifth grade, spoke with students, in English, about their situations and needs, and took part in lecturing physics class students. Lebanese Education Minister Marwan Hamadeh, who accompanied Merkel on her visit to the school, said,

The German Chancellor also visited the school's sports arena, where she joined Lebanese and Syrian refugee students in some exercises and trainings. Hamadeh added, noting she presented them with a number of officially certified soccer balls and German national team's jerseys.

She also gathered with some local and refugee families, on one side of the school's soccer field, and spoke with them about their issues, he said, adding Merkel stressed the importance of maintaining a good relationship between citizens and refugees. Merkel expressed her admiration for the school's administration, education staff, students, and learning process, the Lebanese minister said, adding she also lauded the close cooperation



Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel poses with officials during the visit.



BEIRUT: Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel is seen during her visit to Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah School in Ras Beirut neighborhood. — KUNA

between students, teachers, and administrators.

Furthermore, Hamadeh told Merkel about the ministry's plan to observe the education of Lebanese and refugee students via (RACE) project, to be launched in cooperation with UN international agencies and bodies, particularly UNICEF, and with the financial backup of Germany and the international group. He also handed the German Chancellor a detailed report on the accommodation capacity in Lebanese state schools, which highlighted the government's need of financial support to

accommodate more refugee students.

Moreover, Hamadeh explained to Merkel his ministry's plan to employ new refugee teachers in the country's schools, reiterating the ministry's need for financial aid to enable it to bear the burden of educating children and minors without any discrimination. "Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah School is considered as the 'pearl' of Lebanon's education," he said, expressing his appreciation to Kuwait's contribution to boosting education in his country.

"The school is also a source of pride for the Lebanese people; therefore, we strive to hoist Kuwait's name higher through providing the best educational methods and applications for students," affirmed the Lebanese senior official. Meanwhile, Ghadah Azar, Director of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah School, said that the school has been at the forefront of Lebanese state schools, and became a hotspot for officials and visitors. Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah School has working hours in the morning, during which it receives 250

refugee students, and in the evening, receiving 625 refugee students, noted Azar.

In the last few years, the Lebanese education ministry has named several schools in Beirut under Kuwait. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. It has also named some schools after late Amirs Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah. — KUNA

Motorist killed after vehicle set ablaze following accident

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti man died after his vehicle was set ablaze following a road accident reported at the Third Ring Road Friday night. Three others suffered minor injuries in the accident as well, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) said in a statement. Firemen rushed to the scene as soon as the accident was reported, and they put out the blaze before retrieving the victim's body from inside of his wrecked vehicle. A case was filed to investigate the causes of the accident.



KUWAIT: A vehicle heavily damaged by a fire following an accident reported on the Third Ring Road Friday night.



The inside of the car completely damaged by the fire.

100 firefighters

Meanwhile, a huge fire broke out in a waste dumpster along Wafra highway and near Abdullah Port yesterday, said security sources. Nearly one hundred firefighters from six fire stations (Abdullah Port, Um Al-Haiman, Sabhan, the backup center, Ardhiya and Kuwait City) were dispatched to the scene to control the fire that reached various spots because of the wind speed, the sources noted. Kuwait Municipality were also used to carry sand necessary to put out the fire. No casualties were reported.



Firefighters battle a blaze reported near Abdullah Port yesterday.

Drugs awareness

Chairperson of the National Campaign for Social Solidarity and Drug Awareness Ghanima Habib said she would hold a press conference on Tuesday to announce launching the activities of the national campaign organized by

the National Social Security Syndicate. The campaign is the first of its kind in Kuwait organized with the aim of boosting public awareness regarding the dangers of drugs, Habib explained. The campaign aims at creating purposeful media messages to the public about the importance of fighting

drugs through focusing on youth, she added. "Former health minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi was selected as the campaign's honorary president," she underlined. Further, Habib said that the campaign would go on field tours in various malls and public facilities to hold a number of specialized workshops.

'Overcrowded' public schools can't absorb bedoon students: Minister

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Hamed Al-Azmi rejected a parliamentary proposal to register all the children of bedoons (stateless people) in public schools. Justifying his decision, Azmi stressed that ministry regulations only allow the registration of bedoon children of Kuwaiti women, the children and grandchildren of bedoon martyrs, the grandchildren of citizens, the children and grandchildren of some military personnel, the children of expatriate teachers and administrative staff members in public schools, public school social and psychological workers, lab technicians and librarians. "Bedoons not included have access to private schools at the expense of the charity fund," Azmi noted. Further, Azmi explained that public school classes were already overcrowded, while the education ministry's policy was to reduce the number of students per class in order to provide the best learning environment.



Dr Hamed Al-Azmi

rienced, Oil Minister Bakheet Al-Rasheed explained. He also denied that KPC or any of its subsidiaries had published ads about vacancies in India. Furthermore, he stressed that article number 51 of the private sector law (law 6/2010) applies for non-Kuwaiti oil sector employees.

KPC and its subsidiaries have an annual plan to recruit both experienced and new graduated citizens, Rasheed further explained, adding that expats are only employed in positions where qualified Kuwaiti specialists are rare, whereas special training programs for national staff members are currently being prepared. "Kuwaitis currently make up 85 percent of oil sector employees, and this percentage is projected to increase to 89 percent after a number of expat employees at Ahmadi hospital are laid off," he underlined.

27 percent

Domestic helpers form 27 percent of the total manpower in Kuwait with 625,829 out of the total of 2,672,428. Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) statistics have shown. Furthermore, the statistics showed that Indians came first among the domestic helpers' community with 45.9 percent; 287,421 of whom (78.6 percent) are males. The statistics also showed that Filipinos came second with 22 percent, of whom 99 percent are women.

Bangladeshis came third with 12.9 percent of the total domestic helpers' population, of whom 98.8 are men. Sri Lankans came fourth with a total number of 60,930, of whom 7.7 percent are women. Nepalese only formed 2.6 percent of domestic helpers, and 90.3 of them are women. Meanwhile, Ethiopians came fifth with a total number of 167, 43, of whom 93.4 are women, while other African nationalities formed only 0.6 percent, whereas Indonesians formed 0.5 percent.

Foreign loans

MP Khalil Al-Saleh criticized the parliament's foreign affairs committee for rejecting a proposal he had submitted to impose some restrictions and regulations on the grants and loans given by Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. "My proposal conditioned the parliament's approval to any grant or loan," he stressed. Kuwait usually offers loans to brotherly, friendly or developing countries with the aim of promoting its relations and cooperation with them and to improve Kuwait's image worldwide.

Bedoon pilgrims

The supreme Hajj committee is set to meet today with the undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Faeed Emadi to discuss this year's Hajj preparations, Head of Kuwait's Hajj Convoys Union Ahmsd Al-Dowaihi said. He added that pilgrims would be distributed to five convoys including 180 pilgrims in each convoy, in addition to 100 others who would be distributed with their next of kin in various convoys. He added that the maximum pilgrimage cot would be KD 1,300 per pilgrim for category C, adding that 1,000 bedoon pilgrims would be registered with priority given to the elderly and families. He added that registration was still open in various convoys.

Oil sector

Expatriates nominated to work in Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) are interviewed without being subjected to exams because all of them are well-expe-

Most converts motivated by good treatment: IPC

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Most of those who convert to Islam in Kuwait were motivated by the outstanding ethics and good treatment they received from people living in the country, Islam Presentation Committee (IPC) General Manager Faeed Al-Awadhi stressed. He also noted that there are over three million expatriates in Kuwait belonging to various citizenships including Muslims and non-Muslims.

IPC's goal lies in presenting true Islam to non-Muslims and enhance the principle of fraternity and integration amongst Muslims, Awadhi added. "The great treatment they receive from Muslims in Kuwait made tens of thousands of people eager to learn more about Islam," he underlined.

Further, Awadhi urged citizens who have domestic helpers to play an effective role in this regard and treat their workers well as representatives of Muslims. He added that IPC had made remarkable achievements over the past few years, noting that its activities would continue after Ramadan to present Islam as a clement and moderate religion to non-Muslims.

Bachelors' housing

Municipal Council member Mohammed Al-Raqeeb recently expressed dissatisfaction with the efforts exerted by relevant bodies in various municipalities to fight the residence of bachelors in private residential areas. It is illegal in Kuwait to offer rooms or apartments for rent to single expatriate men in areas where government houses are built; areas officially classified as 'private residential areas'.

"Most private residential areas are now suffering from an increase in the presence of bachelors; a phenomena that has negative impacts on families living there," he added, noting that the phenomena has both security and social threats.

Further, Raqeeb mentioned Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Rabiya and Omariya as examples for areas that he believes had turned into "bachelors' cities in light of the lack of any action from relevant authorities to stop this problem." He held various governmental bodies responsible in delaying the construction of labor cities that can house bachelor workers. "Previous municipal councils have already allocated several locations to build those cities," he remarked, calling for law enforcement on violators in the form of disconnecting electricity supply to houses rented to bachelors in private residential areas.

local spotlight

Refugees Day



By Muna Al-Fuzal

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The world marked the International Day of Refugees on June 20. On that particular day, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reminds the world, especially leaders and decision makers, of two main things. The first is that there are millions of innocent people who were forced due to compelling circumstances to search for an alternative homeland and better future. This hope sometimes collapses because of unexpected difficulties and challenges. The second point is the need to provide support to refugees until the adoption of a global charter for refugees, which is due to be issued by this year.

The United Nations said that the number of refugees and displaced people in the world jumped to 68.5 million last year, marking a new rise for the fifth consecutive year. The number rose by 4.6 percent in 2017 compared to the previous year.

According to UNHCR, about 70 percent of the world's 68.5 million refugees have fled from only five countries: Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar and Somalia. The commission's annual report says that the conflict in Syria had led to the displacement of more than 6.3 million people from their country by the end of 2017. Afghanistan ranked second in terms of the number of refugees last year. The report also highlighted large-scale displacements in Iraq, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and others. There is a need to analyze the report in a way that will provide solutions to the refugees and the host countries.

For example, Turkey ranks first among recipient countries of refugees with an absolute refugee population of 3.5 million refugees, mostly from Syria, while Lebanon receives the largest number of refugees when its small population, capacity and resources are put into consideration. The UNHCR believes that the time has come to bring the world's leaders to face the fact that the international community stands with the refugees.

I believe that the issue of refugees is a humanitarian subject that has turned to become an issue involving political considerations and sometimes extremism.

I think it is natural for every refugee family to dream about having a safe place to live, and that every refugee should receive decent work and be ensured that his children will receive adequate education and health care. The issue of integration into society is also important because it depends on the nature of the person and his ability and readiness to accept the new society, not just on paper; otherwise, he would feel alienation, loneliness and isolation which I think is harmful especially for children and young people. I think one of the key challenges that refugees face is learning a new foreign language for adults or those with limited culture and education back home, especially for those who do not know any language other than their mother tongue. This could present a problem in finding jobs, especially if the refugee is not sure that he or she will be allowed to stay in the new country where refugees might feel that they are outsiders or perhaps unwanted people at any time. I do not think the issue of refugees has been handled as one component that requires solutions.

Whether the agreement mentioned above is passed or not, I think the issue of refugees will remain one of the world's main concerns as long as wars, especially civil and sectarian conflicts, exist. If bloody conflicts end, it is natural that the numbers of war refugees will diminish.

There are many demands to discuss the issue of refugees from a realistic perspective, away from the considerations of security and politics. This is a humanitarian crisis that cannot afford the long wait and speculations, especially with regards to providing food and basic needs of families, as well as employment opportunities to ensure refugees' right to a decent and safe life.

Local

Zain concludes comprehensive Ramadan campaign

Company held various social contributions throughout the Holy Month



Zain volunteers at Social Care Centers



Bader Al-Kharafi during the awarding of Gulf Cable team with the first place title of Al Roudhan tournament.



Marzouq Al-Ghanem, Sheikh Mohammed Al-Abdullah, and Mohammed Al-Jabri honoring Eaman Al Roudhan for Zain's sponsorship of Al Roudhan tournament.



Zain officials presenting Machla boxes to Kuwait Food Bank.

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, successfully concluded its annual campaign for the Holy Month of Ramadan with a great number of humanitarian, social, religious, sports, and recreational contributions.

Zain's extensive program of various social, charitable, and humanitarian initiatives planned for the Holy Month came in line with the company's Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy that closely focused on giving back to the community. The company carefully selected the activities and programs that most presented an added value to all segments of the society.

In this report, Zain showcases the initiatives and programs it held during Ramadan of 2018:

Ramadan Machla

Zain kicked-off its Ramadan campaign before the beginning of the Holy Month, where the company's own team of volunteers packed Ramadan Machla boxes - containing essential food supplies - at the company's main headquarters and delivered them to underprivileged families who were in need of support during the month of fasting. The distribution covered multiple areas of Al Jahra governorate throughout four days.

Zain's distribution plan assured the delivery of essential food supplies to those in need before the arrival of the Holy Month in order to ensure disadvantaged families have enough quantities of the most basic supplies. The plan also included delivering a large number of boxes to Zain's partners of non-profit entities, including the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS), the Kuwait Food Bank, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, and Zakat House.

Iftar Halls

Every year, Zain launches the Iftar Halls initiative, which is a main pillar of the company's Ramadan campaign. Through this initiative, Zain provided fasting individuals with daily Iftar meals under the supervision of its volunteers team. The banquets were spread in three main halls in Jleeb, Khaitan, and Hawalli as part of a strategy to cover the most populated areas of Kuwait in order to assure the maximum amount of individuals' Iftar needs were covered. This year, Zain offered nearly 50,000 daily Iftar meals throughout the Holy Month.

Zain Quran App

Zain launched an all-new update to its Quran App, which the company gifts to its customers during Ramadan of every year. The app offered the best Quran reading experience on iOS and Android smart devices with a user-friendly interface. The app offered many great features, including reading

all pages of the Holy Quran, downloading and listening to the Holy Quran in the voices of over 20 famous reciters, read Tafseer (interpretations) to understand the meaning of verses, searching the whole text of the Holy Quran, as well as synchronizing usage between multiple devices.

The app also included a dark mode feature for easy reading in the dark, prayer times and Athan notifications, Qibla direction, and much more. Customers can download the app for free by searching 'Zain Quran' in the App Store and Google Play Store.

Social Visits

Every Ramadan, Zain is keen to reach out to the many segments of the community, including orphaned children, the elderly, and people with special needs, by visiting the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's Care Centers to share the joyful blessings of the Holy Month with them. Zain believes in the importance of embracing the beautiful values of the Islamic religion as well as the noble traditions of the Kuwaiti heritage all year round and especially in the Holy Month of Ramadan. Zain also shared the joys of the Holy Month with children and patients in a number of the biggest hospitals in Kuwait. The company's team always visits the hospitals during this blessed time of year to distribute gifts and Girgeaan to children and their families and celebrate the occasion in a family atmosphere full of joy and happiness.

Zain also shared the joys of Gergiaan with special needs children in collaboration with Al Kharafi Activity Kids Center, where the company's volunteers visited the children and their families to distribute Girgeaan and gifts while also organizing many other fun activities.

Supporting Humanitarian Campaigns

Zain has a long list of programs and contributions that serve noble causes through strategically partnering with entities that adopt humanitarian work, including non-profit organizations, governmental institutions, and global entities. This year, Zain was the Platinum Partner of Nurture and Educate Students Today (NEST)'s educational campaign, entitled #Rock_Paper_Pen, which mainly aimed at raising donations for the benefit of building three new schools set to serve 820 students in the Republic of Chad. The campaign's idea centered around using advanced technology solutions to attract and aware potential donors in the campaign's booth at the Avenues mall. The booth was designed to mimic the harsh living environment that faces Chad's children, where potential donors were able to wear Virtual Reality (VR) headsets and see up-close the hardships children face to get education, which added a human value and encouraged visitors to donate and contribute to building a better future for those who are in need of help.



Zain's Ramadan campaign's logo.

During the Holy Month of Ramadan, Zain launched a new charity campaign in collaboration with YouTube star Omar Farouq and Direct Aid to collect donations for "Al Noor Camp" to treat eye diseases in Africa. The campaign kicked-off with an initiative called "Do You Have 100 Fils?!", where Omar Farouq visited public places and asked pedestrians for 100 fils, which he gathered to collect the cost of one eye surgery (40 KD). The initiative centered around the idea that helping people can start at any amount no matter how small. An official donation channel was then launched in partnership with Direct Aid, where two eye camps were built, benefiting hundreds of underprivileged people in Africa.

This Ramadan, Zain was also the Humanitarian Partner to a new campaign launched by the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) to offer essential food supplies and medical aid to underprivileged families inside Kuwait. Zain donated the full amount of donations it collected from its charitable initiative "Ya Baghi Al Khair Aqbel" last year to support this initiative. Zain also sent awareness messages through SMS and social media to raise awareness about this campaign and encourage the public to donate via the official channels.

Zain also sponsored the #Ramadan_Aman campaign for the second consecutive year in collaboration with "Nahtam" volunteering team under the Volunteering Work Center and the Ministry of Interior. This year, the campaign came under the tagline "Together for a Ramadan without accidents", and witnessed Zain volunteers participating in distributing Iftar meals to road drivers during Maghreb prayers with the aim of reducing road accidents that usually occur during this particular period of time. Zain also sent awareness messages through SMS and social media to raise awareness about this campaign and contribute to minimizing the number of road accidents during this period.

This year, Zain was also the Humanitarian Partner of #Thousand_Wells campaign organized by Direct Aid during the Holy Month of Ramadan. The campaign aimed at

collecting donations to dig and build 1000 water wells for those in need in areas that suffer from scarcity and lack of water in Africa by digging wells, building reservoirs, and extending water lines.

Cultural and Recreational Programs

Every Ramadan, Zain is keen on diversifying the content of its campaign to include cultural and recreational programs as well. This year, Zain sponsored the second season of "Faseroo", a cultural show hosted by Sheikh Fahad Al Kandari on Kuwait TV and YouTube. In the show, Sheikh Fahad Al Kandari showcased many great scientific facts about the earth in a simple and creative way. The show simplified complex facts and presented them in a fun and modern way to attract the attention of viewers, especially young ones.

Zain also partnered with Al Salam International Hospital to shoot health awareness videos that were aired on social media channels during the Holy Month Ramadan. The videos featured doctors of Al Salam International Hospital from various fields sharing knowledge about fasting, general health tips during the Holy Month, tips about the most spread diseases in Kuwait and how to avoid them, and more, with the aim of raising health awareness of the public.

As for the classic Ramadan competitions that the public eagerly waits for every year, Zain announced its sponsorship of "Kanz FM" daily radio show throughout the whole month. Customers were able to enjoy participating in the show's quizzes and winning valuable prizes on a daily basis.

Al Roudhan Football Tournament

Zain was the Main Sponsor of the 39th edition of Al Roudhan Ramadan Football Tournament for the third consecutive year. On Ramadan of every year, the Kuwaiti audiences, especially young ones, eagerly look forward with great passion to Al Roudhan Tournament, given the fact that it witnesses high levels of professionalism and excitement throughout both the competing local teams as well as the international football stars hosted.

As it does every year, Zain was present at Al Roudhan Tournament on a daily basis, where it interacted with the audiences through various competitions, activities, and entertainment programs. The company also distributed valuable prizes and held daily challenges and competitions on its official social media channels.

This year, Al Roudhan tournament witnessed the participation of three international football legends that have millions of fans around the world. This year's star guests include World Cup winners Italian star Andrea Pirlo and Brazilian star Ricardo Kaka as well as French star Karim Benzema.



One of Zain's Iftar halls.



Zain employees visiting hospitals.

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Kuwait's National Assembly building. —Photo by Ahmad Al-Zayyat (KUNA)

OPEC, non-OPEC ministers eye steady market



VIENNA: Kuwait's Minister of Oil Bakheet Al-Rasheedi speaks during the organization's 174th conference in Vienna on Friday. —KUNA

VIENNA: OPEC and non-OPEC oil ministers came together in Vienna yesterday with an agenda mainly involving never-ending cooperation purposed to ensure a stable global oil market. The gathering followed an OPEC decision earlier Friday to boost output rates by one million barrel per day (bpd) in a bid to fend off a looming energy shortage. Oil ministers ascribed the move to an OPEC yen to answer the growing crude needs of major consumers worldwide. OPEC, and non-OPEC producers, with Russia on top, agreed in late 2016 to cut output by 1.8 million barrels daily to stabilize world oil markets. A six-month agreement came into effect on January 1, 2017, and was later extended for nine months as of July 1, 2017.

Significant deal

Kuwait's Minister of Oil Bakheet Al-Rasheedi affirmed the significance of the deal reached by OPEC's oil ministers during the organization 174th conference, stipulating rec-commitment to slashing crude oil output by 100 percent.

This means adherence to the cooperation declaration, cutting the production by 1.8 million barrels per day, the minister said in a statement. Moreover, the decision affirmed OPEC's role to secure supplies to the oil markets, he added.

Asked whether the deal would secure balance between supply and demand, Minister Rasheedi said the agreement tackles a number of matters, namely preserving the joint action in OPEC and bolstering

its role to meet the market needs. Pumping some one million barrels per day to the oil markets will alleviate jitters with respect of the supplies and ensures the market stability, he elaborated. The deal will be followed up to lift the daily output by some one million barrels, where the ministerial committee and the technical commission will monitor the accord implementation, which should in effect as July 2018.

Satisfactory results satisfactory

Algerian Energy Minister Mustapha Guitouni said that the outcomes reached by the meeting were very good enough as they reflect the organization's stability. The organization is on the right track, and could through wide negotiations among ministers achieve balance between supply and demand, and raise output by one million bpd, he added in a press statement.

He revealed that the OPEC energy ministers agreed that Algeria would host the next meeting due in September, with the aim of assessing the agreement on raising production and its compatibility with the global oil markets and the reality. The Algerian minister expressed, on the eve of the meeting, his optimism over the agreement, saying that he was very satisfied over the outcomes as they help protect interests of both consumers and producers. He noted that he held negotiations with a number of OPEC officials in order to bring views closer together that aimed to reach a final deal. —KUNA



مؤسسة البترول الكويتية
Kuwait Petroleum Corporation

Human Resources Sector
Petroleum Training Centre (PTC)

KPC ANNOUNCES RECEIVING PRE-QUALIFICATION APPLICATIONS FROM TRAINING PROVIDERS

The **Human Resources Sector** in Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) will start receiving prequalification applications from potential training providers (local and foreign) specialized in the field of training that wish to provide their training services for the year **2018/2019** according to the following:

- Registration shall start on **Tuesday 19/06/2018** and end on **Monday 31/12/2018** bearing in mind that prequalification applications submitted after the end date shall not be accepted.
- This prequalification is limited to:
 - New training providers who are not currently approved by KPC.
 - Training providers that wish to add a new training field which was not earlier prequalified by KPC.
- The prequalification application shall be reviewed based on the following criteria:
 - The number of years of experience in the field of training.
 - Total number of instructors and their qualifications / experience.
 - Recognitions / Awards (Local and Foreign) received by the applicant.
 - Number of programs certified by an international awarding body.
 - Reference letters received from previous clients.
 - Copy of previously executed training contracts.
 - Audited financial statements for latest 3 years.
 - Quality Management Certificate (ISO 9001) or equivalent.
- Potential training providers wishing to prequalify are requested to visit our website (<https://esourcing.knpc.com>) and obtain username and password, fill the information requested in prequalification application and ensure that they attach all required documents.
- The prequalification system shall not accept any (prequalification application) with missing mandatory documents.
- KPC shall review and evaluate training providers (who provided all required data in prequalification application) and will inform them in writing regarding their prequalification status whether accepted or rejected within (60) days from the end of registration date.

In case of any questions / queries, please contact us by phone on: **23887262 / 23887279** during working hours (from 10am to 2pm) or by email to: ajf799@knpc.com



Assad defies United States, presses assault in SW Syria

Anti-trafficking campaigners abducted and raped in India

Page 9

Page 7



ISTANBUL: Supporters of Muharrem Ince, presidential candidate of Turkey's main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), hold a giant Turkish flag during an election rally in Istanbul. — AFP

Turkey's Erdogan, main rival stage final election rallies

Erdogan seeking sweeping new executive powers

ISTANBUL: President Tayyip Erdogan and his main challenger, Muharrem Ince, made a final push for support at rival rallies in Istanbul yesterday, a day before presidential and parliamentary elections widely viewed as the most crucial in Turkey for decades. The winner of today's presidential contest will acquire sweeping new executive powers under a constitutional overhaul backed by Erdogan and endorsed last year by a narrow majority of Turks in a referendum.

Erdogan, who has dominated Turkish politics for 15 years, first as prime minister and since 2014 as president, praised the executive presidency that comes into force after the election. "God willing, Turkey will start flying with this system... With this system, we will achieve what others cannot imagine," he told

tens of thousands of supporters at a rally in Istanbul's Esenyurt district, the first of five planned for yesterday. Erdogan, 64, also promised to deliver more of the big infrastructure projects that have characterised his time in power and helped make him the most popular - if also the most divisive - leader of modern Turkish history. But with Turkey's economic woes mounting, partly due to the lira currency's sharp decline, Erdogan and his ruling, Islamist-rooted AK Party, are facing an unexpectedly strong challenge from a revitalized opposition.

Opposition appeal

Ince, a former teacher and the presidential candidate of the main opposition party, the secularist Republican People's Party

(CHP), has proved highly effective on the campaign trail, drawing huge crowds, especially in the big cities. Yesterday police said at least one million people had turned out in Istanbul's Maltepe district to hear Ince promise to reverse - if he wins the presidency - what he sees as Turkey's turn towards more authoritarian rule under Erdogan.

Ince also repeated his accusation - made by other opposition politicians too - of political bias by Turkey's state media, which has given Erdogan and the AK Party heavy coverage while often neglecting to broadcast opposition rallies. "There are 5 million people in Maltepe right now but none of the TV channels can show it," he said. That figure could not be independently verified, though images circulating on social media

showed vast crowds of people assembled to hear Ince speak. "Let this immorality be an example to the world," said Ince, who said he had held 107 rallies around Turkey in the 51 days since his candidacy was announced. Braving a summer thunderstorm, Ince's supporters, in festive mood, sang anthems and waved red and white Turkish flags. On the other side of the Bosphorus, the waterway bisecting Istanbul and separating Europe from Asia, Erdogan dismissed fears of any ballot-rigging on Sunday, saying the polls would be fair and safe. "We have taken all security precautions," said Erdogan. Opposition parties and non-governmental organizations say they plan to deploy more than half a million monitors and volunteers at ballot boxes across Turkey on Sunday to prevent fraud. — Reuters

Split families in limbo amid Trump immigration chaos

EL PASO: The fate of 2,300 children wrested from their parents at the US border with Mexico remained unclear Friday two days after Donald Trump ordered an end to migrant family separations, as the president accused Democrats of spinning "phony" tales of suffering for electoral gain. While the US leader bowed to global outrage over the splitting of families, conflicting messages were contributing to a sense of chaos in the handling of the crisis.

Government agencies were unable to say what would happen to the children already sent to tent camps and other facilities spread across the country while their parents were charged with immigration offenses. Having been forced into a climbdown on the hot-button issue of immigration, Trump swung back into fighting mode-insisting he remained committed to the "zero tolerance" policy that aims to deter the flow of migrants from Central America.

"We must maintain a Strong Southern Border. We cannot allow our Country to be overrun by illegal immigrants as the Democrats tell their phony stories of sadness and grief, hoping it will help them in the elections," he tweeted. In a possible indication of the scope of the crackdown the Trump administration envisions, Time magazine reported that the US Navy is preparing

plans to build detention centers for tens of thousands of immigrants on remote bases in support of the "zero tolerance" policy.

Trump also met at the White House with parents of victims killed by undocumented immigrants. The parents standing with Trump have been "permanently separated from their loved ones," the president said, "because they were killed by criminal illegal aliens." Trump continued to make political hay out of the crisis, accusing Democrats of "playing games" and not supporting tougher border policies. To fellow Republicans, his message was to "stop wasting their time on Immigration" until after the November midterm congressional elections.

On Thursday, divided congressional Republicans failed to pass one immigration reform bill, and a second proposal that includes language ending family separations was put off until next week. While Melania Trump sought to demonstrate concern with a surprise visit to migrant children at the border on Thursday, the administration remained under siege amid continued accounts of parents unable to find their children and no system in place for reuniting them.

Lawyers working to reunite families said they were struggling to navigate a labyrinthine process. "It's very difficult to reunite children with their parents because

these government agencies were not prepared, and they're not designed, for family separation," said Efrén Olivares, a lawyer with the Texas Civil Rights Project that represents 381 migrant parents.

'How is she?'

Near Washington, protestors shouting "Shame!" demonstrated early Friday outside the home of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, two days after Trump announced her department would take over the handling and processing of families at the border. Some reunifications were taking place, though it was unclear whether they involved the 700 children taken from parents between October and April, or the 2,300 since the mandatory prosecution of illegal border-crossers, whose children were taken away as a result, began in early May.

Others remained in painful limbo. One woman, Cindy Madrid from El Salvador, repeatedly dictated her US-resident sister's phone number to her six-year-old daughter before she crossed the border and the family was separated. The child was one of those heard crying out-and reciting the number-in an audio recording reportedly made inside a detention center, which galvanized opposition to the separations.

"It's maddening because at every moment I ask myself, 'How is she? Has she eaten? Are they taking care of her? Do they shower her?'" Madrid told CNN Thursday from a detention center in Port Isabel, Texas. "There are many more rooms full of women going through the same thing," she said. —AFP

Zimbabwe's President unhurt after blast at rally

HARARE: Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa escaped unhurt after an explosion rocked a stadium where he was addressing a political rally yesterday, a month before the country is due to hold its presidential elections. However, vice presidents Constantino Chiwenga and Kembo Mohadi and a minister sustained minor injuries following the blast at the White City Stadium in the second city of Bulawayo.

"There has been an incident at Bulawayo where the president was addressing a rally. This is now a police issue but the president is safe at Bulawayo State House," spokesman George Charamba told Reuters. "We are still to get information on what exactly happened as we understand that some people could have been injured as this happened in the VIP tent." National Police spokeswoman Charity Charamba said she did not have details on the incident. Several security personnel were also injured, the state-owned Herald newspaper said. Footage from Zimbabwe state television showed the explosion took place near Mnangagwa as he waved to supporters. He was later seen in pictures circulating on social media visiting Chiwenga's wife in hospital. Mnangagwa was speaking at his first rally in Bulawayo, an opposition stronghold where the ruling ZANU-PF has not won in national elections since 2000.

Zimbabwe holds its presidential election on July 30, with 75-year-old Mnangagwa and 40-year-old Nelson Chamisa, the leader of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change,



BULAWAYO: Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa addresses a ruling ZANU-PF party rally in Bulawayo yesterday as he campaigns for votes ahead of nationwide elections due on July 30. — AFP

the main contenders. The vote next month is the first since Robert Mugabe's downfall after a de facto military coup last November. Unlike previous elections which were marred by violence, mostly against opposition members by ZANU-PF supporters, the run up to this year's vote has been relatively peaceful.

Mnangagwa has promised a free and fair vote and if it is endorsed by international observers who are in the country for the first time since 2000, it could help Zimbabwe secure funding from international institutions for the first time in two decades. — Reuters

International

Assad defies United States, presses assault in SW Syria

Russian envoy says Moscow helping recover south

BEIRUT: Syrian government helicopters dropped barrel bombs on opposition areas of the country's southwest on Friday for the first time in a year, a war monitor and rebel officials said, in defiance of US demands that President Bashar al-Assad halt the assault. Assad has sworn to recapture the area bordering Jordan and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights and the army this week began ramping up an assault there, threatening a "de-escalation" zone agreed upon by the United States and Russia last year.

The United States on Thursday reiterated its demand that the zone be respected, warning Assad and his Russian allies of "serious repercussions" of violations. It accused Damascus of initiating air strikes, artillery and rocket attacks. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday demanded an immediate end to military escalation in southwestern Syria, saying he was "concerned at the significant risks these offensives pose to regional security," a spokesman for the U.N. chief said.

US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley said earlier on Friday that the Syrian military escalation "unambiguously violates" the de-escalation arrangement and that over 11,000 people had already been displaced. "Russia will ultimately bear responsibility for any further escalations in Syria," Haley said in a statement. A major offensive would risk a wider escalation that could draw the United States deeper into the war.

The southwest is of strategic concern to US-allied Israel, which has this year stepped up attacks on Iran-backed militia allied to Assad. The barrel bombs targeted a cluster of rebel-held towns including Busra al-Harir northeast of Deraa city, where the government attack threatens to bisect a finger of rebel ground jutting northwards into land held by the government. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, said

Syrian government helicopters had dropped more than 12 barrel bombs on the area, causing damage, but no reported deaths.

Abu Bakr al-Hassan, spokesman for the rebel group Jaish al-Thawra, which fights under the banner of the Free Syrian Army (FSA), said the munitions had been dropped on three towns and villages and that war planes had hit another. "I believe (the bombardment) is testing two things: the steadfastness of the FSA fighters and the degree of US commitment to the de-escalation agreement in the south," he told Reuters.

Syrian state television said on Friday that army units had targeted "lair and movements of terrorists" in the area. The Syrian government has denied using so-called barrel bombs - containers filled with explosive material that are dropped from helicopters and which cannot be accurately aimed. However, United Nations investigators have extensively documented its use of them during the conflict. While government forces have made heavy use of artillery and rockets in the assault, they have yet to draw on the kind of air power that was critical to the recovery of

other rebel-held areas. Russian warplanes have yet to take part, rebels say.

Still, Russia's Ambassador to Lebanon Alexander Zasytkin was quoted as saying that Russia was helping Damascus to recover the south. "The Syrian army now, with support from Russian forces, is recovering its land in the south and restoring the authority of the Syrian state," Zasytkin told the pro-Hezbollah newspaper al-Akhbar. "Israel has no justification to carry out any action that obstructs the fight against terrorism," he added.

Hostile force

A Syrian rebel commander in the south accused Iran of trying to torpedo the de-escalation agreement and vowed fierce resistance. "We possess

“Russia to bear responsibility for escalations in Syria”

Saudi Arabia's jailed trailblazers

DUBAI: Saudi authorities have in the past two months detained at least 16 people, including several identified as women's rights activists, on accusations of treason. The crackdown comes even as the kingdom breaks with long-held restrictions on women's lives, preparing to lift the world's only ban on female motorists today.

That was a goal some of the detainees had championed for decades, but credit for the policy change has gone to young Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, architect of an aggressively marketed reform package. Some of those detained have since been released. But for Saudi activists, their arrests confirmed that even if the monarchy dictates the easing of some social restrictions, it will resist granting any modicum of democracy. Three of the most prominent figures who continue to languish in detention are Loujain al-Hathloul, Aziza al-Yousef, and Ibrahim al-Modaimagh.

Loujain al-Hathloul

Loujain al-Hathloul was among a group of women's rights activists arrested in mid-May. The 28-year-old has long campaigned for women to be able to drive and an end to the kingdom's notorious guardianship system, which requires women to get permission from male relatives for many decisions. This was not the first time

Hathloul, from the conservative central region of Al-Qassim, has been behind bars.

Saudi authorities put her in juvenile detention in late 2014 when she tried to drive into the kingdom from the neighboring United Arab Emirates. Hathloul was freed 73 days later following an international campaign. Her most recent arrest triggered a smear campaign in the pro-government press, which printed her photo along with those of fellow feminists, branding them "traitors". Another activist, who declined to be named over fears for her family's safety, said that Hathloul represented Saudi Arabia's modern feminists.

"Loujain is the young rebel woman from Al-Qassim who embodies global values... and calls out the (lies) of the state," she said. On May 19, Hathloul's face was printed on the cover of Saudi Arabia's Al-Jazirah newspaper, alongside fellow activist Aziza al-Yousef, with the headline: "Your betrayal has failed".

Aziza al-Yousef

If Loujain al-Hathloul represents Saudi Arabia's young, outward-looking feminists, fellow activists say Aziza al-Yousef embodies an older generation of trailblazers. Yousef, 61, was one of a small number of women who responded to calls to defy the kingdom's driving ban in 2013 and again in 2014. The retired university professor in 2016 attempted to deliver a petition to the Royal Court, signed by thousands of Saudis, demanding an end to the guardianship system that gives men control over their female relatives' rights to study, marriage and travel.—AFP



HODEIDAH: A Yemeni fighter from the Amalga Brigades walks carrying a package along a road during the offensive to seize the Red Sea port city of Hodeidah from Iran-backed Houthli rebels, on its southern outskirts near the airport.—AFP

cause a catastrophe in the country already undergoing the world's most urgent humanitarian crisis. The port is the main lifeline for 22 million people who depend on aid, including 8.4 millions on the verge of starvation. "We're seeing high levels of malnutrition on the ground," Lise Grande, the UN humanitarian coordinator for Yemen told Reuters on Friday.

"Of the main issues we are concerned about, none is more significant right now than the possibility of a cholera outbreak," she added. "We could see hundreds of thousands of people affected." Hodeidah itself is home to 600,000 people more directly in the line of fire. Since 2015, Hodeidah residents have used privately-owned generators to produce electricity. But this month's offensive has left them struggling to obtain the necessary diesel oil.—Reuters



ABU AL-ZUHUR: A Syrian woman helps a girl ride on a truck to join a convoy returning displaced people home into government-controlled territory at Abu al-Zuhur checkpoint in the western countryside of Idlib province.—Reuters

many weapons," said Colonel Nassim Abu Arra, commander of the Youth of Sunna Forces group. Rebels in the southwest have received support, including arms from Assad's foreign foes during the seven-year-long war.

Analysts of the conflict believe this support continued even after U.S. President Donald Trump decided last year to shut down a military aid program run by the Central Intelligence Agency, though it may have been scaled back. Assad has this year recaptured the last remaining enclaves of insurgent territory near the capital Damascus and the city of Homs, including the densely populated eastern Ghouta region.

But there are still large areas outside his control.

Apart from the southwest, the rebels hold a swathe of northwest Syria. Insurgent groups backed by Turkey also hold parts of the northern border area. And the quarter of Syria east of the Euphrates is controlled by an alliance of Kurdish and Arab militias supported by the United States. The United States also has a base at Tanf, near Syria's borders with Iraq and Jordan, which controls the Damascus-Baghdad highway.

On Thursday a commander in the regional alliance backing Assad said a US strike had killed a Syrian army officer near Tanf. The Pentagon, however, said a US-backed Syrian rebel group had engaged "an unidentified hostile force" near Tanf, without casualties on either side.—Reuters

Australian Embassy Kuwait Job Vacancy

Driver and Mandoub (LE 2)

Closing date for applications is 3 July 2018

The Australian Embassy Kuwait is looking for an experienced Mandoub and Driver.

The position provides official transport for the Ambassador, Embassy staff and official visitors as well as performs a full range of Mandoub duties including liaison with government ministries and local authorities on protocol matters.

The applicant must hold a valid driver's licence with a proven safety record, and have extensive knowledge of road systems in Kuwait.

You must have good communication and organisational skills, and a willingness to work flexible hours and undertake overtime as required.

The applicant should be an experienced Mandoub and be proficient in written and spoken Arabic and English.

For the full position description, including application requirements please visit the Australian Embassy website at www.kuwait.embassy.gov.au

Residents suffer as Hodeidah battle grinds on

DUBAI: Residents unable to flee Hodeidah face constant bombardment, lack of clean water and power cuts as an Arab coalition battles to capture Yemen's main port from Iran-aligned Houthis in the biggest battle of a three-year war. "We hear loud explosions all the time," Assem Mohammed, a 30-year-old pharmacist, said by telephone. "We haven't had water for three days."

Mohammed, with his wife and six-month-old daughter, are among a dwindling number of residents who have remained in Hawak district, a neighborhood sandwiched between the airport, captured this week by the coalition, and the sea port, the latest target of the military offensive. Drivers transporting fleeing residents out of Hodeidah have more than doubled their fares since the battle began, while the hospital where Mohammed works has threatened employees with dismissal if they are absent for long periods.

"Electricity has also been cut in most of the city since three days, and in some neighborhoods for a week," he said. He blamed the water shortage on damage to pipes that relief workers say has been caused by the Houthis digging trenches. Houthi officials could not immediately be reached for comment. The alliance of Arab states led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates launched its assault on Hodeidah last week in an effort to cut the Houthi fighters who control the capital and most populated areas off from the outside world.

The United Nations fears that the campaign could

International

Italy defiant as migrant ship stranded in Mediterranean

German vessel in limbo with 230 migrants aboard

ROME: Italy defiantly declared yesterday that its ports were closed to foreign-flagged rescue ships as German charity vessel Lifeline lay off the coast of Malta in limbo with more than 230 migrants aboard. Malta—which is also refusing to take in the boat in a new diplomatic standoff with Italy—nevertheless said it had sent in humanitarian supplies. “The Lifeline, an illegal ship with 239 immigrants on board is in Maltese waters,” Italy’s far-right Interior Minister Matteo Salvini wrote on Facebook. “These boats can forget about reaching Italy, I want to stop the business of trafficking and mafia.”

Salvini’s tough talk came on the eve of an emergency mini-summit in Brussels to address the divisive issue of how the EU can tackle the renewed influx of migrants and refugees seeking a new life in Europe. Just three weeks in office, Italy’s new populist government is digging its heels in on campaign promises to stop the influx of migrants, threatening to seize rescue ships or barring them from its ports. The crisis has also caused ructions in Germany, with Chancellor Angela Merkel facing a rebellion from her coalition allies over her policies.

Meanwhile, more than 400 migrants were rescued in three operations off the coast of Spain yesterday, just days after Madrid took in the more than 600 rejected by Italy and Malta. And the Libyan navy said five people died and nearly 200 were rescued off its coast while trying to cross the Mediterranean.

Threat to seize boats

The Italian government has said both the Lifeline, run by German NGO Mission Lifeline, and another ship Seefuchs, run by another German charity Sea-Eye, — would be seized and directed to Italian ports for investigation “into their legal status”. Rome accuses the Lifeline of having acted in contravention of international law by taking on board migrants while the Libyan coastguard was intervening. Earlier this

month Salvini triggered an EU-wide row when he barred the French charity-run Aquarius rescue ship, carrying 630 migrants, from docking in Italy.

Malta also refused to take it in and the ship was later welcomed by Spain. Salvini said Friday that Malta should open its ports to the Lifeline, adding: “Clearly, the boat should immediately be impounded and its crew arrested.” But Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said the Lifeline “broke rules” by ignoring Italy’s directions and should move towards its original destination “to prevent escalation”. “Despite having no responsibility #Malta just provided humanitarian supplies” while its armed forces carried out the medical evacuation of one passenger, he said.

As the two neighbors squabbled, a Danish cargo ship carrying 113 migrants was stationed near the Sicilian port of Pozzallo waiting for instructions from Italy. The Alexander Maersk changed course after picking up a distress call Friday, a spokesman for Maersk Line said, without specifying where the migrants were rescued.

Awaiting diplomatic solution Mission Lifeline denied Italy’s accusations regarding the rescue in Libyan waters, saying it was the best equipped vessel to help. “We are waiting for a diplomatic solution, discussions

are under way between different states to host the Lifeline and those rescued,” the organization’s representative in Germany, Axel Steier, said. Steier said 14 women and four children were among those on board. The issue of migration was thrust to the forefront of the EU agenda after Italy turned away the Aquarius. But the Aquarius defiantly vowed to continue its work and an AFP photographer on board said yesterday that it was currently responding to distress call in Tunisian waters.

EU tensions -

Italy hardline stance comes at a time of deep EU tensions on immigration. Today’s mini-summit is supposed to prepare for a



AT SEA: This handout picture taken off the coast of Libya and received from the German NGO ‘Mission Lifeline’ shows migrants boarding a container ship of Danish shipping company Maersk Line after they were rescued from a shipwrecked vessel at sea. —AFP

full summit next week, where 28 EU leaders will discuss plans to overhaul the bloc’s asylum system, which has been under severe pressure since the migration crisis exploded in 2015. German Chancellor Angela Merkel-facing a ferocious political backlash for letting in over one million asylum seekers into Europe’s biggest economy—played down expectations of a quick solution. “We know that no solution will be reached on Thursday and Friday at the level of the 28 member states... on the overall issue

of migration,” she said on a visit to Lebanon. Instead, she said, “bilateral, trilateral and multilateral” deals must be reached to tackle the issue. German Interior Minister Horst Seehofer warned Monday he would give Merkel a fortnight to find a European deal to curb new arrivals, failing which he vowed to order border police to turn back migrants. Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis also said Friday he was ready to start turning away migrants if Berlin and Vienna did so. —AFP

Identifying US troops returned from N Korea may be challenging

WASHINGTON: The US military will face a difficult task in identifying the remains of soldiers missing from the Korean War as the Pentagon prepares to receive them from North Korea in coming days, officials and experts said. US President Donald Trump, who met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at an historic summit in Singapore this month, said on Thursday that Pyongyang was in the process of returning the remains of US troops missing from the 1950-1953 conflict.

The Pentagon has said North Korean officials have indicated in the past they have the remains of as many as 200 US troops, and Trump himself has mentioned that figure. US officials expect the remains to be handed over to United Nations Command in South Korea at Osan Air Base near Seoul then transferred to Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii. Once in Hawaii, forensic experts will face the challenge of identifying the remains.

Among the techniques they could use are detective work with old photos, comparing DNA from remains to that of missing soldiers’ relatives and analysis of dental work. A US official familiar with the process said the remains could be co-mingled — meaning not separated by individual — and could include people who were not American. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said it could take months and even years to identify the remains.

Cases of co-mingled remains are the most difficult because they require identifying which skeletal fragments belong to the same person, said Luis Fondebrider, president of the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team, a non-governmental group that applies forensic science to investigate human rights violations. The degree that bones have broken down is also important, and deterioration, such as from being under soil, can affect whether DNA can be recovered, he said. —Reuters

Romania’s Iohannis announces bid for second term as president

BUCHAREST: Romanian President Klaus Iohannis announced yesterday he will run for a second term at next year’s election, amid rumors that the left-wing ruling coalition wants to impeach him for violating the constitution. “I’m firmly determined to run for a new term as President of Romania,” he said during a visit to the central city of Sibiu, his electoral stronghold. His decision comes at a time of political turmoil, with the ruling coalition reportedly considering the possibility of impeaching him for delaying the dismissal of a top anti-corruption prosecutor.

In a victory for the government, the Constitutional Court ordered the president to sack Laura Kovessi, but Iohannis’ appeal for more time to consider the judgment has angered the party. Iohannis, an ethnic German who hails from the centre-right, became president in 2014 for a five year term after campaigning on an anti-corruption platform. Like much of the opposition, he accuses the ruling Social Democratic Party of attempting to weaken the fight against corruption in Romania, putting pressure on the judicial system and of implementing bad fiscal policies.

The party’s controversial amendments to justice laws and the penal code have provoked street protests in the country. Tensions on the political scene flared this week after chief of PSD Liviu Dragnea, widely acknowledged as the most powerful politician in the country, was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison in a fake jobs scandal. The decision came from the Supreme Court and can be appealed. —AFP

Mexico turns page on scandal-stained President Nieto

MEXICO CITY: Six years after he seduced Mexico with his dashing good looks and promises of sweeping reform, President Enrique Pena Nieto leaves a legacy stained by corruption, violence and human rights violations. Charming his way to the presidency in 2012, his soap opera star wife by his side, Pena Nieto sold himself to voters as a fresh young reformer who would reinvent his party—the once-hegemonic Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) — and Mexico along with it.

The PRI had ruled Mexico as a one-party state from 1929 to 2000, until people grew so disgusted with its corruption, cronyism and abuses it had little choice but to allow free elections. Twelve turbulent years later, Pena Nieto, then 45 years old, pulled off what once seemed unthinkable: returning the PRI to power, by promising to restore the stability of the old days but usher in a new era of democracy, transparency and reform.

It all started well for the youthful president with the sleek black hair, who had previously been governor of Mexico state, the country’s most populous: in rapid succession he passed landmark reforms in energy, education, telecommunications, labor and more. The reforms, which touched virtually every aspect of Mexicans’ lives, were essentially a national make-over, designed to give the country a fresh new start and wash away the accumulated grime of seven decades of one-party rule.

George Clooney of politics

Pena Nieto made a splash on the international stage, too: during an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in the Philippines in 2015, infatuated fans coined the Twitter hashtag #APECChotties for him and then newly elected Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. The Economist magazine urged Pena Nieto to “keep it up.” The Washington Post called him “handsome” and “popular,” and CBS News declared him “the George Clooney of politics.”

But as Mexicans prepare to cast their ballots again on July 1, the outgoing president’s popularity is hovering around 20 percent. His chosen successor, former finance minister Jose Antonio Meade, appears to be on track for a drubbing, polling a distant third to fiery leftist Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador—who has a double-digit lead—and conservative Ricardo Anaya. Where did it all go wrong?

Bad old days

It did not take long for signs to appear that the bad old days of the PRI were alive and well. Even as the ink was drying on Pena Nieto’s reforms, he and the party were getting mired in a succession of scandals. In 2014, investigative journalists revealed his wife had bought a multi-million-dollar mansion from a government contractor in a suspected sweetheart deal. Then came the string of corruption scandals involving PRI governors, no less than 11 of whom are now on trial, in jail, under investigation or on the run.

The headaches got worse when the drug lord Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman escaped from maximum-security prison in 2015.

Released protesters claim mistreatment by Nicaragua government

MANAGUA: Jailed Nicaraguan protesters said they had suffered beatings and mistreatment in detention following their release Friday after a plea by Catholic bishops, as the death toll in two months of anti-government protests rose to 212. Twenty-six young protesters were freed from jails in Managua and the flashpoint opposition bastion of Masaya in the first release of prisoners since the intervention of the bishops.

The clergy were tasked last month with mediating an increasingly bloody confrontation between the opposition and government. The bishops traveled to the besieged opposition city of Masaya on Thursday “to avoid another massacre” as police and paramilitaries loyal to President Daniel Ortega prepared an assault on opposition-held neighborhoods of the city. They said police commissioner Ramon Avellan committed to end attacks by police and pro-Ortega paramilitaries and release those arrested during the protests.

Bayron Hernandez, 16, said he had been beaten on the head with a rifle butt after he

was arrested by hooded pro-government paramilitaries. “They split my head open with an AK (rifle),” he said after he was handed over to a human rights group at Masaya’s San Miguel church. Evert Padilla, freed from Managua’s El Chipote prison, said he was held on the ground and kicked during an arrest at his home. The 23-year-old spoke after being handed over to Church authorities at Managua Cathedral.

Avellan “told us that he was going to make the call to suspend all harassment” in Masaya, Cardinal Leopoldo Brenes said. “Let’s see if it’s really true,” said Brenes, who led the influential bishops’ mission to the flashpoint city with the Vatican’s envoy to Nicaragua Waldemar Stanislaw Sommertag. Masaya, once a stronghold of Ortega’s Sandinista revolution, has been a focal point of protests aimed at forcing him out of office. Last Monday, it declared itself to be in rebellion against his government. At least 23 people have been killed in the city since the unrest began.

Death toll rising

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights said Friday that the death toll during two months of anti-government unrest has risen to 212, faulting Ortega’s government for “serious” human rights violations. “Nicaragua has not fulfilled its international obligations to respect, protect and guarantee human rights in the context of the social protests that began on April 18,” the rights body said in a report after its visit to the Central American country.

“On the contrary, the IACHR found that



MEXICO CITY: In this file photo Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto speaks during a message on the most recent earthquake in Mexico City. —AFP

Though he was recaptured the following year and extradited to the United States, the episode remains a major embarrassment.

Missing students, murders

The darkest stain, however, may be the disappearance of 43 students in the southern state of Guerrero in 2014. The student activists went missing after a clash with local police, in circumstances that remain murky. Mexican authorities say corrupt police handed them over to drug cartel hitmen who killed them and burned their bodies. But a team of independent international forensic investigators who examined the supposed

bonfire site insists that version of events is impossible—leaving Mexicans to wonder what truth could possibly be worse than the alleged cover-up story.

More generally, the violence Mexico is suffering has badly battered Pena Nieto’s image. Awash in bloodshed driven by the war on drug cartels, Mexico registered a record 25,339 homicides last year. “He’s been a total failure” on security, said political analyst Sergio Aguayo of the Colegio de Mexico. “Mexicans can hardly agree on anything, but there’s rare consensus on one fact: Enrique Pena Nieto’s security policy was a failure.” —AFP



MASAYA: A man who had been arrested in recent protests, is embraced by relatives after being released from jail in Masaya, Nicaragua. —AFP

the state response has been characterized by the repression and criminalization of the demonstrators and the social movement they represent, which has resulted in serious violations of human rights,” the 97-page document said. The Washington-based group said more than 1,300 people had been wounded in the unrest. “Thanks to the IACHR for showing the truth of the genocide perpetrated against the people of Nicaragua by the government,” said the Auxiliary Bishop of Managua Silvio Baez.

Canada condemned Ortega’s crackdown on protesters, saying it is devastating the Latin American country and raising regional security concerns. “We condemn the killings of unarmed protesters by state security forces and paramilitary groups and the crackdowns in Managua and Masaya,” Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland said in a statement. Nicaragua’s Foreign Minister Denis Moncada rejected the report as “subjective, distorted, prejudiced and plainly biased.” —AFP

International

Anti-trafficking campaigners abducted and raped in India

Indian activists condemn attack on frontline workers

CHENNAI, India: Five Indian anti trafficking campaigners were gang-raped at gunpoint during an awareness program they were organizing in a village, police said on Friday. Unidentified men picked up nine activists during a street play performance in Kochang village in Jharkhand state and drove them into a dense forest, where the men were beaten up and the women raped, police officer Ashwini Kumar Sinha said.

"It is a very rare case, where people working on anti-trafficking have been targeted," Sinha said in a phone interview from Khunti district of Jharkhand. "We are not ruling out the possibility of the involvement of trafficking gangs and are investigating all aspects." The street play had been organized by charity Asha Kiran, which runs a shelter home for the rehabilitation of rescued girls in Khunti district of Jharkhand, which has been identified as a trafficking hotspot.

There are around 200 rescued girls in Asha Kiran's shelter. Most of were trafficked into domestic servitude to cities where a growing middle class is looking for cheap live-in labor. Jharkhand is among the top five states in India that reports increasing cases of human trafficking, with traffickers targeting poor villages, convincing vulnerable families to send their daughters away for employment, campaigners said. Indian activists fight-

ing to curb the trafficking of women and children condemned the shocking attack on "frontline workers". "We are still processing what has happened," said Rajiv Ranjan Sinha of the Jharkhand Anti-Trafficking Network - a coalition of 14 grassroots organizations working in the central Indian state. "This is the first time field workers have been targeted and it is both surprising and shocking. It is now going to become more difficult to work on this issue."

India has seen an increase in reports of human trafficking in recent years. Almost 20,000 women and children were victims of trafficking in 2016, a rise of 25 percent from the previous year, according to government data. Activists say the figures are under-reported, especially due to a lack of awareness in rural areas, emphasizing the importance of programs run by various charities to combat trafficking.

"The incident underlines the dangers on the ground and the fact that human trafficking is an organized and ruthless crime," said Rishi Kant of Shakti Vahini, an anti-trafficking charity that also works in Jharkhand. "Every day young girls are being rescued from domestic servitude in Indian cities. Many of them are from remote villages, which is why these awareness programs are so important and the incident is shocking." —Reuters



JHARKHAND: Schoolgirls holding placards participate in a protest rally against the rape of two teenage girls in Chatra and Pakur districts of eastern state of Jharkhand, India.—Reuters

“Field workers targeted for the first time”

Ten days after Trump-Kim summit hard work yet to begin

WASHINGTON: The landmark summit between President Donald Trump and Chairman Kim Jong Un ended with a pledge of "complete denuclearization," but ten days on no timetable for action has emerged. After flying back to Washington last week, giddy with success, the US leader tweeted "There is no longer a Nuclear Threat from North Korea" - a bold claim with Kim's arsenal still in place. But senior US officials admit there is much work to be done as negotiators thrash out the details of what they hope will be Pyongyang "complete, verifiable and irreversible" disarmament.

Many observers were disappointed that the short statement of intent signed by the two leaders was not more clear on the definition of denuclearization, fearing Kim plans to keep his hard-won deterrent. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo angrily insists that the term "complete" in the document "encompasses" the concept that the denuclearization will be "verifiable and irreversible." Trump has gone further, claiming on June 12 that the process will start very quickly, then on June 21 confusing the issue: "It will be a total denuclearization, which is already taking place."

Pompeo has been only marginally more cautious. On June 13, he said "We believe that Kim Jong Un understands the urgency ... that we must do this quickly" and added that he hopes for "major disarmament" with two-and-a-half years. So far, however, this confidence rests solely on trust in the assurances that Kim gave Trump at the summit, and his reported promise to China to "implement the summit's consensus step by step."

When Pompeo said of Kim's pledge, "I was there when he said it. He made a personal commitment. He has his reputation on the line," Thomas Wright, a senior fellow at Brookings, was scathing. "This is one of the most naive statements ever made by an American diplomat," Wright wrote on Twitter. "I hope he is trying to mislead us because it would be truly frightening if he believed it." Abraham Denmark of the Wilson Center warned a con-

gressional hearing: "Considering North Korea's repeated history of violating past agreements, there is little reason to trust them this time."

And, despite his professed faith in Kim's word, Pompeo knows he has work to do to establish a roadmap towards concrete steps and that he will have to speak to Kim again, probably in Pyongyang. Highlighting this apparent gap between Trump's rhetoric and facts on the ground, the administration Friday cited the "unusual and extraordinary threat" from North Korea's nuclear arsenal to extend decade-old sanctions on Kim's regime in a statement to Congress.

War games

"There's a lot of work between here and there. My team is already doing it. I'll likely travel back before too terribly long," Pompeo said on Monday, without setting a travel date. Pompeo's spokeswoman Heather Nauert has said she

will not provide details of the negotiations, warning reporters the process "can be difficult when we're distracted by all of the questions going on." But she denied that the talks were at a dead halt, even if the detailed negotiations have yet to begin. "We have been in communication with the Government of North Korea," she said on Thursday.

"Secretary Pompeo will be meeting with them and talking with them at the earliest possible date to try to implement the outcomes of the US-DPRK summit." While Pompeo pushes on with follow up talks, Trump appears happy to celebrate the summit as a success, as if the joint statement itself marked a beginning to the end of Kim's nuclear program. He claims he has already received "good news" and on Thursday declared that the North has "already blown up one of their big test sites. In fact, it was actually four of their big test sites." —AFP



SINGAPORE: US President Donald Trump, right, walks out with North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un, left, after taking part in a signing ceremony at the end of their historic US-North Korea summit, at the Capella Hotel on Sentosa Island in Singapore.—AFP

Pope to make Vatican changes in push for reform, transparency

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis will be making several significant changes in the Vatican in the next few weeks and months to bring in fresh faces with new ideas and promote others as part of his push for reform. The pope disclosed his decisions in a rare sit-down interview with Reuters at his residence, during which he also spoke of migration, China, freedom of the press, sexual abuse and the role of women in the Church.

During the two-hour interview last Sunday night, Francis said he had decided that the Office of Papal Charities, otherwise known as the pope's almoner, will henceforth be headed by a cardinal, the highest position in the Church after the pope himself. The current head of that office will be promoted and his successors will have the same rank. This will institutionalize a higher profile for the department that oversees help for the poor.

"I think there are two long arms of the pope - that of being custodian of the faith, and there the work is done by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and the prefect has to be a cardinal," Francis said. "And the other long arm of the pope is the almoner, and there must be a cardinal there. These are the two long arms of the pope - faith and charity." Polish Archbishop Konrad Krajewski currently heads the office, whose roots go back to the early 13th century. He will be raised to the rank of cardinal in a ceremony along with 13 other Churchmen on Thursday.

The almoner's office has not had a cardinal at its head in living memory. Under Francis' direction Krajewski has revitalised the office. He is often seen on the streets of Rome in simple, non-clerical clothes helping the homeless. He has set up shower stalls and medical facilities for the homeless, elderly and destitute near St. Peter's Square and taken groups to the circus and even on private tours of the Sistine Chapel.

Break with tradition

In order to press his vision of a more merciful, less bureaucratic Church, Francis has broken with the custom



GENEVA: Pope Francis waves to Swiss President Alain Berset (front) at the end of his one-day visit to Geneva.—AFP

of automatically naming cardinals to head major dioceses around the world. Five major Italian cities who have always had cardinals are currently without them. Francis also said that before the end of the year he was considering making changes in the group of cardinal advisors from around the world known as the C-9. The group, which meets with him periodically in Rome, began its work five years ago.

He said he may take advantage of the upcoming anniversary "to renew it a bit", but that it would not be to "cut heads." Two of the members of the C-9, Australian Cardinal George Pell and Chilean Cardinal Francisco Javier Errzuriz Ossa, are under a cloud for allegations related to the Church's sexual abuse scandal. Both have denied any wrongdoing. Francis also told Reuters he was going to shake things up at APSA, a sort of general accounting office that manages the Vatican's real estate holdings in Rome and elsewhere in Italy, pays salaries of Vatican employees, and acts as a purchasing office and human resources department. He said that the current APSA head, Italian Cardinal Domenico Calcagno, had offered his resignation when he reached the age limit of 75 in February and that it would be accepted later this month. —Reuters

Refugee children in Bangkok, Jakarta face trafficking risk

BANGKOK: A lack of legal protections is putting refugee children in Bangkok and Jakarta at heightened risk of trafficking and forced labor, campaigners said. More than 20,000 refugees live in the Thai and Indonesian capitals, many of them children, and neither country is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, which spells out legal obligations to protect refugees. That means they are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse and also makes them afraid to report violations for fear of arrest or deportation, said Save the Children's Ratirose Supaporn ahead of the release of a report in Bangkok yesterday.

"Refugees are vulnerable even before they set off from their home countries, as they are desperate, and often depend on an agent who may dupe them," she said. "Their insecurity is greater in the host country, where they are often afraid to go out, and are vulnerable to being duped or abused. They are usually too afraid to report any of it, particularly children who are especially at risk," she said.

The Save the Children report comes as the world's attention is focused on the detention of immigrant children who enter the United States illegally with their parents, which has been the subject of widespread criticism. It said most refugee children in Bangkok and Jakarta were out of school, and many suffered from illness and mental health issues.

Refugees in the two cities cannot legally work and are eventually repatriated to their country of origin, integrated locally or resettled in a third country, the Save the Children report said. But it warned that refugee resettlement levels are decreasing globally, which means families have to remain in Indonesia and Thailand for longer periods, increasing their vulnerability.

"They (refugees) run out of money, so children may be pushed into working from a young age, and that also raises the risk of trafficking and sexual exploitation," Ratirose said. A record 68 million people have been forced to leave their homes worldwide, according to figures the UN refugee agency released this week. —Reuters

Community takes lead to rebuild Philippine city after siege

MANILA: When Tong Pacasum was allowed back into the area where his family home once stood in Marawi on the Philippine island of Mindanao, there was nothing left for him to salvage months after a bloody siege that levelled much of the city. But Pacasum considers himself lucky: his family is safe, and they have a title to their property, which will be key as residents and authorities begin rebuilding after the country's biggest and fiercest urban battle in years.

Others among the 200,000 Maranaos - as residents of Marawi are known - are not as fortunate. When pro-Islamic State rebels laid siege to the city in May 2017, everyone fled. Residents including Pacasum were allowed to inspect their homes and retrieve their belongings only recently. Groundbreaking - when demolitions of all affected structures will begin - is scheduled for July, after a private developer is selected.

The process will take several months, after which construction of roads and other public facilities will begin. The government will then give funds to residents will then be given funds to construct their homes. Rebuilding Marawi could cost more than \$1 billion and will be complete by the end of 2021, officials estimate. But the process could be delayed by questions on land ownership, said Pacasum, who helped evacuate people during the siege, and now liaises with the provincial government on rehabilitation.

"It's going to be a huge challenge, as a lot of residents don't have titles to their properties, even though they have been living there for generations," he said. "If we don't do it right, it will cause more pain and suffering, and we have already suffered so much," said Pacasum, who has participated in consultations with other residents and officials on the plans for rebuilding.

Make or break

Muslims as well as indigenous people have been caught in the middle of a five-decade old insurgency in Mindanao, exacerbated by loggers and mining companies eager to tap its rich resources including gold, copper and nickel, experts say. President Rodrigo Duterte has called the island a "flashpoint for trouble" and atrocities by Islamist and communist rebels. Martial law imposed in May 2017 is in place until the end of the year.

Conflict over land was one of the major triggers of violence in Mindanao even before the siege, and could be a "make or break" issue in the rehabilitation of Marawi, according to a recent report by development organisation The Asia Foundation. Failure to address land issues could stoke further conflict and push more people into extremism, the report said.

A solution may lie in a more participatory effort led by the community, said Ica Fernandez, a spatial planner and co-author of the report, who is part of an initiative called Open Marawi, which had made recommendations based on community feedback. "A community-led effort is essential because of the history of Mindanao as an autonomous Muslim region," said Fernandez. "The people have the right to self-determination, the right to decide on their future. Especially in this case, when we have to also rely on memories and emotional associations to reimagine the city, we need everyone to be involved," she said. There is a complex system of ownership, tenure, and use of land in Marawi and in Mindanao, including practices that pre-date the Philippine nation-state.

A community-led rehabilitation is particularly relevant, as "many pre-colonial, traditional, and informal governance structures and practices around land, housing, and property" are practised alongside laws, according to The Asia Foundation. The government has established a Land Dispute Arbitration Committee to address concerns, and officials have said in the absence of a title, residents may present tax receipts and certificates from municipal officials.

"We will ensure all issues on land ownership are resolved," said Adoracion Navarro, an official at Marawi's regional development office. The rehabilitation will "take into account the demographic composition of a predominantly Muslim population, the Marano culture, and existing capacities of communities," he said. —Reuters

Analysis

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TRUMP REVERSES COURSE ON FAMILY SEPARATION



After migration row, UK hails its Caribbean communities

Britain celebrated Friday the "enormous contribution" of its Caribbean migrants, who for a long time were airbrushed from history while some were even recently threatened with deportation. Prime Minister Theresa May attended a service at Westminster Abbey marking 70 years since the first arrivals embarked from the Empire Windrush ship at Tilbury docks, east of London.

Most of those who arrived on 22 June, 1948, were from Jamaica, but also Bermuda and British Guiana, answering a call for workers to help rebuild Britain after World War II. Tens of thousands followed from around the British empire, known as the Windrush generation and given free rights to live and work in a country they already considered home. May's government this week declared they would be remembered each day on June 22 with Windrush Day, and on Friday praised their "enormous contribution". "Our culture has been enriched and our society has been made stronger because of the people who travelled here to build new lives in the UK," she said.

"Very wrong"

But Britain has not always been so warm towards its former colonial subjects. Intense racism marred the experience of many of the new arrivals, while the government was rocked by a scandal earlier this year over their continued right to live in Britain. Some people who failed to get their papers in order at the time have fallen foul of a crackdown on illegal immigration, which May introduced when she was interior minister. Anthony Bryan, a 60-year-old decorator from London who moved from Jamaica when he was eight years old, was among those who was threatened with deportation. He told AFP earlier this year how the challenge to his legal status—which also left him unable to work — "broke the trust that I thought I had with the British".



LONDON: Performers from the HEbE Foundation charity prepare to perform during a Service of Thanksgiving to mark the 70th anniversary of the landing of the Windrush, at Westminster Abbey on June 22, 2018. — AFP

May apologized and promised compensation for those affected, as well as an inquiry. "The fact that Britain has always been home makes the treatment that some members of the Windrush generation experienced in recent years so very wrong," she said Friday. Sunder Katwala, director of the integration think tank British Future, said holding an annual Windrush day was "very welcome". "This was a positive, symbolic way to respond to that (scandal) and say that the government also thinks we should mark the positive contribution the migration has made to Britain," he told AFP.

Welcome home

When the Windrush arrived, the Evening Standard newspaper in London—where the majority of new migrants settled—greeted them with the headline "Welcome Home". Many had served in the British army, and in that year, parliament adopted a law giving citizenship to all its colonial subjects. "It was a way of thanking people for their sacrifice," said Nando Sigona, associate professor at the University of Birmingham. "But on the other hand, there was also an extreme need of a workforce." Yet the wave of migration over the following years caused tensions, culminating in racially-charged riots in London, Birmingham and Nottingham from 1958.

In 1971 parliament passed the Immigration Act which aimed to limit new arrivals and regularize the status of those already here. Katwala said many people were shocked at what they found when they arrived. "They had absolutely no doubt at all they were British," as they had been told this at school, he said. "The shock was to arrive in Britain, in London, and to find out that... that wasn't something the rest of Britain knew about." For decades the Windrush generation were largely ignored in public life, including being absent from British school textbooks. Despite Friday's events, Sigona said there was "still a lot to do" to make them feel appreciated. — AFP

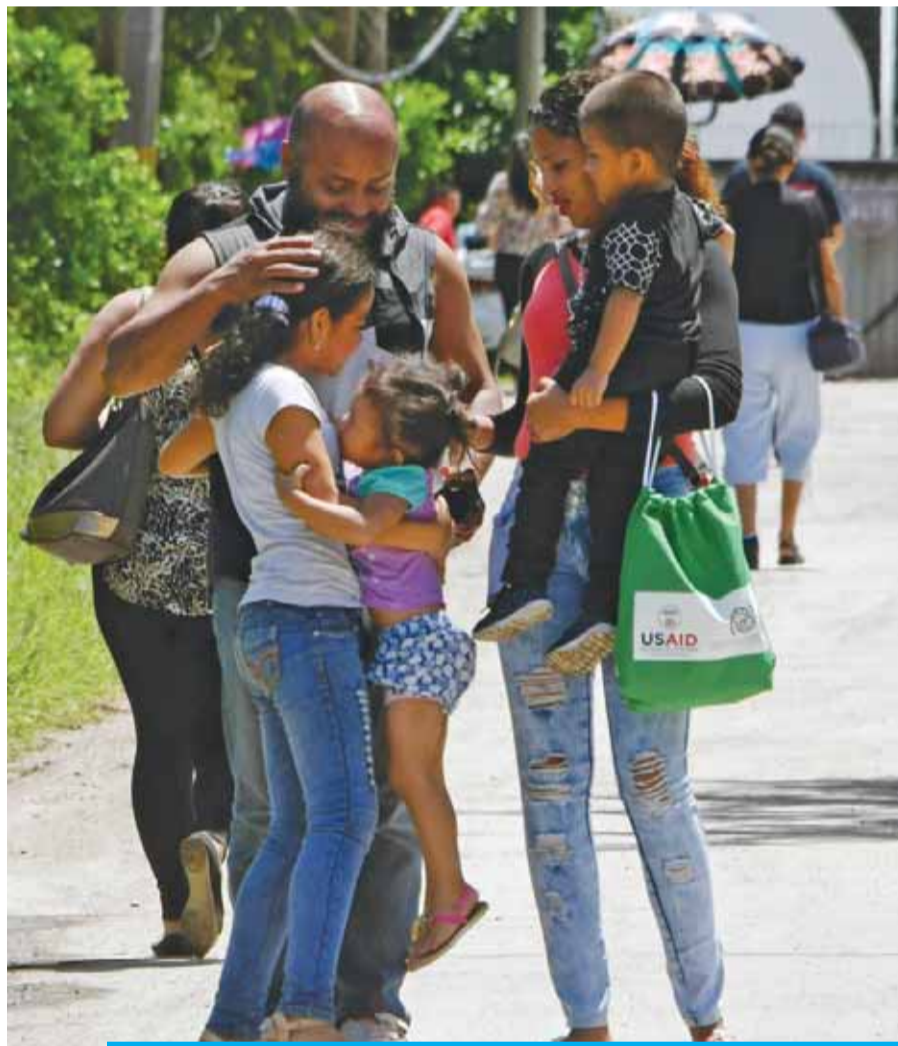
Was migrant girl on US border taken from mother?

Numerous photos and videos have been circulating on social media since the United States began implementing President Donald Trump's zero-tolerance policy towards illegal immigrants, leading more than 2,300 children to be separated from their parents. But two of the most widely-shared images—most prominently that of a crying toddler which galvanized international public opinion against the Trump administration—have turned out to be misleading.

What are we verifying?

Two photos that went viral on social media depict scenes that are not directly related to the family separations taking place on the US-Mexico border since early May. The most prominent, of Honduran two-year-old Yanela Varela crying inconsolably, has become a global symbol of the separations—helping to attract more than \$18 million in donations for a Texas nonprofit called RAICES. The photograph was taken on June 12 in McAllen, Texas by John Moore, a Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer for Getty Images.

An online article about the picture, published by Time Magazine, initially reported the girl was taken from her mother, but was subsequently corrected to make clear that: "The girl was not carried away screaming by US Border Patrol agents; her mother picked her up and the two were taken away together." Time Magazine nonetheless used the image of the sobbing child on its cover, next to an image of President Trump looming over her, with the caption "Welcome to America". The head of Honduras' Migrant Protection Office Lisa Medrano confirmed to AFP that the little girl, just two years old,



A Honduran immigrant is received by his family at the Ramon Villeda Morales airport, in San Pedro Sula, 200 kilometers north of Tegucigalpa, after being deported from the US, on June 22, 2018. — AFP

"was not separated" from her family. The child's father also said as much. Denis Varela told the Washington Post that his wife Sandra Sanchez, 32, had not been separated from their daughter, and that both were being detained together in an immigration center in McAllen. Under fire for its cover—which was widely decried as misleading including by the White House—the magazine said it was standing by its decision.

"The June 12 photograph of the 2-year-old Honduran girl became the most visible symbol of the ongoing immigration debate in America for a reason," Time's editor-in-chief Edward Felsenthal said in a statement to US media. "Under the policy enforced by the administration, prior to its reversal this week, those who crossed the border illegally were criminally prosecuted, which in turn resulted in the separation of children and parents. Our cover and our reporting capture the stakes of this moment."

A second image, shared tens of thousands of times on Twitter, shows a child crying in what seems to be a cage, purportedly representing a US child detention center. It is in fact a photo of a staged detention of children as part of a protest against US immigration policy. It was published June 11 on the Facebook page of the Brown Berets de Cemanahuac in Texas.

What conclusions can be drawn?

Both images circulating on social media have been used out of context, often for political purposes, and cannot be taken as a representation of conditions in which children have been parted from their families, or confined to shelters on the US-Mexico border. — AFP

Lasting damage to the 'Idea of America'

By James J Zogby

The sights and sounds of Central American children being ripped from their parents by US Border Patrol officers have, by now, spread across the globe. The experience has been traumatizing to its victims and deeply painful to watch. It has also done incalculable damage to the very idea of America. This is June when we are supposed to be celebrating "Immigrant Heritage Month." Each year, I have taken this opportunity to recall my family's immigrant story—the opportunity and freedom they sought, the hardships they endured, and the remarkable progress they made in just one generation.

I have written how I learned from my own family's trajectory and the difference between the experience of immigrants in America and Europe. My friend Michael Baroody has spoken of the "alchemy of America" that has demonstrated the capacity, in every generation, to transform peoples from diverse cultures into Americans. And how, in the process, my country, itself, has been transformed, so that it simply isn't possible to speak of the many facets of American culture—our food, music, fashion, humor, or even our contemporary heroes—without acknowledging our indebtedness to the many cultures who have made us who we are.

At the same time, I have noted that coexisting with this welcoming and inclusive history have been our original sins of slavery, genocide and ethnic cleansing, and conquest. The challenge of every generation has been to fight against the residual legacy of these sins, while working to realize the promise of a better idea of America. This is what we have sought to do with "Immigrant Heritage Month." The problem I am hav-

ing right now is how to wrap my mind around the sights and sounds of the families at the border and how, in light of this horror, to still be able to lift up the idea of America.

I am uncomfortable with the banal responses of some liberals who say "this is not who we are" or "these are not our values" when, in fact, at too many times in our history, this is precisely who we have been. And it is especially true today, when we have an Administration supported by a Republican Congress and a significant segment of the public, all of whom: want to build a wall; support a Muslim ban; and accept the president's rhetoric about the danger of admitting people of color into our country, ending family unification, and limiting the entry of refugees and those seeking asylum.

Ignoring or denying the impact of our original sins on our political culture is not only a fool's errand, it makes us vulnerable to their corrupting appeal. I also take issue with those who fail to recognize the broader impact of the horrifying scenes unfolding on our southern border. This is not, as some have written, the equivalent of the post-Katrina debacle that rocked the Bush Administration. Bush's failure was due to incompetence and ineffectiveness in the aftermath of the hurricane.

What is happening now is different. It is the result of a deliberate, cold and calculated policy born of pathological racism and designed to play to the worst instincts of the President's supporters.

Mr. Trump has been preparing the ground for policies like this with years of rhetoric that have demeaned immigrants from the south. At different times, he has spoken of them as a mortal threat to our country, our culture, and our people. In his speeches he has portrayed them as "snakes" and an "infestation." He has also referred to them as murderers, rapists, criminals, or just simply "not the best people" who would only be a drag on our progress.

Once immigrants have been dehumanized in this manner, it becomes easier to abuse them and easier for the President's apologists to justify this abuse. Fox News commentators, for example, have dismissed the children's cries as "an act" and rebuked their parents as

"unfit" for having put their families at risk, suggesting that they deserve what is happening to them and their children. What Trump and his acolytes have ignored are the violence and desperate poverty in the home countries of those who have risked everything, trekking thousands of miles with their children seeking refuge in the US. Precisely because they courageously sought safety, freedom and opportunity for their families, I see them as heroes, not criminals. The story behind today's immigrants is no different than that of the Irish fleeing the famine, Jews fleeing pogroms, or Central and Southern Europeans fleeing war and economic hardship or Fascist or Communist oppression.

For me, it's also personal, because today's migrants also remind me of my own family's story. They are like my grandfather who took his wife and seven children over the mountains of Lebanon fleeing for their safety. He died in exile leaving his wife and children internally displaced. Today's "unaccompanied minors" are like my Uncle Habib who, at the age of 14, was chosen by the family to come alone to America in 1910, to pave the way for the rest of the family to join him.

And today's "undocumented" remind me of my father who, when he couldn't secure a visa to reunite with his family, entered the US illegally and was repeatedly forced into hiding until he received amnesty and became a citizen 20 years later. Once here, like other newcomers to our shores, my family endured bigotry and hardship, worked hard, and, in the end, succeeded. This is our American story. It is the one celebrated in the words inscribed on the Statue of Liberty and it has served, for generations, as a beacon to "the tired, the poor, those yearning to be free" from all over the world.

It is here that the cruel actions taken by the Trump Administration have done lasting damage. The sights and sounds of the children so brutally treated by presidential decree have, for many across the globe, extinguished the light of Lady Liberty and left an indelible stain on the very idea of who we have aspired to be. That is why I believe that the impact of this horror is more like the revelations of torture at Abu Ghraib. It will take us a generation to recover what we have lost.

Business

SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018

12 Global economy: Soft patch, facade, or great decoupling?**13** Environment the real loser in Libreville's rush for growth**14** KFH and Visa launches KFH-Wallet: A novel mobile wallet payment service

KABUL: In this photograph taken on May 27, 2018 an Afghan cigarette vendor waits for customers at his stall along the road. —AFP

Greece hails 'historic' end to debt crisis

‘The Greek people had won a battle but not the war’

ATHENS: Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras on Friday hailed an agreement by Eurozone ministers that will put an end to the country's eight-year bailout program as an "historic" step. Eurozone states declared the severe debt crisis that has weighed heavy on the country since 2010 to be over, allowing Athens to escape some of the supervision of its creditors from August. Wearing a tie for the first time since becoming prime minister in 2015 — after pledging to wear one only when Greece's debt was cut—Tsipras told a celebratory meeting of coalition lawmakers on Friday night that the country could return to being a "social state". "Austerity will gradually be replaced by social justice," he promised.

However, removing his tie at the end of the speech, he argued that "the Greek people had won a battle but not the war". Coming nearly a decade after Greece's finances spun out of control, sparking three bailouts and threatening the country's euro membership, he earlier declared the deal as an "historic agreement". "We are turning a page," he added, but cautioned that the country "must not destroy the path taken on the reforms and on budgetary efforts."

The eurozone ministers' hard-fought agreement was declared earlier Friday, slating Greece to leave its third financial

rescue since 2010 on August 20. "The Greek crisis ends here tonight," said EU Economic Affairs Commissioner Pierre Moscovici, after the marathon talks in Luxembourg. The deal was expected to be an easy one, but last-minute resistance by Germany-Greece's long bailout nemesis and biggest creditor-dragged the talks on for six hours. The ministers agreed to extend maturities by 10 years on major parts of its total debt obligations, a mountain that has reached close to double the country's annual economic output.

'Congratulations, comrades'

They also agreed to disburse 15 billion euros (\$17.5 billion) to ease Greece's exit from the rescue program. This would leave Greece with a hefty 24 billion euro safety cushion, officials said. "The agreed debt relief is bigger than we had expected," Citi European Economics said in a note. "In particular, the 10-year extension of the EFSF loans' maturity and most importantly the grace period on interest payments is a significant development," they added. "The Greek government is happy with the agreement," Greek Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos said after the talks.

But "to make this worthwhile we have to make sure that the

Greek people must quickly see concrete results... they need to feel the change in their own pockets," he added. Tsakalotos' predecessor in the government, maverick economist Yanis Varoufakis, was more scathing in his assessment. "Congratulations, comrades. (Eurozone creditors) extend the Greek state's bankruptcy into 2060 and they call it debt... relief," he tweeted.

The eight-year crisis toppled four governments and shrank the economy by 25 percent. Unemployment soared and still hovers over 20 percent, sending thousands of young educated Greeks abroad. Optimism is tempered by Greece's remaining fiscal obligations, which will demand serious discipline, observers say.

"This is a very tight program. A surplus of 3.5 percent to 2022 and 2.2 percent (on average) to 2060 is not easy at all," Kostas Boukas, asset management director at Beta Securities, told Athens 9.84 radio. "We'll have to see if the pledges will be kept, especially as they depend on international developments as well," he said. Under pressure from its creditors, Greece has already agreed to slash pensions again in 2019, and reduce the tax-free income threshold for millions of people in 2020. —AFP

Further cuts will be made to maintain the 3.5-percent surplus.

if necessary. "It would be a terrible mistake to cultivate illusions that the end of the bailout means a return to normality," said pro-opposition newspaper Ta Nea. "What follows is tough oversight which no other country has experienced in a post-bailout period," the daily said.

The European Commission has already specified that Greece will remain under fiscal supervision until it repays 75 percent of its loans. Athens has received 273.7 billion euros in assistance since 2010, enabling it to avoid punishing borrowing rates on debt markets. The International Monetary Fund, led by the tough-talking Christine Lagarde, welcomed the debt relief, but cited reservations about Greece's obligations over the long term.

"In the medium term analysis there is no doubt in our minds that Greece will be able to re-access the markets," Lagarde said after the talks. "As far as the longer term is concerned we have concerns," she added. The reform-pushing IMF played an active role in the two first Greek bailouts, but took only an observer role in the third in the belief that Greece's debt pile was unsustainable in the long term. French President Emmanuel Macron also hailed the "very positive" agreement, saying it showed that "Europe is moving forward" despite recent difficulties. —AFP

Ireland, Portugal, Spain and Cyprus: Other major EU bailouts

PARIS: The bailout of Greece, where eurozone ministers have declared a severe debt crisis to be over, is the biggest, but not the only, financial rescue of a European Union country. Four other members states have received massive international bailouts rescuing their economies.

Ireland: 85 billion euros

In 2010 the one-time "Celtic Tiger" became the second eurozone state, after Greece, to obtain aid from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund after a property market crash and banking crisis brought its economy to near collapse. The crisis arose after house prices quadrupled from 1996 to 2006, and then collapsed by nearly half, with buyers unable to reimburse the banks.

The government could not rescue the banking sector and sought international help, obtaining a bailout of 85 billion euros (\$113 billion at the time) that included 67.5 billion euros from the EU and IMF. In

exchange it imposed draconian austerity measures of spending cuts and tax hikes. By late 2013 Ireland was able to exit the rescue program; in late 2017 it made an early repayment of its remaining bailout loan to the IMF.

Portugal: 78 billion euros

On the verge of defaulting on its mountain of debt after decades of ballooning wages and state spending, Lisbon secured a bailout from the EU and IMF of 78 billion euros (\$116 billion at the time) in May 2011. In exchange it agreed to a program of reforms that included slashing public spending, imposing tax hikes and pension and unemployment benefit cuts, and slashing more than 78,000 public sector jobs.

It was able to exit the program in May 2014, having sharply cut its budget deficit from close to 10 percent of GDP in 2010 to 2.0 percent in 2016, below the 3.0 percent ceiling fixed by European budget rules. The banking sector remains fragile, having been rescued in 2014 and 2015, while gross government debt remains high at around 125 percent of GDP.

Spain: 41 billion for the banks

In June 2012 Spain looked as if it too would need a rescue because the collapse of its banking system—largely down to a burst property bubble in 2008 — had plunged its economy into a five-year, dou-

ble-dip recession that destroyed millions of jobs. Madrid insisted it was able to get by without a full rescue, seeking instead a European Union credit line of 100 billion euros (\$129 billion at the time) to help the banks, and in the end using only about 41 billion euros.

In exchange Spain agreed to create a so-called bad bank which took over billions of euros in toxic assets from the restructured lenders at heavily reduced prices. The rescue program ended in December 2013 and Spain now has renewed economic growth while pledging to keep the public deficit at around 2.2 percent this year.

Cyprus: 10 billion euros

Cyprus' banks were badly exposed to their failed peers in Greece and in March 2013, to avoid economic collapse, the government secured a 10-billion-euro (\$13 billion at the time) bailout from the European Commission, European Central Bank and the IMF. In return it slashed wages and increased consumer taxes, agreeing to wind down its second-largest bank among other measures. The island exited the bailout in March 2016 without needing the last tranche of 2.7 billion euros. Cyprus was able to reboot its economy in under four years, aided by growth in its vital tourism industry, and it is now one of the fastest growing economies in Europe. —AFP

China's Xiaomi targets EU as it kicks off IPO

HONG KONG: Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi will aggressively target European markets, using part of the proceeds from its initial public offering worth \$6.1 billion in Hong Kong, the company's co-founder said yesterday. The company is offering 2.18 billion shares at HK\$17-HK\$22 apiece (US\$2.15-2.80), in a bid to raise \$6.1 billion, far less than the \$10 billion originally expected, as an escalating trade war between China and the US dampens investor sentiment.

But at a press conference in Hong Kong yesterday ahead of its expected listing on July 9, the company's co-founders were bullish about its prospects, signaling plans for international expansion in Europe and Southeast Asia. "Someone asked me if Xiaomi (will) only expand in developing countries? Last year we started to enter the European market and we realized we have a lot of 'Mi fans' in Europe," Lei Jun, Xiaomi's co-founder and CEO said.

The company will invest around HK\$8.3 billion from its IPO proceeds towards boost-

ing its presence in overseas markets including Spain, Russia and Indonesia. The firm, which mainly sells cheap but high-quality smartphones in China, has been looking to push into Europe—recently opening its first flagship store in Paris—as the home market reaches saturation point.

"We are planning for the US market and will find a proper timing to enter it," Wang Chuan, co-founder and senior vice president of Xiaomi, said yesterday. "Xiaomi is very optimistic about the development of China-US trade, as every economic entity is relying on each other," Wang added. Founded in 2010 by entrepreneur Lei, Beijing-based Xiaomi has grown from a start-up in Zhongguancun—China's "Silicon Valley"—to the world's fourth biggest smartphone vendor at the end of last year according to International Data Corp (IDC).

The company shipped 28 million smartphones worldwide from January to March, an 88-percent surge year-on-year. Xiaomi is now valued at about \$53.9-\$69.8 billion, according to Bloomberg which said the IPO looks set to be the world's biggest in two years. Xiaomi had hoped to be the first company to list shares in Hong Kong at the same time as launching new Chinese Depository Receipts (CDRs) in Shanghai under new rules announced in April by mainland authorities to open up markets in the world's number two economy. —AFP

Business

Global stocks mostly climb despite rising trade tensions

US oil prices rose nearly five percent

NEW YORK: World stock markets mostly climbed Friday despite rising trade tensions, with petroleum-linked shares gaining after OPEC agreed to only a modest production increase. The Dow snapped an eight-session losing streak, with oil producers Exxon Mobil and Chevron both rising more than two percent on higher oil prices. Ministers with the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed to ramp up oil production by around a million barrels a day from July.

However, some ministers acknowledged that the actual amount of additional produced will be lower than that amount. US oil prices rose nearly five percent following the agreement, with analysts saying the output increase would be smaller than expected. The rally in oil prices also gave a lift to French giant Total and London-listed Royal

Dutch Shell. Bourses in Paris and London both rose more than one percent, while Frankfurt rose a more modest 0.5 percent.

The gains came as the European Union slapped revenge tariffs on iconic US products including bourbon, jeans and motorcycles in its opening salvo in a trade war with President Donald Trump. Customs agents across Europe's colossal market of 500 million people will now impose the duty, hiking prices on US-made products in supermarkets and across factory floors.

Trump wasted little time in responding, threatening on Twitter to impose 20 percent tariffs on European-made cars exported to the US, pressuring European automakers including Italy's Fiat Chrysler and Germany's Daimler. "The underlying tensions between the US and China continue to escalate, and while neither wants a trade war, the US won't

accept the status quo, and China won't change its industrial policy," Rabobank senior strategist Michael Every told AFP. Many analysts have expressed skepticism that a trade war is inevitable. Still, anxiety is rising. "The hope is that the Trump administration's tough approach towards its trading partners is a negotiating tactic and the growth-killing implications of an all-out trade war will be avoided," said Bob Schwartz, senior economist at Oxford Economics. "The latest salvo by Trump on Friday, threatening to impose a 20 percent tariff on European auto imports, is clearly not encouraging."

Dow ends losing streak

Meanwhile, the Dow snapped an eight-session losing streak on Friday with petroleum giants Exxon Mobil and Chevron scoring strong gains after OPEC agreed to only a modest production increase. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.5 percent to 24,580.89. The index had fallen the last eight days amid trade war fears. The broad-based S&P 500 added 0.2 percent at 2,754.88, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index shed 0.3 percent to 7,692.82. Ministers with the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed to ramp up oil production by around a million barrels a day from July. However, some ministers acknowledged that the actual amount of additional produced will be lower than that amount. Oil prices rose solidly following the agreement, with analysts saying the output increase would be smaller than expected. Dow members ExxonMobil and Chevron both rose about



TOKYO: A stock indicator shows share prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. — AFP

two percent, while oil services giants Halliburton and Schlumberger both climbed nearly three percent. Trade issues remained a lingering concern. US President Donald Trump threatened to impose a 20 percent tariff on cars imported from the European Union after the bloc's additional tariffs on dozens of American products took effect.

Gregori Volokhine, president of Meeschaert Capital Markets, said investors

remained on guard over trade tensions between the United States and key trading partners. "Earnings season is coming," he said. "If we stay in this state of negative suspension on trade, most of the companies will be really cautious with their comments," which could lead stocks lower. Software company Red Hat sank 14.1 percent after projecting second-quarter profits and revenues that lagged analyst expectations. — AFP

National Bank of Kuwait		البنك الوطني	
Financial Markets		NBK	
Daily Report			
At 02:00 PM Yesterday			
Global Stock Indices			
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change
Dow Jones	24,657.80	24,461.70	-196.10
Nasdaq	7,781.52	7,712.95	-68.56
S&P 500	2,767.32	2,749.76	-17.56
Financial Times	7,556.44	7,615.23	58.79
DAX	12,511.91	12,567.84	55.93
CAC 40	5,316.01	5,358.47	42.46
Swiss	8,459.93	8,560.71	100.78
Nikkei 225	22,693.04	22,516.83	-176.21
Topix	1,750.63	1,744.83	-5.80
Hang Seng	29,296.05	29,338.70	42.65
Straits Times	3,300.00	3,287.40	-12.60
MENA Stock Indices			
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change
Kuwait	4,852.83	4,857.19	4.36
Saudi Arabia	8,166.30	8,206.40	40.10
Dubai	2,922.57	2,928.17	5.60
Abu Dhabi	4,550.29	4,535.26	-15.03
Bahrain	1,301.13	1,309.49	8.36
Qatar	8,881.85	8,922.52	40.67
Oman	4,593.53	4,609.87	16.34
Lebanon	1,064.33	1,064.15	-0.18
Jordan	2,094.91	2,095.86	0.95
Egypt	16,143.48	16,345.77	202.29
Morocco	9,880.72	9,868.25	-12.47
Tunisia	7,917.65	7,909.36	-8.29
Global Currencies Exchange Rate			
Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar
Kuwait Dinar		12.3227	3.2857
Saudi Riyal	0.08115		0.2666
US Dollar	0.30435	3.7504	
Euro	0.35420	4.3647	1.1638
Sterling Pound	0.40463	4.9862	1.3295
Swiss Franc	0.30733	3.7871	1.0098
Japanese Yen	0.00276	0.0340	0.0091
Australian Dollar	0.22604	2.7854	0.7427
MENA Currencies Exchange Rate			
Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal
US Dollar		0.30435	3.7344
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2857		12.2701
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.0815	
Bahraini Dinar	2.6578	0.8089	9.9253
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.0839	1.0295
Omani Riyal	2.6101	0.7944	9.7473
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.0832	1.0211
Egyptian Pound	0.0561	0.0171	0.2094
Global Interest Rates			
Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.00	1.75	2.00
US Dollar	1.97	2.08	2.33
Euro	-0.42	-0.39	-0.36
Sterling Pound	0.49	0.50	0.62
Swiss Franc	-0.79	-0.78	-0.73
Australian Dollar	2.78	2.86	2.95
Japanese Yen	-0.06	-0.08	-0.04
Global Bond Yields			
Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year
United States	2.55	2.78	2.91
Germany	-0.67	-0.29	0.35
United Kingdom	0.75	1.06	1.31
Commodities			
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change
Kuwait Oil	72.36	70.82	-1.54
Brent	73.05	74.04	0.99
West Texas	65.54	66.30	0.76
Gold	1,267.19	1,269.04	1.85
Silver	16.32	16.43	0.11

Global economy: Soft patch, facade, or great decoupling?

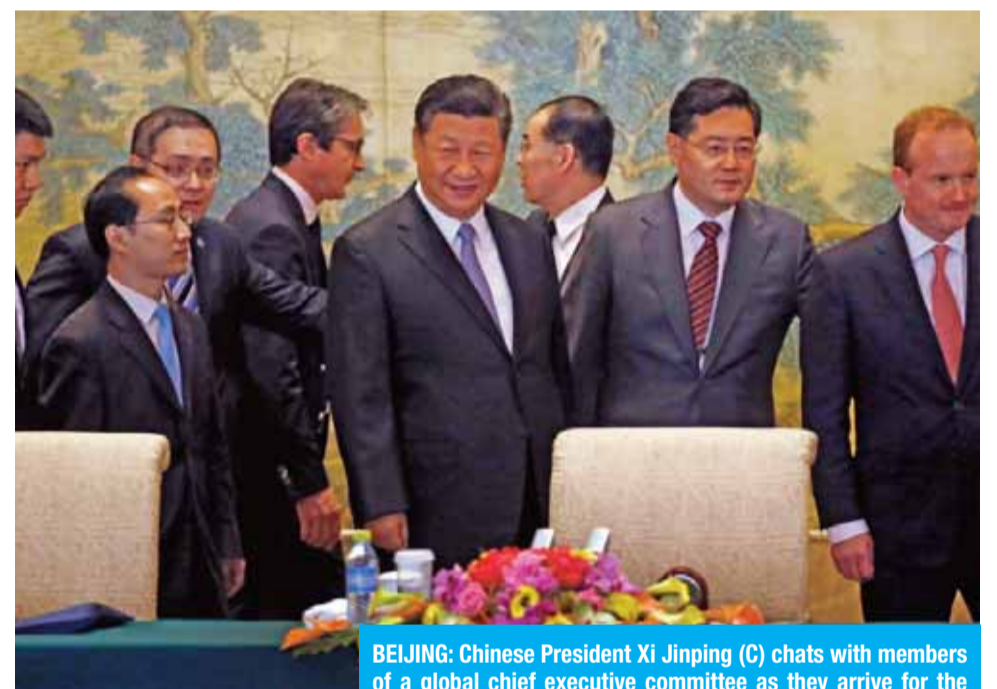
LONDON: A rare synchronized expansion among major world economies that was cheered on by markets and policymakers may be already unraveling, with only the near-term prospects for the United States looking significantly better. There is plenty of optimism around, however, and frequent use of "soft patch" to describe recent dull performance - a phrase often employed by central bankers needing to explain why they are looking past an uncomfortable set of data.

So while 2018 may still turn out to be a very good year for the global economy for overall growth, and certainly for the United States, President Donald Trump's "America First" policies on trade suggest trouble is ahead for everyone else in the second half. Euro zone growth, while decent, has slowed remarkably, posing a challenge to the European Central Bank's plans to soon stop buying bonds. Central banking sources revealed this week to Reuters a worry at the bank about "a facade of optimism in the forecasts."

A complete surprise

Growth in Britain, where the government is grappling with the rather complicated task of leaving its biggest trading partner the European Union, has stalled, forcing the Bank of England to abandon plans to raise interest rates last month. China, the powerhouse behind global growth rates in recent years and now locked in a trade spat with the United States, looks to be slowing, and may even be in need of stimulus later this year. But the global economy performing more raggedly close to half-time for 2018 should not have come as a complete surprise. Three-quarters of more than 250 economists across the globe surveyed by Reuters in April identified a tit-for-tat escalation of trade tensions between the United States and China as the number one threat to the world economy this year.

They have been consistently warning about protectionism ever since President Trump was sworn in to office. Even Federal



BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping (C) chats with members of a global chief executive committee as they arrive for the round table summit at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse. — AFP

Reserve Chair Jerome Powell this week showed concern about the shake-up in trade policy. "For the first time we are hearing (from business leaders) about decisions to postpone investment, postpone hiring, postpone making decisions," he said. But while the potential pitfalls have been laid bare and the tariffs being erected now suggest those risks are uncomfortably close to becoming reality, most traders in financial markets, as ever, would prefer for the good times to keep rolling. "It is fair to say that global financial markets outside of emerging market assets remain complacent about the risk of a full-blown trade war," wrote strategists at Societe Generale. Indeed, emerging markets have taken a beating in recent weeks. Run-of-the-mill investment strategy has scrambled to line up behind the view that for now, one should favor developed markets and bid up the US dollar.

Positive sentiment

And while Wall Street has wiped out the modest gains it made this year, analysts note that developed markets are surprisingly unscathed, especially given the United States is now caught in trade spats with natural allies like the EU and Canada. One thing seems clear, however. How long a remarkably positive stretch for the world economy will last depends much more now on positive sen-

timent than it does on stimulus, as well as on the fortunes of one country.

Ajay Rajadhyaksha, head of macro research at Barclays, notes that on the whole, little has changed in their global outlook apart from being more dependent on the United States. They still forecast close to 4 percent global growth this year and next. The current US economic expansion, already the second longest on record, has been given extra fuel in the form of major tax cuts, which will help keep the chances of a major slowdown there quite low for the rest of this year.

But the chances of a recession in the next two years are just below one-in-three, according to the latest Reuters poll. And Trump's latest tariffs, which will act as a tax on the US economy, not a boost, are already taking their toll. Barclays' Rajadhyaksha, in a note titled "Glass half full", recommends that clients not get carried away with bouts of negative sentiment. But they also concede that much depends on optimism about some of the world's biggest economies. "However, the fact that exit from the soft patch now remains a forecast for Europe, Japan and China, rather than an established feature of the data, suggests that markets may remain more susceptible to bouts of doubt about the robustness of the global expansion than they were three months ago." — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL	America	Taiwan	0.01049	0.010599
British Pound	0.396726	0.410626	0.223728	0.232728	0.008938	0.009488
Czech Korune	0.005736	0.015036	0.299550	0.304850		
Danish Krone	0.043464	0.048464	0.300050	0.304850		
Euro	0.347149	0.360849				
Georgian Lari	0.139608	0.139608				
Hungarian 0.001144	0.001334					
Norwegian Krone	0.033576	0.038776				
Romanian Leu	0.065028	0.081878				
Russian ruble	0.004816	0.004816				
Slovakia	0.009065	0.019085				
Swedish Krona	0.030331	0.035331				
Swiss Franc	0.301563	0.312563				
Australasia						
Australian Dollar	0.218304	0.230304				
New Zealand Dollar	0.204096	0.213596				
Canada						
Canadian Dollar						
US Dollars						
US Dollars Mint						
Asia						
0.003149	0.003950					
0.045252	0.048752					
0.036940	0.039690					
0.003831	0.004603					
0.000017	0.000023					
0.002680	0.002860					
0.000263	0.000278					
0.072128	0.078116					
0.002663	0.003003					
0.001956	0.002726					
0.005518	0.005818					
0.218893	0.228893					
0.001626	0.002206					
Bahraini Dinar	0.798548	0.807048				
Egyptian Pound	0.014338	0.020056				
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085				
Iraqi Dinar	0.000197	0.000257				
Jordanian Dinar	0.423977	0.432977				
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000				
Lebanese Pound	0.000156	0.000256				
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020575	0.044675				
Omani Riyal	0.782383	0.788063				
Qatar Riyal	0.079115	0.084056				
Saudi Riyal	0.079887	0.081187				
Syrian Pound	0.001287	0.001507				
Tunisian Dinar	0.112650	0.120650				
Turkish Lira	0.059316	0.069616				
UAE Dirhams	0.081248	0.082948				
Yemeni Riyal	0.000987	0.001067				

Source: National Bank of Kuwait

Business

Environment the loser in Libreville's rush for growth

Destruction is depriving coastal city of vital ecological reserves

LIBREVILLE: "It's an environmental disaster," said Magloir-Desire Mouganga as he strode across the soggy, spongy soil where mangroves have been ripped up for development near the Gabonese capital Libreville, threatening its fragile ecosystem. "Here the mangrove trees have been completely razed, you can even see the marks left by the bulldozer," said Mouganga, an expert from Gabon's National Agency for National Parks.

The path in the district of Angondje Nton leads to a section of large homes owned by the wealthy. The svelte buildings rise on muddy terrain where mangroves once flourished. Bit by bit, the tough, bushy little trees are being ripped away as Libreville pursues its relentless and almost unbridled expansion. But, say experts, their destruction is depriving the coastal city of a vital ecological reserve and weakening its shield against disasters such as storm surges.

"Mangroves have the capacity to retain water and to combat coastal erosion with their (extensive) root systems, which also act as nurseries for marine species," said Medard Obiang Ebanega, a geographer at Libreville's Omar Bongo University. And by clearing away the mangroves and building their homes here,

Gabon's rich are creating problems for themselves, said Mouganga.

'Not fit to be built on'

"The ground here is peaty. There's always water in it," he said, boots sinking into the boggy soil. "Peat can prevent flooding, it's like a sponge-but when you cover it with concrete, the water will rise... With global warming, these houses will inevitably be flooded," he said, referring to the danger of rising seas, driven higher by thermal expansion. "This land is not fit to be built on. That's what people don't understand."

Gabon, an oil-rich, small equatorial African country of about 270,000 square kilometers, has won plaudits for some of its ecological work. The country has 13 national parks constituting 11 percent of its land area, as well as 20 protected marine zones—a strong achievement by the standards of central Africa.

Its territory accounts for around half of all the mangroves in the extensive Gulf of Guinea region, most of which are on the outskirts of Libreville-and, in theory, are shielded from urban spread. "This is the only capital in the whole Atlantic basin to be almost entirely surrounded by protected areas accorded high

ecological value," said Mathieu Ducrocq, an expert with the ANPN. But the protection is very far from complete.

'Law not applied'

In many cases, Gabonese law gives precedence to those already using the land, which means that plots exchange hands by mutual agreement and the National Agency of Urban Planning simply records the transaction, said survey engineer Pierre Bongolo, a former government advisor. "There are a few pieces of legislation (on urban planning) but they're not applied. For example, the law provides for studies on the environmental impact (of new buildings), but these aren't being done," he said. The phenomenon is worsened by property speculation and corruption, he added.

Other problems include poor information—there are no reliable figures for the city's population growth—and inadequate maps of protected areas, something that the ANPN hopes to change with a project named "Emerald Arc" to limit building in buffer zones.

One answer, according to a development plan backed by the state in 2017, might be to produce more housing in the few "pockets of urbanization" remaining in the city and further



LIBREVILLE: A ranger walks through a stream of water in the Angondje district of Libreville on May 17, 2018 where houses have been mushrooming without any coherent planning. — AFP

inland, said Bongolo. He called for a new, tough and transparent urban code. "If we don't take up rigorous urbanization and land management

policies, we run the risk of being hit head-on by climate change, land disputes, increased poverty, disease and mortality." — AFP

China will partly lift 'Great Firewall'

BEIJING/SHANGHAI: China's southern province of Hainan will offer foreigners unrestricted internet access to Facebook, Twitter and YouTube as part of new incentives to boost tourism. The island province known as China's Hawaii because of its balmy climate and resort-lined coastline, will create a special "gathering zone" for foreign tourists where they can access such sites. Hainan's provincial government detailed the plan on its website on Thursday.

The move would mark a rare departure from China's long-held stance on the internet, where many foreign websites are banned in the name of maintaining social stability, a restriction dubbed by netizens as the "Great Firewall". The plan though quickly faced some criticism on Chinese social media. "Are we establishing the 'one country, two system' policy in Mainland China now?" said Wu Ran, a user on China's microblogging site Weibo. Another Weibo user, who uses the handle "late night cat" said: "This is an entirely blatant, contemptible, imprudent, low behavior of reverse racism. This is garbage!"

Foreigner-friendly

China said in April it aimed to make Hainan an international free trade zone by 2020, an announcement that precipitated a short-lived property boom on the island.

Under the plan revealed on Thursday, Hainan said it aims to increase visitor numbers by 25 percent annually to at least 2 million by 2020 and will promote tourism through advertising on foreign broadcasters such as BBC and CNN.

It said it would boost subsidies to increase the number of international direct flight routes to and from Hainan to 100 by 2020 and would abolish restrictions on foreign investment in air, rail and waterway transport. The island will also ensure credit and debit cards issued by foreign card companies Visa and MasterCard are accepted at major tourist sites, hotels and shops by 2019, it said. The latest Hainan government plan did not mention gambling or casinos. Media reports had said that China was considering allowing sports betting or a lottery on Hainan in a move that could open the door to physical casinos. — AFP

ECB: More 'inclusive' reforms could boost eurozone economy



LUXEMBOURG: European finance ministers pose for a group picture during a Eurogroup meeting at Senningen Castle. — AFP

FRANKFURT AM MAIN: Eurozone countries could boost growth and employment by tackling more "inclusive" reforms to their economies, according to a study published Friday by the European Central Bank. "Well-designed structural policies could yield substantial benefits for euro area citizens via a stronger and more inclusive growth in employment and incomes," the authors suggested.

The working group that produced the study was set up by the ECB's governing council two years ago. Since that time, "inclusive" growth has become a buzzword widely used at international gatherings like the G20 and by organizations such as the OECD or the International Monetary Fund. Political and economic elites have increasingly turned their attention to inequality as they scramble to understand the surge in anti-establishment politics and seismic events like Brexit or the election of Donald Trump. "There is an increasing perception that growth in the past has not been sufficiently inclusive, and was not always associated with rising living standards for everyone," ECB chief Mario Draghi said last year. "This has fuelled the

belief that some have been 'left behind' by the spread of market forces," he added. The report's authors said countries should pursue reforms that would reduce "rent-seeking" or economic actors taking advantage of weak competition to fleece consumers. They also urge changes to public institutions to squeeze out corruption and tax avoidance.

Both moves would "not only support growth but also enhance equity, social trust and social fairness," the researchers found. While such changes might appear desirable in themselves, they are also directly relevant to the central bank, potentially improving the effectiveness of its monetary policy—the interventions in interest rates and the money supply it uses to steer the economy. But there is no one magic formula that can be applied to all 19 nations in the single currency zone, the authors said. "Structural changes need to be country-specific and tailor-made to reflect the specific national starting conditions in terms of economic structures and institutions, as well as social preferences," they noted. — AFP

IMF urges Lebanon to make fiscal adjustment

BEIRUT: Lebanon requires "an immediate and substantial" fiscal adjustment to improve the sustainability of public debt that stood at more than 150 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) at the end of 2017, the IMF executive board said.

An IMF statement released overnight said IMF executive directors agreed with the thrust of a staff appraisal which in February urged Lebanon to immediately anchor its fiscal policy in a consolidation plan that stabilised debt

as a share of GDP and then puts it on a clear downward path. Lebanon's debt to GDP ratio is one of the highest in the world. "Directors stressed that an immediate and substantial fiscal adjustment is essential to improve debt sustainability, which will require strong and sustained political commitment," the IMF executive board statement said.

Argentina gets \$15 bn from IMF

Elsewhere, Argentina on Friday received \$15 billion, the first tranche of a \$50 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund to help stabilize its fragile economy, the South American nation's central bank said. Following a currency crisis in April and May, the IMF announced the \$50 billion standby loan in early June after Latin America's third largest economy sought help to bolster mar-

ket confidence. The peso plunged to a record low this month, and since the start of the year the currency has dropped more than 30 percent against the dollar.

On Wednesday the Washington-based IMF approved the \$50 billion aid package. It said the first \$15 billion will contribute to budget support while the \$35 billion balance will be "precautionary."

The fund said that its assistance would back efforts by Buenos Aires to put public debts on a sustainable path, reduce the need for financing and tackle inflation while strengthening the central bank's independence, while maintaining social spending. Argentina has a bitter history with the global crisis lender, which many Argentines view as having imposed tough conditions that worsened economic pain 17 years ago. — AFP

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Business

KFH and Visa launches KFH-Wallet: A novel mobile wallet payment service

Mandani: Bank remains dedicated to utilizing technology to meet customers' evolving needs

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH), the world's leading Islamic financial institution, and Visa, the world's leader in digital payments, have announced the launch of KFH-Wallet, a 'Mobile Wallet Payment Service' for the bank's Visa credit and prepaid cardholders.

Group Chief Retail and Private Banking Officer at KFH, Waleed Khaled Mandani, said, "We are pleased to announce the launch of our mobile KFH-Wallet with Visa, our strategic partner. This is another important milestone for KFH in our effort to continue providing better customer experience and more flexible payment options for our customers when using our cards payments solutions. Our customers who have Visa credit and prepaid cards can add their cards to the KFH wallet and enjoy a faster and secure payment option when using the wallet for payment both locally and internationally. We will continue investing in the latest payment technologies and innovative marketing campaigns to achieve our goal of moving customers from using cash to digital payments." Mandani's statement was made on the sidelines of the official launch ceremony of KFH-Wallet on Bank's Visa credit and prepaid cards in the presence of KFH Group General Manager Retail Banking, Fadi Chalouhi and Group Deputy General Manager Cards, Nimer Yasin in addition to Visa officials at KFH Headquarters. It is worth mentioning that KFH Wallet is currently the only mobile payment wallet in Kuwait with both Visa and Mastercard products.

Visa Token Service

Mandani pointed out that the innovative 'KFH Wallet' service is powered by Visa's tokenization

platform, Visa Token Service, which makes mobile and online payments more secure and convenient by replacing the consumer account information with a digital identifier, or "token", unique to the mobile device. By removing sensitive consumer payment account information, cardholders can transact with the peace of mind knowing that their account information is protected. He said that the new service enables KFH customers to pay for their purchases by simply tapping their smart phones at Point of Sale (POS) terminals equipped with Near Field Communication (NFC) technology. Customers holding KFH Visa Credit or Prepaid cards can easily add their card details on the KFH Wallet mobile application and activate their cards through a secured authentication process. After loading their cards on the app, customers can safely use the service to make payments at all NFC-enabled POS terminals in Kuwait and abroad.

He reiterated that KFH remains dedicated to utilizing technology to meet the customers' evolving needs, especially as they become more and more digitally savvy. KFH will continue to update and improve its technological service offerings in an effort to become the best and most technologically-advanced bank in the region, using the highest and most advanced tools and developments in both banking and innovation. The service is similar to Apple Pay and Samsung Pay and other mobile payment services that are currently being introduced by banks around the globe. The transactions, in addition to being EMV-compliant, will have an additional layer of security that requires



Waleed Mandani, Fadi Chalouhi and Nimer Yasin with Visa Officials

users to enter a PIN or a fingerprint ID before completing the transaction.

Mandani boasted that the successful partnership with Visa has resulted in the launch of many campaigns, products and services to the Bank's customers. KFH has launched "KFH" Visa Signature Credit card that offers customers a unique experience for enjoying a world of exclusive privileges, luxury and convenience that are carefully selected and tailored to suit their lifestyle. Cardholders are eligible to get up to 6% cashback on their monthly spends in addition to a plethora of enhanced benefits. Also, with the recent KFH and Visa Debit card cam-

paign, 6 KFH customers have won a unique 6-day trip to London in a private jet for themselves and their companions, in addition to accommodation in a 5-star hotel premium suite, luxury car with chauffeur service and KD 2000 cash credit to enjoy a unique shopping experience.

KFH has recently launched Your "KFH" card, the key to your house in Turkey" campaign where 3 winners will win the house of their choice in Turkey with furniture and home appliances, in addition, fly business class to Turkey with a companion and stay in a 5 star hotel for 5 nights when using any of "KFH" Visa cards (Debit, Credit or Prepaid) to pay for their

domestic or international purchases. Meanwhile, Amit Vij, Visa's Country Manager for Kuwait, commented, "The launch of the KFH-Wallet is the latest development in our partnership with KFH. Thanks to Visa's market-leading technology, we can ensure that KFH customers access the latest payments innovations safe in the knowledge that every transaction is both seamless and secure, protected by multiple layers of security. What's more, by pioneering new payment technologies such as the KFH-Wallet, we continue to support the move to a cashless society in Kuwait, with the wealth of social and economic benefits that brings."

Be able to call NBK while traveling abroad for free



KUWAIT: Traveling abroad for the summer break? Don't forget to call National Bank of Kuwait toll free from your destination anytime you need help with banking queries. NBK now offers toll free numbers, available 24 hours, seven days a week, in eight of the globe's most popular destinations.

NBK customers can call 24 hours, seven days a week for free when visiting the following countries: United States, United Kingdom, Canada, France, Germany, Turkey, Italy and Spain by using a local number for each of the above listed countries. Call the toll free number when you need to speak directly with an NBK call service agent. You can also call from any country abroad by dialing, +965 2224-8361 or even send a message by WhatsApp anytime, 24 hours, seven days a week to +965 5222-1333. You can also complete a variety of transactions via NBK Online and Mobile Banking services.

"NBK wants its customers to be able to reach them easily no matter where they travel in the world and that's why they set up the toll-free calling," said Tamer Allam, Head of Contact Center, National Bank of Kuwait. "People in Kuwait travel frequently, especially to the eight countries the bank

included and this way they can speak with an NBK representative 24 hours, seven days a week no matter where they are."

Allam continued: "NBK call service agents can help with a range of banking questions and queries including freezing stolen or lost credit or banking cards, transferring funds between accounts, balance inquiry and issuing new cards. Customers can also ask about opening new accounts, learn about and apply for different credit cards, packages and loans."

Toll-free numbers abroad:
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Canada: 1-855-577-7625
France: 0805080765
Germany: 08001811475
Turkey: 008001139247
Italy: 800792255

Spain: 900839159

National Bank of Kuwait provides banking services to its customers across the globe. NBK has the widest banking presence, available across four continents. NBK's international presence includes many of the world's leading financial centers: Geneva, London, New York, Paris, Shanghai and Singapore. Meanwhile, regional coverage extends to Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the UAE.



Tamer Allam

Burgan Bank winner of KD 125k cash prize in Yawmi Quarterly Draw



KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced Mr Shhwar Mohammed Bahader Albulshi as the new KD 125,000 cash prize winner in the Yawmi Quarterly Draw. The winner expressed his excitement for being the winner of the rewarding cash prize with Yawmi Account from Burgan Bank. The Yawmi Quarterly draw offers customers chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 cash prize every three months.

To enter Burgan Bank's Yawmi Quarterly

Draws, customers should maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for 2 months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. For more information about the Yawmi Quarterly Draw, customers are advised to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch, or call the bank's Call Center where customer service representatives will be delighted to assist with any questions on the Yawmi account or any of the bank's products and services.

S&P affirms GBK's rating at A- with a 'stable' outlook

KUWAIT: Standard and Poor's (S&P) Global Ratings has affirmed Gulf Bank's Credit rating at A-/A-2 long and short-term counterparty credit ratings with a Stable outlook in its recent research update issued 21 June 2018. S&P believes that Gulf Bank will deliver above market growth in Kuwait over the next two years, while maintaining a relatively high dividend payout ratio.

"Our ratings continue to reflect Gulf Bank's sound market position as the fourth largest commercial bank in Kuwait. Gulf Bank's market share in loans and deposits has been

improving, and we believe the bank will continue to grow faster than the market" said S&P in their report. Commenting on the stable outlook, S&P stated that: "The stable outlook on Gulf Bank reflects our view that the bank's business and financial profiles will remain resilient over the next 24 months. This is owing to the bank's adequate capitalization and good asset quality."

Commenting on S&P's credit rating announcement, Dalal Al-Dousari, Gulf Bank's Head of Investor Relations said: "We are pleased with the recently issued credit opinion by S&P Global Rating. The Affirmation of Gulf Bank's long-term counterparty credit rating at 'A' is an international acknowledgement of the Bank's sustained improvement in loan asset quality and profitability, solid capital and sound liquidity position." "With this recently issued credit opinion, Gulf Bank continues to be rated 'A' by all four leading credit rating agencies" added Al-Dousari.

Gulf Bank continues to be well recognized internationally in terms of its credit worthiness and financial strength. In addition to S&P Global Rating recent affirmation, Moody's Investor Services has revised their outlook on the Bank to "Positive" from "Stable" and affirmed its issuer credit rating at "A3" in May 2018. Similarly, Fitch Ratings has upgraded Gulf Bank's viability rating from "bb" to "bb+" and affirmed the bank's Long-Term Issuer Default Rating at 'A+' with a "Stable" Outlook. Capital Intelligence on the other hand recently upgraded the Bank's rating to "A-" from "BBB+" with a "Stable" outlook.



Dalal Al-Dousari

Winners in Al Hassad Islamic account draw this week

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank recently conducted its Al Hassad Islamic account weekly draw, Kuwait's leading Shari'ah compliant rewards program that offers a broad range of prizes to the largest number of winners, on the 20th of June 2018. The account provides 26 weekly prizes that are comprised of KD 25,000 as a grand prize and 25 other prizes valued at KD 1,000 each.

AUB also offers four quarterly prizes that are valued at KD 250,000 to each winner allowing them to achieve their dreams of travelling, studying abroad, or owning their dream home or car. On this occasion Ahli United Bank announced, "With this draw, we are adding 26 new winners and prizes to the Al Hassad Islamic account whereby, the total number of winners annually will include more than 1300. The weekly grand prize winner of

KD 25,000 Atef Abdulsad Althaher.

25 other winners won prizes of KD 1,000 and are as follows: Jamal Mohammed Bitar, Bader Sulaiman Alsaqoubi, Ismaiel Ibrahim Al Masri, Iqbal Mohammed Alarbash, Khaled Abdulaziz Almuftarreh, Elsayed Abdeltawab Elsayed, Nasser Mohd Al Sayer, Ameen Mohammad AlBaqshi, Bader Saleh Alenezi, Ali Aboud Arab, Maryam Mohd Buabaas, Mousa Merza Rezaei, Mansour Sabah Alfadhi, Girsh Gatoolal Mujtyar, Ahmad Mahmoud Aldesh, Fatemah Abdulaziz Abdullah, Mozah Saad Alazmi, Saad Metrek Alajmi, Sultan Asad Sultan, Ruksana Mohammad Rafiq, Abu Alqassim Ali, Zuhoor Husain Safar, Amna Yusuf Hasan, Zahra Abdulnabi Ali and Karima Abdulhussain Alhelli.

Al Hassad Islamic account's customers in Kuwait and Bahrain are eligible to participate

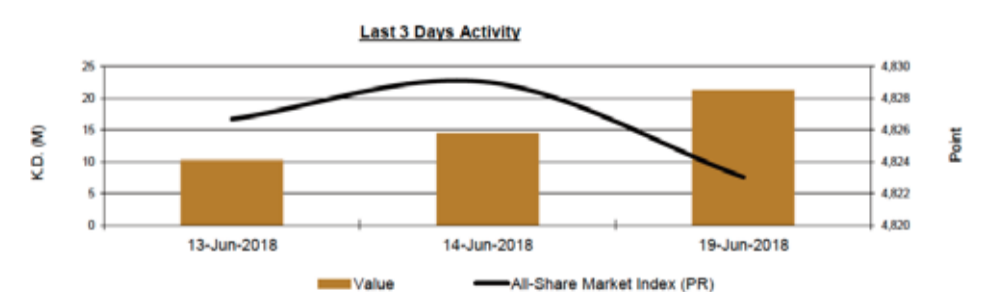


in the draw in line with the program's terms and conditions. Ahli United Bank added, "There are increased opportunities that await our current customers and those who are interested in opening an Al Hassad Islamic account to benefit from the wide range of prizes and opportunities offered this year." Individual customers can open their accounts with a minimum deposit of KD 100, qualifying them to enter the draw.

Boursa Kuwait ends week in red zone

KUWAIT: The Premier Market Index closed at 4,803.52 points, down by 0.40%, the Main Market Index decreased by 0.42% after closing at 4,857.19 points, and the All-Share Index closed at 4,822.99 points down by 0.41%. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover increased by 44.41%, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 15.34 million, whereas trading volume average was 64.07 million shares, recording an increase of 49.92%.

The profit collection operations witnessed by the Boursa during the last week's sessions were negatively reflected on the total market capitalization, where the market recorded a loss of over KD 111 in the last three sessions, as its market cap reached by the end of the week KD 26.57 billion against KD 26.68 billion in the earlier week, down by 0.42%. The Boursa market cap since the application of the new market segmentation has dropped reaching KD 1.29 billion, down by 4.62%. (Note: The market cap for the listed companies in the market is calculated based on the average weighted number of outstanding stocks as per the latest official available financial statements). The Boursa ended last week's trading with a decline to its three indices, as the Market was under the influence of the profit collection operations that included a wide range of listed stocks, especially the ones that witnessed good increases in the previous weeks. The Market took a downward path during the



week and its three indices recorded different losses in light of the success of the selling pressures and the profit collection operations over the random purchasing operations which were present in a limited way, and came amid a growth to the trading indicators compared to the previous week's trading, especially the cash liquidity that reached on the end of week session its highest level since the market segmentation, where it reached KD 21.27 million up by 46.57% from the previous session. By the of the week, the average cash liquidity reached KD 15.34 million, up by 44.41% from its level in the previous week, as it reached KD 10.63 million, while the average volume increased by 49.92%, reaching 64.07 million shares, compared to 42.74 million stock in the previous week. Moreover, last week witnessed trading over 133 stock out of 175 listed stock in the Market, where prices of 45 stock increased against prices of 70 stock decreased, and prices of 60 stocks remained at no change.

Sectors' Indices

Seven of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the red zone, three recorded increases, while the Health Care sector's index & Technology sector's index with no change from the week before. Last week's highest loser was

the Insurance sector, as its index declined by 2.87% to end the week's activity at 910.54 points, followed by the Basic Materials sector, which index declined by 2.50%, closing at 995.69 points. On the other hand, Last week's highest gainer was the Oil & Gas sector, achieving 0.66% growth rate as its index closed at 1,044.68 points. The Telecommunications sector came in the second place, as its index closed at 840.38 points recording 0.47% increase.

Sectors' Activity

The Banks sector dominated a total trade volume of around 64.78 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 33.70% of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 25.07% of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 48.19 million shares.

On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 24.49 million or 53.20% of last week's total market trading value. The Telecommunications sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 7.01 million representing 15.23% of the total market trading value.

Technology

In Togo, hi-tech orthopedic care goes through crucial test

‘We can make him an orthotic using a 3D printer’

LOME: In a consulting room in Togo's capital, Lome, Geraldo Emmanuel-handicapped since birth six years ago-waits patiently on a bed while a digital scan is taken of his right leg. Thanks to new 3D technology, he may be able to walk normally within a few months. “The child walks on his toes so I’m scanning his leg so we can make him an orthotic using a 3D printer,” said Enyonam Ekpoh, from Togo’s national orthopedic device and physiotherapy centre (CNAO).

A few hours later, Adjovi Koudahe, 46, has tests to receive a 3D brace for her right leg, which has been paralyzed since a car accident in 2012. “I’ve stopped doing anything because I’m in pain. I can’t walk properly anymore,” said the former trader, who limps heavily, aided by a crutch. “Despite all the treatment I’ve had, my leg won’t respond and drags along the ground. But with the brace they want to make here, I’ve got high hopes.”

Three-dimensional printing is a fast-track way to make individually-tailored prosthetics and orthopedic supports that compensate for a lack of a limb, deformity or paralysis. The technology, initiated by a charity called Handicap International, allows the bespoke devices to be produced faster and reach a larger number of patients. But if it is familiar to orthopedic clinics in rich countries, it has yet to be introduced to poorer countries where needs are greater and the social safety net much smaller.

Only five to 15 percent of people in low income countries who need a prosthetic limb or orthopedic brace get one, according to the non-profit organization based in France. Handicap International-recently renamed Humanity & Inclusion-is pushing ahead with research and clinical trials to see how the



LOME: Togolese technician Fabrice Agbelehounko Djodji checks the work of a 3d printer used to produce prosthetic supports at the African Organization for the Development of Centers for Disabled People (OADCPH).



LOME: Emmanuel Geraldo, 5, is helped by a technician with his new 3D printed prosthetic support on June 19, 2018 at the CNAO (Togo’s national orthopaedic and physiotherapy centre). — AFP photos

technology can be used in poor settings. In 2016, it carried out clinical trials of three types of lower limb prosthetics in Madagascar, Syria and Togo, the results of which were highly encouraging.

A more ambitious project called “3D Impact” has been running in Togo, Mali and Niger since November last year, where 100 patients are getting made-to-measure 3D devices for free. The project is backed by 700,000 euros (\$816,000) of funding from the Belgian Development Agency. Fifty of the 100 patients will be in Togo, where many handicaps affecting mobility are linked to

strokes or infectious diseases such as polio, said Impact 3D manager Simon Miriél.

Saving time

3D printing is revolutionary for doctors working in conflict zones or even just hard-to-reach areas: the scanner is the size of about two mobile phones and very easy to transport. One has been tested at a regional orthopedic centre in Dapaong, some 620 kilometers by road north of the capital. Normally, patients far from hospitals would have had to travel to have casts taken.

“It saves us a lot of time,” said Miriél. “As

needed, scans can be sent directly by telephone to the specialist in charge of making the digital orthotic on a 3D printer.” In all, four 3D scanners are being used in the three countries. The project’s two printers are located in a laboratory in Avepozo, some 15 km from Lome, and work non-stop to produce all the orthopedic devices.

Togo is a good choice, said Miriél. “It is one of the few countries in West Africa which has a good structure for orthopedic care.” Specialists from across the region are trained at the national school of medical auxiliaries (ENAM), which is a partner in the project. The

test phase is expected to finish before the end of the year, and will be followed by a long evaluation about the successes and problems, costs and benefits. But, if all goes well, the cost of 3D orthopedic devices will fall dramatically, the charity hopes.

The devices that were tested in 2016 were printed overseas and cost between 1,500 and 2,000 euros each (from \$1,745 to \$2,330) — a huge sum in West Africa, where the average wage often does not exceed \$100 a month. But once the devices are made in-country, they will become “a lot more accessible”, said Miriél. — AFP

Dell accelerates toward 2020 legacy of good goals

ROUND ROCK, Texas: Dell Inc released its annual 2020 Legacy of Good update yesterday, continuing the company’s long-term commitment to society, team members and the environment. The report summarizes efforts during fiscal year 2018 (Feb 4, 2017 - Feb 2, 2018). The report and corresponding activities are rooted in Dell’s acknowledgement of its responsibility to realize a sustainable and prosperous future.

Dell’s purpose as a company is to drive human progress through technology. One of the ways the company brings that to life is through its Legacy of Good commitment — to put Dell technology and expertise to work where they can do the most good for people and the planet. For Dell that means investing in innovation that reduces environmental impact, supports a transparent supply chain, ensures an inclusive future workforce and advances underserved communities.

“The Legacy of Good program reflects what’s possible when people and technology come together with purpose,” said Christine Fraser, Chief Responsibility Officer, Dell. “Our customers, partners and teams care about this work now more than ever, and we will continue to seek innovative ways to deploy our resources, design out waste, celebrate inclusion and address the greatest need.”

Sustainable design and innovation

Dell believes transitioning to a circular economy is critical to enable human progress in the future. The company’s deep supply chain expertise, design strategy and global electronics recycling infrastructure puts the company in a unique position to advance a circular model. Dell has pioneered sustainable design innovation in a multitude of areas, including:

- **Closed-loop recycling:** In the reported period, Dell brought closed-loop plastics recycling to its enterprise portfolio in Europe, recycling more than 35,000 lbs. of plastic from e-waste into new enterprise products. Cumulatively, Dell has used 73 million pounds of recycled material in new products since 2013, keeping the company on track to meet 2020 goal of 100 million pounds.
- **Gold reclamation:** At the same time, Dell closed the loop on gold, up cycling used gold from e-waste into new



motherboards in the Dell Latitude 5285 2-in-1 and into a jewelry line. The Circular Collection, in partnership with Bayou with Love, founded by Nikki Reed.

- **Global e-waste tracking:** This year, Dell is piloting the use of global tracking technology to monitor the responsible recycling of used electronics. In addition to piloting its own electronic tracking program, Dell has partnered with Basel Action Network to deploy trackers across Dell’s consumer take back programs. Results will be reported in approximately 12 months following the pilot period.

- **Intercepting ocean-bound plastics:** Dell’s XPS 13 2-in-1 laptop ships in packaging made with recovered ocean-bound plastics. The packaging, which received a Best of Innovation Award at CES, will begin shipping on the broader XPS line and commercial product portfolio later this year. To scale the work, Dell in partnership with the Lonely Whale created NextWave, a consortium of companies dedicated to scaling use cases for ocean-bound plastic materials in manufacturing while creating economic and social benefits for stakeholders. NextWave hopes to divert 3 million pounds of plastics over five years, the equivalent of keeping 66 million water bottles from washing out to sea.

Enabling the workforce

The only way to ensure that the innovation we put in place today carries through to tomorrow, is by engaging everyone we can in today’s workforce and ensuring the next generation is equipped with the skills to thrive in an increasingly tech-centric world:

- Dell donated a \$650,000 grant to benefit more than 400,000 youth and 3,000 educators in 422 locations in Ethiopia. The entire project, through a partnership with the Ethiopian Ministry for Education and Camara Education, will deliver more than 30,000 PCs to more than 1,000 schools, benefitting 1.2 million students between 2016 and



2019. The \$12 million innovation project will also include more than 16 million hours of information and communication technologies education training to more than 3,000 teachers and school leaders.

- The company continues to build a flexible work environment that serves a diverse set of work styles. More than 58% of Dell team members used Dell’s remote work opportunity at least one day per week.
- More than 1 million people have gained access to technology and technology skills through Dell strategic giving programs this year. The company has helped a total of 11.2 million people since 2013.
- Since 2014, \$50 million has been committed to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) initiatives focused on underserved youth.

Investing in a transparent and diverse supply chain

Dell is committed to maintaining an innovative, diverse, ethical and transparent supply chain that ensures good working conditions and a sustainable approach for their suppliers around the world. Highlights include:

- A new virtual reality experience that allows users to look around an actual supplier factory, see the living conditions for workers at the factory and observe an engagement session featuring customers and workers. The 360-degree videos are available on Dell’s supply chain site.
 - More than \$3 billion invested annually with women- and minority-owned suppliers and small businesses in the past six years.
 - More than 200,000 workers in the company’s supply chain are monitored through the company’s weekly working hours monitoring program.
- To learn more about Dell’s commitments, including in-depth case studies and greater details on the company’s goals, please visit www.legacyofgood.dell.com.

The ‘plink, plink’ of dripping water finally decoded

PARIS: In the middle of the night it becomes a form of psychological torture, the insidious “plink...” (wait-for-it) “plink...” (wait-for-it) “plink...” of drops falling, one-by-one, into water. Scientists said Friday that they had finally cracked the “dripping tap” enigma and know exactly how the sound is generated. In 1908, Arthur Mason Worthington published a treatise, “A Study of Splashes”, featuring the first known photograph in a scientific journal of a drop as it punctures a body of water’s still surface.

The image clearly shows the formation of a cavity-like a thimble turned upside down-on the water’s surface upon impact, followed by a narrow column of water rising as the cavity recoils. But if the fluid mechanics of drops-in-liquid have been understood for a century, the signature noise they make remained harder to grasp.

Around 1920, a team of researchers in England decided that resonance inside the tiny water cavity was the likely mechanism behind the sound. A decade later, another group discovered that a minimum height was required to generate a “plink.” Finally, in 1955, scientists noticed the formation of a tiny bubble of air briefly trapped beneath the cavity as it took shape, speculating that when it burst sound waves rose to the surface and escaped into the air. Over the following decades, dozens of published experiments with increasingly precise instruments backed up this idea.

No bubble, no ‘plink’

“Until now, everyone thought these sound waves just passed through the water surface and that’s how we heard the sound, much like if you hear someone speaking through a wall,” said Samuel Phillips, an undergraduate student at the University of Cambridge and lead author of a study in Scientific Reports. The idea to probe further came to Phillips’ professor, Anurag Agarwal, while he was visiting a friend who had a small leak in the roof of his house. “I was being kept awake by the sound of water falling in a bucket,” he recalled.

“The next day I discussed it with my friend and another visiting academic and we were all surprised that no one had actually answered the question of what causes the sound.” To find out, the researchers set up an experiment making full use of cutting-edge video and audio recording technology. Using ultra-slow-motion video, a microphone and a hydrophone, they were able to perceive details that had previously gone unnoticed.

The trapped air bubble, it turned out, began to vibrate as the cavity deepened. “Sound waves emitted by the vibrating air bubble don’t simply pass through the water surface into the air, as previously thought,” Phillips explained. “Rather, the oscillating bubble causes the water surface itself to vibrate at the bottom of the cavity, acting like a piston to drive sound waves into the air.”

Not only did the researchers crack the enigma, they also found a way to neutralize the “plink” for those leaky-roof rainy days. Adding a little dish-soap will do the trick, they said. “It changes the surface tension of the water, and so prevents the bubble from being trapped under the water,” Phillips said. “No bubble means no sound, hence no ‘plink!’” — AFP

Electric scooter-sharing moves into the fast lane

WASHINGTON: How fast is the electric scooter-sharing craze growing? Fast enough to be declared a nuisance and kicked off the streets of San Francisco and a handful of others cities to allow local officials to mull regulations. And fast enough to draw big investments to allow nimble startups to reach billion-dollar valuations.

In the US capital Washington, the electric two-wheelers have become a fixture on city bike paths, zipping along at speeds up to 25 kilometers (15 miles) per hour, sometimes veering onto sidewalks despite warnings to the contrary. The scooters are “dockless,” meaning they can be rented and left at any location, unlocked with a smartphone app which also indicates the location of the vehicles, in a model similar to new-style bike-sharing startups.

Most systems charge \$1 to unlock the scooter and 15 cents per minute, so a 10-minute trip would cost \$2.50. “The economics work very well” for both the consumer and the companies, said Sanjay Dastoor, founder and chief executive of Skip Scooters, one of four startups authorized by Washington to deploy up to 400 dockless scooters.

Dastoor offered no specific figures but said riders get inexpensive transportation for short-term trips and companies are able to recoup the costs of the scooter quickly. Just this year, dockless scooter programs have been launched in a dozen US cities and college campuses. On Friday, California-based Limebike was set to launch

scooters in Paris as part of a global expansion plan.

Some say these gadgets, a tech-infused version of the child’s kick-scooter, could become an elegant solution to “last mile” transportation to fill gaps in public transit and discourage automobile use. “I’ve been working on last-mile transportation for the last seven years and have been looking for the magic of the right vehicle and I think this is the moment,” Dastoor said.

Scooter ‘unicorns’

Investors have taken notice and begun pouring in cash to scooter start-ups at an unprecedented rate. According to the research firm Lagniappe Labs, Bird Scooter is aiming for a \$2 billion valuation in its latest funding round and Lime was seeking a \$1 billion worth. Even for Silicon Valley, the pace of funding is at a staggering speed, giving birth to scooter “unicorns,” the term used for venture-funded startups hitting valuations of \$1 billion.

“Investors are pouring record levels of capital into bike and scooter technology,” said a report from the research firm CB Insights. “People are increasingly turning to these emerging methods of transportation to cut costs and travel shorter-distance trips.” Car-sharing giants Uber and Lyft are reportedly interested in scooters as well. Scooter-mania has been made possible by improvements in battery technology they still need to be recharged daily-and low-cost GPS chips which connect

with smartphones. Some reports suggest a healthy profit margin for scooters which cost less than \$500 and can pay for themselves in a few weeks with rental fees. Silicon Valley-based Lime planned its scooter launch Friday in Paris after working with local officials on the deployment of the “trotinettes electriques” which have a similar pricing structure to those in the US. “What we’re proposing is a smart mobility solution that’s been missing here in Paris,” said Arthur-Louis Jacquier, Lime manager for France. —AFP



WASHINGTON, DC: A “scan and ride” shared bicycle is seen waiting for a rider on a street of downtown Washington, DC. — AFP

Health

Wary of hacks, WCup teams get serious on cybersecurity

Socceroos forbidden from joining unprotected Wifi networks

BRONNITSY: Fearful of data breaches and keen to avoid embarrassing images surfacing in the home of 'kompromat', several teams at the World Cup in Russia have enforced rigid guidelines to shield their players from hacks. Whereas in past tournaments teams went to extraordinary lengths to keep the paparazzi at bay, the stars of Russia 2018 have a more high-tech approach to guarding their privacy. The Australian football federation is one of several to use its own mobile internet connection while in Russia, in theory to make it harder to access information contained on the devices of players and staff.

The Socceroos are forbidden from joining unprotected Wifi networks and must instead connect via one of the team's own VPN-fitted 4G mobile routers. Team official Adam Mark told AFP the players had been told "just to be smart about while they're here, ie not logging on to public Wifis." "Cybersecurity is something that we are concerned

about," said Croatia team official Tomislav Pacak. "Concerning security in general, we don't share anything with any media or the public other than what is said during press conferences."

The anxiety to avoid hacks at this World Cup is so great in some camps that several teams sought advice from their national security services before leaving for Russia. England were briefed by Britain's GCHQ intelligence service and players' smartphones and other connected devices have been fitted with special encryption software for the tournament. Guillaume Poupard, the head of France's information security agency Anssi, told AFP his organization had advised the national team on online safety while in Russia. "It was rather general advice, a bit like what we tell people travelling for business... pay attention to where you connect, don't take all your personal data with you," Poupard said.

Public at risk?

While this sounds like good advice no matter where high-profile millionaires such as footballers ply their trade, it is not just the players that may be at risk in Russia, known for the practice of kompromat-gathering compromising personal material for nefarious means. Russian hacking group Fancy Bear, for example, published emails of the International Olympic Committee in 2014 after Russia was banned from competing in this year's Pyeongchang Winter Olympics for its doping program. Such an attack on tournament organizers FIFA, for example, "would have a significant impact on its image", according to Chris Hodson, of cybersecurity firm Zscaler.

Yet the most common targets of online hacks and scams remain members of the general public, and Anssi has launched an awareness campaign to coincide with sport's biggest event. Cybersecurity firm Checkpoint last week uncovered a phish-

ing campaign, whereby users are tricked into handing over their personal details via fraudulent emails, camouflaged as a World Cup matches wall chart. "With so much anticipation and hype around the World Cup, cybercriminals are banking on employees being less vigilant in opening unsolicited emails and attachments," said Checkpoint's Maya Horowitz. "As such, it is critical that organizations take steps to remind their employees of security best practices to help prevent these attacks being successful." Internet users have been advised to be wary of streaming matches on pirate feeds that may contain malware, and to avoid unofficial ticketing sites. For Nicola Caproni, consultant at web security firm Sekoia, internet users need to be vigilant but not obsessive over their data during the tournament in Russia. "Don't take business data with you, don't leave your telephone or computer at the hotel, be careful with your devices, don't just connect to any Wifi hotspot, and use a VPN." —AFP

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What's On

Crown RUS LTD selected to provide official licensed FIFA World Cup 2018 products

A subsidiary of Kuwaiti owned SADITA Holding



Saud Al-Fozan

SADITA Holding, a Kuwaiti company, announced that its subsidiary 'Crown RUS LTD' has been officially selected as an official licensed product provider for the FIFA World Cup 2018 tournament. Following a competitive bid, Crown RUS LTD has provided products that range from LED Emblems, laptop bags and backpacks, fan passport wallets as well as mouse pads.

To that extent, Crown RUS LTD with the support of Crown Micro China Limited as another subsidiary of the group, has demonstrated its



capabilities and overall expertise to become the right partner that helps supply FIFA's Licensed products, which is coherent with the approved branding requirements. This is in line with FIFA's underlying objectives and its long term vision, of

handling and attracting trademarks that complement and complete the FIFA-approved categories that are promoted and sold in stadiums, on the Internet and in designated stores.

Saud Fozan Al-Fozan, Vice Chairman of SADITA Holding Company said, "As a Kuwaiti company, we are proud to contribute and expand the excitement of the much awaited FIFA World Cup Tournament by delivering branded products with the ultimate aim of spreading the excitement all around. This was the culmination of a strong team

collaboration, and one which reflects the group's solid track record in driving business excellence across multiple regions."

SADITA, a Holding company established in 2006 is a diversified investment company in food and beverage and consumer goods, medical supplies and equipment, kitchen equipment and plastic and paper recycling in multiple markets in the Middle East, Europe and Asia. The company is also in process of acquiring and partnering in a number of investment and industrial activities in



You are a lot like a diamond: brilliant, amazing, and flawless. You differ in that you are worth far more than any stone. You are such a treasure, not only to me but also to our whole family. Happy birthday to our precious gem of a daughter! From Baba, Amma, Anish and Afroz

Kuwaiti patients celebrate Eid al-Fitr at London hospital

Kuwaiti children, who are currently being treated at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children (GOSH) in London, enjoyed an afternoon of Eid Al-Fitr celebrations at GOSH's annual hospital-wide Eid party. During the party, patients and their families were entertained by Dabke dancers, face painting, henna and arts and crafts, and enjoyed authentic Arabic cuisine.

Father of Kuwaiti patient, Hamad, expressed how it was great to be able to feel at home and celebrate Eid Al-Fitr in the hospital with his family. "This party has been a lot of fun - it's so lovely to see so many families together celebrating such a beautiful occasion. Thank you to Great Ormond Street Hospital for looking after and protecting my son."

GOSH treats sick children from over 90 different countries for rare, complex and multiple conditions, which includes 1,500 children from the Middle East every year. Through their special events and celebrations, GOSH caters to a variety of different cultures and religions at the hospital. Every year, GOSH hosts an Eid-al-Fitr party for all their patients as part of their commitment to embracing and celebrating all cultures and religions at the hospital.



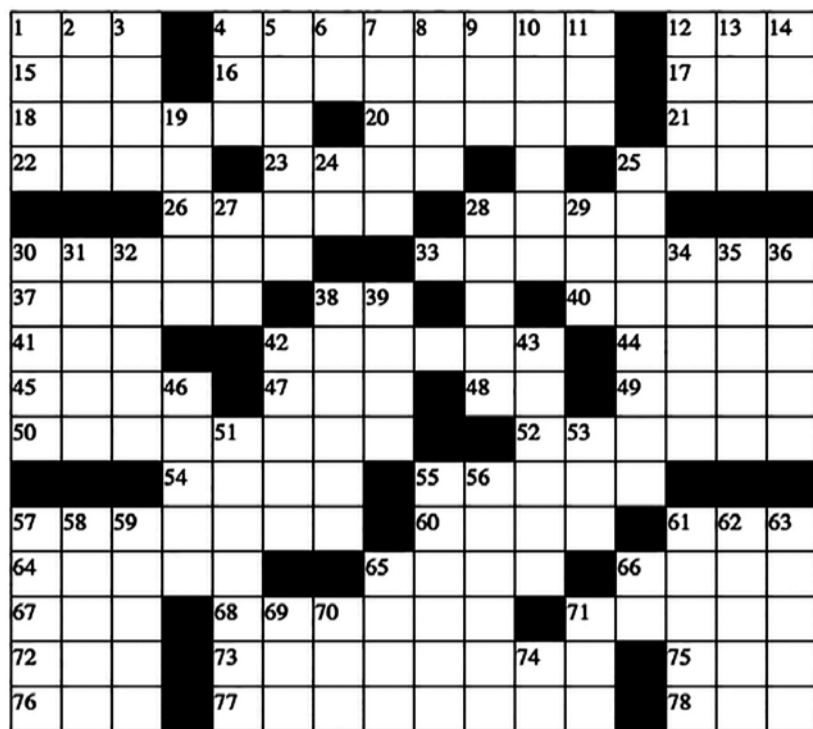
The raffle draw winner of "Win Up To 5 Kilos of Gold" campaign by Malabar Gold and Diamonds Hamza receives the prize 50gm Gold from Afsal Khan, Zonal Head, Malabar Gold and Diamonds in the presence of management team members of Malabar Gold and Diamonds.



The raffle draw winner of "Win Up To 5 Kilos of Gold" campaign by Malabar Gold and Diamonds, Rawan Rafeek D/O Rafeek Layin receives the prize 50gm Gold from Afsal Khan, Zonal Head, Malabar Gold and Diamonds in the presence of management team members of Malabar Gold and Diamonds.

Stars

CROSSWORD 1941



ACROSS

1. A widely distributed system of free and fixed macrophages derived from bone marrow.
4. Make urban or city-like.
12. Thickening of tissue in the motor tracts of the lateral columns and anterior horns of the spinal cord.
15. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
16. Low tree ferns with large fronds.
17. (of champagne) Moderately dry.
18. A cylindrical drawstring bag used by sailors to hold their clothing and other gear.
20. Any monetary aid.
21. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
22. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
23. A small ball with a hole through the middle.
26. A river that rises in central Germany and flows north to join the Elbe River.
30. Conduit consisting of a long hollow object (usually cylindrical) used to hold and conduct liquids or gases.
33. Hindu sacred text instructing the Brahmins to perform the Vedic rituals.
37. With rapid movements.
40. Cover with drops, as with dew.
41. An advantageous purchase.
44. Kamarupan languages spoken in northeastern India and western Burma.
45. A body of poetry that conveys the traditions of a society by treating some epic theme.
47. Gone by.
48. A hard brittle gray polyvalent metallic element that resembles iron but is not magnetic.
49. Someone who copies the words or behavior of another.
50. A cooking pot that has handles on either side and tight fitting lid.
52. Separate or cut with a tool, such as a sharp instrument.
54. In bed.
57. United States filmmaker (born in 1939).
60. (Old Testament) The eldest son of Isaac who would have inherited the Covenant that God made with Abraham and that Abraham passed on to Isaac.
64. Ash-colored or anemic looking from illness or emotion.
67. The cry made by sheep.
68. Feeling or showing extreme anger.
72. One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
73. Moths whose larvae are cutworms.
75. The state of matter distinguished from the solid and liquid states by.
76. (meaning literally "born") Used to indicate the maiden or family name of a married woman.
77. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
78. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. An independent group of closely related Chadic languages spoken in the area between the Biu-Mandara and East Chadic languages.
2. British politician (1788-1850).
3. A narcotic that is considered a hard drug.
4. North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in north-west North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
5. A motley assortment of things.
6. A bachelor's degree in religion.
7. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
8. A student who studies excessively.
9. A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement.
10. Any of various plants of the genus Zinnia cultivated for their variously and brightly colored flower heads.
11. Take in solid food.
12. The largest continent with 60% of the earth's population.
13. Lacking excess flesh.
14. Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
19. Pertaining to or constituting a base or basis.
24. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
25. Genus of tropical American timber trees.
27. Used of a single unit or thing.
28. Thick like cream.
29. A bachelor's degree in theology.
31. Type genus of the Upipidae.
32. A swampy arm or slow-moving outlet of a lake (term used mainly in Mississippi and Louisiana).
34. (Babylonian) A demigod or first man.
35. A desert in southern Israel.
36. (sometimes followed by "of") Having or showing realization or perception.
38. An Asian temple.
39. A person regarded as arrogant and annoying.
42. Lap at the front of a coat.
43. Having removed clothing.
46. Erect leafless flower stalk growing directly from the ground as in a tulip.
51. A nonstandard form of American English spoken by some American Black people.
53. The basic unit of money in Romania.
55. Reason by deduction.
56. A rectangular block of hewn stone used for building purposes.
58. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in Missouri in the valleys of the Missouri and Osage rivers.
59. Virus parasitic in bacteria.
61. The ending of a series or sequence.
62. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
63. Squash bugs.
65. (old-fashioned) At or from or to a great distance.
66. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
69. A reproach for some lapse or misdeed.
70. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
71. Light informal conversation for social occasions.
74. Being one more than fifty.

Friday's Solution

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

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Not only are you on your toes today so are your peers. This could lead to high tensions and frustrations at work. You may want to sit back and remember this will pass. Take a deep breath and analyze the situations that present themselves today rather than reacting. You are quick with answers of full of quick wit today. The fog has cleared and is a great day to let your creative juices flow. Aries, don't be surprised if today is the day you receive the breakthrough you have been wishing for.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

A day of laughter and fun is on the menu today. This will be served with love and admiration from your family. All is well in your world. You are most comfortable and pleased when all lines of communication are open. The days you feel like everyone around you really gets you and understands you with ease are the days you enjoy the most. Your mind may be in overdrive as your analytical abilities are at their peak. Not only are the ideas flowing, everyone you encounter is extremely receptive to what you have to say. You may be sought out for advice today and will be greatly admired for your intelligence. When it comes to management choosing the right person for a new project, don't be surprised if all eyes are on you.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may seem as if the solution to the problem you have been worrying about just falls into your lap today. You have a strong sense of mental clarity and things come easy for you today. Others are drawn to the confidence you exude today and admire you for your decision-making skills. Not only are you able to quickly analyze the problem and make the decision, it has been greatly noticed that you make the right decisions. You may find yourself as the friend others want to have. Good things are coming today Gemini, but most of all this day should leave you more confident and peaceful than you have been in a while.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

A natural born leader seems describe you today. Your communication skills are on point and others want to hear what you have to say. You are organized and structured and this is being noticed in the work place. Your ability to not only manage your affairs but manage those around you are being noticed and focused on by management at your workplace. You may be offered a promotion, a new position, or asked to lead a new project. Recent situations in your life have caused you to be more compassionate and very attentive to the needs of those around you. Others may seek your advice or turn to you as a mentor. You should also be able to be open and giving with love ones today which will leave you with sense of peace and happiness. Cancer, All is well in your world.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your dedication and devotion to friends and family you have earned a deep level of respect from those closest to you. You may feel if you should be allowed to claim some of these friends on your taxes as dependents as it seems every time you turn around they are there with their hand out. This is the price you pay for being the dependable and responsible one of the group. You would not trade your friends for anything. You value the level of respect they have for you. Today you find yourself surrounded by friends seeking your advice and asking for your helping hand. Leo, you are a wonderful friend.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

A feeling of harmony is filling your world. You are working hard to organize every aspect of your life. You live to love and love to live. You are a people person who has a great talent when it comes to working with others. You are a leader and may be offered a leadership role in the workplace. This could appear as a new position or may come in the form of a lead role on a new project. Nevertheless, Virgo, your ambition, focus, and drive are highly admired by those around you. Your love of people and patience are great qualities and draw others to you for advice in many sensitive situations.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Not only are you intelligent but a quick thinker. You have the ability to make things happen. You know what will work and who is best for the job. You may find yourself seeking new financial ventures. Working deals and making deals work may bring great financial reward your way. You see opportunity and seize it. Anything to make a dollar. Your horizons are broad and options limitless and you know just what to do to make the deals profitable. This may be a new venture for you or something you have done in the past but seems to be a new focus and will bring you much success.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your mind is sharp, and your wit is quick. You will face anything that comes your way with force and confidence. You may find yourself at odds with others because you seem to stand alone being very independent and voice your opinion. Use caution and do not let the scrutiny of others let you make decisions you will regret. Scorpio, You have always been wise and able to make your own decisions. Follow the same pattern now.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You have devoted yourself to your career and family life. You may find yourself craving respect for all you have done. You feel as though you have all aspects of your life organized and planned and are on the road to success. You may find it very easy for you to organize the lives of those around you. You may find that ambition is a main focus at this time and you are taking on any and every project in the work place that is offered. You are a born leader and tend to readily take on any opportunity that comes your way. Be sure to stay focused and prioritize all your duties. Sagittarius, as to not become overwhelmed.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may find this is the time your communication skills are put to good use. You find yourself able to please everyone around you. You may find a great way to balance your career and family life. Today would be a great day to spend some time with your siblings or closest friends. This may find this is a very rewarding experience emotionally. This could be a very happy time.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

This could be a very prosperous time for you. You may find yourself being more materialistic than usual. You seem to be placing greater value to this area of your life. You may even be feeling a strong desire to hit the town. Choose your company wisely if you do. Not everyone has your best interest at heart. Aquarius, your mind is clear and your ability to help those around you is strong today. You may find you feel you are at your best while helping others.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

A little soul-searching seems to be going on in your world. You seem to be getting back to who you are and who you need to be to accomplish your goals. Your performance in the workplace is outstanding and your mind is becoming clear. You have your focus and drive back and are able to think quick on your feet. This could be just the time to make the changes in your environment you have been debating. You may find it as if you are falling back into the role of the go to person in the workplace. Your peers tend to lean on you for much more than just advice about work. Pisces, remember do not take on problems of others as if they are your own. You have to give advice and simply step away. Not your circus, not your monkeys.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Restaurant

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

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

APERITIF **CUPS** **MANAGER** **SPOON**
APPETIZER **DESSERT** **MEAL** **TABLECLOTH**
BILL **CUSTOMER** **MENU** **TABLES**
BUSBOY **DISHWASHERS** **NAPKINS** **TEA**
CASHIER **DRINKS** **ORDER** **TIP**
CHAIRS **ENTREE** **PLATES** **WAITER**
CHEF **FORK** **SALAD** **WAITRESS**
COFFEE **GLASSES** **SAUCE** **WATER**
COOKS **KNIFE** **SERVERS** **WINE**

Friday's Solution

Refrigerator

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

APPLES **DRAWERS** **LETTUCE** **ORANGES**
BACON **DRINKS** **LIGHTBULB** **PEAS**
BANANAS **EGGS** **MAGNETS** **POULTRY**
BREAD **GRAPES** **MAPLE SYRUP** **PRODUCE**
BROCCOLI **ICE CUBES** **MAYONNAISE** **SHELVES**
BUTTER **JAM** **MEAT** **SPINACH**
CAKE **JUICES** **MILK** **STRAWBERRIES**
CARROTS **KETCUP** **MUSTARD** **WATER**
CHEESE **LEFTOVERS** **OLIVES** **YOGURT**
COLD **LEMONS**

The hidden message is: BARBECUE SAUCE

Daily SuDoku

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

Friday's Solution

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

Lifestyle

SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018



The installation 'Everywhere' made of lamps and mirrors by Chinese artist Song Dong is on display during a preview of the exhibition 'Welcome to the Labyrinth - Artist Deception' at the Marta Herford museum in Herford near Bielefeld, northwestern Germany. — AFP

TRAVELLAB: IN A FOREST ON THE TRAIL OF SYNCHRONOUS FIREFLIES

Picture a moonless June evening, shortly after midnight, deep in a northwestern Pennsylvania forest. Wild sounds echo gently. Stars glow far above through the canopy of trees. Otherwise it is dark - so very dark. But wait. There - right there, to the left - a single tiny light flickers on. And then another. And another. In moments they are switching on and off in stunning synchronicity, as if, deep in the woods, you have come upon a magical summertime Christmas tree. It's a show of light and nature, biology and dreaminess. It's everything the glowing screen in your pocket is not.

This is what it's like to walk smack into a pack of synchronous fireflies - "lightning bugs," as many of us called them in childhood. But these possess the unique capability of flashing in glorious, almost otherworldly unison. The display happens every year in North America as spring ebbs into summer. It sweeps north as temperatures warm, up from Tennessee's Smoky Mountains to, on this night, the thick woods of the 500,000-acre (200,000-hectare) Allegheny National Forest, 100 miles (160 kilometers) from Pittsburgh.

Of hundreds of types of fireflies, these are perhaps the most remarkable. What they do, in a world of mass-produced experiences, is organic and natural and utterly unplugged. People come from around the world for this. Peggy and Ken Butler organize an annual Pennsylvania Firefly Festival here, offering an intricate, quiet and fleeting experience where science and poetry live side by side. Visitors come to see the "Chinese lantern" fireflies that seem to float through the air by Tionesta Creek. But they come, most of all, for the synchronous fireflies, that put on their choreographed light show for two weeks in late June in the forest around the Butlers' Black Caddis Ranch. "It's so hard to put into words," Peggy Butler says. "A lot of people tell us they're here for a bucket list item. They're trying to find some missing piece of something."

The experience

To walk on the edge of Tionesta Creek, cross over "firefly island" and wander into the forest to see the synchronous insects glowing and flitting above is to ponder a wonderful question: Where do the fireflies end and the stars begin? The Butlers moved here from Ohio several years ago with no idea of the bounty in their backyard. Firefly researchers showed up and told them, essentially, "Prepare yourselves. You're going to get a lot of visitors." They did. Last year, more than 500 people converged on

their property for the festival. This year, campgrounds are booked for peak firefly season.

The phenomenon injects some economic energy into an area once dominated by sawmills, lumberyards and tanneries. But that traffic comes at a cost: "thousands of people traipsing through the forest, willy nilly, looking for these things," as Butler puts it.

Because female fireflies stay close to the ground, as do firefly larva and immature insects, more foot traffic can mean more firefly casualties. And because fireflies light up less when light pollution is present, visitors with flashlights and cellphones can interrupt mating and impact the next firefly generation.



Peggy Butler, organizer of the Pennsylvania Firefly Festival looking at some fireflies in a jar during an evening hike overlooking the Tionesta Creek and Firefly Island, left rear, in Kettleville, Pa. — AP photos

And yet, the appreciation of natural phenomena in an age of videogames and synthetic distractions is worth something, too. "I'm very actively trying to spend my life not staring at a screen," says Kiley Voss, 21, of Buffalo, New York, who's studying conservation biology and interning with the Butlers. "I want to spend my life outdoors and be places where there's no cell service. This is one of those places."

The science behind it

How do they do it? And why? The first question has an answer. As for the second, firefly experts only have theories. Synchronous males can see each other light up, and they can reset their internal pacemakers in real time to sync with male counterparts flying nearby, according to researchers. Females wait below, in brush near the ground. The males light up to attract them, as with most firefly species. But why? Why light up together, when that would seem to create competition for males trying to entice a female mate? Why create what Sara Lewis, who has researched fireflies for more than two decades, calls "silent synchronous symphonies"?

lighting but in the pause for darkness between bursts. Perhaps, that theory goes, if they're all dark for 6 seconds or so, they can more easily see females flashing in the brush below.

The third hypothesis involves a particular species of synchronous fireflies that congregate in "display trees." If they can coordinate their signals to flash simultaneously, perhaps the brighter light can be seen farther away and entice females to fly into the trees to mate. "It might be the most burning question in firefly biology that we don't have an answer to," Lewis says. "Why should thousands of males who normally would be competing for females' attention, why should they be cooperating?" For Butler,



Photo shows Peggy Butler, as night falls over her Black Caddis Ranch on the edge of the Allegheny Forest, heading out in search of fireflies in Kettleville, Pa.

"It's still a mystery," says Lewis, a biology professor at Tufts University in Massachusetts. "Why some, and why not others? Why are they doing it? We still don't know." There are theories. The first, known as "visual clutter," suggests that it's to male fireflies' advantage to cluster so they're broadcasting in sync with other males in their line of sight, thus attracting female attention. The second theory, the "silent window," focuses not on the synchronized

biology and romance create something special. The fireflies, in addition to attracting mates, are attracting people to this small patch of Pennsylvania woods. "There's this awe, every time. It's amazing," Butler says. "And this little bug has brought us so many interesting people." — AP

'GAME OF THRONES' JON SNOW TO MARRY ON-SCREEN FLAME



Actors Kit Harington and Rose Leslie

Actors Kit Harington and Rose Leslie, who played on-screen lovers Jon Snow and Ygritte in fantasy TV saga "Game of Thrones", are to wed in Britain. The 31-year-old stars are reported to be tying the knot in north-eastern Scotland, with co-stars Emilia Clarke, who played Daenerys Targaryen, and Peter Dinklage, who played Tyrion Lannister, arriving at nearby Aberdeen on Friday. The couple, who met on set in 2012, announced the engagement in the Times newspaper last September, and the wedding date was submitted to the local registry office last month.

The ceremony is to be held at the remote Wardhill Castle in Aberdeenshire, which has been in Leslie's family for 900 years, according to the Daily Mail. She left the show in 2014, but Harington's iconic character has appeared in every episode. Harington told L'Uomo Vogue that the on-screen romance contributed to the pair getting together, after filming in Iceland in 2012. "The country is beautiful ... the Northern Lights are magical ... it was there that I fell in love," he said. "If you're already attracted to someone, and then they play your love interest in the show, it becomes very easy to fall in love." — AFP



ABLOH'S HISTORIC DEBUT AT VUITTON IS A BIG DRAW IN PARIS

The debut Louis Vuitton collection by Virgil Abloh, the first African-American to head a major European fashion house, drew stars of all stripes to Paris for his rainbow-themed menswear show. Kanye West was there with his wife, Kim Kardashian West, who had returned to Paris for the first time since she was tied up and robbed at gunpoint during an October 2016 jewelry heist. Model Bella Hadid weathered a prevailing hot spell behind shades, while Rihanna and Naomi Campbell arrived for the big event of Paris Fashion Week at the last minute.

Here are some highlights from Thursday's spring-summer menswear shows:

Louis Vuitton's inclusive rainbow

"It is a big, big day," Bella Hadid said as she took her seat in the yellow section of Louis Vuitton's multicolored set. "It's great," chimed in Rihanna, who rocked a hip, white LV jumpsuit. It was clear by the mood at the show that expectations for artistic director Abloh's debut were at stratospheric levels. And Abloh did not squander his moment. There was deep and thoughtful symbolism throughout the 56 multicolored looks. White dominated the first designs. The hue, which signifies purity or new beginnings, also inspired Abloh's first main fashion venture, the Milan-based house Off-White. On Thursday, it was the base color for sheer T-shirts, LV fitted jackets and loose pleated pants that were accessorized with broken white chains that hung from bags and dragged on the floor. All of the models displaying the garments were black.

Colors then flourished. A fluorescent yellow breast-plate top began a leitmotif of cage-like garments, such as orange ribbed vests and fluorescent side bibs. Abloh literally went over the rainbow for the show's best looks, which channeled "The Wizard of Oz." A black and white jacquard double-breasted tailored jacket had an image of Judy Garland on the back.

Models present creations by Louis Vuitton at the end of the men's Spring/Summer 2019 collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP photos



Lifestyle | Fashion



Models present creations by Rick Owens, during the men's spring/summer 2019 collection fashion show.



Victor Cruz is proud of historic moment
Abloh's Louis Vuitton debut was recognized as a history-making moment for fashion. American football player Victor Cruz, 31, who has African-American and Puerto Rican roots, told The Associated Press: "I'm happy to be alive and be part of this, because this hasn't happened before in my generation."
Cruz, who arrived with Hadid, said having an African-American designer leading a European heritage house for the first time was "opening the door. People now have to pay attention to minorities and the culture that we are shaping for ourselves." "This forces them to pay attention to us now," he continued. "Pay attention in a real way, and not just inviting us to their shows. There are more doors opening to us now."

Rick Owens' babel
"Confusion" and age-old drama reigned in the styles

of Rick Owens' spring-summer ode to the Tower of Babel. Set outside against the art deco columns of Paris' Palais de Tokyo, his show featured machines spitting mood-setting smoke out across the constructed geometric stage. The accomplished designs themselves followed this architectural theme. Crisscross patterns - as seen in a torn vest silhouette or in a graphic print - were ubiquitous on looks that often capped gargantuan, 90s-era black pants.
Much like the Biblical tower that Owens' used as a touchstone for the 40 looks, the weight of the silhouette seemed visually to carry down from the torso to solid legs. The pants, which were sometimes adorned with studs or imagined in geometric panels, were highly artistic in their play on proportion. Three-dimensional tent structures adorning torsos added an eccentric edge, as did billowing white coats in multiple layers that carried an ecclesiastical-meets-sci-fi air.

The art of the invitation
The age of email doesn't seem to have left a mark on the fashion industry's antiquated system for extending invitations. Season after season, gasoline-guzzling couriers crisscross Paris to hand-deliver elaborate invites to fashion insiders. Top houses vie to see which will come up the funniest or most imaginative one.
The invitation to Rick Owens' menswear show on Thursday arrived in the shape of a black cotton mouth mask that fastened around the ears. The Yoshiokubo label sent out an invite to its "Bank Robbery" show that was fashioned as a thick wad of pretend \$500,000 bills.

Issey Miyake's summer
Loose summer vibes were in the breeze at the open-air Issey Miyake presentation. Flowing silhouettes of cotton jersey - hybrids between T-shirts and shirts - led the eye to baggy printed pants inspired by sunlight. The sun

theme continued in woven jackets. The zigzag patterns that evoked summer rays were made using a computerized jacquard fabric. It was a reminder why Issey Miyake is known as the house of techno-fabrics.
Some jackets looked businesslike or preppy - a fitting reference for the show venue, Paris' Sorbonne university. "The boundaries between work, leisure, privacy have become blurred. One can work everywhere. A park, a cafe, a library or at home," the show notes pointed out. This fact was certainly not lost on the myriad fashion writers, bunched up after the show with coffees, working to meet deadlines. -AP



Models present creations by Issey Miyake fashion house.



Lifestyle | Features



The Dream Catchers dance group pose in the backyard of their house in Ikorodu, a poor suburb on the outskirts of Lagos. — AFP photos



Seyi Oluoyole and the Dream Catchers dance group perform at an event.



Seyi Oluoyole and the Dream Catchers dance group pose for a picture after performing at an event

Lagos street kids dance their way to fame with viral hit

A group of Nigerian street children have been transformed into celebrities thanks to a viral dance video that attracted the attention of singer Rihanna and supermodel Naomi Campbell.

The "Dream Catchers" were seen in a video earlier this year dancing like double-jointed puppets in front of a battered red bus on wasteland. Not long ago, the six boys and six girls aged six to 16 had no idea about choreography. Now they're dancing in the video of Nigerian singer Amada's homage to the country's Super Eagles, who are playing in the World Cup football finals in Russia.

"What we've done this year is huge. We have gone very, very far," said Seyi Oluoyole, 26, the group's dance teacher and tutor. In early March, she posted the latest video of her smiling prodigies on the Dream Catchers' Instagram page, wiggling along to an Afrobeats tune from popstar Wizkid. The internet lit up when Rihanna, then US producer P. Diddy, shared the clip on their own accounts and it was seen more than 2.8 million times. Several weeks later, Naomi Campbell, in Lagos for the annual fashion week in April, visited the young dancers in Ikorodu, a poor suburb on the outskirts of the megacity. In a public relations triumph, the children jumped into her arms before a horde of cameras.

'A second chance'

The Dream Catchers have been hot property ever since, whether it's to collaborate with other performers or to receive prizes. The governor of Lagos, Akinwunmi Ambode, invited some of them on stage for world children's day on May 27. Oluoyole founded the dance troupe four years ago to help street children in Lagos dream of a better future and to find their way back into school. At the time, she was leading a group of dancers from her church and every Sunday

noticed there were large numbers of poor kids from the area keen to take their mind off hunger and boredom.

"They used to come to church in numbers, they always wanted to come and dance," she said. "After a while, I realized that most of them were not in school. They didn't even speak good English." According to the UN children's agency Unicef, Nigeria has 10.5 million out-of-school children—the highest in the world. Oluoyole herself was 12 when her father lost his job at a bank and the entire family found itself living on the street for two years.

"At least I was lucky enough to keep going in school because it was something important for my parents. But I've seen the devastating effect of poverty," she added. She now houses a dozen children in happy chaos in her three-room flat. On the walls are pictures of icons who came from modest backgrounds such as Nelson Mandela, Oprah Winfrey or Serena Williams. A motto in capital letters reads: "EVERY DAY IS A SECOND CHANCE."



Seyi Oluoyole and the Dream Catchers dance group pose for a picture before performing at an event.

Read, write, dance

Oluoyole persuaded parents to let them take charge of their children. She pays their school fees—about 100,000 naira (\$280, 240 euros) — with what she earns writing television screenplays, supplemented by help from sponsors. The dance troupe practices in the evening but if they don't do well at school the children are not allowed to dance for a few days, which they say is "the worst punishment". Busola, 13, has large almond-shaped eyes and a tomboy's haircut.

"Every day is a second chance"

Nicknamed "T-boy", she has spent most of her life begging for "money and food" in Lagos traffic jams with her little brother.

Now she says she wants to be a "dancer, actress or hairdresser". "I used to speak only Yoruba. Other children were laughing at me," added Dami, 10, who squatted with his mother in an abandoned house for several years. "Now I go to school, I can read and write. My entire life has changed." Oluoyole said the troupe has not made any real money despite their new-found fame, other than donations of food or clothing. "Everyone invites us to perform but most people just want to exploit the kids for their product, to get famous... they don't pay us any money, or very little," she said. Oluoyole wants to catch her own dream: To open a "real" dance school in Lagos. — AFP



Seyi Oluoyole and the Dream Catchers dance group perform at an event.



The Dream Catchers dance group perform on stage at an event in Lagos.

3 pros discuss creating an outdoor room

Designers often talk about the perfect "outdoor living room" — a deck or patio that combines the comfort and style of indoor decorating with the pleasure of relaxing outside. But what separates these outdoor entertaining spaces from more typically decorated backyards? We've asked three interior designers — Brett Beldock of New York-based Brett Design Inc., Abbe Fenimore of Studio Ten25 in Dallas and Dan Mazzarini of the design firm BHDM — about what items they use to elevate a simple deck or patio to true "outdoor room" status.

The perfect rug

"Adding textiles underfoot," says Mazzarini, brings "that added tactile quality that's expected to be only indoors, and helps sort of redefine the outdoor space." Beldock agrees, and says companies like Sunbrella and Perennials offer soft rugs made of durable, dyed acrylic yarns in gorgeous patterns and colors. "It doesn't feel like

plastic," Beldock says, but "you can hose it down." And fortunately, says Fenimore, you don't have to invest a lot — even big-box stores like Sam's Club sometimes offer good-quality outdoor rugs in geometric prints or stripes.

Some of these may actually dry more quickly after rain than more expensive, thicker outdoor rugs. Choosing a rug that drains and dries well is especially important if you have a concrete floor or little direct sunlight. But, Fenimore says, don't skimp too much on the price: Very thin acrylic rugs may not last long and may fade quickly. In choosing the number of rugs and their placement, consider defining separate entertaining areas: one rug for the dining area under the table and chairs, and another to define a seating area that serves as a living room.

Living room lighting

Typical outdoor lighting can be harsh and unflattering, and "overhead lighting is nobody's friend," says Mazzarini.



Photo provided by Abbe Fenimore shows fans for hot days and space heaters for cold nights can help make a patio feel even more like an "outdoor living room," as seen in this backyard sitting area designed by Abbe Fenimore.



Photo provided by Abbe Fenimore shows how sofa pillows, as seen in this outdoor seating area designed by Texas-based interior designer Abbe Fenimore, bring a touch of indoor comfort to a deck or patio.



Photo provided by Abbe Fenimore shows an outdoor rug in a rooftop sitting area designed by Abbe Fenimore, which brings the softness of a living room to an outdoor space. — AP photos

So look for outdoor table lamps and floor lamps to add the soft glow of indoor lighting. Although they vary in what weather conditions they can handle, outdoor lamps can be used throughout much of the year, Mazzarini says.

Fenimore agrees: "Bringing in lamplight, especially outside, is really beautiful and subtle," she says, and it's easy to find a wide range of styles and prices for outdoor lamps at home decor retailers. As a finishing touch, Beldock loves adding to the glow by using lots of candles with glass hurricane covers.

Temperature control

Managing the air is another indoor touch you can work with outdoors. For clients in Texas, Fenimore often suggests fans to circulate the air on an outdoor patio. At her own home, "we have a wall-mounted fan hanging under one of the eaves," she says, to keep air moving and hopefully deter mosquitoes. For colder evenings, standing space heaters can take the chill out of a space and complement the warmth from a fireplace.

Upholstery and fabrics

Just as with your indoor living room, choose a comfortable, stylish sofa for outdoors and pair it with a loveseat or comfortable upholstered chairs. Indoor/outdoor fabrics have come a long way, these designers say, so choose a

texture that feels like indoor upholstery. And don't just stick with one color, says Beldock: "Mix and match fabrics the way you do in an indoor situation." Although outdoor sofa styles vary widely, Beldock says the sectional "peanut sofa" by Bonaldo is popular for outdoor living rooms, and it's available in a wide range of soft outdoor fabrics.

Velvety, chenille fabrics durable enough for outdoors have become popular, says Fenimore. Despite their cozy texture, she says, these fabrics don't trap heat and can be comfortable all summer long. To complete the look, add throw pillows to your outdoor sofa. Many outdoor throw pillows are available with stuffing that can dry easily without getting moldy.

Another option, Fenimore says, is using beautiful indoor throw pillows when you entertain outside and then bringing them in when the party is over. A deep pile of pillows will bring indoor comfort to your outdoor sofa, encouraging guests to stay and relax, she says. Finishing touch: Fenimore suggests keeping a container filled with soft, lightweight throw blankets so that guests lounging outdoors in the evening can have that extra touch of softness and luxury if the wind begins to blow. — AP

Classifieds

Sunday, June 24, 2018

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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY NIGHT: Relatively hot with light to moderate freshening at times north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 45 km/h causing rising dust.

BY DAY: Hot with light to moderate freshening at times north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h with a chance for carried dust over some areas.

WEATHER WARNING			Fresh wind + dust	
STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.	SFC. CHART 23/06/2018 1200 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	41 °C	31 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	41 °C	32 °C		
ABDALY	42 °C	30 °C		
BUBYAN	---- °C	---- °C		
JAHRA	42 °C	31 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	41 °C	30 °C		
SALMIYAH	38 °C	32 °C		
AHMADI	40 °C	33 °C		
NUWAISIB	41 °C	31 °C		
WAFRA	42 °C	30 °C		
SALMY	40 °C	29 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Sunday	06/24	Hot with a chance for carried dust over open areas	44 °C	32 °C	NW	15 - 40 km/h
Monday	06/25	Hot	45 °C	34 °C	NW	12 - 35 km/h
Tuesday	06/26	Very hot with a chance for carried dust over some areas	47 °C	35 °C	NW	15 - 35 km/h
Wednesday	06/27	Very hot and Dusty	49 °C	36 °C	NW	25 - 60 km/h

TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:14
Sunrise	04:50
Zuhr	11:50
Asr	15:24
Sunset	18:51
Isha	20:23

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	44 °C
MIN. Temp.	32 °C
MAX. RH	27 %
MIN. RH	07 %
MAX. Wind	N 60 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Hospitals

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

Clinics

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

Required

Female workers

required for superb lady salon (Nail Spa)
Sabah Al-Salem area with experience & transferable visa. Good Salary.
(Preferably Filipinas)
Tel.: 99203234

Required

Receptionist

required for superb lady Salon (Nail Spa)
Sabah Al-Salem area with experience, good English and Arabic & transferable visa. Good Salary.
Tel.: 99203234

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AN EXPERIENCED STAFF TO WORK IN THE EXPORT DEPT OF FOODSTUFF CO.

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I, DODDIPALLI SUBBARAJU, P/o. S. Yerrapalli (V), Madanagopalapuram, Boyanapalli (Post), Rajampet (Mdl), YSR Kadapa (Dist.), A.P., hereby state that my name in my Passport No. L3848161, Aadhar No. 987988757093, was mentioned as THIPPARAJU NAGARAJUNARAJU S/o. THIPPARAJU SUBRAMANYAM. My actual & correct name as per Adhar Card is DODDIPALLI SUBBARAJU S/o. DODDIPALLI RAMA RAJU.

EMERGENCY

112

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is

1889988

CHANGE OF NAME

I Buseneni Kumar S/o Busineni Ramachandrai, holder of Indian Passport Number L4907858 and Civil ID 281051204453 have changed my name as Busineni Sivaprasad S/o Busineni Ramachandrai. Hereafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5403) 24-6-2018

For labor-related inquiries and complaints: Call MSAL

HOTLINE 128

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw) DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Sunday 24/6/2018				Departure Flights on Sunday 24/6/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:10	SAW	704	Damascus	11:30
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	Bahrain	214	Bahrain	11:35
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	SYR	342	Damascus	12:00
KAC	102	London	00:50	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	THY	767	Istanbul	13:40
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	JZR	144	Doha	13:55
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
JZR	267	Beirut	02:10	JZR	552	Alexandria	14:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
AEE	956	ATH	02:25	RJA	645	Amman	14:15
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	JZR	802	Tbilisi	14:50
THY	768	Istanbul	02:40	FEG	442	Asyut	14:50
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	IAW	158A	Al Najaf	14:55
WAN	714	AGP	02:45	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
RJA	648	Amman	03:05	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:55
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:00
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	JZR	606	Kochi	16:00
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	KAC	619	Doha	16:15
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
JZR	551	Alexandria	04:05	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
KAC	609	Hyderabad	04:30	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	SAW	710	Latakia	17:00
JZR	1541	Cairo	04:35	KAC	503	Beirut	17:15
THY	1414	TZX	05:05	FDB	052	Dubai	17:20
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	WAN	135	Doha	17:25
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	FEG	242	Alexandria	17:45
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	KAC	381	Delhi	17:45
QTR	8511	Doha	05:30	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
BAW	157	London	06:10	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:25	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	JZR	608	Hyderabad	18:25
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	JZR	240	Amman	18:30
JZR	143	Doha	07:00	JZR	538	Cairo	18:35
MSR	2616	Sohag	07:05	JZR	266	Beirut	19:15
KAC	358	Kochi	07:40	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	WAN	117	Bahrain	19:30
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:00	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
WAN	352	Luxor	08:00	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	RJA	641	Amman	20:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
IRC	528	Ahwaz	09:00	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:20
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	JZR	602	Mumbai	20:30
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	DLH	624	Dammam	20:50
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	KAC	357	Kochi	21:00
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
SAW	703	Damascus	10:30	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
JZR	787	Riyadh	10:30	KAC	1543	Cairo	21:20
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:35
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	203	Lahore	22:00
WAN	134	Doha	11:10	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:05
JZR	903	Baku	11:10	JZR	1540	Cairo	22:10
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	ALK	250	Colombo	22:20
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:20	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:25
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	THY	1403	AYT	22:25
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	KAC	383	Delhi	22:25
THY	766	Istanbul	12:45	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
WAN	542	KTM	12:50	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	KAC	411	Bangkok	23:15
JZR	239	Amman	13:00	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
				WAN	337	Alexandria	23:40
				JZR	560	Sohag	23:45

News

Iraqis fill Mosul airwaves after IS radio silence

MOSUL: During the Islamic State group's rule in Mosul, radio stations were banned and replaced with broadcasts of jihadist propaganda. Today, young Iraqis are filling the city's airwaves. One budding presenter is Nour Tai, who at 16 years old faces the microphone with a confident tone and a professional style. She hosts a weekly program on One FM, a Mosul station launched in February that broadcasts a mix of music, entertainment and current affairs debates.

Her career began a year ago thanks to a talent show organized by Al-Ghad, a station in the Kurdish city of Arbil which hosted many of those displaced from Iraq's second city. She told AFP at the time that she was passionate about radio because "it touches everyone". "I want to be part of it," she said. She now sits in the One FM studio, accompanied by her father, as a degenerative illness left her blind three years ago. She says her aim is to "give people hope, especially those who suffer from a handicap." "I want to tell everyone that we can all contribute something and that we can realize our dreams," she says from the cramped studio.

Erasing 'terrorist ideology'

The launch of One FM came six months after Iraqi forces declared victory over IS following three years of brutal jihadist rule in Iraq's second city. IS had shut down independent radio stations and anyone caught tuning in could expect severe physical punishment. The emergence of stations such as One FM is a step in the

city's transformation since IS was ousted following a vast, months-long operation. Young presenters are busy 24 hours a day, producing and broadcasting shows which are also filmed for broadcast on the radio's website and social media accounts. The channel is run by volunteers who bought the necessary equipment by pooling their savings, some selling their own belongings to fund the station.

Yassir Al-Qaissi, One FM's head of communications, says their aim is to "denounce violence and extremism, and broaden people's minds." There is a need to "erase the terrorist ideology and end the sickness of our society, such as sectarianism and racism," the 28-year-old says. Ahmad al-Jaffal, 30, says the jihadist occupation "created a vacuum of thought". "With my program, I try to promote ideas of coexistence, of mutual understanding, and of acceptance of the other," says Jaffal, who worked as a journalist prior to the IS takeover in 2014.

Volume up

One FM is not the only ambitious new station on the local airwaves. Mosul residents who took refuge in Arbil after the IS takeover of their city launched two stations: Al-Ghad and Start FM. After Iraqi forces drove the jihadists from Mosul, One FM was launched and Mosul FM started broadcasting from the nearby region of Dohuk.

That means it has more radio stations than the two state-run channels it had under former dictator Saddam Hussein. All currently broadcast analogue signals and can only reach Mosul and its surroundings. The US invasion in 2003 brought a multitude of new options for listeners, although these were co-opted by American occupying forces or political parties. The period before the IS offensive was risky for journalists and presenters in Mosul, who were regularly targeted by Al-Qaeda and other jihadist groups.



MOSUL: Radio presenter Nour Tai broadcasts her weekly program on One FM, a radio station in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul. A degenerative illness left the 16 years old Nour blind three years ago. During the Islamic State group's rule in Mosul, radio stations were banned and replaced with broadcasts of jihadist propaganda. —AFP

Mohammad Salem, a sociologist, says the new stations will need government supervision to ensure that this time they are not misused for political or religious purposes—"especially as some of their funding sources are unknown". On the streets of Mosul, the radio shows bring a distraction from the struggles of life in

the war-scarred city. Taxi driver Mohammad Qassem, 27, says the music and entertainment shows are a welcome addition to his long days. "We can finally listen to all the songs that IS deprived us of for three years," he says happily, before pushing the volume up to maximum on his car radio — AFP

Despite summit, N Korea 'still a nuclear threat'

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump yesterday cited "an unusual and extraordinary threat" from North Korea's nuclear arsenal to extend sanctions on Kim Jong Un's regime, despite touting the success of a historic summit earlier this month. After flying back to Washington last week, boasting of success, the US leader tweeted: "There is no longer a Nuclear Threat from North Korea." "Sleep well tonight!" he added on June 13, a day after the Singapore meeting.

But a presidential declaration sent to Congress on Friday struck a different note as it explained why the administration would keep in place tough economic restrictions first imposed by former president George W Bush. "The existence and risk of proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula and the actions and policies of the Government of North Korea continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States," it said.

"I am continuing for one year the national emergency with respect to North Korea," added the statement. Though the notice is considered pro forma, the disparity in tone reflects the work that US officials concede remains to be done as negotiators thrash out the details of Pyongyang's disarmament.

At their summit, Kim and Trump signed a pledge "to work towards complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," a stock phrase favored by Pyongyang that stopped short of longstanding US demands for North Korea to give up its

atomic arsenal in a "verifiable" and "irreversible" way. Critics have pointed to the vague wording of the non-binding summit document and raised fears that the summit could weaken the international coalition against the North's nuclear program.

Also Friday, the US and South Korea agreed to indefinitely suspend two exchange program training exercises, to support diplomatic negotiations with North Korea, the Pentagon said. The move came after the two countries had previously announced the shelving of the large-scale Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercises slated for August, making good on a pledge by Trump during his summit.

The decision followed a meeting between Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Joe Dunford, and National Security Advisor John Bolton. "To support implementing the outcomes of the Singapore Summit, and in coordination with our Republic of Korea ally, Secretary Mattis has indefinitely suspended select exercises," Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White said in a statement.

Two Korean Marine Exchange Program training exercises scheduled to occur in the next three months have now been shelved. US and South Korean forces have been training together for years, and routinely rehearse everything from beach landings to an invasion from the North, or even "decapitation" strikes targeting the North Korean regime. Pyongyang typically reacts furiously. — AFP

Sex, gender, social change: Cambodia blogger tackles taboos

PHNOM PENH: Sex toys and infidelity are generally hush topics in conservative Cambodia, but not on a taboo-busting video blog called "A Dose of Cath" that unabashedly wrestles with the risqué, drawing both applause and abuse in the patriarchal country. Hosted on Facebook, the show by a 23-year-old Cambodian woman tackles the finer points of sex education, women's health and gender imbalances in a country where the #MeToo movement has barely registered.

A recent episode on a well-known 19th-century Cambodian poem that used to be taught in schools and advises women not to laugh too loudly gained nearly 350,000 views. The videos feature Catherine Harry, the pen name of the self-described feminist who featured in Forbes' 2018 "30 under 30" list of outstanding leaders and entrepreneurs in Asia. Having ditched her birth name more than 10 years ago, Cath is following in the footsteps of other Cambodian writers and media personalities turning to blogs and social media to make a name for themselves.

But few have waded so deeply into the sensitive social issues that Cath confronts in short no-frills monologues filmed in her Phnom Penh apartment. "What I expect to get from what I'm doing, from my videos, is to start a conversation, because the topics that I talk about, people don't really talk about," she said. Those include premarital sex, whether to watch porn in a relationship, cervical cancer and sexual assault. Statistics point to an urgent need for such conversations in a kingdom where one in five Cambodian men surveyed as part of a 2014 UN study admitted to having committed rape.

Cath has shared her own #MeToo experiences to help spur debate, but said those who



PHNOM PENH: 23-year-old Cambodian blogger using the pen name Catherine Harry, edits a video for her blog in her Phnom Penh studio. — AFP

speak out in Cambodia face victim-blaming or even violence. "If a woman talks about her experiences of sexual assault or sexual harassment, she will be rejected by society, by her family, her friends," she said. And while 65 per cent of all businesses in Cambodia are run by women, the country's major political and financial institutions are still male-dominated.

Hun Sen, the long-serving prime minister who has been in power for over three decades, has tried to court the youth through his own Facebook page and graduation speeches. He also dispenses advice to women on how to live, telling female garment workers on May 23 that it was better to have only one partner so "there is no worry about AIDS". "This is a message to youth to do good things," he said in his remarks, which were broadcast live on his Facebook page. The premier is set for a landslide victory in general elections next month after backing a crackdown on the opposition.

Cath, who studies mass media at Pannasastra

University in Phnom Penh, started the "vlog" in early 2016 and it is now a full-time job, monetized through product placements for skin care companies and a brand of condoms. "I don't want everyone to agree with me but I want people to start questioning society," she explained. Raymond Leos, one of her professors, brings up Cath when discussing a wider trend of students moving beyond traditional career paths and family expectations. "They're very technologically savvy, they're very sophisticated, and they're very independent in their thinking," he said.

"A Dose of Cath" has found a ready audience in a country where one third of the 15 million population is under 30 and smartphone usage has more than doubled over the past five years, helping her amass more than 200,000 followers on Facebook. One video posted last year dealt with female virginity, an issue in a country where many women are expected to wait to wed before having sex. — AFP

Ethiopian leader escapes grenade...

Continued from Page 1

Abiy took office after his predecessor, Hailemariam Desalegn, resigned in February following protests in which hundreds of people were killed between 2015 and 2017. Emergency law was temporarily imposed to quell the unrest and was lifted this month. Despite boasting one of Africa's fastest growing economies, opponents say the benefits have not been shared fairly between ethnic groups and regions in the country, which has been run by the same ruling coalition for more than quarter of a century.

Abiy has travelled around the nation, promising to address grievances and address political and civil rights. After yesterday's blast, the prime minister's chief of staff wrote on Twitter: "Some whose heart is filled with hate attempted a grenade attack." "All the casualties are martyrs of love & peace. HE PM sends his condolences to the victims. The perpetrators will be brought to justice," Fitsum Arega wrote. The US embassy in Addis Ababa said: "Violence has no place as Ethiopia pursues meaningful political and economic reforms."

Peace initiative

Rally organizer Seyoum Teshome told Reuters he saw five people injured in the blast. "It was a grenade.

Someone tried to hurl it to the stage where the prime minister was," Seyoum said. As well as promising economic reforms, Abiy stunned Ethiopians this month by saying he was ready to fully implement a peace deal with Eritrea that was signed in 2000 after a two-year war. For years, Ethiopia refused to implement the deal, saying it wanted more talks. The stalemate led to a military build up and sporadic clashes on the border between Ethiopia and Eritrea, which seceded from Ethiopia in 1991 after a long war of independence.

Under the 2000 peace deal, Ethiopia is required to cede the border town of Badme to Eritrea. But war veterans in Badme and ethnic Tigrayans along the border oppose the peace initiative, with some town residents saying they will not leave the town. Eritrea's ambassador to Japan, Estifanos Afeworki, wrote on Twitter that his nation "strongly condemns the attempt to incite violence" in Addis Ababa, calling the rally a "demonstration for peace". Ethiopia's ruling EPRDF is made up of parties representing the country's four major ethnic groups. Abiy hails from the Oromo ethnic group, making up roughly a third of the population.

Oromos, along with the Amhara ethnic group, led street demonstrations against the government since 2015 that began as protests against a development plan around the capital and which opponents said the state was using to grab land. Protests broadened to cover other political and economic demands. In another of Abiy's major policy shifts, the prime minister has said Ethiopia would open its state-run telecoms monopoly and state-owned Ethiopian Airlines to private domestic and foreign investment, both moves would loosen the state's grip. — Reuters

unexpected outages in Venezuela, Libya and Angola have effectively brought supply cuts to around 2.8 million bpd in recent months.

Falih has warned the world could face a supply deficit of up to 1.8 million bpd in the second half of 2018. "Both Saudi and Iran can show that they won," an OPEC delegate said. "Zanganeh can go back to his country and say 'I won', because we are keeping the original agreement unchanged. Falih can go back and say 'we will be able to raise production to meet market needs.'" The United States, which rivals Russia and Saudi Arabia for the position of world No.1 oil producer, is not participating in the supply pact. — Reuters

Thousands call for 2nd...

Continued from Page 1

she added, European flag in hand. Freelance journalist William Diaz, 52, said Brexit was "creating tensions" and a "much more polarized society." "It is not something you can decide on a yes no vote," he added. Almost two-thirds of Britons believe they should have a final say on the Brexit deal, according to a poll published this week, although it is still unclear what would happen the government's deal were rejected.

Britain's Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, who campaigned to leave the European Union, warned May against a Brexit that was "soft, yielding and seemingly infinitely long" like toilet roll. Writing in The Sun, Johnson urged against a "bog-roll Brexit", British slang for toilet paper, and called on his boss to "fulfill the mandate of the people and deliver a full British Brexit". May's team is about to enter into the next round of negotiations with EU counterparts, but is still to define exactly what it wants from Britain's future relationship with the continent, particularly in the area of customs regulation.

Saudi women hit the road as...

Continued from Page 1

economy, with industries from car sales to insurance to reap returns. It should also encourage more women into the workforce and raise productivity, if only modestly at first. Auto companies have seized the moment with theatrical ads marking the end of the ban, and private parking garages designated "ladies" areas with pink signage.

Social media is also celebrating with tweets like #You_Will_Drive_and_the_People_Are_With_You. Some reactions have been more derisive or expressed concern about social impacts. Much of the kingdom's overwhelmingly young population supports Prince

Trade minister Liam Fox, an arch eurosceptic, insisted that the prime minister was still prepared to walk away from the talks if no satisfactory deal was reached. "The prime minister has always said no deal is better than a bad deal," Fox told the BBC in an interview aired yesterday. "It is essential as we enter the next phase of the negotiations that the EU understands that and believes it... I think our negotiating partners would not be wise if they thought our PM was bluffing."

Johnson, who was the most prominent face in the campaign to leave the EU, wrote that the British people "just want us to get on with it". "They don't want a half-hearted Brexit," he wrote. "They don't want some sort of hopeless compromise, some perpetual push me-pull you arrangement in which we stay half-in and half-out in a political no man's land."

"Two years ago the people of this country recorded a verdict about themselves that they had the guts to believe in Britain. They were right and will be proved right in the decades ahead," he added. However, aviation giant Airbus warned on Friday it could pull out of Britain if it leaves the EU without a deal, while carmaker BMW also warned that uncertainty was affecting the investment climate. The march against Brexit is part of a "summer of action" planned by campaign groups to put pressure on political leaders to hold a vote on the final deal. — AFP

Mohammed's reforms, but many Saudis fear their speed could provoke a backlash from religious conservatives once seen as dominant. Activists and diplomats have speculated that the arrests of more than a dozen women's rights advocates over the past month were aimed at appeasing conservative elements or at sending a message to activists not to push demands too far.

The Crown Prince's modernization efforts have won praise at home and abroad, but he has also provoked unease with an anti-corruption purge last year, when scores of royals and top businessmen were detained at the Ritz-Carlton hotel in Riyadh. Most were freed after reaching settlements with the government. Activists have already begun campaigning to end the guardianship system, which has been chipped away at slowly over the years. Prince Mohammed declared in an interview earlier this year that he believes men and women are equal. — Reuters

Saudi pledges 'measurable' oil...

Continued from Page 1

ecause of sanctions on Iran, OPEC and its allies have since last year been participating in a pact to cut output by 1.8 million bpd. The measure had helped rebalance the market in the past 18 months and lifted oil to around \$75 per barrel from as low as \$27 in 2016. But

Sports

SEE MORE

WITH THE AIRLINE THAT FLIES TO MORE COUNTRIES THAN ANY OTHER



From Russia to Leicester and back for record-breaking Musa

Super Eagles in the hunt for a place in last 16

VOLGOGRAD: Leicester City's out-of-favour striker Ahmed Musa wrote himself into the World Cup record books by scoring twice to fire Nigeria to their first win in Russia against Iceland. The 25-year-old produced two virtuoso second-half finishes to keep the Super Eagles in the hunt for a place in the last 16 on Friday.

They would guarantee progress with victory against Argentina in Saint Petersburg on Tuesday and even a draw could take them through if other results go their way. Musa became, in the process, Nigeria's all-time highest scorer at World Cup finals with four goals and he the only man from his country to score in two different World Cups.

He is also just the second African player to register two goals in two World Cup matches since Cameroon's Roger Milla in 1990. But it has not been an easy journey for the livewire forward, who first caught the eye when, as a 21-year-old, he scored twice against Lionel Messi's Argentina in a 3-2 group stage defeat in Brazil four years ago.

Signed by the then English Premier League champions Leicester City from CSKA Moscow in 2016 for a club record £16.6 million (\$22 million), he scored his first two goals in a 4-2 friendly defeat against a Barcelona side led by Messi.

But it took him until October that year to open his Premier League account with a goal in a 3-1 win against Crystal Palace. He soon fell out of favour at the

King Power Stadium, languishing behind England's Jamie Vardy, Shinji Okazaki and Leonardo Ulloa in the pecking order.

He was encouraged by Nigeria's German coach Gernot Rohr to return to his old club in Russia on loan in January to get more game time ahead of the World Cup, a move Musa acknowledges has been vital. "They helped me get back to the style of play I had today. Were it not for CSKA, I would not have been in the World Cup."

His first goal against Iceland earned comparisons with Dennis Bergkamp's injury-time wonder goal for the Netherlands that knocked Argentina out of the 1998 World Cup quarter-finals. Twenty years later Musa has the chance to eliminate Messi's Argentina, and the pocket rocket who stands just 1.70 metres (five feet seven inches) tall is ready for

“ I think scoring against Argentina isn't that difficult ”

the challenge.

"I think scoring against Argentina isn't that difficult for me," he smiled after his man-of-the-match performance in Volgograd on Friday. "I can remember four years ago when Messi played in Brazil I scored two goals," he said.

"And when I transferred to Leicester I played against Barcelona and he's on the pitch and I scored another two goals," Musa said he would like to return to CSKA permanently, but another stunning performance could see Europe's top clubs queuing up for his



Nigeria's forward Ahmed Musa (L) and Nigeria's goalkeeper Francis Uzoho (R) celebrate with a team staff member at the end of the Russia 2018 World Cup Group D football match between Nigeria and Iceland at the Volgograd Arena in Volgograd on June 22, 2018.

signature.

"I have go back to Leicester," he confirmed, but said he would only think about his future once Nigeria were eliminated, which he hopes will be at least another two

weeks away. "Coming back to CSKA, if it's possible, I would love to. It's my die-hard club. "There is nothing I can pay them for the past seasons I've been with them other than to say: 'Thank you very much'." — AFP

Favela fans celebrate Gabriel Jesus in Brazil hometown

SAO PAULO: Just four years ago, the closest Gabriel Jesus got to the World Cup was painting the streets of his favela in Sao Paulo green and yellow. On Friday, his old neighbors turned out en masse to watch him star in Russia.

Dressed in the national shirt, draped in Brazilian flags and wearing Gabriel Jesus masks, the residents of the tough Jardim Peri favela crammed into Bar da Gisele for the game against Costa Rica in Saint Petersburg.

Even if all the talk was about Neymar, his old friends and neighbors were fixated on the 21-year-old number nine. "Go Jesus, go Jesus!" the bar owner, Gisele Xavier, said, just a few doors away from where the young star grew up.

"It must so hard for him to hold his

tears back," she added, watching Jesus waiting in the tunnel before the game, which would turn out to be an unexpectedly tough test before Costa Rica's defense finally crumbled and Brazil got the 2-0 result. Xavier was wearing the favela's favorite shirt, depicting the player's face. Hers, though, had been autographed.

In her bar she also displayed two shirts from Palmeiras football club, where Jesus got his start, even if she is a passionate supporter of the rival Corinthians. "He gave them to me," she said. What Jesus also gave was a lot of pride and hope in the favela, as the poor, unregulated neighborhoods sprawling across Brazil's big cities are called.

"Imagine getting out of the neighborhood and becoming number nine on the Selecao. For us it's a huge joy," said former neighbor Ze Moa, 37, who also wore an autographed shirt. The crowd went wild in the 25th minute when Jesus appeared to have scored, only for the goal to be disallowed for offside.

"I never could have imagined this happening," said Ellon Ferreira, a friend of Jesus. "He makes us so happy. Who would ever have believed he'd get as far?" At the final whistle, Jardim Peri erupted in fireworks. Even if he hadn't



Brazil's forward Gabriel Jesus (2L) kicks the ball during the Russia 2018 World Cup Group E football match between Brazil and Costa Rica at the Saint Petersburg Stadium in Saint Petersburg on June 22, 2018.

scored and even if he was thousands of miles away, Gabriel Jesus was the life of the party. As the celebrations grew, a Brazilian funk song belted out its homespun anthem to the local hero: "Four

year ago he played football on the school pitch... Today's he's here.... Neymar passed the ball so that the boy can fly.... He passes it to the number nine, who knows that's it a goal." — AFP

position and a surprise recall to Bert van Marwijk's World Cup squad that forced him to postpone a planned honeymoon.

A day after his wedding, he jumped on a long-haul flight to the team's training camp in Turkey. Two matches into the World Cup, with Peru to come on Tuesday and Australia's tournament very much alive, Risdon's head is still spinning. "I took a moment during the national anthem to close my eyes and soak it all in during that second game (against Denmark)," the pacy full back told reporters at Australia's training base in Kazan yesterday.

"You just sort of pinch yourself and see how far you've come when you're playing against the best players on the biggest stage on the world. "It probably helps in a way that they don't know much about me."

Risdon suffered an early setback in the 2-1 loss against France, giving away a penalty with a sliding tackle on Antoine Griezmann that resulted in their first goal. He felt aggrieved by the decision but responded well, earning praise from Van Marwijk and plenty of admiration elsewhere for his hard tackling and fearless dashes out of defence. On one point in Group C after a 1-1 draw against Denmark, the Socceroos feel confident of upsetting the already eliminated Peru in Sochi. Then



Josh Risdon

it will be up to France, already in the last 16, to beat Denmark and give Australia a chance, with goal difference another factor.

Risdon hopes Ricardo Gareca-coached Peru will go for broke to push for a win, even if there is only pride on the line for them. "In terms of fast tempo, we're very fit as a side and I'm sure we can match them all day in fitness," said Risdon. "If it does open up, I think it will help us." — Reuters

World Cup heading for record number of penalties

SAMARA: One of the central themes from the early stages of the World Cup in Russia is the number of penalties being awarded, many following the intervention of video assistant referees (VARs). Gylfi Sigurdsson's missed penalty in Iceland's 2-0 loss to Nigeria on Friday was the 12th of the tournament in the first 26 matches, of which nine were scored.

In Brazil four years ago, there were only 13 penalties in the entire tournament. The World Cup record, set in 2002, stands at 18. The role of VAR goes a long way to explaining this trend, with six penalties so far being awarded following a video review.

A penalty was also disallowed in Brazil's win over Costa Rica on Friday after VAR deemed there not to have been a foul on Neymar. FIFA's director of refereeing, Massimo Busacca, said before the tournament that VAR would not be perfect at the tournament and so it has proved, with inconsistency in decision making frustrating teams and fans alike.

Both Brazil and England felt that VAR should have been used to review penalty decisions in their opening fixtures, while Australia coach Bert van Marwijk was left furious with the role the system played in his team's loss to France.

"I hoped that maybe one time there will be a referee (who is) very honest," the Dutchman, never a fan of the technology in principle, told reporters after that match. "The body language was that he didn't know from my position.

And then you have to take a decision." However, FIFA remain convinced that VAR has been a success. "Generally, it should be noted that FIFA is extremely satisfied with the level of refereeing to date and the successful implementation of the VAR system, which on the whole has been positively accepted and appreciated within our football community," said FIFA Media Relations Manager Giovanni Marli.

One of the main areas for confusion appears to be what VAR reviews can be used for. The system only comes into play for goals, penalties, red cards and mistaken identity. It cannot be used for free kicks, which has left some players frustrated.

Denmark have conceded penalties in both of their Group C games, the latest being against Australia when Yussuf Poulsen was adjudged to have hand-balled in the penalty area after VAR alerted the match referee. However, Denmark believe there was a foul on Poulsen in the build-up to the incident that should have also been considered. — Reuters

Risdon revels in World Cup after long road to Russia

KAZAN: In an Australia team that has knocked up a trove of frequent flyer points to get to Russia, defender Josh Risdon knows a thing or two about taking the long road to fulfil his dream of playing at a World Cup.

Born and raised in Bunbury, a coastal town in Western Australia, Risdon and his parents clocked up some 1,700 kilometres (1,056 miles) a week driving to and from the remote state capital Perth to play in junior representative teams. Unlike most of Australia's top talents, who ply their trade in Europe, the 25-year-old right back plays for the aptly-named Western Sydney Wanderers in Australia's A-League, a top-flight competition that involves plenty of taxing trips across the country's vast land mass.

Breaking into the Socceroos has also been a journey, with a debut in 2015, a struggle to hold down a regular

Sports

Federer beats Kudla to book 12th career final at Halle

Roger to face Croatian Borna Coric

HALLE WESTFALEN: Roger Federer booked his 12th career final at the ATP Halle grass tournament yesterday, beating qualifier Denis Kudla 7-6 (7/1), 7-5. The Swiss needs to win the title on Sunday - it would be his tenth at the event - to remain world number one heading into Wimbledon.

He will face Croatian Borna Coric, who advanced 2-3 when Spanish fourth seed Roberto Bautista Agut had to retire after slipping on the grass and injuring himself. Federer's win over Kudla was his 20th in a row on grass, dating to June, 2017. He sat out the clay court season and began on grass last week with a title at Stuttgart.

"I'm very happy. I've never played back-to-back finals on grass in the Wimbledon run-up," Federer said. "This is a first for me." Federer is back in a familiar spot in Halle, which models its Centre Court after its namesake at the All England club, as he works to fine-tune with a Wimbledon title defence starting a week from Monday. "I was happy to win Stuttgart and happy to make another final here. My comeback (after skipping the clay) has been rather successful." "I hope I can find my best game. I've said you usually start playing your best towards the end of a tournament, so hopefully I'm gonna have a good final."

Federer needed just under 90 minutes to get the job done and hold off the 109th-ranked Kudla, who had not lost a set going into the semi-final. Taming Kudla was

no easy task, with Federer losing a break after taking an early 2-0 lead.

The first set went into a tiebreaker where the 20-time Grand Slam winner was able to step his game up a gear, racing to 6-0 in the decider and taking it two points later with his seventh ace.

The top-seeded Swiss kept the pressure on Kudla in the second, but expressed a moment of frustration as he drove a ball over the stadium walls after losing a point in the third game of the second set. "I hit out of the stadium every other day in practise," he said. "But it doesn't happen much on live TV. "But I find it very funny and comical, it makes me smile inside. This is a tough court with a lot of bad bounces.

'WINNING MENTALITY'

"But I told myself in the set to shake it off, don't let things bother me, don't get too bad as it happens to both. "I want to do well and win, I have a winning mentality and sometimes I can get unhappy or frustrated."

Federer gained the crucial service break for a 6-5 lead as Kudla returned long, and the Swiss closed out the victory a game later on the first of two match points. The 36-year-old has reached the final four in each of his last 14 Halle appearances.

Coric, the world number 34 will be playing his first grass final and stands 1-3 in ATP finals on all surfaces. His lone win came in 2017 in Casablanca. He has got



HALLE: Roger Federer of Switzerland returns a ball to Denis Kudla from the US during their match at the ATP tennis tournament in Halle, western Germany, yesterday. — AFP

twice to Federer, most recently in the Indian Wells semi-finals last March. "My chances are not big for sure, obviously," he said. "But I'm going to go out there and enjoy it."

"I didn't expect this at the beginning of the week. Today I was a little bit lucky. I'm sorry for Roberto. "But I can rest a little bit now which is good. I'm going to try to win. That's for sure." — AFP

Ireland edge Wallabies in thriller to win series

SYDNEY: Ireland clung on in a titanic battle to down the Wallabies 20-16 and win their first Test series in Australia in 39 years in Sydney yesterday. Star fly-half Johnny Sexton kicked a pressure penalty a minute from full-time to clinch victory after Australia had fought back from eight points down in the second half.

Ireland held on to win a three-match series for the first time in the southern hemisphere, to add to their Grand Slam Six Nations victory earlier this year. Ireland, who trail only world champions New Zealand in the international standings, hadn't won a series in Australia since they swept a two-Test tour in 1979.

But Joe Schmidt's team fought back from losing the opening game 18-9 in Brisbane to win the final two Tests in Melbourne and Sydney and end their 39-year away win drought against Australia. In a gripping second half, the Wallabies clawed back from 17-9 down to close to within one point before Sexton landed his fifth penalty of the night to seal the win.

It was a game dripping with controversy as both teams had a player sent to the sin bin and also lost their skippers, Australia's Michael Hooper and Ireland's Peter O'Mahony, to injury in the first half.

The Irish came close to beating another southern hemisphere power, South Africa, in a three-Test series two years ago only to go down 2-1, making this a prized scalp in a brilliant year. But it was a chastening result for Australia, who have lost a home series for the second time in two years after going down 3-0 to England in 2016.

The Wallabies suffered an early blow when skipper Hooper injured his left leg in a clean-out and limped from the field, to be replaced by Pete Samu. Ireland were reduced to 14 men when winger Jacob Stockdale received a yellow card for leading with his elbow to the throat of Wallabies scrum-half Nick Phipps midway through the half.

Bernard Foley kicked the penalty to put Australia in front 6-3. There was controversy in the 31st minute when Israel Folau went for a high ball with O'Mahony, who crashed heavily to the ground. After intervention from the television match official, Folau was given a yellow card and O'Mahony was taken from the field on a medicab. Conor Murray had a try disallowed by the TMO but in the same incident Adam Coleman was penalised for offside, giving Sexton the easy task of putting Ireland 9-6 ahead near half-time.

Foley and Sexton exchanged penalties, both for offside, as the Irish turned 12-9 ahead. Ireland once again dominated territory, possession and the run metres in the opening half and at one stage ran through 17 phases in the opposition quarter before the Australians got the ball clear.

The Wallabies again paid for ill-discipline, conceding eight penalties in the controlled Irish attacks. Ireland went on the attack straight after the resumption and after a pinpoint kick from Sexton were deep in Australia's territory.

The forwards piled in for a pushover try to CJ Stander off a lineout win to open up an eight-point lead after 44 minutes. But the Wallabies hit back after Foley's stab kick behind the Irish defence was seized by winger Marika Koroibete, who beat Rob Kearney and took Sexton over the line to score.

Foley converted for the Wallabies to close to within one point, 17-16, after 54 minutes. But Sexton had the final word with a pressure kick from wide out after replacement hooker Tolu Latu was penalised in a maul. —AFP

Braves come up short in extras against Orioles

ATLANTA: Baltimore's Manny Machado broke a 14-game homerless streak with a two-run shot in the 15th inning to give the Orioles a 10-7 win over the host Atlanta Braves on Friday. Craig Gentry was hit by a pitch to open the inning and was sacrificed to second. Machado connected on an 0-2 pitch from reliever Peter Moylan (0-1) and placed it in the visitors' bullpen in left field for his 19th homer. It was Machado's first long ball since June 2, ending his longest homerless streak of the season. Atlanta forced extras by scoring four times in the bottom of the ninth against Baltimore closer Zach Britton. He loaded the bases and allowed an RBI single to Ozzie Albies, a two-run single to Freddie Freeman and an RBI double to Nick Markakis, whose liner got over the head of right fielder Jace Peterson. Freeman tried to score but was thrown out at the plate. Baltimore had taken a four-run lead by scoring six times in the top of the ninth against Atlanta relievers Dan Winkler and Sam Freeman. The Orioles got an RBI single from Danny Valencia, an RBI double from Jonathan Schoop and a Chris Davis sacrifice fly. Caleb Joseph added a run-scoring double, Steve Wilkerson knocked in a run with a single, and Craig Gentry drove in a run with a base hit to complete the rally.

RED SOX 14, MARINERS 10

J.D. Martinez went 4-for-5 with a home run and five RBIs, including a tiebreaking two-run single with the bases loaded in the seventh inning, as Boston rallied to defeat visiting Seattle. The Mariners blew a five-run lead for the second time in three games to lose their season-high fifth straight. They also wasted a big night from designated hitter Nelson Cruz, who went 4-for-5 with two homers and seven RBIs. Cruz, who now has 20 home runs this season, hit three-run blasts in the first and fourth innings. Ryon Healy added a solo shot, his 14th, for Seattle.

BREWERS 2, CARDINALS 1

Jesus Aguilar's second homer of the game with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning lifted host Milwaukee past St. Louis. Aguilar blasted his 16th homer off Bud Norris (3-2), lining an 0-2 fastball on the outer half of the plate over the wall in right-center. The long ball gave Milwaukee its third straight win. Aguilar's homer in the bottom of the seventh not only evened the score, but it also ended rookie Jack Flaherty's bid at history. Aguilar golfed a low slider into the Milwaukee bullpen in left with one out for the Brewers' first hit. Flaherty struck out 13, matching a career high, in seven innings while walking two. He gave up just the one run and one hit.

ROYALS 1, ASTROS 0

Rosell Herrera followed a marvelous defensive play in the bottom of the eighth inning with a run-scoring triple in the top of the ninth as visiting Kansas City snapped a nine-game losing skid in blanking Houston. Herrera scored Adalberto Mondesi with his drive to center field off Ken Giles (0-2), who surrendered a leadoff single to Mondesi to open the ninth. Herrera began the eighth by snatching a home run from Houston's Alex Bregman, timing his jump in right field to make the catch at the wall. Bregman went 0-for-4 as his streak of



ATLANTA: Freddie Freeman #5 of the Atlanta Braves is tagged out at home by Caleb Joseph #36 of the Baltimore Orioles during the ninth inning at SunTrust Park on Friday in Atlanta, Georgia. — AFP

reaching base safely was snapped at 31 games.

RANGERS 8, TWINS 1

Shin-Soo Choo extended his on-base streak to 35 games with two hits, including a two-run homer, and Mike Minor gave up just one run over six innings as Texas cruised to its sixth straight win by beating Minnesota in Minneapolis. Choo finished with three RBIs. Nomar Mazara and Adrian Beltre each had two hits and drove in two runs, and Robinson Chirinos also had two hits for the Rangers, who had lost seven in a row before starting their win streak. Mazara has 11 hits and seven RBIs over his past five games. Minor (5-4) faced the minimum 15 batters over the first five innings, allowing just a first inning two-out single to Brian Dozier, who was easily gunned down by left fielder Joey Gallo trying to stretch it into a double. The Texas left-hander allowed three hits and walked two to go along with three strikeouts while picking up his first win in four starts.

ROCKIES 11, MARLINS 3

Nolan Arenado homered for the fourth consecutive game. Jon Gray struck out 12 in seven innings, and Colorado routed Miami in Denver. Arenado finished with three hits. After going hitless in the first game of the current seven-game homestand, Arenado is 10-for-17 with four home runs and 11 RBIs over the past four games. Tom Murphy had three hits and two RBIs for Colorado, which has won a season-high four in a row at home. Derek Dietrich homered among his three hits, and J.T. Realmuto also had three hits for the Marlins, who have lost three in a row.

ANGELS 2, BLUE JAYS 1

Andrew Heaney threw seven strong innings, and Los Angeles made two first-inning runs stand up in a victory over Toronto in Anaheim, Calif. Heaney (4-5) held the Blue Jays scoreless for six innings before giving up a run in the seventh,

but Cam Bedrosian (eighth inning) and Blake Parker (ninth inning, ninth save) finished it off. Mike Trout started as the Angels' designated hitter for the third consecutive game, still feeling the effects of a sprained right index finger. He went 0-for-3 with two strikeouts.

PADRES 6, GIANTS 2

Clayton Kershaw pitched six strong innings to win his fourth consecutive start, helping San Diego snap a five-game losing streak with a win at San Francisco. Kershaw (7-6) combined with five relievers on a five-hitter, snapping the Giants' three-game winning streak in the process. Cory Spangenberg scored twice, and Eric Hosmer and Manuel Margot each drove in two runs for the Padres.

AS 11, WHITE SOX 2 (GAME 1)

Franklin Barreto hit two home runs and racked up six RBIs, and Sean Manaea delivered a strong start as Oakland won the opener of a doubleheader in Chicago for its fifth straight victory. The White Sox lost their eighth in a row. Barreto hit a three-run homer off James Shields in the second inning to give Oakland a 4-0 lead. The As have now homered in 22 straight road games, a franchise record. Barreto tacked on another three-run blast in the eighth inning, his third of the season-all in his past two games. Khris Davis, Jed Lowrie and Jonathan Lucroy each had RBIs for Oakland, which took advantage of three White Sox errors.

WHITE SOX 6, AS 4 (GAME 2)

Omar Narvaez went 3-for-4 with two RBIs, and Chicago snapped its season-worst skid with a victory over Oakland to earn a doubleheader split. Tim Anderson went 2-for-4 with a homer and three runs as Chicago beat the Athletics for the first time in five meetings this season. Adam Engel added a two-run single for the White Sox. Matt Olson homered and drove in two runs for the Athletics. Khris Davis contributed a two-run single. — Reuters

World School Basketball Championship

KUWAIT: Kuwait Schools Basketball National team left for Serbia to take part in the World School Basketball Championship (3X3).

The team delegation is headed by the P.E. supervisor general, Waleed Ayeshe and the coach, Khalid Najem. Notably, this is Kuwait's first participation in the championship to mark Kuwait School Federation's first international participations.





SNIPPETS



Rampant Mexico see off South Korea to close on last 16

Hernandez, first Mexican player to score 50 goals

ROSTOV-ON-DON: Mexico built on the momentum from their stunning victory over world champions Germany by overpowering South Korea 2-1 yesterday to take a giant step towards the World Cup last 16. Carlos Vela put them ahead from the penalty spot in the 26th minute at Rostov Arena, which had been taken over by Mexico's sea of fanatical supporters. All-time top scorer Javier Hernandez sealed victory in the second half, finishing off an unstoppable move from breakout player Hirving Lozano.

It was Hernandez's 50th goal for his country and his fourth strike at a World Cup, taking him level with Luis Hernandez as Mexico's leading scorer in soccer's global showpiece tournament. Korea's talismanic forward Son Heung-min struck a scorching consolation goal in stoppage time from outside the area.

Mexico will clinch their place in the next round if Germany fail to beat Sweden in the other Group F game. The hapless Koreans, who have no points after two matches and have only won one of their last 11 World Cup fixtures, will be eliminated if Sweden draw or win against Germany.

"We came to Russia with a lot of criticism but we're working hard and have a lot of talent. We have humility but we beat Germany and South Korea and now we have to play against Sweden and stay cool and calm," goalscorer Hernandez said. "We cannot afford to get caught up in all this, we have to continue our job and stay humble, of course we should enjoy this but tomorrow we start working again."



ROSTOV-ON-DON: South Korea's defender Kim Young-gwon (R) challenges Mexico's midfielder Hector Herrera (L) during the Russia 2018 World Cup Group F football match between South Korea and Mexico at the Rostov Arena in Rostov-On-Don yesterday.— AFP

ROUSING CHANTS

As the game kicked off Mexico fans sang "We are the home team" and with green shirts dotted all over the stadium and rousing chants of "Ole!" bellowing around the arena every time their side passed the ball, it was hard to disagree.

Conditioned by the dry heat that has been a feature of every game at the Rostov Arena, Mexico did not quite have the same thrust and energy as against Germany although they still controlled most of the play and looked far more dangerous.

Korea improved on their opening defeat by Sweden although their main tactic consisted of searching for Son with long balls behind the defensive line. The closest they came to scoring in the first half was with a header from a corner which Mexico goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa tipped over the bar.

Mexico's breakthrough came when captain Andres Guardado's cross was blocked by a stray arm from Korean defender Jang Hyun-soo, and Vela kept his nerve from the spot, sending goalkeeper Cho

Hyeon-woo the wrong way and stroking the ball home. Lozano proved a constant threat to the Koreans whenever he came darting down either wing, blasting over in the first half and later having a goalbound shot blocked by opposing captain Ki Sung-yueng. His remarkable pace punished Korea, catching them out on the break, allowing Hernandez to finish them off, beating a defender with a flick of his left foot and tucking the ball into the net with his right. — Reuters



MOSCOW: Moscow's Nikolskaya Street has unexpectedly become the party zone of choice for thousands World Cup fans.

World Cup fans flock to party in Moscow's 'street of lights'

MOSCOW: A quiet pedestrian street leading off from Red Square, Moscow's Nikolskaya Street has unexpectedly become the party zone of choice for thousands of international World Cup fans, to the bemusement of locals. During the day but even more so at night, the 700-metre-long street with elegant stucco facades is packed to bursting.

Walking through, a passerby has to squeeze past ubiquitous groups of Argentinian supporters, pass a cafe taken over entirely by Tunisians and shake hands with innumerable Mexican fans, all of them wearing sombreros.

"Normally, Nikolskaya Street is very quiet," said Armen, an Armenian student living in Moscow who was watching highlights of the Croatia-Argentina match. The street is usually more of a shopping destination with some luxury boutiques, especially since it was pedestrianised five years ago. But for some reason, fans have chosen this particular street as their main hangout. Colombian Harold Castillo, a 22-year-old student, puts its popularity down to the spectacular curtain of lights that hangs over the street.

"I came here by chance. I've been walking all over Moscow using TripAdvisor and I just saw the lights. There are other pedestrian streets but it's wonderful here." Multiple garlands of lights hang over most of the street, giving it a festive air as soon as night falls.

Even before the World Cup kicked off, Iranian fans were rubbing shoulders with Saudis here and

flag-draped fans from each South American country colonised a part of the street. Fans are travelling great distances across Russia to follow teams—the Peruvians went to see their team lose to France in Yekaterinburg in the Urals and the Tunisians have left for southern Volgograd to watch the game with Belgium. Yet while fans come and go, Nikolskaya has retained its vibrancy.

"This is the fans' street," said Mohamed Chaaben, a 28-year-old Tunisian engineer sitting on the terrace of a cafe with his friends, a national flag wrapped round his shoulders. "It has the best atmosphere, it's a pedestrian street and it feels safe, there's no risk." He and his friends were amused at the interest from locals in their national Tunisian headgear, round red caps with tassels known as chechias. Plenty of Russians are coming to stroll on Nikolskaya Street too, eyeing the exuberant fans with a mixture of surprise and amusement. Argentinians have nicknamed the party-zone street the "house of lights," said Santiago Saltiva from Argentina's city of Cordoba.

He said that's how he was directed there by a WhatsApp group of Argentinian fans as soon as he landed in Moscow, while he has not heard of the street's real name. "They told us that all the Argentinians were here on this street," the 42-year-old businessman said.

"This street is like a Tower of Babel," he said. "Every nationality is here, every country is represented, everyone is speaking a different language." The fans' choice of Nikolskaya Street as their main base caught the city authorities by surprise and they had to make some rapid changes. Public toilet cubicles were brought in and barriers removed.

The crowds of fans have been great news for local traders, many of whom have opted to remain open for 24 hours "We've had to bring in staff from other branches," said Maria Kuzina, the 22-year-old manager of a cafe that is part of a large Moscow chain. "We did predict there'd be more customers but this has been way more than we expected." — AFP

England seek trusty lieutenants to captain Kane

REPINO: Handed a winning start for the first time in a major tournament for 12 years by captain Harry Kane's injury-time winner against Tunisia, England can look forward to today's meeting with Panama with a rare sense of World Cup calm. A two-time Premier League Golden Boot winner, Kane banished any remaining doubts over his ability to perform on the biggest stage for his country with the first double by an English player at the World Cup since Gary Lineker in 1990.

But Kane's heroics in Volgograd papered over the cracks of his team-mates' failure to find the net with a host of simple first-half chances. Raheem Sterling and Jesse Lingard were particularly culpable and while Kane saved an inquest into England's profligacy and ponderous second-half performance, Sterling's place against Panama may now be in jeopardy. The first media storm of a hitherto relaxed campaign for the Three Lions was brewing on Friday after Gareth Southgate's planned team was inadvertently revealed when assistant manager Steve Holland's notes were photographed at training on Thursday.

According to the notes, Marcus Rashford will replace Sterling with Ruben Loftus-Cheek stepping in for Dele Alli, who suffered a thigh injury against Tunisia. Southgate criticised the media for giving England's opponents an upper hand. "If we were to give the opposition the opportunity of having our team it's a disadvantage to us," said Southgate.

"So of course our media has to decide if they want to help the team or not." In contrast to his 23-goal season at club level for Premier League champions Manchester City, Sterling now hasn't scored in his last 21 internationals.

However, Rashford refuted suggestions England are too dependent on Kane for goals. "I don't think that's happening in this group," said the Manchester United striker, who admitted to being an admirer of Kane's ability to be in the right place at the right time. "He gets himself in great positions. If we can find him, we will, and, more often than not, he's going to score." — AFP

WORLD CUP 2018

Today's Matches
(All local timings)

England	15:00	Panama
Japan	18:00	Senegal
Poland	21:00	Colombia

25 From Russia to Leicester and back for record-breaking Musa

26 Federer beats Kudla to book 12th career final at Halle

27 Rampant Mexico see off South Korea to close on last 16



10-man Germany beat Sweden 2-1

Late Kroos strike against Sweden keeps Germany alive



SOCHI: Germany's midfielder Ilkay Gundogan (L) kicks the ball during the Russia 2018 World Cup Group F football match between Germany and Sweden at the Fisht Stadium in Sochi yesterday.— AFP

SOCHI: Toni Kroos rescued holders Germany from the brink of an unthinkable early World Cup exit here yesterday, curling home a sensational winner in the fifth minute of stoppage time to seal a 2-1 win over Sweden.

The 10-man reigning champions were in deep trouble when Kroos stepped up to steer in his dramatic winner in the final minute of time added on at Sochi's Fisht Stadium. Before that, a Kroos error had led to Ola Toivonen giving Sweden a 32nd-minute lead and even a Marco Reus equaliser early in the second half appeared to be only a temporary stay of execution for Joachim Loew's men.

But the rescue act from Kroos, who had endured another difficult night in the German midfield, is a huge lift to a side who saw Jerome Boateng sent off late in the game. They now have qualification for the last 16 back in

their own hands ahead of their final Group F game against South Korea on Wednesday.

There is still no guarantee that they will avoid the fate of the last two World Cup holders, with Spain four years ago and Italy in 2010 both being knocked out in the group stage. Not since 1938 have Germany been eliminated from the World Cup in the first round. However, this result, and the manner of it, will provide an almighty boost to the Germans and is a hammer blow to Sweden, who will face off with Mexico in their last match with all still to play for.

Germany coach Joachim Loew wielded the axe following the shambolic 1-0 loss at the hands of Mexico with which they began their defence of the trophy, with the much-criticised Mesut Ozil and Sami Khedira dropped while Mats Hummels missed out due to injury.

Marco Reus, Sebastian Rudy and Antonio Ruediger were among those who came into the team. But just like against Mexico, Germany's usual composure was not there. Sweden should have had an early penalty when Marcus Berg was released on goal and, at the point of shooting, was fouled by Boateng. Berg's effort was saved by Manuel Neuer. Boateng played the man and not the ball, but there was no penalty given and no recourse to the Video Assistant Referee.

It was a warning for the Germans, who were then dealt a body blow—literally—when Rudy was left with a bloody nose after receiving a stray boot in the face. Ilkay Gundogan replaced him, coming in alongside Kroos, but it was the Real Madrid man who was at fault as Sweden went in front just a minute later.

His pass was pounced upon by the Swedes, who

sprung forward, Viktor Claesson picking out Toivonen to control on his chest and lift the ball over Neuer with the aid of a slight deflection. Loew sent on Mario Gomez in place of Julian Draxler at half-time, and it took just three minutes of the second half for the equaliser to arrive.

Timo Werner's low centre from the left was behind Gomez, who got a touch but not enough to put off Reus from bundling it in. They then set off in search of the winner, with Gomez twice coming close and fellow substitute Julian Brandt smacking a post late on.

Boateng had already walked by then, seeing a second yellow in the 82nd minute for a foul on Berg. Hope looked to be gone, but then Kroos exchanged passes with Reus at a free-kick on the left edge of the box and sent a sweet strike into the far corner.— AFP

Lukaku, Hazard power Belgium to brink of World Cup last 16

MOSCOW: Eden Hazard says Belgium want to go all the way to the World Cup final after the Red Devils threw down a marker to group rivals England with a 5-2 thrashing of Tunisia yesterday. Having lost to Argentina in the quarter-finals at the last World Cup, Hazard says Belgium are a better team than four years ago and are targeting the final in Russia.

"We are a good team, we want to reach the final and we are stronger than four years ago," said the Chelsea star and Belgium captain who capped a man-of-the-match performance with two goals against Tunisia on Saturday. "The match was easy because we scored after five minutes and knew Tunisia would leave spaces as they needed to win, making it easier for us." Belgium ran riot to top Group G as

Romelu Lukaku scored twice to draw level with Cristiano Ronaldo at the top of the World Cup goalscoring charts with four goals two a double strike.

Michy Batshuayi came off the bench to grab Belgium's fifth. The win puts the Red Devils on the brink of the last 16 and they face Tunisia's consolation goals came from defender Dylan Bronn and captain Wahbi Khazri. However, victory came at a cost before Belgium's final group game against England next Thursday as Lukaku is rated doubtful with an ankle injury, but Hazard should recover from a calf knock.

Manchester United's Lukaku, who also scored twice in the opening 3-0 win against Panama, showed clinical finishing for his first-half goals. Belgium coach Roberto Martinez criticised his side for starting slowly against Panama, but they flew out of the blocks in Moscow. Hazard, having been on the receiving end of some bruising tackles in Belgium's opener, was sent tumbling after just five minutes but converted the penalty to open his Russian account.

Midfielder Ferjani Sassi picked up an early booking for complaining when Tunisia's appeals for a penalty fell on deaf ears, just before Belgium added their second goal.

Ali Maaloul's weak pass on the halfway line was collected by Dries Mertens, who sprinted away and put Lukaku clear.

The striker coolly placed his shot past Tunisia keeper Farouk Ben Mustapha in the 16th minute. Tunisia responded two minutes later, Bronn leaping highest to head home a free-kick on 18 minutes, only to be later carried off after landing awkwardly. With half-time approaching, the Belgians grabbed their third goal. After earlier squandering two clear chances created by Kevin De Bruyne, Lukaku converted his third opportunity just before half-time. Thomas Meunier put him in behind the defence and Lukaku tucked his shot away.

The Manchester City midfielder turned provider again after the break for Hazard. The Chelsea star sprinted onto De Bruyne's lofted pass, held off two defenders, rounded keeper Ben Mustapha and tapped home Belgium's fourth goal in the 51st minute.

Knocks forced both Lukaku, then Hazard off in the second-half and for the final 22 minutes Batshuayi came on and had five clear chances before finally converting a cross for Belgium's fifth goal. Tunisia captain Khazri grabbed their second goal just before the final whistle of their second defeat in Russia.— AFP



MOSCOW: Belgium's forward Eden Hazard (L) vies for the ball with Tunisia's forward Fakhreddine Ben Youssef during the Russia 2018 World Cup Group G football match between Belgium and Tunisia at the Spartak Stadium in Moscow yesterday.— AFP