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Illegals urged to avail of amnesty before it ends

Finance panel to review proposal to tax expat remittances

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and A Saleh

KUWAIT: Director General of the Residency Affairs Department Maj Gen Talal Maarafi urged residency violators to take advantage of the grace period for residency violators that will continue until April 22. He said the higher leadership at the interior ministry reviews the humanitarian circumstances of violators and offers them all facilities to quickly process their transactions. He added the number of those who benefited from the min-

isterial amnesty decision reached 46,737 by March 22, of whom 30,052 left the country without paying fines, while the rest corrected their status.

As for domestic helpers, Maarafi said the sponsor must come to the department to remove any absconding complaint to transfer their residency to another sponsor. He said violators allowed to leave during the remaining period include only those who entered the country before Feb 21 and their regular or temporary residency expired. He added the initiative also covers those whose

passports expired before Feb 21 but have a valid residency and wish to leave the country, as well as those reported absconding before Feb 21.

Separately, the parliamentary financial and economic affairs committee is scheduled to meet today to discuss a proposal to tax expatriates' remittances. The committee's chairman MP Salah Khorsheed said Finance Minister Nayef Al-Hajraf will attend the meeting to discuss various related proposals. Khorsheed added that the committee has already reviewed a report by the parliamentary leg-

islative and legal affairs committee, which had rejected the proposal as unconstitutional. He said the topic will be subjected to further study with the finance minister.

Khorsheed denied any intentions to tax citizens' remittances and stressed that according to statistics, expats' annual remittances exceed KD 4.5 billion. He also noted that suggestions include imposing gradual taxes. "However, we will consult the finance minister and the Central Bank prior to making any decision," he concluded.

France mourns slain 'hero' officer; Amir sends condolences

TREBES, France: President Emmanuel Macron led tributes yesterday to a French policeman who died after offering himself as a hostage to help end an attack, becoming the fourth victim of the shooting spree and supermarket siege. Lieutenant-Colonel Arnaud Beltrame, 45, was among a group of officers who rushed to the scene in the southwestern town of Trebes on Friday after an attacker claiming allegiance to the Islamic State group holed up in a supermarket following a shooting spree in nearby Carcassonne.



Arnaud Beltrame

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Rare artifacts found along eastern coast

KUWAIT: Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) has discovered tens of cemeteries and engraved items in a popular eastern resort on the shores of the Arabian Gulf. The new discoveries are reminiscent of a bronze age culture known as "Um Al-Nar", which existed around 2,500 BC in the area of modern-day United Arab Emirates and northern Oman, the director of NCCAL's department of antiquities and museums Sultan Al-Duweish told KUNA yesterday.

He pointed out that the area was at one point a vibrant trade zone that linked vast civilizations across eastern Saudi Arabia, adding the findings are the byproduct of extensive archaeolog-



Sultan Al-Duweish

ical surveys carried out on unexplored landscapes. On the purpose of such endeavors, Duweish noted it helps uncover the illustrious history of Kuwait, a nation whose soil has contributed immensely to the growth of human civilization. The NCCAL official revealed that the council has partnered with a number of renowned schools and institutes in its quest to locate hidden cultural gems. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The rare antiquities that were found along the eastern Kuwaiti coast. — KUNA

Bomb kills 2 Egypt policemen; Amir sends condolences

CAIRO: Two policemen were killed in the Egyptian city of Alexandria in a bomb attack yesterday that targeted the local security chief two days before a presidential election. Five other people were wounded by the bomb, which was left under a car and blew up as police Major General Mostafa Al-Nemr drove past, the interior ministry said. Nemr was not hurt and said later he would not be deterred from "doing his duty" in safeguarding next week's vote.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast, which the state news agency blamed on the banned Muslim Brotherhood organization. Islamic State released a video last month in which it warned Egyptians against voting and urged Islamists to attack security forces and leaders. The government condemned the attack and suggested it would not affect the election beginning tomorrow in which President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi is set to win a second term.

HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-

Sabah yesterday sent a cable to Egyptian Sisi expressing condemnation of the terrorist blast. He denounced the terrorist operation that contradicted all covenants and humanitarian values. He affirmed support for Egypt regarding any measures it opts to take to safeguard its security and stability. HH the Amir expressed condolences to the president and the martyrs' families. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

"These desperate attempts by the forces of terrorism and the states that back it to affect the positive atmosphere the country is witnessing will only increase the Egyptian state's resolve to complete its political process and economic progress," Prime Minister Sherif Ismail said. Photos posted on social media showed a burnt out car and smoke at the site of the blast. Local television stations later showed Nemr unharmed and inspecting the area.

Residents close to the scene in Alexandria, Egypt's second-largest city, reported hearing a huge blast when the bomb detonated mid-morning. "I suddenly heard a very strong explosion and ran towards the street, but I retreated out of fear," said Mohamed Ismail, a doorman at a building near the explosion. "I thought the building would collapse and kept checking on its pillars," he added.

Continued on Page 11



ALEXANDRIA: Egyptian forensics officers check a destroyed vehicle at the site of a bomb attack in this northern port city yesterday. — AFP



DUBAI: A man and two children light candles after lights were switched off for the Earth Hour environmental campaign yesterday. — AFP

Cities go dark during global Earth Hour

SYDNEY: The Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge went dark for an hour yesterday, kicking off a global campaign that saw landmark buildings around the world dim their lights to raise awareness about the impacts of climate change. Earth Hour, which started in Australia in 2007, was being observed by millions of supporters in 187 countries, who turned off their lights at 8.30 pm local time in what organizers describe as the world's "largest grassroots movement for climate change". "It aims to raise awareness about the importance of protecting the environment and wildlife," Earth Hour organizer WWF Australia chief Dermot O'Gorman told AFP.

In Kuwait, the ministry of electricity

and water urged Kuwaitis, expats and state institutions to participate in the initiative. Images from across Asia showed buildings including Kuala Lumpur's Petronas Towers, as well as the famous harbor skylines of Hong Kong and Singapore, being plunged into darkness to mark the occasion. Other global landmarks that took part include Beijing's Bird's Nest Olympic stadium, the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Pyramids of Egypt and New York's Empire State Building.

With global temperatures the highest on record, O'Gorman said this year's theme was the impact of climate change on biodiversity and plant and animal species. "More than half of plant and animal species face local extinction in some of the world's most naturally rich areas in biodiversity by the turn of this century if we continue along the current path that we are trending in terms of global warming," he said.

Species at risk include Australia's green turtles, black-flanked rock wallabies and koalas, as well as the Adelle

penguin colonies in Antarctica, the conservation group said in a report it commissioned that was published in the science journal Climatic Change. The analysis, released last week, said key biodiverse sites around the world projected to be most affected by localized extinction include the Amazon, the plant's largest tropical rainforest, and southern Africa's Miombo Woodlands.

While the lights-off event is a symbolic gesture, Earth Hour has led successful campaigns over the past decade to ban plastics in the Galapagos Islands and plant 17 million trees in Kazakhstan. Sydney's Dianna Ali, who was having dinner with family as the lights went off in the city, said the initiative had made her more aware of the impact of her lifestyle on the planet's health. "Since Earth Hour started, it's made me more conscious of how much power I'm using," she told AFP. "I think... about how much one individual can make a difference." — AFP

Local

Claims against Kuwaiti parliament simply baseless: Speaker Ghanem

Kuwait participates in Asian Group meeting at IPU assembly



GENEVA: Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem (center right) heads the Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation during a meeting at the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). —KUNA



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem chairs a coordination meeting by the Islamic group on the sidelines of the 138th IPU Assembly.

GENEVA: A Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation have easily refuted allegations and complaints by a current and former Kuwaiti MPs, said Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. The hearing committee at the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was presented with a detailed and constitutionally-adequate demonstration by the parliamentary caucus members to refute such "lies," Ghanem, who arrived in Geneva earlier this week heading a delegation to respond to the claims, told reporters after the hearing late Friday.

"As a matter of fact, it was very easy, because the claims were simply lies contradicting reality... and we presented proof supported by documents and video in response to each claim," the Kuwaiti top lawmaker pointed out. "I deem it defamation," said Ghanem in reference to complaints filed by MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri and former MP Abdulhameed Dashti against the Kuwaiti parliament.

Along with Ghanem, MP Safaa Al-Hashem presented their counter case before the IPU committee, which included detailed and elaborated responses supported by audio-visual evidence,

documents and minutes.

Islamic Group session

Ghanem chaired yesterday a coordination meeting by the Islamic group on sidelines of the 138th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly. Emerging from the session, Ghanem said the State of Kuwait presided over the coordination meeting in response



Ghanem heads Islamic Group session

to the group members' request.

The conferees reached a consensus on merging proposals regarding the unscheduled topic on Jerusalem, presented by Kuwait, Palestine, Bahrain and Turkey on Jerusalem. The Europeans presented a proposal on violence against women, with the illicit intention to scuttle the proposal

on Jerusalem. "We have decided to merge the two proposals into one addressing hardships suffered by the women in the occupied Arab territories," he said. Kuwaiti MPs are currently partaking in a panel meeting to work out this proposal final wording, he added.

Asian Group meeting

Kuwait's Parliamentary Group took part yesterday in a coordination meeting by the Asian Group on sidelines of the 138th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly. The Asian Group discussed IPU's agendas, Dr Khalil Abul, member of the Kuwaiti parliamentary caucus, told reporters after the meeting.

"We have agreed to combine a resolution draft by the Kuwaiti group, which condemns Israeli occupation authorities' actions against the Palestinian people, with two similar drafts by Bahrain and Palestine, making them one draft submitted by three countries," Abul added. "We will review during the Arabic Group's coordinating meeting, slated for later, what has been agreed upon during the Asian Group meeting in order to coordinate items for the final

resolution draft," he said.

"We also agreed the resolution draft would be in favor of Palestine," the Kuwaiti MP noted, adding that the Palestinian Group would be given the power to draft the unified resolution and submit it to IPU's General Assembly for voting. The Asian Group meeting was attended also by MPs Ali Al-Deqbas and Hashem. Ghanem is currently leading Kuwait's Parliamentary Group to the IPU Assembly. Parliamentarians from over 137 countries will discuss parliamentary amendments to UN-led reforms on the rights and protection of migrants and refugees. During the five-day 138th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly in Geneva, between March 23 and 28, more than 740 MPs will discuss a "new migration regime." "MPs will look in detail at their contribution to ensuring domestic enforcement of the two related Global Compacts expected to be adopted by the UN community later this year," said an IPU's statement.

The IPU Assembly will also run two workshops and a high-level interactive panel on the matter followed by discussions on universal health coverage. IPU Members



Member of the Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation Dr Khalil Abul.

will also adopt a resolution on sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development and another on engaging the private sector in implementing UN-adopted Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in relation to renewable energy. —KUNA

Humanitarian acts key to solve food crisis: Kuwait

NEW YORK: The key to solve the problems of hunger and lack of food security should go through acts based on morals and humanitarian efforts, said a senior Kuwaiti diplomat to the UNSC late Friday. During a UNSC session on hunger and conflicts, Kuwait's Permanent Delegate to the UN Headquarters in New York, Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi said that the early UN warning system is part of the international organization's efforts to tackle hunger caused by manmade conflicts and crises.

Carrying out to the letter the 17-item UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) will hopefully lead to the eradication of most of the world's problems by 2030, affirmed the Kuwaiti diplomat who noted that the very second goal of this ambitious plan was to end hunger, which is a feasible objective.

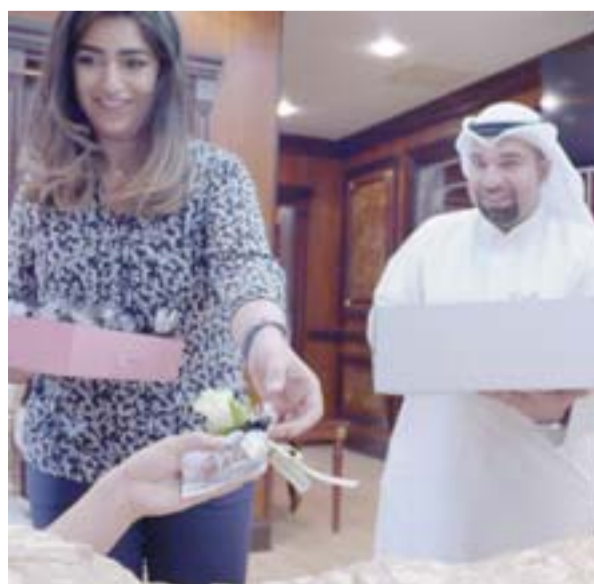
Ambassador Otaibi said that world countries should abide by rules and regulations that would hinder effects of conflicts, which are the main contributors to hunger around the globe. Reaching peace in any region of the world would gradually lower the effects of hunger by the passage of time, said the Ambassador, stressing that the international community should hasten efforts to implement all UN plans aimed at ending hunger. He went on saying that gathering provisions and capital for humanitarian action was another important aspect of attaining the UNSDGs. Despite the world's sincere efforts, hunger and lack of food security still remains as one of the world's most pressing issues, said Ambassador Otaibi who thanked the UN top Secretary General's Assistants and officials for



NEW YORK: Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi speaks at a UNSC session on hunger and conflicts. — KUNA

continuing to inform the global community on the current data concerning efforts against hunger. According to the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in their current 2018 reports, around 124 million people from 51 countries were affected by lack of food security in 2017, which is an increase by 11 million from the year before, said the Kuwaiti Ambassador.

He indicated that the data came a year after from the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres letter on February 12, 2007 in regard to the alarming increase of hunger due to conflict. Most world countries took the initiative to respond to the UN Secretary General's call for action including the State of Kuwait which donated \$15 million to Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen, and the northeastern of Nigeria, Otaibi said. — KUNA



towards all sectors of the society. It is a well rooted tradition that has been carried out by NBK each year in its efforts to continuously have an active role in the Kuwaiti society.

NBK Family celebrates Mothers' Day at Dar Al-Shifaa Hospital

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait's (NBK) family paid a visit to Dar Al-Shifaa Hospital to celebrate Mothers' Day with mothers and their newborns. Farah Bastaki, NBK Public relations officer, said "Through this initiative we seek to deliver a message of appreciation to all women and mothers. This celebration is dedicated as well to working mothers. NBK team distributed flowers and chocolate to mothers and their newborns to show appreciation towards their sacrifices and efforts."

"NBK is always keen on being present with women to support and encourage their vital role in the society. NBK is in the forefront to support women empowerment through encouraging them to achieve higher ranks at work or through community shared initiatives."

NBK's visit to the mothers at Dar Al-Shifaa hospital reflects the bank's high sense of duty and responsibility



DUBLIN: Irish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney (center right) meets with Arab, and foreign ambassadors to UK and Ireland, including Dean of the Arab and foreign corps in the United Kingdom Ambassador of Kuwait Khaled Al-Duwaisan (center left). — KUNA

Ireland working hard to boost ties with Arab nations: Minister

DUBLIN: Dean of the Arab and foreign corps in the United Kingdom Ambassador of Kuwait Khaled Al-Duwaisan praised yesterday the deep-rooted Arab-Irish relations, and conveyed the Irish desire in boosting them on all levels. The senior diplomat's remarks came following the meeting that gathered him, Arab, and foreign ambassadors to UK and Ireland, with Irish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney at the Foreign Ministry headquarters in Dublin, Ireland yesterday. Ireland is considered as one of the supporting nations of Arab issues within the European Union (EU), especially its honorable stance regarding the Palestinian cause, the diplomat affirmed.

Duwaisan hailed Coveney's criticism of the latest Israeli cabinet decisions, as he called for halting the building of new settlements, and working to reach the two-state solution to end Arab-Israeli conflict. Ireland is among the few countries in the world hosting a full Palestinian diplomatic mission, he said.

Pat Breen, Irish Minister of State for Trade, Employment, Business, said meanwhile that his country is keen to enhance economic and commercial ties with Arab nations, and it is ready to boost its diplomatic existence in the Middle East and North Africa. The

Minister added that bolstering ties with the Arab World comes as a priority on his agenda, with a great possibility of increasing the amount of commercial exchange during the coming years.

The Irish Industrial Development Authority (IDA) is organizing a number of activities and visits for local businesspeople to a number of Arab countries to discuss means of economic cooperation, as well as boosting mutual investments, he noted. The minister will be visiting a number of Arab countries coming next September and October to work further on that matter.

Ireland is considered one of the smallest European countries size wise, yet its economy is increasing rapidly compared to other EU countries, he pointed out. Ireland has faced the global financial crisis firmly, and turned into a regional center to many international companies and European official bodies, he affirmed. Following Brexit, many companies will transfer their offices to Dublin in order to maintain their activities within the EU borders, he pointed out. Chair of the Arab-Irish Chamber Dr Niall Holohan said in a speech he gave during the event that the Chamber was founded in 1987, aiming to support and boost commercial relations between Ireland and Arab nations.

The Chamber is working to offer many services to exporting Irish companies, by providing them with information and communications with Arab nations, he said. Arab markets are considered of the most important for Irish exporters outside Europe and North America, Holohan noted.

He expressed dissatisfaction over the size of trade volume between Ireland and Arab countries, which reached EUR 2.1 billion, wishing to increase this figure in the future. The event was attended by some Arab ambassadors to Ireland, namely: Egypt, Palestine, Morocco, UAE, and Saudi Arabia. — KUNA

Local

MP Shatti pushes amnesty for Abdaly cell members

Kuwait refuses to write off debts: Iraqi MP

By A Saleh and Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: MP Khaled Al-Shatti stressed his persistence on a proposal he made to issue a general amnesty for Abdaly cell members, his former colleague Abdulhameed Dashti and bloggers. He added that the proposal will be discussed by the legislative affairs committee. "My proposal is just like any other made by other colleagues," he underlined, noting that all lawmakers work for the nation's best interests. He also expressed hopes that now since it has finished grilling Minister of State for Assembly Affairs Adel Al-Kharafi, the parliament will get down to accomplishing laws and legislations needed for both the country and citizens, especially after a majority voted against a no-confidence motion. He also urged the government to cooperate with the parliament in passing as many of the necessary laws as possible.

Iraq's debt

Member of the parliamentary integrity committee in the Iraqi parliament Alya Naseef stressed that Kuwait refuses to write

off its debts owed by the Iraqi government. She also questioned Saudi debts on the grounds that they are not documented by the U.N. Naseef added that most Arab countries had waived their debts as per the Paris Club agreement except Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, urging the Iraqi government to work on writing off these debts.

Mega projects

The Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects' Director Mutlaq Al-Sane expected citizens will be invited to bid for the first Al-Zour Electricity Company in a few weeks. Sane said 50 percent of the company's shares will be offered in an initial public offering. He noted that the authority has three mega projects with capital exceeding \$1 billion each, of whose shares investors would own at least 26 percent and citizens 50 percent, while the remaining shares will be owned by the government.

Expired food

Food and nutrition inspectors destroyed 120 cartons of expired foodstuff weighing 45

kg, filed 24 citations and issued 10 warning notices while inspecting stores in Hawally, Capital and Farwaniya governorates. Capital inspection manager Abdul Rahman Al-Faes said inspection of foodstuff stores in Shuwaikh industrial area resulted in confiscating and destroying 120 cartons of expired



45 kg expired food confiscated

food items, filing four citations and issuing six warning notices. Hawally inspection manager Ali Al-Kandari said inspections in Salmiya and Maidan Hawally stores resulted in filing 17 citations and four warning notices. Meanwhile, Farwaniya inspection manager added that his team filed three citations for violations committed by some restaurants

and foodstuff stores in the area.

Trade union's board

Kuwait Trade Union Federation (KTUF) announced that the tenure of the executive board of the union of government employees' syndicates had legally expired as per a 'To Whom It May Concern' certificate issued by the Public Authority for Manpower. KTUF also reminded that membership of all board members is annulled by the end of the board's tenure.

Consequently, KTUF deems the board as illegitimate from a legal standpoint and has no right in representing KTUF or any member syndicate and has no right in using the union's headquarters to hold any activities, which is actually happening by the union leader who continues to dominate the building in violation of the law. KTUF also stressed that the union has no right to extend its own tenure, especially since a majority of member syndicates reject it. Further, KTUF strongly stressed that Awadh Shuqjar does not represent the union and has no right to speak in its name.



MP Khaled Al-Shatti

Engineers society

Kuwait Society of Engineers (KSE) held its ordinary general assembly, which approved the 2017 financial and administrative reports in the presence of 120 members, MSAL representatives and auditors, said KSE Chairman Faisal Dowayyeh.

Store owners fined for unlicensed signboards

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

KUWAIT: Director of the inspection and municipality services follow-up department said 11 citations were issued for violations committed by store owners who installed signboards at their stores without licenses, made additions to signboards without a license and failed to renew the licenses of their signboards. Meanwhile, the public relations department at the municipality said the inspections and engineering follow-up department carried out inspections in Bneid Al-Gar, Adailiya and Shuwaikh, resulting in issuing 16 warnings - nine in Bneid Al-Qar and seven in Shuwaikh.

Police Sports

Hawally Governor and President of the International Police Sports Federation Gen Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received members of the federation's general assembly who are participating in the federation's meetings in Kuwait from March 24 to 28.

Accident

A pick-up driver who was showing off near a traffic light in Sabahiya lost control of his vehicle and collided with a citizen's car. He then fled on foot. Some motorists filmed his escapades and his escape. The pick-up has

Saudi license plates, and detectives are working on arresting the suspect.

Domestic violence

A Gulf national accused her husband, a citizen, of kidnapping, beating and threatening to kill her. The woman said when she was on her way home, her husband forced her to stop and forced her into his vehicle and verbally insulted her. He then put his hands around her neck, threatening to kill her. She said he then dropped her at a traffic light. She said they have been separated for a year and a half and lives with her father in Sulaibiya. Investigations are underway.

Drug possession

Police in Salmiya approached two persons in a dark place, prompting one of them to escape, while the other couldn't go too far because of a leg injury. Police found two bags of a white substance and blue pills, in addition to drugs paraphernalia and money. The suspect told police about the man who was buying from him and he is being sought, while the drugs pusher was sent to the Drugs Control General Department. Separately, a driver left his car behind after colliding with a lamppost in Sabahiya and disappeared. Police found drugs and paraphernalia in the car. The license plate number belongs to a citizen, who is being sought by authorities.

KD 17,000 debt

A female citizen wanted on theft cases ignored police instructions after being caught in Mubarak Al-Kabeer and resisted arrest. She was also found wanted over a KD 17,000 debt. Police stopped her late at night and she was found wanted to serve a jail sentence, in addition of having four arrest warrants against her.



KUWAIT: This photo released by Kuwait Municipality yesterday shows an unlicensed signboard at a store whose owner was fined during a recent crackdown.

Kuwait decries deadly blasts in Somalia, Afghanistan

KUWAIT: The State of Kuwait on Friday condemned in strong terms two terrorist bomb blasts that took place in the cities of Mogadishu and Kabul last week, leaving more than 40 people dead. An official source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed Kuwait's support for Somalia and Afghanistan in measures they may take against violence, extremism and terrorism.

He urged the international community to double efforts in facing the hateful phenomenon of terrorism so humanity may enjoy safety and stability. The source expressed condolences to victims' families wishing the injured quick recovery. At least 14 people were killed and several others wounded on Thursday when a car bomb blew up outside a popular hotel in Somalia's capital Mogadishu. The Al-Qaeda aligned Shabaab group said it was responsible for the blast in front of the Weheliye hotel in the city center, claiming it had targeted a gathering of government officials, army and intelligence officers. On Wednesday, at least 26 people were killed and 18 others wounded in a suicide blast in Afghanistan's capital city Kabul. — KUNA



BERLIN: Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khalid Al-Roudhan (left) presents a memento to Chairman of German-Arab Chamber of Industry and Commerce Peter Ramsauer. — KUNA

Roudhan boosts economic ties with Germany

BERLIN: Promoting economic relations and investments between Kuwait and Germany featured high on the agenda of the talks Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khalid Al-Roudhan held in Berlin. Meeting with Germany's Minister of Economy Peter Altmaier, Roudhan invited him to visit Kuwait and get acquainted with the investment opportunities in the country. He said Friday that during talks with German officials over two days, he felt high interest in the region, Kuwait in particular.

Roudhan lauded the deep-rooted ties between the two countries, saying that Kuwait can take advantages of the

Germany's long expertise in a variety of fields, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), for instance. The minister's talks with Chairman of German-Arab Chamber of Industry and Commerce Peter Ramsauer addressed means of bolstering bilateral cooperation in economic fields that can benefit the national development plan and improve the business climate in Kuwait. They also emphasized the significance of developing investment ties between the two countries.

Kuwait is the first regional importer from Germany with \$500 million (\$1.7 billion) in 2016. The country's investments in Germany are worth \$30 billion. In addition, Roudhan attended a conference hosted by the German Near and Middle East Association (NuMOV), on luring foreign investments to Kuwait. The two-day visit aimed to further boost bilateral economic, trade and investment relations between the two countries, and to attract German companies to open branches in Kuwait to support industries. — KUNA

Weekly roundup of Kuwait's humanitarian action

KUWAIT: Living up to its UN-bested status as an International Humanitarian Center, the State of Kuwait continued providing humanitarian aid to needy people in several countries throughout the week. In Bangladesh, the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) distributed relief aid to the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh to alleviate their suffering in tough conditions. The relief aid was distributed in the Cox-Bazar region in the presence of Kuwait's

Ambassador to Bangladesh, Adel Hayat.

This came in cooperation between the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) and the United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP). Secretary General of KRCS Maha Al-Barjas said. The relief campaign included the distribution of food to more than 14,000 refugees for three months of about \$500,000.

KFAED donated \$1 million to provide humanitarian aid to the Rohingya refugees, she said. Kuwait has allocated about KD 4.5 million (\$15 million) to support the Rohingya refugees, she said. Barjas called on regional and international humanitarian and human rights organizations to intensify their efforts and humanitarian movements to provide assistance to those affected.

Meanwhile, Kuwait has donated \$2 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), as part of its annual financial aid to support the UN organization.

Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan Dr Hamad Al-Duaij handed the donation to the UNRWA's representative in Jordan, where he told KUNA that the financial aid represented an earnest desire to help the Palestinian people, many of whom live in misery.

Chief of the UNRWA Donor Relations Division, Marc Lassouaoui stressed the importance of Kuwait's annual contribution to UNRWA's budget and its role in supporting the agency's operations in the sectors of health, education, and relief. The amount received from the Kuwaiti government will allocate to support the education of more than half a million Palestinian refugees in the countries of the region, in addition to providing health care to 5.3 million refugees in neighboring countries. UNRWA, which was established by the UN General Assembly in 1949, provides aid to around 5 million Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. — KUNA



DHAKA: Members of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) distribute relief aid to the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. — KUNA



AMMAN: Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan Dr Hamad Al-Duaij hands over a donation from Kuwait to the UNRWA's representative in Jordan.

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A view of Kuwait Towers taken during the early morning hours. — KUNA photo

Kuwait keen on applying quality, patients' safety criteria: Minister

Kuwait major hub for obesity surgeries: Dr Jarallah

DOHA: Minister of Health Sheikh Basel Humoud Hamad Al-Sabah said yesterday that Kuwaiti health authorities are very keen on applying quality, patients' safety criteria as human rights. This is a "political, professional and ethical commitment" by all the staff of the health sector, as well as state institutions, in Kuwait, the minister said in Doha where he was attending a major three-day forum on quality and safety in healthcare, and the launch ceremony of Qatar National Health Strategy (2018-2022). He added that all the Kuwaiti health utilities are committed to applying the World Health Organization (WHO)'s global initiative on patient safety quality.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Basel Al-Sabah said the sixth Middle East Forum on Quality and Safety in Healthcare offers an opportunity to exchange expertise and visions among specialists and leaderships of the health sector to discuss how to counter challenges of patients' safety.

He pointed out that Kuwait is hard at work to achieve the third of the 17th UN 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely "ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being for all at all ages is essential to sustainable development." Qatar's Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani on Friday opened the Forum at the Qatar National Convention Centre, featuring more than 60 sessions by over 20 international and 65 locally-based presenters. The event agenda, developed in collaboration with Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), focuses on patient-centered care, the internationally recognized concept known as 'joy at work',



DOHA: Minister of Health Sheikh Basel Al-Sabah (third from left) attends a major three-day forum on quality and safety in healthcare, and the launch ceremony of Qatar National Health Strategy (2018-2022). — KUNA

improvement science, patient safety, and leadership and capacity building. While in Doha, Sheikh Basel Al-Sabah held talks with Qatar's Minister of Public Health Dr Hanan Al-Kuwari, and visited a host of the Qatari hospitals and medical research centers.

Obesity surgeries

In other news, former Health Minister of Kuwait Dr Mohammad Al-Jarallah said Kuwait is among nations with highest number of obesity surgeries. He made the statement on the sidelines of the first international bariatric metabolic surgery standardization meeting

that was held recently in Indian capital New Delhi. "Kuwait has one of the highest rate of performance of obesity operations because of the high incidence of obesity among Kuwaitis and the availability of advanced equipment, operating theaters with active pioneers surgeons in the Middle East," he said.

Dr Jarallah, who represented the Obesity Surgical Society in Kuwait in the first consensus conference on bariatric metabolic surgery standardization, added that Kuwaiti surgeons are major participants in global conferences on health and well-being.

The ex-health minister also commented on



Minister of Health Sheikh Basel Al-Sabah tours a gallery held as part of the forum.

the meeting saying that it came as a response to the long-standing appeals from around the world to build consensus on bariatric metabolic surgery standardization. In eight consecutive sessions, extensive discussions are taking place with the active participation of specialists and experts from across the world in order to reach at a possible declaration at the end.

Dr Jarallah, the President of Kuwait Obesity Surgery Society and Gulf Obesity Surgery Society, was invited to participate in the event and to moderate a session today and share Kuwait's experience in this regard.

Proponents and originators of various bariatric metabolic surgeries presented their views on the procedures and standards and placed their evidences. If a consensus is reached for each procedures by a simple majority vote, this will be the reference for all variations of the given procedures globally.

India's Mohak Bariatrics which organized the event in cooperation with Robotics, said earlier that more than 100 participants and practitioners from various countries including the US, the UK, Germany, France and Arab Gulf are participating in the meeting to standardize bariatric metabolic surgery. —KUNA

Future Generations Festival culminates in '12 O'clock' play

KUWAIT: The family comedy play '12 O'clock' brought down the curtains on the 29th Future Generations Festival on Friday evening. The child oriented music play, directed by Mishari Al-Mujaibel, was staged on Al-Tahrir Theater in Kaifan Area.

It tells the story of a five-member family of robbers who steal sorrow from people; they decide to break into the home of their boss who is sad because his wife died recently. Al-Mujaibel said in a statement. The thieves get into the man's home at 12 o'clock midnight, on his birthday eve; they are able to restore hope and joy to his life.

The audience found a lot of amusement in the interesting play which showed the care of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) for the culture of children, the director added. Supervisor of NCCAL's child culture department Maryam Salmin opened the festival on Saturday, March 10. The event, held under the patronage of Minister of Information Mohammad Al-Jabri, featured a range of theatrical and singing performances, symposiums and workshops. —KUNA



Zain inaugurates new branch at Avenues Mall - Phase 4

Company introduces all-new Zain Smart Branch, first of its kind in Kuwait

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the inauguration of its all-new retail branch in the Avenues Mall - Phase 4. The opening came alongside the official inauguration of the fourth phase of the Avenues with the presence of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The opening of Zain's latest branch comes as part of the company's expansion strategy, through which it is committed to become closer to its customers - who make the largest family of subscribers in Kuwait - wherever they are. The opening also came to reinforce the company's keenness on maintaining its leadership position in the Kuwaiti market.

The new branch is strategically located in the latest phase of the Avenues mall, and features more employees to serve mall visitors all week long, especially on weekends when the mall witnesses high traffic of visitors. Zain is continuing the expansion of its branches network with a total of 79 branches distributed all around the country.

Zain's new branch revolutionizes the concept of the Smart Branch, which comes as part of the digital port-

folio of flexible services and solutions under its recently launched Zain Life brand. The smart branch, considered the first self-service machine of its kind launched by a telecom company in Kuwait, offers Zain customers new service options that were previously not available through a self-service machine, and works automatically through advanced technology without the need of the presence of an employee.

Self-service SIM card replacement feature



Equipped with a smart interface, the Smart Branch recognizes a customer's identity through the advanced face recognition feature, where the branch scans the customer's civil ID and matches their photo with their face on-the-spot. Of the many new services offered by Zain's Smart Branch, the most notable is the SIM card replacement feature, which is the first service of its kind provided by a self-service machine. Customers can order a replacement for their lost or ineffective SIM cards and receive a new one immediately without the need of visiting a traditional branch. The Smart Branch also offers a variety of other services including recharging lines, bill payment, managing accounts, and purchasing devices from Zain's Online Store.



KUWAIT: Zain staff pose for a group photo in front of the company's newest branch in the Avenues Mall - Phase 4.

The new branch also features a dedicated section for Zain Life's innovative home security solutions, which include a smart camera, motion sensor, door/window sensors, and smart smoke detector. The branch also features Zain's latest solutions for digital entertainment through the PlayStation VR device for virtual reality gaming. Zain's new branch, the company's third in the Avenues mall, offers an exceptional concept of the retail experience. The branch features the latest smart devices, high-tech touchscreens, telecommunication

services, accessories, and more. The branch is equipped with the latest tech solutions that offer a rich customer experience and transform the idea of the traditional branch into a digital one. This concept comes as part of Zain's digital transformation journey into becoming an integrated digital services provider.

Zain constantly looks at ways to improve the retail experience for its customers, including providing them with the latest solutions to better serve their needs through the biggest network of branches in Kuwait.

Zain official partner of Alnowair initiative



KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its Official Partnership of Alnowair, a non-profit initiative aimed at spreading positivity and enriching positive behavior within the Kuwaiti society.

Zain participated in Alnowair Carnival held next to Kuwait Towers with the presence of Shaikha Intsar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, founder and president of Alnowair. The carnival, Alnowair's first event for this year, was held on the occasion of the International Day of Happiness, which is celebrated in March of every year.

Zain's partnership came under the umbrella of its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy, through which the company is keen on supporting similar distinguished initiatives that contribute to reflecting a positive image of the Kuwaiti society. Zain's partnership is a reflection of its slogan "A Wonderful World", which the company is keen on implementing within its own employees and the wider community.

The carnival witnessed the organization of the Yellow Parade, the longest parade of yellow cars in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Education entitled "smile". The parade witnessed huge participation of students, youth, and families, who all enjoyed the positive atmosphere together in front of Kuwait Towers. During the event, the #onemillionsmiles campaign was launched, aiming at collecting one million smiles in Kuwait throughout 2018.

Alnowair is an initiative driven to spread positive attitudes and happiness within all age groups and all sectors of the community through the organization of events, activities, and campaigns all year round. Alnowair's events are centered around encouraging a more positive lifestyle and creating positive environments that drive positive change, ultimately imprinting a positive impact.

Zain believes the development of the communities in which it operates is a very important part of the company's overall success. The company considers education as a core element in the community development process, and it will continue to support it to contribute to the further progress of the education sector in Kuwait.



Syrians in Kurd-held city fear Turkey, bet on US

Europe steps up pressure on Russia over spy attack

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Sisi: Egypt's undisputed father figure

Fond of telling Egyptians that they are the apple of his eye

CAIRO: With his trademark black sunglasses and blanket media presence, Egypt's President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi projects an air of benign paternalism. Whether the people love or loathe Sisi, see him as a bulwark of stability or as a domineering autocrat—there is little doubt that he will remain Egypt's president for years to come.

He stormed to victory in the 2014 presidential election, having led the military a year before in ousting the North African country's first freely-elected leader, the Islamist Mohamed Morsi. Morsi now languishes in jail, convicted on many and varied counts and sentenced to multiple terms including the death penalty. Sisi successfully silenced all forms of political opposition during his first four-year term.

This has included sweeping aside all token opposition in the March 26-28 election, leaving himself as the main choice on the ballot paper. The sole remaining challenger is Moussa Mostafa Moussa, an ardent Sisi supporter who announced his candidacy at the last minute just as it seemed Sisi would have to run alone. Sisi later denied involvement in sidelining his opponents, saying he wished there were many candidates. The former career army officer was born in November 1954 in El-Gamaleya neighborhood in the heart of Islamic Cairo.

Even as a child, Sisi sought to exert control over those around him, according to people who knew him at the time. He graduated from Egypt's Military Academy in 1977, later studying in Britain and the United States, before becoming military intelligence chief under President Hosni Mubarak who was toppled in a January 2011 uprising.

There to serve

As Egypt's leader, Sisi is often seen microphone in hand, presiding over public ceremonies. Speaking in the Egyptian Arabic dialect, sometimes laughing in the middle of his own lengthy speeches, he projects an image of father of the nation. He is fond of telling Egyptians that they are the apple of his eye, stressing that he is there only to serve them.

Enjoying near-unanimous media support, Sisi is popular among many Egyptians who see him as the right man to lead the country after years of political, security,



CAIRO: A picture taken on March 22, 2018 shows a giant election campaign poster supporting Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi in the upcoming presidential election. —AFP

and economic turmoil that followed the ouster of long-time president Mubarak. A father of four whose wife wears a hair veil, Sisi is described by those close to him as a pious Muslim who does not miss any of the five daily prayers. But he is also reported to have a strong sense of self-belief, with audio records leaked by Islamic-leaning media pointing to a big ego.

In one leak, Sisi recalls a dream about the late president Anwar Sadat, which he saw as an omen that he would one day become powerful himself. In another, he tells of a dream in which he held a red sword inscribed with the Muslim declaration of faith. Ironically, it was the Islamist Morsi himself who appointed Sisi defense minister and commander-in-chief of the armed forces in 2012.

Security problems

A year later, Sisi ended Morsi's turbulent year in power and cracked down on the Islamist's supporters, with hundreds of people killed in weeks. On one bloody day—August 14, 2013—security forces killed more than 700 people in Cairo when they dispersed sit-ins by pro-Morsi protesters. At the time, Human Rights Watch said the "mass killings of protesters" that day "probably amounts to crimes against humanity".

Since Morsi's removal, tens of thousands of his followers have been jailed, and hundreds sentenced in expedient mass trials strongly denounced by the United Nations. As Islamist-related security issues mounted, Sisi launched a military campaign against Islamic State

group fighters based in North Sinai province. But so far he has been unable to fully quash an insurgency that has killed hundreds of police and military personnel.

Economically, he has begun an IMF-mandated campaign of drastic economic reforms that include cutting energy subsidies, introducing value-added tax and floating the pound. Many secular and left-wing activists who initially supported Sisi soon came to regret it: he has been regularly accused by international rights groups of committing serious violations to silence dissent. During his first presidential campaign in 2014, he said that "talking about freedoms" should not take precedence over "national security", and that it would take "20 to 25 years to establish a true democracy" in Egypt. —AFP

The Legacy of Innovation in Laundry Continues with LG's Revolutionary TWINWash™ Technology

Growing need for large capacity washing machines emerging as a key trend



With a proven track record of offering consumers premium lifestyles through quality products and service delivery, LG is always striving to give their customers a brighter future. Over the past few years, LG has caught the attention of global consumers by delivering value that exceeds customer expectations.

A key consumer trend worldwide now is the growing need and demand for larger capacity washing machines, and LG is poised to take advantage of this trend thanks to its innovative, eco-friendly and smart offerings.

Commenting on this emerging trend, Kevin Cha, President, LG Electronics, Middle East & Africa said, "The industry has been keeping a close watch on the growing popularity of larger capacity washers and their capabilities, monitoring whether the increase in size affects reliability, wash performance and time spent on washing cycles. But LG's award-winning TWINWash™ technology has successfully managed to address these issues and emerge as one of the most successful innovations, while creating a new genre within the laundry industry."

Several global reports have hailed LG as an industry leader time and again. LG's home appliances have outperformed the competition when it comes to reliability and bringing industry firsts like TWINWash™ to the market. The innovation, performance and product longevity of TWINWash™ has successfully carved a niche for LG as one of the most trusted appliance brands.

According to a leading US consumer publication, appliance breakage rate estimates in the industry vary across each laundry category – ranging from 10 to 25 percent – based on testing for cleaning, water and energy efficiency, gentleness, speed and noise. LG laundry products earned top reliability scores with the lowest breakage rates compared to seven other major appliance brands of front-load washing machines and high efficiency top-load washing machines.

LG's reliability is building a legacy of innovation in the laundry category. Key to LG's washer dependability is the direct drive motor technology pioneered by LG. The LG Direct Drive Motor, attached directly to the washer's drum, is designed to increase both performance and durability. The company was also the first to introduce the LG TWINWash™ system that combines two washers – a traditional front load washer and the LG TWINWash™ Mini – so users can wash two loads at the same time or independently.

LG TWINWash™ Washing Machines also feature TrueSteam™ technology, which removes 99.99 percent of allergens, germs and mites, ensuring that your laundry always comes out clean and germ-free. TrueSteam™ also uses Steam Refresh and Steam Softener technologies to easily remove wrinkles from garments, disinfect and soften clothes without the need for chemical-based fabric softeners, using only 100 percent pure water.

The LG TWINWash™ Mini is specifically designed to wash small laundry loads including intimates, delicates and active wear. Since an LG Frontloading Washing Machine can be placed above the LG TWINWash™ Mini, consumers can enjoy a more comfortable loading and unloading experience, meaning less bending and lifting.

Other innovations that make LG laundry solutions best-in-class include: the largest capacity in its class** at 5.8 cu. Ft., allowing you to wash a king-size comforter and full set of bedding in a single load; TurboWash™, powerful high-pressure nozzles save 30 minutes per load; steam cleaning technology with LG's TrueSteam™ that gently but powerfully penetrates fabrics to help eliminate dirt, odors and wrinkles, while reducing allergens; and last, but not the least, 6Motion™ Technology that combines up to six different wash motions to provide a thorough clean.

The Energy Monitoring feature provides helpful data while LG's proprietary HomeChat™ service is available in the 21kg system allowing users to physically text their washing machine to check the status or even start-up the cycle. LG TWINWash™ also features an easy to use integrated control panel that gives access to everything you need right at your fingertips.

Featuring cutting-edge washing machine technology, as well as a sleek, modern design – LG washing machines not only make your clothes look their best – they make the home look brilliant, too.

TWINWash™ is available to consumers today across Kuwait in all leading Hypermarkets, Electronic Stores, and Al Babbain Electronics Showrooms (Keifan, Al Rai, AL Adaliya, Fahad Al Salem, Jahra, Hawalli, Fahaheel, Farwaniya, Dajeej, Salmiya, Qurain Markets, Rozana Mall Al-Rai). It's available in various options; 3 models 27-inch; LG TWINWash™ FH0C9CDHK72 [24.5 / 12KG], LG TWINWash™ FOK1CHK2T2 [23.5 / 11 KG], and the LG TWINWash™ FOK2CHK2T2 [21.5 / 10 KG] And for those who want the 24-inch LG TWINWash™ there are 2 models; LG TWINWash™ FH4G1JCHK6N [12.5 / 7 KG], and LG TWINWash™ FH4G1JCSK6 [12.5 KG].





LG TWIN Wash™

WASH TWO LOADS AT THE SAME TIME



Upgrade your Laundry Experience
With The Various Options Available from LG TWINWash



International

Migrants take new Balkan route through Bosnia, crisis continues

Matches the one taken by arms and drugs traffickers

SARAJEVO: A new Balkan route through Bosnia has opened up for migrants, four years after a crisis in which more than one million people landed on Europe's shores. Hundreds of thousands of people fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East, Asia and Africa, took the so-called Balkans route northwest of Greece in 2015 and 2016.

The route was effectively closed in March 2016 and until recently the few still making the journey avoided Bosnia and its mountains. Instead they opted for a route through Serbia before dodging the Croatian and Hungarian authorities in order to make it into the European Union (EU). But now an alternative migrants' itinerary from Greece through Albania, Montenegro and Bosnia has emerged. The route, according to a western diplomatic source, matches the one taken by arms and drugs traffickers, indicating that human smuggling networks have been established.



700 have entered the country illegally

Thousands paid to people smugglers
One migrant Ahmed Wessam, who spoke to AFP in Sarajevo, left the northeastern Syrian town of Hassake a month ago having paid people smugglers to get him to Europe. "A thousand dollars (800 euros) to go from Turkey to Greece, a thousand euros to go from Greece to Albania and so on," Wessam told AFP. According to Bosnian authorities, since the beginning of the year 700 migrants have entered the country illegally and almost 800 were intercepted at the border.

Most of them are Syrians, Pakistanis, Libyans or Afghans. The authorities fear that the end of the cold weather could spell a big hike in numbers. "We have no capacity to accept thousands of refugees... although they

do not want to stay in Bosnia," Prime Minister Denis Zvizdic said recently. Head of the medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) in the Balkans Stephane Moissaing dismissed concerns of a repeat of the 2015 migrant crisis. However, the Bosnian authorities should "handle (the situation) in a humane way, so it does not become a real humanitarian crisis", he said.

The country's current reception capacities are limited to a centre for asylum-seekers near Sarajevo, with space for just 154 people. The situation "gets complicated," Bosnian Security Minister Dragan Mektic admitted recently, stating that there were currently between 45,000 and 50,000 migrants between Greece and Bosnia, many of whom might try their luck through Bosnia. The border with Croatia, an EU member state, is 1,000 kilometers long and Sarajevo has only 2,000 border police officers.

According to Nidzara Ahmetasevic, a volunteer working with migrants in Sarajevo, the number of migrants in the country "is at least double" what the official figures show. "We are in contact with more than 300 people. We have found a solution (in terms of accommodation) for some 50, but we could fill two more houses of that size," she said.

Baby due

Initially intended to be a hostel in a Sarajevo suburb, the large building where Wessam and his relatives have been staying has individual rooms equipped with toilets. The house was made available by a Bosnian who lives abroad. Samira Samadi, 35, another migrant staying there, left the central Iranian town of Ispahan in early



SARAJEVO: Children sit in the living area of a repurposed Sarajevo suburban house, for migrants coming from Middle-Eastern, Asian countries. —AFP

2017 along with her husband. She takes advantage of an MSF doctor's visit to check if her pregnancy is proceeding well.

"I want to go to Germany but... because of my wife's pregnancy we can't continue," her husband Anoush Orak said. "We will probably wait here for the birth of

our child." The couple have already tried to illegally enter Croatia but the snow and forests put them off. Wessam, however, will depart in a "week, maybe 10 days". "I do not know how to cross the border but we will try and retry. We have already crossed many times," he said.—AFP

Iraqi widow saved recruits from slaughter

WASHINGTON: Aliyah Khalaf Saleh had already lost a husband, a son and a nephew to the terror that engulfed northern Iraq in 2014. But when a group of military cadets fled to her community near Tikrit to escape killers from the Islamic State group, she risked all to save them. In June 2014, the jihadists slaughtered hundreds of mainly Shiite Muslim recruits from the nearby Speicher military base.

A smaller group of young men tried to escape by crossing a river but Aliyah, now 62 and known at home as Umm Qusay, stepped in. "They were moving from Camp Speicher to Baghdad" when they came upon IS killing their comrades, she told AFP. The young men retreated 20 kilometers to an area where Umm Qusay's neighbors were clashing with the militants, and she took them in.

"There were Kurds and Iraqis, Muslims, Yazidis and Christians," she recalled. "I got them to my home." She gave women's clothes to some of the young men and hid them in the women's quarters on her farm. Others dug holes in a forest. IS fighters were hunting for the recruits, so Umm Qusay obtained university identity cards for some of them, giving them local names.

She taught those who were Shiite how to say their prayers like a Sunni to protect them from sectarian suspicions. And, over five months, she smuggled them to safety in Kurdish-held Kirkuk, hiding them in trucks surrounded by female relatives. "At first, the terrorists did not bother women," she said. In all she got 58 young men to safety before the Islamic State group's spies got wind of what she had done and she had to flee. Her family—her surviving sons plus their wives and children, 25 people in all—fled on foot through the night, she said.

Beacon of hope

They remained displaced, living in a single room, for a year before Iraqi government forces recaptured their home and they could return. Now, the government is triumphant, the Islamic State group is on the run and Umm Qusay's bravery and love has made her a beacon of hope. A Sunni, she has received a high Shiite religious honor and a national medal, but that is not her greatest satisfaction. "God took my husband, my son, and my nephew but he has given me in return these young men to console me," she said of the recruits. After the fighting, many of the young men returned to thank their savior, and to tell her story to a nation in need of hope. "They come to visit me, I come to visit them. Whenever there's a conference in Baghdad, they come with me," she said.

"Two of them got married, I attended their weddings. I was the happiest person there," she said, blinking back tears. Umm Qusay was honored again on Friday at the US State Department in Washington, where she was named an International Woman of Courage. Alongside nine other brave women, each with a story of their own, she received her award from First Lady Melania Trump.

"In recognizing the International Women of Courage, we stand for what is right," Trump told the guests. "In telling their stories, we can teach young women and girls all over the world what it means to have courage and to be a hero." It was a long way from the life of an Iraqi woman who married at 13 and lived through dictatorship, occupation and terror. But, as the women gathered for their group photo, Umm Qusay led them all in laughter, gesticulating to bridge the language divide. "I was reluctant to come at the beginning. I was also so tired, but I feel much better now," she said before the ceremony. "People smile at me in the street. It's like the smile regenerates you and makes you feel safe and secure," she explained. "People in Iraq have not been able to smile for many years now. All we do is cry and feel sad." —AFP

Syrians in Kurd city fear Turkey but bet on US

MANBIJ: In Syria's Kurdish-controlled Manbij, salesmen shout as customers bustle through the city's packed marketplace—an everyday scene that masks residents' deep fears of a Turkish attack. Despite the presence of US troops nearby, Manbij could become the next target of a Turkey-led battle against Kurdish militia in Syria's north. Ankara and allied Syrian rebels seized the northwestern city of Afrin on March 18, and Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has repeatedly threatened to push eastwards and take Manbij.

"Everybody's scared, me included," said Hameed al-Damalkhi, 50, bent over a sewing machine as he stitched the sole back onto a used trainer at his shop in Manbij's covered market. He said he was still shocked by images of pro-Ankara fighters looting in Afrin, breaking into shops and homes and heading off with food, blankets and even motorbikes after Kurdish fighters retreated.

"What we hear about them is they're all thieves. You saw, they looted the whole (Afrin) area," he said, wearing a stained grey robe and greying beard. Turkey has said it aims to dislodge the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) militia, which it labels a "terrorist" group, from the length of its border with Syria. "Where does he think he's going?" Damalkhi said, referring to Erdogan. "There are men here who can protect the area." The YPG has gained a reputation as a formidable force, especially as the backbone of a US-backed alliance that expelled the Islamic State group from much of Syria.

'Guarantees' from the US

Since Syria's war started in 2011, Manbij has



ARBIL: Iraqi Kurdish pop singer Dashni Murad performs on stage during the spring festival. —AFP

exchanged hands several times. Rebels overran the town in 2012. IS seized it two years later, turning it into a key transit point for fighters, weapons and cash between the Turkish border and its then de facto capital of Raqqa, further southeast. The US-backed and YPG-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) took control of Manbij last year, handing the city's management over to a civil council. Dozens of American troops have since been stationed on the city's outskirts, with additional troops deployed there around a year ago.

Their presence offers some comfort to residents, especially after a delegation from the State Department and the US-led coalition visited the city council this

week. Ali Al-Sattaf, 50, who works at a money exchange, said the presence of US troops nearby was reassuring. "It makes us feel that nothing will rain down from the sky," he said. The YPG retreated from Afrin in the face of formidable Turkish and rebel fire power, including air strikes that pounded the Kurdish enclave. The US-led coalition stayed out of the battle for Afrin, but its presence outside Manbij has raised the spectre of a potential conflict between two NATO allies should Turkey attack the city. On Thursday, State Department official William Roebuck and US Army Major-General James B. Jarrard, who heads a US-led force fighting IS, visited Manbij Civil Council. —AFP

Croatians protest against treaty to protect women

ZAGREB: Several thousand people marched through the Croatian capital yesterday in protest against a European treaty designed to protect women. The demonstration gathered up to 10,000 people according to journalists' estimates and was held two days after conservative Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic's government sent the treaty for ratification by the parliament.

The Council of Europe convention—the world's first binding instrument to prevent and combat violence against women, from marital rape to female genital mutilation—has split the country. The Balkan nation's conservatives, supported by the Catholic Church along with hardliners from the ruling HDZ party, oppose the ratification. They argue that under the guise of protecting women the so-called Istanbul Convention promotes what they call a "gender ideology" which would undermine the traditional family.

"I'm a father not a parent!" and "Halt violence against Croatia!" read some of the banners carried by the protestors who gathered in front of the HDZ seat before marching through central Zagreb. The demonstrators, who also came from other parts of the country, waved Croatian flags, prayed and sang patriotic songs. "We feel threatened in our own country. The Istanbul convention is against Christianity," Gordana Turic told the crowd as they stopped at the main square.

The protestors chanted "Treason, Treason" when Plenkovic's name was being mentioned and the organizers urged MPs not to ratify the treaty. "I want family and family values preserved while the convention is against them," Ivana Horvat, a 38-year-old administrator, told AFP. In a bid to calm down tensions, Plenkovic, representing moderates within HDZ, amended a bill rat-



ZAGREB: Opponents to a treaty safeguarding women, backed by the Roman Catholic Church, protest against its ratification arguing it is imposing what they call a "gender ideology in the Croatian capital." —AFP

ifying the treaty. It includes a statement saying notably the treaty does not imply the need to "introduce gender ideology" in Croatia's schools or change the constitutional definition of marriage as a union between a man and a woman. In the past weeks, the Catholic Church launched a fierce campaign against the convention's ratification with priests publicizing the protest after masses.

"The time has come to get out on the streets," Bishop Vlado Kocic said on Facebook urging Christians to join the protest. He earlier labeled the convention a "plague". Nearly 90 percent of Croatia's 4.2 million people are Roman Catholics and the Church plays an important role in society. The convention has so far been ratified by 28 countries, including 17 European Union member states. Croatia became the bloc's newest member in 2013. —AFP

Iran slams US sanctions over hacking scheme

TEHRAN: Iran yesterday slammed new US sanctions against 10 of its citizens and an Iranian company over their alleged involvement in a massive state-sponsored hacking and intellectual property theft scheme. The US Treasury Department unveiled charges on Friday against nine Iranians along with sanctions against 10 individuals and the Mabna Institute, which it accused of hacking hundreds of universities on behalf of Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

Foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Ghassemi called the accusations "false". "Iran condemns the United States' provocative, illegal and unjustified actions, which are a major new sign of the hostility and animosity of US leaders towards the Iranian people," he said in a statement on the ministry's website. "They will not prevent the scientific development of the Iranian people."

The two founders of the Mabna Institute, Gholamreza Rafatnejad, 38, and Ehsan Mohammadi, 37, were among the nine Iranians indicted in New York and whose assets are subject to US seizure. Since 2013, the Mabna Institute carried out cyber intrusions into the computer systems of 144 US universities, the Treasury Department said, and 176 universities in 21 foreign countries. Mabna Institute employees and contractors "engaged in the theft of valuable intellectual property and data from hundreds of US and third-country universities... for private financial gain," it said.

"For many of these intrusions, the defendants acted at the behest of the Iranian government and, specifically, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps," Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein said. The US Department of Labour, the US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, dozens of private firms and non-governmental organizations such as the United Nations Children's Fund were also allegedly targeted. —AFP

International

N Korea agrees to inter-Korean summit talks next week: Seoul

A diplomatic thaw on the peninsula gathers pace

SEOUL: North Korea yesterday agreed to hold high-level talks with Seoul next week to discuss logistics for a rare inter-Korean summit, the South's Unification Ministry said, as a diplomatic thaw on the peninsula gathers pace. The two sides will each send a three-member delegation to the border truce village of Panmunjom on Thursday for talks aimed at paving the way for a summit due in late April, it said.

South Korea on Wednesday had proposed holding high-level talks with the North to discuss details including the summit's dates and agenda. The talks will take place at the Unification Pavilion building on the northern side of Panmunjom, which sits on the border, with Seoul's delegation led by Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon and his counterpart Ri Son Gwon heading Pyongyang's.

The decision by President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to meet came amid a rapid rapprochement kicked off with the recent Winter Olympics in the South. The United States and South Korea announced Tuesday that their annual joint military drills would go ahead next month, but the main exercise will be shortened by a month. The exercises have caused tensions for years, with Pyongyang condemning them as preparations for an invasion of the North. The inter-Korean summit is due to be followed by a face-to-face meeting between US President Donald Trump and Kim by the end of May.

'Humiliation and defeat'

Following a period of heightened tensions stoked by the North's nuclear and missile tests last year, a rapid rapprochement has been underway on the Korean peninsula. The North on Wednesday broke its silence on the diplomatic thaw with

Washington and Seoul, with its official KCNA news agency saying Pyongyang was driving the peace initiative and rejecting suggestions that sanctions forced it to dialogue table.

As diplomats scurry to arrange the North-South talks as well as the proposed Trump-Kim meeting, the North's silence has raised concerns over its intentions. North Korean state media have not yet directly mentioned the summits. Analysts say the North is carefully watching to see how events-including the US-South Korea military drills-play out before making them public to its people.

State media in the North have not reported any public activities by Kim since March 6, when they said he held talks with South Korean envoys and made a "satisfactory agreement" on the proposed inter-Korean summit. On Friday, Rodong Sinmun, the official daily of the North's ruling Workers Party, attacked the US for continued sanctions and pressure on Pyongyang despite diplomatic progress.

"The good atmosphere appearing on the Korean peninsula has been created by our aggressive efforts and initiatives. It has not been brought about by sanctions by the US and its sycophants," the newspaper said "The United States has miscalculated. The stronger the US pressure, the stronger the DPRK (North Korea)... If the US fails to draw a lesson and continues acting recklessly, it would surely be in for a greater humiliation and defeat."

The commentary came as President Trump named John Bolton, a foreign policy hawk, as his new national security adviser. Bolton, a former US ambassador to the United Nations, has championed pre-emptive strikes against North Korea and regime change in Iran-making him an outlier even among Republicans. —AFP



NEW YORK CITY: The United Nations Security Council meets concerning North Korea. —AFP

Malaysia arrests 7 men with IS links

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian police have arrested seven men with links to the Islamic State militant group who were planning attacks on non-Muslim places of worship and other targets, authorities said yesterday. The Muslim-majority country has been on high alert since gunmen allied with Islamic State (IS) carried out a series of attacks in Jakarta, the capital of neighboring Indonesia, in January 2016.

Six Malaysians were arrested in Johor state, north of Singapore, while a seventh, a Filipino member of the IS-linked Abu Sayyaf group, was detained in the eastern state of Sabah, in multiple operations between Feb. 27 and Mar. 15, Inspector-General of Police Mohamad Fuzi Harun said in a statement. He said the six detained in Johor were members of an IS cell and included a 37-year-old technician who recruited new militants and was believed to be the mastermind of planned attacks on non-Muslim places of worship in the state's capital.

A second suspect was a security guard who served as the cell's advisor and ensured members kept their activities secret. A third man was tasked with buying firearms from a neighboring country and identifying targets for attacks, he said. "All of them planned to escape to a neighboring country and seek shelter from members of a militant group there after successfully carrying out the plan," Muhamad Fuzi said, without naming the country.

Authorities arrested three other members of the same cell in follow-up operations, including a 25-year-old restaurant worker who had been ordered to kidnap and kill police personnel. Police also detained a 31-year-old Philippine national in Sabah, on Borneo Island, who was said to be a trusted lieutenant to Abu Sayyaf group leader Furuji Indama and has links to Malaysian militant Mahmud Ahmad, Muhamad Fuzi said. —Reuters

Chinese feminist group to sue over censorship

BEIJING: Feminist activists are preparing to sue China's biggest social media platforms for deleting their organization's account, the group's founder said yesterday. On March 8, International Women's Day, staffers operating the prolific Feminist Voices account on China's Twitter-like Weibo platform found it had been deleted. Weibo customer service representatives told them by phone that the account could not be reactivated due to the posting of "sensitive and illegal information", the group's founder Lu Pin told AFP.

The next day, the group's WeChat public account had also disappeared. The group has run into trouble before on social media, with their accounts being temporarily suspended and individual posts deleted, but "this time they say it's a permanent deletion", Lu said. Feminist Voices has "already begun legal procedures and is preparing to sue Weibo and Wechat", she said, adding that they have sent letters of complaint to both the government department in charge of the internet and the All-China Women's Federation.

Neither Sina Weibo nor internet giant Tencent, which runs WeChat, responded to requests for comment. The black-out prompted Lu to pen an open letter to British actress Emma Watson—"one of the feminist idols held in highest esteem by young Chinese women," she said—to solicit the celebrity's support. "We are struggling to reactivate our accounts so that we can continue our work and are asking you to demonstrate your open support for Feminist Voices on Twitter," she wrote in the English-language missive, posted to Twitter Friday.

China's ruling Communist Party runs one of the world's most restrictive online censorship regimes. Feminist Voices, which established an account on Weibo in 2010, was temporarily blocked by authorities last year after it translated and posted parts of an article by American academics calling for a "general women's strike". The article in question spoke of the need for "a new wave of militant feminist struggle" against US President Donald Trump's "aggressively misogynistic, homophobic, transphobic and racist policies". —AFP

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International

Europe steps up pressure on covert Russia over spy attack

Questions arise to expel Russian diplomats

BRUSSELS: European countries are set to take further steps as early as tomorrow to punish Russia over the poisoning of a former spy in England, officials said, as diplomatic pressure builds on Moscow over the nerve agent attack. Russia, for its part, accused London of trying to force its European allies to take "confrontational steps" and unleashing an "anti-Russian campaign".

EU leaders meeting in Brussels have agreed to recall the bloc's ambassador from Moscow over the attack on Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in the English city of Salisbury. French President Emmanuel Macron said Friday the poisoning with the Soviet-made "Novichok" agent was an "attack on European sovereignty", after EU leaders unanimously backed London's assessment that it was "highly likely" Moscow was to blame and that there was no plausible alternative explanation.

A number of member states are considering following Britain's lead and expelling Russian intelligence agents posing as diplomats, with German Chancellor Angela Merkel saying further coordinated actions were "necessary" to respond to the attack. The 23 diplomats expelled by Moscow in a tit-for-tat move "have returned to the UK safely", British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said on Twitter late Friday.

The question of whether to expel Russian diplomats will be left to individual member states and EU President Donald Tusk said action was expected as early as Monday. But divisions remain over how far to go, with Austria already ruling out expelling diplomats, and Tusk, a former Polish prime minister, said it was not clear how many states would join the expulsions.

"More than one but I don't think that it will be the

whole group," Tusk said. Macron told a joint news conference with Merkel after the summit in Brussels that the March 4 incident—for which Russia denies responsibility—was "a serious challenge to our security and... an attack on European sovereignty". "It calls for a coordinated, determined response from the European Union and its member states," the French leader said.

'Extraordinary measure'

British Prime Minister Theresa May briefed other EU leaders on the probe into the attack over a summit dinner on Thursday. She managed to overcome resistance from countries like Greece and Italy who were reluctant to put their close Kremlin ties in jeopardy to persuade them to back Britain's conclusion that Moscow was to blame. Merkel said May had shared "certain findings" which left little doubt Moscow was behind the first offensive use of a nerve agent in Europe since World War II.

"We believe that the analyses are already very well-founded and this has not been questioned by anyone," Merkel said. "We agreed—Germany and France at least—that such reactions are still necessary in addition to recalling the ambassador." European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker said the recall of the ambassador was an "extraordinary measure" never before taken by the bloc.

The leaders of former Soviet bloc EU states the Czech Republic and Lithuania, as well as Denmark and Ireland, have said they were considering further unilateral steps, including expelling diplomats. Latvia was the first to commit explicitly to expelling Russians, saying it expected to make an official announcement on Monday.

Attack on European sovereignty



RIGA, Latvia: Exterior view taken on March 23, 2018 shows the Russia's embassy in Riga, Latvia. Latvia's foreign ministry on March 23 said the Baltic state would expel "one or several" Russian diplomats over the nerve agent attack on an ex-spy in the English city of Salisbury. —AFP

'Confrontational steps'

Moscow denounced the moves by Britain and the EU. "As for the decision taken, we regret in this context that again such decisions are taken using the wording 'highly likely'," President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Friday. "We don't agree with this and we repeat again that Russia absolutely definitely has nothing to do with the Skripal case."

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, on a visit to Hanoi, separately accused Britain of "feverishly trying to force allies to take confrontational steps", suggesting London's

focus was now on making "the crisis with Russia as deep as possible". The Russian ambassador to Britain wrote Friday to a policeman exposed to the nerve agent used against the Skripals, insisting on Moscow's innocence and thanking him for his bravery.

Alexander Yakovenko told Detective Sergeant Nick Bailey, who was released from hospital Thursday following two weeks of treatment, that he hoped the officer and the Skripals "get well soon". "I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you for your bravery when reacting to the assault on two Russian nationals," he wrote. —AFP

Pentagon looks to counter ever-stealthier warfare

WASHINGTON: The US military has for years enjoyed a broad technological edge over its adversaries, dominating foes with superior communications and cyber capabilities. Now, thanks to rapid advances by Russia and China, the gap has shrunk, and the Pentagon is looking at how a future conflict with a "near-peer" competitor might play out. Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson recently warned that both Russia and China are experimenting with ways to take out the US military's satellites, which form the backbone of America's warfighting machine.

"They know that we are dominant in space, that every mission the military does depends on space, and in a crisis or war they are demonstrating capabilities and developing capabilities to seek to deny us our space assets," Wilson said. "We're not going to let that happen." The Pentagon is investing in a new generation of satellites that will provide the military with better accuracy and have better anti-jamming capabilities.

Such technology would help counter the type of "asymmetric" warfare practiced by Russia, which combines old-school propaganda with social media offensives and cyber hacks. Washington has blamed Moscow for numerous cyber attacks, including last year's massive ransomware attack, known as NotPetya, which paralyzed thousands of computers around the world. US cyber security investigators have also accused the Russian government of a sustained effort to take control of critical US infrastructure systems, including the energy grid. Russia denies involvement and so far, such attacks have been met with a muted US military response.

Public relations shutdown

General John Hyten, who leads US Strategic Command (STRATCOM), told lawmakers the US has "not gone nearly far enough" in the cyber domain. He also warned that the military still does not have clear authorities and rules of engagement for when and how it can conduct offensive cyber ops. "Cyberspace needs to be looked at as a warfighting domain, and if somebody threatens us in cyberspace, we need to have the authorities to respond," Hyten told lawmakers this week.

Hyten's testimony comes after Admiral Michael Rogers, who heads both the NSA—the leading US electronic eavesdropping agency—and the new US Cyber Command, last month said President Donald Trump had not yet ordered his spy chiefs to retaliate against Russian interference in the 2016 US election.

Russia has also been blamed for the March 4 poisoning of former spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia, who were found unconscious on a bench outside a shopping center in England. NATO countries are working to determine when a cyber attack might trigger the alliance's Article 5 collective defense provision. General Curtis Scaparrotti, the commander of NATO forces in Europe, said this month. NATO "recognizes the difficulty in indirect or asymmetric activity that Russia is practicing, activities below the level of conflict," Scaparrotti said.

In 2015, the Air Force opened the highly secretive National Space Defense Center in Colorado, where airmen work to identify potential threats to America's satellite network. After officials told a local newspaper, The Gazette, that the center had started running on a 24-hour basis, Air Force higher ups grew alarmed that too much information had been revealed. —AFP

Trump scraps military ban for transgender

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump late Friday rolled back his blanket ban on transgender people serving in the military—but they will still face major restrictions in the American armed forces. Trump signed a memorandum in August that effectively barred transgender people from the military but the ban faced multiple legal challenges.

The White House has now come back with a modified version of the original plan—as with Trump's efforts to ban travelers from several Muslim-majority countries, which was repeatedly challenged in court. "I hereby revoke my memorandum of August 25, 2017, 'Military Service by Transgender Individuals,' and any other directive I may have made with respect to military service by transgender individuals," Trump's new memorandum said.

Trump instead sought to shift responsibility to two of his cabinet secretaries. "The Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Homeland Security, with respect to the US Coast Guard, may exercise their authority to implement any appropriate policies concerning military service by transgender individuals," the memorandum said. Trump's memorandum said the two cabinet secretaries recommended people diagnosed with gender dysphoria be barred from military service. The Defense Department released a copy of a report with further details on the restrictions outlined in the memorandum. "Transgender persons who have not transitioned to another gender and do not have a history or current diagnosis of gender dysphoria... are eligible for service" if they meet mental and physical health standards and "are capable of adhering to the standards associated with their biological sex," the report said. People who have undergone gender transition treatment are barred because it may not "fully remedy... the mental health problems associated with gender dysphoria," the report said, also noting the time required for treatment.

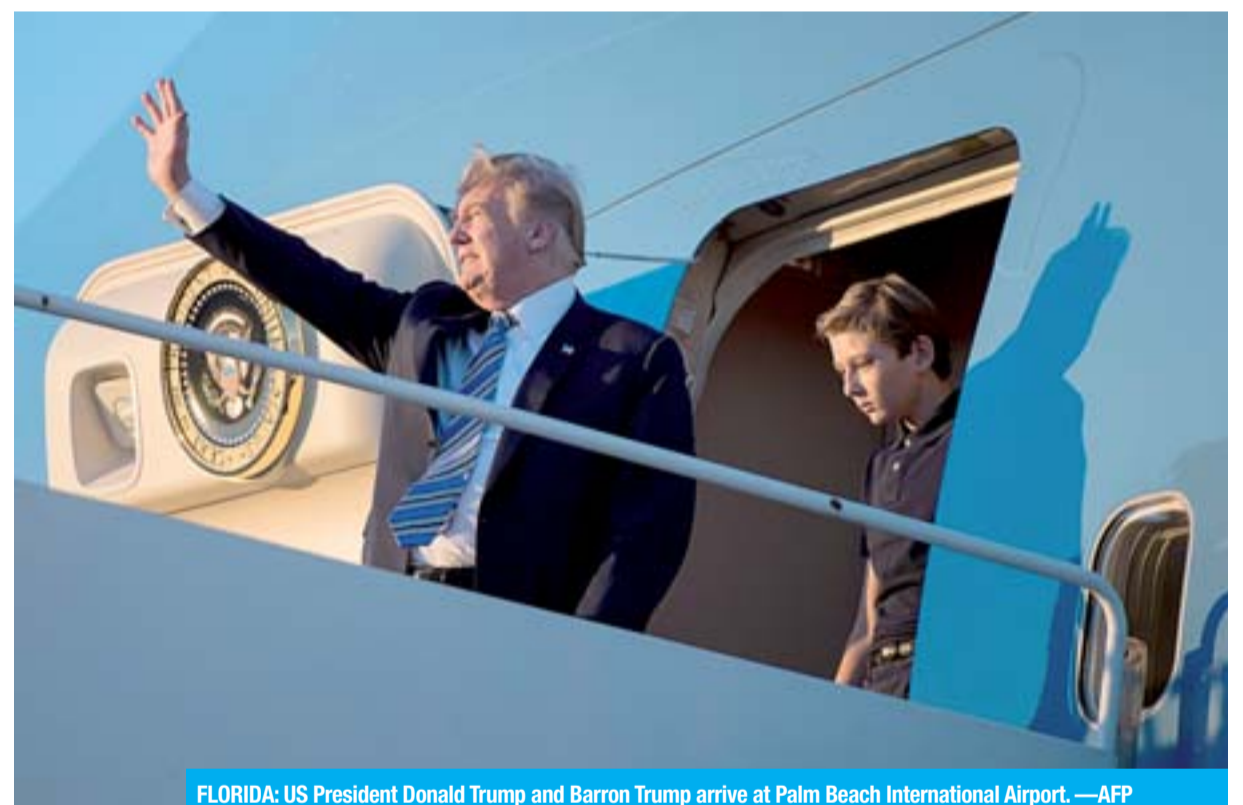
'Many' could be disqualified

"Although the precise number is unknown, the department recognizes that many transgender persons could be disqualified under this policy," it said. The number of transgender troops among America's approximately 1.3 million active duty service members is fairly small, with

Peru president sworn in after impeachment row

LIMA: Martin Vizcarra was sworn in as Peru's new president Friday, catapulted to the post when Pedro Pablo Kuczynski resigned to avoid impeachment. Vizcarra, who had been serving as both vice president and his country's ambassador to Canada, took the oath of office and donned the red-and-white presidential sash before the Peruvian Congress. The ceremony came shortly after lawmakers voted to accept Kuczynski's resignation, rather than push ahead with impeaching him over corruption allegations. "We will stand firm in the fight against corruption. Transparency will be a pillar of our administration," said Vizcarra, a former cabinet minister known for his meticulous management and unflashy style. "Better times will come," he told his fellow Peruvians in his first address as president.

Just a day before, the engineer and technocrat was far removed from the political hornet's nest that brought down Kuczynski, leading a relatively placid diplomat's life in Ottawa. He flew home Thursday night, on his 55th birthday, and now takes over the remainder of Kuczynski's term, until 2021 — though early elections are still possible.



FLORIDA: US President Donald Trump and Barron Trump arrive at Palm Beach International Airport. —AFP

estimates topping out at 15,000. There are some exceptions to the restrictions: people who have a history of gender dysphoria may join the military if they "can demonstrate 36 consecutive months of stability—ie absence of gender dysphoria—immediately preceding their application," the report said. And those diagnosed with gender dysphoria after joining the military who do "not require gender transition" may remain.

There is also an exception for people currently in the military who were diagnosed with gender dysphoria between the implementation of an Obama-era policy allowing transgender people to serve and the start of the new Trump administration policy. But the US Senate's top Democrat Chuck Schumer said the policy still amounted to a ban, calling it "yet another Trump-Pence decision intended to drive a wedge in our society."

"No matter what @realDonaldTrump says, this is a transgender ban — plain and simple," Schumer tweeted.

Kuczynski, 79, had a short tenure as president: the former Wall Street banker was elected by a razor-thin margin in June 2016, and took office the following month. But he lacked a majority in Congress, and was almost immediately embroiled in a messy conflict with the main opposition party, Popular Force, led by Keiko Fujimori, the daughter of disgraced ex-president Alberto Fujimori.

When reports emerged linking Kuczynski to Brazil's scandal-plagued construction giant Odebrecht—accused of paying massive bribes to politicians around Latin America for juicy public works contracts—Popular Force mounted a relentless push to remove him from office. Odebrecht revealed in December that it had paid nearly \$5 million to consulting companies linked to Kuczynski when he was finance minister.

Fujimori truce?

The former president survived a first impeachment vote that month. Three days later, he granted a pardon on medical grounds to former president Fujimori, who had been in jail for corruption and human rights violations. That sparked speculation of a back-room deal with an opposition faction led by Keiko Fujimori's brother and rival Kenji. When video tapes emerged of Kenji—who has now split from his sister's party—apparently offering bribes to a fellow lawmaker to vote against the December impeachment, the political damage to Kuczynski proved to be too much. Facing a new impeachment vote, he announced his resignation Wednesday, proclaiming his innocence but saying it

"This decision breaks faith with those serving today and those who aspire to serve." The American Civil Liberties Union rights group condemned the new policy, calling it "transphobia masquerading as policy." "This policy is not based on an evaluation of new evidence," the ACLU's Joshua Block said in a statement.

"It is reverse-engineered for the sole purpose of carrying out President Trump's reckless and unconstitutional ban, undermining the ability of transgender service members to serve openly and military readiness as a whole." "The policy effectively coerces transgender people who wish to serve into choosing between their humanity and their country." The Human Rights Campaign, a major LGBTQ rights group, also took aim at the restrictions. "There is simply no way to spin it, the Trump-Pence Administration is going all in on its discriminatory, unconstitutional and despicable ban on transgender troops," the organization's president Chad Griffin said. —AFP



LIMA: Peru's new President Martin Vizcarra leaves the Congress in Lima and heads to the presidential palace after his swearing in. —AFP

was best for the country if he quit.

Vizcarra inherits a country still reeling from the drama and deeply mistrustful of its politicians, just as its strong economy is slowing. Like Kuczynski, he will face an opposition-controlled Congress, though he may benefit from the fact that he has no connection to traditional political parties. Keiko Fujimori appears willing to declare a truce—at least for now. —AFP

Crowds rally in largest US gun control protest in a generation

WASHINGTON: Bundled against the cold but fired up with passion after a Florida high school massacre, crowds gathered in Washington yesterday for what was expected to be the biggest US gun control protest in a generation, with hundreds of thousands attending. The student-organized protest is to feature rallies from coast to coast, with the main event in Washington within sight of the US Capitol - whose lawmakers the protesters hope to influence.

"Let our votes be our best weaponry," said one of the many signs carried by early protesters, who arrived more than three hours before the event's official mid-day start. Thousands of demonstrators poured out of the city's subway and had already filled Constitution Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue, which links the White House with the Capitol, making it difficult to get close to the main stage. The area was closed to traffic in order to hold the half-million protesters squeezing into streets flanked by giant video screens proclaiming their slogan, "March for Our Lives".

Lauren Tilley, 17, told AFP she arrived from the other side of the country in El Dorado County, California, with seven other teens and three adults. "We came here through an essay contest. They raised the money in order for us to fly here for the march," Tilley said, holding a sign calling for the US Constitution's Second Amendment, the right to bear arms, to itself be amended. "We are the people who are scared to go to school every day because we don't know if we are next," she said. "Our main message is we are not going to be quiet, we will keep fighting. I don't care how much money you have, your money can't drown out the sounds of our voices. We will be voting in 2020. Our generation wants change."

Other marchers carried homemade signs reading: "My dress code is stricter than our gun laws," "Your right to bear arms doesn't override my right to stay alive," and "Your silence leads to violence." A large peace sign decorated with flowers called for a ban on assault rifles, such as the type used in the Florida shooting. "The Second

Amendment doesn't guarantee, I don't believe, the right to own an assault rifle," said Billy McLaughlin, 67, a teacher from West Virginia. He and other demonstrators repeated a common complaint of gun control advocates, that politicians are beholden to the powerful National Rifle Association lobby group.

'Paying off' politicians

"We shouldn't have guns in our society. These kids are right," said Jeff Turchin, 68, of New York. "They're basically saying the NRA is paying off these Republicans," the party of President Donald Trump, which controls the Senate and House of Representatives. Students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida - where 17 students and staff were shot dead on Feb 14 by a 19-year-old former classmate - have been the driving force behind the march.

With a mixture of outrage and passion, they have been badgering US lawmakers to enact a ban on assault rifles and to expand background checks to cover all gun purchases, even private sales. Since the Parkland shooting, the state of Florida and the US Congress have made only modest tweaks to gun laws and Trump's proposal to arm teachers has been met with widespread resistance.

Organizers say more than 800 marches are being held across the country and around the world under the slogan #NeverAgain. In London, hundreds of people protested outside the US embassy. Although the Florida mass shooting triggered the movement, it has embraced the entire problem of gun violence in a nation that sees more than 30,000 gun-related deaths a year. Most of those fatalities do not come from mass shootings but from neighborhood homicides and suicides.

'Electoral force'

The appeals for stricter gun regulations have drawn the backing of Democratic lawmakers. A series of American celebrities have pledged \$500,000 donations to support the



WASHINGTON: Participants arrive for the March for Our Lives rally yesterday. - AFP

protests. They include actor George Clooney and his wife, Amal, a human rights lawyer; actress and media mogul Oprah Winfrey and director Steven Spielberg and his actress wife, Kate Capshaw. Later, artists including Ariana Grande, Jennifer Hudson, Miley Cyrus and Demi Lovato will perform at the rally.

Democratic Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut, where 20 elementary school children were shot dead in 2012, told AFP the student-led movement needs to become an "electoral force, and this march may be the beginning of that". Conscious of their growing political power, March For Our Lives organizers provided a link on their website for supporters to register to vote. They have called on supporters to vote against lawmakers who receive money from the NRA. "Either you stand with the kids or you stand with the NRA," said David Hogg, a Stoneman Douglas student.

"I don't want any child to be seen as another statistic," said Ashley Schlaeger, an 18-year-old freshman at Ohio State University who drove to the Washington rally with friends. In the Fort Lauderdale suburb of Parkland, thousands of people passed through police checkpoints to assemble in a park for a rally and march. Many held signs with slogans including "Am I Next?" "A Call To Arms For the Safety of Our Sons and Daughters" and "Congress = Killers."

Adam Buchwald, who survived the mass shooting at Stoneman Douglas, told the crowd he and his friends would stay focused on getting new legislation passed. "Sadly, this could be repeated in your city or town. This stops now!" he said to loud cheers. At a rally in New York, a moment of silence was held for the Parkland victims.

In Sydney, Australia, rally organizer Jennifer Smith told a crowd of about 300

people, many of them Americans, that she could "breathe easy" about sending her children to school in Australia with its tough gun laws. "I never have to worry about them having to do active shooter drills," she said. Organizers of the US marches retweeted photos from sister demonstrations as far afield as Northern Ireland, Mauritius, and Stockholm.

Lyft, the ride-hailing service, said it would offer free rides to 50 marches around the United States. Several restaurants in Washington said they would hand out free lunches to high school students, and local residents opened their homes to provide accommodation for the visiting young people. According to a Quinnipiac University poll, 63 percent of American voters approve of the march in support of tougher gun laws but are not optimistic it will lead to new legislation. — Agencies

Bomb kills 2 Egypt policemen...

Continued from Page 1

Voters tomorrow choose between Sisi and one little-known candidate who supports the former field marshal. All credible opponents dropped out in January, citing intimidation by the authorities after the main challenger was jailed. Sisi's critics say he has cracked down harshly on dissent and that tough economic reforms have eroded his popularity. Supporters say such measures are needed to stabilize Egypt, which was rocked by years of unrest after protests toppled veteran leader Hosni Mubarak in 2011.

As military commander, Sisi led the ousting of Egypt's

only competitively-elected leader, President Mohamed Mursi, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood, who was toppled amid demonstrations against his rule in 2013, a year after taking power. Sisi took office with a landslide election victory a year later. State news agency MENA blamed the Brotherhood, banned in Egypt and designated a terrorist group, for yesterday's bombing. "This attempt comes in the context of terrorist Muslim Brotherhood elements trying to disrupt the electoral process and influence citizens into not going to the polls and participating in the presidential election," the agency said.

Islamic State (IS) and other militant groups have assassinated several officials in recent years. Islamic State attempted to assassinate Egypt's defense and interior ministers in December during a trip the pair made to the Sinai Peninsula, where the hardline militant group has been waging an insurgency for almost five years. Sisi said on Friday the militants would soon be defeated in the region. — Agencies

Lakdim started Friday's rampage in Carcassonne, hijacking a car and shooting the two people inside. The passenger was killed, and the driver remains in a critical condition. Lakdim then shot and wounded a policeman who was out jogging with colleagues before driving to nearby Trebes and bursting into the Super U supermarket, "shouting 'Allahu Akbar' (God is greatest) and saying he was a soldier of the Islamic State, ready to die for Syria", Molins said. He further demanded the release of certain prisoners - notably, according to a security source, Salah Abdeslam, prime suspect in the November 2015 Paris terror attacks.

IS claimed the attack was in response to its call to target Western enemies - as is customary when the assailant has pledged allegiance to the militants. Experts said the attack showed the evolving nature of the IS threat, seeking to inspire lone-wolf attacks in its name as its self-proclaimed "caliphate" in Syria and Iraq crumbles. "The persistence of the homegrown threat has largely escaped public debate in comparison to concern over jihadists coming home after fighting in Syria and Iraq," said Jean-Pierre Filiu, Middle Eastern Studies professor at Sciences Po university.

The attack has rocked Trebes, a sleepy town of 5,000 located on the picturesque Canal du Midi. "We thought this only happened in big towns," said a 52-year-old restaurant-owner who gave her name as Khadija. Supermarket boss Samia Menassi, whose store remains closed and surrounded by police tape, was still in shock yesterday as she recalled hearing the first gunshots. "I said to the girls, 'Call the police, there's a terrorist in the shop,'" she told AFP. "We felt powerless because we still had colleagues in there."

Of around 50 people in the store at the time, most were able to get out through an emergency exit, some after sheltering in a meat refrigerator. France has suffered a series of major attacks over the past three years, including the massacre at the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, the Nov 2015 attacks that killed 130 in Paris, and the 2016 Bastille Day truck attack in Nice. The most recent assault came in October when a Tunisian man stabbed to death two women at Marseille's railway station.

A state of emergency put in place just after the 2015 Paris attacks was lifted in October when Macron's centrist government passed a new law boosting the powers of security forces. Thousands of French troops remain on the streets under an anti-terror operation known as Sentinelle, patrolling transport hubs, tourist hotspots and other sensitive sites. — Agencies

France mourns slain 'hero' officer...

Continued from Page 1

Beltrame offered to take the place of a woman being held as a final hostage by 25-year-old Radouane Lakdim, who had already shot dead the supermarket's butcher and a customer. Lakdim, a petty criminal who was on a watchlist over fears he had been radicalized, shot and stabbed the policeman before anti-terror officers moved in to kill him and end the siege. Macron said the police officer, who hoped to be able to negotiate with the attacker once shoppers were taken to safety, had "died a hero". He deserves "the respect and admiration of the whole nation", the president said.

Lakdim's partner and a 17-year-old friend were in custody as investigators sought to understand events leading to the attack. Investigators found notes at his home which refer to IS, a legal source said, including a hand-written letter in which he claimed allegiance to the group. The shootings come as France remains on high alert following a string of deadly attacks that have killed more than 240 people since 2015.

HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Friday a cable of condolences to Macron, expressing Kuwait's strong denouncement and condemnation of the terrorist operation. The Amir reiterated Kuwait's firm stand against all forms and types of terrorism, and supportive stand in favor of Paris and all measures and procedures taken by the French government to face such heinous terrorist actions and preserve the country's security and stability. HH the Amir also expressed his sincere condolences and sorrow to victims of the terrorist act, praying mercy for the deceased ones and wished a swift recovery for the wounded. Meanwhile, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to the French president.

Lakdim, a Moroccan-born French national, fit a familiar profile as a petty criminal who had turned to extremism. A small-time drug-dealer, his rap sheet included convictions for carrying a banned weapon and for drug use. He spent a month in jail in 2016. "He had been on a watchlist for his radicalization and links to the Salafist movement," said top anti-terror prosecutor Francois Molins.



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Washington Watch

Early warnings

By Dr James J Zogby

As we await President Trump's "deal of the century", there are hints aplenty as to what it may or may not contain. The New York Times has written an account of what it believed was an outline of the "deal". It is reported Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman has been briefed by the White House as to the general direction of the deal and he, in turn briefed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Jordan's King Abdullah on its contents. The Palestinian and Jordanian leaders, we have been told are deeply troubled by what they have heard. To date, all we have to go on are hints, speculation, and suggestions of disappointment and/or rejection.

While it may be premature to judge the Kushner-Greenblatt handiwork, it's not too soon to offer some early warnings or cautionary notes to define the terms of what may be acceptable, what will unacceptable and to prepare for the long, and short-term reactions that will shape regional reactions.

Because the United States will officially open its Jerusalem embassy on May 14, the status of the Holy City must be considered. Whatever Trump meant when he said that "taking Jerusalem off the table" he was creating a "bill due" that would allow him to exact future concessions from the Israelis, that's not how the matter played out in Israel.

While Palestinians continue to insist that they will establish East Jerusalem as their capital, Israel is hell-bent on making that outcome impossible. Emboldened by the Trump announcement, the Netanyahu government has moved aggressively to consolidate their position in what they call "Greater Jerusalem". New Jewish-only housing has been approved, some of it in the heart of the Arab neighborhoods of East Jerusalem and Knesset legislation is moving forward designed to reduce the number of Palestinians who live in the city.

Then there's the issue of Palestinian refugees. It would be a delightful surprise to find Kushner and Greenblatt offering a thoughtful and generous solution to resolve this seven-decade-old issue, but I'm not holding my breath. To date, refugees have not been mentioned. The issue is almost exclusively defined as a "demographic problem" for Israel (after all that's why Palestinians were expelled, in the first place - to give the new state "more land and less Arabs"). In reality the refugee issue is much more than that. It's a matter of property rights, justice, and the universally recognized right of refugees to return to their homes.

Right to return

For two generations, Palestinians have sustained themselves with this "right to return". The "deal" would be dead on arrival if it attempts, with the stroke of a pen, to ignore this deeply held Palestinian aspiration. And while Israel claims that it cannot (or better, that it will not) absorb the refugees, one cannot dismiss the impact that closing off the "right to return" will have on the Palestinian refugees in exile and the challenges this will pose to the future stability of Jordan and Lebanon - not to mention, on the hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees who live in the West Bank and Gaza who also retain the dream of returning to their properties behind the Green Line. Israel might not give a damn about the consequences this will pose to the region, but the US will need to consider this factor.

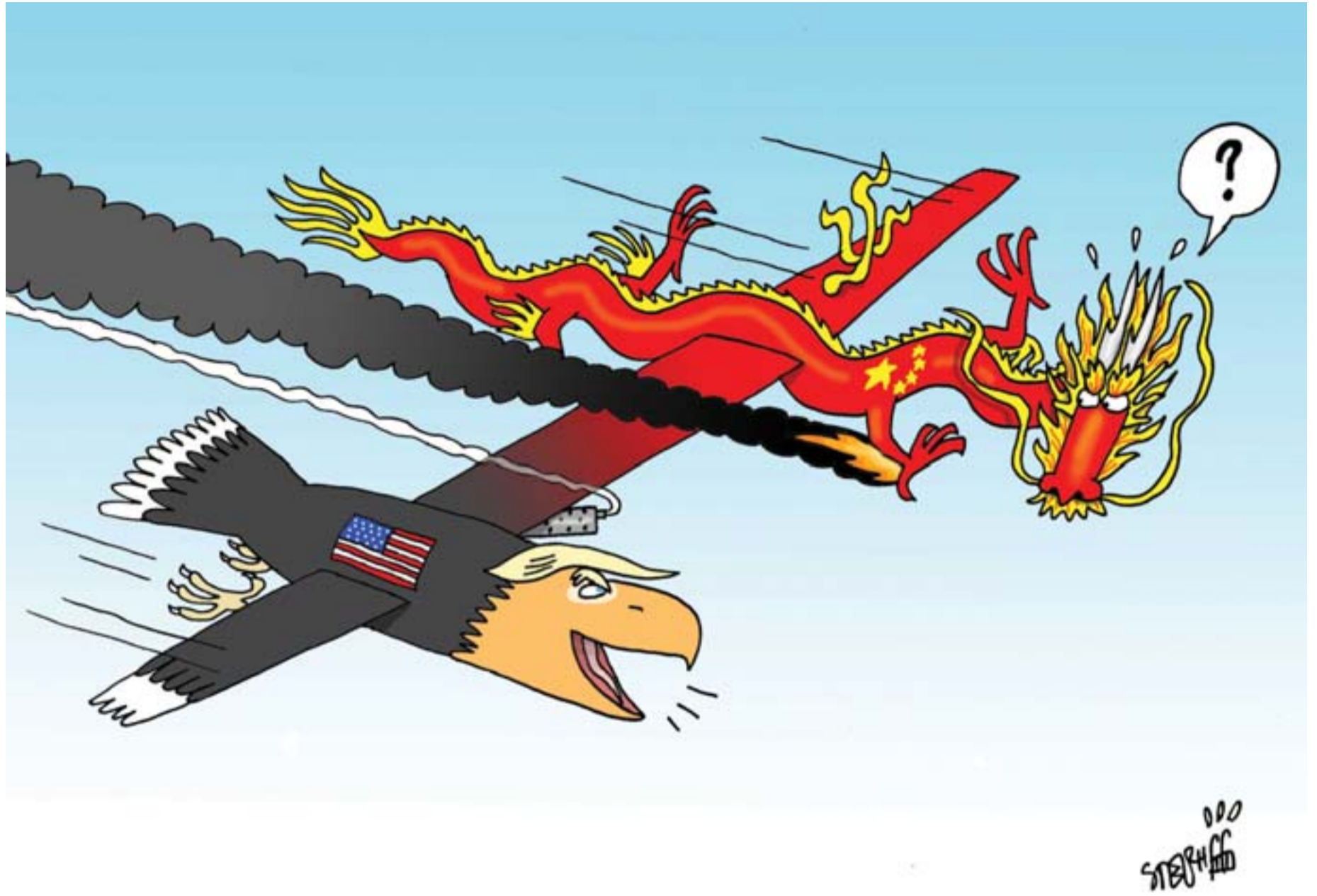
The Trump Administration has been cagey with regards to its attitude toward a Palestinian state. For his part, the president has said he is open to one or two states - whatever outcome the parties accept. With 700,000 Israeli settlers strategically placed throughout the West Bank, connected by Jewish-only roads, it has become difficult to imagine how separation could occur to create a viable and contiguous Palestinian state.

While Palestinians insist on their right to an independent state, the Israelis, with the help of the US Congress, have been pursuing policies that make such a state impossible. The Netanyahu government is pushing for annexation of the territories and Congressional legislation now regularly treats "Israel and areas under Israeli control" as a single entity.

If Kushner-Greenblatt fail to tackle the problems posed by: the Wall (much of which is built in Palestinian territory); the settlements and roads; and Israel's non-negotiable demands that they retain control of the Jordan Valley, all access and egress on the borders, and overall security in the territories - the only outcome possible would be a one-state solution - and an apartheid state, at that. An outcome of this sort will amount to an unacceptable continuation of the occupation. It will be flatly rejected.

Much is made of the fact that "the deal of the century" will involve broader buy-in by major Arab states, with Israel's hope that it can realize the end goal of the Arab Peace Initiative (API) i.e. normalization, without paying the price outlined by the API. This is at best, a dangerous fantasy and pursuing it is "a fool's errand".

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute



TV president, pundit staff, Fox echo chamber

Donald Trump is burnishing his status as America's ultimate TV president by peppering his administration with cable news pundits who play to his base and condense complex issues into soundbites. Last week, the former reality TV star stunned Washington by hiring John Bolton, the hawkish former UN ambassador and current Fox contributor who opposes the Iran nuclear deal and has advocated military action against North Korea, as national security advisor.

A week earlier, he made CNBC commentator Larry Kudlow and former investment bank economist, chief economic advisor, in place of former Goldman Sachs president Gary Cohn. "In the past, presidents have reached for the Harvard University faculty or academically-oriented think tanks. Trump uses cable television news," says Rich Hanley, associate professor journalism at Quinnipiac University.

"This is how he sees the world, this is his filter, so this is what he goes back to. He doesn't go to the Washington establishment, which rejected him before he got the nomination," agreed Mark Lowenthal, an intelligence expert who used to work at the CIA. Looking and sounding good on television has been vital to US political success since John F Kennedy in 1960. But Trump takes love of the medium to the next level. "The qualifications that Trump seeks are the capacity to translate his impulses into sentences," said Hanley.

"The president likes me as a media communicator," Kudlow explained to CNBC. "He said, 'You're on the air,' and he said 'I'm looking at a picture of you,' and he said 'very handsome.' It's so Trump-ian." This is a president who not only found fame on reality show "The Apprentice", but reportedly carves out "executive

time" to watch TV and fires off tweets strikingly similar to commentary on Fox News, long considered the power behind his throne.

Strategist TV

Only on Friday, he threatened to veto the budget and shut down the government after a Fox News host pilloried the deal as a "swamp budget". That host, Pete Hegseth, is reportedly on the shortlist to become the next secretary of veterans affairs. "We enter the uncharted waters of having a president whose chief strategist is the television," writes Edward Burmila, assistant political science professor at Bradley

University, in The Nation. "The new power behind the throne is Fox & Friends." "This trend is likely to continue," he told AFP. "Other than his immediate family, it's entirely possible that people on Fox News as regular guests or as network personalities really are the only people he trusts." Trump's love of TV talent is legendary. Who can for-

get the shortest-serving White House communications director in US history, Anthony Scaramucci, a former Fox Business host and CNBC contributor. Last week, the White House promoted former Fox News anchor Heather Nauert from State Department spokeswoman to acting undersecretary following the sacking-by-Twitter of her boss, Rex Tillerson. Reality TV star Omarosa Manigault was an inaugural member of the Trump team, until she was fired and turned up on "Celebrity Big Brother". Cabinet members Linda McMahon, head of the small business administration, was thrown around by wrestlers on television as CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment, and Energy Secretary Rick Perry was a contestant on "Dancing with the Stars" in 2016.

Good for ratings

Then there are the Fox News personalities whose advice Trump solicits behind the scenes, such as Sean Hannity, who hosts the most watched show in cable news, and Jeanine Pirro, who once interviewed for the job of deputy attorney general. "For the president, Fox News is agenda setting," said Dan Cassino, associate professor of political science at Fairleigh Dickinson University. "When Fox News talks about something, that makes the president talk about it. And the president talking about it means that everyone has to want to talk about it."

But it's not just content. The hiring and firing of staff - a chaotic revolving door of staff - delivers constant soap opera style cliffhangers. "To keep the drama going, and by sowing such discord and chaos, he keeps the beast fed and he keeps himself in the news and he keeps himself at the forefront of the narrative... while maintaining contact with his base," said Hanley. — AFP

Trump's love of TV talent is legendary



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Quick victory unlikely in Egypt assault on IS

Egypt's military is conducting a sweeping assault to crush a resilient Islamic State branch in Sinai, but the group is unlikely to be vanquished quickly, analysts say. The operation was launched on Feb 9 after President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, who is expected to sweep to a second term in polls next week, gave the armed forces and police a three-month deadline in November to wipe out the militants. The deadline has since been extended, and the armed forces launched their most comprehensive campaign yet to end the five-year-old jihadist insurgency.

The military gives regular updates on the operation, saying it has killed more than 100 militants so far while losing at least 20 troops. "Egypt is doing a really good job controlling the narrative," said Zack Gold, an analyst with the US-based CNA research group. "Even ISIS has been challenged to put out statements. This suggests Egypt is in control," he said, using an alternative name for IS. "But (it) makes it hard to assess what's really going on and whether long term impact will be different."

Egypt had already launched several operations against jihadists in the Sinai Peninsula, who have killed hundreds of soldiers and policemen. The Egyptian Ansar Beit al-Maqdis group pledged

allegiance to IS in 2014, gaining expertise and logistical support from the international group, which controlled a self-declared "caliphate" in Iraq and Syria. The Sinai militants soon ramped up their attacks on civilians, planting a bomb on a Russian airliner carrying holidaymakers from a south Sinai resort in 2015, killing all 224 people on board.

Starting in late 2016, they also began targeting Christians, killing more than a hundred in church bombings and shootings across the country. Sisi's ultimatum came after suspected IS gunmen massacred more than 300 worshippers in a Sinai mosque associated with Sufi Muslims, seen by IS as heretics. "There appears to be greater emphasis on actively targeting individual militants alongside degrading their logistical supply," wrote EgyGreenfly, an anonymous blogger for Egypt Defence Review. "Whereas previous Egyptian offensives focused on a particular area independent of the others at any one time, 'Sinai 18' appears to have finally coordinated efforts across the country."

Election threat

The military has said about 60,000 soldiers are taking part in the campaign, launched after a period of intelligence-gathering in the peninsula, which borders Israel and the Palestinian Gaza Strip. Omar Ashour, an associate professor at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, said the latest operation was different from previous assaults in several ways. He cited "intensive media propaganda/coverage, the size of the forces mobilized... the sustained cooperation with 'militias' or armed tribal formations fighting alongside regular army, and the increased tactical and operational coordination with Israel." — AFP

Facebook faces 'Oppenheimer moment' over Trump scandal

Facebook and psychologists who have worked with it are grappling with their "Oppenheimer moment", experts say, over revelations that its data may have been used to help elect US President Donald Trump. The scandal over the way Cambridge Analytica obtained personal information to try to manipulate US voters "is the most important moment that Facebook has faced since it went public (in 2012)," according to Professor Andrew Przybylski of Oxford University, one of the world's leading authorities on social media psychology.

He compared their reluctance to admit the destructive potential of social media to the epiphany of the father of the atomic bomb, Robert Oppenheimer, who declared, "Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds." "With Facebook we have to acknowledge we are giving Frodo the Ring," Przybylski told AFP, referring to the object in the Lord of the Rings which confers absolute power. "If you gave me the Ring I would be corrupted. It is not that what is happening at Facebook is by its nature bad," he added. "It is that they are using our data for products and services, but that we have no idea what they are

up to." He called for regulation and a new "ethical framework (to ensure) that users' rights are protected and that research is being done transparently and in the public interest." Przybylski said similar crises had led to the establishment of ethical standards in other areas.

'Facebook sense threat'

"Chemistry had this moment after they invented dynamite and chemical weapons, physics had this with nuclear weapons," he argued. Facebook and "others have been built on the shoulders of academic research... The key issue is trust. Facebook works one-on-one with psychologists and researchers and there is a fundamental asymmetry there."

Przybylski, who has spent the last two days at Facebook's San Francisco headquarters, said he told founder Mark Zuckerberg's chief of staff "Chris Cox all this to his face", and set out proposals on how Facebook might change the way it works. "I am optimistic. They are receptive, they have a sense of the threat and they have a proactive mindset," said Przybylski, who no longer uses Facebook himself.

But Google researcher Francois Chollet has his doubts. In a series of scathing tweets this week the inventor of the Keras open source library said "the problem with Facebook is not 'just' the loss of your privacy and the fact that it can be used as a totalitarian panopticon," a prison in which all the cells can be observed from one point. "The more worrying issue is its use of digital information consumption as a psychological control vector." — AFP

Sports

Brilliant Hamilton takes record seventh pole in Australia

Ferrari's Raikkonen second, team mate Vettel third

MELBOURNE: Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton roared to a record seventh pole at the season-opening Australian Grand Prix yesterday, blitzing the field in his Mercedes with a blazing lap at Albert Park.

The Briton flew around the lakeside circuit in a record one minute, 21.164 seconds, with his final effort leaving a yawning gap of 0.664 seconds to Ferrari's second fastest Kimi Raikkonen. Sebastian Vettel was third fastest for Ferrari but Hamilton was in a class of his own and the Silver Arrows appear as dominant as ever as they bid to sweep the driver and constructors' titles for a fifth year running.

"That was intense. My heart's racing. I wish you could feel it right now," the 33-year-old Hamilton said after clambering onto his car at the finish and pumping his fists.

"I'm so happy with that lap." Hamilton moved past the six poles his idol Ayrton Senna claimed in the Australian race with a furious pace that will leave the Ferrari and Red Bull teams scratching their heads.

"Obviously the gap's bigger than we want it to be," a subdued Vettel told reporters, looking ahead to Sunday's race.

"It depends how we get off the (start) line." Red Bull

wunderkind Max Verstappen will line up alongside Vettel on the second row, with his fifth-fastest team mate Daniel Ricciardo set to start eighth after the home hope was handed a three-place grid penalty for an infringement during Friday practice.

Still pumped at the post-qualifying news conference, Hamilton made a cheeky dig at fellow four-times champion Vettel when the German asked him what he was up to before Q3. "I was waiting to put a good lap in and wipe the smile off your face," Hamilton said with a smirk.

IMPROVED HAAS

The Briton's brilliance was not matched by team mate Valtteri Bottas, who crashed early in the final shootout. The Finn, who had complained of balance problems during Q1, spun out at turn two and smashed hard into a barrier, leaving his wrecked car and debris scattered all over the track.

Mercedes' joy tempered by Bottas crash

The red flag was waved as the television broadcast showed Mercedes boss Toto Wolff bowing his head in disappointment back in the team garage. Bottas, who will start in 10th, passed a medical check but it remains unclear how much of his car is salvageable.

Haas confirmed themselves as the big improvers



MELBOURNE: Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton (R) reacts next to Ferrari's German driver Sebastian Vettel during a press conference yesterday. — AFP

after positive winter testing, with drivers Kevin Magnussen and Romain Grosjean locking down the third row. Renault's Nico Hulkenberg took a spin into

the gravel in Q2 but scraped through to the final session and will start seventh, his team mate Carlos Sainz two places behind. — Reuters

McIlroy, Spieth ousted at WGC Match Play

AUSTIN: World number four Jordan Spieth and seventh-ranked Rory McIlroy were ousted from the World Golf Championships Match Play Championship Friday with defeats in final group matches. US 18th seed Brian Harman never trailed in dispatching McIlroy 5&3 and capturing his group with two wins and a draw.

Spieth was knocked out by US Ryder Cup partner Patrick Reed, who won their much anticipated match 2&1. Reed, ranked 23rd in the world, never trailed and rolled in a 40-foot putt from off the 17th green to end Spieth's hopes of a first title of 2018. Both will now try to regroup with the first major of the year, the Masters, two weeks away. Sergio Garcia, tuning up for his Masters title defence at Augusta National, rallied from 2 down through 11 holes to beat rising US star Xander Schauffele 3&1 and reach the last 16.

"Xander played unbelievable on the front nine, tricky conditions, and he kept making good putt after good putt on me," Garcia said. "So I was just hoping to stay in it and give myself some chances as soon as he gave me a little opening on 12."

"And then I was able to make a great birdie on 13, 15 and 16," added Garcia, who next faces American Kyle Stanley. Thomas pummeled Italian Francesco Molinari 7&5 to set up a meeting with South Korean Kim Si-woo—a 2 up winner over Webb Simpson.

The only thing Thomas could find to regret was that the match only lasted through 13 holes. "Today I'd be

really excited to see how low I could go," said Thomas, who will take on Kim in the round of 16. "I could post a serious number."

WEARY MCILROY

McIlroy, managed only two birdies in his final competitive tuneup for the Masters, the only major title the Northern Ireland star needs to complete a career Grand Slam. "Rory did not play his best golf today but I played extremely well," said Harman, a two-time winner on the US PGA Tour.

"I'm proud of the way I came out. Rory is an intimidating guy. He hits it a mile. I had this one (match) circled this week and I'm glad I came out and performed pretty well," added Harman, who set up a meeting with two-time Masters winner Bubba Watson. Watson birdied the last two holes to halve his match with 64th-seeded Julian Suri.

McIlroy, coming off a victory at Bay Hill last Sunday, admitted he was feeling weary. "That takes it out of you being in contention, and all that mental energy," he said. Other top players who didn't make it past group play included world number one and defending champion Dustin Johnson, former world number one Jason Day, five-time major winner Phil Mickelson and Spain's Jon Rahm.

South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen beat Day 2 up, then won his group in a playoff against Jason Dufner with a par at the first hole. American Charles Howell rolled unbeaten to his group crown by downing Japan's Satoshi Kodaira 2&1.

That eliminated Mickelson, seeded 18th, who had kept his hopes alive by edging Spain's Rafa Cabrera Bello 1 up. Thailand's 28th-seeded Kiradech Aphibarnrat booked a last-16 clash with Howell with a 4&3 victory over third seed Rahm, who had already been eliminated and finished the week winless. — AFP

ABK hosts 7th Annual Golf Challenge Event

KUWAIT: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced the results of its 7th Annual ABK Golf Challenge event held at the Sahara Golf Resort and Spa on March 10. Around 80 golfers participated on a warm, sunny day perfect for golf. During the event, participants competed in teams of four for the sought after ABK Golf Challenge trophy.

Stewart Lockie, Ramzi Al Shamali, David Peterson and Mrs Ali Peterson won the challenge with a score of 56 points. Young Parkwon "Beat the Pro" and received a business class return to Dubai from Emirates Airline, while "Nearest-the-pin" went to Mrs Clare Hunter who received a KD 100 ABK Visa Emirates gold prepaid travel card. The "Straightest-Drive" was won by Callum Bottomley who also received a KD 100 ABK Visa Emirates gold prepaid travel card.

Furthermore, in good spirit, the last placed team walked away with a complimentary hour of golf lessons at the Sahara Golf Club. During the closing ceremony ABK thanked their partners: Emirates Airline, Visa and Sahara Golf Club for their ongoing support.



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Sports

Osmond snatches world gold as Olympic champion Zagitova crashes

Chen hits record six quads to win world gold

MILAN: Canada's Kaetlyn Osmond snatched gold as Olympic champion Alina Zagitova crashed to fifth in a drama-filled women's free skate final at the world figure skating championships on Friday. Osmond—the Olympic bronze medalist—pulled out a flawless free skate to 'Black Swan' to surge from fourth after the short programme to her first world title with a total score of 223.23 points.

"I still can't quite believe it," said the 22-year-old from Edmonton who becomes the first Canadian woman since Karen Magnussen in 1973 to stand on the top of the world podium. "Being the world champion is not something I ever expected." Japanese skaters Wakaba Higuchi (210.90) and Satoko Miyahara (210.08) took silver and bronze respectively.

American quad-jumping prodigy Nathan Chen matched his record of six quads at the Olympics to win men's gold in the world figure skating championships yesterday. The 18-year-old from Salt Lake City was the only skater in the final group to stay on his feet, blowing away his rivals with a winning margin of 47.63 points. His free skate to "Mao's Last Dancer" by Christopher Gordon earned him 219.46 points for an overall total of 321.40.

Japan's Shoma Uno took silver despite falling three times in the free skating final, scoring 273.77. Mikhail Kolyada, 272.32, also fell twice but took bronze as weary skaters struggled in the final event of the season. Chen—the ISU Grand Prix final champion—returns the United States to the world podium for the first time since 2009 when Evan Lysacek won gold.

Zagitova fell three times during her four minutes free dance set to Austrian composer Ludwig Minkus's score to the ballet Don Quixote. It spoiled the 15-year-old's bid for a golden finale to her senior debut season in which she had won the ISU Grand Prix Final, the

European and Olympic titles.

She collapsed in tears as she left the ice and fell into the arms of her coach Eteri Tutberidze who comforted her. Italy's Carolina Kostner, who had been leading after the short programme, fell to fourth after also crashing in her skate to Debussy's 'L'apres-midi d'un faune'.

The home hope had been bidding to bring the curtain down on her 14-year world career with a second title after 2012. "This fourth has a bitter taste," said 31-year-old Kostner. Higuchi, 17, moved up from eighth after the short programme with Miyahara, 19, holding her third position.

"At most other competitions I have cried at the end but this time there was no need to cry," said Higuchi who placed 11th at worlds last year. Two-time holder Evgenia Medvedeva did not defend her title after her silver behind Zagitova at the Olympics in South Korea with an injury.

Earlier French ice dancers Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron suffered no costume slip this time as they put themselves on course for a third world title. With a new world record of 83.73 points in the short dance, the 2015 and 2016 world champions led Americans Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue (80.42) and Canadians Kaitlyn Weaver and Andrew Poje (78.31).

The French lost their world title last year to Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir and finished second again behind the Canadians in the Pyeongchang Olympic Games after a "nightmare" wardrobe malfunction when Papadakis's costume became unclipped during the short programme, exposing a breast.

"I went back to Montreal. I fixed a couple of things on my dress to make sure it wouldn't be able to come apart or open in any way ... and it didn't!" said



Japan's Shoma Uno took silver despite falling three times



MILAN: (L to R) Silver medal, Wakaba Higuchi from Japan, Gold medal, Kaetlyn Osmond from Canada and Bronze medal Satoko Miyahara from Japan during the medal ceremony of the Ladies Free Skating at the Milano World Figure Skating Championship 2018, in Milan, on Friday.— AFP

Papadakis. "It's true that after the movement which unclipped my dress at the Olympics, I said to myself: 'Ouf, it's good, my dress is still on!'. I had a little half-second thought about it."

Dancing to a Samba-Rhumba-Samba routine to Ed Sheeran's 'Shape Of You' and 'Thinking Out Loud' they bettered the previous best short dance score of 83.67 achieved by Virtue and Moir at the Olympics. The Canadians are not defending their world title this week.

The Canadian-based French dancers will look to seal gold in Saturday's free dance final to Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata". US champions Hubbell and Donohue, targeting their first world podium after finishing fourth at the Olympics, also posted a career best score, as did Weaver and Poje—former world medallists.

Italians Anna Cappellini and Luca Lanotte—the 2014 world champions—are less than point further back in fourth place. — AFP

Pastrnak caps Bruins rally to beat Dallas

DALLAS: David Pastrnak scored with 11.1 seconds left in regulation, and Brad Marchand collected one goal and three points as the Boston Bruins scored three unanswered goals in the third period to beat the host Dallas Stars 3-2 Friday. Just as it appeared the game was headed to overtime, Marchand dished the puck down low to Pastrnak, who worked around Dallas goalie Kari Lehtonen before burying a shot. Bruins goalie Tuukka Rask made 40 saves as the undermanned Bruins snapped a two-game losing skid without forwards Patrice Bergeron, David Backes and Rick Nash and defenseman Zdeno Chara, Charlie McAvoy and Torey Krug, among others. It was a painful defeat for the Stars, who returned home after a winless six-game road trip that put them outside a wild-card spot in the Western Conference playoff chase. The Bruins have clinched a playoff berth.

DEVILS 4, PENGUINS 3 (OT)

Taylor Hall scored just 27 seconds into overtime to give New Jersey a critical victory over host Pittsburgh. Hall finished with a goal and two assists. The game ended a six-game road trip for the Devils, who went 4-2-0 over that stretch. Sidney Crosby led the Penguins with a goal and an assist.

JETS 3, DUCKS 2 (OT)

Kyle Connor scored with 1:44 to go in overtime to help Winnipeg break the franchise record for points in a season with a victory over visiting Anaheim. The Jets (45-19-10, 100 points) surpassed the previous mark of 99 points set in 2014-15. The Jets won their fifth straight home game and now lead the NHL with 28 home victories (28-7-2). Mark Scheifele had a goal and two assists, including one on the game-winner when he fed Connor on a two-on-one. Nikolaj Ehlers also scored for Winnipeg, while Derek Grant and Nick Ritchie found the net for the Ducks.

BLUES 4, CANUCKS 1

Patrik Berglund scored two goals, including the winner, as St. Louis downed visiting Vancouver. The Blues posted their fourth consecutive win and moved within a point of the idle Colorado Avalanche in the race for the second Western Conference wild card. The Canucks took their eighth loss in nine games as they came out flat following a decisive victory in Chicago one night earlier. Vladimir Tarasenko, in his first game back after missing two with an undisclosed upper-body injury, and Dmitriy Jaskin also tallied for the Blues. Sam Gagner, with his first goal in 26 games, replied for the Canucks.

CANADIENS 3, SABRES 0

Antti Niemi made 35 saves to record his first shutout in more than two years, and Artturi Lehkonen's early second-period tally held up as the winner as Montreal claimed a rare road victory. Niemi's last shutout was Dec. 22, 2015, a 4-0 win over the Chicago Blackhawks while he was with the Dallas Stars. It came 84 games ago for Niemi, who has 26 career shutouts. Paul Byron and Brendan Gallagher sealed the win with empty-net goals. The victory at KeyBank Center was the Canadiens' 10th on the road this season, the fewest in the league. Montreal snapped a four-game losing streak, all in regulation. Montreal won all four meetings with Buffalo this season, two in extra time.— Reuters

Bancroft faces ball tampering claims, S Africa stretch lead

CAPE TOWN: Australian opening batsman Cameron Bancroft could face tampering claims after being spoken to by umpires about an object in his pocket during yesterday's play in the third Test against South Africa.

Television footage appeared to show Bancroft take an object out of his pocket while fielding on the third day of the Test at Newlands. He was then seen tucking the object down the front of his trousers before he spoke to on-field umpires Nigel Llong and Richard Illingworth. Shane Warne, the Australian spin bowling great, said on Twitter he was "very disappointed" by the pictures and called on Australia captain Steve Smith to clear up the "mess" in the post-play press conference. Aiden Markram and AB de Villiers batted South Africa into a strong position, leaving South Africa at 238 for five in their second innings when bad light ended play, an overall lead of 294. The series is tied at one match apiece.

Opening batsman Markram made 84 and De Villiers batted with unusual caution to be 51 not out at the close. In a series that has featured several incidents between South African and Australian players, there was an increased security presence after Australian players complained about "disgraceful" behaviour by spectators. Guards were placed near the stairs leading to the dressing rooms and an Australian security official positioned himself near David Warner, the player most targeted by the crowd.

Security officials and police were seen talking to people in the crowd and on at least one occasion took some spectators away.

MARKRAM'S LUCKY ESCAPE

Markram, out for nought in the first innings, could have completed a "pair" but he was dropped off the fourth ball of the second innings when he edged Mitchell Starc low to the left of Usman Khawaja at gully. He survived another much more difficult chance on 59 when Smith flung himself to his right at second slip and got his fingertips to a flying edge off Josh Hazlewood. Smith, who held a world record-equaling five catches in the first innings, had already added to his tally by catching first innings century-maker Dean Elgar off Pat Cummins for 14. Markram, who made a century in the first Test in Durban, batted solidly despite his lapses and hit ten fours and two sixes in a 145-ball

England can save Test thanks to NZ rain: Thorpe

AUCKLAND: The rain that has dampened New Zealand's hopes of a Test victory in Auckland has offered a lifeline to a battle-scarred England but they will need improve their mindset to save the match, according to Graham Thorpe.

Thorpe, now the England batting coach, drew upon the painful experience of a batting disaster from very early in his own career as a middle-order batsman. His sixth Test was against the West Indies in 1994 at Port of Spain where England were rolled for 46 in the second innings—their second-lowest innings ever, and worse even than the 58 made in the first innings of this Test against New Zealand.

"The mind is the most important thing and my life perspective story can come into play quite a bit," Thorpe said



CAPE TOWN: Australian fielder Cameron Bancroft (R) throws the ball to Umpire Richard Illingworth (L) during the third day of the third Test cricket match between South Africa and Australia at Newlands cricket ground yesterday in Cape Town.— AFP

SCOREBOARD

CAPE TOWN: South Africa had taken their overall lead to 294 when bad light stopped play on the third day of the third Test against Australia at Newlands yesterday.

Brief scores

South Africa 311 and 238-5 (A. Markram 84, A. de Villiers 51 not out; P. Cummins 2-47).
Australia 255 (C. Bancroft 77, N. Lyon 47; K. Rabada 4-91, M. Morkel 4-87). — AFP

innings. He shared partnerships of 76 with Hashim Amla (31) and 47 with AB de Villiers, who was unbeaten on 18.

Markram was out in the last over before tea when he chipped Mitchell Starc to mid-on where Cummins held a low catch. De Villiers opened his scoring with a slapped six off the back foot over cover off Cummins but it was the only scoring shot in the first 20 balls he faced as he made a cautious start to his innings.

De Villiers looked determined to bat until deep in the

innings and had faced 103 balls by the close. South Africa bowled out Australia for 255 at the start of the day, a first innings lead of 56, with Australia adding ten runs before losing their last wicket.

Australia's last batsman, Josh Hazlewood, hit two fours off Kagiso Rabada before he was caught by Amla at first slip off Rabada off the 17th ball of the day. In contrast to the first two days, the weather was cool and cloudy and bad light ended play about 40 minutes early.— AFP

as England prepared for a thorough examination over the remaining two days of the Test. "Your pride is dented, but you can't feel sorry for yourself for too long. You can't just run off into the hills or hide under the bed, you've actually got to get up and go again the next day."

After England's short-lived first innings, New Zealand were 175 for three at stumps on day one, with a lead of 117 runs. But lengthy rain disruptions have meant they advanced only 58 more runs in just 25 available overs in the following two days. Only 17 balls were bowled yesterday before showers returned for the entire day. With fine weather forecast for the remainder of the Test, Thorpe has dismissed the idea of a first innings post-mortem examination and put the emphasis on England looking forward to save the Test. "The important thing is what happens in the rest of the game and the confidence of the players trying to clear your minds," he said. "The rain has probably helped us a little bit. We're nowhere near out of the woods but it can give them something to focus on and we're going to have to bat better than we did."

"There's a glimmer still in this Test match. We're well capable of batting well in the second innings and saving

the game." England do have issues to address, the most immediate being how to cope with the swing bowling of Trent Boult and Tim Southee, who took all 10 wickets in the first innings. In the longer term Thorpe suggested the preparation for Test matches needs to be looked at, after the build up to this Test was restricted to two two-day games against a New Zealand XI.

"We didn't play the swinging ball well, no-one did and we weren't able to put a foothold in the game," he said. "Boult got the ball perfect for a left arm seamer but it might only do that for 15 overs. No-one was trying to get out. Sometimes these things happen and they shake up the dressing room and they shake up the individuals as well. "The mind is the most important thing. They've got to go back out there and they've got another innings and they've got to get back in the fight." Thorpe said that for the health of Test cricket it would be a definite help to have a bigger warm-up window for touring sides but insisted there were "no excuses" for England's first-day batting performance.

"You have to play what's in front of you and on match day you have to come up with something and we didn't have the answers." — AFP

Sports

Germany draw 1-1 with Spain as Costa makes comeback

Germany stretch unbeaten run to 22 matches

DUESSELDORF: World champions Germany drew 1-1 with Spain in a high tempo friendly on Friday as they launched their preparations for a title defence in Russia while their opponents had striker Diego Costa making his long-awaited comeback as a substitute.

Germany's Thomas Mueller scored with a long-range strike in the 35th minute to cancel out Rodrigo Moreno's early opener. The hosts were made to work hard against the Spaniards, who are unbeaten under coach Julen Lopetegui, but still managed to stretch their own unbeaten run to 22 matches, one shy of the German record of 23 dating back to 1978-80.

They can now match it when they take on five-times world champions Brazil on Tuesday when Spain, the 2010 World Cup winners, host Argentina in Madrid. "I think it was a very good test for both teams because both teams combine well when they have possession," said Germany coach Joachim Low. "Spain and us tried to increase the pressure, attack early, press early. It was a high intensity game and a good test to gain a lot of insight. We still have some room for improvement." The visitors, with captain Sergio Ramos earning his 150th cap, went ahead when Rodrigo timed his run perfectly to pick up a superb through ball from Andres Iniesta and beat keeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen in the sixth minute.

“We still have some room for improvement”

The Germans, who at times struggled with their opponents' quick passing, managed to draw level with an unstoppable 20-metre strike from Mueller 10 minutes before the break. Keepers David de Gea and Ter Stegen were kept busy after the break and Mats Hummels hit the crossbar with a looping header from a clever Toni Kroos free kick as both sides carved out good chances.

"We have a good feeling after this game against the best team in the world," said Lopetegui, whose own unbeaten run with Spain is now 17 games. "We had chances to win the game. Germany are extremely fast and strong. We were fully motivated against the world champions." Spain's Costa made his comeback as a substitute in the second half after the combative forward missed out on playing late last year when he was unable to feature for his club because of a FIFA transfer ban for signing minors.

Atletico completed a 57 million pound (\$80.6 million) deal for Costa to rejoin them from Chelsea in September, but the move was delayed because the Liga club could not register new players due to the ban, which ended on Jan. 1. His return is good news for Lopetegui's team, one of the title contenders at the World Cup in Russia starting in June. The Germans have been drawn in Group F of the tournament, along with Mexico, South Korea and Sweden. Spain are in Group B and will play Iran, Morocco and Portugal. — Reuters



DUESSELDORF: Spain's forward Diego da Silva Costa eyes the ball during the international friendly football match of Germany vs Spain in Duesseldorf, western Germany, on Friday, in preparation of the 2018 Fifa World Cup. —AFP

Ronaldo's last-gasp two-goal show steals Salah limelight

ZURICH: Cristiano Ronaldo hit two goals in stoppage time as European champions Portugal defeated Egypt 2-1 in a friendly international on Friday, winning his personal duel with Mohamed Salah who had put the seven-time African champions ahead. Ronaldo, appearing in his 9000th career match, made his mark to devastating effect as time ran out. First, he pulled his team level with a header from a Ricardo Quaresma cross, before adding the winner in almost identical circumstances in the fourth minute of injury time.

However, the 33-year-old Real Madrid star had to wait for the VAR system to validate his goal after a suspicion of offside. His two-goal salvo took his Portugal tally to 81. Earlier, Salah, who has shone at Liverpool this season with 28 Premier League goals, broke the deadlock in Zurich after 56 minutes. After a quickfire exchange of passes, Abdallah El Said found Salah in space for his teammate to beat Beto in the Portuguese goal with a sweetly-timed left-foot strike from the edge of the area.

"In the last minutes we were better, created four chances and showed great determination to turn it around. They showed that they did not want to lose," said Portugal coach Fernando Santos.

"And with Ronaldo, it's about a goal and another goal." Ronaldo had two first-half chances blocked as he tried to continue his impressive recent form which had seen him score 18 goals in his last nine La Liga games, including registering a 50th hat-trick. Salah was replaced late in the game by Shikabala and Portugal sensed a chance to grab a share of the spoils.

Quaresma, meanwhile, saw a 72nd minute attempt



ZURICH: Portugal's forward Cristiano Ronaldo (L) vies with Egypt's defender Ahmed Fathy during an international friendly football match between Portugal and Egypt at Letzigrund stadium in Zurich on Friday. —AFP

saved by Mohamed El-Shenawy in the Egypt goal while Bruno Alves saw a close-range header from a corner drift wide of the goal. Shikabala had a fierce shot saved by Beto diving high to his right before Alves's frustrations boiled over late in the game with a yellow card. But with time running out, Ronaldo had the final say as the five-time Ballon d'Or winner moved into third place on the all-time

list of international goal scorers. Legendary Hungarian striker Ferenc Puskas scored 84 goals while Iran's Ali Daei leads the list with 109 goals in 149 internationals. Egypt, back at a World Cup for the first time since 1990, will play in Group A at the finals this summer with hosts Russia, Uruguay and Saudi Arabia. Portugal are in Group B and will face Spain, Morocco and Iran. — AFP

Impressive England break Dutch drought with 1-0 win

AMSTERDAM: England ended a 22-year win drought against the Netherlands thanks to Jesse Lingard's strike for a 1-0 triumph after a performance of composure and quality in a friendly on Friday.

Gareth Southgate's World Cup-bound England side were superior for much of the match, organised and in control even before Manchester United midfielder Lingard's 59th minute goal secured their first win over the Dutch since Euro '96.

The Netherlands, still smarting from missing out on this year's finals in Russia after a second straight failure to qualify for a major championship, were left with little to cheer at the start of reconstruction under new manager Ronald Koeman.

The home side got lucky soon after halftime when a clear foul on Marcus Rashford in the penalty area was waved away. But the visitors were soon rewarded for their control and some neat passing movements when a loose ball fell to Lingard, who swept it home with a clinical right-foot finish from just outside the box for his first senior international goal.

The result and, more importantly, the assured performances from some of Southgate's supposed fringe players gave encouragement to the England boss, who was in the team that last beat the Netherlands 4-1 at Wembley in 1996.

"It was a good test for us, we came away from home and controlled the game," he told ITV Sport. "We used the ball really well for 60, 65 minutes. Maybe more quality in the final third was required but we were very solid." He was also happy with the way his three-man defensive unit worked, even after he had lost Joe Gomez to injury in the opening 10 minutes and had to bring on Harry Maguire to join John Stones and Kyle Walker.

"The back three were excellent and the goalkeeper (Jordan Pickford) too, the way they were able to play from the back," said Southgate. "They played with real composure, and played with intelligence too."

He was delighted for his match winner Lingard too. "He's a player we've worked with for three or four years from the Under 21s and this year he is starting to finish the chances," the manager said. England captain Jordan Henderson enthused: "The three at the back, we look solid with that shape and it gives licence for us to pick up positions in midfield."

England, who had not won in Amsterdam since 1969, now have one more friendly against Italy on Tuesday before Southgate finalises his squad for Russia. — Reuters



By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Hawally education zone team was crowned champion of Kuwait Martyrs Mini Goal Championship in a penalty shootout as the regulation time ended in a 1-1 draw. The event was held under the patronage of physical education director general at the Ministry of Education who was represented by Dr Istiqlal Al-Raqam. Former MP Yousuf Al-Zalzalah, former soccer players Saad Al-Houti and Mohammad Karam, media men and other dignitaries.

Dr Istiqlal Al-Ragam said she was happy with the success of the festival which carries the name of the martyrs in which

teams from various areas participated. She also lauded the administration of Iyas bin Muath and the organization of the championship. School principal Ali Hussein thanked the organizing committee which included Hassan Al-Khawajah, Salah Al-Mithen, Mohammad Al-Demkhi, Hassan Abdelrasoul, Hussein Al-Awadh and others. He said the success of the second Martyrs Mini Goal Championship reminds us of people who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of Kuwait and reminds our students of our martyrs in an attractive sport event. Mohammad Al-Khawaja spoke on behalf of the martyrs' children and thanked the family of Iyas bin Muath for this initiative which immortalizes the martyrs memory.

Hawally education zone wins Kuwait Martyrs Mini Goal championship

Alvarez temporarily suspended, Golovkin rematch threatened

LOS ANGELES: Mexican middleweight Saul "Canelo" Alvarez was temporarily suspended by Nevada boxing authorities on Friday over positive drug tests, putting his May 5 title rematch with Gennady Golovkin in

jeopardy. "Mr. Alvarez is temporarily suspended by the Nevada State Athletic Commission per the executive director for his adverse analytical findings, that being Clenbuterol, on February 17 and 20," a statement by commission executive director Bob Bennett said.

"A commission hearing is scheduled for April 10, 2018 to hear from Mr. Alvarez or for Mr. Alvarez to attend." According to the Las Vegas Review Journal, Bennett declined to comment on the status of the May 5 fight in Las Vegas.

Golden Boy Promotions, who handle Alvarez, reiterated their stance that the fighter hadn't intentionally taken a banned drug. "We respect the Nevada State

Athletic Commission's process and will vigorously present Canelo's case throughout," Golden Boy said in a statement issued by Stefan Friedman. "Over his career, Canelo has tested clean more than 90 times and would never intentionally take a banned substance."

Golden Boy had already acknowledged the fighter tested positive for banned Clenbuterol, blaming the result on tainted meat in Mexico, where the drug is sometimes used to fatten cattle. They said Alvarez would move his training camp from Mexico to the United States and would "submit to any number and variety of additional tests" deemed necessary in the build up to the May bout.

Golovkin promoter Tom Loeffler told the Los Angeles Times that the Kazakh "is still training like he's going to fight on May 5 and hopefully it's against Canelo". Loeffler said the Nevada commission had told him Alvarez's temporary suspension was mandated by their regulations until a hearing has been held.

"They told us Canelo has complied with follow-up testing and everything they've asked of him, but under their rules they had to issue a suspension," he said. "We've always said this is under the supervision of Nevada and this shows they are doing a thorough investigation and we commend them for that," Loeffler said.—AFP

13 Brilliant Hamilton takes record seventh pole in Australia



14 Osmond snatches world gold as Olympic champion Zagitova crashes



15 Ronaldo's last-gasp two-goal show steals Salah limelight



KEY BISCAZYNE: Monica Puig of Puerto Rico plays a shot against Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark during Day 5 of the Miami Open at the Crandon Park Tennis Center in Key Biscayne, Florida. — AFP

Wozniacki, Osaka crash out of Miami

Djokovic ousted, but Cilic moves on

MIAMI: World No. 2 Caroline Wozniacki and rising star Naomi Osaka became early round casualties while veteran Venus Williams survived a scare to book her third round spot at the Miami Open on Friday. Wozniacki slumped to a shock 0-6, 6-4, 6-4 defeat to Monica Puig of Puerto Rico while Osaka's bid for the "Sunshine Double" of Indian Wells and Miami Open titles ended with a 6-4, 6-2 loss to fourth seeded Ukrainian Elina Svitolina.

The 24-year-old Puig compared her win over reigning Australian Open champion Wozniacki to her gold medal triumph at the 2016 Rio Olympics. "It felt like Rio all over again," Puig said. "I have been waiting for this and to finally start finding myself again." The 27-year-old Wozniacki appeared to be headed to an easy victory after winning the first set in less than 30 minutes before the wheels fell off. World number 82 Puig clinched the win with a blistering forehand winner on the second match

point. "I just tried to stay positive," she said. "I didn't think I played that poorly in the first set. She's a great player so I had to stay focused and keep fighting."

Puig became the first Puerto Rican athlete to win gold in any sport at the Olympics when she beat Germany's Angelique Kerber in the final. It was another disappointing exit for Wozniacki, who finally silenced her critics earlier this year with her maiden Grand Slam title in Melbourne, where she defeated Simona Halep in the final.

Wozniacki drops to 17-5 on the season as she has now crashed out of her last two tournaments in stunning fashion. In her most recent WTA event in Indian Wells, Wozniacki was upset in the round of 16 by Russian dynamo Daria Kasatkina.

Japan's Osaka came into the second-round match against Svitolina on an eight-match winning streak that included her dream run to the Indian Wells title and a first-round triumph here over 23-time Grand Slam cham-

pion Serena Williams. But it was Svitolina who emerged with a victory thanks to a solid service performance that saw her win nearly 80 percent of points on her first serve.

Six-time champion Novak Djokovic's hopes of turning around his season at the Miami Open ended in the second round when he was defeated 6-3 6-4 by Frenchman Benoit Paire on Friday. The loss snapped a 16-match winning streak in the tournament for the ninth-seeded Serb, who had been eliminated in the second round at Indian Wells but said before the match his right elbow was pain free for the first time in a long while. He had won the tournament in 2014, 2015 and 2016 but missed last year's event with the elbow injury.

The defeat also ended a streak of 21 consecutive victories over players from France for the former world number one. Paire, who had lost his only other meeting with Djokovic, delivered nine aces to only two for the Serb and won 71 percent of his service points.

Meanwhile, second seeded Croatian Marin Cilic moved into the third round with a 7-5 6-3 triumph over Frenchman Pierre-Hugues Herbert. But the early upsets did not end with Djokovic's loss. David Goffin was unsuccessful in his return from an eye injury, the seventh seeded Belgian falling to Portugal's Joao Sousa 6-0 6-1.

In other second-round action on Friday, seven-time Grand Slam champion Williams stormed back from deficits in each set to defeat world number 88 Natalia Vikhlyantseva 7-5, 6-4. The 37-year-old American improved to 7-3 on the season as she clinched the victory on the second match point when the 21-year-old Russian smacked a forehand wide. Williams trailed 2-5 in the first set but won five straight games to take the opener. She also rallied in the second set, falling behind 0-3 before winning six of the next seven for the victory. Ninth-seeded Czech Petra Kvitova defeated 19-year-old Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus 7-5, 3-6, 6-3. —Agencies

Curry returns as Warriors beat Hawks

OAKLAND: Stephen Curry scored 29 points in 25 minutes before sustaining a sprained MCL in his left knee as the Golden State Warriors beat the Atlanta Hawks 106-94 Friday in Oakland, Calif. Curry, making a comeback from a sprained right ankle that forced him to miss the previous six games, got rolled up on by falling teammate JaVale McGee in a third-quarter collision near the Atlanta basket. In obvious pain, Curry limped to the bench and subsequently to the locker room, and was quickly ruled out for the remainder of the game. He will undergo an MRI exam yesterday, the Warriors announced. Nick Young scored 24 points for Golden State, which was without injured All-Stars Kevin Durant, Draymond Green and Klay Thompson. Taurean Prince led the Hawks with 20 points.

CELTICS 105, TRAIL BLAZERS 100

Marcus Morris scored 30 points as Boston rallied from a 12-point deficit to pull out a win at Portland. Terry Rozier added 16 points for the Celtics, who outscored Portland 38-23 in the fourth quarter. Damian Lillard and CJ McCollum each scored 26 points for the Trail Blazers, who

lost their second straight game following a 13-game win streak. Al-Farouq Aminu collected 16 points and 10 rebounds for Portland.

SPURS 124, JAZZ 120 (OT)

LaMarcus Aldridge poured in a career-high 45 points, including 28 in the first half, as San Antonio defeated visiting Utah in overtime in a game with huge playoff implications. Donovan Mitchell's 3-pointer for Utah with 3.6 seconds to play in regulation capped a furious final two minutes of the fourth quarter and sent the game into overtime tied at 114. The victory was the Spurs' season-best sixth in a row. San Antonio is tied with New Orleans for fifth place in the Western Conference a game behind fourth-place Oklahoma City with nine games to play. The Jazz hold a one-game edge over Denver for eighth place in the West.

RAPTORS 116, NETS 112

Kyle Lowry had 25 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds and Jonas Valanciunas added 23 points and eight rebounds to help Toronto rally over visiting Brooklyn. DeMar DeRozan scored 21 points, Fred VanVleet added 16, Pascal Siakam contributed 11 points and eight rebounds and Serge Ibaka scored 10 points for the Raptors. D'Angelo Russell had 18 points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds for his first career triple-double. Rondae Hollis-Jefferson had 18 points and seven rebounds and Allen Crabbe scored 18 points for the Nets.

THUNDER 105, HEAT 99

Russell Westbrook scored 17 points in the fourth quar-

ter as Oklahoma City rallied to beat visiting Miami. The Heat led 71-66 with 10:06 remaining in the fourth quarter, but the Thunder went on a 10-0 run to take command on the way to their seventh win in eight games. Westbrook led the Thunder with a game-high 29 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists. Steven Adams had 24 points and 12 rebounds. James Johnson led the Heat with 23 points, and Goran Dragic had 20.

PACERS 109, CLIPPERS 104

Bojan Bogdanovic scored 28 points on 12-of-18 shooting to lead Indiana over Los Angeles, the 13th time Bogdanovic scored 20 or more points this season. He averaged 6.8 points in the previous five games. Indiana's Thaddeus Young delivered 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Victor Oladipo added 18 points despite a 4-of-16 shooting effort. The Pacers' magic number for clinching a playoff spot is one. Lou Williams led the Clippers with 25 points on 10-of-18 shooting. Tobias Harris scored 18 points for Los Angeles, and DeAndre Jordan added 14 points and 11 rebounds.

NUGGETS 108, WIZARDS 100

Nikola Jokic and Jamal Murray each scored 25 points to lead Denver to victory host Washington. Will Barton added 22 points for the Nuggets, who are looking to end a four-year playoff drought. Bradley Beal had 24 points and Markieff Morris scored 17 for Washington. Nuggets leading scorer Gary Harris missed his fourth consecutive game with a right knee injury.

CAVALIERS 120, SUNS 95

JR Smith hit consecutive 3-pointers during a 20-2, second-quarter flurry that sent Cleveland to a home victory over Phoenix. LeBron James had a game-high 27 points in just 29 minutes as the Cavaliers won their fourth straight game while sending the Suns to their 10th consecutive defeat. Troy Daniels had a team-high 20 points for the Suns, who remained tied with Memphis for the fewest wins in the NBA with 19.

TIMBERWOLVES 108, KNICKS 104

Karl-Anthony Towns had 24 points and 13 rebounds and Andrew Wiggins added 17 points and 11 rebounds to lead Minnesota over host New York. Tim Hardaway Jr. had 39 points and Trey Burke added 15 points off the bench to lead the Knicks, who lost their second consecutive game. After New York went ahead 82-77 with 1:36 left in the third quarter on a Hardaway basket, the Wolves went on a 10-0 run to regain control, and they led by as much as 11 in the second half.

BUCKS 118, BULLS 105

Shabazz Muhammad scored a season-high 21 points as Milwaukee's bench provided the offensive spark in an easy victory over host Chicago. Milwaukee was playing without forward Giannis Antetokounmpo, who sprained his right foot in a loss to the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday night. In the absence of Antetokounmpo, the league's fourth-leading scorer, Khris Middleton and Eric Bledsoe helped pick up the slack, combining for 29 points. Denzel Valentine topped the Bulls with 20 points. — Reuters

Business

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2018

18 KIB approves distribution of 10% cash dividends for 2017



21 Citybus launches a new fleet of double decker buses



22 Zuckerberg's shine dims as guardian of Facebook users



PERTH: Cabin crew wait to board a Qantas 787 Dreamliner before taking off on its inaugural flight from Perth to London yesterday. Qantas' 14,498 kilometer (9,009-mile) journey from the southwestern city to London is the world's third-longest passenger flight, the Australian carrier said, and the first-ever regular service to connect the two continents directly. — AFP

Tough talk on global trade escalates

Trump claims results as Beijing vows to defend its interests

BEIJING: The US and China's top economic officials agreed by phone yesterday to "continue to communicate" on trade issues, Chinese state media said, as President Donald Trump pledged his escalating trade showdown would get results despite pushback from Europe and Beijing.

In his latest jolt to the prevailing global order, Trump on Thursday authorized tariffs on as much as \$60 billion of Chinese imports, targeting sectors in which Washington says China has stolen American technology. Liu He, the Chinese vice premier in charge of the economy, told US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin yesterday that Beijing was "ready to defend its national interests" but hoped that "both sides will remain rational and work together," according to China's official Xinhua news agency.

He also accused a US probe into Chinese intellectual property practices of violating international trade rules. China had warned the United States on Friday that it was "not afraid of a trade war" as it threatened tariffs on \$3 billion worth of US goods in retaliation. And French President Emmanuel Macron said Europe would respond "without weakness" to Washington's threats of tariffs on steel and aluminum.

Meanwhile, Wall Street deepened its already sharp losses on Friday as fears of a global trade war ate even further into global equities. The Dow fell 1.8 percent,

completing a 1,100 point drop over two days, while the S&P 500 and Nasdaq both lost more than two percent.

"Nothing should be addressed when it is with a gun to your head," he said at the end of an EU summit in Brussels. Global stocks have plummeted as fears rise that the confrontation could provoke a damaging trade war. Meanwhile, World Trade Organization Director-General Roberto Azevedo called for cooler heads to prevail, saying in a statement that new trade barriers would "jeopardize the global economy".

But speaking to reporters on Friday as he signed new budget legislation, Trump said his efforts were beginning to bear fruit. Washington this week said it would temporarily exempt Europe as well as countries including Brazil, Argentina, South Korea and Australia from the steep new steel and aluminum tariffs that Trump unveiled this month and which took effect Friday.

European and US trade officials said this week they

were beginning talks to reach a compromise. "Many other countries are now negotiating fair trade deals with us," Trump said Friday. "Part of the reason, frankly, that we're able to do that is the fact that we have the tariffs on steel and the tariffs on aluminum." Meanwhile, US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said Friday that US and South Korean officials were "relatively close" to reaching a deal on the steel and aluminum tariffs, with an announcement possible as early as next week. But Beijing on Friday also unveiled a hit list of products that could face duties of up to 25 percent, from fresh fruit to pork and wine, though it stopped short of pulling the trigger as it indicated its readiness to negotiate an agreement.

China's commerce ministry warned that a 15 percent tariff on 120 goods worth almost \$1 billion—including fresh fruit, nuts and wine—would be imposed if the US fails to reach a "trade compensation agreement" within an unspecified time frame.

In a second step, a 25 percent tariff would be imposed on eight goods totalling nearly \$2 billion, including pork and aluminum scrap, after "further evaluating the impact of the US measures on China," the statement said.

The list noticeably does not include soybeans, a key US export from Trump-voting states that Chinese state-run newspaper the Global Times had suggested should be targeted by Beijing.

Yesterday, the deputy director of China's International Economic Exchange Center and former vice minister of commerce Wei Jianguo told the China Daily newspaper that Beijing was already preparing two more such lists, potentially set to include other products like aircraft and microchips.

Tourism and other sectors besides commodities might also be hit, he added. The United States had a record \$375.2 billion goods trade deficit with China last year.

Change China's behavior

Senior White House economic advisor Everett Eissenstat said Thursday the new US import duties would target sectors where "China has sought to acquire an advantage through the unfair acquisition or forced technology transfer from US companies." US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer indicated the industries could include aerospace, maritime and rail transport equipment, and new energy vehicles.—AFP



Wall Street tumbles on trade war jitters

China's commerce ministry warned that a 15 percent tariff on 120 goods worth almost \$1 billion—including fresh fruit, nuts and wine—would be imposed if the US fails to reach a "trade compensation agreement" within an unspecified time frame.

Trump reverses threat to shut down US govt

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump abandoned a threat to shut down the US government Friday, signing off on a budget despite being "unhappy" with many of its provisions—and warning he won't back anything similar ever again.

He later tweeted his desire to have a "line-item veto" over future bills that would allow him to remove parts he disagrees with—a measure that would alter the balance of the government and was ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 1998. A visibly aggrieved Trump capped another anarchic week by approving the \$1.3 trillion deal passed by the Republican-controlled Congress, just hours after threatening to veto it. He fumed that a "crazy" law-making process had produced a bill that "nobody read"—

but said he was signing it as a "matter of national security."

"There are a lot of things that I'm unhappy about in this bill," he said in a hastily arranged and meandering address. "There are a lot of things that we shouldn't have had in this bill. But we were, in a sense, forced," he said. "But I say to Congress, I will never sign another bill like this again. I'm not going to do it again." He later riffed on the same theme on Twitter, where he said: "To prevent this omnibus situation from ever happening again, I'm calling on Congress to give me a line-item veto for all govt spending bills!" Congress passed a short-lived Line Item Veto Act in 1996, giving then president Bill Clinton the power to scratch items from spending bills as a means to rein in fiscal excesses. The law was challenged and later struck down by the Supreme Court in a 6-3 ruling which found it unconstitutional because it enabled the president to amend the text of statutes, the task of the legislative branch.

Presidents retained the power of veto over bills but without the ability to pick and choose which elements to retain and which to cut.

Third shutdown averted

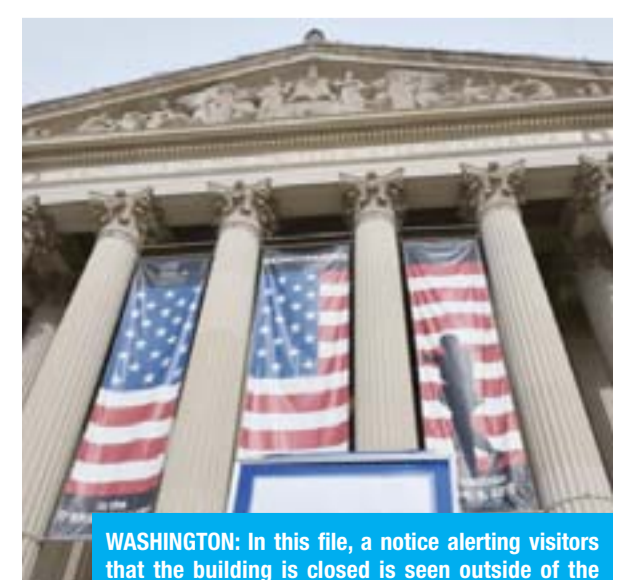
Without his signature, hundreds of thousands of civil

servants would have been put on forced leave, national parks from the Grand Canyon to Yellowstone would have faced closure and non-essential services would have stopped. It would have been the third shutdown of 2018, something lawmakers from both parties had worked hard to avoid.

Earlier Friday, Washington let out a collective gasp when Trump threatened to veto the hard-won agreement, which dramatically expands military funding.

Trump's threat came after a host on conservative channel Fox News pilloried the deal as a Washington "swamp budget." The last-minute drama only fueled a sense of chaos emanating from a White House that seems to lurch from crisis to crisis.

This week alone the former reality TV star replaced his national security advisor, launched a new trade fight with China, and needled investigators probing Russia election meddling. At the same time, he faced an unprecedented number of scandals—from a defamation lawsuit to allegations of at least two extramarital affairs. Amid the pressure, Trump has become unbridled, appearing increasingly willing to disregard the advice of aides and trust his own instincts, regardless of the repercussions.—AFP



WASHINGTON: In this file, a notice alerting visitors that the building is closed is seen outside of the National Archives on the first full week of the government shutdown in Washington, DC.—AFP

Business

KIB concludes Annual General Meeting

Bank approves distribution of 10% cash dividends for 2017



KUWAIT: The 2017 Annual General Meeting (AGM) for Kuwait International Bank (KIB) was held on March 24th 2018, attended by 78.150 percent of shareholders approved the recommendation of the Bank's Board of Directors to distribute cash dividends of 10 percent of the share nominal value (i.e. 10 fils per share) to shareholders.

Chairman of KIB, Sheikh Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah, spoke about the Bank's performance in 2017, saying: "In spite of the many economic challenges we have witnessed this year, KIB was able to achieve positive results: strengthening its financial position, enhancing its shareholders' equity, witnessing improvement across all key performance indicators, restructuring many of its activities and improving internal operations."

According to the Bank's consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2017, KIB recorded net profit of KD 17.7 million mainly contributed by increase in revenues accompanied by an effective cost optimization. Bank's improved performance reflected positively on core operating income for 2017, which reached to KD 64.3 million compared to KD 63.2 million for the previous year. Financing revenues grew by 5 percent, an increase of KD 3.6 million to reach KD 74.6 million, compared to KD 71 million recorded during 2016.

Meanwhile, Acting Chief Executive Officer at KIB, Mohammad Said El Saka noted that the Bank's assets increased by KD 70 million, a 4 percent increase to reach KD 1.9 billion, compared to KD 1.8 billion in 2016. This increase was achieved as a result of 3 percent growth in the financing portfolio, by KD 36 million to reach KD 1.3 billion, compared to KD 1.27 billion at the end of 2016. The investment portfolio also grew by 14 percent to reach KD 145.7 million compared to KD 127.8 million at the end of last year. Customer deposits significantly increased by 7 percent, or KD 78 million to reach KD 1.2 billion compared to KD 1.1 billion in 2016.

El Saka also pointed out that KIB continues to maintain high levels of capital adequacy ratio (CAR) of 19.05 percent, well above the regulatory requirements of the Central Bank of Kuwait in accordance with Basel III. Financial leverage ratio was over 10.9 percent.

KIB increased its distributions to depositors' accounts since the beginning of 2017, whereby the annualized return on the Arzaq Deposits in Kuwaiti Dinars increased to 2.65 percent, 2.68 percent, 2.7 percent and 2.72 percent in the respective four quarters. This resulted in an average annualized rate of 2.687 percent for the year 2017. In addition, Al-Boushra Kuwaiti dinar three-year deposits offered 3.3 percent in Q4 2017 with annualized



Chairman of KIB Sheikh Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah

average rate of 3.275 percent. Arzaq deposits yields high returns on investment, with flexibility of deposit periods ranging from one month to one year and available in all major foreign currencies with quarterly profit distribution. Al-Boushra aims for longer term 3 years deposit which offers highest profit rates with 100 percent investment of the deposit amount. Profit on Al-Boushra deposits are distributed on a semi-annual basis. Profits are credited to deposit holders account on the same day of declaration.

Arzaq registered growth of 280 percent from 2015 till 2017. Al-Boushra increased by over 17 times in 2017 compared to 2016.

Further on the product lines, El Saka highlighted Al-Ithmar call accounts which combines features of both current and savings account benefiting corporate customers. This product offers instant access to funds through unlimited withdrawals and provides a chance to earn profit on the balance maintained in the account. There is no minimum balance requirement and no restrictions on withdrawals and deposits that gives businesses flexibility, better returns and unrestricted access to the funds at the same time with cheque book option. He also



Acting Chief Executive Officer Mohammad Said El Saka

mentioned about new deposit product "Flexible deposit" that was recently added to the portfolio of deposit products offered by KIB. This unique product carries features of both fixed deposit and current account i.e. it offers all benefits of a fixed deposit, with flexibility to access money whenever required.

Al-Jarrah lauded the efforts made by KIB's Board of Directors, its executive management and its employees, stating that these efforts have been vital towards boosting the Bank's performance. In 2017, Fitch Ratings affirmed KIB's Long Term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at "A+", with a "Stable" Outlook. Al-Jarrah further stated that KIB's outstanding performance and robust financial position reflects its strong growth in a number of business areas, as the Bank remains committed to its long-term strategic goal of becoming the 'Islamic Bank of Choice in Kuwait'.

Al-Jarrah added: "We at KIB have faced countless challenges in our pursuit of innovative banking products and services that meet the changing needs of our customers: thereby ensuring our continued success. Still, we remain relentless, as we aim at increasing our efforts to provide an enhanced digital banking experience that is

accessible at any place, whilst also being easy to use. By doing so, we hope to provide the best banking experience for our existing customers, as well as new ones.

As a testament to KIB's achievements during 2017, the Bank received a number of prestigious local, regional, and international awards and recognitions. One of the most notable achievements for KIB was receiving the 'Best Strategic Vision in Banking' award from the World Union of Arab Bankers (WUAB). KIB also garnered the "Best Change Management - Kuwait" award by The Banker Middle East and the "Best Islamic Bank in Kuwait" award from World Finance for the fourth consecutive year. This year also marked the second year that KIB received the 'Fastest Growing Islamic Bank MENA 2017' and the 'Best Sharia-Compliant Bank MENA 2017' for the third consecutive year from Capital Finance International (CFI.co). KIB also earned the 'Excellence in Development of Islamic Banking Services' award by the Union of Arab Banks (UAB), as well as the inaugural 'Best Customer Acquisition in GCC' 2017 award and the "Best Islamic Bank in GCC" 2017 award for the second consecutive year, both from World Finance. Additionally, the Bank was recognized by Forbes Middle East as one of the top 50 listed companies in Kuwait in 2017.

In recognition of its achievements in the area of social responsibility, KIB also received the 'Distinction in Social Responsibility in Islamic Banking 2017' award by the Regional CSR Network, as well as the "Best CSR in Islamic Banking in Kuwait" award for the year 2017 by CPI Financial (CPI.co), marking the third consecutive time the Bank received this honor.

Al-Jarrah concluded by expressing his gratitude towards the Central Bank of Kuwait for the guidance and the Board of Directors, Fatwa & Sharia Board, the executive management, employees and customers for their support with which KIB could achieve this remarkable performance.

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic sharia, based in the State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007.

Today, KIB is a full service Bank operating through a network of 26 branches spread across the State of Kuwait, and offering a broad range of banking products, services and solutions in accordance with the principles of the Islamic Sharia. The Bank's mission and vision also encompasses a leading social responsibility program that aims at supporting every member of Kuwait's society by spearheading a multitude of initiatives and activities.



Operating income
in 2017 reached
KD 64.3 million

Sheikh Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah

- Strengthened financial position, enhancing shareholders' equity, improvement across all key performance indicators, restructuring many of its activities and improving internal operations
- Improved operating income
- Higher distribution for depositors

- Al-Boushra offered 3.3% annualized profit for 4Q '17
- Enhanced digital and electronic channels offerings
- KIB included in the MSCI FM small cap index
- KIB shortlisted to be included in FTSE Russell Global Equity Index Series
- Fitch affirms long term issuer ratings "A+" with stable outlook

Mohammad Said El Saka

- Increase in financing portfolio to reach approximately KD 1.3 billion
- Increase in deposits by 7% to touch almost KD 1.2 billion
- Increase in the profits rates offered for Arzaq and Savings for the third consecutive year

- Highest profits rates for savings Kuwaiti dinars @ 1.632% (annualized for 4Q '17)
- Total assets increased by 4% reaching in excess of KD 1.9 billion
- Maintained high Capital Adequacy Ratio of over 19%
- Among the top dividend-yield ratio of all Kuwaiti banks in 2017



KUWAIT: KIB Chairman Sheikh Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah (center) addresses the 2017 Annual General Meeting (AGM) for Kuwait International Bank. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Business

EU leaders want 'permanent exemption' from Trump tariffs

Bloc 'reserves right' for counter-measures in trade row

BRUSSELS: EU leaders on Friday said they would maintain a threat to hit the US with counter-measures — that include tariffs on Harley Davidson motorcycles and bourbon — as long as a metals tariffs exemption granted by Washington remained temporary.

After a discussion at an EU summit in Brussels, leaders said in a statement the bloc would "reserve its rights, in compliance with World Trade Organization rules, to respond to the US measures as appropriate and in a proportionate manner." Trump on Thursday authorized the suspension of controversial tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from key trade partners including the European Union, but only until May 1.

The commission earlier this month drew up a list of potential counter-measures, including tariffs on peanut butter, motorcycles and denim jeans, in case Trump slapped on the tariffs.

"We now look forward to pursuing a dialogue with the US on trade issues of common concern, such as global steel overcapacity," EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom said in a tweet. "These discussions between allies and partners should not be subject to artificial deadlines," she added. Trump's exemption landed just before a Friday deadline, and came after eleventh hour talks in Washington between Malmstrom and top US officials. Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Mexico and South Korea were also spared.

"We are just starting a negotiation with the European

Union because they've really shut out our country to a large extent, they have barriers.. very strong tariffs," Trump said in Washington on Thursday.

'Gun to our head'

Some leaders bristled at Trump's tactics and said that his methods were unworthy of close allies. "This gives the impression that the head of the United States is looking to negotiate with the European Union with a gun to our head," said Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel.

Speaking in Paris, EU Economic Affairs Commissioner Pierre Moscovici warned that the "devil was in the details". "This decision is temporary and will require exchanges with Washington and we will have to prepare for all eventualities," Moscovici told France Inter radio. Despite the apparent climbdown toward Europe, Trump has sparked fresh trade war fears by imposing huge tariffs on Chinese imports with Beijing unveiling its own measures against US goods.

EU leaders said they would seek a permanent exemption from punishing trade tariffs, after US President Donald Trump granted a temporary reprieve. "I am pleased that they have announced a temporary exemption for the EU," said British Prime Minister Theresa May as she arrived for the second day of an EU summit in Brussels. "What I will be working with my fellow EU leaders today is to see how we can secure a permanent exemption for the EU steel tariffs," she added. —AFP



WTO chief warns trade barriers will 'jeopardize global economy'

GENEVA: The World Trade Organization chief warned states Friday that creating barriers to international trade would "jeopardize the global economy," after Washington slapped steep tariffs on Chinese imports, heightening fears of a trade war.

"Disrupting trade flows will jeopardize the global economy at a time when economic recovery, though fragile, has been increasingly evident around the world," WTO Director-General Roberto Azevedo said in a statement, calling for "restraint and urgent dialogue".

US President Donald Trump on Thursday hit China with tariffs on up to \$60 billion (48.5 billion euros) of imports to retaliate against the "theft" of American intellectual property, fuelling fears of a trade war between the world's two largest economies.

Washington also launched Friday a challenge before the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) against China over intellectual property breaches. China meanwhile warned the United States that it was "not afraid of a trade war" as it threatened tariffs on \$3 billion worth of US goods in retaliation over the US measures.

In his statement, Azevedo said that during a meeting of WTO's Council of Trade in Goods, member states had discussed "a number of the specific tensions that have arisen between different members in recent weeks." "I encourage members to continue working through the WTO's many forums and mechanisms to deal with their concerns and explore potential solutions," he said, without naming any specific countries.

"Actions taken outside these collective processes greatly increase the risk of escalation in a confrontation that will have no winners, and which could quickly lead to a less stable trading system," he warned.

"I again call for restraint and urgent dialogue as the best path forward to resolve these problems."

The WTO, which strives to foster a level-playing field in global trade, can through its DSB act as a court to resolve trade disputes. However Trump's protectionist administration has levelled hostile rhetoric towards the WTO, and has nearly crippled its dispute resolution mechanism by blocking appointment of new judges. —AFP

Japan machinery makers with China exposure take big hit

TOKYO: Shares of Japanese machinery makers with heavy exposure to China plummeted on Friday as China and the United States moved closer to a trade war that could damage global growth.

Shares in machinery makers, which account for 20 percent of Japan's total exports, had enjoyed strong gains in the past year on the back of brisk demand for investment in electronics and semiconductors in China, Japan's biggest trading partner. US President

Donald Trump signed a presidential memorandum on Thursday that will target up to \$60 billion in Chinese goods with tariffs to kick in after a 30-day consultation period. The tariffs would target sectors including technology.

"Responding to rising demand for tech products in China, Japan's capital goods makers and machinery makers had seen strong exports so they are likely to hit hard from now," said Shogo Maekawa, global market strategist at JPMorgan Asset Management. The Tokyo machinery sector index slumped 5.6 percent, helping to pull the Nikkei share average down 4.5 percent.

Machine tool makers were hammered, with Makino Milling Machine sliding 6.1 percent, Okuma Corp nose-diving 7.4 percent and DMG Mori Co stumbling 6.0 percent. —Reuters

South Africa dodges new junk rating as Moody's ups outlook

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa, whose debt is rated as "junk" or non-investment grade by credit rating agencies Fitch and S&P, has escaped a third junk rating from Moody's which suggested the country's economic outlook was set to improve under its new President

Cyril Ramaphosa.

Moody's said in a statement that it was holding the rating on South Africa's long-term debt at Baa3, the lowest investment grade above junk status. But the statement, released overnight on Friday, said that the ratings agency had decided to upgrade the outlook for the country's debt from "negative" to "stable", meaning that a further downgrade was not on the cards.

"The confirmation of South Africa's ratings reflects Moody's view that the previous weakening of South Africa's institutions will gradually reverse under a more transparent and predictable policy framework," the statement said. "The recovery of the country's institutions will, if sustained, gradually support a corresponding recovery in its economy, along with a stabilisation of fiscal strength." —AFP

Wall St nosedives as investors flee on trade war fears

NEW YORK: Wall Street tumbled on Friday with more than 1,000 points knocked off the Dow in two days as investors, increasingly nervous about a potential US trade war with China, shied away from risk ahead of the weekend and sought shelter from further losses. In a volatile session, the S&P 500 came within a hair of its 200-day moving average, a key technical level. The benchmark index also nudged closer to its February low, which marked a correction, ending 9.9 percent lower than its Jan. 26 record.

"There is concern what the trade war could look like. Investors want to manage their risk. If it escalates rapidly, it could be a major headwind for the market," said Peter Kenny, senior market strategist at Global Markets Advisory Group, in New York.

President Donald Trump's plans for tariffs on up to \$60 billion in Chinese goods moved the world's two largest economies closer to a trade war as China declared plans to levy duties on up to \$3 billion of U.S. imports including fruit and wine even as it urged the United States to "pull back from the brink."

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 424.69 points, or 1.77 percent, to 23,533.2, the S&P 500 lost 55.43 points, or 2.10 percent, to 2,588.26 after hitting an intraday low that was barely above its 200-day moving average of 2585.22. The Nasdaq Composite dropped 174.01 points, or 2.43 percent, to 6,992.67. For the week, the Dow was down 5.67 percent, the S&P 500 was down 5.95 percent and the Nasdaq was down 6.54 percent, marking their biggest weekly percentage falls since January 2016.

The Dow was down 11.6 percent since its Jan. 26 high, and hit its lowest close since confirming a correction in February. The Cboe Volatility Index, the most widely followed barometer of expected near-term



volatility in the S&P 500, finished up 1.53 points at 24.87, its highest close since Feb 13.

The S&P's financial sector was the S&P's biggest percentage loser, at 3 percent, after a volatile session in which it was whip-sawed by volatile Treasury yields. Bloomberg News cited China's ambassador to the United States saying that the country is "looking at all options" in response to tariffs, which could include scaling back purchases of US Treasuries.

Nasdaq was weighed down by declines in momentum stocks such as Facebook, Amazon.com, Microsoft and Google's parent Alphabet.

The semiconductor sector took a fall after Micron Technology's quarterly report stoked fears about falling NAND prices. The Philadelphia Semiconductor index slumped 3.3 percent.

Declining issues outnumbered advancing ones on the NYSE by a 3.96-to-1 ratio; on Nasdaq, a 3.72-to-1 ratio favored decliners. The S&P 500 posted two new 52-week highs and 42 new lows; the Nasdaq Composite recorded 23 new highs and 93 new lows.

Volume on US exchanges was 8.11 billion shares, above the 7.3 billion average for the last 20 trading days. —Reuters

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Business

NBK brings the SWIFT gpi service to Kuwait

Al-Khorafi: Another area of NBK's advancement in technology innovations

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait announces that it has successfully completed its SWIFT Global Payments Innovation (gpi) testing and is ready to launch the service. As a pioneer bank in Kuwait and the region, NBK joins the global gpi community consisting of more than 150 banks. NBK achieved this milestone after passing the rigorous testing phase.

SWIFT-gpi is the new payments standard for cross-border payments, that joins together all payment intermediaries via a cloud-hosted interface that makes it now possible to fully track and prove the time it takes for a payment sent from end client A to end client B through the gpi-active financial institutions involved in a payment chain.

Mohammed Al-Khorafi, General Manager- Operations Group at NBK said: "This is another area of advancement of NBK in technology innovations and an assertion of our strategy to remain consistent with the most advanced international standards as the leading Bank in Kuwait.

He added it improves efficiency, it's a step forward to better services for clients and better communication and reconciliation. NBK continues to enhance the excellence of the banking sector in Kuwait."



Mohammed Al-Khorafi

Onur Ozan, SWIFT Head of Middle East, Turkey and North Africa, said: "We are delighted that NBK has completed the SWIFT gpi testing phase and is now ready to go live on the service. With SWIFT gpi, NBK will offer its customers more certainty, transparency and traceability in their cross-border payments. We look forward to seeing more Middle Eastern banks go live on SWIFT gpi in the months to come and encourage all banks in the region to adopt this new standard for cross-border payments.

This new messaging technology available to the SWIFT GPI community and member banks only, has led to a digital transformation of cross border payments and ultimately focuses on significantly improving customer service and

satisfaction. By connecting every intermediary in the payment chain, SWIFT-gpi grants each party visibility of a payment status, unaltered remittance information and transaction costs and also delivers greater traceability and transparency allowing banks to instantly check the status of payments.

NBK clients will benefit from same day transfer and use of funds, as well as reduced timelines and transparency on fees along with enhanced security. As a next phase of this initiative, NBK is working to extend this facility to its esteemed clients for self-service tracking of payments; this is good news especially for corporate clients as it reduces the time and costs spent on investigations, allowing them to speed up supply chain and reduce risk, track important payments and easily reconcile payments and invoices. NBK constantly endeavors to adopt the latest innovations in technology to better service its clients worldwide. Launching SWIFT-gpi raises the standards of international payments, reduces operational burden and creates efficiency in treasury and reconciliation of payments.

It also increases security in cross border payments as it identifies the various steps that the payment is going

through and ensures that transaction details are not altered. The future direction of SWIFT-gpi to introduce capability to stop and recall payments immediately, reduces cases of errors and fraud, and will add more comfort to NBK's clients and affirm the commitment of NBK to Kuwait's Banking sector as the leading bank in Kuwait.

NBK continues to collectively enjoy the highest credit ratings from the three international rating agencies: Moody's, Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor's. The Bank's ratings are supported by its high capitalization, prudent lending policies, and its disciplined approach to risk management, in addition to its highly recognized and very stable management team. NBK also maintains its position among the 50 safest banks in the world for the twelfth consecutive year.

NBK Group has the widest banking presence in 4 continents worldwide. NBK's international presence spans many of the world's leading financial centers including London, Paris, Geneva, New York and Singapore, as well as China (Shanghai). Meanwhile, regional coverage extends to Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and Turkey.

TEC takes part in KIF 2018

KUWAIT: The Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC) recently took part in the second Kuwait Investment Forum (KIF 2018), which was co-organized by the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) and the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), and held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The landmark economic forum saw the attendance and participation of His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad, Speaker of the National Assembly, Marzouq Al-Ghanim, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, as well as a number of distinguished government officials, industry leaders, and influential decision makers.

The two-day Forum sought to shed light on the various characteristics that make Kuwait an attractive investment market. It additionally showcased the significant developments that have taken place in recent years within Kuwait's business environment, in terms of regulation, investment opportunities, and emerging trends. It also aimed to reaffirm the government's interest in promoting the role of the private sector in spearheading national development, by facilitating value-added investments into Kuwait's dynamic market.

TEC's CEO, Abdulwahab Ahmed Al-Marzouq, took part in the third session on the Forum's second day, entitled



Al-Marzouq taking part in panel discussion

"Investment Opportunities - Lucrative Options in Dynamic Sectors". Featuring a panel of notable speakers from across various vital industries, the session addressed the implementation of Kuwait Vision 2035, and the multitude of investment opportunities that it will generate. On his part, Al-Marzouq spoke about the role of the tourism sector as a magnet for investments and being one of the key components in transforming Kuwait into an attractive investment hub. During his talk, Al-Marzouq also showcased some of the key projects currently being developed by TEC, under the umbrella of the Company's future vision and strategic plans.

It serves to note that TEC is currently in the process of putting together a comprehensive development strategy focused on rejuvenating and upgrading the tourism and entertainment sectors in Kuwait, with the help of its industry-leading global partners. The Company has a number of ambitious and expansive projects in its pipeline, which include the restoration and renovation of its current facilities, as well as the launch of several future development projects. Within this context, TEC's robust plans aim to drastically and sustainably transform the economic, architectural and business infrastructures of the country's tourism and leisure industries over the next few years.

TBWA dominates Dubai Lynx Int'l Festival of Creativity

NEW YORK/DUBAI: TBWA Worldwide was named Network of the Year at the Dubai Lynx International Festival of Creativity and TBWA\Raad was crowned Agency of the Year, winning an unprecedented, record-breaking eight Grand Prix and a host of other awards during the culmination of this year's festival. It is the first time that the Dubai-headquartered agency has won the title, taking home Grand Prix awards in Creative Effectiveness, Direct, Innovation, Interactive, Mobile, PR, Promo & Activation and Radio for clients such as Nissan, McDonald's, Henkel and Louvre Abu Dhabi. It is also TBWA\Worldwide's first time awarded Dubai Lynx Network of the Year.

"I am extraordinarily proud of our people and clients who contributed to this outstanding performance at Dubai Lynx," said Troy Ruhanen, President and CEO, TBWA Worldwide. "TBWA\Raad is an agency at the top of its game, but what I found most satisfying were the notes I received from our clients who celebrated the result equally. Brilliant collaboration across a region that comes to innovate and astound. Congratulations to everyone."

"TBWA\Raad has created fresh, culturally

relevant work and is pioneering the way for some of our biggest brands to join impactful, cultural conversations," added Chris Garbutt, Chief Creative Officer, TBWA Worldwide. "Congratulations to our entire Middle Eastern TBWA team. The Nissan work is making strides in gender equality and has placed it in a Category of One." Two of the evening's biggest winners were '#SheDrives' for Nissan Saudi Arabia, which sought to empower women and effect change in attitude and behavior from men in Saudi Arabia following the decision to allow women to drive - winning the Interactive Grand Prix, and the first-ever radio-guided 'Highway Gallery' for the Louvre Abu Dhabi. The latter saw special FM transmitters powered by solar panels intercept drivers' car radios, triggering the Louvre Abu Dhabi museum audio guide when they approached any of 10 masterpieces placed along Abu Dhabi's highways. 'Highway Gallery' was the Innovation Grand Prix.

Also winning big was McDonald's 'Promotion', which redefined delivery apps by turning the McDelivery app icon into a promotional medium, awarded the Direct Grand Prix. "I am extremely proud of the team, which has consistently produced great work that is both disruptive and innovative," said Reda Raad, CEO of TBWA\Raad. "These wins are confirmation that we are providing our clients with a truly competitive edge, producing real work for real brands that is at the cutting edge of creativity. We've created something to be proud of at TBWA\Raad, which is a creative culture capable of consistently producing exceptional work. I would like to thank all of the people and clients who have helped to make this possible."

The weekly grand prize winner of KD 25,000 Veronica Patrick Mills.

25 other winners won prizes of KD 1,000 and are as follows: Aseel Abd Al-Nabi Yousef Jamal, Mohammad Ali Khaudhair Al-Huwaidi, Fuad Habeb A Al-Mejadi, Adel Jawad Hamed Al-Shammri, Faisal Jassem Mohammad Al-Jassar, Waleed Abdullah S Al-Muraikhi, Ashraf Abdelmenam Elsayed Mousa, Mohammad Awadh Klabi Mehmel Al-Hadeyah, Abdulrahman Abdullah Ibrahim Albedaiwi Al-Subaiee, Ahmad Mazyad H Al-Otaibi, Nayef Nada Jarboua Al-Noumas, Ahmad Haji Aga Safar Zada Maharloumi, Mona Jamal Ali Al-Baghdadi, Mubark Abdulla Hamad Al-Hardan, Mokhtar Ahmad Ismail Mah Kareem, Taiba Abdulnabi Kadhem Al-Fardan, Husain Najj Kadhem Saleh Sabt, Hisham Abdulla Ebrahim Al-Awami, Janet Paton Langley, Yaqoob Yousef Lori, Osman Mian, Husain Mohamed Ali Abbas Habib, Isa Abdulla Nassir Abdan, Abu Al-Qassim Ali and Salman Sameer A Karim.

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

26 new winners in list of Al-Hassad Islamic account

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank recently conducted its Al-Hassad Islamic account weekly draw, Kuwait's leading sharia-compliant rewards program that offers a broad range of prizes to the largest number of winners, on the 21st of March 2018. The account provides 26 weekly prizes that are comprised 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.

Largest service offers from Chevrolet Alghanim

KUWAIT: In line with its unceasing commitment to guarantee the safety and peace of mind of its customers and their families, Chevrolet Alghanim introduce a free checkup campaign on all Chevrolet vehicles being serviced at any Chevrolet Alghanim service centers, which started from March 1st to April 30th, 2018. Chevrolet Alghanim encourages its loyal customers to visit their service centers and take advantage of this limited time offer.

The special safety checkup entails a detailed inspection performed by a team of professionally trained service advisors using the latest tools and technology available for car inspection and service. The checkup covers the most important mechanical and electrical components related to a car's operation and safety, including disk brakes, tire treads

and pressure, car battery, windshield wipers, front and rear lights, suspension, shock absorbers and controlling sticks. And because Chevrolet Alghanim is committed to total customer satisfaction, the offer also includes free car wash as well.

Once the checkup has been performed, customers will receive a comprehensive report detailing the condition of the car. With 30 percent discount on spare parts, 20 percent discount on accessories and 10 percent discount on labor fees, customers will get a free car wash and nitrogen refill for their tires & can enjoy driving their Chevy safely without having to worry about potential car malfunctions. Chevrolet Alghanim encourages customers to take advantage of this free checkup before it's too late and enjoy the valuable benefits and peace-of-mind it offers.

Customers can benefit from this amazing checkup offer by visiting either the Shuwaikh Service Center, located in Shuwaikh Industrial Area, from Saturday to Thursday, 7:00am till 7:00pm, and Friday, 2:00pm till 7:00 pm, or the Fahheel Service Center, from Saturday to Wednesday, 7:30 am till 6:00pm, and Thursday, from 7:30am till

Konica Minolta highlights process control in print production

KUWAIT: Konica Minolta Business Solutions Middle East participated at the inaugural Gulf Print & Pack Summit held in Dubai. Leading organizations from commercial printing and packaging industry were gathered at the Summit to discuss the challenges and opportunities in the region.

The Summit featured two standout panel discussions with industry experts to discuss initiatives for business expansion and how to remain competitive; as well as new technologies to modernize a printing plant and areas for investment.

Nayyar Ansari - Business Development Manager at Konica Minolta Business Solutions Middle East was a presenter at the event, talking about Technical Innovation. He said "in an order to improve turnaround time and achieve accurate results the professional print market is embracing automation and technical innovations that can also significantly reduce the overall costs. He went on to emphasize that Konica Minolta is bringing latest innovative technologies to the market including the award winning "Intelligent Quality Optimizer" that will allow professional printers to achieve automation on the run, color management, registration, auto printer profile making, as well as auto gamma adjustment and auto density control. The



Nayyar Ansari

automation will enable professional printers to achieve substantial tangible and quantifiable benefits such as the cost saving by reducing waste occurring due to the registration and color issues, improved uptime by eliminating periodical checks, practical shorter turnaround which means more time to accommodate other jobs, lessened chances of human error by removing the requirement of special skills to set up engines. The latest innovative technology from Konica Minolta will transform the industry by offering infinite benefits to professional printers.

Digital printing equipment sales show strong growth in all the regions as printers understand how to capitalize on the opportunities. The adoption of new technologies is necessary for direct mail, transactional and security where variable data is used. It is growing in books, labels and commercial printing, while making inroads into catalogues, magazines and the big opportunity in packaging, he added."

Bayt.com weekly report

How to make the recruiter love you

Want to know the secret to being loved by recruiters?

The short answer is: Preparation.

Yes, there's no simpler way for recruiters to love you. Recruiters love candidates who are well-prepared. In fact, many recruiters say that poor preparation is the most common mistake that job seekers do during an interview.

So, before you meet with a recruiter make a checklist of these five methods from Bayt.com's career experts, to win the hearts and minds of recruiters:

1. Do your research

The first question asked in most interviews is "So, what do you know about our company?" This is the first real test when discussing a potential position. Employers want to hire professionals who have taken the time to research the company's products, mission and business model. Doing your research about the company, the role for which you're applying and your interviewer as well shows the employer that you are interested and excited about the opportunity and would be ready to hit the ground running on your first day. Doing your research also helps you better formulate your answers to interview questions that directly relate to the job requirements.

2. Brush up your CV

One of the biggest complaints by recruiters is that many candidates do not have the ability to write a professional CV. Too often, the writing skills of today's job seekers are lacking and may stand in the way of landing their dream job.

In fact, sloppy grammar and spelling mistakes are among the most common mistakes recruiters encounter on jobseekers' CVs, and it frustrates them a lot.

Your CV is often the first impression a recruiter has of you and more often than not you will only have a few seconds to grab their attention and leave them wanting to read more and invite you in for an interview. It is essential that you get this vital piece of communication right and use it as a springboard to the next stage of the job search.

3. Look good

Nothing makes a recruiter groan more than meeting with a candidate wearing sloppy cargo pants and a t-shirt where the role requires formal business attire. If you dress contrary to company and industry norms from the outset, don't expect to go far in the hiring process. Your outward appearance is part of the impression you make on people and is a reflection of your inner qualities. Remember: You don't need to go crazy and buy an ostentatiously expensive designer suit; you can look sharp, smart and appropriate in a cost-effective manner. All you have to do is to avoid jeans, t-shirts, tank tops, shorts, miniskirts, or any other outfit that may not project a professional image in the industry you are targeting (after all, it's a professional role you're seeking, right?)

4. Be confident

When interacting with a potential employer, whether by phone, e-mail or in person, it's important to emanate confidence about your experience and ability to succeed in a new position.

It's natural to be nervous when being grilled by a recruiter but you must be able to put a cohesive thought together. Rather than blurt out the first thing that comes to your mind, pause for a while and gather your thoughts before you speak. The position you are interviewing for may include public speaking or even conducting staff meetings and the recruiter needs to know that you can speak proficiently.

5. Show some drive

No matter how tired you are or how tough the interview questions are always show enthusiasm and drive. Passion, drive and ambition are among the most important items that recruiters consider when making a hiring decision. You need to demonstrate to the employer that you are extremely interested in the position and have the drive and ambition and keenness it takes to succeed. Your positive attitude will impress your interviewer as long as it is genuine and not overplayed and they will leave the interview with a favorable 'feel' about you.

You might also want to have a look at the other side of the coin by reading the five reasons why candidates fail to impress in interviews. These are all ways to ensure that you stand out from the crowd and stick in the recruiter's mind. If you walk into the room with the right attitude, image and skillset then you may not be too far from the finish line!

Business

Extent of US-China trade fight depends on Trump's goals

Trump's end game is still unclear after trade curbs

WASHINGTON: How bad will the US-China trade fight get? That depends on whether President Donald Trump will settle for a reduction in China's US trade surplus or hold out for sweeping changes to China's industrial policies. After Trump's announcement on Thursday that he will impose tariffs on up to \$60 billion worth of Chinese goods and impose investment restrictions on Beijing, it is far from clear what Trump's end game is, trade experts say.

Trump repeated on Thursday that he wants a \$100 billion reduction in China's trade surplus, while his top trade negotiator, Robert Lighthizer, said fundamental changes that allow US companies to keep their technological edge over Chinese competitors were critical to the future of the US economy.

A deal for the latter will not come in the next 45 days before the yet-to-be published US tariff list becomes effective. "It's not clear what the Trump administration's bottom line is," said Scott Kennedy, the head of China studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

"We know what the Chinese bottom line is. They won't do anything to relent on their industrial policy system. They won't clip the wings of China Inc," he said.

Kennedy said a deal to cut China's \$375 billion US goods trade surplus by \$100 billion is far easier to achieve with additional purchases of US soybeans, beef, liquefied natural gas, Boeing aircraft and other equipment. But fundamental changes such as joint venture requirements that often cannot be negotiated without technology transfers and industrial policies aimed at acquiring and investing in more US technology firms will not come without significant protracted pressure on China - and economic pain for the United States.

"The Chinese will want to throw us a few bones and otherwise go back to the status quo. If you're talking about actually changing Chinese behavior, it's a long, painful process," said Derek Scissors, a China trade expert at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington.

It also would take a lot more than tariffs on \$60 billion worth of exports from China to inflict significant pain on the government, Scissors said. China's goods exports to the United States rose by \$43 billion in 2017 alone. And the US demand for Chinese goods is expected to

increase in the next few years as U.S. tax cuts boost growth and increase federal borrowing. So far, China's response to Trump's announcement has been muted. The Ministry of Commerce announced additional duties on up to \$3 billion of imports from the United States, including fruit, nuts, pork, wine and seamless steel pipe. But these are technically responses to U.S. global steel and aluminum tariffs, not the Trump administration's anti-China tariffs over intellectual property practices.

China's ambassador to the United States, Cui Tiankai, declined to rule out cutting purchases of U.S. Treasury debt in the dispute, telling Bloomberg Television on Friday: "We are looking at all options."

China owned \$1.17 trillion in Treasuries at the end of January, compared with \$14.8 trillion in total US public debt, according to US Treasury data. China has also hinted at cutting imports of US soybeans, which totaled \$12.4 billion in 2018 - the second largest US export to China after commercial aircraft. But Beijing is likely waiting for Trump's final tariff list before it responds more fully. The list is expected to be published within two weeks,



NEW YORK: The Sunlands Online Education banner and the Chinese flag hang in front of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) during the Beijing-based firms IPO on Friday in New York City. Despite yesterday's massive loss due to trade war fears with China, the Dow started the day up over 70 points. — AFP

then subject to a 30-day comment period and potential revisions by the US Trade Representative's office after that period ends. A tit-for-tat escalation of trade retaliation, coupled with Trump's desire to "look tough on

China" will make it harder for the two sides to settle their differences, said Eswar Prasad, a professor of trade policy at Cornell University and a former head of the International Monetary Fund's China department. — Reuters

Citybus launches a new fleet of double decker buses



Citybus Vice Chairman and CEO Nabil Al-Jeraisy

KUWAIT: Citybus launches a new fleet of double decker buses as part of its commitment to upgrade and improve the quality of public transport in Kuwait.

Nabil Al-Jeraisy, Vice Chairman and CEO, stated that Citybus is committed to providing world class public transportation services to its customers in Kuwait in cooperation with the Traffic Department Authority and actively contribute in the reduction of traffic congestion and support the environmental protection agenda.

He further added that these double decker buses carry almost double the number of passengers that a single decker bus carries, this enables us to meet demand requirements on major corridors whilst reducing the number of buses and emissions emitted. We are committed to working in partnership with the authorities to support and encourage a cleaner, greener and safer environment.



We drive. You arrive.

Pool Rides

Share your ride and enjoy a simple, quick, affordable & stress-free way to get to your destination in a safe, reliable and secure manner.

Schedule Rides

Schedule a ride at your preferred time with your family, friends or colleagues and ensure a timely pickup & arrival at your destination.

Rentals

Choose the vehicle you like to rent at your preferred time slots & get all your tasks done seamlessly without being distracted by the worry of multiple bookings or searching for a cab.

Delivery Services

We partner to deliver flexible solutions which improve service levels at reduced cost. Citydelivery is revolutionising how to help you efficiently manage your deliveries, making the last mile delivery experience a special one.

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Technology

Zuckerberg's shine dims as guardian of Facebook users

Latest crisis raises the specter that he has lost control of his creation

SAN FRANCISCO: Mark Zuckerberg rose to wealth and fame with a mission of connecting everyone through Facebook, but now faces the wrath of users outraged he isn't doing more to defend their data.

The latest crisis laying siege to the leading online social network has raised the specter that he has lost control of his creation and been naive about the unintended consequences of people sharing so much about themselves. "If Facebook was a typical company, and Zuckerberg was the founder, he would probably be gone," said tech industry analyst Rob Enderle of Enderle Group.

"He looks like a guy who really doesn't know what he is doing. He is not the hero that a lot of people had viewed him as: his reputation and image are badly damaged."

Facebook has prospered on digital advertising that benefits from being able to use what people share about themselves to target ads. If Facebook was betting on people's better natures when it came to truthfully sharing, respecting others, and being able to connect with anyone, it wasn't always a winning wager. The California-based social network has been a flashpoint for controversies about bullying, harassment, free speech, extremist propaganda, election meddling, privacy, and more.

"They don't put enough effort into making sure the user is protected and the experience is assured," analyst Enderle said. "They only care about the advertisers, and the user is basically a digital slave."

Dropout to billionaire

A public apology by Zuckerberg failed to quell outrage over the hijacking of personal data from millions of people, as critics demanded that the social media giant go much further to protect user privacy.

Belatedly speaking out about the harvesting of Facebook user data by a British firm linked to President Donald Trump's 2016 election campaign,

Zuckerberg admitted Wednesday to betraying the trust of its more than two billion users, and promised to "step up."

Vowing to stop data leaking to application makers and to give users more control over their information, he also said he was ready to testify before US lawmakers following—which a powerful congressional committee promptly asked him to do. Zuckerberg has grown from a Harvard dropout who changed what it means to be social into a billionaire philanthropist bent on shaping a better world for his daughters. Zuckerberg and his doctor wife, Priscilla Chan, have pledged to give away their Facebook fortune to make the world a healthier, happier place for children.

"Having kids changes a lot," Zuckerberg said this week in an interview with CNN. "I used to think that the most important thing to me by far was having the greatest impact across the world as I can; now I just really care about building something my girls are going to grow up and be proud of me for."

Zuckerberg cemented his fortune, and a place in Silicon Valley history, by leading Facebook to a historic Wall Street debut in 2012.

The \$16 billion IPO was structured to keep control of Facebook in the hands of Zuckerberg, who has been Time's "Person of the Year" and cracked the Forbes list of 20 richest people in the world.

The hoodie-wearing 33-year-old, depicted in the Hollywood drama "The Social Network" as a socially challenged computer geek, has evolved into a confident chief executive. Zuckerberg still favors t-shirts, jeans and sneakers, topped off by his trademark hooded sweatshirt and a mop of curly hair.

He is known for setting annual goals, which have included wearing ties every day; only eating meat of animals he kills himself; and learning to speak Chinese.

His personal goal this year is to fix Facebook, making sure it fosters real-world community.

“His reputation and image are badly damaged”



MOSCOW: A picture taken in Moscow on Thursday shows an illustration picture of the Russian language version of Facebook about page featuring the face of founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg. —AFP

Thefacebook'

Born on May 14, 1984, Zuckerberg was raised in Dobbs Ferry outside New York, one of four children of a dentist father and a psychiatrist mother. He began writing computer programs at the age of 11, including one said to resemble Pandora's musical taste program which reportedly drew the interest of AOL and Microsoft. He went to high school at the prestigious Phillips Exeter Academy, where he was captain of the fencing team, before entering elite Harvard University.

Zuckerberg launched Thefacebook.com, as it was then known, from his dorm room on February 4, 2004 with some of his roommates and classmates.

Facebook's early years were not without controver-

sy, however. In 2008, a \$65 million settlement was reached with three Harvard classmates—twins Tyler and Cameron Winklevoss, and Divya Narendra—over their charges that Zuckerberg had stolen the idea for Facebook from them.

The conflict was at the heart of "The Social Network," the Oscar-winning film written by Aaron Sorkin and directed by David Fincher.

Zuckerberg left Harvard in May 2004 for Silicon Valley, where he received his first major funding — \$500,000 — from PayPal co-founder Peter Thiel. He has been referred to by some as being struck in the mold of late Apple co-founder Steve Jobs. Zuckerberg has praised Jobs as a friend and a role model. —AFP

UK regulators search Cambridge Analytica offices

LONDON: British regulators on Friday began searching the London offices of Cambridge Analytica (CA), the scandal-hit communications firm at the heart of the Facebook data scandal, shortly after a judge approved a search warrant. Around 18 enforcement agents from the office of Information Commissioner Elizabeth Denham entered the company's London headquarters at around 8:00pm (2000 GMT) to execute the warrant.

The High Court granted the raid request less than an hour earlier, as Denham investigates claims that Cambridge Analytica may have illegally harvested Facebook data for political ends.

A full explanation of the legal ruling by Judge Anthony James Leonard will be issued on Tuesday, according to the court. "We're pleased with the decision of the judge," Denham's office said on Twitter. "This is just one part of a larger investigation into the use of personal data and analytics for political purposes," it added in a statement.

"As you will expect, we will now need to collect, assess and consider the evidence before coming to any conclusions." The data watchdog's probe comes amid whistleblower accusations that CA, hired by Donald Trump during his primary campaign, illegally mined tens of millions of users' Facebook data and then used it to target potential voters.

Fresh allegations also emerged Friday night about the firm's involvement in the 2016 Brexit referendum campaign. Brittany Kaiser, CA's business development director until two weeks ago, revealed it conducted data research for Leave.EU, one of the leading campaign groups, via the UK Independence Party (UKIP), according to The Guardian.

'I was lying'

Kaiser, 30, told the newspaper she felt the company's repeated public denials it ever worked on the poll misled British lawmakers and the public. "In my opinion, I was lying," she said. "In my opinion I felt like we should say, 'this is exactly what we did.'" CA's suspended chief executive Alexander Nix told MPs last month: "We did not work for Leave.EU. We have not undertaken any paid or unpaid work for them, OK?"

Nix was suspended this week following the Facebook revelations and a further media sting in which he boasts about entrapping politicians and secretly operating in elections around the world through shadowy front companies.

He has already been called to reappear before British lawmakers to explain "inconsistencies" in past testimony about the

Apple's Tim Cook calls for calm heads on China and US trade

BEIJING: Apple Inc's Chief Executive Tim Cook yesterday called for "calm heads" and more open trade, amid rising fears of a trade war between the United States and China. Trade tension between China and the United States flared this week when President Donald Trump unveiled plans on Thursday to slap tariffs on potentially up to \$60 billion in Chinese goods.

China's Commerce Ministry on Friday urged the United States to "pull back from the brink", saying it was not afraid to engage in a trade war. "I'm cognizant that in both the US and China, there have been cases where everyone



LONDON: Pedestrians cross the road near outside the shared building which houses the offices of Cambridge Analytica in central London yesterday. —AFP

firm's use of the data. Meanwhile Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg has been forced to issue a statement outlining his firm's role in the scandal and apologized Wednesday to its billions of users for the breach. The company has seen its stock market value plunge by around \$75 million amid the crisis, as shares closed the week down 13 percent—their worst seven days since July 2012.

Cambridge Analytica denies any wrongdoing, and said Friday it was undertaking an independent third-party audit to verify that it no longer holds any of the mined data.

"As anyone who is familiar with our staff and work can testify, we in no way resemble the politically-motivated and unethical company that some have sought to portray," acting CEO Alexander Tayler said in a statement. He apologized for the firm's involvement, but said it had licensed the data from a research company, led by an academic, that "had not received consent from most respondents".

"The company (CA) believed that the data had been obtained in line with Facebook's terms of service and data protection laws," Tayler said.

hasn't benefited, where the benefit hasn't been balanced," Cook said.

Speaking at the annual China Development Forum in Beijing, Cook said he hoped "calm heads" would prevail. The sparring has cast a spotlight on hardware makers such as Apple, which assemble the majority of their products in China for export to other countries. Electrical goods and tech are the largest US import item from China.

In the past year, Apple and other foreign tech firms have grappled with a string of new regulatory requirements in China, including a controversial law requiring firms to house user data in data centers overseen by Chinese firms. Last month, Apple officially moved to store keys for its iCloud data in China, provoking intense criticism from rights groups who say the decision makes it easier for Chinese officials to tap and collect private data.

Despite challenges, the company has sought to expand its services in China, its third-largest market, where roughly 1.8 million developers use its platform.

"My belief is that businesses should be engaged with governments in countries where they are doing business, whether they agree or disagree," Cook said. Cook has come

New review

Aleksandr Kogan, a University of Cambridge psychologist, created a personality prediction app that harvested the data of 270,000 people who downloaded it—as well as scooping up the information of their friends. That was possible under Facebook's rules at the time, and Kogan this week claimed he was being unfairly blamed. "I'm being basically used as a scapegoat by both Facebook and Cambridge Analytica," he said in interviews Wednesday.

"We were assured by Cambridge Analytica that everything was perfectly legal and within the terms of service" of Facebook, he added.

However, Cambridge University announced Friday it was "undertaking a wide-ranging review" of the episode and had written to Facebook "to request all relevant evidence in their possession".

"Should anything emerge from this review, or from our request to Facebook, the University will take any action necessary in accordance with our policies and procedures," it said in a statement. —AFP



BEIJING: This photo illustration taken on Friday shows Apple logos on a computer screen in Beijing. —AFP

to China several times in the past year, and was among executives who met Chinese President Xi Jinping last October. —Reuters

FB crisis prompts Silicon Valley soul-searching

SAN FRANCISCO: With Facebook mired in its worst-ever crisis, the rest of Silicon Valley is looking to come to terms with the dark side of its data-driven business model where tech titans have mined fortunes from what people reveal online. There are signs the crisis could spread to other internet firms that have made no secret about using what they glean from digital data for targeted advertising.

That same personal data can be used effectively by those with malicious intent when it comes to influencing people. "It is Facebook this week, but it could be others," tech industry analyst Rob Enderle said of the crisis of confidence laying siege to the social network. "At the very least, this is the common problem across the tech industry."

The tumultuous week ended with Facebook losing 14 percent of its market value, wiping out more than \$50 billion from one of the biggest and most powerful companies. A public apology by Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg failed to quell outrage over the hijacking of personal data from millions of people by Cambridge Analytica.

Belatedly speaking out about the harvesting of Facebook user data by the British firm linked to President Donald Trump's 2016 election campaign, Zuckerberg admitted to betraying the trust of its more than two billion users, and promised to "step up." But some point out that Facebook is just one of many firms which mine data for profit — albeit the most successful, along with Google—as digital lifestyles take root around the world.

"Phones, apps, and the web are so indispensable to our daily lives—a testament to the benefits they give us—that we've become a captive audience," the nonprofit Center for Humane Technology said. "With two billion people plugged into these devices, technology companies have inadvertently enabled a direct channel to manipulate entire societies with unprecedented precision."

Early Facebook investor Roger McNamee argued in a USA Today opinion piece that "Russia never would have been able to conduct information warfare against the United States" in 2016 without the social network as well as Twitter and Google.

Hard to quit?

What happens now? Some users are joining the #deletefacebook movement, but it remains unclear if advertisers will abandon the important platform.

High-profile entrepreneur Elon Musk joined the critical chorus on Friday, saying in an exchange on Twitter that he was shutting down the Facebook accounts of his Tesla and SpaceX enterprises.

"What's Facebook?" Musk quipped rhetorically in an exchange on Twitter. While it may seem tempting to join a movement to abandon Facebook, it does raise the question of where one will go to stay connected with friends, celebrities, or businesses that have become part of the fabric of the online community. Facebook is also intertwined in the fabric of the web, with its "like" buttons and communities which rely on its connections.

New York University marketing professor Scott Galloway said advertisers could have an impact if they left Facebook but said it was unlikely to lose many of its five million ad customers.

"Advertisers have just two platforms to market their products online," Galloway said in a blog post. "Advertisers need Facebook much more than Facebook needs any one, or thousand, advertisers." —AFP

Health

Kuwaiti child with respiratory condition gets 2nd chance in London

Inspired by son's care, mother to become nurse in Kuwait

KUWAIT: A two-year-old Kuwaiti child has been given a new lease of life after receiving life-changing treatment for an undiagnosed respiratory condition at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) in London. The young child, who spent most of his early life in hospital with an undiagnosed condition that made him very sick and dependent on constant oxygen, was initially diagnosed with an unknown, incurable and complex condition, with doctors hoping he would 'grow out of it'.

After feeling like all hope was lost and seeing his son's condition deteriorate, his father began to search for other hospitals around the world that could treat the child's condition. An encounter with a doctor in Kuwait who told him about GOSH and their world-leading experts in respiratory conditions, prompted him to look into the hospital in London, which treats 1,500 children from the Middle East every year.

After doing some more research and talking to friends whose children have been treated abroad, he decided to travel to GOSH for his son's treatment and see Dr Paul Aurora, Consultant in Pediatric Respiratory Medicine and Lung Transplantation. On arrival at GOSH, Dr Aurora noticed there were problems in addition to the child's lung problems including loss of sight and inability to move and crawl.

"His main problem is a condition that causes difficulty in swallowing due to his prematurity. This is an unusual form of the condition that causes silent aspiration, so can only be diagnosed by specialized testing," Dr Aurora explains. As part of Dr Aurora's assessment of the child's respiratory difficulties, he recognized that these could potentially be due to food and fluid entering the lungs. Therefore, as part of GOSH's multidisciplinary approach, the child was referred to the Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) team for a swallowing assessment.

The SLT assessments, which included a special video X-ray (Video fluoroscopy Swallow Study) indicated that the child had an unsafe swallow. This meant that when he ate or drank, some of the food or drink went the

wrong way towards his lungs. To keep him safe, he was given a feeding tube called a gastrostomy so he could have his food and drink directly into his stomach. The gastrostomy surgery was performed by Dr Joe Curry, Consultant Neonatal and Pediatric Surgeon at GOSH.

"I performed the gastrostomy tube insertion. This was done because his swallowing mechanism was unsafe so when he ate and drank it would leak into his trachea and lungs rather than going into his stomach," explains Dr Curry. "This was producing serious chest infections and irritation in his trachea. It's likely he will need the tube for some years to come, and will need assessment and monitoring by Dr Aurora as well as the speech and language therapy team."

Within one month at GOSH, he was able to move and crawl and was even able to stand up. His father and mother were overjoyed to see him being able to play with him. He was also taken off some of the medicine that he was on back in Kuwait, his home country. "Coming to Great Ormond Street Hospital has been such a blessing," his father says. "The process of coming here was very easy and everyone made us feel so welcome and at ease. Having an ill child makes you paranoid and scared but Dr Aurora and the nursing team made us feel at home."

His father and mother are thankful to the staff at GOSH for treating their son: "Dr Aurora is the best doctor - he is calm and helped us gain trust in doctors again. He explained the situation so well to us and came everyday to see us to make sure we understood what the diagnosis

was," his mother added. Inspired by her son's care in London, the mother has trained to become a nurse in Kuwait to help improve the lives of children and families in a similar circumstance. "I actually went back home and trained to become a nurse because of the experience I have had here. It has been amazing!"

"His chest has dramatically improved, and because of this he is now gaining weight and catching up quickly on his development. He will continue to need regular monitoring until his condition improves," concludes Dr Aurora. His parents are very hopeful for his future and have already seen many improvements. The family, who are currently in Kuwait, are waiting for the child's final review with Dr Curry. He will be attending his local hospital for regular checkups and appointments with his respiratory doctor to see how everything is going but the parents are

very hopeful that he will make a full recovery very soon.

Dr Paul Aurora shares top tips for a wet cough discussed at the 4th Latifa Hospital Pediatric & Neonatology Conference in Dubai:

Wet cough in children is common. If your child is experiencing wet cough, ensure that they:

• Drink plenty of fluids, which can help thin the mucus

• Get plenty of rest

However, if the symptom is chronic or recurrent then it must not be ignored as it could be the sign of a serious underlying diagnosis. If left untreated, it may lead to permanent lung damage. If you are concerned about your child's cough, visit your nearest healthcare professional immediately. There is a long list of potential diagnoses, so the doctor must assess the history and examination findings carefully before deciding on investigations.



Dr. Paul Aurora



“Coming to GOSH has been such a blessing”

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

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What's On

IAA honors managers of advertising departments



The International Advertising Association (IAA) recently honored the managers of advertising departments of daily newspapers, weeklies and monthly magazines in appreciation of their efforts and continued cooperation and support for the activities of the International Advertising Association and outstanding success gained by the IAA during 2017.

The participants in the ceremony were welcomed by the president & board members of IAA. The dinner banquet was held at the Symphony Style Hotel. Then president of the IAA, Kuwait Branch, Walid Kanafani spoke on behalf of the association. In his speech he paid tribute for the continuous support and cooperation believing in the goals of the association as well as its role to enhance relations among the dailies, magazines and the advertisement agencies. At the end of the ceremony all participants were given mementoes and wished success for such future occasions.



Gulf Bank Diamond Sponsor of Gulf University's Career Fair

Gulf Bank will participate in Gulf University for Science and Technology's (GUST) Career Fair as a Diamond Sponsor. The Career Fair, aimed at connecting students and alumni with potential career opportunities, will take place today and tomorrow at the university's campus in Mishref. Gulf Bank's participation and support of the Career Fair comes in line with its commitment to attract young Kuwaiti talent by being the employer of choice, reinforcing its role in supporting Kuwait's youth and the development of Kuwait's economy.

During the fair, Gulf Bank will be represented by a team from its Human Resources department at its dedicated booth. A seminar to help guide students on how to present their CV will include tips on what is important to overcome the personal interview. Students interested in working in the banking sector will receive in-depth knowledge about the Bank's renowned program AJYAL, a graduate development program dedicated to developing potential bankers for the Bank and for Kuwait. They are invited to have informal open discussions with the Human Resources team regarding banking career opportunities.



Gulf Bank will liaise with graduates, students, and alumni to offer the opportunity to apply for internships, full-time, and volunteer positions on the spot. The Bank will share its services, market insights, advice, and will collect CVs and help students apply online for possible job opportunities by conducting on-site interviews with candidates.

Salma Al-Hajjaj, the General Manager of Human Resources at Gulf Bank, said, "We're proud to be a Diamond Sponsor of the GUST Career Fair, where we have the chance to meet some of the best and brightest students in the country. We at Gulf Bank are committed to supporting Kuwaiti youth as well as the development of our economy."

Hajjaj continued, "Students can rest assured that we at the Bank are committed to supporting them as they start their working careers and that the Bank is the employ-

er of choice, placing its human capital at the forefront of its business investment. We are very much looking forward to welcoming ambitious new employees to our workforce very soon."

Gulf Bank remains strongly committed to supporting youth events and initiatives to help empower the next generation of Kuwaitis and contribute to the enhancement of the country's economy, reaching out through ongoing programs, which provide encouragement and support during their education, by providing practical, superior services, and attractive promotions designed specifically for the younger generation. Most recently, the Bank was also a Diamond Sponsor of the College of Business Administration's Career Fair, which took place on 15 and 16 March at the Kuwait University campus in Shuwaikh.

NBK celebrates Moms with live radio event

National Bank of Kuwait builds lasting and loyal relationship with customers by providing new and innovative activities, events and promotions. On the special occasion of Mother's Day, NBK organized a radio activity that included a live, on-air competition and many valuable prizes.

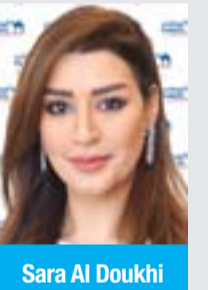
The NBK Mother's Day event was held on Radio FM 88.8 Kuwait Pulse in Diwaniyat Al-Yaqout and Al-Ansari with hosts Talal Al-Yagout and Khaled Al-Ansari on March 19, 2018. Listeners had the opportunity to win valuable prizes from popular brands including Abriez, Beidoun, Brigitte Khoury Beauty Lounge, Gizele, M Flowers, Six Senses Spa and ITL World.

Questions for the competition focused on the popular NBK Laki Titanium Mastercard Credit Card, which is especially designed for women. Listeners enjoyed the event which also included a live interview with Sara Al Doukhi, Consumer Banking Group, National Bank of Kuwait, who spoke about the Laki

Titanium Credit Card and the benefits it offers to female consumers.

"NBK recognizes the role mothers play in all facets of Kuwait's society. Laki Titanium is the perfect card for moms because it was custom designed with special promotions and offers that specifically target women's needs," said Al Doukhi. Some of the benefits offered by Laki Titanium exclusively for women include: complimentary airport lounge access, free valet parking, concierge service, flexible repayment options, free travel insurance, cash advance, and access to many reward offers and promotions.

NBK Laki Titanium Mastercard holders enjoy a glamorous, high-end lifestyle with dining, travel and shopping, all made easier with customized offers from NBK Rewards and Mastercard. Laki Titanium card holders receive 20% off Careem rides; offers at hundreds of restaurants, attractions, cafes and more not just in Kuwait but in the Middle East and Africa. The NBK Laki Titanium Mastercard credit card is the first card of its kind in Kuwait, designed exclusively for today's modern woman.



Sara Al Doukhi

CBK visits Al-Raja Special Education School



Within the activities of its 7th 'Ya Zien Torathna' campaign, the Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently organized a visit to Al-Raja Special Education School for Boys. Commenting on the visit, CBK's assistant manager for PR and publicity, Amani Al-Wer'a said that the visit emphasizes the bank's keenness on showing abundant care to people with special needs as an integral part of the society. Al-Wer'a added that the visit included an educational documentary about ancestors' traditions, old habits and some of the old Kuwaiti terminology they used. She also said that special competitions were held in addition to a workshop for craftsman Jamal Al-Ali.



McDonald's: The best in quick service food sector

For the seventh time in its history, McDonald's Kuwait has nabbed first place in the quick service food category from Service Hero, the only customer satisfaction index in the region which held its latest edition of the awards at the annual ceremony last month to honor the top service providers across Kuwait.

Commenting on this latest achievement, Luai Al-Kilani, Vice President of McDonald's Kuwait said, "This award is

a special honor that we are extremely proud of, as it is based on the public's vote and demonstrates just how much trust our customers have in us and the quality of our service. We have always sought to offer our customers the one-of-a-kind McDonald's experience, which guarantees them the highest quality food and the best customer service at all touch points."

This year, the customer satisfaction index included companies from across 15 different industries and sectors. Companies in each category were evaluated and assessed using eight different service dimensions, namely: reliability, speed, product quality, value, location, staff quality, call center and website. It serves to note that this marks the seventh time that McDonald's has ranked at the top of the fast food category, since the launch of the index back in 2010 - demonstrating yet again the brand's leadership within the local market.



TV



01:15 Street
03:00 The Net
05:05 Kung Fu Yoga
07:00 Eagle Eye
09:00 Seven Years In Tibet
11:15 The Net
13:15 The Phantom
15:00 Eagle Eye
17:00 Operation Evil: Vendetta
18:40 Operation Chromite
20:35 Bloodsport
22:15 Under Siege



00:50 Untamed & Uncut
01:45 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert
02:30 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert
03:15 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert
05:00 My Tiny Terror
05:49 My Tiny Terror
06:36 Escape To Chimp Eden
07:00 Escape To Chimp Eden
07:25 North Woods Law
08:15 The Jeff Corwin Experience
09:10 The Jeff Corwin Experience
10:05 The Jeff Corwin Experience
11:00 O'Shea's Big Adventure
11:55 O'Shea's Big Adventure
12:50 Cat vs Dog
13:45 The Bronx Zoo
14:40 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
15:35 Predator's Prey
16:03 Predator's Prey
16:30 Predator's Prey
16:58 Predator's Prey
17:25 Predator's Prey
17:53 Predator's Prey
18:20 There's A Rhino In My House!
19:15 Lair Of The Killer Crocs
20:10 Wild Africa: Rivers Of Life
21:05 Running With Wolves
22:00 Devoured: Man-Eating Super Snake Returns
22:55 Untamed & Uncut
23:50 Untamed & Uncut



00:35 Hold The Sunset
01:05 Trust Me
02:00 Death In Paradise
02:55 Doctor Who
03:40 Doctors
04:10 Doctors
04:40 EastEnders
05:15 Doctor Who
06:00 Doctors
06:30 EastEnders
07:00 Doctor Who
07:45 Doctor Who
08:30 Call The Midwife
09:25 Doctors
09:55 EastEnders
10:25 Death In Paradise
11:20 Doctor Who
12:10 Father Brown
13:00 Doctors
13:30 Doctors
14:00 EastEnders
14:30 Death In Paradise
15:25 Doctor Who
16:15 Father Brown
17:05 Call The Midwife
18:00 Doctors
18:30 EastEnders
19:00 Death In Paradise
20:00 Trust Me
21:00 Line Of Duty
21:50 Death In Paradise
22:45 Doctors
23:15 EastEnders
23:45 Spies Of Warsaw



00:00 Homicide Hunter
01:00 Homicide Hunter
02:00 Psychic Kids
03:00 My Haunted House
04:00 Homicide Hunter
05:00 Psychic Kids
06:00 Cold Case Files
07:00 Cold Case Files
08:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
09:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
10:00 It Takes A Killer
10:30 It Takes A Killer
11:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
12:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
13:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
14:00 Homicide Hunter
15:00 Homicide Hunter
16:00 Escaping Polygamy
17:00 Escaping Polygamy
18:00 Cold Case Files
19:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
20:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
21:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
22:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
23:00 Britain's Forgotten Serial Killer: Trevor Hardy



00:05 Nightcap
00:30 Steve Rannazzisi: Manchild
01:20 Another Period
01:45 Nathan For You
02:10 Tosh.0
02:35 Tosh.0
03:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
03:25 Tosh.0
03:50 South Park
04:15 Idiotsitter
04:40 Key And Peele
05:05 Detroiters
05:30 Disaster Date
05:55 Ridiculousness Arabia
06:20 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salvagel
06:50 Lip Sync Battle
07:15 Lip Sync Battle
07:40 I Live With Models
08:05 Key And Peele
08:30 Disaster Date
08:55 Workaholics
09:20 Idiotsitter
09:45 I Live With Models
10:10 Detroiters
10:35 Friends
11:00 Key And Peele
11:25 Disaster Date
11:50 Ridiculousness Arabia
12:15 Friendszone
12:40 Key And Peele
13:05 Friends
13:30 Friends
13:55 Disaster Date
14:20 Workaholics

14:45 Detroiters
15:10 Friends
15:35 Key And Peele
16:00 Idiotsitter
16:30 Friendszone
16:55 Friends
17:20 Friends
17:45 Disaster Date
18:10 Lip Sync Battle
18:35 Lip Sync Battle
19:00 Friends
19:25 Friendszone
19:50 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
20:12 Friends
20:35 Friends
21:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
21:30 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salvagel
22:00 Chris Ramsey Stand Up Central
22:25 Why? With Hannibal Buress
22:50 Nathan For You
23:15 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
23:40 The Daily Show - Global Edition



00:30 Ultimate Survival
01:20 Nextworld
02:10 Nextworld
03:00 Nextworld
03:50 Destroyed In Seconds
04:15 Destroyed In Seconds
04:40 Destroyed In Seconds
05:05 Destroyed In Seconds
05:30 Kids Do The Craziest Things
05:55 Kids Do The Craziest Things
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Serious Amazon
07:25 Serious Amazon
07:50 Serious Amazon
08:15 Serious Amazon
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 How It's Made
09:55 How It's Made
10:20 How It's Made
10:45 How It's Made
11:10 How It's Made
11:35 How It's Made
12:00 How It's Made
12:25 How It's Made
12:50 Tanked
13:40 Tanked
14:30 Tanked
15:20 Tanked
16:10 Tanked
17:00 Guinness World Records Smashed UK
17:50 How It's Made
18:15 How It's Made
18:40 The Next Great Magician
19:30 Keeping Up With The Kruger
20:20 Into The Pride
21:10 Biggest And Baddest
22:00 Mission Asteroid
22:50 Ultimate Survival
23:40 Ultimate Survival



00:50 Ghosts Of Shepherdstown
01:45 A Haunting
02:40 Horror At The Cecil Hotel
03:35 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad
04:00 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad
04:25 Blood Relatives
05:20 Evil Lives Here
06:10 Evil Stepmothers
07:00 California Investigator
07:45 Deadline: Crime With Tamron
08:15 Deadline: Crime With Tamron
09:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron
10:05 Deadline: Crime With Tamron
11:00 Deadline: Crime With Tamron
11:55 I Almost Got Away With It
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:45 I Almost Got Away With It
14:40 I Almost Got Away With It
15:35 I Almost Got Away With It
16:30 The Perfect Murder
17:25 The Perfect Murder
18:20 The Perfect Murder
19:15 Obsession: Dark Desires
20:10 Gone In Georgia: A Disappeared Special
21:05 Disappeared
22:00 Murder In The Heartland
22:55 True Conviction
23:50 Horror At The Cecil Hotel



00:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
00:35 Binny And The Ghost
01:00 Hank Zipzer
01:25 Alex & Co.
01:45 Disney Mickey Mouse
01:50 Evermore Chronicles
02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:05 Binny And The Ghost
03:30 Binny And The Ghost
03:55 Hank Zipzer
04:10 Alex & Co.
05:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
06:00 Jessie
06:25 Elena Of Avalor
06:50 Descendants Wicked World
06:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
07:20 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
07:45 Tangled: The Series
08:10 K.C. Undercover
08:35 Raven's Home
09:00 Bunk'd
09:25 Bizaardvark
09:50 Liv And Maddie
10:15 Stuck In The Middle
10:40 Princess Protection Programme
12:10 Hotel Transylvania: The Series
12:20 Liv And Maddie
12:45 Liv And Maddie
13:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
13:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
14:00 Raven's Home
14:25 Tangled: The Series
14:50 Elena Of Avalor
15:15 Sofia The First
15:40 Tangled: Short Cuts
15:45 Sofia The First: The Mystic Isles
16:50 Hotel Transylvania: The Series

17:00 K.C. Undercover
17:25 Bizaardvark
17:50 Bizaardvark
18:15 Elena Of Avalor
18:40 Elena Of Avalor
19:05 Bunk'd
19:30 Bunk'd
19:55 Stuck In The Middle
20:20 Stuck In The Middle
20:45 K.C. Undercover
21:10 K.C. Undercover
21:35 Liv And Maddie
22:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
22:25 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
22:50 Lolorock
23:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



00:00 PJ Masks
00:30 Vampirina
01:00 Vampirina
01:30 Art Attack
01:55 Henry Hugglemonster
02:10 Henry Hugglemonster
02:25 Loopydoo
02:40 Henry Hugglemonster
02:55 Loopydoo
03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:25 Loopydoo
03:40 Henry Hugglemonster
03:55 Loopydoo
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
04:45 Henry Hugglemonster
05:00 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Loopydoo
06:00 Henry Hugglemonster
06:15 Calimero
06:30 PJ Masks
07:00 Trulli Tales
07:30 Puppy Dog Pals
08:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
08:30 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
09:30 Sofia The First
10:00 Vampirina
10:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
11:00 The Lion Guard
11:30 P-King Duckling
12:00 P-King Duckling
12:30 P-King Duckling
13:00 Mission Force One
13:30 Mission Force One
14:00 Mission Force One
14:30 Mission Force One
15:00 Goldie & Bear
15:30 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
16:00 Vampirina
16:30 Puppy Dog Pals
17:00 The Lion Guard
17:30 Sofia The First
18:00 Sofia The First
18:30 Vampirina
19:00 PJ Masks
19:30 P-King Duckling
20:00 The Lion Guard
20:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
21:00 Trulli Tales
21:30 Doc McStuffins
22:00 Mission Force One
22:30 PJ Masks
23:00 PJ Masks
23:30 Vampirina



00:15 Railroad Australia
01:05 Outback Truckers
01:50 Alaskan Bush People
02:40 Dirty Jobs
03:20 Extreme Engineering
04:05 Flying Wild Alaska
04:50 Dirty Jobs
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Classic Car Club
06:23 Dallas Car Sharks
06:45 How Do They Do It?
07:10 How Do They Do It?
07:35 Flying Wild Alaska
08:20 Classic Car Club
08:45 Dallas Car Sharks
09:10 Dirty Jobs
09:55 Heavy Rescue
10:45 Bear Grylls: Breaking Point
11:30 Dirty Jobs
12:20 Classic Car Club
12:43 Dallas Car Sharks
13:05 How Do They Do It?
13:30 How Do They Do It?
13:55 Dirty Jobs
14:40 Alaskan Bush People
15:30 How Do They Do It?
15:53 How Do They Do It?
16:15 Bear Grylls: Breaking Point
17:05 Alaskan Bush People
17:50 Flying Wild Alaska
18:40 Dirty Jobs
19:25 Alaskan Bush People
20:15 Extreme Engineering
21:00 Street Justice: The Bronx
21:50 Goblin Works Garage
22:40 Cuban Chrome
23:30 Flying Wild Alaska



06:00 Milo Murphy's Law
06:10 Phineas & Ferb
06:25 Milo Murphy's Law
06:35 Phineas & Ferb
06:50 Marvel's Avengers: Secret Wars
07:15 Star Wars Rebels
07:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
07:45 Phineas & Ferb: The O.W.C.A. Files
08:35 Mech-X4
09:00 Mech-X4
09:25 Marvel's Spider-Man
09:50 Marvel's Spider-Man
10:20 Lab Rats
10:45 Lab Rats
11:10 Gravity Falls
11:35 Gravity Falls
12:00 Walk The Prank
12:30 Walk The Prank
12:55 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
13:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
13:45 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:40 Right Now Kapow
15:05 Right Now Kapow
15:30 Lab Rats
15:55 Lab Rats
16:25 Kickin' It
16:50 Kickin' It
17:15 Supa Strikas
17:40 Supa Strikas
18:05 Gravity Falls

18:30 Marvel's Ant-Man
18:35 Gravity Falls
19:00 Right Now Kapow
19:25 Milo Murphy's Law
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
19:55 Mech-X4
20:20 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
20:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
21:10 Kid vs. Kat
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats
22:10 Lab Rats
22:35 Phineas And Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



00:00 Botched
00:55 Botched
01:50 El News
02:50 WAGS
03:40 WAGS
04:35 WAGS
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 WAGS Atlanta
06:55 WAGS Atlanta
07:50 WAGS Atlanta
08:45 WAGS Atlanta
09:40 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
10:35 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
11:30 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
12:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
13:20 WAGS LA
14:15 WAGS LA
15:15 WAGS LA
16:15 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
17:10 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
18:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
19:00 El News
20:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
21:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
22:00 Botched
23:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
23:55 WAGS LA



00:05 Coronation Street
00:30 Coronation Street
01:00 Don't Tell The Bride
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Coronation Street
03:00 Coronation Street
03:25 Coronation Street
03:50 Cannonball
04:45 The Voice UK 2018
06:40 Dancing On Ice
08:20 Murdoch Mysteries
09:15 Murdoch Mysteries
10:10 Victoria
11:05 Cannonball
12:00 The Voice UK 2018
14:00 The Voice UK 2018
15:50 Murdoch Mysteries
16:45 Murdoch Mysteries
17:30 Dancing On Ice
19:00 The Voice UK 2018
20:55 Victoria
21:50 It's Not Rocket Science
22:45 The Chase
23:40 Coronation Street



00:00 Engineering Disasters
01:00 The Universe
02:00 The Universe
03:00 The Colour Of War
03:50 The Greeks
04:40 Engineering Disasters
05:30 Engineering Disasters
06:20 Hoard Hunters
07:00 The Universe
08:00 The Universe
09:00 Engineering Disasters
10:00 Engineering Disasters
11:00 Caligula: 1400 Days Of Terror
13:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
14:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
15:00 Ancient Aliens
16:00 Ancient Aliens
17:00 Ancient Aliens
18:00 Ancient Aliens
19:00 Missing In Alaska
20:00 In Search Of Aliens
21:00 In Search Of Aliens
22:00 United Stuff Of America
23:00 United Stuff Of America



00:20 The Zodiac Killer: Case Closed?
01:05 Ultimate Wheels
02:00 America's Greatest Threat: Vladimir Putin
03:40 Forged In Fire
04:30 American Pickers
05:15 The Zodiac Killer: Case Closed?
06:00 Mountain Men
06:50 Forged In Fire
07:39 The Curse Of Oak Island
08:30 Hoard Hunters
09:20 Mountain Men
10:10 Ax Men
11:00 Forged In Fire
11:50 The Curse Of Oak Island
12:40 Hoard Hunters
13:30 Mountain Men
14:20 American Pickers
15:10 Mountain Men
16:00 American Pickers
16:50 The Curse Of Oak Island
17:39 Hoard Hunters
18:30 Mountain Men
19:20 Forged In Fire
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 Pawn Stars
21:25 Storage Wars
21:50 American Pickers
22:40 Forged In Fire
23:30 Mountain Men



00:15 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
00:45 John Torode's Asia
01:10 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
01:40 Mega Food
02:35 What's For Sale?
03:00 What's For Sale?

03:30 Tom's Istanbul Delight
03:55 Food School
04:25 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
05:20 Restoration Man
06:15 Access 360 World Heritage
07:10 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
08:05 Restoration Man
09:00 Miguel's Feasts
09:25 David Rocco's Dolce India
09:55 Cool Spaces
10:50 Confucius Was A Foodie
11:45 John Torode's Asia
12:10 John Torode's Asia
12:40 Mega Food
13:35 What's For Sale?
14:00 What's For Sale?
14:30 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
14:55 Maximum Foodie
15:25 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
16:20 Restoration Man
17:15 Access 360 World Heritage
18:10 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
18:35 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
19:05 What's For Sale?
19:30 What's For Sale?
20:00 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
20:30 Maximum Foodie
21:00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
22:00 Restoration Man
22:55 Access 360 World Heritage
23:50 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia



00:10 Rebuilding Titanic
01:00 Yukon Gold
02:00 Wicked Tuna
03:00 Fish Tank Kings
04:00 Inside
05:00 China's Grand Canal: A Photographer's Journey
06:00 One Strange Rock
07:00 Hitler's Last Year
08:00 Chain Of Command
09:00 Locked Up Abroad
10:00 Four Mums In A Boat
11:00 Living Wild
12:00 Miracle Hospital
13:00 Dog Whisperer
14:00 Dog Whisperer
15:00 Yukon Gold
16:00 Wicked Tuna
17:00 Locked Up Abroad
18:00 India's Mega Kitchens
19:00 Yukon Gold
20:00 Wicked Tuna
20:50 Locked Up Abroad
21:40 India's Mega Kitchens
22:30 Yukon Gold
23:20 The Happenings



00:20 Gorilla Murders
01:10 America The Beautiful
02:00 Building Penguin Paradise
02:50 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
03:45 Predator Fails
04:40 Wild Untamed Brazil
05:35 Jaguars vs. Crocs
06:30 Monster Fish
07:25 Monster Fish
08:20 Wild 24
09:15 Snakes In The City
10:10 Natural Born Monsters
11:05 Philly Undercover
12:00 World's Weirdest Pets
12:55 Baby Animals In The Wild
13:50 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
14:45 Predator Fails
15:40 Wild Untamed Brazil
16:35 World's Deadliest Killer Three
17:30 Monster Fish
18:25 Untamed Philippines
19:20 Predator Fails
20:10 Wild Untamed Brazil
21:00 World's Deadliest Killer Three
21:50 Monster Fish
22:40 Untamed Philippines
23:30 World's Weirdest Pets



00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
02:36 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 The Loud House
04:12 The Loud House
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 Get Blake
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:24 Rabbids Invasion
07:48 Get Blake
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Sanjay And Craig
09:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
09:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
09:48 Henry Danger
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Regal Academy
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Rabbids Invasion
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 Massive Monster Mayhem
13:48 I Am Frankie
14:12 The Thundermans
14:36 Sanjay And Craig
15:00 Rabbids Invasion
15:24 Harvey Beaks
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Massive Monster Mayhem
17:24 I Am Frankie
17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky And Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 Harvey Beaks
20:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:24 Sanjay And Craig
21:48 Rabbids Invasion
22:12 Breadwinners
22:36 Harvey Beaks
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants



00:17 Paw Patrol
00:38 Kid-E-Cats
00:44 Sunny Day
01:07 Max & Ruby
01:30 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
01:41 Kiva Can Do!
01:52 The Day Henry Met
01:56 The Day Henry Met
02:02 Blaze And The Monster Machines
02:25 Blaze And The Monster Machines
02:47 Team Umizoomi
03:10 Team Umizoomi
03:33 Paw Patrol
03:57 Paw Patrol
04:20 Nella The Princess Knight
04:32 Nella The Princess Knight
04:56 Rusty Rivets
05:18 Rusty Rivets
05:41 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:03 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:24 Paw Patrol
06:37 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Nella The Princess Knight
07:21 Kiva Can Do!
07:32 Kiva Can Do!
07:42 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:04 Bubble Guppies
08:50 Nella The Princess Knight
09:11 The Day Henry Met
09:16 The Day Henry Met
09:21 Paw Patrol
09:44 Rusty Rivets
10:07 Wallykazam!
10:31 Paw Patrol
10:53 Paw Patrol
11:16 Paw Patrol
11:37 Kid-E-Cats
11:43 Sunny Day
12:06 Max & Ruby
12:29 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:39 Kiva Can Do!
12:50 The Day Henry Met
12:55 The Day Henry Met
13:01 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:24 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:46 Team Umizoomi
14:10 Team Umizoomi
14:33 Paw Patrol
14:56 Paw Patrol
15:20 Shimmer And Shine
15:43 Shimmer And Shine
16:06 Nella The Princess Knight
16:30 Nella The Princess Knight
16:53 Rusty Rivets
17:16 Rusty Rivets
17:39 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:23 Paw Patrol
18:37 Dora The Explorer
19:00 Nella The Princess Knight
19:21 Kiva Can Do!
19:32 Kiva Can Do!
19:43 Blaze And The Monster Machines
20:05 Paw Patrol
20:29 Shimmer And Shine
20:53 Nella The Princess Knight
21:14 The Day Henry Met
21:20 Paw Patrol
21:43 Rusty Rivets
22:07 Wallykazam!
22:30 Bubble Guppies
22:53 Team Umizoomi
23:16 Kid-E-Cats
23:21 Shimmer And Shine
23:44 Sunny Day



00:25 Little Miss Sunshine
02:15 Dan In Real Life
03:55 Tekken: Kazuya's Revenge
05:30 Man In The Moon
07:15 Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: Dog Days
09:00 Dan In Real Life
10:45 Loch Ness
12:30 As Good As It Gets
14:50 Leatherheads
16:45 Mr. Deeds
18:25 Splash
20:20 Zoolander 2
22:05 Sleepers



00:40 How We Invented The World
01:30 How We Invented The World
02:10 How We Invented The World
03:20 Junkyard Wars
04:00 Food Factory
04:30 How Do They Do It?
05:00 How Do They Do It?
05:24 How Do They Do It?
05:48 How Do They Do It?
06:12 Food Factory
06:36 Food Factory
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 How We Invented The World
08:14 How We Invented The World
09:02 How We Invented The World
09:50 How We Invented The World
10:38 Junkyard Wars
11:26 Mythbusters
12:14 Mythbusters
13:02 Mythbusters
13:50 Mythbusters
14:38 Mythbusters
15:26 Food Factory
15:50 Food Factory
16:14 Food Factory
16:38 Food Factory
17:02 Food Factory
17:26 How Do They Do It?
17:50 How Do They Do It?
18:15 How Do They Do It?
18:40 How Do They Do It?
19:05 How Do They Do It?
19:30 Space Voyages
20:20 Space Voyages
21:10 Space Voyages
22:00 Race To Escape
22:50 Redesign My Brain
23:40 Redesign My Brain



00:40 Begum Jaan
02:30 Nishabd
03:00 Nishabd
04:30 The Front ROW
05:00 Koffee With Karan
06:00 Little Krishna : The Legendary Warrior
07:30 Kurukshetra
10:00 Who Kaun Thi?
12:20 Phillauri
14:50 Coolie No.1
17:25 Ready
20:00 Action Jackson
22:30 Saat Uchakay



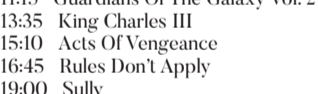
00:00 Devious Maids
01:00 Devious Maids
02:00 Grey's Anatomy
03:00 Project Runway All Stars
04:00 Three
05:00 House Of DVF
06:00 Three
07:00 House Of DVF
08:00 House Of DVF
09:00 Project Runway All Stars
10:00 Three
11:00 House Of DVF
12:00 Cedar Cove
13:00 Cedar Cove
14:00 Grey's Anatomy
15:00 Project Runway All Stars
16:00 Three
17:00 House Of DVF
18:00 Say Yes To The Dress: Atlanta
18:30 Say Yes To The Dress: Atlanta
19:00 Say Yes To The Dress: Atlanta
20:00 Grey's Anatomy
21:00 Married At First Sight
22:00 Three
23:00 House Of DVF



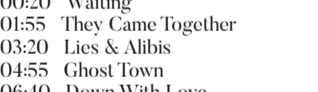
00:20 Ambulance
01:05 My 3000-Lb Family
01:50 Katie Price's Pony Club
02:35 Katie Dad Seeking...
03:20 Little People, Big World
04:05 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
04:50 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
05:35 Say Yes To The Dress
06:00 Say Yes To The Dress UK
06:22 Say Yes To The Dress UK
06:45 Hair Goddess
07:30 Little People, Big World
08:15 Outdaughtered: Busby Quints
09:00 Cake Boss
09:25 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
10:10 Say Yes To The Dress UK
10:32 Say Yes To The Dress UK
10:55 Promzillas
11:40 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
12:25 Oprah's Master Class
13:10 Hair Goddess
13:55 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
14:40 Outdaughtered: Busby Quints
15:25 Promzillas
16:10 Cake Boss
16:35 Cake Boss
17:00 Hair Goddess
17:50 Say Yes To The Dress UK
18:20 Say Yes To The Dress UK



00:35 The Edge Of Seventeen
02:25 Now You See Me 2
04:40 Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol. 2
07:10 Aloha
09:00 Now You See Me 2
11:15 Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol. 2
13:35 King Charles III
15:10 Acts Of Vengeance
16:45 Rules Don't Apply
19:00 Sully
20:45 Ouija: Origin Of Evil
22:30 The Birth Of A Nation



00:20 Waiting
01:55 They Came Together
03:20 Lies & Alibis
04:55 Ghost Town
06:40 Down With Love
08:25 Hearts Of Spring
09:55 A Stand Up Guy
11:25 Ghost Town
13:10 Down With Love
14:55 Once I Was A Beehive
16:55 Double Take
18:25 Article 99
20:15 Without A Paddle
22:00 Uncle Kent 2
23:25 Bio-Dome



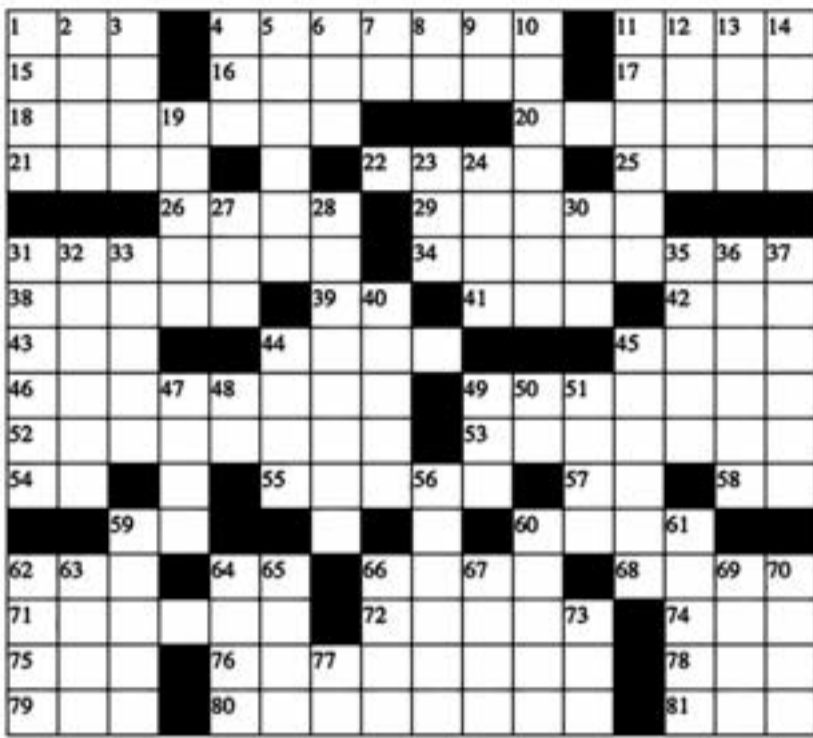
01:40 James White
03:10 Meru
04:55 We Are Many
06:45 Tumbledown
08:30 The Great Gatsby
10:55 We Are Many
12:45 The Shamer's Daughter
14:30 The Field
16:25 Tumbledown
18:10 The Dressmaker
20:10 Suffragette
22:00 Carol



01:10 Operation Arctic
02:50 Micropolis
04:20 Rainbow Valley Heroes
06:00 Dinofroz Return To The Past World
07:40 Zodiac: The Race Begins
09:20 Last Wizard
10:45 The Secret Of Kells
12:15 Ivan The Incredible
13:45 Micropolis
15:15 Rainbow Valley Heroes
16:55 A Town Called Panic
18:20 The Secret Of Kells
19:55 Song Of The Sea

Stars

CROSSWORD 1866



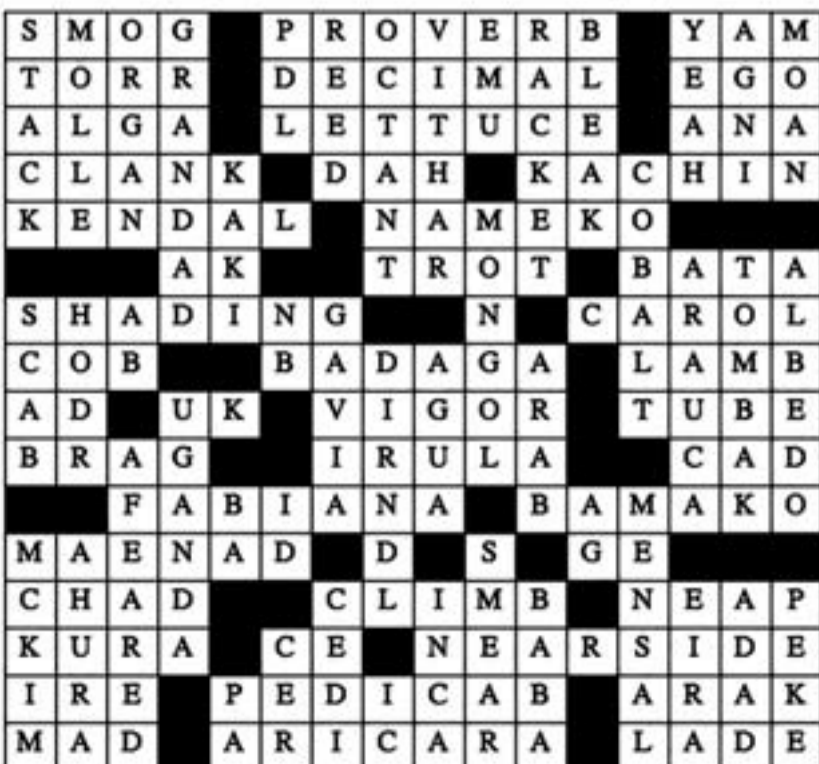
ACROSS

1. A chronic skin disease occurring primarily in women between the ages of 20 and 40.
4. (prosody) The accent in a metrical foot of verse.
11. Belonging to or derived from or associated with a divine power.
15. Any high mountain.
16. (zoology) Lacking a tail or taillike appendage.
17. The part of the eye that contains the iris and ciliary body and choroid.
18. A language of Australian aborigines.
20. Entangle or catch in or as if in a mesh.
21. Type genus of the family Arcidae.
22. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
25. (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
26. Type genus of the Gliridae.
29. Having been taken into the mouth for consumption.
31. A small flat triangular bone in front of the knee that protects the knee joint.
34. A puzzle where you fill a square grid with words reading the same down as across.
38. Worn or shabby from overuse or (of pages) from having corners turned down.
39. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
41. Imperial dynasty that ruled China (most of the time) from 206 BC to 221 and expanded its boundaries and developed its bureaucracy.
42. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
43. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
46. Someone who listens attentively.
52. At any future time.
53. (of spatial position) In or brought into line with or into proper relative position.
54. A Mid-Atlantic state.
55. Having help.
57. The 13th letter of the Greek alphabet.
58. Informal terms for a mother.
62. A master's degree in fine arts.
68. A Hindu prince or king in India.
71. A widely distributed rock-forming feldspar.
72. Small tropical American tree bearing edible plumlike fruit.
74. 4-wheeled motor vehicle.
75. East Indian tree bearing a profusion of intense vermilion velvet-textured blooms and yielding a yellow dye.
76. Lack of strength or vigor esp from illness.
78. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
79. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
80. Author of satirical attacks on medieval scholasticism (1494-1553).
81. A white linen liturgical vestment with sleeves.
4. A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.
5. Any of various spiny trees or shrubs of the genus Acacia.
6. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
7. A bivalent and trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
8. A yellow trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
9. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
10. (Greek mythology) The daughter of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra.
11. All of the inhabitants of the earth.
12. Kitchen appliance used for baking or roasting.
13. For fear that.
14. A member of an extinct North American Indian people who lived in the Pit river valley in northern California.
19. East Indian cereal grass whose seed yield a somewhat bitter flour, a staple in the Orient.
23. Seed of a pea plant.
24. (used of count nouns) Every one considered individually.
27. A digital display that uses liquid crystal cells that change reflectivity in an applied electric field.
28. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
30. The longest division of geological time.
32. Being such by origin.
33. Remove from memory or existence.
35. Large heavily built goat antelope of eastern Himalayan area.
36. In the same place (used when citing a reference).
37. A nation in northern North America.
40. Having the head uncovered.
44. Small buffalo of the Celebes having small straight horns.
45. Someone who engages in debate.
47. A tall perennial woody plant having a main trunk and branches forming a distinct elevated crown.
48. The square of a body of any size of type.
49. An informal term for a father.
50. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
51. A characteristic sound.
56. Constituting or having to do with or suggestive of a literary epic.
59. A coffee cake flavored with orange rind and raisins and almonds.
60. (computer science) American Standard Code for Information Interchange.
61. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
63. Any broad thin and limber covering attached at one edge.
64. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
65. Any of the Hindu sacred writing.
66. Ratio of the opposite side to the hypotenuse.
67. Fallow deer.
69. A correctional institution used to detain persons who are in the lawful custody of the government (either accused persons awaiting trial or convicted persons serving a sentence).
70. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
73. An association of countries in the western hemisphere.
77. A soft silvery metallic element.

DOWN

1. An informal term for a father.
- (Welsh) Corresponds to Iris Ler.
- Surpassing the ordinary especially in size or scale.

Friday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Aries, you're open to changes on every level; you could find your thoughts stuck on ways to make the world a better place. New friends turn you on to a new group studying some of the cosmic mysteries you long to know more about. Take care not to collapse yourself into new beliefs or activities until you're sure they fit your life. Pulling yourself up from precious behavior is prominent; remember your choices are your own. Something occurs that causes you to pause and reevaluate your life; this could be an enormous emotional breakthrough! Possessions hold an important place among your priorities; remember to gauge the importance of people, places and things honestly. Enjoy yourself this evening doing what you please to promote healing, Aries.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Taurus, there is an energy of restlessness and dissatisfaction present today. Your emotions seem shallow, even absent; you neglect your needs in this area. You could have a tendency to want things that go against your morals or values. Dealing with something in your past takes priority. You seek evolution on the spiritual front as you reconcile some of your actions with what motivated them; remember to make honest choices and not let anyone goad you into making mistaken assumptions. Friends call on you for help with a project you have helped with before. Your stubborn will and refusal to give up is very valuable as you work on a difficult task. You enjoy being home this evening and relaxing with a book or familiar movie you love, Taurus.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Gemini, you may feel overshadowed by your partner, roommate or friend; you could feel trapped or unable to express yourself in your own unique ways, this slows your progress. With all that's going on you may not be able to find your focus. Be still and let your connection to spirit reconnect. Music creates vibrations that uplift and soothe. An opportunity to look at new investment options brings exciting news. A change in work or career could be near if you choose to go in this direction. An elder offends you with an opinion about something you're doing they don't understand. A shopping trip proves productive and provides much needed escape; remember to keep a close eye on your pocket book when a unique item catches your eye, Gemini.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Cancer, you buck the system, so to speak, when called upon to make an important decision for the future; listen to your logic and intuition on this one. Your desire for intimacy pushes itself to the fore when you find yourself alone with someone you adore. You feel withdrawn from work and the surroundings of it; home is where you want to be. A domestic project holds your attention as you tie up the details. A visitor stops by to lend support and a sympathetic ear regarding a private matter. Bringing order and sense to the planning stages for a garage sale of some type of fundraising activity is done with ease; people love this quality in you! You admire something of elegance and beauty within your home environment you hadn't noticed before now, Cancer.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Leo, you tend to think outside the box when making changes around the house. Color schemes are easily combined to create the energy you want. A wonderful find at a garage sale or auction house turns into a very valuable purchase. Home is where you want to be; cooking, cleaning or any domestic tasks appeal to you; your nesting instincts are in full execution mode and this all comes together perfectly! Food becomes the focus after hard physical activity and the grill seems in order, weather permitting. You may want to keep your comments to yourself as you could be misunderstood. A group environment provides information you need to design a garden or some type of addition to your home or office; relax and let what you require flow straight to you, Leo.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Virgo, you're determined to truly start taking care of your health. Perhaps a health scare or simply feeling poorly spark sincere efforts to recharge your body; a result of this is heightened spiritual awareness; when your connection to the source is uncluttered you can also experience mental and spiritual improvements. A friend pops in with a request for help in a personal, fiery situation; this person is someone you have attempted to help before, but he or she doesn't listen to the advice they ask for. Nothing can break the grasp you have on bettering your own situation in life. Whatever makes you admire or feel better about yourself is important and you have an opportunity later to join in an admirable effort. Stretch and breathe to relieve tension, Virgo.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Libra, your career makes huge progress as your hard work pays off in ace! Opportunities to continue your accomplishments are abundant and you make plans to develop more; make the best of this prosperous phase while it lasts. Practical thinking saves time and trouble during a quick shopping trip. Your focus is on making money and securing the future for you and your family or loved ones. Your finances improve with the paying off of another long-term debt. Common sense creates a path to finding more answers for health care concerns; you may slack off on your exercise program due to low energy. Pick yourself up and get back into your healthy routine. This could be a good time to approach those in authority with your new ideas for work, Libra.



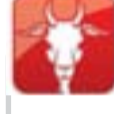
Scorpio (October 23-November 19)

Scorpio, being overconfident causes some memorable pitfalls you don't soon recover from. You wrestle with your willfulness and win. Your best bet is to go with the very best rather than the flashy ones when it comes to confidants you can trust. Listen to your heart and create what you want. You feel the urge to consider the long road rather than the tiny lane; decisions now can determine the quality of your life for some time to come. You haven't gone too far to turn back on a new deal you're having doubts about, but act now before it's too late. If you're involved in buying new real estate double check the appraiser or realtor handling your property; there could be problems! It's sometimes best not to engage in business with family or close friends, Scorpio.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

Sagittarius, a strong sense of family unity is felt now and into the year; this is most important to you now. You could be coming out of a dark tunnel regarding an intimate relationship; this period of time could be make or break your future. Joining a fitness program pays off when you realize how much better you look and feel. Lunch with friends reveals secret activities that could be considered scandalous; sometimes the biggest things happen right under our noses without being noticed by anyone! Later, you're popular at a gathering where your humor and charm are an asset and a pleasure to family and friends. A problem with the house is solved after you discover an easy way to fix it; you're handier than you think, so give yourself credit, Sagittarius.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Capricorn, your taste and judgement are impeccable; yours is the best strategy presented at a family meeting. Domestic chores spur new thoughts about how to do something in an easier manner; remember, necessity is the mother of invention! You could be in line for a promotion or a raise. You know what means the most to you; the confusion has lifted! This is a perfect time to reassess your finances, investments and other monetary issues. You could find yourself infected with an ear bug; one of those songs you hear just once and it won't go away! You could suspect someone of taking advantage of your generous nature; you're a pretty good judge of character. A family gathering brings happy news with a special announcement, Capricorn.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Aquarius, your thoughts are turned into eloquent speech when you express them to others. The attitudes of those around you are easy for you to read; this is a period of intuitive energy. Your mind stays on the unknown workings involving spirit and other mystic interests. You're motivated to express yourself in the most beautiful ways possible: art, writing, sculpting or other artistic methods. Friends request your help in a small domestic project that creates unity and enjoyment. Some shares your interest in the purpose of life. Being cherished and wanted is a priority for you as you follow your desire to grow and hear new ideas and theories. Weather permitting, take the telescope out for stargazing for visit a planetarium tonight, Aquarius.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Pisces, others oppose and criticize your ideas and the methods you suggest; some prefer to work harder, not smarter; be patient, they'll see you're right. Stay with the known ways even if they're slower and less effective; you'll still complete the project. Finances are doing well and continue to grow beneath your steady hand. If you have lost something valuable, you could find it in a most surprising place today or tomorrow. Teamwork is successful in reaching a goal many said couldn't be reached. You bite your tongue when someone challenges you regarding something you were not involved in; this settles down soon. Your focus is fixed upon a new project having to do with real estate or design of some kind; let your imagination be your guide, Pisces.

Wordsearch Puzzle

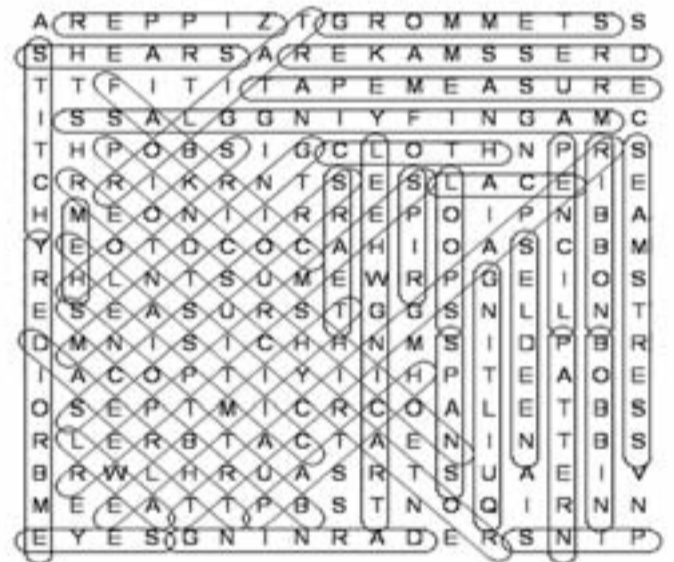
Shakespeare: Hamlet

Find and circle all of the words relating to Hamlet that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - a Hamlet quotation.



- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| AMBASSADORS | FRANCISCO | MARCELLUS | REGICIDE |
| BARNARDO | GERTRUDE | MELANCHOLY | REVENGE |
| CASTLE | GHOST | MESSENGER | REYNALDO |
| CHALICE | GRAVEDIGGERS | MURDER | ROSENKRANTZ |
| CLAUDIUS | GUILDENSTERN | OPHELIA | SKULL |
| CORNELIUS | HAMLET | OSRIC | SWORD |
| DEATH | HAUTBOYS | POISON | THE PLAYERS |
| DENMARK | HORATIO | POLONIUS | TRAGEDY |
| DUEL | KING | PRIEST | VOLTEMAND |
| ELSINORE | LABETES | PRINCE | WINE |
| FORTINBRAS | MADNESS | QUEEN | YORICK |

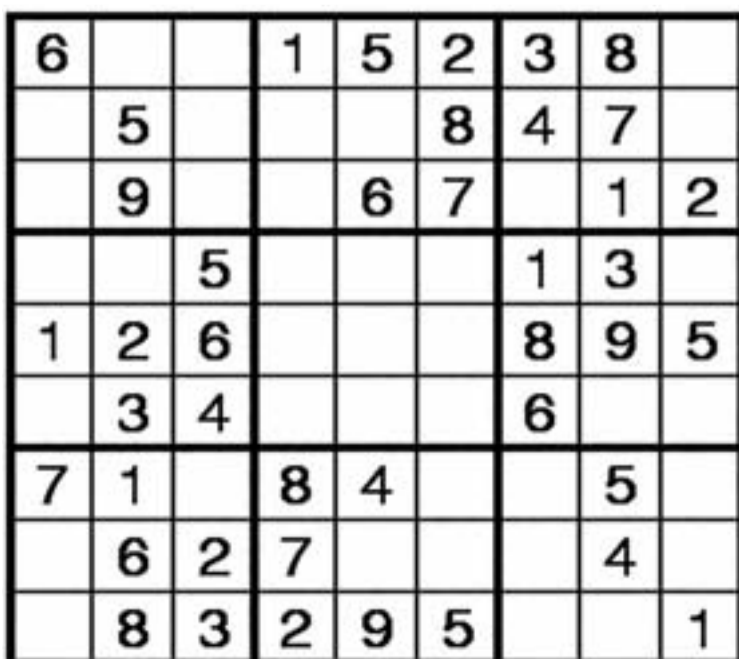
Sewing



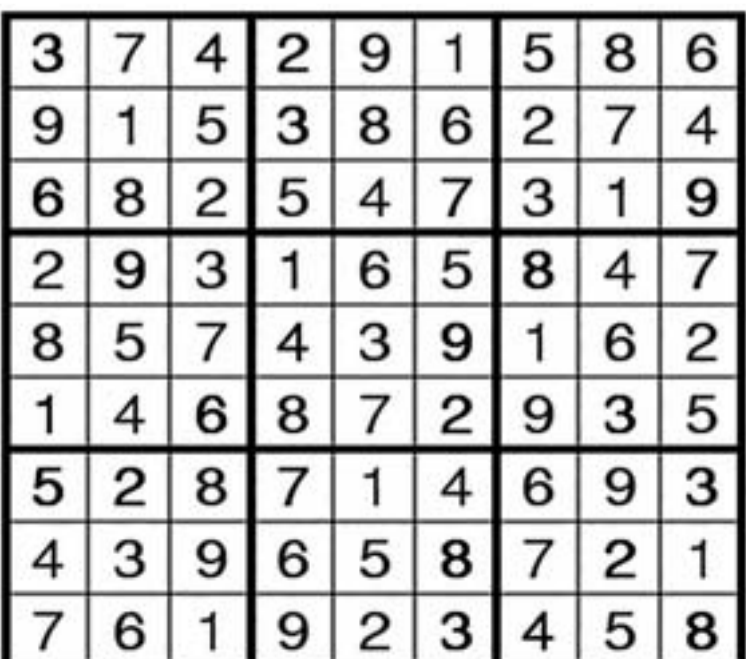
- | | | | |
|------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| AWL | HEM | PINS | SPOOL |
| BOBBIN | HOOKS | QUILTING | STITCH |
| BUTTONS | LACE | RIBBON | TAILOR |
| CLOTH | MAGNIFYING GLASS | ROTARY CUTTER | TAPE MEASURE |
| DARNING | NEEDLES | SCISSORS | TEARS |
| DRESSMAKER | PATCH | SEAM RIPPER | THIMBLE |
| ELASTIC | PATTERN | SEAMSTRESS | THREAD |
| EMBROIDERY | PENCIL | SHEARS | TRACING PAPER |
| EYES | PINCUSHION | SNAPS | TRACING WHEEL |
| FABRIC | | | ZIPPER |
| GROMMETS | | | |

The hidden sentence is: A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE

Daily SuDoku



Friday's Solution



Classifieds

Sunday, March 25, 2018

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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY NIGHT: Fair with light to moderate freshening at times south easterly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h with a chance for carried dust and some scattered clouds will appear.

BY DAY: Partly cloudy with moderate to fresh south easterly wind, with speed of 20 - 45 km/h causing rising dust over open areas.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.	SFC. CHART 24/03/2018 1200 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	34 °C	22 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	35 °C	16 °C		
ABDALY	36 °C	18 °C		
BUBYAN	** °C	** °C		
JAHRA	37 °C	20 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	32 °C	20 °C		
SALMIYAH	28 °C	22 °C		
AHMADI	28 °C	21 °C		
NUWASIB	35 °C	17 °C		
WAFRA	36 °C	14 °C		
SALMY	36 °C	18 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Sunday	03/25	Partly cloudy causing rising dust over open areas	33 °C	16 °C	SE	20 - 45 km/h
Monday	03/26	Relatively hot	35 °C	17 °C	S-SE	10 - 32 km/h
Tuesday	03/27	Relatively hot	36 °C	18 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 28 km/h
Wednesday	03/28	Partly cloudy	37 °C	20 °C	S-SE	12 - 35 km/h

TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:27
Sunrise	05:47
Zuhr	11:54
Asr	15:23
Sunset	18:02
Isha	19:19

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	34 °C
MIN. Temp.	18 °C
MAX. RH	40 %
MIN. RH	07 %
MAX. Wind	NW 57 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

NOTICE
 March 15, 2018

Mr. Mangesh Nitale son of Mr. Pralhad Nitale, Indian national, resident of Plot no 30, Room No. 106, Gate no. 7, N.C.C., Malwani Malad (W), Mumbai - 400 095 and Ms. Melanie Burac Gallego daughter of Mr. Nestor Mondejar Gallego, Philippines national, resident of Estefania, Amulung, Cagayan Valley 3505, Philippines, both presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice. Communications in this regard can be made by Email (attachecons@indembkw.org, welfaresection@indembkw.org) 1 letters 1 telephonic calls (00965 - 22550171, 00965 - 22533125).

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Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22425635
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Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)
DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Sunday 25/3/2018					Departure Flights on Sunday 25/3/2018				
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time		Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:05	AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10		
JZR	125	Bahrain	00:10	KAC	774	Riyadh	13:30		
JZR	267	Beirut	00:10	KAC	792	Madinah	13:40		
KAC	504	Beirut	00:30	JZR	779	Jeddah	13:45		
KAC	102	London	00:50	FEG	341	Sohag	13:50		
JZR	539	Cairo	00:50	KAC	672	Dubai	13:55		
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55	IAW	157A	Al Najaf	13:55		
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	QTR	1078	Doha	14:10		
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	KAC	618	Doha	14:10		
DLH	625	Bahrain	01:45	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15		
UAE	853	Dubai	01:50	KAC	516	Tehran	14:20		
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20		
TRQ	230	KRT	02:00	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:45		
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	JZR	789	Riyadh	14:45		
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:50		
JZR	555	Alexandria	02:15	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05		
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30	KAC	304	Mumbai	15:05		
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	KAC	562	Amman	15:20		
WAN	548	KTM	02:40	OMA	645	Muscat	15:20		
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:55	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35		
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	502	Beirut	15:35		
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45		
KAC	414	Bangkok	03:05	KAC	118	New York	16:05		
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:05	JZR	1535	Cairo	16:10		
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15		
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	FDB	051	Dubai	16:20		
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	KAC	542	Cairo	17:00		
KAC	382	Delhi	04:15	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15		
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30		
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35		
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:35	JZR	145	Doha	17:35		
KAC	284	Dhaka	04:50	JZR	177	Dubai	17:40		
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	WAN	1016	Baku	17:40		
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	QTR	1080	Doha	18:10		
JZR	609	Hyderabad	05:10	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:20		
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30		
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	WAN	874	Istanbul	18:40		
KAC	344	Chennai	05:50	RJA	640	Amman	19:00		
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:10	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05		
KAC	362	Colombo	06:25	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05		
QTR	8511	Doha	06:25	KAC	063	Dubai	19:10		
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20		
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:50	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:35		
JZR	143	Doha	07:00	KAC	156	Istanbul	19:35		
BAW	157	London	07:10	KAC	674	Dubai	19:40		
GEL	700	Baku	07:30	RBG	555	Alexandria	19:40		
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:35	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50		
KAC	358	Kochi	07:40	KAC	104	London	20:00		
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	DLH	624	Frankfurt	20:05		
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	OMA	647	Muscat	20:05		
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	620	Doha	20:15		
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15		
IRC	528	Ahwaz	09:00	KAC	166	Rome	20:25		
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	QTR	1088	Doha	20:40		
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	KAC	172	Frankfurt	20:45		
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	JZR	553	Alexandria	20:50		
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15		
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	ALK	229	Colombo	21:15		
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:15		
JZR	787	Riyadh	10:30	WAN	136	Doha	21:15		
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	676	Dubai	21:35		
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	564	Amman	21:50		
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50		
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	QTR	1082	Doha	22:05		
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10		
WAN	134	Doha	12:20	KAC	786	Jeddah	22:15		
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:20	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25		
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	WAN	118	Bahrain	22:40		
THY	766	Istanbul	12:45	JZR	185	Dubai	22:50		
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:00		
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	THY	764	Istanbul	23:15		
JZR	903	Baku	12:55	FDB	072	Dubai	23:35		
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JZR	241	Amman	23:40		
				PIA	205	Lahore	23:40		

Joshua Leonard: Hollywood's go-to guy for daring movie-making

Ever since Joshua Leonard helped reinvent indie filmmaking as a star of found-footage pioneer "The Blair Witch Project," he has been something of a go-to guy for groundbreaking, no-budget cinema. Two decades on he's at it again, in an acclaimed but deeply unsettling role as a stalker in "Unsane"—filmed entirely on an iPhone by Oscar-winning auteur Steven Soderbergh ("Erin Brockovich," "Traffic").

"The only reason I have a career still is that we availed ourselves of new technology and unprecedented techniques 20 years ago with 'Blair Witch,'" said Leonard, 42, enthusing about how low-fi filmmaking appeals to his impatient streak. "I think it's the reason that I was so excited when I got called in to make this project, because I love making films much more than I love waiting to make films," he said ahead of its US release on Friday.

"Unsane" stars British actress Claire Foy, of the Netflix series "The Crown", as Pennsylvania office worker Sawyer Valentini, who has left her hometown under mysterious circumstances. After an online dating encounter leaves her upset, she seeks help from a counselor at a local clinic, who tells her to sign a routine form before she leaves. Within minutes, she is committed to a mental

institution against her will and pumped full of pills.

A fellow patient, whose background may be more interesting than he is letting on, tells her she's been locked away as part of an insurance scam but that if she keeps her head down, she will be released within days. However when Sawyer encounters Leonard's

“ I love making films much more than waiting to make films ”

character, an orderly she claims has been stalking her for two years, the audience begins to question her sanity as well.

Kafkaesque

Leonard's nuanced, half-pathetic, half-terrifying performance has been roundly praised since the movie premiered in Berlin's film festival in February, although the acclaim has done nothing for his family life. "I just I

felt terrible that my wife had to watch it, come home and sleep next to me. I want to try to figure out a way that my 15-month-old daughter never sees it when she's a teenager," he says, laughing.

Understandably, much has been made of the iPhone novelty but the medium has overshadowed the message to some extent, with headlines concentrating on how the film was made, rather than what it has to say. Ostensibly a Kafkaesque satire of the medical insurance racket, "Unsane" is as much a part of the #MeToo moment as any red carpet protest since the Harvey Weinstein sexual misconduct scandal ignited.

Foy's brittle, irritable Sawyer isn't believed when she complains about her stalker, those in charge of her care assuming she is delusional. The significance of a woman screaming to be heard in the face of threatening male sexuality, as various characters try to "gaslight" her by telling her the ordeal is all in her head, is not lost on Leonard. "Unsane," he points out, was filmed before Weinstein was accused of litany of sex offenses, but he adds that "anything that furthers the discussion is a good thing."

Ironically, real-life unfair treatment of women has thrust Foy into the limelight



In this file photo, US actor Joshua Leonard, left, and US director Steven Soderbergh, right, pose during the photo call for the film 'Unsane' presented in competition during the 68th edition of the Berlinale film festival in Berlin. — AFP

recently, with the producers of "The Crown" admitting she was paid less for her award-winning performances than co-star Matt Smith. "It's a conversation that is long overdue, and I think we've been operating off an old paradigm for far too long,"

Leonard said. "Bringing some of this information to light, like the pay gap disparity, is the first step in actually making real and lasting change. — AFP

On manic new album, Jack White dares you to rein him in

Jack White really doesn't want to be known just as that sometimes abrasive guy who plays high-decibel guitar. On a sprawling and unapologetically weird new album, White dabbles with UFO-esque synthesizer effects, sings gleefully about robbing banks and covers a tune by that lesser-known songwriter Al Capone.

"Boarding House Reach," the former White Stripes frontman's first album in four years, veers into funk, electro, gospel and blues as White defiantly demonstrates his range. White's third solo album starts off in comparatively tame territory with "Connected by Love," a sure crowd-pleaser with his signature fuzzy guitar empowered by a gospel backdrop.



In this file photo, US singer and guitarist Jack White performs on stage on the third day of the Eurockennes festival, in the French eastern city of Belfort. — AFP

White quickly finds a fresh portal in his mind with "Why Walk a Dog?," a rumination on humans' relationship with their proverbial best friends. "Corporation" opens with a distant echo of the White Stripes' now-classic "Seven Nation Army" riff before turning funky with conga drums in the back as White vows, with tongue-in-cheek gusto, to aspire to the capitalist dream.

Soon White seems to be daring to be reined in. On "Hyperemisophoniac," White explores his distaste for someone's dental noises as trippy, space-like synthesizers swing back and forth like a yo-yo. White's guitar then kicks in over piano as he sings with non-chalance, "Ain't nowhere to run / When you're robbin' the bank."

New artistic freedom

The 42-year-old Detroit native, identifiable for his chin-length swoop of black hair that belies his fair complexion and infamous for off-stage flarings of temper, in the late 1990s led the revival of garage rock with its raw, rough-around-the-edges energy. On "Boarding House Reach," White offers hints that he knows he will be accused of self-indulgence.

One track, recited in spoken word by Australian blues artist C.W. Stoneking, is entitled "Abulia and Akrasia," the latter a classical Greek term for lack of self-control. After two decades of success, White apparently can afford artistic freedom. He has founded his own label, Third Man Records, with a headquarters in Nashville and a major new vinyl pressing plant in Detroit.

For a five-month tour in support of the album, White—annoyed, like so many, at the constant distractions in modern-day concerts—will require fans to leave their phones at the door. In an interview in the latest issue of Rolling Stone, White seemed to fantasize about a long-dead music industry in which powerful executives could stop his ideas. "Hey, the label won't let you do that," he told the magazine, adding, "What cool problems to have!" — AFP

'Pacific Rim: Uprising' sets sights on 'Black Panther'

Fresh from his confirmation as the crown prince of feel-good fantasy, Guillermo del Toro is cranking the volume up to 11 as producer of the sequel to smash-'em-up blockbuster "Pacific Rim." "Pacific Rim: Uprising"—an altogether brasher, more rambunctious sci-fi tentpole than the Mexican filmmaker's Oscar-winning 2017 opus "The Shape of Water"—is tracking to top the domestic box office with upwards of \$22 million this weekend.

Del Toro—who helmed the original—has handed directing duties to TV creative Steven S. DeKnight ("Spartacus," "Smallville") for the sequel, which is not expected to turn the kind of profit of the 2013 film. Box office observers are wagering nevertheless that even a modest debut weekend could be enough to end the historic reign of Marvel's "Black Panther," which has begun to slow down after five weeks at the top.

"As 'Black Panther' has week after week dispatched a string of high profile newcomers, 'Pacific Rim' likely has the goods to unseat the undisputed king of the box office," Paul Dergarabedian, senior analyst at comScore, said. "It's a testament to the power of 'Black Panther' that at six weeks into its run it still has everyone wondering if it could lead the charge once again."

Set 10 years later, the sequel follows a new generation of pilots of the first film's giant "Jaeger" military mechanoids—don't call them

robots—fending off the truly enormous Kaiju monsters aiming to end humanity. It has had mixed early reviews, and the San Francisco Chronicle's description of "a lot of pounding, smashing and driving, purely functional" a fair reflection of the more lukewarm write-ups. — AFP



Vampire Weekend re-emerge for Lollapalooza festival

Vampire Weekend, whose indie rock fusion has found critical and commercial acclaim, will play their first full show in four years at Chicago's Lollapalooza festival as the band readies a new album. Announcing the lineup on Wednesday for the August 2-5 festival, Lollapalooza—conceived in the 1990s as a celebration of alternative culture-named headliners who are among the biggest mainstream names.

Bruno Mars, the funk revivalist who swept the latest Grammys, and R&B sensation The Weeknd top the billing for the festival in

Chicago's lakeside Grant Park, which will also feature high-decibel garage rocker Jack White, indie rock favorites The National and rappers Travis Scott and Logic. But the name that caught particular attention was Vampire Weekend, whose members have been saying for two years that they are working on their fourth album.

Vampire Weekend, former Columbia University students who have merged world music into their indie pop, last released an album in 2013 — "Modern Vampires of the City"—which won the Grammy for Best Alternative Music Album. The band has not played full concerts since 2014, although it made two brief appearances in 2016 to campaign for leftist presidential candidate Bernie Sanders.

Frontman Ezra Koenig has said, perhaps jokingly, that the next album will be called "Mitsubishi Macchiato" and in September tweeted that it was "80% done but the last 20% is always the hardest." The album will be the first since the amicable departure of keyboardist and co-songwriter Rostam Batmanglij, who last year put out a solo album that brought an ethereal feel while delving deeper into sonic experimentation. — AFP

Selfies banned on red carpet at Cannes film festival



In this file photo Chinese-Malaysian actress Michelle Yeoh poses for selfies during the opening ceremony of the 70th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP

The head of the Cannes film festival said Friday he was banning selfies on the red carpet, claiming they caused "unwanted disorder" before premieres. Thierry Fremaux tried once before to ban the "ridiculous and grotesque" practice at the world's most prestigious film festival in 2015, before backing down. Instead he pleaded with filmgoers, who are usually dressed to the nines in tuxedos and evening gowns, to contain themselves as much as they could.

But this time there would be no reprieve, he said. "Selfies will be banned for spectators on the red carpet," Fremaux told the Film Francais magazine. But it was unclear whether the ban will also apply to the cast and crew of the films being shown. "The triviality and slowdown caused by the unwanted disorder created by the practice of selfies harms the quality of the climb up the steps, and so the entire festival," he added. Hollywood stars have also been known to take selfies of themselves on the Cannes red carpet.

Critics revolt

Fremaux also raised the hackles of some film critics with major changes to the timings of press screenings, which were traditionally held before the gala red carpet premieres in the evenings. But critics will now have to wait for the next morning to see half of the films in the main competition, while others will be shown at

the same time. The Guardian's critic Peter Bradshaw led the revolt against the move, tweeting, "Whoa! Why not just have an embargo? Is it that hard to enforce?"

"I can't help thinking Cannes is saving up grief for itself with this!" Variety's Guy Lodge warned that some critics would inevitably be shut out of the evening screening. He said that the rival Berlin film festival "successfully enforces an embargo between morning press screenings and evening premieres. Critics get more time to write more considered reviews, and the films don't get their buzz stomped on. Everybody wins. Why can't Cannes do this?"

Cannes has always been notorious for the reaction of the critics, with some booing films, which can damage their prospects long before they are released. Lodge said the change would ultimately lead to publicists showing films to select critics ahead of time—"not quite the great leveller that Fremaux has in mind." The festival's director had earlier hinted to Screen magazine that a major change was in the offing.

"Don't you think that it could be better to have the press screening and the gala screening in the same day, in the same moment, in the same hour, in order for the film team to arrive in total innocence, to make both the gala screening and the press screening two big world events?" he said. — AFP



Fearing worst, French 'preppers' gear up for the Day After



People visit the Survival Expo in Paris. — AFP photos



When the end comes, ex-army signaller Daniel will calmly fire up the generator, flip on the water purifier, gather eggs from his chickens and watch in serene self-sufficiency as society tears itself apart. "I'm preparing myself for risks, floods, earthquakes, avalanches or social breakdown," says the sixty-something father, hunter and self-styled survivor from the French Alps.

Daniel, who has been prepping for the worst since leaving the military 20 years ago, is one of a growing cohort of nature buffs joining "survivalist" movements seeking reduced reliance on authorities should disaster strike. "Throughout society we are dependent on infrastructure and supply chains that are fragile and can be destabilized by things we can predict," says Clement Champault, organizer of France's first survivalist expo, which runs this weekend in Paris.

"We're not talking about a zombie apocalypse—aliens aren't going to land—we're talking about real risks: natural disasters, sabotage, attacks and even financial and economic crises," he said. Inside the expo, men in khakis and cargo pants peruse rows of steel-framed gazebos displaying animal traps, food rations, solar panels and—for the

off-gridder who has everything—hazmat suits and radiation detectors.

In one corner a man throws axes at a wooden target from increasingly improbable distances while another man dressed vaguely like an Eskimo lets punters pet his huskies. The survivalist movement grew in 1960s America from the fear of nuclear war or Soviet invasion, according to Bertrand Vidal, sociology professor at Paul Valery University, Montpellier.

"Today these people don't necessarily identify with an existential threat, it can be a mixture of fears that punctuate their daily lives," he says. Initiates believe their concerns are borne out by the high number of extreme weather events in recent years. In France, where a string of terror attacks since 2015 has left hundreds dead, there is a growing lack of faith among some in the state's ability to keep people safe.

Obligated to protect ourselves

"If I told you 10 years ago there'd be all these people killed on the streets of Paris, you'd have said I'm crazy," says Laurent Berrafato, publisher of the "Survival" trade magazine. "But unfortunately that's the reality. Now people are asking themselves: 'If we're all alone what can we do about it?'"



Aside from survival wares, the expo has stalls with names like "Ground Force" and "YShoot" flogging a variety of unpleasant-looking self-defense implements.

Tasers, bulletproof vests, axes, throwing stars and knives—lots of knives—are all openly on sale. The branding is unashamedly macho, but movement members insist their version of survivalism is a far cry from the US stereotype of a trigger-happy recluse stashed in his gun-filled bunker. Unlike similar US shows, there's not a firearm on display in Paris. "These images of Americans armed to the teeth are problematic. But if there's a rupture and people no longer respect the law, average citizens are obliged to protect themselves," says



Daniel, who admits to owning a pistol and a shotgun, both legally registered.

Far-right taint

The survivalist movement has another image problem: its origins are intertwined with the American far-right from which it sprang, and sociologist Vidal says there are still members who identify with the xenophobic worldview of its founders. "There's still this image of the mad man who wants to kill everyone," he says. "It's not gone away, but the targets have shifted. They no longer fear the USSR but rather mass immigration."

But many survivalists—most prefer the term "preppers"—simply want an easier, greener existence. "We're looking for

greater freedom. We're preparing for normal life, not some catastrophe or the end of the world," says Marie Guillaumin, 30, from near Lyon. The last 12 months saw a barrage of storms batter the Caribbean and US eastern seaboard, leaving thousands of homes without water or power.

Preppers insist the risks from natural disaster can be reduced with a little common sense, training and scout-like readiness. And a knife or two wouldn't hurt, either. "The weapons are part of the equipment," says Daniel. "You need physical and psychological training and equipment—but equipment means nothing without knowhow." — AFP



Afghan teenage beekeeper creates entrepreneurial buzz

Three years ago a schoolgirl in rural Afghanistan took out a small loan and bought two beehives. In her first year she harvested 16 kg of honey, enough to repay the loan and leave her with a small profit. In 2016 Frozan, who is now in her final year at school, earned 120,000 afghanis from the 120 kg that her burgeoning collection of 20 beehives produced - a sizeable sum given that the country's GDP per

person is around \$600 a year.

"It is unique for a girl in a rural area like mine to have a private business and make a considerable income, but I trusted myself, took the chance, worked hard and made a success of it," the 19-year-old said by phone from the city of Mazar-i-Sharif. Frozan, who goes by one name, is the first schoolgirl in northern Balkh province's Marmul district to keep bees.

A beekeeping novice three years ago, Frozan was taught by the charity that provided the loan how to look after the bees, how to extract honey, and how to improve its quality and volume. "It is not time-consuming. I do my daily chores at home, I go to school and I can look after the beehives," she said. Her story is unusual in other ways too. Women and girls in Afghanistan are discriminated against on a regular basis, says UN Women, and that includes facing severe restrictions on working and studying outside their home.

Citing government figures, Human Rights Watch said last year that 85 percent of the 3.5 million Afghan children not in school are girls. And while two-thirds of adolescent boys are literate, the figure for girls is little more than half that. That is not the situation for Frozan. The beekeeping profits pay for her and two younger sisters to attend school, and also help her father meet the costs of running a home. "I am very happy to be self-reliant. I am also glad to have an income and be able to help my father and my sisters," she said.

Progress

The World Bank's latest figures show 39 percent of Afghanistan's population lives below the poverty line. And, it said last year, unemployment had worsened - particularly in rural areas. Although the position of women has



Frozan holds a fresh honey comb produced at her farm.



Frozan checks a beehive in the Marmul district, Balkh province. — Reuters photos

improved significantly since the collapse of the Taliban regime in 2001, said UN Women, traditional practices and insecurity continue to hold them back. That is one reason why Hand in Hand International - the UK-based charity that loaned Frozan the money to start her business - focuses on women.

"They are a vulnerable group and did not have much in the way of employment opportunities in the past," said Rafi Azimi, who works for the charity's regional office in Mazar-i-Sharif. Empowering women economically, he said, provided them with more status in society. The charity's goal is to tackle poverty by encouraging local entrepreneurship. Part of that involves helping entrepreneurs connect to bigger markets. Like any beneficiary, Frozan first went through months of training including on micro-finance, bookkeeping and business development. "She was taught the basics of a business - know the market, how to conduct market surveys and how to link the product to the right market," Azimi said. Frozan is one of more than 38,000 Afghans who have been helped since the charity opened its office in the country in 2007. — Reuters



Oil painter Ray Chow, 31, moves his painting.



Mural artist Jackie Chung, 36, who works under the name 'Pinkhead', paints in an industrial building in the working-class neighborhood of San Po Kong in Hong Kong.



Mural artist Jackie Chung, 36, left, who works under the name 'Pinkhead', paints beside local oil painter Ray Chow, 31, in an industrial building in the working-class neighborhood of San Po Kong in Hong Kong.

WORLDS APART: HONG KONG'S GREAT ART DIVIDE

As international galleries and wealthy collectors descend on Hong Kong for Art Basel, life for some of the city's creatives is still a struggle to make ends meet. Art Basel's Hong Kong edition launched five years ago and spawned a host of simultaneous shows in what has become known as "Art Month". But the glamorous artistic whirl associated with March in Hong Kong feels like a world away for some artists battling sky-high rents and lack of space.

Hong Kong mural painter Jackie Chung works out of a small unit in the working-class neighborhood of San Po Kong, away from the hustle of downtown. The 250-square-foot studio is one of 25 subdivided flats in an industrial building. Such cramped partitioned spaces are commonly lived in by residents who cannot afford spiraling accommodation costs.

Chung, 36, and oil painter Ray Chow, 31, pay HK\$8,000 per month to use the unit as a studio and have promised the landlord not to get paint on the floors and walls. Both live with their families to save on outgoings. "It's not ideal. After we moved in with our artwork and tools, it was almost full," said Chung, who paints under the name "Pinkhead" after the color of her hair. The bright unit is neatly stacked with oil paints, easels, books and paintings.

Chung has been commissioned to create giant murals around the city, including a 22-storey-high elephant, but although her works are large-scale, she practices in miniature. "The studio is tiny and the ceiling is low. I can only paint on a medium size canvas," she said. Chung has a day job as a graphic designer, painting every evening and on weekends. She earns around HK\$5,000 for a 40-square-foot mural.

Fellow artist Chow relies on freelance work including graphic design, teaching and painting commissions to pay his way—creating an oil painting takes him up to three months and he sells one or two each year for around HK\$10,000 each. "Sometimes it makes you feel so frustrated to be an artist in Hong Kong. You need to do a lot more other things to sustain your passion," he said.

“Long-term habit of appreciation of the arts”

Art appreciation

Artists must be represented by a gallery to participate in Art Basel, which runs for five days at Hong Kong's harbor front convention centre. The line-up this year includes galleries from Iran to Istanbul and some from Hong Kong with local artists on their books. Ink artist Hung Fai, 30, was born and bred in the city and has exhibited at Art Basel four times under Grotto Fine Art gallery, which aims to nurture emerging Hong Kong talent.

He believes the fair is a good opportunity to meet other artists, curators and collectors, with tens of thousands of visitors each year. But Hung hopes that in the long term, Art Basel will work more closely with local art institutions or even the public sector to build a broader creative culture in the city. "If we can transform the short-term interest of an art fair into a long-term habit of appreciation of the arts, then there can be positive changes on the local art scene," he said.

Art Basel's Asia Director Adeline Ooi said the fair tries to encourage Hong Kong galleries to present local artists as much as possible. "Our support for the Hong Kong local scene is clearly 100 percent there, but it is also the fact that we are an international art fair. So it's about trying to find the balance between these two points," Ooi said.

Enduring passion

There are plenty of galleries and exhibitions in Hong Kong year-round, but some feel the emphasis is commercial rather than aimed at a wider public and that there is a disconnect with grassroots artists. Mural artist Chung has worked at Art Basel as a volunteer and says she felt it was too driven by sales and visitor numbers. "I don't think Art Basel is that close to local artists. It seems to help local tourism more than the local art scene," she said.

Smaller-scale shows in Hong Kong can also be prohibitive, adds Chung. She applied for a booth at a week-long local art festival last year, but the HK\$20,000 entry fee scared her off. Chow admits he sometimes fantasizes about selling a painting for tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars. But he says passion is the overriding motivation. "I make art because I like it," he says. "Whether it makes me successful or not, it doesn't matter."—AFP



Ink artist Hung Fai, 30, who has exhibited at Art Basel four times, poses at his studio in Hong Kong. — AFP Photos

Cezanne's maverick side explored in first-ever US portrait show

What happens when an artist who devoted most of his career to painting landscapes and still lifes turns to the people he knows best? That is the central premise of an international show of 59 portraits by France's Paul Cezanne opening Sunday at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, the first ever dedicated to this aspect of his oeuvre. Of the 1,000 paintings the 19th century Provençal painter created during his lifetime, only about 160 are portraits, mostly of his close friends, family and domestic servants.

But it is perhaps in that collection that the evolution of Cezanne's individualistic, revolutionary vision is clearest, as he deconstructs space by boldly painting his wife with vanishing lips or applying layer upon layer of thick paint with a palette knife. He may have studied Old Master works, but Cezanne "exploded" traditional ways of representing space and volume on a picture plane, said Mary Morton, co-curator of the show and head of the National Gallery's department of French paintings.

Cezanne in many ways paved the way to modernism: even the pioneering Cubist Pablo Picasso, born 42 years after the French painter, called him the "father of us all." He relies on a "modernist understanding about how visual perception works... It's not stable, it's not linear, it's not from a single point, it's not coherent," Morton told AFP.

Texture was also key. In "Antony Valabregue" (1866), the artist's submission to the official Salon art exhibition in Paris critical for launching careers, Cezanne's rough-hewn style is on full display. The jury took the coarsely layered paint and the poet-sitter's defiant and inelegant pose, fists clenched on his thighs, as a slap in the face and rejected it. So roughly had Cezanne treated both the surface and the subject that one jury member commented he had painted not just with a knife but with a pistol.

Unconventional

"He is displacing the conventional place that you look for portraiture, which is the face, and that you're expect-

ing a likeness," said Morton, who received a top French civilian honor this week for her contributions to the arts. "It means that it's perhaps in the color, it's in the shape, it's coming through in an unconventional way." Cezanne's portraits of his wife, Hortense Fiquet—who unlike her husband came from a modest background and lacked advanced education—are especially confounding.

Often unflattering, the pictures show her with an angled oval face, her hair pulled back and parted down the middle. She never smiles. Some are more sympathetic, such as "Madame Cezanne in a Red Armchair" (circa 1877) — but that was painted before their marriage or shortly thereafter. In it she is shown seated on a plush red throne of a chair contrasting with a golden green and blue wallpaper pattern. In one work from the "Madame Cezanne in a Red Dress" (1888-1890) series, she sits undisturbed in a blue room, her yellow chair and the wall tilting chaotically behind her.

Co-curator John Elderfield does not, however, see Cezanne's renderings of his wife as commentary on a possible lack of affection in a couple that largely lived apart. "If (art dealer Ambroise) Vollard is to be believed, he did more than 100 sittings for his portrait. She has about 30 portraits, so that's 3,000 hours. Wouldn't you be a bit fed up sitting there?" asked Elderfield, chief curator emeritus of painting and sculpture at New York's Museum of Modern Art.

"I think that even though facially it seems she's expressionless, it doesn't mean he doesn't care about her." But Morton does not hesitate to factor in the quality of the relationship, or at least what's known of it. "There's a really tough time after they're married," she said. "I think there's tension and melancholy, and you get that in a lot of these. I don't think he had an easy time with people." The show runs through July 1 in Washington, the last stop of a tour that took in the Musée d'Orsay in Paris and London's National Portrait Gallery.—AFP



Brazil museum selling prized Jackson Pollock to stay afloat

Rio de Janeiro's Modern Art Museum is selling one of its most prized works, a Jackson Pollock painting, to help stay afloat. The private, not-for-profit museum said a sale of this type has never been done before in Brazil, although it is common in Europe and the United States. The Pollock painting in question is titled "No.16" and was completed in 1950. Proceeds of the sale will be used to create a fund to keep the museum going for another 30 years, it said.

The painting was donated by the late former US vice president Nelson Rockefeller in 1954, and is estimated to be worth around \$25 million. The Brazilian Museum Institute called on the Modern Art Museum to reverse course and try to come up with another way to raise money at a time of financial struggle for many of the South American country's museums.

But the Culture Ministry said it supports the strategy, saying the Modern Art Museum will become less vulnerable to economic crises and less dependent on donations and sponsorships. Rio de Janeiro has been mired in financial turmoil since it hosted the Olympic Games in 2016, mainly because of a fall in oil prices and as a hangover from the recession that all of Brazil endured in 2015 and 2016.—AFP



Visitors look at paintings at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC. — AFP photos

Lifestyle | Art

OASIS OF CALM IN SHATTERED REGION, DUBAI STEPS OUT AS ART HUB

As traditional centers of modern Arab art in Damascus and Baghdad have imploded amid disastrous wars, the sheeny city-state of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates has stepped into the vacuum as a major hub for art sales. But at the annual Art Dubai fair this week, some Mideast artists among the scores of worldwide participants channeled in paint the chaos swirling around this bubble of calm luxury.

seek to dwell on the region's miseries, but noted that as Dubai's star has risen in the art world the art on offer cannot flinch from harsh realities.

"The sad reality is that as Baghdad, Beirut, Damascus and even Cairo have suffered due to political and economic strife, the UAE is in a position to build on its openness and multicultural aspect to lead in the art scene." "Conflict and problems aren't all there is to art in the Middle East and our exhibition celebrates modernists and visionaries from here and all over the world ... artists do make incredible historians and documentarians,

"I turned images from the TV into oil on canvas **"**

though", Ayad added.

While she declined to name precise target for sales in the three-day event, she noted that works were on offer for between a few hundred and a few hundred thousand dollars: "There's something for every pocket!" Ead Samawi knows that well. A partner from the Ayyam Gallery, he has sold most of their handful of war-themed canvases for between thirty and fifty thousand dollars each to clients ranging from the United States to Lebanon, and insists profit and painful subjects can go together.

Arranged in a tense jumble of colorful shapes and splotches forming the rough shape of buildings and people, the work of Syrian artist Tammam Azzam evokes the broken cityscapes and refugee throngs from his homeland. "It's not commodifying, this is human life: there's war and migration that happens all over. Artists have always had their distinct, creative way of presenting it that people have been attracted to," Samawi said.—Reuters



Tucked among the mostly apolitical photography, sculpture and installation art adorning the vast open-plan space, black-and-white paintings of war scenes in the Gaza Strip- devoid of people and any sharp detail-stand out. "It's like a monster, isn't it?" says Palestinian artist Aissa Deebi, holding his arms menacingly above his head in the rough shape of a fireball from an Israeli war plan he painted exploding on top of building.

"I turned images from the TV into oil on canvas, which has its history in this tradition going back to Goya and Picasso," he added, alluding to the latter's iconic image of chaos brought on by a bloody air raid on the Spanish town of Guernica. Myrna Ayad, Art Dubai's director, said the event featuring artists from 48 countries does not



Visitors look at artwork on display during the 12th edition of Art Dubai, in Dubai's Madinat Jumeirah. —AFP/Reuters photos

Flower power Chinese artist hails east-west dialogue with petals



The sweeping fields of flowers that fill the canvases at Zhuang Hong Yi's new London exhibition are more than just depictions of the natural world - he says they are a dialogue between the cultures that have shaped his work. For "Radiance", which opened in London this week, Zhuang, 55, has created dozens of floral scenes by mounting thousands of flowers made from rice paper onto canvas and then painting them to add color and texture.

The works change color depending on the angle from which they are viewed. Zhuang's floral creations are influenced by materials from his native China - rice paper - and the flowered landscape of his adopted country - the Netherlands. "I am from China and

then I studied in Holland, I got a lot of influence from Western culture. So my work always contrasts two cultures and also the composition of the painting also is in contrast," Zhuang said.

Zhuang's creations have won him increasing critical and commercial success: he has exhibited at galleries and art fairs across Europe and the United States and is described by the exhibition organizers as the top-selling Asian artist in Britain. "Radiance" runs until March 24 at the House of Fine Art (HOFA) gallery in London's St. James district, before moving to a separate HOFA gallery in Mayfair from March 26 to April 8. — Reuters

Claudia Cardinale stars as Tunisia opens City of Culture

Claudia Cardinale, the Tunis-born Italian movie star, was the guest of honor on Wednesday as Tunisia inaugurated a long-awaited complex to showcase its cultural wealth. The richly equipped City of Culture complex, launched a decade ago but long stalled, incorporates a modern art museum, a 1,800-seat opera, two theatres, a cinema, library and studios to host festivals.

"Every Tunisian should be proud of this project, culture is the main tool with which we will fight terrorism," President Beji Caid Essebsi said at the opening ceremony. "Tunisians have to dream and have confidence in themselves." The project was initially launched under president Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, who was over-

thrown in a 2011 revolution. Located in central Tunis, the nine-hectare Cite de la Culture with its iconic glass globe is estimated to have cost 130 million dinars.

Culture Minister Mohamed Zine el Abidine told reporters at the opening that it is "the largest cultural complex in the Maghreb, the Arab world and Africa". The project, held up by financial disputes, had been abandoned after the revolution but was revived in March 2016. The newly formed orchestra of the Tunis Opera was to play music from Carmen's Bizet sung by three Tunisian artists, accompanied by a choir and orchestra from Ukraine.—AFP



A picture shows a general view of the theatre inside the arts and culture complex of 'Tunis the City of Culture' during the official opening ceremony in Tunis. — AFP photos



A picture shows a general view of the arts and culture complex of 'Tunis the City of Culture.'



A picture shows a general view inside of the arts and culture complex of 'Tunis the City of Culture.'

Lifestyle

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2018



People attend a light show as part of the first edition of the Video Mapping Festival, in Lille.—AFP

IRAN'S 'HOUSES OF STRENGTH', BETWEEN ANCIENT AND MODERN

A few streets and several centuries apart, Iran's gyms come in distinctive breeds, ancient and hyper-modern, reflecting a society torn between outside influences and the continuing strength of religious ritual. The musical differences are among the most striking. In the shiny new Sport Plus gym in central Tehran, the soundtrack is all pounding DJ mixes and dirty bass lines imported from Europe.

Ten minutes down the road at the "zurkhaneh", or "house of strength", a bespectacled man sits in a booth with a large drum on his lap, beating out a rhythm with his fingers, occasionally clanging a bell and calling out mournful pleas to Imam Ali—the beat no less energetic, but doused in ancient history. The workout takes place in an octagonal pit in front of him, using the same equipment, modeled on medieval weapons, that has existed for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years: huge wooden clubs called "meels", clanging metal contraptions that resemble an archer's bow, and a huge shield known as the "sang".

The physique that comes from working out with these items—along with the ritualized press-ups, spins and wrestling—is the sort of barrel-chested heft that might fatally be confused for obesity. Meanwhile, under the soft

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Musical differences
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neon lighting of the Sport Plus gym, the musculature is of a more preening variety. Quadriceps and abdominals are precisely sculpted and endlessly Instagramable, accompanied by nose jobs and tattoos, the objective being physical beauty as well as fitness.

Here they serve energy drinks and smoothies, while the zurkhaneh still brings you chai in a little white cup and saucer, with sugar cubes to stick between your teeth and

suck through. The contrasts might be stark, but neither feels out of place in today's Tehran. A globalised, consumer class has re-established itself in recent years, bringing hipster coffee shops, avant-garde galleries and Western-style gyms to every neighborhood.

That has eaten away at Iran's traditional culture, but not as much as sometimes feared. The deep roots of Persian culture, from the bazaar to the mosque to old pastimes like the zurkhaneh still command a powerful allegiance. "This sport didn't start yesterday. It goes back 700 or 800 years. Maybe people are busier these days and have other things to do, but it is still going on," said Hossein Peykanfar, 62, a retired factory owner who comes regularly to this zurkhaneh in the Khosh neighborhood of south-west Tehran.



goes to watch zurkhaneh events, and despite his own huge physique, is in awe of what they can do physically. "It's too difficult for me. If I tried to lift those meels 200 times like they do, my shoulders would hurt," he laughed.

Social change

But lifestyles are changing and the rigid rituals of the zurkhaneh no longer fit the routines of busy urbanites. "You're in charge of your time here," said Pooryia Akhooondi, 35. "And with body-building, you get more attention." Modern life has wrought other changes, too. "In old times, those doing this sport had a special kind of honesty, a gentlemanly behaviour. I'm not saying it's not there now, but it's faded," said Ali Masoumi, 38, the "meshed" performing the music from the booth.

His grandfather, Khosro, set up this zurkhaneh 80 years ago and was the local "pahlevan" ("champion"), a status which carried weight far beyond the ring. "There was no police station, so in case of difficulties everyone would refer to him. He would arrange money for people out of work or needing a dowry," said Khosro's son, Majid Masoumi, 69, who now runs the place. Their zurkhaneh still attracts a crowd of old and young, but they know others are struggling.

"The people in charge of the sport today don't understand the rituals," said the younger Masoumi sadly, complaining about the lack of support for mesheds. "They build new buildings, but nothing is done to promote the sport itself. It's like mosques—they build the mosques instead of making people want to pray."—AFP



Foundation is Islam

In fact, zurkhaneh's roots are unclear. Some see its history going back to Persia's pre-Islamic martial societies, but today it has become entwined with Shiism, as much about modesty and religious devotion as brawn. Peykanfar is older than most of the attendees but fearfully agile and throws around the meels as if they were made of plastic.

"The very foundation of this sport is Islam. Without the prayer recitals, there is no point," he said. There are still around 1,000 zurkhanehs in Iran, the government says, though some of the old mythology has certainly worn off.

"In olden times, people would come to the door of the zurkhaneh and take a handkerchief with the sweat from the brow of a sportsman and rub it on the face of a sick person to cure their illness," said Peykanfar, smiling. Women are not admitted to the zurkhanehs, which survive thanks to small donations from members. A modern mythology has taken root at the new gyms, too, though it is one built around social media. Many bodybuilders boast tens of thousands of followers on Instagram.

"You can make money... offering training and diet programs or selling supplements," said Sadeq Ghasemi, 33, who has won numerous bodybuilding competitions. He still



Iranians take part in a workout session at the traditional Shir Afkan "zurkhaneh" gymnasium in the capital Tehran. — AFP photos