



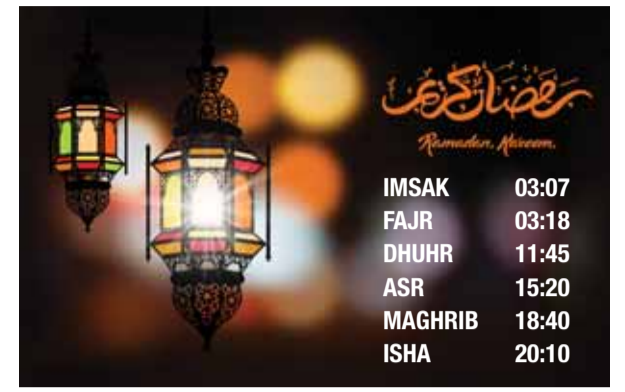
3 Defense Minister visits Kuwait troops in Saudi



3 Kuwait's detectives bust auto theft gang in Jleeb



28 Warriors crush Rockets to force game seven in West



Ramadan Kareem

IMSAK	03:07
FAJR	03:18
DHUHR	11:45
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MAGHRIB	18:40
ISHA	20:10

Qatar bans UAE, Saudi goods as embargo anniversary nears

Bahrain sees 'no glimmer of hope' as Qatar row rages

Ramadan Kareem

Themes of Quran: God the Creator

By Teresa Leshner

The Quran, which was revealed in the month of Ramadan, is the most recent holy scripture and, according to it, the last to ever come. It is also the only scripture that is intact in the original language and the only one that contains the pure words of God without being rephrased by others. It is regarded by Muslims as the Speech of God that was revealed through Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) over a period of 23 years to him, his contemporaries, those who believe, and to all of humankind.

The main topics in the Quran, presented in 600 Arabic pages, relate mainly to faith, deeds, and the ramifications of our choices in these spheres. While the Quran's verses cover various topics throughout, there are a few main themes. The foremost of them is its call to belief in a single deity, with no partners in divinity. It declares in very clear terms that there is only one God, the Creator of all. It asks rhetorical questions and presents many arguments to rectify the beliefs of the "People of the Book" or Jews and Christians, as well as polytheists, animists and atheists.

For example, many verses ask the question "Who created the heavens and earth?" The Quran insists that praise and supplication belong solely to the Creator of the heavens and the earth. It criticizes those who call on other so-called "divine" personalities, especially when they acknowledge that God alone created the universe. The Quran insists that Allah, our Creator, is a single and unique deity that deserves our undivided devotion.

It criticizes those who blindly follow tradition, superstitions and man-made religious laws and rituals. It declares that the religion that has always been taught by prophets and messengers throughout time is Islam, or submission to the Creator of all. The reader is instructed to: "Say, 'We have believed in Allah and what has been revealed to us and what has been revealed to Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the descendants and what was given to Moses and Jesus and what was given to the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and we are Muslims [in submission] to Him.'" - (2:136)

The Quran describes God by many actions and attributes. He is the Creator of all things and He sent down the Quran as a reminder, a warning, and guidance for mankind. He has knowledge of everything, seen and unseen, and knows well what is in the hearts and minds of each of us. He is the provider for all His creation, and bestows His favors and blessings to humanity, even though most people are not thankful. He has power over all affairs of the universe, He has the ability to give life and cause death, and He can resurrect and recreate as He wills.

God also just, so each of us will recompensed for our deeds, both the short and long-term effects, in this life and the next. On Resurrection Day, He will set up scales to judge our faith and deeds, and reward or punish us accordingly. The Quran is rich in descriptions of the Creator, and is the only reliable source about Him other than the words of His prophets and messengers. Take the time this Ramadan to acquaint yourself with God. For your free copy a translation of the Quran in English, contact the TIES Center.

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

DOHA: Qatar has ordered shops to remove goods originating from a group of Saudi Arabia-led countries which a year ago imposed a wide-ranging boycott on the emirate, Doha officials said on Saturday. A directive from the Economy Ministry ordered shops to immediately strip shelves of products from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt. Inspectors will visit stores to ensure they comply with the order, the ministry said. The government will also try and stop products such as Saudi dairy goods from entering Qatar via a third country.

Qatar's Government Communications Office (GCO) said it was trying to "protect the safety of consumers". "Products originating from blockading states, which as a result of the blockade cannot pass the GCC customs territory, has to undergo proper import inspections and customs procedures," the GCO said in a statement. "Qatar conducts its trade policy in accordance with all of its multilateral and bilateral agreements." The order comes just days before the anniversary of a bitter Gulf crisis.

Since June 5 last year, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt have cut all relations with Qatar, accusing it of financing terrorist groups and having close ties with Iran. The countries subsequently imposed a trade and diplomatic boycott on Qatar, which rejects the charges and says the countries are seeking regime change in Doha. The row has forced isolated Qatar, which previously relied on its Gulf neighbors, to look elsewhere for food imports, including Turkey, Morocco and Iran.

Many such imports enter the country via ports such as Kuwait and Oman. It is through these ports, and also via individuals, that goods from the boycotting countries manage to get in to Qatar, said a source with knowledge of the situation. "Businessmen from the blockading countries are trying to go around the blockade... by using third parties," said the source.

Meanwhile, Bahrain said it sees no resolution in

sight to a diplomatic row between Qatar. "The information in our hands today does not indicate any glimmer of hope for a solution now, as the matter does not happen suddenly," Bahrain's Foreign Minister Sheikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa told Alsharq Alawsat newspaper yesterday.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain and Egypt severed travel and trade ties with Qatar last June, alleging it was backing Iran and supporting terrorism. Qatar denies this and says the boycott is an attempt to impinge on its sovereignty and rein in its support for reform. After initially disrupting Qatar's imports and triggering the withdrawal of billions of dollars from its banks by depositors from the four states, the world's top exporter of liquefied natural gas quickly developed new trade routes and deployed tens of billions of dollars from its sovereign wealth fund to protect its domestic lenders.

Continued on Page 24



DHOFAR, Oman: Photo shows a flooded street in the southern city of Salalah. Cyclone Mekunu was downgraded further to a deep depression yesterday after lashing the southern coast of Oman and killing at least two people. — AFP

Cyclone death toll hits 11; Oman and Yemen battered

SALALAH: The death toll from a cyclone that battered southern Oman and the Yemeni island of Socotra has reached 11, while eight sailors are still missing, authorities said. Cyclone Mekunu hit Oman's Dhofar and Al-Wusta provinces on Friday after intensifying from a category one to a category two cyclone, with winds of up to 170 kilometers per hour after it made landfall on Socotra on Thursday. Oman's civil defense service on Saturday reported two deaths, adding to an earlier toll of a man and a 12-year-old girl. "The third is an Asian man who was missing but his body was found late Saturday in Dhofar" province, spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Saeed Al-Badaei said at a press conference late Saturday.

"The fourth is a young Omani man who was swept away in his car by flooding," he added. Socotra's governor Ramzy Mahrous said on Sunday that the death toll on the island remained seven-five Yemenis and two Indian sailors.

Continued on Page 24



GAZA: Palestinian mourners carry the coffin of 28-year-old Islamic Jihad member Abdul Haleem Al-Naqa during his funeral in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza strip yesterday. — AFP

3 die; Israel hits Islamic Jihad's post

GAZA: Israeli tank fire at an Islamic Jihad observation post killed three Palestinians in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday, Palestinian officials said. The incident happened east of the city of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, a spokesman for the health ministry in the Palestinian enclave said. The ministry identified those killed as Hussein Al-Amour, 25, Abdul Haleem Al-Naqa, 28, and Marwan Al-Amour, 25.

A statement from the armed wing of Islamic Jihad, the Al-Quds Brigades, claimed two of them as members. It was not yet clear if Marwan Al-Amour, who died from his wounds later in the day,

was also a member. Islamic Jihad is the second-most powerful armed group in the Gaza Strip after Hamas, which runs the blockaded Palestinian enclave. Israel's military said in a statement that the tank fire came after soldiers detonated an explosive device that had been placed near the border fence, targeting its troops. It said the device had been hidden inside a pair of fence cutters.

Separately on Saturday night, Israeli aircraft struck two targets belonging to Hamas, but there were no reports of casualties. The military said the operation was in response to a brief incursion across the border earlier in the day by Palestinians who immediately fled back into Gaza. It added that the strike was also in retaliation for repeated Palestinian attempts to damage the border fence and "security infrastructure" during ongoing border protests. At least 119 Palestinians have been killed by

Continued on Page 24



IDLIB: A man carries a wounded child out of a building following a car bomb explosion in the northern Syrian city of Idlib yesterday. — AFP

Russia fighters among dozens killed in Syria

BEIRUT: Russian fighters were among dozens of pro-government forces killed in eastern Syria this week in a deadly wave of attacks by Islamic State group jihadists, Moscow and a monitor said yesterday. After the collapse of its so-called "caliphate" last year, IS now only holds tiny pockets of Syria, mainly in the vast desert stretching to its eastern border.

This week, the jihadists ramped up their hit-and-run attacks on regime positions there, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor. The deadliest was on Wednesday, when IS targeted a group of Syrian and allied Russian fighters near the town of Mayadeen in the eastern province of Deir Ezzor. "There were 35 pro-government forces killed, including at least nine Russians. Some of those Russian nationals were government troops, but not all of them," said Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman.

The remaining 26 were all Syrian forces, he said. A steadfast ally of President Bashar al-Assad, Moscow has

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Qatar's Emir to visit Kuwait, meet with His Highness Sheikh Sabah

Amir, Crown Prince meet Dr Ibrahim Mohammad Bahr Al-Uloum



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Dr Ibrahim Mohammad Bahr Al-Uloum. — KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Dr Ibrahim Mohammad Bahr Al-Uloum.



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



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets with Dr Ibrahim Mohammad Bahr Al-Uloum.



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



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

KUWAIT: Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani will be visiting Kuwait today, where he will meet with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The visit comes to congratulate His Highness the Amir on the advent of the holy month of Ramadan.

His Highness the Amir met yesterday at Seif Palace His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also received

National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah separately. His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad then met with Dr Ibrahim Mohammad Bahr Al-Uloum, who is visiting Kuwait. Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah attended the meeting.

His Highness the Crown Prince also received Dr Bahr

Al-Uloum and his accompanying delegation at Seif Palace. The reception was attended by Director of Protocols and Ceremonials at His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. Speaker Ghanem also met with Bahr Al-Uloum in his office.

The reception was attended by Assembly Secretary Dr Ouda Al-Rowaie, MP Dr Khalil Abdullah Abel and Capital

City Governor Thabet Al-Muahna. His Highness the Crown Prince also met with Ghanem, Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, and Head of National Security Apparatus (NSA) Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. —KUNA

Deputy FM receives Russian Ambassador

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah received yesterday Russian Ambassador to Kuwait Alexey Solomatn. The meeting focused

on bilateral relations between the two countries. The two sides also addressed regional and international issues of common concern. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with Russian Ambassador to Kuwait Alexey Solomatn. — KUNA

Goodwill Ambassador makes stop in Kuwait

KUWAIT: Danish Red Cross Goodwill Ambassador Torbjorn Pedersen said yesterday that foreign activities of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) are unique, besides its charitable and local activities.

The Danish traveler praised KRCS' activities in the humanitarian role towards those in need and those affected by natural or man-made disasters, praising its experience in external relief work. He said that his journey, dubbed 'the friend you have never met before,' aims at understanding the situation of people and highlighting their needs, especially those affected by armed conflicts or natural disasters.

Pedersen explained that Kuwait is the 147th state in his trip, indicating that he will continue his journey to include 203 countries until 2020, according to his plan. He said his



KUWAIT: Danish Red Cross Goodwill Ambassador Torbjorn Pedersen (left) meets with KRCS Chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer. — KUNA

journey, for which he uses ordinary transport means, included countries in South and North America, Asia, Africa and Europe aims to become acquainted with activities of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

He said that during his trip, he would meet

with citizens and officials in order to link the different components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and highlight the duty placed on these societies and encourage them to continue their humanitarian role. — KUNA

Kuwaiti embassy opens 'Ramadan iftar' campaign in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR: Kuwait's embassy in Malaysia has launched its annual project to provide iftar to fasting Muslims, the meal eaten after sunset during the holy month of Ramadan to break the day's fast. "We are in the process of distributing more than 5,300 iftar meals to mosques, orphanages, schools, among other places," Saad Al-Asousi, Kuwait's ambassador to the Southeast Asian monarchy, said outside a sprawling mosque in the Malaysian capital yesterday.

He said that Muslims flock to the mosque in droves just in time to break their fast with a nutrient-dense yet scrumptious meal, pointing out that the endeavor, which costs \$25,000, is not limited to Kuala Lumpur but encompasses remote villages as well. "This has been an auspicious year for Kuwaiti philanthropy, with the humanitarian leader His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the helm," the envoy added.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Jamil, a local Muslim religious leader known as 'imam', emphasized that the recipients of the meals are grateful for the aid, saying that similar altruistic acts on the part of the Kuwaiti embassy are in store. —KUNA



Kuwait takes part in 107th int'l labor conference

GENEVA: Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim said yesterday Kuwait will participate actively in the 107th Session of the International Labor Conference. Ghunaim said that the session will be held today and will last until June 8, adding that Kuwait will be represented by a national delegation including the Government, employers and employees. He noted that the Kuwaiti participation comes in line

with Kuwait's efforts to strengthen its relations with specialized international organizations, especially the International Labor Organization (ILO), to benefit from successful international experiences in job creation, reducing unemployment rates and developing the labor sector.

Meanwhile, Ghunaim praised the strong relations between the State of Kuwait and the International Labor Organization (ILO), stressing Kuwait's keenness on supporting the labor programs in the Middle East, including the program to support Palestinian workers within the Israeli occupation policy. The session's agenda is expected to include the annual report of the Director-General of the Organization, Guy Ryder, Palestinian labor market conditions in Israeli-occupied territory, and the third report on improving young worker safety and ending child labor. — KUNA

Local

Defense Minister visits officers participating in 'Restoration of Hope'

Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad praises officers' 'fighting spirit'



RIYADH: Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Kuwaiti army officials pose for a group picture with Kuwaiti soldiers participating in operation 'Restoration of Hoopo' in Saudi Arabia. — KUNA photos

KUWAIT: Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah expressed his pride over the Kuwaiti army's participation in a military operation in Saudi Arabia, saying it was a testament to the "camaraderie" the Gulf neighbors share.

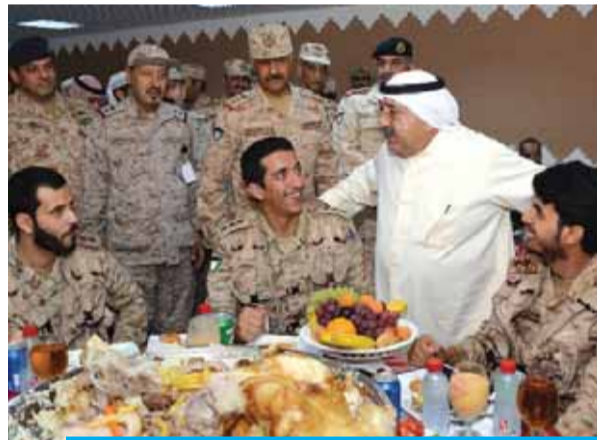
The Kuwaiti minister personally visited the officers on Saturday to exchange Ramadan greetings with them and convey well wishes on behalf of the Kuwaiti leadership, read a statement by the Kuwaiti defense ministry. He went on to wish the

Kuwaiti military every success after their performance in operation 'Restoration of Hope', hailing their "fighting spirit and honorable sacrifices," the statement said.

Sheikh Nasser Al-Sabah was accompanied on his visit by the Kuwaiti army's Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khoder, in addition to other military officers, the statement added. Meanwhile, the statement pointed out that the Kuwaiti defense minister returned to Kuwait last night, where he was received by senior military officials. — KUNA



Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah speaks during his meeting with Kuwaiti soldiers participating in operation 'Restoration of Hoopo' in Saudi Arabia.



Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah joins the soldiers for iftar.



Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah poses with Kuwaiti soldiers participating in operation 'Restoration of Hoopo' in Saudi Arabia.

Auto theft gang busted in Jleeb

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Farwaniya detectives arrested a gang that stole vehicles in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, the Interior Ministry's relations and security media department said. Case papers indicate that detectives were tipped off concerning some vehicles seen parked in an open yard in Jleeb. Checking on the vehicles, detectives found they belong to three different car rental firms that had reported them missing after an expatriate man rented them for a day. Detectives also found out that the GPS devices in seven of the vehicles were disconnected.

After conducting investigations, detectives managed to identify the suspect, who escaped arrest, leaving three of his compatriots to be arrested with the seven stolen vehicles, the tools they used in breaking open and stealing them, 21 keys, 14 registration documents, several passports, three knives, two criminal investigators' IDs, detectives' blue lights, mobile phones and drug paraphernalia. The suspects confessed that they usually rented luxury vehicles for a day and then dismantled and sold them.



KUWAIT: Luxury vehicles found with gangsters arrested in Jleeb recently.

Passports officer smuggled cigarettes to Saudi Arabia

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Saudi security forces arrested a Kuwaiti passport employee smuggling cigarettes into the kingdom, said security sources, noting that after being tipped about the suspect, he was searched thoroughly and the cigarettes were found.

Marine pollution

Responding to public demands to punish a 'fashionista' for appearing in a social media video while throwing plastic into the sea, the Environment Public Authority (EPA) stressed that all legal measures would be taken against the suspect and that the environment law includes a penalty of up to six months in prison and/or a KD 50,000-100,000 fine for marine pollution.

Real estate

Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-

Man arrested with marijuana-filled e-cigarettes

KUWAIT: A few days after a warning from the interior ministry about a new type of drug, the Drugs Control General Department (DCGD) seized 69 e-cigarettes containing liquid marijuana from a citizen in his Fintas home. A security source said the discovery was made when officers found an e-cig containing liquid hashish with a citizen, who confessed to buying it from a drug dealer in Fintas. Detectives were able to locate his residence, obtained a warrant, raided the apartment and found the cigarettes. The suspect said he gets the products from the US by courier and had already sold 300 cigarettes. He was referred to concerned authorities.

Drug possession

A Bangladeshi man was sent to the DCGD after being arrested with locally-brewed liquor and drugs in Hasawi. A security source said the man was walking while carrying a large bag, which he threw and ran when he saw police approaching, but he was arrested.

Policeman insulted

A female citizen violated the traffic law and insulted a policeman on duty in Nugra. The policeman lodged a

Roudhan said over 20 real estate companies had been referred to the anti-money laundering department to take measures against their owners. Roudhan explained that compromises had been reached in over 30 complaints filed against the concerned companies by citizens. Roudhan added that the ministry prohibits real estate companies from publishing any ads or holding any exhibitions without prior licenses.

Roudhan said that proper documents should be submitted to the ministry 60 days prior to holding any real estate exhibitions, especially those promoting overseas real estate, submit a list of all participating companies and their licenses, a list of the real estate and property to be displayed at the exhibition and the exhibition's location and duration (that should not exceed 10 days).

Failaka harbor

Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of State for Services Jenan Boushehri said the ministry plans to develop some facilities on Failaka Island. Responding to an inquiry concerning the delay in dredging and deepening Failaka harbor, Boushehri said the Kuwait Public Transport Company (KPTC) harbor on the island was initially deepened pending developing other facilities, such as the new port, which will serve KPTC, coastguards, marines and marine rescue forces.

complaint against the woman, who became angry when he issued her a citation for obstructing traffic and insulted him.

Ex-husband accused of theft

A citizen accused her ex-husband of stealing her gold jewelry following a dispute that made her leave the house prior to her divorce. The woman said she left the house in anger, but when she went back to take her belongings, the jewelry was missing. The husband denied her claims, adding he does not know anything about the jewelry. Police are investigating.

Thefts

Ahmadi police arrested three suspected thieves a short while after a theft was reported in a farm in the Ahmadi desert. The three men were found in a pick-up truck with items they said they were moving from another farm. Police found that one of the three was wanted over five thefts, so they were taken to the police station, where they confessed to stealing from the farm and that they were heading to the house of one of them. Separately, police are looking to identify and arrest a suspect who broke into a vehicle and stole KD 3,000 and official documents that were kept inside. The vehicle's owner, an Egyptian mandoub (company representative), told Fintas police that he parked his car near a restaurant during Maghrib time for iftar, then when he returned, he found the window broken and a bag was missing. The bag contained cash and documents belonging to his company. — Translated from Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa

Legalese

Finding a better job

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed



I spent the last week working from Silicon Valley, meeting with lawyers from big corporations such as Google, HP, Facebook, Airbnb and so on. Working in Silicon valley is lucrative, high paid salaries, freedom with hours of work, free food, free dry cleaning, free bikes and transportation and endless other perks. The company was investing in the employees in return the employees were investing their time (their lives) into the company and also receiving shares, what a fabulous thing to see. Which got me thinking about the unfortunate policies that I have seen some companies in Kuwait or the GCC work with, forcing employees to work overtime, or taking their passports away, not providing salaries on time and so on. Wouldn't it make more sense to spend money on employees then to spend money on lawyers fighting cases in court?

I am writing this in hope that at least one CEO or Human Resources manager will read this and understand that the team is the most valuable asset. I don't expect companies in Kuwait to have arcades for their employees, but to at least follow the law! I also hope to inspire those employees that are working with violations or in a negative environment to be brave enough to understand the laws to change their job. Here are a few laws or rights that you would need to know should you want to change your job.

Probation period

Question: When can you change your job?

Attorney Fajer: It is easiest through the probation period and before the completion of the 100 working days. Please note there is a common misunderstanding that the probation period is 90 days or three months or 100 days (not working days, which makes a difference).

If you have a closed ended contract (specific time period) you would need to check the contract to see what the notice period is. It is very common in Kuwait to have the notice period for three months, but it is possible that there is no notice period in your contract. If you have an open ended contract (without a specific time period), the notice period is three months by law.

Question: How do I inform my company I am leaving?

Attorney Fajer: This is very important. Please make sure you let your company know that you are resigning in writing. If your company has clear labor law violations, inform your lawyer and they can assist you with drafting the resignation letter.

Making complaints

Question: Where do I make complaints of Kuwait labor law violations?

Attorney Fajer: At bigger corporations, you might find it helpful to read the companies' policies as they may have policies in place for complaints, and usually the person to complain to would be working in Human Resources. If you are of the opinion that HR is not helpful or if you do not have such an option, speak to your lawyer and file a complaint in Shoon (Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor).

I hope that as many people as possible are happy with their work, are doing something they enjoy and that is rewarding.

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



Improving customer service, bank position common goals: Al-Nahedh

Kuwait Finance House held annual Ramadan ghabka for staff



KFH-Group CEO Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh speaks during the ghabka.



Dr. Sayyed Mohammad Al-Sayyed Abdul Razzaq Al-Tabtaba'e, Chairman of Fatwa and Sharia Supervisory Board of KFH Group delivers his speech.



Yousef Al-Ruwaieh speaks.

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) held the annual Ramadan ghabka for its staff in the presence of KFH-Group CEO Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh, Dr. Sayyed Mohammad Al-Sayyed Abdul Razzaq Al-Tabtaba'e, Chairman of Fatwa and Sharia Supervisory Board of KFH Group, the executive management and a huge number of KFH employees.

Nahedh congratulated KFH employees on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan, asking Almighty

Allah to help them fast, pray and worship, noting the ghabka came in conjunction with KFH 40th anniversary.

Nahedh expressed his thanks to the employees for their efforts in serving customers, stressing the importance of dedication and devotion for better serving KFH the world leading Islamic financial institution. He indicated that Islamic finance industry is a main pillar of boosting the world economy.

Nahedh added, during his speech at KFH's ghabka

the importance of staff communication with their colleagues and the management. This contributes in improving performance while achieving further development and leadership. He said that improving customer service, and maintain the pioneering position of the Bank are common goals between staff and the management.

Meanwhile, Tabtaba'e congratulated employees on the holy month of Ramadan, indicating it is the month of

piety where people should have the best behavior with their coworkers and with others. He said that Fatwa Board has audited all Group's businesses.

Tabtaba'e concluded by extending his thanks to the Chairman of KFH Hamad Al-Marzouq and to Nahedh for their keenness to fully comply with sharia regulations in all bank businesses, noting KFH is a great edifice that is a source of pride as it is a pioneer in the Islamic finance.



KUWAIT: KFH management poses for a group photo during the annual Ramadan ghabka for staff.



A general view of attendees at the annual Ramadan ghabka for staff.



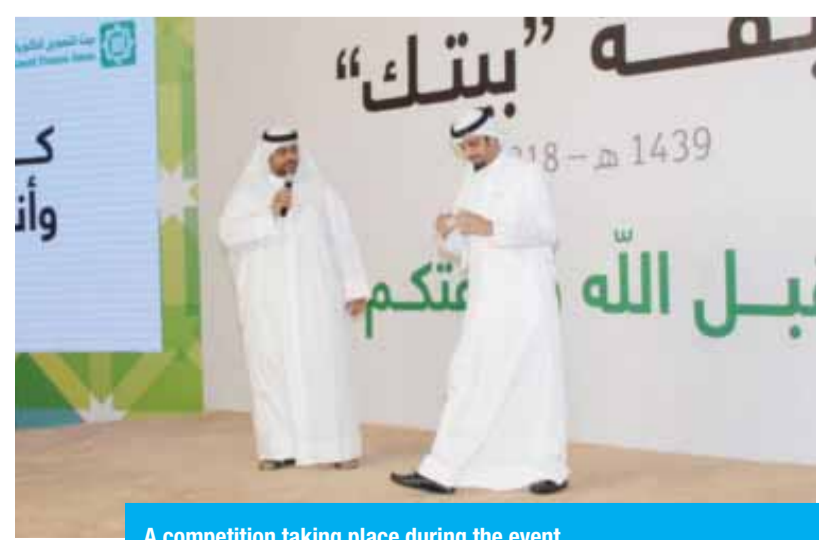
KFH staff pose for a group photo during the event.



Dr. Sayyed Al-Tabtaba'e (left) and Mazin Al-Nahedh.



(From left) Yousef Al-Ruwaieh, Adnan Al-Qanaie and Fahad Al-Mekhaizeem.



A competition taking place during the event.

Local



Zain celebrates gergiaan with Social Care Centers



KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, shared the joys and blessings of the holy month of Ramadan and the tradition of gergiaan with orphans, the elderly, and people with special needs, by visiting the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's Care Centers. The initiative came under the company's extensive social campaign during the Holy Month.

Every Ramadan, Zain is keen to reach out to the many segments of the community, including orphaned children, the elderly, and people with special needs to share the joyful blessings of the holy month with them. Zain believes in the importance of embracing the beautiful values of the Islamic religion as well as the noble traditions of the Kuwaiti heritage, all year round and especially in the holy month of Ramadan.

Zain's team, consisting of staff and volun-

teers, participated in distributing gifts and gergiaan candy to care centres in an atmosphere filled with joy and happiness. The com-



Under its extensive social campaign

pany believes the Holy Month of Ramadan is a special time of the year, and it is always keen on sharing the blessings of this time with those who are less fortunate in the community. Zain's continuous participation with different segments of society is a testament to the

company's belief that improving the lives of communities in which it operates is central to its overall activities.

Zain stressed that it has always been keen to organize a number of social and humanitarian initiatives during Ramadan to support the various sectors of the Kuwaiti society, and the company is keen on reflecting the religious as well as traditional humanitarian values and principles to enrich the art of giving and to increase bonding between individuals. The company further affirmed its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility campaign during the holy month of Ramadan, which includes an extensive array of programs that cover different areas. The initiatives and programs include humanitarian, voluntary, cultural, religious, sports, and recreational programs to cater to the different segments of society.



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Dara'a: Traditional Ramadan dress

By Nawara Fattahova

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

Amid modernization and new fashion trends, traditional outfits are fading, while some of them are worn only on certain occasions. The dara'a is a traditional women's dress in Gulf countries. Other Arab countries have similar dresses with different names, including jalabiya, kaftan and others. Women still wear the dara'a, but not as much as they did in the past. Most Kuwaiti women have replaced the dara'a with modern fashionable outfits.

Today, the dara'a is mostly used for social events that take place during the holy month of Ramadan, especially

ghabkas and gergiaan. During the year, women rarely wear dara'as except for occasions like receptions or the National Day. This has made the dara'a one of the main Ramadan outfits, and whenever we see a dara'a, it reminds us of the holy month. Also, during Ramadan or just before it starts, many exhibitions of dara'as are held, as this is the best season for selling them.

The dara'a comes in many different designs, and this also determines its price. There are dara'as for the house, which are comfortable and without or with very simple embellishments, and these are cheap and may cost between KD 3 to 15. The dara'as for special occasions can also be simple or with heavy embroidery and artwork. The prices of these dara'as differ depending on the materials used, the designer or the brand - and may reach KD 500 or more.

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

KIB organizes iftar meal initiative throughout Ramadan

KUWAIT: Under the umbrella of its leading social responsibility program and in line with the virtues of the holy month, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) launched its annual iftar meal initiative for those fasting during Ramadan. The iftar meals consist of nutritious, complete daily meals, which will continue to be distributed throughout the holy month of Ramadan.

On this occasion, Manager of the Corporate

Communications Unit, Nawaf Najia, said: "As has become its annual custom, KIB continues to organize iftar meals throughout the Holy Month of Ramadan to ensure that all those fasting get a healthy meal, especially those who live far away from their families. We always strive to organize this initiative every year, as it combines humanitarian, social and religious causes. This initiative also reflects our unwavering commitment to the values and principles of the Islamic sharia, as well as our dedication to strengthening communal ties."


At the end of his statement, Najia pointed out that KIB's iftar meals are one of the key initiatives of its social responsibility program during the holy month of Ramadan. The bank's Ramadan campaign comprises a range of religious, social, charitable, and humanitarian initiatives, in line with its new strategic direction which establishes it as a partner in every aspect of people's lives; a true 'bank for life'.



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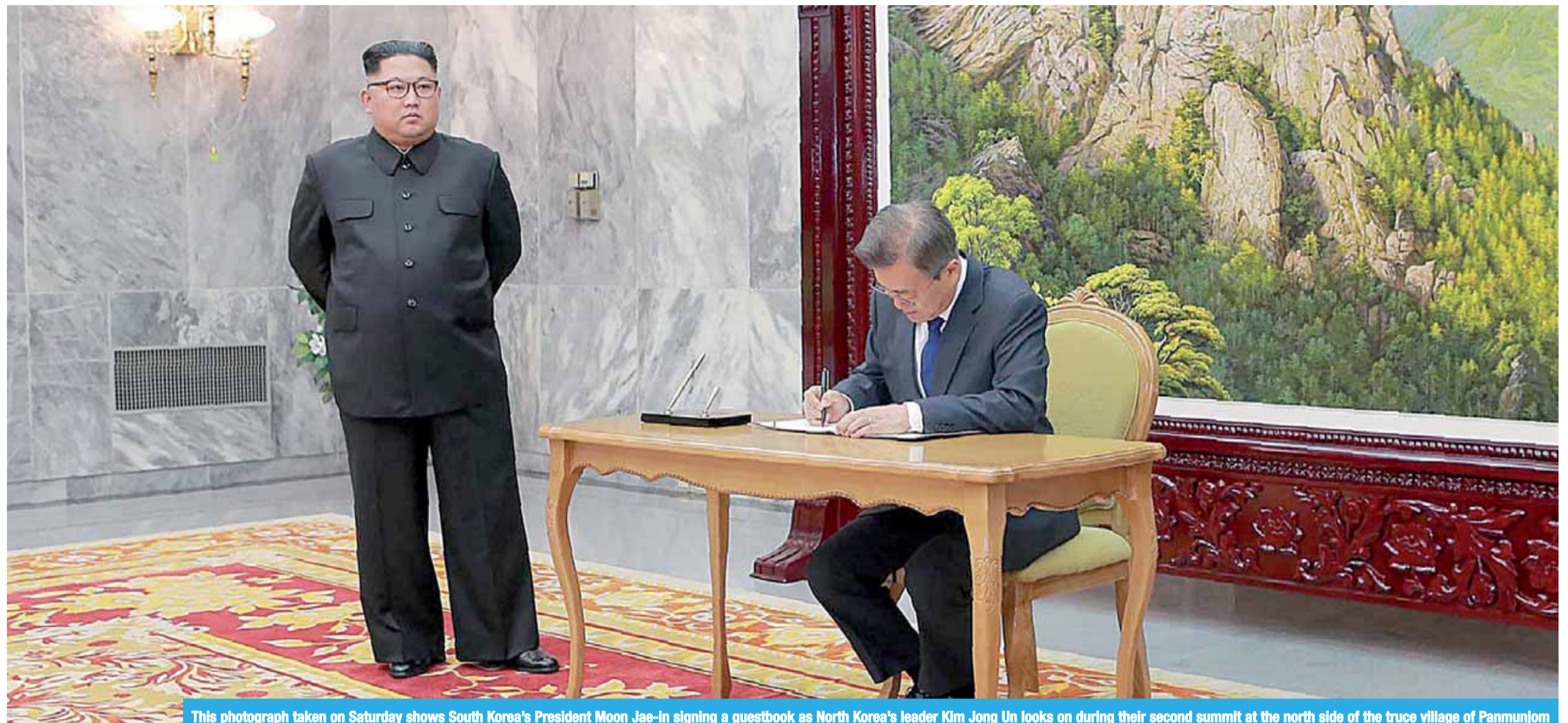


الكلية الأسترالية في الكويت
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Hundreds march in Hong Kong to mark Tiananmen

US missionary home after two years behind bars in Venezuela



This photograph taken on Saturday shows South Korea's President Moon Jae-in signing a guestbook as North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un looks on during their second summit at the north side of the truce village of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). —AFP

Trump and Kim raise summit hopes

North Korea committed to 'complete' denuclearization

SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reaffirmed his commitment to "complete" denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and to a planned meeting with US President Donald Trump, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said yesterday. In Washington, US President Donald Trump signalled that preparations for a June 12 summit with Kim were going ahead, despite having called the meeting off last week.

Moon and Kim agreed at a surprise meeting on Saturday that the possible North Korea-US summit must be held, Moon told a news conference in Seoul. "Chairman Kim and I have agreed that the June 12 summit should be held successfully, and that our quest for the Korean peninsula's denuclearization and a perpetual peace regime should not be halted," Moon said.

The meeting was the latest dramatic turn in a week of diplomatic ups and downs surrounding the prospects for an unprecedented summit between the United States and North Korea, and the strongest sign yet that the two Korean leaders are trying to keep the on-again off-again meeting on track. A statement from North Korea's state news agency KCNA said Kim expressed "his fixed will" on the possibility of meeting Trump as previously planned.

Moon, who returned to Seoul on Thursday morning after meeting Trump in Washington in a bid to keep the high-stakes US-North Korea summit on track, said he delivered a message of Trump's "firm resolve" to end the hostile relationship with North Korea and pursue bilateral economic cooperation. Trump said in a letter to Kim on Thursday he was cancelling the planned Singapore summit, citing North Korea's "open hostility".

However, Trump said on Saturday he was still looking at a June 12 date for a summit in Singapore and that talks were progressing very well. "We're doing very well in terms of the summit with North Korea," Trump said at the White House. "It's moving along very nicely. So we're looking at June 12th in Singapore. That hasn't changed. So, we'll see what happens." A White House team will leave as scheduled for Singapore this weekend to prepare for the possible summit, a White House spokeswoman said on Saturday.

Nipah claims new victim in India, death toll now 13

NEW DELHI: Another patient has died in India from the Nipah virus, taking the number of fatalities from an outbreak of the rare disease to 13, authorities said yesterday. Officials in the southwestern state of Kerala said that in addition to the latest fatality two patients have tested positive for the virus spread by fruit bats, which induces flu-like symptoms that lead to agonizing encephalitis and coma. Emergency measures have been imposed across Kerala to curb the spread of the virus, with dozens of patients quarantined since the outbreak was detected this month.

Health experts have been flown to Kerala to help contain the virus, which has a mortality rate of 70 percent and no vaccine. "One man died today from Nipah virus, taking the overall death toll to 13," Sarita R L, director of Kerala's health services, told AFP. "There are two other confirmed Nipah patients undergoing treatment." Nipah has killed more than 260 people in Malaysia, Bangladesh and India since 1998.

The World Health Organization has listed it as one of the eight priority diseases that could cause a global epidemic, alongside Ebola and Zika. Nipah is named

Denuclearization differences
China's Foreign Ministry said in a statement sent to Reuters yesterday it "firmly" hoped the summit could happen as scheduled and be successful and reiterated a call for both sides to be patient and show goodwill. "We have always believed that direct contacts and dialogue between the leaders of North Korea and the United States are crucial to resolving the peninsula nuclear issue," it said. While maintaining that Kim is committed to denuclearization, Moon acknowledged Pyongyang and Washington may have differing expectations of what that means and he urged both sides to hold work-



China 'firmly' hopes meet can happen

see not only the end of hostile relations but also economic cooperation if North Korea denuclearizes," Moon said. "I urge North Korea and the US to confirm each other's will by sharing their problems with each other and communicating directly."
A senior South Korean official said later the two Koreans were discussing a possible non-aggression pledge and the start of peace treaty talks as a way of addressing Pyongyang's security concerns ahead of US-North Korean negotiations.

American officials are skeptical that Kim will ever fully abandon his nuclear arsenal, and Moon said North Korea is not yet convinced it can trust security guarantees from the United States. "However, during the US-South Korea summit, President Trump clearly emphasized that we may



KOZHIKODE, India: In this photo taken on May 21, 2018 animal husbandry department and forest officials inspect a well to catch bats in Changaroth in the state of Kerala. —AFP

borne the brunt of the disease in recent years, with more than 100 people dying of Nipah since a first outbreak was reported there in 2001. Four victims from the latest outbreak in Kerala hailed from one family. Dead bats were found in a well at their home in Kozhikode district, the epicenter of the viral outbreak. A nurse treating one of the victims also succumbed to the disease. —AFP

level talks to resolve their differences.
"Even though they share the same resolve, there need to be discussions regarding the roadmap for how to make it happen, and that process could be tough," he said, declining to define "complete denuclearization". The Trump administration has demanded that North Korea completely and irreversibly shut its nuclear weapons program. Kim and Trump's initial decision to meet followed months of war threats and insults between the leaders over the program.

"Better than a phone call"
Moon said he held Saturday's impromptu summit - the second between the two sides in a month - after Kim asked for a meeting "without any formality". "A meeting was held because officials of both countries thought that meeting face-to-face would be better than a phone call," Moon said, noting that the summit was in line with previous agreements for the two leaders to meet more often.

Their talks at the Panmunjom border village, which South Korean officials said lasted two hours, came after their April 27 meeting, the first inter-Korean summit in more than a decade that was also held at the same venue. At that meeting, they declared they would work towards a nuclear-free Korean peninsula and a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War.

The KCNA statement said Kim and Moon agreed to hold high-level talks between their two nations on June 1, and to take steps to quickly implement their efforts to denuclearize the peninsula. KCNA said the leaders also agreed to meet frequently. The agency said the two leaders had reached a "satisfactory consensus" and expressed "their stand to make joint efforts for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula".

Video and a photo released by South Korea's presidential Blue House on Saturday showed Kim hugging Moon and kissing him on the cheek three times as he saw Moon off after their meeting at Tongilgak, the North's building in the truce village, which lies in the Demilitarized Zone - the 4-km-wide buffer that runs along the heavily armed military border. —Reuters

Libya breakthrough to be sought at Paris conference

PARIS: Libya's rival leaders are expected in Paris next Tuesday under pressure to agree to a political roadmap for the war-struck country that could see elections held before the end of 2018, according to the French presidency. The major international conference dedicated to the oil-rich north African country has been organized to bring together the rival factions for power, as well as neighboring countries and regional backers. "After seven years of conflict and tensions, this unprecedented conference ... aims to open a new period of stability and cooperation which is awaited by the Libyan people," a statement from the French presidency said yesterday.

An aide to French president Emmanuel Macron said the Libyan leaders had agreed in principle to a roadmap that would pave the way for parliamentary and presidential elections, if possible before the end of the year. The invitees include Prime Minister Fayez Al-Sarraj, head of Libya's UN-backed unity government in Tripoli in the west, and 75-year-old military strongman Khalifa Haftar, whose rival Libyan National Army dominates the country's east.

Aguila Saleh Issa, the parliament speaker based in the eastern town of Tobruk who opposes the UN-backed administration, is also expected, as is Khalid Al-Mishri, the newly elected head of the High Council of State. Years of mediation by the United Nations, as well as former colonial power Italy, have failed to bring stability to Libya which descended into chaos after the ousting of dictator Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. Since then, the country has become a new base for the Islamic State extremist group and other militants, as well as a departure point for hundreds of thousands of African migrants seeking to enter Europe.

European leaders see stabilizing the country as key to tackling the joint security and immigration threats, and Macron threw himself into finding a solution shortly after his election in May last year. The 40-year-old French leader brought Sarraj and Haftar together in Paris where they agreed a ceasefire and to hold elections in 2018 - a move that irked the Italian government at the time which was blindsided by Macron's diplomacy.

It remains to be seen if the conference on Tuesday will lead to real change on the ground, after several false dawns since the fall of Gaddafi and peace deals that have failed to be honored. The UN special envoy for Libya, Ghassan Salame, has given up trying to implement a 2015 political agreement to set up a unity government, instead focusing on trying to hold elections as a way to unify the country. Representatives from 19 countries involved in Libya have been invited - an acknowledgement that the country's problems can only be resolved if regional powers agree on the roadmap.

These include Egypt, Russia and the United Arab Emirates which have backed Haftar and the rival administration in Tobruk in the east, not the UN-recognized government based in the capital Tripoli. Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, as well as neighbors Algeria and Tunisia will also send representatives to the talks. —AFP

International

Northern Ireland under pressure after historic Irish abortion vote

Result another hammer blow for Catholic Church's authority

DUBLIN: Pressure mounted yesterday for British-ruled Northern Ireland to liberalize its strict abortion laws after a historic referendum in the neighboring Republic of Ireland overturned its ban. A traditionally Catholic country, Ireland voted by a landslide to ditch its strict abortion laws in a referendum that Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said lifted decades of stigma and shame. Varadkar's government has promised to approve the drafting of abortion legislation at a cabinet meeting tomorrow and is aiming to enact the new law before the end of the year.

More than 66 percent of voters backed repealing the constitutional ban on terminations, triggering scenes of tearful jubilation in Dublin after an emotional campaign. British lawmakers said Northern Ireland, where abortions are only allowed if the physical or mental health of the mother are at severe risk, should now follow suit. Women who have unannounced abortions in Northern Ireland face life imprisonment under 19th-century legislation still in place.

International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt said Ireland's vote was a "hopeful" day for Northern Ireland. "That hope must be met," she said. Newspapers reflected on the historic vote, while the government promised to allow abortion in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy and between 12 and 24 weeks in exceptional circumstances. "The power of women," was the headline on The Sunday Independent, while The Sunday Business Post ran with "Generation Yes" saying Ireland had wrestled with its

past and voted to redefine its future. The Irish Sun on Sunday pictured two women hugging under the headline "No more lonely journeys" in reference to those who had been forced to travel to England to have an abortion.

Seismic change

Writing in The Sunday Times, columnist Una Mullaly said: "The fiction of Ireland as a conservative, dogmatically Catholic country has been shattered. What happened in the referendum vote was seismic, but more seismic still was the realization that this vote was reflecting change, not just instigating it." In the Sunday Independent, Jody Corcoran said the big pro-choice vote "maximizes to a visceral, guttural roar what must amount to be a demand to end decades of hypocrisy and shame".

The result is another hammer blow for the Catholic Church's authority in Ireland, coming three years after referendum voters backed legalizing same-sex marriage by 62 percent. The Church's influence has crumbled in recent years due to a series of child sex abuse scandals. Diarmuid Martin, the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, said the Church could not compromise its position on abortion. In an address to mass-goers in Maynooth, west of Dublin, Martin said the Church needed to renew its pro-life stance not just in words but in deeds also, Irish media reported. That would include helping women struggling with difficult decisions over pregnancies. "Pro-life means radically



DUBLIN: Yes campaigners hold posters calling for British-ruled Northern Ireland to liberalize its strict abortion laws at Dublin Castle on Saturday. — AFP

rediscovering in all our lives a special love for the poor," he reportedly said.

Northern Ireland in spotlight

But any hope for quick change in Northern Ireland, the only part of the United Kingdom where terminations are almost always illegal, appears improbable. May's minority

Conservative government relies on support from MPs from Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party for a majority in the British parliament - and the Protestant DUP strongly opposes abortion law reform. Sinn Féin and the SDLP, the two major parties representing Northern Ireland's Irish Catholics, and the cross-community Alliance Party, back overturning the ban.—AFP

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The power of women

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Morocco boycott revives debate over business, politics links

RABAT: More than a month after its launch, an unprecedented boycott campaign in Morocco against three well-known brands has revived criticism against links between the country's business and political elite. Spreading like wildfire across social media, the campaign is targeting Afriquia service stations, Sidi Ali water and Danone milk - leaders in their sectors - and calling for a drop in prices. Despite brand communication efforts to curb the campaign, AFP saw its popularity in cafes, shops and deserted Afriquia petrol stations in several Moroccan cities.

Some 57 percent of Moroccans are actively engaged in the boycott, according to a survey of 3,575 mostly middle class Moroccans published this week in the country's L'Economiste newspaper. The Afriquia group belongs to billionaire Aziz Akhannouch, the richest man in Morocco, minister of agriculture since 2007 and head of the National Rally of Independents (NRI) technocrat political party. The boycott carries "a symbolic message from the middle class" against the marriage between political power and big business, political analyst Aziz Chahir told AFP. Ahmed Bouz, another political analyst, said the campaign shows "awareness of the need to separate politics from business".

'Conflicts of interest'

The Moroccan press frequently covered conflict of interest throughout the 2000s, placing a sharp focus on the royal family and the National Investment Company - since transformed into a holding company and renamed Al Mada. The enrichment of the country's ruling elite resurfaced in 2011 as the popular revolts of the Arab Spring swept across the region. Constitutional reform that year fuelled hopes for change, but the current government - formed in 2017 by the Islamist PJD party - brought in more technocrats and businessmen, along with accusations of conflict of interest.

Moroccan media and activists accuse Trade Minister Moulay Hafid Elalamy - who heads one of the country's largest conglomerates - of helping to pass a favorable tax provision for the transfer of his Saham insurance company to South African giant Sanlam. Elalamy says he has complied with the law and asked for an inquiry into the transaction to prove his innocence. "Nothing in the law prohibits businessmen from holding government positions," Abdelali Benamour, head of Morocco's Competition Council, told AFP.

Fouad Abdelmoumen of Transparency Maroc said: "The state has not put in place mechanisms that define conflicts of interest and that contain excesses." Excessive profits in big business - especially fuel distributors like Afriquia - has also stoked anger among Moroccans. A mid-May parliamentary report on the evolution of fuel prices since their liberalization in 2015 caused an uproar. The final version of the report - its most glaring figures redacted - put the sector's profit margins above \$1.5 billion. The alliance between business and politics appeared again in headlines Tuesday, when Salaheddine Mezouar - former finance minister, trade minister and head of the NRI - was elected head of Morocco's private business sector. — AFP

Rival demos counter far-right street protests in Berlin

BERLIN: Thousands of demonstrators for and against the far-right faced off in mass rival rallies in Berlin yesterday, where calls of "We are the people" were met with chants of "Go away, Nazis" and techno music. Police officers were deployed to keep groups apart and prevent clashes, as far-left militants vowed to "sabotage" the march by the anti-immigrant, anti-Islam Alternative for Germany (AfD) party. On Twitter, Berlin police said they had to use pepper spray to stop "demonstrators from trying to break down barriers" separating the rallies at Berlin's Leipziger square.

They also announced bridge closures to avoid AfD demonstrators running into opponents. The counter-demos, organized under the banner "Stop the hatred, Stop the AfD", were triggered by a call from the far-right party for its supporters to march in the capital "for the future of Germany". According to police, "several thousand" AfD supporters answered the call, assembling at Berlin's main train station shortly after midday before making their way to the iconic Brandenburg Gate.

Many of them were waving Germany's

black, red and gold flag and carrying blue balloons, the color of the AfD. Their chants of "Merkel must go" and "We are the people" were occasionally drowned out by whistles, jeers and outstretched middle fingers from counter-demonstrators in side streets cordoned off by rows of police. The AfD march marks the first public show of strength by the nationalist outfit since it became the largest opposition party.

Scheduled to address the crowd are top AfD figures Joerg Meuthen and Alexander Gauland, who regularly rail against Chancellor Angela Merkel's decision to allow in large numbers of mainly Muslim refugees at the height of Europe's migrant crisis. "Merkel caused such chaos," 41-year-old AfD member and teacher Christine Moessel told AFP. "Now we know that many Islamists were among the refugees and they have no respect for women. We need to be safe."

After initially predicting 10,000 AfD supporters would show up, organizers later said they would be happy with a turnout of 5,000. Berlin AfD chief Georg Pazderski said ahead of the march that many still feared being "stigmatized" for showing their AfD colors, even after the party took nearly 13 percent of the vote and won its first seats in the national parliament in last year's elections.

'Bass away the AfD'

Thousands joined the main counter-demo, staged by an alliance of political parties, unions, student bodies, migrant advocates and civil society organizations. Walking under a hot Berlin sun, supporters



BERLIN: Alternative for Germany (AfD) demonstrators attend the "demonstration for the future of Germany" march yesterday. — AFP

waved rainbow flags and carried banners with messages like "No to racism" and "Go away, Nazis", while chanting "the whole of Berlin is against the AfD". One of the loudest counter-demos was organized by some 100 clubs from Berlin's legendary techno scene, who were using boats and floats on the river Spree and a convoy of DJ-carrying trucks to "bass away" the AfD. "The Berlin club culture is everything that Nazis are not," they said in a statement. We are progressive,

queer, feminist, anti-racist, inclusive, colorful and we have unicorns."

Although the vast majority of counter-demonstrators are expected to be peaceful, members of the far-left extremist Antifa movement have on their website called for "chaos", urging sympathizers "to sabotage the AfD rally using all necessary means". Berlin police have deployed 2,000 officers, drafted in from across Germany, to keep the peace.—AFP

Young volunteers help bring Mosul back to life

MOSUL: A group of Iraqi university students have found a cause in the ruins of Mosul. They are salvaging what is left of its rich heritage, clearing rubble and distributing aid in a city crying out for help after the war against Islamic State. The project began when Raghad Hammadi and a group of students decided to launch a campaign to help rebuild the Central Library of Mosul University, burnt and bombed in the war. Its vast contents had been all but lost.

But they found buried under layers of ash some 30,000 books almost intact. Over 40 hot days, with the war still raging on the other side, the students moved the books one by one using holes made by rockets to carry them to safety. "An entire city with a glorious past and ancient history lost its heritage and culture: the tomb of the Prophet Jonah, the minaret of Al-Hadba which is older than Iraq itself. It is great that we were able to save a part of this heritage," said Hammadi, 25, a nursing student.

Both the leaning minaret of Al-Hadba, part of the 12th century Grand Al-Nuri Mosque, where in 2014 Islamic State's Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi declared a caliphate, and the ancient tomb of what is believed to be of the Prophet Jonah (PBUH) were destroyed in the military campaign to retake the city. Hammadi says among the books salvaged were some handwritten by Mosul scholars. They included editions written in Moslawi, the distinct dialect of the region once known as a centre for scholarly Islam and the pride of many for its ancient mosques, churches and Old City architecture.

Revolution within

Elsewhere, volunteers cleared rubble and garbage, opened roads, drilled water wells and distributed aid. "The situation in Mosul is so much better now and this

is because of the revolution that happened within Mosul, within its young people," she said. After living under Islamic State's strict rule and then the war to retake the city, young women feel as though they have been liberated.

The team that set out to rescue the books was mixed, a rarity in Mosul's society, where mingling between sexes outside the family or university was limited even before Islamic State. "An unbelievable barrier has been broken, it might be a trivial thing for the rest of the world but for Mosul it is huge," she said. Months after Iraq announced full control of the city, life is back in many parts. But much of the Old City, where the last and the bloodiest battles were waged, is still in complete ruin.

Diyaa Al Taher, a resident who is helping rehabilitate homes, says most people, despite being impoverished, have returned to neighborhoods where the rubble has been cleared. However, there are entire areas that are completely deserted. Corpses fester under debris. "Poverty can do more harm than Daesh. If the city remains like this and the poor can't find anything to eat, they will do anything," said Taher, 30. Taher says his target is to rehabilitate 1,000 homes and has so far finished rehabilitating 75, relying solely on donations from locals.

Taher is regularly stopped by locals asking for help. He points to a collapsed home where an entire family was killed. "Their belongings were taken to be sold for charity," he said, skipping over the stream of sewage that split the road.

Miracle escape

Marwa Al-Juburi, 25, a divorcee, was one of the first to volunteer as soon as she and her family escaped the fighting. "It was a miracle that we even made it. From then on I refused to accept to stay at home anymore. I refused to be silenced and I haven't since," she said. She says she had to overcome stigma both as a woman and a divorcee to carry out the work. She runs activities for children and helps coordinate access to medical care and equipment for families. Her team organized the opening of a park previously used as a military training ground for the fighters who ruled the city for three years.— Reuters

Polish disabled protesters call off sit-in in parliament

WARSAW: Young disabled Poles have called off their sit-in protest in the Polish parliament after 40 days of sleeping on its floor in a bid to persuade the right-wing government to boost their meager living allowance. The move came as the spring session of NATO's Parliamentary Assembly was being held in the Polish parliament over the weekend. In connection with the event, Polish authorities blocked off the corridor where the protesters are camped out, cutting them off from the outside world and shower facilities giving them access to only one bathroom.

"After 40 days, we are suspending our protest in parliament," Iwona Hartwich, who has been protesting inside parliament alongside her 23-year-old son Jakub, told Poland's TVN24 news channel. "We're worried about our children's well-being. We've been cut off from facilities," she added. Confined to a wheel-chair, Jakub is one of some 10 other disabled young protesters who are demanding a new monthly benefit of 1120 (\$141) in addition to the modest state payments they currently receive.

Lech Walesa, Poland's communist-era freedom icon and Nobel Peace Prize winner, rallied behind them on Monday calling for solidarity with their cause. Senior members of Poland's right-wing Law and Justice (PiS) government have also met with them, but have failed to agree on their demands. Poland's Family and Labour Minister Elzbieta Rafalska said it has already increased an existing disability allowance by 39 euros, to 245 euros.— AFP

International

Khan eyes victory as Pakistan announces elections on July 25

Only second-ever democratic transfer of power eyed

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani cricket star-turned-politician Imran Khan's party vowed yesterday to oust the country's "corrupt" rulers, as the nuclear-armed state announced it will hold general elections on July 25. The poll will bring to a head political tensions that have been building since former prime minister Nawaz Sharif was ousted by the Supreme Court on corruption charges and later barred from politics for life. Khan is hoping to achieve a years-long dream of leading the country as its prime minister, and his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party is the main challenger to the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), which was headed by Sharif until his ban.

PTI leaders have said they are confident they will be able to defeat the PML-N. "The Pakistani nation... can see the dawn of a new Pakistan, which will not be ruled by the corrupt," the party said in a statement posted yesterday on Twitter along with a graphic that read "Mafia's Game Over". "Stop us if you can," it said in another tweet. The bullish comments came after Pakistan's president Mamnoon Hussain on Saturday approved July 25 as the date for the elections, which offer the prospect of what would be only the second-ever democratic transfer of power in the South Asian country.

The current government, led by Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, is expected to hand over power to a caretaker administration in the coming days. Despite Sharif's ouster, the ruling party says it has

invested in improving Pakistan's rickety infrastructure and attracted billions of dollars in Chinese investment. It has also denied allegations of graft against its leadership by opponents like Khan.

PTI has vowed to fight corruption, presenting itself as a polar opposite of what it calls status-quo politicians. Since he was ousted, Sharif and the PML-N have become increasingly vocal in their confrontation with the country's powerful military establishment and the courts, claiming there is a conspiracy afoot to reduce the party's power. Political analyst Hasan Askari said PTI was heading into the election with momentum on its side, but stopped short of predicting a win at the polls that would allow the party to form a government. "One thing is clear that PTI seats will increase and PML-N's seats will decrease, but by how many, we can't say at this stage," Askari told AFP.

Increasing pressure

Sharif was the 15th prime minister in Pakistan's seven-decade history - roughly half of it under military rule - to be removed before completing a full term. The country saw its first ever democratic transfer of power following elections in 2013, which the PML-N won by a landslide. "This is the second consecutive parliament to complete its tenure and we are now looking forward to... (going) to the people to get their verdict on our performance," Finance Minister Miftah Ismail told AFP.

Despite the numerous court rulings against the



PESHAWAR: Activists of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) party run from policemen during a protest against the amendment bill on the semi-autonomous Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) in front of the provincial assembly yesterday. — AFP

PTI has momentum on its side

PML-N, the party has won a string of recent by-elections, proving it will likely remain a powerful force. It continues to enjoy large swathes of support in Punjab, the country's most populous province, but will enter the election under increasing pressure. In April, a Pakistan court disqualified Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif for violating the country's election laws, while

Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal was shot in the arm in a suspected assassination attempt by an Islamist gunman earlier this month. Sharif also sparked a firestorm after suggesting Pakistani militants were behind the 2008 Mumbai attacks, approaching what is seen as a red line in the country by touching on criticism of Pakistan's military. — AFP

US warships sail near islands claimed by China

WASHINGTON: Two US Navy warships sailed near South China Sea islands claimed by China yesterday, two US officials told Reuters, in a move likely to anger Beijing as President Donald Trump seeks its continued cooperation on North Korea. The operation was the latest attempt to counter what Washington sees as Beijing's efforts to limit freedom of navigation in the strategic waters.

While this operation had been planned months in advance, and similar operations have become routine, it comes at a particularly sensitive time and just days after the Pentagon uninvited China from a major US-hosted naval drill. The US officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Higgins guided-missile destroyer and the Antietam, a guided-missile cruiser, came within 12 nautical miles of the Paracel Islands, among a string of islets, reefs and shoals over which China has territorial disputes with its neighbors.

The US military vessels carried out maneuvering operations near Tree, Lincoln, Triton and Woody islands in the Paracels, one of the officials said. Trump's cancellation of a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has put further strain on US-China ties amid a trade dispute between the world's two largest economies. Critics of the operations, known as a "freedom of navigation," have said that they have little impact on Chinese behavior and are largely symbolic.

The US military has a long-standing position that its operations are carried out throughout the world, including in areas claimed by allies, and that they are separate from political considerations. Satellite photographs taken on May 12 showed China appeared to have deployed truck-mounted surface-to-air missiles or anti-ship cruise missiles at Woody Island. Earlier this month, China's air force landed bombers on disputed islands and reefs in the South China Sea as part of a training exercise in the region, triggering concern from Vietnam and the Philippines.

The US military did not directly comment on Sunday's operation, but said US forces operate in the region on a daily basis. "We conduct routine and regular Freedom of Navigation Operations (FONOPs), as we have done in the past and will continue to do in the future," US Pacific Fleet said in a statement. Neither China's foreign nor defence ministries immediately responded to a request for comment.

Contested sea

Pentagon officials have long complained that China has not been candid enough about its rapid military build-up and using South China Sea islands to gather intelligence in the region. In March, a US Navy destroyer carried out a "freedom of navigation" operation close to Mischief Reef in the Spratly Islands. Chinese officials have accused Washington of viewing their country in suspicious, "Cold War" terms.

China's claims in the South China Sea, through which about \$5 trillion in shipborne trade passes each year, are contested by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. The United States has said it would like to see more international participation in freedom-of-navigation operations in the South China Sea. — Reuters

'Our families would be killed': Rohingya brace for monsoon

COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh: Marooned on a dusty slope in the world's largest refugee camp, Osiur Rahman looked to the hill where a Rohingya girl was buried in a landslide just days earlier and contemplated his chances should the earth give way beneath his feet. "Our families would be killed. There are children everywhere around here. We constantly fear that rain could trigger a landslide," the 53-year-old told AFP on the steep embankment where he lives with nine family members in a bamboo shack.

For the 700,000 Rohingya Muslims who have fled to southeast Bangladesh in the past nine months, the approaching monsoon season poses the most serious threat since they were violently expelled from Myanmar. Close to one million of the stateless Muslim minority live in the Cox's Bazar district but the new arrivals, stranded on unstable hills in bamboo and plastic shacks, are especially vulnerable. A massive operation to shore up the camps against disaster is in overdrive, with bulldozers levelling hills and refugees bunkering down however they can.

But as the rains approach, the young girl's death this month in a torrent of mud and rock has heightened fears of a much

greater tragedy. There is a dearth of safe land to relocate the estimated 200,000 refugees in direct danger of floods and landslides, and just 21,000 have been moved so far. "We could literally have lives lost as people slide down hillsides and valleys are flooded with water," Kevin J Allen, head of the UNHCR refugee agency's operations in Cox's Bazar, told AFP. "They could face yet again another emergency, this time driven by Mother Nature."

The camps' makeshift homes are predicted to receive more than 2.5 m of rainfall over three months starting June - roughly triple what Britain gets in a year. Cox's Bazar has been battered by cyclones for three years running, having already suffered astonishing devastation in the past. Cyclones have killed tens of thousands along the Bangladesh coast in recent decades and countless more have been swept to their deaths in floods and landslides. This time, nature is on a collision course with refugees who have nowhere to run - no higher ground and no cyclone shelters.

Nowhere to go

The first storms underscored the fragility of the camps: The brief rains turned roads into quagmires, crumbled hillsides and flooded low-lying areas. The huge endeavor to prevent disaster has seen slopes vulnerable to collapse flattened and extensive canal systems carved throughout the camps. Toilets are being fortified with sandbags to prevent a major disease outbreak should floodwater meet overflowing latrines.

But there are limits to how much can be done. Bangladesh has restricted the use of sturdier materials for shelters because it

Malaysia playboy financier in crosshairs after election upset

KUALA LUMPUR: Baby-faced playboy Jho Low, a financier at the centre of Malaysia's IMDB mega-scandal, may find his days of hobnobbing with celebrities and splurging on property and art are numbered as the new government pledges to bring him to justice. Suspected of being a key figure in one of the world's biggest frauds along with ousted leader Najib Razak and his cronies, the chubby, bespectacled businessman has become a lightning rod for public fury at the controversy.

He led a high-rolling lifestyle after allegedly stealing huge sums from IMDB. He hung out with celebrities such as Leonardo DiCaprio, partied with Paris Hilton, and reportedly spent vast sums in New York's hottest nightspots. As investigations into the controversy accelerated, the Malaysian took to a luxury yacht allegedly bought with stolen cash and sailed around Asia, until the vessel was seized off Bali recently as part of IMDB-linked probes.

The Wall Street Journal reported that he was on the Thai holiday island of Phuket earlier this month awaiting the election results. His current whereabouts are unclear. But time could be running out for the flamboyant 36-year-old after Najib's



In this photo taken on April 4, 2018, the Cayman Island-registered vessel Equanimity, owned by Jho Low, sits in waters off Tanjung Benoa on the Indonesia's resort island of Bali. — AFP

scandal-mired coalition suffered a shock defeat at the May 9 poll in large part due to public anger at IMDB. The new government, headed by Najib's ex-mentor Mahathir Mohamad, has reopened probes into the sophisticated fraud and wants to haul Jho Low - whose full name is Low Taek Jho - back to Malaysia.

Abdul Razak Idris, a former senior officer from the anti-graft agency which led probes into the scandal until they were shut down under Najib, said he believed Low was the mastermind. "He must be arrested and brought back to Malaysia so that we can bring back all the money parked abroad," he told AFP. Low, who held no official positions at IMDB but is believed to have exerted great influence over the fund, has previously denied any wrongdoing. He could not be contacted for this article. — AFP



In this photograph taken on May 8, 2018, Rohingya refugees make a drainage canal in preparation for the upcoming monsoon season in the Kutupalong refugee camp in Ukhta. — AFP

may suggest the Rohingya plan to stay, contrary to Dhaka's desire to return them to Myanmar. The roof was blown clean off Noor Mohammad's shack in a recent squall. He had gathered chunks of wood and rocks to weigh it down but was "scared of what could pass" when Bangladesh's wild weather barrels through.

The Rohingya are no strangers to the monsoon, he said. But in Myanmar, villages were built to withstand its ferocity and trees provided a bulwark against the elements. "Here, there is nothing to stop the wind," he said, gesturing to the deforested hills stretching for miles. Bangladesh has freed up hundreds of hectares but most is hilly and was prone to landslides even

before the Rohingya uprooted trees for shelters and firewood.

'We will die'

Mosques and community centers could shelter 150,000 people if needed, said Kazi Abdur Rahman, acting district administrator of Cox's Bazar. "But if there is a big cyclone, and all these people need relocating, there is not a system for that yet. It is not possible to shift one million people," he told AFP. The Rohingya, who have fled persecution time and again, fear being on the run once more. "Everybody is afraid, wondering where we'll go if our houses are destroyed," Rohingya imam Muhammad Yusuf told AFP. — AFP

Hundreds march in Hong Kong to mark Tiananmen

HONG KONG: Hundreds marched through Hong Kong yesterday ahead of the 29th anniversary of China's crackdown on democracy protesters in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. Semi-autonomous Hong Kong is the only place on Chinese soil where the anniversary is openly marked with a famous vigil in Victoria Park on June 4 each year. The march is an annual precursor to the main event. Organized by a group of veteran democracy activists, protesters demanded justice for the victims of the crackdown and also urged the Chinese government to release Liu Xia, widow of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo, who continues to be under house arrest since her husband's death in custody last year.

Protesters shouted "Accountability for the massacre! End one-party dictatorship," and held banners reading: "Moum June 4, Resist Authoritarianism" as they walked from the business district of Wan Chai to Beijing's liaison office in the city. The disqualification of pro-democracy lawmakers from parliament and the banning of some activists from standing for office has heightened concern that Hong Kong's cherished freedoms are being steadily eroded by Beijing.

Pro-Beijing figures have said recently that calling for an end to one-party dictatorship is "illegal" and that anyone who does so could run the risk of being disqualified from running for election. "This is our freedom, our right, and also our belief. We do not hesitate to continue saying our slogan. We believe that only by ending the one-party dictatorship can we build democratic China," said Albert Ho, chairman of Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China, which organized the march. Ho said that around 1,100 people attended the protest.

Residents said they were marching to ensure the bloody crackdown was not forgotten. "If nobody talks about it, the next generation will never know about this history," said a woman who gave her name as Mrs Ho, and attended the protest with her son. "China's Communist Party will not listen to citizens and people's voices. Although I was not born at that time, I heard my parents talk about it and I knew Hong Kong people went on the streets... to fight for their democracy and rights," added another protester who gave his name as Kelvin.

However, the turnout figures for the march and vigil have dropped in recent years as many young Hong Kongers are frustrated by the lack of progress on political reform in the city. They disagree with the vigil's main message of democratization in China, saying the focus should be on Hong Kong, not the mainland. Student unions will not attend the longstanding vigil in Victoria Park this year and have boycotted it for the past three years. — AFP

International

Freed from a Venezuela jail, US couple arrive back home

US sanctions on Caracas to continue: Pence

WASHINGTON: An American couple who spent nearly two years in a Venezuelan jail received a heroes' welcome at the White House as they returned home Saturday after Caracas freed them in a bid to spur dialogue with Washington. But US officials immediately quashed any suggestion that the punitive sanctions against Venezuela would be eased after the release of Joshua Holt and his wife Thamara Caleno.

"Very glad that Josh Holt is now back home with his family where he has always belonged. Sanctions continue until democracy returns to Venezuela," Vice President Mike Pence wrote on Twitter. Holt, a 26-year-old Mormon missionary from Utah, had traveled to Venezuela in June 2016 to marry Caleno whom he met online. But shortly after they married, they were arrested by the Venezuelan intelligence service on charges of possessing weapons and plotting to destabilize the government of President Nicolas Maduro.

Meeting President Donald Trump at the White House, Holt, 26, said he was "overwhelmed with gratitude" before thanking those who supported them through a "very, very, very difficult two years". "Not really the great vacation I was looking for. But we're still together."



Holt welcomed to White House by Trump

one. That was a tough situation," Trump said. "You've been very brave, actually." After expressing her gratitude to Trump for securing her son's release, Holt's mother Laurie also thanked the Venezuelan leader. "I also want to say thank you to President Maduro for releasing Josh and letting him come home," she said.

'Respectful dialogue'

Speaking to reporters in Caracas, Venezuelan Communications Minister Jorge Rodriguez said Maduro had ordered their release as a "gesture" aimed at promoting dialogue with Washington. It was, he said, part of efforts "to maintain a respectful dialogue, respectful diplomatic relations, that will allow the doors to be opened to avoiding the aggressions to which (Venezuela) has been subjected."

His remarks appeared to be a reference to the sanctions which Washington tightened this week after Maduro was reelected in a May 20 vote rejected by the US as a "sham". Such sanctions complicate Venezuela's efforts to sell off financial IOUs known as "accounts receivable" - a practice used to garner much-needed revenue for the cash-starved regime, senior US officials say.

Other prisoners released

After the couple were arrested on June 30, 2016, top Venezuelan officials had accused him of being a US spy. Holt and his wife were held at the Holicoido prison in Caracas where Venezuela's Sebin intelligence service is known to hold political prisoners. Earlier this month, Holt was seen during a protest by opposition activists jailed at the massive hilltop structure, and had also appealed for US



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump shakes hands with Joshua Holt, who had been detained in Venezuela for two years, in the Oval Office of the White House on Saturday. —AFP

help in a video posted on Twitter.

After Trump tightened the sanctions on Monday, Maduro retaliated by giving the two top US diplomats in the country 48 hours to leave, accusing them of conspiring against his government. As he took the oath of office on Thursday, Maduro acknowledged that the sanctions were biting, and recognized the need "to change this country".

On Friday, human rights monitors reported the release of 20 activists who had been jailed for protesting against the government. Geoff Ramsey, of the Washington Office on Latin America, which advocates for human rights, said that by releasing Holt, Maduro "wants the world to know he is willing

to talk". A White House statement issued later thanked the "Maduro regime for releasing the unjustly detained United States citizen", but insisted US pressure would continue until Venezuela holds fresh presidential elections.

The Venezuelan economy is in shambles. Hyperinflation is expected to hit 13,000 percent this year and dire shortages of food have driven hundreds of thousands of citizens to pour into neighboring Colombia and Brazil. Maduro has insisted Venezuela is the victim of an "economic war" waged by the conservative opposition and external powers including the United States aimed at toppling him. —AFP

Colombia vote poses test for FARC deal



BOGOTA: Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos casts his vote at a polling station during presidential elections yesterday. —AFP

BOGOTA: Voters went to polls yesterday to choose a new president of Colombia in a divisive election that is likely to weigh heavily on the future of the government's fragile peace deal with the former rebel movement FARC. Polling places were declared open at 8:00 am (1300 GMT). They close at 4:00 pm. Conservative front-runner Ivan Duque has vowed to rewrite an accord he sees as too lenient on a group that waged a decades-long war of terror on Colombians, before it transformed into a political party.

With 41 percent of voter preferences, Duque takes a 12-point lead into the election over his main challenger Gustavo Petro, a leftist former Bogota mayor who backs the deal. Petro, a former member of the disbanded M-19 rebel group, has been the surprise package in the campaign, upturning expectations in a country where presidential elections have traditionally been the domain of the right.

The 58-year-old rallied many Colombians with his campaign speeches against inequality and corruption, making him the country's first leftist candidate with a chance of going to the second round of a presidential poll. Neither candidate is believed to have enough momentum to win outright in yesterday's first round, making a runoff likely on June 17.

Santos stepping down

The winner will succeed Juan Manuel Santos - the president who signed the 2016 deal with the FARC and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize - when he steps down in August. "These elections have an enormous significance for a country where hope is reborn, and we must continue to build peace," Santos, 66, said on Twitter as campaigning ended. Duque, a gray-haired senator and former economist, is backed by the Democratic Center party of former president Alvaro Uribe, which swept the polls in legislative elections in March. If successful, he can count on the support of Congress.

Uribe fell out with once-close ally Santos over his drive for peace with FARC, setting up his own party in 2013. Many voters see the guiding hand of Uribe behind the inexperienced Duque's campaign. Like Santos, the 65-year-old Uribe is constitutionally precluded from seeking a third term. "If Duque was the candidate of another party, he would not be leading the polls," said analyst Andres Macias of Externado University, highlighting the "great political capital" of the controversial but popular former head of state. —AFP

Lava flow crosses onto Hawaii power plant property

HONOLULU: A broad lava flow crossed onto the property of a Hawaii geothermal power station on Saturday, posing a new hazard as molten rock from the erupting Kilauea volcano bulldozed relentlessly through homes and backyards. The lava crossed onto the Puna Geothermal Venture (PGV) Saturday evening local time, according to the US Geological Survey, having destroyed dozens of nearby houses in the past few days.

Since Hawaii's Kilauea volcano began a once-in-a-century-scale eruption May 3, authorities have shut down the plant, removed 60,000 gallons of flammable liquid and deactivated wells that tap into steam and gas deep in the Earth's core. Magma has drained from Kilauea's summit

lava lake and flowed around 40 km east underground, bursting out of about two dozen giant cracks or fissures near the plant.

"The flow from fissures 21 and 7 was widening and advancing," Janet Snyder, a spokeswoman for the County of Hawaii, said in an email on the position of lava heading northeast towards PGV at 12:30 pm (6:00 pm ET). Hawaii Governor David Ige has said the wells are stable. But lava has never engulfed a geothermal plant anywhere in the world and the potential threat is untested, according to the head of the state's emergency management agency. Local residents fear an explosive emission of deadly hydrogen sulfide and other gases should wells be ruptured.

270 earthquakes in one day

Residents have complained of health hazards from emissions from the plant since it went online in 1989 and PGV has been the target of lawsuits challenging its location on the flank of one of the world's most active volcanoes. The Israeli-owned 38 megawatt plant typically provides around 25 percent of electricity on the Big Island, according to local power utility Hawaii Electric Light. —Reuters

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Sporting events put Japan businesses in the mood for love

As Japan gears up to host the Rugby World Cup and Olympic Games in consecutive years, many businesses are seizing on the opportunity to capitalize on the influx of tourists, media and athletes for both big events. The Rugby World Cup kicks off in September 2019 followed by the Tokyo Games 10 months later, giving businesses a unique chance to reach an international and diverse customer base that may be encountering Japanese products for the first time.

One business sector looking to benefit from the arrival of thousands of athletes is the local condom industry. It has become tradition in the lead-up to Olympic Games for tournament organizers to distribute thousands of free prophylactics to athletes looking to let their hair down once their event is over.

Almost half a million condoms were handed out in the 2016 Rio Games Olympic Village, whilst condom packaging for the Beijing 2008 Olympics featured the Games' motto "faster, higher, stronger". With roughly 10,000 athletes expected to descend on the Olympic Village, once described by gold medal-winning Australian target shooter Mark Russell as "the most testosterone fuelled place on earth", Japanese condom companies are keen to promote their unique products to an international audience.

Sagami Rubber Industries, one of Japan's leading condom makers, are hoping to use the Olympics to enhance awareness of their ultra-thin Polyurethane sheaths. Sagami, alongside Japanese competitor Okamoto, produce the world's thinnest condoms, which are only 0.01 millimeters thick. "Only two companies, Sagami and Okamoto, are producing the 0.02 and 0.01 millimeter condoms and so we think the Olympics are a good opportunity to show this Japanese quality all over the world," Sagami senior sales manager Hiroshi Yamashita said.

Britain's Durex—the official sponsor for London 2012 – US brand Trojan and Australia's Ansell are the major players on the international market but Yamashita believes Okamoto and Sagami are next in line. Yamashita spoke of the popularity of the ultra-thin condoms in neighboring China and believes Tokyo 2020 can help broaden Sagami's scope worldwide. Olympic organizers have yet to name an official condom supplier. "If the International Olympic Committee ask us then we would be very happy to supply our product for the Tokyo 2020 Games," said Yamashita, who predicts 150,000 condoms will be needed.

'Love hotels'

One place where these condoms could end up being used is at one of Japan's notorious "love hotels" as Tokyo 2020 organizers face an expected shortage of accommodation. Japan is already dealing with record numbers of tourists—28.69 million in 2017—and the government has set a goal of 40 million foreign visitors by 2020. In order to satisfy the needs of this influx, the government are keen for tourists to use alternative means of accommodation, such as love hotels, capsule hotels and traditional Japanese inns (ryokan). Many customers are finding themselves drawn to Japan's love hotels: short-stay hotels with themed rooms that can be reached through discreet entrances, out of curiosity as much as need, according to travel website Booking.com <http://www.booking.com>.

"The key that we see in the market at Booking is around curiosity of culture and I think a lot of people are just interested to see what it is like," said Booking's Regional Director for North Asia Adam Brownstein. "Where there is nothing like it where they come from, they want to experience it. That is the great thing about travel: you can try new things and kind of peek behind the curtain." Love hotels can be booked by the hour, as well as for longer stays, promising guests privacy. In the past, this has been associated almost exclusively with sexual activity.

However, times are changing. Booking.com has seen the number of bookings in the love hotel category leap 48 percent in the past year and expect that trend to continue as rugby and Olympic fans look to experience all that Japan has to offer. "What is interesting about the love hotel sector is that they have very interesting facilities, for example karaoke rooms—which is pretty cool for many foreigners—some will also have bars or very large rooms for families," added Booking's Tokyo area manager Donna Morris. "So we see that it is not just the sort of customers that you might expect to go there."

American tourist Jerome Davies, who was visiting Tokyo this month with his wife and three children, said he had chosen to stay at a love hotel because it offered a large room at a much cheaper rate than a regular hotel. "It's clean, it's well located and it suits our family just fine," said Davies, standing outside the hotel he had booked for four nights. "I have stayed in a lot worse places." Davies is not alone as thousands of foreign visitors turn to love hotels as a cheap way to broaden their horizons. As Japan prepares to host back-to-back major sporting events, the country faces an unprecedented challenge but also, for some businesses, a once-in-a-lifetime chance to showcase what they have to offer on the world stage.— Reuters



Troubled exhibits: 5 disputed museum treasures

Europe's museums are full of items taken from Africa during colonization, but many other objects on their shelves also carry an uncomfortable history. Here are five examples of historic artefacts which have caused bitter ownership spats between nations:

Benin bronzes

So intricate that some Europeans of the day did not believe they could have been made by supposedly "primitive" Africans, thousands of these plaques were plundered from the Kingdom of Benin by British troops in 1897. The British ransacked what is now Benin City in Nigeria, torching it and stripping it of its artwork in revenge for a massacre of their troops. Showing scenes of court life, the "bronzes" date back to the 16th and 17th centuries and are in fact mostly made of brass.

Brisk trade scattered them around Europe, and today the biggest collections are in London's British Museum and the Ethnological Museum of Berlin. European and US museums have been meeting with Nigerian officials since 2007 but have thus far struggled to find a solution. Last year, museums floated the idea of a permanent loan, but "many issues remain, not least whether or not a loan is agreeable to the Nigerian authorities", according to the British Museum.

Royal treasures of Abomey

Like the British, French colonial troops also pilaged objects from conquered African lands which were considered the spoils of war. They returned from the 1892 capture of Abomey, capital of the Dahomey kingdom in modern-day Benin, with a wealth of thrones, royal sceptres and statues. Benin's government says an estimated 4,500-6,000 royal items remain in France, including in private collections. The finest are in the Quai Branly museum in Paris. France last year refused to return the artefacts

Trump's Spygate? FBI's long history of investigating presidents

President Donald Trump calls it "Spygate": the FBI, he alleges, infiltrated his 2016 presidential campaign at the direction of the then-ruling Democrats in an "illegal" operation he has now ordered the Justice Department to investigate. There is no proof yet of Trump's allegation. But the Federal Bureau of Investigation's long history of mixing in politics—from the long reign of J Edgar Hoover to Watergate and "Deep Throat"—makes it a potent accusation that could carry weight with American voters. Since its beginnings, the bureau has burrowed, stumbled and been pulled into US politics at the highest levels, facing perennial charges that it abuses its power.

J Edgar Hoover: ally and threat

From the 1930s through the 1960s, legendary FBI director J Edgar Hoover was a virtual nerve center of Washington politics, doing favors for some politicians and collecting dirt on others—to ensure they worked with him. Hoover operated as an ally of presidents and a threat to their enemies. Historical records show president Franklin D Roosevelt regularly asked him investigate rivals.

By 1960, he had files on more than 400,000 Americans, including much of the Washington elite. "Politicians were terrified of Hoover," FBI historian Raymond Batvinis said. "He was often called on to obtain scuttlebutt on particular politicians. He did this routinely with presidents, all through his tenure." Subsequent presidents reached accommodations. John F. Kennedy was wary, knowing Hoover had evidence of his affair with a woman with Mafia ties. The FBI czar was closer to president Lyndon Johnson, who, according to Douglas Charles, a historian at Pennsylvania State University, got the FBI to spy on his own party during the Democratic National Convention in 1964.

Watergate: FBI vs president

Hoover resisted when Richard Nixon sought to centralize intelligence collection in the White House after becom-

ing president in 1969, Charles wrote in a recent essay for The Conversation. Hoover died in 1972, and Nixon's choice to replace him, L Patrick Gray, promised a closer relationship. When the Watergate scandal erupted, Gray, as acting director, fed information on the FBI's investigation to White House aides.

But at the same time, the deputy FBI director Mark Felt, aka "Deep Throat", was surreptitiously leaking tips to Washington Post journalists, helping them break open the scandal. Ultimately Gray's protection of the White House killed his nomination, after he admitted to destroying Watergate-related documents. Nixon, caught up in his own lies and coverups and threatened with impeachment, was forced to resign. After Watergate, said Charles, FBI directors resolved to keep a greater distance from presidents, with the attorney general standing between them.

Nefertiti bust

With her high cheek bones and elegant long neck, this bust of the famed ancient Egyptian queen became an icon of feminine beauty. Sculpted around 1340 BC, it was discovered by German archaeologists in 1912 and is today displayed in Berlin's Neues Museum. Egyptian authorities have sought it back for decades. German officials have argued that it was obtained legally and is too fragile to be transported.

Koh-i-Noor diamond

Thanks to a murky history this giant diamond, on display at the Tower of London along with other British crown jewels, has been claimed over the years by India, Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan. It changed hands between elites on the sub-continent for more than two centuries before being ceded to Queen Victoria when Britain annexed the Punjab in 1849. Despite being one of the largest cut diamonds in the world, it initially failed to impress Britons who went to see it on display in London. Victoria's husband,



King Ghezo's throne of Abomey in Benin dating back to early 19th century is pictured.— AFP

Prince Albert, ordered it re-polished—shrinking it by a half, but giving it a brilliant dazzle. Even critics who argue it was taken by force have struggled to determine which country would hold the best claim to it.— AFP



WASHINGTON: These two file photos show US President Donald Trump (top) and then Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Robert Mueller testifying before the US Senate Judiciary Committee on Oversight on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.— AFP

refused, Trump fired him. Comey was philosophical about it. "The statue of Justice has a blindfold on because you're not supposed to be peeking out to see whether your patron is pleased or not with what you're doing," he later told Congress. "It should be about the facts and the law."— AFP

Business

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12 Nigeria wants to stop being lax about tax as recession ends

13 Dollar supremacy across the board; Fed debates approach to inflation

14 KNCC raises the bar of cinema entertainment at Al-Kout Mall



TEHRAN: Iranian Lella Daneshvar (third left), Managing Director at KTMA (Kian Tajhiz Mehr Afarin), works with engineers at the company's factory in Tehran's Shahrar neighborhood. —AFP

Iran sanctions shadow falls on German banks

Biggest German lenders shy away from business with Iran

FRANKFURT AM MAIN: Germany's biggest lenders have shied away from business with Iran after past penalties for breaching US sanctions, but smaller banks have leapt on opportunities afforded by the nuclear deal rejected by Donald Trump. There are just months to go until a November deadline issued by Washington after the US president abandoned a hard-fought agreement that loosened business restrictions on the Islamic Republic in exchange for Tehran giving up its pursuit of nuclear weapons.

But some firms plan to press on in their dealings with Iran despite the looming threat of penalties.

"We will continue to serve our clients," for now, said Patrizia Melfi, a director at the "international competence center" (KCI) founded by six cooperative savings banks in the small town of Tuttlingen in southwest Germany. The center, which supports companies operating in sensitive markets like Iran or Sudan, has seen demand "rising sharply in the last few years, from firms listed on the Dax (Germany's index of blue-chip firms), from all over Germany and from Switzerland," she added.

German exports to Iran have grown since the nuclear deal was signed in 2015, adding 15.5 percent last year to reach almost 2.6 billion euros (\$3.0 billion) after 22-percent growth

in 2016. Such figures remain vanishingly small compared with Germany's 111.5 billion euros in exports to the US—its top customer. Nevertheless, the KCI will "wait and see what the sanctions look like" before turning away from Iran, Melfi said.

Walking on eggshells

Already, firms dealing with Tehran must take great care not to fall foul of US restrictions. Transactions are carried out in euros, and the KCI does not deal with businesses that have American citizens or green card resident holders on their boards.

What's more, products sold to Iran cannot contain more than 10 percent of parts manufactured in the US. One of the most important inputs for the business is "courage among our managers" given the high risks involved, Melfi said.

Germany's two biggest banks, Deutsche Bank and Commerzbank, avoid Iran completely after being slapped with harsh fines in 2015 over their dealings there, with

Deutsche alone paying \$258 million in penalties. DZ Bank, which operates as a central bank for more than 1,000 local co-op lenders, is withdrawing completely from payment services there, a spokesman told AFP.



Firms must take great care not to fall foul of US curbs

more closely at those" in the future, a person familiar with the trade told AFP. Elsewhere in the German economy, the European-Iranian Trade Bank (EITB) founded in 1971 is another conduit to Tehran.

Also based in Hamburg, it for now remains "fully available

to you with our products and services", the bank assures clients on its website, although "business policy decisions by European banks may result in short term or medium term restrictions on payments".

'Effectively protected'

Neither does the Bundesbank (German central bank) believe that much has so far changed for business with Iran. "Only the European Union's sanctions regime will be decisive", if and when it is changed, the institution told AFP.

Any payment involving an Iranian party would have to be approved by the Bundesbank if things return to their pre-January 2016 state. German banking lobby group Kreditwirtschaft has called on Berlin and other EU nations to clarify their stance—and to make sure banks and their clients are "effectively protected against possible American sanctions".

KCI's Melfi said time is running out for EU governments to act. "Many firms just want to stop anything with Iran, since they can't calculate the risk of staying," she noted. On Friday for the first time since the Iran nuclear deal came into force in 2015, China, Russia, France, Britain and Germany gathered in Vienna—at Iran's request—without the United States, to discuss how to save the agreement. —AFP

Starbucks to educate staff against racial bias, set example

NEW YORK: Can you teach employees not to be racist? Coffee giant Starbucks will shut stores around the United States tomorrow to conduct an unprecedented training exercise at its more than 8,000 American outlets. The initiative, which is expected to last four hours and reach 175,000 employees, was announced by Starbucks management on April 17, as it sought to contain outrage over the arrest of two young black men at one of its cafes in Philadelphia.

The incident five days earlier sparked outrage, protests and anguished soul-searching about America's lingering problems of discrimination and racial tensions that have deteriorated under the presidency of Donald Trump. After the two black men arrived at the Starbucks one of them asked to use the bathroom but was told it was for paying customers only. The pair then sat down to wait for a third person before ordering drinks.

The manager called police. A video that went viral showed uniformed officers questioning then handcuffing the two men, who put up no resistance, while a white client repeatedly asks an officer, "What'd they do? What'd they do?"

"Whether in stores, on trains, implicit or explicit bias, you see it all the time," says James Bell, 47, a counsellor in a mostly black school in Brooklyn and a Starbucks customer.

"As a black male, you have workers in the stores excessively asking, 'Do you need anything, may I help you?'" he tells AFP. "You see a young black man and you immediately think crime."

Bell points to other recent examples of discrimination broadcast on social networks, such as a student call-



WASHINGTON: In this file photo, Starbucks President and Chief Executive Officer Kevin Johnson walks on stage at the Starbucks Annual Meeting of Shareholders at McCaw Hall in Seattle, Washington. —AFP

ing the police in May when a black graduate student at Yale University fell asleep in a common room.

'Historic'

Then there are instances of police brutality toward, and killings of, black male suspects, also often captured by witnesses armed with smartphones, that in recent years have spawned protests. Given the context, Bell isn't convinced that the Starbucks initiative will change much, but says it's "good they are trying." "At least they make the effort," he said. Like him, there has been a cautious welcome from black officials and activists, who are nonetheless waiting to see what happens and whether anything actually changes as a result.

"I do think this is historic," Sherrilyn Ifill, president of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund,

America's first civil and human rights law firm, has said. "I don't know of another company as ubiquitous as Starbucks... that has stated their willingness to directly confront racism and bias within their own company."

In taking responsibility, she said, Starbucks has "created an important window for retail corporations in America to begin to honestly and forthrightly tackle racial inequality."

Ifill is one of those from whom Starbucks sought advice in drawing up the curriculum. As with the others, it was conditional assistance. "We've made it clear that we won't be a rubber stamp to validate their programming if we don't believe it's not effectively delivering," said Heather McGhee, president of Demos, a public policy organization that works to reduce political and economic inequality. —AFP

Row over finance minister prolongs Italy standoff

ROME: Italy remained mired in a political stalemate yesterday over the president's rejection of the finance minister proposed by the populist coalition, a row that has rattled financial markets.

President Sergio Mattarella has refused to give his blessing to the coalition's government lineup because it includes 81-year-old Paolo Savona, a fierce critic of the euro, as economy and finance minister. The far-right League and the anti-establishment Five Star Movement have failed to set up shop in Rome since scoring the most votes in Italy's inconclusive elections nearly three months ago. Their pick for prime minister Giuseppe Conte, 53, won Mattarella's approval last week.

But the impasse over Savona has League chief Matteo Salvini digging in his heels, suggesting that a new election may be on the cards if the standoff continues.

Either "the government starts to work in the coming hours, or it's better to hold new elections and take an absolute majority," Salvini, 45, said late Saturday.

Five Star leader Luigi Di Maio added: "Stay with us, we have people against us in the upper echelons, but so many who support us." According to the Italian press, Mattarella wants to avoid isolating Italy within the European Union.

Savona's hostility to the euro—he says it has halved Italians' purchasing power—has prompted a flurry of warnings from Brussels. Mattarella also needs to protect the role of the president, which crucially includes appointing a prime minister and approving his or her cabinet.

The impasse appears unlikely to be resolved before financial markets reopen today—after the Milan Stock Exchange closed down 1.54 percent on Friday. The Italian head of state is now waiting for Conte to propose a fresh lineup. If it includes Savona, Mattarella is expected to confirm his refusal, which could prompt him to appoint a caretaker government until new elections can be held.

The appointment of the 81-year-old economist Paolo Savona has rattled financial markets. In a further blow to the nascent government, Moody's on Friday threatened to downgrade its sovereign debt rating. President Sergio Mattarella gave Giuseppe Conte, a law professor and a political novice, a mandate on Wednesday to form a coalition government with the backing of the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement and the far right League, two rivals, more than 80 days after an inconclusive election. —Agencies

Business

Nigeria wants to stop being lax about tax as recession ends

Buhari govt launches vigorous tax collection drive

LAGOS: Paying income tax used to be a joke in Nigeria which, no wonder, has the worst tax to GDP ratio in sub-Saharan Africa. As one banking executive put it: "In Nigeria, the government pretends to tax people and people pretend to pay. That's the Nigerian social contract."

But these days it's no laughing matter, as an ambitious government scheme designed to make the executive class pay up draws to a close. Millions of people for the first time are now coughing up taxes as President Muhammadu Buhari's government conducts one of the country's most vigorous collection drives in years. The money is desperately needed. Widening Nigeria's tax base will help boost non-oil revenue in Africa's largest economy, which is limping out of its worst recession in 25 years.

And Nigeria has a long way to go. Its current tax-to-gross domestic product ratio is just 5.9 percent, according to the International Monetary Fund. In Lagos alone, there are 6,800 millionaires and 360 multi-millionaires, according to a 2017 report by AfrAsia Bank. But top earners hardly lead by example.

In 2016, just 241 people paid more than 20 million naira (\$55,600, 47,400 euros) in personal income taxes, the Nigerian finance ministry reported.

Plug leaks

It's not hard to see why Nigerians would be reluctant to pay tax to fund public services, when there has been no visible return. Infrastructure in most cities is disintegrating. Roads between states are crumbling. People pay for their own electricity and water.

Endemic corruption is partly to blame, said the Emir of Kano Muhammadu Sanusi II, one of Nigeria's lead-

ing Islamic figures who served as central bank governor in the previous administration. "Improving transparency and public financial management is critical to improving revenues," he said this week at a meeting of the African Development Bank Group in South Korea.

"Make sure the taxes actually get into the government's pockets and you don't have all these leakages." Though difficult, tax reform isn't impossible in Nigeria.

Lagos state, home to the country's commercial capital, has successfully mobilized a tax base whose contributions represent over a third of internally generated revenue collected in all Nigeria's 36 states, said transparency organisation BudgIT. That has allowed it to finance a growing number of projects, including a cable-stayed bridge linking the upmarket neighborhoods of Ikoyi and Lekki that is now a city landmark.

Tax awareness

Buhari, who is seeking re-election at polls next February, wants to double the tax-to-GDP ratio by 2020. To do that, his finance minister Kemi Adeosun has followed in the footsteps of Turkey and Indonesia and launched a tax amnesty program. The Voluntary Assets and Income Declaration Scheme (VAIDS) has a two-part strategy. First, it offers Nigerians a period of grace to regularize their tax affairs or else face a prison term of up to five years, financial penalties and possible forfeiture of assets.

Second, it uses data to link land registry records and tax receipts to root out defaulters. The government enlisted the help of international asset recovery firm Kroll to troll bureau de change networks, WikiLeaks and even the Panama Papers to identify negligent high net worth individuals.

The program was launched in June last year, with the



LAGOS: A picture taken at Ojodu district of Lagos shows an advertorial displayed across the road with the inscription "Pay Your Tax". — AFP

government declaring every Thursday "tax awareness day". Tax officers were stationed at airports and a massive digital billboard advertising the scheme flashed over the Lekki bridge toll gate in Lagos—a not-so-subtle threat to the denizens of the affluent suburb.

In May, Adeosun—a former chartered accountant and auditor with PricewaterhouseCoopers in London—said Nigeria's tax base had risen from 14 million people in 2016 to 19 million in 2018.

'Name and shame'

But Adeosun's promise to "name, shame and prosecute" defaulters lost some bite after the government pushed back the closing date by three months, from

March 31 to June 30. Still, those familiar with the program say that it is well on track to deliver on its target of more than one billion dollars. That amount may be modest but it's a step in the right direction, said Yomi Olugbenro, West Africa tax specialist at Deloitte in Lagos. There's something to be said for launching the scheme, which "definitely has more people talking about taxation", he said. The key is to make sure the amnesty program is built upon in the future and isn't just a once-off windfall. Otherwise Nigerians will revert to old habits. "It's a chicken and egg thing," Olugbenro said. "The government will tell you, 'We need the money to provide all things that aren't there'. 'Taxpayers are saying, 'I need to be convinced'." — AFP

Despite efforts to stop lira fall, Turks still worried

ISTANBUL: After the embattled Turkish lira weakened against the US dollar this week, Turks remain troubled over the economy despite the government's reassurances. The lira's drama worsened on Wednesday when Japanese investors sold Turkish assets, after comments by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan spooked investors earlier in May.

The lira hit 4.92 against the dollar before paring back some of its losses on Wednesday after an emergency central bank interest rate hike, but for many it's not enough. In a busy bureau de change on one of Ankara's popular streets, thoughts turn to the worsening situation and fears that the country is already in a "currency crisis", as experts at Commerzbank have described it.

During AFP's visit, dozens came in to change their liras into gold, dollars and euros. Ali Yilik indicated he was not convinced by Ankara's reassurances as he changed his money into dollars for work.

"Who wouldn't be worried about the exchange rate (situation)? This is not something that happens in normal conditions. It is extraordinary," Yilik, who sells construction material, said.

Ali's son Yahya Yilik, who is the man-

ager at Tunalı Doviz, said more Turks were coming in buying euros and dollars amid worries that the lira would fall further. "They think the lira will keep losing value," Yilik told AFP, adding that interest rate increases were a "temporary measure". In the past "one or two weeks", the manager said the center had sold more foreign exchange than those wanting to buy lira. The fall followed Erdogan comments during his UK visit mid-May when he indicated he wanted a greater say in monetary policy if he won in June 24 polls. This then raised concerns over economic policy becoming more unpredictable.

'Really worried'

Student Necdet Guven was in the bureau de change to obtain dollars ahead of a trip to the US in mid-June but said he was "really worried" about the economy. "Because everyday our economy gets worse. In the past, Turkey used to be among the top countries for agriculture and livestock, but now we import meat from Serbia and straw from Russia," Guven lamented.

"We are not that developed a country in terms of industry," he added, saying he believed Turkey had the potential to develop the economy further. The lira appeared to show no signs of dramatic improvement and was at 4.70 against the dollar on Friday. In the past month, the lira has lost over 16 percent of its value against the greenback. In a bid to ease concerns, Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek—an ex Merrill Lynch economist trusted by markets—on Friday said the central bank "would do whatever is necessary" during an interview with NTV broadcaster.—AFP

Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi draw

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

The lucky winners are:

1. Tala Khaled Aloum
2. Wael Subhi Hussin Aldiknash
3. Amer Abdulqader Baqer Alawadhi
4. Knaizah Awadh Buloushi
5. Mohammad Abdullah Ali

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

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of



becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the youngest commercial Bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Burgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

The Bank has continuously improved its

performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Burgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. 'People come first' is the foundation on which its products and services are developed.

Malaysia renegotiating terms of major Belt-and-Road rail project

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia is haggling over the terms of a \$14 billion rail deal with its Chinese partners and can reduce its ballooning national debts by \$50 billion by doing away with mega projects, its prime minister said in an interview published on Saturday.

Mahathir Mohamad, the 92-year-old who triumphed over scandal-plagued Najib Razak in elections earlier this month, has made it a priority to cut the national debt and pledged to review major projects agreed by the previous government.

Work on the 55 billion ringgit (\$13.82 billion) East Coast Rail Link - the largest such project in the country and a major part of Beijing's Belt and Road infrastructure push - started last year. The project was planned to stretch 688 kilometres (430 miles) connecting the South China Sea at the Thai border in the east with the strategic shipping routes of the Straits of Malacca in the west. "We are renegotiating the terms," Mahathir told the financial newspaper The Edge. "The terms are very damaging to our economy." The project is being built by China Communications Construction Co Ltd, and is being mainly financed by a loan from China Exim Bank. Mahathir also questioned the need for the project in the first place.— Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

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Rate for/Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.740
Canadian Dollar	234.095
Sterling Pound	404.170
Euro	354.460
Swiss Frank	302.140
Bahrain Dinar	805.100
UAE Dirhams	82.825
Qatari Riyals	84.060
Saudi Riyals	81.625
Jordanian Dinar	428.275
Egyptian Pound	16.949
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.917
Indian Rupees	4.467
Pakistani Rupees	2.616
Bangladesh Taka	3.624
Philippines Peso	5.761
Cyprus pound	18.015
Japanese Yen	3.765
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.798
Malaysian Ringgit	76.965
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	47.815
Thai Bhat	10.480
Turkish Lira	64.695

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.398764	0.406264
Czech Korune	0.005764	0.015064
Danish Krone	0.043642	0.048642
Euro	0.348506	0.356006
Georgian Lari	0.138716	0.138716
Hungarian 0.001142	0.001332	
Norwegian Krone	0.033450	0.038650
Romanian Leu	0.064880	0.081730
Russian ruble	0.004897	0.004897
Slovakia	0.009039	0.019039
Swedish Krona	0.030867	0.035867
Swiss Franc	0.300228	0.311228
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.221219	0.232219
New Zealand Dollar	0.203866	0.213366
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.228514	0.237514
US Dollars	0.299000	0.303400
US Dollars MInt	0.299500	0.303400
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.002999	0.003781
Chinese Yuan	0.046010	0.049510
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036869	0.039619
Indian Rupee	0.003762	0.004489

Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002692	0.002872
Korean Won	0.000271	0.000286
Malaysian Ringgit	0.072460	0.078460
Nepalese Rupee	0.002734	0.003074
Pakistan Rupee	0.002004	0.002774
Philippine Peso	0.005644	0.005944
Singapore Dollar	0.221144	0.231144
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001586	0.002166
Taiwan	0.010400	0.010580
Thai Baht	0.009118	0.009668
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.797303	0.805803
Egyptian Pound	0.014606	0.020324
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000196	0.000256
Jordanian Dinar	0.422896	0.431896
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000156	0.000256
Moroccan Dirhams	0.021231	0.045231
Omani Riyal	0.780955	0.786635
Qatar Riyal	0.078964	0.083904
Saudi Riyal	0.079740	0.081040
Syrian Pound	0.001285	0.001505
Tunisian Dinar	0.114408	0.122408
Turkish Lira	0.060118	0.070418
UAE Dirhams	0.081098	0.082798
Yemeni Riyal	0.000985	0.001065

Business

NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

Dollar supremacy across the board; Fed debates approach to inflation

Tensions over Sino-US trade dispute ease

KUWAIT: Last week, the minutes of the Fed's May meeting indicated a substantial level of debate over the mechanism of approaching inflation. The summary released last Wednesday also pointed to an interest rate hike in June, which the market has already priced in. Meanwhile, the probability of three additional hikes by the Fed this year sits at 36 percent currently, as the core PCE is at 1.9 percent while the headline rate is at 2 percent. Finally, the market is expecting further inflationary pressures on the US economy as oil prices surge to 4-year highs.

Regarding the increasingly volatile US foreign policy, trade negotiations and global politics have been the focus of the Trump Administration recently. The latest development in US-China trade relation came from Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who said that the plan to impose tariffs on China has been suspended. Additionally, President Trump tweeted that the Chinese had agreed to purchase unspecified amounts of American farm products. On the other hand, Donald Trump cancelled the summit with Kim Jong Un, which was supposed to take place in Singapore, due to the comments made by North Korea which were perceived as hostile by Trump.

In debt markets, the on-going hiking cycle and the increasing expectations of future rate hikes by the Federal Reserve pushed the 2-year treasury yield to 2.55 percent. The yield sits above the yields available on much longer-dated 10-year sovereign benchmarks such as Canada, the UK, Italy, France and Germany. This means that an investor can get a better fixed rate holding US two-year paper than by tying up their money in 10-year global bonds. In FX markets, the dollar capitalized on its supremacy amongst major rivals and gained 0.37 percent throughout the

week. The greenback which is supported by solid fundamentals and the on-going monetary divergence managed to close the week at 94.25.

Political turmoil in Italy

Eleven weeks after an inconclusive election, Italian politics continue to face turbulence. This time, the populist parties which are expected to form the next government, are locked in a standoff with the Italian president after they nominated a Eurosceptic economist for the post of finance minister in their new populist government. This instability has not been kind to Europe's third largest economy, where government bonds continue to be sold off at an alarming rate. Adding fuel to fire, the anti-establishment parties have indicated their intention of repealing laws allowing banks to forcibly recover debts from Italian citizens without judicial approval, pushing Italian bank

stocks over the ledge. Next, the parties are expected to take the fight to the EU, where they have a tall order that includes asking for forgiveness of 250 billion euros of Italian debt.

PMI drops in the eurozone

The composite PMI of the Eurozone sank in May to an 18-month low of 54.1 down from 55.1. The figure came in below all forecasts, which have already predicted a dip to 55.0. Recently, growth in the Eurozone has been steadily weakening after outpacing its peers in 2017. Therefore, questions are being asked as to whether the ECB has the stomach to take the eurozone off its easing program. The disappointing figure resulted in a struggling Euro which reached a low of 1.1676.

UK inflation drops

The pound sterling fell to its lowest level this year hitting a low of 1.3306. The fall came after the release of inflation data showing that the CPI fell unexpectedly for the second consecutive month in April, reaching a 13-month low of 2.4 percent. The Brexit vote in 2016 had the effect of rising inflation, as the fall in the pound led to higher import prices. But we are seeing the figure fall now faster than most economists had forecast, making people question the timing of any increase in interest rates and the extent of inflation pressure.

Carney on growth

BoE governor Mark Carney had said that the rate of economic growth in Britain is likely to rebound in the second quarter, and interest rates are still likely to rise gradually this year. Carney disagreed with the assessment of the Office for National Statistics that snow had not depressed economic performance in the first quarter. He mentioned that the BoE's regional agents and ground contacts suggested a significant snow effect, deducting between 0.1 to 0.2 percentage points from the first quarter growth rate.

UK GDP 2nd estimate

UK gross domestic product (in volume terms) was estimated to have increased by 0.1 percent between Q4'17 and Q1'18, unrevised from the preliminary estimate.

When comparing GDP growth in the most recent quarter to the same quarter a year ago, we see a continuation of a pattern of slowing growth, in part reflecting a slowing in the growth of consumer-facing industries. The services industries increased by 0.3 percent in Q1 2018; while construction decreased by 2.7 percent in Q1 2018. While the bad weather had some impact on the economy, particularly in construction and some areas of retail, its overall effect was limited, with partially offsetting impacts in energy supply and online sales.



Japan struggles to boost inflation

Inflation in Japan continues to move further away from the Bank of Japan's target. The trend seems to be set on a downward path as of the latest Tokyo inflation report. According to the Japanese government, inflation excluding fresh food prices, known as core inflation, rose by just 0.5 percent in Tokyo in the year to May, down from 0.6 percent in the 12 months to April. It now sits at the lowest level since September last year, casting doubt as to when, if ever, the Bank of Japan will be able to achieve its 2 percent annual target. Excluding both fresh food and energy prices, inflation in the capital rose by just 0.2 percent over the year, again, below the 0.3 percent level reported one month earlier. Headline inflation, including all items, rose by 0.4 percent from a year earlier, below the 0.5 percent figure released for April.

Kuwaiti dinar

USDKWD opened at 0.30225 yesterday morning.

Brazil truckers' strike enters sixth day

RIO DE JANEIRO: A truckers strike that has paralyzed Brazil entered its sixth day Saturday as government troops slowly cleared roads of barricades in a bid to break the impasse. The strike over a hike in diesel prices has caused widespread fuel shortages that have shut down urban transportation systems, crippled industries and sent prices of food and fuel soaring.

"We are moving toward getting back to normal but it is not a rapid thing," said Sergio Etchegoyen, the minister for institutional security. In a televised address Friday, President Michel Temer declared he had "mobilized the security forces" to clear the roads. "We are not going to permit that the population does not have access to essential goods... that hospitals do not have necessary medicines to save lives," he said. Cabinet Secretary Carlos Marun, speaking after a cabinet meeting Saturday, said authorities were seeking arrest warrants for trucking companies that "lock out" employees.

By Saturday, government troops had begun escorting fuel trucks to open access to refineries, principally in Duque de Caxias, near Rio de Janeiro.

The Defense Ministry said 132 of 519 barricades had been cleared on roads around the vast South American country. But gas stations have run dry and supplies of perishable pro-



SAO PAULO: Members of the Brazilian Military Police and Sao Paulo's traffic police carry out an operation to clear blocked "Rodoanel Mrio Covas" road, in the city of Sao Bernardo do Campo, some 25 kilometers from Sao Paulo, Brazil during the sixth day of a truckers' strike protesting rising fuel costs, on Saturday. — AFP

duce were increasingly scarce in stores. The Sao Paulo union of fuel distributors said 99 percent of the gas stations in Brazil's industrial capital were out of fuel and it would take up to a week to return to normal once the strike is ended. Sao Paulo mayor Bruno Covas, who declared a state of emergency on Friday, said the situation in his city was "serious, but under control."

'Generalized irresponsibility'

In Rio, the agency that runs a network of articulated buses that link numerous working class neighborhoods said the service has been "interrupted for an undetermined period of time" because of fuel shortages. A lack of fuel also forced the cancellation of flights from

Brasilia, paralyzed auto assembly plants, and reduced the operations of the refrigerated storage industry. But in Brasilia most roads were open by Saturday and some gas stations had been to be resupplied.

In an editorial on Saturday, the daily O Estado de Sao Paulo blamed the state of affairs on a "generalized irresponsibility" both on the part of the strikers and the government, which it said acted "too slowly." With five months to go before October's presidential election, the strike has further eroded the stature of an unpopular center-right government. On Friday, Temer blamed the road closures and ensuing chaos on "a radical minority," who had defied a 15 day truce agreed the day before with several truckers unions. — AFP

Fed up Spanish cities are bursting Airbnb's bubble

MADRID: Spain may be one of the world's top tourist destinations, but many people in its biggest cities have grown exasperated with Airbnb-style rentals.

And now, their city councils are taking action. Airbnb and other peer-to-peer rental websites have for years been credited with enabling lovers of travel and culture to find new ways to explore foreign lands. However, complaints have abounded in Spain that greedy landlords are throwing out long-term tenants in order to cash in on the tourist flow, and that the short-term leases are pushing up rent.

By introducing a slew of new rules, Madrid's leftwing city hall plans to make it impossible for short-term rental companies to rent out 95 percent of apartments in the Spanish capital by the end of the year. To get a holiday rental license homeowners will have to prove their property has a separate entrance from the rest of the building—a condition that is in most cases impossible to fulfil.

Homeowners who rent their primary residence for less than three months a year will be exempt. "We are aware that this is a very restrictive condition, and that is our intention," Madrid's city councillor for sustainable urban development, Jose Manuel Calvo, said.

He said certain Madrid neighborhoods have reached "the same saturation level" as Barcelona, where a boom in holiday rentals has drained the city's housing supply and pushed up rents, sparking a backlash against tourists that saw protesters take to the streets.

Locals out?

There are now around 9,000 flats in Madrid that are rented out to tourists, six to seven times more than in 2013, Calvo said. Of these, about 2,000 operate without a license. In some buildings landlords have evicted all local residents in order to rent their flats to tourists for more money, Calvo explained.

"The consequence is that these neighborhoods end up emptying out gradually, and this must be prevented. There is still time," he said. Madrid city hall in January stopped issuing new licenses for tourist apartments, and only plans to resume licensing once the new system is in place.

'Theme parks'

Other cities in Spain, the world's second most visited country after France according to the UN World Tourism Organization, are also facing a surge in the number of sharing economy short-term rentals, threatening hotel businesses. In the Mediterranean port city of Valencia the number of peer-to-peer holiday apartments has soared by 30 percent since 2016. While the situation is not as critical as in Madrid and Barcelona, the city's leftwing mayor wants a raft of new regulations to be approved by July. — AFP

Kuwait Times

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Business

KNCC raises the bar of cinema entertainment at Al-Kout Mall

Kuwait's most advanced cinematic experience to welcome visitors in Q3 2018

KUWAIT: Kuwait National Cinema Company (KNCC), the leading entertainment company in Kuwait, has announced that its "Cinescape Al-Kout Mall" will open its doors to visitors during the third quarter of 2018. The introduction of Cinescape in "Al-Kout Mall" is a rich addition to the diverse range of entertainment offerings at Kuwait's largest shopping and entertainment destination in the South of Kuwait. Recently welcomed visitors, "Al-Kout Mall" is the ultimate destination for shoppers, tourists and thrill-seekers from Kuwait and the region.

Homing nine of the 12 screens operated by KNCC in "Al-Kout" project, "Cinescape Al-Kout Mall" with its high-end design offers the most advanced cinematic and innovative entertainment experience, equipped with cutting-edge laser screens and state-of-the-art audiovisual technology.

The nine screens provide a total capacity of 1,542 seats including the latest offering of

Premium seats that are designed to deliver ultimate comfort and luxury. KNCC has also leveraged the most developed cinematic technology at "Cinescape Al-Kout Mall" including the first IMAX Laser in Kuwait and the unforgettable experience of 4DX. In an effort to provide a faster, smoother and easier customer service experience, 14 points of sale and seven automatic payment kiosks will be strategically placed within the venue. For the first time in Kuwait, "Cinescape Al-Kout Mall" will introduce a service that allows visitors to pre-order their food and beverages online to avoid queuing, while ensuring a unique entertainment experience.

Khaled Al-Marzouq, Business Development Manager at KNCC said: "The number of our cinema audience is growing which confirms that, even with competition from other companies, we continue to set the benchmark for raising the level of services and experiences offered to the Kuwaiti commu-

nity." He added: "We constantly strive to introduce the latest offering to the Kuwaiti market, therefore we are eager to develop "Cinescape Al-Kout Mall" to offer our visitors a truly unique entertainment experience with the best technology and design".

KNCC aims to cater to all cinema viewers while adhering to Kuwait's customs and traditions in selecting its movies. The company stays ahead of the film entertainment industry through its various cinemas, selected film packages and continuity in providing the best technology and services to its visitors.

KNCC has recently signed an agreement with Salhia Real Estate Company, to operate cinemas in Salhia's Assima Project that will constitute a major urban architectural move within Kuwait City. The company will invest in this site to exceed the expectations of its customers in terms of diverse designs and level of services and technology. In addition, KNCC, through its various projects that are still under construction and implementation, is seeking to expand its operations with new venues to reach the largest number of visitors in Kuwait.



Khaled Al-Marzouq



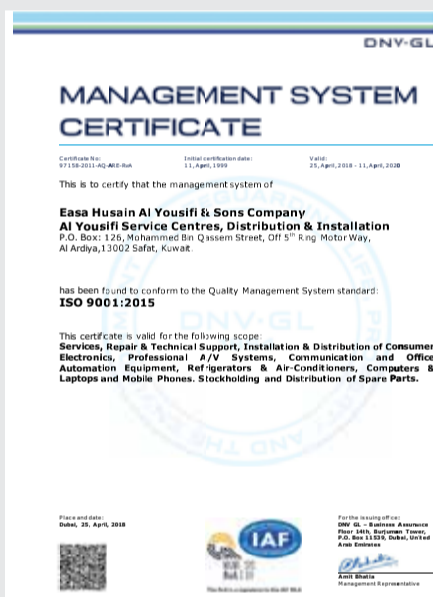
Al-Yousifi service centers receives ISO 9001:2015 certificate

KUWAIT: Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons Company received recently the ISO 9001:2015 certificate for their Service Centers in Kuwait, on quality management systems standards in installation and distribution.

This certificate covers the following: Services, repair and technical support, installation and distribution of consumer electronics, specialized audio and video systems, office automation equipment, communications, refrigerators, air conditioners, laptops, mobile phones and distribution of spare parts.

This timely achievement comes as part of Al-Yousifi and its service centers commitment to improve its services offered to its clients and customers continuously and meet international quality standards.

Al-Yousifi Public Relations Department announced this news following the service center management receipt of the certificate from the issuer's regional office in Dubai. It added that Al-Yousifi service centers were audited and found to be compliant with the requirements of international quality management systems "QMS". This includes services, repair, technical support, installation and distribution of consumer electronics of all types.



The management of Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons Company explained that the ISO certificate obtained for this year is an important step in the direction of accomplishing its future ambitions. It is worth mentioning that in the past years, Al-Yousefi Service Centers have obtained several ISO certificates in "QMS".

Chevrolet Trax wins 2018 best compact SUV at fifth annual MECOTY awards ceremony

KUWAIT: Boasting a blend of design enhancement, premium details, and latest technologies, the Chevrolet Trax 2018 won itself the "2018 Best Compact SUV" title at the prestigious Middle East Car of the Year (MECOTY) awards ceremony, which was held on April 2nd at ADNOC, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

The Middle East Car of the Year is one of the biggest and most anticipated award of the regional automotive industry being an authentic source of information for customers willing to invest on their vehicles. Since MECOTY's nominations and scoring procedures are based strictly on an unbiased, fair and transparent voting process, customers will have the assurance that all nominated and winning vehicles are of an utmost quality certified by experts in the automotive world.

In its newest edition, Chevrolet Trax 2018 was able to rank first, fulfilling all set criteria for its category, proving once again its exceptional popularity in the region. Combining an efficiently powerful performance supported by the Ecotec 1.8L four-cylinder engine with 140 PS and a fashionable design, Trax 2018 was able to impress the MECOTY's jury formed of 16 independent motoring journalists who commended the SUV's all latest characteristics and features.

The Chevrolet Trax 2018 displays a fresh and contemporary appearance reflecting the company's modern face around the globe, as explained by Steve Kim, Chevrolet Trax designer, who said: "It's a more sculptural, sophisticated design. There's also a sporty streak in the new styling that speaks to the Trax's agile, fun-to-drive personality."

The fourth model year front fascia incorporates Chevrolet's proportioned dual port grille along sleek headlamps that flow around the corners and into the front fenders. The Trax LT and LTZ models have halogen projector headlamps with LED DRL signature lighting. Chrome also accents the outboard fog lamp bezels. The LTZ models are offered with new 18-inch aluminum wheels and features at the rear a new fascia and dual tail lamps with LED signature lighting.

When it comes to the SUV's interior, the modified instrument panel is Chevrolet Trax 2018's major enhancement reflecting its signature dual-



cockpit design more expressively, with an upper dashboard hood that flows across the panel. Providing a greater visibility with the new 7-inch diagonal MyLink color touch screen, the instrument panel contributes to Trax's ambiance thanks to the contrasting colors of the Galvano chrome and LTZ trims matching its leatherette seating trim. Furthermore, the 2018 Chevrolet Trax presents a new instrument cluster embracing a new gauge display with analog speedometer and tachometer readouts along with digital displays from the standard driver information center.

Trax 2018 truly marks a new era of sophistication, smart technology and safety as it offers a new 7-inch diagonal infotainment system that supports the latest connectivity technologies, including Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility making it easy for you to stay connected. Entering and exiting the vehicle as well has never been so easy with the innovative Keyless Open and Start feature that adds to Trax's long list of available new technologies.

Chevrolet's "prevent, protect, respond" philosophy manifests itself with the SUV's newly added active safety features designed to help alert drivers of potential crash situations and include rear park assist, side blind zone alert, and rear cross traffic alert, available depending on the vehicle's model.



AUB launches digital partnership with Ajar Online

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) has announced an exciting new partnership with Ajar Online to enhance the growth of rent payments to be made through digital channels.

The service provides convenience to tenants in making their rental payments fast and secure, whilst also providing landlords, property managers, and real estate companies with a free property management platform where they can benefit from multiple tools such as real time reporting on collections, as well as managing tenants and units. In addition to paying on online channels, through the mobile or personal computer, tenants are also able to pay their rent through new tenant cash collection points found in any one of Ahli United Bank's branches.

The new service was launched during a press conference, which was held yesterday at the Four Seasons Hotel, in the presence of Richard Groves, the Bank's CEO and Tareq Muhmood, Senior Deputy CEO, along with several of the Bank's Executive Management, and Shaheen Al-Khudhari, Founder and CEO of Ajar Online, and a number of valued customers.

The new service addresses a challenge that many landlords and tenants face when receiving and paying rent in a timely manner. Landlords often follow a very manual and prolonged process to collect rent, which can cause delays and result in an additional burden in monitoring what has and has not been paid. Tenants are often unsure of when the rent is due or what is outstanding, and sometimes fall victim of lost paper receipts.

With these pain points in mind, Ahli United Bank and Ajar Online, are addressing this challenge with a platform that benefits both landlords and tenants. Landlords are

now able to facilitate rent reminders to tenants ahead of the due date, with secure SMS payment links to facilitate the rent payment. Tenants will now have the convenience of paying their rent online from anywhere and in a secure manner.

This solution is part of AUB's strategy to leverage technology to provide ongoing improvements for its customers. On this occasion, Richard Groves said, "The Bank's partnership with Ajar Online is an exciting initiative that involves working with young entrepreneurial Kuwaitis, to address a real challenge faced by many landlords and tenants in Kuwait. Property owners and managers will be able to collect their rental payments electronically, in a fast and secure way. This will also benefit tenants through a new, easy way to pay". Moreover, Groves commended the developers of the Ajar Online project, which brings Kuwait's real estate market into the digital age. Ajar Online is a cloud platform that provides convenience to both tenants and property owners through digitized payment methods, and continues to seek creative ways in increasing the ease of electronic payments.

Tareq Muhmood, Senior Deputy Chief Executive Officer, said "AUB is amongst the first banks to offer this new service, as part of its keen interest to reinforce its digital banking platform while also driving the efficiency of electronic payment channels that are on offer."

Muhmood added that Ajar Online is another successful project that is part of AUB's wide range digital services. Digital transformation involves a series of small steps. "Today is an important part of that journey as we continue to seek to leverage technology to enhance our customer's experience in



Shaheen Al-Khudhari

dealing with their financial services." Shaheen Al-Khudhari, CEO & Founder of Ajar Online, said "Our partnership with AUB brings us a step forward in digitizing the real-estate market by making Ajar Online the payment and property management platform for AUB's real estate customers, and allowing us for the first time to accept cash payments through our platform via cash collection points across all AUB branches. With that, landlords can now acquire 100 percent of their rent collection online, making Ajar Online the first platform in the region to offer such a robust and complete real estate payment solution."



Tareq Muhmood

Al-Tijari announces winner of Al-Najma new prize program

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced the winner of the weekly draw as follows :- Weekly draw prize KD 5000- Sawsan Jassim Ali Hasan

The draw was conducted in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative Jassim Al Otaibi. Al-Najma Account was recently revamped by adding several benefits to the prize program through which now the account provides its customers the chance to win the biggest annual cash prize offered by a bank in Kuwait and over the globe as much as KD 1 million and half (KD 1,500,000) so that customers' dreams can easily turn to reality.

The bank stated that the account prizes this year is featured by the highest cash prize and diversity of prizes throughout the year clarifying that Al-Najma Account will offer weekly prize of KD 5,000 and monthly prize of KD 20,000 and a semi-annual prize of KD

500,000 for which the draw will be held on 1st July 2018 in addition to the grand prize (the biggest prize in the world) of KD 1,500,000 for which the draw will be held in January 2019. Al-Najma Account can be opened by depositing KD 100, and customer should maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 to be eligible to enter all draws on Al-Najma Account prizes. As for the chances of winning, the more balance a customer maintains in Al-Najma Account, the more chances the account holder will get to win, where each KD 25 will give the customer one chance to win, the account also offers additional benefits like the ATM card, a credit card against customer's account and all CBK banking services that customer can enjoy.

Now CBK existing customers can open Al-Najma Account through Al-Tijari Online and enter all draws without visiting the Bank branch. However, CBK non-customers can



submit account opening application via the Bank's website where the Bank's Sales Unit will call them to arrange visit to the customers to complete the account opening formalities.

Health

LA's people walker is beating loneliness, one step at a time

Clients get to enjoy real human connections with people

LOS ANGELES: Chuck McCarthy's walking service provides fresh air, exercise and companionship for \$30 an hour-but peeing on trees is an absolute no-no. The Los Angeles-based entrepreneur works with humans, not animals, and is striking a blow for health and social inclusion as the founder of the famously car-friendly city's first people-walking business.

"I was thinking about becoming a dog walker. But I've never had a dog in the city, so I've never had to pick up dog poop," McCarthy said on a recent leisurely saunter in the Hollywood Hills. "I was also seeing a lot of personal trainer ads. And so I kind of said to my girlfriend, 'Maybe I'll just become a people walker.'"

McCarthy was joking but the more he thought about it, the more he realized there was a need for the kind of comradeship he could provide. The People Walker started as a one-man operation two years ago. But demand was so high that McCarthy now has a roster of 35 walkers, and a website where people can choose routes and walking partners.

Social disconnection has been linked in various studies to depression, heart disease, diabetes and cancer, and can shorten life as profoundly as regular smoking, according to some estimates. Eric Klinenberg, a professor of sociology at New York University, identified a major cause of loneliness in a recent column in *The New York Times*: a growing global culture of individualism.

'Human connection'
It's not that people have fewer friends, say experts, but rather that the "gig economy" has produced a generation of freelancers with none of the routines or social bonds that traditionally connected workers. "I've walked people that are married with kids that have tons of friends. It's about convenience and it's about location and basically having things your way," McCarthy says.

Meanwhile smartphones and social media have deepened divisions, replacing real human relationships with the ersatz companionship of a social media following. Instead of "screaming into the void of Twitter or Facebook," McCarthy's clients get to enjoy real human connections with people that don't know them and won't judge or gossip.

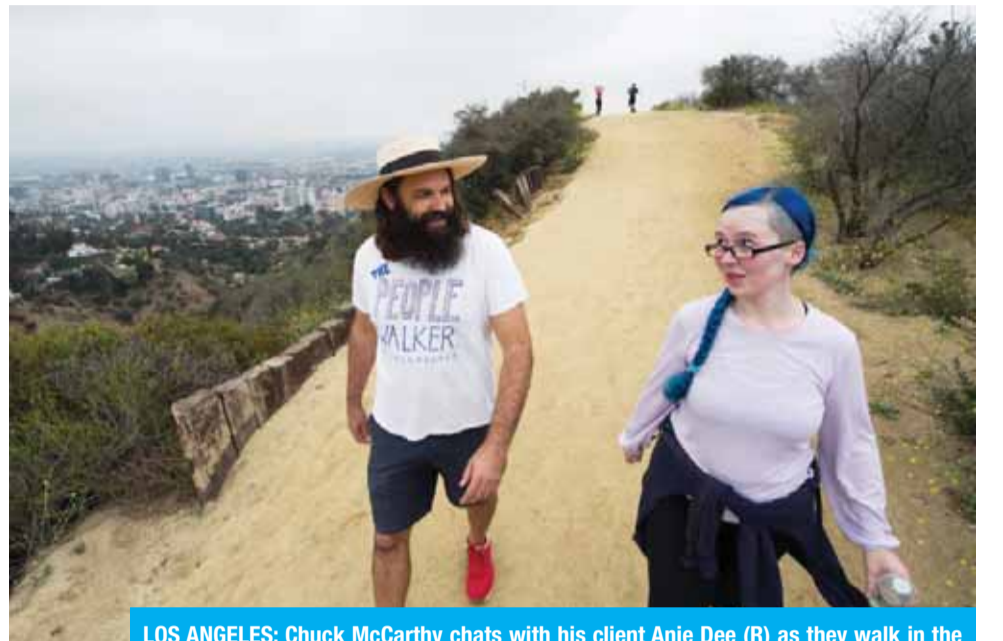
"It seems like something new but it's very similar to going to confession, to a bar, to a therapist, or going to a hairstylist," he said. McCarthy is an aspiring actor, which makes him coy about revealing his exact age—"I guess I'm in my 30s," he concedes—but auditions have taken a back seat to the business recently. "I still wouldn't turn down a starring role opposite George Clooney," he adds, just for the record. The business is on the cusp of making the kind of money McCarthy could call a living, with an app about to launch and grand plans for expansion across California, the US and, eventually, the world.

McCarthy now has a roster of 35 walkers



All shapes and sizes
McCarthy has no idea how far his feet have taken him in the last two years but he walks clients four or five times a week, typically for an hour, and describes himself as more of a listener than a talker. "It's less of a confession and more of a conversation. So I wouldn't say that I'm getting the deepest darkest secrets and nobody is breaking down crying on our walks," he says. McCarthy's clients come in all shapes and sizes, and walk for a variety of reasons.

Anie Dee, a Wisconsinite in her late 20s who decamped to LA seven years ago, had been driving for a ride share service, sitting down all day, and decided last year to get out more. "I have some health issues so walking long distances is very difficult for me. And so having somebody with me, we walk a lot further than I ever thought I could," she said. The freelance theater box office manager noticed as she began going out with McCarthy that her mood and outlook were noticeably more positive. "When you're working a



LOS ANGELES: Chuck McCarthy chats with his client Anie Dee (R) as they walk in the Hollywood Hills, May 24, 2018 in Runyon Canyon Park. — AFP

lot of desk jobs and you're by yourself, you don't really have that social aspect," she said. "So when you go for a long walk it's like, 'I feel refreshed—this is really nice.'" — AFP



ABIDJAN: A candidate of Miss Handicap Ivory Coast 2018 beauty pageant waves on the podium during the Miss Handicap beauty pageant, aiming at changing mentalities on handicap in Africa. — AFP

Ivory Coast fights stigma with beauty pageant for disabled

ABIDJAN: Cheered on by the audience, a young woman walks onstage in a glittering gown, beaming as she addresses the jury. But this is no ordinary beauty contest—all 10 contestants are disabled. One partially sighted contestant is accompanied by a guide, another uses a crutch while a third sashies in wearing orthopaedic shoes, one with a 15-centimetre raised sole. This is Miss Handicap 2018, Ivory Coast's first beauty pageant for the disabled with the aim of offering "a new perspective on people with disability and another definition of beauty".

For all of them, taking part in such a public event requires courage in a continent where people living with disabilities often face open discrimination. "Through this contest, all girls with disabilities like me who have always just stayed in their own corner and who haven't dared show themselves... will finally have the courage and the strength to come forward," says the pageant winner, Loukou Getheme. "The handicap is in your head, you have to brave the storm and everything will work out," adds Getheme, a 25-year-old student who lost an arm in an accident when she was a child.

'Shut up at home'

In Friday's crowd is Victoire Yao, a masters student studying geography in the capital Yamoussoukro who whoops excitedly every time one of her friends takes to the stage. "It's really difficult in Africa. Our universities, for example, are just not built with the infrastructure to accommodate us," says Yao, who was born with a severe spinal injury and has spent all of her life in a wheelchair, her head permanently tilted at an angle. "And then there is the way people look at you. It's complicated, even within our own families. Some reject us because we're disabled," she says. "Me, I was lucky to have good parents."

The pageant is one way to challenge such longstanding prejudices, she says. "The contest allows us to show that despite our handicap, we are capable of appearing in public in front of people," Yao told AFP, saying that "perhaps one day" she herself could participate. One of the event's organizers is Nuella, a 33-year-old singer born with a congenital deformity who cannot walk without pain, despite undergoing 36 operations. "The beauty of the world is all about difference. We belong to a minority and we must make ourselves heard by the majority," she said.

But her daily struggle with pain has not

stopped her from winning two African talent shows—Star Karaoke in 2007 and Africa Star in 2010 — which transformed her into a celebrity. Nuella complained of a lack of funding to help those with disabilities, who also must cope with social problems. "The unknown frightens people. Many disabled people do not go to school and just remain shut up at home... These people are just left without any kind of education or training," she said. The situation is even worse in rural areas, where "women are thought to bring bad luck".

Some 450,000 people are registered as having some form of disability in this West African country with a population of 24 million. But the number is probably far higher as "many are not registered" as disabled at birth because their parents have "a sense of shame", Nuella says. The singer notes that only seven of 200 disabled people who sought "handicap kits" during a recent campaign were officially registered. Ivory Coast is the second African nation after Cameroon to organize such contests, which are common in the West and help fight a double discrimination against women and the disabled.

'So long marginalized'

Miss Handicap Cameroon 2018 Laura Tchokotcheu, who lost an arm at the age of 11, travelled to Abidjan for the event. She calls for a Miss Handicap Africa contest to be organized as has been promised. "We have to promote disabled women in Africa. Disabled women have been marginalized for so long, we have to change that," the television presenter says. Fashion designer Danielle Krea, who was in charge of the wardrobe for the contest, says that "despite her handicap, a handicapped woman is still beautiful and is still a woman."

She adds: "The contest is an opportunity to show everyone that the disabled have not been left behind, are not on the sidelines of able-bodied people." In the front row of the audience Astrid Sokouri, Miss Globe Ivory Coast, keeps breaking into applause. "They are beautiful. Just as much as me," she says. "There is solidarity between them and us. The difference means nothing, it's the beauty of the heart that counts, not physical beauty. "Having a handicap does not mean you cannot succeed in life," Sokouri insists. "This competition will help to encourage women to make their dreams come true." — AFP

'Little Jamaica' coast struggles with climate storm

PLAYA COCLES, Costa Rica: As towering waves smashed onto Costa Rica's Cocles beach, sucking away much of its sand, surf instructor Leo Downer was scared the coastal road, along with his Toyota car, would be washed into the Caribbean by the ferocious February storm. Low boulders now sit in place to help shelter Cocles, with its reggae bar and cafes serving rice and beans, where tourists cycle past fruit stalls selling lychees and soursop and signs warn of sloths crossing the beach road.

But as rising seas threaten parts of the tropical eastern coast, dubbed "Little Jamaica", many worry that the visitors who generate numerous jobs in the area — known for its palm-fringed beaches and exotic wildlife — could go elsewhere. "This year was the craziest I've ever seen... we lost everything — there was no sand, there was nothing, the water was hitting right here, all those trees fell down," said Downer, pointing to the nearby road amid a torrential downpour. "I saw the water come under my car, whoosh — it didn't take it, but... I've never seen that before. I think everything is changing, it's a little warning," he said, his family sheltering from the rain under their beach shack surrounded by surfboards.

Global warming could cause sea levels around the world to rise between 70 cm and 1.2 metres (28-47 inches) in the next two centuries, ramping up pressure on the roughly half of the world's population who live near the coast, said a German-led team of researchers in a study published in February. Scientists say parts of Costa Rica's Caribbean coast have lost at least 20 metres (66 ft) of beach in the past 15 years, as creeping sea levels and changing wave patterns cause coastal erosion, often exacerbated by coral reef degradation.

They warn that higher seas and increasingly unpredictable conditions could start to damage infrastructure and take a heavy economic and social toll. In addition to the creeping effects of climate change, extreme events like hurricanes are likely to worsen the impact on many coastal communities, said Borja Reguero, a researcher at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Trees are being replanted on parts of Costa Rica's coast to halt erosion and protect livelihoods. But more extreme conditions demand hefty spending on infrastructure such as wave breaks and sea walls to delay mass relocations, some experts say. "In 100 years, all of the villages in Costa Rica's Caribbean and Pacific coasts will inevitably be flooded," said Omar Lizano Rodriguez, a University of Costa Rica oceanographer. "There's not the resources or political



Araceli Huertas sits on the veranda of Spencer Seaside Lodging in Cahuita, on Costa Rica's Caribbean coast. — Reuters

will to solve the problem. Costa Rica deals with emergencies but not prevention." Tourism is a mainstay on the tropical coast, some 200 km (125 miles) east of San Jose, where many are descended from the Jamaicans who originally came to work on a jungle railway, and English mixes with Spanish and Patois. In Cahuita, where the coastal national park draws tourists looking for sloths snoozing in the treetops and howler monkeys leaping through the forest, the sea has already consumed slabs of beach and is starting to menace the sleepy town.

On the wooden veranda of Spencer Seaside Lodging where she works, Araceli Huertas explained storm waves are now much higher than in previous years and sometimes crash over the reinforced sea wall in front, soaking the hotel's rooms. "The tourists are frightened it's a tidal wave or a tsunami or something, as they don't see this very often," said Huertas, who has lived in the beach town for 15 years. "Now the sea is calm but when the sea looks very high, they want to leave." Wild conditions are causing trouble for fishermen who cannot go out in rough seas and are landing smaller catches, said Jose Ash, as two men dragged a boat out of reach of the high tide. "People who live from the ocean can't go anywhere — it's too dangerous," said the fisherman and tour guide, whose own boat was moored offshore. "What I hear is they're going to build a dock right here for the fishermen, they're going to put some big stones and jacks out there by the big breakers, but that's just like blah, blah, blah for the past 10 years."

Cahuita's national park regularly has to redraw its coastal paths but an elevated wooden walkway built after parts of the access road were washed away now allows it to stay open even when the sea washes ashore, helping keep local guides in work. As rising waves push back the park's

shorelines and reduce its trees, the animals that tempt visitors to the area are also coming under pressure, said park guard Mirna Cortes Obando.

"All the coastline inside the park has been affected — for example, we've lost nearly 50 metres of beach over the last 10 years," said Cortes, on the veranda of the park's headquarters, which was surrounded by water during recent storms. "We're losing much of the trees here, the almonds, the sea grapes, the coconuts that the animals use for food." Together with the non-profit Talamanca-Caribbean Biological Corridor Association, the park is now planting more trees along the coast to limit erosion, while a team monitors the coral reef that helps protect parts of the shore.

Branching out

Some of the young trees such as coconut palms have been wiped out by storms, but they should eventually create a barrier to protect against rising waters, said Julio Barquero Elizondo, marine biologist at the association. Educational programs are also crucial to better prepare for climate change, said Barquero in Hone Creek village, where hundreds of saplings grow in the non-profit's plant nursery.

"We have to have alternatives and not just think about the beach and the sea — the guides should also know about forest tourism and indigenous communities, to have a broader offering so that climate change won't be so damaging," he said. Back in Cahuita's national park, wildlife guide Richard Hills-Wilson pointed to the tangle of sun-bleached trunks that was once a broad stretch of sand he played on as child. He is bracing for the next storms, as he marks 33 years of working in the area next month. "The beach is going to go," he said. "If there's no beach, then nobody comes." — Reuters

WHO gets kudos for Ebola action in DRC, but prevention lags

GENEVA: The World Health Organization has received widespread praise for its quick response to an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo, although observers warn prevention and information to affected communities remain insufficient. So far, 52 confirmed, likely or suspected cases of the deadly virus have been registered in DRC, including 22 deaths.

The UN health agency has been scrambling in this outbreak to prove it has learned its lesson after bungling the initial response to the 2013-2015 Ebola epidemic in West Africa. WHO underwent a massive reform after being slammed for responding too slowly and failing to grasp the gravity of that outbreak until it was out of control. Ultimately, that outbreak claimed more than 11,300 lives. So this time, the UN agency jumped into action as soon as DRC on May 8 officially declared that Ebola had sur-

faced in rural northwestern DRC in a remote location called Bikoro. Peter Salama, WHO's head of emergency response, pointed out this week that clinical care facilities have been set up, an air bridge has been established to Bikoro, emergency financing has been mobilised, protective gear and emergency medical kits have been supplied.

In addition, a targeted vaccination campaign has begun and more than 120 WHO staff have been deployed alongside numerous staff from other organisations, under the leadership of the DRC government.

'Very confident'

"Certainly, in the first two weeks, an enormous amount of activity has happened," Salama told AFP. Matshidiso Moeti, WHO's regional director for Africa, also told AFP she was "very confident" the agency's response this time was

robust and efficient. "The reform of the WHO emergency programme is working extremely well," she said. Doctors Without Borders (MSF), which was one of WHO's harshest critics over the West Africa outbreak, agreed that the response this time was far better. "I think much more has been done," Jean-Clement Cabrol, MSF's emergency medical coordinator, told reporters in Geneva on Thursday.

Last time, he said, it took WHO "a long time to realize the extent of the epidemic... This time I think the understanding of the risk and of the need to respond is there." The Gavi vaccine alliance also hailed in a statement that "the response this time has been stronger, faster than four years ago in West Africa". But it cautioned there was "a need to strengthen further preventive and control measures on the ground".

Swiss medical charity FairMed agreed, pointing out that little had been done in advance to prevent the tragedy. "If you compare to the epidemic in Guinea, and later in Liberia and Sierra Leone, WHO has not missed the opportunity to show it has recognized and applied important 'lessons learned'," Bart Vander Plaetse told AFP in an email. — AFP

Health

Massive beach clean-up for Hong Kong sea turtles

Environment campaigners warned plastic is killing sea turtles

HONG KONG: More than two thousand volunteers hit the beach on an outlying island of Hong Kong for a mass rubbish clean up yesterday as environment campaigners warned plastic is killing sea turtles and other wildlife. There has been increasing concern over the amount of rubbish in Hong Kong waters which washes up on its numerous beaches. Authorities and environmentalists have pointed the finger at southern mainland China as the source.

Last year, a massive palm oil spillage from a ship collision in mainland Chinese waters clogged Hong Kong beaches. But there is evidence that Hong Kong is also to blame. In 2016, local media reported that syringes and medical waste washed ashore from clinics in the city. Yesterday's clean-up took place on Shek Pai Wan, near Sham Wan-known as "Turtle Cove" - on Hong Kong's Lamma Island. Sham Wan is one of the few regular sea turtle nesting grounds in southern China and is closed to visitors from June to the end of October, but campaigners said no nests have been recorded in the area in the past six years.

'Restricted area'

"Turtles aren't making it to the beach to lay eggs," said Aquameridian campaigner Sharon Kwok, adding that turtles are dying, ending up tangled in nets, hit by high-speed boats and ships, and most often, because of trash ingestion. "Turtles are mistaking plastic bags for jellyfish and eating them," said Kwok, explaining they are incapable of throwing them up as they have barbs in their mouths.

Volunteers gathered dozens of bags of trash including drinking straws, forks and spoons, polystyrene, toothbrushes and plastic bags on the sandy beach. With much of the plastic waste broken into small pieces, participants needed to use sifters to pick them out. "From a far distance it looks like it is just normal stones and pebbles, but if you look closer, there's actually quite a lot of small plastics, and turtles can easily think that is food," said 14-year-old volunteer Tommy Tsui.

This year seven green turtles have already washed ashore in Hong Kong according to Kwok, but environmentalists believe more have died and their carcasses have sunk. Campaigners are urging the government to expand the "restricted area" around Sham Wan, extending it beyond the dry-sand beach which is already protected to the rocky shoreline as well as the shallow waters of the bay. "I hope that they can expand the restricted area further along the sea and the survival rate of turtles will be higher," said 13-year-old volunteer Caitlin Chiu. — AFP



Participants take part in a beach clean-up on Hong Kong's outlying Lamma Island.— AFP

Why birds don't have any teeth

PARIS: Why did birds lose their teeth? Was it so they would be lighter in the air? Or are pointy beaks better for worm-eating than the jagged jaws of dinosaur ancestors? Actually, birds gave up teeth to speed up egg hatching, a research paper suggests, challenging long-held scientific views on the evolution of the toothless beak.

When compared to an incubation period of several months for dinosaur eggs, modern birds hatch after just a few days or weeks. This is because there is no need to wait for the embryo to develop teeth—a process that can

consume 60 percent of egg incubation time, said researchers Tzu-Ruei Yang and Martin Sander from the University of Bonn.

While in the egg, the embryo is vulnerable to predators and natural disasters, and faster hatching boosts survival odds. This would be a concern for dinos and birds—all egg layers. In mammals, embryos are protected inside the mother. "We suggest that (evolutionary) selection for tooth loss (in birds) was a side effect of selection for fast embryo growth and thus shorter incubation," Yang and Sander wrote in the journal *Biology Letters*. Previous studies had concluded that birds—living descendants of avian dinosaurs—lost their teeth to improve flight.

But this did not explain why some non-avian dinosaurs in the Mesozoic era had independently evolved similar toothless beaks, said the duo. Other studies had concluded

that beaks were better for eating bird food. But some dinosaurs with a very different, meat-eating diet had also discarded teeth in favor of pointed beaks.

Yang and Sander said their breakthrough came from a study published last year, which found that the eggs of non-flying dinosaurs took longer to hatch than previously thought—about three to six months. This was because of slow dental formation, which researchers analyzed by examining growth lines—almost like tree rings—in the fossilized teeth of two dinosaur embryos. Faster incubation would have been aided by early birds and some dinos taking to brooding their eggs in open nests rather than burying them as of old, said the research team. They conceded their hypothesis was not consistent with toothlessness in turtles, which still have a long incubation period. — AFP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199

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What's On

Ooredoo executive management participate in Iftar distribution



Ooredoo Kuwait Executive Management Team participated in the charitable spirit of Ramadan in distributing iftar meals on people in need, through the company's Iftar tent which is located across the company's head office in Kuwait City on Saturday. The executive management team was led by the company's CEO Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani.

This participation comes to demonstrate the executive management's commitment to embody the values of the holy month of Ramadan, and to lead staff by example to adopt the values of the company which focus on supporting underserved communities throughout the year. This is especially eminent through the company's agenda for its volunteer program, which launched its fourth edition this year.

Ooredoo has announced earlier its commitment to distributing daily Iftar meals in its tent opposite

its head office in Kuwait City, and via a designated vehicle that goes to specific places to reach the biggest number of laborers and families in need, the initiative's target audience.

The company's executive management team also joined the call center agents for Iftar on Saturday evening, to connect with them and express gratitude to their commitment and dedication. During the Iftar meal, Ooredoo Kuwait CEO Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Thani thanked them for their ongoing efforts in serving customers and providing them with the best services throughout the year.

Commenting on these initiatives, Ooredoo Kuwait's Corporate Communications Senior Director Mijbil Alayoub underscored the company's commitment to involving staff from its different departments in those charitable initiatives, which include aside from meal distribution several

visits to care centers of the elderly, the orphanage, children with special needs, and hospital wards, to share the festive spirit of Ramadan. He also reiterated the company's commitment to interacting with its staff and enforcing an open-door policy, which fosters a spirit of communication and transparency between all members of the Ooredoo Kuwait family.

Ooredoo has recently announced the launch of the fourth edition of its volunteer program, which succeeded to attract hundreds of participants throughout the years, providing them with the necessary tools through training and workshops before matching them with volunteer opportunities in Kuwait. The program, which is co-managed by Spread the Passion non-profit organization, received an honorary award from the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs in 2015 for being a leader in youth volunteerism.

Montaha Al-Ajeel joins Harvey Nichols family

The Qatari businessman, Hesham Saleh Al-Mane' has recently opened Doha Harvey Nichols at the Doha Festival City. Here, Montaha Al-Ajeel joined the Harvey Nichols family after she carefully managed to climb up the fashion ladder. She has taken part in various shows worldwide and was awarded in London for her immaculate designs.



Art exhibition at the Sunshine Kindergarten



The Sunshine Kindergarten (TSK) celebrated the recent success of their art exhibition 'In a Land Faraway.' Children aged two to four years old created individual masterpieces in a variety of 2D and 3D media to display in the 'galleries' situated inside the nursery building. As guests arrived they were treated to a wonderful music performance by the British School of Kuwait's La Camerata strings ensemble.

TSK were delighted that Dr Lavinia Davenport, the wife of HE, The British Ambassador was able to attend and officially open the exhibition. She praised

the work of the children and how creative and confident they were, congratulating TSK staff providing such a wonderful learning environment for the children.

As the guests toured the exhibition they were immersed in stories brought to life by the art, beginning with 'You can't eat a Princess,' a favorite book of the children. Also present at the opening was TSK founder, Madam Vera Al-Mutawa MBE, HE Mr Popane Lebesa the Ambassador of Lesotho, and Mr Anwar Al-Hasawi, the Vice Chairman of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society. Mr Anwar himself has a wealth of experience in Art and he was very complimen-

tary of the children's talents.

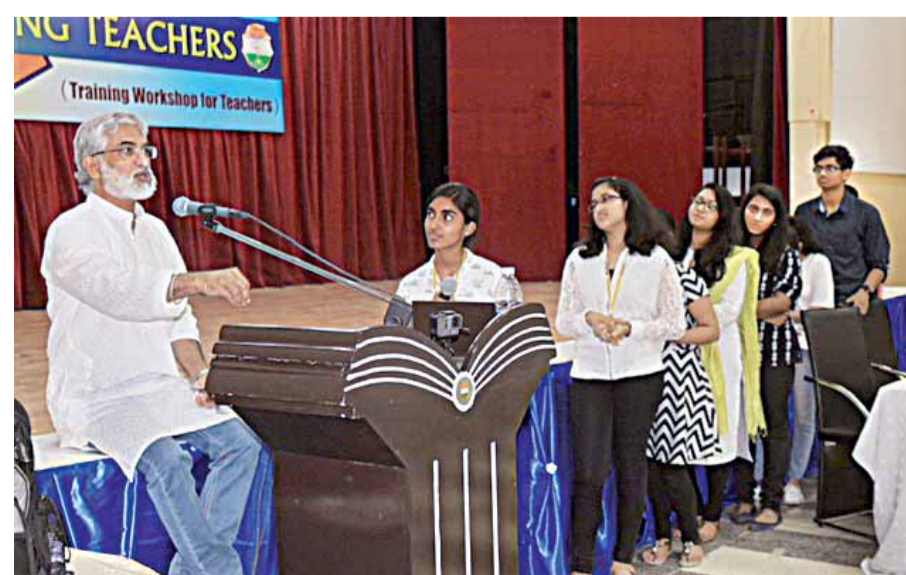
TSK Principal Heather Hodgson was rightly proud of the hard work the children and their teachers had put into making the exhibition such a success. It was fitting that Madam Vera celebrated 40 years of Sunshine in this, the 40th year since the founding of the school. She was proud that at TSK, the children were always encouraged to 'have a go, explore and be ambitious' in their learning. This is integral to the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum that encourages learning through play-based activities.

ICSK prepares students for class X

ICSK conducted an immensely useful workshop for the students of class X. Students from branch schools also joined in. Dr T P Sasikumar, an eminent life mentor, scientist, writer, educationalist, orator, spiritual director and hypnoterapist was the mentor for the day. What more could the students ask for?

Principal and Senior Administrator, ICSK, Dr V Binumon and Vice Principals of ICSK Senior, Dr Sam T Kuruvilla and Mary Isaac, Anman graced the workshop with their presence. The program commenced with a welcome note by Dr V Binumon introducing the star guest. The mind captivating and interesting session started off with a few activities which added zest to the session.

Various difficult concepts of life were explained with extreme ease and simplicity. Dr T P Sasikumar guided the students on how to study, prepare and face examinations fearlessly, manage life, be happy and lead a stress free life. The motivational speaker advised the student community to believe in themselves, to self analyze and aim for continual improvement. He emphasized on physical, behavioral, intellectual, social and spiritual growth. It was followed by a



very fruitful interactive session.

His very own quotes, "Be good yesterday, better today and best tomorrow", "Succession of successes is success", "Believe in yourself", "Make a difference for yourself and others", "Learn to ask questions", "Do

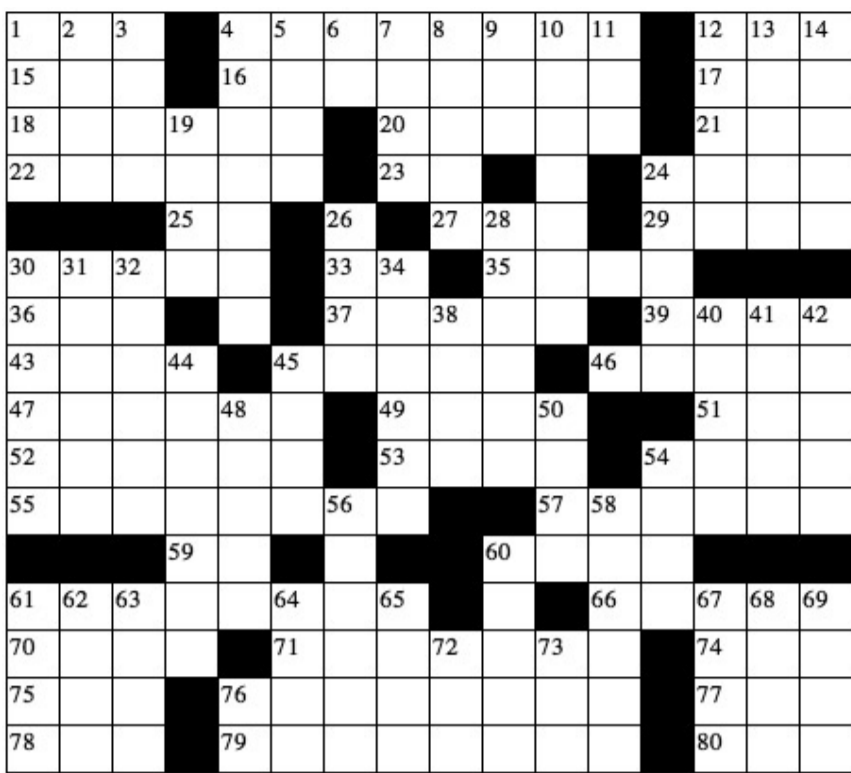
your best", "Be the best, not from the group but by doing the best from you", "Learn well so that you can earn later", "Be human, be social" mesmerized, motivated and inspired the students. He also gave an optimistic view on life with his definitions of Life, "Learning is an

investment for future earnings" and "Learn life with full enjoyment" The event concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by a student from each branch. It was indeed a very interesting session which infused a boost of confidence in the young minds.



Stars

CROSSWORD 1920



ACROSS

1. A common cyst of the skin.
4. Evergreen tree of New Zealand resembling the kawaka.
12. Support resembling the rib of an animal.
15. 10 hao equal 1 dong.
16. Order of mammals having few or no teeth including.
17. North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
18. A large fleet.
20. An African river.
21. A chronic skin disease occurring primarily in women between the ages of 20 and 40.
22. Free from disturbance.
23. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
25. Being nine more than ninety.
27. Belonging to or on behalf of a specified person (especially yourself).
29. God of love and erotic desire.
30. A genus of Ploceidae.
33. Before noon.
35. An narrative telling the adventures of a hero or a family.
36. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
37. Proceeding from or ordered by or subject to a pope or the papacy regarded as the successor of the Apostles.
39. A major god.
43. A republic on the western coast of Africa on the Gulf of Guinea.
46. A thermionic tube having two electrodes.
47. A genus of orb-weaving spiders including common garden spiders and barn spiders.
49. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
51. A common venereal disease caused by the Treponema pallidum spirochete.
52. Any of several plants of the genus Camassia.
53. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
55. Brush turkeys.
57. Filled with the emotional impact of overwhelming surprise or shock.
59. A chronic inflammatory collagen disease affecting connective tissue (skin or joints).
61. Grown for its thickened edible aromatic root.
66. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
70. The content of cognition.
71. Kauri pine.
74. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
75. The seat within a bishop's diocese where his cathedral is located adv.
76. The compass point midway between south and west.
77. A caustic detergent useful for removing grease.
78. The portion of the vertebrate nervous system consisting of the brain and spinal cord.
79. In a wanton manner.

DOWN

80. Large brownish-green New Zealand parrot.
1. Hit hard.
2. A British peer ranking below a Marquess and above a Viscount.
3. Acute ulceration of the mucous membranes of the mouth or genitals.
4. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
5. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
6. A very light colorless element that is one of the six inert gasses.
7. A former copper coin of Pakistan.
8. A city in central New York.
9. A label made of cardboard or plastic or metal.
10. Continuing forever or indefinitely.
11. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
12. Father of the storm gods Marut.
13. Muslims collectively and their civilization.
14. English monk and scholar (672-735).
19. Harsh or corrosive in tone.
24. (Similar to the giraffe but smaller with much shorter neck and stripe on the legs.
26. Plant with an elongated head of broad stalked leaves resembling celery.
28. (Old Testament) The first of the major Hebrew prophets (8th century BC).
31. (anatomy) Opposite to or away from the mouth.
32. Source of a tough elastic wood.
34. The capital of Bahrain.
38. (obstetrics) The number of live-born children a woman has delivered.
40. A yellow quartz.
41. The clay from which adobe bricks are made.
42. The cardinal number that is the sum of five and one.
44. I species.
45. A Lolish language.
48. Formed by reaction between an acid and an alcohol with elimination of water.
50. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
54. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
56. 40th President of the United States (1911-).
58. Contemptibly small in amount.
60. Ash-colored or anemic looking from illness or emotion.
62. Any place of complete bliss and delight and peace.
63. The sediment from fermentation of an alcoholic beverage.
64. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
65. (of molten metal or glass) Formed by pouring or pressing into a mold n l.
67. Danish philologist whose work on Old Norse pioneered in the field of comparative linguistics (1787-1832).
68. Look at with amorous intentions.
69. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for aviation and spaceflight.
72. A branch of the Tai languages.
73. Not in good physical or mental health.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Your thoughts are fixed upon what you gain now and leave behind later. Being motivated to embrace the future brings new knowledge and activities in areas of finance, real estate and savings. The seeds you plant now are actually roadmaps to the future and during this phase you see clearly as you move forward. When you use practical sensibilities with ingenuity what you create is of special help to more than one person: you're very good at "dumbing down" sophisticated concepts while explaining them to others. You avoid an obstacle that could have brought things to a stand-still. Your sights are set on travelling to faraway places; you pull some opportunities your way! The universe smiles upon your requests, as you're sincere in being grateful for all you have. Being with loved ones brings joy.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

The winds of change call your name and you listen; dreams of being carried away could be prominent now. Putting your mind on what's important isn't easy but you're able to accomplish several tasks and move on. Feeling good about yourself is what's right for you; no guilt should be involved in this. Being in control is a turn-on for you, so much so it could become a problem, so beware! Enjoying your dark side is refreshing and liberating; in truth, your dark side isn't really dark, only fun! Belonging to an important cause lifts your spirits and the vibrations surrounding you. Helping where ever you can is probable during this cycle, but not the next: give all you can during this time! Someone challenges an idea you present; you sit back and let them share their thoughts and everything comes together.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Joining with others to make something right gives you a sense of importance and belonging. A focus on the whole big picture helps you single out the part you play. New neighbors bring an interesting culture to the neighborhood; food, clothing, furniture are just a few things that capture your attention. A project you dreaded isn't as bad as you thought; you may be able to avoid this completely next time! A new vehicle or other large purchase becomes necessary; it's a good thing you're prepared. The winds of change dance lightly around you and you answer the call to listen; change isn't always good, neither is it always bad. You could be plagued by indecisiveness and confusion; sit back and let this pass. You get some answers you've been searching for, and you're happy! Positive vibes keep things positive.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You could find yourself the center of attention when in attendance at a meeting; this catches you completely off guard, but you pull it off beautifully! A trip to the doctor or dentist confirms that you're in pretty good shape. You go the extra mile to help someone anonymously. A new gadget provides help with your work; this could give you an idea for yet another helpful gadget. You force yourself to slow down, take a moment and "taste the coffee" so to speak; stress isn't the best fuel! Keeping an eye on things for someone while they're gone could prove challenging. A new store with exotic products could have something to do with your work. The planets are aligned for good times and good health as well. Pulling your finances together shows just how well you've done! Spending time winding down helps.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Stability and forward motion are highlights of the phase you've just entered; your efforts are poured into gaining and maintaining! Going in new directions with new attitudes is noticeable now and grow even more so the further into the cycle you move. The beauty and even glamour in life are actively sought and found by you with delight. Enjoying each moment from the time you wake up until the time you go to bed is a priority for you. Figuring out a certain scheme someone wants you to look at saves time and money you don't want to lose. Making a great deal on a piece of real estate or some other large investment takes you a long way toward reaching your goal. Independent research brings information regarding treatments for the condition a loved one is dealing with; pulling together brings strength.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Being smart when entering a deal assures that you come out ahead; being cautious with this is wise. A new opportunity to make money seems attractive, and the proof is in the numbers. A new recipe tempts the taste buds of everyone who tries it. A new addition to the family might be possible; this could indicate human, animal or plant, but whatever "it" turns out to be, much happiness comes with it. Someone asks you to teach them the way you do something; this is more than likely someone younger. Being in the thick of things means that you have responsibilities with organizing or possibly overseeing the food; this could be an event serving a large number of people. You may tend to over-romanticize things a bit, which could give you the wrong idea! Being clear on what you want gets you where you want to be.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You're tempted to apply romantic notions to everything and you're filled with hope that all can be well with the world; even so, you remain realistic. Wishing the best for others is where your thoughts stay, but someone could be getting on your last nerve! Having fun and leaving worries behind is predicted and this could be just the stress relief you need. Discovering something intimate about someone that's absolutely none of your business could make you uncomfortable. Hard work brings rewards and this recharges your battery to keep it up; winning is always, always the best motivation for you. Teaching what you know seems right, as does learning; you love both of these equally. A secret love could cross your mind more often lately; this could indicate that this person needs your prayers.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may long for a mate, someone to share your life with on every level. If this is so, concentrate and send your wish out to the universe who's always listening and aware. You experience visions and dreams regarding what you hope to create or gain; pay attention to these as they hold important clues! Being respected brings satisfaction when you're presented with some type of award. The way you write and speak is unique to you. Putting your spin on something makes it better. Being in the social spotlight isn't your favorite place to be, but you become more comfortable with it as time passes. A flirty situation lightens what could be a heavy mood. Reading is soothing and informative when you take a few moments for yourself later. Someone shows up with dinner and desert, all you have to do is enjoy.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You want to know who's calling the shots and how things are being accomplished; things don't look as they really are! When things don't add up, you can be unpleasant if you're not dealt with fairly. Meeting one challenge after the next is no problem for you today, especially when you use new techniques that make things easier. Don't be surprised if you feel fuzzy during this particular cycle, as the planets are configured for this energy. You may feel overwhelmed, as though you have too much on your plate. Could it be that you've spread yourself too thin staying calm when others can't prove your value over and over again. Bigger doesn't always mean better. Creative juices flow freely and culminate in some memorable work that inspires others. A pleasant surprise awaits you at home later.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Entertainment that explodes is what you seek and nothing else will do right now. A sense of boredom and restlessness surrounds you but you break away from this when a new person enters the picture. Risk taking is attractive and you might do well in some areas, but not so much in others; the best involvement with risky business for you is observing at this time. Someone inspires you by something they do. Working on yourself and your relationship to others is dominant right now; this type of self-help is getting easier and easier. You have to let go of something in order to get something else; this could be easier than you think! Intimate relationships undergo a period of testing; the tried and true hold tight through the storm, let the others go. Thinking of others first likely for you during this time.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You spend a great deal of time with like-minded people; this could make a social difference. Someone you know falls on hard times and you'd like to help them in some way. Breaking free of the past makes huge improvements to your life and is far easier than you thought it would be. Shedding old, outmoded ways is strongly indicated during this cycle. You frequent different places because you seek different results and answers. Someone you've never trusted proves that you still can't; some people can look you right in the eye and lie! Your original taste in clothes sets you apart but creates the perfect look for you. Finding things that inspire and energize you help you get in touch with reality. Going all the way with a business plan is thrilling and the results are better than you expected.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Lofty ambitions are common lately, and the energy from the universe supports it! Keeping your expectations realistic could be tough, but you're able to work with it and, using your common sense, stay on the right track. Intuition is strong stronger than strong and you follow where it leads. Being prepared for whatever may come is a focus for you as you experience some major life shifts. Positive thoughts keep positive vibrations around; this could be difficult at times, but you truly do prefer the optimistic side of life. Developing a new skill is strongly predicted; this could have to do with work or a personal hobby. Being too chipper could irritate some people who don't see you as realistic! Keeping your feet planted firmly on the ground is absolutely the best way for you to go right now.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Nursing Home 2

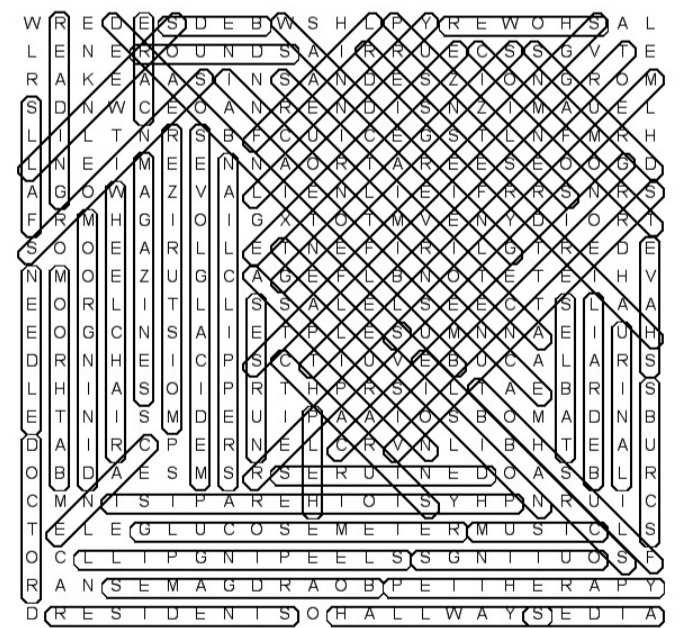
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 47 letters spell a Benjamin Franklin quotation.



- | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| ADMISSION ASSIST | DISABILITY DOCTOR | LOTION LOUNGE | PHYSICAL THERAPY PILLS | SOAP SOCIALIZE |
| BEDPAN BEDTIME | ELEVATOR ENTERTAINMENT | MEALS MECHANICAL LIFT | PODIATRIST RECLINER | STAFF SUPPOSITORY |
| BOOKS CALL BELL | FOOD TRAY GERIATRIC | MEDICINE MEMORY MORNING CARE | RECREATION ROOM SYRINGE | THERMOMETER TUBE FEED |
| CARD GAMES CHARTING | HEALTH HOLIDAY EVENTS | NURSE NURSING OXYGEN | RELATIVES ROOMMATE | VIRUS VISITOR |
| DEMENTIA DIABETES | INSULIN SHOT LAXATIVES | OSTEOPOROSIS PATIENTS | SEATBELT SLEEP | WANDER ALARM |
| DINNER | LOCKDOWN | PHARMACIST | SHOWER SNACK CART | WASH HANDS |

Yesterday's Solution

Nursing Home 1



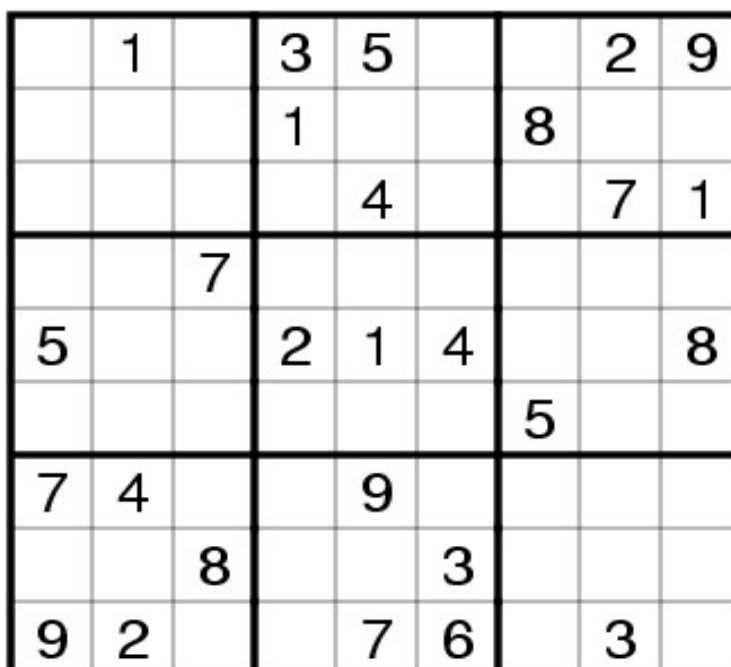
- | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| ACTIVITIES ALDES | COMFORT DENTURES | HELP INCONTINENCE | OUTINGS PET THERAPY | SING ALONG SLEEPING PILL |
| ASPIRIN BATHROOM | DINING ROOM LAUNDRY | LAUNDRY LINERS | PHYSIOTHERAPIST PUZZLES | STAFF MEETINGS SUPPER |
| BEDRILL BEDS | DRUGS EXERCISE | MAGAZINES MEDICAL GLOVES | READING RESIDENTS | TELEVISION |
| BOARD GAMES BULLETIN BOARD | FALLS FLU SHOT | MEMORY LOSS MOISTURIZER | ROUNDUP SCRABBLE | TRANSFER BELT |
| CANE CARE | FRAIL GLUCOSE METER | MUSIC NAIL CLIPPERS | SCRUBS SENIORS | VOLUNTEERS |
| CASE MEETING CHARTS | HAIIRDRESSER HALLWAYS | NEEDLE NURSES | SHAVE SHOWER | WANDERING WHEELCHAIR |

The hidden message is: WE SHALL NEVER KNOW ALL THE GOOD THAT A SIMPLE SMILE CAN DO

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku

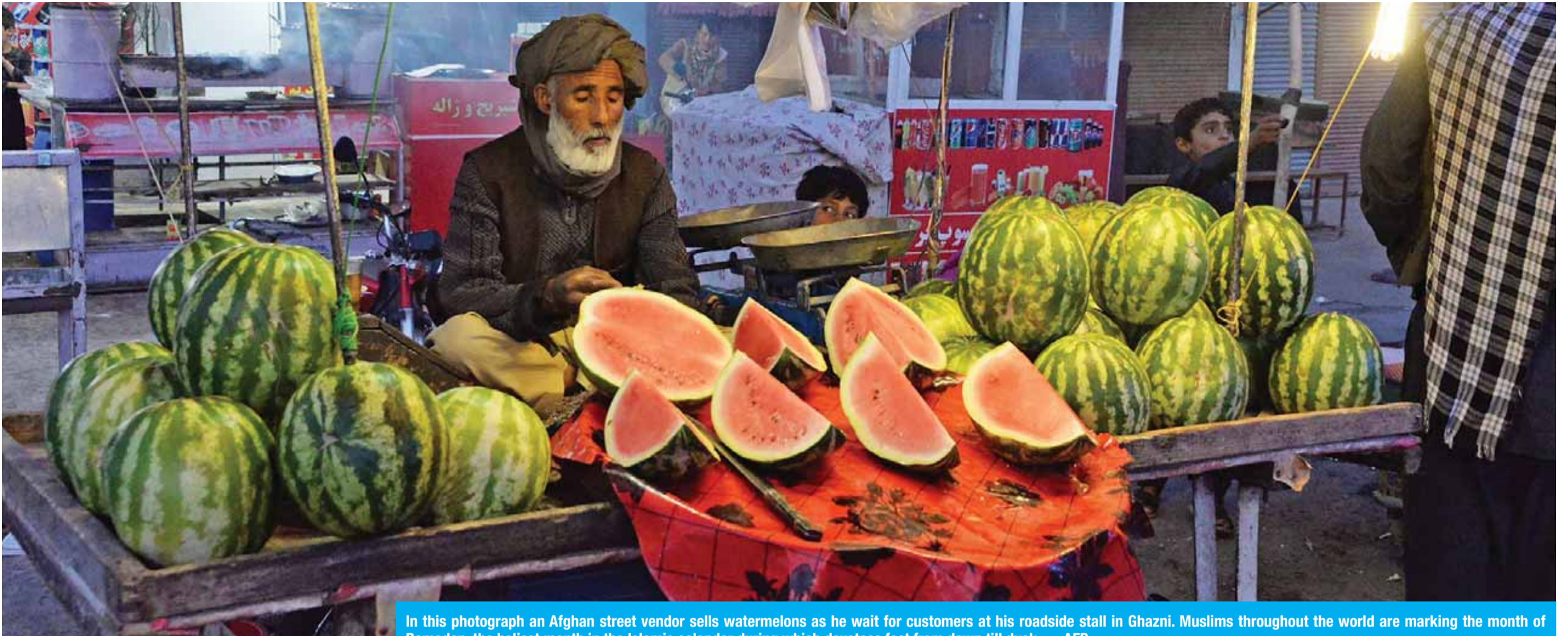


Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

MONDAY, MAY 28, 2018



In this photograph an Afghan street vendor sells watermelons as he wait for customers at his roadside stall in Ghazni. Muslims throughout the world are marking the month of Ramadan, the holiest month in the Islamic calendar during which devotees fast from dawn till dusk. — AFP

Russian police arrest man who vandalized Ivan the Terrible painting

Russian police on Saturday said they arrested a man for vandalizing one of the best known works of 19th century painter Ilya Repin, depicting Ivan the Terrible killing his son, at a gallery in Moscow. Police said the man used a metal pole to break the glass covering Repin's world famous painting of the 16th century Russian Tsar, titled "Ivan the Terrible and his Son Ivan on November 16, 1581." The Tretyakov Gallery said the work was "seriously damaged" as a result. "The canvas has been ripped in three places in the central part of the Tsar's son. The original frame suffered from the breaking of the glass," the gallery said in a statement.

"Thankfully the most valuable part was not damaged," it added, referring to the face and hands of the Tsar and his son, the Tsarevich. The statement added that the incident took place late on Friday, just before the museum closed. "The man entered the already empty Ilya Repin room. He bypassed staff who were scanning the rooms before the closing, and hit the glass of the painting several times with a metal pole," the gallery said. Russian state news agency TASS reported the man, a 37 year-old from the central city of Voronezh, did so for "historical reasons."

Police later released a video of the man, who said he acted under the influence of alcohol. "I came to look at it (the painting). I went to the buffet in the evening. I wanted to leave. Then I drank 100 grams of v***a. I don't drink v***a and something hit me," the man said.

Not the first attack

Ultra patriotic groups have protested against the painting before, notably in 2013 when monarchists demanded for it to be removed from the gallery. The gallery refused to remove it and reinforced security around the work. It is not the first time the painting has suffered an attack. In 1913, a man stabbed the work with a knife, ripping the canvas in three places. Ilya Repin was then still alive and participated in the restoration of his painting. Since 1913, the painting has been protected by glass. Russian state officials have lobbied for the rehabilitation of the medieval ruler's image, who led Russia from 1547 to 1583 and earned the moniker "Terrible" due to his brutal policy of oprichnina, which included the creation of a secret police that spread mass terror and executed thousands of people.

He also killed his own son, most likely by accident during a violent rage. In June 2017, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the story was a "legend" used by the West against Russia. "Did he kill his son? Did he not? Many experts say he did not and that this was invented by the Pope's Nuncio who came to Russia for talks and tried to turn Orthodox Rus to a Catholic Rus," Putin said. In October 2016, Russia inaugurated a controversial monument, the first of its kind, to the 16th century tyrant in Oryol, a city some 335 kilometres south of Moscow. — AFP

FRANCE WEIGHS HOW TO RETURN AFRICA'S PLUNDERED ART

Half-man, half-beast, the tall African statues dominate a busy gallery in Paris' Quai Branly museum. But few of the visitors are aware they are looking at what might be considered stolen goods. The three imposing wooden carvings were plundered by French troops in 1892 from the kingdom of Dahomey-modern-day Benin. "I came here to learn about how these objects were intended to be used, more than how they were brought here," said Michael Fanning, a student from New Orleans, peering up at the statues.

"But it does make me think we should give them back to whoever made them." From London to Berlin, Europe's museums are packed with hundreds of thousands of colonial-era items. Increasingly, they are facing the awkward question of whether they should be there at all. The "Scramble for Africa", as Europe's 19th-century land grab came to be known, brought with it a clamour for trinkets from conquered territories, so exotic to the eyes of the colonizers.

Bought, bartered and in some cases simply stolen by soldiers, missionaries and anthropologists, they ended up in museums and private collections all over Europe. The controversy is hardly new, nor does it concern Africa alone. Star lawyer Amal Clooney, wife of Hollywood actor George, has advised Athens on its bid to reclaim the Parthenon marbles, vast sculptures which have been in Britain since the 1800s. The massive Koh-i-Noor diamond, part of Britain's crown jewels and claimed by India, Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan, is another spectacular example.

But in Africa, a speech by French President Emmanuel Macron has spurred

hope that things may be about to change. "Africa's heritage cannot just be in European private collections and museums," Macron said in Burkina Faso in November. He charged two experts with working out how to give African artefacts back within five years, prompting speculation that museums across Europe could be pressured to follow suit. "Suffice to say that he'll have made European curators quake in their boots," said Pascal Blanchard, a historian of French colonialism.

Tangle of problems

French art historian Benedicte Savoy, one of the experts appointed by Macron along with Senegalese writer Felwine Sarr, described her new job as "a hell of a challenge". Museums have long wrestled with a tangle of legal and ethical problems concerning who really "owns" such objects. Even in well-documented cases of pillaging, the law often prevents countries from giving them back. Last year France flatly refused Benin's bid to reclaim its treasures, saying they were exempt from seizure as state property. European conservationists have also raised practical concerns, worrying artefacts could be stolen or handled improperly if given to inexperienced museums in politically unstable countries.

Blanchard said countries like Nigeria, with well-established museums, had "all the ingredients for solid restitution claims". But others as poor as Chad "do not currently have the museums and cultural heritage services capable of restoring and displaying these objects", he said.

"These objects belong to us" Yet many African officials say these



Funerary crown of the Kingdom of Dahomey dating from 1860-1889 is pictured.

treasures should be at home, attracting tourists and boosting national pride. Few cases inspire more outrage than the Benin bronzes, hundreds of exquisite metal plaques seized in 1897 by British troops from the Kingdom of Benin, in modern-day Nigeria. Most are now in the British Museum and the Ethnological Museum of Berlin. For Crusoe Osagie, spokesman for the governor of Nigeria's Edo State, it is simply wrong that his children must go to Britain or Germany to see their heritage in a glass-fronted cabinet.

"These objects belong to us and were forcefully denied to our possession," he told AFP. As for suggestions that Africans might not look after such objects, he finds the idea insulting. "It's like asking me how to look after my child," he said. "We are ready to look after them with great care."

Echoes of Nazi looting

Some colonial-era artefacts have been handed back over the years on an ad hoc basis, and UN cultural agency UNESCO has mediated successfully in several disputes since the 1970s. European and US museums have also been meeting with Nigerian officials since 2007 seeking a solution for the Benin bronzes, but with few results. The idea of loaning the bronzes, as well as Ethiopian items displayed in Britain, has been floated, but some African officials are affronted by the suggestion of "borrowing" what they see as their own property.

For want of better solutions, many museums are simply trying to approach the issue more sensitively. German museums have taken a lead-minded of their previous experience with Jewish-owned artworks looted by the Nazis. At Berlin's new Humboldt Forum, labels are set to include details of how colonial-era items came to be in the collection. And Hamburg's MKG museum is running an exhibition which focuses not so much on its three Benin bronzes, but the fact that they were looted. Its curator Silke Reuther said visitors appreciate the museum's honesty. "We are not afraid to show something which is not a beautiful story," she said. — AFP



The Ato ceremony of the Kingdom of Dahomey, circa 1934, is pictured at the Quai Branly Museum-Jacques Chirac in Paris. — AFP photos



Heads of a Royal ancestor, arts of the Kingdom of Benin of the end of the 18th century are on display.



Big royal statues of the Kingdom of Dahomey dating back to 1890-1892 are pictured.



KRAVITZ HAILS INSPIRATIONAL JACKSON

Lenny Kravitz has hailed Michael Jackson as hugely influential on his career in music. The 'Are You Gonna Go My Way' hitmaker's first ever concert was seeing the Jackson 5 at Madison Square Garden in New York City and he was a fan of the late King of Pop from that day forward. And Lenny fulfilled a life-long dream when he got to work with Michael in 2001 during sessions for his final LP 'Invincible'. Speaking to The Guardian newspaper, Lenny said: "He's the person who made it happen for me. He

loved [us] working together. He asked me to push him. I did." Although Michael tragically passed away aged 50 in 2009, the pair will be heard singing a duet on 53-year-old Lenny's upcoming 11th studio album 'Raise Vibration'. The duo both sing on the track 'Low', and Lenny admitted some people listening to the LP - which comes out in September - actually thought he was doing an impression of MJ on the track. He revealed: "A lot of people say: 'Oh, you're doing that Michael Jackson impersonation.' No, that's him." Earlier this week, Lenny announced his first

UK tour in three years, as he confirmed plans to perform next month in Manchester, Birmingham and London. The run will kick off on June 19 at Manchester's O2 Apollo and conclude at London's The SSE Arena, Wembley on June 22. The mini tour will see Lenny supported by soul musician Curtis Harding, who previously backed CeeLo Green and formed the R&B/garage rock band Night Sun with Black Lips members in 2009.

Myers' children want fourth Austin Powers movie



Mike Myers' children want him to make a fourth 'Austin Powers' movie. The 55-year-old actor took a hiatus from acting to focus on his three children Spike, six, Sunday, four, and Paulina, two but Spike wants him to resurrect his most famous movie character. Speaking to PEOPLE, he said: "I know what I'm doing in terms of my kids now, so that was a good six years. But Spike keeps asking me, 'Where's the fourth Austin Powers,' which is the weirdest thing. I'm like, 'Get off my back. I'm doing my best.'" Mike also revealed that Spike was about to go to sleep one night when he asked if there would be a fourth movie. He explained: "And I said, 'I'd like to. I don't know.' Then he said, 'What's Dr Evil's lair?' And I said, 'An oil rig,' and he said, 'What's an oil rig?' I said, 'It's where you drill oil at sea.' He goes, 'It should be a sewer,' and fell asleep." Mike recently admitted he loved playing the party-loving spy in the money-spinning film series and would be delighted to

return to the franchise. He said: "I would love to. I've had three kids in the last six years and that's sort of been where my focus has been. "But, you know, I love doing all the characters and it's a non-stop party when we're shooting. It's fun." In fact, Mike has even floated the idea of shooting another movie from the perspective of Dr Evil, who is a parody of James Bond villains. The actor - who plays the part of Austin and Dr Evil - explained: "I would love to do a movie from Dr Evil's perspective. "So it would be 'Dr Evil 1', 'Austin Powers 4', is how I would roll ... Start the campaign, please. Thank you." The three previous 'Austin Powers' movies saw Mike star alongside the likes of Elizabeth Hurley, Heather Graham and Beyonce.



Bloom for Marvel Cinematic Universe?

Orlando Bloom would love to join the Marvel Cinematic Universe. The 41-year-old star would happily take on the challenge of portraying a superhero, and admitted although he hasn't been asked to feature in the franchise, he has had meetings to discuss future film projects after taking time out to raise his son Flynn, seven, who he shares with ex-wife Miranda Kerr. Speaking on BBC Radio 2, he gushed: "All the Marvel movies are just phenomenal. "You know, I really think it's about timing, I've not [been asked] but I've met over there but it's sort of one of those things where I took a lot of time out to raise my son, and after being in a big franchise ['Pirates Of The Caribbean'] it was more about wanting to be there [for him]. "I figured when he turns around to me when he's 10 and he's like 'where were you?' [I didn't want that to happen]." While Orlando - who is reportedly dating singer Katy Perry - suggested Captain Britain as a possible role, he would be apprehensive because it could mean having to compete with Captain America in a showdown against the first Avenger, who has been played by Chris Evans. He continued: "I do read [Marvel comics] a little bit. Who's the British one? Captain Britain! There you go. "Terrible costume though, and also you've got Captain America so what you going to do? Captain Britain vs. Captain America?"

Phoebe Waller-Bridge kept Solo prop



Phoebe Waller-Bridge had L3-37 mouth moulds made into a brooch after filming. The 32-year-old actress voices the droid in the new 'Solo: A Star Wars Story' movie, and she revealed one of the model makers behind the moulds - used so her costume could be digitally animated - turned one of them into a sweet accessory for her to keep and remember the shoot. She said: "Actually one of the model makers gave me... L3-37 had to have various different mouths at the beginning and he gave me one and turned it into a little brooch thing so that's cool." And co-star Donald Glover - who plays Lando Calrissian - took home some a prop of his own, taken from filming a scene in which he had to learn how to do tricks with cards and coins. Speaking to Collider in a joint interview, the 34-year-old actor added: "On the set for the card scene we had to

learn some trick moves, like rolling the money and stuff like that, so they did give us [the coins] and I took the stuff home to practice, flipping the coins on my hand, and I still have one" Glover couldn't contain his excitement when he landed the role in the top secret film project and ended up telling his dad, Donald Glover Sr. - despite the efforts of the team to keep the casting and plot under wraps. He admitted: "I told my dad, and he had to keep it for a month, which he did a great job of. He didn't tell anybody except my mother, but I told my dad immediately, I know I wasn't allowed to but I was like [shrugs] sorry! "It was really hard to get the script, we didn't even have the script until we were on-set and even then it was on these iPad's that were updated physically you couldn't do it over Wi-Fi and it was really hard to know what was happening until deep into the film."



Mendes praises 'badass' Mayer

Mhawn Mendes says his mentor John Mayer is a "badass". The pair struck up a close friendship after performing together in Toronto in 2017 and Shawn says John has been a great help to him in his career. He told PEOPLE: "He's a badass. He's just so smart and intellectual. He has a very interesting view on the world-a view I've never heard from anyone else." And Shawn, 19, loves that despite his career longevity, John, 40, is always aiming to better himself. He said: "He's one of my really, really good friends. The most incredible thing I learned from [him] is that no matter how much experience you have, you never are done learning; there's always something to be learned. "John will send me new music and ask me what I think. When that happened to me the first time, I was so impressed that he didn't see himself as a master yet. He's always trying to learn and wants to get better; he always wants to grow with the people and not get left behind. "He helped me with something on my new album. I'm sure we'll get together. Our friendship has just begun and there's a lot to happen in the future." And John recently called Shawn a "better" version of himself. He said: "Shawn's just a better version of me in a lot of ways. Shawn's like John Mayer 2.0, without the weird software viruses. He's a better version of a celebrity than I ever was. He's not as volatile."

Woody Harrelson confirms Venom role



Woody Harrelson has confirmed he will be in "a fraction" of the upcoming 'Venom' movie. The 56-year-old actor was believed to be taking on the role of Carnage in the upcoming Sony movie based on the Marvel Comics character Venom, and although he is yet to confirm if the rumors are true, he has at least confirmed his appearance in the movie and it's subsequent sequel. When asked what made him accept a role in the film, Woody said: "Well, you know, Ruben Fleischer did 'Zombieland', directed it, so that was a big part of it. And also, Tom Hardy, I really respect and think he's one of the great actors. So that, coupled with what is a really wonderful script, I felt like I kind of should, you know? "Roll of the dice, because I'm just ... I'm in a little fraction of this movie, but I'll be in the next one, you know? So I haven't read that script, but anyways, just rolled the dice." The star won't reveal his role just yet though, as he isn't even sure he should be confirming his appearance in the movie at all. Asked if he could confirm the part he had been given, he added to Collider: "I thought it was under wraps that I'm even in the movie." Whichever role Woody plays, he will star alongside Tom Hardy, who will take on the titular symbiote Venom and his alter-ego Eddie Brock. Michelle Williams also stars as Eddie's girlfriend, whilst Riz Ahmed, Jenny Slate, Scott Haze, Reid Scott, and Some Aluko are also set to feature in the production. The movie will be focused around Eddie Brock - the first character to become the alien symbiote in the Marvel comic books after Spider-Man discards the black suit he discovers is actually a living being. 'Venom' marks the first time an enemy of Spidey will be getting their own standalone movie, however, the character did appear in Sam Raimi's 'Spider-Man 3', when he was played by Topher Grace.

Drake drops new track 'I'm Upset'

Drake has released a new track called 'I'm Upset'. The 31-year-old rapper and singer took to Instagram over the weekend to drop a brand new track entitled 'I'm Upset', which follows the recent single 'Nice for What', and will be featured on his upcoming album 'Scorpion', which is due out in June. He wrote on social media: "Anyways...back to this album...new single out now!!! Link in bio (sic)" The post was accompanied by several scorpion emojis. 'I'm Upset' also follows the track 'Duppy Freestyle' which was dropped on Friday night, which seemingly takes aim at Pusha T and Kanye West, after they accused Drake of using ghost-writers on their song 'Infrared'. The duo's song includes the lyrics: "Your hooks did it, the lyrics pennin' equals to Trump's winnin'. The bigger question is how the Russians did it. It was written like Nas but it came from Quentin." And Drake fires back in 'Duppy Freestyle': "If you rebuke me for working with someone else on a couple of V's, what do you really think of the n***a that's making your beats? "I've done things for him, I thought that he never would need. Father had to stretch his hands out and get it for me." He also appeared to nod towards the publicity the spat would drum up for Pusha-T's new album 'DAYTONA', which was produced by Kanye. Drake later says: "Tell 'Ye



we got an invoice comin' to you, considering we just sold another 20 for you." As of the time of writing, it isn't known whether 'Duppy Freestyle' will make it onto his upcoming album, but previously released single 'Nice for What', and new release 'I'm Upset', will feature on the track listing. 'Scorpion' follows 2016's 'Views', and marks the star's fifth studio album. No formal release date has yet been announced, but the record will be released sometime next month. — Bang Showbiz

Sesame Street suing over McCarthy's new movie

Sesame Street creators are suing STX Entertainment over its new movie 'The Happytime Murders'. The puppet noir comedy is set in Los Angeles where naughty and foul-mouthed puppets and humans live together. Two detectives, a human and puppet, are forced to work together to solve the murders of the former 'The Happytime Gang'. The movie has been directed by Brian Henson, son of 'Muppets' creator Jim Henson - who was also a large part of 'Sesame Street's' success - and the Jim Henson Company also helped to produce it. A tagline for the racy comedy dubs it 'No Sesame. All Street', which 'Sesame Street' creators object to. According to Variety, 'Sesame Street' creators have argued in their lawsuit "While the trailer at issue is almost indescribably crude 'Sesame' is not trying to enjoin defendants' promotion or distribution of their movie. It is only defendants' deliberate choice to invoke and commercially misappropriate

'Sesame's' name and goodwill in marketing the movie-and thereby cause consumers to conclude that 'Sesame' is somehow associated with the movie-that has infringed on and tarnished the 'Sesame Street' mark and goodwill." An STX spokesperson said: "STX loved the idea of working closely with Brian Henson and the Jim Henson Company to tell the untold story of the active lives of Henson puppets when they're not performing in front of children. "While we're disappointed that 'Sesame Street' does not share in the fun, we are confident in our legal position. We look forward to introducing adult moviegoers to our adorably unapologetic characters this summer." The movie will star Melissa McCarthy, who is also producing the project. She previously said: "When a really good script combines puppet strippers, Los Angeles' underbelly and comedy, it's like my fever dream has finally come true!"



Lifestyle | Features

Golden age for Kylie as Australia's pop princess turns 50

From teenage soap sensation to pop royalty, over Kylie Minogue's three-decade career she has sold 80 million records, survived breast cancer and become a gay icon whose fanbase spans generations. The pint-sized Aussie superstar celebrates her 50th birthday on Monday, another milestone for the singer who is one of the few celebrities known simply by their first name. To mark the occasion Kylie has said she is planning "an extravaganza" with friends in London, where she is based-and if her litany of hits including "I Should Be So Lucky" and "Can't Get You Out Of My Head" is anything to go by, she will have no trouble getting the party started.

Born in Melbourne on May 28, 1968, Kylie has defied critics who once wrote her off as a "singing budgie" to establish herself as one of Australia's biggest cultural exports and an international sex symbol. "Kylie is a star that has become iconic outside of just singing," Australian fashion expert Paula Joye told AFP of the country's highest-selling artist of all time. "She's become part of the fabric of Australian culture."

Kylie was just 11 when she appeared in the television series "Skyways", but is best known for her star turn as Charlene in long-running soap opera "Neighbors" from 1986 to 1988. She and her co-star Jason Donovan won popularity as an on-screen couple and were secretly a real-life item at the same time, although their romance did not last. Her first single-a cover of 1960s Little

Eva hit "Locomotion"-reached number one in Australia in 1987 and became a global hit, launching the girl-next-door's new career as a pop star and, later, dance diva.

She teamed up with Donovan for 1988 duet "Especially For You", which sold more than a million copies in Britain alone and topped the charts across Europe and Australasia. While Jason's career since then has seen him star in musicals and speak frankly about his struggles with drug addiction, Kylie went on to record top-selling singles such as "Better the Devil You Know", "Spinning Around" and "All The Lovers"-performing them around the world in glitzy showgirl outfits.

"On stage, she always looks like a giant sequin," said Australian fan Troy Lester, who pursued a career in costume design and fashion after falling in love with Kylie's costumes. "It's incredible that you can be this little ball of energy and sparkle so much... She's a little pocket rocket that just keeps going and it's great to have that kind of positivity in your life."

Gay icon

Kylie's high-energy performances and feel-good pop tunes are still a winning formula, according to veteran music journalist Jenny Valentish. "She's dazzling, an all-rounder entertainer. In a previous time, she would have been a dancing girl probably going around Australia in

the gold rush age (of the 1850s) entertaining the miners," Valentish said. The pop princess has long had a big LGBTI following and has often graced Sydney's annual Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras parade.

In 2016, Kylie and her then-fiance British actor Joshua Sasse wore "Say 'I Do' Down Under" t-shirts in support of same-sex marriage at Australia's top music awards. Fan Owen Lambourn, who goes by the moniker Owen Minogue on Twitter, recalled how her career kicked off during the AIDS epidemic of the 1980s. "A lot of high-profile people steered clear of the community because there was that stigma that you were endorsing death, but she looked at everybody as being human," Lambourn told AFP.

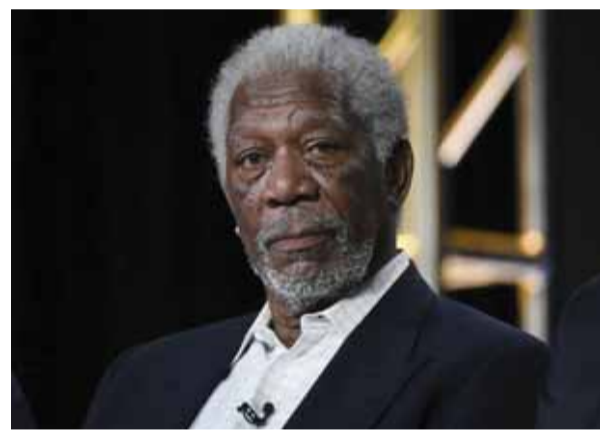
"She's a great icon and an ambassador for universal love." The singer was also outspoken about her battle with breast cancer in 2005, which forced her to cancel her headline slot at Britain's Glastonbury Festival. She was given the all-clear a year later and has helped to raise awareness of the need for women to undergo screening for the disease, even in their 30s. Aside from these campaigns, Minogue has kept much of her personal life under wraps, although her numerous boyfriends-including late INXS rocker Michael Hutchence and French actor Olivier Martinez-have been tabloid fodder over the decades.

She's showing no signs of slowing down and released new album "Golden"-her 14th-this



Australian singer Kylie Minogue poses during a photocall upon arrival for the 2018 Echo Music Awards ceremony in Berlin. — AFP

year, making number one in both Australia and Britain. "I am very aware and thankful that this is a good time in my life," she recently told the Sydney Morning Herald. "I know I have worked for it and I have paid for it and so I am enjoying it, between my schedules and trying to take care of myself as well." — AFP



File photo shows actor Morgan Freeman participates in the "The Story of God" panel at the National Geographic Channel 2016 Winter TCA in Pasadena, Calif. — AP

Morgan Freeman says he did not assault women

Morgan Freeman says he likes to compliment people to make them feel at ease around him but that he has never sexually assaulted women. The Academy Award-winning actor is fighting back against charges of bad behavior made by multiple women in a CNN report this week. He said in a statement late Friday that the report has devastated him and that "it is not right to equate horrific incidents of sexual assault with misplaced compliments or humor."

Following the report, Visa announced it was suspending all of its marketing that features the actor's voice. CNN's story includes one movie production assistant who said Freeman unsuccessfully tried to lift her skirt. Other women talked about unwanted touching on their backs and shoulders. Mostly, Freeman's accusers say he would comment about their bodies or clothes or make them uncomfortable by staring. A male former employee of Freeman's production company said the 80-year-old actor would behave like a "creepy uncle."

One of the article's authors, Chloe Melas, began working on it following a press junket where she said Freeman clasped her hand, looked her up and down and made comments like, "you are ripe." "I admit that I am someone who feels a need to try to make women, and men, feel appreciated and at ease around me," Freeman said. "As a part of that, I would often try to joke with and compliment women, in what I thought was a light-hearted and humorous way. Clearly I was not always coming across the way I intended."

He said that he did not assault women, create unsafe work environments or offer employment or advancement in exchange for sex. His reference to equating his behavior with others was unclear. The accusations against Freeman came out the same day word spread that New York City authorities were filing rape charges against disgraced Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein. Freeman's statement was reminiscent of an email written by longtime television anchor Tom Brokaw sent to friends recently after a former colleague had accused him of unwanted sexual advances. "I am devastated that 80 years of my life is at risk of being undermined, in the blink of an eye, by Thursday's media reports," Freeman said. Freeman won the 2005 Oscar for best supporting actor for "Million Dollar Baby." —AP

Pete Waterman reveals bizarre Kylie Minogue road trip

Pete Waterman and Kylie Minogue ponce spent an evening driving around Wales looking for her grandmother's house. The producer - who, along with songwriting and producing partners Mike Stock and Matt Aitken, worked with the singer early in her pop career - admitted it was one of the strangest evenings he had. He exclusively told BANG Showbiz: "When we were in the Welsh valleys looking for her grandmother because her gran is Welsh. We were on tour and Kylie was desperate to find her grandmother's house. "It was funny, we're on tour looking for this house. I was thinking, 'I'm not sure we should be doing this.' We did find it, if I remember right. She never knocked on the door, she just wanted to the house some of her roots. That was a bizarre evening." Stock, Aitken and Waterman - who have written and produced with some of the

biggest acts in pop - first worked with Kylie in the late 1980, starting with her global hit 'I Should Be So Lucky'.

Now, the Australian hitmaker is supporting her new country album 'Golden', and Waterman, 71, is delighted to see her branching out. He added: "She's great, for me it's like watching my kids off in the world doing alright." The songwriting trio also worked with Rick Astley, and Waterman has enjoyed seeing him blossom over the past 30 years after first signing with the team. He gushed: "Rick has taken 50 years to find himself, and when he did, everyone was like, 'My god, he's amazing.' And I was like, 'I told you!' "When he was 18 he was amazing. Rick's fantastic, he goes out and does a great show in which he sings his new songs and he sings the songs he did with Stock, Aitken and Waterman. "He loves the audience, he



Pete Waterman

jokes, he's not frightened to take the mick out of himself and he's become an all round entertainer, which is fantastic. To me,

he's one of the best singers that there's ever been. Rick Astley can sing whatever he wants to sing, he's bloody brilliant."

And Waterman also shed some like on what made the artists they've worked with so special, and how they have developed as performers and musicians. He explained: "We [Stock, Aitken and Waterman] worked with people we wanted to work with and when you work with Donna Summer, or Bananarama, or Kylie, or Rick Astley, they all believe in what they're doing and it was a pleasure to work with them ... The guys that we taught are doing it for themselves." Pete is heading out on tour with his 'An Evening with Pete Waterman' one-man tour. — Bang Showbiz

Charli XCX defends Girls collaboration

Charli XCX has defended Rita Ora over her track 'Girls'. The 25-year-old singer features on her pal Rita's new track, and has now weighed in on the controversy it has received, after some critics slammed it for its depiction of bisexuality. But Charli - who appears on the song alongside Bebe Rexha and Cardi B - has said that whilst she understands the concerns of the LGBTQ community, she knows Rita was speaking about her own experiences with women in the track, and insists the song was never intended to be "exploitative". She said: "I think the conversation and dialogue around this song is really important. I try so hard to be as involved with the LGBTQ community as possible.

Without that community, my career would not really be anything. "I know from when Rita invited me to be a part of the song, this song was about a specific experience that she had with a woman. "I know that Rita's had extremely meaningful relationships with both men and women. She really does have every right to tell her story because she's not doing it from an exploitative viewpoint: she's been with women and had relationships with women. She's had relationships with men too. I don't understand why her story is less valid than anybody else's."

The 'Boys' singer still feels proud of her work on the track as she was happy to



support her close pal, but apologized to anyone who has felt "offended" by the song. Speaking to Rolling Stone magazine, she added: "I just really want to learn from this situation. I think that's something we can all do: we can all learn from this conversation. It would be great to continue this dialogue in a positive way - not in an attacking way - so that people can learn about people's feelings, about people's sexualities and viewpoints. We can learn to not judge people before we get all the information. We can learn how certain words might make certain communities sad or upset." — Bang Showbiz

Heidi Klum wants to join Spice Girls

The 44-year-old supermodel would love to see her 'America's Got Talent' co-judge Mel B on stage at the show, along with her bandmates Victoria Beckham, Geri Horner, Emma Bunton and Mel C - and if that were to happen, she'd be straight up alongside them. She said: "I'd vote yes on them performing! And if that happens, there might be an extra Spice Girl joining them. "Honestly, I think everyone wants them to be back." Heidi has a great time working on the show alongside Mel, Simon Cowell, Howie Mandel and host Tyra Banks, and they always have fun when filming stops.

She said: "Me and the judges knew each other from before and we've definitely all grown closer on the show because we're filming such long days. "We've seen each other at our best and worst! "Mel has loud speakers in her dressing room, so we have a dance party and get ourselves riled up." The Germany beauty - who raises children Leni, 14, Henry, 12, Johan, 11, and eight-year-old Lou with ex-husband Seal - also hosts 'Project Runway' and 'Germany's Next Top Model' but finds 'AGT' her "easiest" job because she's not working behind the scenes.

She told Closer magazine: "For me, 'America's Got Talent' is probably the easiest one to do because I don't produce it, I don't have to look at the cut before it airs, I don't have to prep for the show and I don't have to come up with a



concept or ideas - none of that stuff. "I just show up and I get to see amazing talent and judge that. "With everything else, I have to do way more. Before, during, and after." — Bang Showbiz



ULYSSE NARDIN AND FARFETCH PRESENT A NEW MARINE TOR OPILLEUR

Ulysse Nardin has chosen Farfetch.com for its first online launch, and presents a special edition of the blue Marine Torpilleur, exclusively available on the website of the international online luxury retailer. This new piece, with a subtly crafted dial, joins the ranks of the popular Marine Torpilleur that was launched in 2017 and is initially available in two more classic versions: a white dial with black indexes and a blue dial with white indexes. On the FARFETCH MARINE TORPILLEUR, you will find layered pink gold coloring. Sober and elegant, it gives a more refined look to the piece overall, accentuating the contrast with the 42 mm steel case. The pink gold brings out the dial's shimmering, iconic blue. In the same vein, the pear-shaped hands are no longer rhodiumized, but pink gold colored.

The power reserve indicator at 12 o'clock is no longer in vermeil red, but also made of pink gold, as is the case for the date of the Le Locle Manufacture's creation, 1846. The indexes have a small additional touch: the immaculate white has been discreetly transformed into light gray, to soften the dial's overall look. This new FARFETCH MARINE TORPILLEUR, available with a leather, steel or rubber strap, completes a collection which is already a best-seller. This new addition to the permanent collection, only available online, now forms part of the troop of Torpilleurs. Women will also have their own new product available on Farfetch.com as the Classico Jade, in the red version launched at SIHH 2018, is now available without the diamond-set bezel. It comes with a satin strap for formal ver-

sion, or with an alligator leather strap, for a more day-to-day look.

"Expect more launches in the future," stated Patrick Pruniaux, CEO of Ulysse Nardin since September 2017. "We're delighted to launch Ulysse Nardin on Farfetch.com," continued Pruniaux. "We're showing our ca-pacity to adapt to the changing era. It's the first time that Ulysse Nardin has taken part in e-commerce on a global level." The blue-anchored brand will be online on Farfetch.com from Monday April 23, 2018, with a collection of more than 45 pieces, including the Farfetch Marine Torpilleur and the red Classico Jade with a mother-of-pearl-set dial.



Residents dance near the Zangbeto during a ceremony for the guardian of the night Zangbeto.



Residents of the Alongo village use a boat to transport the different Zangbeto ahead of a ceremony for the guardian of the night Zangbeto a traditional voodoo of the Yoruba religion, in the village of Alongo. — AFP photos



Zangbeto: Voodoo savior of Benin's mangroves

In a wooden canoe on the waters of the Mono River in southwest Benin, a strange cone-shaped effigy in purple raffia and topped with horns sails back and forth through the mangroves. The Zangbeto—the traditional voodoo guardian of the night—once policed the streets to maintain law and order and scare away its enemies. But the revered deity, which is still feared and rules on village disputes, is now working to protect the rich mangrove ecosystem from threats from humankind. The night-watchman drifts along the shoreline in torrential rain to the rhythm of traditional chanting. A group of followers hangs two smaller representations of the god from the trees.

The mangrove in the delta acts as a spawning ground for fish and crustacea but is at risk from overfishing and the hunt for firewood. Between 1995 and 2005, the maze of forest has shrunk from 13,000 to 9,000 hectares (32,000 to 22,000 acres). Since then, some has been reforested by local non-government organizations, including Eco-Benin, a local non-profit which uses indigenous beliefs to promote conservation. Alongo, a narrow strip of land that separates the river from the Atlantic Ocean, is home to 200 people who have become devout conservationists. "From today, no one can enter this forest," says Jean Koukpomi, the voodoo priest con-

ducting the ceremony. "People used to come with their machetes to take the wood. They picked up the crabs, birds eggs... Now it's forbidden."

“ We accept the initiative because we are given the opportunity to live in our own environment ”

Talisman

Next to the priest is village head Damien Egbenou, with a pagne loincloth tied around his waist. "If you go into the forest, you will be punished by the laws of our talisman. You can be beaten in front of everyone. He is



Residents dance near the Zangbeto.



A resident dances with a snake during a ceremony for the guardian of the night Zangbeto.



Residents transport a Zangbeto ahead of a ceremony.

feared." It was residents of Alongo who decided to use the Zangbeto as a conservation tool. "It has been a participatory process," said Sylvain Daavo, who worked on the project. "They told us if you want it to be sustainable, the deity must intervene," he said. "Local people already practised sanctification, which is called 'vodounto' and which means 'this part of the river belongs to voodoo'."

"That allowed the resources there to be protected." Eco-Benin has been working in the area since 2011. "If you come early in the morning, there are thousands of birds, there are migratory species and it is very valuable for the environment," said the group's national coordinator, Gautier Amoussou. Two years ago, the non-profit created a biosphere reserve recognized by the UN cultural and heritage body UNESCO covering 17 villages, including Alongo. Zangbeto has already "sanctified" eight sites over 500 hectares. On the walls of the houses in the village, posters remind the inhabitants of the new rules: no hunting manatees or using chemicals in fields near the river.

Divine sanction

For years, conservation efforts have been at odds with the traditional way of life in Benin, where poor communities survive off fishing and cook over wood fires. Fear of divine sanction appears to be much more persuasive. The national plan for the sustainable management of

mangroves approved by Benin's government also advocates using traditional beliefs as a means of protecting biodiversity. The Mono River delta reserve is divided into three categories: protected zones, sanctified zones reserved for research and ecotourism, and buffer zones where human activity is regulated.

"We accept the initiative because we are given the opportunity to live in our own environment," said Dossou Viho, president of the Doukpo association, which manages the reserve and carries out patrols in coordination with the authorities. "There is no disorder where the deity is present. Today we know that we must save our mangroves for the well-being of our locality." At the same time, the community is focusing on tourism development with the recent creation of an eco-lodge and training for environmental supervisors.

Julien Kassa is a fisherman but now also offers tours to tourists visiting the Mono River. In his yard, where the walls are covered with philosophical writing, he says his work protecting the mangrove has got him on the wrong side of some villagers. But his efforts to raise awareness and voodoo have found in his favor. "It is a great wealth," he says. "It's good for our development." — AFP

Fresh ways to save some green at the farmers market

The difference between the produce at farmers markets and supermarkets is more than "tomayto" versus "tomahito." And buying fresh fruit and vegetables at farmers markets offers opportunities to save money in ways you might not find at a grocery store.

The produce sold at most supermarkets is typically harvested before it's ripe, says Chris Curtis, executive director of Seattle Neighborhood Farmers Markets. Then it's transported - often long distances - before arriving at the store. The many people involved in getting a tomato from the vine to the store and, finally, into your tote may get a slice of your payment, she says. That doesn't leave much for the farmer.

When you buy a tomato at a farmers market, however, "almost all of your dollar is going directly to the grower," Curtis says. That grower picked the produce ripe, soon before selling it. A recently harvested peach tastes better than that "hard little green ball" sold at large retailers, she says.

How to save money at farmers markets

Here's how to get the most for your money when buying produce and other farmers market goods:

Get to know the vendors:

Many vendors give deals to folks they know, says Gabrielle Lupton, a baker at Bubble & Brown Bakery, which sells goods at Salt Lake City farmers markets. To build that kind of relationship with a vendor, become a regular. Consistently buy from that seller and turn to her for



Savoy cabbage is displayed with summer fruits and vegetables at a farmers market in Falls Church, Va. — AP photos

bulk and special orders, like a custom cake from a baker. In addition to scoring deals - and maybe even a friendship - becoming a regular gives you "an inside scoop on the variability of the season," says Nina Gruber, outreach and development coordinator for Seattle Neighborhood Farmers Markets. For example, you may be among the first customers to know when farmers will start selling peaches, she says. You may also learn when peach prices are expected to change with supply and demand throughout the season.

Buy 'ugly' produce

'seconds' or 'no. 2s' are fruits and vegetables that taste

the same as other produce but look a little off - they may be misshapen or bumpy, for example. Farmers typically sell them more cheaply than the perfect-looking produce. "It's something farmers have been doing since the dawn of farmers markets," Gruber says.

Get a deal on seconds and you're not just saving money - you're also helping to reduce food waste. Even if you prefer eating or serving flawless produce, you can follow Gruber's lead and use seconds for cooking, baking and making jam. She buys a box of No. 2 tomatoes, then cooks and freezes batches of pasta sauce. "Then I have sauce for the rest of the year," she says.

Pay in cash

Access to a credit or debit card - and dozens of freshly baked pastries - can put your grocery budget in danger. Lupton says that customers paying with a card typically outspend those who use cash. Consider bringing cash, spending a set amount and leaving your cards at home. (This is a reliable money-saving tip for most kinds of shopping trips.)

Shop late

Vendors don't want to be stuck with unsold inventory so "they'll start slinging deals toward the end of the day," Gruber says. For example, in the final 30 minutes the market is open, you may be able to snag a bag of apples for half the price you would have paid first thing in the morning. The tradeoff is that there will be a smaller selection of products at the end of the day, Gruber says.



Cherry tomatoes are displayed for sale with summer fruits and vegetables at a farmers market in Falls Church, Va.

Get discounts on bulk purchases:

Remember, vendors want to offload as much of their product as possible. So they're incentivized to cut a deal if you're interested in buying a lot of it, Lupton says. Ask vendors what prices they can offer for the quantity you want, such as a dozen cookies or two pounds of potatoes. They may throw in a few extra potatoes or charge you less for a batch of cookies than they would have for 12 individual treats. — AP

Classifieds

Monday, May 28, 2018

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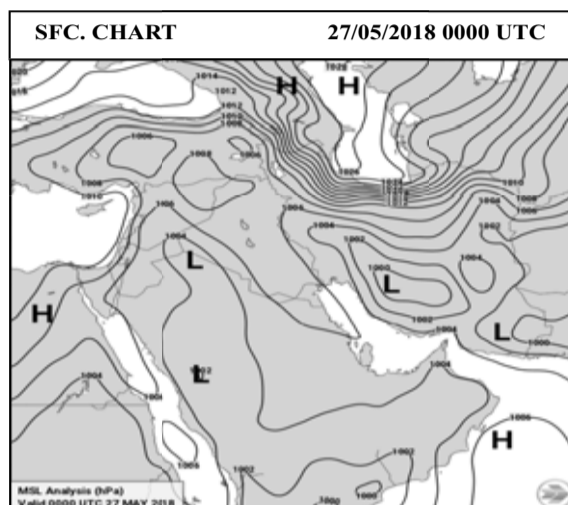
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Hot with light variable wind to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h.

BY NIGHT: Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 28 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING	No Current Warnings
-----------------	---------------------

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	43 °C	32 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	44 °C	26 °C
ABDALY	43 °C	27 °C
BUBYAN	--- °C	--- °C
JAHRA	44 °C	29 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	42 °C	28 °C
SALMIYAH	38 °C	32 °C
AHMADI	37 °C	33 °C
NUWAISIB	42 °C	27 °C
WAFRA	42 °C	24 °C
SALMY	42 °C	27 °C



DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Monday	05/28	Hot	45 °C	27 °C	VRB-N	06 - 28 km/h
Tuesday	05/29	Partly cloudy and Hot with a slight chance for Set rain	46 °C	28 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 28 km/h
Wednesday	05/30	Hot and some scattered clouds will appear	45 °C	28 °C	SE-SW	08 - 32 km/h
Thursday	05/31	Partly cloudy and Hot	45 °C	28 °C	SE-S	08 - 32 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	03:18
Sunrise	04:51
Zuhr	11:45
Asr	15:20
Sunset	18:39
Isha	20:09

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	42 °C
MIN. Temp.	26 °C
MAX. RH	30 %
MIN. RH	11 %
MAX. Wind	NE 32 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

CHANGE OF NAME

It is hereby informed to the general public that, I, Dronamraju Padma Srinivasa Krishna Rao hereby declare that my daughter's name as per Passport No: P1096673 is Pratyusha Krishna Rao Dronamraju and she will henceforth be known as Dronamraju Lakshmi Pratyusha. 27-5-2018

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Emirates	22430224
Air India	22921555
Sri Lanka Airlines	22438184
Egypt Air	22424444
Swiss Air	a22421578
Saudia	22421516
	22426306

NOTICE

May 8, 2018

Mr. Ikbal Hossen son of Mr. Abdul Gani, Indian national, resident of, Vill Paumura, P O Holakhet, Radhakishorepur, South Tripura and Ms. Margielyn Licos Opianga, daughter of Mr. Opiango, Philippines national, resident of Dinadiawan, Dipaculao Aurora, 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@indembkwt.org, welfaresection@indembkwt.org) / letters / telephonic calls (00965 - 22550171, 00965 - 22533125).

(Sanjeev Saklani)
 Attache (Consular) and Marriage Officer.
 Embassy of India, Kuwait.

Ph. 00965- 22550171 - 00965-22533125
 Fax: 00965 - 22573910
 Email: attachecons@indembkwt.org
 welfaresection@indembkwt.org

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

Flight Schedule

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Monday 28/5/2018				Departure Flights on Monday 28/5/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
FEG	441	Asyut	00:05	RBG	554	Alexandria	13:10
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	JZR	144	Doha	13:55
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
KAC	102	London	00:50	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	FEG	342	Sohag	14:50
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	IAW	158A	Al Najaf	14:55
JZR	267	Beirut	01:25	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KNE	538	Jeddah	15:25
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:55
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:55
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:00
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	JZR	606	Kochi	16:00
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
MSC	415	Sohag	03:10	KAC	619	Doha	16:15
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:40
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	SAW	706	Damascus	17:00
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25	FDB	052	Dubai	17:20
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	KAC	381	Delhi	17:45
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
BAW	157	London	06:10	JZR	608	Hyderabad	18:25
WAN	338	Alexandria	06:25	JZR	240	Amman	18:30
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	JZR	538	Cairo	18:35
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	WAN	135	Doha	18:40
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
WAN	342	Sohag	06:55	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
JZR	143	Doha	07:20	RJA	641	Amman	20:00
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	JZR	552D	Alexandria	20:05
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	JZR	602	Mumbai	20:30
KAC	358	Kochi	08:05	KAC	357	Kochi	20:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	DLH	624	Dammam	20:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	353	Bengaluru	21:00
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
SAW	703	Damascus	09:30	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	JZR	1538	Cairo	21:15
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	1543	Cairo	21:20
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:35
MSC	405	Sohag	10:15	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	203	Lahore	22:00
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:05
JZR	703	Taif	11:00	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:10
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
JZR	557	Alexandria	12:05	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:25
WAN	134	Doha	12:20	KAC	383	Delhi	22:25
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:30	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	JZR	604	Ahmedabad	22:40
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
WAN	542	KTM	12:50	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:30	WAN	337	Alexandria	23:40
JZR	779	Jeddah	13:45	SVA	503	Jeddah	23:45



JERUSALEM: Palestinian worshippers pray in Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque compound during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. — AFP

Hope for Salah as angry Egyptians snap at 'Ramos the Dog'

CAIRO: Egyptians held their breath yesterday amid fears star striker Mohamed Salah could miss the World Cup after suffering an injury when wrestled to the ground by Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos in the Champions League final. Ramos, who locked arms with Salah before falling on top of the forward's shoulder, became an instant hate figure for millions of Egyptians on social media, as well as the thousands who watched the game live at cafes. "Ramos the Dog", "Animal", "We will take revenge", "Dirty" and many more insults were thrown at Ramos on social media following Real's 3-1 win over Liverpool in Kiev.

Salah left the pitch in tears holding his shoulder after just half an hour, a sight that prompted some Egyptians to burst into tears. Reported to have suffered a sprain in his shoulder ligaments, Salah remains doubtful for the World Cup in Russia, with the clock ticking before Egypt's first game against Uruguay on June 15. If the vitriol targeting Ramos seems exaggerated, it reflects how vital the speedy striker has become for his national team ahead of this summer's World Cup.

The 25-year-old scored 44 goals in all competitions for Liverpool last season, a tally that earned him the Golden Boot for Europe's top scorer and the Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year. Without him, Egypt's chances are "almost non-existent", said Karim Said, editor-in-chief of YallaKora, a football-focused website. "The (team's) attack is mainly based on Salah," said Said. Thanks to Salah, who has become a source of pride for millions across the

Arab world, Egyptians were looking to the World Cup with hope and enthusiasm. Ramos's dubious tackle, which went unpunished by match referee Milorad Mazic, prompted one furious fan watching the game to yell

"Dirty guy" at the Spaniard, although his screams were drowned out by a sea of other insults. On Sunday morning, the headline on Egyptian newspaper El Watan said it was reverting Ramos's fate to God, in a tone echoed on social media networks.

Ramos's Facebook and Twitter accounts have been flooded with insults in Arabic and English, some even translated into Spanish. A petition was even launched on the change.org platform, calling on FIFA and UEFA to punish Ramos for "intentionally hurting Mohamed Salah". The petition has collected more than 111,000 signatures. Ramos sent Salah a "Get Well Soon" Twitter message, adding he regretted that football "sometimes (shows) its bad side", but "above all, we are comrades".

Despite the anger some Egyptians remain optimistic, taking the incident with the philosophy of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. "He will participate in the World Cup and everything will be fine, God willing," said Mahmoud Saad, a Salah and Real Madrid fan, as he watched the match at a cafe in downtown Cairo. News of Salah's misfortune even prompted President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi to tweet: "My heartfelt wishes to the Egyptian champion Mohamed Salah for a speedy recovery from his injury, and I hope he returns to the field soon and remains a shining Egyptian star."

Egypt's national team doctor Mohamed Abou Al-Ela remains optimistic on Salah's chances officials at Liverpool assured them no bones were broken, the Egyptian Football Association said Saturday. The Egyptian Minister Youth and Sports Khaled Abd Elaziz also expressed optimism. "Mohamed Salah, God willing, will be on the national team list for the World Cup, which is to be announced on June 4," Abd Elaziz said on Facebook. — AFP



KIEV: Liverpool's Egyptian forward Mohamed Salah (right) falls with Real Madrid's Spanish defender Sergio Ramos leading to Salah being injured during the UEFA Champions League final football match between Liverpool and Real Madrid at the Olympic Stadium in Kiev, Ukraine, on May 26, 2018. — AFP

3 die; Israel hits Islamic...

Continued from Page 1

Israeli fire in the Gaza Strip since mass protests and clashes broke out on March 30, according to figures from the Gaza health ministry.

No Israelis have been killed during that time. Low-level demonstrations along the border have continued since protests peaked on May 14, when at least 61 Palestinians died as tens of thousands of Gazans protested and clashes erupted over the US moving its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Israel says its actions are necessary to defend the border and stop mass incursions into its territory. It accuses Hamas, with whom it has fought three wars since 2008, of seeking to use the protests as cover to carry out violence. — AFP

Qatar bans UAE, Saudi goods...

Continued from Page 1

The dispute has evaded mediation attempts by Kuwait and Washington, which has strong alliances with both sides and fears the split among Sunni Muslim US allies could benefit Iran in a decades-old tussle for influence in the Middle East. Bahrain's foreign minister said Qatar was prolonging the crisis by taking its case

to Western allies, instead of dealing with it inside the Gulf Arab bloc.

"We were expecting from the beginning of the crisis with Qatar that the Emir of Qatar would go to Saudi (Arabia) but this did not happen," he told the pan-Arab newspaper. Saudi and UAE officials have said that Doha has yet to meet 13 demands made by the four states, including closing the state-funded Al Jazeera television station and reducing ties to Iran. UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash said last week on Twitter that Qatar had not dealt wisely with those demands: "Perhaps the passing of a year of the boycott will produce a new thought and a wiser approach from Doha". — Agencies

Russia fighters among dozens...

Continued from Page 1

helped his army recapture swathes of territory since 2015 by providing air strikes and ground troops. There are also widespread reports of private Russian mercenaries on the ground. Moscow's defense ministry said yesterday four of its servicemen were killed in clashes in Deir Ezzor. Two were military advisers supporting Syrian artillery operations and died immediately, and another two died of their wounds in a Russian-operated military hospital in Syria. Three others were wounded.

Russia did not specify when, where, or whether IS was involved, but it appeared to be the same incident as the IS attack reported near Mayadeen. The jihadist group itself claimed it attacked regime forces in eastern Syria on Wednesday. The assault was the largest in series of IS guerilla raids on regime positions this week. On Tuesday, 26 regime forces were killed in a surprise IS attack in desert areas of the neighboring province of Homs, according to the Observatory. And a pair of IS assaults between Saturday night and yesterday morning killed at least 11 pro-regime forces in Deir Ezzor. "The latest attack brings to 76 the number of Syrian troops and allied Iranian and Russian forces killed since the escalation," Abdel Rahman said yesterday.

He said the uptick came the day after the last IS fighters were bussed out of southern parts of Syria's capital Damascus, including the ravaged Palestinian camp of Yarmuk, in a negotiated withdrawal. Many headed towards the Badiya, the stretch of Syrian desert extend-

ing from Homs province through Deir Ezzor to the eastern border with Iraq. The Observatory said the evacuated fighters were actively involved in the recent attacks. "IS is trying to take the initiative and show it can still threaten the regime and its allies despite the losses it suffered in other areas," said Abdel Rahman. Government positions in the Badiya make for an easy target: they are few and far between, so reinforcements take a long time to arrive.

Russian-backed Syrian troops hold the western half of Deir Ezzor province, which is divided diagonally by the Euphrates River. US-backed fighters hold the east bank. The river is meant to serve as a de-confliction line to prevent the two sides from clashing as they pursue separate assaults against IS. A Syrian military source based in the east told AFP that Assad's troops had cleared large parts of territory from IS, which was now lashing out. "Daesh wants to hinder the army's combing operations in the Badiya by waging these intermittent attacks," said the source, using the Arabic acronym for IS. It confirmed Russian military advisers were present during Wednesday's attack and were among those killed.

Russia's government officially acknowledges that 92 soldiers have been killed in Syria, although some estimate the number is even higher. The highest casualties were in March, when a transport plane crashed at Hmeimim airbase where Moscow's airforce is based, killing all 39 people on board. Yesterday, a local Russian newspaper in the Siberian city of Chita reported on the funerals of four soldiers it said were killed in Syria on May 23. The international group Conflict Intelligence Team said up to six Russian soldiers could have been killed in the attack, quoting social media reports of a funeral for a Russian soldier that took place in the Western Russian city of Smolensk this week. — AFP

Cyclone death toll hits 11; Oman...

Continued from Page 1

A further eight Indian sailors remain missing. The southeastern part of the island remains cut off, but authorities are working to access the area and assess damage, Mahrous said. Around 1,000 families on Socotra, with a population of around 60,000, were evacuated after their homes were damaged. The main road linking the airport to Hadibo, the island's main city, has been reopened, Mahrous said.

Oman's meteorology directorate announced late Saturday that "the direct effects of the tropical system are over." Cyclone Mekunu has now been downgraded to the category of "deep depression". Late Saturday it struck Saudi Arabia's Empty Quarter, one of the world's most arid deserts, with ongoing heavy rains and strong winds. The Saudi meteorological authority said on Twitter Sunday that winds blew at 60 kilometers per hour, kicking up blinding dust storms. Rains are expect-

ed to continue for two more days, drenching the area with more than 100 millimeters of rain, almost six times its annual average, Amman-based weather experts WASM said on Twitter.

Meanwhile, Oman yesterday advised all private sector establishments in Dhofar region to shut down for three days after Cyclone Mekunu hit the southern part, causing extensive damage that halted operations at Salalah port. The Labor Ministry declared a three-day holiday for companies and establishments in the private sector, state news agency ONA reported. The central bank, meanwhile, issued a circular announcing a three-day holiday starting on Sunday for money exchange houses, banks, finance and leasing companies in Dhofar.

Cyclone Mekunu hit southern Yemen and the coast of neighboring Oman over the weekend, resulting in several fatalities. Salalah Port Services Co said that operations at the port had been halted because of the damage caused by the cyclone and that it would take a minimum of 72 hours to "make the port safe". Sembcorp Salalah Water and Power Co, which operates an electricity generation and seawater desalination plant in Oman, said its water production plant had been shut down temporarily owing to rough seas because of a tropical storm. — Agencies

Sports

Formula One aims to agree 2021 engine rules by end-June

Concessions had been made from Mercedes' standpoint

MONACO: Formula One aims to have new engine regulations for 2021 drawn by the end of June after a meeting with teams at the Monaco Grand Prix. Commercial rights holders Liberty Media and the governing FIA sat down with teams for an update on future plans and Mercedes F1 boss Toto Wolff told reporters progress had been made in some areas.

"I think on the engine regulations we are pretty close on being able to tick the box," said the Austrian when asked what had transpired from Friday's meeting in the Mediterranean principality.

"The only major thing which we need to solve is that we are still spending a lot on engine development and what we need to avoid is double spending over the next years, continuing to develop the current engine and also doing the new one."

Wolff said concessions had been made from Mercedes' standpoint, with acceptance that the MGU-H - one of the two motor generator units on the current V6 turbo hybrid engine - would have to go. The

engines would be louder, higher-revving and less fuel-limited.

"It's not the most sustainable message we're sending out but we can understand that from a spectacle standpoint it is something you need to consider and accept," said Wolff. Formula One announced in April it wanted to have cost caps and a more bal-

anced distribution of revenues for the next cycle after the current team contracts and engine regulations expire at the end of 2020.

It also wants engines to be simpler and louder, addressing a grievance from many fans about the current power units. A five point plan, outlining key initiatives, was put to teams at the Bahrain Grand Prix.

Ferrari, who receive special payments, have warned they could leave if changes go against their interests. Ferrari chairman Sergio Marchionne recently sounded a more conciliatory message, however, saying he was encouraged particularly by a "change in attitude" over the engine proposals.

"I see some commonsense on the table. It was a productive discussion," said Wolff of the latest developments. "There are still areas where we are very far away. But it is moving forward in a constructive, structured process."

Regarding cost caps, he said Liberty had recognised that there needed to be a gradual process rather than any sudden imposition. "It needs to go over several years and it needs to consider the various structures that have been put in place and they are taking our feedback on board," said Wolff. — Reuters

“ I see some commonsense on the table ”



Toto Wolff (left) with Lewis Hamilton.

Rose stretches Fort Worth lead to four strokes

LOS ANGELES: Justin Rose got off to a sizzling start in sweltering conditions Saturday, then held on to push his PGA Fort Worth Invitational lead to four shots with a third-round 66. England's Rose birdied four of the first six holes at Colonial Country Club, where temperatures reached 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 C).

His 14-under par total of 196 put him four clear of another US Open winner, Brooks Koepka, and Argentina's Emiliano Grillo. After a two-putt birdie at the par-five first, Rose drained putts of eight feet and 19 feet at the second and third to separate himself from the field.

"I'm happy with the way I played, obviously," Rose said. "It was nice to get going, nice to build up that lead. No one seemed to do too much behind me today, so it felt like it was in my hands to get as far ahead as I could."

Koepka, warming up for his defense of the 2017 US Open crown at Shinnecock in June, rolled in a 16-foot birdie putt at 18 to seize a share of second with a three-under par 67 for 200. With five birdies on the day he overcame a double-bogey seven at the 11th-his second double at the par-five hole this week.

Grillo, who started the day one shot off Rose's lead, couldn't build much momentum. He opened with eight straight pars before his first birdie of the day at the ninth, then played the back in even par with a birdie and a bogey for a one-under 69.

It was a further two strokes back to a group headed by world number four Jon Rahm of Spain, who birdied five of the first eight holes—including three in a row from the sixth through the eighth—en route to a six-under 64.



Justin Rose

He was joined on 202 by Canadian rookie Corey Connors, who had eight birdies in a seen-under par 63, as well as South African Louis Oosthuizen (64), JT Poston (65) and Ryan Armour (66). Rose, who also birdied six and 11, made his lone bogey with a three-putt from the fringe at 16. He admitted that he struggled with the heat in the latter stages of his round.

"I really felt I was battling the golf course and my concentration a little bit," said Rose, whose most recent win came in December's Indonesian Masters. "It was kind of tough to finish it off in the heat today."

11 Baffles Koepka

Koepka, playing his fourth tournament since he was sidelined for 15 weeks with a wrist injury, said he played "OK." "I'm put-

ting really well," he said. "Eleven has my number this week—I don't know what's going on. Two doubles there, a par-five I need to be eating it up. If I can just figure out a way to play that hole I should be just fine."

Rose, the 2013 US Open winner and 2016 Olympic gold medalist, notched victories in Turkey and Shanghai last year, his victory in the WGC-HSBC Champions counting toward this season's PGA Tour win tally.

The 37-year-old said taking a four-shot lead into the final round would be a balancing act. "You're always kind of caught between trying to go out and play great and trying to not make mistakes," he said, but added that he couldn't afford to be too conservative. "I feel like there's a score in this golf course. I've got to expect the chasing pack to play well." — AFP

Ancajas downs Sultan in all-Filipino world boxing bout

LOS ANGELES: International Boxing Federation super flyweight champion Jerwin Ancajas beat Jonas Sultan by unanimous decision on Saturday in the first all-Filipino world title fight in 93 years. Judges in Fresno, California, awarded the verdict to Ancajas by scores of 119-109, 119-109 and 117-111 as the southpaw improved to 30-1-1 while Sultan fell to 14-4.

Ancajas stretched his win streak to 17 fights by successfully defending his title for the fifth time in the matchup of 26-year-old compatriots. Sultan was the first rival who went the distance against Ancajas since his unanimous decision over Puerto Rican southpaw McJoe Arroyo in 2016 to take the title.

Sultan, whose win streak was stopped at five, had decided former world champion John Riel Casimero

last September for his title chance. It was the first all-Filipino world title fight since 1925 in Manila, when Pancho Villa kept his world flyweight title with a unanimous decision over Clever Sencio, taking the last victory of his career.

World Boxing Association super flyweight champion Khalid Yafai of Britain remained unbeaten, stopping Mexican rival David Carmona after seven rounds on the undercard. Yafai, making his US debut, rose to 24-0 with his 15th stoppage inside the distance while Carmona fell to 21-6 with five draws.

The 28-year-old English son of Yemeni parents risked losing his title for a third time, but because Carmona weighed in above the 115-pound weight limit, he couldn't have claimed the crown even with a victory. — AFP



Jerwin Ancajas (right) retained his title with a unanimous decision over mandatory challenger Jonas Sultan.

Lexus sweeps two podium finishes at Autobacs Super GT 500 series

TOKYO: Extending its stunning performance at the 2018 Autobacs Super GT 500 series, Lexus claimed two podium finishes in the second round of the GT500 class held recently at Fuji Speedway. The No. 39 Lexus LC 500 Denso Kobelco Sard, co-piloted by Heikki Kovalainen and Sho Tsuboi, finished second, while the No. 38 Lexus LC 500 Zent Cerumo, driven by Yuji Tachikawa and Hiroaki Ishiura, scored third place in the closely-fought 500-km race.

"I congratulate the teams on their outstanding performance. These podium finishes add to our proven track record in motorsports. The DNA from our racing products trickles down to our production vehicles, helping us develop ever-better cars by harnessing innovations in performance and safety to further enhance the driving experience for our valued customers," said Yugo Miyamoto, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation. "I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all our fans for their constant encouragement of our racing initiatives."

The drama-filled race got underway with the No. 38 Lexus LC 500 Zent Cerumo, driven by Yuji Tachikawa, in the lead until the team was passed by the No. 23 rival car on the Dunlop Corner of the opening lap. After that, the early stages of the race saw the leading No. 23 rival car

being chased by three Lexus LC500s: the No. 36 Lexus LC 500 auTOM'S, with James Rossiter at the wheel, the No. 39 Lexus LC 500 Denso Kobelco Sard, driven by Heikki Kovalainen, and No. 6 Lexus LC 500 WAKO'S 4CR, with Kazuya Oshima in control.

Running in the lead, the No. 23 made an effort to put more distance between itself and the rest of the pack. But the No. 39 Lexus LC 500 Denso Kobelco Sard, with Heikki Kovalainen at the wheel, managed to pass the competitor car on the 23rd lap and grab the lead.

After maintaining its lead until the 37th lap before returning to the pit and making its driver change, the No. 39 Lexus LC 500 Denso Kobelco Sard returned to the race still in the lead. And with Sho Tsuboi now driving, it continued its fast pace in the second stint. Despite being a GT500 class debutant, Tsuboi ran with consummate skill, passing one back marker after another as he met them. In terms of lap times as well, he held his own. For 38 laps, Tsuboi maintained a 5- to 7-second lead over the No. 23 following in second place before making the second pit stop on lap 75 and turning over the No. 39 Lexus LC 500 Denso Kobelco Sard to his teammate, Heikki Kovalainen, for the final stint. The exciting battle between the No. 39 Lexus LC 500 Denso Kobelco Sard and the No. 23 ensued in a tight contest until the rival car overtook the Lexus machine after its pit stop.

The No. 39 Lexus LC 500 Denso Kobelco Sard, driven by Heikki Kovalainen and Sho Tsuboi, ultimately finished second, putting Sho Tsuboi on the podium in his very first GT500 race, while the pole-starting No. 38 Lexus LC 500 Zent Cerumo, co-piloted by Yuji Tachikawa and Hiroaki Ishiura, came in the third place. Meanwhile, the No. 36 Lexus LC 500 auTOM'S, driven by James Rossiter and Yuh Sekiguchi, and the No. 6 Lexus LC 500 WAKO'S 4CR, with Kazuya Oshima and Felix Rosenqvist at the wheel, secured fourth and fifth places in the race, respectively.



Sports

NY Yankees on wrong end of Mike Trout's historic night in 11-4 loss

Williams hit his fourth homer of the season

NEW YORK: Mike Trout went 5-for-5, his first career five-hit game, leading the Los Angeles Angels to an 11-4 victory over the New York Yankees on Saturday night at Yankee Stadium. Trout doubled in his first two at-bats off Sonny Gray (3-4), hit a go-ahead two-run home run in his third at-bat in the fourth and hit his second RBI double of the game in the sixth off Tommy Kahnle. His fifth hit was an infield single in the seventh off Chasen Shreve. Trout also became the first Angel to get five hits in a game since Cameron Maybin went 5-for-6 on May 16, 2017, against the Chicago White Sox. Trout recorded his first career game with four extra-base hits and homered for the third straight game. Jaime Barria (4-1) began his fourth stint with the Angels by allowing four runs on six hits in five innings. Sonny Gray (3-4) followed up eight strong innings Sunday in Kansas City by allowing 11 of the 21 hitters he faced to reach. He was tagged for five runs on seven hits in 3 2/3 innings.

Candelario hit two home runs for the Tigers, scoring three runs and driving in three. White Sox starter Hector Santiago (1-2) lasted the minimum five innings to pick up his first win of the season. He gave up three runs (two earned) on seven hits and struck out five.

PHILLIES 2, BLUE JAYS 1

Pinch hitter Nick Williams led off the bottom of the eighth inning with a home run to give Philadelphia a victory over visiting Toronto. The Blue Jays had tied the game on a seventh-inning single by Russell Martin, the first hit of the game allowed by Phillies starter Aaron Nola. Martin, the longtime catcher, was making his first start at shortstop. Williams hit his fourth homer of the season, and the third of his career as a pinch hitter, on an 0-1 cutter from Blue Jays reliever Joe Biagini (0-4). Maikel Franco also homered for the Phillies.

RANGERS 4, ROYALS 3 (10 INNINGS)

Shin-Soo Choo drilled a walk-off home run to lift host Texas past Kansas City at Globe Life Park. The Rangers, who lead the four-game series 2-1, improved to 5-1 in extra-inning games this season. The Royals dropped to 2-4 in extras. Alex Claudio (3-2) pitched the 10th for Texas and picked up the win. Choo homered for the second straight game and eighth time this season. His opposite-field shot off Kevin McCarthy (3-2) to left was also the 176th home run of his career, breaking a tie with Hideki Matsui for the most among Asian-born players.

Gennett had five hits, including a home run



NATIONALS 4, MARLINS 1
Mark Reynolds hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the top of the ninth as Washington rallied to defeat Miami at Marlins Park. It was the fifth homer of the season for Reynolds, who also cut down a would-be, go-ahead run in the eighth with a quick throw to the plate from first base. The score was tied 1-1 at the time. Marlins closer Brad Ziegler (0-4) gave up the Reynolds homer and took the loss. The Nationals have beaten the Marlins 10 straight times, tying a franchise record for consecutive wins against one opponent, a mark originally set against the San Diego Padres in 1994.

BREWERS 17, METS 6

Christian Yelich and Jesus Aguilar had three hits and three RBIs apiece, and host Milwaukee had six players with multiple hits in routing New York at Miller Park. The Brewers have won the middle two games of the four-game series and eight of 10 overall. The Mets have dropped four of five. The Brewers actually trailed 3-0 before they even stepped to the plate before tying the game in the bottom of the first. The Mets led 5-3 in the third before Milwaukee scored twice apiece in the third and fourth, three more times in the fifth and seven times in the seventh.

WHITE SOX 8, TIGERS 4

Tim Anderson smacked two of Chicago's four homers and drove in a career-high four runs in defeating host Detroit at Comerica Park. Anderson, who has three homers over the last two games, also scored three runs. Jose Abreu supplied four hits, including a homer, while scoring twice and driving in two runs. Daniel Palka added a homer and two RBIs for Chicago. Jeimer

MARINERS 4, TWINS 3 (12 INNINGS)
Mike Zunino homered with two outs in the bottom of the 12th inning as host Seattle defeated Minnesota at Safeco Field. Zunino lined a 2-2 slider from right-hander Matt Magill (1-1) over the wall in left field as the Mariners improved to 5-0 in extra innings. It was Zunino's eighth homer of the season. Nelson Cruz and Jean Segura also hit home runs for the Mariners, who have a major-league-best 15 one-run victories. Twins center fielder Byron Buxton exited after crashing into the fence in an attempt to make a spectacular catch on Cruz's sixth-inning home run. Buxton hit his head against the wall and fell to the warning track. He was attended to by the training staff and had to leave the game with a cut over his left eye.

REDS 6, ROCKIES 5

Scooter Gennett had five hits, including a home run. Tony Cruz also homered and visiting Cincinnati held on to beat Colorado. Michael Lorenzen (1-0) pitched one inning in relief of Tyler Mahle to earn the win, and Jared Hughes survived the ninth for his third save. Gennett tied



NEW YORK: Mike Trout #27 of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim follows through on a fourth inning two-run home run against the New York Yankees at Yankee Stadium on Saturday in the Bronx borough of New York City. — AFP

a career high for hits, set last year against St Louis, and used some solid defense to help the Reds secure the win. The Rockies loaded the bases with no outs in the ninth off Hughes, but after a forceout at home, Gennett snared David Dahl's liner near second base and then doubled up Carlos Gonzalez to end the game.

GIANTS 5, CUBS 4

Brandon Crawford hit a two-run home run and Brandon Belt drove in the tiebreaking and eventual game-winning run as San Francisco edged host Chicago at Wrigley Field. Gorkys Hernandez went 3-for-5 with two runs scored out of the leadoff spot for San Francisco while starter Chris Stratton (6-3) got the win. Stratton lasted five innings, yielding four hits and three runs with three walks and six strikeouts. Jose Quintana (5-4) absorbed the loss, allowing five hits and four runs over 4 1/3 innings. He walked two and fanned six.

RED SOX 8, BRAVES 6

Mitch Moreland hit a go-ahead, two-run double in the sixth inning. Andrew Benintendi finished a double shy of a cycle with three RBIs and host Boston beat Atlanta

in the second of a three-game series. Benintendi (3-for-4) hit a solo homer and two-run triple. Xander Bogaerts, Christian Vazquez and Blake Swihart had one RBI apiece as Boston won for the eighth time in 10 games. Steven Wright (1-0) got the win after three scoreless innings with one walk and a strikeout. Dansby Swanson hit a two-run homer and Ronald Acuna Jr. had a solo shot for Atlanta. Freddie Freeman, Nick Markakis and Kurt Suzuki each drove in a run for the Braves, who suffered their third straight loss and their fifth in eight games.

ATHLETICS 3, DIAMONDBACKS 0

Matt Joyce, Matt Olson and Chad Pinder hit solo homers and right-hander Daniel Mengden threw his second career shutout as host Oakland blanked Arizona. As leadoff hitter Joyce homered on the first pitch of the first inning off Clay Buchholz (0-1) before Olson homered in the seventh and Pinder in the eighth for the Athletics, who had lost three of four and had gone seven straight games without a homer until hitting one Friday. Mengden (5-4) gave up two singles, struck out five and did not walk a batter while stretching his scoreless streak to 16 innings. — Reuters

China shuttlers regain glory with Thomas Cup win



BANGKOK: Chinese men's team poses with their winning trophy at the end of the Thomas Cup badminton tournament in Bangkok yesterday. — AFP

BANGKOK: China's men took home the Thomas Cup yesterday, clawing back to beat Japan 3-1 and compensate for their early exit from the previous tournament in 2016. China, which boasts some of the world's best players, was the tournament favourite despite not having secured the championship since 2012. But its players faced added pressure when the national women's team failed to make the final of the concurrent Uber Cup for the first time ever. Both competitions were held in Bangkok at the Impact Arena, which filled up on Sunday in anticipation of a tough battle between top seed China and a scrappy Japanese team.

The contest did not disappoint. Japan's flashy left-hander Kento Momota stunned world number five Chen Long 21-9, 21-18, giving the underdog team crucial early momentum. It was the second time Momota, 23, had stunned Long this year after beating him at the Asian Championships in April in a continuing comeback. He was barred from the sport in 2016 after being caught gambling in an illegal casino but returned to action last year.

China's deep bench rallied after the stunning loss, with world number three doubles pair Liu Cheng and

Zhang Nan levelling the contest. The 22-year-old singles star Shi Yuqi then stayed one step ahead of Japan's Kenta Nishimoto, jumping in the air for a smash winner to reach a match point which Nishimoto then netted to give Yuqi a 21-12, 21-17 win. Clinching the third and deciding match was the world number four doubles pair Li Junhui and Liu Yuchen, who sprang back from a set down to achieve a nail-biting win over Keigo Sonoda and Yuta Watanabe 17-21, 21-19, 22-20. Their teammates rushed the court afterwards in celebration. The tall and imposing Li Junhui told reporters afterwards that part of the week-long competition had left him so worn out he was too tired even to change his shirt.

After failure to excel in the past two tournaments, head coach Xia Xuanze said he was relieved to move on. "It's a big relief and I can have a drink now," he said. Japan had been eyeing a clean sweep after the women's side clinched the Uber Cup with an easy 3-0 victory against Thailand on Saturday. But it was not to be, even though men's coach Park Joo Bong said his players had exceeded expectations.

"It was a very good fight (but) finally we could not finish the win," he said. "But I'm happy." — AFP

Lyles matches year's 200m best in Diamond League triumph

LOS ANGELES: American Noah Lyles matched the fastest time in the world this year in winning the 200 meters in 19.69 seconds Saturday at the Prefontaine Classic Diamond League athletics meet. The 20-year-old former world junior champion, helped by a tailwind at the legal limit of 2.0 m/sec, set a personal best to equal South Africa's Clarence Munyai for the top 2018 time and even shock himself.

"To be honest, I'm a little scared," Lyles said. "I didn't think I would be running this fast this season, this soon. I didn't think I was ready but my body was." The showdown at Eugene, Oregon, marks the final "Pre" at 99-year Hayward Field before a major reconstruction ahead of hosting the 2021 World Outdoor Athletics Championships.

Starting one lane from the outside, Lyles made a great start around the curve and surged over the final 100 to finish .01 off Justin Galin's meet record. "Everybody will just have to deal with it," Lyles said. "I'm here to dominate."

London 2017 world bronze medalist Jereme Richards of Trinidad and Tobago was second in 20.05 with Canada's Aaron Brown third in 20.07. Baker, Ta Lou win 100s -US 60m indoor champion Ronnie Baker, who owns the 2018 world best of 9.97, defended his 100m crown in a 2.4m/sec wind-aided 9.78. Compatriot Christian Coleman, this year's world 60m champion and last year's world 100m runner-up, was second in 9.84. Britain's Reece Prescod was third in 9.88, edging China's Su Bingtian by .02.

Coleman started strong but Baker surged with 30 meters remaining to seize the victory, his second in as many weeks after a win at Jamaica. "Christian was really pushing me," Baker said. "My mindset was just to stay relaxed and run through the line and that's what I did."

Coleman, who pulled out of the 200 after tweaking a leg muscle, was happy with his 2018 outdoor debut. "Felt pretty good about my first race of the year after tweaking something in my leg," Coleman said.

Ivory Coast's Marie-Josée Ta Lou, last year's world 100 and 200 runner-up, won the women's 100 in 10.88, .02 ahead of compatriot Murielle Ahouré.

Rio Olympic champion Elaine Thompson of

Jamaica was third in 10.98 with reigning world champion Tori Bowie of the United States fifth in 11.03. Bowie had to be helped off the track, grabbing her left leg and grimacing after the race.

Reigning Olympic champion Shaunae Miller-Uibo of the Bahamas surged late to win the women's 400 in 49.52 with world champion Phyllis Francis of the United States second in 50.81. Rio Olympic runner-up Allyson Felix withdrew with no reason given.

Olympic and world champion Caster Semenya of South Africa defended her 800m crown in a meet record 1:55.92 with American Aje Wilson second in 1:56.86. Reigning world and Olympic champion Omar McLeod of Jamaica won the men's 110m hurdles in a wind-aided 13.01, rallying to edge non-aligned competitor Sergey Shubenkov by .07 of a second with a 3.0 m/sec tailwind.

Two-time Olympic and three-time world champion Christian Taylor won the triple jump by leaping 17.73m on his final attempt with fellow American Will Claye, the world and Olympic runner-up, second at 17.46 and Brazil's reigning world indoor champion Almir Dos Santos third at 17.35.

BARSHIM, CROUSER WIN

Reigning world champion and two-time Olympic medalist Mutaz Essa Barshim of Qatar won the high jump by clearing 2.36m with non-aligned athlete Danil Lysenko edging China's Wang Yu for second on fewer misses after both cleared 2.32.

Rio Olympic champion Ryan Crouser of the United States won the shot put with a heave of 22.53m. Poland's Michael Haratyk was second on 21.97 ahead of Brazil's Darlan Romani (21.95). World indoor and outdoor champion Tomas Walsh of New Zealand was fourth at 21.84.

American Jenn Suhr, the 2012 Olympic champion, won the women's pole vault in a meet record 4.85m, edging New Zealand's Rio Olympic bronze medalist Eliza McCartney on fewer misses.

Former world 1,500m champion Genzebe Dibaba won the women's 5,000 in 14:26.89 with fellow Ethiopian Letesenbet Gidney second in 14:30.29 and world champion Hellen Obiri of Kenya third in 14:35.03. American Shelby Houlihan won the women's 1,500 in a personal best 3:59.06, .24 ahead of Britain's Laura Muir. Jamaica's Janieve Russell, the Commonwealth Games champion, won the women's 400m hurdles in 54.06, edging 2016 Rio Olympic champion Dalilah Muhammad of the United States by .03.

Kenya's Benjamin Kigen won the 3,000m steeplechase in a personal best 8:09.07, the fastest time in the world this year, and compatriot Timothy Cheruiyot, last year's world 1,500m runner-up, won the mile in 3:49.87. — AFP

Sports

Ronaldo drops hint he may leave Real after final triumph

Ronaldo, first player to win five Champions League titles

KIEV: Cristiano Ronaldo may have played his last game for Real Madrid after winning a fourth Champions League crown with the Spanish side in a 3-1 victory over Liverpool on Saturday, saying he would soon make an announcement on his future.

"Right now we need to enjoy ourselves but in the next few days I'll give an answer to the fans who have always been by my side. It was beautiful to be at Real Madrid," the Portugal forward told television network beIN Sports after the game.

"The future of any Madrid player is not important, we have just made history," Karim Benzema scored Real's opener while substitute Gareth Bale struck twice, including a sensational overhead kick, to seal a 13th European Cup win overall and their fourth title in five years after Sadio Mane had equalised for Liverpool.

Ronaldo, who is Real's all-time top scorer, was asked to clarify his comments but continued to give ambiguous answers. "I don't have any doubts, it's not important, I have to rest now, go and meet up with the Portugal team and in the next few weeks (I'll make an announcement)," he added before he joins up with his country's World Cup squad for the tournament in Russia.

The 33-year-old Ronaldo, who became the first player to win five Champions League titles since the

competition changed format in 1992, including one with Manchester United, reacted angrily when asked if he was disappointed not to have scored.

"Who's disappointed? Perhaps they need to change the name of the Champions League to the CR7 Champions League. Who has the most titles and who has the most goals?" said the Portuguese, who has scored a record 120 goals in the competition.

RONALDO WANTED

Real coach Zinedine Zidane could not give an answer when asked about the timing of Ronaldo's comments and said he had not spoken to the player before the game about his future.

"Cristiano has to stay no matter what. We'll see what happens next, but for me he should stay," said the Frenchman.

Real captain Sergio Ramos also urged Ronaldo to remain at the club but said his team mate had to make clear what he meant.

"I'm sure Cris will speak at the end of the season. If there's something behind this, he should come and clarify what it is today," Ramos said.

"Cristiano is a key part of this team, he likes to feel loved and we all want him to stay, he won't find a better place than here, he's our superstar. "Everyone is free to take a personal decision but I hope he stays here for many years," he added.

“The future of any Madrid player is not important”



KIEV: Real Madrid's Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo applauds supporters after the UEFA Champions League final football match between Liverpool and Real Madrid at the Olympic Stadium in Kiev, Ukraine on Saturday. — AFP

Ronaldo caused a stir last year a few days after Real beat Juventus 4-1 in the final when Portuguese newspaper A Bola reported that the forward wanted to leave Madrid as he was not happy with how he had been treated by the Spanish club.

Ronaldo's desire for a new contract was believed to be behind last year's stories and he has still not signed a new deal at Real, who he joined from United in a then world record transfer worth 85.5 million pounds (\$113.77 million). — Reuters

Dimitrov downs mystery man at Roland Garros, Svitolina through

PARIS: Fourth seed Grigor Dimitrov reached the French Open second round yesterday, even if he wasn't exactly sure who he was facing on the other side of the net. Dimitrov had been drawn to face experienced Viktor Troicki in the tournament opener on Philippe Chatrier Court.

However, just before he was due to go on court, Troicki withdrew with a back injury, allowing Egyptian world number 182 Mohamed Safwat to make his Grand Slam debut. In the process, he became the first Egyptian since Tamer El Sawy at the 1996 US Open to feature in a major.

"I was warming up and my coach said, 'hey look' and we saw up on the board that I was playing a different opponent," said 27-year-old Dimitrov, a former Wimbledon semi-finalist who knew something of Safwat's game from matches during their junior days.

"I didn't expect that. I found out about 30 minutes before, but it is what it is. You have to be ready," Safwat, 27, had lost in the final round of qualifying to Guido Andreozzi of Argentina last week in what was his eighth futile attempt to make the main draw of the majors.

He has won just one high-profile match in 2018 in the Davis Cup in February and his career earnings of \$350,000 pale in comparison to Dimitrov's \$15 million. There was a



PARIS: Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov plays a forehand return to Egypt's Mohamed Safwat during their men's singles first round match on day one of The Roland Garros 2018 French Open tennis tournament in Paris yesterday. — AFP

world of difference between the two men on a sun-kissed centre court yesterday in the first two sets.

But Safwat, one of seven lucky losers in the men's draw, then overcame blisters on his right hand to put up a solid challenge in the third set before Dimitrov raced through the tiebreaker for a 6-1, 6-4, 7-6 (7/1) win. Dimitrov next faces either Jared Donaldson of the United States or Chile's Nicolas Jarry.

"I only heard I was playing an hour before the match," said Safwat. "I was warming up, I signed in as a lucky loser and I was told I might be on court at 11 o'clock. I dealt with it

as best I could. I had never set foot on that court before."

A rule change this year has helped the cause of defeated qualifiers at the Slams. If a player withdraws injured before their scheduled first-round match, they still receive half the prize money while the lucky loser takes the other half.

Defending champion Rafael Nadal, who starts his campaign for an 11th Roland Garros title on Monday, will also face a lucky loser. Italy's world 130 Simone Bolelli moved into the draw after Ukraine's Alexandr Dolgopopolov pulled out with a wrist injury. — AFP

After the pain, Liverpool need to invest to bridge the gap

KIEV: When the bitter disappointment and pain of Saturday's 3-1 Champions League final loss to Real Madrid begins to ease Juergen Klopp will be able to reflect on a magnificent run in Europe but also on what he needs to do next to take his team to the next level.

Liverpool finished second in Europe and fourth in the Premier League and even a club with such high expectations and rich history can view that with a good deal of pride. Events unfolded in the Ukrainian capital on Saturday in a way which will, however, leave Liverpool fans forever wondering if they missed a great opportunity to clinch a sixth European title.

The first-half exit of top-scorer Mohamed Salah with injury and the two dreadful goal-keeping errors from Loris Karius had a huge impact on the outcome of the final, along with a goal of uncommon brilliance from Real's Gareth Bale.

But Klopp, who has now lost his last six finals as a coach, surely would not be fooled into seeing the finale to the season purely in terms of bad luck and individual errors. While it was right and proper that his words after the game regarding keeper Loris Karius's

awful errors, which cost two goals, were sympathetic and supportive, Klopp will no doubt reflect on his decision-making over the goalkeeper position.

There have long been questions over whether German Karius, signed from Klopp's former club Mainz, and Belgian keeper Simon Mignolet are of the standard required for a team aiming to compete at the highest level.

The pair alternated as first choice before Klopp decided, in January, to put his faith in Karius. But the cold reality is that a club of Liverpool's stature and resources can do much better than either custodian.

It would be remarkable if they did not rectify that situation in the close-season transfer window. Just as the January signing of Virgil van Dijk added much-needed strength, solidity and composure to a defence which has long been questioned, so Liverpool will benefit significantly from the arrival of a top class goalkeeper.

REINFORCEMENT

The highlights reel of Liverpool's season will be full of wonderful goals from the Egyptian genius Salah, the speedy Senegalese Sadio Mane and crafty Brazilian Roberto Firmino who combined to rip apart Porto, Manchester City and AS Roma in the knockout stages of the Champions League.

But when Salah walked off the field in tears suffering from a shoulder injury, Liverpool's only forward option on the bench was the inexperienced 20-year-old Dominic Solanke.

Klopp, therefore, opted for attacking midfielder Adam Lallana, who due to injury had

Salah injury was crushing blow, admits Wijnaldum

KIEV: Georginio Wijnaldum admits Mohamed Salah's devastating shoulder injury was the decisive moment in Liverpool's painful Champions League final loss to Real Madrid. Jurgen Klopp's side had made a strong start to Saturday's showdown in Kiev before Salah was forced off midway through the first half.

Liverpool's Egypt forward—who scored 44 goals in all competitions this season—was injured after crashing to the turf following a challenge with Real's Sergio Ramos. Salah walked off in tears and Liverpool's performance suffered an immediate dip as his team-mates struggled to adjust without their talisman.

Real took full advantage, eventually

running out 3-1 winners thanks to two errors by Liverpool goalkeeper Loris Karius and a stunning overhead kick by Gareth Bale. Reds midfielder Wijnaldum conceded the loss of Salah was setback from which they couldn't recover.

"I think it was a big blow for us, it seemed like a big blow for us the way the way we reacted after his injury," Wijnaldum said. "I think when he was on the pitch we did it well for 25 minutes but (after the injury) there was less than before."

"Those things happen and we had to deal with it but it was difficult." Asked what Klopp said at half-time the Dutch international added: "He said that it looked like we were devastated about Mo but we had to let it go and change because it could not change."

"Sometimes those things happen in football. It is hugely frustrating but we can't change it." Egypt's team doctor Mohamed Abou El-El said in a statement that, according to information from Liverpool's medical staff, Salah has sustained only ligament damage and he remained optimistic he would still feature in the World Cup. — AFP

NHL set for final between Knights and Capitals

WASHINGTON: A first-year Las Vegas expansion team of NHL castoffs meets a long-suffering Washington club with superstar Alex Ovechkin in his first championship series when the Stanley Cup Final begins today.

The Vegas Golden Knights, who didn't begin assembling talent until last June, made a stunning run to the best-of-seven final behind goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury, who backstopped Pittsburgh to the trophy each of the past two years in part by ousting Washington.

"I thought I was done with them for a little bit," Fleury said. "I guess not." The Knights would be the first debut team in major US sports history to win the title. Another first-year team, St. Louis, reached the NHL Final in 1968 but from an entire division of new clubs from which one had to make it. "We're just a bunch of hockey players (that) wanted to find a home and we did," said Knights center Jonathan Marchessault, who has eight goals in 15 playoff games.

The Capitals have reached the final for only the second time in their 43-season history, 20 years after being swept by Detroit in 1998. They had never reached a conference final since until this month.

"We worked so hard for this to be able to be in the final," Capitals center Nicklas Backstrom said. "It's a great feel-

ing, especially the way we did it. It was outstanding from everybody." The Capitals trailed in every playoff series but battled back each time and now could become Washington's first major sport champion since the NFL Redskins won the 1992 Super Bowl.

Russia's Ovechkin, a seven-time goals leader in his 13 NHL seasons, marveled at 6,000 supporters cheering the Caps after a final practice Saturday before they departed for the opener in Vegas.

"It's huge. The town is all in. The town is excited," Capitals captain Ovechkin said. "The people get involved." "It's awesome to see how into it they are, how much they care and how much they want to be a part of it," added Caps forward TJ Oshie. The Capitals are 8-2 in road playoff games and led by 12 Ovechkin goals while Evgeny Kuznetsov has 11.

MCPHEE BUILT BOTH TEAMS

Both teams were assembled by Knights general manager George McPhee, who was the Capitals general manager from 1997 to 2014. He brought Ovechkin, Backstrom, goaltender Braden Holtby and 10 other current players to Washington before being fired in 2014, then joined the Vegas organization in 2016. "It's a little special actually because of him," Backstrom said. "He was here for a long time and he drafted all of us. So it will be a great challenge. I can't wait for it." Ovechkin, a left wing, led the NHL with 49 goals this season and brings a deadly slapshot and physical presence. "His one-timer and his wrist, both of them are very tough, very fast and quick. It'll be a challenge," Fleury said of Ovechkin. "He brings the best out of me." — AFP

25 Ancajas downs Sultan in all-Filipino world boxing bout



26 NY Yankees on wrong end of Mike Trout's historic night in 11-4 loss



27 Ronaldo drops hint he may leave Real after final triumph



OAKLAND: Clint Capela #15 of the Houston Rockets grabs a rebound during Game Six of the Western Conference Finals in the 2018 NBA Playoffs against the Golden State Warriors at ORACLE Arena on Saturday in Oakland, California. — AFP

Warriors crush Rockets, force game seven

Warriors outscored Rockets 64-25 in second half

LOS ANGELES: The Golden State Warriors showed their championship mettle Saturday, roaring back to rout the Houston Rockets 115-86 to force a decisive game seven in the NBA Western Conference finals.

Klay Thompson scored 35 points, Stephen Curry scored 29 and Kevin Durant added 23 as the Warriors rallied from a 17-point first-quarter deficit to knot the best-of-seven series at 3-3 — and keep their bid to reach a fourth straight championship series alive.

"I don't want to go home," said Thompson, who made nine three-pointers. "We worked too hard this season to go home." But in the early going it looked like the Warriors would do just that. The Rockets, who led the league with 65 regular season wins, ran roughshod over Golden State in the opening quarter as they raced to a 39-22 lead.

Houston's Most Valuable Player candidate James Harden dominated early, finishing with 32 points, nine assists and seven rebounds. But the Warriors defense clamped down on Harden in the second half and the

Rockets felt the absence of injured point guard Chris Paul, who suffered a strained right hamstring in the Rockets' game-five victory.

"I thought Klay was amazing tonight, not just for 35 points and the nine threes, but his defense," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "The guy's a machine." The Warriors showed signs of life in the second quarter, putting together a 23-11 scoring run and trimming the deficit to five points. But they trailed 61-51 at halftime.

Then came one of their trademark third-quarter surges. Golden State opened the second half on an 11-0 scoring run, taking the lead for the first time since the opening minutes when Curry drained a three-pointer for a 62-61 advantage. Soon, the rout was on. "I think the turnovers got them going," said Houston coach Mike D'Antoni, whose team finished with 21 turnovers. "Then once you get them going and they get out of the box—we didn't communicate really well two or three times, and then they just got on a roll. You get these guys on a roll, and they can hurt you."

'A HEAD SCRATCHER'

Kerr was at a loss to explain the early defensive lapses. "We lost people in transition. We didn't communicate. We gave up wide-open threes," he said. "It was sort of a head scratcher. I was more worried about the offense coming into the game than the defense. But the defense eventually kicked in, and obviously that led to transition, and the shotmaking in the second half was just amazing."

The Warriors outscored the Rockets 64-25 in the second half, limiting Harden to 10 points after the break. Eric Gordon, starting in place of Paul, scored just three of his 19 points after the interval.

"I think once we settled down defensively and started staying with people and not making mistakes in transition, then we wore them down a little bit," Kerr said. The lack of defensive focus that plagued Golden State early was mirrored by the Rockets late.

"A lot of miscommunication," Harden said. "That first quarter we did a really good job of communicating, lim-

iting them on threes, just contesting everything, making everything difficult."

Although they couldn't keep that up, Harden said, the Rockets remain confident they can close out the series on their home floor on Monday and return to the NBA Finals for the first time since Houston won back-to-back titles in 1994 and 1995.

"Nothing changes for us," Harden said. "We know what we have to do. We're still confident. We're a confident group. We've just got one chance." Thompson said the Warriors would be ready.

"Effort, intensity, passion, those three things and playing smart," he said of what it will take to beat the Rockets on their home floor. "(If) we take the same focus and execute the game plan like we should I have all the confidence in the world in this team."

The winner of the series will face either the Cleveland Cavaliers or Boston Celtics in the NBA Finals. Their Eastern Conference final is also tied at three games apiece. — AFP

Pakistan thrash England to win first Test

LONDON: Pakistan completed a convincing nine-wicket victory over England to win the first Test at Lord's with more than a day to spare yesterday. Set a target of just 64 on the fourth morning, Pakistan finished on 66 for one before lunch to go 1-0 up in this two-match series ahead of next week's second Test at Headingley.

Imam-ul-Haq was 18 not out and Haris Sohail 39 not out. England were undone by two top-order batting collapses, slumping to 184 all out after winning the toss in their first innings and declining to 160 for six in their second before fifties from Jos Buttler and Test debutant Dominic Bess prevented an innings defeat.

This was England's seventh loss in 10 Tests as their first match under new national selector Ed Smith ended in a resounding

reverse. What made this thrashing—just England's third defeat in any home Test that started in May—all the more galling for Joe Root's side was that they were outplayed in classic English conditions by a youthful Pakistan side, whose batting, bowling and fielding was markedly superior throughout.

England, resuming yesterday on 235 for six in their second innings, lost their last four wickets for just seven runs in 18 balls to be bowled out for 242. "Not good enough, if I'm being brutally honest," said England captain Root at the presentation ceremony. "We were outperformed in all three departments."

"I thought Pakistan's bowlers exploited the conditions but we played some poor shots and gave some wickets away and you can't afford to do that."

By contrast, Pakistan skipper Sarfraz Ahmed was delighted by the way his team played, especially their disciplined bowling display. "We have a very good bowling side. They did a great job for us," said the wicket-keeper. Sarfraz also paid tribute to the influence of Pakistan coach Mickey Arthur, with the South African having launched his time in charge with a 2-2 series draw in England in 2016.

"He's told us to pitch it up to take wickets in England," explained Sarfraz. Pakistan came into this match on the back of a five-wicket win over Test debutants Ireland at Dublin's Malahide ground—a match played in similar conditions to those they found at Lord's.

"The Malahide game was a very tough game for us," said Sarfraz. "Ireland played really well. That is good practice before a Lord's Test match." That England had not already lost this match by an innings was down to a century stand between the recalled Buttler and newcomer Bess that allowed England to resume Sunday on 235 for six, a lead of 56 runs.

Buttler was then 66 not out and Bess 55 not out. But eight balls into Sunday's play and having added only one more run, Buttler was lbw to Mohammad Abbas for 67. England were now 236 for seven and that soon became 241 for eight, after the tourists took the new ball, when Mark Wood edged Mohammad Amir to wicket-keeper Sarfraz.

Stuart Broad made his Test-best 169 against Pakistan at Lord's in 2010 — a match that became known for a spot-fixing 'sting' that saw three Pakistan players, including



LONDON: Pakistan's Haris Sohail (R) jumps in the air after hitting the winning runs as England's Alastair Cook (L) looks on on the fourth day of the first international Test match between England and Pakistan at Lord's cricket ground in London yesterday. — AFP

Amir, jailed by an English court and given five-year bans by the International Cricket Council.

But Broad's batting has gone downhill since he was struck in the face by a bouncer

from India's Varun Aaron in the fourth Test at Old Trafford four years ago. And yesterday he fell for a duck when prodding Abbas to Sarfraz. The innings ended when Amir knocked over Bess's off-stump. — AFP