



3 Mol: Beware of foreign objects exposed by rain



9 US-China row dominates APEC summit in Papua New Guinea



11 Rouhani sees Iran, Iraq expanding bilateral trade despite US sanctions



25 Record number of participants join Gulf Bank 642 Marathon



Camping season delayed due to effects of stormy weather

Experts say climate change behind weather fluctuations, heavy rains

Reconstructing hope; restoring childhoods



Op-Ed

By Kailash Satyarthi

Children never create wars but sadly they happen to be the worst victims of wars! Today as geopolitical tensions are peaking and the refugee crisis has snowballed into a full-blown flash-point, over 69 million people have been displaced globally to evade persecution, war and violence. In 2017, conflicts and disasters around the world left an estimated 201 million people in need of international humanitarian assistance in order to survive.

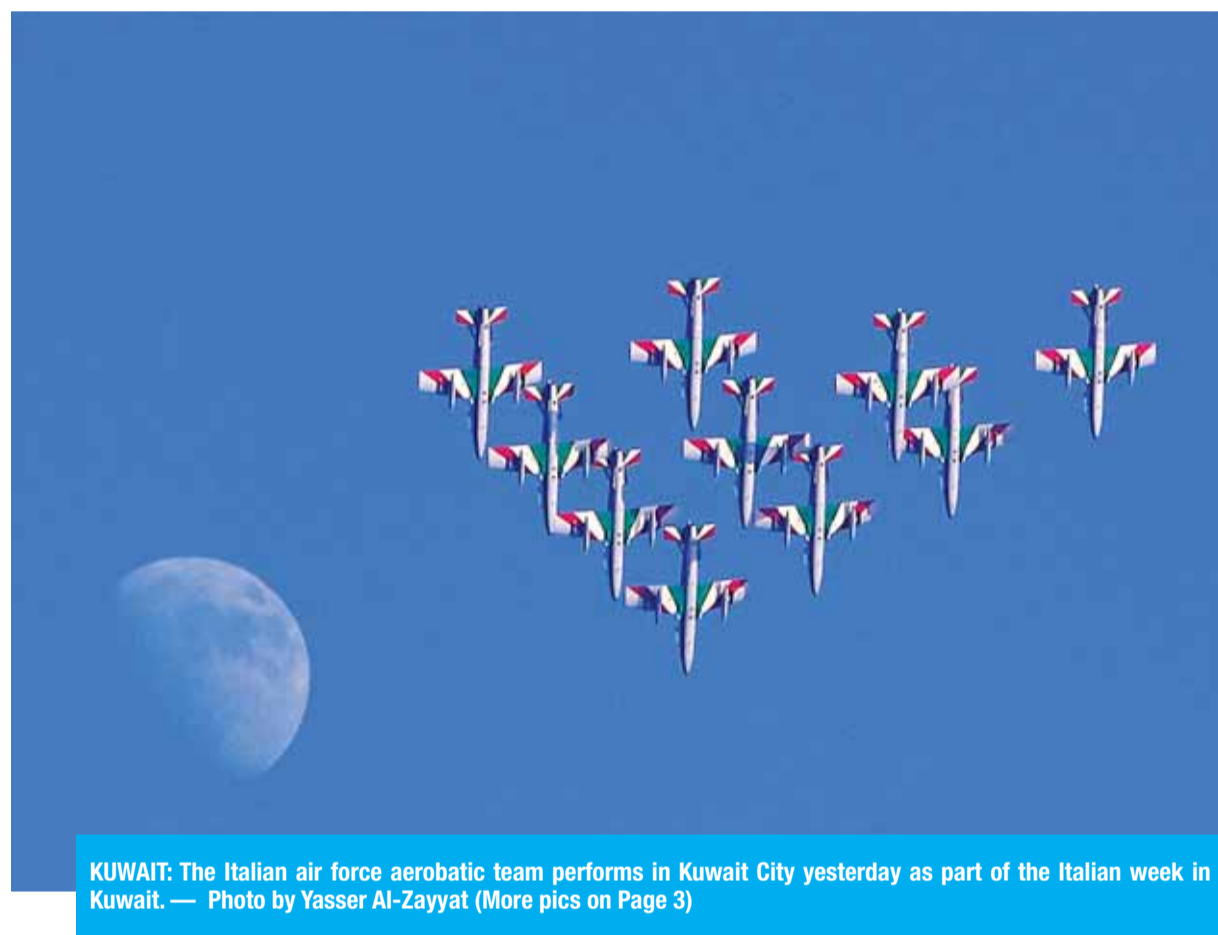
Two-thirds of all refugees worldwide come from just five countries: Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar and Somalia. Worst still, more than half of the refugees the world over are children. These children are at an unprecedented risk of trafficking for forced labor, slavery, sexual abuse, prostitution, child marriages, illegal organ transplantations and recruitment as child combatants with unabated violence in the offing.

While several frontline host countries in the MENA region have been reeling under pressure to accommodate the refugees and provide them with shelter, food, medical assistance and sanitation, many of the countries have started shutting doors for the unwanted guests or those who have overstayed their welcome for that matter.

Some time back, I visited a Syrian refugee locality near Istanbul. I was shocked to meet a father who was fixing his 12-year-old daughter's marriage with a 60-year-old man. When I asked him why he was pushing his daughter to hell, he replied: "I lost my elder daughter. She was 14 and was abducted. We have not been able to find her. My younger son works at an auto workshop. Only by marrying her off I can ensure her safety."

We all know how Rohingya children are being killed and burnt alive while their mothers and sisters are raped. I am sure this is not the world that we want to leave for the generations to come. Clearly, childhoods have to be reconstructed and restored before it's all too late.

Continued on Page 24



KUWAIT: The Italian air force aerobatic team performs in Kuwait City yesterday as part of the Italian week in Kuwait. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat (More pics on Page 3)

Argentine sub found year after disappearance

BUENOS AIRES: The wreckage of an Argentine submarine has been located, a year after it vanished into the depths of the Atlantic Ocean with 44 crew members in the country's worst naval disaster in decades. There has been "positive identification of the ARA San Juan," at a depth of 800 m, the navy said on Twitter, confirming the vessel had imploded. The Seabed Constructor, a ship owned by US search firm Ocean Infinity, made the discovery. It had set out in September on the latest attempt to find the San Juan, whose disappearance cost the navy's top

officer his job.

The navy lost contact with the San Juan on Nov 15, 2017, about 450 km from the Argentine coast while it was traveling northward from the country's southern tip. "I still had hopes that they could be alive," Luis Niz, the father of a missing sailor, told reporters, even though President Mauricio Macri's government had already declared there were no survivors. "We are with the other relatives. They are going to show us the photos. They say that our youngsters are inside," said Yolanda Mendiola, the mother of crewman Leandro Cisneros, 28. "We are all destroyed here."

The discovery came the day after a somber ceremony, which Macri attended, at the San Juan's Mar del Plata base on the first anniversary of its disappearance.

Continued on Page 24



BUENOS AIRES: Argentinian navy spokesman Enrique Balbis speaks during a press conference on the finding of the wreckage of the ARA San Juan submarine yesterday. — AFP

Teams search for 1,000 missing in California wildfire

CHICO, California: US President Donald Trump was heading yesterday to California to meet with officials, victims and the "unbelievably brave" firefighters there, as more than 1,000 people are listed as missing in the worst-ever wildfire to hit the US state. "It seems many more people are missing than anyone thought even possible," Trump told reporters from the White House South Lawn shortly before boarding the Marine One helicopter to fly to Joint Base Andrews.

The deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California's history, the so-called Camp Fire, has now claimed 71 lives. The fire has devoured an area roughly the size of Chicago, destroying nearly 10,000 homes and 2,400 other buildings. Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea told reporters the number of people unaccounted for had soared, from 631 to 1,011, in 24 hours as authorities received more reports of people missing, and after earlier emergency calls were reviewed.

"I want you to understand that this is a dynamic list," Honea told reporters. He said that on a positive note, 329 people who had been listed as missing have now been accounted for. "The information I am providing you is raw data and we find there is the likely possibility that the list contains duplicate names," he said, adding that some people who had escaped could be unaware they were listed as missing.

The inferno erupted Nov 8, laying waste to the town of Paradise in the northern foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains and sending thousands fleeing.



PARADISE, California: In this aerial photo, a burned neighborhood is seen on Nov 15, 2018. — AFP

Trump yesterday repeated an earlier claim that mismanagement of California's forests was largely to blame for the fires. "We will be talking about forest management," he said. "This could have been a lot different situation." Brian Rice, president of the California Professional Firefighters, called Trump's earlier remark "ill-informed," and added: "It is the federal government that has chosen to divert resources away from forest management, not California."

California, which leans strongly Democratic, has been at the forefront of resistance to Trump's environmental and other policies. But days after threatening to

cut federal funding to California over its alleged "gross mismanagement" of forests, Trump tweeted Friday that he was looking forward to meeting Governor Jerry Brown and his newly elected successor Gavin Newsom. "We are with you!" Trump said.

Roslyn Roberts, 73, who was forced from her home in Paradise, said she voted for Trump but would disagree with him if she has the chance yesterday. "I would tell him that this fire has nothing to do with forest mismanagement. Thousands and thousands of homes got destroyed with no trees around," she said

Continued on Page 24

News in brief

No fines for cracked windshields

KUWAIT: The traffic department announced tickets will not be issued to vehicles with cracked windshields or windows due to the bad weather that resulted in flying gravel. The traffic department will carry out its usual role of organizing traffic and arresting law-breakers, it said, calling on motorists to be cautious, reduce speed and leave enough distance between their vehicles and those in front of them to avoid damage from flying gravel. — Al-Anbaa

Lyrica drug criminalized

KUWAIT: A high-ranking legal source said Lyrica, which is prescribed as an analgesic for some patients, has been criminalized, and those who possess it without prescription will be jailed. The source said the medicine is not permitted for use by everybody, but it was noticed that 90 percent of those arrested used it without prescription, which indicates a legal loophole to dispense it. — Al-Qabas

Bourse launches OTC trading

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait announced yesterday it will begin today implementation of over the counter (OTC) market regulations and trading in this off-exchange system. The bourse said on its website that the new system will be launched at 09:00 am and will remain open till closing of operations by 12:40 pm. The new system for trade in unlisted stocks is the first of its kind to be launched in the Arabian Gulf region. — KUNA

Local

Amir lauds Kuwaitis' unity in facing severe weather

Crown Prince thanks officials for facing deluge

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Friday a cable of thanks to National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. His Highness expressed his utmost gratitude and appreciation to the Parliament Speaker and fellow MPs for their cooperation and interaction with aftermath of the stormy weather that hit the country recently. His Highness the Amir also sent cables of thanks and appreciation to the Chief of Kuwait National Guard His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah and KNG's Deputy Chief Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness also sent similar cables to His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh, Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Hussam Al-Roumi, Health Minister Sheikh Dr Bassel Al-Sabah, Information Minister and State Minister for Youth Mohammad Al-Jabri, Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of State for Services Jeman Boushehri, and Oil Minister and Minister of Electricity and Water Bakheet Al-Rasheedi. His Highness also sent thanks and appreciation cables to the Director-General of Kuwait Fire Service Directorate Lieutenant-General Khaled Al-Mekrad and the Director-General of Kuwait Municipality Ahmad Al-Manfouhi.

His Highness the Amir reiterated his utmost gratitude and appreciation to the top state officials and fellow employees for all their efforts in dealing with the aftermath of heavy rainfall and storms that swept across Kuwait and the region. He also thanked them for their keenness on preserving public and private properties. His Highness valued such efforts and coordination between

various state bodies, pointing out their significant role, dedication, and devotion in working around the clock in light of severe weather conditions. Furthermore, His Highness the Amir reiterated his thanks and gratitude to fellow citizens for their cooperation with government



Citizens' cooperation with govt extolled

bodies and public teams, and said the Kuwaiti people embodied the spirit of cooperation and unity, for which they are known in hard times and good ones. Moreover, His Highness also expressed his utmost thanks and appreciation to Arab states for their good sentiments with Kuwait in facing the inclement weather, and for their brotherly initiatives to provide aid and support to overcome the difficult circumstances. His Highness the Amir prayed to Allah Almighty to protect Kuwait from all harms and perpetuate the grace of security, safety, and prosperity.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Friday cabled Speaker Ghanem, expressing deep appreciation for MPs' positive interaction with repercussions of the recent weather conditions. His Highness the Crown Prince also addressed cables of appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali, Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad and His Highness



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak. The cables were also sent to ministers Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad, Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah, Saleh, Roumi, Dr Bassel Al-Sabah, Jabri, Boushehri and Rasheedi. His Highness also thanked Lt Gen Mekrad and Manfouhi.

In these cables, His Highness the Crown Prince expressed deep appreciation of the great efforts, exerted by the officials to cope with outcome of the rainfalls

for sake of safeguarding citizens and residents. Furthermore, he thanked the citizens for their fruitful cooperation with the authorities that were involved in facing the deluge. He prayed to His Almighty Allah to safeguard dear Kuwait and enable it to attain further progress and prosperity under the leadership of His Highness the Amir, the Leader of Humanitarian Action, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA

News in brief

Defense Minister receives well-wishers

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah will receive concerned citizens today, on the occasion of his return from a medical treatment trip. The reception will be held from 05:30 pm to 08:30 pm at the Army Officers' Club, the Ministry of Defense said in a press statement yesterday. — KUNA

Kuwait named to aviation post

RABAT: The air navigation committee of the Arab Civil Aviation Organization concluded yesterday its 40th meeting by choosing Saudi Arabia as chair and electing, uncontested, Kuwait as deputy chair of the commission. Abdullah Al-Rajhi, the monitor of air aviation for international relations at Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), said in remarks to KUNA that participants in the commission two-day meeting examined all topics on the agenda. All members named Kuwait as the deputy chair, he said, hoping that Kuwait's service in this post would contribute to elevating level of the aerial transports in the Arab countries. The commission's next meeting will be held in April. — KUNA

Kuwait welcomes indictments

KUWAIT: Kuwait welcomed recent indictments by Saudi Arabia's public prosecutor over the Jamal Khashoggi murder case, an official foreign ministry source said on Friday. Kuwait praised the public prosecutor's finding, which was a result of transparent investigations into the case and the Kingdom's commitment, under the leadership of King Salman bin Abdulaziz, to lay the foundations of justice, source said in a statement. The statement lauded Riyadh's keenness in taking legal actions against those involved in the crime, added the statement. Kuwait reiterates its confidence in Saudi Arabia's legal procedures, stressing the importance of refraining from using the case for political purposes, it noted. — KUNA

Schools open today

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Education announced yesterday the resumption of the study today in all schools of different stages of education, including kindergartens after the rehabilitation to schools which were effected by heavy rains in recent days. Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development and Activities Faisal Al-Maqseed said that the ministry was able, through the efforts of its members, to correct imbalance caused by the heavy rains in some schools. He noted that all the Ministry's schools in different educational areas, including Sabah Al-Ahmad area are fully prepared to receive students. — KUNA

\$42 million to UNRWA

NEW YORK: Kuwait's Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi has handed the UN Palestinian refugees agency (UNRWA) a \$42.1 million-worth Kuwaiti contribution to support its activities. "This takes the total contribution of Kuwait to \$50 million, making it one of the largest contributors to UNRWA in 2018," Otaibi said following his meeting with head of the UNRWA office in New York Peter Mulrean. He noted that the Kuwaiti aid was also meant to help UNRWA address its financial shortfall and continue its services to Palestinian refugees. "This contribution affirms Kuwait's continued backing to UNRWA's activities and educational, health and relief programs for over five million Palestinian refugees in its operation areas," He said. Otaibi reiterated Kuwait's firm support for the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people, particularly refugees. He emphasized Kuwait's backing and solidarity with the Palestinian people efforts to defend their just cause and get their legitimate rights. — KUNA

KAC Chairman extols govt effort during rainfall crisis

KUWAIT: Chairman of Kuwait Airways Yousef Al-Jassem has appreciated government's efforts in resuming operations at Kuwait International Airport following the recent rainfall crisis. In a press statement yesterday, Jassem praised efforts exerted by the government, headed by His Highness the Premier Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, as well as efforts of ministries and various government institutions to address the consequences of the accumulation of rainwater.

He said that Kuwait Airways has done its utmost in these exceptional circumstances, pointing out that six of Kuwait Airways' planes were surrounded by accumulation of rainwater during the past three days, forcing the company to cancel a number of scheduled flights because of the difficulty of operating the fleet and to overcome the crisis. He explained that full care was given to the passengers according to the company's policy, adding that some 1,330 passengers were given lodging at hotels in a number of external stations until they are returned to Kuwait or transferred to their destinations as of Thursday.

He stressed that Kuwait Airways has sought to prevent the delay of the movement of aircraft as soon as possible during the past three days, resulting, by the grace of God and by concerted efforts from government agencies, to able to put into operation the six aircraft which were surrounded by the accumulation of rainwater. Jassem said that all aircraft were temporarily transferred to T-1 building until the concerned parties finish processing the water-saturated areas and then give the green light for resumption of flights, thanking the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of Public Works in this respect. — KUNA



Chairman of Kuwait Airways Yousef Al-Jassem



Directorate General of Civil Aviation Chief Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah (second from right) is pictured with other officials.



Workers drain rainwater at the airport.



Officials pose for a group photo.

Local



KUWAIT: The Italian Air Force aerobatic team performed in Kuwait yesterday as part of the celebration of the Italian week. The Italian Air Force's Frece Tricolori display team is also scheduled to put on an airshow over the Arabian Gulf beach today near Kuwait Towers, the Kuwaiti Army announced yesterday. The show will start at 1:30 pm under the patronage and attendance of Kuwait's Army Chief of General Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khuder, the army said in a press statement, noting that everyone is welcome to attend. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Contract signed to build new educational museum

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Minister of Education Hamed Al-Azmi defended closing the educational and scientific museum due to construction faults and the falling of some parts of the ceiling of the natural history auditorium. Responding to an inquiry by MP Osama Al-Shaheen concerning suspending maintenance operations at the museum since it was shuttered, Azmi said that a public-private partnership (PPP) project contract had been signed to build a new educational and scientific museum because there was no economic feasibility in restoring the old building. Azmi added that a mobile van is being currently used as an alternative for student visits as the van tours various educational zones and schools where students can see various items displayed for their benefit.

Express logistics

In order to achieve HH the Amir's vision of turning Kuwait into an international financial and commercial hub, Kuwait has set futuristic plans to develop various strategic sectors and enhance their competitiveness

through several projects, such as developing ports, airports, roads and railways. Accordingly, an economic report titled 'Kuwait Express Delivery and E-Commerce Logistics Market Outlook till 2022' provides a comprehensive analysis of express and e-commerce logistics services in Kuwait.

The report focuses on overall market size for express logistics as well as e-commerce logistics in Kuwait, express delivery market segmentation by air express and road express, by delivery type (international express and domestic express), by business mode (B2B, C2C and B2C), Kuwait e-commerce logistics market segmentation by channel (e-commerce merchants and 3PL companies), by time duration (same day delivery beyond five hours, delivery within five hours and others) and by payment method (cash on delivery and others).

The report also covers the overall competitive landscape, growth drivers and trends and the government's role and regulations. The report concludes with market projection for the future and analyst recommendations highlighting major opportunities and threats. The report also predicted that in view of the rise in online shopping, e-commerce will grow to \$1.1 billion by 2020 and that logistics and storage markets will positively and annually grow by 9 percent during 2018 to 2022.

Indian power plant

The Resurgent Power Company, in which Kuwait Investment Authority is a major investor, recently acquired a 75.01 percent stake in Jaiprakash Associates'

1,980-megawatt Indian power plant. In this regard, Renascent Power Ventures; a subsidiary of Resurgent Powers, signed an agreement to purchase the shares from the lenders' group led by State Bank of India.

MEW loses KD 8 million

The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) recently lost over KD 8 million in fines and compensations ordered by final court orders in cases filed against the ministry over the past nine years (2009-2018). According to statistics presented by Minister Bakheet Al-Rasheedi on responding to an inquiry by MP Essa Al-Kandari, the largest amount in fines and compensations (KD 2,893,675) was paid in 2013-2014. Rasheedi added that MEW won 215 cases and lost 27 cases filed by companies or individuals. Rasheedi explained that the oil ministry has only lost a limited number of cases and paid only KD 1,230 in compensation, compared to the cases it won.

Housing welfare law

Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem listed six proposals to amend the housing welfare law that had been all rejected by the government on the National Assembly's agenda. Notably, the housing ministry had rejected a proposal to grant bachelor citizens older than 45 any housing loans on grounds that such a privilege will encourage more youth to remain unmarried. The ministry also justified the decision by the possibility of exhausting the Credit Bank's capital.

local spotlight

Are we doing enough for Kuwait?



By Muna Al-Fuzal

Muna@kuwaittimes.net

I was recently asked if I still believe in the important role of the National Assembly to improve the lives of people. I am convinced of the need for the existence of the Assembly, even if it has not achieved all the aspirations. Also, my personal view as a voter is that parliaments have always been modest and sometimes good in terms of performance and achievements due to political and societal realities. I believe that we should never doubt adherence to the constitution, because what makes us unique as Kuwaitis is democracy, the constitution and the National Assembly. The Assembly will always remain a Kuwaiti identity and we should never give it up.

I think that today we are facing a social dilemma, which is the gap between the people and the representatives of the people. Perhaps the most prominent example appeared with the heavy rainfall in recent days. People were expressing anger over water entering their houses and the damage they suffered to their properties and possible corruption in the implementation of projects. But complaining is not enough. There was no demand for exposing the truth and facts behind this damage, whether from the executors or the design or otherwise. After a few days of sunshine, people will forget about the matter.

The Assembly held a special session to discuss the issue and several parliamentarians expressed their anger and sympathy with people. Also, the speaker of the Assembly visited the residents of Sabah Al-Ahmad, one of the new cities that suffered considerable damage. I wished MPs would have toured all residential areas and not only the new ones to check the conditions of the people and the damage they have suffered materially and morally.

So what now? It is regrettable that many people are about to lose confidence and perhaps hope that the Assembly will play its desired role. But wishful thinking and turning good wishes into reality will not happen simply by talking, unless the people themselves start playing their part in accountability and following up with their representatives.

We are hearing a lot of resentment, as if our situation has become hopeless, and blaming everyone and everything starting from expatriates, the routine and the government for being the cause of corruption at a time when we must look within ourselves. How many of us have met the MPs of our constituency since the elections, and does the MP know that he has been chosen to be a representative of the people and not only his group? Have the people imposed their agenda for the sake of Kuwait and its sustainability?

I think the dilemma today is that many people have high expectations and wishes, but the reality is that the citizen is a partner and no less than the MP, as both represent the nation with different roles. I hope for all those who are dissatisfied with the performance of the Assembly to remember the basis of their choice of the representatives of their constituency. Let me tell them that we will keep complaining, as we have not done enough for Kuwait.

News in brief

Kuwait's ties with Egypt unaffected

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah has affirmed that relations between the Kuwaiti and Egyptian peoples cannot be strained with trivialities. The deputy minister made the assertion in a statement to the press, reacting to some rhetoric on social media. These relations have historic roots, he has affirmed, adding that the two peoples disregard any 'harmful rhetoric uttered by persons who represent only themselves.' "We are in contact with our brothers in Egypt to tackle any misunderstanding," he said. — KUNA

Publishers sign written affidavits

KUWAIT: The publications department at the Ministry of Information recently distributed written affidavits to representatives of publishers taking part in the 43rd Kuwait Book Fair, through which they undertake to abide by the lists of books approved by the ministry. This procedure goes against a promise previously made by the ministry, especially concerning allowing books approved in any of the GCC states. Notably, much debate had been made about banning books and protests were held, where protestors rejected what they described as violating their rights to choose what they read and called for scrapping censorship. — Al-Jarida

Divers remove fishing nets

KUWAIT: Kuwait Dive Team, affiliated with the Environmental Voluntary Foundation, removed abandoned fishing nets from nine-meters depth of Shuwaikh Port's waters in cooperation with Kuwait Port Authority. The nets contained hundreds of dead and alive fish and sea creatures, weighed approximately two tons, and were few meters away from Shuwaikh station for water distillation and power generation, Waleed Al-Fadhel, the team's leader, said yesterday. — KUNA

Beware of foreign objects after rain: Interior Ministry

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The relations and security information department at the Ministry of Interior (MoI) renewed its warnings to citizens and expats to avoid any foreign objects that might appear in desert areas following the recent heavy rains, and which may be part of hazardous military leftovers. Meanwhile, Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt Gen Essam Al-Naham, accompanied by Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs Maj Gen Hatem Al-Sayegh, inspected areas where water had gathered and oversaw how it was being removed. He inspected the Sabahiya and Mangaf underpasses and King Abdulaziz Road. Along with the President of the Civil Aviation Directorate Sheikh Salman Al-Hmoud Al-Sabah, he inspected airport runways and checked the damage. Nahham ended his tour in Souq Mubarakia and inspected old buildings that were affected by rain.

Bus fire

The public relations and information department at Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFS) said a bus caught fire while parked in an open area in Fahaheel, prompting firemen to respond as the flames spread to another bus. The blaze was put out and no injuries were reported.

1,819 calls

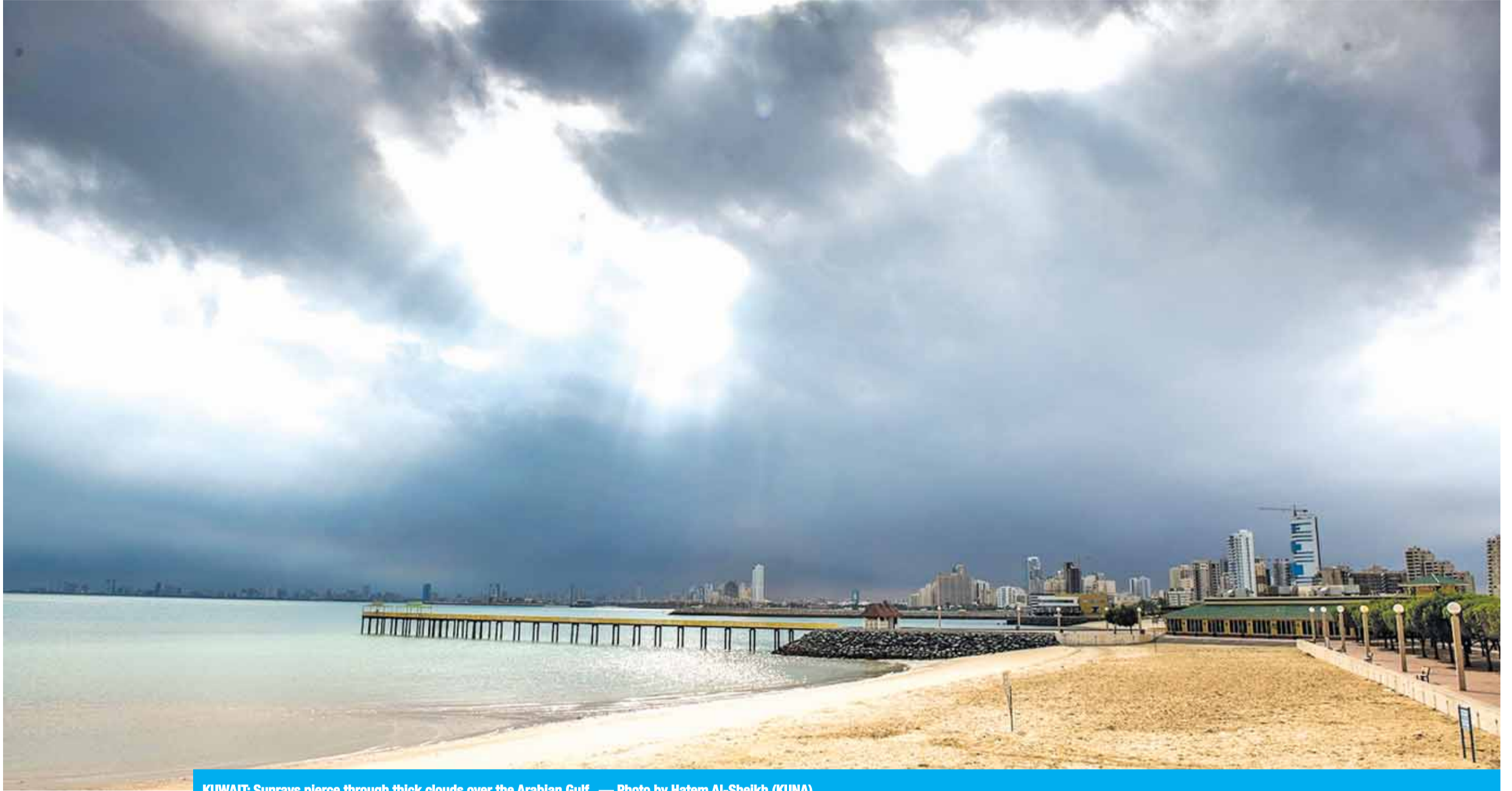
Kuwait Municipality Director General Ahmad Al-Manfouhi visited cleanliness centers in various governorates to make sure about their performance according to emergency plans. Manfouhi informed municipal workers about the gratitude of the His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Sabah to municipal employees for their work during the rain. He said the municipality received 1,819 calls at the operations room, drained more than 12 million gallons of water and removed 128,196 cu m of rubbish, trees and soil.



(From top) A rocket, landmine and grenade are seen after they were exposed due to the recent heavy rains.

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Sunrays pierce through thick clouds over the Arabian Gulf. — Photo by Hatem Al-Sheikh (KUNA)

Kuwait supports participation of Yemeni parties in Stockholm consultations

Kuwait reiterates support to South Sudan

NEW YORK: Kuwait expressed readiness to provide logistical support to ensure the participation of Yemeni parties in a round of consultations expected to be held in Stockholm. This came during Kuwait's speech at a meeting of the Security Council on Yemen on Friday by Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi, where he stressed the Kuwaiti support for the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the UN to Yemen Martin Griffith in this regard.

Otaibi affirmed Kuwait's belief that there is no solution to the crisis in Yemen except the political solution, expressing support for the political process to end the suffering of the Yemeni people. He pointed out the importance of complying with UN Security Council Resolution 2216 to guarantee Yemen's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and non-interference in its internal affairs.

Otaibi welcomed the announcement of the resumption of political consultations in Stockholm, and expressed his thanks to Sweden for its willingness to host these consultations. He expressed the hope that the Yemeni parties would be present in this round of consultations and engage in them in good faith and without preconditions, and dispel concerns about the repetition of the scenario of the Geneva consultations in September, which witnessed the absolute support of the Security Council and the international community.

Negative repercussions

The lack of participation of Al-Houthi delegation group has had negative repercussions on the course of the crisis, in addition to its catastrophic effects on various humanitarian, economic and political levels in Yemen, he added. The Ambassador hoped that the next round of consultations would lead to a political solution based on the three agreed terms of reference in order to stop this crisis and restore Yemen to its former status as a stable country that enjoys peace and security. He also expressed deep concerns about the humanitarian situation in Yemen, which threatens the imminent danger of food insecurity and the possibility of the occurrence of more than 14 million peo-

ple in the circle of the threat to the Yemeni people. This comes because of non-implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and the continuation of the armed conflict, which created a war economy, he added. The international community has a great responsibility to provide the necessary assistance to the Yemeni government to ensure the success of its policy aimed at supporting the national currency and to pay salaries to citizens throughout Yemen. Otaibi praised in this regard the great

“ No solution to Yemen crisis except political one ”

and continuous role played by Saudi Arabia and at various periods to inject financial deposits in the Central Bank of Yemen, where the total deposited about \$3.2 billion. He also praised Saudi and Emirati governments for providing \$75 million to support the salaries of more than 135,000 teachers in different regions of Yemen and in coordination with the UN and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Otaibi noted the continuation of the human suffering facing the Yemeni people, despite all the international community's generous financial and in-kind support, which was the latest donor conference for Yemen held in Geneva last April. During the conference, Kuwait donated \$250 million to UN agencies and organizations working in the field, in addition to the flexible and cooperative role of the joint leadership of the Alliance of Legitimacy Support in facilitating the humanitarian aid process. Otaibi said. He also welcomed the intention of UN Secretary-General



NEW YORK: Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi addresses the Security Council session on Yemen. — KUNA

Antonio Guterres to hold a conference to support the humanitarian situation in Yemen in February next year, pointing out Kuwait's aspiration to participate in it.

South Sudan

Meanwhile, Kuwait reiterated its keenness to support South Sudan peace process, expressing pleasure for decline in combat operations in the state. Otaibi affirmed in a speech during a Security Council that signing the agreement to resolve the dispute represent a new page in the country's history. At the same time, Otaibi

expressed his concern about the continuation by some people attempting to disrupt or threaten Sudan's safety and stability. He pointed out that there are still things that disturb peace in South Sudan such as the return of 4.5 million refugees, 70 percent of children are denied from accessing school and the high cost to get daily sustenance. He also affirmed that women deserve more participation in the decision-making process to promote peace and stability in the region. Otaibi called on parties that obstruct humanitarian efforts and aids to stop such practices. — KUNA

Amir's representative attends Ahmadi church inauguration's anniversary

KUWAIT: Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Amiri Diwan Affairs Minister Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, attended the 70th anniversary of the inauguration of St Paul's Church in Ahmadi on Friday. Archbishop Michael Lewis, Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf of the Anglican Church, delivered a speech in which he praised the Kuwaiti people and their spirit of tolerance and peaceful coexistence throughout history. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Amiri Diwan Affairs Minister Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah attends the 70th anniversary of the Inauguration of St. Paul's Church in Ahmadi. — KUNA

Local

Belgian university thanks Kuwait for support to Arabic language

\$17,000 donation to support VUB's Arabic language program

BRUSSELS: One of Belgium's leading universities, the Free University of Brussels (VUB), expressed its appreciation and gratitude to Kuwait for its support to its Arabic language program. This came after Kuwait's Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium, Luxembourg and NATO Jassem Al-Budaiwi handed the Vice Rector for International Relations at the VUB, Professor Romsin Meeusen, a donation of 15,000 euro (\$17,000) to support the program at a reception held on Friday evening. "We thank the VUB for running this very important program of teaching Arabic language, and we are proud to support them in this noble mission," said Budaiwi speaking at the reception. "Language forms an essential part of a human being's identity which leads to better adaptation and integration in any society. Opening our horizons to other societies and cultures is key to build stronger communities," he said. Budaiwi stressed on the importance of Arabic as a language of the Quran and of great poets, thinkers and scholars not only in the Arab region but around the world. "We are doing this for the first time but I assure you that we will continue to support you," added the Kuwaiti envoy.

“ Language essential part of human's identity ”

Meanwhile, Professor Meeusen said, "the teachers involved in this project are refugees with a teaching background and have a tremendous amount of experience." "Keeping them on requires the project to be sustainable from a financial point of view. The VUB Foundation has been active in this regard and we are grateful for donations such as this one from the Embassy of the State of Kuwait as it will keep the project running," he noted. "I hope that we can continue to collaborate with you in the future intensively as we are here for the people," added Professor Meeusen.

Sami Azar, the coordinator of the project, said that the program started in October 2016 with 164 children and has continued with 300 students now and with six teachers. "Our maximum capacity is 300 children and we have another 300 children on the waiting list," he said.

Besides children from Arab background, this year children from total European background also enrolled to learn Arabic, said Azar. The project has four centers in Brussels and every center has five classrooms with 15 children. Classes are held on weekends and Wednesday afternoons. The reception held at the VUB, was attended



BRUSSELS: Kuwait's ambassador to Belgium Jassem Al-Budaiwi with the teachers and staff of the Arabic classes in VUB. — KUNA

by some of the teachers of the program who shared their experience in joining such a program.

Teacher Halla Aboud said she teaches children between 8 and 9 years. "It is not easy to give lesson to children in Arabic as their second language," she said and thanked Kuwait for this assistance. Another teacher Roula Ibrahim said this help from Kuwait is great and valuable because we need such assistance to continue our project

to preserve our mother tongue. "We thank the Kuwait embassy and the state of Kuwait for their support to this project," she said. Professor Caroline Pauwels, rector of international relations in VUB, sent a letter to Budaiwi expressing her sincere thanks on behalf of the university and the program for 'your kind donation.' "I truly appreciate your enthusiasm for our project and we are grateful for the kind donation you made," said the letter. —KUNA

Publishers speak highly of Kuwait e-marketing of books

KUWAIT: Participants in the 43rd Kuwait International Book Fair (KIF-2018) on Friday reviewed ways to draw on Kuwait's experiment in online marketing. Traditional marketing of books and pre-paid ads are no longer effective in nowadays world where the internet, virtual communities and social networking website guide the readers' choices, they agreed at a lecture, held on the sidelines of KIF in collaboration with the Arab Publishers Association.

In his speech, Ahmad Al-Haider, a Kuwaiti author and co-founder of the online publishing house Platinum Book, attributed the massive spread of electronic marketing to the accelerated development of information and communications technology. The majority of prestigious publishing houses realized the declining influence of overt or covert pre-paid ads and turned to the social networking websites, he said. The Kuwaiti publishing houses were among the earliest ones which



KUWAIT: (From left) Kuwaiti author Ahmad Al-Haider, the lecture's moderator Hussein Ibrahim and founder of Huroof Cultural Center Razan Al-Marshad. — KUNA

realized the need to use online marketing to reach out to larger audience and new customers, thus reviving the book market, Haider pointed out. While marketing their books, the Kuwaiti publishers targeted celebrated intellectuals, popular bloggers and web activists, making overtures to them and offering them books free of charge, he added.

Razan Al-Marshad, founder of Huroof Cultural Center, a Kuwaiti online service, said the online marketing made great success in Kuwait thanks to the spread of web activism and easy access to social networking websites. However, there is a gap between the

intelligentsia and ordinary readers, which gave rise to a problem in online marketing: a certain community could find a book suitable while others think otherwise, she noted. While marketing their books online, Kuwaiti publishers had to work on two parallel lines, one targeting the intelligentsia and the other ordinary readers, Marshad added. At the end of the lecture, participants appreciated Kuwait's experiment and voiced hope for benefiting from it. Opened on November 14, KIF 2018 continues until November 24 with representatives of 505 publishing houses from 26 countries taking part. — KUNA

Dr Suad Al-Sabah publishes book on Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah

KUWAIT: Sheikha Dr Suad Al-Sabah published the first book in Kuwait documenting the era of former (fifth) Kuwaiti ruler Sheikh Abdullah bin Sabah Al-Sabah between 1866 and 1892. The book titled "Kuwait in the era of Abdullah bin Sabah Al-Sabah" sheds light on an important time in Kuwait's history that has not been documented before, Dar Suad Al-Sabah for Publishing and Distribution said in a press statement yesterday. The book includes the aspects of Sheikh Abdullah's personality and refers to the fact that he was one of the longest-ruling leaders of Kuwait. Sheikha Suad also shed light on the unstable and war-filled era of Sheikh Abdullah's ruling, and the "Trucial Coast" agreement signed between the UK and Gulf countries' sheikhs in 1861 during his time, allowing the UK to provide protection to them. Meanwhile, Sheikha Suad hoped the book would bring awareness of Kuwaiti youth to the efforts of the former leaders to shape the future of Kuwait and get acquainted with the hardships they faced in the process. — KUNA



Sheikha Dr Suad Al-Sabah



The book's cover.

Zain sponsors National Day of People with Special Needs

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced its main sponsorship of the special event organized to celebrate the National Day of People with Special Needs entitled 'Towards Distinctive Education for People with Disabilities.' The event was held under the patronage of Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Hamed Al-Azmi, with the attendance of the Honorary President of Kuwait Disabled Sports Club Shaikha Shaikha Abdullah Al-Sabah, the Assistant Undersecretary at the Ministry of Education Dr Abdulmohsen Al-Huwailah and the Director of the Special Education Schools Department Dr Salman Al-Lafi, with the participation of the Special Education Schools Activities Department.

Zain is keen on supporting such initiatives as part of its Corporate Sustainability and Social

Responsibility strategy towards people with special needs. The company will spare no efforts to take part in initiatives that celebrate the capabilities of people with special needs and their families and raise awareness about their cause within the community.

During the event, Zain organized a number of recreational activities to share the joys of this day with people with special needs and their families. The company was keen on contributing to making this event a success to celebrate the capabilities of people with special needs and empower them within the society.

Zain dedicates a great part of its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy towards people with special needs, including its participation at the Arab Day of People with Special Needs, sponsorship of the seventh annual RunKuwait charity marathon organized by Fawzia Sultan Healthcare Network (FSHN) aimed at supporting children with special needs in Kuwait. The company was also the strategic partner of the fifth consecutive edition of the Ideal Mother Award organized by Al Kharafi Activity Kids Center and aimed at shedding light on the distinguished efforts of mothers of children with mental disabilities. Additionally, the company regularly conducts visits to social care centers during multiple seasons all year round.



KUWAIT: Zain recognized for supporting the event.

KFH wraps up Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) concluded Breast Cancer Awareness campaign themed 'Be Aware' in collaboration with the Al-Salam Hospital and the Kuwait Red Crescent Society. This comes as part of the bank's social responsibility and efforts to increase awareness about breast cancer.

The campaign that coincided with the World Breast Cancer Awareness Month included a variety of awareness events and activities including offers and discounts, not to mention special discussion sessions and lectures to spread awareness among women in the society. Moreover, KFH presented a number of awareness programs and health tips on its social media platforms.

It is worth noting that KFH is keen on participating in the health events and activities. This incarnates the Bank's leading role in social responsibility. KFH bolsters efforts that aim at preventing Kuwait society from the serious impact of diseases while raising the awareness of the importance of healthy life.



International

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2018



Almost 30,000 Afghan troops die since 2015

Trying to make Yemen child smile is 'like tickling a ghost'

Page 7

Page 9



ISTANBUL: People hold banners of Jamal Khashoggi during a symbolic funeral prayer for the Saudi journalist, killed and dismembered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in October, at the courtyard of Fatih mosque in Istanbul. — AFP

Funeral prayers held for Khashoggi

Remains still unknown; Turkey still unsatisfied

JEDDAH: Family and friends of Jamal Khashoggi said funeral prayers in Saudi Arabia and Turkey on Friday for the Saudi journalist killed by agents of his own government, in a case that has sparked a global outcry and mired the kingdom in crisis. The Saudi public prosecutor said on Thursday it would seek the death penalty for five suspects in the murder inside the country's Istanbul consulate on Oct. 2. They did not provide names but at least two are senior officials closely associated with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

In an unusual measure against an important security and economic partner, the US Treasury imposed economic sanctions on 17 Saudis, including Saud Al-Qahtani, the crown prince's former top adviser. Riyadh maintains that Prince Mohammed had nothing to do with the murder, even as Turkey and some Western allies, including US President Donald Trump, have said ultimate responsibility lies with him as the country's de facto ruler. Changing Saudi accounts of the murder, including initial denials, have been met with scepticism abroad.

Tens of thousands of worshippers at Makkah's Grand Mosque and the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah, Khashoggi's hometown, joined in prayers for the deceased, though the imams did not name him. In Istanbul, mourners raised their hands in prayer outside Fatih Mosque. An imam recited Quranic verses under a tent set up to protect against the rain, and Khashoggi's friends eulogized him. "What we heard yesterday from the Saudi public prosecutor is not the justice we were expecting or waiting for, but represents injustice itself," said Ayman Nour, a liberal Egyptian politician.

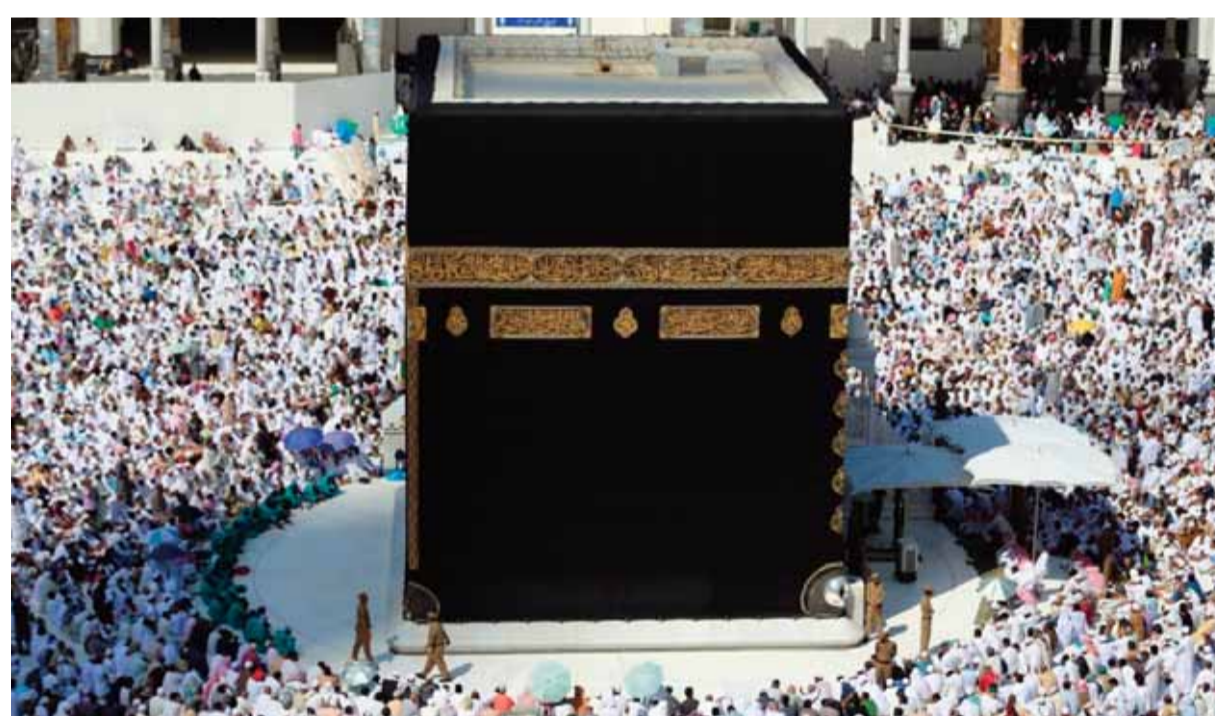
An adviser to Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan called for Prince Mohammed to distance himself from the legal proceedings. "There is no chance to have a court proceeding that is independent from the crown prince in Saudi Arabia," said Yasin Aktay. For weeks, Khashoggi's

family has urged Saudi and Turkish authorities to find his remains and hand them over for burial, but the Saudi prosecutor said their whereabouts are unknown. Islamic tradition places immense importance on the proper handling of the dead, mandating quick burial. The revelation that the body was dismembered has thus been particularly disturbing.

The decision to hold prayer services in the absence of a body suggests the family does not expect it to be recovered. Khashoggi's son, Salah, met the king and crown prince in Riyadh last month to receive condolences along with other relatives. He then departed for Washington after a travel ban was lifted and told CNN on Nov. 5 that he wanted to bury his father in Madinah with the rest of the family. "We just need to make sure that he rests in peace," Salah said. "Until now, I still can't believe that he's dead. It's not sinking in with me emotionally."

Khashoggi's fiancée, Hatice Cengiz, a Turkish researcher who had waited outside the Istanbul consulate for hours on the day he was killed and alerted the authorities and the media when he never left the building, called last week for Muslims around the world to perform the funeral prayer for him. On Thursday, she tweeted a selfie of Khashoggi outside the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah mosque, writing: "Dear Jamal, rest in peace. We will meet in heaven inshallah (God willing)..." Cengiz and Khashoggi met at a conference in Istanbul in May and soon decided to wed. He had entered the consulate that day to obtain documents proving an earlier marriage had ended.

The pair purchased an apartment in Istanbul and Khashoggi was planning to live between there and Washington, where he moved 18 months earlier fearing reprisals for his views. He obtained US residency and wrote for the Washington Post, becoming familiar to many American policymakers. "I have left my home, my family and my job, and I am raising my voice. To do otherwise



MAKKAH: Muslims gather around the Kaaba, Islam's holiest shrine, at the Grand Mosque in, Islam's holiest shrine, at the Grand Mosque in Saudi Arabia's holy city of Makkah on November 16, 2018, to take part in the absentee funeral prayer for Saudi journalist Jamaal Khashoggi. — AFP

would betray those who languish in prison," he wrote in Sept 2017, referring to intellectuals, activists and clerics arrested under Prince Mohammed.

His murder has provoked the biggest political crisis in a generation for Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter and a supporter of Washington's plans to

contain Iranian influence across the Middle East. It has also tarnished the image of Prince Mohammed, who has pushed social and economic reforms while cracking down on dissent, upending the delicate balance inside the ruling family, and leading the country into messy conflicts in Yemen and Qatar. — Reuters

A vote reversed: What is the path back from Brexit?

LONDON: To leave, or not to leave: More than two and a half years since the United Kingdom voted to exit the EU, that is still the question. The crisis in Prime Minister Theresa May's government over her draft Brexit divorce deal has stirred interest in the possibility that the United Kingdom could change its mind, or "regrexit". In the June 23, 2016 referendum, 17.4 million voters, or 52 percent, backed Brexit while 16.1 million, or 48 percent, backed staying in the bloc. But ever since, opponents of Brexit have been exploring ways to hold another referendum. May has repeatedly said there will not be another referendum on membership and the leader of the main opposition party, Jeremy Corbyn, has indicated he is also not in favor. So what is the path to a second vote?

May's Brexit plan fails

The first step, according to campaigners, is that parliament rejects May's draft divorce deal. To leave the EU on the terms of her deal, May would need the backing of parliament. The size of the rebellion inside her Conservative Party and the anger of her allies in the Northern Irish Democratic Unionist Party indicate she would have trouble passing the deal, even with significant support from Labour Party lawmakers. "I sus-

pect it will get to parliament and parliament will vote it down and once that happens it will be game on for a People's Vote," said Hugo Dixon, deputy chair of the People's Vote campaign group, which wants another referendum. "Voting down a deal does not mean we crash out no deal at all: it means we are highly likely to move to a People's Vote with an option to stay in the EU," Dixon said. "The no deal scenario is not likely."

UK political crisis

The collapse of May's deal would thrust the United Kingdom deeper into crisis. Three of the four former British prime ministers still alive - John Major, Tony Blair and Gordon Brown - have said a second referendum is the way to resolve the crisis. "I still believe it is possible that Brexit is stopped," Blair told Reuters last month. The opposition Labour Party, which is also divided over Brexit, has indicated it would seek to trigger a national election if May failed to get parliamentary approval. But to secure an election, two thirds of the 650 lawmakers in parliament would have to vote for one. Another way is if a motion of no confidence in the government is passed. There is then a 14-day grace period in which to pass an act of confidence in a new government. If there is no vote of confidence in that new government, then a new election must be held within about 17 working days, according to the Institute of Government. Brexit campaigners think Labour would fail to trigger an election.

After that would have been weeks of crisis and the failure of various other options - an election, a new prime minister, attempts to renegotiate with the EU - parliament would finally demand a new referendum. The exact mechanism is unclear

but lawmakers could vote for a motion calling for a new referendum as a way out of the deadlock. That would have to be backed up by legislation calling a referendum.

Asking the EU for time

Holding a referendum would take months so the European Union would have to be asked for more time as the United Kingdom is currently on course to leave at 2300 GMT on March 29, 2019. Key to asking for more time is the question of whether the United Kingdom could withdraw Article 50 of the Treaty of Lisbon nearly two years after May invoked it. As the clause has never been used before, lawyers have a diverse range of opinions on its reversibility or not. But the British diplomat who drafted the clause, John Kerr, has repeatedly argued that it can be reversed. "The die is not irrevocably cast, there is still time and, until the UK has left the EU, the Article 50 letter can be withdrawn," Kerr, who was British ambassador to the EU from 1990 to 1995, said in "The Roadmap to a People's Vote". Judges at the European Union's highest court will hear a case on the Brexit process on Nov 27, reviewing whether Britain could unilaterally withdraw its decision to leave the EU.

What would the people say?

Unclear. Many supporters of Brexit say that holding such a vote would thrust the United Kingdom into its biggest ever constitutional crisis, and possibly even provoke disorder. While polls and academic research show that the country remains divided, a survey of 20,000 voters published this month showed it would vote to stay in the EU. Many surveys

ahead of the vote incorrectly predicted that Britain would vote to stay in the club it joined in 1973. But a vote to leave in a second referendum would surely mean the country would have to leave.

What would be on ballot?

It's not clear, of course. Jo Johnson, younger brother of Boris, resigned from the government earlier this month, calling for another referendum. People should be asked "whether they want to go ahead with Brexit now that we know the deal that is actually available to us, whether we should leave without any deal at all, or whether people on balance would rather stick with the deal we already have inside the European Union", he said. Supporters of Brexit say having two options for Brexit and one for remain would be unfair as it would split the vote for Brexit.

Love EU again?

The prospect of the world's fifth largest economy returning to the fold would surely be welcomed by most EU leaders. European Council President Donald Tusk said this week that the EU is prepared to cancel Brexit. French President Emmanuel Macron, for example, has suggested Britain could still change its mind.

Opponents of the idea of a second referendum say it would not solve anything even if voters chose to stay in the EU. Supporters of Brexit would then demand a third, decisive referendum to resolve the question that has haunted the United Kingdom since it lost its empire: Should it go it alone or partner with the European project? — Reuters

International

Major powers set to clash as world chemical weapons watchdog meets

OPCW risks becoming a 'sinking Titanic,' Moscow warns

THE HAGUE: Global powers are set to clash next week as the world's chemical arms watchdog meets for the first time since it was rocked by allegations of Russian spying. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague faces difficult talks over a new investigative team that will start work next year to apportion blame for attacks in Syria. Moscow has warned the OPCW risks becoming a "sinking Titanic" over new powers which would also allow it to probe incidents like the Salisbury nerve agent attack on a Russian double agent.

But the darkest shadow over the meeting will be the expulsion of four Russians accused by Dutch authorities in October of trying to hack into the watchdog's computer system. New OPCW director-general Fernando Arias admitted in an interview with AFP on Monday that the watchdog was "going through a difficult moment" given recent events. Key member states including Russia, the United States, Britain and France will all be able to have their say during the meeting, as will all 193 countries involved in the body.

Former Spanish diplomat Arias, who took over as chief earlier this year and will give the opening address at the meeting on Monday, insisted however that the toxic arms body was "more needed than ever". Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013, the OPCW is respon-

sible for upholding the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention to end the use of all toxic arms. So far it says it has overseen the destruction of 96.5 percent of the world's chemical arms stocks. "The main goal is to consolidate the organization and think that more than 21 years of success has to be preserved," Arias said.

'Very strong team'

But in recent years it has seen its role expand to cover the investigation of a wave of chemicals attacks in the Syrian civil war, as well as the March 2018 Salisbury attack and the 2017 killing in Malaysia of a half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Top of the agenda this week will be discussions on how to implement the new powers that member states agreed on at a special meeting in June to let the OPCW attribute blame for attacks.

Arias said the that the OPCW was setting up a "very small but very strong team that will be in charge of identifying the perpetrators in Syria", involving around nine or ten members. The head of the team had already been picked and it would start work early next year, with a mandate to go back and try to point the finger for all chemical attacks in Syria since 2013. The OPCW is due soon to release a full report on a chemical attack in the Syrian town of Douma in April. An interim report said chlorine was detected but not nerve agents. — AFP



Darkest shadow will be expulsion of four Russians



THE HAGUE: Photo shows the headquarters of Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). Global powers are set to clash next week as the world's chemical arms watchdog meets for the first time since it was rocked by allegations of Russian spying. — AFP

Thirty-seven dead in CAR clashes

BANGUI: At least 37 people were found dead in a town in restive Central African Republic, the UN said Friday, after clashes between Christian and Muslim-dominated militias that saw a church torched in the latest surge of sectarian violence. Church sources had previously said a priest was killed in the violence, which sparked on Thursday in the central town of Alindao when Christian militiamen, known as anti-balaka, killed Muslims prompting revenge attacks.

The UN on Friday said 37 deaths were confirmed in Alindao, while some 20,000 people were affected by the violence, which forced "thousands" to flee. "This vicious cycle of repeated attacks against civilians is unacceptable. Civilians want security, peace and a future," said Najat Rochdi, UN humanitarian coordinator in the CAR. One of the world's poorest nations despite a rich supply of diamonds and uranium, the CAR has struggled to recover from a 2013 civil war that erupted when President Francois Bozize, a Christian, was overthrown by mainly Muslim Seleka rebels.

In response, Christians, who account for about 80 percent of the population, organised vigilante units dubbed "anti-balaka". Alindao is a stronghold of the Union for Peace in CAR (UPC) Muslim militia that has its roots in the Seleka group. It has witnessed chronic fighting in recent months that has also killed two UN soldiers and a humanitarian aid worker. Earlier, Vladimir Monteiro, spokesman for the UN peacekeeping mission Minusca, told AFP that the Christian anti-balaka had killed Muslims and an hour later, "the UPC responded by attacking a camp for displaced people" in Alindao. The church in Alindao and a part of the camp were burnt.

"Part of the population fled to the bush. Hundreds of displaced people have found shelter at Minusca's forward operating base" in the region, Monteiro added. A church source in the capital Bangui said one priest was among those who died in the clashes, while another has been missing since the violence. Alindao lies on a critical route traversing the south and east of the country and is in the heart of a region numerous gold and diamond mines that have helped fuel the conflict.

In September, the UN warned of a "disastrous" humanitarian situation in the region, which it said was under the control of armed groups. The country of 4.5 million people has been blighted by simmering sectarian violence since 2013 that has killed thousands. The state controls only a small part of CAR's national territory. Armed groups clash in the provinces for control of resources, including diamonds, gold and livestock. — AFP

In first, US votes against UN censure of Israel over Golan

UNITED NATIONS: For the first time, the United States voted Friday against an annual UN resolution condemning Israel's occupation of the Golan Heights, dropping its practice of abstaining in the vote. The non-binding resolution was adopted in a General Assembly committee by a vote of 151 to 2, with the United States and Israel the only two countries opposing the measure. Fourteen countries abstained. US Ambassador Nikki Haley called the resolution "useless" and "plainly biased against Israel," citing concerns about Iran's military role in Syria to oppose the measure.

"Further, the atrocities the Syrian regime continues to commit prove its lack of fitness to govern anyone.

Trying to make Yemen child smile is 'like tickling a ghost'

UNITED NATIONS: United Nations food chief David Beasley spotted a tiny foot sticking out from under a blanket in a hospital in Yemen that has been overwhelmed with malnourished children, so he tried to bring a smile to the face of the small patient. "It was just like tickling a ghost," Beasley, executive director of the World Food Program, told reporters in New York on Friday after returning from a three-day visit to the war-torn, impoverished Arabian Peninsula country. Beasley recounted a conversation he had with a doctor at the hospital in the country's capital Sanaa: "He said 'every day about 50 children are brought to us. We have to send 30 home to die. We can only accommodate 20.'"

Beasley will brief the UN Security Council on Friday with UN aid chief Mark Lowcock and UN Yemen envoy Martin Griffiths, who is trying to broker peace in the more than three-year con-

flict seen as a proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran. A Saudi-led military coalition intervened in Yemen in 2015, backing government forces fighting the Iran-allied Houthi group. The Houthis now rule most of Yemen's population, while the exiled government controls a section of the south.

The country's economy is in crisis and three-quarters of Yemen's population, or 22 million people, require aid. Some 8.4 million are on the brink of starvation, though Lowcock has warned that will likely rise to 14 million. "This is not on the brink of a catastrophe. This is a catastrophe," Beasley said. "You cannot solve the humanitarian crisis in Yemen today with humanitarian response alone. It's now going to require an economic infusion of substantial liquidity. Both are going to be required to avert a famine," he said.

Yemen's rial has lost more than half its value against the US dollar since the start of the war. Soaring prices have put some basic commodities out of reach for many Yemenis and the central bank has struggled to pay public-sector salaries on which many depend as foreign exchange reserves dwindle. Beasley also visited Yemen's main port city Hodeidah, which handles 80 percent of the country's food imports and aid supplies. The Saudi-led coalition



AL HAJJAH: A Yemeni woman carries her child who is suffering from severe malnutrition at a hospital in the northern district of Abs in Yemen's northwestern Hajjah province. — AFP

has ordered a halt in a log-running offensive against the Houthis in Hodeidah, sources said on Thursday.

"That port has got to be protected at all costs," Beasley said. "We are prepared, if necessary, if all parties desire, for the U.N. to take over the operational capacity of the port. We are prepared to do that, we do not want to do

that, but if that's what it takes we will do it," he said. Beasley also spoke about seeing an eight-month-old baby boy at the hospital in Sanaa who weighed a third of what he should. His mother had driven hundreds of miles through military checkpoints to get him medical help. "The little boy died yesterday," he said. — Reuters

Jailed war criminal Mladic 'sends kisses' live on Serb TV

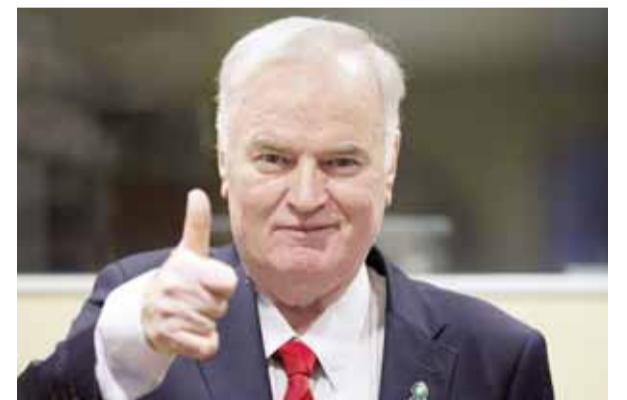
BELGRADE: Bosnian Serb army chief Ratko Mladic, sentenced to life imprisonment for genocide, spoke live by telephone to a Serbian television channel from a Dutch jail Friday saying he was sending kisses, sparking outrage and increased monitoring from authorities. It was the first time Serbs have heard the voice of the man once dubbed the Butcher of Bosnia since he was convicted in November 2017 for war crimes and genocide. "Grandpa Ratko sends you kisses," the 75-year-old told the Happy commercial station. Mladic was found guilty notably over the 1995 Srebrenica genocide - Europe's worst slaughter since World War II. Serb forces led by Mladic killed more than 8,000 Muslim men and boys.

Mladic's son Darko Mladic phoned him in jail Friday during a TV show and put the call on speaker. Serbian ultra-nationalist leader Vojislav Seselj, also condemned

for war crimes, was present in the studio amid a cheerful atmosphere. "Tell Voja (Seselj) to come and see me to play chess, the last time I beat him 7-1," Mladic joked with a trembling but also gleeful voice from his cell in the seaside resort of Scheveningen. Mladic never admitted his guilt while many Serbs in both Bosnia and Serbia still consider him a hero who defended his people. Bosnia's inter-ethnic war, that accompanied the collapse of Yugoslavia, claimed about 100,000 lives.

"Thank you general," TV presenter Milomir Maric repeated. "I hail notably Russia ... the communist party of the Soviet Union ... of Russia," Mladic said correcting himself during the nearly three-minute conversation. The Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT), which has taken over from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), said that Mladic was not given a necessary prior approval to contact the media. "There are reasonable grounds to believe that the detainee may have committed an offence," it said in a statement.

As consequence the MICT will listen and summarize his phone calls in the next 30 days, the statement said. Serbian authorities constantly deny the massacre was a genocide, a view repeated by Prime Minister Ana Brnabic in an interview with German Deutsche Welle



Bosnian Serb commander Ratko Mladic

this week, labeling it a "hideous crime, it was a war crime". "I am not happy because of it, (but) it wasn't done in the name of the Serbian people, and Serbs cannot be collectively blamed for what happened there," Bosnian Muslim leader Bakir Izetbegovic told N1 regional television that the radio phone in "rubbed salt in our wounds". In March, Mladic launched an appeal urging UN judges to acquit him on all charges. — AFP

Benin president's opponents claim political crackdown

COTONOU: Benin has a reputation as one of West Africa's most stable democracies but a series of court cases against opponents of President Patrice Talon has led to accusations that his rivals are being targeted, forcing some to flee the country. One of those opponents is former presidential candidate and multi-millionaire Sebastien Ajavon, who has been sentenced to 20 years in prison for drug trafficking.

Dubbed Benin's "Chicken King" due to his investments in livestock, Ajavon came third in the 2016 presidential election and went on to help Talon win the second round. But he made no secret of his desire

to contest the presidency again and their relationship soured. That is when, his supporters say, Ajavon's legal problems resurfaced. "The regime of President Talon is tracking down opponents," an official from Ajavon's political party USL, Donklam Abalo said. "His (Ajavon's) lawyers were prevented from defending their client," he said. Ajavon was sentenced in October despite being cleared of any involvement in the same drug case two years earlier.

After Talon, who made his fortune in cotton, won the presidency, he promised to stamp out corruption and mismanagement in the tiny West African nation. In recent months, former ministers accused of fraud have lost their parliamentary immunity. A special court to handle economic crimes and terrorism has been set up and already has a reputation for handing down heavy sentences. Controversially, its decisions are not subject to appeal. Some politicians have left the country, saying they are victims of legal "persecution" ahead of parliamentary elections next year. — AFP

International

As China-US friction rises, their armies hold joint disaster drills

Exercise comes amid growing Beijing-Washington tensions

NANJING: Soldiers from China and the United States wrapped up a week of joint disaster relief drills yesterday, in a display of cooperation against a backdrop of worsening ties between the two countries over trade, the disputed South China Sea and self-ruled Taiwan. Relations between the world's two largest economies have plumbed new depths under US President Donald Trump, who is due to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping at the G20 summit in Argentina starting late this month.

The exercise, held in the eastern Chinese city of Nanjing, comes a week after Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe and top diplomat Yang Jiechi visited Washington, where US officials urged China to halt militarization of the South China Sea. But there was no sign of those strains as Chinese and US soldiers simulated plucking people from earthquake-

destroyed buildings and treating survivors' injuries at a People's Liberation Army (PLA) base on the outskirts of Nanjing.

Troops practiced search and rescue in a small mock-up of a devastated urban area post-earthquake, using sniffer dogs and other gear to search for people buried in the fake rubble. "Only through more contacts, more exchanges and cooperation in areas of common interest can we effectively increase mutual trust and effectively reduce misjudgments," Qin Weijiang, deputy commander of the PLA's eastern theatre com-

mand, told reporters. "So I think bilateral exchanges can start from humanitarian and disaster relief exchanges and expand to other areas of common interest."

Robert Brown, Commanding General of the US Army Pacific, said the exchange was "extremely important". "Just as our top leaders work towards building a strong working relationship and understanding, we through confidence-building measures like this DME must also at our level build a strong understanding of each other," he added, referring to Disaster Management Exchange.

This is the 14th time the joint exchange has been held, which last year took place in the United States. China's defense ministry has said it hopes the military relationship can become a "stabilizer" for overall ties with the United States.

All the same, Washington and Beijing swapped barbs over trade, investment and regional security at an Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) summit on Saturday in Papua New Guinea. Regular drills and exchanges are helpful to bilateral relations, particularly at a time of increased friction, but they are not going to fundamentally change the direction that ties are headed, said Michael Chase, a specialist in China and Asia-Pacific security at the RAND Corp. "These exchanges remain important in that respect even if they aren't going to solve broader problems in the relationship." — Reuters



Military ties can be 'stabilizer' for relationship

News in brief

Syria jihadists kill 22

BEIRUT: Jihadists on Friday killed 22 regime fighters near a planned buffer zone around Syria's last major rebel bastion of Idlib, a monitor said. A September deal between government ally Russia and opposition backer Turkey aimed to set up a demilitarized zone around the northwestern region to protect it from a regime assault. But its implementation has been stalled since jihadists who hold around 70 percent of the planned buffer zone failed to withdraw by mid-October, and intermittent clashes have since rocked the area. Early Friday, jihadist groups attacked government forces in the northwest of Hama province near the planned zone, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Twenty-two regime fighters were killed in the attack, Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman said, explaining a previous death toll of nine increased after the bodies of missing fighters were found. — AFP

N Korea expels US citizen

SEOUL: North Korea said Friday it had expelled a US citizen who tried to enter illegally, an unusually swift resolution of a case that could have further complicated reconciliation moves between the two countries. The man, identified as Lawrence Bruce Byron, had been in custody after crossing into North Korea from China on October 16, the official Korean Central News Agency said. "While being questioned, he said he had illegally entered the country under the command of the US Central Intelligence Agency," KCNA said. "Relevant authorities have decided to expel him from the country." A man with the same name was arrested in South Korea while trying to sneak over the inter-Korean border in November last year. Byron, who is in his late 50s and from Louisiana, was later deported back to the United States. — AFP

42 killed in Zimbabwe

HARARE: At least 42 people were feared dead after flames swept through a passenger bus driving through southern Zimbabwe towards South Africa overnight, state media said. Many of the bodies were burned beyond recognition and more than 20 survivors were taken to hospital, the Zimbabwe Red Cross said. Photographs showed the bus's gutted shell on the side of a road in Gwanda district, about 550km south of Harare, Zimbabwe's capital. Police said there had been a leak in a gas canister being carried on the bus, state broadcaster ZBC reported. The force gave no immediate comment on what triggered the blaze, which erupted around midnight, Thursday into Friday, as the bus travelled from the city of Bulawayo to the South African border town of Musina. — Reuters

Israel PM takes over defense

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will take over the defense portfolio in his government after his defense minister resigned this week, a spokesman for his Likud Party said on Friday, fuelling speculation of an early election. Earlier Netanyahu met with key coalition partner Naftali Bennett of the Jewish Home Party, who had sought the post for himself, but the two men emerged without an agreement. Netanyahu's right-wing coalition government was rocked by Avigdor Lieberman's resignation on Wednesday in protest at a ceasefire reached between Israel and the Islamist group Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Lieberman's far-right Yisrael Beiteinu party has quit the coalition and its five MPs have withdrawn support for the government. — Reuters

Ivy League Dartmouth sued

NEW YORK: America's Ivy League elite Dartmouth College has been slapped with a \$70 million lawsuit by seven women accusing trustees of ignoring years of sexual abuse, harassment and rape of female students. The lawsuit, filed in a federal court in New Hampshire, alleged that three professors from the university's department of psychology and brain sciences perpetrated more than a decade of gender discrimination, sexual assault and harassment, despite trustees being aware of complaints. The suit is expected to revive debate about sexual boundaries at universities across the United States, which has come under renewed scrutiny in the wake of the #MeToo reckoning with sexual harassment. — AFP

CNN reporter returns to White House after pass reinstated

WASHINGTON: The White House agreed Friday to allow CNN reporter Jim Acosta back in after a judge ruled that the star journalist was improperly banned following a testy exchange at a press conference with President Donald Trump. Trump spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said "in response to the court, we will temporarily reinstate the reporter's hard pass." But she left open the possibility of seeking to remove Acosta's access later and said new rules would be imposed "to ensure fair and orderly press conferences." Trump said that "rules and regulations" were being drafted to govern such gatherings, where the president or his representatives often accuse journalists—Acosta in particular—of being overly hostile.

"We have to practice decorum. We want total freedom of the press," Trump told reporters, adding later in an interview with Fox News: "If he misbehaves, we'll throw him out." In fact, Trump himself frequently speaks harshly to reporters, for example last week telling another CNN correspondent several times that her question was "stupid." He also routinely describes journalists he does not approve of, and the media in general, as "enemies of the people."

Acosta often aggressively questions the White House on its attitude toward journalists and has been criticized even by some in the media for becoming part of the story he is meant to be covering. On November 7, the day he was stripped of his pass, Acosta had riled Trump by refusing to give up the microphone at a news conference when he considered that Trump was evading his question. Trump responded by branding Acosta a "rude, terrible person."

CNN cast the controversy as a question of free speech, which is protected under the constitution's first amendment. In his ruling Friday, Judge Timothy Kelly stressed that he had only found the procedure for expelling Acosta illegal and that free speech did not enter the equation. "I want to be very clear that I have not determined that the First Amendment was violated," he said in the Washington courtroom, adding that fur-

Democrat Abrams ends bid to become Georgia governor

WASHINGTON: Stacey Abrams, who aimed to become America's first black governor, said Friday she will not win her race to lead the state of Georgia, as she sharply criticized her Republican rival and accused him of voter suppression. "I acknowledge that former secretary of state Brian Kemp will be certified as the victor in the 2018 gubernatorial election," she said 10 days after the midterm election which saw the governor's race come down to the wire. Out of nearly four million ballots cast, Kemp leads Abrams by 55,000 votes, about a single percentage point. The race was too close to call for days, and Abrams had taken legal action to try and get every vote counted.

In a speech to supporters she aimed a stinging rebuke at Kemp, saying he had been "deliberate and intentional in his actions" to suppress thousands of votes. "To watch an

Brazil's politics a 'family affair' for Bolsonaro

RIO DE JANEIRO: With Jair Bolsonaro president-elect, and his three sons in elected office—Flavio in the Senate, Eduardo in the Congress and Carlos on Rio de Janeiro's city council—politics in Brazil is something of a Bolsonaro family affair. Last week, three of Bolsonaro's five children joined him at the Congress in Brasilia for a ceremony to mark the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the country's constitution. Carlos wasn't there, but Flavio, Eduardo and their younger brother Renan, still a student, were among those invited to the president-elect's meeting with Supreme Court chairman Dias Toffoli.

Toffoli was noticeably cool towards Eduardo, who mocked the court during the campaign, telling supporters that if the court tried to remove his father from



WASHINGTON: CNN White House correspondent Jim Acosta speaks to the media after arriving at the White House in Washington, DC. — AFP

other hearings would be held on that aspect. The US Justice Department's lawyer, James Burnham, argued that Acosta had "disrupted" last week's news conference and that "there is no First Amendment right to access the White House."

However, major media outlets took up Acosta's cause. Tellingly, Trump's most friendly outlet, Fox News, joined the suit calling for Acosta's pass to be returned. "We are gratified with this result and we look forward to a full resolution in the coming days," CNN said in a statement. "Our sincere thanks to all who have supported not just CNN, but a free, strong and independent American press." Shortly after the ruling, Acosta returned to the White House, telling fellow journalists that "this was a test." "Journalists need to know that their First Amendment rights are sacred," he said.

The spat over Acosta has prompted an unusually public show of unity between America's powerful media

organizations. Those backing CNN's court action included the Associated Press, Bloomberg, First Look Media Works, Gannett, the National Press Club Journalism Institute, NBC News, The New York Times, Politico, Press Freedom Defense Fund, EW Scripps Company, USA Today and The Washington Post.

"Whether the news of the day concerns national security, the economy or the environment, reporters covering the White House must remain free to ask questions," the media groups said in a joint statement. After the judge's ruling, the White House Correspondents' Association president, Olivier Knox, cheered a decision that "made it clear that the White House cannot arbitrarily revoke a White House press pass." "We thank all of the news outlets and individual reporters who stood up in recent days for the vital role a free and independent news media plays in our republic," he said. — AFP

elected official who claims to represent the people in the state baldly pin his hopes for election on suppression of the people's right to vote has been truly appalling," Abrams said. "As a leader I should be stoic in my outrage and silent in my rebuke. But stoicism is a luxury, and silence is a weapon for those who would quiet the voices of the people," she said. "And I will not concede, because the erosion of our democracy is not right."

Georgia's election earned a national spotlight this year when Abrams won an upset in the Democratic primary, becoming the first black woman to be a major party's nominee for governor. Celebrities including TV icon Oprah Winfrey, singer John Legend and actor Will Ferrell lent star power to the Abrams campaign as she nipped at Kemp's heels in the polls. The Democratic National Committee sharply criticized Kemp, saying "there's no question" that he along with Georgia Republicans "launched a years-long unprecedented voter suppression campaign that denied voters of their constitutional rights." Abrams, a 44-year-old Yale-educated lawyer, was a Democrat in the Georgia legislature for some 10 years, serving as minority leader from 2011 to 2017 in the traditionally Republican southern state.

She had been contemplating further legal action in the



GEORGIA: Combo photo shows Democratic gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams (left) and a Republican gubernatorial candidate Brian Kemp in Athens, Georgia. — AFP

race, but her legal burden would have proven extremely steep. In her speech she cited hours-long lines at polling stations, thousands of voter registrations frozen before the election, and polling sites shuttered. As secretary of state, Kemp oversaw election preparations and operations even though he was a major candidate. — AFP



President-elect Jair Bolsonaro

power, it would take just two soldiers to shut it down. The hint at a military coup rankled with the judiciary. Eduardo, along with Flavio and Carlos, all campaigned fiercely for their father—who takes office on January 1—backing his extreme right-wing views during the campaign, and are constantly at his side during the transition period. "It's the first time that we will have a president who will have a son in the Chamber and another in the Senate," said Sylvio Costa of politics website Congresso em Foco. "For sure they will have an influence on the government."

Flavio, a lawyer and the eldest at 37, played a leading role in his father's campaign after Bolsonaro was stabbed and seriously wounded during a September election rally. He rode a groundswell of support for his father all the way to a Senate seat. Carlos, 35, is an influential municipal councillor in Rio and has an aeronautical sciences degree. He is credited with playing a key part in maximizing his father's social media use during the campaign.

Seen as the most whimsical of the brothers, it's not clear whether he will be handed an official role in the new administration—but it seems certain Carlos will have continued influence on his father's online presence. A

lawyer by training, 34-year-old Eduardo easily won re-election to Congress after holding his seat in Sao Paulo with a record 1.84 million votes. He has been seen extensively alongside his father in Brasilia and will soon visit the United States as his father's envoy. Flavio, the most moderate of the three, posted a photo of himself and his brothers on Instagram, to silence rumors of conflicts between the siblings. — AFP

International

US, China in APEC cruise ship clash on trade and influence

Beijing, Washington cross swords ahead of summit

PORT MORESBY: China and the US crossed swords yesterday ahead of an APEC summit, dueling over protectionism, trade tariffs and "chequebook diplomacy" as they laid out sharply contrasting visions for the Pacific Rim region. In combative back-to-back speeches at a business forum held on a hulking cruise ship moored in Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea, Xi Jinping and US Vice-President Mike Pence pulled few punches.

The feisty exchanges laid the ground for what could be a fiery encounter between the Chinese leader and President Donald Trump at next month's G20 in Argentina. Xi lashed out at "America First" trade protectionism and in a thinly veiled swipe at Washington stressed that global trade rules should not be applied "with double standards or selfish agendas".

The world's top two economies have been embroiled in a spiraling trade war, imposing tit-for-tat tariffs on each other's goods in a confrontation experts warn could torpedo the global economy. Xi urged the world to "say no to protectionism and unilateralism", warning it was a "short-sighted approach" that was "doomed to failure". For his part, Pence vowed US tariffs would remain in place unless Beijing "changes its ways". "We've put tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese goods and that number could more than double," he told CEOs from around the region.

Amid fears diplomatic and trade friction could spill over into the military sphere, Pence announced the US would join forces with Australia in the development of a new naval base. And in a move likely to irritate Beijing, he also briefly met Taiwan's APEC representative. Trump decided to skip the summit in Papua New Guinea, leaving the door open for Xi, who arrived two days earlier for a state visit and has been the undoubted star of the show. Xi opened a new road and a school in Port Moresby, where he was serenaded by dozens of people from various tribes sporting parrot feathers, possum pelts and seashell necklaces.

The APEC summit of leaders from 21 countries across the region has developed into a tussle for influence between an increasingly assertive China and a more withdrawn US. This appeared to be borne out by the first "family photo" of leaders, which featured Xi front and centre while Pence was absent. But in his speech, Pence criticized Chinese largesse in strong

terms, mocking the Belt-and-Road initiative that sees the emerging superpower offering loans to poorer countries in the region to improve infrastructure.

The vice-president urged Pacific nations to embrace the United States, which, he said, did not offer a "constricting belt or a one-way road". He said the terms of China's loans were "opaque at best" and "too often, they come with strings attached and lead to staggering debt". "Do not accept foreign debt that could compromise your sovereignty," he said. "We don't drown our partners in a sea of debt... We don't coerce, corrupt, or compromise your independence. The United States deals openly and fairly."

As if pre-empting the criticism, Xi defended the plan amid attacks it is akin to "chequebook diplomacy" to further Chinese interests in the region. He denied there was a "hidden geopolitical agenda... nor is it a trap as some people have labeled it". And the Chinese leader warned that no one would gain from heightened ten-

sions between the US and Beijing. "History has shown that confrontation—whether in the form of a cold war, hot war or trade war—will produce no winners," he said. Pence too stressed that Washington wanted a "better relationship" with Beijing—if it respected its neighbors' sovereignty, embraced "free, fair and reciprocal trade" and improved its human rights record.

Officially, the leaders will discuss improving regional economic cooperation under the theme of "embracing the digital future" but the punchy speeches set the scene for a tense gathering. In the absence of Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin, the summit itself has been relatively low-key and the focus has turned to the venue Port Moresby.

The capital of Papua New Guinea has been ranked as one of the least liveable cities for expatriates, with a high level of crime, often perpetrated by feared street gangs known as "raskols". Delegates have been advised not to venture out alone—especially after dark—and officials and journalists have been hosted on massive cruise ships moored in the harbor due to safety issues and a dearth of hotel rooms. Nevertheless, in a last-minute change-of-heart, Pence decided to stay overnight in the city rather than fly in and out from Australia as originally planned. — AFP



Xi lashes out at 'America First'

Cambodia genocide verdict 'a signal' to other perpetrators

PHNOM PENH: The US has welcomed Cambodia's landmark genocide verdict and said it served as a warning that perpetrators of mass atrocities, "even those at the highest levels", will eventually face justice for their crimes. A war crimes tribunal in Cambodia found the Khmer Rouge's former head of state Khieu Samphan, 87, and "Brother Number Two" Nuon Chea, 92, guilty of genocide on Friday and sentenced them to life in prison.



Nuon Chea

The historic verdict comes nearly 40 years after the Khmer Rouge were expelled from Cambodia following a four-year reign of terror that left about a quarter of the population dead from starvation, mass executions, and overwork. "Their crimes were numerous, calculated, and grave," US State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert said, commending the courage of the victims and witnesses who testified during the trial.

"Let this be a message to other perpetrators of mass atrocities, even those at the highest levels, including former heads of state, that such actions will not be tolerated and they will ultimately be brought to justice," she said in a statement. Cambodia's neighbor Myanmar has come under fire in recent months for its handling of the Rohingya crisis, which United Nations investigators believe amounts to "genocide" given the atrocities perpetrated on the stateless Muslim minority. Myanmar has

denied the allegations but UN investigators have urged that the case be referred to the International Criminal Court (ICC) for investigation and prosecution.

Despite the show of support for war crimes prosecution, the US is one of the few Western countries that is not signed up to the ICC, which has a mandate to investigate the gravest offences including genocide and crimes against humanity. The country's refusal to be party to the body erupted again following an ICC request to open an investigation into alleged war crimes by the US military and intelligence officials in Afghanistan, especially over the abuse of detainees. White House National Security Advisor John Bolton called the Hague-based rights body "unaccountable" and threatened to arrest and sanction judges and other officials of the court if it moved to charge any American. — AFP

Almost 30,000 Afghan troops die since 2015



GHAZNI: Members of an internally displaced Afghan family sit on a truck as they flee from Jaghori district to escape ongoing battles between Taliban and Afghan security forces in Ghazni. — AFP

WASHINGTON: The death toll among Afghanistan's security forces is nearing 30,000 since the start of 2015, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has said, a figure far higher than anything previously acknowledged. Ghani appeared via video link this week at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, part of a university he once taught at as a professor of anthropology. Since the start of 2015, when local police and army units succeeded NATO as bearing responsibility for Afghanistan's security, "28,529 of our security forces have lost their lives and become martyrs for our freedom," Ghani said.

In the same timeframe, 58 Americans have been killed, he said. "I would like to salute the patriotism of the Afghan security forces,

every single one of whom is a volunteer," Ghani said. "We have no conscription, nobody is forced, and if there was not a patriotic impulse I don't think that people would sacrifice their lives for a pay of \$200." The rate at which Afghan forces are dying has long underscored the fragility of the country's security situation, the Taliban's continued strength and raised questions about US claims that the Afghan troops are becoming an increasingly effective fighting force.

In 2015, an estimated 5,000 Afghan security forces were killed and another 15,000 wounded. The toll increased in 2016 and appears to have accelerated again in 2017 and 2018, contradicting a claim by general John Nicholson, who recently retired as head of NATO and US forces in Afghanistan. In November 2017, he said casualty rates among

Afghan security forces had started to drop as the US increased the tempo of air strikes against the Taliban and as reforms kicked in. In a recent report, the US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) cited the NATO mission in Kabul as saying this summer's toll has been worse than ever for Afghan forces.

"From the period of May 1 to the most current data as of October 1, 2018, the average number of casualties the (Afghan forces) suffered is the greatest it has ever been during like periods," SIGAR said. Mattis this month said more than 1,000 "Afghan lads" were killed or wounded just in August and September. More than 17 years since the US-led invasion of Afghanistan, the conflict grinds on and America is trying to find a way out of the war. — AFP

Kuwait Times Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call: +965 248 35 616 / 617

E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net ads@kuwaittimes.net Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

FACTORY PRICES

ORCA OR-32EX30 LED 32" 29,000 KWD (was 44,000 KWD) SAVE 15,000 KWD

ORCA OR-40EX20 LED Gold Color 40" 54,000 KWD (was 74,000 KWD) SAVE 20,000 KWD

ORCA OR-55UEX30S 4K ULTRAHD SMART TV 55" 99,000 KWD (was 169,000 KWD) SAVE 70,000 KWD

best.com.kw

best.com.kw 1809 809

Kuwait 1 (the New str.) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Kuwait 3 (Souq Sharq) • Hawalli 1 (Tunis str.) • Hawalli 2 (Bin Khalid str.) • Shuwaikh (4th Ring road) • Al-Rai (4th Ring road) • Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) • Salmiya (Boulevard Mall) • Farwaniya (Behind police Station) • Fahaheel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op.) • Airport (Departure Hall) • Souq Sharq (Mezanine)

Analysis

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian GulfTHE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYANEditor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYANEDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24835619
COMMERCIAL : 24835618P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.netProlonged torture
that is Brexit

BC political correspondent Chris Mason stood outside of the mother of parliaments on Monday morning and said he didn't have the "foggiest idea" about where Brexit is going. Then he made what have been described as "exasperated noises" - and promptly became an online viral sensation. But Mason's exhalations were a disgrace for two reasons. There was much to explain about the UK government's draft deal on leaving the European Union, and many future possibilities to explore. More importantly, Brexit, for all of the chaotic politics it has provoked, is a genuine political argument conducted within the bounds of a robust democracy. Indeed, it is a sign of a robust democracy. To make exasperated noises about it is to mock the purpose of the famed public-service BBC in national life.

To be sure, the political process is chaotic, and at times alarming. At this stage in the prolonged torture that is Brexit, a plan has been provisionally accepted by the European Union, provisionally agreed by a majority in a split cabinet and is likely to go to a parliament which, at present, seems disposed to vote it down. The nay-sayers include the Democratic Unionist Party, the largest party in Northern Ireland, which has provided a slim majority to give support to Theresa May's Conservatives, but now seems too outraged by the implications of the deal for the province to continue.

To add strength to this view of the future, the cabinet has suffered a rash of resignations this week. One of those leaving is Dominic Raab, recently appointed as Brexit secretary charged with securing a departure deal. The government is being shredded bit by bit: The prime minister has retained the occupants of the three main offices of state - the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, the Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt and the Home Secretary Sajid Javid. If one of these goes, May's government is over. Even now, Brexiteers are striving to fire her. And the best analysts of the parliamentary arithmetic indicate her time in office will soon be over anyway.

Why? What is the plan to which so many object so strongly - and for such very different reasons? The overarching truth is two-fold. First, it is a highly temporary deal, with most of the technical details, especially on trade, still to be worked out in an extended negotiation period. And second, it constrains the UK, preventing it from making trade deals with non-EU states, as when it was a full member - but giving it no voice in the councils of the Union.

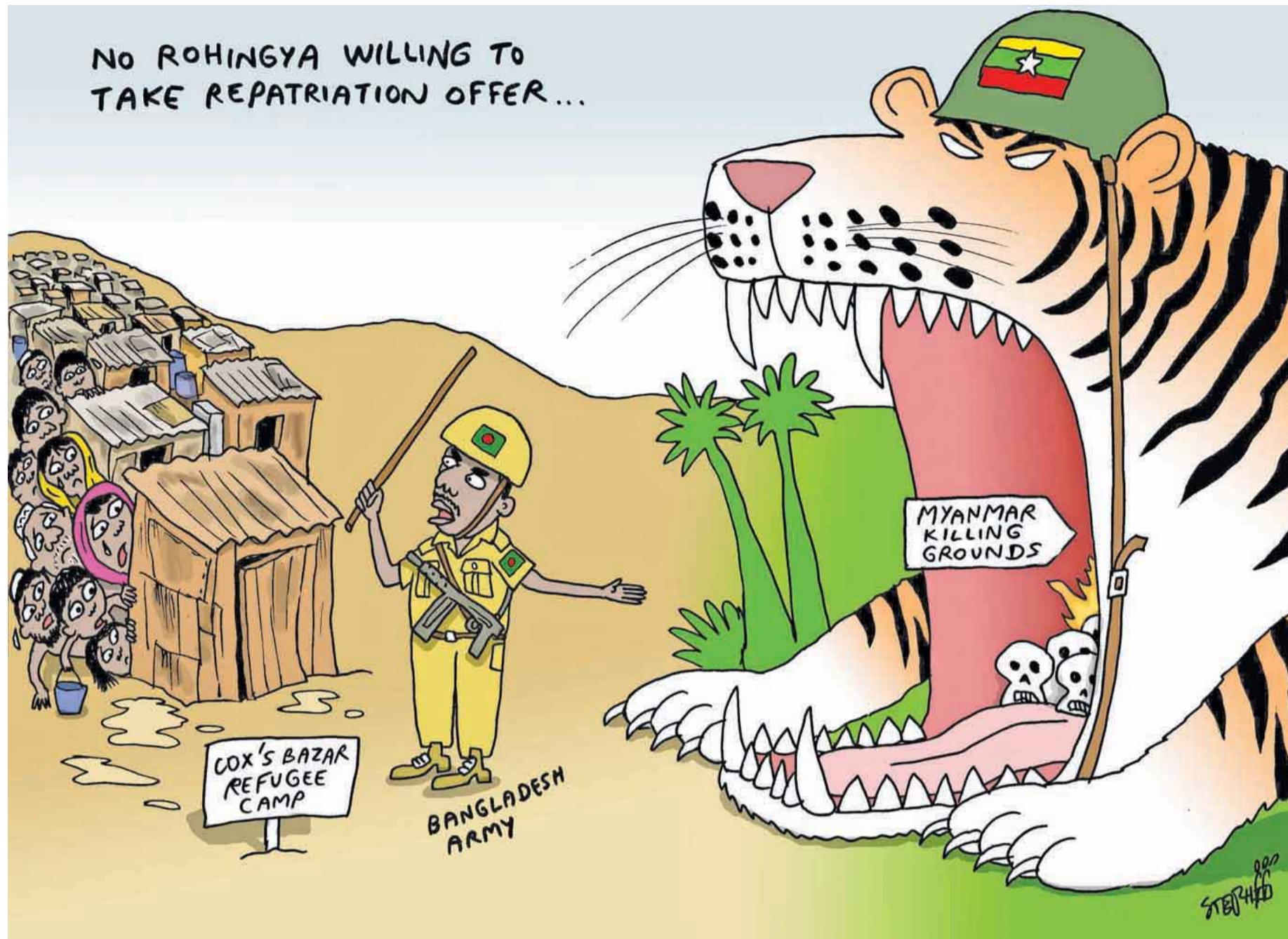
The UK will stay in a customs union, which will allow the continuing of frictionless trade between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. But Northern Ireland will be subject to a tighter regulatory regime than the rest of the country - a fact which leading Unionists in the province believe will hasten the break-up of the UK itself, and prompt Scots nationalists, who are in power in the Scottish parliament, to demand a separate deal - arguing that Scotland voted heavily to remain, and bolstering their demand for independence.

The plan has attracted opposition from pro-Brexiteers, who believe it imprisons the UK in a cage which the EU has constructed for an indefinite period. Former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson used his Telegraph column, and his Churchillian rhetoric, earlier this week to draw a picture of a country "in captivity", only now able to "savor the full horror of this capitulation". His younger brother, Jo Johnson, who is opposed to Brexit, resigned from his post as transport minister for some of the same reasons, calling the deal "an utterly abject and shameful national humiliation", and stressing that no deal could possibly be better than the country's membership of the EU.

The one political force which could save the deal is the opposition Labour Party - though hopes are very thin indeed. Most party members are for Remain, but its leader, Jeremy Corbyn, and his closest colleagues in the shadow cabinet are not: He told the German magazine Der Spiegel last week that "we can't stop Brexit". Though Labour's present position is that it will vote down the plan, and call for a government resignation and a general election, there are groups within the party who may defy the leadership and support the prime minister - yet probably not enough to counter the Conservatives pledged to vote against her.

Democracy, when passions and principles are aroused, is a messy business. That is especially the case when, as now, a large boil filled with anti-EU sentiment has been lanced, and the barely-suppressed animosity to the loss of sovereignty to a multinational union which seeks to be a European state has been fully roused. Like many of the British boomer generation, I had been a supporter of the EU - less for the UK, more as a capacious gathering of democratic states which could enfold the east and central European states once they sloughed off communism. In 10 years in the area as a correspondent, I thought, in the euphoric period after the end of the Soviet Union, that even Russia might come into membership.

No longer. Russia is using all of its considerable diplomatic skill to woo European states away from the EU, finding allies in Prime Minister Viktor Orban in Hungary and President Milos Zeman in the Czech Republic - and more recently, Italy's most powerful and popular politician, deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini, together with the extraordinary prize of US President Donald Trump - a populist International. French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Merkel continue to pursue - probably futilely - a more closely integrated EU, with the ambition of creating a European army. — Reuters



Washington Watch

Advocating for Palestinians has never been easy

By Dr James J Zogby

It has never been easy for Arab Americans to advocate for Palestinian rights and while we've made real progress, the challenges continue to grow. I learned early on that this wasn't ever going to be a fair fight. In their relentless effort to silence our voice, supporters of Israel waged a relentless campaign to delegitimize us. During the 1970s and 1980s, groups like the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and the American Jewish Committee (AJC) used the credibility they had earned fighting bigotry and injustice to defame and exclude us from political participation.

I remember when, as a young college professor, I first saw the write-ups about me and other Arab American colleagues in the books published by these groups - and how vulnerable it made me feel. It wasn't just the books, it was the way these groups used the defamatory descriptions of us that took a toll. When we went for job interviews, when we were invited to speak, or when we appeared in the media, the defamation preceded us.

In 1978, I was invited to the White House to an ethnic leaders meeting with Vice President Mondale. Three days after that meeting I received a call from the White House office that had invited me telling me that because they had received complaints from major Jewish organizations about me being a "pro-Palestinian Arab American" they wouldn't be able to invite me to any future meetings. The vice-president's staff was uncomfortable with what they had heard about me.

Much the same happened a few years later when a number of leaders from different ethnic communities attempted to form a council and invited me to chair a group dealing with negative stereotyping of ethnics in the media. Leadership of the ADL not only objected to my involvement and boycotted the meeting, but waged a campaign calling on others to join them.

We fared no better with liberals in the peace and human rights community. When the Palestine Human Rights Campaign applied for membership in the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy, we were told there had to be a vote among the existing member organizations. We won the vote, but nevertheless we were pressed

to withdraw our application because three Jewish organizations said they would withdraw in protest if we were admitted. Two years later, the same thing happened when the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee applied to the Coalition. We protested and insisted on a public meeting of the membership to make our case. Of the more than 50 groups in the Coalition, again only the same three objected. They argued that our entry would "discredit the Coalition in Congress" and would result in a loss of funds for their work. Liberals, being liberals, we were excluded.

In 1983, we were invited to join the 20th Anniversary of Martin Luther King's March on Washington. Once again groups allied with the ADL flexed their muscles in an effort to have us disinvited and to deny former Senator James Abourezk a speaking role at the March. This time, owing to the strong support we received from champions like Reverends Jesse Jackson and Joseph Lowery and Congressman Walter Fauntroy, we remained in the leadership of the March and Abourezk was given a speaking role.

When Jackson ran for president in 1984, appointed me as a Deputy Campaign Manager, included Arab Americans as part of his coalition, and raised the issue of justice for Palestinians, he faced tremendous pressure from supporters of Israel to drop working with Arab Americans and to be silent on Palestinian human rights. I was present at a meeting with Jackson and Senator Alan Cranston when Cranston, who was about to withdraw from the race, told Jackson that he would like to endorse him but couldn't because of his advocacy for Palestinians. When Jackson responded that his campaign sought to work with both American Jews and Arab Americans and sought to bring them together, Cranston scoffed, referring to me using the derogatory term - "crazy Ay-rab."

These are only a few personal examples of the efforts to defame and exclude us from political participation and to silence our voices. In 1986, the Arab American Institute published an extensive treatment of this history "The Politics of Exclusion." It records instances where: candidates returned contributions from prominent Arab American businessmen, because they raised the issue of Palestinians with the candidate; candidates rejected the endorsements of Arab American mainstream groups, or

were pressured to fire Arab American staffers because they were told it would cost them if they included the community in their campaigns.

Unique situation

When I look back at the progress we've made, I can't help but be proud because of the way our community persevered despite all of the obstacles we faced. When comparing our efforts with those of other ethnic communities that also advocate for their issues, it must be noted that our situation has been unique. In addition to dealing with all of the difficulties entailed in political organizing, we had to confront the additional challenge of a zero-sum approach to politics. For our seat at the table, we had to face down more powerful pro-Israel advocates who not only disagreed with us, but used their not insignificant influence to deny our very right to engage in American politics.

Today the challenges remain but have taken new and more ominous forms. Mainstream Jewish groups no longer publish their books targeting pro-Palestinian individuals and groups. Some have farmed the effort out to shadowy efforts they surreptitiously fund, like Canary Mission. Groups like the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) reserve their muscle for discrediting groups that have emerged within the Jewish community from the more centrist J Street to the more progressive Jewish Voice for Peace and IFNotNow - working to exclude them from spreading their influence in Congress, on college campuses, and within the Jewish community. Some of these groups also save their firepower to block presidential appointments or to silence Members of Congress when they fear that these individuals aren't "toeing the line" on unquestioning support for Israel.

Foes of Palestinian human rights have also fallen on a new and more ominous strategy to delegitimize and silence pro-Palestinian voices. The efforts to pass legislation like the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act and the Israel Anti-Boycott Act serve one purpose - that is, to silence critics of Israel's treatment of Palestinians by criminalizing criticism of Israel.

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

Indonesia's
mobs deliver
brutal 'justice'

It was just after dawn prayers when the caretaker at a Jakarta mosque noticed a man stealing from the donation box, prompting a furious mob to beat him to death - for taking the equivalent of \$130. The lynching was one of hundreds of vigilante killings across Indonesia in recent years, highlighting a brutal trend driven by rising religious conservatism and low faith in a corruption-riddled justice system. Mob violence has also been aggravated by rapid urbanization that brings together strangers from across the Southeast Asian nation in often poor, overcrowded neighborhoods, raising stress levels and fuelling mistrust, observers say.

The lynching had echoes of the grisly 2017 murder of 30-year-old Muhammad Al-Zahra who was set ablaze for allegedly stealing a mosque's amplifier in the hardscrabble Jakarta suburb Bekasi, as onlookers cheered and filmed the scene on mobile phones. As the electronics repairman pleaded for his life, insisting he was not a thief, the frenzied mob poured gasoline over him and took his life. His widow, who miscarried their second child days after his death, told reporters that her husband often fixed damaged equipment - including amplifiers - before reselling them. Half a dozen people were sentenced to between six and seven years in prison over the attack, as doubts about his guilt lingered.

'Lack of trust'

Stealing from a mosque is seen by some as an attack on

Islam itself, and helps explain the eruption of such violence in the world's biggest Muslim-majority country, according to Heru Susetyo, a law professor at the University of Indonesia. "Many vigilantes are Muslims who aren't necessarily that devout, but they are easily provoked by these incidents," he said. "They are even willing to commit violence for the sake of 'defending' Islam."

In the neighborhood where the more recent attack happened, one man said he understood the desire to punish those who steal from a place of worship. "(But) thieves should be caught and handed over to police," said Sahanan, who like many Indonesians goes by one name. Few in Indonesia, however, espouse any faith in the graft-riddled justice system. "The main problem is a lack of trust in the authorities," said Agustinus Pohan, a law professor at Indonesia's Parahyangan University. "Those with power or money get special treatment. That's why people refuse to trust the police and decide to take matters into their own hands." Another factor is the disproportionate impact of theft on the poor, who lack insurance or a cushion of savings - coupled with the relatively light sentences handed out to many petty criminals.

Culture of impunity

Indonesia's government does not release figures on mob violence. But according to World Bank data, the country recorded nearly 34,000 vigilante attacks involving serious injury or death between 2005 and 2014. The eye-watering figures - including over 1,600 killings - were based on local media reports drawn from regions which are home to only about half of Indonesia's 260 million people, suggesting that the real numbers could be even higher.

Sana Jaffrey, a University of Chicago doctoral researcher who led the World Bank team, said a range of factors were responsible for stoking mob violence, including poverty and a lack of trust in police. But she rejected

the notion that such attacks were spontaneous bursts of violence by a wild-eyed mob, saying they usually involved an element of planning and sometimes a powerful local figure. In July, a gun-toting village leader in East Java reportedly encouraged seven men to attack a suspected motorcycle thief with sticks and rocks before his gasoline-soaked body was set on fire.

"The police only take action against vigilantes when the victim of the mob does not fit the profile of a criminal and the family protests or when there is an ethnic angle... and they fear escalation into a larger, communal conflict", Jaffrey said. Although mob violence usually rises in lock-step with social and political chaos, Indonesia, which has transitioned to stable democracy over the past two decades, has bucked the trend, Jaffrey said. "More institutional stability and more (violence) - these two things don't go together in most parts of the world."

'Cooperation and respect'

Suspected criminals are not the only victims of mob justice in Indonesia. This year, half a dozen men beat and stripped a young couple before parading them naked around their neighborhood over suspicions the pair had premarital sex. In Aceh province, which is ruled by Islamic law, public humiliations by citizen groups - and sometimes even police - have become increasingly common. A viral video in April showed a young, unmarried Aceh couple being doused with raw sewage after they were seen alone - an offence punishable by caning in the conservative province. None of the young men who attacked them were punished.

Authorities say rising vigilantism is a grim indictment of Indonesian society rather than a reflection of their failure to deliver justice. "These incidents show that the social system isn't working well," said Jakarta Police spokesman Argo Yuwono. "We need to promote a sense of mutual cooperation and respect." — AFP

Business

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2018

12 Oil price rout takes a breather after OPEC+ mulls extension**13** Tajikistan launches \$4bn dam, intended to be world's tallest**14** KFH awarded 'Fastest Growing Debit Portfolio in 2018 - Kuwait' by Visa

PORT MORESBY: Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Yi Xiaozhun (second left), Asia-Pacific Chairman of PwC Raymund Chao (centre), Co-chairman of the Pacific Economic Co-operation Council Donald Campbell (second right) and Vice Chairman and CEO of the Federation of Korean Industries Tae-Shin Kwon (right) attend the APEC CEO Summit in Port Moresby, a part of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit. —AFP

No end to tariffs until China bows: Pence

Protectionism 'doomed to failure', says Xi

PORT MORESBY: The United States will not back down from its trade dispute with China, and might even double its tariffs, unless Beijing bows to US demands, Vice President Mike Pence said yesterday.

In a bluntly worded speech at an Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) summit in Papua New Guinea, Pence threw down the gauntlet to China on trade and security in the region. "We have taken decisive action to address our imbalance with China," Pence declared. "We put tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese goods, and we could more than double that number."

"The United States, though, will not change course until China changes its ways." The stark warning will likely be unwelcome news to financial markets which had hoped for a thaw in the Sino-US dispute and perhaps even some sort of deal at a G20 meeting later this month in Argentina. US President Donald Trump, who is not attending the APEC meeting, is due to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping in Argentina. Pence's warning yesterday contrasted with remarks made by Trump on Friday, when he said he may not impose more tariffs after China sent the United States a list of

measures it was willing to take to resolve trade tensions. Trump has imposed tariffs on \$250 billion worth of Chinese imports to force concessions on a list of demands that would change the terms of trade between the two countries. China has responded with import tariffs on US goods.

Washington is demanding Beijing improve market access and intellectual property protections for US companies, cut industrial subsidies and slash a \$375 billion trade gap.

There was no hint of compromise from Pence. "China has taken advantage of the United States for many years. Those days are over," he told delegates gathered on a cruise liner docked in Port Moresby's Fairfax Harbor.

He also took aim at China's territorial ambitions in the Pacific and, particularly, Xi's Belt and Road Initiative to expand land and sea links between Asia, Africa and Europe with billions of dollars in infrastructure investment.

"We don't offer constricting belts or a one-way road," said Pence.

While not referring directly to Chinese claims over various disputed waters in the region, Pence said the United States would work to help protect maritime rights. "We will continue

to fly and sail where ever international law allows and our interests demand. Harassment will only strengthen our resolve." Just minutes earlier, Xi had spoken at length about his initiative and the need for free trade across the region. "It is not an exclusive club closed to non-members, nor is it a trap as some people have labelled it," Xi said of his brainchild project. He also called protectionism a "shortsighted approach" that was "doomed to fail". "History has shown that confrontation, whether in the form of a Cold War, hot war, or trade war will produce no winners," said Xi.

Short-sighted

Protectionist actions are short-sighted and doomed to fail, Chinese President Xi Jinping said yesterday ahead of an APEC summit at which US-China trade tensions are likely to take center-stage.

"Attempts to erect barriers and cut close economic ties work against the laws of economics and the trends of history. This is a short-sighted approach and it is doomed to failure," Xi told business leaders on the sidelines of the summit. "We should say no to protectionism and unilateralism," urged Xi.

in a veiled swipe at the "America First" policies of the US administration.

APEC members the US and China have become embroiled in a trade war that experts warn could be catastrophic for the global economy, with the world's top two powers going head to head. The pair have imposed tariffs worth billions of dollars of each other's goods and there is little sign of an immediate easing in tensions, with both sides threatening to step up action if necessary. Xi said the world should "uphold the WTO-centered multilateral trading system, make economic globalization more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial to all".

With concerns growing that rivalry between the US and China could escalate, Xi warned against going down this road. "History has shown that confrontation—whether in the form of a cold war, hot war or trade war—will produce no winners," Xi said.

"We believe that there exist no issues that countries cannot resolve through consultation," said the Chinese leader, as long as negotiations take place in a spirit of "equality" and "mutual understanding." —Agencies

Rouhani sees Iran, Iraq expanding trade despite US sanctions

DUBAI: Iran and Iraq could raise their annual bilateral trade to \$20 billion from the current level of \$12 billion, President Hassan Rouhani said yesterday, amid concerns in Tehran over the economic impact of renewed US sanctions.

Rouhani's remarks, made after a meeting with visiting Iraqi President Barham Salih, came about two weeks after the United States restored sanctions targeting Iran's key oil industry as well as its banking and transportation sectors. "... through bilateral efforts, we can raise this figure (for bilateral trade) to \$20 billion in the near future," Rouhani said in comments broadcast live on Iranian state television.

"We held talks on trade in electricity, gas, petroleum products and activities ... in the field of oil exploration and extraction," Rouhani said.

Iraqi officials told Reuters last week that Iraq had

agreed to trade Iraqi food items in return for Iranian gas and energy supplies. Baghdad is seeking US approval to allow it to import Iranian gas for its power stations. Iraqi officials say they need more time to find an alternative source than a 45-day waiver granted to it by the United States.

"It will be important to create free trade zones at our shared border and to connect the two countries' railways," Salih said. "We will not forget your support for the Iraqi people in the fight against (Iraqi dictator) Saddam (Husseini). Neither do we forget Iran's stand in the recent fight against terrorism," added Salih, an Iraqi Kurd.

Iran wields wide influence in Iraq, its smaller Arab neighbor, where its Revolutionary Guards played a key role in training and arming the mainly Shi'ite militias that helped defeat Islamic State.

Iraq imports a wide range of goods from Iran, including food, agricultural products, home appliances, air conditioners and spare car parts. The goods element of Iranian imports to Iraq was worth about \$6 billion in the 12 months ending March 2018, or about 15 percent of Iraq's total imports for 2017.

Energy contracts also contribute to the total volume of bilateral trade. Iraqi central bank officials said in August that their country's economy was closely linked to non-Arab Iran, which is engaged in several proxy wars with Saudi Arabia in the region. —Reuters

France, Germany to present eurozone budget plans tomorrow

PARIS: France and Germany will lay out plans tomorrow for a limited joint euro zone budget focused, for now, solely on financing investment, French Finance Ministry sources said on Friday.

They will steer clear of more controversial plans for using the proposed budget to help euro zone countries in economic downturns as they seek to overcome opposition to their ideas from other members of the single currency bloc. Paris and Berlin agreed in June to flesh out plans for a joint budget by the end of the year as part of broader package on closer eurozone integration, proposals that have long been championed by President Emmanuel Macron.

However, the idea quickly ran into resistance from some other countries, led by the Netherlands, who are con-

cerned about how much money it will require and how it will be used. The French and German finance ministers will present their eurozone counterparts with the new proposal at a meeting tomorrow in Brussels, while also clarifying the legal framework and governance for it. "There's agreement with the Germans to say we need a budget for investment and competitiveness spending," one Finance Ministry source said.

Their plan also avoids mention of a set amount for the budget, leaving it to heads of state and government to decide, according to the two-page proposal seen by Reuters.

Joint proposal

Under the proposal, the budget would be part of the EU budget even though it would be managed by eurozone governments, who would agree a framework for setting how much each pays in. Eurozone countries would submit investment programs to the European Commission for approval to tap funds from the budget and they could only receive it if they respect EU fiscal rules.

"The euro zone budget would foster convergence and incentivize reform implementation in particular by co-financing growth-enhancing public expenditures such as investments, research and development, innovation and human capital," the proposal says. —Reuters

Business

KAMCO Oil Market Monthly Report

Oil price rout takes a breather after OPEC+ mulls extension

Saudis propose oil output cut by 1 mb/d from Oct-18 levels

KUWAIT: In one of the longest running losing streak, oil prices sunk more than 20 percent by mid-November-18 from a four-year high level in early October-18. The fall was led by worries related to near term oil demand due to weak near-term global economic growth outlook in addition to concerns over higher overall crude output, higher inventories, weak emerging market currencies as well as the recently announced broad exemptions to Iran sanctions. Eyeing this new trend that changed the optimistic outlook around oil prices, it was reported that Saudi Arabia and other members of the OPEC+ group may extend the ongoing production cuts to 2019. Also, as an immediate fix, Saudi Arabia reportedly expressed that producers need to cut oil output by 1 mb/d from October-18 levels. As prices continued to plunge it emerged that the cuts could be deeper-than-expected. Saudi Arabia also said it would cut its crude exports by 0.5 mb/d in December-18, although it said the cuts are in response to seasonal decline in demand for its oil.

Recent data has shown an increase in oil output across the board, with US producing at a record high of 11.6 mb/d and Russia at around 11.4 mb/d. OPEC also raised production during October-18 raising output by 430 tb/d to a 23-month high level of 33.33 mb/d in response to decline in supplies from Iran. However, in early Nov-18 top 8 importers of Iranian oil, that account for almost 75 percent of its crude exports, were given a 180-day waiver, pointing to higher exports in the coming months that had reportedly halved since the announcement of the sanctions. As the top three producers pumped oil at record pace, the increase in output more than offset the decline in supply from Iran and Venezuela. Highlighting the increase in output, the IEA also warned that 2019 may continue to see supply outpacing demand for oil.

Factors that are limiting the surge in oil demand also included the weakening of emerging market currencies against the USD which hovered around 16-month high. Although, oil-importing emerging economies' currencies have seen some improvement recently, the YTD-18 decline stood at almost 5 percent (MSCI EM Currency Index). Key currencies like India's INR has depreciated almost 13 percent since the start of the year while Chinese Renminbi has also depreciated almost 7 percent. On the other hand, demand trend in China is

also showing signs of weakness partly due to the US-China trade rift. According to the latest numbers, China's manufacturing sector growth, although expanding, was the weakest since more than two years in October-18. An earlier datapoint on the country's GDP showed that the country's GDP growth in Q3-18, while still going strong at 6.5 percent, was the slowest since the financial crisis.

On the supply side, the Joint Ministerial Committee of OPEC+ said that 2019 may continue to see higher supply growth and that weaker global economic growth may widen the demand/supply gap. However, the producers collectively said that they would see how new trends evolve in the oil market before finalizing any production policy for 2019.

Oil prices

Oil prices were in a tailspin since the second week of October-18 declining by almost a quarter and Brent plunging almost 7 percent intraday last week, the biggest single-day drop in three years. The decline was initially triggered by weakening global fundamentals with concerns regarding oil demand in the near term as US-China trade war intensified. The downward pressure on prices intensified when it emerged that the sanctions on Iran were exempted for eight of its large oil customers thereby implying continued supply from the OPEC producer. OPEC crude traded below the \$70/b mark for the first time since mid-August-18 and reached \$67.0/b, the lowest closing price in the past

seven months. That said, the average crude prices for October-18 showed a positive trend due the fast pace of gains at the start of the month. Average OPEC crude for October-18 was recorded at \$79.39/b, a m-o-m increase of 2.9 percent and the highest level since October-14. Brent spot averaged slightly lower with a growth of 2.7 percent to average at \$81.3/b, while Kuwait crude increased by 7.0 percent to record \$78.6/b.

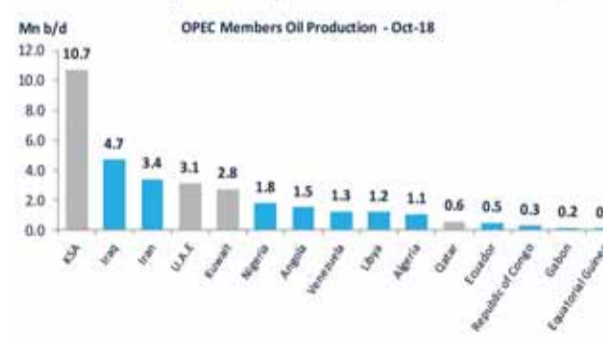
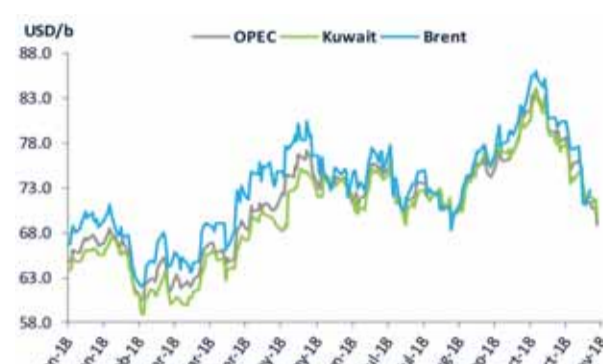
In terms of crude inventory, EIA's weekly report showed an eighth consecutive week of higher inventories in the US. Total crude stocks reached 442 million barrels during the week ended 9-Nov-18, an w-o-w increase of 10.3 million barrels as US producers pumped oil at a record pace. According to the EIA, crude production in the US reached a record high of 11.6 mb/d after increasing by 400 tb/d during the week ended 2-Nov-18. According to the latest weekly rig count report, US oil rig count increased at the fastest pace since May-18 during the week ending 9-Nov-18 recording an increase of 12 rigs to reach a total of 886 rigs. Meanwhile, in its long term outlook, the IEA reiterated the growing threat of electric cars and cleaner fuels on transportation fuel demand. However, the group said that longer term the world could still see a supply crunch if adequate investment is not made in expanding oil production facilities. The increase in demand in the long term would be led by industrial and petrochemical sectors, the report added.

World oil demand

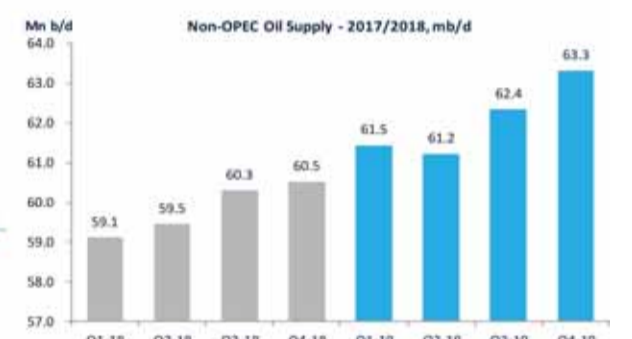
World demand growth estimates for 2018 was once again lowered in the latest OPEC monthly report by 40 tb/d. Total demand is now expected to increase by 1.5 mb/d to reach 98.79 mb/d in 2018. The revision came primarily on the back of lower-than-expected demand data for the Middle East, China and the Other Asia region for Q3-18, which more than offset upward revision of 50 tb/d for the OECD region. Within the OECD region, demand remained robust in the US that mainly led to the upward revision. Based on monthly data until August-18 and preliminary weekly data for September-18 and October-18, the demand trends in the US showed strong growth as compared to the first ten months of 2017. The key drivers to the growth were petrochemical feedstock like NGLs/LPG, diesel in the industrial sector and jet/kerosene.

Demand for gasoline remained soft due to higher retail prices as well as efficiency gains in the transportation sector as seen from data for August-18 which showed flat y-o-y growth despite a marginal growth in light vehicle sales during the month. Meanwhile, demand trends for the OECD Europe region remain soft as compared to historical levels with demand reportedly declining in Big 4 (UK, Germany, Italy and France) in August-18 that was more than offset by higher demand in Spain, the Netherlands, Turkey, Poland and a few other countries in the region. In terms of product requirements for YTD-18, demand was strong for gasoline, jet/kerosene, LPG and residual fuel oil requirements that was partly offset by lower requirements for diesel and naphtha.

Moreover, the remainder of the year, demand trends in the region is expected to remain steady although heating fuel requirements in Q4-18 is expected to be modest given the expectations of a warmer-than-expected winter. Demand figures for the Middle East region was reportedly lowered by around 50 tb/d primarily led lower demand growth in Saudi Arabia that was affected by efficiency advancements and fuel substitution. China's demand estimates were also lowered by 30 tb/d for 3Q-18. World oil demand growth estimates for 2019 was also lowered by around 70 tb/d led by adjustments to demand figures for the non-OECD region given the ongoing global economic developments. Demand is now expected to grow by 1.29 mb/d to reach 100.08 mb/d.



Source for the above charts : OPEC and Bloomberg



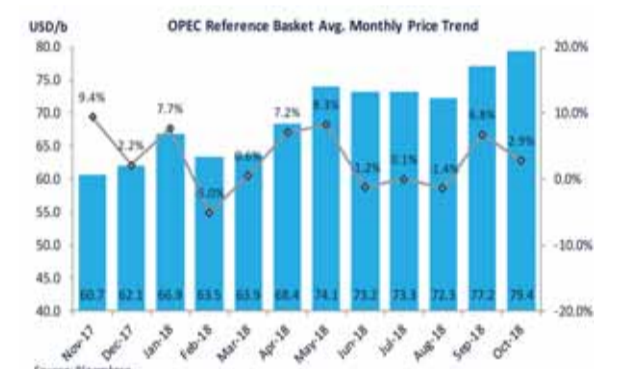
World oil supply

World oil supply increased by 0.44 mb/d m-o-m during October-18 and averaged at 99.76 mb/d, according to preliminary data, led by higher production by both OPEC (+0.13 mb/d) and non-OPEC (+0.31 mb/d) producers. For the full year 2018, non-OPEC supply estimates was once again revised up by 0.09 mb/d and supply is now expected to reach 62.09 mb/d. The upward revision reflected higher historical production data for US and Russia, in addition to reassessment of supply forecasts for these countries. Aggregate supply forecasts for the US, Russia, Kazakhstan and Thailand was increased by 0.24 mb/d that more than offset the 0.14 mb/d downward revision made for Mexico, Norway, the UK, Brazil and China. In terms of regional growth, supply forecasts from the OECD countries was raised by 117 tb/d primarily on the back of higher forecast for OECD Americas while OECD Europe is expected to see a contraction. Supply forecasts for the US witnessed an upward revision of around 0.16 mb/d on the back of higher production forecast from the Permian Basin. In the OECD Europe region, supply forecast for Norway was lowered by 0.02 mb/d led by maintenance shutdowns. Forecasts for the UK were also lowered by 33 tb/d given weaker-than-expected output during Q3-18 led by two weeks of maintenance at several fields while Q4-18 forecasts also underwent a downward revision. Outside the OECD, supply forecasts for Russia was raised by 210 tb/d for Q4-18 led by higher production in October-18. For 2019, non-OPEC supply growth was also revised up by 0.12 mb/d and total supply is now expected.

OPEC oil production & spare capacity

OPEC's average crude production increased for the fifth consecutive month during October-18 reaching the highest level in 23 months at 33.33 mb/d, a m-o-m increase of 430 tb/d, according to Bloomberg data. However, the growth in production according to OPEC's secondary sources was much smaller at 127 tb/d to reach 32.9 mb/d. Libya recorded the biggest m-o-m increase in production with the country now producing at 5.5 year high level of 1.22 mb/d, as per Bloomberg data. Saudi Arabia added 150 tb/d during the month with total production reaching an average rate of 10.68 mb/d, the highest level ever recorded by the Kingdom, according to Bloomberg data.

Average OPEC production has increased over 1.5



mb/d since May-18 with Saudi Arabia alone adding almost half or 0.71 mb/d to this increase. UAE also increased production by 80 tb/d to reach a 2-year high level of 3.12 mb/d while Iran's output dropped marginally to 3.4 mb/d, although OPEC's secondary sources estimated Iran's output was at 3.3 mb/d during October-18. As a result of the increase in OPEC production, the compliance to production cut agreement came down to 104 percent during October-18 as compared to 111 percent in September-18.

The significant increase in Libya's oil production came after the country restarted three oil fields, according to NOC. In addition, according to a Bloomberg interview, the head of NOC said that the restarting of a project by BP and Eni could further boost the country's oil production in Q1-19. On the other hand, Nigeria, which added 20 tb/d during the month to take its average monthly production to 1.82 mb/d, is also planning to expand its production capacity. According to the CEO of Nigeria's NNPC, the country plans to increase oil production to 1.8 mb/d in 2019 and increase condensate production to 0.5 mb/d from the current 1.6 mb/d and 0.4 mb/d, respectively.

Meanwhile, despite the talks of extended cuts to oil production, key producers in the region continue to invest in projects to expand oil output. Recently Abu Dhabi approved ADNOC's \$132 billion 5-year budget with plans to increase the country's production capacity to 4 mb/d by 2020 and further to 5 mb/d by 2030. On the other hand, Iraq has plans to increase output to 5 mb/d by 2019 and also increase the country's export capacity to around 3.8 mb/d.

Bayt.com weekly report

How to dress to impress at work

Picking the right work outfit is always a stressful part of our morning rituals. Everyone loves to look sharp and professional at their jobs, but not everyone has the time and resources to do so. This might drive people to pick whatever clothes lie in front of them and hassle their way to the office, without even giving it a second thought. But the reason why people should be very careful with what they wear to the office is that looks matter a great deal in today's competitive business realm: they are the first thing people notice about you, and they can give off a positive or negative first impression.

In spite of the common mistakes people always repeat, looking good is not about spending a lot of money or owning endless outfits. In fact, the key to having a great look is sticking to a few simple tricks and playing out your personality and style in each outfit. You can look outstanding with a limited collection of clothes, but you have to be very smart about how you style them and how to pick them in the first place.

Get work-ready with these simple tips from Bayt.com:

Start with the basics

Having a full-time job means that you have to show up five days a week to the office. In this case, it might be a hard task to pull out a new outfit for each day, especially if you're on a budget. This is why having a good collection of basics is always a good idea. Basics go with everything, they manage to make you look professional, are easy to style, and can be worn in so many different ways! Investing in some good

basic items can save you A LOT.

The best basic items to start with are button up shirts. You can buy some basic white and black shirts as a start and work your way up by adding new colors to your collection. You can style your black and white shirts with pretty much everything. The other basic item you need here is a black solid blazer, which can be worn to any formal event you have to attend. Black is not your color? Don't worry, try dark or navy blue, it never disappoints.

Don't underestimate shoes

Shoes are always a deal breaker: they either make your outfit or break it! You have to choose comfortable, yet professional shoes. For women, you can go with ballet flats if you want a simple look, or you can choose a pair of classic heels if you want a more formal look. For men, you can always go with a pair of two-tone derby shoes, which is a professional, yet very comfortable add to your outfit.

Bottoms are everything

Having an office job means that you have to spend at least eight hours a day in the office. And in case your job includes lots of computer work and typing, this means you'll probably be spending your entire day sitting down. The only way to survive this is by wearing a super comfortable outfit.

Again, you can pick some basic solid-colored pants to help you style them easily. But the secret here is to be careful with the shape of your pants. What is meant is that wearing comfortable clothes doesn't necessarily mean wearing boring outfits. For women, you can pick high-waist pants with a knit belt, classic pleated pants, or even go with cropped pants. For men, you can go with loose linen blend pants for a change.

Sparkle with accessories

Don't ever let your job dull your energy and personality. It's important to accessorize because A: accessories can turn any bland outfit into a super classy one in no time, and B: they are so beautiful! Of course you have to be careful with the type of accessories you wear as to avoid looking like you just ran out of a party on a call of duty, BUT that doesn't mean you can't wear them at all.

For women, you can always add a pair of statement earrings to your outfit, and remember to always pick mono-colors to match the professionalism of the workplace. You can also add some simple rings or bracelets. For men, one word, watches. Watches won't only give you a professional touch, but will also showcase your attention to detail as well! Of course, there are increasingly more professional looking accessories for men, such as bracelets and rings that add a nice touch of personality and a dash of style.

Bags are the new cool

In case you thought bags are meant only for women, well, think again. In today's modern world, with so many items to be carried around, using a bag is nearly a must. With so many brands and shapes being introduced to the market, you have such a wide variety of bags to choose from. There's bound to be a bag out there with your name on it!

For men, you can hold a leather clutch bag, which won't only organize your essentials inside, but also add a very cool touch to your outfit. If you have bulkier essentials, or carry a laptop, you can go with a leather messenger bag. For women, you always need to pack your daily essentials, which is why it's a good idea to hold a medium-sized bag that can help you carry around your magic spells.

Australia PM hits out at trade protectionism at APEC forum

PORT MORESBY: Trade war benefit no one and must be solved by negotiation rather than tit-for-tat tariffs, Australia's prime minister said yesterday ahead of an APEC summit likely to be dominated by US-China trade tensions. The world is facing a "rising tide of trade protectionism" and financial market volatility, Scott Morrison warned in a speech to business leaders ahead of the two-day summit of Asia-Pacific leaders.

"The solution is not throwing up protectionist barriers," he said. "Tit-for-tat protectionism and threats of trade wars are in no one's interest economically and undermine the authority of the global and regional trade rules that benefit us all." APEC members the US and China have become embroiled in a trade war which experts warn could be catastrophic for the global economy, with the world's top two powers going head to head.

The pair have imposed tariffs worth billions of dollars of each other's goods and there is little sign of an immediate easing in tensions, with both sides threatening to step up action if necessary. "The solution to perceived unfair trade practices is more likely to be found around a negotiation table than it is in building a tariff war," urged Morrison. Australia would "continue to advocate for trade disputes to be resolved by negotiation and within WTO rules."

He acknowledged that the World Trade Organization "was not perfect" and pledged to work with "like-minded countries to improve it."

Reform of the WTO is a topic that is likely to sow division at the summit. Foreign ministers meeting ahead of the talks were unable to publish a joint statement, apparently due to difference over language on WTO reform. —AFP

Business

Tajikistan launches \$4bn dam, intended to be world's tallest

Dam to double energy output in Tajikistan; surplus for Pakistan, Afghanistan

ROGUN: Tajik President Emomali Rakhmon on Friday inaugurated what is expected to be the world's tallest hydro-electric power plant, a \$3.9 billion project that will turn the impoverished authoritarian country into a key power producer in Central Asia.

In a colorful ceremony in the Pamir mountains, the Tajik leader pushed a large symbolic button to applause from the audience to mark the first of six turbines in the Rogun hydroelectric dam going online. "The long-held dream of our compatriots has been realized," said Rakhmon, who has ruled since 1992, before celebratory fireworks whistled through the evening air.

"This historic event will be written into history with golden letters for the current and future generations." Men in hard hats danced to songs about the dam and waved national flags. "Rogun is light, Rogun is glory!" went one of the songs.

World Bank vice president for Europe and Central Asia Cyril Muller said at the ceremony that Rogun would "help transform Tajikistan's economy, and create the foundation for a prosperous future".

The power plant is expected to reach capacity of 3,600 megawatts—the equivalent of three nuclear power plants—when it is completed in a decade. The dam will double energy production in the poor ex-Soviet country of nearly nine million people, alleviating a debilitating national energy deficit.

Surplus energy will be sold to neighbors such as Afghanistan and Pakistan. Built on the powerful Vakhsh River in southern Tajikistan, the plant is expected to reach a height of 335 metres (1,099 feet) when completed, becoming the world's tallest hydro-electric dam.

Today, Rogun—overseen by the Italian company Salini Impregilo—is still a vast construction site, with rocky earth covering the territory from which the Vakhsh was diverted. In 2016, Rakhmon, a former collective farm boss, climbed into a bulldozer at a groundbreaking for the dam, in a sign of the president's attachment to the scheme. Plans to build the Rogun dam date back to the Soviet era, but the project was scaled up in recent years.

In 2017, Tajikistan raised \$500 million from an inaugural international bond to help finance the construction. Authorities hope that when the project gains momentum it will generate money to finance further construction. The second turbine will be launched next year.

Environmental concerns

The project is hugely significant for a country that lost



DUSHANBE: A general view of the Rogun hydro-electric dam, about 100 km northeast of the Tajik capital Dushanbe, on the Vakhsh River in southern Tajikistan. — AFP

tens of thousands of people in a civil war in the 1990s and there have been calls to rename the dam after Rakhmon. If it reaches the planned height of 335 meters, Rogun will be 30 meters taller than the recently-built Jinping-1 Dam in China and 35 meters taller than Tajikistan's own Soviet-era Nurek dam, also on the Vakhsh River.

Observers warn that the Tajik authorities do not appear to concern themselves with the environmental sensitivities of Rogun. It is located "in a highly seismic area, and several geological studies have warned about the risks of building such a large dam in this setting," Filippo Menga, a lec-

turer in human geography at the University of Reading in the United Kingdom, said. But Rakhmon sought to ease some of these concerns on Friday, noting that "all necessary norms" had been observed.

Tensions resolved

Geopolitical tensions surrounding the project have, for the moment, subsided in a region that suffers from water scarcity. Uzbekistan's late leader Islam Karimov once hinted that his downstream agriculture-dependent country might go to war over Rogun and a similar project in

neighboring Kyrgyzstan. But Uzbek opposition to the dam has evaporated since Karimov's death in 2016.

Representatives of Uzbekistan's state energy company Uzbekenergo attended the inauguration and the country of 32 million people could one day become a client. Muller of the World Bank paid tribute to warming relations between the two countries at the inaugural ceremony as the audience cheered. Bilateral tensions, he said, were a "challenge, which had placed the project on uncertain grounds for the longest time" but had now been resolved. — AFP

Bombardier stock sinks on probe of insider trades

MONTREAL: Canadian planes and trains manufacturer Bombardier's stock price tumbled Friday after Quebec's securities regulator announced it was probing executives' stock trades. At the close on the Toronto stock exchange, it had fallen more than 20 percent to finish the week at Can\$1.67.

Investors reacted badly after the province's financial markets regulator, the AMF, announced late Thursday it was looking into the company's creation on August 15 of an Automatic Securities Disposition Plan (ADSP). ADSPs allow executives with insider knowledge to sell their stock at arms-length on a predetermined schedule, as long as they don't have undisclosed material information.

At the regulator's request, the company suspended all sales of securities under the plan "until further notice." Bombardier said it "fully intends to



In this file photo, the new bombardier aircraft CS series is shown in Mirabel, Quebec prior to take off. — AFP

cooperate with the AMF in its review."

It noted also that the plan had been reviewed by the AMF prior to its establishment. Local media said the securities regulator was investigating whether Bombardier executives had implemented the stock plan knowing a restructuring would be announced three months later.

"The regulator will have to determine whether, with the information they had that was not available to the public, Bombardier executives committed insider trading," said Montreal's La

Presse newspaper.

The struggling manufacturer last week announced the sale of its aging Q Series turboprop line to a Canadian investment fund, and worldwide cuts of 5,000 engineering jobs. After the divestiture—which followed its sale of a majority stake in its CSeries jetliner line to Airbus in July—questions were raised about Bombardier's future as an aeronautics firm, as it was left with only regional aircraft and business jet lines. — AFP

US backs Cyprus gas exploration as ExxonMobil starts drilling

NICOSIA: A senior US diplomat on Friday backed gas exploration off Cyprus, as ExxonMobil and Qatar Petroleum started drilling despite opposition from Turkey. Ankara has warned international firms against exploration in the disputed waters off the Mediterranean island, but Cyprus has pushed ahead with energy deals. Francis Fannon, the State Department's foreign energy official, said Washington had a "long-standing position of recognizing Cyprus' right to develop resource wealth". "We view energy as a catalyst for cooperation, economic development and to benefit all the people in the region and Cyprus has a meaningful role to that end," he told reporters after meeting the country's energy minister, George Lakkotrypis.

ExxonMobil and Qatar Petroleum commenced drilling operations off Cyprus on Friday, in Block 10 of the country's Exclusive Economic Zone, the energy ministry said.

Ankara argues that Cyprus has no mandate for offshore exploration without a deal between the EU member and the breakaway Turkish-backed north of the island. Fannon, who will also visit Israel and Egypt, said the US believes "resource wealth should be shared with all communities on the island equitably in the context of a comprehensive settlement" to reunify Cyprus. — AFP

Turkey rolls back some curbs on foreign currency use

ISTANBUL: Turkey has rolled back some restrictions on the use of foreign currencies that were brought in at the height of an economic crisis this year, according to a decree published on Friday, loosening the rules after lobbying from the hotel industry. In September the government ruled that property sales, rental contracts and leases should all be made in lira, a move President Tayyip Erdogan said would support the currency. Foreign currency had been widely used for rental deals in shopping malls and also used in real estate sales contracts.

After plunging to a record low of 7.24 percent against the dollar in August, the lira has been able to mount a quiet recovery. Still, it remains some 30 percent weaker against the dollar this year, and economists remain concerned about the continued impact on the economy.

Under the new regulations published in the government's Official Gazette on Friday, foreign residents will be able to make real estate contracts in foreign currencies. Foreign currencies will also be allowed for rental agreements for tourist accommodation facilities and in duty-free zone stores.

The Hotel Association of Turkey had made efforts to keep the sector's ability to do deals in foreign currency and contacted the tourism ministry regarding the issue, its head, Timur Bayindir, said in a recent speech. It was not immediately clear how much of the sector's facilities are contracted in foreign currencies. Last month the government announced other exemptions to the ban on using foreign currencies in business agreements, including export-related contracts, capital market instruments and employment contracts involving foreigners. — Reuters

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ بِالْحَقِّ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا
مَّا نَدَّبُهُ إِلَيْنَا لِنُقِيمَ فِيهِ الْقِيَامَاتِ وَالرَّجَائِ
مَسَدَّقٌ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ

Condolences

Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz"
Chairman, Board of Directors and staff
Convey their deepest condolences to

Mr. Ali Hassan Khalil
Chief Operating Officer

And his bereaved family
on the sad demise of his mother

Mrs. Latifa Mohammad Jeajea

May Allah almighty bestow
her with eternal peace

Mr. Ali H. Khalil will be receiving condolers on
Sunday, 18 November 2018 at Sheraton Kuwait Hotel
from 3pm to 7pm

MARKAZ

Business

KFH awarded 'Fastest Growing Debit Portfolio in 2018 - Kuwait' by Visa

Chalouhi: Unpacking debit for cross-border transactions

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has been awarded the Fastest Growing Debit Portfolio in 2018-Kuwait by Visa. Marcello Baricordi, Visa's General Manager for Middle East and North Africa, handed over the award to KFH in an award ceremony held in Dubai and attended by KFH delegation headed by Group General Manager Retail Banking at KFH, Fadi Chalouhi and Group Deputy General Manager Cards, Nimer Yasin and other officials from both sides. On receiving the award, Chalouhi said: "We are proud to be recognized by Visa as the fastest growing debit portfolio in 2018. It is part of our strategy to move customers away from cash and toward digital payments: cards and mobile-based payments. We at KFH leverage FinTech trends to improve the Bank's capabilities and innovate digital payment services that offer consumers better customer experience and more flexible and convenient payment options." He indicated customers now expect fast and secure payments, as such, KFH has been proactive in introducing a wide range of technologies and services that showed remarkable success and effectively met customers' expectations, affirming there is ample opportunity for KFH to capitalize on the new technologies for the best interest of the Bank and its customers.

He revealed that KFH is in process to unpack its debit for cross-border transactions. Visa cardholders

will enjoy exclusive privileges covering travel, dining, and leisure experiences. He added that KFH invested heavily in running exclusive campaigns to customers in collaboration with Visa. KFH launched KFH and Visa Debit card campaign, where 6 customers had won a unique 6-day trip to London in a private jet for themselves and their companions, in addition to accommodation in a 5-star hotel premium suite, luxury car with chauffeur service and KD 2000 cash credit to enjoy a unique shopping experience.

Award ceremony held in Dubai



KFH also launched "Your KFH card, the key to your house in Turkey" campaign where three winners won the house of their choice in Turkey with furniture and home appliances, in addition, fly business class to Turkey with a companion and stay in a 5-star hotel for five nights for using any of "KFH" Visa cards (Debit, Credit or Prepaid) to pay for their domestic or international purchases.

He concluded: "The award by Visa is testimony of the Bank's flagship position in cards business that is witnessing considerable growth and huge customers' turnout since KFH cards offer outstanding benefits and are uniquely designed for each and every segment of customers."

Marcello Baricordi, Visa's General Manager for MENA, said: "KFH is a valuable partner for Visa, and we are pleased to see the significant expansion of



Fadi Chalouhi and Nimer Yasin (center) with Visa officials

their debit portfolio in Kuwait. KFH's campaigns have revolved around enhancing the experience of their customers and empowering them to adopt a seamless,

convenient and secure form of payment. It is great to see how these efforts have helped KFH grow its customer base in the past year."

Trump hints at trade deal to defuse tension with China

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said Friday that China was ready to make a deal to defuse trade tensions, so he might not have to punish the country with more import tariffs.

A deal to resolve the dispute would be a huge breakthrough on the issue that has dominated much of Trump's two years in office, blowback from which threatens to take the steam out of the US economy.

"China wants to make a deal," Trump told reporters. "They sent a list of things that they are willing to do." While the offer is not acceptable yet, he said he was optimistic for an agreement to get "reciprocal" trade.

Trump this year has imposed steep tariffs on \$250 billion of Chinese goods and has threatened to hit the remaining \$267 billion in products the US imports from the world's number two economy each year.

US companies and farmers have complained of lost business and rising prices for key components as a result of the trade friction and that was a factor in some of the contests in the midterm congressional elections early this month. "I think a deal will be made and we will find out very soon," Trump said, noting Beijing's list included 142 items and includes "a lot of the things we asked for." "Some things were left off. We will probably get them, too," he said.

Tariff increase

But the statements seemed to contradict comments from Trump's Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, who just hours earlier had said a deal with Beijing before January was "impossible." Trump is due to meet with China's President Xi Jinping late this month in Buenos Aires on the sidelines of the Group of 20 leaders' summit.

However, Ross said those talks would serve as a framework to resolving the dispute. "We certainly won't have a full formal deal by January. Impossible," he said, according to Bloomberg. The January date is key since the 10 percent tariffs in place on \$200 billion in annual imports from China is due to increase to 25 percent.

Trump indicated he will continue to continue to take a hard line with China until the country changes.

US officials have highlighted high Chinese tariffs but also the country's trade and investment rules that allows rampant theft of American technology. "We have to have reciprocal trade," he said. "We can't have trade meant for stupid people. That's the way they took advantage of our country."

US stocks jumped following Trump's remarks, but quickly retreated although the benchmark Dow Jones Industrial Average ended the day with a slight increase.

Investors are hoping for a deal soon to end the uncertainty which hurts the bottom line for many companies as well as increasing prices for consumers.

Some firms have even warned that they might have to postpone investment plans if they cannot insure a steady supply of material. Economists say the tariffs' full bite has yet to hit the American economy but the trade conflict comes at a bad time for China, which is seeing slower growth.

In addition, Chad Bown of the Peterson Institute for International Economics, who has been studying the impact of the trade tariffs closely, said in a report on Thursday that Trump's tariffs on steel, which largely targeted China and other big producers, were inflicting collateral damage on poorer nations that are small producers and pose no threat to the US economy. —Reuters

Europe battles Brexit blues, Wall St faces tech stress

LONDON: European stocks slipped again, and sterling and the euro remained volatile on Friday, as one of the most dramatic twists yet in the Brexit process compounded another turbulent week for world markets. London, Paris and Frankfurt struggled to maintain a modest early bounce having been battered the previous day when Britain's Brexit minister quit in protest over a draft deal with Brussels on leaving the European Union.

Wall Street tech stocks looked set to take a hit, with Nasdaq futures pointing more than 1 percent lower as disappointing results from US chipmaker Nvidia Corp hit the chip sector globally.

Sterling fared a little better than on Thursday when it slumped more than 2 cents versus the dollar in what was also its worst day against the euro since the post-Brexit vote fallout of 2016.

But with reports of a UK political coup still rife and a fear that the country could crash out of the EU without a divorce deal, it couldn't get much beyond 88.50 pence per euro and \$1.2875 on cable. "As long as no deal remains as likely as it is, there is a risk of a sterling depreciation spiral that is self-intensifying," said Ulrich Leuchtmann, an FX strategist at Commerzbank in Frankfurt.

UK and eurozone government bond yields edged up as some stability returned to fixed-income markets. Still,

10-year yields on German bonds, considered one of the safest assets in the world, were set for their biggest weekly fall in three weeks, in a sign that Brexit uncertainty and worries about Italy's finances continued to support demand.

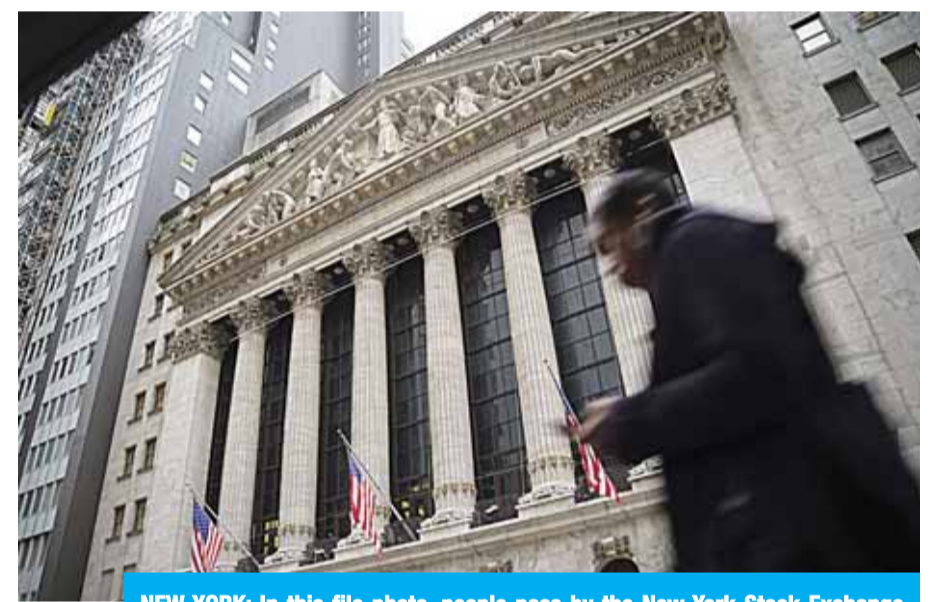
In Frankfurt, the head of the European Central Bank, Mario Draghi, said the bank still plans to dial back its stimulus at the end of the year, but acknowledged the economy had hit a soft patch and inflation may rise more slowly than expected.

"If firms start to become more uncertain about the growth and inflation outlook, the squeeze on margins could prove more persistent," Draghi told a conference. Some of Europe's biggest firms who took part in a Reuters summit this week said they now think Draghi will be the first president in the ECB's history not to have raised interest rates during their term.

Chips are down

Asian shares had ended their session firmer after reports the United States might pause on further China tariffs, but a near 17 percent plunge in Nvidia's stock in after-hours Wall Street dealing had tempered the mood. The chip designer forecast disappointing sales for the holiday quarter, pinning the blame on unsold chips piling up with distributors and retailers after the cryptocurrency mining boom evaporated. Also falling after hours were shares of Advanced Micro Devices and Intel. Losses in semiconductor shares dragged Japan's Nikkei down 0.5 percent, while Nasdaq futures were last down 1.3 percent.

"I started with Apple, then Nvidia ... Since performances of these companies set the tone for the global tech and chip industries, related Japanese stocks will likely be sluggish for a while," said



NEW YORK: In this file photo, people pass by the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York City. —AFP

Takatoshi Itohisima, a strategist at Pictet Asset Management.

Europe's tech stocks suffered too but Brexit remained the region's main focus. Fears that UK Prime Minister Theresa May's hard-fought deal could collapse had sent British markets into gyrations not seen since the June 2016 referendum on EU membership. Britain's FTSE 100 was at a three-week low, down 0.85 percent, with FTSE 350 bank stocks down 1.4 percent as lender RBS slid a further 4 percent.

"If and when a vote on the withdrawal agreement occurs is uncertain. Whether the withdrawal bill is passed by both houses of Parliament is uncertain," Joseph Capurso, a senior currency strategist at CBA, said in a note. "Whether the Prime Minister resigns or is challenged for the leadership is uncertain. And, whether there is a second referendum and/or an election is uncer-

tain." Away from sterling, the dollar dipped on its way to a fifth straight weekly gain, as cautious comments from the Federal Reserve's newly appointed vice chair about growth saw the euro strengthen to \$1.1390.

Also under water was the cryptocurrency Bitcoin which hit a one-year trough overnight, having tumbled 10 percent early in the week when support at \$6,000 gave way. It was last changing hands at \$5,547 on the Bitstamp platform.

In commodity markets, the weaker dollar gave gold a leg up to \$1,223. Oil prices rose too, helped by a decline in US fuel stockpiles and the possibility of a cut in OPEC output. US crude was trading up 80 cents at \$57.27 and Brent crude rose roughly 1 dollar to \$67.65 a barrel. It was still set for a sixth straight weekly loss, however. —Reuters

Brazil markets cheered by pro-business Bolsonaro team

SAO PAULO: Investors on Friday welcomed the appointment of Santander executive Roberto Campos to head Brazil's central bank as a sign President-elect Jair Bolsonaro will entrust economic and monetary policy to a market-friendly team of economists.

France: Cold War in US-Chinese trade risks heating up

PARIS: French Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire on Friday urged an end to the "Cold War in trade" between the United States and China, warning the world was just a step away from a globally destructive, full-blown trade conflict. "Today we are in a Cold War in trade between the United States and China which is dangerous for our economy, our growth and our jobs. We must get out of it," Le Maire told a conference in Paris on reforming the global trading system.

The minister said tit-for-tat tariff increases threatened to turn the standoff into "a full-blown trade war" with "economic suicide for the whole world".

"There would only be losers in an economic war," he added, calling for a reform of the World Trade Organization. EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom appealed to China to join efforts to reform the WTO.

"China has won a lot from the WTO system," she said, urging Beijing "to engage with us to reform and to update the system, to create a level playing field. Otherwise, the US will create a level playing field outside the system."

WTO reforms are expected to feature prominently in talks among leaders of the G20 biggest developed and emerging economies meeting in Argentina at the end of November.

US President Donald Trump's punitive tariffs on Chinese imports and European auto parts — which drew retaliatory measures — have unsettled trade relations and added urgency to the discussions. Trump has threatened to pull the United States out of the WTO if it does not "shape up". —AFP



Demonstrators wearing yellow vests (Gilets jaunes) take part in a protest against the rising of the fuel and oil prices yesterday on the A2 road in Haulchien near Valenciennes, northern France. —AFP

Technology

Facebook denies hiding Russian sabotage, but fires lobbying firm

Dozens of Facebook, Instagram accounts shut down

WASHINGTON: Facebook has denied allegations in the New York Times that it tried to mislead the public about its knowledge of Russian misinformation ahead of the 2016 US presidential election, but severed links with a Republican consultancy. The Times detailed obfuscation by Facebook's top bosses on the Russia front, said the company has at times smeared critics as anti-Semitic or tried to link activists to billionaire investor George Soros, and also tried to shift public anger away toward rival tech companies.

In a statement in response, Facebook disputed "inaccuracies" in the story, but said it was ending its contract with a Republican lobbying company named in the article, Definers Public Affairs, which specializes in opposition research. The Times, in a lengthy investigative piece based on interviews with more than 50 people both inside the company and with Washington officials, lawmakers and lobbyists, argued that Facebook's way of dealing with crisis was to "delay, deny and deflect."

Chief executive Mark Zuckerberg and chief operating officer Cheryl Sandberg were both so bent on growing Facebook that they "ignored warning signs and then sought to conceal them from public view,"

the report said. On Russia, Zuckerberg declared in the fall of 2016 that it was "crazy" to think Facebook had been used to help Donald Trump win the US presidency, but the report said in-house experts knew this not to be the case.

In fact, the Times said, Facebook had amassed evidence for over a year of Russian activity through an investigation led by its former security chief, Alex Stamos. But it was only belatedly that the company's board was informed of the full extent of the meddling, the Times said. In its statement, Facebook said it had ended its contract with Definers as of Wednesday night. It did not explain why, but insisted it had long taken the Russia factor seriously and was committed to fighting fake news.

"We've acknowledged publicly on many occasions — including before Congress — that we were too slow to spot Russian interference on Facebook, as well as other misuse," it said. "But in the two years since the 2016 presidential election, we've invested heavily in more people and better technology to improve safety and security on our services." While we still have a long way to go, we're proud of the progress we have made in fighting misinformation, removing bad content and preventing foreign actors

from manipulating our platform."

The Times said that when criticism of its belated Russia admission grew, Facebook mounted a lobbying campaign led by Sandberg, pushing negative stories about its political critics and making rival companies like Google and Apple look bad. In July of this year, as a Facebook executive testified before a congressional committee, anti-Facebook demonstrators barged into the room and held up a sign depicting Zuckerberg and Sandberg — who are both Jewish — as the twin heads of an octopus with its tentacles around the world.

Facebook responded by lobbying a Jewish civil rights group — the Anti-Defamation League — to publicly label that criticism as anti-Semitic, the Times said. Facebook was also said to have employed Definers to discredit activists, partly by linking them to the liberal, Jewish Soros, who has become a favored target of Trump supporters and far-right conspiracy groups.

The company's statement said any suggestion that its own counter-offensive embraced anti-Semitic tactics was "reprehensible and untrue." Before and since this month's midterm elections, which saw the Democrats retake control of the House of



PARIS: Photo shows the logo of the social network Facebook on a broken screen of a mobile phone. Facebook said it was severing ties with a political consultancy that sought to discredit critics of the social networking giant using questionable campaign-style tactics. — AFP

Representatives, Facebook has shut down dozens of accounts on its own platform and on Instagram which it said were aimed at influencing the vote. The world's most popular social media platform has been on the

back foot for months, including over the allegation that data from millions of Facebook users was abused by the consultancy Cambridge Analytica to help drive Trump to the White House. — AFP

North Korea tests new 'ultramodern tactical weapon'

SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has overseen the testing of a "newly developed ultramodern tactical weapon", Pyongyang's state media reported Friday, a move seen by analysts as more of a political message than a serious provocation. It marked the first official report of a weapons test by North Korea since it began a delicate diplomatic process with Washington over its nuclear and missile program. South Korea's Yonhap news agency, quoting an unidentified government source, said the weapon could be a long-range cannon that the North has been developing for many years.

"Kim Jong Un... visited the test ground of the Academy of Defence Science and supervised a newly developed ultramodern tactical weapon test," said the official Korean Central News Agency. It said the test was successful but did not specify the type of device involved. Pyongyang's suspension of testing for atomic weapons and ballistic missiles has been key to this year's rapid diplomatic developments and North Korea-US negotiations, and has been repeatedly praised by President Donald Trump.

Trump and Kim met at a historic summit in Singapore in June, where they signed a vaguely worded document on denuclearization of the peninsula. Hours after the KCNA report, the US State Department said it was "confident" the process remained on track. "At the Singapore Summit, President Trump and Chairman Kim made a number of commitments regarding final, fully verified denuclearization and creating a brighter future for North Korea," a statement said. "We are talking with the North Koreans about implementing all of those commitments. We remain con-



UNDISCLOSED, North Korea: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (2nd right) examines and guides the master plan for Sinuiju City at an undisclosed location. — AFP

fidant that the promises made by President Trump and Chairman Kim will be fulfilled."

Progress since Singapore has stalled as Washington and Pyongyang spar over the document's meaning. A return to testing would cast grave doubts over the future of the process. But analysts all but ruled out the North having broken its promise to suspend nuclear or missile launches while negotiations are underway with the US. There was no immediate indication any such test had been detected by the South. "We don't see it as a military provocation of any significance", a defense ministry official told journalists without saying what the device was.

Shin Beom-chul, an analyst at the Asan Institute of Policy Studies, said the test was likely aimed at sending "a political message" to Washington about the current stalemate. "Generally, tests of new high-tech weapons are conducted in secret," Shin said. "But North Korea announced it publicly to show its frustration." KCNA released only one photograph to accompany its report, showing uniformed men taking notes as Kim talked.

The background gave few clues to what

kind of weapon was involved. Kim expressed "great satisfaction" and said the test marked a "decisive turn in bolstering the fighting capacity" of the North's military, KCNA said. The weapon had been developed over a long period and its "great success serves as another striking demonstration of the validity of the Party policy of prioritizing defense science and technology and the rapidly developing defense capability", it added.

The news, which came almost a year after Pyongyang's last test of an intercontinental ballistic missile, recalled the repeated announcements of 2017. Those included by far North Korea's most powerful nuclear blast to date and rockets that brought the whole of the US mainland into range. Soon afterwards Kim declared the development of his nuclear arsenal — which Pyongyang has long said it needs to defend itself against a possible invasion by the US — complete. The Winter Olympics in the South then triggered a rapid diplomatic rapprochement on the peninsula, heralding the Singapore meeting and three summits between Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in. — AFP

Finding fakes: Mobile phones help detect counterfeit seeds

NTULELE: Besides more unpredictable weather and changing crop diseases, Kenyan farmers face another worry: counterfeit seed. Seed sold as something other than it is — the wrong variety or with the wrong characteristics, sometimes marketed with a falsified certificate of authenticity — can make the difference between a bumper crop and a failed harvest, farmers say.

But a push by the Kenya Seed Company, a government-owned firm, to help farmers verify the authenticity of seed via mobile phone technology, is paying off, farmers and other backers say. "The government is trying its level best to ensure that farmers get the best inputs," said Peter Chemuigut, director of Kenya's government-owned Agricultural Development Corporation. Use of poor quality or uncertified seed costs African farmers hundreds of millions of dollars annually, according to the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa.

Better seed, meanwhile — including that bred to help farmers withstand harsher droughts, extreme heat or worsening flooding associated with climate change — can help farmers substantially boost harvests, crop experts say. Under the Kenya Seed Company effort, the firm has attached stickers inside bags of seed that contain a scratch-off code. Farmers send the code via SMS message and get an instant response as to whether the

code — and the seed — is valid, said Esther Cherop, a saleswoman at Kenya Seed Company. "That way, a farmer goes ahead and plants knowing that the seeds are of good quality and certified," she said.

Moses Dapash, 38, a farmer from the Rift Valley village of Ntulele, in one of the country's best agricultural regions, said the system helped him identify a faked seed package last year. "I didn't want to take chances. I verified all the seeds before planting," he said. "Unfortunately I found out that one packet was not certified but when I called the Kenya Seed Company, they acted promptly and I was asked to return the seeds," he said. The system helped him bring in a good harvest this year, he said — and enough cash to begin repaying some of the losses from three years ago, when his crops failed due to harsh weather, diseases and what he believes was a fake seed problem.

"I can't tell exactly if it was solely fake maize seeds, diseases or drought," he said. "What I know is that, I went into a huge loss of 1.5 million shillings" or about \$14,700, said Dapash, who farms more than 100 acres in Narok County. Cherop said the phone messaging system also helps Kenya Seed Company track locations where counterfeit seed packets are common, to hone in on offenders. — Reuters

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199

Dr. Husain Alenezi

-Board Certified Urologist.
-Endourology Society-Approved Fellowship In Endourology And Robotic Surgery At Western University, Ontario, Canada.

Expert in diagnosing and treating:

- 1- Urinary Stones (Kidney, Ureter & Bladder) By Endoscopy & Laser
- 2- Prostate Cancer And Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia
- 3- Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms In Males And Females
- 4- Tumors And Malignancies Of The Urinary Tract (Kidney, Adrenals, Ureter, Bladder And Testes)
- 5- Male Factor Infertility And Varicoceles (Microscopic Surgery)
- 6- Erectile Dysfunction

Contact Taiba Hospital: 1808088

94449452

Twitter: @DrHusain_Urol

To advertise on this Page



Call: 24833199 ext:101,102

or Direct line: 24835616 / 24835617

or email: ads@kuwaittimes.com

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199

DR. MOHAMMAD AL HAJRY
Canadian Board of Otolaryngology
Head & Neck Surgery and Facial Plastics.
Fellow of Royal College of Surgeons-Canada
A rare Subspecialty in Microscopic Ear Surgery, Cochlear implant & Ear diseases

- ◆ Diagnosis/ Treatment of General Ears, Nose, and Throat conditions in adults & pediatrics
- ◆ Minimally invasive Endoscopic sinus surgery including Balloon sinuplasty
- ◆ Minimally invasive Microscopic & Endoscopic Ear surgery
- ◆ Diagnosis & treatment of Otolaryngology and Audiology (Hearing loss, Tinnitus & balance disorders)
- ◆ Facial Plastic and reconstructive surgeries (Rhinoplasty, Otoplasty, Fillers & Botox injections)
- ◆ Diagnosis & treatment of snoring & obstructive sleep apnea in clinic without surgery
- ◆ Diagnosis & Treatment of voice and swallowing disorders
- ◆ Diagnosis & Treatment of Head and Neck benign & malignant tumors.

Salmiya, Belajat Street, Tel: 1881122

DR. FAHAD S BUHAIMED
Consultant Cosmetic Dermatologist & Hair Transplant, NY

ACADAMIC CERTIFICATES:

- o Dermatology board certified.
- o Fellowship training program in cosmetic dermatology and hair transplant, New York, USA.
- o Member of American cosmetic dermatology society.
- o Referee reviewer of International Journal of Dermatology.

SPECIALIZED IN:

- o Dermatology & Cosmetic Treatments.
- o Laser Treatments.
- o Hair Transplant & Restoration.
- o Body & Face Contouring.
- o Injectable Fillers & Botox.

SHARQ, Ahmad Aljaber st., Building b8, Floor 13.
Tel.: (+965) 22060777.
@Drbuhaimed, @Renovabb, @dardonaabb
Email: drbuhaimed@beautybeyond.com.kw
www.beautybeyond.com.kw

Global Medical Center Welcomes
Dr. Marzouq Al-Bader
Consultant vascular and general surgery

All general and specialized surgeries such as:

- All critical and non-critical arteries and veins surgeries
- All methods of treating varicose
- Special department for care of injured diabetic foot
- Carrying out delicate procedures such as removing the extra rib
- Treating excess perspiration
- AV connection for dialysis

**Global Medical Center, Bneid Al-Qar
Bour Saeed Street, Block-1, Building-128.**

Dr. Ahmad Alaeddine
Head of Cardiology departmenta at Dar Al Shifa hospital

- Consultant Interventional and conventional cardiologist.
- Specialised in the Diagnosis and treatment of all adult cardiac diseases, including those cases that need urgent intervention in Cath lab (primary angioplasty).

**مستشفى دار الشفاء
Dar Al Shifa Hospital
Tele:1802 555**

DR KHALED ALMERRI
Consultant interventional Cardiology
Department: Heart & Vascular Center

Specialized in:

- 1-Diagnosis and therapeutic cardiac catheterization (Angiography and Angioplasty). Aortic valve implantation.
- 2- Diagnosis and treatment of coronary artery diseases
- 3- Diagnosis and treatment of heart failure, cardiomyopathies and valvular diseases.
- 4-Diagnosis and treatment of high blood pressure and high cholesterol.
- 5- Diagnosis and treatment of syncope, palpitations and cardiac arrhythmias.
- 6- Non-invasive diagnostic procedures echocardiography, exercise stress test, and 24 hour blood pressure and Holter monitoring

Know your Doctor
Otorhinolaryngology (E.N.T)
Dr Hamoud Abdullah Alarouj
ENT Specialist

- ◆ Laryngology Fellowship - Canada
- ◆ Fellow of the European Board Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery
- ◆ Member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
- ◆ Member of the British Laryngological Association
- ◆ Member of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
- ◆ Member of the European Laryngological Society

Specialized in:

- ◆ Management of benign and malignant vocal cord lesions.
- ◆ Vocal cord augmentation.
- ◆ Treatment of spasmodic dysphonia.
- ◆ Adenotonsillectomy using latest techniques.
- ◆ Thyroid surgery.
- ◆ Surgery for the deviated nasal septum.
- ◆ Endoscopic sinus surgery.
- ◆ Treatment of allergic rhinitis.
- ◆ Treatment of snoring.
- ◆ Treatment of vertigo.

INTERNATIONAL CLINIC
American Board Certified in General Surgery
Member of the Society of American Gastrointestinal & Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)
Higher specialization in Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary surgery & Organ Transplantation
Member of many prestigious surgical societies.

- ◆ Day case surgeries
- ◆ Minor surgeries (lipoma, sebaceous cyst, ingrowing nail)
- ◆ Diagnosis, treatment and follow up of all surgical emergencies
- ◆ Hemorrhoids, fistula & anal fissure surgeries
- ◆ Surgery for morbid obesity (sleeve, gastric bypass)
- ◆ Breast surgeries
- ◆ Hernia repair
- ◆ Thyroid & adrenal surgeries
- ◆ Surgery for reflux disease
- ◆ Cholecystectomy & laparoscopic appendectomy
- ◆ Liver, pancreas & bile ducts surgeries

Dr. Hani Haider
General Surgery Consultant

Scope of Clinical Practice:

- ◆ General & Laparoscopic Surgery
- ◆ Single Port Surgery
- ◆ Treatment of Colo-Rectal Diseases, Including Colorectal Cancer
- ◆ Surgical Treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Abscess
- ◆ Treatment of Perianal Fistula & Complex Perianal Fistula (complications)
- ◆ VAAFT Procedure (Treatment of Fistula through Fistuloscope)
- ◆ Treatment of Irritable Bowel Symptoms
- ◆ Colonoscopy & Gastroscopy
- ◆ Stomach Balloon Insertion & removal
- ◆ Bariatric Surgery - Lap Sleeve Gastrectomy
- ◆ Gallstones & Abdominal Hernias Surgery
- ◆ Colonic Hydrotherapy & Fecal Incontinence Treatment
- ◆ Laparoscopic mini bypass
- ◆ Transanal minimally invasive surgery

Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:

- ◆ American Board of General Surgery
- ◆ Fellow of American College of Surgery
- ◆ Canadian Board of General Surgery
- ◆ Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada
- ◆ American Board of Colo - Rectal Surgery
- ◆ American Board of Surgical Critical Care

Dr. Abdullah Al Haddad
Surgery Department
Consultant General Surgery, Laparoscopic & Colo - Rectal Surgeon

DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM
Consultant Pediatrician

Consultant Pediatrician-Canadian & American Board in Pediatrics-Canadian Board in Pediatric Emergency

Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368
Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St.1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B

DR. WALEED S BUHAIMED
Consultant of General Surgery
Laposcopic and Bariatric Surgery

Academic Certificates - Training

- ◆ Kuwait Board of General Surgery.
- ◆ (IFSO) member .
- ◆ Faculty member of (BEST).
- ◆ Member of Kuwait Surgical Association.

Scope of clinical Practice.

- ◆ Bariatric surgeries.
- ◆ Gallbladder stones surgeries.
- ◆ Abdominal wall and hernia surgeries.
- ◆ G.I. surgeries.
- ◆ Thyroid and para - thyroid surgeries.
- ◆ Anal surgeries.

email: wbuhaimed@gmail.com **Tel.: 965 22269411/ Mob.: 965 99212228** Jabriya, 4th Ring Road, Block 1A Floor 9 - Clover Center Mazaya Building

Health



Qatar's Father Amir, Sheikha Moza attend opening of Sidra Medicine

By Abdellatif Sharaa

DOHA: Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir of Qatar, and Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation (QF), attended last week the official inauguration of Sidra Medicine - a brand new, world-leading women's and children's hospital in Qatar.

Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, was also in attendance at the ceremony, together with ministers, local and international VIPs, and guests from the healthcare sector.

Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, who officially inaugurated Sidra Medicine, said: "As a leading center for innovation and excellence in the field, Sidra Medicine's research capabilities helped in the transition of healthcare system in Qatar, ushering in a new era of healthcare. Indeed, Sidra Medicine is unique in its pioneering role in using robots for pediatric surgery, particularly in the Heart Center, as well as its contributions to scientific discoveries in diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other serious illnesses."

She added "Sidra created a national genome database, in collaboration with the Qatar Genome Project, which will



form the building blocks for 'precision medicine,' and facilitate an exchange of knowledge that will allow us to understand diseases on a deeper level."

Sheikha Moza added: "We can say that Sidra Medicine is perhaps one of the most ambitious and far-reaching projects in Qatar over the past two decades. It has rapidly achieved positive impacts beyond national borders. It has become a regional destination of medical tourism for patients from the region and beyond."

One of the most ambitious greenfield hospital developments of its kind, Sidra Medicine represents the vision of Sheikha Moza to develop the region's leading academic medical center and provide healthcare of the highest global standards to the people of Qatar and beyond. The new hospital addresses the growing need for specialist children's and maternity care by offering services previously unavailable in Qatar and, in many cases, across the wider MENA region.

The ultra-modern, high-tech facility is situated in a striking building designed by renowned architect Pelli Clarke. More than 4,000 highly-trained clinical and support staff representing over 85 nationalities have been drawn by Sidra Medicine's ambitious vision to care for women, children, and young people.

The new hospital provides more than 50 services across outpatient clinics and to inpatients, with 400 new beds across three hospital wings. With access to leading technology ranging from intra-operative MRIs and robotic-assisted surgical systems, experts at Sidra Medicine focus on treating a range of highly-complex

and challenging conditions. Some of the children's specialist services available at Sidra Medicine include cardiology, neurology, urology, and plastics and craniofacial reconstruction surgery.

The hospital has brought together some of the world's leading practitioners and pioneers in these fields. Along with highly-qualified multi-disciplinary teams, they provide the very best in specialized care to women and children.

Sidra Medicine is focusing considerable resources on developing biomedical and clinical research capable of improving patient outcomes. These include a collaboration with the Qatar Genome Program, a member of QF, which is an ambitious population-based project designed to generate genome sequencing and molecular data about the Qatari population, and link it to a national electronic medical record system to chart a roadmap for future advanced healthcare through personalized medicine.

Among its many other research priorities, Sidra Medicine is gathering detailed epidemiological data to understand the biochemical and molecular diagnosis of childhood diabetes in Qatar. Efforts to build an accurate bank of data showing the causes of diabetes for the entire pediatric population are underway, with the aim of tailoring treatment for each child at Sidra Medicine.

Through effective collaboration and partnerships with academic partners, including QF partner university Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar, Qatar University, and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education - International, as well as world-class medical centers and leading research institutions, Sidra Medicine is committed

to offering the best medical education for the next generation of healthcare professionals and providing high-quality healthcare to children and women.

Commenting on the grand opening, Peter Morris, CEO of Sidra Medicine, said: "Sidra's vision is to become a beacon of learning, discovery and exceptional care. Under the leadership of Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, we have made incredible progress in a short space of time and laid strong foundations for our future success. At Sidra Medicine, we have globally competitive clinicians and scientists working together on a single campus with state of the art equipment and technology in a stunning new hospital."

While the ceremony marks the grand opening of Sidra Medicine, the facility has been providing inpatient services since January 2018 and outpatient services since May 2016, marking several milestones:

- Opening a specialist congenital heart center.
- Setting up the region's biggest pediatric and adolescent mental health team.
- Launching the Middle East's first pediatric robotic surgery program to perform and instruct its pediatric surgical doctors on the latest surgical techniques.
- Creating a child advocacy program dedicated to protecting children from abuse or neglect at home and in the community.
- Bringing some of the latest healthcare technology to the Middle East for the first time, including intra-operative MRI machines, supercomputers and high-intensity microscopes.



First sleeping disorders' workshop a success

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Head of the ENT departments' council and head of ENT department at Zain Hospital Dr Mutlaq Al-Saihan said the first workshop on surgeries and snoring syndrome diseases has been completed. The workshop was held under the patronage of Health Minister Dr Bassel Al-Sabah for four days and enjoyed unprecedented success.

Several patients were operated on by visiting doctors, as live broadcast was

made from the surgery table to the Zain hospital theater where discussions were being held. Dr Saihan appreciated the health ministry's support which contributed to the success.

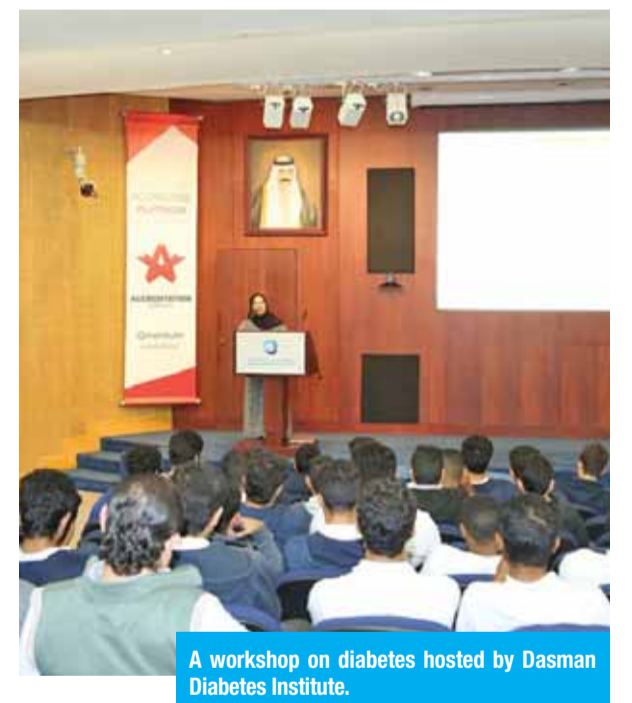
"The ministry enables us to bring in visiting experienced doctors, which limits the need for treatment abroad," he said. "This is considered the start of domestic treatment through attracting specialized surgeons in various specialties."

He said that the lectures were up to expectations, covering all aspects related to treatment solutions of snoring and sleep apnea. Doctors from the public and private sectors attended the workshop as well as doctors from the Kuwait Board.

Dr Saihan said that the percentage of snoring syndrome and sleep apnea in the world is around 4.5 percent, but it is higher than that in Kuwait due to high obesity. He said there will be more workshops held to enhance the surgical experience of doctors at the hospital, which will reflect positively



Dasman Diabetes Institute employees participate in Gulf Bank's marathon.



A workshop on diabetes hosted by Dasman Diabetes Institute.

Dasman Diabetes Institute marks diabetes day

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: November is the month in which many health days are celebrated, including the World Diabetes Day on November 14 each year. Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI) launched an awareness campaign at the start of the month under the slogan 'control your sugar' to educate diabetics on how to deal and live with this disease. The campaign included several activities such as organizing students' visits, lectures, physical activities as well as encouragement to protect and improve the environment leading to a healthier style of living.

The campaign's organizers wanted to get the maximum benefit out of this activity by reaching out to people, so a number of prestigious malls were selected, where health care professionals manned stands and gave advice to mall patrons. They also carried out blood sugar level tests and

offered various medical consultations. The activities also included awareness forums and meetings that included the Applied Industrial and Nursing Institutes, and secondary school students who attended a lecture titled 'what do you know about Celiac disease.'

The Celiac diseases lecture was delivered by the head of Celiac Awareness society Dr Suad Al-Furaih. She said diabetes is a syndrome characterized by metabolism disorder, and rise in blood sugar concentration due to lack of insulin or low sensitivity of tissues for insulin or both.

She said as for coeliac, it is a permanent autoimmune disorder that causes a reaction to gluten which is found in wheat, barley, rye and oats, and renders intestines unable to absorb nutrients because of the geladins excreted by gluten and this causes complicated immunity in the mucous lining of the intestines and leads to the accumulation of dead lymphatic cells. This leads to destruction of the cilia, so absorption of nutrients will not take place properly. This disease mostly affects children during the weaning stage, because it is the time linked to the start of trying food, as well as the early adolescent stage, while older people may also get it. She said diabetes and coeliac are linked to the same gene. She said studies showed 10 percent of children

and 2 percent of adults who are type 1 diabetics, are suffering from coeliac.

Dr Furaih said that for most patients who suffer from both conditions, coeliac will not have clear symptoms of coeliac or it may be considered part of the diabetes' symptoms, and doctors, due to the high rate of coeliac, ask for tests on the disease if the patient is diagnosed with diabetes.

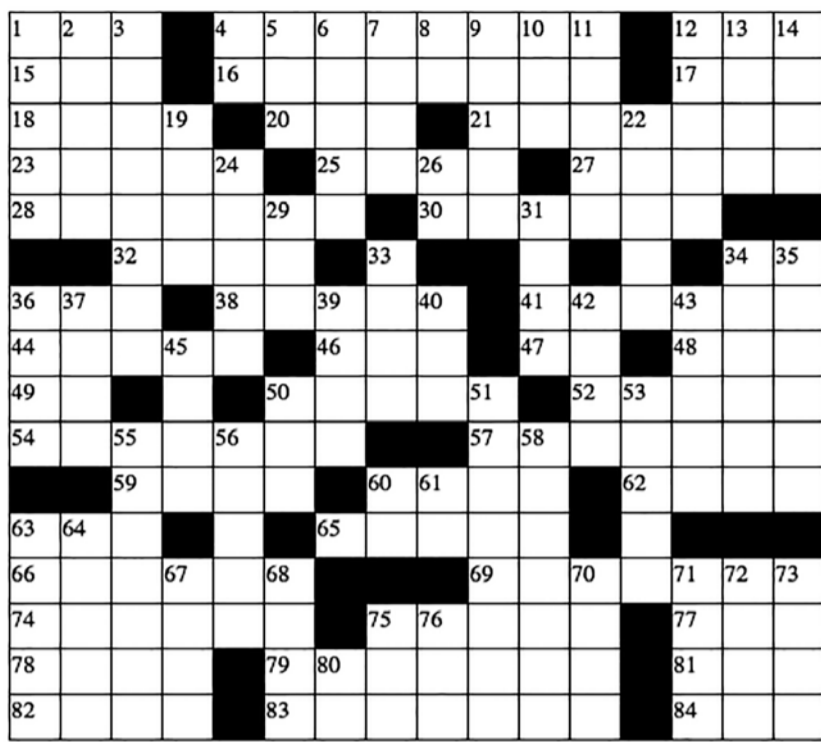
Meanwhile DDI participated in the Gulf Bank's Marathon as a medical support through providing ambulances and specialized medical team to help runners at various stages of the marathon which started at Souq Sharq and ended at Landmark covering 10 kilometers. A large number of athletes participated representing various entities including DDI employees, Public Sports Authority, Egyptian Engineers Society along with many others.

DDI's campaign aims at educating the public on the prevention of diabetes of how to co-live with the disease for a healthy and stable lifestyle. Health tips were placed on various media such as buses, gas stations, Kuwait airport and cinemas. Lectures were also given in ministries and government authorities and universities. Tests were offered in malls besides having a mobile clinic in the field.



Stars

CROSSWORD 2062



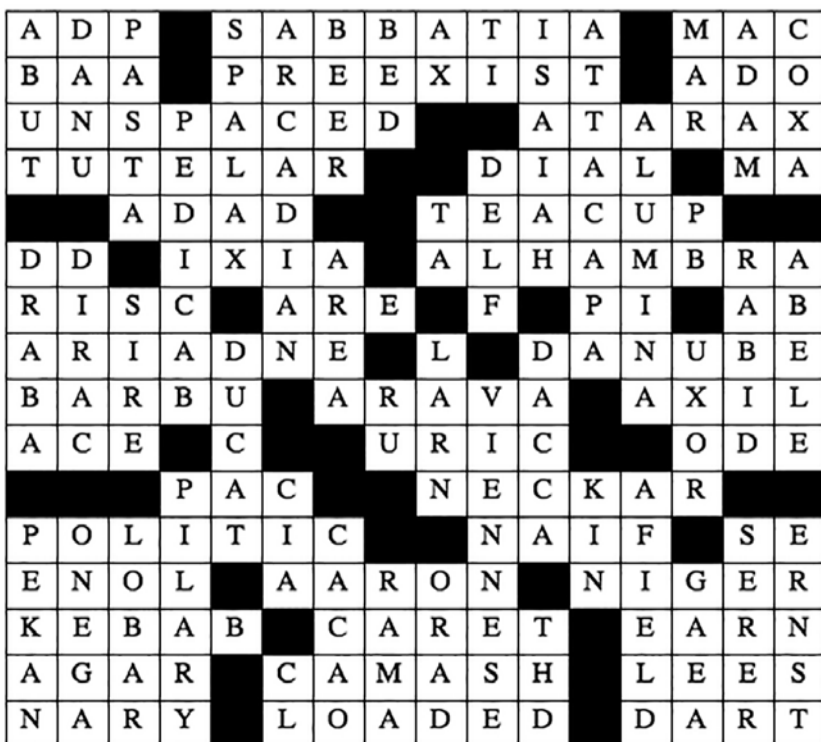
ACROSS

1. Inquire about.
4. A naval battle in the Russo-Japanese War (1905).
12. A nuclear reactor that uses water as a coolant and moderator.
15. Of or relating to a member of the Buddhist people inhabiting the Mekong river in Laos and Thailand.
16. A genus of Cricetidae.
17. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
18. An inlaid furniture decoration.
20. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
21. Lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike.
23. Not set afire or burning.
25. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
27. The large trunk artery that carries blood from the left ventricle of the heart to branch arteries.
28. A law officer having duties similar to those of a sheriff in carrying out the judgments of a court of law.
30. Sacred writings of Orthodox Judaism.
32. Someone who copies the words or behavior of another.
36. A sharp hand gesture (resembling a blow).
38. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
41. Despite anything to the contrary (usually following a concession).
44. Moving quickly and lightly.
46. An ugly evil-looking old woman.
47. An uproarious party.
48. United States musician (born in Japan) who married John Lennon and collaborated with him on recordings (born in 1933).
49. A bluish-white lustrous metallic element.
52. English poet and theologian (1674-1748).
54. A cephalosporin that can be given parenterally (trade name Zinacef) or orally by tablets (trade name Ceftin).
57. Kauri pine.
59. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
62. Predatory black-and-white toothed whale with large dorsal fin.
63. The 13th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
65. Marked by excessive enthusiasm for and intense devotion to a cause or idea.
66. Of the appetites and passions of the body.
69. One who attacks the reputation of another by slander or libel.
74. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
77. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
78. United States inventor who manufactured the first elevator with a safety device (1811-1861).
79. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedaling).
81. Informal terms for a mother.
82. Clean or orderly.
83. Genus of chiefly small rock-loving ferns.
84. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.

DOWN

1. One or more recordings issued together.
2. A Finnish steam bath.
3. Plant cultivated for its enlarged fleshy turnip-shaped edible stem.
4. A soft silvery metallic element of the rare earth group.
5. (of champagne) Moderately dry.
6. Bearded reddish sheep of southern Asia.
7. The granite-like rocks that form the outermost layer of the earth's crust.
8. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
9. Chief god of the Rig-Veda.
10. Japanese ornamental tree with fragrant white or pink blossoms and small yellow fruits.
11. State in northeastern India.
12. The hair growing on the lower part of a man's face.
13. A legal document issued by a court or judicial officer.
14. Type genus of the Ranidae.
19. A speech defect that involves pronouncing s like voiceless th and z like voiced th.
22. The state of being unsure of something.
24. 100 thebe equal 1 pula.
26. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
29. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
31. Suggestive of or tending to moral looseness.
33. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
34. Resembling or characteristic of a prophet or prophecy.
35. A mobile mass of muscular tissue covered with mucous membrane and located in the oral cavity.
37. God of fire.
39. A professional cook.
40. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
42. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in Iowa and Minnesota and Missouri.
43. A blind god.
45. A person who has lied or who lies repeatedly.
50. Large brownish-green New Zealand parrot.
51. An early Christian church designed like a Roman basilica.
53. Eaten as mush or as a thin gruel.
55. A republic in southwestern Africa on the south Atlantic coast (formerly called South West Africa).
56. Of or like a cecum.
58. Large family of important mostly marine food fishes.
60. Informal terms for a mother.
61. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
64. Related on the mother's side.
67. A vertical spar for supporting sails.
68. An inhabitant of Lapland.
70. A small cake leavened with yeast.
71. A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
72. Very dark black.
73. Avatar of Vishnu.
75. A lipoprotein that transports cholesterol in the blood.
76. Aromatic bulb used as seasoning.
80. The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.

Thursday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today is a day you may find yourself extremely understanding and sympathetic to others. There have been many times in your life you have made decisions that others didn't understand and didn't seem to agree with. You know that there are reasons people do the things they do that might be obvious to others. Becoming the friend to others you have always desired that someone be to you is helping you see beyond the surface of other's actions. You may find taking the time to be a true friend and getting to the root of other's problems draws people closer to you.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are fully aware you are not getting any younger. A desire to make the most of this life you have been given is a driving force for you. You have been too strict with yourself in the past. It is time to let your hair down and live a little. You tend to dismiss anyone and anything that does not conform to your way of thinking. This is a great time for you to surround yourself with your friends from other cultures, religions, and races. This could be an eye opener for you. A new outlook on life is what you need. Step out of your box and experience something new.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your main focus seems to be family. You crave a solid foundation and know that the root of your success and happiness begins and ends with your family. You have needs and you want to be needed by your family and those closest to you. This is a strong desire you have for your life and you are extremely focused on these relationships. You seem to be holding yourself to the highest possible standards and are extremely strict on yourself. You seem to dismiss anything that does not contribute to your goals. You may find that this is not the best of times to try and get your point across to others. You feel as if you encounter a bit of a block when trying to communicate with others today.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may find yourself tense and anxious about a situation you have found yourself in. You may feel under pressure and feel somewhat anxious. This may lead to you mentally checking out. You may use this as a coping mechanism for the stress you are under. An out of body feeling in a dreamy state may be the way your mind chooses to handle this conflict. Others may not be fond of this side of you and this could result in conflict with someone close to you. You will find your way and through your ability to get to the root of your problems, this too will be solved. Cancer. Set your mind on a solution and make it happen.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Don't be alarmed if you feel as if the hair on the back of your neck is standing on end. Something is leaving you with an unsettled feeling. Suspicions are high. Your mind is in overdrive and you will find your words come quick and sharp. You may find yourself in some type of conflict today. This could be with someone or just a feeling of conflicting emotions. You have a deep insight emotionally and may find yourself lost in your thoughts. You may find friends are not very supportive of the mood you are in and your actions today.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This is a day you will crave all eyes to be on you. You crave attention. From the way you dress, to the way you carry yourself, the center of attention is what you can expect to be. All eyes are on you. You will shine today. It seems as if everything conspires to bring out your more unique and unusual qualities. It may seem as if things work in your favor today. Solutions to old problems will come easy. This is a great day to spend some time working on a new invention.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Surround yourself with all that is beautiful today. You may put yourself in the spotlight today. Don't push responsibilities to the side today. Take care of business, this will be beneficial later and will help you to avoid conflict today. Don't be surprised to find yourself being challenged by someone today. Libra. Today may be a day you find it necessary to put the feelings of someone close to you ahead of your own. This may be a small sacrifice with great reward.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Romance is in the air and what your heart desires today. An emotional release is on the horizon. This is one of those days your heart is full. There is no more room inside and these emotions have to be shared with someone who is very special to you. A candlelit meal, a long talk, or cuddling on the couch with that special someone is in order. You may find you develop and even stronger bond this evening with someone close to you. Focus on the future and the one you want to spend it with Scorpio. It is a time of nurturing and love for you.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may be feeling drawn and even turned on by that which is taboo. Sex, power, and the pursuit of wealth are beginning to be a driving force behind your emotions. You are fascinated by people. What makes the do the things they do? What makes them tick? You desire a fresh start in your life and major changes. You know this may only be accomplished by turning your back on all you believed and starting over with an open mind and a new outlook on life in general.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may feel as if you wake up living in a fairy tale today. Everything seems to be going in your favor. An almost magical world surrounds you. A world where your dreams are becoming realities and you long for nothing. You are absolutely glowing and others will be drawn to you. Your smile is contagious. There is no better feeling than spreading joy. Always remember the gifts and blessings you receive are meant to be shared with others. Enjoy your magical day as you are surrounded with happiness and love.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

This is your time to shine. You are full of pride and proud of your accomplishments. You are being noticed in the workplace and have been excelling at your job. You are very observant of the feelings of those around you and are able to make them feel good about themselves. You feel much support from your peers and family. Everything in your world is beginning to feel healthy and come natural. You begin to feel as if something doesn't come from the heart it is irrelevant in your world. You surround yourself with people you feel are real and true friends. This is a great time for you and others begin to admire you not only for your accomplishments that the way you make them feel about themselves.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

People sometimes wonder about the secret to your contentment. It's not something you think about. You just go about each day being helpful and kind. You consider being reliable a part of who you are. You are not working at being happy, but happiness is a by-product of your lifestyle. If you could bottle and sell it, you might become financially rich. But you know that money is not the key to riches. You reap your rewards by continuing to invest in others.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Las Vegas

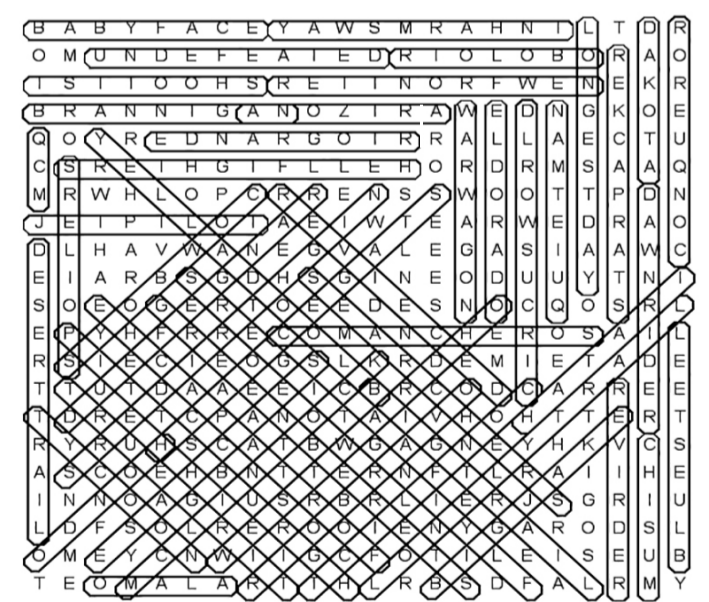
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 24 letters spell something you might see in Las Vegas.



- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|
| ATTRACTIONS | ENTERTAINMENT | NEON SIGNS | SINGERS |
| BUFFETS | FOOD | NEVADA | SOUVENIRS |
| CASINOS | FREMONT STREET | NIGHTLIFE | SPRING MOUNTAINS |
| CELEBRITIES | HOTELS | PERFORMERS | SUNNY |
| CLARK COUNTY | IMPERSONATORS | PLAYS | TOURISTS |
| COMEDIANS | LAS VEGAS STRIP | RESTORIS | TOURS |
| CONCERTS | LIGHTS | RESTAURANTS | TRIBUTE ACTS |
| CONVENTIONS | MAGICIANS | SHOPPING | VACATION |
| DESERT | MARRIAGES | SHOPS | WARM |
| DINING | MUSICALS | SHOWS | WEDDING CHAPELS |
| DRINKS | | | |

Thursday's Solution

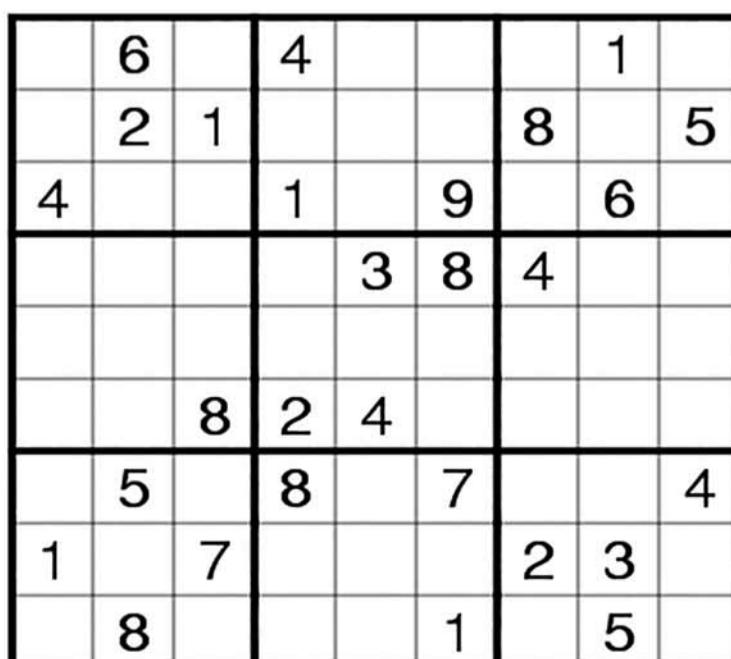
John Wayne Movies



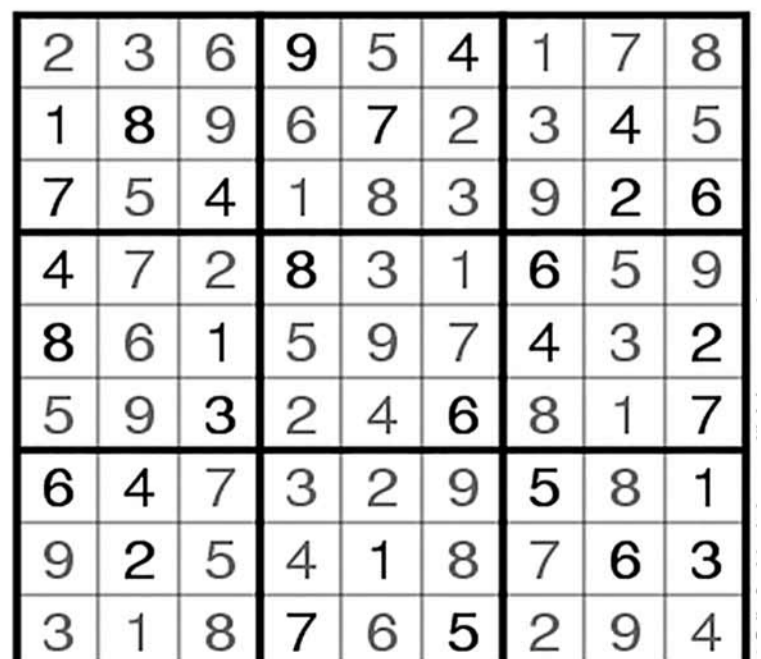
- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| ALAMO, The | COWBOYS, The | JET PILOT | RIO LOBO |
| ARIZONA | DAKOTA | LONELY TRAIL, The | SEA CHASE, The |
| BABY FACE | DAWN RIDER, The | LONGEST DAY, The | SEARCHERS, The |
| BIG JAKE | DECEIVER, The | MCINTOCK | SHOOTIST, The |
| BIG TRAIL, The | DESERT TRAIL, The | MCQ | SPOILERS, The |
| BLOOD ALLEY | EL DORADO | NEW FRONTIER | STAGECOACH |
| BLUE STEEL | FLYING TIGERS | NIGHT RIDERS, The | STAR PACKER, The |
| BRANNIGAN | FORT APACHE | PITTSBURGH | TRUE GRIT |
| CHISUM | GREEN BERETS, The | QUICK MAN, The | TYCOON |
| CIRCUS WORLD | HATARI | RANGE FEUD | UNDEFEATED, The |
| COMANCHEROS, The | HELL FIGHTERS | RED RIVER | WAR WAGON, The |
| CONFLICT | HONDO | RIO BRAVO | WESTWARD HO |
| CONQUEROR, The | IN HARMS WAY | RIO GRANDE | |

The hidden message is: TOMORROW HOPES WE HAVE LEARNED SOMETHING FROM YESTERDAY

Daily SuDoku



Thursday's Solution



Lifestyle

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2018



A woman takes a selfie at the observation point at Vorobyovy Hills in front of skyscrapers of the Moscow International Business Centre (Moskva City) in Moscow on November 14, 2018. — AFP

Stars gather for Chinese 'Oscars' in Taiwan

Asian cinema's top stars gathered in Taipei yesterday for Taiwan's Golden Horse film awards, dubbed the Chinese-language "Oscars", with acclaimed director Zhang Yimou's "Shadow" leading the race. Celebrities began arriving for the ceremony, with Oscar-winning director Ang Lee among the celebrities to walk down the red carpet in Taipei's Sen Yat-sen Memorial Hall.

Chinese director Zhang's martial arts epic, inspired by traditional ink-brush painting, leads with 12 nominations including for the coveted best film, best director, best leading actor and actress awards. Taiwanese comedy "Dear EX" about a widow fighting for her husband's inheritance against his gay lover, follows closely with eight nods in the best film and best acting categories, plus a best new director nod for Taiwanese duo Mag Hsu and Hsu Chih-yen.

Best director contenders are all from China. Zhang, Jiang Wen ("Hidden Man") and Lou Ye ("The Shadow Play") will face off against 29-year-old Bi Gan ("Long Day's Journey Into Night") and Tibetan Pema Tsenden ("Jinpa"). Zhang has never won Golden Horse best director, while former actor Jiang, who starred in Zhang's classic "Red Sorghum", won the title with his directorial debut "In the Heat of the Sun" in 1996.

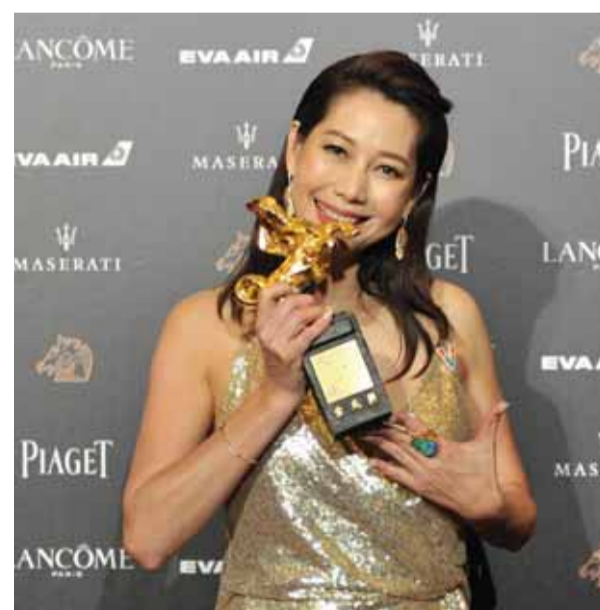
The best acting awards are also dominated by Chinese talent, with Taiwan's Roy Chiu and Hsieh Ying-xuan fighting for a home win for their respective roles as the gay lover and widowed mother in "Dear EX". China's Deng Chao, who plays the double of an official trained to protect him in ancient China in "Shadow", is a frontrunner for best actor against compatriots Xu Zheng ("Dying to Survive"), Duan Yihong ("The Looming Storm") and Peng Yuchang ("An Elephant Sitting Still").

Deng's wife, Chinese television star Sun Li, who also plays his wife in "Shadow", is vying for best actress against Zhou Xun in Japanese director Shunji Iwai's romance "Last Letter" as well as Zhao Tao ("Ash is Purest White") and Zeng Meihuizi ("Three Husbands"). Three Chinese dramas — "Long Day's Journey Into Night", "Dying to Survive" and "An Elephant Sitting Still" — are also in the running for best film.

The best documentary category sees "Our Youth in Taiwan" about the island's 2014 Sunflower Movement pitted against "Umbrella Diaries: The First Umbrella" about Hong Kong's pro-democracy Umbrella Movement. Both mass protests were led by young activists and reflected increasing resistance to Beijing's influence. — AFP



Taiwanese actor Si Pangoyod poses after winning the Best New Performer Award at the 55th Golden Horse film awards, dubbed the Chinese 'Oscars', in Taipei. — AFP photos



Taiwanese Actress Ding Ning poses after winning the Best Supporting Actress Award at the 55th Golden Horse film awards.



Hong Kong actor Ben Yuen poses after winning the Best Supporting Actor Award at the 55th Golden Horse film awards.

'We the Animals' tops Spirit Awards nominations



Actors Gemma Chan and Molly Shannon announce the nominees of the 2019 Spirit Awards during the 2019 Film Independent Spirit Awards Nomination Press Conference at W Hollywood on November 16, 2018 in Hollywood, California. — AFP

Coming-of-age parable "We the Animals" led the pack of indie movies tipped for Oscars glory as the Film Independent Spirit Awards nominations kicked off Hollywood's annual prize-giving season on Friday. The dreamlike drama — based on the novel of the same name by Justin Torres — follows brothers Manny, Joel and Jonah as they make their way through childhood, pushing against the roller-coaster love of their parents.

The film was nominated in five categories, including best first feature, cinematography, editing and supporting actor for Raul Castillo and the "someone to watch" award for director Jeremiah Zagar. Comedy "Eighth Grade," religious drama "First Reformed" and brutal crime thriller "You Were Never Really Here" followed with four nominations each, including a nod for each for best feature. Horror remake "Suspiria" was selected to receive the Robert Altman Award, which is bestowed upon one film's director, casting director and cast. — AFP

Music for activists: Photos of missing Thais inspire album

Photographs of dead and missing Thai rights activists have spurred a Canadian composer to create a music album and invite string quartets around the world to perform to draw attention to the violence campaigners face. More than 59 land and environmental activists have been killed or have disappeared in Thailand over the last 20 years, according to advocacy group Protection International.

British photographer Luke Duggeby visited their families to collect their portraits, then took pictures of those photographs in the place where the activists were last seen. His photo exhibit of 37 activists has been shown across

Europe and in Thailand over the last two years. Frank Horvat, who read about the exhibit in 2016, said he was so moved, that in just a month he composed "The Thailand HRDs", comprising a two-minute movement for each photograph, using musical pitches or letters from the name of each victim.

"This music is not intended to be purely melancholic but have a tinge of defiance so that these deaths do not mark an end, but a continuation of the fight for justice," Horvat said. New York City-based Mivos Quartet performed Horvat's composition in August in Toronto and the album is due to be released on Friday. It will "hopefully spur listeners to find

their inner activist and fight for what they feel is important in this world," he said in a statement on Thursday. A global campaign entitled "Music for Human Rights Defenders" or #music4HRDs, invites string quartets to videotape themselves playing a movement from the album and posting it on social media. The aim is to bring the classical music community together to support activists, and raise awareness of an issue that has received little attention in the West, said Horvat. In Thailand, evictions of villagers and indigenous people from forests and farm land have risen to make way for mines, power plants and national parks.

Laws governing forest management and land acquisition

do not offer adequate protection for the poor, leaving them vulnerable to violence while defending their homes and land, said Pranom Somwong at Protection International in Thailand. Among those featured in the photographs are Charoen Wat-aksorn, who led a campaign against a coal-powered plant. He was shot dead in 2004 after testifying to a parliamentary committee. "Very few perpetrators have been held accountable for these and other killings and disappearances," Pranom told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "If we don't hold them accountable, it will keep happening." — Reuters

Lifestyle | Features



This picture taken on November 16, 2018, in Riva, Latvia, shows an inner view of the Latvian National library. With homegrown books and films topping sales in Latvia after decades of foreign cultural domination, the small Baltic state is in the throes of a cultural renaissance as it marks 100 years of independence. — AFP photos

Cultural renaissance sweeps Latvia for centenary

With homegrown books and films topping sales in Latvia after decades of foreign cultural domination, the small Baltic state is in the throes of a cultural renaissance as it marks 100 years of independence. Latvians will enjoy centenary festivities including classical music concerts, military parades and fireworks on Sunday.

Before independence in 1918, Latvia endured the better part of two centuries under Russian imperial domination, only punctuated by brief periods of freedom. The country briefly emerged from that cultural cloud, only to be swept again under the control of Moscow, with decades of Soviet rule that finally ended in the early 1990s. Like others in the post-communist bloc, instead of examining their own culture, Latvians gobbled up American popular culture with their first taste of freedom. But over the last few years Latvians have been reclaiming their identity by immersing themselves in books and films focused largely on their own troubled history.

And in the weeks ahead of the centenary, this trend appears to have accelerated, with books by Latvian authors setting new sales records and dominating best-sellers lists in four of the country's largest bookstore chains. Among the most popular is a book series entitled "We. Latvia. The 20th Century". Written by 13 contempo-

rary writers, it looks back at the lives of ordinary Latvians, rather than heroes or leaders, under the Tsars prior to independence, during the two brief decades of independence that followed, and then during World War II and under Soviet rule.

"After Soviet-era censorship and a period of turmoil during the 1990s and early 2000s, Latvian literature is back," Dace Sparane, editor-in-chief of the Dienas Gramata publishing house, told AFP. "It's strong and diverse, and the popularity of this particular series is the best example," Sparane added.

Soviet stories, drugs and death metal

With record sales at home, an English translation of the novel "Mother's Milk" focused on Soviet rule in Latvia as seen through women's eyes and written by Nora Ikstena is also on sale in Britain and Russia. Jelgava '94, is among other hits. The semi-autobiographical tale by Janis Jonevs focuses the life of a 1990s teenager growing up in the bleak industrial town of Jelgava hit hard by the post-Soviet economic crisis.

The unnamed protagonist dabbles in hooligan life, drugs and alcohol as he discovers death metal, black metal and grindcore music. Jonevs won the EU literary prize for the book, which has been translated into French,

Norwegian among others, under titles like "Metal" to "Doom 94". "With contemporary and experimental novels dominating the bestsellers' lists, Latvia's cultural landscape is shedding its post-Soviet trappings and moving closer to (Western) European cultural traditions," Sparane adds.

Tsar Alexander III's policy of forced Russification in the late 19th century marginalized the Latvian language, even banning it entirely in some regions. The Bolshevik revolution swept away imperial Russia, paving the way to Latvia's declaration of independence on November 18, 1918. The "First Republic" was a period of immense growth in the economy as well as the arts and sciences. But that freedom and development was short-lived.

Alongside Baltic neighbors Estonia and Lithuania, Latvia was occupied by the USSR in 1940, seized by Nazi Germany in 1941 during World War II and again taken over by Moscow in 1944. After spending decades as unwilling Soviet republics, Latvia and its Baltic neighbors broke free from the crumbling USSR in 1990-91.

'Baltic Tribes'

"Back in the 1991, we had been cut off from the West economically and culturally for 50 years," Arno Jundze, head of the Latvian Writers Union, told AFP, adding that this gave rise to a hunger for all things Western. "It's finally

over: our public is turning back to its roots, just in time for our country's centenary," said the author of the critically and commercially successful novel "Red Mercury", focused on the turmoil of the 1990s.

Latvian bestsellers are also being adapted for the stage and into films that are turning into box office blockbusters in Latvia, now a eurozone and NATO state of 1.9 million people. Around a quarter of the population ethnic Russian. During the week ahead of the centenary, homemade feature films made up half the repertoire of all Latvian cinemas. After protests in 2014 by Latvian filmmakers over meager state funding, the government launched the Centennial Film List to gear up for 2018. The program has proved to be a success.

The "Baltic Tribes" is a fact-based hit focused on the peoples of the region a millennium ago while the equally popular Homo Novus depicts a fictionalized account of the lives of Latvian artists during the First Republic.

Another hit is the biopic "Father Night" focused on Latvian Janis Lipke who saved hundreds of Jews during the Holocaust. — AFP



Vendors selling merchandise in Accra's Independence Square, part of the waterfront area earmarked for development.

Accra waterfront development leaves artists fearful

Yussif Ayibesa stands in front of the ramshackle Centre for National Culture that backs on to the seafront in Ghana's capital, Accra, trying to encourage visitors to come in. The craftsman has been selling drums, paintings and woodwork at the centre since 2004. He's a relative newcomer: others have been there for more than 30 years. But with major plans to develop the surrounding area, Ayibesa and 1,200 other artists will soon be pushed off the site.

Visiting dignitaries are often brought to see the area earmarked for development, which stretches across nearly 100 hectares from Osu Castle past Independence Square to the memorial to former president Kwame Nkrumah. Earlier this month, Queen Elizabeth II's son and heir, the Prince of Wales, was taken to a viewing platform near the castle — the former seat of government — and shown the plans.

Coastal cities across the world from Rio De Janeiro to Nice and Vancouver have all developed their waterfronts and see them as prime real estate. Accra wants to do the same. British-Ghanaian architect David Adjaye's firm is the lead consultant on Accra's \$10 billion (nine-billion-euro) Marine Drive Project, which could take up to 10 years to complete. Some 150,000 jobs could be created but Ayibesa says there is a wider issue if the artists are moved on and replaced by new hotels, shiny office blocks and upscale apartments.

"Imagine if they take us out of here what are they going to present for the culture in Ghana?" he asked. The chief executive of the Ghana Tourism Authority, Akwasi Agyeman, has said British investors seem keen to get behind the public-private partnership. Currently the 2.4 kilometers stretch of waterfront hosts government offices, informal settlements, a hotel and the arts centre. All look likely to disappear.

Forced evictions

Displacement caused by luxury develop-

ment and tourism projects in African countries is common. The Oakland Institute, a US-based social, economic and environmental policy think-tank, has said tens of thousands of Maasai people in Tanzania were evicted from their homes. Nearly 600 kilometres west of Accra in Nigeria's commercial capital, Lagos, violent evictions from informal settlements have been commonplace to make way for luxury developments.

In 2010, as it prepared to host the football World Cup, the South African government evicted residents from across the city forcing them into slums on the outskirts of Cape Town. Ghana's government says it is in the process of moving or compensating the estimated 5,000 people who will be affected by the Marine Drive Project. It is creating a new temporary arts centre in central Accra — about seven kilometers inland from the current location — until a new building is constructed on the seafront. Artists will be able to move back, probably within two years, said Agyeman. "If you have hotels and audiences you want a place for visitors to come to with easy access... we want them back," he told AFP. But those affected say there has been no discussion about the conditions of their return, particularly regarding cost, leaving artists uncertain about their futures.

Lack of clarity

Charles Kofi Appiah has worked at the arts market at the Centre for National Culture for 32 years and remembers helping clear the land for the original construction. Since then, artisans have sprawled outwards, selling everything from traditional Ghanaian fabrics to leather bags and herbal medicines. Appiah is chairman of one of the artists' organizations in the market and has been liaising with the government and project coordinators on the move. — AFP

Actor Rebel Wilson loses appeal on Australian defamation case

Australian actor Rebel Wilson has lost an appeal against a court decision that cut a record payout against Germany's Bauer Media, which was found to have defamed her in a series of articles, Australian media reported on Friday.

The star of three "Pitch Perfect" movies and "Bridesmaids" won A\$4.6 million (\$3.5 million) in damages from the German publisher last year after a court found a series of articles accusing her of lying about her age, name and childhood events had cost her roles.

The judge said he awarded the damages to "nail the lie" in Bauer's article.

But a court in June slashed the payout, after Bauer, backed by a host of large Australian media companies, appealed the decision, arguing the damages were too high.

The court, in accepting Bauer's appeal on costs, said there was insufficient evidence the articles

prevented Wilson from getting lucrative roles in Hollywood and it cut her payout to A\$600,000.

Wilson had appealed against that decision but the High Court dismissed the case on Friday, national broadcaster the ABC reported. Wilson said on Twitter she was glad the matter was at an end.

"It's been a long journey in the Australian courts these past few years," she said.

"I have been determined to stand up to a bully and I am proud of myself for doing so. To win such a huge case and receive \$600,000 in damages from Bauer Media ... I am proud of this victory and all of the hard fight!"

A spokesman for Bauer Media said the company was pleased that the matter had come to an end.



Record-breaking Alps postcard sends message against climate change

A massive collage of 125,000 drawings and messages from children around the world about climate change was rolled out on a shrinking Swiss glacier Friday, smashing the world record for giant postcards. The mosaic of postcards, measuring 2,500 square meters was laid out in the snow on the Aletsch glacier in the Swiss Alps, at an altitude of 3,400 meters.

The event aims to "boost a global youth

climate movement ahead of the next global climate conference (COP24) in Poland", next month, said the WAVE foundation, which organized the event in cooperation with Swiss authorities. The display easily set the Guinness world record for the number of postcards strung together in a single image, beating the last record held by a collage of 16,000 individual postcards, WAVE said. The individual postcards feature children's draw-

ings in different colors and hues of white, which together spell out the messages: "STOP GLOBAL WARMING", "WE ARE THE FUTURE GIVE US A CHANCE" and "#1.5C".

The last message refers to the maximum level of global warming that scientists say should be aimed for if the planet is to remain liveable. However, a UN climate report last month warned that drastic action was needed to prevent Earth from hurtling towards a far sharper rise in temperature. The Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) said the globe's surface has already warmed one degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-industrial levels — enough to lift oceans and unleash a crescendo of deadly storms, floods and droughts — and without action is on track toward an unbearable 3C or 4C rise.

"Children and young people have a key role to play if the (1.5C) goal is to be achieved, both as generations that will suffer from the consequences of climate change for a long time and as a force for concrete action," the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) said in a statement. To commemorate the Guinness world record, "a postcard will be designed and printed to dispatch the young people's words to the four corners of the globe," SDC said. It said some of the postcards would be sent from the world's highest postbox on the Jungfrauoch peak, which overlooks the Aletsch glacier, to participants in the COP24. — AFP



An aerial view shows a massive collage of 125,000 drawings and messages from children from around the world about climate change seen rolled out on the Aletsch Glacier at an altitude of 3,400 meters near the Jungfrauoch in the Swiss Alps smashing the world record for the giant postcard. — AFP

Lifestyle | Features

'Of Fathers and Sons,' is a bleak look at children training for jihad

A group of children giggle as they play in a dusty, barren landscape near their home in northern Syria, but this is no ordinary game of catch, for their ball is a live bomb. The macabre game of chicken is one of the most blood-chilling scenes in "Of Fathers and Sons," filmmaker Tala Derki's disturbing new expose on the grip of Islamism in his native Syria.



Tala Derki attends the Doc Roundtable during AFI FEST 2018 presented by Audi at Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel on November 12, 2018 in Hollywood, California. — AFP

released in the United States on Thursday, won the world cinema documentary competition at the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year. Derki's previous documentary, "Return to Homs," won the grand jury prize at Sundance in the same category in 2014.

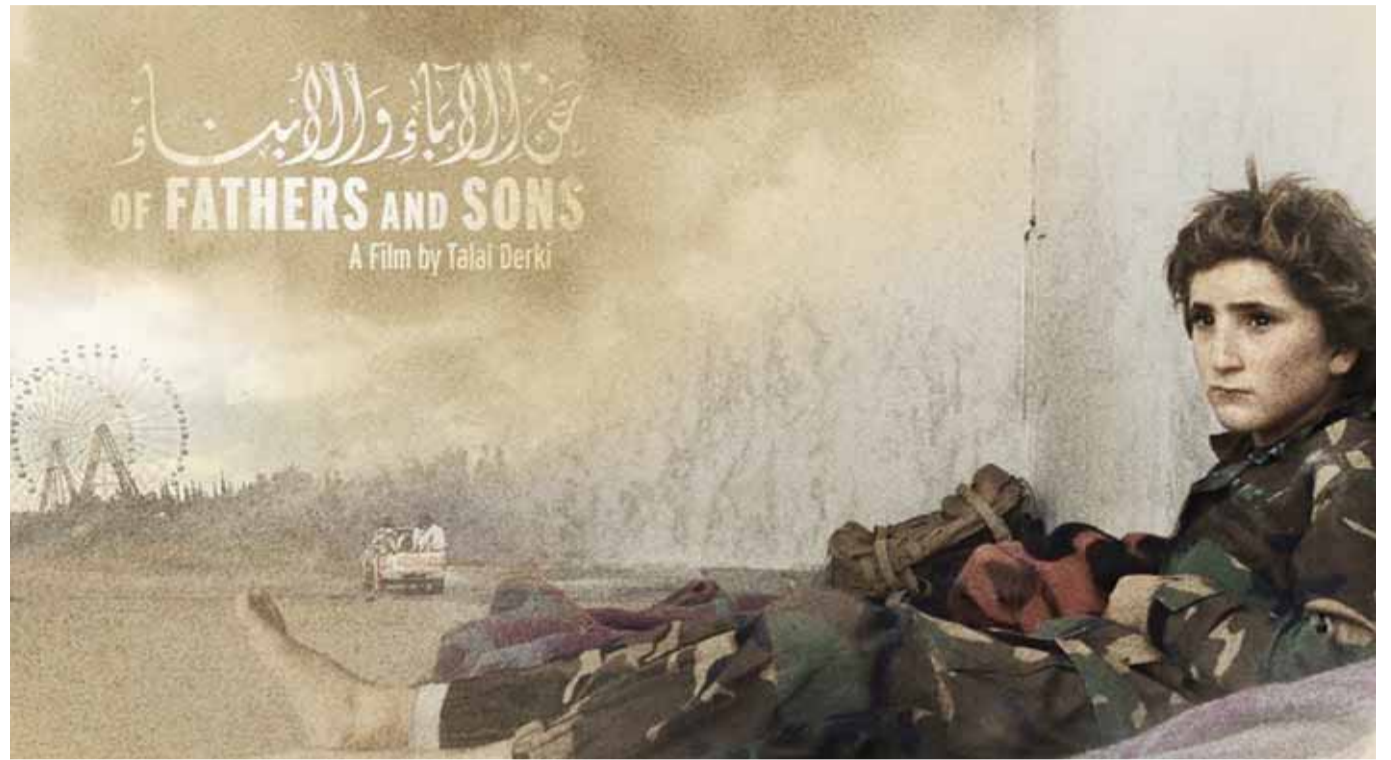
"Of Father and Sons" tracks Abu Osama, one of the founders of Al-Nusra, an Al-Qaeda affiliate group, as he leads two of his eight sons — Osama, 13, named after dad's personal hero Osama bin Laden, and Ayman, 12, named after the current Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri — down the path to jihad. Berlin-based Derki said he gained Abu Osama's trust by posing as a war photographer sympathetic to the jihadist cause and lived on-and-off with the family for two and a half years, sharing their most intimate moments.

Innocent youths to jihadists

The horror in the film doesn't come from violence and blood and gore, Derki said. Rather the viewer is sickened as the documentary charts the children's brutal transformation from innocent youths to jihadi fighters. "This is a film that makes you understand how the brain functions," Derki said. "You have the horror in the language, in the education, in a single moment." He said he is still haunted by several scenes in his film, notably the one with the children playing with the makeshift bomb.

In another scene, one of the children proudly boasts to Abu Osama — which means father of Osama in Arabic — about killing a little bird. "We put his head down and cut it off, like how you did it, father, to that man," the boy proclaims. The bombed-out desert landscape that the family calls home and the fact that the family's women are never shown or even heard adds to the sense of despair throughout the film.

"The women are the biggest victims in this society," Derki said. "I was there for two and a half years and I didn't even know what the mother of



these children looked like. "Her name was not uttered and her voice was never heard," Derki said that while his first documentary, "Return to Homs," tracked the evolution of the Syrian uprising and the regime's brutal crackdown, "Of Fathers and Sons" was an obvious next chapter in his quest to explain the country's slide into chaos.

"We have to use our weapon — which is cinema — to show what is really going on there, who these people are, how they brainwash societies," he said. "We have to think before we bomb any area, before we let a dictator kill his own people with heavy weapons," he added. Derki said "Of Fathers and Sons" has had such a profound psychological

impact on him that he has put down the camera for now as he concentrates on healing. "I am still recovering," he said. "I have to take medication to fall asleep, otherwise I have nightmares." He added that after the final shoot he got his right arm tattooed and his ear pierced to ensure he would not be tempted to try and embed with jihadists in the future. "If you have tattoos or piercings, you cannot be with them," he said. "So this was my way of making sure I don't go back." — AFP



In this file photo taken on July 25, 2018 actresses Elisa Del Genio and Ludovica Nasti of 'My Brilliant Friend' speak onstage during the HBO portion of the Summer 2018 TCA Press Tour at The Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California.



This file photo taken on October 4, 2016 shows books by Elena Ferrante on display at a bookstore in Rome. — AFP photos

HBO goes the foreign language route with 'My Brilliant Friend'

HBO is at the forefront of the "peak TV" revolution — from "The Sopranos" and "The Wire" to "Game of Thrones" and "Westworld," the US premium cable network has produced high-quality content for two decades. Today, it is breaking new ground with its first non-English series, "My Brilliant Friend," an Italian-language adaptation of a wildly popular series of novels by Elena Ferrante. The much-anticipated premiere is evidence of the globalization of television in the internet era, with audiences no longer primarily concentrated in America.

Fans of the books — Ferrante is a pseudonym and the true identity of the author is unknown — are champing at the bit to see the series. More than 10 million readers have fallen in love with the novels — the tale of a life-long friendship between Elena and Lila, who first meet in Naples in the 1950s — since the first one was published in 2011. The broadcast rights for the eight-episode HBO series were sold in 56 countries. It will air in Italy on public broadcaster RAI from November 27 and on Canal Plus in France in December.

Even in the United States, where books translated into English barely represent one percent of the market, the four Neapolitan Novels have been big business, with 2.6 million copies sold, according to publishing house Europa Editions. But the leap to the small screen is still a risky one for HBO,

which is collaborating with RAI on the series, which was filmed in Italy by Italian director Saverio Costanzo. The dialogue is actually in the thick Neapolitan dialect, and not pure Italian, so even RAI will show the series with subtitles. "That really struck me," Costanzo told The Hollywood Reporter. "I asked why an American network should care about the accuracy of a language if their audiences would be watching the series with subtitles. They replied that they wanted the series to be authentic," he added. "There, in that moment I understood why HBO is HBO."

Non-English programming rare in US

Such attention to detail and authenticity is relatively new in the United States. In 2009, Quentin Tarantino tiptoed in that direction with World War II romp "Inglourious Basterds," which was filmed in part in German and French. But until very recently, television series were wary of jumping on board. Then came "The Americans" (2013-18), the award-winning FX series about Russian spies living in America during the Cold War, which featured long sequences in Russian.

And as the world's television consumers turn more and more to streaming platforms to find new shows, they are more open to subtitled programming. Danish political drama "Borgen" is one striking example of cross-border suc-

cess. Netflix's "Narcos" — which was filmed in Spanish and English, and debuted in 2015 — "opened the door for the others, by showing that authenticity was vital to the success of a series," explains Lorenzo Mieli, executive producer of "My Brilliant Friend." "We couldn't imagine American actresses playing Italian schoolgirls in poor areas of Naples in the 1950s," Mieli told a roundtable discussion at MIPCOM, an annual industry trade show held last month in Cannes, France.

Truth in showbiz

Once the leap was made towards more authentic productions, one more leap remained: how to ensure that the novels were not warped in the adaptation process. "From the very first book by Elena Ferrante, I felt that we shared the same ideas and also the same stubbornness about making things look legit on screen," Costanzo said at the Venice Film Festival in September, where the first two episodes of the show premiered.

Francesco Piccolo — who co-wrote the screenplay with Costanzo, Ferrante and Laura Paolucci — said the author made suggestions throughout the process, and gradually became more at ease. Her suggestions were "never to defend the books, but more about how to best convey the ideas on screen. She had great confidence in Saverio," Piccolo said. The HBO series is indeed faithful to the book, a sweeping story of friendship, admiration, rivalry and jealousy. It offers a near-documentary look at Naples in the 1950s, where Elena and Lila meet at school.

Both girls are unusually intelligent for their age, and they grow close as they try to escape the violence of their run-down part of town, where the old "eye for an eye" theory of justice prevails. Filmed in an industrial wasteland in the Naples area, the series brings to life the neighborhood that is stifling them, with only a shabby courtyard on which to play and school as the only escape. The saga on the female condition is somewhat contemplative, with detailed depictions of everyday life interspersed with the mounting tension between the main characters.

"This series is totally different from what we are used to seeing on Italian television," Mieli said at MIPCOM. "We don't see people running around all over the place — instead we are focused on the complexity of the female characters' point of view," he explained. "I think this may open the door to a new way of storytelling." — AFP



In this file photo taken on July 25, 2018 executive producer Jennifer Schuur, actresses Elisa Del Genio and Ludovica Nasti, director Saverio Costanzo, actresses Gaia Girace and Margherita Mazzucco and executive producer Lorenzo Mieli of 'My Brilliant Friend' speak onstage during the HBO portion of the Summer 2018 TCA Press Tour.

Fashion legend Kenzo lifts veil on colorful legacy

Kenzo Takada, the Japanese designer who retired at the height of his colorful career nearly 20 years ago, wants to show the world how he came up with the pathbreaking designs that helped catapult a wave of Japanese creators onto the Paris stage. After years of taking time for himself, "I again needed to do something, to work," he told AFP. "I am very happy, but at times I feel nostalgic."

The result is a new book tracing his trajectory since arriving in France as a young man with dreams of bringing his designs to life in the fashion world's beating heart. "Kenzo Takada," released Wednesday, delves into his French adventure with more than 40 years of sketches, photos and memories, up to his final runway show at Paris's Zenith concert hall. The highlight is undoubtedly a previously unreleased photo essay taking readers through the creation of an exquisite wedding gown from his fall and winter collection of 1982-83.

His fans get an intimate glimpse of a master at work: a notebook of drawings, Kenzo in his workshop with long-time assistant Atsuko Kondo, a ballet slipper being painted red because time was too tight to scout out the right shoe. "We started just two days before the show!" Kenzo said in an interview in Paris. "The theme of this collection was flowers. This wedding dress, draped in garlands of flowers, was the very image of the collection, a sort of symbol," he said. To perfect the composition, Kenzo dug into a vast collection of ribbons — old and new, plain or embroidered — accumulated over the years.

Paris 'seemed so sad'

The trademark vibrancy and bold colors of Japan's most famous designer are in many ways the exact opposite of what he found upon his arrival in the French capital. "I arrived at the Gare de Lyon the evening of January 1, 1965. It was dark and the station was old, dirty, black," he recalled. "I took a taxi and my first impression of Paris was that it was dismal and bleak. It was Paris, the capital of fashion, the city I had dreamed of, and it seemed so sad," he said. "But then the taxi went by Notre Dame... it was magnificent."

In letters to his mother he describes bread so good he eats too much and bathing just once a week because the public baths are too expensive. But he also describes the overwhelming beauty of the flower shops, which were plentiful in Paris but a rarity in Tokyo at the time. After managing to sell some of his drawings to magazines including Elle, he opened his first shop in the elegant Vivienne Gallery in 1969, decorating it with jungle motifs and calling his brand "Jungle Jap".

"At the time, synthetic fabrics were in fashion in Paris, and the clothes were quite somber. During a visit to Japan I bought colored fabrics in cotton," he said. He also borrowed from the meticulous crafting of kimonos, adding audacious colors while injecting new energy into shows with models who would skip, hop and dance their way down the runway. — AFP



Japanese-French fashion designer Kenzo Takada poses during a photo session in Paris.

Lifestyle | Features



A student of Chen Hsi-huang, an 87-year-old Taiwanese glove puppeteer, displaying a craft tiger puppet during a class at Puppetry Art Center.



Chen Hsi-huang standing next to a puppet show being performed by his students.



Chen Hsi-huang looking at puppets at the Puppetry Art Center.

Taiwanese puppet master fights to save dying art



This picture taken on October 13, 2018 shows Chen Hsi-huang, an 87-year-old Taiwanese glove puppeteer, demonstrating how to use a puppet during an interview at the Puppetry Art Center in Taipei. — AFP photos

At 87 years old, Taiwanese glove puppeteer Chen Hsi-huang is the star of a new documentary which reflects his determination to revive the dying traditional craft and a late-life renaissance as a high-profile promoter of the art form. The film, entitled "Father", tells the story of how Chen pursued the craft in the shadow of his father, the legendary puppeteer Li Tian-lu, who drew huge audiences to his shows in the 1950-1970s and appeared in several movies.

Also known as "Budaixi", glove puppetry spread to Taiwan in the 19th century from the southeastern Chinese province of Fujian and was mainly performed at religious and festive occasions, becoming a popular form of entertainment. Puppeteers maneuver small glove dolls on ornate wooden stages to present historical and martial arts stories accompanied by live folk music.

Chen said he values the traditional puppetry because it is characterized by subtle movements, with the puppeteer taking on all roles, from a young woman to an old man. He first set up his own troupe at 23 years old but as business declined he was forced to shut shop at 40. He went on to teach the craft and continued to perform with other groups in Taiwan and overseas. At the age of 79, motivated by his desire to stop the art form fading completely in the face of modern entertainment, he set up a new troupe and teaches puppetry at weekend classes as well as taking on apprentices. "There were only two or three traditional troupes left," he told AFP. "I used my name to open a new troupe because I didn't want the traditional craft to disappear."

Next generation

Chen acknowledges the challenges facing the ancient craft, saying people have less time to spare to watch the shows. But he has taken heart from the positive response to the documentary which premiered in Taiwan last month, directed by local filmmaker Yang Li-chou over a period of 10 years. "I was worried that people might not understand the film, but young people did, even if they hadn't watched Budaixi before. They told me they liked it and that puppetry is awesome," says Chen. Chen's current apprentice Chen Wei-you is part of a family troupe that runs around 150 puppet shows a year.



A student of Chen Hsi-huang practicing how to operate a glove puppet.

"My grandfather actually told me to find 'a better job' but I chose this career because I am interested," the 32-year-old told AFP. "Like the master, I don't want the traditional puppetry to disappear," he said. Dozens of students of all ages attend Chen's classes at the government-funded Puppetry Art Centre in Taipei every Saturday. Student Hung Wei-heng, 10, said he was interested in learning puppetry because it was "very cool". "I want to learn how to operate the puppets and to make the movements," he said.

Taiwanese authorities are trying to promote the traditional craft, organizing an annual puppet festival in Yunlin county. Puppet fan Chiang Chi-feng, 41, attended the festival last month with a sense of nostalgia. "Now that I have kids of my own, I bring them to temple fairs and watch outdoor puppet shows. They are experiencing what I experienced in my childhood," he said. Puppet master Chen vows to continue performing and teaching as long as he still has the strength. "I haven't completed passing on the art so I can't retire," he said. — AFP

Elvis returns to the White House in Trump ceremony

Elvis' velvety voice filled the White House briefly on Friday when a recording of one of his songs was played at a ceremony hosted by President Donald Trump to honor the king of rock 'n roll. Elvis was part of an eclectic group of seven Americans being awarded the Medal of Freedom, the country's highest civilian honor. Also posthumously honored was baseball legend Babe Ruth, while the living recipients included Miriam Adelson, who, like her casino tycoon husband Sheldon Adelson, is a heavyweight Republican party donor.

Trump's homage to Elvis — who once met with president Richard Nixon at the White House in 1970 — paused for a recording of the gospel song "How great thou art." Trump said that playing music was his idea but when the richly toned performance stopped after just a few seconds, the disappointed president complained that

staff organizing the event "have no promotional ability." Trump also recalled that he had attended an Elvis performance himself decades ago, where overexcited fans were "ripping the place apart, screaming. They were going crazy."

To calm the crowd, an announcement was made that "Elvis has left the house," he said, joking that if "they didn't say that I think I would still be there — maybe I wouldn't be here." Other honorees were: late Supreme Court justice Antonin Scalia; longtime Republican Senator Orrin Hatch; and NFL Hall of Famers quarterback Roger Staubach and defensive tackle Alan Page, who went on to serve as a state supreme court justice in Minnesota. — AFP



US President Donald Trump awards the Presidential Medal of Freedom singer of Elvis Presley to President and CEO of Elvis Presley Enterprises Jack Soden at the White House in Washington, DC, on November 16, 2018. — AFP

Oscar-winning screenwriter William Goldman dies at 87

William Goldman, the Oscar-winning screenwriter behind "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," and "All the President's Men," has died, his family announced Friday. His daughter and son-in-law told US media that the 87-year-old passed away Friday morning in New York City following complications from cancer and pneumonia. Born in Chicago, Goldman briefly served in the military and got into writing after graduating from university. He wrote a number of bestselling novels before he turned to scriptwriting.

"Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," his first original screenplay about a pair of outlaws — portrayed in the film by Paul Newman and Robert Redford — won him his first Oscar in 1970. He went on to win another Academy Award for Watergate thriller "All the President's Men" in 1977. In a career spanning more than five decades, Goldman insisted over the years that he was a novelist and didn't see himself as part of the Hollywood establishment, despite his phenomenal commercial success. "I'm not a screenwriter," he told the New York Times in 1979. "I'm a novelist who writes screenplays." He adapted for the screen a number of his books, including fantasy novel "The Princess Bride" and conspiracy thriller "Marathon Man." — AFP



In this file photo taken on December 22, 2003, screenwriter William Goldman attends the New York Knicks and Minnesota Timberwolves NBA game at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Tea or coffee drinker? The answer might be genetic

In new research studying how genetic factors determine taste, scientists now believe they know why some humans prefer coffee while others opt for tea. A paper published this week in the journal Nature Scientific Reports found that people who are genetically predisposed to like more bitter tastes typically choose coffee due to its higher content of tart caffeine. But, importantly for tea drinkers everywhere, that doesn't make them right.

As humans evolved we developed the capacity to detect bitterness as a natural warning system to protect the body from harmful substances. Evolutionarily speaking, we should want to spit that Americano straight down the sink. But participants in the trial who were more genetically sensitive to the bitter taste of caffeine were more likely to prefer coffee to tea, and more likely to drink more of it.

"You'd expect that people who are particularly sensitive to the bitter taste of caffeine would drink less coffee," said Marilyn Cornelis, assistant professor of preventative medicine at the Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine. "The opposite results of our study suggest coffee consumers acquire a taste or an ability to detect



caffeine due to the learned positive reinforcement elicited by caffeine." So individuals genetically pre-programmed to like coffee's bitterness learn to associate "good things with it," said Cornelis.

In the study on more than 400,000 men and women in the United Kingdom, researchers also found that people sensitive to the bitter flavors of quinine and a taste related to vegetable compounds were more likely to eschew coffee in favor of its sweeter counterpart, tea. Liang-Dar Hwang from the University of Queensland Diamantina Institute, who co-wrote the study, told AFP that the fact that some people prefer coffee showed how everyday experiences can override genetic tendencies when it comes to taste.

"Bitter taste perception is shaped by not only genetics but also environmental factors," he said. "Even though humans naturally dislike bitterness, we can learn to like or enjoy bitter-tasting food after being exposed to environmental factors." Although coffee-lovers are essentially defying evolution, there is another possible benefit to liking your latte. Hwang said coffee drinkers were genetically less sensitive to bitterness than tea drinkers, making them "less likely to hate other bitter-tasting foods" such as green vegetables. — AFP

Classifieds

Sunday, November 18, 2018

Kuwait Times
 Now you can browse
www.kuwaittimes.net
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

STATE OF KUWAIT
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
 METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 6817
 Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Mostly Sunny with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 35 km/h .

BY NIGHT: Cool with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 38 km/h .

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 17/11/2018 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	23 °C	18 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	22 °C	17 °C			
ABDALY	23 °C	15 °C			
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C			
JAHRA	23 °C	16 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	23 °C	17 °C			
SALMIYAH	23 °C	18 °C			
AHMADI	23 °C	18 °C			
NUWAISIB	24 °C	17 °C			
WAFRA	23 °C	16 °C			
SALMY	23 °C	13 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Sunday	11/18	Sunny	24 °C	16 °C	NW	10 - 40 km/h
Monday	11/19	Clouds will increase gradually with a chance for scattered light rain later on	23 °C	16 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 28 km/h
Tuesday	11/20	Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	23 °C	17 °C	NW	12 - 35 km/h
Wednesday	11/21	Sunny	24 °C	16 °C	NW	10 - 40 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:51
Sunrise	06:13
Zuhr	11:33
Asr	14:32
Sunset	16:52
Isha	18:12

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	25 °C
MIN. Temp.	19 °C
MAX. RH	100 %
MIN. RH	59 %
MAX. Wind	N 64 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	20.9mm

Hospitals

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

Clinics

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

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Required for a major company
 Experience a must - presentable - university degree holders.

- Secretary/Executive Secretary - Computer literate - Fluent English
- Data Entry - at least one year experience
- Female Receptionist - one year experience
- Treasurers • Accountant

Send CV to WhatsApp: 9600014
 Email: Work@superservicekw.com
 Note: Full time - Salary decided after interview - Friday & Saturday holiday

CHANGE OF NAME

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is **1889988**

EMERGENCY 112

Airlines

Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Wataniya Airways	22 066 536
Turkish Airlines	1884918
American Airlines	22087425
Jet Airways	22087426
FlyDubai	22924455
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044

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

Arrival Flights on Sunday 18/11/2018					Departure Flights on Sunday 18/11/2018				
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	MSR	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	MSR
JZR	254	Amman	00:05	610	JZR	407	Ahmedabad	00:05	221
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:15	393	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05	515
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	1078	FDB	072	Dubai	00:40	405
THY	772	Istanbul	00:50	774	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:45	405
JZR	734	Cairo	00:50	792	JZR	707	Luxor	01:00	1075
KAC	102	London	00:50	059	JAI	571	Mumbai	01:15	702
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55	672	JZR	111	Doha	01:45	113
DLH	625	Dammam	01:25	364	KAC	363	Colombo	01:50	123
UAE	853	Dubai	01:45	221	KAC	677	Dubai	02:00	123
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	618	KAC	417	Manila	02:00	611
IGO	1757	Kochi	01:55	500	DLH	625	Frankfurt	02:25	872
ETH	620	Ababa	02:15	692	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:30	394
JZR	722	Alexandria	02:15	529	IGO	1758	Kochi	02:55	103
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30	788	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	1079
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	303	UAE	854	Dubai	03:40	060
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	222	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:55	222
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:55	645	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55	673
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	562	KKK	1269	Istanbul	03:55	501
RJA	648	Amman	02:55	304	THY	765	Istanbul	04:00	775
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	857	QTR	1087	Doha	04:00	530
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	732	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05	615
QTR	1076	Doha	04:00	127	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	619
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	118	JZR	701	Asyut	04:30	619
KAC	414	Bangkok	04:00	516	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00	563
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	212	IGO	1752	Chennai	05:10	619
JZR	410	Delhi	04:25	502	KAC	103	London	05:10	563
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	542	QTR	1077	Doha	05:30	563
DHX	170	Bahrain	04:30	051	DHX	173	Bahrain	05:30	052
DHX	170	Bahrain	04:35	114	FDB	070	Dubai	05:50	858
FDB	069	Dubai	05:00	510	KAC	303	Mumbai	06:10	283
KAC	382	Delhi	05:05	215	JZR	713	Sohag	06:15	1073
JZR	404	Hyderabad	05:10	732	JZR	121	Dubai	06:35	721
THY	770	Istanbul	05:10	127	KAC	331	Trivandrum	06:35	331
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:10	118	THY	771	Istanbul	06:40	343
JZR	112	Doha	05:25	516	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15	733
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	212	RJA	649	Amman	07:15	511
KAC	344	Chennai	05:50	212	JZR	115	Doha	07:30	216
JZR	402	Mumbai	06:05	620	QTR	8512	Doha	07:55	621
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:10	1080	KAC	171	Frankfurt	08:10	127
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:10	341	KAC	165	Rome	08:20	501
QTR	8511	Doha	06:25	640	BAW	156	London	08:50	403
KAC	678	Dubai	06:55	123	FDB	054	Dubai	08:50	381
BAW	157	London	07:05	555	KAC	501	Beirut	09:00	253
KAC	204	Lahore	07:10	156	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:05	064
JZR	708	Luxor	07:15	616	KAC	613	Bahrain	09:05	876
KAC	358	Kochi	07:35	217	JZR	731	Cairo	09:10	621
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	776	QTR	1081	Doha	09:15	1081
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	057	RJA	641	Amman	09:15	641
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	166	SYR	342	Damascus	09:15	641
JZR	408	Ahmedabad	08:45	620	RBG	556	Alexandria	09:20	641
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	647	ABY	124	Sharjah	09:20	511
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	674	GFA	218	Bahrain	09:20	218
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:40	1088	FDB	058	Dubai	09:45	058
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	624	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	09:45	345
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	172	JZR	401	Mumbai	09:45	401
QTR	1070	Doha	09:45	307	KAC	353	Bengaluru	09:45	353
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	229	KAC	301	Mumbai	10:00	301
IRC	528	Ahwaz	10:00	402	KAC	357	Kochi	10:05	357
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	859	OMA	648	Muscat	10:10	648
JZR	702	Asyut	11:05	676	DLH	624	Dammam	10:10	624
JZR	116	Doha	11:10	219	DHX	171	Bahrain	10:10	171
JZR	122	Dubai	11:20	564	QTR	1089	Doha	10:35	1089
QTR	1074	Doha	11:35	574	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	10:40	308
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	1082	KAC	1543	Cairo	10:40	1543
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:25	309	MEA	403	Beirut	10:40	403
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	981	ALK	230	Colombo	10:40	230
JZR	714	Sohag	12:35	622	GFA	220	Bahrain	10:45	220
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	786	KAC	783	Jeddah	10:55	783
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	128	UAE	860	Dubai	11:00	860
				071	JAI	573	Mumbai	11:00	573
				262	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	11:25	310
					QTR	1083	Doha	12:00	1083

Canada set to get most refugee claims in nearly three decades

Ottawa asks world to stop sending mail

TORONTO: Canada is on track to receive its highest number of refugee claims since record-keeping began nearly three decades ago, the latest data shows, as the government's handling of immigration comes under scrutiny ahead of next year's federal election. Despite cooler weather, the number of refugee claimants jumped past 6,000 in October, the highest monthly tally this year, the data released on Thursday showed.

That takes total claims in the first 10 months of 2018 to 46,245, putting the country on track to surpass last year's record even as the quasi-judicial body that adjudicates claims struggles to work through a 64,000-person backlog. The Immigration and Refugee Board started tracking refugee claimant data in 1989.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government faces a widely held belief that Canada has been overwhelmed by immigrants pressing asylum claims, even though it receives far fewer than many other countries. The government has struggled to balance Canada's reputation as a haven for those fleeing persecution with warnings that filing refugee claims is no "free ticket" to remain in the country.

The governing Liberals have come under fire for their handling of the more than 37,000 people who have

walked across the Canada-U.S. border seeking asylum since Jan 2017 - many of whom told Reuters they did not feel safe in President Donald Trump's United States. About 1,400 crossed the frontier in October, down from 1,600 the month before. But most refugee claimants enter the country by other means, and their numbers are growing.

"There are 65 million refugees in the world, and there are many desperate people trying to find safety and refuge in western countries," said Toronto-based lawyer Lorne Waldman. "I think we're going to see 50,000-plus (refugee claims annually) for the foreseeable future."

A spokesman for Immigration and Refugees Minister Ahmed Hussen noted that this year's budget included an additional C\$74 million (\$56 million) for the Immigration and Refugee Board "to speed up the processing of asylum claims." The hiring of 248 new staff "is under way," spokesman Mathieu Genest wrote in an email. About 56 percent of refugee claims finalized in the first three quarters of 2018 were accepted, according to the Immigration and Refugee Board, with lower acceptance rates for border-crossers.

Border-crossers from Nigeria and Haiti, who made up the largest groups of border-crossers, had relatively low

acceptance rates compared with other nationalities, at 29.3 percent and 11.6 percent, respectively. Canada's government is trying to hasten the deportations of border-crossers whose refugee claims are not successful, classifying them with criminals as a top deportation priority.

The government should also prioritize integration of successful applicants, said Canadian Council for Refugees head Janet Dench, and ensure that tens of thousands of people are not left waiting years for permanent resident status. "The longer you keep people in this limbo state, the longer before they can contribute fully to Canadian society."

Meanwhile, Canada's postal service issued a plea on Friday for the rest of the world to stop sending in mail as its striking workers rejected the latest contract offer. Canada Post, facing a huge delivery backlog as the labor unrest looked set to enter a fifth week, recently sweetened its offer to staff in a last-ditch effort to bring the rotating strikes to an end. This followed a warning from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that his government was prepared to step in to settle the labor dispute ahead of the upcoming holiday season.

His government has faced pressure from online retailers

including eBay to legislate an end to the strike before the Black Friday and Cyber Monday sales events, which start on Nov 23. But a spokeswoman for the Canadian Union of Postal Workers told AFP the offer, due to expire yesterday, was "unsatisfactory" and the union "will not be presenting it to members".

Canada Post, meanwhile, said a backlog of deliveries that coincided with the start of the strike on Oct 22 has now extended to mail entering the country. "As a result, we have been forced to advise international posts, including the United States Postal Service, that we are unable to accept incoming items until further notice," it said in an email. The two sides have been in contract negotiations for nearly one year, with no success.

The rotating strikes have so far impacted more than 200 communities, including major cities Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver. In Toronto alone, a record 260 trailers of parcels and packets were waiting to be unloaded, while in Vancouver more than 100 trailers were parked outside its plant. Canada Post delivers two-thirds of the nation's online shopping and the last six weeks of the year are its busiest due to the holiday rush. — Agencies

Argentine sub found year after...

Continued from Page 1

It also came just before the Seabed Constructor was to leave for maintenance in South Africa. Before setting off, the searchers decided to check an area which bad weather had previously prevented them from examining. They "decided to do a new search and, thanks to God, it was able to find the zone," navy spokesman Rodolfo Ramallo told Todo Noticias TV. "Now another chapter opens. From the analysis of the state in which the submarine has been found, we will see how to proceed," he said.

Gabriel Attis, head of the Mar del Plata naval base, later confirmed to reporters the vessel had imploded, but remained more or less intact. The Seabed Constructor is equipped with cameras that can be submerged to a depth of 6,000 m. It was to receive a reward of \$7.5 million if it found the missing sub. Before the latest search mission began, Luis Tagliapietra, whose son Alejandro was a lieutenant on the San Juan, described it as "the last opportunity to find them".

Ocean Infinity was also assigned the task of hunting for Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, which vanished without trace in March 2014 en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. Finding the sub's wreckage "is going to permit us to know more about this tragedy. At this

depth we ought to be able to inspect and determine the cause of the accident," an Argentine naval officer said, requesting anonymity.

Experts say the sub would have been crushed by water pressure once it dropped below about 600 meters. They favor a hypothesis in which water entered through a defective valve of the submarine's snorkel, triggering the tragedy. The loss of the San Juan was one of the world's worst submarine disasters in decades, and the first major tragedy to hit Argentina's navy since the Falklands War in 1982. Argentina, which refers to the islands as Las Malvinas, lost the war to Britain.

Argentina's navy has been fiercely criticized for its handling of the case since first reporting the submarine overdue at Mar del Plata on Nov 16, 2017. It was only several days into the tragedy that navy officials acknowledged the old, German-built submarine had reported a problem with its batteries in its final communication of Nov 15. Nearly 10 days later, the navy confirmed there had been an explosion on board, which experts said was likely linked to the battery problem. Several senior officers were dismissed, including navy chief Marcelo Srur.

An air and sea search involved 13 countries, but most of them withdrew before the end of 2017. Authorities have opened a criminal investigation. Families of the missing crew had kept pressure on the government not to give up the search. "We want to know what happened," said Yolanda Mendiola, calling for punishment of anyone guilty in the case. "Can you imagine? There were 44 boys who were alive when they got on the submarine." — AFP

gible progress can ever be achieved on the ground.

I am in Kuwait on November 18-19 at the invitation of TAKREEM to celebrate and recognize the achievements of trailblazing Arab individuals and organizations who have contributed for their communities and towards the betterment of the world. On behalf of my colleagues of laureates and leaders for children, I once again take this opportunity to call upon the compassionate leaders, governments and businesses from the Gulf to extend the fullest support to refugee children and their communities so that they are protected, sheltered and nurtured for a promising tomorrow. In these trying times, the need of the hour is not to shut the national frontiers for displaced children, but embrace them with open hearts.

In this interconnected world where no problem is isolated and no victory attributable to an individual, all of us have to walk together holding the hands of the most marginalized children and take them towards peace and light. The Arab world can take a lead in this transformation that will go a long way in reconstructing hope and restoring childhoods, thereby building a better world.

NOTE: The author is an internationally acclaimed child rights activist and 2014 Nobel Peace Laureate

The annual amount of rainfall in the country is estimated at 110-190 mm per year. The weather is dry most of the year. Rainfall is limited and varies throughout Kuwait, she added.

Behzad pointed out that the minimum amount of rain Kuwait received in the past was 30 mm in 1960 and the maximum recorded was 300 mm in 1954 and 1872 (Rajabia). In 1934, Kuwait was lashed by the so-called 'Haddama' (destructive) rains that affected more than 18,000 people, noting that heavy rainfall was repeated in 1997 when more than 65 mm was recorded in a short time. She said rainwater is collected in residential areas by advanced rainwater drainage systems and directly discharged in the Arabian Gulf.

Head of the Department of Climate Monitoring Change at the Environment Public Authority (EPA) Sherif Al-Khayyat said research studies have shown that there is close correlation between global warming in the atmosphere and what is causing a change in the global climate with the change in patterns and quantities of rainfall in most of the world.

Khayyat added that changes in the atmosphere have become increasingly rapid because of the increasing concentration of greenhouse gases, which has affected and will affect in the future the most important characteristics of the water cycle in the atmosphere, including the evaporation and condensation rate of the sea and ocean waters and the paths of clouds and the impact of high and low pressures, sometimes causing heavy rains in some areas and droughts elsewhere. Kuwait is not immune to these changes. "What we are witnessing today in unprecedented temperature rise, change in seasons and the intensity and frequency of dust storms and extreme rainfall are definitive evidence of serious changes in the atmosphere," he said. — KUNA

Saudi women in 'inside-out' abaya protest

RIYADH: Saudi women have mounted a rare protest against the abaya, posting pictures on social media wearing the obligatory body-shrouding robe inside out. The conservative state has some of the world's toughest restrictions on women, who are required to wear the typically all-black garment in public. Powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in March said wearing the robe was not mandatory in Islam, but in practice nothing changed and no formal edict to that effect was issued.

Using the hashtag "inside-out abaya", dozens of women have posted pictures of flipped robes in a rare protest against the strict dress code. "Because #Saudi feminists are endlessly creative, they've come up with new form of protest," activist Nora Abdulkarim tweeted last week. "They are posting pictures of (themselves) wearing their abayas inside-out in public as a silent

objection to being pressured to wear it." Another woman on Twitter said the online campaign, which appears to be gaining traction after it surfaced this week, was an act of "civil protest".

In an interview to CBS Television in March, the crown prince said: "The laws are very clear and stipulated in the laws of Sharia: that women wear decent, respectful clothing, like men." But, he added, this "does not particularly specify a black abaya. (It) is entirely left for women to decide what type of decent and respectful attire to wear."

After his comment, prominent Muslim cleric Sheikh Ahmed bin Qassim Al-Ghamdi added a new wrinkle to the debate when he dismissed the long-held view that black was the only color for abayas permissible in Islam. Prince Mohammed, currently facing global criticism over the murder of critic Jamal Khashoggi, has spearheaded a liberalization drive in the conservative kingdom.

In June, women celebrated taking the wheel for the first time in decades as the kingdom overturned the world's only ban on female motorists. The kingdom has also allowed women to enter sports stadiums, previously a male-only arena, and is pushing for greater participation of women in the workforce as it seeks to diversify its oil-dependent economy. —AFP

Reconstructing hope; restoring childhoods...

Continued from Page 1

The prosperous oil-producing nations of the Gulf, besides being great architects of the magnificent Arab world, also have large hearts brimming with compassion to make this world fertile for humanity. In recent years, Gulf states' contribution to global humanitarian government aid and development has been increasing strongly both in absolute and relative terms - the GCC's share of global humanitarian aid rose from 4 percent in 2005 to 9 percent in 2014, and on similar lines thereafter. There has been encouraging rise in the contribution towards both bilateral as well as multilateral aid by Arabs despite regional conflicts and uncertainties.

One of the loudest voices in support of a world where every child is free, safe, healthy and educated and the youth skilled and empowered came from Jordan earlier this year, where Nobel laureates and leaders had assembled, raising the chorus for investing adequately towards realizing children-related Sustainable Development Goals, without which no tan-

Camping season delayed due...

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, two environmental experts have attributed the weather fluctuations and the heavy rains in Kuwait in recent days to changes in climate observed and recorded in different countries of the world during the past years. Secretary-General of the Kuwait Society for the Protection of the Environment Janan Behzad said in a press statement yesterday that there is a need to study the fluctuations in rainfall to learn about damage caused to urban areas, as an experiment showed a lot of gaps resulting from a lack of integration of applied science with the engineering of building cities and streets, and a lack of awareness of climate changes and spatial distribution of rain in the country.

Behzad added that the history of rainfall is comprehensive and detailed and includes measurements of rainwater collection. Therefore, new climatic characteristics and modeling of the future can be described and analyzed through predictions based on recent events of variation in precipitation. This will measure the sensitivity of the country to receiving rainfall with temperature fluctuations and the natural El Nino phenomenon of the seas, oceans and live species to better understand the weather events responsible for climate formation in the region.

She said that research in Kuwait has provided many studies of spatial and seasonal variables and annual rainfall in the country, which lasts from winter to spring - November to April - and known as the Sarrayat season.



PARADISE, California: A doll hangs from a sports net at a home destroyed by the Camp Fire on Friday. — AFP

Teams search for 1,000 missing in...

Continued from Page 1

at a shelter set up by the American Red Cross in a church. In Chico, just west of Paradise, volunteers had erected a tented encampment for evacuees. "Just trying to make it day by day. It's all we can do," said Dustin Kimball, who worked at the Paradise cemetery.

The Camp Fire has burned 146,000 acres and was 50 percent contained by Friday, California's fire service said. Authorities said 47,200 people had been evacuated because of the fire and nearly 1,200 were living in shelters. Smoke from the fire forced schools to close in San Francisco on Friday and the city's iconic cable cars to suspend service. The Golden Gate Bridge was

shrouded in thick smog. Much of the rescue work is now focused on Paradise, where many retirees were unable to get out in time. Rescuers with sniffer dogs have been conducting a painstaking house-to-house search. "I'm still going to keep on looking and hope for the best," Jhonathan Clark told AFP. He was hunting for his brother, sister-in-law and nephew.

Three other people have died in southern California in a blaze dubbed the Woolsey Fire, which engulfed parts of Malibu, destroying the homes of several celebrities. That inferno, which is about two-thirds the size of the Camp Fire, was close to 80 percent contained by Friday. Adding to the misery of Camp Fire survivors, an outbreak of the highly contagious norovirus has been reported at several shelters. Twenty-five people had to be hospitalized, health officials said. While the cause of the Camp Fire remains under investigation, a lawsuit has been filed against the local power company, PG&E, by fire victims claiming negligence. — AFP

Sports

Record number of participants joined in 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon'

Over 7,500 participants from 68 countries take part in the race



By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: A large number of participants of various nationalities joined the 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' held yesterday at Souq Sharq. Ahmed Fahd Al-Ameer, Gulf Bank AGM External Communications, said participants in this year's race exceeded the number of participants last year despite the inclement weather two days before the race. "Our records show that we have 7,500 participants from 68 countries. The Gulf Bank Marathon is accredited worldwide and is recognized by international standards. We are elated that many participants registered in the marathon are coming from abroad - around 1,500 of them arrived a few days back just to join the race. This record will go down in the history of marathons in Kuwait as the biggest over the number of participants," he said.

According to Ameer, the success of the marathon is not about the number of participants, but the awareness it creates to further the campaign against obesity and diabetes. "People need to understand why there are growing numbers of obese and diabetic people in Kuwait. We want to help the government tackle these issues so that we will have a healthy environment," said Ameer, who is also Gulf Bank's spokesperson.

The marathon is part of Gulf Bank's corporate social responsibility (CSR) and a means of giving back to the community. "We've been doing our best every year for this marathon. We are happy that we are organizing this fantastic event with overwhelming support of our sponsors from various companies - a mix of private firms, nonprofit organizations and government sectors. I am sure these companies will not be sponsoring this event without added val-



Ahmed Fahd Al-Ameer — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

ue to them - they know they will get something in return when they join the marathon," he said.

Ameer noted that part of the proceeds will go for medical aid for people in need, especially in government hospitals of Kuwait. "Again, we are more focused on the impact of this marathon on the people of Kuwait. We want to tell the people that running is good for their health and it should be part of our daily routine," he added.

Ameer explained marathons are popular vehicles to educate and raise awareness. Gulf Bank this year divided the race into categories - 5K, 10K, 21K and 42K - and made sure runners would be able to run around Kuwait City, especially Mubarakiya, the stock market and the Grand Mosque. "These are all iconic sites and tourist destinations in Kuwait. We decided to include the market and other places because we want to show and highlight Kuwait's history. We want to boost the image of Kuwait and

help participants retain this image," he said.

Each winner from the four categories gets a cash reward, other prizes and medals. Awards were distributed at Shaheed Park late last night. "We are happy because it seems that we are making the marathon a culture. It is popular in other parts of the world, and it is becoming a culture for many of us in Kuwait," he emphasized.

The oldest and the youngest runners in the marathon were both willing and enthusiastic participants, even though their age groups are not part of the categories mentioned. "Probably I am the fastest in my age category. I am 76 years old and running has been my hobby since I was 16," said Hanno Rheineck, who came all the way from Germany to join the race. He celebrated his 76th birthday yesterday. Rheineck arrived on Sunday on his first visit to Kuwait. He told Kuwait Times that he also participated in a marathon in Bahrain last week.

Seven-year-old Kuwaiti boy Hassan Ali



Dashti was the youngest participant. He was running with his parents. "I love running and I run because I want to win," said Dashti, who is a student of American Universal School. "He insisted to join the marathon. I

remember I brought him here when he was five years old. Then last year he joined the race for the first time and this year is his second time," said Manal, Ali's mother. (See tomorrow's paper for the list of winners).

Tanak piles pressure on Ogier in race to world rally crown

COFFS HARBOUR: Tenacious Ott Tanak mastered the gravel to take the lead at Rally Australia yesterday and pile pressure on Sebastien Ogier in the race to be crowned world champion. Going into the final rally of the season at Coffs Harbour, Estonian Tanak lagged 23 points behind the Frenchman and only has an outside chance of preventing him clinching a sixth world title.

He must win in Australia and claim maximum bonus points in today's Power Stage finale to earn a shot at a maiden title. The Toyota Yaris ace did all he could, delivering a series of blistering runs on the dusty roads. He has won six stages at the event to hold a 21.9-second lead over teammate Jari-Matti Latvala.

Ogier is currently sixth, 1min 44.8secs behind, with his nearest world title challenger Thierry Neuville-only three points separate them-in eighth. "I am doing my best and doing everything I can," said Tanak. "It is not the easiest of conditions, but consistent."

"I know Seb (Ogier) well, he's a smart guy, but we'll target our job and you never know what can happen." Ogier, who won in Australia in 2014 and



COFFS HARBOUR: Toyota driver Ott Tanak of Estonia speeds over a brow on the second day of the World Rally Championship (WRC) Rally Australia near Coffs Harbour yesterday. — AFP

2015, knows all he needs to do is stay ahead of Neuville and keep his current position today, which means no risks.

"The main goal is to stay ahead of Thierry," said the Ford Fiesta driver. "Right now I am in a position with enough points, so the target is to stay where we are. We don't need to take any risks."

Hyundai's Neuville gave his all but damaged suspension after a brush with a bank reminded him that retirement would extinguish his dwindling title hopes and he reined in his aggression.

abruptly scrapped by the American boxer over a "misunderstanding", according to the CEO of mixed martial arts promoter RIZIN. But on Friday it was back on for New Year's Eve. "It will be a non-official bout. It won't be on record. So it's an exhibition match," Nobuyuki Sakakibara told reporters at Haneda airport in Tokyo returning from talks with Mayweather in Los Angeles.

"But at worst it's not going to be a sparring... they will fight aiming to knock out," he added.

The Mayweather side had been confused with the status of the bout as it was unclear if it will be an official fight, according to Sakakibara.

Asked if the bout could be cancelled again, Sakakibara said: "I don't think there will be a cancellation unless unforeseen circumstances such as extraordinary natural phenomenon occur."

Mayweather has already said the fight would go

"Tomorrow we wait and see. Being champion will be difficult but we won't give up until it is finished," said the Belgian. The manufacturers' title is also on the line in Australia.

Toyota Gazoo Racing leads with 331 points, but with 43 available for a one-two finish both Hyundai Shell Mobis (319 points) and M-Sport Ford (306 points) can still snatch the honours. If Toyota's Tanak, Latvala and Esapekka Lappi hold their top-five positions, they will supply the Japanese giant with its first crown since 1999. — AFP

ahead in Saitama, north of Tokyo, but would be an exhibition. "We're going to make it happen. It's a no-brainer," the retired welterweight boxer told the US website TMZ Sports in California on Wednesday.

The unbeaten 41-year-old, who won world titles in five different weight divisions, told the site the face-off would involve no kicking, saying: "It's going to be a little boxing exhibition." Sakakibara confirmed the fight would be an orthodox boxing style without kicking, which will be a disadvantage for Nasukawa, an unbeaten kickboxer.

"But I want him to pull off something like a miracle," he said adding that further details of rules such as a decision will be discussed later. Sakakibara also said a contract of the bout remained unchanged as the highest paid for such an exhibition, but did not reveal the amount. — AFP

Mayweather and kickboxer will aim to 'knock out' in exhibition

TOKYO: Boxing superstar Floyd Mayweather Jr and a Japanese kickboxer half his age will be aiming to knock each other out next month, despite the match-up being an exhibition, the fight's Japanese promoter said yesterday.

The bout between Mayweather and Tenshin Nasukawa, first announced earlier this month, was

USA Gymnastics executive resigns

LOS ANGELES: USA Gymnastics Chief Operating Officer Ron Galimore resigned Friday as the organization continues to flounder in the aftermath of the Larry Nassar sex abuse scandal.

Galimore, a 1980 US Olympian who had served in the position since 2011, was the highest-ranking official left at USA Gymnastics who was employed while Nassar's crimes were committed.

Other top officials, including president and chief executive Steve Penny, previously resigned or were forced out.

Penny was indicted in October on felony charges of tampering with evidence in the investigation of Nassar, who was jailed for life earlier this year after abusing more than 250 athletes, including several stars of the United States' gold medal-winning teams at the 2012 and 2016 Olympics.

The federation offered only a brief statement on Galimore's departure, saying its board of directors had accepted his resignation.

Galimore himself told USA Today in a statement that his resignation "was not associated in any manner with the online discourse and media reports that have tried to link me to an effort to shield Nassar from scrutiny."

The Indianapolis Star reported in May that Galimore was one of the federation officials who kept quiet about why Nassar was absent from events in 2015, after the federation became aware of reports the doctor had abused gymnasts.

The newspaper cited emails it had obtained in which then-USA Gymnastics lawyer Scott D. Himsel told Nassar that Galimore would say the doctor was absent from events because he was ill or for personal reasons, when he was, in fact, barred from the events while under investigation.

"I have spoken with investigators and been deposed concerning these matters, and am confident that I have always acted responsibly and with the best interests of athletes in mind," Galimore told USA Today.

His resignation comes 11 days after the US Olympic Committee announced it is seeking to disband USA Gymnastics, accusing the federation of failing to grapple with the aftermath of the Nassar scandal. — AFP

Sports

South Africa too strong for Australia in rain-hit T20

Speedster Chris Morris the star of Proteas bowling attack

GOLD COAST: Speedster Chris Morris claimed two key wickets as South Africa strangled Australia to a 21-run victory in their rain-reduced Twenty20 international on the Gold Coast yesterday. The South Africans easily protected their 108 for six total off 10 overs to restrict Australia to 87 for seven with Morris the star of the Proteas bowling attack.

Morris claimed the wickets of D'Arcy Short for a first-ball duck and Chris Lynn for 14 in his opening over to trigger a wicket slide. The Australians fell away from 21 for one after two overs to be 60 for six upon the dismissal of Alex Carey for eight in the seventh over with Lungi Ngidi (2-16) and Andile Phehlukwayo (2-21) also among the wickets.

"The bowlers once again stepped up and produced the goods. Picking up wickets in this format is always important because T20 is all about slogging," skipper Faf du Plessis said. "It ends a really good tour for us. We learnt a few lessons about the things that worked and didn't work."

"Australia is a very tough place to tour and play cricket in, so to get a series win in both white-ball formats is a big achievement and we'll go home with our heads held high." South Africa also downed Australia 2-1 in the one-day series preceding the one-off T20 international.

Glenn Maxwell was Australia's topscorer with 38 off 23 balls with two sixes but was guilty of moving around the wicket and missing hittable deliveries as the pressure mounted on the home side.

"I think they (South Africa) got off to a great start with the bat. We did well to pull it back in the end, but they had a lot of runs with them." Australia captain Aaron Finch said. "The boys are hurting as much as anyone but we'll turn it around real quick (in the home series) against India."

In the end the difference was the execution of the powerplays. South Africa smashed 42 runs, losing just the one wicket, while Australia could manage only 27, and lost their top three batsmen.



GOLD COAST: Glenn Maxwell of Australia plays a shot during the T20 international cricket match between Australia and South Africa at Metron Stadium on the Gold Coast yesterday. — AFP

Earlier Andrew Tye and Nathan Coulter-Nile claimed two wickets each as South Africa reached 108 for six after being sent into bat. The Proteas got away to a flyer with opener Quinton de Kock clubbing 22 off 16 balls with two sixes and du Plessis hitting 27 from 15 balls.

The South Africans raced to 42 inside the opening three overs before Coulter-Nile claimed the wicket of Reeza Hendricks for 19 caught in the deep by Ben McDermott. Maxwell had de Kock stumped by wicketkeeper Carey and two overs later du Plessis fell to a brilliant leaping catch over the boundary rope by

Maxwell off Billy Stanlake.

That left South Africa at 84 for three, triggering a rash of late wickets for only 24 runs. Heinrich Klaasen chipped in with 12 and David Miller hit 11, before he was the first of Tye's wicket double.

Tye bowled out his only two overs at the end of the innings to finish with two for 18 while Coulter-Nile captured two for 19. The match was reduced to 10 overs a side after heavy rain prevented a scheduled start. The T20 is the start of four matches for Australia over the next week with three internationals against India. —AFP

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Twenty20 International between Australia and South Africa on the Gold Coast yesterday (match reduced to 10 overs a side after rain).

South Africa		Australia (target 109)	
Quinton de Kock st Carey b Maxwell	22	Aaron Finch b Ngidi	7
Reeza Hendricks c McDermott b Coulter-Nile	19	Chris Lynn b Morris	14
Faf du Plessis c Maxwell b Stanlake	27	D'Arcy Short c Phehlukwayo b Morris	0
Heinrich Klaasen c Maxwell b Coulter-Nile	12	Glenn Maxwell c Behardien b Ngidi	38
David Miller c Short b Tye	11	Marcus Stoinis c sub (Markram) b Phehlukwayo	5
Chris Morris c Carey b Tye	0	Ben McDermott c de Kock b Phehlukwayo	4
Farhaan Behardien not out	3	Alex Carey c Klaasen b Shamsi	8
Andile Phehlukwayo not out	2	Nathan Coulter-Nile not out	2
Extras: (lb7, nb1, w4)	12	Extras: (lb5, w4)	9
Total: (6 wickets: 10 overs)	108	Total: (7 wickets: 10 overs)	87
Did not bat: Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi, Tabraiz Shamsi.		Did not bat: Andrew Tye, Jason Behrendorff, Billy Stanlake.	
Fall of wickets: 1-42 (Hendricks), 2-61 (de Kock), 3-84 (du Plessis), 4-99 (Klaasen), 5-104 (Miller), 6-106 (Morris)		Fall of wickets: 1-21 (Finch), 2-26 (Short), 3-27 (Lynn), 4-37 (Stoinis), 5-43 (McDermott), 6-60 (Carey), 7-87 (Maxwell)	
Bowling: Behrendorff 1-0-15-0, Stanlake 2-0-23-1 (2w), Coulter-Nile 2-0-19-2, Maxwell 2-0-14-1, Short 1-0-12-0, Tye 2-0-18-2 (1w, 1nb)		Bowling: Rabada 2-0-21-0 (1w), Ngidi 2-0-16-2 (1w), Morris 2-0-12-2 (1w), Phehlukwayo 2-0-21-2 (1w), Shamsi 2-0-12-1.	
		Result: South Africa won by 21 runs.	

N Zealand 56-1 on second day



ABU DHABI: New Zealand Jeet Raval (L) plays a shot as Pakistani captain and wicketkeeper Sarfraz Ahmed looks on during the second day of the first Test cricket match between Pakistan and New Zealand at the Sheikh Zayed International Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday. — AFP

ABU DHABI: New Zealand, trailing by 74 runs in the first innings, were 56-1 at close on the second day of the first Test against Pakistan in Abu Dhabi yesterday. Skipper Kane Williamson was batting on 27 and with him opener Jeet Raval on 26 not out as New Zealand still trail by 18 runs with nine second

innings wickets intact.

Pakistan, resuming at 59-2, were dismissed for 227 in reply to New Zealand's first innings score of 153. Babar Azam top-scored with 63. Trent Boult finished with 4-54. — AFP

Shrubsole hat-trick helps England close on World T20 semis

GROS ISLET: Anya Shrubsole took a hat-trick as England thrashed South Africa by seven wickets in Saint Lucia on Friday to boost their hopes of reaching the Women's World Twenty20 semi-finals. Hosts and reigning champions West Indies could send themselves and England into the last four if they beat Sri Lanka later on Saturday.

It was a must-win game for World Cup champions England after their opening game against Sri Lanka was washed out, but a tame effort with the bat from South Africa ensured the match was never a real contest.

"Anya's bowled brilliantly for us, and to have so few runs to chase was nice," said England captain Heather Knight. The usually big-hitting Lizelle Lee crawled to a 26-ball 12 before being trapped by Natalie Sciver, who ended with incredible figures of three for four from four overs, as South Africa mustered a paltry 85 all out.

Shrubsole, the star of England's thrilling World Cup final win over India last year, wrapped up the innings by becoming only the second woman from her country to take a T20 international hat-trick after Sciver against New Zealand in 2013. She dismissed Shabnim Ismail, Masabata Klaas and Yolani Fourie with the first three deliveries of the final over. England openers Danni Wyatt and Tammy Beaumont put on a quickfire 55, and wicketkeeper Amy Jones' driven four wrapped up a thumping victory with 35 balls to spare. — AFP

Wagner becomes eighth New Zealander to take 150 Test wickets

ABU DHABI: Left-arm paceman Neil Wagner became the eighth New Zealander bowler to complete 150 Test wickets on the second day of the opening Test against Pakistan in Abu Dhabi yesterday. The 32-year-old dismissed Pakistan's tail-ender Yasir Shah for nine just before tea to reach the milestone in his 37th Test match for his adopted country.

Born in Transvaal in South Africa, Wagner moved to New Zealand before making his Test debut against the West Indies at North Sound in 2012.

Richard Hadlee tops the bowling chart for New Zealand with 431 wickets in 86 Tests while Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan is the all time highest wicket taker in the five-day format with 800 in 133 Tests.

New Zealand bowlers with 150 wickets in Tests (name, number of Tests, wickets):	
Richard Hadlee	86 431
Daniel Vettori	112 361
Chris Martin	71 233
Tim Southee	60 220
Trent Boult	55 219
Chris Cairns	62 218
Danny Morrison	48 160
Neil Wagner	37 150. — AFP



ABU DHABI: New Zealand bowler Neil Wagner (2L) celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of Pakistani batsman Yasir Shah during the second day of the first Test cricket match between Pakistan and New Zealand at the Sheikh Zayed International Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday. — AFP

England sniff victory after Mathews wicket

KANDY: Spinners led by Jack Leach helped England close in on a series-clinching victory after Sri Lanka lost a fighting Angelo Mathews for 88 in the second Test yesterday before rain stopped play.

Moeen Ali trapped Mathews lbw in the first over after tea to end the senior batsman's solid resistance that had kept alive Sri Lanka's hopes of chasing down a target of 301. Leach struck soon to get Dilruwan Perera for one when torrential rain halted proceedings for the day with Sri Lanka on 226 for seven in Kandy.

The hosts, who trail the three-match series 0-1, need another 75 to win with three wickets and three sessions in hand. Niroshan Dickwella was batting on 27 when play was stopped. "It is evenly poised. Unfortunate I got out at a very crucial time. But we still have got a batter at the crease," a confident Mathews told reporters after an intriguing day's play.

"Then guys like Akila Dananjaya and Suranga Lakmal are no mugs with the bat. So we are not out of the game. If we get one good partnership we are in with a win," said Mathews. Leach has claimed four wickets with his left-arm orthodox spin while Ali has taken two on a turning pitch.

Mathews, who hit his third half-century of the series, took the crease with Sri Lanka on a shaky 26-3. The former captain played a gritty innings that lasted 137 deliveries and also built crucial partnerships.

His 73-run fifth wicket stand with Roshan Silva (37) frustrated the English spinners in the afternoon session. Ali had Silva caught behind with a faint edge. The umpire had given Silva not out before England successfully reviewed the decision in their favour.

"It is a wicket where there is lot of assistance to the spinners. Credit to England for bowling so well. They didn't give too many loose balls. We had to work extremely hard to score runs," said Mathews.

"Dimuth (Karunaratne) was superb today with the bat and it was extremely unfortunate that he had to fall for a brilliant catch. "That changed the game. He was the batsman in form. Had we got a bigger partnership we would have been in a commanding position," he added.

Leach had rattled the Sri Lankan top-order with three early wickets after the tourists were bowled out for 346 in the morning session. Left-handed Karunaratne then put on 77 runs with Mathews before falling to Adil Rashid for 57.

Karunaratne swept a turning delivery as Keaton Jennings anticipated the hit from forward short leg to get a hand to the ball which popped out and an alert Ben Foakes finally took the catch.

"I saw him go down to paddle and just set off running. He got a little too much bat on it and it ended up at me," said Jennings.

"I'd love to say I parried it to Foakes but I genuinely tried to catch it. It hit me really hard and went straight off to Foakes." England, who had resumed the day on 324-9, stretched their second innings lead to 300 with overnight batsman Foakes hitting an unbeaten 65.

Foakes, who hit a ton on debut in Galle, added 14 to his overnight 51 and shared 41 runs for the last wicket with James Anderson (12). — AFP

Sports

Netherlands qualify for the Nations League semi-finals

Netherlands hand France first post-World Cup defeat

ROTTERDAM: The Netherlands have qualification for the Nations League semi-finals in their sights after beating France 2-0 on Friday to hand Didier Deschamps' side their first defeat since winning the World Cup.

Georginio Wijnaldum struck on the stroke of half-time and the dazzling Memphis Depay chipped home a cheeky stoppage-time penalty to bag a win in Rotterdam for Ronald Koeman's revitalised side that leaves the impressive Dutch needing just a point against relegated Germany on Monday to leapfrog France and make the semi-finals.

The Dutch are a point behind leaders France, who only needed a draw themselves on Friday to qualify for the knockout stage in their last match of the group but came up way short.

"I was not expecting a perfect match from our side but that's really what it was. We were very, very good," said Koeman.

"I was surprised by the France line-up and the way they played, but our match was perfect. We dominated the match for 90 minutes."

Wijnaldum's goal came practically at the midway point of a match dominated by the hosts, who have bounced back from the doldrums after failing to qualify for the World Cup.

They dominated the lacklustre world champions from the off and were only denied a even bigger win by a magnificent performance from France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris.

"This win shows the spirit of the team, the quality of the players we have," said Depay. "It shows that we have a bright future, we have to continue like this. This is just the start."

The closest Deschamps' men came to scoring was a

weak 10th-minute header from Antoine Griezmann, who was otherwise anonymous alongside the equally invisible Kylian Mbappe.

"There was one team out there with a lot of desire and we didn't have enough," said Deschamps.

"There was a clear gulf between the sides and they deserved the win... We weren't at the races and didn't show enough."

The Dutch meanwhile peppered Lloris' goal from the off, with Wijnaldum forcing the France keeper's first save with just a minute on the clock following an impressive burst from star turn Depay.

The match would have been done and dusted long before the final whistle had it not been for Tottenham stopper Lloris, who engaged in an almost personal battle with the Netherlands' vibrant front three of Depay, Ryan Babel and Steven Bergwijn.

"We played to the minimum of our potential and paid for it. The score could have been even more flattering for the Dutch," said Lloris, easily France's best performer.

"We have to ask questions of ourselves after and hope that the Germans beat them tomorrow."

Depay was in particularly fine fettle, and the Lyon attacker was denied three times in the space of three second-half minutes by Lloris to stop the Dutch adding to their total. First Lloris pushed away Depay's stinging free-kick in the 73rd minute, then two minutes later the Spurs man saved his bamboozled defenders with two smart saves from the striker in a matter of seconds.

France finally creaked into action not long after, but offered little going forward, and with the match rolling into injury time Lloris once again saved his team's blushes with a superb save from Frenkie De Jong's long-range strike following a rapid breakthrough.



ROTTERDAM: France's forward Antoine Griezmann jumps for the ball during the UEFA Nations League football match between the Netherlands and France at the Feijenoord stadium in Rotterdam on Friday. — AFP

However De Jong, picked out by Deschamps on Thursday as one to watch for the Netherlands, helped his side seal the points when he was bundled down in the area by Moussa Sissoko with seconds left.

Depay stepped up and capped a brilliant individual and team display by clipping a panenka spot-kick over a despairing Lloris, announcing the return of the Netherlands to the big stage. —AFP

Late Luongo strike gives Australia 1-1 draw with S Korea

BRISBANE: Australia midfielder Massimo Luongo scored a stoppage-time equaliser to earn a 1-1 draw with South Korea in an entertaining friendly at a rain-drenched Lang Park in Brisbane yesterday.

Hwang Ui-jo's 22nd minute goal for the visitors against the run of play had looked like winning the re-match of the 2015 Asian Cup final, when the Socceroos won the title they will defend in the United Arab Emirates early next year.

The home side laid siege to the South Korea goal as the seconds ticked away, however, and Luongo-player of the tournament four years ago was on hand to tap the ball into the net after a goalmouth scramble.

Australia, playing their first home match under their new coach Graham Arnold, had started the game at a frantic pace in an attacking formation that created a flurry of early chances. The hosts had seven shots on goal before the visitors managed a first but it was the Taeguk Warriors, now unbeaten in five matches under new coach Paulo Bento, who made their count.

Defender Kim Min-jae launched a long pass out of defence which caught Trent Sainsbury flat-footed and Hwang was able to race onto the ball and take his time before burying it in the bottom left-hand corner of the net.

The Socceroos continued to press forward but without the verve of their earlier attacks and the



BRISBANE: Australia's Massimo Luongo (R) is tackled by South Korea's Moon Seon-min during the international friendly match between Australia and South Korea in Brisbane yesterday. — AFP

South Koreans managed to take their lead into the break quite comfortably. Neither midfielder Koo Ja-cheol or goalscorer Hwang made it to halftime, though, with both taken off the pitch on stretchers in the space of a couple of minutes.

The match became more of an end-to-end affair in the second half with Australia threatening most

through Mathew Leckie and whenever full back Josh Risdon got the ball on the right flank. South Korea's best chances came from free kicks with Hwang In-beom flashing one past the post on the hour mark and Socceroos goalkeeper Mat Ryan producing a fine save at full stretch to deny Ju Se-jong from another. — Reuters

conjured the Selecao's first chance.

Tripped by Rodrigo Bentancur after a flamboyant run, Neymar picked himself up to take the resulting free-kick and drilled a low shot that forced a good save from Martin Campana. Neymar thought he had opened the scoring when he slotted home from Filipe Luis's cross, but his close-range effort was ruled out for offside.

Trying his luck from long range soon after, Neymar whistled a fierce strike just over Campana's crossbar. Uruguay were hardly short of star power themselves and the two-time World Cup winners came close to taking the lead in the 23rd minute.

Seizing on Brazil's careless loss of possession, Barcelona forward Luis Suarez unleashed a dipping shot that was turned over by Alisson Becker. Uruguay's Lucas Torreira was on home turf and the Arsenal midfielder showed the steely streak that has endeared him to Gunners fans when he earned a booking for clattering into Neymar.

That crunching tackle was typical of the robust approach that has remained Uruguay's trademark for decades. There was little love lost between the sides and referee Craig Pawson dished out five bookings in the first half alone. Uruguay's no-hold-barred style succeeded in knocking Brazil out of their stride. Brazil nearly fell behind just before the interval as Alisson was forced to repel Edinson Cavani's close-range strike from a Suarez cross.

Suarez went close himself, blasting a low free-kick that forced Alisson to save at full stretch after the interval. Neymar was growing increasingly irritated by the Uruguayan tackling, shaking his head in frustration after being clipped by Mathias Suarez.

But he almost found the perfect response with a mazy run and shot that tested Alisson. Neymar finally got his revenge for the rough treatment in the 76th minute. When Uruguay's Laxalt dived in on Danilo, the Brazilian launched into a theatrical fall that convinced Pawson to give a dubious penalty. Neymar grabbed the ball and stepped up to send Campana the wrong way from the spot. —AFP

Nigeria seal Nations Cup place with a draw

JOHANNESBURG: Nigeria secured a place at the 2019 African Nations Cup finals with a deserved 1-1 draw with hosts South Africa in their Group E qualifier at Soccer City yesterday. Buhle Mkhwanazi put the ball into his own net to give Nigeria the lead after nine minutes, but South Africa equalised through their Strasbourg forward Lebo Mthiba in the 26th.

Nigeria have 10 points from five games at the top of the group, with South Africa in second on nine points, two ahead of Libya with one round to go. The South Africans must now go to North Africa in March to face the Libyans and avoid defeat to seal a place at the Nations Cup finals in Cameroon next June-July.

Libya defeated Seychelles 8-1 in the other match in the pool earlier yesterday. Nigeria had by far the better opportunities against South Africa and were also unlucky with two offside calls against captain Ahmed Musa that saw efforts disallowed.

They took the lead when Samuel Kalu's cross was turned past his own goalkeeper by Mkhwanazi but the hosts levelled when excellent play by Belgium-based forward Percy Tau set up Mthiba for a simple tap-in, his fourth goal in five internationals. Nigeria defender Kenneth Omeruo had an excellent chance to grab a win for the visitors with a header at the back post, but he put his effort wide of a gaping goal. —Reuters

Neymar penalty punishes Uruguay in feisty friendly

LONDON: Neymar kept his cool to score the controversial penalty that fired Brazil to a 1-0 win over Uruguay in a full-blooded friendly on Friday. Brazil captain Neymar was subjected to some ferocious fouls from Uruguay as the clash between the South American rivals boiled over at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium.

But the Paris Saint-Germain striker had the last laugh, netting from the spot late in the second half after Diego Laxalt was harshly ruled to have fouled Danilo. Brazil are now unbeaten in their last 10 meetings with Uruguay, who haven't defeated the five-time world champions since 2001.

Brazil, building towards hosting the Copa America next year, take on Cameroon in another friendly in Milton Keynes on Tuesday. It will be their last match of 2018, having recorded five successive friendly victories since losing in the World Cup quarter-finals against Belgium.

"It was a typical South American derby. We have respect for Uruguay. They have dangerous players," Brazil boss Tite said. "We managed to control them. This is our third game now without conceding a goal."

Uruguay manager Oscar Tabarez added: "Neymar was playing with freedom. We weren't controlling him very well. "But I thought our young team matched Brazil. It's a shame it comes down to a controversial situation."

Even on a dank, misty north London evening that was a million miles from the sun-soaked beaches of Rio, Brazil's global popularity ensured a large crowd braved the elements to see their star-studded line-up.

Neymar was the headline act as the Maracana came to the Holloway Road. His every touch brought cheers of approval from the crowd and it wasn't long before he

Southgate aims to end England's year to remember with Croatia revenge

LONDON: Gareth Southgate has challenged England to end their "brilliant year" in memorable fashion by beating their World Cup conquerors Croatia at Wembley to reach the Nations League Finals today.

Southgate's side defied expectations earlier this year by reaching the World Cup semi-finals for the first time since 1990, where they were beaten by Croatia after extra-time in a gruelling clash.

The England manager created a vibrant young group that revitalised the country's relationship with a national team that had been much maligned for their serial underachievement.

"It has been a brilliant year. Whatever happens on Sunday, we've had real shoots of progress and achieved some outstanding results and really good performances and blooded a lot of new players," said Southgate on Friday.

"It's given us a real depth to the squad and competition for places." Although England's World Cup run ended in heartache in Moscow against Sunday's opponents, the momentum from the tournament has carried over to this season. Now England can gain a measure of revenge over Croatia in their winner-takes-all Group A4 showdown at Wembley.

"We were very keen that we moved on from the World Cup as quickly as possible," Southgate said. "I think everybody wants to go another stage and get to a semi-final out of a group which is as tough

as there has been in this competition.

"So, it is a really good game for everybody to look forward to." If England beat Croatia, they will win the group and progress to the finals of the new competition—which offers the chance of qualification for Euro 2020 — as well as relegate Croatia.

Meanwhile a win for Croatia would take Zlatko Dalic's men to the semi-finals and send England down to League B, and a draw would send current group leaders Spain to the knockout stage. England can also be relegated with a score draw, and Croatia will drop down a level if it finishes goalless.

England warmed up for Sunday's clash by defeating the United States 3-0 in a friendly on Thursday that doubled as a fond farewell for Wayne Rooney, who made a final appearance as a substitute.

Southgate named an even less experienced side than usual, with the likes of Lewis Dunk, Callum Wilson and Jadon Sancho seizing the opportunity to impress. But Southgate will recall Harry Kane, Jordan Henderson, Kyle Walker and Raheem Sterling to face Croatia.

"We've got two days to prepare, so it was one of the reasons we played the team we did," he said. "We know pretty much all there is to know about Croatia, most importantly that their desire."

"Coming to a full house at Wembley, they've got big players that will relish that challenge and we've got to relish that challenge as well." Croatia midfielder Ivan Rakitic will miss the match after the Barcelona star returned to his club due to an unspecified injury.

But Tin Jedvaj, whose stoppage-time goal helped Croatia to a shock 3-2 victory over Spain this week, insists his side are confident of inflicting more misery on England after coming from behind to deny the Three Lions their first World Cup final appearance since 1966. —AFP

25 Record number of participants join in 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon'



26 South Africa too strong for Australia in rain-hit T20



27 Netherlands qualify for the Nations League semi-finals



BOSTON: Kyle Lowry #7 of the Toronto Raptors drives to the basket against Al Horford #42 of the Boston Celtics during the first half at TD Garden on Friday in Boston, Massachusetts. — AFP

Irving nets 43, leads Celtics past Raptors

Timberwolves maintain balance, blast Trail Blazers

BOSTON: Kyrie Irving scored a season-best 43 points, including four in overtime, and added 11 assists as the Boston Celtics came back to defeat the visiting Toronto Raptors 123-116 on Friday night. The Celtics, who had lost four of their previous six games, handed the Raptors their third straight loss after a 12-1 start. The teams have split their first two games this season. Jayson Tatum added 21 points, Gordon Hayward had 15 and Marcus Morris and Al Horford had 11 each for the Celtics. Kawhi Leonard led the Raptors with 31 points and 15 rebounds. Serge Ibaka added 21 points, Pascal Siakam 16, Kyle Lowry 14 while Jonas Valanciunas and Danny Green each had 11 for the Raptors. The Raptors, who led by as many as 10 points in the third quarter, took a four-point edge into the fourth before Irving took over, scoring 19 in the period to help the Celtics take the game into overtime.

76ERS 113, JAZZ 107

Jimmy Butler scored 28 points in his home debut to lead Philadelphia past Utah. Butler was 12 of 15 from the field and the Sixers improved to 8-0 at home this season while extending their home winning streak to 18 dating to last season. Joel Embiid added 23 points, JJ Redick had 16 and Amir Johnson 11 for the Sixers. Donovan Mitchell led the Jazz with 31 points but shot 13-for-35 from the field and 1-for-11 from 3-point range. Joe Ingles added 14 while Derrick Favors and Ricky Rubio had 13 apiece. Rudy Gobert contributed 12 points and 10 rebounds.

TIMBERWOLVES 112, TRAIL BLAZERS 96

Andrew Wiggins led six Minnesota players in double figures with 23 points in a romp past visiting Portland. Derrick Rose scored 17 points, Robert Covington and Karl-Anthony Towns added 14 each, Jeff Teague had 13 and Taj Gibson contributed 12 for the Timberwolves, who won their third straight game and avenged a 111-81 defeat at Portland on Nov 4. CJ McCollum scored 18 points, Damian Lillard added 16 and Jusuf Nurkic contributed 13 points and 11 rebounds for the Blazers, who have lost two in a row. Portland made only 8 of 29 shots from 3-point range and had 18 turnovers.

BUCKS 123, BULLS 104

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 23 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, and Milwaukee erased an 18-point halftime deficit in the blink of an eye to beat visiting Chicago. Milwaukee turned up the defensive intensity to start the third quarter and outscored Chicago 46-17 to take control and cruise to the easy win. Milwaukee outscored Chicago 78-41 in the second half and every member of the starting unit for the Bucks scored in double figures. Eric Bledsoe sparked the Milwaukee third-period onslaught by scoring 14 points in the period. Bledsoe finished with 25 points, six assists, four rebounds and three steals. Khris Middleton nearly recorded a triple-double with 23 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists.

PELICANS 129, KNICKS 124

Anthony Davis had 43 points and 17 rebounds as host New Orleans overcame an 11-point deficit midway through the fourth quarter to defeat New York. Jrue Holiday had 24 points and 10 assists, Julius Randle came off the bench to score 19 with 11 rebounds, E'Twaun Moore scored 13 and Nikola Mirotic added 12 points and 10 rebounds for New Orleans, which trailed by as many as 19 points as it began a stretch of three home games in four days. Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 30 points, Trey Burke came off the bench to score 24, Emmanuel Mudiay scored 19 and Kevin Knox and Allonzo Trier had 11 each for the Knicks, who lost their fourth straight and sixth in their last seven.

PACERS 99, HEAT 91

Tyreke Evans, Domantas Sabonis and Cory Joseph led a dominant bench effort as host Indiana defeated Miami. Evans scored 23 points and added 10 rebounds, both season highs. Sabonis added 15 points and 12 rebounds, and Joseph had 12 points, five assists and three steals. Sabonis has six double-doubles this season-two of them against Miami. Indiana's reserves outscored Miami's bench 53-27, which helped the Pacers overcome an off night by All-Star shooting guard Victor Oladipo, who was held to a season-low eight points on 3-for-12 shooting. His 13-game streak of scoring 20 or more points was snapped.

GRIZZLIES 112, KINGS 104

Jaren Jackson Jr. scored a season-high 27 points to lead host Memphis over Sacramento. Jackson, whose previous high was 24 against Atlanta last month, combined with Garrett Temple for all the Memphis scoring in a game-opening, 15-2 burst. Jackson had four hoops in the run, including a 3-pointer. Jackson added six rebounds, four steals and two blocked shots. Marc Gasol and Mike Conley each contributed 19 points to the win, which improved Memphis' home record to 6-1. Temple (14 points) and Wayne Selden (10) also scored in double figures for the Grizzlies. De'Aaron Fox totaled team highs in points (23) and assists (10) points for the Kings.

NETS 115, WIZARDS 104

Spencer Dinwiddie scored 25 points off the bench, D'Angelo Russell added 23 and visiting Brooklyn defeated Washington to end a three-game losing streak. The Nets broke open a close game in the third quarter and led by as many as 19 in the fourth. Brooklyn center Jarrett Allen, who missed the Nets' previous game due to illness, finished with 16 points and 12 rebounds. Dwight Howard led the Wizards with 25 points and 17 rebounds despite playing only 27 minutes before fouling out in the fourth quarter. Bradley Beal scored 20 points and reserve Kelly Oubre Jr. added 18 for the Wizards, who saw their three-game winning streak end. — Reuters

Zverev shocks Federer to reach final of ATP Finals

LONDON: Alexander Zverev beat Roger Federer 7-5, 7-6 (7/5) yesterday to reach the title decider at the ATP Finals in a match that ended in confusion and high drama.

The 21-year-old German, leading the charge of the new generation against the old guard, is now just one win away from the biggest title of his career but the Swiss must wait for a tilt at his 100th tournament victory.

The end of the match was overshadowed by an unusual incident, Zverev stopping a rally with Federer leading 4-3 in the second-set tie-break after a ballboy dropped a ball, forcing the point to be replayed.

Zverev won the point with an ace and nudged

into a 5-4 lead before Federer inexplicably netted with a simple forehand volley to hand the German two set points, the second of which he took on his own serve.

Immediately after the match finished there were boos from the pro-Federer crowd at London's O2 Arena and on-court interviewer Annabel Croft told them to be "more respectful" as Zverev had been playing by the rules.

"First of all I want to apologise for the situation in the tie-break," said the German. "The ball boy dropped the ball and it is the rules we have to stop the point."

"I'm unbelievably proud," added the world number five. "My team and me have been working so hard for this. I'm a little bit upset now about how it all ended. I didn't want it to end that way, but hopefully I'll have many more great matches here." Serve dominated the first set of a high-class match, with neither player able to make serious inroads. Zverev sending down howitzers around the 140 miles-per-hour (225 kilometres per hour) mark.

Six-time champion Federer, 37, and third seed

Zverev both showed a willingness to get to the net in a match featuring power and guile.

The Swiss veteran eventually faltered in the 12th game of the opening set, watching helplessly as Zverev zipped a magnificent passing shot past him down the line on his way to breaking to love.

The second set regrouped and drew first blood in the second set, breaking in the third game with a thunderous backhand down the line that drew enormous cheers from the partisan crowd.

But the frustrated 20-time Grand Slam winner could not consolidate his position, losing the next game as Zverev levelled at 2-2.

Federer's level slipped as his young opponent stayed focused but he clung on to take the set to a tie-break. The tie-break went with serve until the 10th point, when Federer netted to hand Zverev a mini-break-an advantage he did not squander.

Zverev, who already has three Masters series titles under his belt in his short career, is the youngest finalist at the event since Juan Martin del Potro in 2009. — AFP



LONDON: Germany's Alexander Zverev returns against Switzerland's Roger Federer during their men's singles semi-final match on day seven of the ATP World Tour Finals tennis tournament at the O2 Arena in London yesterday. — AFP