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Indian expats concerned over mandatory online registration

Those who fail to register won't be allowed to board flights

Amir fetes Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Informatics Award winners



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and top state officials react to a robot's performance during the 18th edition of HH Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah's Informatics Award at Bayan Palace yesterday. — KUNA (See Page 3)

By Sajeev K Peter

KUWAIT: The Indian government's decision to make online registration mandatory for all Indians travelling for work to 18 countries including Kuwait from Jan 1, 2019 has created confusion and panic among the Indian expat community here. Essentially, almost all Indians working in Kuwait will have to register.

Many of them feel that the new rule is ambiguous and will lead to unwanted travel chaos as it affects all ECNR (emigration clearance not required) passport holders already working in these countries. Several expats who spoke to Kuwait Times yesterday voiced anxiety about the new rule and suggested that the registration process must be hassle-free. They also demanded that they should be allowed to register from their country of residence, be allowed to use mobile phone numbers of their country of residence and more time should be given for registration.

An advisory issued by India's Ministry of External Affairs on Nov 14, 2018 stated that registration must be completed on the e-migrate portal (www.emigrate.gov.in) between 21 days and 24 hours prior to the date of travel. On successful completion of registration, the applicant will receive a confirmatory SMS/email, it said.

Those who fail to register and receive confirmation by SMS/email will not be allowed to board their flights, according to the new law.

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UAE pardons Briton sentenced to life for spying

ABU DHABI: The United Arab Emirates yesterday pardoned British academic Matthew Hedges just days after sentencing him to life in prison for spying in a case that stunned Britain and his family. The UK thanked its Gulf ally and Hedges' wife expressed her joy after he was among more than 700 prisoners pardoned by UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan for next month's National Day. "Mr Hedges will be permitted to leave the UAE once formalities are completed," Jaber Al-Lamki, a government media official, said in a statement. A UAE official later said Hedges had been freed. The UAE showed footage at a news conference in the capital Abu Dhabi in which Hedges purportedly confessed to being an MI6 foreign intelligence agent. British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt expressed gratitude to the oil-rich state, which London considers a strategic Middle East ally and supplies with British arms. "Fantastic news about Matthew Hedges. Although we didn't agree with charges we are grateful to UAE govt for resolving issue speedily," Hunt said on Twitter.

Hedges's wife Daniela Tejada, who last saw him on the day he was sentenced, said in a statement: "The presidential pardon for Matt is the best news we could have received."

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Matthew Hedges

665 damage claims filed in two days

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Economic Development Hind Al-Sabeeh announced that the total number of applications filed to demand compensation for damage caused by the recent heavy rain on Sunday and yesterday was 665, but only 140 fulfilled all the required conditions and included all the needed documents. Sabeeh heads a team to follow up and deal with the repercussions of the rain and floods that hit Kuwait in the past few weeks.

Claims are being received at the Public

Authority for Assessment of Compensations (that was formed for compensating losses suffered from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990) in Shamiya. Compensation forms are available at the authority or through the website of the finance ministry (www.mof.gov.kw). Requests for compensation are being received from 8:30 am to 1 pm.

Sabeeh said the compensation department received 415 applications on Sunday and that 63 of them, including those of 56 citizens, a Saudi, two Indians, a Filipino and two stateless people were fully documented and accepted. She added that the first day of claims included 16 for damaged furniture, 44 for damaged vehicles and 12 for real estate losses. Sabeeh said 250 applications were filed yesterday and that only 77 of them, including 23 real estate claims and 48 vehicle damage claims, had complete documents.



KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh (right) supervises the process of filing for compensation for rain damage at the Public Authority for Assessment of Compensations in Shamiya yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Bahrain 'rejects' moves to smear Saudi standing

DUBAI: Bahrain has said it "completely rejects" attempts to tarnish the reputation of neighboring Saudi Arabia, whose powerful crown prince has been under intense scrutiny since the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was in Manama Sunday night for talks with Bahrain's King Hamad as part of a regional tour, the state-run Bahrain News Agency (BNA) reported. "The king reiterated Bahrain's complete rejection of attempts targeting Saudi Arabia," said a statement carried by BNA yesterday. "Saudi Arabia is a nation of security, safety, justice and rights."

Prince Mohammed visited Abu Dhabi Thursday as he began his first tour abroad since the murder of the Saudi journalist in October. Saudi Arabia has been facing intense global criticism over the killing of insider-turned-critic Khashoggi in its Istanbul consulate. The murder of the Washington Post columnist has tipped the kingdom into one of its worst crises. He was killed and reportedly dismembered in what Saudi Arabia said was a "rogue" operation.

Prince Mohammed began his regional tour at the request of his father, King Salman, according to the Saudi Press

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MANAMA: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (center) is presented with the Order of Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Bahrain's highest honor, by King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa on Sunday. — AFP

Chinese scientist claims world's first gene-edited babies

HONG KONG: A scientist in China claims to have created the world's first genetically-edited babies, a move that would be a ground-breaking medical first but which has generated a barrage of criticism. Chinese university professor He Jiankui posted a video on YouTube saying that the twin girls, born a few weeks ago, had had their DNA altered to prevent them from contracting HIV.

The professor, who was educated at Stanford in the US and works from a lab in the southern Chinese city of

Shenzhen, said their DNA was modified using CRISPR, a technique which allows scientists to remove and replace a strand with pinpoint precision.

The development emerged Sunday in an article published by industry journal the MIT Technology Review, which referenced medical documents posted online by He's research team to recruit couples for the experiments. He's video then went online, prompting a heated debate among the scientific community, including from experts who cast doubt over the claimed breakthrough, and others who decried it as a modern form of eugenics.

He said the babies, known as "Lulu" and "Nana" although they are not their real names, were born through regular IVF but using an egg which was specially modified before being inserted into the womb. "Right after sending her husband's sperm into her

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Home is the deadliest place for women: UN

VIENNA: More than half the women who were murdered worldwide last year were killed by their partners or family members, making home "the most dangerous place for a woman," a new UN study said Sunday. In statistics released on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime calculated that of a total 87,000 female homicide cases world-

wide in 2017, some 50,000 - or 58 percent - were committed by the victims' intimate partners or family members.

Around 30,000, or 34 percent, were committed by intimate partners alone. "This amounts to some six women being killed every hour by people they know," the Vienna-based body said. The vast majority - around 80 percent - of homicide victims worldwide were men, but "women continue to pay the highest price as a result of gender inequality, discrimination and negative stereotypes," said UNODC chief Yury Fedotov. "They are also the most likely to be killed by intimate partners and family... making the home the most dangerous place for a woman," he said. "The fact that women continue to be affected by this type

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Local

Minister touts Amir's humanitarian role; GCC chief commends Kuwait's global efforts

Kuwait hosts conference on effective partnership for better humanitarian work

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Fahad Al-Afasi yesterday acclaimed His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's pioneering role in formulating Kuwait's holistic humanitarian system. Addressing an annual conference on effective partnership and exchange of information for better humanitarian work, the minister boasted that Kuwaiti charities are working with international partners to support humanitarian work in different world countries.

He stressed the significance of the gathering to serving humanity by means of launching an initiative aiming at feeding a billion hunger people around the globe, and unifying humanitarian efforts against this serious phenomenon. The event, entitled 'One Humanity against Hunger,' is organized by the International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) under the aegis of His Highness the Amir.

Kuwait is interested in promoting and supporting humanitarian issues and defending human dignity as well as helping the poor and disaster-affected people, he noted. Kuwait is well-placed on the world map of humanitarian activities, he said, citing the honoring of His Highness the Amir as a Humanitarian Leader and Kuwait as a Humanitarian Center as clear-cut examples.

International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) Chairman Abdullah Al-Maatouq said the conference came to stress that Kuwait is really the center of humanitarian work and a destination for societies to highlight the serious issue of hunger and its destructive humanitarian complications. Hunger is a main risk to man's humanity and health in line with relevant UN statistics and indicators for 2018, he said, adding that more than 821 million people are suffering from hunger across the world.

Kuwait's achievements

Meanwhile, GCC Secretary-General Abdul-Latif Al-Zayani appreciated Kuwait's international humanitarian achievements, which contributed to an effective partnership between the UN and Kuwaiti charities. Speaking at the conference, Zayani said Kuwait is exerting great and distinguished humanitarian efforts, which led to honoring Kuwait as a humanitarian center and His Highness the Amir as a Humanitarian Leader. He added that Kuwait's hosting of this gathering is deemed an addition to Kuwait's bright record of humanitarian initiatives and activities aiming at unifying anti-famine efforts worldwide. He also pointed out UN efforts to address this humanitarian issue, mainly a UN General Assembly resolution in September 2015 designating the fight against famine as one of the goals of sustainable development.

The GCC member states have exerted a lot of sincere efforts to help poor and needy countries as part of the fight against famine worldwide, the GCC chief boasted. They have set up economic and social development funds in order to offer aid to these countries' development programs and plans, mainly regarding health and education, he noted. For instance, Kuwait hosted three international

conference in collaboration with the UN to answer the needs of Syrian refugees, especially food and medicine, Al-Zayani added.

Eliminating hunger

In the meantime, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Partnerships with the Middle East and Central Asia Rashid Khalikov said that despite all the global efforts for eliminating hunger, ensuring food-security and helping the people in need the question remains: Why do large numbers of people still in need of assistance or remain hungry? "I think there are five fatal flaws that are allowing so many people to remain hungry," Khalikov said in his speech to the event, adding that there are too many affected people because they were out of sight and reach. "There are some people who are left out of the loop, or find themselves in crises," he said. He indicated that the flaws also included individuals who lack financial resources, or out of the economic scope. "Also, in my view, millions on the planet live with hunger and simply cannot afford to buy enough food," the official indicated, adding "they also cannot afford nutritious foods, nor can they afford the farming supplies they need to grow enough good food of their own."

Furthermore, 75 percent of the world's malnourished people live in conflict zones. Conflict destroys markets and livelihoods, drives mass population displacement, and causes increased risk of acute malnutrition, food insecurity and leads to more hungry people, he said. "We are seeing a situation today with unprecedented levels of need and demands on the humanitarian system: In 2018, some 134 million people need humanitarian assistance and protection, up from 26 million one decade ago. The rise in costs is also driven by complex emergencies, fueled by protracted conflict, and marked by high levels of forced displacement, a breakdown in governance structures, basic services and livelihoods," he added.

Hunger on the rise

After years of steady decline, global hunger is on the rise, primarily linked to conflict, according to the research of World Food Program (WFP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), said Khalikov. "The number of undernourished people has increased from 777 million in 2015 to 821 million in 2017. Although humanitarian assistance has thus far contributed towards preventing large-scale famines, humanitarian needs remain exceptionally high in Yemen, Somalia, Nigeria and South Sudan," he said.

As per the World Disaster reports, 3,751 natural disasters have been recorded over the last ten years and 84.2 percent of them had weather related triggers affecting livelihood and food security in addition to other areas. "Therefore, I am glad that this year the theme of 'One Humanity Against Hunger' was chosen for the conference for the participants to discuss the critical issues related to hunger and food security and how to step-up assistance in this area," he said. "There were around 821 million undernourished people in 2017 or we can say one in every



KUWAIT: (From left) Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Fahad Al-Afasi, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Partnerships with the Middle East and Central Asia Rashid Khalikov and IICO Chairman Abdullah Al-Maatouq. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

nine people is undernourished. Current hunger hotspots are in the Middle East region."

Yemen crisis

Humanitarian partners estimate that 8.4 million people, in Yemen, are severely food insecure and on the verge of starvation. A figure likely to rise to 14 million-half of the country-by the end of 2018 if the fighting does not subside, import obstructions are not removed, and the currency is not stabilized. "Therefore, to eliminate hunger, the values and views of humanity that have served us so well in the past need to be reconsidered today. We all need to work better together which also means closing the divide between humanitarian and development activities. The United Nations Secretary-General has started the UN reforms, including the United Nations Development System," he said. This aims to ensure effectively tackling some of the root causes of crises and vulnerabilities, and to genuinely-mobilize the system more effectively for those furthest behind. Humanitarians have been seeking this step for a long time, the UN official added. He went on saying: "In September 2018, the World Bank and the United Nations launched the 'Famine Action Mechanism' which is a global platform to link early warning, finance, and implementation arrangements to increase the impact of international famine mitigation efforts in high-risk countries. You will hear more about this from a World Bank col-

league in one of the sessions today. I am confident that more new initiatives and commitments to eliminate hunger will also stem out of this conference today."

In the forefront

Meanwhile, the official commended the State of Kuwait for its humanitarian contributions to lessen hunger in the world. "Kuwait has always been in the forefront to help alleviate the suffering of people in need. I would like to take this opportunity to express gratitude to His Highness the Amir and the people of Kuwait for the continued generosity for supporting the initiative, for the much-needed humanitarian assistance globally." The State of Kuwait has provided, since 2014, over US dollars 1.4 billion to support humanitarian response globally. According to the financial tracking services the Gulf States have provided, since 2014, over \$7.7 billion in humanitarian assistance globally. The State of Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are the largest contributors to the 2018 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan providing over \$ 1.25 billion to assist the humanitarian needs of the Yemeni people, he said. The recent multi-year support of the State of Qatar to the Central Emergency Response Fund is also commendable. It will help promote flexible, predictable and long-term contribution and supports in providing life-saving assistance to the people who need it the most, the UN official concluded. — KUNA

Defense Minister meets UK Defense Senior Adviser

KUWAIT: Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met at Bayan Palace yesterday with the vis-



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets with UK Defense Senior Adviser for the Middle East Lieutenant General Sir John Lorimer.

iting UK Defense Senior Adviser for the Middle East Lieutenant General Sir John Lorimer.

During the meeting, they discussed several issues of mutual concern, mainly military related matters, a statement by Kuwait's Ministry of Defense said. Sheikh Nasser stressed the eagerness of both sides to enhance the bilateral relation, pointing out the solid bond between both nations, the statement added. The meeting was attended by British Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Davenport, and the Embassy's Military Attache Colonel Finlay Mclean. — KUNA

KCCI eyes closer trade cooperation with Romania

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) said yesterday it is willing to enlist all its potentials to promote its trade relations with its Romanian counterpart. This came in a statement by KCCI's Deputy Chairman

Abdelwahab Al-Wazzan following a meeting with a visiting Romanian economic delegation. He added that a memo of understanding would be signed by both sides, citing this as a step towards closer cooperation between both sides' chambers of commerce.

The Romanian delegation commended the KCCI's great role in the development of bilateral economic relations through its remarkable cooperation and efforts with its counterpart in Romania. They added that the Middle East region is a main target and big market for Romanian companies. — KUNA



KUWAIT: KCCI's Deputy Chairman Abdelwahab Al-Wazzan speaks during a meeting with a visiting Romanian economic delegation. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

Foreign investments in Kuwait hit \$2.9 billion: Minister

ISTANBUL: Kuwaiti Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan said yesterday that Kuwait had drawn foreign investments valued at \$2.9 billion. Addressing the 9th Bosphorus Summit, held in Istanbul under the theme 'Sustaining Peace and Development for All,' the minister said three Turkish companies have got licenses for investment in Kuwait, and they are now working in the construction field. These Turkish companies are carrying out huge and major projects within the framework of Kuwait's development plan, including a new terminal at Kuwait International Airport, he added.

He further noted that Kuwait has set out an all-out strategy to promote and stimulate economic development, to develop human values and to wipe out obstacles blocking worldwide progress and cooperation. He pointed to his country's ongoing efforts to become a commercial and financial hub as part of Kuwait's 2035 development drive.

On Kuwait's humanitarian efforts, the minister boasted that his country has taken it upon itself to alleviate people's sufferings and woes in different world regions just out of its humanitarian core principles. In this context, he highly commended His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's great humanitarian efforts, which won him the UN title of the Humanitarian Leader.

The 9th Bosphorus Summit is organized by the International Cooperation Platform (ICP) under the auspices of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Within the scope of the summit, several topics will be discussed, such as trade wars, trade in local currencies, development projects, global peace, and renewable energy, by experts, academics, business-people, and politicians from several countries. — KUNA



ISTANBUL: Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan speaks at 9th Bosphorus Summit. — KUNA

Dasman Diabetes Institute invites TEDx

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: TEDx, an international community that organizes TED-style events, was invited by the management of Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI) to develop education, awareness and guidance, in addition to shedding light on many international humanitarian initiatives. TEDx organizes a series of international gatherings that aim at introducing and spreading outstanding ideas in the world, sponsored by the Sapling Foundation in the US, a non-profit organization whose motto is 'ideas that deserve spreading.' It was established in 1984 and deals with a wide range of subjects in the field of research and practical practice of science through telling stories to present ideas.

DDI decided to take a different approach through its awareness campaign that was launched at the start of November, and be the podium from which voices of Kuwait youth who have inspiring ideas to change life for the better, transform weakness into strength and make the world a better place to live in. Several Kuwaiti youth such as novelist Humoud Al-Shayji, Hamad Al-Kulaib, Yousuf Al-Rifae, Lulua Al-Quoud, Khalid Al-Tannan, Zainab Karashi and Ghanim Al-Otaibi participated with their stories of hope, inspiration and a motive to live with pain and transform it into victory. Shayji said love is known as a

source of power to overcome all obstacles of life in order to fulfill dreams and live life, and not only survive. He faced several personal problems until he learned he had cancer, which contributed to him writing and 'documenting' the story of loving everything in a book he named 'Ishq' (love). Here his life as an author began and fulfilled his dream - it did not occur to him that he would discover success through it.

Rifae fought a disease of the back muscles since he was a child that prevented him from practicing any sport, so he lost the most important part of childhood. His dream was to be a martial arts champion. When he was 16, he saw an ad on social media about climbing mountains which gave him the opportunity to take the risk, resist the pain and confront the fear of practicing sport. He climbed Africa's Mt Kilimanjaro (height: 5,800m), then Mount Prussia (5,600 m), followed by Mount Gladinwan (5,800 m) in France, then Mount Acun Cagawa (6,980 m) in Argentina, to finally stand on the highest summit in Australia.

He was the first Kuwaiti to climb these mountains despite difficulties, illness and disability. "If you believe in yourself and have a beating heart and breathing lungs, nothing will keep you from fulfilling everything," he said.

Quoud was diagnosed with diabetes at an early age, and grew up with doctors' guidance, food instructions and exercise, together with calculating doses of medicine and paying special attention to physical activity to resist the pain and reach her goals without the feeling of being different from those around her. Her condition did not prevent her from traveling to continue her education, and she was successful despite the health risks she faced.



KUWAIT: Officials attend an event held at Dasman Diabetes Institute.

Local

Amir attends, patronizes Sheikh Salem Al-Ali's Informatics Award

Digital transformation necessary to serve development needs: Sheikha Aida



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and top state officials attend the 18th edition of His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah's Informatics Award. —Amiri Diwan photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah presents the informatics shield to Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Houlin Zhao.



Chairwoman of Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Informatics Award's Board of Trustees Sheikha Aida Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah presents a memento to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Amir and Sheikha Aida with winners from Kuwait.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah attended and patronized at Bayan Palace yesterday the 18th edition of His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah's Informatics Award. His Highness the Amir was received at the event by Chairperson of the Award's Trustees' Board, Sheikha Aida Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah. The event was attended by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and senior state officials.

Delivering her speech to the event, Sheikha Aida said that the world today was more connected than ever thanks to the huge leap in Information technology and communication. She added that it was integral to coordinate efforts for digital transformation and interactive knowledge to serve Kuwait's development needs. The digital industry, through the efforts of the youth, will surely play a part in Kuwait's ambitions to become an economic hub both regionally and internationally, affirmed Sheikha Aida who urged the people of Kuwait to follow the guidelines set by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait in this regard. Sheikha Aida also lauded His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali for his continuous support to the development of the Information Technology (IT) scene in the country.

'Fourth Industrial Revolution'

Delivering his speech to the event, head of the Award's high organizing committee Engineer Bassam Al-Shemmeri said that His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali's Informatics Award was implementing a plan lasting until 2020 to follow up on the latest developments in the 'Fourth Industrial Revolution,' a term describing the fusion of physical, biological, and digital technologies. Prior to the current event, organizers of the Sheikh Salem Al-Ali's Informatics Award focused on participating and organizing numerous local and regional meetings, which were attended by IT professionals and technology enthusiast from here and abroad, said Shemmeri who noted that they have also launched a number of competitions to develop interest in technological develop-

ment. For instance, he revealed that an event sponsored by the award's committee at the Kuwait international book fair had attracted 1,246 participants with 836 winning prizes during the course of the 11-day event.

ITU grateful

In his award acceptance remarks Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General of international telecommunication union (ITU) said, "I am honored to be here today to receive His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award 2018. I accept this prestigious award on behalf of all the Members and staff of ITU, past and present." Zhao added that the ITU was grateful to the

“World today more connected than ever”

State of Kuwait for increasing its contribution to the union by an additional two units, indicating that the GCC country has been an active Member of our Union since 1959, playing an important role in our activities and the ITU Council. "Let me congratulate Kuwait on being re-elected to the ITU Council at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 (PP-18) in Dubai just three weeks ago," said the Union's Secretary General.

At PP-18, ITU Members States adopted new resolutions on important issues like OTTs, SMEs, and the digital economy, which will help foster inclusive economic growth and ensure that ICT can be a source for good and for everyone. "We now have a new Strategic Plan and a new Financial Plan, with ambitious targets for our Union for the next four years", Zhao said. Our strategy is based on five goals: growth, inclusiveness, sustainability, innovation, and partnership. These goals will guide ITU's key role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

"As Kuwait is undergoing its own digital transformation under Vision 2035 - with projects in the areas of ICT infrastructure, cyber-security, and smart cities - I am here today to reaffirm the role of ITU as your partner in this endeavor. This award is a confirmation of our determination to work together to facilitate ICT infrastructure development, provide better ICT services to the people, and deliver on the promise of the digital revolution," said Zhao, affirming that the ITU would continue to work hard to honor Kuwait's trust, confidence, and steadfast commitment.

Meanwhile, the Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Informatics Award's coordinator Dr Thalya Al-Fawzan commended the Kuwaiti leadership for its unconditional support to the event since it was launched in 2001. She affirmed that the award would continue to develop the IT scene in Kuwait to participate in the country's ambitious development plan Kuwait vision 2035.

Winners honored

His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award honored the winners of the 18th edition of this year, 10 projects for Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Arab countries, six of them for the government sector and two for private and civil society.

In the government sector, UAE won three awards for 'MOI UAE' app for Ministry of Interior, 'Dubai now' app for Smart Dubai Government and the third for Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation app. Qatar has won two prizes: one for 'SAK' app for Ministry of Justice and the second on the website of the Ministry of Interior Electronic Services Section, while Palestine received one award for 'Rawafed' of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. As for the private sector, the first prize was awarded to Kuwait for the 'Lawyer' project of the Quality Systems Company, while the second prize went to Palestine on 'Afandie' app of Afandie company for technology and consulting. The civil society has also received two prizes, one for the Comprehensive Muslim e-Library owned by Al-Najat Charity Society and the other to khairi online of Rahma International. — KUNA



His Highness the Amir and Sheikha Aida with winners from the UAE.



His Highness the Amir and Sheikha Aida with winners from the Qatar.



His Highness the Amir and Sheikha Aida with winners from Palestine.

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Vehicles drive on a highway in Kuwait yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Discover your future with Gulf Bank at PAAET career fair

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank is participating in the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Career Fair currently taking place until tomorrow. Held at the PAAET Stadium, Shuwaikh, under the patronage of PAAET Director-General Dr Ali Al-Mudhaf, the fair showcases future opportunities for current undergraduate and graduate students in their field.

Gulf Bank is the Gold Sponsor of the event and will be showcasing its expertise within the banking sector, highlighting company policy and cul-

ture, as well as providing students with a rounded knowledge of the departments and resources available within the bank.

Commenting on Gulf Bank's participation, Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager of Human resources at Gulf Bank said: "Gulf Bank is committed to the youth of Kuwait and Kuwaitization of the private sector. Participating in the fair allows us to highlight the incredible opportunities that we offer youth, and we are proud to support our youth in reaching their potential professionally and personally. We look forward to seeing everyone there."



Salma Al-Hajjaj



Gulf Bank's team at the bank's pavilion.

Zain sponsors second PAAET career fair

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced its Gold sponsorship of the second annual career fair organized by the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET). The event was held under the patronage and attendance of PAAET Director-General Dr Ali Al-Mudhaf.

Zain's ongoing support to the various career fairs held in public and private universities all

year long is part of the company's keenness in offering job opportunities to young national talents, especially in the telecommunications industry, which is considered one of the most vital fields operating in the Kuwaiti private sector.

Through Zain's dedicated booth, the company's Human Resources Division showcased the available full-time job vacancies, the company's human resources policy, Zain's working environment, the nature of work at the various departments and divisions, as well as the available vacancies for undergraduates to work in part-time jobs as part of Zain's Future University Network (FUN) program.

During the event, PAAET's graduates and undergraduates learned about Zain's leading experience in the telecommunications industry, as well as the company's strategy for developing

its own human resources. Zain offers career incentives that assure the highest levels of quality and productivity, in addition to having a focused human resources development strategy.

Zain firmly believes in the importance of educational development, as it is essential for individuals to then go-on to be successful and contributing members of society. Career fairs play a big role in exposing bright and optimistic youth who are looking for job opportunities in the various industries within the local private sector.

Zain is committed to playing an active role in the investment of the Kuwaiti human capital. The company seeks to provide young and eager Kuwaitis with suitable job opportunities that allow them to apply their practical skills, achieve their potential, and fully develop their capabilities.



KUWAIT: Dr Ali Al-Mudhaf with Zain officials at the company's booth.

KNPC to spend \$25 billion on oil projects by 2040

KUWAIT: Kuwait National Petroleum Company said Sunday the volume of its current oil projects, part of its 2040 strategic plan, is estimated at about KD 7.6 billion, which equals \$25 billion. KNPC aims to increase Kuwait's refining capacity to two million barrels by 2035, KNPC CEO Mohammad Al-Mutairi told reporters on the sidelines of celebrating the company's launch of its 2040 strategy.

The current refining capacity, with start of operations in Al-Zour refinery, is expected to reach 1.4 million barrels per day, Mutairi said, pointing out a current study to increase capacity to the maximum. He also said initial indications projected a possibility to surpass KNPC's current 800,000 barrels production to 30,000, and even 130,000 via Al-Zour refinery.

Furthermore, the company is currently

preparing a comprehensive study on building a new refinery in, most likely, south of Kuwait, he said. KNPC is also preparing another new study on establishing two gas lines, sixth and seventh, to contribute to Kuwait Oil Company's significant

achievement in natural and associated petroleum gas production, he said. The new study also aims to find ways to increase manufacturing gas production capacity to 3.7 billion square meters per day by 2025, added Mutairi. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The participants in a ceremony to launch the Kuwait National Petroleum Company's 2040 strategy. — KUNA

Cultural center organizes 'Black and White' show

KUWAIT: Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center (JACC) is setting grounds for a performance that would bring back memories that many had enjoyed in the past. 'Black and White' will present classic and romantic love stories that took place in the 1940s and 1950s. The musical features the best

people in show performance, theatrical production and singing, like from Egypt, Lebanon, Italy, Malta, Greece, Britain and Kuwait, said Talal Mnehha, the producer. He said it took three months to select performers.

Dr Mohammad Baqer, Director and Maestro of JACC Band, said they have selected 14 songs from Egyptian movies. He added that the band of the seven-scene drama show would feature Kuwaiti, Arab and foreign performers. Hesham Jaber, writer and director of the show, said JACC wanted to shed light on songs of Egyptian movies, and added they have selected Abeer Ne'ma and Tareq Bashir as singers due to their unique vocals. The November 27-30 show will be held at JACC's National Theater. — KUNA

Local

National Assembly to debate Prime Minister's grilling over rain

Financial panel rejects new govt proposals for retirement

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The National Assembly is scheduled today to debate a grilling against His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah over alleged government mishandling of recent heavy rains amid an attempt to delay the debate.

The grilling was filed by leading opposition MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri who charged that the government ministries and agencies failed in taking the necessary measures and actions to face the heavy torrential rains which caused heavy damage.

Muwaizri is charging that the prime minister is responsible for the failure because he is the head of the government who failed to effectively coordinate between government agencies in facing the heavy rains.

It was not immediately clear what will happen in the session today and whether the debate will go ahead after the premier expresses reservations that the grilling is unconstitutional or other steps may be taken.

Pro-government MP Khalaf Dumaitheer said on Sunday that he and some other lawmakers will submit a proposal to refer the grilling to the assembly's legal and legislative committee to examine if it was in line of the constitution.

Muwaizri however insisted that the grilling is constitutional because it targets the head of the government

who is responsible for coordinating between ministries and agencies. He said that he did not hear any constitutional expert saying it is against the constitution. If the debate goes ahead, it will most likely be held in a secret session.

Another government-assembly controversy is expected to come up for debate today: the long dispute over a law providing additional benefits for Kuwaiti civil servants who go on early retirement. Head of the financial and economic affairs committee MP Salah Khorshid said the panel rejected a new government draft law that stipulates that early retirement seekers should bear some cost. Instead, the committee agreed to delete a controversial provision in the law to make its passage easier and allow the government to accept it.

Debate likely held in secret session

Under the new amended law, Kuwaiti males and females can seek early retirement after serving for 30 years and 25 years respectively or after reaching 55 years and 50 years of age, respectively. In both cases, their pension will be equal to 95 percent of their full salary.

The law allows men to seek early retirement after only 25 years of service if they agree that their pension will be reduced by deducting five percent of their basic salary every year. The same applies to female employees who want to retire five years early.



KUWAIT: Lightning strikes during a recent thunderstorm in Kuwait. —KUNA photo

AUK hosts seminar on domestic violence

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: A seminar on 'Attitudes on Violence in Kuwait: Findings from the Abolish 153 Survey' was held at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) yesterday, attended by academics and students as well as US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman. The lecture was presented by two of the main advocates of the 'Abolish 153' campaign - Dr Alanoud Al-Sharekh, Director of Ibtikar Strategic Consultancy, and Dr Fatma Al-Salem, Assistant Professor of Mass Communication at Kuwait University.

The campaign to abolish article 153 reaches its peak in the next few days as the result of the survey it conducted will be presented to the parliament. Article 153 of Kuwait's penal code states that any man who surprises his mother, sister, daughter or wife in an unsavory sexual act (zina) with a man and kills her or him or both will be treated as committing a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum of three years in jail and/or a fine of KD 225.

Abolish 153 believes that violence against women and domestic violence in general are easily committed because the law allegedly protects the perpetrators. It says the penal code effectively gives men regulatory, judicial and executive power over their female kin in blatant disregard of the constitution, international agreements on human and women's rights and even the sharia.

Abolish 153's ultimate goal is to create a safe environment where mothers, daughters, sisters and wives are protected from all forms of violence, to raise awareness of these violent practices and the legislation that sanctions them, and ensure the creation of safe houses for women under threat of violence, which are lacking in Kuwait. Abolish 153 supports not only legal changes but those who suffer as a consequence of existing legislation.

Based on statistics released by the justice ministry, an average of 368 acts of violence against women were reported annually in Kuwait between 2000 and 2009. "This is not reflective of reality. Many cases are unreported because of many religious and sociocultural factors. People in Kuwait are still protective of the background, honor and reputation of the family," said Sharekh, who is the lead advocate of Abolish 153. She added that violence against children is also on the rise since 2000 and keeps growing annually. Sharekh also blamed the media and even commercial advertisements for suggesting violence is okay if the victims fail to follow instructions. "In Ramadan, I saw a flood of advertisements with violent messages - a man threatening his wife for buying the wrong brand of honey and so on. What are we trying to teach our children? In a television interview, a woman was asked: 'What will you do if your husband beats you?' The answer was: 'I will beat him too'," she said.

Whether economic standing or transgender violence is also included in the report, Sharekh said violence is connected to the socioeconomic background of a person, as more educated people are less likely to fall victim to violence, although she argued they are not spared as well. When it comes to violence against transgender people, Sharekh said Kuwait is still a very conservative society and so violence against them must be high as well, but they have no records or stats on this. Abolish 153 is also working with other NGOs, psychologists and doctors. "We want to support people who are seeking guidance and help from us," she said.

Salem narrated an incident in which she was confronted by one of her students at Kuwait University, saying the survey that she presented was correct but not reflective of the reality on the ground. "The student was angry and I could sense that she had a heavy load on her heart. I told her to speak up. She said that her friend was badly beaten by her father, but I realized she was referring to herself. She said her friend is being abused since she was five years old, but after one incident, she could not take it anymore, so she went to the police to file a case," she said.

"But the policewoman convinced her to sign a release report noting that nothing had happened. The policewoman told the girl that she had to recant the complaint because her father was a religious man and that she was tarnishing the name of her father. The policewoman told her that she beats her daughter too and this is just part of disciplining a member of the family. I eventually found out that she was indeed referring to herself," Salem said.

Search still on for missing warehouse worker

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFS) Director General Lt Gen Khalid Al-Mikrad inspected the site where warehouse shelves collapsed in a major store on Salmi road. He was following efforts to find a missing worker, thought to be buried under tons of goods. Another worker was injured and taken to hospital.

Smuggling foiled

Airport customs officers foiled an attempt by a woman to smuggle illicit tablets hidden in the lining of leather clothes. Member of the Customs Information Committee Nawaf Al-Matar said an inspection system indicated foreign objects in the luggage of a passenger, so it was searched manually and the tablets were found hidden in various places including the lining. Officers found 3,200 Tramadol and other tablets. The suspect and drugs were sent to concerned authorities.

Fires

A power transformer in Kaifan caught fire yesterday, so Shuhada and industrial Shuwaikh centers responded and put out the flames. A nearby college was evacuated, and no injuries were reported. Meanwhile,

firemen put out a fire in the bedroom of a Funaitees house. Firemen from Qurain and Mishref stations evacuated two children and a helper from thick smoke. Investigations are ongoing to find out the cause of the fire.

Worker freed

A laborer was stuck between the steel girders of a building under construction. Firemen from Bidaa fire station and technical rescue teams responded, freed the man and handed him to paramedics, who took him to hospital.

Broken spine

An officer at the Drugs Control General Department suffered a broken spine when he attempted to break up a fight in a Salmiya mall. Al-Rai daily reported yesterday. The lieutenant was near a mall late at night and was surprised by a fight between 10 men, so he attempted to break up the fight, but was beaten and suffered several injuries. Policemen and medics arrived at the scene and took the officer to Mubarak Hospital, while the others disappeared.

Blackmail

An Egyptian woman discovered that her Syrian ex-husband had planted cameras in her room to blackmail her with images and video clips, so she complained against him and he was arrested. The woman noticed a lens in the ceiling of her room, so she informed police, and they went to the house. They asked her if she suspected anyone, so she told them it may be her ex-husband, due to severe differences between them. The man confessed to placing the camera, saying he wanted to blackmail his ex-wife to settle their divorce.

Ministry official prosecuted over corruption charges

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Public Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) referred an assistant undersecretary at the ministry of services and others to the public prosecution for involvement in corruption, the authority's official spokesperson Dr Mohammed Abdul Rahman Bu Zobar announced yesterday. Nazaha added that Minister of State for Services Jenan Bushehri had reported suspicions of corruption after forming a special committee to conduct an inventory on postal stamps that found stamps worth KD 1,236,316 were missing, before referring the matter to Nazaha for investigations.

Corruption charges

In collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MSAL) closed a subsidized goods outlet at a Mubarak Al-Kabeer Co-op Society branch after the outlet's manager was found involved in corruption, said informed sources, noting that both the manager and other involved suspects were referred to the public prosecution for further investigations. The source explained that the suspects had been regularly selling subsidized goods remaining in the outlet after giving citizens' rations and splitting the money.

Salary increments

The government will not look into recent parliamentary demands for salary increments for public sector employees as it deems such demands unjustified in view of the state budget imbalances and unstable oil prices, well-informed sources said. "Salary increments will not be made according to traditional methods because the government wants to solve the problem in view of the reports made by IMF and the World Bank demanding salary cuts to promote productivity," the sources said. They noted that the government may tackle the salary issue if lawmakers approve the strategic payroll alternative bill, which is stuck after its rejection by the oil sector.

Fake degrees

Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah said the foreign ministry submitted an inquiry to the ministry of higher education about a list of universities abroad from which some of the ministry employees had degrees. Jarallah added that the inquiry involved the validity of those degrees and accreditation of the concerned universities, and stressed that the ministry will never tolerate having employees with fake degrees and hold them accountable.

Electricity projects

The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) is currently executing a number of projects to deal with rising electricity and water consumption resulting from urban expansion, said informed sources. The sources added that MEW is collaborating with the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects to execute two projects in Zour and Khairan to produce a total of 16,000 megawatts of electricity.

AUK... Driven by Quality

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING (BE) DEGREE PROGRAM

ABET Engineering Accreditation Commission

COMPUTER SCIENCE (BSc) DEGREE PROGRAM

ABET Computing Accreditation Commission

COMPUTER ENGINEERING (BE) DEGREE PROGRAM

ABET Engineering Accreditation Commission

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (BBA) DEGREE PROGRAMS

ACBSP GLOBAL BUSINESS ACCREDITATION

INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM

CEA

2018

2016

2011

2009

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The American University of Kuwait | @AUKtweets | @auk_kuwait | AUKvideos

AUK is institutionally accredited by the Private Universities Council in the State of Kuwait, and has a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation with Dartmouth College (Hanover, New Hampshire - USA).

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Apartment fire kills six in Switzerland

Mumbai attacks anniversary draws new pressure on Pakistan

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KIEV: Activists of Ukrainian far-right groups shout slogans during their rally in front of the Ukrainian parliament in Kiev yesterday, as they demand to set martial law in the country and to cut diplomatic relations with Russia. —AFP

Russia seizes three Ukrainian ships

Russia-Ukraine tensions soar after confrontation at sea

KIEV: Kiev and Moscow were facing their worst crisis in years yesterday as Ukraine and its Western allies demanded the release of three ships fired on and seized by Russia near Crimea. Russian vessels boarded and captured the ships on Sunday, accusing them of illegally entering Russian waters off the coast of Crimea in the Sea of Azov. Ukraine's military was on high alert and parliament was to vote yesterday on a request from President Petro Poroshenko to impose martial law for 60 days. The incident has raised fears of a wider military escalation and the UN Security Council was to hold an emergency session yesterday. NATO also called an emergency meeting on the incident.

Ukraine's Western allies accused Russia of using force without justification, while Kiev urged its partners to impose further sanctions on Moscow. "These were planned acts of aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine," Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin told reporters in Kiev. "We will demand (at the Security Council) the immediate release of our sailors and the liberation of our ships." He said talks were underway, with the European Union and others, on increasing sanctions imposed on Russia. Moscow insisted Kiev was to blame, with Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov saying: "The Russian side acted strictly within both domestic and international law."

'Dangerous methods'

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov accused Kiev of a planned provocation and of using "dangerous methods" that put ships in the area at risk. The crisis unfolded as two small Ukrainian warships and a tugboat were heading through the Kerch Strait, a waterway that gives access to the Sea of Azov from the Black Sea and which is used by both Ukraine and Russia.

Ukraine said a Russian border guard vessel rammed the tugboat and then fired on the ships, immobilizing all three. It said the Kerch Strait was blocked by a tanker and that Russian military aircraft were flying over the area. Russia's FSB security service, which oversees border forces, confirmed weapons had been fired and the vessels seized, accusing the Ukrainian ships of "violating the Russian border". Ukraine said six of its servicemen were injured, two seriously. The FSB said only three had suffered non-life threatening injuries and were

given medical treatment.

Russian news agencies quoted port officials in Crimea as saying the strait was reopened to traffic early yesterday. The confrontation is a dangerous development in the long-running conflict pitting Ukraine against Moscow and Russian-backed rebels in the east of the country. More than 10,000 people have died in the fighting. The United States and EU have imposed sanctions on Russia over the conflict and yesterday European capitals rallied behind Kiev. "I condemn Russian use of force in Azov Sea. Russian authorities must return Ukrainian sailors, vessels & refrain from further provocations," EU President Donald Tusk tweeted.

Tensions over sea access

France also called on Russia to release the sailors and ships, with the foreign ministry saying "nothing appears to justify the use of force" by Russia. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said any Russian "blockade" of the Sea of Azov was "unacceptable".

Tensions have been building over the Kerch Strait, where Russia has built a new bridge that gives it a land connection to Crimea, annexed by Moscow in 2014. Kiev has accused Moscow of blocking access for Ukrainian ships though the strait, the only way in and out of the Sea of Azov to the Black Sea.

In recent months both sides had deployed more naval and border vessels to the area. "The incident marks a significant escalation of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine," research firm Eurasia Group said. "Western governments will side with Ukraine against Russia over the incident... making new sanctions against Russia likely." Poroshenko held a late-night meeting of his military cabinet, proposing the imposition of martial law in Ukraine "to ensure the security and safety of its citizens".

Eurasia Group said martial law could have wide-ranging domestic consequences, especially with a presidential election due in March and Poroshenko behind in opinion polls. "Poroshenko did not take this kind of action during the worst of the conflict in 2014 and 2015. This raises concerns that... it could lead to postponement of the presidential election," it said. Protesters gathered in several Ukrainian cities to denounce Russia's actions, with several hundred far-right activists marching to parliament in Kiev and setting off flares.— AFP



Ukraine army on high alert

'Cheeky' Bhutanese conjoined twins separated

MELBOURNE: "Cheeky" Bhutanese conjoined twins who were successfully separated after a marathon operation in Australia left hospital Monday, with doctors saying they had made an excellent recovery and were starting to act independently. Fifteen-month-old Nima and Dawa-whose names mean "Sun" and "Moon"-were separated on November 9 at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, a month after arriving in Australia with their mother Bhumchu Zangmo.

"It has been incredibly rewarding to watch how the girls have recovered and just to watch their interaction now," said lead surgeon Joe Crameri told reporters. "The joy of being young and the joy of newness and seeing how the world can be when you are actually separated." Crameri said the girls were "incredibly anxious" after the surgery, before gaining confidence and growing independent. While the pair were recovering their strength and movement at a different pace, their scars were healing well and they were "looking strong", he said, adding that they were "cheeky" and like to mimic The Wiggles children's music group.

Meanwhile, their mother was delighted with their progress and taking care of them had become easier, Crameri said. The twins and their mother are set to move to a town north of Melbourne, where the charity Children First Foundation—which helped them get to Australia—has a retreat. The next recovery steps for the pair, who are learning to sit up on their own, was to gain enough strength and balance to stand, Crameri said, adding that a return date to Bhutan has not yet been set. Bhutan is a poor Himalayan kingdom where doctors did not have the expertise to separate the girls, who were joined from the chest to the waist. — AFP



MELBOURNE: Conjoined Bhutanese twins fifteen-month-old Nima and Dawa and their mother Bhumchu Zangmo leave the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne yesterday. — AFP

Indonesian app to report 'misguided' religion and beliefs

JAKARTA: Indonesia's national human rights agency said yesterday it was concerned about the launch of a mobile application by the Jakarta Prosecutor's Office, which allows members of the public to report religious beliefs they consider "misguided". Indonesia has no state religion but has traditionally required citizens to register as Muslim, Catholic, Protestant, Hindu, Buddhist or Confucian, though last year the Constitutional Court affirmed the rights of faiths outside official religions after a challenge by some indigenous faiths.

Nonetheless, there remain concerns about rising intolerance in the world's biggest Muslim-majority country as well as the use of strict blasphemy laws against minorities and the targeting of Islamic sects such as the Ahmadiyyah. The app, called "Smart Pakem", features a list of groups including Ahmadiyyah as well as Gafatar, which the country's highest Islamic council considers a deviant sect. It was not clear what the list represented, but some of the groups such as Gafatar have been outlawed and the app has a link that

allows members of the public to report organizations deemed harmful.

The app could have a "dangerous consequence by causing social disintegration", said Amiruddin Al-Rahab, a commissioner at the National Commission on Human Rights. "When neighbors are reporting each other, that would be problematic," Al-Rahab said. Despite facing a backlash from human rights groups, the free app was available for download on Google Inc's Google Play store on Monday afternoon. Al-Rahab said since the app's features were not running in full it was unclear whether the prosecutor's office would include detailed guidance on the kind of organization categorized as "harmful" or beliefs deemed as "misguided".

"Don't leave the people in confusion, if people are confused they will take matters into their own hands," he said, adding that the app could also contravene the Constitutional Court's ruling last year on the rights of devotees of faiths outside the state-recognized religions. The Jakarta Prosecutor's Office could not immediately be reached for comment. Yulianto, an official at the Jakarta Prosecutor's Office, was quoted as saying by the news site Kompas.com that the app aimed to educate people and to increase the transparency of the reporting process. Indonesia's attorney general's office has the authority under the law to monitor religions in case beliefs are deemed a threat to the community and can establish teams to examine such claims. — Reuters

International

Migrants retreat after failed bid to force through US-Mexican border

US shuts border post as migrants try to cross

TIJUANA: Hundreds of Central American migrants who tried to force through a Mexican police blockade into the United States retreated to a nearby camp yesterday after US border agents pushed them back with tear gas and rubber bullets. The group of around 500, part of a caravan of around 5,000 mainly Hondurans who have been trekking towards the US for weeks, scrambled over a rusted metal fence and raced into a concrete riverbed towards San Diego on Sunday.

They were stopped by a chain-link fence topped with barbed wire and repelled by US Border Patrol agents throwing tear gas shells and firing rubber bullets, an AFP journalist on the scene saw. Chief Patrol Agent Rodney Scott, of the San Diego Sector Border Patrol, told CNN “numerous” migrants—mainly men—had made it across, however, and 42 of them were arrested.

The incident was latest flash point in a weeks-long crisis that Donald Trump used to drum up support in this month’s midterm elections and the president hit out again yesterday by threatening a permanent shutdown of the frontier. Most of the migrants stumbled back into camp in the northwestern Mexican city of Tijuana, dirty, scared and with ripped clothes. “We’re here with broken hearts and hopes,” said Andy Colon, a 20-year-old woman who traveled from Honduras with her sister and two children. “We were deluded into believing that we had already reached the United States, and that they would grant us asylum,” Colon said.

The San Ysidro border post across from Tijuana—the busiest crossing on the US-Mexico border—was closed to traffic and pedestrians for several hours following the incident. Trump, who for weeks has been condemning the migrant caravan, took to Twitter to lash out once more yesterday. “Mexico should move the flag waving migrants, many of whom are stone cold criminals, back to their countries,” he wrote. “Do it by plane, do it by bus, do it anyway you want, but they are NOT coming into the USA. We will close the border permanently if need be.

Congress, fund the WALL!” Trump said, referring to his central election pledge to build a wall across the US-Mexico border.

Mexico threatens deportations

Many of the migrants say they are fleeing violence and poverty in Honduras in search of asylum north of the border. Mexican police in Tijuana arrested 98 mostly Hondurans who tried to cross over on Sunday, and a local police commander said “zero tolerance” would be applied. Mexican Interior Minister Alfonso Navarrete accused some of attempting to cross from Tijuana in a “violent way,” and said they would be deported. “Far from helping the caravan, they are hurting it,” he told the Milenio television network. Video clips posted on Twitter showed crowds of people dashing across a shallow concrete riverbed toward the United States. The sudden rush overwhelmed the outnumbered Mexican police, who were deployed with full riot gear. US Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen accused the migrants of seeking to harm US border patrol personnel “by throwing projectiles at them.”

They are NOT coming into USA: Trump

‘Are we in the US yet?’

Around 1,000 migrants, including women and young children, had been holding a peaceful midday demonstration in Tijuana when half of the group bolted toward the border. Several hundred made it over the first barrier and cascaded into the riverbed. “Are we in the United States yet?” some asked in desperate tones. But when they neared the second fence US border agents fired tear gas and rubber bullets at them as helicopters buzzed overhead, an AFP journalist saw.

The migrants covered their faces to protect themselves from the acrid gas. Mothers clutched their young children and fled back to Mexico for safety. “We were told that if we crossed (the first barrier) they would give us asylum, because we were already in the United States,” said Flor Jimenez, a 32-year-old Honduran



TIJUANA: A group of Central American migrants -mostly from Honduras- cross the almost dry riverbed of the Tijuana River in an attempt to get to El Chaparral port of entry, in Tijuana, Baja California State, Mexico, near US-Mexico border. —AFP

woman. “But now it seems that they want to kill us, and we got very scared,” said Jimenez. She managed to reach the second border fence with her husband, her sister and her young daughter. But amid the clouds of gas, the crowd, including Jimenez and her relatives, turned back to Tijuana.

Asylum demands

In a statement, the Honduran government “condemned” the use of rubber bullets and reiterated a request for United Nations assistance for migrants stranded on Mexico’s northern border. Trump has deployed nearly 6,000 troops, on top of more than 2,000 National Guardsmen sent earlier, but Scott said the

Department of Defense is only providing logistical support and was not involved in Sunday’s engagement.

Approximately 5,000 migrants have reached Tijuana over the past week, after a trip of up to 2,500 miles (4,000 kilometers) covered in just over a month. To enter the US legally, migrants must apply for asylum, but the wait for those requests to be processed can last up to a year. The Washington Post reported Saturday that the Trump administration had gained the support of Mexico’s incoming government for a plan to require asylum seekers to wait in Mexico for their applications to be processed. But officials in the incoming administration of President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador later said the agreement was not yet final. —AFP

News in brief

22 Afghan police killed

HERAT: At least 22 police officers were killed in a Taliban ambush in western Afghanistan, a health official said yesterday, in another blow to Afghan forces already suffering record casualties. The attack on the police convoy in Farah province follows a wave of violence across Afghanistan in recent weeks, including a suicide bombing inside an army base mosque on Friday, and intensifying efforts to convince the Taliban to end the 17-year war. At least two police officers were wounded in Sunday’s ambush, said Shir Ahmad Weda, director of the public hospital in the provincial capital. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in a WhatsApp message, saying 25 police were killed and four wounded. “Four vehicles were destroyed and a large quantity of weapons were seized,” Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, a spokesman for the militants, added. —AFP

Man shoots wife, brother

JOHANNESBURG: A man opened fire inside a divorce court yesterday, killing his estranged wife and her brother in South Africa’s southeastern port city of Durban, police said. The incident occurred on the eighth floor of the regional magistrate court building, where the divorce court was hearing the case between the couple, local media reported. “At around 11 am... the suspect shot at the wife and her brother and both died at the scene,” police spokeswoman Colonel Thembeke Mbele said, noting that the hearing had been about to resume after a tea break. The suspect turned the gun on himself but survived. “He also tried to commit suicide and has been taken to hospital where he is in a critical condition,” she said. A local reporter said that the two victims had been in the courtroom’s public gallery. —AFP

Qatar expects fighter jets

DOHA: Qatar expects six F-15 war planes will be delivered to its air force by March 2021, a military official said yesterday, the first batch of 36 it agreed to buy from the United States last year in a deal worth \$12 billion. Brigadier General Issa Al-Mahmadi told reporters at the Al Udeid air base in Qatar a further six are expected to be delivered three months after the initial batch is received and four more are expected every three months thereafter. Qatar signed agreements to buy war planes from the United States as well as Europe last year after a political dispute broke out between it and neighbors Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Bahrain. “This is not a purchase, it is a strategic partnership with the US,” Mahmadi said. —AFP

Islamist militants kill 15

MOGADISHU: At least 15 people were killed and ten others wounded in the central Somali town of Galkayo yesterday when Shabaab militants attacked a Sufi religious centre, officials said. The attack on the residential compound and shrine, home to a controversial Sufi cleric and his followers, took place early yesterday while residents were still asleep. “The attackers used a vehicle loaded with explosives to make their way into the compound before shooting indiscriminately at people inside,” said Abdurahman Mohamed, a security officer, adding that 15 people had been killed and 10 wounded. “The targeted cleric was killed in the attack together with some of his followers,” Mohamed said. —AFP

Heavy snow hammers US Midwest

CHICAGO: Commuters in Chicago and across the Midwest faced inches of heavy, wet snow as they headed back to work yesterday after the long Thanksgiving holiday weekend, with the storm knocking out power, icing roads and canceling some flights. The National Weather Service ended blizzard warnings yesterday in northeast Missouri through the Chicago metropolitan area and northeast into Michigan, but noted strong winds of up to 45 miles per hour would continue to blow around drifts of the snow accumulated overnight.

“Snow will continue to taper off to flurries and then end this morning,” the service’s Chicago office said in a statement, warning drivers to take extra caution on slippery roads in low visibility.

May begins Brexit hard sell before parliament vote

LONDON: Theresa May will convene her cabinet and update parliament on the newly-agreed Brexit deal yesterday, as the embattled British prime minister begins the tricky task of selling the plan to a skeptical country. May returns to a mutinous parliament after sealing the agreement with European Union leaders at a summit in Brussels, where both

Apartment fire kills six in Switzerland

SOLOTHURN: Six people, including children, died when a fire broke out overnight in an apartment building in the northwestern Swiss town of Solothurn, police said yesterday, with neighbors indicating the building housed asylum seekers. “There were more than 20 people in the building. Most were evacuated by the fire brigade, but for six people, including children, the help came too late,” Solothurn police said in a statement. “They died on the spot.” A police spokeswoman told AFP that the fire in the building, in the centre of town, had been extinguished, and that a number of those evacuated remained in hospital. She would not say how many children were among the dead or injured, or provide more information about the identity of those affected.

But neighbors were quoted by several media outlets suggesting that asylum seekers were living in the building. A local cafe owner told AFP he believed they were

“The drive into work was NASTY,” Diane Pathieu, an ABC7 Chicago news anchor, wrote on Twitter of her pre-dawn commute. “Roads barely plowed, wind blowing snow everywhere. Proceed with caution!” North of Chicago, the city of Evanston’s police department said in a statement its power had been knocked out by the storm, although it was still able to receive 911 calls.

Dozens of school districts in Illinois, Missouri, Iowa and Kansas canceled classes due to the weather. Chicago public schools were expected to open. The storm canceled 1,270 flights on Sunday, a busy day for travelers trying to get home after the Thanksgiving weekend. That included about 900 flights to and from Chicago O’Hare International Airport and Chicago Midway Airport and almost 200 flights at Kansas City International Airport. Yesterday morning, about 500 flights to and from O’Hare had been canceled, about 17 percent of all scheduled flights, according to the FlightAware flight tracking service. —Reuters

sides insisted the agreement was the best and only option available. But she faces a big battle to win MPs’ approval ahead of a vote next month, with lawmakers from all parties, including Conservative colleagues, opposed. “We can back this deal, deliver on the vote of the referendum and move on to building a brighter future... Or this house can choose to reject this deal and go back to square one.

“It would open the door to more division and more uncertainty, with all the risks that will entail,” she is to warn lawmakers, according to advance excerpts released by her Downing Street Office. European stock markets rallied at the start of trading yesterday, while the pound was up slightly against the dollar and flat versus the euro on the back of the deal. London’s benchmark FTSE 100 index won 1.4 percent to 7,046.73 points compared with the close on

mainly Eritreans. An AFP photographer said the building was intact but from the outside all of the apartments looked blackened by smoke and fire. Police said it remained unclear what sparked the blaze. “A resident noticed smoke at 2:10 am (0110 GMT) in the stairwell and sounded the alarm,” the police statement said, adding that dozens of firefighters, along with police, ambulances and other rescue services were immediately dispatched to the building.

‘Impossible to escape’

Solothurn city councilor Kurt Fluri told the 20Minutes online news site that he was deeply saddened by the tragedy. He said the fire actually appeared to have been quite small. “It was the smoke that was the problem. It was impossible to escape from it,” he said, adding that some people “appear to have jumped out of the window”. Another witness, a man who had been evacuated from a neighboring building, also told 20Minutes he had heard that some people had jumped to escape the smoke and flames. “They panicked,” he said.

Another neighbor, 62-year-old Franco Pedone, told the Blick newspaper’s online edition that he had been jolted awake. “I suddenly heard women shouting in the



CHICAGO: A resident in Humboldt Park digs out after an early winter snowstorm dumped several inches of snow on the neighborhood yesterday in Chicago, Illinois. —AFP

Friday. In the euro-zone, Frankfurt’s DAX 30 index advanced 1.0 percent to 11,315.90 points and the Paris CAC 40 gained 0.7 percent to 4,982.54.

The agreement sealed Sunday prepares for Britain’s smooth exit from the EU on March 29, 2019, and sets out a vision for “as close as possible a partnership” afterwards. It covers financial matters, citizens’ rights, provisions to keep open the UK’s land border with Ireland and arrangements for a 21-month post-Brexit transition phase. The lengthy, legally enforceable divorce deal is accompanied by a short political declaration setting out hopes for future ties, including security, trade and migration. Until both documents are approved by the British and European parliaments, all sides are still planning for the possibility of Britain quitting the EU with no new arrangements in place. —AFP



SOLOTHURN: A forensic police officer inspects the rubble of a building where six people, including children, perished when a fire broke out in an apartment building in the northwestern Swiss town of Solothurn yesterday. —AFP

night. They were screaming like crazy,” Pedone said. And yet another neighbor told 20Minutes that he had heard screams of people stuck in the building and had seen a child being resuscitated by emergency workers. “That was the worst,” he said. According to the initial

findings, the fire originated on one of the lower floors, allowing smoke to spread through the building. The neighboring building was also evacuated “as a precaution”, police said, adding that those residents were able to return home before morning. —AFP

International

Washington offers \$5 million reward for Mumbai attackers

Attacks anniversary draws solemn tributes, pressure on Pakistan

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has urged Pakistan to take action against those responsible for the 2008 Mumbai attacks as Washington offered a new reward of \$5 million for helping secure their capture. The announcement came on the eve of the tenth anniversary of the assault, which left 166 people dead and hundreds injured after Islamist militants from Pakistan unleashed a wave of violence across India's financial capital lasting three days. "It is an affront to the families of the victims that, after ten years, those who planned the Mumbai attack have still not been convicted for their involvement," Pompeo said in a statement.

"We call upon all countries, particularly Pakistan, to uphold their UN Security Council obligations to implement sanctions against the terrorists responsible for this atrocity, including Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and its affiliates." "We stand with the families and friends of the victims, whose loved ones were lost in this act of barbarism, including six American citizens," he added. The Department of State's Rewards for Justice (RFJ) Program meanwhile said it was offering up to \$5 million "for information leading to the arrest or conviction in any country of any individual who committed, conspired to commit, or aided or abetted" the execution of the attack. It is the third such reward offered by the US after the State Department announced bounties of \$10 million for Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) founder Hafiz Mohammad Saeed and \$2 million for Hafiz Abdul Rahman Makki, another senior leader of the group. Saeed, who is also designated a terrorist by the United Nations, has denied involvement in terrorism and the Mumbai attacks. A party linked to the charitable wing of the LeT contested Pakistan's national elections in July, failing to win any seats but winning more than 435,000 national and regional votes.

Solemn tributes

India marked the 10th anniversary of the Mumbai terror attacks yesterday with ceremonies at sites across the city that became battlegrounds in the wave of violence that killed scores and dealt a critical blow to relations with neighboring Pakistan. Armed with AK-47 assault rifles and hand grenades, 10 Islamic

militants killed 166 people and injured hundreds more in a three-day rampage through India's financial capital which started on Wednesday November 26, 2008.

A decade on, the United States offered a new \$5 million reward for the capture of the remaining attackers and called on Islamabad to cooperate with the hunt for the planners of the assault. The attackers belonged to Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). At a solemn ceremony Mumbai's police remembered more than a dozen officers and commandos killed in the operation against the militants. Relatives of the victims and local dignitaries laid wreaths and sprinkled rose petals at a police memorial honoring the dead while the force's brass band played the "Last Post". "A grateful nation bows to our brave police and security forces who valiantly fought the terrorists during the Mumbai attacks," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who called the attacks "gruesome". Played out on TV news channels around the world, the bloody events—widely known as 26/11—have been compared in India to New York's suffering on September 11, 2001. The co-ordinated attacks on the city of nearly 20 million people hit luxury hotels, the main railway station, a restaurant popular with tourists and a Jewish centre.

Wanted leader

Residents and railway officials also paid their respects at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus train station where Mohammed Kasab, the only gunman caught alive, and another attacker killed almost 60 people and wounded at least 100 others. The Taj Mahal Palace and Tower Hotel held a private service to remember the 31 people who died there. Over 60 hours, four attackers shot dead guests and hotel staff, detonated explosives and set ablaze parts of the building—including its famous dome.

Dramatic scenes of Indian commandos battling the heavily armed gunmen, and guests tried to escape from windows down bedsheet ropes were beamed around the world on live television. Indian security forces only retook control of the hotel on the morning of November 29. More than 30 people also died at



MUMBAI: Divya Salaskar, daughter of slain Indian policeman Vijay Salaskar, pays respects at the Police Memorial, during an event to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 2008 Mumbai militant attacks. —AFP

the Oberoi and Trident hotels in a 42-hour siege involving shootings, explosions and hostage-taking.

Six hostages—including a rabbi and his pregnant wife—were killed at Nariman House, a Jewish cultural and religious centre. The current rabbi, Israel Kozlovsky, unveiled a new memorial listing the names of all those who died in the 26/11 attacks.

"Those who gave their life for the country, those who gave their life for us, they deserve to be remembered and they deserve to get their honor and tribute," he said. Kasab, the gunman caught at the railway station, was executed by India in 2012 after being found guilty of charges including murder and waging war against India. —Agencies

Hong Kong rattled as 5.7 earthquake hits off Taiwan

TAIPEI: A 5.7-magnitude earthquake struck off the western coast of Taiwan yesterday, the US Geological Survey said, and was felt hundreds of kilometers away in Hong Kong. The quake hit around 100 kilometers off the island of Penghu in the Taiwan Strait yesterday morning, at a depth of 13 kilometers.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the quake, which the USGS had initially reported at 5.6-magnitude. Residents in the city of Magong on Penghu island ran outside screaming "earthquake" after the tremor hit, Taiwan media reported. Hong Kong residents reported feeling the quake, and some took to social media to discuss the rare event. "I did (feel it)! I thought I was dizzy, I saw the clothes that were hung up swaying around," wrote one Facebook user in a discussion group for Hong Kong's Tai Po district.

The Hong Kong Observatory said it had received nearly 1,000 reports of the quake being felt, with a duration of a few seconds. "Initial estimate gave a local intensity of IV (four) on the Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale, that is hanging objects swing. Windows, dishes, doors rattle," it said in a statement. Taiwan lies near the junction of two tectonic plates and is regularly hit by earthquakes. In February, its eastern Hualien city was hit by a 6.4-magnitude earthquake which killed 17 people. The island's worst such disaster in recent decades was a 7.6-magnitude quake in September 1999 that killed around 2,400 people. —AFP

China bars US citizens from leaving

BEIJING: China yesterday said that it has barred three reported US citizens—a woman and her two grown children—from leaving the country because they are suspected of "economic crimes". According to the New York Times, Chinese-born mother Sandra Han and her children, Cynthia and Victor Liu, were prevented from leaving the country after they arrived in June. The children say police are preventing them from returning home to compel their father, a former executive at a Chinese state-owned bank, to return to China to face criminal charges, according to the Times. Their mother is allegedly being held in a secret site known as a "black jail", the Times reported.

The siblings told American officials and family associates that they were prevented from flying home despite not having been charged with a crime, the newspaper said. China's foreign ministry yesterday defended the decision. "As we understand it from the relevant authorities, these people you have mentioned all have legal and valid identity documents as Chinese citizens," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a regular press briefing.

"They are suspected of having committed economic crimes and have been restricted from leaving China by Chinese police."

Chinese law does not recognize dual citizenship. While China is known to bar naturalized foreign citizens who are former Chinese nationals from leaving, it is rare that one of those being held was born in the United States. The US State Department issued a travel advisory in January, warning its citizens about the use of "exit bans" to compel American nationals to resolve disputes or compel family members or colleagues to cooperate with Chinese authorities. US-born Victor, 19, was set to start his second year at Georgetown University while his sister, Cynthia, 27, was heading back to work with consulting firm McKinsey & Company, according to the Times.

They have unsuccessfully tried to leave three times and have been moving between cities and living with an uncle, the paper reported. The siblings claim they are innocent and are being used to pressure their father, Liu Changming, a wanted man in China. A former executive at the Bank of Communications, Liu is accused of helping to carry out one of the country's biggest bank frauds, in which \$1.4 billion in illegal loans were issued to property developers. He fled China in 2007 and his children say he is estranged from the family, cutting off ties in 2012. The US embassy in Beijing did not immediately respond to a request for comment. —AFP

Northwest China hit by sandstorm

BEIJING: A northwest Chinese city was engulfed by a massive sandstorm that sparked rural fires, forced traffic to slow down and prompted residents to cover their faces, according to state media. Video from state broadcaster CCTV showed a grey wall of sand hitting Zhangye City in Gansu province on Sunday, casting a yellow fog across the city. Images from official news agency Xinhua showed residents covering their faces in scarves as they went about their daily lives. Visibility went below 100 metres (328 feet) in parts of the city and police were deployed to ensure safety along the expressways, CCTV said. Vehicles were made to slow down and police in high visibility vests were seen directing traffic. Winds also sparked fires in rural areas when heating kindle was blown onto haystacks. Authorities in the city also put out an advisory warning of dry weather and a risk of fire, telling residents to "take precautions".

Such storms regularly occur in the dry season, when winds blow loose, dry soil and sand into urban areas from the Gobi desert, coating cities in a layer of yellow grime. While the northwest faced a sandstorm, Beijing was yesterday shrouded in a thick smog that prompted many to wear protective face masks. Levels of small particulate matter, known as PM 2.5, hovered around 360 in the afternoon, according to air quality monitoring website aqicn.org, or nearly 15 times the World Health Organization's recommended daily maximum exposure. —AFP





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Black US jobs may not last

Ask Memphis residents and they might say that President Donald Trump got this one right: This is the best job market as far as many in this majority black city can remember. For single mother Latasha Harwell, it has meant finally landing a full time job as a medical assistant, one with the regular 9 to 5 hours she needs so she can care for her kids. Chiquita Clayton says she has an open offer to move from part-time to full-time work at a FedEx warehouse; forklift driver Kendrick Jefferson got \$3 dollar an hour more for switching employers.

Unemployment in Memphis hit a post-crisis low of 3.5 percent in April. It has since crept back above 4 percent, though partly because of more people joining the labor force. But with poverty rates here still among the highest in the country, workers, employment advocates, and government officials also say that is only half the story. For this good spell to truly matter to black Americans, they say, it will need to continue for years to come.

Trump often highlights that overall US unemployment has reached a 50-year low on his watch, and that joblessness among black Americans has set a modern record as well. The unemployment rate for blacks sunk to 5.9 percent in May, the lowest since 1972 when the figure was first reported separately, but the milestone reflects a trend that took shape years before Trump took office. Black employment has risen about 1.3 million under Trump to hit a record 19.3 million in October, but job gains were the strongest during Barack Obama's second term when recovery from the Great Recession became more firmly rooted. Recent data indicate job gains for blacks may already be leveling off.

In Memphis, state officials, job recruiters and executives credit a confluence of forces, including a continued boom in logistics, warehousing, and related jobs, for creating what one employment agency executive deemed a 'gold rush' moment. Yet what matters for them is not who gets credit for today's strong labor market, but whether it will be durable enough to help workers weather the next downturn, something past upswings failed to accomplish.

National data analyzed by Reuters shows minority hiring has remained clustered in industries such as food service, retail, and logistics that tend to pay less and have been quicker to lay off staff when the economy slows. The fear is that will repeat itself, and that after outsized gains during the upswing, relatively more black workers will lose their jobs when leaner times arrive. That is what happened during the last recession, when white unemployment peaked at just over 9 percent while black unemployment shot above 16 percent.

As a result, past recoveries have done little to narrow the gap between black and white incomes, as numerous studies, including recent work by the Atlanta Federal Reserve, have documented. Nationally, median incomes for black families remain a third below white household incomes. In Memphis the gap is even larger, with a \$31,000 median annual income for blacks representing just 54 percent of that of white families.

Last in, first out

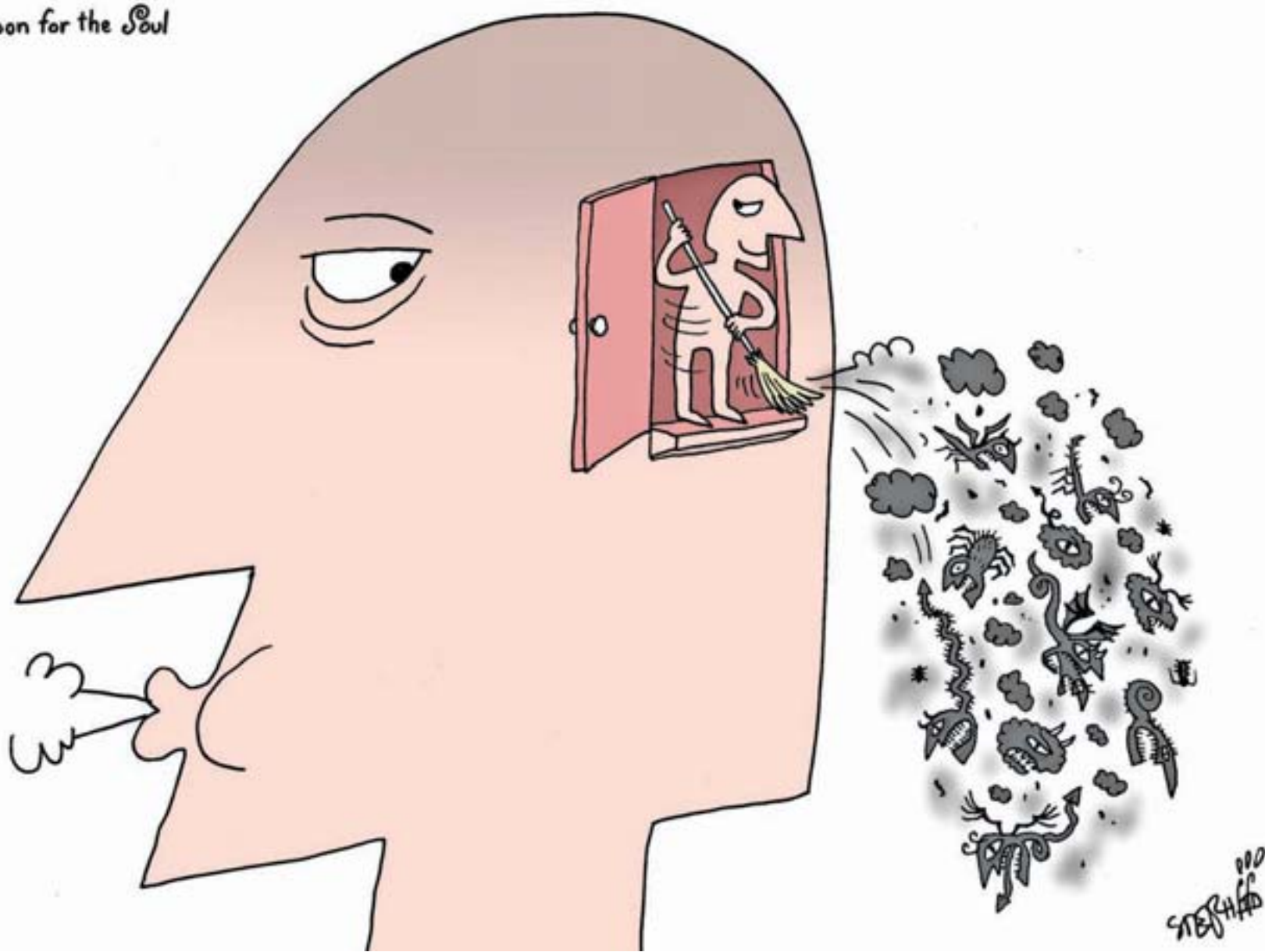
"It is a good thing that African American unemployment is at a very low level," Fed chair Jerome Powell said at a meeting with community groups in Houston this month. "(But) if you look at what happens in a downturn you see the last people hired are the first to get fired," he said. For that to change, workers such as Harwell need enough time to pay off student loans, get a raise or two, start saving for a home, and gain the additional skills and seniority needed to keep working through the next recession. "This isn't a job anymore, it is a career...Personally, I say I need two years," to feel economically stable, Harwell said.

With the US recovery pushing a decade and some signs of a growth slowdown ahead, local social service agencies and state officials say the time for "recession-proofing" is now. "We know it is not going to last forever," said Deniece Thomas, an assistant commissioner at the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. "There is a sense of urgency," for workers to assess what skills their employers will need even if business slows, she said.

To help them, the state has made community college free for high school graduates and adults who have not previously earned a degree, one of the most expansive efforts in the country to encourage non-college educated adults to improve their skills. Other programs provide certifications for specific jobs in industries, such as the booming medical device field, that are struggling with labor shortages.

A look behind the headline numbers shows there is still ground to cover. The black unemployment rate far outstrips the national average, now at 3.7 percent, and since reaching that record low in May has crept up to 6 percent and above even as white unemployment keeps edging lower. Other gauges, such as the employment to population ratio, also lag. Reuters analysis of the federal Quarterly Workforce Indicators shows that out of five US industry groups where the share of jobs held by blacks grew the most between 2010 and 2017, three were among those that paid the least. Three of those five were also among the industries that shed the most jobs during the last recession. The QWI tracks 19 industry groups. — Reuters

Cartoon for the Soul



In St Petersburg, residents stuck in 'kommunalkas'

In Saint Petersburg's largest communal apartment, people barely talk to each other. Living conditions here are dismal and most residents dream of leaving the place for good. Located in the centre of the former imperial capital, the "kommunalka" flat occupies the entire ground floor of a building, with 34 rooms coming off a corridor almost 100 m long. Once a part of Soviet life, communal apartments have all but died out in modern Russia - apart from Saint Petersburg, where tens of thousands remain stuck in the falling-apart spaces. "No person should have to live in these conditions," said Rosa, a 50-year-old resident of the brick building on Detskaya Street, rocking her granddaughter.

Until recently, around 100 people lived in the communal space here and queues to use the showers or toilet were a common sight. Today, about a dozen people occupy the apartment and the building constructed in 1958 is falling into disrepair. The cracked walls are covered in graffiti, and inside, the floors are bare. Communal rooms are dimly lit and those who live there cook on old electric hobs. Worst of all, Rosa said, is that "the doors to the entrance are always open so anyone can just walk in from the street." As a result, the inhabitants keep contact between themselves to a bare minimum.

'Wasn't too expensive'

From the outside, the four-storey building, originally designed to house doctors, seems in a good state. The upper floors have been turned into traditional apartments. But in the 1980s the lower level became a "kommunalka" when the doctors' offices moved out of the area. "We rented

two rooms here because it wasn't too expensive," said Rosa, who moved to Saint Petersburg from the North Caucasus city of Pyatigorsk to help her daughter with her child. "I hope we'll be able to move out soon, my son-in-law should be buying a place." Renting one room in the communal flat costs up to 5-6,000 rubles (up to \$90) a month.

Post revolution origins

Communal apartments appeared in Russia after the 1917 Bolshevik revolution amid an acute housing crisis. Flats that formerly belonged to wealthy Russians were used to house workers and peasants who had moved to cities, with the original owners usually confined to a single room. In the 1980s, some 40 percent of housing in the center of Leningrad - as the city was then known - was communal. But when the Soviet Union collapsed, many of these apartments were bought by affluent Russians, and in 2008, a programme was introduced to rehouse those still living in "kommunalkas". However, around 83,000 still live in such accommodation in the city of five million people.

'Dreaming of moving out'

Dmitry, who also lives in the kommunalka on Detskaya Street and, like Rosa, declined to give his last name, said that seven years ago their "accommodation was ruled to be 'unsanitary' by the city". City hall offered to rehouse those who were renting the living space but others owned their rooms under a law that was brought in during the perestroika reforms of the 1980s. Those who owned the property "were left with nothing," said the 47-year old driver, who arrived in the flat in the 2000s. "We can't sell



A resident smokes in the kitchen of the communal apartment on Detskaya Street in Saint Petersburg on Oct 23, 2018. — AFP

our rooms and it's obvious that nobody wants to buy them," said Dmitry. Since the ruling about the state of the building, only he and a dozen others have stayed. "It's because the authorities won't suggest anything else," he said. Dmitry said that about a year ago authorities began what he called "cosmetic" works on his building, but he claimed this was "just a ruse". It allows officials to revoke the unsanitary rating for the building without "finding a solution or doing anything to improve people's quality of life," he said. "Everyone dreams of moving out. Nowadays, kommunalkas are just a place for people on the fringes, like seasonal workers or Saint Petersburgers like us who don't have the means to leave." — AFP

Buy green palm oil or forests will suffer

New rules to stop deforestation caused by palm oil production can only succeed if brands and consumers buy larger amounts of oil certified as green and ethical, industry officials and environmental activists said. The Kuala Lumpur-based Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), a global watchdog with more than 4,000 members including producers, traders, buyers and green groups, adopted a stricter set of guidelines at a meeting this month.

The new standards include a ban on cutting down forests or converting peatlands for oil palm plantations, and greater protection for labor and land rights. "I hope that the rest of the supply chain don't duck their responsibilities... because a lot of the growers are taking a great leap of faith," Darrel Webber, chief executive officer of the RSPO, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Palm oil is the world's most widely used edible oil, found in everything from margarine to biscuits, and soap to soups. But the industry has come under close scrutiny in recent years from green activists and consumers, who have blamed it for forest loss and fires, as well as exploitation of workers. This month, British supermarket chain Iceland was banned from showing a Christmas advert on television highlighting rainforest destruction linked to palm oil production because it was deemed to breach political advertising rules.

Under pressure to tighten standards from investors, buyers, retailers and even some large growers, the RSPO has faced the tough task of trying to appease members with different interests at a critical time for the industry. "The new RSPO is transforming the production of palm oil (but) where is the similar action in transforming the buying of

sustainable palm oil?" said Simon Lord, chief sustainability officer at Malaysia's Sime Darby Plantation. "It isn't there."

Weak demand

Before the RSPO's latest five-year standards review was completed, major palm oil buyers like Nestle, PepsiCo and Unilever had already committed to zero deforestation by 2020. It will cost more money to adhere to the new rules, palm growers said. To justify the outlay, big brands and others need to ramp up demand for RSPO-certified palm oil, experts said. "Doing these high standards is not cheap, and so it's only fair the costs are shared across the supply chain," said Grant Rosoman, Asia-Pacific campaign advisor at Greenpeace International.

Sustainable palm oil accounts for about a fifth of global production, at an estimated 12.3 million tonnes per year, and is sold at a premium - but demand only covers about half of supply. While the new standards represent "a big leap forward" on environmental and social commitments, the risks of failure will be high without a fresh push to boost demand for certified palm oil, said Carl Bek-Nielsen, chief executive director of Malaysia-based United Plantations.

"Now it's all about pushing demand and uptake. If that doesn't happen... this great movement could disintegrate," said the grower, who is also co-chair of the RSPO. Nestle supports the higher standards and will work with the RSPO to implement them. Benjamin Ware, global head of responsible sourcing at the multinational food company, said by email. The firm has a target of buying 100 percent RSPO-certified oil by 2023. It is also deploying satellite monitoring, worker helplines and projects to help smallholders achieve no deforestation by 2020, Ware added. The new RSPO rules run the risk of alienating smaller-scale palm oil producers, many of whom are already struggling to meet the old standards, experts said. To avoid that, the RSPO will develop a separate sustainability standard for small growers, after discussing their needs, said CEO Webber. — Reuters

Hi-tech mapping threatens land rights across the 'digital divide'

Countries are increasingly embracing drones and satellites to map land and minimize conflict rising from ownership disputes, but unequal access to these technologies can further endanger the rights of vulnerable people, analysts say. With the easy availability of unmanned aerial vehicles, satellites and GPS systems, countries from Kenya to the Philippines are able to quickly survey areas that would otherwise require trained staff to manually record data.

But experts warn that those strategies could undermine the land claims of people living in such regions if they are not connected to the internet and are unable to take part in the process. Several Indian states are using drones and satellites to update land records dating back to the colonial era. The Philippines last December became one of the first nations in Asia to unveil an official policy allowing drone-assisted surveys for land titling.

In a country where legal titles cover only half the property, titling a plot of land requires submitting a survey for government approval. That can be expensive and time consuming, said Rhea Lyn Dealca at the Foundation for Economic Freedom, a Philippines-based advocacy group that has joined government officials, service providers, and community leaders in pilot projects. "Drones reduce the cost and time of surveys, and unlike traditional survey maps, the high-resolution photographic maps help residents verify their lots more easily," she said. "Community participation is important, even with more sophisticated technology," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Satellites and drones can significantly extend a government's reach - particularly in rural areas - and increase accuracy and efficiency, said Beth Roberts, a program manager at the land rights advocacy group Landesa in Seattle. Where governments do not have adequate resources, civil society and land users themselves can use drones and other technologies to establish and verify boundaries, she said.

Unconnected

But residents must be able to participate in the processes and validate the information, which can be a challenge if they do not have access to the internet, Roberts said. "Billions of people remain unconnected to the internet. As governments shift to high-tech tools to map and record land rights, the digital divide has the potential to further marginalize rural communities and individuals," she said. She said that people must be informed of their land rights and be empowered to ensure that they are respected. "This is especially important for groups and individuals who are likely to be excluded - among them women and youth," Roberts said.

In Indonesia, rights groups say millions of people have been denied legal titles, because they live in conflict areas that fall outside the government's mapping exercise, which it says applies only to places where land title is "clean and clear". However, non-state groups have also seized on technology to provide legal titles. In Myanmar's Kayin state, a decades-long fight for autonomy killed hundreds and forced tens of thousands of people from their homes. The war officially ended in 2012 when the Karen National Union (KNU) and the military signed a ceasefire, but rights groups say threats to land tenure security have increased since then.

Rising investor interest in logging and mining, and the government's move to set aside protected areas, raise the risk of land expropriation, said Saw Alex Htoo at the Karen Environmental and Social Action Network (KESAN), a rights group. — Reuters

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13 Falling business morale points to weak German GDP growth



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TOKYO: Mitsubishi Motors Corp Chairman and CEO Osamu Masuko holds a press conference after a board meeting at the Mitsubishi Motor headquarters in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

Mitsubishi sacks Ghosn as chairman

Stunning fall from grace for tycoon • Shock arrest for financial misconduct

TOKYO: Mitsubishi Motors executives ousted Carlos Ghosn as chairman yesterday following his shock arrest for alleged financial misconduct, capping a stunning fall from grace for the tycoon credited with saving the scandal-hit Japanese firm. The move follows Ghosn's sacking as chairman of Nissan as he faces questioning in a Tokyo detention center over claims he under-reported his salary to the tune of \$44 million over several years. The firm's CEO Osamu Masuko told reporters it was "heartbreaking" to propose ousting Ghosn but in the end it was a unanimous decision.

The 64-year-old Brazil-born Ghosn rode to Mitsubishi Motors' rescue in 2016 when the firm was battered by a fuel efficiency cheating scandal, tying it to his Nissan-Renault alliance and turning its fortunes around. Together, the three-way alliance is the world's top-selling car group, with some 10.6 million vehicles rolling off the production line. It employs around 450,000 people worldwide.

But the future of the tie-up is now uncertain as the talismanic Ghosn was seen as the glue binding together a fractious Franco-Japanese alliance with headquarters 10,000 kilometers (6,000 miles) apart.

"We (have) had two years of the alliance and there were positive parts... and parts that needed to be revised a little from Mitsubishi



Carlos Ghosn

Motors' point of view," said Masuko.

A seven-person Nissan board decided unanimously on Thursday to jettison the once-revered leader "based on the copious amount and compelling nature of the evidence of misconduct presented", said a company spokesman.

Meanwhile, further claims continued to leak out in the Japanese media of Ghosn's alleged misconduct. Officially, prosecutors are looking into allegations that he conspired with another executive, American Greg Kelly, to understate his income by around five billion yen (\$44 million) between June 2011 and

June 2015. But the Asahi Shimbun said authorities are planning to re-arrest him on charges of understating his income by a further three billion yen-for a total of \$71 million-for the following three fiscal years.

Under Japanese law, suspects can face additional arrest warrants, which can result in heavier penalties. The current allegations could see Ghosn facing 10 years behind bars and/or a 10-million-yen fine.

Separately, Kyodo has reported that Nissan paid \$100,000 annually since 2002 to Ghosn's sister for a non-existent "advisory" role. And the Mainichi Shimbun reported yesterday that Ghosn used Nissan's corporate money to pay a donation to his daughter's university and also charged family trips to the company. Both Ghosn and Kelly have reportedly denied the allegations.

'Tangible charges'

Nissan's current CEO Hiroto Saikawa told staff yesterday he was "shocked" at his former mentor's alleged misconduct. At a 45-minute meeting attended by hundreds of staff at the firm's Yokohama HQ and broadcast internally to other sites, Saikawa stressed that the scandal should not affect day-to-day operations.

Saikawa, who rose through the Nissan ranks under Ghosn's wing, has already spoken of his "great resentment and dismay" at

the allegations. According to Japanese media, Nissan formed a "secret" cell within the firm to look into the alleged financial misdeeds.

Executives accelerated the probe amid concerns Ghosn was working on a fully fledged merger between Nissan and Renault, Kyodo News said without naming its sources.

Renault is the dominant partner in the alliance, holding 43 percent of the shares in Nissan, but the Japanese firm outsells its French counterpart-sparking concern in Tokyo about the balance of power.

Renault, which is 15-percent owned by the French state, has decided to stick by Ghosn for now, appointing Thierry Bollere as interim boss while the current CEO and chairman is "incapacitated".

France's economy minister Bruno Le Maire has urged the Japanese firm to share "quickly" whatever evidence it has gathered and stressed Ghosn will stay at the helm of

Renault "until there are tangible charges." However, Le Maire has said he did not believe in a "conspiracy theory" amid talk of a so-called "palace coup" within Nissan to prevent Ghosn merging the firm with Renault.

The difficulty now will be to find a replacement to lead the three-way alliance, whose statutes require Renault to appoint the CEO and Nissan to choose the deputy.

A source close to the case in Paris told AFP: "The reality is that they are already looking for a replacement. Not to do so would be irresponsible. It needs to be someone palatable to the Japanese and the French." Investors appeared to be recovering from the initial shock of the arrest, which sent shares in all three firms tumbling. At the Tokyo close, Nissan was up nearly two percent and Mitsubishi Motors enjoyed an even sharper bump-up more than three percent just ahead of the board meeting. — AFP

Brexit deal to mean 4% hit to UK economy by 2030

LONDON: The British government's Brexit deal with Brussels is likely to mean Britain's economy will be 3.9 percent smaller by 2030 than if it were to stay in the European Union, a leading think tank said yesterday. The hit would be the equivalent of losing the economic output of Wales or the contribution of London's financial services industry, the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) said. The report was commissioned by People's Vote, a campaign group calling for a new referendum that could keep Britain in the European Union.

Britain's economic growth has slowed since the 2016 Brexit vote, largely in line NIESR's pre-referendum projections of the impact of a 'Leave' vote, but not by as much as many forecasters predicted. NIESR's latest report predicted that, if

Britain strikes a free trade deal with the EU to replace its current membership, by 2030 the lost output would be equivalent to about 1,100 pounds (\$1,400) per person per year.

Britain is due to leave the EU in March but, if parliament approves the exit deal, its trading status with the bloc will remain unchanged at least until the end of 2020.

That transition period could be extended until the end of 2022 as London and Brussels hammer out their new relationship. Prime Minister Theresa May is struggling to overcome opposition within her Conservative Party to the agreement she stuck with Brussels, raising concerns about a no-deal Brexit among businesses and investors.

If Britain leaves the EU in March with no deal, but with some agreements to avoid major disruption to trade and travel, the economy will be 5.5 percent smaller by 2030 than under continued EU membership, NIESR estimated.

It said the hit would be less if Britain remained in a customs union with the EU—a backstop option in London's deal with Brussels—which would leave the economy 2.8 percent smaller by 2030 than if it stayed fully in the bloc. — Reuters



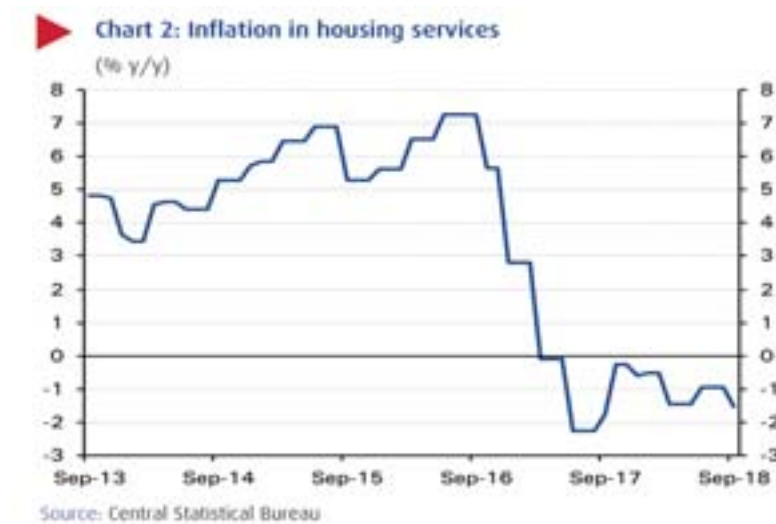
PARIS: A photo taken yesterday shows a 1939 Alfa Romeo 8C 2900B on display in Orly, outside of Paris, ahead of the "Retromobile 2019" auction by the auction house Arcuri. Alfa Romeo 8C 2900B which has an estimated value between 16 and 22 million euros will be auctioned on February 8, 2019. — AFP

Business

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

Kuwait inflation remains low in the third quarter of 2018

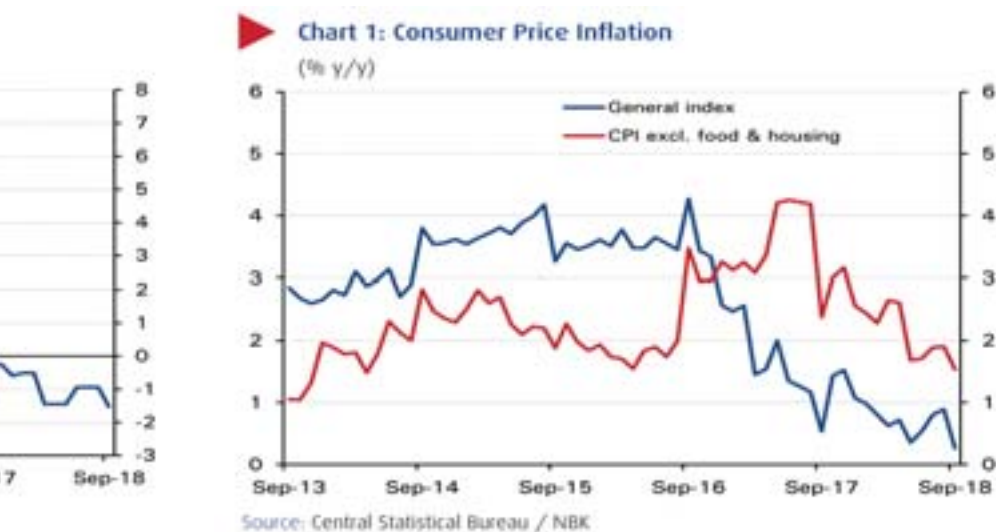
Strong dinar helps limit rising import price pressures



KUWAIT: Inflation hit a 14-year low of 0.3 percent y/y in September, having averaged 0.8 percent in July and August. The low September reading was driven primarily by softer food and beverage prices, and deflation in housing services (rents). But our core measure of inflation, which excludes food and housing, also eased in 3Q18, ending the quarter at 1.5 percent from 1.7 percent in June, mostly on softer inflation in services. Continued low inflation may have been helped by the stronger Kuwaiti dinar this year due to the appreciating US dollar, in turn limiting import price pressures. But it also reflects moderate rates of economic growth, soft lending growth, gradually rising interest rates and the absence of fresh subsidy cuts or increases in indirect taxes. We expect inflation to remain low in Q4 and average 0.6 percent in 2018 as a whole.

Housing services prices

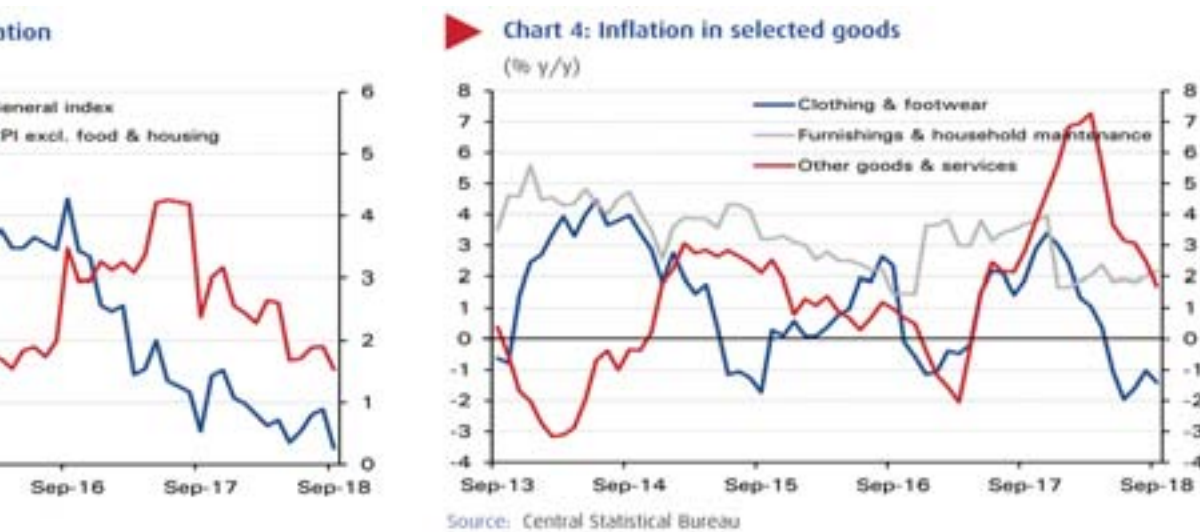
Inflation in housing services eased further into negative territory in 3Q18, ending the quarter at -1.5 percent from -0.9 percent in June. But the decline was caused entirely by higher prices in the base period of last year, with rents unchanged since 2Q18. Rents are likely to remain subdued in the near term, as landlords



will be reluctant to raise rents with apartment vacancy rates still high. However, there are tentative signs of improvement in the housing market reflected in a recent rise in apartment and building prices which had previously fallen a long way. But at the same time, renewed pressure on rents could occur from the introduction of new buildings and apartments that are currently under construction.

Inflation in goods picks up

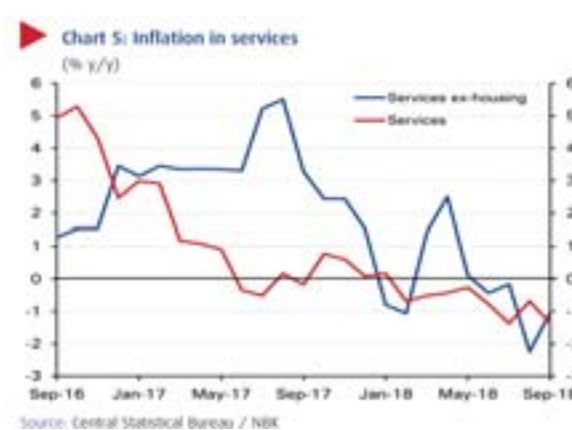
Food and beverage inflation picked up from 0.1 percent y/y in June to above 1 percent in July and August but then eased to 0.4 percent in September. The spike in July/August was due to a local factor, fish and seafood prices, which are typically volatile and subject to seasonality. This price surge has since eased, bringing food inflation back to the near-zero levels commonly seen since mid-2016. Meanwhile, inflation in other goods has also risen modestly, with clothing and footwear deflation moderating to -1.4 percent in September from -2 percent at the close of 2Q18. Household goods inflation has also gradually picked up to register 2.2 percent in September from 1.9 percent in June. This could be due to summer sales



coming to a close.

Inflation in services eased in 3Q18, mainly on the back of the softness in housing inflation described above. However, the drop was also due to softer prices for other services, where despite rebounding to -1 percent from a low of -2.2 percent in August, inflation is still down from the -0.4 percent recorded at the end of Q2. Services prices have generally been trending lower in 3Q18, with softer inflation evident in transportation, recreation, education, and restaurants and hotels, which together account for about 20 percent of the CPI basket.

From a forecast average of 0.6 percent in 2018, inflation is expected to pick up towards 2 percent next year. With building and apartment prices showing tentative signs of recovery, it is reasonable to expect that rents will eventually stabilize and could then begin to rise. The uptrend in global food prices may also eventually reflect on local prices. Moreover, the general economic climate is supportive of slightly firmer inflation, with oil prices still above last year's levels and GDP growth expected to rebound to 4 percent in 2019, making way for a stronger fiscal position, which may translate into higher government spending and wage growth. Finally,



the central bank's recent relaxation of consumer lending limits could lift consumer spending. However there are also some continued sources of downward pressure on inflation, including rising interest rates, weak growth in the expatriate population and the strong Kuwaiti dinar, which is currently up around 5 percent against the euro and pound year-to-date, and should help limit rising import price pressures.

Argentina says close to inking a two-way beef deal with US

BUENOS AIRES: Argentina is on the verge of signing a deal with the United States that would allow two-way trade of fresh beef for the first time in nearly two decades, the South American country's international trade secretary, Marisa Bircher, told Reuters. The agreement, expected to be signed within days, would simultaneously open beef imports to both countries, Bircher said in an interview.

"We are negotiating the reopening to happen over the days ahead," she said. "All the technical and administrative questions have been settled."

At a time when the country is seeking to boost beef sales abroad, the agreement would allow Argentina to show other prospective buyers that its meat is healthy enough to enter a country with some of the world's toughest sanitary protocols. The deal would also open a new market for the US cattle sector, although demand for US beef is low in Argentina. The country is famous for its quality steaks, some tender enough to be cut with a spoon as demonstrated with a flourish by waiters in the iconic steak houses of Buenos Aires.

Argentina will have a 20,000 ton limit on its exports to the United States, Bircher said, while there will be no limit on US beef going to Argentina.

The US Department of Agriculture and US Trade Representative's Office in Washington, and the US embassy in Buenos Aires did not respond to requests for comment. Bircher said Argentina stopped exporting beef to the United States about 17 years ago due to US concerns about Argentine cattle being contaminated by foot-and-mouth disease. "We have eliminated that through a vaccine program in our livestock sector," she said.

Another senior Argentine official, speaking on background, confirmed that Argentina and the United States were "close" to a deal. The last time the United States sent fresh beef to Argentina was in 1999, according to Argentina's official statistics agency.

Once one of the world's top five beef suppliers, Argentina was hobbled under the anti-farm policies of the country's previous president, Cristina Fernandez. The country fell off the top 10 list of beef exporters during her eight-year presidency. It is back in the top 10, according to USDA data and could get into the top five next year thanks to the free market policies of President Mauricio Macri and a sharp weakening of the local peso currency this year.

It's a delicate time for the world food system. Traditional trade routes of grains and oilseeds have been interrupted by a trade war between Washington and Beijing. The world's two biggest economies are now looking for new commercial partnerships to strengthen their positions, to bolster their positions in their trade war.

A US beef deal with Argentina could provide a glimmer of good news for US farmers after weeks of bearish trade war headlines. — Reuters

Wage growth slows to worst rate since 2008 crisis, says UN

GENEVA: Wage growth in 2017 slowed to its lowest rate since 2008, the year of the financial crisis, despite solid economic growth and falling unemployment in major economies, the International Labor Organization said yesterday. The latest global wage report from the United Nations agency also found that women worldwide continue to be paid about 20 percent less than men. Based on data from 136 countries, the ILO said that wage growth fell from 2.4 percent in 2016 to just 1.8 percent last year. But the outlook for workers is

bleaker when the calculations exclude China, where a massive population and steadily rising wages heavily influence the data. Discounting China, wages only rose 1.1 percent last year, compared with 1.8 percent in 2016.

Consistent with recent trends, the report also highlighted substantial differences between high-income and developing countries. In what the ILO calls "emerging and developing G20 economies", wages have almost tripped in the last 20 years, including 4.3-percent-growth last year.

But in advanced G20 nations, wages have risen by a meagre nine percent over the past two decades and basically flatlined in 2017, with a rise of just 0.04 percent. Those figures, against the backdrop of rising economic growth and falling unemployment in high-income countries is "puzzling", ILO director-general Guy Ryder said in a statement.

'Social injustice'

Ryder also called the persistent gender pay gaps "one of today's greatest manifestations of social injustice." "All countries should try to better understand

what lies behind them and accelerate progress towards gender equality," he added.

The ILO also downplayed the importance of the factors traditionally used to explain gender pay discrepancies, notably different levels of education. "In many countries women are more highly educated than men but earn lower wages, even when they work in the same occupational categories," ILO wage specialist and report co-author, Rosalia Vazquez-Alvarez, said in the statement. Vazquez-Alvarez told reporters in Geneva that the gender pay gap broadly remains "a highly unexplained phenomenon". "To some extent, it is driven by prejudices (and) by stereotypes," she said, stressing that the gender pay gap cannot be explained by productivity variances between men and women.

The pay gap is prevalent in nearly all of the countries surveyed in the report, but key differences exist among regions, ILO said. For example, in wealthier countries, the pay discrepancies are most pronounced at the top end of the salary scale, while in developing countries the gender gaps are largest among the lowest earners. — AFP

Ruble falls as Russia, Ukraine trade accusations over seized ships

MOSCOW: The ruble weakened to its lowest since mid-November yesterday as market players priced in risks carried by Russia's seizure of Ukrainian naval ships off the coast of Russia-annexed Crimea.

Having largely ignored a sell-off on the oil market last week, the ruble took a hit from concerns about the standoff between Russia and Ukraine that reminded investors of 2014, when Moscow annexed Crimea and was stung by Western sanctions. Russia seized three Ukrainian naval ships on Sunday after opening fire on them and wounding several sailors, escalating tensions between the two countries.

Yesterday Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko signed a decree introducing martial law in Ukraine for two months following the incident, though it must still be approved by the country's parliament.

The ruble dropped to 67.17 versus the dollar for the first time since Nov. 14, heading away from levels of around 65.50 seen last week. As of 1318 GMT, the ruble shed 1.4 percent to 67.13 against the greenback and was on track to post its largest one-day slide since Nov. 9. "The selling pressure on the Russian ruble increased after Russia attacked Ukrainian warships reigniting simmering conflict between the two countries," said Piotr Matys, EM FX Strategist at Rabobank in London. "The resurfacing of geopolitical risk that may lead to another round of punitive measures against Russia accompanied by the precipitous fall in oil prices since the beginning of October leaves the bias skewed to the upside in USD/RUB," Matys said.

Against the euro, the ruble also fell, shedding 1.9 percent of its value to 76.44.

"The escalation of conflict between Russia and

Ukraine... clearly creates a negative background for the ruble in the short term," said Dmitry Dolgin, chief economist at ING Bank in Moscow. Recovering oil prices did little to help the ruble. Brent crude oil, a global benchmark for Russia's main export, was up 2.3 percent at \$60.14 a barrel after last week's drop to \$58.41.

A trade war between the world's two biggest economies and oil consumers, the United States and

China, has weighed on the energy market this month. Oil prices are in focus again ahead of the G20 meeting in Argentina this week, where US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping are set to meet. Russian stock indexes fell. The dollar-denominated RTS index was down 2.3 percent at 1,087.8 points, while the ruble-based MOEX Russian index was 0.9 percent lower at 2,322.2 points. — Reuters



JIANSU: Workers sort packages after the "Singles Day" shopping festival at a delivery company in Nantong in China's eastern Jiangsu province. Singles Day, which is China's annual discount shopping bonanza, was held on November 11.—AFP

Business

Falling business morale points to weak German GDP growth

Trade dispute between China and US weighs

BERLIN: German business morale fell by more than expected in November as the country's exporters get caught up in a trade dispute between China and the United States.

Economists expressed concern about the drop in the Ifo economic institute's business climate index, which followed the first quarterly contraction in German GDP since 2015.

Munich-based Ifo said yesterday the index fell for the third month in a row to 102.0. This was lower than a consensus forecast of 102.3 in a Reuters poll of economists. "Sentiment among German businesses weakened further this month," said Ifo chief Clemens Fuest. "Companies scaled back their assessments of the current business situation albeit from a high level. Their business expectations also clouded over."

He added that the economy would grow by 0.3 percent in the fourth quarter at most after contracting by 0.2 percent in the July-September period.

Reciprocal tariffs on goods imposed by the world's two largest economies are hurting German companies that manufacture in both countries and export in both directions across the Pacific.

The tariffs are not only dampening the business outlook but are starting to leave their mark on the German economy, which has long depended on exports for growth. Data last week showed that weaker exports were the main reason for the quarter-on-quarter contraction in July-September, and economists said there are clear signs that overall German growth was slowing.

'UNPLEASANT'

In addition to trade tensions, the German economy is also feeling the effects of slowing growth in the

euro zone. "The index's fall is somewhat alarming," Uwe Burkert of LBBW wrote in a note. "It was generally expected that the economic weakness of the third quarter would be corrected with a firmly positive growth figure in the fourth quarter."

Detailed July-September GDP data on Friday showed exports fell 0.9 percent on the quarter while imports rose 1.3 percent, with net trade knocking a full percentage point off growth. This translated into a third quarter contraction of 0.2 percent.

The third-quarter GDP contraction was mainly due to weakness in the car industry as it struggled to adjust to new emission testing requirements.

While that problem should not affect the fourth quarter, the industry remains vulnerable to trade disruptions as a result of threatened U.S. tariffs on cars manufactured in the European Union and Britain's planned exit from the bloc.

Andreas Scheuerle of DekaBank pointed to factors also including the Italian government's row with the European Commission over its expansionary 2019 budget. "There is the threat of a trade escalation between the U.S. and China and possibly between the U.S. and the EU and there is the threat of a budget dispute with Italy as well as Brexit," he said. "No wonder firms are cautious looking forward."

Most economists expect the German economy to cool rather than enter a recession. In its ninth year of growth, it has been increasingly relying on consumption supported by low interest rates, rising wages and a robust labour market.

Those factors are expected to support growth next year while modest tax cuts and spending increases planned by the government should also help offset some of the effects of weaker trade.



BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel and CEO of German industrial giant Siemens Joe Kaeser (right) attend the 'Deutscher Arbeitgebertag' congress, organized by BDA and gathering German employers in Berlin. —AFP

"The fall in oil prices looks set to support consumer spending, particularly against a backdrop of low unemployment and rising wage growth," Jennifer

McKeown of Capital Economics wrote in a note. "But the improvement will be tempered by a continued slowdown in global demand."

After building spree, just how much does the Maldives owe China?

MALE: One week after taking power, the new government of the Maldives says it has no idea how much it owes China, which has led a construction spree in the tiny Indian Ocean nation, but fears the debts run up in the past five years could be unsustainable.

Mohamed Nasheed, a former president now serving as advisor to new President Mohamed Ibrahim Solih, said that the Chinese ambassador to the Maldives, Zhang Lizhong, handed the government an invoice for \$3.2 billion - equivalent to around \$8,000 for every inhabitant of the archipelago. China denies that, however, and says the number is closer to \$1.5 billion.

"It was an invoice. It just had a figure, \$3.2 billion. It was shocking," said Nasheed. "It wasn't just a conversation, it was a written note handed over, it was clear, you owe us this much."

Nasheed said Zhang gave Solih the note at a meeting on Oct. 6, days after his stunning election victory over former President Abdulla Yameen. He did not give further details of exactly how the note was worded. Asked about Nasheed's comments, China's Foreign Ministry said that its ambassador in the Maldives had rejected "this untruth" in statements to local media, referring to an interview with news website Avas in which Zhang was quoted as saying reports of debt of around \$3 billion were "deeply exaggerated".

China has underwritten millions of dollars in loans for infrastructure in the Maldives, located along its busy shipping route to the Middle East. But the unprecedented building boom in the island chain of around 400,000 people - known for its white sand beaches and luminous cyan water - stoked fears it was loading up on debt and prompted a strident opposition campaign that helped Solih defeat Yameen in an election in September.

Conflicting figures

After taking office at the weekend, Solih's administration has said the country's finances are in worse shape than expected, and that it will take weeks or months to untangle details of all the deals struck with Chinese firms. "We are at a loss to understand how much we really owe to China," said Nasheed.

"Direct debt, or direct bilateral government-to-government debt is one thing, but there is on top of that sovereign guarantees for the private sector. And there is also on top of that our state owned enterprises who have gone into debt."

Yameen could not be reached for comment. But he said during the campaign that more work had occurred over the last few years than at any point in the past, and for that he had taken on debt.

"Years of development have come during a short period of four or five years. But if we didn't take on debt as I said, and waited to do it with the income the Maldives earns this wouldn't have been possible," he said. In the Avas interview, Zhang said the Maldives' debt to China was \$600 million to construct a sea bridge linking the capital Male with the airport, expand the airport, and build residential tower blocks on land reclaimed from the sea. Another \$900 million had been earmarked as commercial loans to some state owned companies to fund projects from power to housing, the ambassador said, but much of that had not yet been issued.

That was broadly supported by the governor of the Maldives central bank in testimony before the parliament's public finance committee on Wednesday, in which he estimated the country's liabilities to China at \$1.5 billion. —Reuters

KAMCO named 'Wealth Manager of the Year' by Global Investor

KUWAIT: KAMCO Investment Company, a leading investment firm with one of the largest AUMs in the region, announced that it was named "Wealth Manager of the Year" by the renowned Global Investor Group at the 2018 MENA awards ceremony. KAMCO's Wealth Management Team received the award for their consistent and comprehensive understanding of clients' expectations, as well as providing the best strategic guidance and quality investment advice, which in return has assisted the Firm in building and retaining long-lasting relationships.

Global Investor awarded KAMCO the prestigious title of "Wealth Manager of the Year" at their annual Global Investor MENA Awards event in Dubai, a ceremony held to recognize the very best performance within various industries across the MENA region. All nominees considered for the awards went through a rigorous judging process based on a set criterion, followed by a judging panel composed of industry experts, in which the final winner was selected.

Sana Al-Hadlaq, Chief Wealth Officer of KAMCO, said, "KAMCO's Wealth Management Team strives to deliver the best-in-class

wealth management services that meet and exceed the expectations of our valued clients. We are proud to have been recognized for our full-fledged services that set a standard of excellence in our industry. Throughout the years, we have offered our unique investment solutions and custom-tailored services to assist each individual client in



Sana Al-Hadlaq

reaching their long-term financial goals. Our expertise has driven the success of KAMCO's active role in becoming one of the leading Asset Management and Investment Banking providers in the local and regional markets."

Al-Hadlaq added, "We dedicate this achievement to our valued clients who have placed their trust

and confidence in our ability to help them achieve their lifestyle goals. We value every relationship we have built with each of our clients over the past two decades and will continue to provide them with growth opportunities, alternative investment solutions and high quality financial services. Our team of highly experienced wealth managers utilize our client-focused structure, efficiently meeting the diverse needs of our clients while considering each client's risk appetite."

KAMCO's Wealth Management Department offers an array of personalized services to satisfy client needs while bringing them a step closer towards fulfilling their investment needs and overall goals. The services offered include customized products, insight on the latest market trend analysis with research-based solutions, monthly portfolio reporting and supporting clients with access to international third-party investments. The Wealth Management Team serves a wide client base comprising high net worth and ultra-high net worth clients, family offices, corporates and institutions, government and semi-government institutions, as well as GCC banks and financial institutions.



Sana Al-Hadlaq and Talal Al-Yaqub during the award ceremony.

In China's hinterland, car market growth engine sputters

PINGDINGSHAN, China: When Cao Jun, 40, an engineer from the central Chinese city of Pingdingshan, takes his old, grey MG 3 car to be serviced he always steals a few moments to pop into the Nissan and Honda dealerships next door. But the Civic and Sylphy sedans in the showrooms are just eye candy. Cao wants to upgrade his car, but he's facing a steep loan repayment on his flat, medical bills for his wife and a tough local economy in his once-prosperous coal town. Cao is far from alone. China's car market, the world's largest, is on the brink of its first sales contraction in almost three decades, according to industry data, a signal of wider economic strains that are rattling the country's leaders in Beijing. The slowdown - aggravated by a protracted trade war with the United States - is being most sharply felt in smaller, provincial cities like Pingdingshan, the engines of growth for Chinese consumption of cars and an array of consumer goods.

China has long hoped to spur consumption in these provincial cities as a way of diversifying an economy long reliant on manufacturing. But a slump in consumption spending is already being seen in things like cinema ticket sales, online shopping and smartphones purchases.

Part of the reason is that provincial city consumers like Cao are being squeezed tight.

Speaking to Reuters as he drove his MG through the outskirts of the city, Cao said capacity cuts at his main employer - the state-owned coal and chemicals conglomerate Pingmei Shenma Group - meant his income this year had dropped sharply. He has taken up driving part-time for the ride-hailing giant Didi Chuxing to make ends meet.

On a salary of around 6,000 yuan (\$864.40) a month, Cao said he puts at least 1,000 yuan towards paying off his

house loan, 400 yuan on medical bills for his wife and another large chunk on his two daughters' education.

"All these things put together, they slowly start to turn the screw on your life," he said. "I want to drive a better car, but my situation won't allow it. He added that the family had also cut back on luxuries like long-distance travel and fancy restaurants. Cutbacks on car purchases by Cao and others like him in China's smaller cities, are hitting local car dealers and global automotive makers from General Motors Co to Volkswagen AG. "The main slowing markets now are those 4-6 tier cities in China," said Xu Haidong, assistant secretary general at the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers, referring to smaller provincial urban centers. "These were the cities leading China's auto sales growth in the past few years."

Just not working

Consumers and car dealers in Pingdingshan all painted a similar picture. The city, 150 kilometres south of the provincial capital Zhengzhou, went through boom years from the 1990s, buoyed by a flourishing coal industry. But amid a nationwide shift to cut reliance on polluting industries and a sharp shift away from coal, the city has suffered. Pingmei Shenma Group, one of the area's biggest employers, has cut back coal capacity and seen profits fall - creating a ripple effect through the local economy.

The group, like many state-owned firms around the country, reaches far into the community: it operates hospitals and schools, and provides pensions, subsidized housing for workers, water, heating and power.

During the growth years, a family car became a symbol of status and success in the city, driving growth faster than the national average. That has now changed. "The situation here is really bad. We sold 40 percent fewer cars in October than September," said Zheng Shuke, a manager at an SAIC-VW dealership near a busy freeway outside Pingdingshan. "This is very unusual in the 6 years I've been an auto dealer."

"I think the biggest reason is that fewer and fewer people have enough money to buy cars," he added. "Our economy used to rely on natural resources. However now due to capacity cuts, fewer people can get the iron rice bowl," a reference to state firms cutting cradle-to-grave welfare sup-

port that he said had underpinned spending confidence.

Reuters spoke with 20 consumers, car dealers like Zheng, auto finance executives and government officials, mostly in and around Pingdingshan, who said the car market in the Henan province city had seen a sharp slump this year as consumers tightened their belts. Henan province is one of China's biggest by auto sales with over a million passenger car units sold this year. But growth has stalled sharply, according to data from local consultancy Daas-Auto.

Henan auto sales dropped 18 percent in October after a 25 percent drop the month before, outstripping a fall in sales nationwide of almost 12 percent last month, the fourth straight month of declines. In response, car dealers in Pingdingshan have cut prices to lure buyers, according to dealers and adverts circulated on local social media.

"We're offering discounts, but these just don't seem to be working," said Zheng, the car dealer.

Inventory build-up

Across town at a ten-year-old dealership for GM-linked Wuling-Baojun cars, manager Jiang Long said customers had dwindled this year, especially since June. In front of the store 100 new cars waited to be sold, but customers were in short supply when Reuters visited. Jiang said sales were down 40-60 percent versus last year. "This is just part of our inventory, we have more in other places," said Jiang. "We make many calls to old customers to attract them to buy new cars, but they just don't seem enthusiastic this year."

The top-selling cars in the area are mostly no-frills, practical cars, industry data show, a trend mirrored in other provincial cities and rural areas.

In Pingdingshan, the top-sellers are the compact multi-purpose vehicle Wuling Hongguang, 7-seater people carrier Baojun 730, Great Wall Motor Co's Haval H6, Volkswagen's Lavida and GM's Buick Excelle. Outside the city in nearby Lushan county another Wuling-Baojun dealer, Si Pengyuan, said local families used to take pride in having the best car, but had pulled back - cutting his sales in half versus 2017.

"Rural people like to compete: when a family buys a car their neighbors will come and buy one too," he said. "But this year people just aren't coming. Families who have had cars for years aren't replacing them." — Reuters

Business

KFH participates in World Islamic Banking Conference

Islamic finance & sustainable economic growth in age of disruption

Italy open to cutting deficit in disputed budget

ROME: Italy's populist government appeared open yesterday to reducing its draft budget deficit, boosting stocks in Milan as hopes Rome could ease a stand-off with EU officials in Brussels.

The European Commission has rejected the draft budget because it sharply increases spending and the deficit-to 2.4 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) from the previous government's 0.8 percent, which would add to Italy's already massive mountain of debt.

"If, during the negotiating process, the deficit has to be reduced a bit, that's not a big deal," deputy prime minister Luigi Di Maio told Radio Radicale. "The important thing is that not one person misses out on the (pledged) measures," he said in reference to a universal basic income and pension reform promised by the ruling coalition.

Di Maio, head of the anti-establishment Five Star Movement (M5S), which governs in coalition with the far-right League, said the crux of the issue was "not numbers, but people".

The Milan stock exchange rose sharply on his comments, gaining almost 3.0 percent in morning trades.

The yield on 10-year Italian bonds eased to 3.209 percent from 3.407 percent on Friday, while the spread, or difference between the Italian bond and benchmark German Bunds, narrowed to 285 basis points, the lowest level since October 5.

'Not interested in arguing'

The government has until now refused to budge on its big-spending plans, which it says are key to boosting growth. But European Commission head Jean-Claude Juncker's efforts to woo Italy's Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte at a meeting on Saturday appeared to be paying off.

"There was no breakthrough but... there seems to be a more constructive attitude," said Lorenzo Codogno, former chief economist at the Italian Treasury Department.

League head Matteo Salvini, co-deputy prime minister, said yesterday the government was committed to using "good sense". "We're not interested in arguing with Europe," he said.

On Sunday he proffered an olive branch to Brussels, saying "no-one is attached to that (deficit number). If there's a budget that boosts the country's growth it can be 2.2 percent or 2.6 percent. The decimal point is not the point".

The apparent about-turn of a government that had repeatedly and bitterly bad-mouthed Brussels did not go unremarked. "Those who swore 'we'll never make a deal with the unelected Eurocrats in Brussels', are making a deal with them," La Stampa's Brussels correspondent Marco Zatterin said on Twitter.

'Slim chance' of compromise

But Codogno warned that the chances of a compromise ahead of the Commission's final decision on the Excessive Debt Procedure (EDP) was "rather slim".

Brussels had warned Italy that a refusal to review its 2019 plans could activate the procedure, a complicated process that could lead to fines and possibly provoke a strong, adverse market reaction.

"The distance between Italy's position and what would be required by the fiscal framework is so wide that, should the government try to comply, it would effectively change direction completely." — AFP

Gulf Bank announces winners of Al-Danah weekly draw

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al Danah weekly draw on the 25th of November 2018 announcing the names of its winners for the week from the 18th November till the 22nd of November 2018, in which five winners will receive KD 1,000 each, every week.

The winners this week are:

- Abdulkareem Nasar Ahmad Al-Fareeh
- Dhari Nouri Ahmed Al-Bahar
- Khaled Mohammed Fahad Al-Eissa
- Sara Habeeb Taher Naqi
- Adel Hussain Makki Al Juma

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 1st quarterly draw for KD 200,000 prize was held on 28 March, and the 2nd Al-Danah quarterly draw, for the prize

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participates as a platinum sponsor in the 25th Annual World Islamic Banking Conference WIBC themed "Islamic Finance & Sustainable Economic Growth in the Age of Disruption". The conference is held in Bahrain until 28th of November.

KFH's participation for the 6th consecutive year comes as part of its ongoing commitment towards taking part in the international financial forums that seek to improve Islamic banking and underscore the importance of this industry regionally and globally.

The WIBC conference will tackle several key points including Entrenching Transparency in Advancing Sustainable Growth in the Islamic Financial Market, an Overview of IIFM's Sharia-compliant Financial Documentation and Product Confirmation Standards, Developments in Financial Markets, Tax & Banking Industry in GCC and Economic Growth & Sustainable Finance. The conference is seen as a good opportunity for bankers and lawmakers to exchange experiences and participate in important discussions for the benefit of Islamic finance and global economy. KFH strives to sponsor events and activities that aim at developing the Islamic finance industry that is witnessing remarkable



growth and gaining great momentum regionally and globally. Moreover, KFH, thanks to its extensive experience and long track record in this industry, not to mention the huge geographical expansion, strengthens its position and reputation as a reference for Islamic banking and finance.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service. KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 480 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.



Lulu signs agreement with Saudi National Guard

KUWAIT: Lulu, the leading hypermarket retail chain in the region, has signed an agreement with the Saudi Arabian National Guard Forces (SANG) to open two shopping centers and seven supermarkets in Dammam and Al-Ahsa in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The new outlets will be operational inside the SANG campuses to serve National Guard officials and their families.

The agreement was signed by Prince Mishal bin Bader bin Saud bin Abdul Aziz, Undersecretary of the National Guard and Yusuffali MA, Chairman and Managing Director of Lulu Group International at King Fahad National Guard office in Dammam on 21 November.

During the signing ceremony, Yusuffali said, "We are honored to have been select-

ed and thank the Saudi National Guard Force authorities for this prestigious initiative. We will make sure that these supermarkets will be the best in the world and serve the National Guard officials and their families in best possible manner."

"These stores will be opened in the next six months and is expected to generate sizeable employment for local Saudi youth. Lulu group currently employs more than 2,700 Saudi nationals including females in their various hypermarkets across the Kingdom. Our goal is to give employment to more than 5,000 nationals by the end of 2020," added Yusuffali.

"We also take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman and the government who have always given tremendous support to investments and economic developments, which ultimately generate more employment opportunities to the Saudi citizens," said Yusuffali.

With 15 upcoming projects, Lulu at present operates 14 hypermarkets and 10 ARAMCO commissaries in different parts of Saudi Arabia.



Prince Mishal bin bader bin Saud bin Abdul Aziz, Undersecretary of the National Guard and Yusuffali MA, Chairman and Managing Director of Lulu Group International sign the agreement.

of KD 250,000 was held on 27th June and the 3rd quarterly draw for the prize of KD500,000 was held on 26th September. The final Al-Danah draw for KD 1 million will be held on the 10th January 2019, where the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced.

Gulf Bank encourages customers to increase their chances of winning with Al Danah by depositing more into their Gulf Bank accounts using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's online and mobile banking services.

Al-Danah offers a number of unique services to customers, including the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card, which allows account holders to deposit money into their accounts at their convenience. Account holders can also calculate their daily, weekly and yearly chances of winning the draws through the 'Al Danah Chances' calculator available on the Gulf Bank website and app. Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD200 to open an account and the same amount should be maintained for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD 200 at any given time, a KD 2 fee will be charged to their account monthly until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the daily draw within two days.

of investors. Prosecutors are seeking a five-year jail sentence for Rato, who in October began serving four-and-a-half years in prison for misusing funds when he was the boss of Caja Madrid, another bank, and of Bankia between 2010 and 2012.

Bankia was formed in 2010 when Caja Madrid and six other unlisted savings banks merged.

Rato arrived at the court in San Fernando de Henares, a Madrid suburb, for the trial in a police van out of sight from the glare of the media. A total of 35 people and companies including Bankia, its parent company BFA and Deloitte consultants are on trial.

The opening day of the trial was dominated by procedural issues. Rato is expected to take the stand on today or tomorrow. The image of a smiling Rato ringing the bell and sipping champagne on July 20, 2011 to mark the start of Bankia's listing has since become a symbol of the scandal. More than 300,000 small shareholders bought share

packages for a minimum of 1,000 euros (\$1,100), attracted by a major advertising campaign and the profits boasted by the bank.

But in 2012, after a disastrous year that saw its share value collapse, the bank admitted that in the year it listed it had actually made a loss of close to three billion euros.

That forced the state to nationalize the bank to save it from bankruptcy by injecting more than 22 billion euros into Bankia. That in turn required an EU rescue plan for Spain's banking sector.

The state, which still owns 61 percent of Bankia and should in theory privatise the bank again, has recognized several times that it will never be able to recover much of the money it disbursed.

Rato was economy minister and deputy prime minister in the conservative government of Jose Maria Aznar from 1996 to 2004, before going on to head the International Monetary Fund until 2007. — AFP

Markaz launches its first Sustainability Report

KUWAIT: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" recently launched its first Sustainability Report, highlighting Markaz performance and activities for the reporting period 2016-2017. It reflects our commitment to sustainability as a core pillar of our corporate strategy. The report focuses on Economic, Social and Environmental categories, in addition to material topics that are most important to our stakeholders and to our business. The report was prepared in accordance with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards, an international independent organization aiming to ensure the highest quality and transparency of institutions' reports disclosing the impact of their business activities on sustainability aspects.

In this regard, Alrazi Y Albudaiwi, VP and Head of Media & Communications Department at Markaz said, "This sustainability report affirms Markaz's determination to ensure responsible, sustainable and joint progress towards corporate innovation and social consciousness. It also represents our purposeful goals and corporate social responsibility to direct organizational outcomes in a transparent manner. Since its establishment more than 40 years ago, Markaz sustainability approach has provided a strong, safe corporate base, which was reflected on the company's performance over the years. During the report period, Markaz has contributed in a number of social and economic initiatives, including sound governance, human capabilities, creating job opportunities and enhancing the business environment, reflecting Markaz commitment to achieve a positive change in the society and national economy, while encouraging partners to pursue the same goals."

Albudaiwi added, "The report reflects and reinforces Markaz's commitment towards bettering the quality of engagements for all stakeholders involved within our circle of activities and society in general. Further, it illustrates our determination to be cognizant of possible opportunities and to listen to feedback from stakeholders about what is important to them, in order to achieve our institutional goals and fulfil our clients' needs. We have prepared the complete report using our internal capabilities and that of our research subsidiary, Marmore MENA Intelligence. Our self-reliance demonstrates our determination to immerse ourselves fully in the process of corporate self-discovery, proving that sustainability for us is a valuable asset."

Albudaiwi pointed out that the report, through the data and the case studies, conveys Markaz efforts in creat-



ing shared value through its activities by thinking long-term and focusing on sound principles adhering to best practices and standards. This report will help in delivering our stated objectives through benchmarking past performances with targeted future outcomes.

Markaz's sustainability report focuses on the categories defined by GRI, which are the Economic, Social and Environmental categories, as well as the material aspects for all the stakeholders and Markaz. In addition, it also demonstrates the intersection points of Markaz initiative and the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP SDGs). This reflects Markaz's keenness to follow the best international practices and the global business trends affirming its sustainable vision.

The report showcases 9 case studies of Markaz initiatives aiming towards achieving sustainability, namely: 1) innovation in finance by the creation of new investment channels with unique characteristics that widen the investors' choice 2) introducing new professions for the youths by supporting small real estate evaluators 3) youths training by investing in education and developing their skills in schools, universities and cultural centers 4) NGOs support through strong relationships with non-profit organizations aiming to developing human capabilities in the fields of culture, health, education and sports 5) supporting SMEs to build Kuwaiti entrepreneurs' skills with programs such as Fikra Program and Junior Achievement Programs (INJAZ) 6) capacity building with The Develop & Hire program and Markaz pivotal exchange forum 7) science, technology and innovation knowledge transfer in collaboration with Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDI-PA) on two vital programs: GE Kuwait Technology Center and National Offset Program 8) launching 'Public Sector Reforms' initiative with Kuwait Economic Society aiming to boost public sector performance 9) research and development by partnering with international think tanks and establishing Marmore MENA Intelligence, a research subsidiary of Markaz focusing on the MENA region.

Ex-IMF chief Rato goes on trial again in Spain

MADRID: A major trial harking back to the dark years of Spain's economic crisis kicked off yesterday over the alleged fraudulent 2011 listing of financial giant Bankia, with former IMF head Rodrigo Rato in the dock. The Spanish state was forced to step in to prevent the bank's collapse and then to borrow 41 billion euros (\$46.5 billion) from the EU to keep the rest of Spain's banking sector afloat.

The 69-year-old Rato, head of the bank at the time, is accused of falsifying the books and fraud to the detriment



Former Bankia president Rodrigo Rato (right) and former Bankia board member Jose Antonio Moral Santin (left) attend the first hearing in the Bankia trial in San Fernando de Henares yesterday. — AFP

Health & Science

DDI commemorates World Diabetes Day

KUWAIT: Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), founded by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), held their annual informative event to commemorate World Diabetes Day on November 21, 2018, at its premises. The event allowed visitors to consult with diabetes specialists and dietitians, as well as gather medical information from booths that explained various facts of diabetes and promoted healthy lifestyle modification.

Many of the booths at the event offered various components, such as educating visitors on proper dietary habits, physical activities, first aid techniques, diagnostic imaging services amongst others. In addition, some of the booths provided blood glucose and blood pressure testing, as well as podiatric assessment.

Moreover, the event was in collaboration with Kuwait Diabetes Society, Oral Health Program (Ministry of Health), Fantasy World, Blue Circle, Sanofi, and Kuwait Finance House, providing assistance to people living with diabetes and the general public. Special thanks to Kuwait Finance House for their continuous support and for sponsoring this event for many years.

The event reflected an exciting environment featuring a fun educational program, Kids and Diabetes in Schools' (KiDS), including a 'Spin-the-Wheel' Q&A segment. Sanofi co-created the Kids and Diabetes in Schools (KiDS) program, a partnership with the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and the International Society

for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes (ISPAD). The activity area was divided into various stations dedicated to special game zones where guests could play and learn. "Holding such events and activities stems from Dasman Diabetes Institute's mission statement, where health promotion and awareness are a priority for the Institute. Since its establishment in 2006, the Institute organizes and takes part in many events and campaigns annually to shed light on diabetes and health in general. This is in accordance with the Institute's belief that, 'Prevention is better than cure,'" Dr Qais Al-Duwairi, Director-General of Dasman Diabetes Institute said.

"In celebration of the World Diabetes Day, we are honored to have successfully conducted our first KiDS' activity in Kuwait with the Dasman Diabetes Institute," said Jean-Paul Scheuer, Country Chair and General Manager for Sanofi Gulf. "KiDS aims to foster a safe environment, promote a healthy lifestyle, and prevent diabetes among school children. And through this and our strategic partnership with Dasman, Sanofi reinforces its long-standing commitment to improving the lives of individuals with diabetes, especially children, in Kuwait," he added.

The primary goal of the event was to promote awareness about diabetes, work towards achieving long-term positive health outcomes for diabetes management and empowering those affected by diabetes to proactively improve their quality of life.



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What's On

Sultan Ibrahim restaurant Kuwait celebrates Lebanon's 75th national day



In the presence of the Lebanese charge de'affairs Nisreen Bo Karam and Kuwait foreign ministry's advisor for European affairs Sheikh Duaij Khalifa Al-Sabah, Sultan Ibrahim restaurant recently held a special ceremony to celebrate Lebanon's 75th national day anniversary. Speaking on the occasion, Bo Karam noted that the ceremony matches the new 'Lebanese Cuisine Diplomacy' launched by the Lebanese ministry of foreign affairs. On his part, Abbed Akkawi, Sultan Ibrahim's operations manager stressed on the restaurants full support towards the initiative as part of its social responsibility duties.



Burgan Bank sponsors 'Waves of Brazil'

Burgan Bank, an important supporter of cultural activities in Kuwait, is pleased to announce its sponsorship at the Brazilian Musical Night 'Waves of Brazil' which took place at the Yarmouk Cultural Center for the second year in a row. Held on November 18, 2018, under the patronage of the Brazilian Ambassador to the State of Kuwait Norton de Andrade Mello Rapesta, the event aimed at advancing the soul-soothing musical scene in Kuwait and honoring the essence of rich Brazilian performances.

The musical extravaganza brought by

"Choro Livre," the well-renowned musical group, captivated the audience, and put it at ease with their soothing melody, proving the power of music to bring out positive emotions. 'Choro Livre' plays contemporary versions of the classics of Choro and fills out their repertoire with new pieces, some of which are their own compositions, presenting a new, creative way to play Choro with influences from other genres.

This is not the first time Burgan Bank sponsors Brazilian cultural events that bring both nations closer together. Last year, the bank participated and sponsored two highly regarded artists, "Olivia and Francis Hime" who presented the incredible "Bossa Nova" concert, a rhythm originally developed and popularized in Brazil in the 1950s and 1960s.

With a significant focus on identifying new trends and tastes in popular industries,

Burgan Bank continues to expand its collaborations to further enrich the cultural scene of Kuwait. Driven by the belief that music ties countries together and brings about positive influence among youth, the bank delivers on its promise to orchestrate fresh new experiences honoring local and international cultural and historical backgrounds.

This sponsorship falls under Burgan Bank's full-fledged community program entitled 'ENGAGE' - Together to be the change. This program sheds light on important aspects affecting every segment of the society by promoting social welfare through educational, cultural, social and health initiatives. Burgan Bank's approach to 'ENGAGE' begins with a vital principle that as a Kuwaiti financial institution, its conduct and policies should be aligned with the needs and interests of the Kuwaiti society.



ACK holds seminar

In cooperation with Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC), the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) held a seminar entitled "Kuwaiti Inventions: from Concept to Reality" to promote the culture of creativity and encourage students to innovate to keep up with developments in all fields.

On his part, Dr Mohammed Abdul Nibi, Dean of School of Engineering, said that cooperation with Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity came within the College's plan to follow the applied models in education as well as theoretical education, where proven methods of education in the College and Project-Based Learning (PBL and CDIO). These methods are successful as students work through collective and individual projects in research, developing strategies and

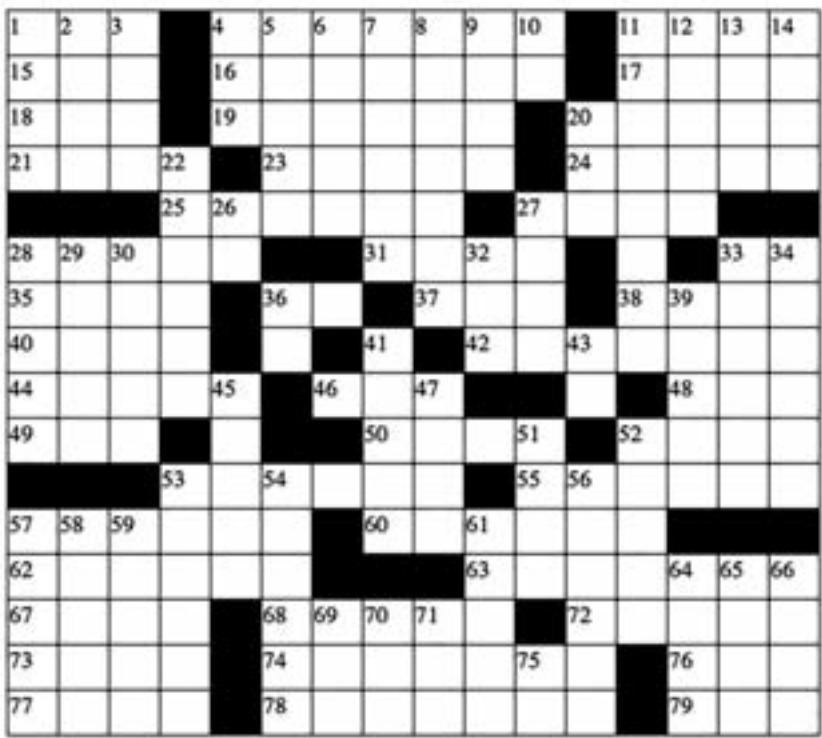
procedures to create and innovate successful solutions in the various areas.

On the other hand, Eng Abdullah Al-Jadaan, Director of Innovation Department at Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity, said that based on the innovation management strategy emanating from the vision and mission of the Center, which aims to discover and nurture innovators and creative persons and support their ideas and projects, the Center provides support to adopt their ideas, and projects to convert them into tangible reality. Hence, the Center, through its supporting management, is keen to hold such seminars to spread the culture of creativity and encourage innovation because of its impact on the development and renaissance of societies.

Eng Al-Jadaan added: "We hope that through our seminars, our students get to learn a great deal from inventor Jassem Mutlaq and inventor Heba Al-Hazza who shared their experience in the world of invention and showed our students how to turn their ideas into reality.



CROSSWORD 2069



ACROSS

- 1. Characteristic of a mob.
- 4. The 15th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- 11. A professional cook.
- 15. Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.
- 16. Genus of hardy perennials with palmately lobed leaves and long racemes of small nodding five-petaled flowers.
- 17. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- 18. Having leadership guidance.
- 19. Mostly tropical songbird.
- 21. Singing jazz.
- 23. Of or relating to the ancient Latins or the Latin language.
- 24. Yellow-fever mosquitoes.
- 25. The wood of an African obeche tree.
- 28. Talk pompously.
- 31. Divisible by two.
- 35. Small deer of Japan with slightly forked antlers.
- 37. United States musician (born in Japan) who married John Lennon and collaborated with him on recordings (born in 1933).
- 38. Chief port of Yemen.
- 40. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
- 42. A public toilet in a military area.
- 44. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- 46. A trivial lie.
- 48. The most common computer memory which can be used by programs to perform necessary tasks while the computer is on.
- 49. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
- 50. Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
- 55. Any of various spiny trees or shrubs of the genus Acacia.
- 57. A member of an aboriginal people living in the hills in southeastern India.
- 60. An official or legal cancellation.
- 62. Characteristic of or relating to winter.
- 63. A dialect of English spoken in the Lowlands of Scotland.
- 67. A city in northwestern Syria.
- 68. Any of a group of heavenly spirits under the god Anu.
- 72. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
- 73. A Chadic language spoken in Chad.
- 74. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
- 76. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
- 77. In the Roman calendar.
- 78. A state in the southeastern United States on the Gulf of Mexico.
- 79. A periodic paperback publication.

DOWN

- 1. A master's degree in library science.
- 2. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- 3. English monk and scholar (672-735).
- 4. A member of the Siouan people inhabiting the valleys of the Platte and Missouri rivers in Nebraska.

- 5. Common black European thrush.
- 6. (anatomy) Of or relating to the ilium.
- 7. Provide with clothes or put clothes on.
- 8. Sculpture consisting of shapes carved on a surface so as to stand out from the surrounding background.
- 9. A sign of something about to happen.
- 10. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
- 11. A system of timekeeping that defines the beginning and length and divisions of the year.
- 12. A member of a seafaring group of North American Indians who lived on the Pacific coast of British Columbia and southwestern Alaska.
- 13. Any of several related languages of the Celts in Ireland and Scotland.
- 14. (heraldry) An ordinary consisting of a broad horizontal band across a shield.
- 20. A decree that prohibits something.
- 22. Valuable timber tree of New Zealand yielding hard reddish wood used for furniture and bridges and wharves.
- 26. A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
- 27. Small buffalo of the Celebes having small straight horns.
- 29. The brightest star in Orion.
- 30. Jordan's port.
- 32. An inflammatory complication of leprosy that results in painful skin lesions on the arms and legs and face.
- 33. A mountain in south central Alaska.
- 34. A deficiency of red blood cells.
- 36. A ductile gray metallic element of the lanthanide series.
- 39. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
- 41. A Roman Catholic priest who acts for another higher-ranking clergyman.
- 43. A crystalline metallic element not found in nature.
- 45. An ancient city in northern Portugal.
- 47. Something causes misery or death.
- 51. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
- 52. South African plant widely cultivated for its showy pure white spathe and yellow spadix.
- 53. The vast grassy plains of northern Argentina.
- 54. Eurasian perennial bulbous herbs.
- 56. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
- 58. Treated with oil.
- 59. United States industrialist who manufactured plows suitable for working the prairie soil (1804-1886).
- 61. A folded part (as a fold of skin or muscle).
- 64. Starch resembling sago that is obtained from cuckoo-pit root.
- 65. Acute ulceration of the mucous membranes of the mouth or genitals.
- 66. An unforeseen obstacle.
- 69. A colloid in a more solid form than a sol.
- 70. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
- 71. A castrated tomat.
- 75. Before noon.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

If you take care of your body, your body will take care of you. This applies to your mental well-being also. Once your mind is set to becoming a better you, things will seem to fall into place in your world. You will have a greater appreciation for life and a renewed love of self. Happiness begins at home and your health is the root of this happiness. If you will stick to a new lifestyle you will find great reward will come to you from choices you make today. Today is the first day of the rest of your life. You will be a new confident you and find that you can truly love who you are. Take the leap.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may have heard, "You can't have it all." This is not true for you. Taurus. You can "bring home the bacon and cook it up in the pan" and still feel like enjoying a night on the town. Keep your work day stress-free by handling crises with humor. Be sure to take a break today and step out for a breath of fresh air. Save your energy to enjoy time with your friends and family this evening.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Get out and be heard. This is a wonderful time in your life and what you have to say will be heard. This is a great day for public speaking. You seem to have a knack for knowing what people want and being able to provide it. It seems your popularity may be at an all time high now. You are charming and pay close attention to the needs of others. Who could ask for a better friend? You may find a profitable deal come your way concerning real estate. Playing the middle man may be the way to go.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may make mistakes today. Fortunately, you learn from your mistakes. A small setback will not diminish what you accomplish. You will dwell on the slip-ups just long enough to make sure they don't happen again. Then you will focus on the good you have done. You will be applauded for your work. Others will notice and appreciate your efforts.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Close relationships are where your focus is placed now. As independent as you seem to appear, you need to feel the love and support of those closest to you. This alone makes your life feel complete. You are beginning to truly feel needed and cared for. You may feel as if a fresh start is what you need. You are beginning to develop new habit patterns. Out with the old and in with the new. Make sure new habits are good ones. These will set the tone for years to come. The new you is the best you.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

There is a problem out there that can be solved with a simple new product. And you are capable of creating that product. Put your inventive mind to work. Look around and see what is needed. Then set about to provide it. The solution will bring you more than financial success. It will provide the satisfaction of knowing you made someone's life easier. You are a kind friend and a good person.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may look in the mirror and see someone you truly love and respect looking back at you. Today you realize you appreciate who you are and how far you have come in this life. You strive to be a kind person and to help others as much as possible. A giver who attracts takers but doesn't let the users stop you from being you. There is no room for bitterness in your heart. You are determined to leave your mark on this world. What you see today is exactly how those close to you see each day. Know that you are loved and appreciated.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

If you take care of your body, your body will take care of you. This applies to your mental well-being also. Once your mind is set to becoming a better you, things will seem to fall into place in your world. You will have a greater appreciation for life and a renewed love of self. Happiness begins at home and your health is the root of this happiness. If you will stick to a new lifestyle you will find great reward will come to you from choices you make today. Today is the first day of the rest of your life. You will be a new confident you and find that you can truly love who you are. Take the leap.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You have begun to search for beauty in all that surrounds you. Life takes on a different meaning to you. You seem to see a new depth to the meaning of life. Your ability to analyze your situation and the situations of others are at high point. You are able to really get to the root of all problems that preset themselves and provide those around you with solutions. You are able to express yourself and communicate with ease. A long deep conversation with someone may be just what you need to stay grounded and focused. This may be a great time to refrain from spending and beginning focusing your goals on a budget and organizing your finances.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Reach for the stars. You feel as though you are invincible. Today that may be true. If it can go your way, it does. What a wonderful feeling! You are full of optimism and faith. Your self-confidence is at an all-time high. You may desire to make a change in your living situation. Leave this decision for a later date when your head comes down from the clouds.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may be faced with a difficult decision this week. You may feel led to pass up a very profitable career opportunity because it truly conflicts with your morals and values. This is a road to success you may choose to take a detour around. The easy way is not always the right way. You may find in the long run you will reap great reward from doing the right thing.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Expect to feel much admiration and recognition from those close to you today. You may feel support and able to relate to anyone and any situation. You may find yourself to be the center of attention in a social setting today. It seems everyone is able to relate to you and you may find that someone turns to you for help today. Feel flattered that you are trusted with such a delicate situation that your peer is experiencing. Through sharing life experiences of your own you may be able to assist this person and appreciated your own hardships as lessons learned. This is a great time of reflection in your life, Pisces, live, learn, and love.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Moods & Emotions 2

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 11 letters spell an additional word.

Wordsearch grid and word list for Moods & Emotions 2.

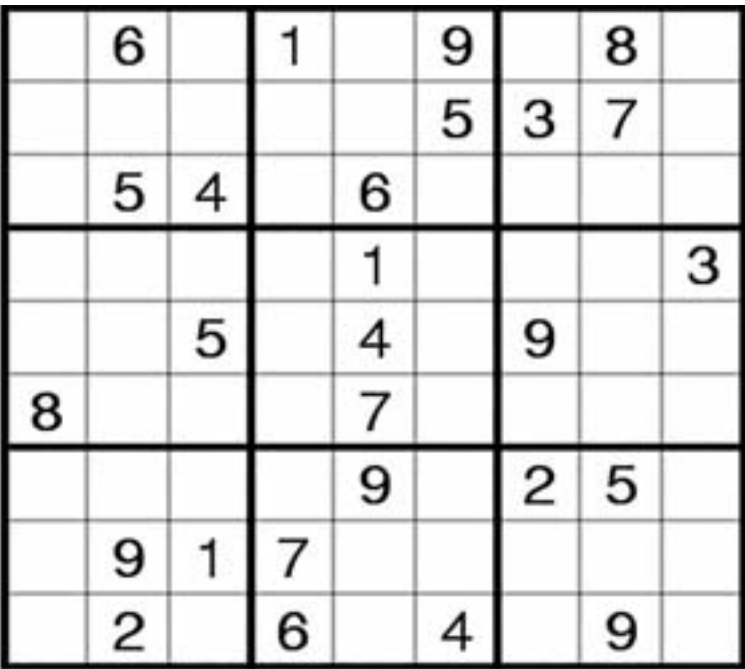
Moods & Emotions 1

Wordsearch grid and word list for Moods & Emotions 1.

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2018



Steampunk enthusiasts attend the sixth annual Haworth Steampunk Weekend in Haworth, northern England on November 25, 2018. The three-day alternative lifestyle festival features: music, dancers, entertainers, burlesque performers, vintage vehicles, a fashion show and a masquerade ball. Steampunk is a subgenre of science fiction or science fantasy that incorporates technology and aesthetic designs inspired by 19th-century industrial steam-powered machinery. — AFP (see more pictures on page 21)

IN IRAQ, AN ANCIENT BOARD GAME IS MAKING A COMEBACK

After rolling pyramid-shaped dice, Iraqi Kurdish artisan Hoshmand Muwafaq shifted his pebble around an ornate board, his handmade recreation of one of the Middle East's oldest and most popular games. Originating nearly 5,000 years ago in what would become Iraq, the Royal Game of Ur mysteriously died out-until Muwafaq resurrected it by making his own decorated wooden board. "It is a nice feeling when you rebuild and recreate a game which is not played by people anymore, and you try to show your generation and your people what we used to have before," he told AFP. "So you introduce the board again to the people. It's just really something, somehow amazing." It was only in 1922 that the board game came to light.

A board-a kind of draughtboard in an elongated 'H' shape-together with its pieces and dice, were found during archaeological excavations at the royal cemetery in the ancient Sumerian city of Ur, known now as Tal al-Muqayyar, in southern Iraq. Taken to the British Museum for closer study, it took more than five decades until experts managed to match up and translate a set of rules carved into a piece of clay with the board game. It became known as the Royal Game of Ur.

Two players have seven circular pieces each, which they must move in a loop across the beautifully carved wooden board. If a player lands his piece on a square already occupied by his rival, he can knock off the original piece and his rival must start again. Some of the 20 variously inlaid square places on the board offer players a refuge from being knocked off, or allow for a second roll of the unusual, pyramid-shaped dice.

'First Ur board'

Despite its simple rules, it makes for ferocious competition. "It's not just a game of luck, there's strategy," said Irving Finkel, the British Museum curator who worked to decipher the game's rules. Not only had they discovered



An ancient board game, known as the Royal Game of Ur, is seen in the northern Iraqi city of Raniye.

the game's playing instructions, he said in a video published last year by the museum, but also that it could be played for more than just fun, with some people betting for drink and women. Superstitious players in ancient Mesopotamia thought the outcome of each Royal Game was directed by the gods, or had an impact on their future.

Finkel said the board predated backgammon, a similar and extremely popular game now played across the Middle East. "Before chess and before backgammon came into the world, everybody played this game," Finkel said. But it has largely been forgotten by modern-day Iraqis.

'Testament to globalised world'

To revive the game's prehistoric popularity, British archaeologist Ashley Barlow asked Muwafaq to recreate a board based on the dimensions and design of the original. The aim is to create the first Ur game board "produced in Iraq for millennia", said Barlow, who lectures at the University of Raparin in the town of Raniye, 400 kilometers (250 miles) north of Baghdad. Although it was invented locally, the game seems to have reached communities hundreds of kilometres away, even as far as India.

"The board itself, with its Afghan Lapis lazuli and Pakistani carnelian (gemstones), is testament to a globalized world connected by traders, merchants and craftsmen," Barlow told AFP. By reviving the game back in its birthplace, he hopes Iraqis can move past recent decades of violence to build an identity based on a shared ancient past. "We want to reintroduce and re-educate people in their Mesopotamian history, something they can be really proud of-something that unites people rather than divides people," he said.

The old becomes new

Barlow and his team of volunteers are on a mission to bring back the spirit of Mesopotamia by spreading the game-first in the north, and then hopefully to Baghdad and Mosul. Their first stop is the local park. There, mainly older men play more mainstream games like checkers and backgammon-but can the Royal Game of Ur make a comeback? "Yes!" says Mam Rasool, one of the elderly men there. "I would play if there is someone to play the game with, like they (the Mesopotamians) did." He picked up a piece to move it across the intricate board. "It's 5,000 years old, but to us it's new," said Rasool. — AFP



Iraqi artist Hoshmand Mofaq and British archaeologist Ashley Barlow (right) play an ancient board game, known as the Royal Game of Ur. — AFP photos



Iraqi artist Hoshmand Mofaq and British archaeologist Ashley Barlow (left) play an ancient board game.

Empty, haunting Anne Frank House Museum revamped for new generation

The Anne Frank House Museum, built around the secret apartment where the Jewish teenager and her family hid from the Nazis, has reopened after being renovated to receive a new generation of visitors whose grandparents were born after World War II. The museum and tiny apartment where Anne wrote her diary—which has become the most widely-read document to emerge from the Holocaust-attract 1.2 million visitors annually. Anne's story is told through simple photos, quotes from her diary and video testimony of survivors. Curators have now added an audio tour. "We sometimes say that the Anne Frank House Museum is one of the only museums in the world that doesn't have much more to offer than empty spaces," said museum director Ronald Leopold. "An audio tour gave us the ability to give information without disturbing what I think is one of the most powerful elements of this house: its emptiness."

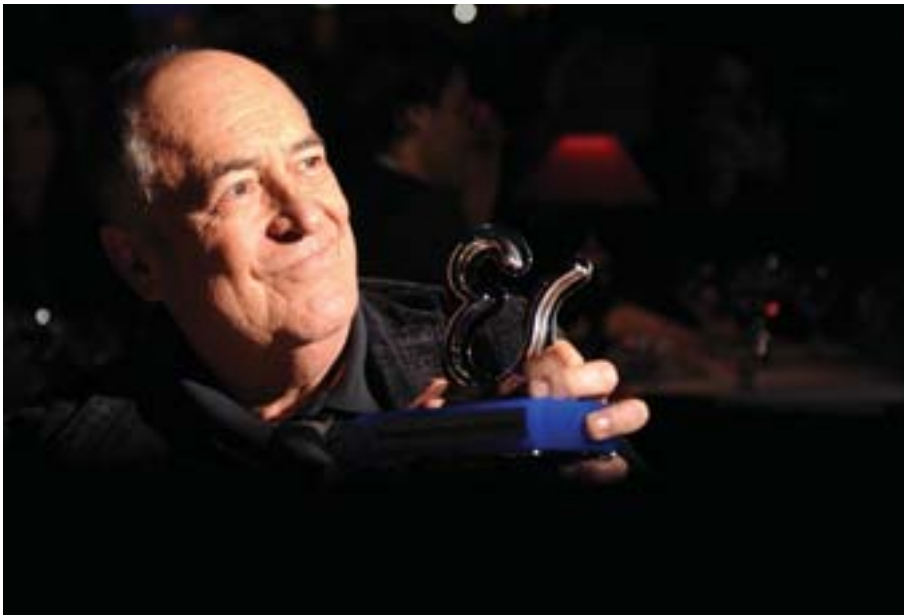
A trip through the museum, which was reopened by Dutch King Willem-Alexander on Thursday, begins with the history of the Frank family, their flight to the Netherlands after Hitler's rise to power in Germany and their decision to go into hiding on July 6, 1942. Visitors pass through the swinging bookcase that concealed the cramped secret annex above a warehouse where Anne, her sister Margot, her father Otto, mother Edith and four other Jews hid until they were arrested by German police on August 4, 1944. The museum then displays the government document registering the Franks' deportation on a cattle car train to Auschwitz.

Anne was later transferred to the concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen, where she died in early 1945 aged 15, one of the six million Jews who lost their life under the Nazi regime. Of those that hid in the secret apartment, only Otto survived the war. He was given Anne's diary, which had been preserved by Miep Gies, a member of the tight circle of Dutch friends that helped the Jews in hiding. In a film clip, Otto describes reading the diary after a period of grieving. "I must say I was very much surprised about the deep thoughts there she had: her seriousness, especially her self-criticism. It was quite a different Anne I had known as my daughter," he said.

"My conclusion is, as I had been on very, very good terms with her, that most parents don't know-don't know really-their own children." The museum concludes with a simple room where the original red-and-white bound diary—which outgrew its covers-and several additional pages are on display. Photographs are not allowed due to the fragility of the pages. — Reuters



In this file photo taken on September 25, 2003 Italian film director Bernardo Bertolucci waves before the screening of his film 'The Dreamers', at the 51st San Sebastian International Film Festival. — AFP photos



In this file photo taken on November 15, 2008 Italian movie director Bernardo Bertolucci poses with his honorary award during the opening dinner of the Estoril Film Festival in Estoril, outskirts of Lisbon.



In this file photo taken on November 19, 2013 Italian director Bernardo Bertolucci celebrates his Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Hollywood, California.

'Last Tango In Paris' director Bertolucci dies



In this file photo taken on March 05, 1972 US actor Marlon Brando is directed in Paris during the filming of "Last tango in Paris" by Italian writer-director Bernardo Bertolucci (right).



In this file photo taken on November 13, 1984 Italian film director Michelangelo Antonioni (right) talks with fellow Italian director Bernardo Bertolucci during a press conference in Paris.

Italian film director Bernardo Bertolucci, whose films include "Last Tango In Paris" and "1900", died yesterday aged 77. Considered one of the giants of world cinema, Bertolucci was the only Italian ever to win the Oscar for best film, snapping up the award in 1988 for "The Last Emperor." He had gained notoriety for his 1972 erotic drama "Last Tango In Paris" starring Marlon Brando and Maria Schneider, which featured a controversial scene involving butter.

The filmmaker died at his home in Rome early yesterday, his press office Punto e Virgola said in an email. He had been wheelchair-bound for several years because of back problems.

Nine Oscars for one film

Bertolucci's biographical masterpiece about the last Chinese emperor won a total of nine Oscars, all of those for which it was nominated. He won an honorary Palme d'Or for his life's work at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival. Former festival president Gilles Jacob said he was saddened by the death of "the last emperor of Italian cinema, the lord of all epics and all escapades." "The party is over: it takes two to tango," Jacob told AFP. Born in Parma, northeastern Italy, on March 16, 1941, Bertolucci made films that were often highly politicized, dealing with workers' struggles in "1900" or the fate of left-wingers in fascist Italy in "The Conformist".

A member of the Italian Communist party, he made the epic "1900" about the class struggle between Italian peasants and aristocrats spanning almost a century and starring Robert De Niro, Burt Lancaster and Gerard Depardieu. A tearful Stefania Sandrelli, who starred in "The Conformist" and "1900", said "My last emperor has gone." Bertolucci's father, a poet, history lecturer and cinema critic, gave him his first 16mm camera aged 15.

Bertolucci studied literature before turning to film, working as assistant director for Pier Paolo Pasolini on "Accattone" in 1961. He co-wrote the 1968 spaghetti Western classic "Once Upon a Time in the West" along with Dario Argento and director Sergio Leone.

Sex controversy

Bertolucci frequently courted controversy, not just with his films. This year he said that director Ridley Scott should be "ashamed" for replacing Kevin Spacey in a film after the actor was accused of sexual assaults against multiple men. Bertolucci also helped organize a petition against the extradition of Roman Polanski to face rape charges in the United States in 2009. He said however that he supported the #MeToo movement, which he praised for "bringing awareness to violence against women around the world".

Butter

In "Last Tango in Paris," Bertolucci acknowledged Schneider was not aware that Brando's character would use butter as a lubricant during one notorious scene with Schneider, who was 19 at the time. "The only new thing was the idea of the butter. It was this, I learned many years later, that upset Maria, and not the violence that was in the scene and was envisaged in the script of the film. "It is both consoling and distressing that anyone could be so naive to believe that what happens on the cinema screen actually takes place," he said of viewers.

Schneider, who suffered drug addiction and depression before her death in 2011, said four years earlier she had felt "a little raped" during the scene and was angry about it for years afterwards. When asked in 2013 how he would like to be remembered, Bertolucci told AFP: "I don't care." "I think my movies are there, people can see them," he



In this file photo taken on September 08, 2007 Italian director Bernardo Bertolucci receives a special award during the closing ceremony of the 64th Venice International Film Festival at Venice Lido.

said at a presentation of a 3D version of "The Last Emperor" to mark the 25th anniversary of its international release.

"And sometimes I laugh, thinking I will be remembered more as a talent scout of young girls than as a film director," he said. Apart from Schneider, the list of stars he discovered includes Liv Tyler in 1996's "Stealing Beauty" and Eva Green, who made her screen debut in "The Dreamers" in 2003. Director Roberto Benigni hailed a "fraternal, loving, intelligent, genial, unpredictable, rigorous and implacable friend, always telling us the truth, his cinema is one of the wonders of the 20th century." — AFP



In this file photo taken on May 25, 1981 Italian film director Bernardo Bertolucci (second right) poses with the cast of his film "La tragedia di un uomo ridicolo" (left to right), Victor Cavallo, Ricardo Tognazi, Anouk Aimee, Laura Morante, and Ugo Tognazzi during the Cannes International Film Festival.



In this file photo taken on May 07, 1987 Italian film director Bernardo Bertolucci (center) receives from actors Anouk Aimee (left) and Robert de Niro a Special Award for his film 'The last Emperor' during the Cannes International Film Festival.



A picture taken on November 13, 1984 at the French Culture Ministry in Paris shows Italian director Bernardo Bertolucci (second right) flanked by Italian director Michelangelo Antonioni (right), French Culture minister Jack Lang (left) and German director Volker Schlöndorff, arriving at an European filmmakers meeting.

Russia rules to free rapper jailed for street show

A Russian court yesterday granted early release to a popular Russian rapper jailed for 12 days for performing in the street, his lawyer said. The sentencing of the rapper Dmitry Kuznetsov, known as Husky, came as Russia's hip-hop stars complain of increasing censorship and cancellations of concerts under pressure from authorities. Husky was jailed last Thursday after rapping to a crowd of young people from the roof of a car in the southern Russian city of Krasnodar.

He gave the performance after the venue where he was due to perform cancelled the concert at the last minute

under pressure from officials. The 25-year-old rapper was found guilty of petty hooliganism. In a surprise legal decision, a district court in Krasnodar ruled to free him early, his lawyer Alexei Avanesyan wrote on Facebook. "The court just upheld an application by Husky's defense lawyers and cancelled his 12-day jail term," Avanesyan said. "We are going to the detention center to meet Dmitry," the lawyer added.

He posted a court document saying the decision was motivated by "exceptional personal circumstances." Defense lawyers had argued that Husky is currently on tour and a fine would have been sufficient, the lawyer said. The ruling did not cancel the guilty verdict against Husky but softened the punishment, Avanesyan told RIA Novosti state news agency.

Three of Russia's top rap stars — Oxxxymiron, Basta and Noize MC—are set to give a concert in support of Husky at a Moscow club today, with all the profits going to Husky. The club said that the concert was going ahead despite his release. Opposition politician Alexei Navalny wrote on Twitter that the authorities freed Husky early because they were taken aback by the strong negative reaction to his case, including from fellow rappers. "The Kremlin did not expect such a united outraged reaction over the arrest of the rapper... therefore they urgently freed Husky," he wrote. — AFP

OSN appoints Patrick Tillieux as CEO

Faisal Al-Ayyar, chairman of OSN (Panther Media Group Ltd), announced yesterday that Patrick Tillieux has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer, effective immediately. Tillieux has been on OSN's Board for two years and is the chairman of the executive committee of the Board. The Board is delighted that he has accepted to increase his involvement with OSN and shares the Board's vision for the Company as the premier source of world class entertainment in the Middle East and North Africa region.

Tillieux has built and reshaped major pay TV operations in Europe over a long and successful career spanning all areas of OSN's business, as well as cable and telecoms. His knowledge of the region, where he first worked in 1981, and his belief in OSN's unique qualities and in the strengths of OSN's teams will allow him to drive OSN to new heights.

Tillieux said: "I am honored to have been selected as OSN's new CEO. As member of the Board it has been a privilege to witness firsthand the quality of

OSN's people and assets; I now look forward to steering OSN's energy towards renewed growth and ever improved engagement with customers. I believe that OSN is uniquely positioned in the region to offer high quality innovative services that will make a real contribution to fulfilling customers' desires."

Tillieux succeeds Martin Stewart, who is leaving the Company to pursue another opportunity outside of the region. Faisal Al-Ayyar said: "The Board wishes to acknowledge Stewart's efforts and achievements in strengthening operational efficiency and adding value to customers. Under his leadership OSN has significantly improved its operations and imbedded a customer first approach. He has also enhanced the Company's digital and technology capabilities to better serve customers. The Board thanks him for his contribution and wishes him the very best in all future endeavors."

Lifestyle | Fashion

Miuccia Prada to receive Outstanding Achievement Award at The Fashion Awards 2018



Miuccia Prada

Miuccia Prada will receive the Outstanding Achievement Award at The Fashion Awards 2018. The 69-year-old designer is set to be presented with the coveted accolade at the December 10 ceremony held at London's Royal Albert Hall and British Vogue's editor-in-chief, Edward Enninful - who is a member of the British Fashion Council - has praised Prada as "a genius". He said: "Mrs Prada is the most revered, most inspirational and probably the most copied designer of her generation. "She's bold and she's not scared to break rules or go into new territory. She has made us look at body shape differently. She has made us look at what is ugly and what is beautiful. "She has trained people's eyes to a new way of dressing, one that is not based on the classic idea of the female form. She's a genius!"

The fashion icon will join honorees Donatella Versace, Ralph Lauren KBE, Karl Lagerfeld and Manolo Blahnik CBE, who have previously been recognized for their

contribution to fashion. The A-list event is set to be hosted by model and activist, Alek Wek, and actor and comedian, Jack Whitehall, while photographic legends Mert Alas and Markus Piggott have been announced as the recipients of the Isabella Blow award for Fashion Creator(s).

On the decision to celebrate the career of Mert and Marcus - who have worked with the likes of Oprah Winfrey, Kate Moss, Kim Kardashian, Gucci and Calvin Klein -Caroline Rush, BFC Chief Executive commented: "We are thrilled to present the Isabella Blow Award for Fashion Creator to Mert and Marcus and acknowledge them for their remarkable contribution to the global fashion industry. "Mert and Marcus have a unique way of portraying glamour, youth and fantasy, making them one of the forces of our industry. We look forward to celebrating with them, their clients and friends in London in December." — Bang Showbiz

Elle Macpherson walks in seawater to reduce bloating



Elle Macpherson

Elle Macpherson walks in seawater to reduce bloating. The 54-year-old supermodel insisted the trick is "one of the best things" for the body as it tones legs and waist and she has found that spending an hour in the ocean is a "great diuretic" if you're experiencing water retention. In an interview with Get The Gloss, she said: "Walking in seawater is one of the best things I can do for my body. It tones the legs and waist, it's great for minerals and if you have any water retention, it's a great diuretic. "I walk in thigh-high deep or knee-deep water for 40 minutes to an hour."

Alongside her fitness regime, Elle - who is the founder of plant based beauty range WelleCo - swears by a "wholefood plant-based" diet providing "pre and probiotics" in order to stay healthy and reduce unwanted bloating. She explained: "Because good health starts with a

healthy digestive system, I rely on a wholefood plant-based diets that contain ingredients rich in pre and probiotics for supporting a healthy gut and digestive system, this helps reduce bloating and many IBS symptoms. " As well as bloating, the blonde beauty has also shared the simple trick she uses to avoid jet lag after long haul flights.

She said: "I take two teaspoons of Super Elixir [from WelleCo] before I get on a plane, another two teaspoons diluted in a liter of water in-flight and two more when I land. "I rarely eat on the flight to give digestion a rest. I just drink lots of water. Honestly, I can get straight off a long-haul flight, go straight to a board meeting and feel really well. It works for me!" — Bang Showbiz

The sixth annual Haworth Steampunk Weekend



Dancers in Haworth Village Hall entertain the steampunk enthusiasts attending the sixth annual Haworth Steampunk Weekend in Haworth, northern England.



Steampunk enthusiasts attend the sixth annual Haworth Steampunk Weekend in Haworth, northern England. — AFP photos

Naomi Campbell has a secret item of jewelry

Naomi Campbell hasn't taken off her diamond Tiffany & Co waist chain in "almost 20 years". The 48-year-old supermodel - who stars in the iconic brand's new Dreamland Holiday campaign - has revealed that she has a custom-designed platinum Diamonds by the Yard waist chain by Tiffany that has "become part of her", and is special to her because nobody can see it. Speaking to People, Naomi said: "I've been wearing it for almost 20 years. "I have it on now and I never take it off. It's not something you can see, but it's

become a part of me. I'm very attached to it." The British beauty stars in the festive commercial alongside her "family" member Zoe Kravitz, Xiao Wen Ju and Maye Musk at a Mad Hatter-style tea party.

Naomi added: "Zoi is like family to me, so it was wonderful to work with her on this project. Tiffany & Co. always does an amazing job of telling a story, and the theme 'Believe in Dreams' spoke so truly to me. It's something I live my life by." Meanwhile, Naomi - who is famous for her slender figure and

sculpted look - also admitted that she only started visiting the gym "about a year ago". She confessed: "I actually just started working out about a year ago. I find that it helps me both physically and mentally. "I have so much energy after a circuit workout, and I love the calming, spiritual side that yoga brings me. Blending the two workouts for me is the perfect combination." — Bang Showbiz



Naomi Campbell



Cheick Ahmed Al-Hassan Sanou aka Iron Biby works out at his home of Bobo-Dioulasso, second biggest city of Burkina Faso. — AFP photos



Cheick Ahmed Al-Hassan Sanou aka Iron Biby prepares to lift 505 kg as he works out at his home.

From bullied to beloved: Burkina Faso’s strongest man

Children once bullied Iron Biby because of his size. Now when he walks down the street in his native Burkina Faso, they run up and feel his muscly arms. The contender for the World’s Strongest Man competition is happy to oblige—after all, his biceps have a circumference of 63 centimeters (two feet). But youngsters have not always been so kind. “I was always overweight compared to my friends and brothers. It’s rare here, so people made fun of me,” says Biby, whose real name is Cheick Ahmed Al-Hassan Sanou. “I lacked confidence and was afraid to make decisions.”

Today, however, the 26-year-old’s mountainous dimensions—he weighs 180 kilograms (400 pounds) and is 1.9 meters (six feet and two inches) tall—have brought him fame as one of the strongest men in the world. And he wants to use his stature to help his country, one of the world’s poorest.

Born huge

He has always been big—when he was born in Burkina Faso in 1992 he weighed nearly five kilograms. As a child, he says he “tried every sport but was discouraged every time” because of his size. “It was my dream to be a great athlete so I persevered.” He didn’t discover bodybuilding until 2009, when, at the age of 17, he moved to Canada to join his older brother and finish high school. “I had a complex. People were mocking me, and I wanted to transform my body, so I started to train slowly,” he says. As fat turned to muscle, he quickly gained attention in the local gym scene.

In 2013, the amateur was invited to his first powerlifting competition—which he won. Biby then swiftly rose to become a top 10 strength athlete and a regular contender for the title of “World’s Strongest Man”.



Guinness world record

Instead of normal weightlifting, these competitions test behemoths in a variety of feats of strength, including pulling trucks with a rope and lifting logs over their heads. Biby, a fan favorite at the events, is the 2018 world champion in the log lift category and he has won the world axle championships too.

His proudest achievement is having gotten his name—and that of his country—in the Guinness Book of Records in September. “The test was to see how many times you can lift a person weighing about 60 kilograms in a minute,” Biby says. “The former record was 45 reps. I smashed it with 69 reps.”

Helping other athletes

After finishing his studies in Canada, Biby returned to his hometown Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina’s second city, where he has become a popular figure. When he comes back after international competitions he is welcomed home like a conquering hero, fans gathering around him to touch his huge arms and take selfies. But the impoverished West African country does not have all the equipment he needs for training so he either has what he needs made or imported.

Biby trains four to five hours every day and has a 46-metre runway in his yard for dragging trucks. To keep the weight on, he eats “up to eight chickens” during his four meals a day. He makes his living by entering the competitions and from sponsorship, and now has plans for several projects in Burkina Faso, including a chain of sports centers across the country “for all athletes, not just in my field”.

He also wants to launch a line of dietary supplements—“there is a lack of protein here”—and create a federation for fellow Burkina strongmen. In the meantime, he is training for his next goal: beating the log lift world record. —AFP



Cheick Ahmed Al-Hassan Sanou aka Iron Biby lifts a child in the courtyard of his grandmother’s home.



Cheick Ahmed Al-Hassan Sanou aka Iron Biby poses for pictures with young fans.

Make a meal of mealworms, Hong Kong startup says

Pasta prepared with mealworms raised in your own home? The unusual dinner idea could soon be a reality, if Hong Kong entrepreneur Katharina Unger has her way. The 28-year-old is the founder of Livin Farms, a start-up that has been making insect incubators since 2016, and is now working on a compact model to cultivate mealworms it says is suitable for use in kitchens, and in biology classrooms. “In 2050, we’re going to be nine billion people on the planet, so we have to find new solutions to feed ourselves, and to feed the next generations”, Unger said. “Insects offer a really great alternative to current meat production because they can be grown on food waste, with very little space, with very little water, and they taste great.”



While many people squirm at the prospect of eating insects, they are common fare in countries such as Thailand and China. “They are high in protein and low in cholesterol,” said Li Ching, owner of the People of Yunnan restaurant in Hong Kong, adding that he considered deep-fried grasshoppers, stick-bugs and silkworms to be beneficial for his health. However, Hong Kong-based nutritionist Miles Price says the production of alternative proteins such as insects remains largely unregulated, and this may have significant implications for food safety and consumer acceptance. “We need to enforce a more rigorous approach to production ... which will give confidence to consumers to say that this is a safe protein source,” he said.

Livin Farms believes that their self-contained hive system provides a do-it-yourself solution, as the mealworms can be fed with food scraps, harvested weekly, frozen and then cooked in various ways. This versatility of the inch-long larvae of the mealworm beetle, which is found in many part of the world, is an additional advantage. “Unlike meats, I can prepare this in two different ways, savory and sweet”, said Livin Farms head of operations Clayton Wong, as he demonstrated cooking mealworms with peppers, tomatoes and onions in a tomato mascarpone pasta sauce. “I think it’s really dynamic, I can play around with this.” — Reuters



This handout provided by the South Korean presidential Blue House shows South Korean President Moon Jae-in (right) and his wife Kim Jung-sook looking at six puppies born from a Pungsan-breed dog, gifted by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, at his residence in Seoul.

Doggy diplomacy: S Korea unveils newborn Northern pups

South Korean President Moon Jae-in and his wife have been pictured cuddling a litter of puppies whelped by one of the dogs given to them by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as a symbol of the strengthening ties between the two countries. Images released on Sunday show the couple smiling as they sit on the ground outside their residence in Seoul surrounded by the six pups and their mother Gomi. Kim sent Moon a pair of indigenous North Korean hunting dogs following their meeting in Pyongyang in September as a token of their rapidly blossoming friendship. “Meet the newborn puppies of Gomi, one of the Pungsan dogs from North Korea,” Moon’s office tweeted on Sunday.

It posted two pictures of the dogs, one of them showing five furry white pups cuddled on Moon’s lap with the sixth in the first lady’s arms, with Gomi by their side in the courtyard of the presidential residence. Both the mother and the puppies—three males and three females born on November 9 — were “very healthy”, the presidential office said.

Known for loyalty and intelligence, the Pungsan breed—a hunting dog with a thick, creamy white coat, pointy ears and hazel eyes—is originally from an area of the same name in the North. “As the pregnancy period of dogs is about two months, Gomi must have been pregnant

when she came to us,” Moon tweeted when the puppies were born, adding: “I hope inter-Korean ties will also be like this.” Moon is a known animal lover who has four dogs—the two canines gifted by Kim, another

Pungsan dog Maru, and a black mutt named Tory he adopted after taking office—plus a former shelter cat called Jjing-Jjing. — AFP



This handout show six puppies born from a Pungsan-breed dog, gifted to South Korea’s president Moon jae-in by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, at his residence in Seoul.— AFP photos

Classifieds

Tuesday, November 27, 2018



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 to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 32 km/h .

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 26/11/2018 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	23 °C	16 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	22 °C	14 °C		
ABDALY	21 °C	12 °C		
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C		
JAHRA	23 °C	14 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	24 °C	15 °C		
SALMIYAH	24 °C	17 °C		
AHMADI	23 °C	19 °C		
NUWAISIB	25 °C	14 °C		
WAFRA	24 °C	13 °C		
SALMY	18 °C	11 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	11/27	Mostly Sunny	22 °C	14 °C	NW	08 - 30 km/h
Wednesday	11/28	Clouds will decrease gradually	23 °C	14 °C	NW-VRB	06 - 30 km/h
Thursday	11/29	Sunny	24 °C	15 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 26 km/h
Friday	11/30	Partly cloudy to cloudy with a slight chance for scattered light rain later on	25 °C	15 °C	SE	12 - 35 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:58
Sunrise	06:21
Zuhr	11:35
Asr	14:30
Sunset	16:50
Isha	18:11

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	22 °C
MIN. Temp.	16 °C
MAX. RH	98 %
MIN. RH	61 %
MAX. Wind	NW 43 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	1.97mm

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

CHANGE OF NAME

Duddikunta Sreenivasulu Reddy S/o Duddikunta Venkata Reddy residing at #1-138-up, Ravindranagar, Akkayapalli, Kadapa, Y.S.R. District, and his name has been changed to Duddikunta Sreenivasulu Reddy (new name) previously called Dudduganta Sreenivasul Reddy S/o Dudduganta Venkata Reddy (old name). (C 5434)

ACCOMMODATION

Sharing accommodation For Filipino ONLY Farwaniya block 1, near gulfmart. Available 25 of November, Contact 94418396 or 69972330

EMERGENCY

112



Airlines

Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Wataniya Airways	22 066 536
Turkish Airlines	1884918
American Airlines	22087425
	22087426
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
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
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
Indian Airlines	22456700
Oman Air	22958787



Flight Schedule

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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 27/11/2018				Departure Flights on Tuesday 27/11/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JZR	254	Amman	00:05	JZR	405	Kochi	12:45
JZR	406	Kochi	00:10	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:15	QTR	1075	Doha	13:00
THY	772	Istanbul	00:50	JZR	113	Doha	13:30
JZR	734	Cairo	00:50	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
JZR	722	Alexandria	00:55	MSC	412	Asyut	13:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55	KAC	545	Cairo	13:30
KAC	102	London	01:20	MSR	611	Cairo	14:10
DLH	625	Dammam	01:25	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:15
UAE	853	Dubai	01:45	QTR	1079	Doha	15:00
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	FDB	060	Dubai	15:10
IGO	1757	Kochi	01:55	QTR	8512	Doha	15:25
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30	KAC	673	Dubai	15:40
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:50
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:55	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	KAC	743	Dammam	15:55
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	619	Doha	16:10
QTR	1076	Doha	04:00	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	FEG	342	Sohag	16:25
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	OMA	645	Jeddah	16:35
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	KAC	786	Muscat	16:40
FDB	069	Dubai	05:00	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:45
KAC	382	Delhi	05:05	JZR	105	Bahrain	16:55
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:10	SYR	342	Damascus	17:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:10	FDB	052	Dubai	17:40
JZR	404	Hyderabad	05:10	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
KAC	414	Bangkok	05:20	KAC	283	Dhaka	17:45
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	QTR	1073	Doha	18:00
JZR	112	Doha	05:25	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	05:30	KAC	331	Trivandrum	18:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	JZR	733	Cairo	18:10
JZR	402	Mumbai	06:05	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	362	Colombo	06:10	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:10	JZR	127	Dubai	18:35
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:10	JZR	501	Lahore	18:40
THY	6376	Istanbul	06:30	JZR	403	Hyderabad	18:40
KAC	678	Dubai	06:55	KAC	381	Delhi	18:55
BAW	157	London	07:05	JZR	254	Amman	19:15
KAC	204	Lahore	07:10	JZR	721	Alexandria	19:20
JZR	708	Luxor	07:15	FDB	064	Dubai	19:20
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:35	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
KAC	358	Kochi	07:35	MSR	2621	Cairo	19:30
FEG	241	Alexandria	07:40	QTR	1081	Doha	19:55
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	RJA	641	Amman	20:00
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:05
JZR	102	Bahrain	08:25	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	NIA	0162	Cairo	20:30
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	FDB	058	Dubai	20:35
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	JZR	401	Mumbai	20:55
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	KAC	301	Mumbai	20:55
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	353	Bengaluru	20:55
QTR	1070	Doha	09:45	KAC	357	Kochi	21:00
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	OMA	648	Muscat	21:20
IRC	6507	Shiraz	10:30	DLH	624	Dammam	21:30
KAC	624	Doha	10:40	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	QTR	1089	Doha	22:00
JZR	116	Doha	11:10	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:10
JZR	122	Dubai	11:20	KAC	1543	Cairo	22:15
QTR	1074	Doha	11:35	MEA	405	Islamabad	22:15
JZR	216	Jeddah	11:45	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:25	KAC	383	Delhi	22:30
MSC	401	Asyut	12:30	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:50
SAW	711	Damascus	12:30	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:55
JZR	714	Sohag	12:35	UAE	860	Dubai	23:00
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	JAI	573	Mumbai	23:00
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	KAC	411	Bangkok	23:00
MSR	610	Cairo	13:10	RBG	214	Sohag	23:10
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:15	KAC	795	Madinah	23:15
				QTR	1083	Doha	23:20

Anxiety at NASA as InSight spacecraft nears Red Planet

News in brief

White mushroom warning

KUWAIT: The Environment Public Authority (EPA) warned the public on Sunday against approaching white mushrooms, which have appeared in different parts of Kuwait in the wake of heavy rainfall. The white mushroom belongs to the amanita family, which consists of over 600 types of mostly poisonous mushrooms, EPA said in a short statement. This white mushroom may cause allergies, it noted. — KUNA

Red tide in Kuwait waters

KUWAIT: The Environment Public Authority (EPA) said Sunday it spotted red tide two miles from Shamlan boat-docking area. An EPA team inspected surrounding maritime areas and collected samples from waters where the color changed to red. Tests showed an increase in *Myrionecta rubra* (355,000 cells in every liter), thus causing the red tide, but it is not poisonous. EPA said its team also noticed an increase in the chlorophyll in areas near Kuwait Towers, Green Island, Mina Abdullah and Zour, Shuaiba station and Khairan chalets. — KUNA

Sheikh Ahmad steps aside

ZURICH: The head of the umbrella organization of national Olympic committees (ANOC) has stepped aside from his role amid an ongoing legal case in Switzerland, the IOC said in a statement yesterday. The IOC said it had taken note of Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahd Al-Sabah's decision to "temporarily suspend himself from his role and responsibilities within ...ANOC," a decision that will take effect from tomorrow. Sheikh Ahmad had previously stepped aside from his roles as an IOC member and head of Olympic Solidarity - the multimillion dollar IOC purse that funds sports projects globally. — Reuters



PASADENA, California: Tim Priser, Quality Director, Lockheed Martin Space talks shows a small piece of the Mars InSight heat shield during a social media briefing on Sunday at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. — AFP

LOS ANGELES: Seven years of work and a journey of nearly seven months were about to be capped by almost seven minutes of terror as NASA ticked off the final hours to the high-drama landing of its \$993 million Mars InSight spacecraft yesterday. Mars InSight's goal is to listen for quakes and tremors as a way to unveil the Red Planet's inner mysteries, how it formed billions of years ago and, by extension, how other rocky planets like Earth took shape.

The unmanned spacecraft is NASA's first to attempt to touch down on Earth's neighboring planet since the Curiosity rover arrived in 2012. More than half of 43 attempts to reach Mars with rovers, orbiters and probes by space agencies from around the world have failed. NASA is the only space agency to have made it, and is invested in these robotic missions as a way to prepare for the first Mars-bound human explorers in the 2030s. "We never take Mars for granted. Mars is hard," said Thomas Zurbuchen, NASA associate administrator for the science mission

director, on Sunday.

The nail-biting entry, descent and landing phase begins at 11:47 am (1940 GMT) at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, home to mission control for Mars InSight. A carefully orchestrated sequence - already fully preprogrammed on board the spacecraft - takes place over the following several minutes, coined "six and a half minutes of terror". Speeding faster than a bullet at 19,800 km an hour, the heat-shielded spacecraft encounters scorching friction as it enters Mars' atmosphere.

The heat shield soars to a temperature of about 1,500 Celsius. Radio signals may be briefly lost. The heat shield is discarded, the three landing legs deploy, and the parachute pops out. "We freefall for just a little bit, which is an absolutely terrifying thought for me," said Tom Hoffman, project manager of InSight. But then the thrusters begin to fire, further slowing down the 800-pound (365 kilogram) spacecraft to a speed of just about 5 mph when it reaches the surface.

Since there is no joystick back on Earth for this spacecraft, and no way to intervene if anything goes wrong, Hoffman described his emotions as mixed. "I am completely comfortable and completely nervous at the same time," he said. "We have done everything we can think to make sure we are going to be successful, but you just never know what is going to happen." Hoffman added that he has "not been sleeping that great," though he said that might be because of his rambunctious toddlers, who are two and four years old. When the first signal arrives at 2001 GMT, hopefully showing that the lander set itself down, intact and upright, "I am totally going to unleash my inner four-year-old at that point," he said.

Zurbuchen described InSight as "unique" because the waist-high lander contains instruments that were contributed by several European space agencies. France's Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) made the Seismic Experiment for Interior Structure (SEIS) instrument, the key element for sensing

quakes. The German Aerospace Center (DLR) provided a self-hammering mole that can burrow 16 feet (five meters) into the surface - further than any instrument before-to measure heat flow. Spain's Centro de Astrobiologia made the spacecraft's wind sensors.

Other significant contributions to the project came from the Space Research Center of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Astronika, the Swiss Institute of Technology, and Britain's Imperial College London and Oxford University. Together, these instruments will study geological processes, said Bruce Banerdt, InSight's principal investigator at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

By listening for tremors on Mars, whether from quakes or meteor impacts or even volcanic activity, scientists can learn more about its interior and reveal how the planet formed. The goal is to map the inside of Mars in three dimensions, "so we understand the inside of Mars as well as we have come to understand the outside of Mars," Banerdt told reporters. — AFP

Bahrain 'rejects' moves to smear...

Continued from Page 1

Agency, which said he would visit "brotherly" Arab countries. The Egyptian presidency said the prince was due to arrive in Cairo later yesterday for talks with President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi. Prince

Mohammed is expected to attend the G20 summit in Argentina next week.

Meanwhile, around 100 people protested in Tunisia against a visit by Prince Mohammed over the murder of Khashoggi. Tunisia's presidency said Prince Mohammed will visit the North African nation for several hours today, without providing details on the program. Tunisia is one of the few Arab states where demonstrations are allowed, following a 2011 uprising that toppled veteran ruler Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali and ushered in freedom of speech and the press. — Agencies

"Similarly, many Indians working in the Gulf region will not be able to maintain an Indian mobile connection beyond a few months. Registering by using an Indian mobile will be difficult for many. In many rural areas, Internet connection is also poor," Kumar added.

According to the advisory, the registration confirmation of the applicant will be verified by the Bureau of Immigration (BoI) at emigration counters prior to their departure. Offloading of unregistered non-ECR emigrants at the airports will be carried out by the appropriate authority after Jan 1. "At the same time, there is also a positive spin to the decision if it is a hassle-free process. So far, the Indian government does not have proper statistics on the Indian diaspora. This may help the government compile data on overseas Indians," Kumar said.

Details to be furnished include personal, visa and travel details, emergency contact details in India and the destination country and contact details of the foreign employer/sponsor in the destination country. Those already working overseas are not required to register while they are overseas. However, if they come to India on vacation and are returning for the same job, they will need to register. This is only a one-time requirement for a given employment duration. Babu Francis, a member of the Loka Kerala Sabha from Kuwait, said: "This new rule will only complicate life for overseas Indians. It is an impetuous decision like the one to issue color-coded passports for Indians."

convicted of spying for a foreign country.

Lamki said that Hedges was "a 100-percent secret service agent and was convicted of espionage". He said Hedges confessed to gathering information about the UAE ruling family, military and its involvement in the Yemen war. "He confirmed he collected sensitive and classified information about the UAE," he said, calling the evidence "irrefutable". Hedges' role was "to gather classified information about the UAE military capabilities ... and sensitive information on UAE key government figures including members of the UAE ruling families," he said. Hedges was arrested on May 5 at Dubai airport.

Lamki said a lawyer had been appointed to defend Hedges who was also allowed to speak to his family repeatedly during his detention. The presidential pardon came in response to a letter by Hedges' family delivered by a British official, he said. UAE state minister for foreign affairs Anwar Gargash said the pardon allowed the two countries to refocus on developing their relations. "It was always a UAE hope that this matter would be resolved through the common channels of our long-standing partnership. This was a straightforward matter that became unnecessarily complex despite the UAE's best efforts," he said in a statement. — AFP

Home is the deadliest place...

Continued from Page 1

of violence to a greater degree than men is indicative of an imbalance in power relations between women and men inside the domestic sphere."

The UNODC calculated that the global rate of female homicide victims stood at around 1.3 victims per 100,000 female population. The study found that Africa and the Americas were the regions where women were most at risk of being killed by intimate partners or family members. In Africa, the rate was around 3.1 victims per 100,000 female population, while the rate in the Americas was 1.6 victims, in Oceania 1.3 and in Asia 0.9. The lowest rate was found in Europe, with 0.7 victims per 100,000 female population.

According to the UNODC, "no tangible progress" in combatting the scourge had been made in recent years "despite legislation and programs developed to eradicate violence against women". The report's conclusions "highlight the need for effective crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women," the UNODC said, stressing the need for measures to boost safety and empower potential victims while holding their abusers accountable. The study also called for greater coordination between police and the justice system as well as health and social services. And the UNODC said it was also important to involve men in the solutions, including through early education.

Chinese scientist claims world's first...

Continued from Page 1

egg, an embryologist also sent in CRISPR/Cas9 protein and instructions to perform a gene surgery intended to protect the girls from future HIV infection," he said.

Gene editing is a potential fix for heritable diseases but it is extremely controversial because the changes would be passed down to future generations and could eventually affect the entire gene pool. The MIT Technology Review warned "the technology is ethically charged". The claims come ahead of a conference of world experts in Hong Kong this week, with He expected to speak tomorrow and Thursday. But there is as yet no independent verification of his claims, which have not been published in a peer-reviewed journal - an omission that the scientist's critics have seized on.

The research has been robustly criticized by Chinese scientists and institutions. The university where He works said he had been on unpaid leave since February and his research is a "serious violation of academic ethics and norms". "This research work was carried out by Professor He Jiankui outside of the school," the Southern University of Science and Technology said in a statement yesterday.

And a joint statement from a group of 100 scientists in China criticized the findings and called for better state legislation. "It is a great blow to the global reputation and development of biomedical research in China,"



CALI, Colombia: Demonstrators take part in a performance during a march on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on Sunday. — AFP

Many women were murdered by abusive partners, while others were victims in so-called honor killings or disputes over dowries, it added. Murders by partners or family are often not one-off attacks, but the culmination of previous domestic abuse, said the report. "These shocking findings demonstrate the devastating consequences of gender inequality that perpetuates violence against women," Sarah Masters, a director at the rights group Womankind Worldwide, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. — Agencies

said the statement posted on social media platform Weibo. "It is extremely unfair to the vast majority of Chinese scholars who are diligent in scientific research and innovation."

Other scientists all around the world were also critical, with some saying a YouTube video was an inadequate way of announcing scientific findings, and others warning that exposing healthy embryos and children to gene editing was irresponsible. Professor Joyce Harper, professor in genetics and human embryology at London's UCL, said: "Today's report of genome editing human embryos for resistance to HIV is premature, dangerous and irresponsible."

The issue of editing human DNA is highly controversial, and only allowed in the US in laboratory research - although US scientists said last year that they had successfully edited the genetic code of piglets to remove dormant viral infections. But this is not the first time Chinese researchers have experimented with human embryo technology, and last September scientists at Sun Yat-sen University used an adapted version of gene-editing to correct a disease-causing mutation in human embryos.

There is also a history of fraud within China's academic community - including a scandal last year that led to the withdrawal of 100 "compromised" academic papers. He Jiankui did not immediately respond to a request for comment from AFP. Neither was there any response from queries to the organizers of the Hong Kong conference, and it is not clear whether they were aware of He's work. In a pre-recorded video on the conference's website, biologist and chair of the international summit David Baltimore said: "We have never done anything that will change the genes of the human race, and we have never done anything that will have effects that will go on through the generations." — AFP

UAE pardons Briton sentenced...

Continued from Page 1

Our six plus months of nightmare are finally over and to say we are elated is an understatement." Asked by BBC radio about the UAE's repeated accusation that Hedges was a spy, Colombia-born Tejada said: "In my heart, I know that he isn't". But she added: "If that's what it takes for him to be back, I welcome the news".

Hunt said on BBC radio of the spying charges: "We have never seen any evidence that they are true". Hunt said he expected Hedges to be released "very soon indeed", adding that it was a "bittersweet moment" because of other Britons detained unjustly around the world. Hedges, a 31-year-old researcher at Durham University, was detained in Dubai while researching the UAE's foreign and internal security policies after the Arab Spring revolutions of 2011. He was sentenced to life in jail by a court in Abu Dhabi last week after he was

Sports

Fallible Sebastian Vettel takes stock as Ferrari lick wounds

Raikkonen bids farewell to Italian team with an early retirement

ABU DHABI: Sebastian Vettel, so graceful in his handling of defeat by Lewis Hamilton in this year's drivers' title race, yesterday began serious reflections on his and Ferrari's disappointing season and a harsh self-examination.

The four-time champion German, whose Ferrari car was often the fastest on the grid, conceded he had to look at himself first and the team secondly after he had finished second behind new five-time champion Hamilton in Sunday's season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

"I don't think I ever have any problems raising my hand if I made a mistake," he said, conceding that in 2018 he had made a few. "I have to look at myself first." In a spectacular season that saw the title race ebb and flow as Ferrari and Mercedes battled for supremacy before an exceptional purple patch from Hamilton secured both titles for the Silver Arrows, Vettel was, he admitted fallible.

"Knowing as well, as a racing driver, how quickly things can go wrong, how quickly things could have gone differently this year, I think I have to review a couple of things," he said. "But there's other things that went wrong and don't need a lot of reviewing or over-complicating too much. 'I know what I need to do. Certainly, here and there, looking back I haven't been at the top of my game so... I look at myself first...'"

In his home German Grand Prix, Vettel crashed out of the race lead and handed the initiative in the title race to Hamilton who, in the rain, claimed a famous victory. In Italy, at Ferrari's home race, he tangled with Hamilton on the opening lap with a similar outcome - another Hamilton

triumph that added to the gathering momentum of the 33-year-old Briton.

While Vettel admitted his own faults, he was prepared also to concede that Ferrari had not been faultless in an inconsistent season overshadowed by team upheavals following the death of Sergio Marchionne.

"Things didn't come together so obviously we did a step back towards the end of the year, which enabled us to be more competitive again," he said, explaining how the team had been forced to abandon an update package that saw them under-performing.

"But I think we've understood what went wrong. We obviously will try to do a better job in the future. That was one key thing. On the other hand, I think we had a lot of lessons. It was a tough year in general. 'The team is strong and the team has potential, but surely it was a lot of things that happened inside the team...'"

"It's up to us to look into every single detail and make sure we come out as a stronger group, enabling us to build a stronger package for next year and for the future."

Vettel will be joined at Ferrari next year by a new teammate in Monegasque prodigy Charles Leclerc who replaces Finn Kimi Raikkonen in a bid to rejuvenate the drivers' line-up and add competitive focus.

On Sunday, Raikkonen bade farewell to the Italian team with an early retirement after losing power. It was a downbeat end to an often colourful career with Ferrari before he moves to Sauber, but a signal that Ferrari are ready for change. — AFP



ABU DHABI: (From L) Ferrari's German driver Sebastian Vettel (2nd), head of Mercedes-Benz motorsport F1 communications Bradley Lord, Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton (1st) and Red Bull's Dutch driver Max Verstappen (3rd) celebrate on the podium after the Abu Dhabi Formula One Grand Prix at the Yas Marina circuit on Sunday, in Abu Dhabi. — AFP

Foes Hamilton and Vettel swap helmets

ABU DHABI: In a rarely-seen showing of competitive camaraderie, Lewis Hamilton and Sebastian Vettel swapped crash helmets to demonstrate the mutual respect between them after Sunday's Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

The five-time champion Briton, of Mercedes, and four-time champion German, of Ferrari, finished first and second in Sunday's race and have won eight of the last nine drivers' championship titles.

"The ultimate respect between racing drivers," said Mercedes yesterday in a comment on Twitter alongside a short video clip of the pair exchanging their head-wear. The duo have scrapped for the last two world titles with Hamilton coming out on top both times, but their rivalry has been characterised by a fair sporting relationship.

Hamilton said the exchange of their helmets was an honorary gesture that was comparable to players swapping shirts after football matches. "This is kind of an honorary thing that drivers do, so this is the highest regard of respect that we can have as drivers," he said in the video post. "This is like our jerseys. So here's one of mine..."

"Great job this year and it's a real pleasure racing against you."

Vettel said he had been "looking forward" to making the swap with Hamilton for the first time. "Well done to you," he responded. "Five championships—that is a great achievement. I hope I stop you from any more." As the pair smiled and posed, Hamilton told Vettel he will not "be able actually to use it" because the



ABU DHABI: Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton celebrates after winning the Abu Dhabi Formula One Grand Prix at the Yas Marina circuit on Sunday. — AFP

German driver has "a small head."

The goodwill between the two leading championship contenders produced a warm glow to the end of a memorable season and Hamilton's 11th victory of the year. But the race may be remembered as much for the opening lap crash that resulted in German driver Nico Hulkenberg's airborne barrel-roll into the barriers where he was left hanging upside down until marshals rescued him as flames began to erupt from his car.

He escaped unhurt and was able to joke about being 'near the barbecue' after the race as speculation mounted that his car's 'halo' cockpit protection device may have been hampered his extraction.

That was quelled yesterday when Formula One's official race director Charlie Whiting said that the halo on his Renault had not slowed his extraction at the Yas Marina Circuit. Hulkenberg had said he felt and was "hanging like a cow" before he was rescued.

Asked if the halo was a problem in the

extraction of Hulkenberg, Whiting said: "No, not at all. We knew he was okay. There's nothing to worry about there. 'The routine under those circumstances is to put the car back on its wheels... which has to be done carefully, of course."

"He was able to get out by himself. It was very controlled from what I could see. Our medical delegate was more than happy with the way it was done. It all worked exactly as it should. 'When you have an accident like that, the radio from the car is automatically routed to race control, so that we get immediate information."

"Drivers normally say 'I'm fine' or 'I'm okay'. So we get that and we relay that to the doctors on the way to the scene, so they know that he's okay. 'Then, they can take their time to get the car righted and just let him get out. Quite clearly, it's one of the sort of accidents that the halo was designed to help with because it provides more space for the driver once the car is upside down.' — AFP



ABU DHABI: McLaren's Spanish driver Fernando Alonso walks ahead of the Abu Dhabi Formula One Grand Prix at the Yas Marina circuit on Sunday, in Abu Dhabi. — AFP

make a comeback after taking a break in 2019 to try and win titles in other motorsports.

"Right now, I am not thinking to come back ... but I don't know how I will feel next year. I need a break now - in 2019 I need different challenges."

"I want to fight for the 'triple crown', the Indy 500 and other iconic races. Maybe Daytona. Maybe other things."

Some observers will have smiled at seeing him hit with three penalty points on his licence-for cutting the track in his final race and collecting three five-second time penalties in the race as he battled to win a point.

He appreciated the gesture from race winner Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes and second-placed Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari when, in a special tribute, they gave him space to drive with them in a synchronised display of donut spins during the slow-down lap.

"It was a good in-lap," he laughed. "It was improvised and not planned. I saw them doing donuts at turn eight and turn eleven so I caught up."

"Then, one car was on the left, one was on the right, and we kept going like this until the start-finish line. So, I'm really thankful to them for the nice gesture and it was nice to celebrate by seeing the chequered flag."

He admitted, too, that he had not had time to absorb the scale and impact of F1's many messages of praise and good luck.

"Each time I go to my room, I look at my telephone and I see hundreds and hundreds of messages," he said. "I sit down in the chair and somebody knocks on the door to tell me to go out and see a new person."

"So, literally, I've had no time. I need a little bit of time for myself to realise what a magic weekend that I've had." — AFP

Alonso departs with donuts, praise and penalties

ABU DHABI: Fernando Alonso said goodbye to Formula One on Sunday amid a fanfare of crowd-pleasing donut spins, generous tributes and a handful of post-race penalties from the FIA.

After walking through a guard of honour before the start of the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, Alonso pulled on his helmet and delivered a dogged drive that took him to 11th in his final outing with McLaren.

It was a metaphor for much of the Spaniard's career: he nearly finished in the points, just as he nearly became the greatest champion of his era and nearly won titles with Ferrari.

Despite two drivers' world crowns won with Renault, in 2005 and 2006, the 37-year-old Spaniard leaves behind a feeling that his was an unfulfilled career in F1 and a legacy that is as much about his personality as his talent.

"I have been very surprised because I have raced with great champions," he said. "I raced with Michael (Schumacher, a seven-time champion), I raced with Jensen Button."

"And, two or three years ago, in the same place, it was his last race and no-one had all the things that I have received this weekend. So, I cannot say thanks enough to everyone."

However Alonso hinted he might even

Jansrud wins season's Super-G in Lake Louise

LAKE LOUISE: Norway's Kjetil Jansrud completed another strong performance in the opening Super-G race of the World Cup season, blazing to victory ahead of runner-up Vincent Kriechmayr on Sunday.

The 33-year-old Sochi Olympic champion clocked a winning time of 1min 33.52sec at Lake Louise to get his World Cup Super-G title defence off to a roaring start. Jansrud finished 0.14sec head of Austria's Kreichmayr while Swiss Mauro Caviezel was third in 1:33.73.

Jansrud, who also won in Lake Louise in 2014 and 2017, now has 22 World Cup victories, including 12 in Super-G. He finished a disappointing 14th the day before in the downhill which was won by Max Franz of Austria.

His Norwegian compatriot and six time winner of the Super-G at Lake Louise Aksel Lund Svindal placed fifth with a time of 1:34.09. Hannes Reichelt of Austria was fourth with 1:33.96.

Svindal was hampered by a hand



ALBERTA: Kjetil Jansrud of Norway celebrates after winning the Audi FIS Alpine Ski World Cup Mens 2019 Super-G race at the Lake Louise ski resort in Alberta, Canada on Sunday. — AFP

injury he suffered in training last week. The win gives Kriechmayr the lead in the overall World Cup standings with 130 points. Franz is second with 122 and Jansrud third at 120.

The next stop on the circuit is Friday at Beaver Creek, Colorado where a downhill, Super-G and giant slalom are on the programme. — AFP

Ireland lead the charge for All Blacks' World Cup crown

LONDON: Reigning champions New Zealand may remain the team to beat at the 2019 World Cup in Japan but November's internationals confirmed that Ireland are hot on their heels.

New Zealand top the world rankings but Ireland, Wales and England occupy the next three places in the standings.

The 2015 World Cup saw the southern hemisphere provide all four semi-finalists but, based on current form, it will be a major shock if no European side makes the last four next year.

Having waited more than a century for a first win over New Zealand, Ireland's 16-9 defeat of the All Blacks in Dublin on November 17 was their second in three matches following a 40-29 success in Chicago two years ago.

The win over New Zealand helped Ireland win the world team of the year award on Sunday.

This month's victory over the All Blacks was notable for an Irish defence organised by former England assistant coach and dual code international Andy Farrell—the father of England fly-half Owen—preventing the usually potent All Blacks from scoring even one try.

Afterwards, New Zealand coach Steve Hansen said of Ireland: "As of now they are the number-one team in the world."

"So if you want to make them World Cup favourites, go ahead. I guess they are favourites."

His Ireland counterpart and fellow New Zealander Joe Schmidt, a leading contender to succeed Hansen, was having none of it.

"We'll take tonight and we'll leave the World Cup for 11 months' time," said Schmidt, who was voted coach of the year. Ireland are the reigning Six Nations Grand Slam champions and lost just once in 2018.

Yet there are fears over how their relatively small playing base will cope should the likes of first-choice players such as outstanding fly-half Johnny Sexton—who made it an Irish awards triple with the player of the year award—be ruled out through injury.

Another worry is how Ireland, who have never reached a World Cup semi-final, shoulder the burden of expectation. Ireland have long enjoyed the role of 'plucky underdogs' but that is no longer a credible position for Schmidt's men.

New Zealand do have playing depth, while the way fly-half Beauden Barrett dropped goals against England and Ireland indicates a pragmatic edge is being added to their running game.

England finished 2018 with an impressive mix of forward power and stylish back-line play during a 37-18 win over Australia, the 2015 losing finalists, at Twickenham. It meant they had won three of their four November Tests, the lone loss an agonising 16-15 defeat by New Zealand. — AFP

Sports

England claim landmark Test series sweep in Sri Lanka

Wicketkeeper-batsman Foakes named man of the series

COLOMBO: Skipper Joe Root hailed England's "complete team-effort" yesterday after his team sealed a tense victory over Sri Lanka in the third and final Test to record their first overseas series sweep in 55 years.

In the face of stubborn Sri Lankan resistance, spinners Jack Leach and Moeen Ali took four wickets each to set up the 42 run win inside four days in Colombo. Needing 327 for an unlikely victory, Sri Lanka reached 284.

Leach trapped captain Suranga Lakmal lbw for 11 to trigger celebrations for England who have not won all the games in an overseas series of three or more Tests since Ted Dexter's side won 3-0 in New Zealand in 1963.

It was the third time Sri Lanka have been white-washed at home after India last year and Australia in 2004. The third Test highlighted England's pool of talent with Leach coming in as the third spinner with Ali and Adil Rashid, and Ben Foakes taking the wicketkeeper's gloves but also scoring big runs.

"That's been a big secret in our success-being able to bring different guys in, and pick a team that is going to take 20 wickets and score enough runs to put teams under pressure," said Root.

"The experienced players have taken the extra

responsibility. It's been exceptional. It's been a complete team effort, it's been a great tour," said Root, who has set the target of overtaking India as world number one Test team.

"It's easy for me to sit here and take all the compliments but without that squad of players pushing each other, being willing to learning and improving, we wouldn't have achieved what we have," Root said at the post-match presser.

But Sri Lanka did not give up without a fight. Kusal Mendis, who hit a gritty 86, and Roshen Silva, who made 65, put on 102 runs for the sixth wicket to launch Sri Lanka's resistance campaign on a turning wicket.

Number 11 Malinda Pushpakumara also gave England a scare with his unbeaten 42 off 40 deliveries, lifting the hosts from 226-9 and raising hopes of a miracle. Leach broke the Mendis-Silva stand with a brilliant one-handed pick-up and bullet throw at the non-striker's end that got Mendis out. He had started the day on 15 and registered his seventh Test fifty with eight fours and a six.

Silva hit a fighting half-century but was finally trapped lbw by Ali. Leach also ended the 58-run last wicket stand, claiming Suranga on the fourth ball of the



COLOMBO: Members of the England cricket team pose for a group photo after winning against Sri Lanka by 42 runs during the fourth day of the third Test match at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) international cricket stadium in Colombo yesterday. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third and final Test between Sri Lanka and England in Colombo yesterday:

England 1st innings 336 (J. Bairstow 110; L. Sandakan 5-95)
Sri Lanka 1st innings 240 (D. Karunaratne 83; A. Rashid 5-49)

England 2nd innings 230 (J. Buttler 64; D. Perera 5-88)
Sri Lanka 2nd innings (target 327 - overnight 53-4, K. Mendis 15, L. Sandakan 1)

D. Gunathilaka c Stokes b Moeen 6
D. Karunaratne b Moeen 23
D. de Silva lbw b Leach 0
K. Mendis run out (Leach) 86
A. Mathews c Broad b Stokes 5
L. Sandakan c Stokes b Leach 7
R. Silva lbw b Moeen 65
N. Dickwell c Jennings b Leach 19
D. Perera c Jennings b Moeen 5
S. Lakmal lbw b Leach 11

M. Pushpakumara not out 42
Extras: (b8, w5, nb2) 15
Total: (all out, 86.4 overs) 284
Fall of Wickets: 1-15 (Gunathilaka), 2-24 (de Silva), 3-34 (Karunaratne), 4-52 (Mathews), 5-82 (Sandakan), 6-184 (Mendis), 7-214 (Dickwell), 8-225 (Perera), 9-226 (Silva), 10-284 (Lakmal)
Bowling: Broad 5-0-14-0 (w3), Moeen 26-3-92-4, Leach 28.4-4-72-4, Stokes 8-1-25-1 (w2, nb1), Rashid 19-1-73-0 (nb1)
Result: England beat Sri Lanka by 42 runs.

final session. "It went a couple of hours longer than I would have liked to," admitted England coach Trevor Bayliss who nonetheless hailed the series win as a "just reward". England were bowled out for 230 in their second innings on Sunday with Jos Buttler making a crucial 64 after they had fallen to 39-4 against the opposition spinners.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Foakes, who hit a century on debut in the opener in Galle, made an unbeaten 36 in the second innings. He was named man of the series for leading the batting chart with 277 runs including a ton and a half-century. Jonny Bairstow, returning from injury, made his presence felt with 110 in England's first innings of 336

after they elected to bat first.

Rashid then claimed five wickets with his leg spin to help dismiss Sri Lanka for 240 as the tourists built a crucial lead. However Sri Lanka coach Chandika Hathurusingha said the hosts fought hard in a series that was not as one-sided as the result reflected.

"I thought it was a very closely fought series especially the last two games. The difference between the two teams was very little," said hathurusingha. "I thought England handled tough situations well."

The whitewash sealed a complete domination of the tour by England who clinched the one-day internationals 3-1 and the only Twenty20 match. — AFP

Pakistan sniff win as Yasir spin destroys NZ

DUNAI: Leg-spinner Yasir Shah wrecked New Zealand with a career best eight wicket haul as Pakistan sniffed victory on the third day of the second Test in Dubai yesterday. The 32-year-old grabbed 8-41 in 12.3 overs which annihilated New Zealand to 90 all out in just 35.3 overs before taking two more wickets as New Zealand-following on-were 131-2 at close in their second innings.

Yasir dismissed opener Jeet Raval for two before accounting for New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson caught behind for 30 to complete his third ten-wicket haul in the match. Tom Latham (44) and Ross Taylor (49) were at the crease at close as New Zealand need another 197 runs to avoid an innings defeat while Pakistan can level the series by taking another eight wickets with two days to play.

New Zealand won the first Test in Abu Dhabi by four runs last week to gain a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. Taylor has hit six boundaries and a six in his return-to-form innings while Latham has hit three boundaries as the two have added 65 for the unbroken third wicket stand to take the fight to the Pakistan bowlers.

But the day belonged to Yasir, who rocked New Zealand in the first innings. He also became the first Pakistani to take ten wickets in a single day, ninth in the world with England's left-arm spinner Johnny Briggs doing it twice.

"When I was coming to the ground I was



DUBAI: New Zealand batsman Tom Latham (R) watches the ball after playing a shot next to Pakistani skipper and wicketkeeper Sarfraz Ahmed during the third day of the second Test cricket match between Pakistan and New Zealand at the Dubai International Stadium in Dubai yesterday. — AFP

thinking that I must get ten wickets in the match, but never thought it will come in a single day," said Yasir. "I came from injury and didn't get the needed rhythm against Australia (last month) but now I am getting it and very happy to achieve this feat," said Yasir.

Rain had delayed the start of the third day by an hour but when the action started Yasir was lightening, bowling to his best ability on a turning Dubai stadium pitch. Yasir dismissed Latham (22), Taylor (nought) and Henry Nicholls (nought) in his ninth over, triggering a collapse during which New Zealand lost all their ten wickets for just 40 runs after being well set on 50 without loss.

Yasir's bowling figures-his 15th five-wicket

haul-beat his previous best of 7-76 against Sri Lanka at Galle in 2015 and also the best against New Zealand. Intikhab Alam (7-52) held the record for Pakistan's best bowling against New Zealand, achieved at Dunedin in 1973.

New Zealand, resuming at 27 without loss, lost Raval in an unfortunate way as he tried to reverse sweep Yasir but the ball deflected off his bat to his thigh and hit the stumps.

Raval top-scored with 31. From 50-1 it became 61-2 when Yasir had Latham caught at short-leg by Imam-ul-Haq off the first ball of his ninth over. Two balls later he bowled experienced Taylor with a beautiful delivery that turned and beat the forward push by the batsman. — AFP

Champions Australia already eyeing home soil T20 defence

SYDNEY: Australia's women cricketers are already eyeing the defence of their World Twenty20 crown on home soil after cruising to victory over England, with skipper Meg Lanning saying their focus must now be on consistency.

Their eight-wicket win in Antigua on Saturday was Australia's fourth world title in the short-format and they are desperate to make it five when the tournament is next played in early 2020 at home.

"The T20 World Cup is in Australia in 2020, which is going to be massive and I think we've shown that we can be the world's best team," Lanning said Sunday. "We want to be a very consistent cricket team and I think we have done that over the last few years without the success at world tournaments. So hopefully this win is sort of the start of something."

"We've really put together an amazing squad and support staff to be able to move the game forward and be part of the women's game, which is going to grow so much over the next couple of years," she added.

The popularity of women's cricket in Australia has soared in recent years and organisers of the next T20 World Cup are confident more than 90,000 fans will watch the final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Eight cities across Australia will host games. All-rounder Ashleigh Gardner starred with bat and ball in Antigua with the English restricted to 105 all out off 19.4 overs. In reply, Australia reached the target with the loss of just two wickets in the 16th over.

Lanning said the win was particularly sweet after defeat in the 2016 T20 final in Kolkata and last year's 50-over World Cup semi-final exit. "The last couple of World Cup exits for us hurt our team a lot. And we spoke about that as a group and not hiding away from that fact," she said.

"But I think that the biggest thing has been that we've been able to learn and really grow as a group. "Our culture is fantastic and we're just really enjoying what we do, and I think we showed that out there (in Antigua)." — AFP

Raptors hot streak continues, Vucevic scores 31 for Magic

LOS ANGELES: Kawhi Leonard delivered 29 points and 10 rebounds as the NBA-leading Toronto Raptors won their fifth consecutive game by cruising past the Miami Heat 125-115 on Sunday. Kyle Lowry finished with 12 points and 10 assists for the Raptors, who are off to their best 21-game start in history with 17 wins and four losses.

Jonas Valanciunas had 17 points and 10 rebounds, and Pascal Siakam finished just two points shy of his career best with 21 points. Veteran Dwyane Wade turned back the clock by scoring a season high 35 points. It was the most points ever for a Heat player coming off the bench, but they still lost for the seventh time in their last nine games.

And that won't cut it against Toronto, who are 11-0 against teams with losing records. Josh Richardson scored 19 points and Bam Adebayo had 16 points and a career-high 21 rebounds in the loss. The Raptors, who made a season-high 17 three-pointers in Friday's win over Atlanta, shot 11 for 35 from beyond the arc against the Heat.

Elsewhere, Nikola Vucevic finished with 31



TORONTO: Bam Adebayo #13 of the Miami Heat rebounds the ball against the Toronto Raptors on Sunday at Scotiabank Arena in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. —AFP

points and 15 rebounds as the Orlando Magic snapped the Los Angeles Lakers' three-game winning streak with a 108-104 victory. Terrence Ross had 16 points including a clutch layup with 34 seconds left as the Magic beat the Lakers for the second time in eight days. On November 17, Orlando defeated Los Angeles 130-117.

"We're trying to build something, and wins like these can really help you build some momentum," Vucevic said. Aaron Gordon had 17 points and D.J. Augustin added 12 points and nine assists for the Magic.

LeBron James had 24 points and seven

assists for the Lakers, who have won six of their last seven NBA games. Kyle Kuzma scored 21 points and Brandon Ingram added 17. The Magic used a rock-solid defense and some timely scoring by Gordon and Vucevic to outscore the Lakers 35-19 in the third quarter and seize a 86-71 lead.

James and Kuzma were a combined zero-for-five in the quarter in which the team shot just five-of-21. James said they need to become more consistent. "Defensively, we kind of broke down and the energy level was a little lower than our expectations, and they took advantage of that," James said. —AFP

ICC bids for women's T20 in Birmingham Commonwealth Games

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has submitted a bid for the inclusion of women's Twenty20 in the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, the governing body said yesterday.

Cricket has not featured in the quadrennial Games since its maiden appearance in 1998 when the South African men's team won the gold medal in Kuala Lumpur. "Cricket and the Commonwealth are inextricably linked and almost perfectly aligned with 910 million of cricket's one billion plus adult fans from Commonwealth countries," ICC chief executive David Richardson said in a statement.

"Creating a new partnership between women's cricket and the Commonwealth Games demonstrates the commitment both organisations have to growing women's sport..." Birmingham is the per-

fect place to launch this partnership as 23 percent of its residents have links to cricket-playing nations outside the United Kingdom, Richardson said.

"If cricket were to be staged in these Games, we know every team competing would be guaranteed 'home' support. There's a ready-made audience and ready-made infrastructure in the local vicinity," he added.

Cricket Australia (CA) were quick to support the bid two days after their women's team won the World Twenty20 crown in West Indies. "It's exciting to think that cricket could potentially feature at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham," CA chief executive Kevin Roberts said in a statement.

"We are committed to cricket being a sport of choice for women and girls in Australia, and with the ICC T20 World Cup in our backyard in 2020, we know the popularity of the women's game will continue to rise in the coming years," he said.

Cricket, which has struggled to grow beyond its traditional bases, was last played at the Olympics in the 1900 Paris Games. The ICC has been pushing for the game's Olympic return with the 20-over format but the powerful Indian board has not been very keen on it, fearing it might lose its autonomy and be answerable to the country's Olympic committee. — Reuters

Sports

Laporte set to show France what they are missing in Lyon

Pep Guardiola's trust in the centre-back is indisputable

LONDON: Aymeric Laporte may still be trying to win the confidence of France coach Didier Deschamps, but as Manchester City travel to Laporte's homeland to face Lyon today, Pep Guardiola's trust in the centre-back is indisputable.

Signed for a then club record £57 million (\$73m) in January, there was skepticism as to whether City needed to splash out once more for a centre-back after investing more than £80 million in John Stones and Nicolas Otamendi and the return to fitness of captain Vincent Kompany.

On his arrival from Athletic Bilbao, Laporte took time to settle in his new surroundings with all three of his Champions League outings last season ending in defeat. However, having had a full summer under Guardiola's orders in pre-season as he missed out on Deschamps' World Cup-winning squad, Laporte has become the stalwart of a City defence that has conceded just eight goals in 19 games.

In an incredibly deep squad with choices aplenty for Guardiola, the 24-year-old is the only outfield player to have played every single minute of Champions League and Premier League action. "I can move the squad but when one player plays good, good and good, it gives me confidence so I give you another opportunity. It is not complicated," said Guardiola to explain why Laporte has not been rotated.

Another is the fact Laporte has continued to be overlooked by France despite his solid start to the season with the likes of Crystal Palace's Mamadou Sakho and veteran Adil Rami retaining Deschamps' faith instead. "Sooner or later Laporte will be selected for France because it is difficult to find a better left central defender than him in the world," insisted Guardiola.

"But of course it is good for the team for some of

our players that are not selected for their countries to get rest." Three international breaks in the past three months have given Laporte the rest and recovery time he needs while many of his team-mates have been putting tired bodies on the line after the World Cup in the Nations League.

"Laporte didn't have the World Cup, was fresh and arrived in top condition and especially he is a left-footed player," added Guardiola, highlighting another key attribute the Frenchman has over the likes of Stones, Otamendi and Kompany.

"He helped us to make our build-up and when the ball comes from the right, he immediately controls to the left and plays it to Leroy (Sane) quicker than we would play with a right-footer in that position."

Laporte's ability to build from the back was why he caught Guardiola's eye as a teenager at Athletic when playing against his coach's all-conquering Barcelona side. Only Chelsea's Jorginho, another one-time City target, has completed more passes in the Premier League this season and Laporte also has the third most touches in the league.

Another routine 4-0 for the English champions at West Ham on Saturday began with Laporte winning possession inside his own half and not panicking when pressed to find Fernandinho in the build-up to the visitors' opener at the London Stadium.

City are out to avenge the only blip in a near-perfect season so far when they last faced Lyon to open their Champions League campaign in September and lost 2-1. A run of 12 wins and a draw at Liverpool in 13 games since has put them back on top in England and within a point of sealing a place in the last 16 of the Champions League. With Laporte an ever-present, France's loss has been City's gain. — AFP



LONDON: File photo shows Manchester City's Spanish manager Pep Guardiola (R) speaks with Manchester City's Argentinian striker Sergio Aguero (L) from the touchline during the English Premier League football match between West Ham United and Manchester City at The London Stadium, in east London on November 24, 2018. — AFP

Mbappe hoping everything 'clicks into place' for PSG

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain's teenage superstar Kylian Mbappe has told AFP that, for all the Qatar-owned club's huge investments in recent years, they will need the breaks to fall their way if they are to finally fulfil their dream of winning the Champions League.

The French giants face Liverpool in a crunch group game at the Parc des Princes tomorrow, when a defeat could end their hopes of even reaching the knockout rounds, unthinkable for a club with their ambitions.

They may have won all 14 Ligue 1 games this season under new coach Thomas Tuchel-meaning a successful defence of the domestic title is inevitable-but PSG underperformed in a 3-2 defeat in Liverpool.

Two draws against Napoli followed, and now another defeat against Jurgen Klopp's side and a win for Napoli against Red Star Belgrade at the same time would send Paris packing. "We have struggled a bit so far, but we are still in the running and we have our fate in our own hands. I think that in order to win a com-

petition you need things to click into place," Mbappe said in an interview with AFP.

"There are games in which you think, at first sight, that nothing unusual is going to happen. And then there is maybe a little moment in the game-it can be a half, or a spell in which you are on top-and your team grows in confidence and things go in your favour, to take you far in a competition like this."

It is not just on the field that PSG need things to go their way, with Tuchel currently sweating on the fitness of both Mbappe and Neymar for tomorrow's game. Mbappe came off with a shoulder injury during France's friendly against Uruguay last week, while Neymar hurt a groin playing for Brazil the same night. Both players watched from the stands as PSG laboured to a 1-0 win over Toulouse at the weekend.

An injury to Neymar cost Paris dear against Real Madrid in the Champions League last season, and they will be desperate to have both players fit.

Mbappe, meanwhile, knows exactly what it takes at this level, having starred in France's glorious World Cup campaign in Russia, scoring in the 4-2 final win over Croatia. He also reached the semi-finals of the Champions League with Monaco two seasons ago. In contrast, Paris endured four consecutive exits in the quarter-finals before back-to-back last-16 losses in the last two seasons.

But Mbappe—who turns 20 next month-believes

PSG can learn from France's campaign in Russia, and sees their 4-3 win over Argentina in the last 16 as a reference point. "At the World Cup, during the group stage, nobody thought we would go on to win it," said the forward. "I had said our aim was to win it and people laughed at me a bit. So it can be difficult to look too far forward, all the more so in the Champions League where there are so many matches."

PSG have not beaten one of Europe's biggest names since a 3-0 win over Bayern Munich during the group stage last season, and they can ill afford another below-par performance against Liverpool.

"We are not missing much. It is not much but at the same time it is a lot, because in top-level football it is the little details that are the most important," admitted Mbappe, who has netted 13 times in 13 games this season. What Mbappe has achieved is incredible given his age, and he is now hoping for a signature performance in Europe for PSG before finding out whether his glorious year will be capped by the Ballon d'Or. Mbappe is one of the finalists for the prize, with the ceremony taking place in Paris next Monday.

"I always say that the Champions League is the best competition in terms of coming up against top-level players. "It is a real pleasure to play against great defenders, it helps you progress and brings out the best in you. It is just a pleasure. I want more of it!" — AFP

Matches on TV
(Local Timings)

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AEK Athens v Ajax Amsterdam beIN SPORTS	20:55
CSKA Moscow v Viktoria Plzen beIN SPORTS	20:55
Bayern Munich v SL Benfica beIN SPORTS HD 5	23:00
Manchester United v BSC Young Boys beIN SPORTS HD 2	23:00
Juventus FC v Valencia C.F beIN SPORTS HD 1	23:00
Olympique Lyonnais v Manchester City beIN SPORTS HD 3	23:00
AS Roma v Real Madrid CF beIN SPORTS HD 1	23:00
TSG 1899 Hoffenheim v Shakhtar Donetsk beIN SPORTS	23:00

Genoa offers to host Copa Libertadores final

MILAN: Genoa offered River Plate and Boca Juniors yesterday the opportunity to play the second leg of the postponed Copa Libertadores final in the Italian city after it was postponed for a second time on Sunday.

The clash between the Buenos Aires arch-rivals was due to be played on Sunday after initially being postponed on Saturday following an attack on the Boca team bus by River fans bus near the Monumental stadium, which left Boca players with injuries from shards of broken glass and suffering the effects of smoke inhalation.

But the match, dubbed the biggest in the history of Argentine football, was postponed for a second time by South American football federation Conmebol, after Boca had called earlier demanded that River face a series of punishments including forfeiting the match.

"Our city, which historically, culturally and through sport, is close to Buenos Aires, feels a deep-rooted link to your two prestigious clubs founded by our countrymen who emigrated from Italy to Argentina in the early 1900s, and today twinned to our two clubs Genoa and Sampdoria," a letter addressed to the presidents of the two clubs by Genoa deputy mayor Stefano Anzalone read.

The north-western port city of Genoa-still reeling from the deaths of 43 people when a bridge collapsed in August-offered River and Boca the opportunity to play the game at the city's Marassi stadium.

"The painful recent events which have hit us, have reawakened a profound sense of community and of rediscovering our roots: therefore, as Sports Chief Executive of the Municipality of Genoa, I am communicating to you that our city would be honoured and makes itself available to host this important and prestigious Cup final and Argentine capital derby.

"We are at your disposal for anything you may need." Conmebol chief Alejandro Dominguez is due to meet with the Boca president Daniel Angelici and River Plate counterpart Rodolfo D'Onofrio today to decide on a date for the fixture which had been 2-2 after the first leg. — AFP

Klopp praises Firmino as Brazilian ends goal drought

LONDON: Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp has praised "unbelievably valuable" Roberto Firmino after the Brazil forward ended his two-month Premier League goal drought in the 3-0 victory against Watford.

He also had a hand in Mohamed Salah's opener on Saturday and won the free-kick for Trent Alexander-Arnold to make it 2-0. Firmino, who is playing a deeper role, has just six goals for club and country this season-and only two in his past 15 outings-but Klopp is in no doubt about the player's quality.

"In the game against Fulham, 20 German coaches were in the stadium," said Klopp. "I'm not sure how the critics were but when I saw them and we had a drink together, they were saying 'Bobby Firmino. What a player.'"

"Because of the small things he's doing, he's working so hard, he's here, he's there, he's got six goals but he opens 5,000 gaps for everybody." "He's doing the job," added Klopp. "That makes him so unbelievably valuable for us. I'm really happy for him."

Unbeaten Liverpool have a club-record 33 points at this stage of a Premier League season and are just two points behind leaders Manchester City. The Reds have not set pulses racing as much as they did last season, when they got to the Champions League final and finished fourth, but Klopp feels their new-found patience and pragmatism is paying off.

"I don't read what you make of it but I sometimes see in your eyes that you don't understand me," he said. "The thing is we have to win football games but people compare a game against Watford with a game against Roma.

"It's not really the same, but it's in their mind about the sort of football we played last season. In some games we played not that nice football and didn't get a result but nobody remembers it." — AFP



TURIN: Juventus' Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo (c) plays with a ball during a training session on the eve of the UEFA Champions League group H football match Juventus vs Valencia yesterday in Turin. — AFP

Red-hot Ronaldo gunning for revenge against Valencia

TURIN: Cristiano Ronaldo is in hot form and gunning for revenge going into today's Champions League clash against Valencia after seeing red against the Spaniards in the away leg, with Juventus needing a draw in Turin to book their ticket to the knockout rounds of the European competition. "Happy to have helped the team on another important win," the 33-year-old wrote on social media after scoring his tenth goal this season for the Italian giants in Saturday's 2-0 win over SPAL as Juventus opened up a record eight-point lead on the top of Serie A after 13 games.

Ronaldo was purchased by Juventus for 100 million euros (\$113 million) from Real Madrid last summer to help their quest for the elusive Champions League title after finishing runners up twice in the past four seasons. But the Portuguese superstar is also proving to be a key element in the team's race towards an eighth straight Serie A title, with nine goals and five assists of their 28 goals this sea-

son. No Italian team have ever achieved 37 points from the first 13 games, with Ronaldo becoming the fastest forward in the club's history to score 10 goals in all competitions.

"I don't not care about the numbers. I don't count anything, the important thing is that we take it home in May," said coach Massimiliano Allegri. Next up is a Group H return leg clash against Valencia, who beat Rayo Vallecano 3-0 in La Liga at the weekend, but are midtable in Spain.

Juventus are top of the group with nine points after four games, with Manchester United two points behind and the Spaniards on five. Ronaldo's Champions League debut for Juventus in September was marred when he was controversially sent off in tears after half an hour for a small push on Valencia defender Jeison Murillo in Spain.

The red card was his first in 154 Champions League appearances, but Juventus still went on to beat the Spaniards 2-0. Ronaldo scored his first Champions League goal for Juventus and the 121st of his career against Manchester United in Turin earlier this month before a stunning comeback gave his former club a 2-1 win to delay the Italians' passage to the last 16.

Despite his success on the pitch-leading the way in Europe with 31 goals this calendar year for both Real Madrid and Juventus-Ronaldo missed out on the world player of the year award to Croatia's Luca Modric.

There are also reports he has been snubbed for the final three in the Ballon d'Or for the first time since 2008, with the winner to be revealed in Paris on December 3.— AFP

25 Alonso departs with donuts, praise and penalties



26 England claim landmark Test series sweep in Sri Lanka



27 Red-hot Ronaldo gunning for revenge against Valencia



Rivers, Chargers pummel Cardinals

Thielen, Cousins carry Vikings past Packers



CARSON: Running back Justin Jackson #32 of the Los Angeles Chargers is tackled by defensive back Tre Boston #33 of the Arizona Cardinals in the third quarter at StubHub Center on Sunday in Carson, California. — AFP

CARSON: Philip Rivers threw for 259 yards and three touchdowns while also setting an NFL record for consecutive completions to start a game, and the Los Angeles Chargers overcame a double-digit deficit and rolled to a 45-10 victory Sunday against the Arizona Cardinals in Carson, Calif. Rivers completed his first 25 pass attempts against the Cardinals, breaking the record of 22 set by the Washington Redskins' Mark Brunell in 2006. Rivers also tied the record for consecutive completions overall with Ryan Tannehill, who set his mark over consecutive games. Rivers finished 28 of 29 and was given the fourth quarter off. He also set a single-game record for completion rate at 96.6 percent (minimum 11 attempts). His only incompletion came late in the third quarter as he attempted a short pass while getting hit as he threw. The Chargers found themselves in a 10-0 hole in the first quarter, after the Cardinals (2-9) got a 25-yard Josh Rosen-to-Larry Fitzgerald TD pass and a 30-yard Phil Dawson field goal. Rivers led Los Angeles (8-3) to 45 unanswered points from there, 28 coming in the second quarter alone.

VIKINGS 24, PACKERS 17

In what was practically an elimination game for the NFC playoff race, Minnesota dominated Green Bay en route to a win at Minneapolis. Kirk Cousins completed 29 of 38 passes for 342 yards and three touchdowns as the Vikings (6-4-1) moved into the NFC's top wild-card position. Adam Thielen tortured the Packers (4-6-1) for eight receptions, 125 yards and one touchdown. With injuries galore, the Packers needed a big game from Aaron Rodgers. Instead, the quarterback was 17 of 28 for 198 yards and one touchdown. Green Bay fell to 0-6 on the road, including losses at the Los Angeles Rams, New England Patriots, Seattle Seahawks and Minnesota in the past five weeks.

COLTS 27, DOLPHINS 24

Andrew Luck threw three touchdown passes, and Adam Vinatieri booted a game-winning, 32-yard field goal on the final play as host Indianapolis rallied to defeat Miami. The Colts (6-5) have won five straight games. Miami (5-6) lost for the fourth time in five games. Indianapolis trailed 24-14 with less than nine minutes remaining in the fourth quarter before Luck, who has a streak of eight straight games with at least three TD passes, led the comeback. He completed 30 of 37 passes for 343 yards, overcoming two intercep-

tions. His biggest play came on third-and-9 from the Indianapolis 43 on what became the game-winning drive. Luck narrowly escaped a sack and tossed a 34-yard pass to Chester Rogers to the Miami 23, setting up the winning field goal.

BRONCOS 24, STEELERS 17

Nose tackle Shelby Harris intercepted Ben Roethlisberger in the end zone with 1:07 left, and host Denver beat Pittsburgh. Case Keenum passed for 197 yards and two touchdowns, rookie Phillip Lindsay had 110 yards rushing and a score and Emmanuel Sanders had seven catches for 86 yards and a touchdown for the Broncos (5-6). It was the second straight game in which the Broncos beat a team entering on a six-game win streak. The Steelers (7-3-1) committed four turnovers. Roethlisberger was 41 of 56 for 462 yards passing, one touchdown and two interceptions, and JuJu Smith-Schuster had 13 receptions for 189 yards and a 97-yard score.

SEAHAWKS 30, PANTHERS 27

Sebastian Janikowski kicked a 31-yard field goal on the final play as Seattle defeated Carolina in Charlotte, N.C. Seattle (6-5) scored 10 points in the final 3 1/2 minutes to capture a matchup of two teams likely to be jockeying for wild-card positioning in the NFC. The Panthers (6-5) have lost three in a row. Carolina kicker Graham Gano was wide right on a 52-yard field goal attempt with 1:40 left. Seattle, without any timeouts, took over at its 42-yard line. On third down, Russell Wilson threw a 43-yard strike to Tyler Lockett to take the ball to the Carolina 10, setting up Janikowski.

EAGLES 25, GIANTS 22

Jake Elliott kicked three field goals, including a 43-yarder with 22 seconds remaining, to lift host Philadelphia past New York. Josh Adams rushed for a touchdown and Carson Wentz threw for a score as the Eagles (5-6) snapped a two-game losing streak. Philadelphia also defeated New York (3-8) for the fifth straight game. Giants rookie Saquon Barkley rushed 13 times for 101 yards and a touchdown while also catching seven passes for 41 yards and a score.

PATRIOTS 27, JETS 13

Tom Brady threw two touchdown passes and became

the NFL's career leader in total yards passing for the regular season and postseason combined, and New England overcame a slew of penalties to beat New York in East Rutherford, N.J. Brady completed 20 of 31 passes for 283 yards as New England (8-3) beat the Jets (3-8) for the 13th time in the past 15 meetings. Brady entered the game 147 yards shy of passing Peyton Manning's career mark of 79,279 and accomplished the feat on a 4-yard pass to rookie Sony Michel in the second quarter. He also reached the 3,000-passing-yard mark for the 16th time, tying Manning for the second-most behind Brett Favre's 18 seasons. Brady reached 3,000 yards on a 17-yard pass to Josh Gordon early in the fourth.

BILLS 24, JAGUARS 21

Josh Allen totaled 259 yards and two touchdowns for Buffalo in a victory over Jacksonville at Orchard Park, N.Y. Buffalo's rookie quarterback returned after missing four games with an elbow injury and led the Bills (4-7) to a second straight win. Allen completed 8 of 19 passes for 160 yards, including a 75-yard touchdown pass to fellow rookie Robert Foster. He also ran 13 times for 99 yards to set a franchise record for quarterback rushing, adding a scoring run. The Jaguars (3-8) were doomed by penalties (10 for 90 yards) and ineffective play from Blake Bortles (12 of 23 for 127 yards, one touchdown, two interceptions) in their seventh straight loss. Jaguars running back Leonard Fournette and Bills defensive end Shaq Lawson were ejected after exchanging punches in the third quarter.

RAVENS 34, RAIDERS 17

Rookie quarterback Lamar Jackson ran for one touchdown and passed for another while improving to 2-0 as a starter in host Baltimore's victory over Oakland. Jackson, started for the second consecutive week because of a hip injury to Joe Flacco and helped the Ravens (6-5) strengthen their playoff hopes. He completed 14 of 25 passes for 178 yards with two interceptions and rushed for 71 yards on 11 carries. Fellow rookie Gus Edwards gained 118 yards on 23 carries. Baltimore made Jackson's job easier with a defensive touchdown and a special teams touchdown. Derek Carr completed 16 of 34 passes for 194 yards and a touchdown for the Raiders (2-9), who finished with just 249 total yards, including 67 rushing. — Reuters

Vialli reveals cancer battle

MILAN: Former

Juventus and Chelsea striker Gianluca Vialli yesterday revealed that he has been battling cancer for the past year. Vialli, 54, who also scored 16 goals in 59 games for Italy and is now a popular TV pundit, told Italian daily Corriere della Sera that he hoped that his story would "inspire people".

"I'm fine now, very well indeed," said Vialli, who won a host of trophies over his playing and short managerial career, including the Champions League with Juventus and two Serie A titles.

"It's been a year and I'm back to having a beastly physique, although I still have no certainty of how this match will end. "I used to wear a sweater under my shirt so no-one noticed anything. I was still the person everyone knew."

Vialli has just published his second book 'Goals, 98 stories +1 to face the most difficult challenges'. "I hope my story can inspire people, who are at crucial intersections of their lives, and I hope mine is a book to keep on the bedside table so people can read one or two stories before falling asleep or in the morning as soon as they wake up," he said.

"Another key phrase that came up during my treatment, hanging on a yellow post-it on the wall, was this: 'We're the product of our thoughts'. "The important thing isn't winning; it's thinking like a winner. Life is made up of 10 percent for what happens to us and 90 percent for how we deal with it.—AFP



Gianluca Vialli