



5 KSHR holds workshop, seminar to present its programs and activities



21 Iran's saffron seeks global recognition



24 Mauritania camelback mission seeks to win hearts and minds



28 Lowry rallies Raptors to sixth straight win, Warriors up next



Amir opens state-of-the-art Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital

Hospital to begin first phase of operations next week

Amir welcomes assembly action on PM's grilling

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah yesterday welcomed in a letter to the National Assembly the action taken by MPs to refer a grilling against the prime minister to the legal and legislative committee to review if it complies with the constitution. In the letter, the Amir said he felt comfortable over the democratic atmosphere in the session on Tuesday and expressed his esteem for the Assembly for understanding the calls in his earlier letter to deal with wisdom with the issue.

The Assembly on Tuesday voted 41 to 20 to refer the grilling filed by opposition MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri to its legal and legislative committee to study it and submit a report back to the Assembly. HH Sheikh Sabah said he is confident that the high level of responsibility exhibited by a majority of MPs will motivate the Assembly to continue the democratic march that will help achieve national interests.

Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem thanked the Amir for his letter. Ghanem also said that the Assembly will work to amend some errors in the

Continued on Page 24

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah attended and patronized yesterday the opening of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital. HH the Amir was received at the venue by Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Hmoud Al-Sabah and senior officials at the health ministry. The ceremony was also attended by HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and senior officials of the state.

Delivering his speech at the event, Sheikh Basel said that the opening of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital is a historic event in Kuwait's healthcare history. The Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital went through various challenges and phases; however, with the strong directives by HH the Amir and the tremendous efforts by all those who were involved in the construction, the dream was brought to reality, said the minister.

The main building of the hospital consists of five towering 10-storey structures built on an area of 220,000 sq m, said the minister, adding that the total area on which the whole project was constructed stretches around 725,000 sq m. Sheikh Basel said that the hospital's bed capacity is around 1,168 with 36 operation rooms, a medical center, a helipad and a parking lot accommodating some 5,000 vehicles. The opening of the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital adds another milestone in the Kuwaiti leadership's development vision, affirmed Sheikh Basel, who thanked HH the Amir for all his efforts.

Health Ministry Undersecretary Dr Mustafa Redha said that the hospital will add to the bed capacity of medical facilities in Kuwait, to reach over 160,000.

Continued on Page 24



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah opens the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital in the presence of Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and senior officials of the state yesterday. — KUNA (See Page 3)

Zain KSA to sell, lease mobile tower network for \$648m

RIYADH: Zain Group announced that the board of directors of Zain Saudi Arabia (Zain KSA) approved an offer to sell and lease back the passive physical infrastructure of its mobile tower portfolio to IHS Holding Limited (IHS) for SAR 2.43 billion (\$648 million). IHS is the largest independent tower operator in Europe, Middle East and Africa by tower count and the third largest independent multinational tower company globally. Zain KSA has more than 8,100 mobile telecommunication towers located in prime and strategic locations across the Kingdom.

Under the terms of the agreement, Zain KSA is selling only its passive, physical infrastructure to IHS and will retain its intelligent software, technology and intellectual property with respect to managing its network. The agreement also involves a lease back period of 15 years, with a five-year renewal option and building of an additional 1,500 towers over next six years. (See Page 11)



Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO; and Vice-Chairman of Zain Saudi Arabia

India govt defers registration rule after NRI outcry

By Sajeev K Peter

KUWAIT: The India government has decided to keep "in abeyance" a controversial decision to make online registration mandatory for non-emigration check required passport holders travelling for work to 18 countries, a notice published on India's External Affairs Ministry's website yesterday said. It said the decision to defer the mandatory registration has been taken following "complaints from various quarters" who pointed out several flaws in the rule involving practical difficulties in registering on www.emigrate.gov.in.

An advisory issued by the ministry on Nov 14, 2018 had stated that registration is mandatory and must be completed on the e-migrate portal between

21 days and 24 hours prior to the date of travel. The decision was to take effect on Jan 1, 2019. It had stated that those who fail to register and receive confirmation by SMS/email will not be allowed to board their flights. The announcement had created consternation and concerns among non-resident Indians (NRIs) in Kuwait, with many complaining that decision was 'arbitrary' and would lead to unwanted travel chaos as it affects all non-ECR passport holders already working in these countries.

M C Luther, Joint Secretary and Protector General of Emigrants at the ministry, made the announcement yesterday with the approval of the competent authority. "With reference to the Ministry of External Affairs advisory dated 14 November, 2018 on the above subject, it is informed that the ministry has been receiving representations from various quarters, including non-ECR passport holders already employed in ECR countries, regarding difficulties faced by them in registering on www.emigrate.gov.in," the statement said.

"Indian missions in those countries also have forwarded representations received by them from the

Continued on Page 24

Egypt unearths eight mummies; ancient mask found in W Bank

CAIRO/JERUSALEM: Egyptian archaeologists have discovered eight mummies dating back over 2,300 years at a pyramid complex south of Cairo, authorities said yesterday. "The Egyptian archaeological mission working at the south eastern area of King Amenemhat II's pyramid in Dahshur Necropolis has uncovered a number of ancient burials with eight coffins," the antiquities ministry said in a statement. The mummies, dating from the Late Period of ancient Egypt, are "covered with a layer of painted cartonnage in the form of a human", the statement said. "Three of them are in good condition."

Cartonnage, a material often consisting of a mixture of linen or papyrus and plaster, was frequently used to cover mummies. The ministry said it planned to eventually put the mummies and the limestone sarcophagi they were found in on display at museums set to be built in the resort hubs of Hurgada and Sharm el-Sheikh. The Dahshur complex, some 30 km south of Cairo, was a major royal burial site that boasts the well-



DAHSHUR, Egypt: Handout picture released yesterday shows a newly-uncovered mummy at a pyramid complex south of Cairo. — AFP

known "bent pyramid" of King Snefru. In April 2017, the remains of an Egyptian pyramid built around 3,700 year ago were discovered at the complex.

Meanwhile, the Israel Antiquities Authority unveiled what it said was a rare 9,000-year-old stone mask



JERUSALEM: An Israeli archeologist holds a rare stone mask at the Rockefeller archeological museum yesterday. — AFP

linked to the beginnings of agricultural society. The pink and yellow sandstone object was discovered in a field at the Jewish settlement of Pnei Hever, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, said the IAA.

Continued on Page 24

KSHR: 56% of employers don't pay indemnity to domestic helpers

KUWAIT: A study by the Kuwait Society for Human Rights showed that more than 56 percent of sponsors refuse to pay the end of service indemnity to domestic helpers, who make up 27 percent of the total expat workforce in Kuwait. The study titled "The rights of domestic help in Kuwait between theory and practice through law 68/2015" was conducted to measure the extent of compliance of the law by domestic helpers, sponsors, labor offices and rights societies that deal with domestic helpers.

It revealed the majority of employers included in the study agreed to grant a return ticket to the helper's country of origin at the end of the contract (90.75 percent), while those not in favor made up 8 percent, as this is part of the rights mentioned in the law. The study said 56.64 percent of employers refused to pay end of service indemnity to the domestic helper, although the law gives them this right, as the law treats domestic workers similar to those in the private sector, who receive indemnity that is equal to 15 days' salary

Continued on Page 24

Local

Amir receives senior state officials at Bayan Palace

Amir congratulates Kuwaiti racer for Mideast title

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday. His Highness also received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received His Highness the Prime Minister, as well as Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

In other news, His Highness the Amir has cabled the racing champion Meshari Al-Dhafiri, expressing congratulations on winning, for the fourth time, the gold in the Group-N and the title, the champion of the Middle East rallies 2018, in Lebanon. His Highness the Amir lauded Dhafiri's distinguished accomplishment that depicted the Kuwaiti youth high-level sports' capacities. Their Highnesses the Crown Prince and the Prime Minister addressed cables of similar content to the champion. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos

Zain community partner of sixth Qout Market

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced its Community Partnership of the sixth season of Qout Market, Kuwait's largest artisanal farmers gathering. This year, the event will take place next to Discovery Center starting from Saturday December 1, 2018, and will continue on every first Saturday of every month until March 2019.

Zain is eager to play a vital role by partnering with Qout Market as part of its ongoing efforts of empowering local talents who contribute to shouldering the national economy. The company's solid and well-focused Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy continuously works towards identifying initiatives like Qout Market that carry a clear objective of developing local talents.

Zain will be participating in the event through its own dedicated booth, where the company will showcase its latest promotions and offerings for the consumers segment, both prepaid and post-paid, in addition to offering exclusive offers to Qout Market visitors. The company will also showcase its latest promotions for the enterprise sector, mainly small and medium sized businesses (SMEs). Zain will also dedicate a section of its booth to showcasing the portfolio of innovative services and solutions under its Zain LIFE brand, enabling customers to try and experience a wide range of smart home, health and fitness, lifestyle, and entertainment solutions.

Qout, the community-based farmers market, helps and supports local farmers and artisans to exchange thoughts and ideas while offering the opportunity for visitors to express their opinions towards the products available. Qout Market has a proven record of success, having attracted over 15,000 visitors in previous seasons. The market's selection of vendors includes a combination of fresh produced items as well as handmade items where people can stop by to enjoy on the spot.

Zain expressed its ongoing keenness in supporting events that uplift local talents to higher levels, by encouraging outstanding projects and ideas. Zain's support is aimed at investing in the creative abilities of Kuwaiti entrepreneurs, preparing them to engage in the business world by encouraging them further and nurturing innovation within their businesses.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Premier Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Chief justice stresses importance of judicial cooperation with Iraq

KUWAIT: Chairman of Kuwait's Supreme Judicial Council and the Cassation Court and President of the Constitutional Court, Justice Yousef Al-Mutawaa, stressed yesterday the importance of cooperation between Kuwait and Iraq in the judicial field. This came in a statement issued by the Ministry of Justice after Mutawaa received a high-level Iraqi judicial delegation headed by President of the Judicial Council and Court of Cassation, Judge Faiq Zaidan Al-Aboudi.

According to the statement, Justice Mutawaa stressed on the need to implement judicial decisions relating to the citizens of both parties and their interests, calling for the establishment of a committee or organization that enhances judicial cooperation between Kuwait and Iraq. Meanwhile, the head of the Iraqi delegation expressed thanks to judge Mutawaa for his warm welcome and expressed his sincere desire to enhance cooperation and coordination in all issues of mutual interest. Earlier yesterday, Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem received Mutawaa and the visiting President of Iraq's Supreme Judicial Council. The meeting was attended by a number of Parliament members. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Chairman of Kuwait's Supreme Judicial Council Justice Yousef Al-Mutawaa presents a memento to Iraq's President of the Judicial Council and Court of Cassation Judge Faiq Al-Aboudi. — KUNA photos



Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem meets with President of the Supreme Judicial Council of the Republic of Iraq Faiq Zaidan Al-Aboudi.

Saudi investors in Kuwait to explore opportunities

KUWAIT: A Saudi trade delegation is currently visiting the country to discuss prospected joint enterprises by businessmen from the two neighboring countries. The Saudi delegation's visit aims at discussing opportunities for investment and commercial cooperation by businesspersons from the two brotherly countries, said Imad Al-Zaid, the assistant director general at the Kuwaiti Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in a statement as he hosted the Saudi guests yesterday. He affirmed keenness on examining the Saudi experience in backing up small and medium enterprises.

Meanwhile, Faisal Al-Sultan, manager of a Saudi investment program, 'Tomouh,' said the Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority of Saudi Arabia (Monsha'at) encourages small businesses. The program links up leading Saudi business persons with counterparts abroad. The Kuwaiti market, he says, is a prime objective, noting the aspiration to make "partnerships with Kuwaiti business persons and exchange expertise." — KUNA

French envoy thanks Kuwait for successful military drill



KUWAIT: Ambassador of France to Kuwait Marie Masdupuy speaks during the reception.

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Ambassador of France to Kuwait Marie Masdupuy hosted a reception on Tuesday for soldiers participating in the sixth 'Pearl of the West' military exercises that will end on Nov 30. Masdupuy said the military exercises between the French army and its Kuwaiti counterpart is carried out with live ammunition. The armies of both countries conduct the joint military exercises to boost the combat readiness of troops. It is held regularly every four years. "We are now living in a time of tough challenges, especially in the region, where war has been raging and tearing apart countries. This year's military exercise is historic because France has never deployed such a large



French army personnel in attendance. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

number of military personnel in an exercise," she said during the reception's welcoming speech.

"Pearl of the West in the eyes of our Kuwaiti friends means France, and we are touched by the hospitality and confidence bestowed to us by our Kuwaiti partners. It implies a lot with regards to the depth of our relationship. The current number of military personnel from France in Kuwait is above 1,000. Approximately half of them are coming from our base in the UAE and the rest directly from France," she said. With regards to military equipment being used in the exercise, she said most of it is from their military base in the United Arab Emirates.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank both the head of this military exercise and the top

military men and personnel of both countries. I would like to thank them for the extensive contribution they made for the success of the Pearl of the West 2018 military exercises. Thanks to the Kuwaiti side that really exerted a lot of efforts for this wonderful exchange of experiences which took place between the military men. Our deep gratitude goes to the Kuwaiti armed forces, and on behalf of our chief of staff, I would like to express our sincerest gratitude to General Al-Dhafiri for the conduct of the exercise," she said. Troops fired live ammunition during the exercises held at Camp Udaira's shooting range northwest of Kuwait City. The two-week Kuwaiti-French military exercises will conclude on Saturday.

Local

Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital boosts Kuwait's total bed capacity to 160,000

Largest in the Middle East and sixth largest in the world



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and Minister of Health Sheikh Dr Basel Humoud Al-Sabah pose with officials at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital yesterday. —Amiri Diwan photos

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah attended and patronized yesterday the opening of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital. His Highness the Amir was received at the venue of the celebration by Minister of Health Sheikh Dr Basel Humoud Al-Sabah and senior officials at the Ministry of Health.

The ceremony 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 officials of the state. After speeches by the Health Minister and other ministry officials, a documentary depicting the different stages of construction was screened for the attendees. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad received presents during the ceremony.

Considered the largest in the Middle East and the sixth largest in the world, the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital was built on an overall area of 725,000 square meters, and includes a bed capacity of 1,168 with 36 operation rooms, a medical center, a helipad, and a parking lot accommodating some 5,000 vehicles. The hospital, which starts receiving citizens next week, adds to the total bed capacity of medical facilities in Kuwait to reach over 160,000. The government considers the hospital's inauguration a major achievement under the 'New Kuwait' vision for 2035 in terms of providing quality health care to Kuwaiti citizens. — KUNA



Minister of Health Sheikh Dr Basel Humoud Al-Sabah



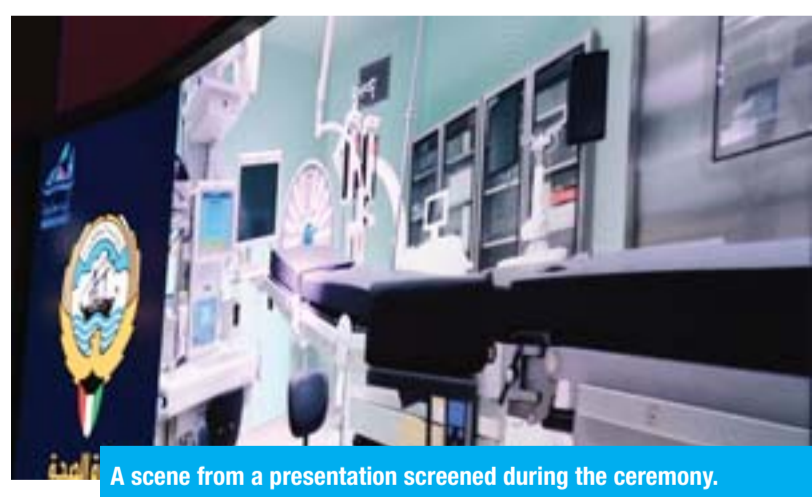
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and top state officials attend the inauguration of the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital.



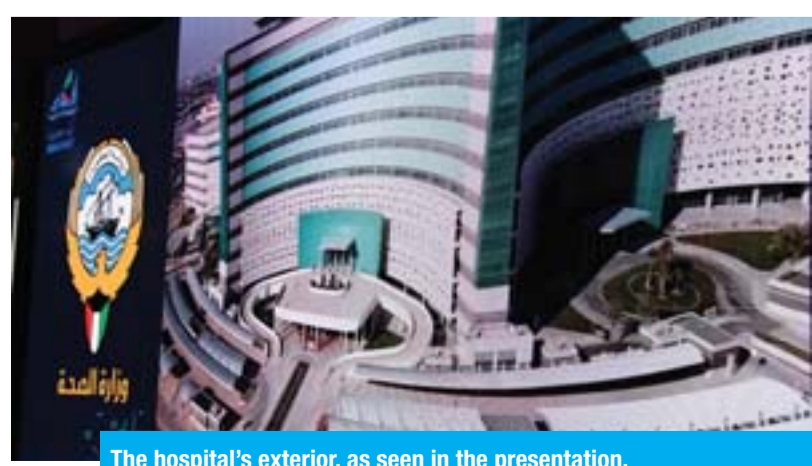
(From left) Minister of Health Sheikh Dr Basel Humoud Al-Sabah, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem cut the cake during the ceremony.



Officials watch a presentation depicting the different stages of the hospital's construction.



A scene from a presentation screened during the ceremony.



The hospital's exterior, as seen in the presentation.



(From left) His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and Minister of Health Sheikh Dr Basel Humoud Al-Sabah enter the venue.



Children greet His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during the ceremony.

Local

Government to push demographic structure discussion to next year

Compulsory departure deprives Kuwait of needed expertise

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The issue of the demographic structure on the National Assembly's agenda will be moved to the sessions of the new year, because the government did not complete its report in this regard, informed sources said. Moreover, the government does not want to discuss this subject because MPs are very strict with proposals that are difficult to implement at this time, including the quota for each community.

The government has a comprehensive vision to deal with the population structure, but this will not materialize before 10 years, said the sources, adding that the government cannot reduce expats by 50 percent as some MPs are demanding, while stressing that the government is ready for legislations to get rid of marginal laborers only.

The sources said the issue is in the hands of Social Affairs and Labor Minister Hind Al-Sabeh, and several proposals have been submitted, some of which the government can implement. The sources said the government began issuing decisions to limit work permits for marginal workers, while other decisions will be issued to ban the transfer of visit visas to work permits for some communities in particular.

According to the sources, the policy of replacing expatriate labor with Kuwaiti employees is proceeding according to plan, yet state departments continue to hire expatriate workers through contractors against recommendations of the Civil Service Commission. The govern-

ment is going to launch mega projects that require thousands of expat workers, but is ready for legislations with the National Assembly to retain specialized labor and send home those whose mission is completed at the project, the sources said. The government is also rejecting a parliamentary proposal that compels an expat to leave after five or 10 years in the country, adding that the government believes such a move will deprive Kuwait from the expertise it needs.

Corruption accusations

The implementations department at the justice ministry sent an employee to the prosecution after discovering the transfer of large amounts of money to another account other than that it was supposed to be transferred to. An informed source said there were transactions in which money was transferred to citizens' accounts - such as rent amounts through IBAN - but the employee transferred the money to a different account.

Car auctions

The commerce and industry ministry called for allocating a plot of land for its diwan and another for car auctions and heavy equipment in Kabd with an area of 500,000 sq m. Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Technical Support and Planning Dr Abdullah Al-Owaisi told in a letter to the Municipality Director General to order concerned departments to hasten decisions in this regard.



The National Assembly.

Cops questioned over alleged cases' fabrication

KUWAIT: The supervision and inspection department at the interior ministry is questioning several police officers over allegedly fabricating cases against citizens and expatriates after complaints of malicious use of authority. Al-Qabas reported. Sources said that Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Lieutenant General Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and the ministry's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Essam Al-Nahham insisted that injustice must be lifted from any person who is maliciously treated and hold the officer to account.

According to the sources, one of victims, an Arab man held at the deportation center on accusations of using and possessing drugs, complained that a policeman framed him due to disputes at his company. The victim asked to be tested to confirm the use of drugs, but the officer refused and sent him to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) instead; from which he was sent to Talha deportation center, the sources explained.

Smugglings foiled

Airport customs officers arrested an Afghan national with nearly 400 illicit tablets that he tried to smuggle into Kuwait, Al-Anbaa reported yesterday. Member of the customs information committee Nawaf Al-Matar said an officer at Saad Al-Abdullah Airport noticed the passenger becoming nervous when he approached him, so his luggage was searched and the 400 tablets were found. Separately, Nuwaiseeb customs officers foiled an attempt by Gulf nationals to smuggle out 50 cartons of cigarettes and 15 Muassel (shisha tobacco mix) containers. The suspects and goods were sent to concerned authorities, reported Al-Anbaa.

Interior Minister meets Romanian security official

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Lieutenant General Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah yesterday discussed with Director of Romania's Foreign Intelligence Service (SIE) Gabriel Vlase issues of common concern. The Interior Ministry's General Directorate of Relations and Security Information said in a press statement that Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah welcomed the visiting Romanian guest at the beginning of the meeting and held cordial talks with him on issues of mutual interest, especially in relation to security fields. Meanwhile, Vlase stressed on strengthening security relations between the two friendly countries. The meeting was attended by Undersecretary of Ministry of Interior Lieutenant General Essam Salem Al-Nahham and Chief of the State Security External Apparatus, Sheikh Mubarak Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Lieutenant General Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah meets with Director of Romania's Foreign Intelligence Service (SIE) Gabriel Vlase.

Ministry struggles to provide school buildings

KUWAIT: The Education Ministry is facing a crisis in providing school buildings as the number of people in older areas is on the increase with the rise in rent val-

ues in new areas, an educational source said. The ministry rejected requests of tens of investors who asked for either allowing them to use some of its old buildings, or allocate lands to build private schools, Al-Rai reported yesterday.

As for land allocation requests, the source said that the ministry agreed to place them in the list of requests from many investors, but as for providing the buildings, it said "the ministry does not have any school buildings that meet the purpose it was requested for."

Twelve requests were received in 2018 alone from various educational establishments in all educational

systems, the source said. He added that the rejection was for all, and no applications were approved for any investor because of the scarcity of buildings, and also because several government departments are using these buildings including the defense, public works and health ministries.

The source hoped matters will be reconsidered at the education ministry with regards to granting plots of land to the private education sector and granting priority to investors in the Arabic system, as major areas suffer from a scarcity of Arab schools, including Ahmadi.



KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry announced a detour on the Fifth Ring Road between Fordous and Andalus towards Messliya and Salmiya, starting from tomorrow morning.

Kuwaiti woman sets record by crossing King Fahad bridge

KUWAIT: Kuwait's women have been playing an outstanding role on local, regional and international levels in all fields, particularly sports. They do not hesitate to be engaged in any competition on all Arab, Gulf and international arenas that place them in a distinguished status. One of the Kuwaiti females making success in sports is Iman Al-Gharabally who managed to cross King Fahad bin Abdulaziz bridge linking Saudi Arabia to Bahrain by her motorcycle.

In statements to the press, Gharabally, a member of the Harley-Davidson team of Kuwait, said that she wanted to add a new accomplishment to the history of the Kuwaiti women. Kuwait's women could make achievements on international level, thanks to the state's backing, she clarified. She noted that Kuwait's females have succeeded in many

fields, especially motorcycling which has risks, explaining that this sports was confined only to men.

Gharabally said that she considered crossing the bridge after Saudi Arabia announced that it permitted women to drive cars. She went to say that the matter did not end with just taking part in this risk, but rather to be the first woman, who could cross the bridge. Gharabally pointed out that she was encouraged and backed by her family, mainly her brother, and friends to participate in this adventure. She indicated that she crossed the bridge in this timing as Saudi Arabia's authorities agree on motorcycling on the bridge only during organizing international or Arab festivals like Harley-Davidson Owners Group. She noted that she received also backing from Harley-Davidson league of Kuwait, Harley-Davidson league of Bahrain and others to enable her to succeed in this risky round.

The Kuwaiti heroine, finally, expressed her gratitude to Saudi Arabia and Bahrain's authorities for good reception, wishing both Arab and Kuwaiti women further success. She advised those women to overcome difficulties to achieve their goals, urging the juniors to learn well the rules of driving and abide by safety and security standards while motorcycling. — KUNA



KUWAIT: A man was injured when his sports utility vehicle (SUV) lost balance and overturned at Fahaeel Highway. Firefighters rushed to the scene as soon as the accident was reported, and they freed the victim who was trapped in his wrecked vehicle. Paramedics then transported the man to hospital. An investigation was opened into the accident. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun



Iman Al-Gharabally (left) with other Harley-Davidson group members.



KUWAIT: Industrial Shuwalkh, Shuhada and backup centers responded to a fire reported in a warehouse. The prevention department issued a citation due to violations that increased the risk of fire. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

Kuwait Society for Human Rights holds workshop, seminar

Several books published to raise awareness of people's legal rights



KUWAIT: Manal Bouhaimed, board member at Kuwait Society for Human Rights (KSHR), speaks during a workshop held at KSHR yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: As part of efforts to protect and promote human rights, the Kuwait Society for Human Rights (KSHR) organized a workshop yesterday to present its programs and activities in the past year. It presented several books published to raise awareness of people's legal rights in various sectors. The workshop aimed at improving the mechanisms being implemented by the society, including hotlines and apps hosted by the society, along with the five booklets translated in six languages (Arabic, English, Tagalog, Urdu, Hindi and French).

Manal Bouhaimed, board member at KSHR, said their work is completely voluntary and to help the Kuwaiti government improve its human rights record. "We are doing this work in partnership with the Public Authority for Manpower, Domestic Labor Department, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor and the Ministry of Information," she said. "We do not stop just by raising awareness - we go as far as helping physically. We

now have hotlines and people are calling the hotlines to inquire and make complaints. We help them by providing lawyers and translators," she said.

According to Bouhaimed, the program is now in its third stage and KSHR is currently reevaluating the results of stage 2. "We held this workshop today because we want to reevaluate the effectiveness of the programs. Every program and activity has to be evaluated. There are many challenges, strengths, weaknesses and opportunities we've seen in the programs and we are happy that all stakeholders are well represented here under the umbrella of 'support' and 'togetherness,'" she noted.

KSHR is a non-profit non-governmental organization closely working with the government to promote human rights in accordance with international standards set by the United Nations. KSHR's work started in Kuwait in 1988 and it was officially recognized in Kuwait in Nov 2004. For more inquiries about the program, please visit www.together.org, www.kuwaithr.org.



Booklets translated in six languages

Kuwaiti medical team achieves global results in TAVI operations

KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti medical team from the Chest Hospital has revealed global results in the treatment of the Aortic valve by catheterization (TAVI), which is the installation of valve through the catheter without the need for surgical intervention. Dr Ibrahim Al-Rashdan, a member of the team, consultant on heart diseases and catheterization, said yesterday that thanks to accumulated experience, the Kuwaiti medical team at the Chest Hospital achieved great international results through conducting such operations.

Rashdan added that the Chest Hospital received the first license to conduct the catheterization procedure about 10 years ago as the first center in the Middle East. He explained that the medical team conducts the TAVI operations now on a regular basis one day a week at the rate of 200 operations per year, indicating that this number of operations puts the Chest Hospital in the first place in the region. He pointed out that the narrowness of the Aortic valve is one of the most common heart disease, especially in the elderly who suffer from the disease which has several symptoms such as shortness of breath, chest pain and loss of consciousness. He said that the Kuwaiti medical team has conducted these operations very professionally without the need to use expertise from outside Kuwait or send patients abroad. He pointed out that these operations were conducted previously through surgical intervention in the open heart operation to replace the Aortic valve with an artificial valve, noting that the process takes four hours and the patient needs to stay in the hospital for a period of not less than a week and need for a rest period of more than a month, whereas the TAVI operation only takes less than half an hour.



KUWAIT: The specialized Kuwaiti medical team performs an operation.— KUNA

Meanwhile, consultant of cardiac catheterization and head of the catheterization unit at the Chest Hospital Dr Khalid Al-Marri said in a similar statement that the medical team conducts four TAVI operations weekly and this is one of the highest in the region. Marri pointed out that the process is done by inserting the artificial valve into the patient's body through the artery located in the thigh after giving anesthesia to the area to avoid pain to the patient until it reaches the narrow Aortic valve and install it.

Marri said that all patients are followed periodically under a rigorous research protocol to ensure success of the results of the catheter and compare them with the global results, indicating that long-term results match the results of the world centers if not surpass them. "The new treatment has greatly contributed to the treatment of many of the previously difficult conditions, since the patients are not fit to carry open heart surgery," said team member Dr Khalid Bursali, and head of the ultrasound unit. He added that the results and figures of the treatment of aortic valve through the catheter (TAVI) in the Chest Hospital have become comparable to the results of global centers, indicating that the work of the Kuwaiti medical team is not limited to this procedure, but includes training and education of doctors inside and outside Kuwait. — KUNA



HUAWEI Mate20
CO-ENGINEERED WITH

WELCOME TO
A HIGHER INTELLIGENCE

AVAILABLE NOW



WORTH
KWD 21



International

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2018



Indian forces kill Kashmir militant

Black people face 'widespread prejudice' in EU

Page 8

Page 7



ZHANGJIAKOU: Members of the Chinese military inspect the area after an explosion near a chemical factory in Zhangjiakou, some 200km northwest of Beijing yesterday. —AFP

Blast kills 23 in northern Chinese city

Truck carrying combustible chemicals explodes

ZHANGJIAKOU: A truck carrying combustible chemicals exploded at the entrance of a chemical factory in a northern Chinese city that will host the 2022 Winter Olympics yesterday, leaving 23 people dead and 22 others injured, state media and authorities said. The blast ignited other vehicles, leaving charred and smoking remains of trucks and cars scattered on a road as firefighters worked at the scene, according to images posted online by state media. A witness told AFP he heard a "very loud bang" after midnight and saw a field and trucks engulfed in flames outside the factory in Zhangjiakou, a city some 200 kilometres (124 miles) northwest of Beijing.

The side of a building was covered in soot in front of a row of burnt out trucks across the road, footage broadcast by CCTV showed following the latest deadly incident to hit a factory in China. The blast damaged 38 trucks and 12 cars, the local propaganda

department said on its Twitter-like Weibo social media account. The injured were taken to hospitals for treatment following the blast at 00:41 am, according to the department. The death toll rose from 22 to 23 later in the day after another body was found, according to the city government.

The factory's and exterior archway were blackened. Across from the blast, AFP reporters saw a field of blackened grass and trees, with smoke billowing from the embers. Heavy machinery was brought in to remove debris. A truck carrying acetylene blew up when entering the plant, igniting nearby vehicles, according to the official Xinhua news agency, which cited a preliminary investigation. Rescue efforts and the investigation were still underway, Xinhua said. The Zhangjiakou propaganda department said the blast occurred near Hebei Shenghua Chemical Co., but Xinhua later reported

that it happened at the entrance of nearby Haipo'er New Energy Technology Co.

'A fireball'

"It was after midnight when I put down my phone to go to bed when I heard a very loud bang, followed by a few more," said a man named Zhang who works in another chemical factory some 200 metres (yards) from the blast site. "There was a shaking and two pieces of the ceiling fell. I thought it was an earthquake so I hid under a bed for a while," he said.

"When I looked out of the window I saw a large fireball sweep across the area," said Zhang, whose car was singed. He awoke others in his dormitory and they ran to safety. "Even the grass outside our factory was on fire, so we quickly put it out," he said. Beijing is hosting the 2022 Winter Games, with some of the mountain sport competitions taking place on the out-

skirts of Zhangjiakou. The explosion occurred in the city's Qiaodong district. Snowboard, cross-country skiing and freestyle skiing events will be held some 45 minutes away in Chongli.

Industrial, road accidents

Road and industrial accidents are common in China. A blast at a chemical plant in southwest Sichuan province left 19 dead and 12 injured in July. The company had undertaken illegal construction that had not passed safety checks, according to local authorities. In 2015, giant chemical blasts in a container storage facility killed at least 165 people in the northern port city of Tianjin. The explosions caused more than \$1 billion in damage and sparked widespread anger at a perceived lack of transparency over the accident's causes and its environmental impact.—AFP

Republican wins racially-charged US Senate runoff

WASHINGTON: A Mississippi Republican who drew scorn for making racially insensitive comments managed to hold her US Senate seat Tuesday in the final race of 2018, networks projected, avoiding what could have been an embarrassing setback for President Donald Trump. Incumbent Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith was leading Democratic challenger Mike Espy, a former congressman, by 54.4 percent to 45.6 percent with 94 percent of precincts reporting, according to Fox News and NBC.

The runoff in the Republican stronghold between Hyde-Smith, who is white, and Espy, who is black, came under national scrutiny when unsettling remarks by the senator—who said she would attend a "public hanging" for a supporter—were widely interpreted as alluding to Mississippi's history of lynchings and other racist violence. Hyde-Smith's victory preserves the 53-47 majority that Republicans will hold in the Senate when the new Congress convenes in January, even as Democrats gained at least 39 seats in the House of Representatives, with one race still left to be called. It also allowed Trump to dodge a political bullet in the Deep South, which under normal circumstances is reliable Republican territory.

"Congratulations to Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith on your big WIN in the Great State of Mississippi," Trump tweeted. "We are all very proud of you!" Trump held a pair of 11th-hour campaign rallies in Mississippi to prop up Hyde-Smith's campaign, which had nearly derailed due to her remarks that Espy and others criticized as racist and un-democratic. "Mr. President, thank you so much for all of your help," Hyde-Smith said during a victory speech, stressing that the race was about preserving the "conservative values" of the state. "Mississippians know me and they know my heart, and thank you for



MISSISSIPPI: US Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS) speaks during an election night event at The Westin Hotel in Jackson, Mississippi. — AFP

stepping up," she added.

'Not the end'

Hyde-Smith becomes the first woman elected to Congress from Mississippi. She was appointed to the Senate in April to replace Republican Thad Cochran, who stepped down for health reasons, and will now serve the remaining two years of his term. Democrats were hoping political lightning could strike twice within a year in the South, after Democrat Doug Jones scored a shock Senate upset last December in neighboring Alabama. It was not to be in Mississippi, a state politically divided largely along racial lines, as voters cast ballots in the final Senate contest of the midterm elections and the final referendum on Trump in 2018. Espy sought to frame his defeat as a strong showing for a party seeking to make inroads ahead of 2020 elections in a state where racial tensions still run deep.

"Make no mistake—tonight is the beginning, not the end," tweeted Espy, who once served as agriculture secretary under president Bill

Clinton. "When this many people show up, stand up, and speak up, it is not a loss. It is a moment. It is a movement." Hyde-Smith, a former state lawmaker, should have glided to victory. But she startled observers this month when she said she would be "on the front row" if one of her supporters "invited me to a public hanging." Days later she was recorded telling a small group at a university that it would be "a great thing" to suppress votes of liberal students.

With Hyde-Smith facing a backlash, Trump told supporters in Biloxi that it was vital to preserve a strong Senate majority in order to defend policies like tax cuts and confirm judges "who will interpret the constitution exactly as written." Democrats reclaiming the House will make it more difficult for Trump to push through his agenda. Experts said black Mississippians would have needed to vote in significantly larger numbers than the white population for underdog Espy to win. He and Hyde-Smith entered a runoff because neither gained a majority in the November 6 election, which featured multiple candidates.—AFP

Bolton refuses to listen to gruesome Khashoggi tape

WASHINGTON: John Bolton, the influential White House national security advisor, said Tuesday he will not listen to the tape recording of Saudi dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi's murder because he doesn't understand Arabic. The gruesome tape - a key piece of evidence in the murder allegedly ordered by US ally Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman - was distributed by Turkey after Khashoggi was killed inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2. But Bolton told journalists that there is no point in him listening to the events unfolding in the recording because he can't understand the language. "I guess I should ask you why you think I should, what you think

I'll learn from it," he responded to a journalist.

Asked why he couldn't listen with the help of a translator, he answered "I can read a transcript." Bolton's reluctance to hear the recording mirrored President Donald Trump's position that there is no need for him to listen. After press reports that the CIA was pointing the finger directly at Prince Mohammed, Trump issued a statement saying that US-Saudi relations and oil market stability were too important to rock over the scandal. After repeated denials of any knowledge about Khashoggi's disappearance, Saudi Arabia finally admitted the 59-year-old had been murdered at the mission in a "rogue" operation.—AFP



WASHINGTON: US National Security Advisor John Bolton speaks at a press briefing at the White House in Washington, DC. — AFP

International

For God and country: South Korea grants a Christian convert asylum

Iranian teenager converts to Christianity

SEOUL: When hundreds of Yemenis arrived in South Korea seeking asylum after fleeing their war-torn country, opponents derided their Muslim religion and none of their applications were approved. But an Iranian teenager who converted to Christianity has been granted refugee status. Religious belief is widespread in South Korea, where crosses dot the skylines of cities and towns and, according to government figures, more than a quarter of the population describe themselves as Christians.

But the country is also ethnically homogenous and unwelcoming towards immigrants, and the decision in the Iranian's favor - a marked contrast to the norm - came only after a campaign by his classmates in Seoul. The boy, who can only be identified by his adopted Christian name Antonio out of concerns for his safety, came to the South in 2010 as a seven-year-old with his businessman father. Two years later, he became a Roman Catholic, and his father followed suit in 2015.

But their conversions infuriated relatives in Iran, where apostasy by a Muslim can be punishable by death. The pair sought religious asylum in their new abode, but the South grants refugee status to only a tiny fraction of those who apply. The world's 11th-biggest economy accepted just 708 refugees from 2000 to 2017 - a mere 3.5 percent of total requests, one of the lowest rates in the world and far below the OECD average of 25 percent. Immigration authorities in Seoul rejected Antonio's asylum bid, arguing that he was too young to have religious faith, a decision upheld in May by the Supreme Court.

'Ray of hope'

With Antonio facing the prospect of deportation to an uncertain fate, his classmates stepped in, launching a petition on the presidential website, describing his faith as sincere and saying he was still going to church. A final chance to re-apply for asylum, they said, was "like a ray of hope from heaven". With a GDP per capita of \$30,000, they asked: "Could South Korea not embrace this one single soul?" The petition was eventually signed by more than 30,000 people.

Around 50 students accompanied Antonio when he returned to the immigration office and they staged a sit-in for hours as summer temperatures approached 40 degrees Celsius. Many wore surgical masks to conceal their identities with an anti-migrant outcry in full effect in South Korea after some 500 Yemenis arrived on the tourist island of Jeju earlier

this year, taking advantage of its visa-free status to seek asylum. Only around four percent of the South's population are foreigners, mostly from China and Southeast Asia, and discrimination against them is widespread.

Many opponents of the Yemenis' applications cited their Muslim religion and nearly 70,000 people-a record-signed another presidential website petition urging the tightening of what are already some of the world's toughest refugee laws. Social media commentators described the students as "brainwashed" and labeled them "crazy Muslim supporters". "People threw all kinds of slurs and insults at us and our parents online, and some of us were a bit scared," said Antonio's classmate Choi Hyun-joon, who staged a protest in front of the presidential Blue House.

'Not our problem?'

Critics complained to the school and city authorities, saying the establishment should remain neutral, said teacher Oh Heun-Rok. "The very essence of education is to protect the dignity of humankind, and humanitarianism is a part of that," he told AFP. Immigration authorities granted Antonio refugee status last month, two days after the Yemenis were turned down.

Both Antonio and his father declined to speak to AFP about the decision, not wanting to prejudice a forthcoming Supreme Court ruling on the father's own asylum application. Kim Yeon-ju, an activist at the Seoul-based Refugee Rights Centre, told AFP refugees generally get little support from South Korea's civic society, while a handful of Christians "may be a bit more willing to help." "So Christian refugees may have better access to the services provided by these faith-based activists," she said, but it remains "very limited".

The unusual, high-profile campaign by Antonio's friends may have played a role in the decision on his application, she added. During the drive, Antonio also met with Seoul's cardinal, Andrew Yeom Soo-jung, who vowed "all possible measures by the church" to help him, and wrote a prayer urging authorities to give his case "special attention and consideration". With Antonio's asylum approved, his classmates hope their efforts could encourage greater social tolerance toward refugees. There was "no political or religious repression" in South Korea, they said in a statement, but asked: "Does that mean that we should just shut ourselves up, saying, 'Refugees are not our problem... Don't soil our home?'" —AFP

Indian forces kill Kashmir militant

SRINAGAR: Government forces in Indian-administered Kashmir killed a top commander of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Toiba militant group yesterday during a fierce firefight, police said, triggering clashes with protesters. LeT, the proscribed group India blames for the 2008 terror attacks in Mumbai, is one of the several groups fighting Indian soldiers for decades, seeking independence for Kashmir or a merger with Pakistan.

Pakistani national Naveed Jatt, the man killed yesterday, had dramatically escaped in February from a hospital in Srinagar where he was brought from jail for a check-up two years after his arrest. Two police officers accompanying Jatt—a renowned escape artist only five feet (1.52 metres) tall—were killed in a shootout inside the hospital before he was whisked away on a waiting motorbike. Police also say that Jatt was part of the group of assailants who killed prominent journalist Shujaat Bukhari in a daring attack inside Srinagar's high security press area in June.

Jatt and another militant were killed after they were trapped by soldiers, paramilitary forces and a police counterinsurgency unit surrounding the village of Chattergam in the central Kashmir valley. "It's a success, a



KASHMIR: Kashmiri Muslims look inside a damaged house after a gunfight between militants and Indian government forces in Chattergam village of central Kashmir's Budgam district yesterday. —AFP

relief. Naveed Jatt is one among the two militants killed," top police officer, Munir Ahmad Khan told AFP. "Jatt murdered two of our colleagues when he escaped (in February)," Khan said. Three soldiers were wounded in the gun battle, another police officer said, adding several protesters who hit the streets near the site of firefight were also injured in police action.

Violence in Kashmir has left tens of thousands of people dead. This year has been the bloodiest in nearly a decade with at least 530 killed so far, including 145

civilians and nearly 400 combatants. Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since the partition of the sub-continent following independence from Britain in 1947. Both claim the former Himalayan kingdom in its entirety. India maintains some 500,000 soldiers in the part of the territory it controls, and regularly accuses Pakistan of arming and training rebels for attacks on Indian forces. Islamabad denies this, saying it only provides diplomatic support to a Kashmiri struggle for self-determination. —AFP

Pakistanis 'on one page' in seeking India friendship

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said yesterday his government and the military want to mend ties with arch-foe India, in the latest bid to improve relations between the nuclear-armed neighbors. "I, the prime minister, my political party, the rest of our

political parties, our army, all our institutions are all on one page. We want to move forward," Khan said in a speech to open a new border crossing with India in Punjab province.

"If India takes one step forward then we will take two steps forward toward friendship," he said. Pakistan's chief of army staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, was among the dignitaries at the inauguration ceremony. The new crossing point, which will officially open next year, is about 120 km north of the Pakistani city of Lahore and will be used by Sikh pilgrims coming from India on a visa-

free basis to visit holy sites in Pakistan. The agreement is a rare instance of cooperation between the South Asian rivals which have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947. Appealing for a thaw in ties, Khan called for improvements in trade and other cross-border interaction and urged ending poverty through cooperation. Muslim Pakistan and mostly Hindu India have a range of disputes but their main bone of contention is the Muslim-majority Himalayan region of Kashmir, which they both claim in full but rule in part. —Reuters

Offer valid from 28.11.2018 to 08.12.2018 or until stocks last. Purchase Limit May Apply.

	 <p>1.240 0.790</p> <p>From 28 to 02.12.2018</p> <p>Nadec UHT Milk Full Fat 1Ltr 4's</p>	 <p>2.580 1.795</p> <p>From 28 to 02.12.2018</p> <p>Lipton Tea Bags 100's x 2</p>	 <p>1.330 0.995</p> <p>Nutella Hazelnut Spread 400gm</p>	 <p>1.275 0.850</p> <p>From 28 to 02.12.2018</p> <p>Al Wazzan White Meat Tuna in Sunflower Oil 160gm 3's</p>
 <p>0.925 0.650</p> <p>Aquafina Mineral Water 330ml 20's</p>	 <p>1.250 0.995</p> <p>From 28 to 04.12.2018</p> <p>Lettuce (Kuwait) Box</p>	 <p>1.145 0.895</p> <p>From 28 to 04.12.2018</p> <p>Potato Bag</p>	 <p>2.690 2.190</p> <p>From 28 to 30.11.2018</p> <p>New Zealand Chilled Lamb Forequarter /kg</p>	 <p>2.490</p> <p>From 28 to 30.11.2018</p> <p>Indian Chilled Mutton /kg</p>
 <p>5.990 5.290</p> <p>From 28 to 30.11.2018</p> <p>White Pomfret (Medium) /kg</p>	 <p>2.990 2.490</p> <p>From 28 to 30.11.2018</p> <p>Shrimps Medium Saudi /kg</p>	 <p>1.295 0.695</p> <p>From 28 to 30.11.2018</p> <p>Kraft Cheese Spread Original Jar 480gm</p>	 <p>5.150 2.750</p> <p>From 28 to 02.12.2018</p> <p>Tide Washing Powder 6kg</p>	 <p>0.990</p> <p>From 28 to 02.12.2018</p> <p>Fairy Dish Wash Liquid 750ml 2's</p>
 <p>1.900 0.995</p> <p>From 28 to 02.12.2018</p> <p>Colgate GRF Tooth Paste 120ml 4's</p>	 <p>169.900 149.900</p> <p>From 28 to 02.12.2018</p> <p>Sony 43" 4K Android UHD TV KD43X7500F</p>		 <p>329.900 299.900</p> <p>From 28 to 02.12.2018</p> <p>Apple iPhone X 256GB</p>	 <p>199.900 169.900</p> <p>From 28 to 02.12.2018</p> <p>Apple iPhone 7 128GB</p>

HYPERMARKETS.
SUPERMARKETS.
DEPARTMENT STORES.

Buy better.



BRAND OF THE YEAR



LULU
Where the world comes to shop

International

Germany urges France to turn UN seat into EU one

Comment attracts a stinging French rebuke

BERLIN: German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz yesterday proposed that France give up its permanent seat on the UN Security Council and turn it into an EU seat, attracting a stinging French rebuke. In a wide-ranging speech on the future of Europe, Scholz said that giving the European Union a spot on the Security Council would allow the bloc to speak "with one voice" on the global stage.

"We could perhaps imagine that in the medium term the French seat becomes an EU seat," said Scholz, who is also Germany's vice-chancellor. "I realize this will take some convincing in Paris, but it would be a bold and smart goal." To lessen the pain of losing the powerful seat, France could become the permanent EU ambassador to the United Nations, he added. But the suggestion was immediately shot down by the French ambassador to the United States,

Gerard Araud. "It's legally impossible because it would run counter to the Charter of the United Nations. Changing it would be politically impossible," Araud tweeted. France has been one of the five permanent Security Council members since the body was first established in 1945 in the wake of World War II to prevent another large-scale conflict. The permanent members, including Britain, China, Russia and the United States, are the most influential countries in the 193-member United Nations because they hold the right to veto UN resolutions.

Once Britain leaves the EU in March 2019, France will be the bloc's sole representative on the Council. There have been repeated calls in the past to reform the UNSC, with large emerging nations in particular clamoring for a place at the table. In 2010, then-US president Barack

Obama voiced support for India's efforts to become a permanent Council member. Brazil and Japan have expressed similar ambitions, while African nations have called for two permanent seats to better represent a continent they say has been historically overlooked.

Europe at a crossroads

French President Emmanuel Macron called on lawmakers in the German parliament last month to help create a "stronger, more sovereign Europe". "Europe cannot play its role if it becomes the plaything of great powers and contents itself with a supporting role on the global stage," he said. Chancellor Angela Merkel welcomed Macron's speech, saying Europe was "at a crossroads" over its future. In the past, she and Foreign Minister Heiko Maas

have both called for individual EU countries' seats on the UNSC to be "Europeanised".

When Germany was selected to hold one of the 10 non-permanent seats for two years from January 2019, Maas promised Berlin would "interpret it in a European way." "We want to show that we take the common European seat seriously. Because that remains our aim," he added. Scholz's sally was the latest way Germany has sought to dispel accusations it has failed to respond to Macron's ambitious hopes to reform the EU and the euro single currency. While German leaders appear open to deeper cooperation in fields like defense, many have deep reservations about Macron's plans to equip the euro-zone with a centrally-managed budget, fearing wealthy countries could end up footing spendthrift neighbors' bills. — AFP

Black people face 'widespread prejudice' in EU

VIENNA: Black people in the EU continue to face "widespread and entrenched prejudice" in many areas of life, as well as racist harassment and attacks, according to a report published yesterday. "Racism based on the colour of a person's skin remains a pervasive scourge throughout the European Union," Michael O'Flaherty, director of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), said in the foreword to the report.

Entitled "Being Black in the EU", the report is based on interviews carried out in 2015 and 2016 with more than 5,800 people in 12 EU countries including France, Germany and the UK. Thirty percent of respondents said they had experienced some form of racist harassment at some point in the five years before the survey. Five percent of those surveyed had experienced a violent attack. Among those, more than 10 percent said the perpetrator was a law enforcement officer. In all cases of violent attacks, more than 60 percent of respondents had not reported the incident to officials, with many saying they felt reporting would not change anything or that they did not trust the police.

The report also draws on respondents' experiences of police stops. A quarter of all those surveyed said they had been stopped by police in the previous five years, with 41 percent among them characterizing the last stop as racial profiling. The agency calls racial profiling "an unlawful practice that undermines... trust in law enforcement authorities". Earlier this month in the UK, police chiefs caused controversy by suggesting the expansion of controversial "stop and search" powers which have disproportionately targeted black people.

The FRA report also details respondents' experiences of discrimination in the education, employment and housing sectors, with over a quarter of respondents saying they had faced unequal treatment in at least one of those areas in the previous five years. For example, 14 percent said they had been prevented from renting accommodation by a private landlord because of their racial or ethnic origin. The FRA urged governments to combat discrimination and racial profiling by police, and to ensure that victims of abuse are able to seek redress. "A particularly unsettling pattern is that younger individuals tend to experience more discrimination and exclusion than older individuals," O'Flaherty said of the report's findings. — AFP

China seeks allies in Spain and Portugal despite reservations

MADRID: China, currently engaged in a trade war with the United States, is seeking to strengthen its ties with Spain and Portugal as other European Union members are trying to restrict Chinese investments. China's President Xi Jinping began a three-day visit to Spain on Tuesday on his way to a meeting of Group of 20 leaders in Argentina, and will stop in neighboring Portugal on December 4-5 on his return home. "It's a political manoeuvre to maintain ties at a complicated time for China," Angel Saz Carranza, the director of the Centre for Global Economy and Geopolitics at Spain's ESADE Business School, told AFP.

The United States has imposed tariffs on more than \$250 billion in Chinese goods in an attempt to pressure the country to reverse alleged unfair trade practices and US President Donald Trump this week warned he might impose tariffs on its remaining \$267 billion in imports from the Asian giant, including iPhones made in China. European member states, meanwhile, are poised to decide on a European framework for assessing foreign investment want-

ed by EU heavyweights France and Germany in order to screen acquisitions by foreign companies, mainly Chinese, in strategic sectors such as energy.

Paris, Berlin and to a lesser extent Rome are concerned that foreign groups are seeking to pilfer key technologies by buying their companies and have long called for European legislation to filter certain acquisitions. Now is the time for Chinese leaders to make public statements to try and assuage the concerns of EU member states, said Saz Carranza. Rajiv Biswas, Asia Pacific chief economist for IHS Markit, added that "even if the EU agrees some screening process, in the end it's still up to each individual country to decide what they want."

'Weak underbelly'

By focusing on Spain and Portugal, China is looking for the "weak underbelly for Chinese investment in Europe and consolidate" the assets already acquired in the two countries despite reservations of other European Union member states, the president of Paris-based think tank Asia Centre, Jean-Francois Di Meglio said. "Chinese investments in absolute figures are greater in Britain and in Germany, but as a percentage of GDP, they are greater in Spain and Portugal," said Di Meglio.

Beijing has since 2016 felt "great doubts" regarding the EU, which teamed up with the United States to deny it market economy status, said Di Meglio. Britain's planned exit from the bloc fuelled its doubts about the bloc and China now favors bilateral ties with European nations, he added. China for



MADRID: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez applauds with Chinese President Xi Jinping as they arrive to sign agreements following a meeting at the Moncloa Palace yesterday. — AFP

example boosted its ports and terminals business network last year with the purchase by Chinese shipping group OSCO Shipping Holdings of a 51 percent stake in Spanish container terminal operator Noatum Port, which operates container ports in Valencia and Bilbao.

Portugal, one of western Europe's poorest countries, was especially open to Chinese investment after the 2008 global financial crisis sent its economy into a tailspin. Chinese investment accounted for 3.6 percent of Portugal's GDP between 2010 and 2016, the highest level in the EU after Finland, according to ESADE figures. The

Chinese government owns a 28 percent stake in Portuguese utility EDP, the country's largest firm, Via China Three Gorges and China's state-owned international investment company CNIC.

Spanish exports to China increased last year by 28 percent to reach 5.7 billion euros (\$6.4 billion) and Madrid hopes Xi's visit will open the Chinese market further for Spanish products such as grapes and its treasured "jamón" cured ham. But Madrid, however, has said it will not sign on during his visit to China's ambitious "One Belt, One Road" initiative that seeks to better link Asia and Europe. — AFP

Dead man still walking: club made a 'grave mistake'

DUBLIN: News of footballer Fernando Nuno La Fuente's death, as American author Mark Twain said of reports of his own demise have been greatly exaggerated and prompted an abject apology from his Irish club Ballybrack FC. According to state broadcaster RTE, the club secretary is no longer with them after the ruse was exposed: the south Dublin outfit had reported they were not feeling up to playing their Leinster League match with Arklow due to Spanish player La Fuente's death in a motorbike accident

early on Friday morning. "It has come to the attention of both the club, senior players and the management team that a gross error of judgment has occurred emanating from correspondence sent from a member of the senior set up management team to the Leinster Senior League," read the Ballybrack mea culpa on their Facebook page. "This grave and unacceptable mistake was completely out of character and was made by a person who has been experiencing severe personal difficulties unbeknownst to any other members of the club." The club did not say if the "error of judgment" was a simple mistake or a ploy to have the match cancelled.

"We don't honestly know why they did it," Leinster League chairman David Moran told RTE. "It seems a bit extreme to do something like that to get a game off. All they had to say was they were giving a walkover and they'll get their fine and that's the end of it." All of the Leinster League matches last weekend were preceded by a minute's silence - Liffey Wanderers posting a photograph of the tribute at their match on Twitter and express-

ing their "heartfelt sympathy" - and the League placed a message of condolence in an Irish newspaper on Monday. "We acted in good faith," said Moran. "We had a minute silence at the weekend for that young lad. It's absolutely ridiculous." Moran said he began to suspect something wasn't right when he rang the club on Monday morning. "The young lad didn't die in a motorbike accident last Thursday," said Moran.

"He went back to Spain four or five weeks ago apparently. "We wanted to show our sympathies and go to the mass and maybe meet the family and see what we could do to help in this horrible situation. "And we were told he was flown back to Spain on the Saturday. "Straight away, that rang alarm bells for us. How would you die early on Friday morning and be flown back to Spain on the Saturday?" Ballybrack say La Fuente has taken the story in his stride. "The club has contacted Fernando to confirm his whereabouts, wellbeing and are thankful for his acceptance of our apology on this matter," they said on their Facebook account. — AFP

Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call:
+965 248 35 616 / 617
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
ads@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

FACTORY PRICES

Midea
MTE160-P2002S

16
غسالة
WASHER

- Spin Capacity 9 Kg
- 15 M Wash Timer
- 5 Minutes Spin Time

59
99

40
وفر

Panasonic
NA-W100G1ARS

10
غسالة
WASHER

- 8 KG Spin Tub Capacity
- Air Dry
- Easy to clean

79
109

30
وفر

Panasonic
NA-F70S7WRU

7
غسالة
WASHER

- 10 Programs
- 6 Water Level Settings
- Child Lock
- LED Display

69
105

36
وفر

Best@YouSifi | @Best@YouSifi | #Best@YouSifi | Best@YouSifi

Credit: Start from SKD • Up to 48 month • Instant approval

Shop Online www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809

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

International

Doomed Lion Air plane was 'not airworthy' on penultimate flight

Pilots on final flight reported 'control problem'

JAKARTA: A Lion Air jet that crashed into the sea off Indonesia last month was not in an airworthy condition on its second-to-last flight, when pilots experienced similar problems to those on its doomed last journey, investigators said yesterday. Contact with the Boeing 737 MAX jet was lost 13 minutes after it took off on Oct 29 from the capital, Jakarta, heading north to the tin-mining town of Pangkal Pinang. In a preliminary report, Indonesia's transport safety committee (KNKT) focused on the airline's maintenance practices and pilot training and a Boeing anti-stall system but did not give a cause for the crash that killed all 189 people on board.

The report unveiled fresh details of efforts by pilots to steady the jet as they reported a "flight control problem", including the captain's last words to air traffic control asking to be cleared to "five thou" or 5,000 feet. Information retrieved from the flight data recorder showed the "stick shaker" was vibrating the captain's controls, warning of a stall throughout most of the flight. The captain was using his controls to bring the plane's nose up, but an automated anti-stall system was pushing it down.

Pilots flying the same plane a day earlier had experi-

enced a similar problem, en route from Denpasar, Bali to Jakarta, until they used switches to shut off the system and used manual controls to fly and stabilize the plane, KNKT said. "The flight from Denpasar to Jakarta experienced stick shaker activation during the takeoff rotation and remained active throughout the flight," the committee said. "This condition is considered as un-airworthy condition" and the flight should have been "discontinued". The pilots of that flight reported problems to Lion Air's maintenance team, which checked the jet and cleared it for take-off the next morning.

Former Boeing flight control engineer Peter Lemme said stick shaker activation was "very distracting and unnerving". "It's not something you ever want to have happen as a pilot," he said. KNKT investigator Nurcahyo Utomo said the agency had not determined if the anti-stall system, which was not explained to pilots in manuals, was a contributing factor. "We still don't know yet, if it contributed or not," he said in response to a question. "It is too early to conclude." In a statement, Boeing drew attention in detail to a list of airline maintenance actions set out in the report but stopped short of blaming ground workers or pilots for the accident.

Revised anti-stall system

The manufacturer, which has said procedures for preventing an anti-stall system activating by accident were already in place, said pilots of the penultimate flight had used that drill but noted the report did not say if pilots of the doomed flight did so. Boeing's statement did not make any reference to a revised anti-stall system introduced on the 737 MAX which US pilots and Indonesian investigators say was missing from the operating manual.

Boeing says the procedure for dealing with a so-called runaway stabilizer, under which anti-stall systems push the nose down even when the plane is not entering a stall or losing lift, had not changed between an earlier version of the 737 and the newly delivered 737 MAX.

Pilots however say the control column behaves differently in certain conditions, which could confuse pilots who have flown the earlier model. Indonesian regulators were urged after previous accidents to improve their oversight of maintenance and pilot training. In an interview, Indonesia's director general of aviation, Polana Pramesti, said the agency planned to require pilots in Indonesia to be trained on simulators for the MAX series.

Pramesti also said a new regulation was being planned to limit the risk of pilot fatigue occurring and should be issued in the "near future". A source at the US Federal Aviation Administration said a number of factors were ultimately likely to be cited as causes of the crash, including pilot training and maintenance. It had still to be determined how much, if at all, the plane design would be faulted, the source told Reuters on condition of anonymity. Edward Sirait, chief executive of Lion Air, said he had not read the KNKT report but would comply with investigators' recommendations.

The report provided new recommendations to Lion Air on safety on top of earlier recommendations about the flight manual that have already been implemented by Boeing. Authorities have downloaded data from the flight data recorder, but are still looking for the cockpit voice recorder (CVR). Indonesia plans to bring in a ship from Singapore able to stay in position without dropping anchor, to help with the search. Asked what was needed from the CVR, Utomo said: "A lot. Discussions between the left and right pilots were about what? What procedures did they carry out. Were there any strange noises?" Without it, he said there would be "a lot of guessing". — Reuters

Thousands evacuated as Australian bushfires rage

SYDNEY: Thousands of people were being evacuated from their homes in northeast Australia yesterday, as bushfires raged across Queensland state amid a scorching heatwave. Some 8,000 people were told to leave the town of Gracemere, south of the central coast area of Rockhampton, as a fast-moving blaze threatened homes.

The Bureau of Meteorology declared a "catastrophic" fire danger — the highest possible risk rating — in some central areas, while firefighters battled to contain more than 130 blazes across the state. "This is a very stressful situation for families. I need you to all be strong. I need you to all listen. Your family and the protection of our community is vital," state premier Annastacia Palaszczuk warned those told to leave. "So we

need to reach out to community members who are frail, who are elderly, who have a disability. Please listen to authorities, it is going to get a lot worse," she added. The Bureau of Meteorology said scorching temperatures had broken records across Queensland, with the state capital Brisbane reaching 37.9 degrees Celsius (100.2 degrees Fahrenheit). At least 34 schools were closed, and authorities earlier in the day said the number of homes destroyed was likely in "single digits" but it was too early to confirm. Other states were sending back up firefighters to Queensland.

"We will see more fires flare up very very quickly, so this is the start of it," Queensland fire and emergency services commissioner Katarina Carroll warned those evacuating. "It is very difficult to get a sense of how long people have in the area because the winds are picking up faster than what was expected — so evolving, but very, very quickly," she added. Resident Luana Royle from the central Queensland town of Finch Hatton told national broadcaster ABC that the area had been hard-hit by the blaze. "Our fires around here, you couldn't even see 500 meters in front of you this morning," she said. "Everyone is OK, but two houses have went, which is pretty sad." — AFP



DEEPWATER: A firefighter is seen near the bushfires in Deepwater National Park area of Queensland yesterday. — AFP

Modi, Gandhi duel in Indian state election

NEW DELHI: Millions of Indians voted yesterday in a state election seen as a key duel between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his main rival before the whole country goes to the polls in 2019. Modi's right-wing Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has governed the central state of Madhya Pradesh, home to 73 million people, since 2003 having won three state elections in a row.

But polls suggest that the opposition Congress headed by Rahul Gandhi, scion of the Gandhi-Nehru dynasty, could win on the back of concerns about rising unemployment and by appealing to disgruntled farmers. The

party, which lost power in Madhya Pradesh in 2003 — and nationally to Modi in 2014 — has campaigned aggressively against three-time chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on issues of corruption and misgovernance. Chouhan, who lead the BJP to a thumping majority in the 2013 elections, has nevertheless sounded confident. Modi himself has addressed no fewer than 10 rallies in the state in a hard-fought campaign.

"This is not the toughest election of my career, it's very comfortable," Chouhan told reporters after casting his vote. The vote is one of five state elections this month and next that are a litmus test of Modi's popularity ahead of general elections that have to take place before May but for which no date has been announced yet. Nearly 800,000 voters were also entitled to vote yesterday in the remote northeast state of Mizoram, which is governed by Congress. Results from all the state elections are due on December 11. — AFP

Celebrating 10 Years with VIVA

Call 102
viva.com.kw
@vivatelecom

Analysis

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian Gulf

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

Editor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24835619
COMMERCIAL : 24835618

P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Chau latest in long line of American Christian missionaries

John Chau, killed by members of the Sentinelese tribe on an island in the Andaman Sea, is the latest in a long line of American missionaries who voyaged to the world's most isolated regions to spread Christianity. The first Christian missionaries set sail from the United States for Asia more than 200 years ago, according to Dr Todd Johnson, director of the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts.

Adoniram Judson and his wife, Ann, left Salem, Massachusetts, in February 1812 for India but eventually ended up in Burma, where Adoniram spent most of the next four decades. "That's the beginning and then there were several other mission agencies that grew up after that," Johnson said. There were more than 127,000 Americans working abroad as Christian missionaries in 2010, according to the Center for the Study of Global Christianity.

"It's gone up a little bit since then," Johnson said, adding that the figure includes "Christian missionaries of all kinds" - Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Catholics, Protestants and others. "Historically, Catholics have had quite a large portion of that, but Mormons I think probably have the single largest number of any group," he said. The 26-year-old Chau was exceptional in that he appeared to be a "complete lone ranger type of missionary," Johnson said, not sponsored by a particular church or organization.

Chau received missionary training from a Kansas City, Missouri-based group called All Nations, but his ill-fated voyage to remote North Sentinel island where he was killed appears to have been his own initiative. On its website, All Nations says its mission "is to make disciples and train leaders to ignite church planting movements among the neglected peoples of the Earth". "All Nations aspires to see disciple making movements in every people group of the world so that Jesus may be worshipped by every tongue, tribe and nation," it says.

Comparisons to Jim Elliot

Chau has been compared to Jim Elliot, an American killed in Ecuador in 1956 along with four other missionaries while attempting to evangelize the Huaorani people. "But Jim Elliot and his four other companions were part of a mission agency, an institutional agency that sent them out," Johnson said. "We're not hearing about any agency behind (Chau)," he said. "We're hearing about his courage and his drive to go where no one else had gone before and that kind of thing. 'It's all part of the missionary narrative but it's unusual in the sense that you're talking about an individual,'" Johnson said.

American Christian missionaries abroad are involved in a wide range of activities aside from proselytizing, including medical missions. "Catholic missions have sent people to hospitals and schools and that sort of thing," Johnson said. "That's really a longstanding mission strategy." He said that word proselytizing is "kind of a harsh word." "I was reading about John Chau - that he went to convert the Indians - which is kind of strong language," he said.

"I think what he went to do was to preach, or let them know what the good news was," he said. "Whether or not they'd be interested is a completely different subject. 'Certainly converting, that's not a good word in India because there are anti-conversion laws and all of that,'" he said. Johnson said most Christian missionaries "wouldn't use that language, wouldn't say 'I'm going to convert.' They would say 'I'm going to introduce people to Christ.'" They would use language that is more religious freedom language - that everybody has a choice they can make."

More diversity

Johnson said missionary work has been hampered somewhat because fewer countries nowadays are issuing what he called "missionary visas". "You could get a visa to go somewhere as a missionary and those are disappearing," he said. "India, for example, had missionary visas during the colonial period," he said. "India received lots of missionaries with that particular visa. 'And now there's no such thing.'" Johnson said that while most American missionaries abroad are linked to established institutions, there has been a rise in the number of smaller churches engaged in what he called "direct sending". "Where, let's say, an independent charismatic church, maybe 1,000 members in Louisiana, they're sending missionaries to Siberia," he said. "There are many, many people in that category, which is really different than John Chau," he said. "They do have an institution behind them, but it's a local church, not a mission agency." Johnson said another trend is for there to be fewer white missionaries from the United States. "It's more diverse," he said. "They might be US citizens but they might be originally from Africa, or Latin America or Asia." — AFP



Iraq seeks to head off sanctions, protests

Iraq's broken electricity sector is planning a long-awaited overhaul to both meet US pressure to halt Iranian power imports and head off summertime protests over chronic cuts. With a freshman at the helm, the electricity ministry is exploring options including revamping stations and lines to cut waste, importing power, and improving bill collection to boost revenues. Baghdad hopes it will generate enough megawatts to feed demand by summer, when cuts can leave millions powerless for up to 20 hours per day.

But it also has an earlier deadline to meet. When Washington reimposed sanctions on Tehran in November over the latter's nuclear program, it granted Iraq a 45-day waiver to produce a roadmap to stop using Iranian electricity and gas. Iraq pipes in up to 28 million cubic metres of Iranian gas daily to feed its stations, and also directly imports up to 1,300 megawatts of Iranian-produced electricity. Now, Baghdad's power ministry has outlined a plan to wean off Iranian electricity within 18 months and resolve some decade-old problems, said spokesman Musab Al-Mudarris.

"In the coming two weeks, we will submit to the Americans a five-year plan including yearly assessments," he told AFP. If the US approves, it may extend the waiver for "a year or two". "But there are no quick fixes," Mudarris insisted. Iraq sits on 153 billion barrels of proven crude reserves, but it needs higher quality fuel and gas for power turbines. Mudarris admitted that while Iraq could do without Iran's electricity, it needed Iranian gas until it could extract its own or capture flares from oil drilling.

Bright ideas

Using its own fuel plus Iranian gas, Iraq can produce a

total of around 16,000 megawatts of electricity. That is far below demand, which hovers around 24,000 MW but can jump to 30,000 in summer, when temperatures reach a sizzling 50 degrees Celsius. Much of the shortfall is technical: when Iraq transmits power, 30 to 50 percent gets lost to poor infrastructure, according to the Iraq Energy Institute (IEI). Some of that is age, but pipelines and stations were also attacked by the Islamic State group before Iraq beat it back last year.

Rehabilitation is a key element of the ministry's plan. Mudarris pointed to recent memorandums of understanding with Siemens, worth \$10 billion, and General Electric, at \$15 billion, to fix infrastructure. Together, they could add up to 24,000 MW within five years: "That would bring us to 40,000 MW," Mudarris said. Electricity Minister Luay Al-Khateeb has also asked Siemens and GE for "fast-track" plans to boost power generation by summer.

Baghdad is finding ways to fund these efforts, including a \$600 million finance deal between GE, the Trade Bank of Iraq, and Standard Chartered announced in late November. Another ministerial initiative involves swapping Iranian power for imports from other neighbors, Mudarris said, including 300 MW each from Turkey, Jordan, and Kuwait, plus Saudi solar power. In a possible omen, new Iraqi President Barham Saleh visited Amman, Kuwait, and Riyadh in his first regional trip since assuming power. Finally, Baghdad wants to recover money lost by the ministry's poor collection service. "We are losing about 60 percent of our revenues to people who don't pay. If we can cut those losses, we can stop relying on Iran," said Mudarris.

'Doomed to fail?'

Last year, Iraq began privatizing by hiring collection services to ensure households paid power bills. Samir Hussein, a 20-year employee of the ministry's distribution department, said privatised collection has already reduced outages in Baghdad. "Those who pay cut their usage by half, which allows me to redirect megawatts to other neighborhoods, preventing cuts there," he told AFP.

But obstacles remain, including overdue bills to Iran for previous imports. A draft 2019 budget shows Iraq allocating some \$800 million for "Iranian gas arrears" and around \$350 million for Iranian electricity backpay, according to an IEI analysis. Another issue is Iraq's bloated electricity ministry, said energy expert Harry Estepanian.

Neighboring Kuwait generates around the same amount of electricity as Iraq, but its ministry employs 12,000 compared with Iraq's roughly 140,000, he said. The body is also accused of widespread corruption, which technocrat and first-time minister Khateeb pledged to investigate this week. "Whatever he is planning is doomed to fail if he does not reform," Estepanian told AFP.

And Iraq's five-year plan must account for skyrocketing consumption as cities are rebuilt post-IS. "Right now Mosul, Anbar, Salahaddin probably don't have high demand. Once reconstruction starts, demand will start to go up by around seven to 10 percent," Estepanian said. "The gap between supply and demand is widening. It's not like it was in 2003 or 2013, and it won't be the same in 2023." — AFP

Stuck at US border, migrants losing hope

Still stinging from the tear gas that beat back their attempt to breach the US-Mexican border, members of the Central American migrant caravan are starting to lose hope, and in some cases are turning back. The migrants have played all their cards in recent days, after more than a month's trek across Central America and Mexico - but with little success. Their surprise bid to rush the border en masse on Sunday ended as abruptly as it began, when US Border Patrol agents fired tear gas and rubber bullets to force them back.

And attempts to sneak across the border alone or in small groups appear to be largely failing. That leaves the roughly 5,000 migrants in the caravan with a handful of options, equally unappealing to most: wait the months or years it could take to request asylum in the United States; settle in Mexico; or give up and go home. Their desperation is palpable at the improvised shelter where they are staying in Tijuana, across the border from San Diego.

Living in crowded conditions, with limited toilets, disease outbreaks and two rations of food a day, many are still shell-shocked from the failed attempt by about 500 migrants to get over the chain-link border fence topped with barbed wire on Sunday. "We thought they were going to kill us. It's going to be hard to get to the other side," said Brayan Casas, a 28-year-old from Honduras, showing the bruises he got when he, his wife and his son joined Sunday's stampede.

Long wait

"They learned their lesson," an employee of Mexico's National Migration Institute told AFP at the shelter, speaking on condition of anonymity. "They've seen they won't be able to cross easily. They're a lot

less rebellious today." The migrants are mostly fleeing poverty and violence in Central America's "Northern Triangle" - El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. US President Donald Trump has however warned of an "invasion" by a group full of "hardened criminals".

Some migrants have tried to sneak into the United States alone, without much success. "I've tried five times already," said Danilo Mejia, 26, a skinny Honduran man in an oversized leather jacket, who says the US Border Patrol sent him back to Mexico each time. "I thought if it was dark they wouldn't see me, but they're real watchdogs." He says he does not have the \$10,000 or so he would have to pay a human trafficker, or "coyote," to bring him into the United States.

But sneaking in through the desert alone is a perilous strategy. Hundreds of migrants die trying every year, of dehydration, hypothermia or snake bites. Seeking asylum in the United States is not much easier. In Tijuana, the waiting list to enter the US at an official border crossing and apply for asylum currently has more than 5,000 names on it, including caravan members and other migrants who were already in line. And the US is backlogged with asylum cases: Requests increased by 2,000 percent in the past five years, and there are currently 700,000 pending.

Arlin Gutierrez, 40, traveled here from Honduras with her three young children, and is unsure what to do next. "We'd have to wait more than three months to be called (from the asylum wait-list), and who knows how much longer for our case to be resolved," she said, shaking out her baby's disposable diaper to use it again. "We can't wait for so long, living here like animals."

Trump issued an executive order earlier this month barring migrants who sneak across the border from filing asylum claims. That policy has been temporarily blocked by a federal judge. Undaunted, Trump tweeted Saturday that migrants seeking asylum will have to remain in Mexico while their claims are processed - though Mexico has not publicly agreed to such a plan. Facing a hostile welcome and little hope, a growing number of migrants have decided to turn back. — AFP

Chapo's high life: Swiss clinics, mansions and zoo

Rejuvenation treatments at Swiss clinics, a beachfront mansion in Acapulco and a private zoo of lions: the US trial of drug baron Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman was given an extraordinary glimpse Tuesday into his life of excess. At the height of his power as one of the most notorious criminals in the world and most prolific drug traffickers on the planet, Guzman reputedly profited to the max from his ill-gotten gains. But behind the glitter and gold, he was paranoid to the core, splurging \$10 to \$12 million a month on bribes to protect himself from arrest, paying off his enemies and wiretapping his multiple girlfriends.

That was the picture painted Tuesday by one of his former associates, Miguel Angel "El Gordo" Martinez, a former pilot and Sinaloa cartel bigwig in Mexico City who is today part of the US witness protection program. In the early 1990s, smuggling Colombian cocaine into the United States-Guzman's lifeblood - was "the best business in the world," Martinez told the American jury in the Brooklyn federal court.

Guzman's profits were jetted in by the plane load to the tune of \$30 million a month, delivered by private jet from the Mexican border town of Tijuana to Mexico City for successfully delivered US drug shipments. It was a heady lifestyle and mind-boggling pay packet for a man born into poverty, who turned to drug trafficking as a teenager. Throughout Tuesday's testimony, a suited and booted Guzman listened intently in court to the turncoat, never once taking

his eyes off Martinez on what was the second day of the third week of his trial.

Four private jets

"In the '90s he had four jets, houses on all the beaches, ranches in all (Mexico's) states," Martinez testified. The Acapulco property alone cost \$10 million, he estimated. "We traveled all over the world... to Brazil, Argentina, Aruba, throughout Europe, Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Peru, Cuba, Colombia, Panama," he said. If some were work trips, many others were for pleasure, such as gambling sprees in Macau.

They flew to Thailand, he testified, with the goal of buying heroin for \$10,000 a kilo, shipping it through Mexico and onto the United States where it could be re-sold for a whopping \$130,000 a kilo. But the plot collapsed, he alleged, when Thai drug traffickers and the heroin pointman in New York, Raul Santana, were arrested. Even at 61, Martinez pointed out, Guzman still has a full head of hair and no white streaks - and referenced past trips to Swiss clinics "where they put cells in you to make you younger", Martinez explained.

He claimed that Guzman kept tigers, lions, panthers and deer in a zoo at his home in Guadalajara, on an estate so vast with swimming pools and tennis courts that the defendant would get around by a little train. But if he spent lavishly on bribing police, and paying off his "four or five" fancy women, Guzman was generous when it came to gifts. Martinez claimed to have earned \$3 million in just a few years of working for Guzman and said the defendant bought him a Rolex encrusted with diamonds.

He was once tasked with buying more than 50 expensive cars - Buicks, Cougars and Thunderbirds - worth \$35,000 each - to dole out to Sinaloa cartel workers at Christmas time. He claimed Guzman stashed up to \$20 million in cash in secret compartments designed by architects at homes purposely bought just to hide money. — AFP

Business

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2018

12 Burgan Bank wins CITI Bank New York's 'Excellence Quality Recognition Award'**13** Turkish Airlines signs deal with HAVELSAN for flight simulators**14** NBK Capital wins 'Asset Manager of the Year Kuwait for 2018'

Zain KSA to sell, lease back its telecom tower network for \$648m

Sale of passive, tower infrastructure to IHS approved

RIYADH: Zain Group announces that the board of directors of Zain Saudi Arabia (Zain KSA) has approved an offer to sell and lease back the passive physical infrastructure of its mobile tower portfolio to IHS Holding Limited (IHS) for SAR 2.43 billion (\$648 million). IHS is the largest independent tower operator in Europe, Middle East and Africa by tower count and the third largest independent multinational tower company globally. Zain KSA has more than 8,100 mobile telecommunication towers located in prime and strategic locations across the Kingdom.

Under the terms of the agreement, Zain KSA is selling only its passive, physical infrastructure to IHS and will retain its intelligent software, technology and intellectual property with respect to managing its network. The agreement also involves a lease back period of 15 years, with a 5-year renewal option and building of an additional 1,500 towers over next 6 years.

This offer for Zain KSA's tower portfolio is a consolidation move as it comes after Zain Kuwait entered into an agreement also with IHS Holding, which was the first sale and leaseback deal of telecom towers in the Middle East region by a licensed mobile operator, and that will create the first independent tower operator of scale in the region.

The transaction is subject to a final binding agreement being entered into between the parties which will include an approval requirement from the Kingdom's Communications and Information Technology Commission (CITC), as well as approval from the lenders.

Commenting on this important development, Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO, and Vice-Chairman of Zain Saudi Arabia said, "The sale of Zain



Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO Bader Al-Kharafi

KSA's impressive tower network is a highly positive move, as it creates shareholder value by helping the company reduce its debt position, as the proceeds will be used to reduce the company's Murabaha facility. Both the Zain Saudi Arabia board of directors and Zain Group execu-

ment will start on May 26, 2019 and is expected to end on September 26, 2019," noted Muthanna Al-Saleh, Head of the Markets Sector at CMA.

The first installment will include various new initiatives. "These will include the complete use of stock lending and borrowing (SLB) and applying short sale conditional on the application of borrowing shares along with improving off-market trade, introducing an afterhours trading session, during which the closing price is traded, and improving the investment fund trading platform," he added.

The second installment will include initiatives that need more time to prepare. "We should make sure that all parties are ready for this phase. Giving time to prepare this phase will ensure its proper application due to the changes, especially those related to central counterparty clearing (CCP) and using the qualified broker form," explained Saleh.

Testing the second installment that will start on May 2019 will include applying new initiatives. "These include changing the way of cash settlement through following the DvP-2 system (net cash - total shares), applying CCP, qualifying brokers, trading on margin by qualified brokers, repurchase agreement (repo), and dividing client's accounts into subaccounts and numbering them, along with connecting it to the system," he added.

CMA, Boursa Kuwait and Kuwait Clearing Company will all hold workshops with participants in the third phase to discuss the details of what will be applied. "Two phases of the market development project were

- Bader Al-Kharafi: "Divestment of more than 8,100 towers creates shareholder value as it reduces debt obligations, unlocks capital and resources, allowing more focus on core operations"
- Al-Kharafi recognizes Kingdom's CITC proactiveness in keeping abreast with global trends in the telecommunications sector and efforts in complementing the deal
- Agreement involves a lease back period of 15 years with a 5-year renewal option and building of an additional 1,500 towers over next 6 years

tive management are confident that we have chosen the right partners in IHS, a company that possesses high caliber expertise with sound operational experience in diverse markets."

Al-Kharafi continued, "We recognize and appreciate the efforts made by the Kingdom's CITC in keeping abreast with global trends in the telecommunications sector by offering licenses to provide wholesale services for Tower infrastructure, thereby reducing capital expenditure challenges on telecom operators and raising the efficiency of mobile networks. This proactiveness also allows new investors to enter the market, creating job opportunities. These efforts by the CITC that complements our deal with IHS, enhances Zain KSA's mission of playing its contributory role to achieving the Kingdom's 2020 National Transformation Program and the 2030 Economic Vision ambitions."

Al-Kharafi concluded, "Zain KSA has implemented a transformation program in the Kingdom for some time now, advancing its efforts to become a digital lifestyle

provider. The deal unlocks capital and resources, allowing the operator to focus on its core operations and further invest in and deliver the latest ICT technologies to meet the ever-increasing demand for reliable broadband access and data consumption. It also provides Zain KSA additional impetus to focus on the delivery of more data monetization initiatives and customer enhancing services to offer customers the best data experience in the Kingdom."

This value creating agreement with IHS coincides with the celebrations of Zain KSA's tenth anniversary of commercial operation in the Kingdom and comes on the back of the impressive third quarter 2018 results achieved by the company, its best-ever quarterly results since its establishment. The progress achieved by Zain KSA in implementing the company's transformation strategy, saw the company recently make an early voluntary payment of SAR 600 million for its Murabaha financing agreement, portraying the company's solid cashflow generation.

CMA sets timeframe for third phase of Boursa Kuwait development

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Capital Market Authority (CMA) announced the timeframe for the third phase of the market development project before the end of 2019 during a press conference held yesterday at the CMA headquarters. Both the Kuwait Clearing Company and Boursa Kuwait participated in this conference, as they are the main partners in the project of developing the market. This project is supervised by CMA, which is in charge of developing the stock exchange and verifying investment tools and products.

CMA will execute the third phase in two installments. "The first installment will include offering new products, in addition to improving the methods of trading. Testing of the first installment will start on January 2, 2019 and end by February 3, 2019. If it is successful and no obstacles are found, the new products will be launched in March 2019. Testing of the second install-

ment will start on May 26, 2019 and is expected to end on September 26, 2019," noted Muthanna Al-Saleh, Head of the Markets Sector at CMA.

The first installment will include various new initiatives. "These will include the complete use of stock lending and borrowing (SLB) and applying short sale conditional on the application of borrowing shares along with improving off-market trade, introducing an afterhours trading session, during which the closing price is traded, and improving the investment fund trading platform," he added.

The second installment will include initiatives that need more time to prepare. "We should make sure that all parties are ready for this phase. Giving time to prepare this phase will ensure its proper application due to the changes, especially those related to central counterparty clearing (CCP) and using the qualified broker form," explained Saleh.

Testing the second installment that will start on May 2019 will include applying new initiatives. "These include changing the way of cash settlement through following the DvP-2 system (net cash - total shares), applying CCP, qualifying brokers, trading on margin by qualified brokers, repurchase agreement (repo), and dividing client's accounts into subaccounts and numbering them, along with connecting it to the system," he added.

CMA, Boursa Kuwait and Kuwait Clearing Company will all hold workshops with participants in the third phase to discuss the details of what will be applied. "Two phases of the market development project were



KUWAIT: Khaled Al-Khaled (right) addresses a press conference. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

applied, as the first phase took place on May 2017 and the second on April 2018. These two phases caused the upgrading of the stock exchange to and emerging markets one at FTSE Russell, MSCI, and S&P Dow Jones," concluded Saleh.

Khaled Al-Khaled, CEO Boursa Kuwait, said that the

bourse is supported by CMA and Kuwait Clearing Company, which makes it able to execute the development plan in all its stages in the best way. "The after-hours session will be only five minutes long, and will allow local and foreign investors to trade on the market," he explained.

US Q3 growth unrevised; headwinds increasing

WASHINGTON: The US economy slowed in the third quarter as previously reported, but the pace was likely strong enough to keep growth on track to hit the Trump administration's 3 percent target this year, even as momentum appears to have moderated further early in the fourth quarter.

Gross domestic product increased at a 3.5 percent annualized rate, the Commerce Department said yesterday in its second estimate of third-quarter GDP growth. That was unchanged from its estimate in October and well above the economy's growth potential, which economists estimate to be about 2 percent. The economy grew at a 4.2 percent pace in the second quarter. While businesses accumulated inventory at a

faster pace and spent more on equipment than initially thought in the third quarter, that was offset by downward revisions to consumer spending and exports.

Growth is being driven by the White House's \$1.5 trillion tax cut package, which has given consumer spending a jolt and supported business investment. The fiscal stimulus is part of measures adopted by President Donald Trump's administration to boost annual growth to 3 percent on a sustainable basis.

The government also reported yesterday that after-tax corporate profits increased at a 3.3 percent rate last quarter after rising at a 2.1 percent pace in the second quarter.

An alternative measure of economic growth, gross domestic income (GDI), increased at a rate of 4.0 percent in the third quarter, quickening from the second quarter's 0.9 percent pace. The average of GDP and GDI, also referred to as gross domestic output and considered a better measure of economic activity, increased at a 3.8 percent rate in the July-September period, up from a 2.5 percent growth pace in the second quarter.

But dark clouds are gathering over the economic expansion that is now in its ninth year and the second longest on record. The goods trade deficit widened fur-

ther in October, pressured by declining exports of soybeans, capital goods and automobiles, the Commerce Department said in another report yesterday. Data released last week showed business spending on equipment weakening in October and it could remain tepid with Brent crude oil prices slumping by more than 30 percent from a four-year high above \$86 in early October. Lower oil prices tend to hurt investment in the energy sector because of reduced profits.

The housing market is softening because of higher interest rates. In addition, General Motors Co said on Monday that it would cut thousands from its North American workforce, slash production and eliminate some slow-selling car models, which could have ripple effects on the domestic economy.

Solid third-quarter growth is expected to keep the Federal Reserve on course to raise interest rates in December for the fourth time this year, despite an escalation of criticism from Trump that tighter monetary policy is slowing down the economy.

The second estimate for the July-September quarter GDP growth was in line with economists' expectations. US financial markets were little moved by the data.

Growth estimates for the fourth-quarter are currently around a 2.5 percent pace. Economists expect GDP

growth to slow further in 2019 as the fiscal stimulus fades and the effects of a bitter trade war with China as well as a strong dollar take their toll.

The third-quarter growth slowdown mostly reflected the impact of Beijing's retaliatory tariffs on US exports, including soybeans. Farmers front-loaded shipments to China before the tariffs took effect in early July, boosting second-quarter growth. Since then, soybean exports have declined every month, increasing the trade deficit. Imports increased a little bit faster in the third quarter than previously estimated while the drop in exports was much sharper, leading to an even wider trade gap, which sliced off 1.91 percentage points from GDP growth in the third quarter, instead of the 1.78 percentage points reported last month. That was the most since the second quarter of 1985.

The rebound in imports was partially driven by strong domestic demand and also reflected a rush by businesses to stockpile before US import duties, mostly on Chinese goods, came into effect late in the third quarter. Imports subtract from GDP growth. But some of the imports likely ended up in warehouses, adding to the stockpile of inventory, which contributed to GDP. Inventories increased at an \$86.6 billion rate, instead of the \$76.3 billion rate estimated in October. — Reuters

Business

Burgan Bank wins CITI Bank New York's 'Excellence Quality Recognition Award'

Award acknowledges bank's consistent, high quality performance

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced that it has received the coveted 'Excellence Quality Recognition Award' for the year 2017 from CITI Bank New York. The award acknowledges the bank's consistent, high quality performance and standards in the complete range of US dollar funds transfer and Treasury operations the management and staff have maintained during the year.

CITI Bank recognizes the bank for achieving 95 percent straight-through processing (STP) in the MT103 category, and 97 percent in the MT202 Category, thus, entitling Burgan Bank to this high prestigious 'Excellence Quality Recognition Award' in these two categories. Burgan Bank was among the few banks across the MENA region to receive this esteemed award for its customers' transfers.

Mohamad Ahmed, Vice President, Correspondent Banking, at CITI bank, said: "We have presented this Excellence Quality Recognition Award to acknowledge the consistent, high quality performance of our clients' fund transfer operations management and of their staff. I would like to congratulate Burgan Bank for being one of those few deserving it, which further illustrates the bank's leading presence in the global financial services market."

Commenting on the bank's prestigious win, Haroon

Ravat, Burgan Bank AGM - Head of Correspondent Banking, said: "The CITI Bank award demonstrates Burgan Bank's commitment to quality offered to its clients, for MT 103 and MT202 Payments. We are proud to have one of the best-in-class straight-through processing STP rates and it is testimony to the hard work and dedication of our operations team in achieving the best in class solutions to meet customers' financial needs."

He added: "On behalf of the entire team at Burgan Bank, I would like to thank CITI Bank for recognizing our exceptional financial services, and to thank our employees in maintaining high quality performance and standards for funds transfer operations, which always proves our motto: "Driven by you".

CITI Bank has presented awards to selected USD clearing clients that achieved a best in-class level of operational excellence. These awards are given to clients who achieve outstanding straight-through results by properly formatting their SWIFT payments. The criterion used for the excellence award is for those banks who achieve straight through processing of 90 percent and above (90 percent of their outgoing traffic volume for each category being STP as opposed to manual intervention which is being the minimum standard STP rate).



Lebanon exceeds budget, needs a new govt: FM

BEIRUT: Highly-indebted Lebanon has exceeded its budget for 2018 and authorities are taking steps to make sure the state can continue to fund itself as politicians struggle to form a new government, the caretaker finance minister said yesterday. More than six months since parliamentary elections, Prime Minister-designate Saad al-Hariri has hit a wall in his efforts to form a national unity government as political factions jostle for positions in a new cabinet.

Politicians have warned there is a risk of economic crisis if a government is not formed soon.

The minister, Ali Hassan Khalil, said the government had spent more than it budgeted for this year, to meet the rising costs of health, electricity, garbage disposal and increased public sector wages.

But he said Lebanon would continue to meet its obligations. "Lebanon ... is committed to paying all its debts and debt servicing. This is something we have become accustomed to in the past and will continue to do so in the coming period," he said.

Lebanon has the world's third highest debt-to-GDP ratio and a new government must be in place before Lebanon embarks on major fiscal reforms. The International Monetary Fund said in June these reforms are urgently needed to put the debt on a sustainable footing. "We are passing through a slightly delicate stage which requires a higher level of coordination between political decision-making, the ministry of finance and the central bank," Khalil said in a televised speech after meeting President Michel Aoun. "We are trying to follow up on the matter as quickly as possible so as not to affect ... securing the funding needed by the Lebanese treasury," he added.

The World Bank estimates Lebanon's national debt will stand at 155 percent of gross domestic product by the end of 2018 and that the rise in current spending will increase the fiscal deficit to 8.3 percent of GDP in 2018, from 6.6 percent in 2017.

Khalil said Lebanon was facing a "very big challenge" as a result of internal and external factors and urged the swift formation of a new government. "The issue is no longer a general request, nor a matter of political luxury, but a fundamental structural need so that we can carry on in the coming period," Khalil said. —Reuters

Norway may help 'find solutions' if Britain seeks to join EFTA: PM

OSLO: Norway may lend support for a potential bid by Britain to rejoin the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) if so wished by London after it exits the European Union, Prime Minister Erna Solberg said yesterday. In Britain, supporters of a so-called "Norway plus" plan that would see Britain re-entering EFTA, of which Norway is a member, have said it could provide an alternative to Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit agreement with Brussels. Asked whether Norway would support Britain coming back to EFTA, Solberg told Reuters in an interview: "If that is what they really want, we will find solutions in the future."

"To find a good agreement is important for all European countries and I hope that we will see an orderly deal that doesn't disrupt economic affairs in Europe," she added.

Britain is Norway's biggest trading partner, to whom it sells natural gas, fish and services. May began yesterday a tour of the United Kingdom to drum up support for her Brexit divorce deal with the EU ahead of a vote in parliament scheduled for Dec. 11. Amid demands from many British lawmakers for May to seek a better deal from the EU, a step Brussels has said it will not countenance, her deputy has said parliament might reject her plan if asked to vote on it now. —Reuters

Penny for your corn? Stingy trade war aid irks US farmers

CHICAGO: Iowa corn farmer Bob Hemesath jokes that the government check he expects as compensation for his trade-war losses will soon allow him to splurge on upscale coffee in town instead of his usual burnt gas-station brew. Rob Sharkey, an Illinois farmer, hopes his corn trade aid check will be big enough for that margarita machine he and his wife have been eyeing - but they doubt they'll be any left over for the booze.

Federal economists have calculated that the nation's losses in corn - its largest crop by harvest and export volume - amount to just a penny per bushel, a pittance farmers call absurd. That's in stark contrast to the substantial \$1.65 per bushel the government will pay for lost sales of soybeans, the crop hardest hit by retaliatory Chinese tariffs in a trade war launched by US President Donald Trump. Both subsidies only cover half the bushels harvested this fall, though the government could soon decide to apply more aid money to this season.

"You have to wonder why Washington even bothered" with the corn subsidy, said Sharkey, 43, a fifth-generation farmer. "The soybean payment? That's real money that can help us." Even Sonny Perdue, Trump's agriculture chief, fails to understand the pennies in trade aid. The US Department of Agriculture secretary - a former farmer himself - recently told corn growers gathered in Champaign, Illinois, that the measly offering left him baffled and asking his agency's economists how they figured the number. "We have got \$1.65 on beans and a penny on corn? That doesn't make any sense," he said.

Britain worse off under any Brexit: Treasury

LONDON: Britain will be economically worse off for leaving the EU, finance minister Philip Hammond said yesterday, as Prime Minister Theresa May takes the Brexit divorce deal to a skeptical Scotland.

Hammond's Treasury ministry said that over the next 15 years, Britain would take an economic hit from leaving the European Union in any circumstances, including under the agreement struck between London and Brussels that May is trying to sell. May has less than a fortnight to convince hostile MPs to back the deal in a December 11 vote and avoid plunging Brexit into chaos, four months out from Britain's March 29 departure date.

"Purely from an economic point of view, there will be a cost to leaving the EU because there will be impediments to our trade. What the prime minister's deal does is absolutely minimize these costs," Hammond said, ahead of the Treasury report's publication. "This is a very modest impact on the overall size of the economy as the optimum way of leaving the EU," the chancellor of the Exchequer told BBC radio.

Struggle for consensus

He insisted that the economy was not the only consideration and controlling Britain's borders, money and laws also had value. "We have to look not only at the economy but the need to heal a fractured nation," said Hammond.

May was to face MPs again in her

"If I were picking numbers, I'd have picked a different one."

But Perdue said the department was obligated to stick with the economists' algorithm because it mirrors what the US would present to the World Trade Organization when filing an unfair-trade grievance. The USDA in August outlined how it would spend the first \$6.1 billion of an authorized \$12 billion aid package for farmers caught up in the trade war, including cash payments for farmers of grains, oilseeds, cotton, dairy and hogs. The National Corn Growers Association has urged Perdue to change how the government calculates the economic bite of lost exports in its next tranche of trade aid, expected in December. Some farmers cracked that they wouldn't stoop to pick up pennies off the ground, much less request them through bureaucratic forms. "A penny is laughable," said Aron Carlson, a corn farmer and president of the Illinois Corn Growers Association. USDA officials did not answer Reuters' questions about how many farmers have applied so far for the corn trade aid. But government data gathered by the Environmental Working Group, a Washington, DC.-based lobby group, from public records requests shows the United States had paid farmers \$1.9 million for 12,807 corn claims as of Oct. 31.

The payouts ranged from \$1 to \$38,298, with an average payment of \$147.

Crunching numbers

USDA economists derived the minuscule payout to US corn farmers through a formula seeking to estimate their economic damage - one many farmers call simplistic and lacking in common sense.

USDA economists ran an analysis of exports as a share of total production; the time it will take to adjust to new trade patterns; the observed price impact; and the measurement of how long it would take to burn through leftover supplies, the agency has said. They looked at how much corn China and the European Union - two export markets that the US has engaged in trade

weekly prime minister's questions session in parliament yesterday.

May runs a minority Conservative government and opposition parties, as well as many of her own MPs, are against the deal. Some Brexiters think it keeps Britain shackled too closely to Brussels while pro-EU lawmakers think the terms are worse than staying in the bloc and want a second referendum. An online Survation poll of 1,030 adults for the Daily Mail newspaper found that 37 percent supported the deal-up 10 percent on November 15 - and 35 percent opposed it, down 14 percent.

Some 41 percent wanted MPs to vote for the deal and 38 percent wanted them to vote it down, in the survey conducted Tuesday. The poll also found that some 48 percent supported holding a new Brexit referendum and 34 percent were against.

If the parliamentary vote is lost, 48 percent said May should resign while 40 percent said she should carry on. The British government and the EU have said that there is no alternative deal available than the one agreed.

If MPs vote it down, Hammond said the government would "consider very carefully how to proceed" through "uncharted political territory", by studying which MPs voted which way. "It is very clear what there is not a consensus for in parliament: what is more difficult to concern is what there is a consensus for," the chancellor said.

Fishing for support

After facing lawmakers in the House of Commons, May was to head to Scotland to appeal over the heads of MPs to ordinary voters to support her plan. Having spent Tuesday campaigning in Wales and Northern Ireland, May will use her visit to Scotland to argue that the agreement offers



fighters - imported from the US in 2017. They then figured that the damage from the 25 percent tariffs on corn from China and the EU totaled \$192 million. The USDA then divided that figure by the 14.6 billion bushels of corn that US farmers harvested in 2017, bringing the per-bushel total to one cent - but only for half of all the bushels they harvest this year.

That approach does not account for the ripple effects the plummeting price of soybeans has had on the corn market, or the reduced demand from Mexico, which started buying more South American corn during the acrimonious negotiations that recently led to a new deal replacing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

It also does not factor in the impact of the Trump Administration's multiple-front trade fights this year with many top agricultural markets on global exports of corn-related byproducts, such as ethanol and distillers dried grains. The agency did throw corn farmers a bone: Calculations for the second tranche of trade aid expected next month

may include the bids that cash merchants around the country were offering farmers for their grain, as well as other market conditions.

That's provided little consolation to farmers who watched prices for the Chicago Board of Trade corn futures contract that tracks the crop they harvested this fall shed 42-1/4 cents per bushel, or 10.5 percent, from the time President Trump announced early in his term that he wanted to re-negotiate NAFTA until details of the penny plan were released in August.

Corn futures have fallen another four cents since then as ongoing concerns about the fight with China that has weighed on soybeans have cast a pall across the entire agriculture sector. So far, \$837.8 million of the total promised \$12 billion has been paid out, according to the USDA. For Indiana farmer Randy Kron, the corn trade aid means about \$900, enough to pay for a few parts for his planter, or some seeds for next spring's planting. His son, who helps them run their 2,200 acre crop farm, thinks the amount isn't worth the effort. —Reuters



LONDON: Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond leaves 11 Downing Street in London. —AFP

the prospect of an "unprecedented economic partnership" with the EU after Brexit.

She will also emphasize that it will mean Britain leaves the EU's Common Fisheries Policy after a transition period scheduled to end in December 2020. "At long last, we will be 'an independent coastal state' again - taking back full sovereign control over our waters, and free to decide for ourselves who we allow to fish in our waters." May

was to say in an address near Glasgow, extracts of which were released by her Downing Street office.

Scottish fishermen are furious they will have to continue obeying EU rules during the transition period, including much-despised quotas and allowing European vessels access to British waters. Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon's pro-EU nationalist party is opposed to the Brexit divorce deal. —AFP

Business

Turkish Airlines signs deal with HAVELSAN for flight simulators

New flight simulators to support pilot training



Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee, M. Ilker Ayci, and HAVELSAN Board Chairman, Prof. Dr. Hacı Ali Mantar during the special signing ceremony at Turkish Airlines headquarters.



DUBAI: Turkish Airlines, who signed a new agreement yesterday with HAVELSAN, produced the first domestic simulator to be used in pilot training for Boeing 737NG in previous period, continues its support for the further expansion of Turkey's domestic and national production concept.

Within the scope of this agreement, which signed yesterday by Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee, M. Ilker Ayci, and HAVELSAN Board Chairman, Prof. Dr. Hacı Ali Mantar, within a special ceremony held in Turkish Airlines Headquarters, HAVELSAN will produce full-flight simulators with international D-level certification for the national flag carrier airline' Boeing 737MAX and Airbus A320CEO/NEO type aircrafts.

Already having 14 simulators in its fleet, Turkish Airlines will be received international D-level certified 5 'Full Flight Simulators' as 2 Boeing 737MAX and 3 Airbus A320CEO/NEO, and 6 'Flight Training Devices' from HAVELSAN to be set into operation in 2020 and 2021, according to the agreement. Thus, while the number of Full Flight Simulators in Turkish Airlines Flight Training Center will reach 28 with the other simulators to be received in 2021, the first domestic production of Boeing 737MAX and

Airbus A320CEO/NEO type simulators will also be included in this number.

Within the scope of this initiative, which will reduce foreign dependency and remarkably accelerate the concept of domestic production, EASA D-level certified Full Flight Simulators which enable Turkish Airlines pilots to get their adaptation, evolution, and renewal trainings at low costs and in a realistic manner, will be delivered to Turkish Airlines' ever-expanding fleet, by Turkey's prominent defense and aerospace company, HAVELSAN, who combined its simulator design, production, integration and maintenance experience in the military field with civil aviation.

Commenting at the signing ceremony, M. Ilker Ayci, Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee said: "As the two major players of Turkish Civil Aviation, Turkish Airlines and HAVELSAN, we are very excited to have launched such a meaningful cooperation today. With the awareness of being the national flag carrier of our country, as Turkish Airlines, we are proud to have further developed our support for the domestic and national production, by turning towards the domestic resources."

"These new simulators to be delivered in forthcoming

years, will enable Turkish Airlines pilots to continue their training at the best standard, and also be experienced by the pilots of foreign airlines who prefer our flight training center for their refresher trainings. These simulators, which will have been seen also in the global market in this way, will also play a remarkable role in further increasing the global recognition of Turkish Airlines flight experience, which has already been a highly prestigious aviation brand today."

Noting that the existing cooperation between the two brands will be increased with this agreement, HAVELSAN Board Chairman Prof. Dr. Hacı Ali Mantar said: "Now our country has made a distinguished name for itself around the world with the investments it has made in the areas where it has gained technological superiority. We believe that our cooperation with our flag carrier airline, Turkish Airlines, will grow rapidly in the environment of trust and solidarity. Thanks to these new flight simulators and training systems to be designed and produced by HAVELSAN, we will be able to satisfy the needs in this regard by turning towards domestic resources instead of foreign resources. At the same time, we will have the opportunity to export both system and training to the world airline sim-

ulator market with this project."

Simulators come to the forefront as one of the most important factors to improve the quality of pilot training. The pilots are trained in the simulator after the ground lessons in the types of aircraft that they will fly. After completing the simulator training, which has changing durations according to the type of aircraft and the pilot's experience, pilots can fly the aircraft. In civil aviation, pilots are also flying in simulators to renew their competence/ capabilities every 6 months. During this training, pilots are provided with emergency training under all kinds of environmental conditions. Thus, while the potential risks are minimized, the level of competent education is raised.

HAVELSAN, who took action to meet the increasing demand of pilot training that emerged in parallel with the significant momentum that seen in the Turkish Civil Aviation industry under the leadership of Turkish Airlines, the national flag carrier of Turkey, targets to be a key player in civil aviation sector as well, as it has already been in the military field. The company also aims to gain a significant place in the world civil simulator production market with the production of Boeing 737MAX and Airbus A320CEO/NEO type simulators.

No-deal Brexit could cost UK economy 9.3% of GDP over 15 years

LONDON: If Britain crashes out of the EU without a deal its economy could end up being 9.3 percent smaller in 15 years' time than would otherwise be the case, the government said yesterday.

A cross-departmental analysis found leaving the EU will leave Britain poorer than it would have been had it remained inside the bloc, even accounting for new trade deals it would eventually be able to sign. It did not exactly model for the deal struck by Prime Minister Theresa May with the EU last week, the outlines of which remain vague, but suggests something similar could see the economy shrink by as much as 3.9 percent.

The 83-page report was published a fortnight before British MPs vote on the deal, with many deeply opposed. The Brexit deal comprises a divorce agreement and a political declaration on future

ties, which offers a "spectrum" of options for how Britain will trade with the EU after Brexit, the report said.

Given this range of options, the economic analysis offered two different models on what the final deal could look like, and assessed how they could affect the economy when combined with the government's hopes of ending free movement of EU workers into Britain. If Britain got the frictionless trade it wants, as outlined in a government plan in July, and there was no change to migration arrangements, the economy would still shrink by 0.6 percent compared to what it would be otherwise. If Britain did get frictionless trade and net EEA migration fell to zero, the economy would shrink by 2.5 percent.

But many believe Britain will not get everything it wants, and the analysis models a trade arrangement halfway between frictionless trade and a standard free trade agreement.

This compromise model with no change to migration would see the economy shrink by 2.1 percent. With zero net migration, it would shrink by 3.9 percent.

The document makes clear the paper is not an economic forecast for the UK economy, adding that the results "should be interpreted with caution".



LONDON: A handout photograph released by the UK Parliament shows Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May (left), Britain's Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union (Brexit Minister) Stephen Barclay (centre) and Britain's Work and Pensions Secretary Amber Rudd react during the weekly question and answer session, Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs), in the House of Commons in London yesterday. —AFP

The models also do not take into account changes such as demography or productivity levels, or any changes to EU rules in future. They do however assume Britain rolls over the trade deals it currently benefits from as part of the EU, and strikes new ones with countries including the United States.

But the impact of these trade deals is negligible—and increase of between 0.1 and 0.2 percent in GDP compared to today's arrangements. —AFP

Indian govt to run power play at next RBI board meeting

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI: For all the cordiality on show at the end of Reserve Bank of India's last board meeting, tensions could re-surface when it next gathers on Dec. 14 as the government aims to ramp up pressure for changes in the way the central bank operates.

A majority of the 18-member board, now stacked with government nominees, intends to press for reduced curbs on lending and governance changes that would give the board more say, according to three sources with direct knowledge of what was said when the board last met on Nov. 19.

Like the government, most board members feel that RBI should be "more transparent and accountable" for its decisions, said one source, who was also aware of discussions held subsequently within the government. Prior to the November meeting, senior officials in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration had cranked up pressure, publicly and privately, on policy matters, raising fears among former central bankers that the RBI was at risk of losing independence. With a general election due by May, and voters concerned about weak farm incomes and whether enough jobs are being created, Modi is keen to stimulate the economy and is looking for the RBI to allow easier lending policies. "The relationship between the RBI and the government is like a stretched rubber now," said a former top RBI

official. "Once stretched the rubber will never return to its original size. The memory of this significant assault on the autonomy of the central bank will last for a long time."

The worsening atmosphere between the government in New Delhi and the central bank in Mumbai fed media speculation earlier this month that RBI Governor Urjit Patel might consider resigning. In the past, the board has acted as little more than an advisory body, but under the 1934 law that established the central bank it has the ability to possess real teeth and force policy change.

To speed along its transformation, the government has appointed experts from various fields, including accounting, technology and finance to the board. At its next meeting, it is likely to review how the central bank and the board engage, as well as the functioning of the sub-committees of the board, the sources said. "The next board will take up the agenda pending from the earlier two meetings," a second source said. "This mainly includes governance at the central bank, the relationship between the board and the RBI and other related issues."

Those other issues could include providing more liquidity support to a weakened non-banking finance sector, functioning of the sub-committees of the central board and easing lending curbs on 11 state-run banks who are under a prompt corrective action plan (PCA) imposed by the RBI.

"RBI governance, PCA and liquidity are our top priorities," said the first source, adding he expected the RBI to accept that that viewpoint sooner rather than later.

Ex-RBI officials, including a governor and a deputy governor, said that never before has the board tried to interfere in the central



bank's regulatory functions. The Finance Ministry and RBI spokesmen did not have a comment for this story.

"Hospital infection risk"

Top government officials have pressed the RBI to ease capital rules for banks, provide more liquidity to the shadow banking sector, support lending to small businesses and let the government use more of the RBI's surplus reserves to boost the economy.

At its meeting last week, the RBI's board had decided that a sub-committee will look into the matter of easing curbs for the 11 banks and make recommendations to the board. That decision had followed on from

the October board meeting, which noted an improvement among some banks under the PCA, based on parameters including bad loan recovery, higher deposit growth.

At that time, the RBI had wanted to wait a while longer to see if the improvement was sustained before lifting the curbs, a third source said. But the government believes waiting would invite more risks and expects the RBI to lift curbs on four of the lenders.

"We can't leave a patient in the hospital for a longer period as it faces a risk of catching an infection or spreading infection among other patients," the second source said, adding that the PCA list could not be a static one. —Reuters

Blockchain, AI hailed as new tools to protect high seas

SEATTLE: Emerging technologies that can remotely monitor the high seas will be crucial to enforcing a proposed deal to preserve the biological diversity of the world's oceans, researchers and campaigners said. Diplomats met in September at the United Nations in New York to begin negotiations on a legally binding treaty to protect ocean resources - with the aim of hashing out an agreement by 2020. Technologies like blockchain - the distributed ledger technology that underpins the bitcoin currency - could help enforce the new treaty by tracking fishing on the high seas and identifying illegal behavior, said Dominic Waughray, head of the World Economic Forum's Centre for Global Public Goods.

"If you take the law of the sea, you absolutely need that framework and negotiation, a set of principles, but how do you police and enforce it? Technology," he said, pointing to artificial intelligence as another way to monitor the oceans.

The proposed treaty would cover the "high seas" - an area beyond the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that extends from each country's coastline into the ocean, as established by the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). On the high seas there are no universally recognized rules governing who can fish where and take how much - with illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing estimated to cost \$23.5 billion a year.

A trial effort by conservation group WWF in the Pacific tuna industry sees fishermen tagging fish with a scannable code that is uploaded to a blockchain ledger, so businesses and customers can confirm the source of any given tuna for sale at a retailer. Such transparency will enable prospective buyers to avoid an ill-gotten catch, said Waughray.

"Retailers recognise the need for clean, transparent supply chains," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Patchwork status quo

For Waughray, "oceans governance is the classic public good challenge." "We know we need it for a healthy ocean, but because nobody owns it ... we have a real problem," he said. Groups of countries have negotiated specific regulations for sections of international waters, like rules governing tuna fishing in the Pacific or fish stocks in the Atlantic between Greenland and Europe.

But experts view that existing patchwork as inadequate to manage ecosystems in international waters.

"A lot of these bodies have focused on resource extraction or how to divvy up what's there," said Liz Karan, senior manager for the high seas at the Pew Charitable Trusts, a non-profit organization.

"The hope of this new high seas treaty is to protect biodiversity beyond national boundaries and close these governance gaps," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Without a global deal, little has been accomplished by the piecemeal approach, Karan said. For example, nearly 10 years after north Atlantic island Bermuda spearheaded an effort to encourage collective management of the Sargasso Sea and protect its eel-rich seagrass, there are no binding measures in place, she added. Small Pacific island nations suffer the most from the existing system, Karan said, noting that the EEZs of countries like Kiribati, Nauru, and the Solomon Islands leave gaps for large-scale international fishing vessels to come in. —Reuters

Business

NBK Capital wins 'Asset Manager of the Year Kuwait for 2018'

Global Investor Group award for 9th year in a row

KUWAIT: Watani Investment Company K.S.C.C (NBK Capital) announced that it has been awarded the "Asset Manager of the Year | Kuwait for 2018" for the ninth year in a row, awarded by Global Investor Group, that gives you access to a wealth of news, analysis and data across the Asset Management, Securities Finance, Custody, Fund Services and Derivatives markets.

NBK Capital said in a press release that this award is a confirmation of its commitment to excellence and leadership. It is based on a series of fund management criteria and, according to the editors of the magazine, with the unanimous support of a number of investment and asset management experts. Has won numerous awards for major companies in the region that lead the investment field in terms of performance, innovation and excellence.

The diversification of innovative investment products and services, the adoption of best practices in investment operations and how to manage risk make NBK Capital outperform its peers in the region to offer the best asset management solutions to its customers.

Commenting on the achievement, Nabil

Maroof, Deputy CEO of NBK Capital, said: "The award is a testament to our continued growth and continued interest in providing quality and highest standards in the investment products and services we offer to our clients and investors. We are always honored to receive such important awards. It represents recognition of our efforts to add value to our shareholders and stakeholders in every aspect of our activities and business."

Maroof said: "The award confirms NBK's leadership in asset management locally and regionally and is instrumental in developing its performance and services to enhance local and regional leadership in the asset management sector and is an incentive to continue to strive for the best for investors and customers."

Maroof added: "The ability of NBK Capital to win these prestigious awards year after year is a result of our continued commitment to excellence by offering innovative investment solutions that meet the aspirations of our clients in the investment world. Innovative products, creative thinking and excellence in performance have enabled to receive several similar awards over the years."

The award was received by Dr Husayn Shahrur, Managing Director of MENA Asset Management at NBK Capital, during the annual Middle East Awards held in Dubai in November. He said that winning this award is a testimony to the success of the strategy of the National Investment to create investment opportunities of high value to investors.

Dr. Shahrur added that the innovative products, creative thinking and excellence in performance were behind NBK Capital, winning several similar awards over the years, and "Our business model is based on a balanced investment policy aimed at reducing investment risk by diversifying investment activity".

Dr. Shahrur concluded: "The regional asset management sector at NBK Capital will continue its efforts to enhance performance and enhance the company's position. And will make every effort to meet the needs of our extensive customer base."

NBK Capital regional asset management offers innovative and outstanding investment products that are award winning and aim to achieve sustainable growth with a focus on transparency and risk manage-



Dr Husayn Shahrur receives Asset Manager of the Year | Kuwait for 2018 award

ment. These include separately managed accounts and investment funds. The company's MENA Asset Management team

includes specialized and elite members with decades of experience in the Middle East and North Africa region.

Warba Bank announces Al-Sunbula weekly draw

KUWAIT: Warba Bank, "the Best investment Bank" and "Best Corporate Bank" in Kuwait, will be organizing its 43rd weekly draw which has been delayed due to the holiday given for Prophet Muhammad's Birthday (PBUH) last week along with the 44th weekly draw to announce the 10 winners at 11 am today in presence of a representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Bank officials.

Al-Sunbula Account is the perfect choice for all customers who wish to save money and achieve steady returns while simultaneously have the opportunity to win cash prizes throughout the year. Due to the high traffic on this account, for its offerings of unparalleled opportunities, Warba Bank has worked on enhancing Al-Sunbula account to provide customers with more benefits. Such enhancements include increasing the number of winners and the frequency of the draws. Now, on every Thursday the Bank holds draws for 5 weekly winners of KD 1,000 each. In addition, the Bank continues its monthly draws held on the first Thursday of every month, with cash prizes of KD 30,000 divided amongst 4 winners: two winners getting KD 10,000 each, and two winners getting KD 5,000 each.

Thus, the new development of Al-Sunbula account has increased the total number of winners to 24, and the total amount of prizes to KD 50,000 instead of KD 30,000. As for the chances for winning, each customer is eligible to enter the draw against each KD 10. It is noteworthy, that Warba Bank has recently launched the Al-Sunbula Fixed Deposit, which provides depositors with high returns of up to 3 percent, as well as getting monthly chances to win in Al-Sunbula Account draws.

Furthermore, Warba Bank has launched its latest Customer Onboarding solution, in line with its ambitious five-year strategy that enables non-Warba Bank customers to request opening Al-Sunbula account in an easy electronic manner through the Bank's website without having to visit any of the Bank's branches, by following 5 simple steps that might take up to 5 minutes. New customers will be able to request opening the account at anytime, anywhere, and the Bank will receive, process and pass the new application for approval through whole new and unique electronic system used to implement this service. Warba Staff will then contact the customer to determine the appropriate time to visit the branch to get required signatures, verify the customer's identity, deliver his/her debit card, and activate the account.

Ghosn lines up 'The Breaker' to fight his corner

TOKYO: Motonari Ohtsuru, widely reported to be Carlos Ghosn's Japanese defense attorney, should be familiar with the tactics of the prosecution-he used to run the elite unit investigating the tycoon. As a prosecutor, the bespectacled 63-year-old with floppy greying hair earned the soubriquet "the breaker" as he was so good at extracting confessions from suspects.

Considered a straight-shooter, he also became affectionately known as "Mr Square" as he was so straight-laced even in a profession known for its seriousness. Being a prosecutor was always Ohtsuru's dream job and he rose up the ranks to become chief of a special squad in the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office, which probes the biggest financial cases-including Ghosn's. After his appointment in 2005, he vowed to work to bring white-collar criminals to heel, spurred on by the sense of injustice felt by the working class.

At his inaugural news conference, Ohtsuru told reporters he wanted to "prosecute cases that anger honest workers and make them wonder 'How come this is allowed?'"

Ohtsuru, in a past article on the justice ministry website explaining his job, pledged to devote his team to defending people who play by the rules. "We must not accept a society in which unfair behavior triumphs and outdoes people who earn a living by the sweat of their brow or who lost their jobs in corporate restructuring, and companies that follow the law," Ohtsuru wrote. —AFP

Citibank Kuwait hosts annual event, presents Leadership and Ingenuity Award

KUWAIT: For the fifth year, Citibank Kuwait hosted its annual Citi Alumni Network Event at the Radisson Blu Hotel. Atiq Rehman, Middle East and Africa Chief Executive Officer of Citi, CEO for Citibank Kuwait, Fatah Adour, and other seniors attended the event.

The purpose of the event is to gather alumni that worked at Citibank Kuwait and elsewhere. Every year, Citi honors one or more alumnus for exceptional work in one of three categories: Leadership and Ingenuity, Community Involvement and Network Development. The "Citi Distinguished Alumni Awards" are a global practice and are presented at each alumni event held in the countries Citi operates in around the world.

This year, Citi Bahrain presented the 2018 "Citi Distinguished Alumni Award" in Leadership and Ingenuity to Michel Accad, a veteran who served 27 years at Citi in several countries across the Middle East and Africa region and is currently the CEO of Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait. Prior to ABK, he was CEO and General Manager of Gulf Bank in Kuwait and oversaw its turnaround following the 2008 crisis.

This year, Michel was listed as one of the 100



Group picture of Alumni and Citibank Kuwait employees during the fifth alumni event.

most powerful Arabs. In 2013, he was listed among the Gulf's 50 most efficient CEOs and was ranked 133 in the Arabian Business Power 500. In 2016, Michel Accad was named 'Bank CEO of the Year' by CEO Magazine, an ITP affiliate.

Speaking at the event, Citibank Kuwait CEO and General Manager, Fatah Adour said: "This is the first year that we present the Leadership and Ingenuity Award and it is a well-deserved one by Michel who had many of us work under his leadership. We are proud of all of our alumni and plan to continue nominating prominent bankers like Michel for awards in this and other categories".

The Citi Alumni Network is open to all alumni who worked with Citi for at least one year.



(From left) Atiq Rehman, CEO of MEA presents the award to Ruben Fernandez (right) who received the Leadership and Ingenuity Award on behalf of Michel Accad.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds to triple number of outlets to 750

MUMBAI/DUBAI: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the world's largest jewellery retailers, announces ambitious global growth plan on the eve of its silver jubilee (25 years) celebrations that will see the company triple its retail network from 250 showrooms this year to 750 outlets in the next five years with annual turnover exceeding \$6.16 billion (INR45,000 crores) and the Group turnover to \$6.85 billion (INR50,000 crores) by 2023.

The Group currently operates retail outlets spread across ten countries in the India, Middle East, Southeast Asia and America. Its massive expansion plan will see the company expand its footprint across all Tier 1 and Tier II cities in North and Central India - in order to cater to the growing jewellery market. The company's plan of major expansion in international market includes new territories such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Australia, Canada, Egypt and Turkey. As much as 40 percent of the group turnover will be generated from the company's operations outside India.

Considering the characteristics of the new market planned to enter, Malabar Group introduced a new concept - MGD Lifestyle Jewellery - a smaller format store offering daily wear small-ticket jewellery and lifestyle articles.

The company plans to invest \$960 million (INR 7,000 Cr) to manage the growth and expansion. The expansion will see Malabar Group expand its investor base from 2,752 and include more investors from North and Central Indian states, so that they could also be a part of the success of Malabar Gold and Diamonds.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds is the jewellery retail arm of the diversified business conglomerate Malabar Group that includes other business verticals such as real estate developments, shopping malls, hypermarket, technologies, retailing of home appliances &

electronics, watches, franchisee retailing and services.

The new expansion will see Malabar Group nearly double its headcount from 13,000 to 25,000 professionals on direct payroll within the next five years to manage the growth and expansion.

"Silver Jubilee is a major milestone in any company's history and during this time Malabar Group grew from a local entity to an Indian International brand with a large loyal customer base. "Today, Malabar is a name to reckon with and known to almost every consumer. During the last 25 years, Malabar Gold & Diamond has grown from strength to strength and rose from being a small outfit to an international player across a number of verticals including gold and diamond jewellery retail, jewellery manufacturing and multi-retail concepts," MP Ahammed, Chairman of Malabar Group, told the media at a press conference in Mumbai.

"The culture of gifting lives along with human beings to express their love, affection and emotion for their loved ones. Our aim is to be No 1 in this segment and we will strengthen the gifting aspect of jewellery that is fast growing in India and other countries and use it as a growth-driver of our jewellery business," he added.

Abdul Salam KP, Group Executive Director of Malabar Group, said, "As a responsible business, we are very mindful of our obligations to our societies. Our expansion will create more well-paid jobs and we are very excited about our future growth plan. We ensure our entire operation in a very transparent way. We understand the sensitivity of the industry and ensure compliance through responsible sourcing, ethical business practices, transparent and professional fund management. We associate with trade bodies, financial houses, government regulators to make sure that our operations are infallible globally.

The group has a unique business model where its expansion is fuelled by investors who become shareholders in different entities in a very transparent ownership model. Malabar Gold & Diamonds currently have over 2,752 investors under different entities who share the same vision, dedication and passion. Around 19.4 percent of these investors are full time employees with the



MUMBAI: Malabar Group unveils its 25th anniversary celebration logo at a press conference at Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai. MP Ahammed, Chairman - Malabar Group, Abdul Salam KP, Group Executive Director, Malabar Group and Shamail Ahammed, Managing Director - International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds are present.

Group, including the front-end managers and directors.

Added Asher O, Managing Director - India operations, said, "Our ambitious retail expansion plan in North and Central Indian states like Punjab, Maharashtra, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, etc will be supported by a new set of investors from these regions. We will also continue to strengthen our retail foot print in the states where we currently have strong presence. Our unique business model of sharing and caring has worked for us very well and it makes us a transparent and accountable organisation with a solid foundation where all investors have a financial and moral stake in the company. We want our North and Central Indian brothers also to join the movement and share our success."

The company's expansion will help generate about 12,000 new jobs and help the youths to earn a better living. We are also planning to set up three more manufacturing units and in order to manage the expansion and to fix the skill shortage in jewellery manufacturing, we are in the process of setting up a skill development centre to groom the youth and absorb them in various job profiles, in line with the Skills India campaign," Asher added

Shamail Ahammed, Managing Director of Malabar Gold & Diamonds' International Operations, said, "As an Indian-born international jewellery brand, we take pride in our roots in India and help connect the global consumers to the Indian heritage and art. Our strong retail presence across 10 countries coupled with the jewellery manufacturing capabilities that mostly produces Indian culture-inspired designs that are exported to the rest of the world through our international retail network. Our further expansion in the international arena will lead to Indian artisanal jewellery being showcased at prominent global destinations."

The group has earmarked 5 percent of its annual profit for CSR activities in five key areas such as housing, health, environment, women empowerment and education.

The group is also in the process of formally opening its new global headquarters at Montana Estate in Kozhikode, Kerala. Montana Estate has been set up at a sprawling 150-acre green tract as an eco-friendly township with signature bungalows, villas and apartments, international school, convention centre, organic farming, mini theatres, business clubs, etc.

Health & Science

Are champions born, or raised? Scientists try to answer question

Argentine polo turns to genetics to produce champions

BUENOS AIRES: Are champions born, or raised? That's the question scientists in Argentina are trying to answer as they look to pinpoint the genes that make local horses the best in the world for playing polo. In Argentina, polo is a big deal, and big business, and to that end, cloning has already been used to reproduce the finest existing mounts. But scientists want to go one step further and map the entire genome of the Argentine polo horse in order to create the perfect specimen. From December, a group of five universities will analyze 80,000 horses from the breed as part of a project that will try to identify the ideal genetic balance that makes up a polo horse.

The Argentine horses used to play polo have been bred specifically over decades by crossing a Criollo line descended from the original pure-blooded Andalusian and Arab mounts brought to the New World by Spanish conquistadores, and English thoroughbreds, introduced at the end of the 19th century when British immigrants also imported polo. For veterinarian Guillermo Buchanan, the Argentine polos "are unique" because of their speed and durability, and because of their mix of explosiveness and docility. During a polo match these horses, also known as polo ponies due to their agility, "change direction at speed, slow down, turn, accelerate while turning," says admiring horse-breeder Pablo Trigo, who is also co-managing the project.

The Argentine polos distinguish themselves in their rate of learning and sensibility to their rider's desires. They are the most cloned animal in the world. At stud farms in the Buenos Aires area they are looked after as if works of art. And now science is being used to figure out how to reproduce the finest animals. The project is expected to start producing results within three years and will precede the launch of a genetic selection program aimed at optimizing the horses' physical and temperamental characteristics.

'Cutting edge' research

There's nothing new about using applied research and biotechnology to improve polo ponies but interest in the science is growing, as is the money people are prepared

to pay for its results. The clone of a legendary mare fetched a whopping \$800,000 at auction. According to estimates, there are around 200 cloned Argentine polos, many copies of elite level mounts. So far, all seem to be in excellent health.

Argentina "is absolutely at the cutting-edge of applied research into polo ponies," said geneticist Sebastian Demyda, one of the project's leaders. This includes every biotechnological technique from embryonic transfer to cloning and gender selection: mares are preferred because of their more docile temperament. Argentina's polo association accepts cloning—although not everyone considers this ethical, and one private clinic specializing in embryo manipulation has ceased its activities. "(Genetic) engineering is the limit," said Buchanan, who believes tampering with individual embryos is a step too far.

Cloning however has become common practice in polo—and while clones were initially used only for reproductive purposes, now they are used in competition too. Elite players can have up to six or seven clones in their pens. "The clones are doing very well, they're winning prizes," said Demyda. But cloning has its drawbacks, not least when it comes to the gene pool. "Clones narrow the race's genetic structure, they're like a photocopy," said Demyda. When it comes to the sport, they also distort the playing field. Cloning costs a minimum of \$30,000 meaning only the richest can benefit. "Cloning isn't available to everyone, it's very expensive and gives certain breeders an advantage."

'Special connection' needed

While science can help favor certain physical and even temperamental traits at birth, training maintains a crucial and almost mythical role in the development of polo horses. It can take seven years to train a polo pony as it needs to be programmed into acting against its natural instincts. Specialist Ezequiel Correa says "what's fundamental is that it has been well tamed," although without using violence. A horse needs to get used to the swinging wooden mallet brushing its sides, and the sound when it connects with the



LA PLATA: Researchers of the Genetics Veterinary Institute (IGEVET) make tests to a polo horse at La Plata University in La Plata, Argentina. Researchers in Argentina seek to identify the genome of the Argentine polo horse, considered as the best in the world. — AFP

metal ball. It's a painstaking art form that requires small steps of just 20 minutes training a day. "It's like teaching a child to read one letter at a time. If you make it read in front of the class, you traumatize it," said Correa, who at 33 has trained 20 horses. "If you expose a horse to polo before it's ready, you traumatize it and it's difficult to come

back from that." Once that's been achieved, though, the next step is to establish "chemistry" between horse and rider. "You need a special connection, there's a unique form of communication using the legs. If it works, you can have a champion." Science, it seems, cannot overcome every challenge. — AFP

France to reimburse condoms in fight against AIDS, STIs

PARIS: The French government said Tuesday it would take the rare step of reimbursing prescription-bought condoms to combat the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. The measure, which covers French-made Eden condoms obtained on prescription from a doctor or midwife, was announced ahead of World AIDS Day on Saturday. Produced by Majorelle laboratories and sold only in pharmacies, Eden condoms cost a fraction of leading brands such as Durex or Manix at 2.60 euros for a box of 12.

They are the first to be approved for reimbursement by France's national health authority, one of the few in Europe to do so. In a statement the company hailed the announcement as "sending a strong signal that it (a condom) is not a sex toy but a real and indispensable prevention tool" in the fight against sexually transmitted infections. In July, a health department study showed cases of chlamydia and gonococcus—two common STIs—tripling in France between 2012 and 2016, with 15-24 year-olds particularly affected. The study indicated the rise was due to people having sex with "an increasing number of partners coupled with the non-systematic use of condoms".

Asked why its brand was selected, a spokeswoman for Majorelle, which was founded in 2012 with the stated aim of

reducing inequality in access to health products, said: "We were the first to ask".

Chlamydia cases rise

Agnes Buzyn, the health minister who is a trained doctor, sounded the alarm over the risk of HIV transmission among condom-averse young people. Around 6,000 new cases of HIV infection were diagnosed in 2016 — down five percent since 2013 — taking the number of people living with the virus in France to over 172,000. Buzyn warned that young people increasingly "use a condom the first time they have sex but not in subsequent instances."

Majorelle cited a study showing that 75 percent of young people would use condoms more if the cost was covered by the state. It said that the state would cover 60 percent of the cost of the condoms and hopes that top-up health insurance providers would cover the remainder. The news was hailed by NGOs involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

"Anything that facilitates access to prevention is good news," said Florence Thune, head of the Sidaction association. "There should be no financial obstacle, whatever the method," she said. "It's another string to our bow," said Caroline Izambert, a campaigner at Aides HIV prevention group. —AFP

S Korea successfully tests space rocket engine

SEOUL: South Korea yesterday successfully conducted a rocket engine test launch, news reports said, paving the way for the development of its own space launch vehicle. A liquid-fuel engine successfully propelled a single-stage rocket weighing 52 tons and measuring 25.8 meters (84.6 feet) long, from the Naro Space Center on the southern coast, Yonhap news agency said. The engine, designed and developed by the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) as part of a \$1.8 billion project, will be used to propel the country's first indigenous three-stage launch vehicle—the Korea Space Launch Vehicle-2 (KSLV-2). "This is a significant step forward in developing a launch vehicle with our own technology," a KARI spokesman said.

It is the first such launch in South Korea since 2013 when the country successfully put a small satellite into orbit following failures in 2009 and in 2010. But the significance of the 2013 launch was widely discounted as the launch vehicle had to rely on a Russia-developed engine for its first stage. On its launch-scheduled for 2021 —



GOHEUNG, South Korea: This handout photo taken yesterday and provided by Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) shows a single stage rocket taking off from its launch pad at the Naro Space Center in the southern coast county of Goheung. — AFP

KSLV-2 will use five of the newly developed engines, a bundle of four for the first stage and another one for the second stage.

Yesterday's test was deemed successful as the engine combustion was maintained for over 140 seconds during the test launch, Yonhap said. The KSLV-2 rocket, which will be South Korea's first space vehicle wholly designed and built by itself, will be used to place satellites into the Earth's orbit and for other commercial applications. — AFP

Prostate cancer numbers take a leap in Kuwait

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Head of the urology unit at Jaber Armed Forces Hospital Dr Mohammad Al-Ghanim said prostate cancer is fatal if not discovered early, adding that those aged 50 years and above should undergo tests and medical checkups. He said prostate cancer is the most widespread type of cancer among men in Kuwait, so awareness is very important for early discovery, which can save thousands of lives.

Ghanim said the cause of prostate cancer is unknown, in addition to other factors such as it being hereditary, in addition to old age and geography, as it mostly occurs in America, Africa and Europe than in Asia and the Middle East. He said the disease can be called a 'silent killer', because it does not have any warning symptoms, which makes early discovery very crucial, which can be done through periodical examinations for those aged between 50 to 70 in most cases.

Ghanim added that treatment of the disease is done in several ways, including surgery. New radiation treatments, done externally and internally, are also available. In many cases, patients are treated with hormones, which help the body stop producing testosterone, while some medicines also keep testosterone from reaching the cells. Chemotherapy and biological treatment are also available, but it depends on the severity of the disease.



CLINIC
PAGE

248 33 199

Dr. Husain Alenezi

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

Expert in diagnosing and treating:

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

Contact Taiba Hospital: 1808088 94449452 Twitter: @DrHusain_Urol

Our Doctors Provide care For the entire Family

Book your appointments today!

Dr. Kiran Turak
Ophthalmologist

Dr. Zareena Zahir
Ophthalmologist

Dr. Hasan Khan
Senior Cardiologist

Dr. P. Seshendra Nath
Orthopedic Consultant (AUSTRALIA)
Specialized in Neck, Shoulder, Hip and Knee

EXIR MEDICAL SUBSPECIALITIES CENTER

Block No.4 Jahra - Kuwait

Tel : 24568857 / 24568859 info@exircenterkw.com www.exircenterkw.com

WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR INSURANCES

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199

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

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

Salmiya, Belajat Street, Tel: 1881122

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

ACADAMIC CERTIFICATES:

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

SPECIALIZED IN:

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

SHARQ, Ahmad Alsheer st., Building 14, Floor 13.
Tel.: (+965) 22060777
@DrFahamed, @Fahmedb, @fahmedb
Email: drfahamed@beautybeyond.com.kw

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

All general and specialized surgeries such as:

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

Global Medical Center, Bneid Al-Qar Bour Saeed Street, Block-1, Building-128.
Telephone: 1871111 @globalmedcenter www.globalmed-center.com

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

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

مستشفى دار الشفاء Dar Al Shifa Hospital
Tele:1802 555 @daralshifa

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

Specialized in:

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

alsalam.int.hospital

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

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

Specialized in:

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

alsalam.int.hospital

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

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

Dr. Hani Haider
General Surgery Consultant
http://www.international-clinic.com Tel: 1886677 ic_kwt

Scope of Clinical Practice:

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

Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:

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

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

مستشفى دار الشفاء Dar Al Shifa Hospital
Tele:1802 555 @daralshifa Email: aalhaddad@daralshifa.com

DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM
Consultant Pediatrician

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

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

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

Academic Certificates - Training

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

Scope of clinical Practice.

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

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

What's On

LOYAC board chairperson receives 'Pioneer Arab Woman' Award 2018



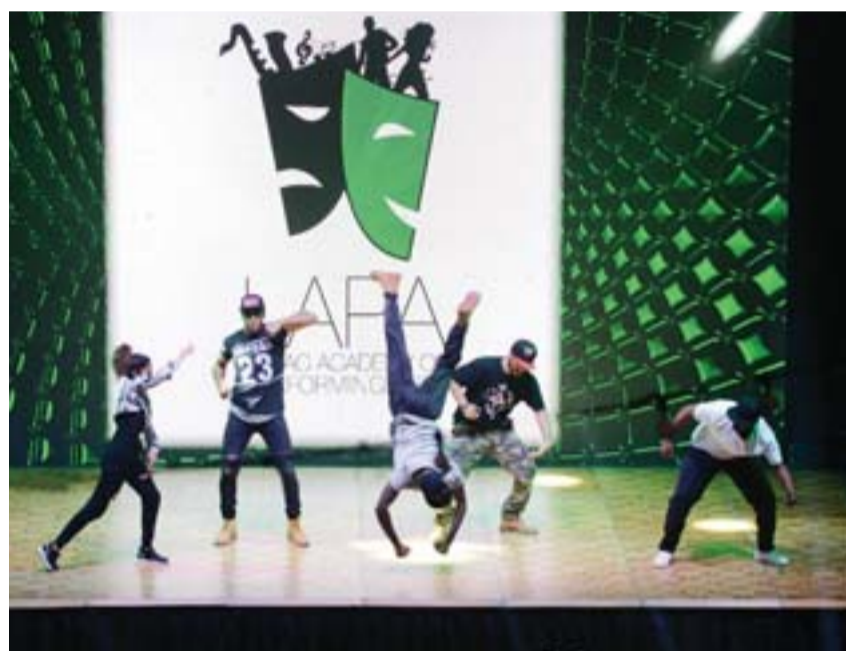
Takreem establishment recently organized a special honoring ceremony at Jaber Al-Ahmed Cultrual Center where LOYAC's board chairperson, Fare'a Al-Saqqaf was recently awarded the 'Pioneer Arab Woman' award 2018. Speaking on receiving the award, Al-Saqqaf thanked Takreem and ded- icated the award to LOYAC and all her co-workers noting that it is LOYAC that really deserves honoring. She also urged Takreem to support human values calling for peace, love and sharing "as there is plenty for all", she underscored.

Diplomatic Woman Committee holds meeting

The Diplomatic Woman Committee held its third meeting with the group representing the board of directors in the presence of Kyrgyz Ambassador to Kuwait Samargyul Adamkulova, to discuss programs and committee activity for the end of 2018, and welcome the new year 2019. The meeting approved several recommendations from members of the board to strengthen the role of the diplomatic woman committee in Kuwait.



LAPA prepares for arts festival



LuLu Hypermarket revamps online service

LuLu Hypermarket, the largest retailer in the region and a pioneer in setting retail benchmarks, has revamped its online home delivery service and redesigned its mobile apps to make it even more easy and convenient to shop the hypermarket's ecommerce website at LuluWebstore.com. The one-stop online store has widened its delivery network and now offers delivery service all over for a nominal charge.

The home-delivery service, which is available for every purchase above KD10, promises to execute same-day delivery for orders placed before 12pm. In addition, to ensure that grocery and other purchases are delivered fresh to your doorstep, the web store has special delivery vans fitted with multiple compartments, each equipped with individual temperature controls.

Meanwhile, the redesigned mobile app, now available on Google's Playstore and Apple's Appstore, makes ordering online a hassle-free experience. The eas-

ily downloadable app allows shoppers to save their shopping cart for next purchase; save their favorite items to a wishlist and have it included in every shopping; and learn about the latest offers through immediate notifications.

The app and home-delivery services have been designed to benefit time-strapped shoppers looking for an easier and better way to do their grocery and other shopping, with the added convenience of having it delivered right to their doorstep.

LuLu Webstore has been designed to offer products from the hypermarket's various departments in an easy-to-browse format that categorizes products under different labels such as Grocery, Electronics & Home and Living. Online shoppers now have ready access to the thousands of products offered by the hypermarket's brick-store, they can compare prices and read reviews and product information, as well as share news about promotions, special deals and offers with friends, all from the comfort of their home.

LuLu Hypermarket's e-commerce site also prides itself on its highly secure payment gateway that ensures the safety and security of financial transactions made through the website. The Webstore's hassle-free 'Returns Policy' and the fact that shoppers can check the status of their orders at any time, makes shopping at LuLu Webstore a tension-free online shopping experience.

SHOP ONLINE FOR FRESH GROCERY HOME DELIVERED

DOWNLOAD THE LULU SHOPPING APP

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google play

www.luluwebstore.com

Lulu Where the world comes to shop

Loyac Performance Arts Academy is preparing for the launch of the Arts Festival 'F.A.P' for the second straight year, following the outstanding success it achieved last year. The launch will be between 1st and 5th December 2018 under the slogan "recycling",

to focus on the importance of preserving healthy and safe environment. Festival activities will be held at Loyac premise of the Qibliya school, while the closing ceremony will be presented by Kuwait artist "DAVY" and Lebanese Carol Suki.



Commercial Real Estate Company visits Ibn Sina hospital

As part of their 'We Care' social responsibilities and the active role the company plays in serving to the community, the Commercial Real Estate

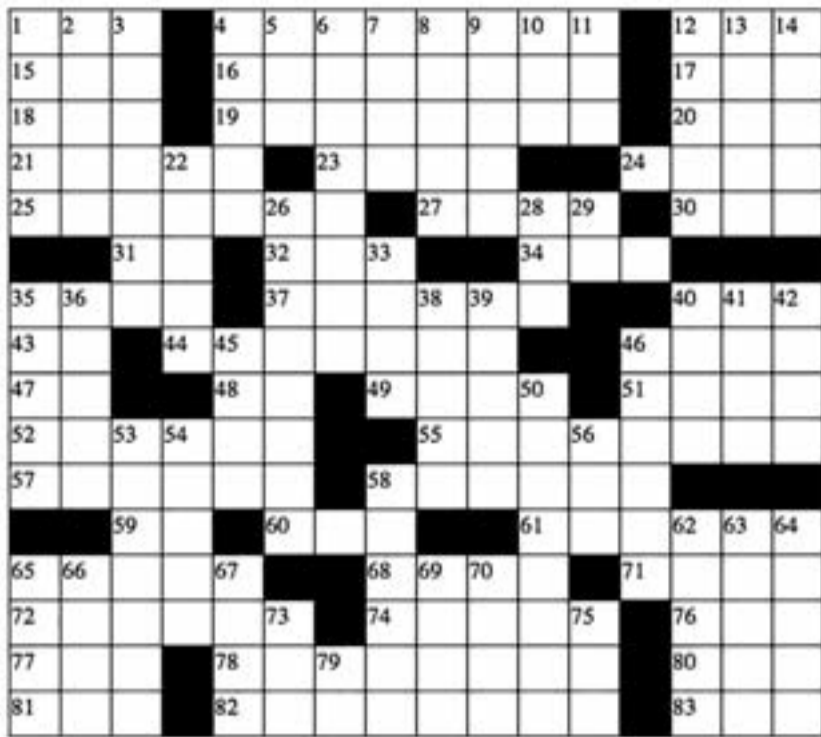
Company organized a special visit to the children ward at Ibn Sina Hospital. The main purpose of the visit was to spread a positive atmosphere for the children admitted in the hospital and to bring joy to them.

The visit included many recreational and educational activities and creative programs that inspire hope and happiness in children. The Marketing and communication team at Al Tijaria conducted an interactive segment with the help of Sagherok Saferok team who read a short story about the importance of water and rain. Then, they were able to perform fun activities like coloring and

making umbrellas. "Fantasy World" also participated in this event by giving a big number of toys and gifts for the kids at the hospital. The Marketing and Communication team of the Commercial Real Estate Company stated that they are always keen to organize similar visits to support the patients. They also thanked the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospital (KACCH) and Ibn Sina Hospital for this opportunity, which enabled them to visit the children and share some special events in the hope of entertaining them and spread joy and happiness among them.

Stars

CROSSWORD 2071



ACROSS

- 1. (astronomy) A measure of time defined by Earth's orbital motion.
4. Someone who imparts energy and vitality and spirit to other people.
12. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
15. The cause or intention underlying an action or situation esp in the phrase "the whys and wherefores".
16. Having deserted a cause or principle.
17. The address of a web page on the world wide web.
18. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
19. So badly formed or out of shape as to be ugly.
20. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
21. Not in a state of sleep.
23. 100 lwei equal 1 kwanza.
24. A small cake leavened with yeast.
25. A Dravidian language spoken in southern India.
27. English essayist (1775-1834).
30. Any of several small ungulate mammals of Africa and Asia with rodent-like incisors and feet with hooflike toes.
31. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
32. Any of various systems of units for measuring electricity and magnetism.
34. Counting the number of white and red blood cells and the number of platelets in 1 cubic millimeter of blood.
35. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
37. Grass with wide flat leaves cultivated in Europe and America for permanent pasture and hay and for lawns.
43. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
44. American plover of inland waters and fields having a distinctive cry.
47. A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
48. Informal terms for a mother.
49. The length of a straight line passing through the center of a circle and connecting two points on the circumference.
51. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
52. The mountain peak that Noah's ark landed on as the waters of the great flood receded.
55. Resembling a bladder.
57. Assign a new name to.
59. A metallic element of the rare earth group.
60. A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
61. The Mongol people living in the central and eastern parts of Outer Mongolia.
65. (Greek mythology) The last king of Troy.
68. The officer below the master on a commercial ship.
71. A branch of the Tai languages.
72. Disparaging terms for the common people.
74. United States baseball player (born 1925).
76. A master's degree in business.
77. A Kwa language spoken by the Yoruba people in southwestern Nigeria.
78. A resident of London.
80. Tag the base runner to get him out.
81. A beverage made by steeping tea leaves in water.
82. A mountain peak in south central Sri Lanka (7,360 feet high).
83. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

- 1. A squeeze with the fingers.
2. An Indian tree of the family Combretaceae that is a source of timber and gum.
3. New World flycatchers.
4. Type genus of the Ardeidae.
5. (meaning literally "born") Used to indicate the maiden or family name of a married woman.
6. Resulting from inflammation.
7. The sound made by a cat (or any sound resembling this).
8. Be in accord.
9. Of or relating to a speaker of the Tamil language or the language itself.
10. A lyric poem with complex stanza forms.
11. Having any of numerous bright or strong colors reminiscent of the color of blood or cherries or tomatoes or rubies.
12. Wild sheep of northern Africa.
13. Any of numerous low-growing cushion-forming plants of the genus Draba having rosette-forming leaves and terminal racemes of small flowers with scapose or leafy stems.
14. A republic in southeastern Europe on the southern part of the Balkan peninsula.
22. A special way of doing something.
26. Brought low in spirit.
28. Water frozen in the solid state.
29. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
33. Employed in accomplishing something.
36. Large west African tree having large palmately lobed leaves and axillary cymose panicles of small white flowers and one-winged seeds.
38. Tropical American trees with palmately compound leaves and showy bell-shaped flowers.
39. A mountain range in western Russia extending from the arctic to the Caspian Sea.
40. The work of caring for or attending to someone or something.
41. (old-fashioned) At or from or to a great distance.
42. Being or befitting or characteristic of an infant.
45. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
46. A state in southeastern India on the Bay of Bengal (south of Andhra Pradesh).
50. Flesh of very important usually small (to 18 in) fatty Atlantic fish.
53. The largest of the islands comprising Antigua and Barbuda.
54. The capital of Morocco.
56. The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
58. The 11th letter of the Greek alphabet.
62. A genus of Lamnidae.
63. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
64. Jordan's port.
66. A dissolute man in fashionable society.
67. A master's degree in library science.
69. (in Gnosticism) A divine power or nature emanating from the Supreme Being and playing various roles in the operation of the universe.
70. The form of RNA that attaches the correct amino acid to the protein chain that is being synthesized at the ribosome of the cell (according to directions coded in the mRNA).
73. A state of southwestern India.
75. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norm

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today finds you sympathetic and understanding of the feeling of those close to you. You seem to have thrown your more judgmental attitude out of the window. You have learned you thrive when you surround yourself with those who are positive and uplifting. You are becoming the friend to others that you wish them to be for you. This is a great step in the right direction. Your life and all things in it seem to be full of happiness. You are on a very positive path. Hard work and dedication will lead you to great reward.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may find your tendency to be indecisive may cause conflict with someone you care about. Consider all the options diplomatically, then make a choice. Recognize that ignoring this situation is not the right choice. Consider consequences, then choose, and act. Someone may find your actions offensive. Pay no attention to anyone who doesn't seem supportive. They will get over it.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Today may find you a bit unsatisfied with your surroundings. It may be someone or the physical place you are in that is just not sitting right with you. You may feel as if someone or something is holding you back or may just feel frustrated by your life in general. This may be a great time for an evening out and about. Change your surroundings. Clear your head but choose your company wisely to avoid any conflict as this is a time you need to have fun. You have to find a comfortable balance between work life, family, and social life. Gemini, remember it is good for you to get out and enjoy yourself from time to time.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

The company you keep says a lot about you. Make time for your loved ones. Don't wait for a holiday or a special event. What is a little thing to you can make a big difference in the life of someone you care about. You are creative enough to turn a small act into a big memory. Take the time. Make the effort. The reward will be great.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You have a tendency to be indecisive at times. This could cause conflict with someone special to you. Consider all the options and put much thought into your decisions today. Make a choice. This is not the time to procrastinate. Someone may be offended by or not agree with the choice you make. Remember, Leo, you can not please everyone all of the time. Do what is best for you and yours.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You can stop looking for perfect relationships. Since every person is flawed, a relationship between two of those persons can't be perfect. You just have to decide how much imperfection you can tolerate. Limit your relationships to the people who don't have the flaws you can't live with. Surround yourself with people who are aware of your imperfections and love you anyway. Peace is conceived when love and tolerance are united.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Others may be amazed when you turn your creative ideas into reality. Your mind is in overdrive and your creativity is off of the charts. You have a million great ideas running through your head. Today finds you able to turn them into reality. You are gifted and talented in many ways. When your mind takes over you may find it hard to relax. This would be a good evening for escape. Grab a book, light some candles, or curl up on the couch and watch a movie. It will take a while to wind down this evening after this productive day.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Today finds you sympathetic and understanding of the feeling of those close to you. You seem to have thrown your more judgmental attitude out of the window. You have learned you thrive when you surround yourself with those who are positive and uplifting. You are becoming the friend to others that you wish them to be for you. This is a great step in the right direction. Your life and all things in it seem to be full of happiness. You are on a very positive path. Hard work and dedication will lead you to great reward.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

All eyes are on you today and that is just what you crave. You have a great desire to be the center of attention. You crave appreciation for your gifts and talents. This will be a time you are able to look back on with pride. You are drawn to romance. This is a great time to spend with a special someone. Share your passion, whether it be cooking a meal together or painting a picture. Involve the one you love in a project tonight. This may bring you closer and the results good be amazing.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may find yourself getting mixed signals from someone close to you. You feel as if you don't know up from down. The harder you try to please this person, the more you seem to do wrong. You could find yourself in the company of someone whose values are opposite of yours. You do not like what they represent. You have a strong sense of values and morals and are very picky about the company you keep. It is important to remain kind and try to be understanding. This is why they make chocolate and vanilla, not everyone has the same taste.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

This is a time you feel more inward. You may be in the mood to only spend time with those closest to you. A nice evening at home will bring the most peace into your world today. This is a great time to do some soul searching. You have questions about what all happened in your world the led you to the place you are in today. You may be able to appreciate the hardships you have experienced and the lessons they taught you. This is a point you start to appreciate the wisdom you have gained through your life. You have learned to look for the positive in all life brings your way. This alone will make you a better person who others want in their lives.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your relationships have taken priority in your life. You value the love you have for others and the love you feel from them. Your emotional needs are being deeply satisfied. There is a vast difference between independence and loneliness. At this time, you seem to be becoming more of a homebody. You find more at ease staying in surrounded only by your loved ones or close friends. This is where you belong as your feelings are finding you more reflective rather than expressive. You crave new beginnings, perhaps this would be a great time for a new experience or a new hobby. Pisces, take the time to reflect and learn from your past and make plans for your future.

Wordsearch Puzzle

More 1950's Songs

A wordsearch puzzle titled 'More 1950's Songs' with a grid of letters and a list of 20 song titles to find within the grid.

Yesterday's Solution

Moods & Emotions 3

A wordsearch puzzle titled 'Moods & Emotions 3' with a grid of letters and a list of 16 emotion words to find within the grid.

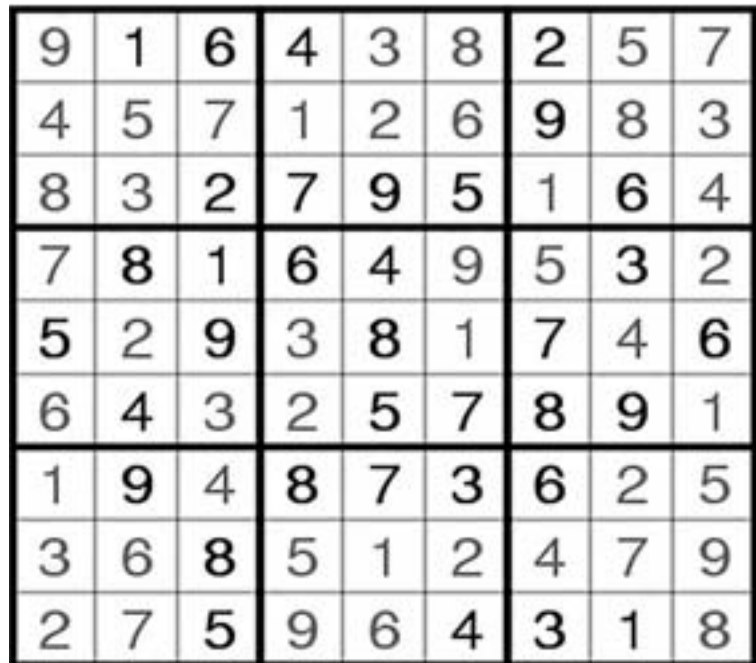
Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2018



Migrating pink flamingos react as food is given to them at a lake in the United Arab Emirate of Dubai yesterday. — AFP photos (More pictures on page 20)

HILLENBURG, SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS CREATOR, DIES AT 57

Stephen Hillenburg, the biology teacher turned creative genius behind the wildly successful "SpongeBob SquarePants" children's animation series has died, Nickelodeon announced Tuesday. He was 57. Hillenburg passed away on Monday from ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, associates said. He created the hit Nickelodeon series, launched in 1999, which recounted the adventures of a yellow sponge and his friends in the make-believe city of Bikini Bottom in the depths of the Pacific Ocean. Instantly appealing to young children, their families and college students, it turned into a global licensing and merchandising phenomenon, winning awards and being aired in more than 60 languages, including Azerbaijani.

"He was a beloved friend and longtime creative partner to everyone at Nickelodeon, and our hearts go out to his entire family," the network said. "Steve imbued SpongeBob SquarePants with a unique sense of humor and innocence that has brought joy to generations of kids and families everywhere. "His utterly original characters



Stephen Hillenburg

and the world of Bikini Bottom will long stand as a reminder of the value of optimism, friendship and the limitless power of imagination," it added. "The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie" from 2004 went on to gross more than \$140 million worldwide with voiceovers from Scarlett Johansson and Alec Baldwin.

Bikini Bottom

Hillenburg announced last year that he had been diagnosed with ALS, a progressive neurodegenerative disease. He was nominated for nine primetime Emmys, the highest award in American television. Hillenburg was born on a US Army post in Lawton, Oklahoma to a father in the military, who went on to become a draftsman and designer for aerospace companies, and a mother who taught visually impaired students. The family moved to California

and Hillenburg graduated from Humboldt State University in 1984 with a degree in natural resource planning and interpretation, with an emphasis on marine resources.

He began his career as a marine biology teacher at what is today known as the Ocean Institute in Dana Point, California, offering courses to children from kindergarten to high school, and their teachers. Even in those days, he used his artistic talent and love of the ocean to write and illustrate stories to help teach his students, creating colorful characters that would later become the denizens of Bikini Bottom.



In this file photo taken on November 14, 2004 Director Stephen Hillenburg and actress Scarlett Johansson attend the film premiere of 'The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie' at the Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles, California.

In 1987, he embarked on a degree in experimental animation at the California Institute of Arts, earning a master of fine arts in 1992, and winning an award at an Ottawa international festival for an animated short, "Wormholes." From 1993 to 1996, he worked as a director and writer on Nickelodeon's "Rocko's Modern Life" before devoting himself to writing, producing and directing what would turn into "SpongeBob SquarePants." He also wrote, produced and directed the 2004 movie, and wrote and executive produced the 2015 sequel, "The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water." Steve, as he was known to family and friends, is survived by his wife Karen, son Clay, mother, brother, a sister-in-law and two nieces. — AFP



In this file photo SpongeBob SquarePants floats above 6th Avenue during the 92nd Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York. — AFP photos

'Armageddon' looms at deadlocked world chess final

Three-time defending champion Magnus Carlsen and US challenger Fabiano Caruana face a nerve-wracking showdown in the World Chess Championship in London, after 12 regular games failed to break the deadlock. The two young masters face off in the 3.00pm (1500 GMT) tie-break, which consists of four rapid matches with 25 minutes for each player with an increment of 10 seconds after each move. In case of a tie, they will play up to five mini-matches, each consisting of two blitz games with five minutes for each player and a three-second increment after each move.

If even those tie-breaks are drawn, then it all comes down to one sudden-death "Armageddon" match, with white receiving five minutes and black four minutes. Black would win automatically in the event of a draw. Norwegian Carlsen, 27, is looking to win a fourth consecutive world title to cement his status as one of the best players of all time. Caruana, 26, is striving to bring the title back to the US for the first time since the legendary Bobby Fischer beat Russia's Boris Spassky in 1972's "match of the century", breaking 24 years of Soviet dominance in the middle of the Cold War.

Carlsen and Caruana wrapped up their 12-match series in anti-climatic fashion with a 12th successive draw on Monday, the first time in the tournament's history that all games were tied. Carlsen will play as white in the first game and excels at rapid chess, making him favorite. He defended his title through tiebreakers against the Russian Sergey Karjakin in 2016. "I think I have very good chances," Carlsen told reporters after Monday's game. — AFP



World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen and challenger Fabiano Caruana have drawn all 12 games in their title showdown. — AFP



Migrating pink flamingos



Migrating pink flamingos are seen at a lake in the United Arab Emirate of Dubai. — AFP photos

Rita Moreno, 86, set for 'West Side Story' remake

The 86-year-old American actress Rita Moreno, who won an Oscar in the original film version of "West Side Story," is being cast in Steven Spielberg's hotly anticipated remake. Her publicist announced that Moreno, who played Anita the first time around, will this time play the role of Valentina—a reconceived version of a corner store owner. She will also get an executive producing credit. Back in May, the Puerto Rican-born actress confessed that she was anxiously awaiting the Spielberg remake, which has advertised for Latino actors in all the main roles—not the case for the 1961 original.

"I am very curious to see what he does with it. I am nervous about it. Listen, we did very cliched things in 'West Side Story' but I am sure he's going to avoid that because times have changed," she told AFP. "From our earliest discussions, we wanted to include Rita Moreno in our production," said Spielberg in a statement sent by Moreno's publicist. "Her Anita is one of the greatest musical performances ever filmed, and a personal favorite of mine," he added.

"We feel beyond fortunate that Rita will bring her extraordinary gifts as an actress, as well as her deep understanding of 'West Side Story' to this production as an executive producer." The original film of Leonard Bernstein's musical-Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" reimagined in the world of warring New York gangs—won 10 Oscars and captivated a generation on the cusp of huge societal change. In the original movie, the Puerto Rican character Maria was played by the late Natalie Wood, and Bernardo by George Chakiris, the son of Greek immigrants.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I see myself revisiting this seminal work," said Moreno in Tuesday's statement. "To be asked by Steven Spielberg to participate is simply thrilling!" "West Side Story" pits warring gangs, the Sharks and the Jets, against each other in Manhattan's Lincoln Square on the Upper West Side. —AFP



Rita Moreno

Russian rappers strike back against crackdown by authorities

A packed club reverberated as the young crowd filmed on cell phones and chanted the names of rappers. Three of Russia's biggest rappers: Oxxxymiron, Basta and Noize MC, were giving a rare joint concert in a Moscow club, protesting that authorities are stepping up pressure on popular artists and effectively censoring them. The stars rallied together after the jailing last week of popular rapper Husky. They warned that this comes on top of frequent concert cancellations and bans on videos. "There's a special attitude to the word in Russia, some love it, others are afraid of it," rapped Noize MC at the show's finale.

Some artists have said this resembles Soviet-era campaigns against rock music, seen as promoting false Western values. It comes as a new generation of music stars connect with young people through hard-hitting lyrics and a massive online presence, bypassing state-controlled media. Top rappers sing about social problems but are rarely explicitly political. Yet the authorities are on edge as opposition leader Alexei Navalny has harnessed a mood of discontent among teenagers. Navalny attended Monday's concert with his family, posing with fans for selfies.

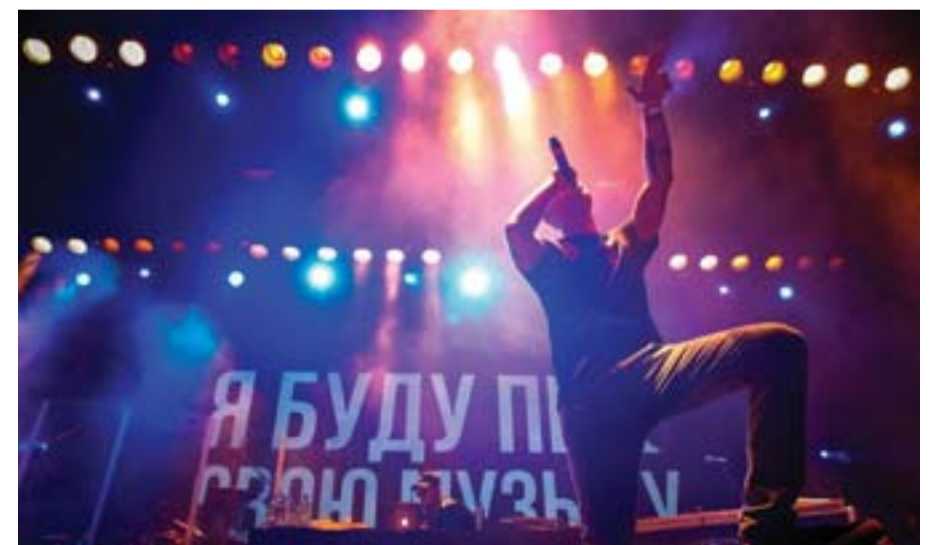
The concert's trigger was the 12-day sentence issued to Husky, real name Dmitry Kuznetsov for "petty hooliganism" over an impromptu performance from a car roof in the southern city of Krasnodar. He rapped on the street after a concert venue was cancelled at the last moment, the latest in a series of crackdowns on his gigs. In a surprise move, Husky was released hours ahead of the concert—which the rappers attributed to widespread public outrage at his arrest. "It happened because of you," Oxxxymiron told the audience.

Editor-in-chief of Kremlin-controlled RT television, Margarita Simonyan, controversially suggested influential Kremlin figures intervened—alerted by the public reaction to his case. The title of the concert, Husky's lyric "I will sing my music," became a top Twitter trend in Russia. Oxxxymiron, an Oxford-educated musician whose real name is Miron Fyodorov, complained that intimidation of artists and concert cancellations are becoming more frequent. "Creative freedom should be equal for all," he told the audience. "If you're offended by a video, turn it off." He accused the authorities in Husky's case of "seeing propaganda (of negative values) where there is none" in his lyrics.

One audience member, 21-year-old student Denis Zabuzov, said the authorities "are starting to tighten the screws and trying to scare certain artists, like Husky." "He was jailed for nothing." The rapper's jailing prompted criticism even from stars far from the rap scene. Crooner Lev Leshchenko, 76, told Govorit Moskva radio station that "law enforcement structures interfering in the arts is unprecedented and shouldn't happen." "We've already been through this," he said, referring to Soviet official censorship of pop performers.

'It's like we're criminals'

Recently authorities have closed down concerts in several regions, citing various reasons. Artists affected include pop singer Monetchka, Siberian-born hip-hop artist Eldzhey and Kazakh performer Jah Khalib. Moscow-based electronic duo IC3PEAK told AFP they recently had concerts in two cities interrupted by police and security forces. "It's funny, like we are dangerous criminals," said singer Anastasia Kreslina. Their latest song,



Rapper Oxxxymiron performs during a concert in support of rapper Husky, whose real name is Dmitry Kuznetsov, at a Moscow club. — AFP

"Death No More," has been viewed more than five million times on YouTube. The video shows them riding on the shoulders of riot police and one singer pours petrol over herself. "They'll subdue you with the others on the square," the lyrics go, referring to detentions of young opposition protesters.

"It's true that we're not happy with a lot that's happening in the country and we talk about that freely," said one of the duo, Nikolai Kostylev. Tour dates in the cities of Nizhny Novgorod and Kazan saw several club owners pull out, citing harassment from police, emergency services and pressure groups, the group said. They believe the authorities fear musicians' influence on an Internet-savvy generation not reached by the Kremlin's spin doctors. "They're scared that they have lost a whole generation of young people

who don't watch propaganda on television," said Kostylev.

In the Volga city of Kazan, the duo had electricity shut off at their concert. They performed "Death No More" in the dark with the audience singing along. Yet some conservative Russians see such artists as a malign influence and back official intervention. Activist Denis Khanzhin of the Siberian Working Youth group has campaigned against hip-hop concerts by artists including Eldzhey, prompting police close down a venue. Such music causes the "degradation of young people," the 29-year-old said. "It's propaganda of drugs, all kinds of perversions and sexual disorders, wall-to-wall swearing and blasphemy—and they are teaching all this to children." — AFP

Lifestyle | Feature



Iranian women pick up saffron flowers at a field in Khorasan province of northeastern Iran. — AFP photos



Iranian women pick up saffron flowers at a field in Khorasan province of northeastern Iran.



An Iranian woman holds saffron flowers at a field in Khorasan province of northeastern Iran.

Iran's saffron seeks global recognition



An Iranian worker sorts and cleans saffron filaments during its processing at Iran's Novin Saffron factory.

The laborers edge their way across a field of bright purple flowers gathering up the world's most expensive spice, a bounty that makes this dusty corner of Iran a crucial part of global cuisine. The delicate purple leaves of the *Crocus sativus* plant hold just three or four of the even more delicate red stamens, better known as saffron, that sprouts for just 10 days a year. These tiny filaments are currently selling in local markets for 90 million rials per kilo—about \$700 on Iran's volatile exchanges—and perhaps four times higher abroad. The government says more than 90 percent of the world's saffron grows from the hard soil in Khorasan province of northeastern Iran—a figure corroborated by France's specialist institute of agriculture and fishing FranceAgriMer—eventually finding its way into Spanish paellas, Indian curries, Swedish saffron buns and much more.

India is a distant second, followed by Greece, Morocco,

regions for the past two decades. Saffron plants require much less water than many other crops, but the drought is still causing a migration northwards. "The land being cultivated is gradually moving north, but that means they're moving into wetter regions and that's no good because the quality is better in dry areas," said Amin Rezaee, a farmer in the heart of saffron country—around two hours' drive south of Mashhad.

Like most farmers, he has been sucking water out of the ground to water his land, but now realizes he must invest in more sophisticated irrigation systems if he wants it to survive. "It's a problem that people are irrigating in traditional ways. They must start to invest in modern methods," he said. At his factory, Shariati said the problem is easily solvable with better education and support for villagers, which could boost Iran's production from 400 to 1,000 tons per year.

The biggest issue for farmers, he recognized, was navigating Iran's nightmarish banking sector, which is notoriously reluctant to lend to small businesses. So under a new "fair trade" scheme his firm now organizes loans on farmers' behalf, bulk-buys equipment at cheaper prices, and provides education on farming techniques. "We're educating at least 20,000 farmers and we have guaranteed purchases contracts with 4,000," he said. "We want them to deliver more organic saffron and improve their lives at the same time."



Saffron is seen for sale at a shop in Khorasan province of northeastern Iran.



Iranian women pick up saffron flowers at a field.



Iranian workers pack saffron filaments during its processing at Iran's Novin Saffron factory.

Azerbaijan, Afghanistan and Spain, according to a FranceAgriMer report in 2013. The star producer in Iran is the small town of Torbat-e Heydariyeh, about 700 kilometers (435 miles) east of Teheran—which accounts for a third of global production, according to FranceAgriMer. But poor marketing means Iran has not always won the credit it deserves as the home of saffron, having mostly exported it wholesale to other countries who label it as their own. "All the cultivation is done here, but the marketing and sales is done elsewhere," local parliament member Saeid Bastani told AFP. "The people of the world should know that all saffron of any brand in any market in the world—is Iranian whether it says Spain, Italy or Switzerland," he added with just a sprinkle of patriotic exaggeration.

The government is working with local businesses and farmers to fix the problem. From his swish new factory on the outskirts of Mashhad, Ali Shariati, CEO of Novin Saffron, sends out around 15 tons of high-grade saffron to world markets each year and is spearheading "Made in Iran" efforts. It's tricky because the major markets each have their own saffron needs that require specific packaging and branding—Spain wants powder for paella. Britain likes entire threads for Indian cuisine, Sweden likes tiny capsules for seasonal saffron treats. "We have to keep innovating and adapting so we can compete with the marketing in other countries," said Shariati.

Drought migration

Other issues are forcing innovation on the industry—most pressingly, the devastating drought that has hit Iran's dry



Iranians buy saffron at a shop in Khorasan province of northeastern Iran.

'Salt, pepper, saffron'

The other obstacle is Iran's struggling economy, which has lately seen wild fluctuations in the currency, in part due to US sanctions. "The price of bulbs, fertilizer and laborers have all trebled this year, but the price of saffron has only doubled," said Mohamad Jafari, whose family has been selling saffron in the small town of Torbat-e Heydariyeh for half a century. That is good for exports, but another blow for Iranians hit by soaring prices. Still, most people in the saffron trade remain upbeat.

International sales have been boosted in the past five years by increasing interest from China, and foodstuffs are protected from US sanctions—making it a priority export for the government. "The biggest problem with saffron is that people don't know about saffron," said Shariati. "We want them to think 'salt, pepper, saffron.'" — AFP



An Iranian man puts saffron flowers into a bag at a field in Khorasan province of northeastern Iran.



The head of Iran's Novin Saffron factory Ali Shariati in Khorasan province of northeastern Iran shows a box of saffron for export.



Iranian women show saffron flowers they picked at a field in Khorasan province of northeastern Iran.



Iranian workers sort and clean saffron filaments during its processing at Iran's Novin Saffron factory.



The head of Iran's Novin Saffron factory Ali Shariati in Khorasan province of northeastern Iran talks amidst bags of saffron.



Lifestyle | Features



Nabil Nemer, a Lebanese entomologist and ecologist, holds up a burned reddish-brown cedar branch chewed-up by *Cephalcia tannourinensis* wood wasps, at the Cedars Reserve Forest of Tannourine.



Nabil Nemer holds in his palm *Cephalcia tannourinensis* wood wasps, which attack and chew on cedar spring buds leaving them burned reddish-brown.



An activist from Lebanese NGO Jouzour Loubnan ("Roots of Lebanon") holds in his hand a young cedar to be planted on the slopes of the Jaj Cedar Reserve Forest.

In Lebanon, climate change devours ancient cedar trees

Warming expected to exceed global rates by 25% : MedECC

High up in Lebanon's mountains, the lifeless grey trunks of dead cedar trees stand stark in the deep green forest, witnesses of the climate change that has ravaged them. Often dubbed "Cedars of God", the tall evergreens hark back millennia and are a source of great pride and a national icon in the small Mediterranean country. The cedar tree, with its majestic horizontal branches, graces the nation's flag and its bank notes.



Activists from Lebanese NGO Jouzour Loubnan ("Roots of Lebanon") gather to plant young cedars.

But as temperatures rise, and rain and snowfall decrease, Lebanon's graceful cedars are increasingly under attack by a tiny green grub that feed off the youngest trees. At 1,800 meters altitude, in the natural reserve of Tannourine in the north of Lebanon, ash tree skeletons jut out of the forest near surviving cedars centuries old. "It's as if a fire had swept through the forest," says Nabil Nemer, a Lebanese specialist in forest insects.

In ancient times, huge cedar forests were felled for their timber. Egyptian pharaohs used the wood to make boats, and King Solomon is said to have used cedar to build his temple in Jerusalem. But today's culprits lie underground, just several centimeters below the tree trunk: bright green, wriggling larvae no larger than a grain of rice. Since the late 1990s, infant cedar sawflies have been eating away at the forest in Tannourine, as well as several other natural reserves in northern Lebanon. "In 2017, 170 trees dried up completely and became dead wood," Nemer says.

Disturbed

Like their food of choice, cedar sawflies have been around for thousands of years. They mate in spring and lay their eggs on the cedar tree trunks, where grubs hatch and feast on cedar needles. In the past, the larvae would then head back into the ground to hibernate for up to three or four years, before emerging again as adult sawflies with wings. But a warming earth has disrupted this cycle, espe-

cially in the Mediterranean where "climate change is more intense", according to Wolfgang Cramer, a scientist and member of Mediterranean Experts on Environmental and Climate Change (MedECC).

In a November report, MedECC said future warming in the Mediterranean region was "expected to exceed global rates by 25 percent". As the ground becomes less cold and humid in winter, sawflies are now springing out of the earth every year, and in larger numbers. Their preferred victims are young cedar trees, aged 20 to 100 years old. Temperatures in Tannourine have risen by two degrees Celsius in the past 30 years and there is less snow than before, Nemer says.

"With the drought, this larvae has been disturbed," he explains. In 1999, the authorities managed to keep the pest in check by spraying insecticides from a helicopter. But for the past four years, the cedar sawfly population has again been swelling. With chemical pesticides now banned, park authorities have resorted to a more natural, though less efficient treatment: injecting a fungus into the ground to kill the sleeping grubs.

The authorities have backed the initiative so far, but it's a mammoth task that needs more funding, man power and laboratories, Nemer says. He says he hopes the state can increase its support, including by creating a nationwide authority to track "forest health".

Race to replenish forests

Forests cover just over a tenth of Lebanon. They are mostly made up of oaks, pines and juniper trees, but also a minority of cedars. As scientists fight to prevent cedar deaths, the government has embarked in a race against time to replenish the country's forests. Since 2012, it has helped plant more than two million new trees of all kinds across the country, agriculture ministry official Chadi Mohanna says.

The project is running a little late on a target of 40 million planted trees by 2030, but he is optimistic it will help mitigate climate change. "In the next 20 to 30 years, we'll start to see a change, with more humidity, and several degrees less during heat waves," he says. And civil society is also playing a role. Since 2008, non-governmental organization Jouzour Loubnan has put 300,000 new trees in the ground. On a recent sunny Sunday, in the rocky natural reserve of Jaj, dozens of scouts gathered to plant cedars, as Jouzour teamed up with the army to mark independence day.

Beyond centuries-old trees hugging the mountainside, boys and girls in blue shirts planted 300 saplings just a dozen centimeters high. They protected them with bell-shaped cages and rocks to keep grazing animals at bay. "Cedars have survived millions of years. They can also take on climate change and adapt," said Jouzour co-founder Magda Bou Dagher Kharrat. "We can't lose hope, but we do need to help them." — AFP



A young cedar laid in a cage and surrounded by stones for protection from snow and animals, freshly planted during an initiative by Lebanese NGO Jouzour Loubnan ("Roots of Lebanon") in partnership with the Lebanese Army on the slopes of the Jaj Cedar Reserve Forest.



Activists from Lebanese NGO Jouzour Loubnan ("Roots of Lebanon") gather to plant young cedars.



Nabil Nemer, a Lebanese entomologist and ecologist, digs in search for *Cephalcia tannourinensis* wood wasps, which attack and chew on cedar spring buds leaving them burned reddish-brown, at the Cedars Reserve Forest of Tannourine, in the Lebanon mountains northeast of the capital Beirut on October 30, 2018. — AFP photos



An activist from Lebanese NGO Jouzour Loubnan ("Roots of Lebanon") digs to plant a young cedar on the slopes of the Jaj Cedar Reserve Forest in the Lebanon mountains.



Young cedars yet to be planted by Lebanese NGO Jouzour Loubnan ("Roots of Lebanon").

Stairs from Eiffel Tower sell for 169,000 euros

A section of stairs from the Eiffel Tower in Paris sold for almost 170,000 euros on Tuesday, auctioneers announced, around three times the pre-sale estimate. More than two dozen wrought-iron steps from the original spiral structure, from between the second and third floors of the Paris landmark, were sold to a Middle East collector for 169,000 euros (\$190,000) after a bidding-war in the French capital. Auction house Artcurial originally estimated the sale price to be between 40,000 and 60,000 euros. The stairs, which stand 4.3 meters high (13 foot) and were part of a private Canadian collection, date from

1889 when the legendary French engineer Gustave Eiffel built the 324-metre edifice as the centerpiece of the Paris Universal Exhibition.

It soon became the most iconic feature on the Paris skyline and is France's most visited monument despite suffering calls for its demolition in the years after the exhibition. It is still the country's third tallest structure, and was the highest building in the world for 41 years until the construction of the Chrysler Building in New York in 1930. The stairs were removed from the tower in 1983 to make way for a lift and cut into 24 sections, ranging from two to nine meters high. Several were bought by museums or ended up as historic installations in prestigious sites around the world. Artcurial sold a separate section of the tower-just 14 steps-for 523,800 euros to an Asian buyer in 2016. — AFP



In this file photo a man looks at section of stairs from the Eiffel Tower's original structure displayed outside the Artcurial French auction house ahead of its forthcoming sale in Paris. — AFP

Senegal wants restitution of 'all' its artwork: Minister

Senegal's culture minister called on Tuesday for the restitution by France of all Senegalese artwork following a French report urging the return of African art treasures. The recommendations in the report by French and African experts, commissioned by President Emmanuel Macron and released last week, could potentially affect tens of thousands of works acquired during French colonization of Sub-Saharan Africa. The culture minister of former French colony Senegal said his country was ready to work with France to find a solution, but they are looking for complete restitution. "If you have 10,000 pieces (of art identified from Senegal), we want to have the 10,000," Abdou Latif Coulibaly told journalists.

Coulibaly made his comments on Senegalese art at a presentation about Dakar's new "cultural jewel," the Museum of Black Civilizations (MCN), which will be inaugurated on December 6. The museum "has everything you want," added its director Hamady Bocoum at the news conference. It features vestiges of the first hominids who appeared in Africa several million years ago to the latest contemporary art in collections of paintings and sculpture. The museum was built with a donation from China of some 20 billion CFA francs (30.5 million euros, \$34.6 million), Coulibaly told AFP.

The architecture was inspired by African round huts, in particular those in the Casamance region of southern Senegal, Bocoum said. The idea of a museum featuring the civilizations of black Africa was originally proposed by Senegal's late poet-president Leopold Sedar Senghor during a world festival of black artists in Dakar in 1966. — AFP



The Museum of Black Civilizations (MCN) is presented to the press in Dakar ahead of its opening set for December 6, 2018. — AFP

Classifieds

Thursday, November 29, 2018

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

STATE OF KUWAIT
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
 METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Partly cloudy with light to moderate north westerly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h.

BY NIGHT: Cool with light to moderate north westerly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 28/11/2018 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	22 °C	17 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	22 °C	13 °C		
ABDALY	21 °C	11 °C		
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C		
JAHRA	23 °C	14 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	21 °C	15 °C		
SALMIYAH	22 °C	17 °C		
AHMADI	21 °C	16 °C		
NUWAISIB	23 °C	15 °C		
WAFRA	22 °C	13 °C		
SALMY	21 °C	11 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Thursday	11/29	Mostly Sunny	23 °C	13 °C	NW-VRB	06 - 24 km/h
Friday	11/30	Partly cloudy	25 °C	14 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 28 km/h
Saturday	12/01	Partly cloudy	26 °C	16 °C	S-SE	12 - 35 km/h
Sunday	12/02	Mostly Sunny	25 °C	17 °C	NW	12 - 32 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:58
Sunrise	06:22
Zuhr	11:36
Asr	14:30
Sunset	16:49
Isha	18:11

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	21 °C
MIN. Temp.	13 °C
MAX. RH	98 %
MIN. RH	54 %
MAX. Wind	N 39 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Hospitals

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

Clinics

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

NOTICE
 November 25, 2018

Mr. Edric Perwin Gonsalves son of Mr. Gonsalves Agnelo Bernado, Indian national, resident of 14 Mathorpokady RN 3, GR Fir Mazgaon, Mumbai 10, Maharashtra and Ms. Catherine Del Puerto Cobiles, daughter of Mr. Ronilo Cobiles, Philippines national, resident of Zone 3, Brgy. Lidong, Polangui, Albay, Philippines, both presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice. Communications in this regard can be made by Email (welfare2@indembkw.gov.in, welfare2@indembkw.org) letters 1 telephonic calls (00965 - 22550171, 00965 - 22533125).

(Yeshwant Chappaliwar) * Second Secretary (PK/Cons/CA) and Marriage Officer.
 Embassy of India, Kuwait. Email: welfare2@indembkw.gov.in

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

Flight Schedule

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

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Thursday 29/11/2018							Departure Flights on Thursday 29/11/2018								
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time				Airlines	Flt	Route	Time					
JZR	254	Amman	00:05	KAC	792	Madinah	14:05	KAC	692	Muscat	22:55	IAW	158B	Al Najaf	14:55
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:15	KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10	BBC	043	Dhaka	23:00	QTR	1079	Doha	15:00
KAC	503	Beirut	00:45	IRA	667	Esfahan	14:10	MSC	501	Alexandria	23:05	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
KAC	102	London	00:50	JZR	602	Baku	14:10	JZR	128	Dubai	23:15	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	15:00
THY	772	Istanbul	00:50	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:15	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45	IRA	666	Esfahan	15:10
JZR	734	Cairo	00:50	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	JZR	262	Beirut	23:55	FDB	060	Dubai	15:10
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55	KAC	618	Doha	14:40	JZR				JZR	125	Dubai	15:15
DLH	625	Dammam	01:25	FDB	8065	Dubai	14:40	GFA				FDB	222	Bahrain	15:25
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:40	KAC				KAC	8066	Dubai	15:40
UAE	853	Dubai	01:45	KAC	412	Bangkok	15:00	JAI	571	Mumbai	01:15	KAC	673	Jeddah	15:40
IGO	1757	Kochi	01:55	KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05	JZR	111	Doha	01:45	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	788	Jeddah	15:10	KAC	677	Dubai	01:50	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:05
JZR	722	Alexandria	02:15	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15	KAC	417	Manila	02:00	KAC	619	Doha	16:10
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	JZR	222	Riyadh	15:30	DLH	625	Frankfurt	02:25	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30	KAC	562	Amman	15:35	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	OMA	645	Muscat	15:35	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:30	OMA	646	Muscat	16:35
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:55	UAE	857	Mumbai	15:40	IGO	1758	Kochi	02:55	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:40
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	JZR	732	Dubai	15:45	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	JZR	261	Beirut	16:40
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	SAW	705	Damascus	16:00	UAE	854	Dubai	03:40	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:45
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	118	New York	16:05	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:55	KNE	532	Jeddah	16:55
QTR	1076	Doha	04:00	ABY	127	Sharjah	16:05	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55	SAW	706	Damascus	17:00
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	KNE	531	Jeddah	16:05	KKK	1269	Istanbul	03:55	KAC	675	Dubai	17:05
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	JZR	212	Jeddah	16:25	QTR	1087	Doha	04:00	KAC	503	Beirut	17:15
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	KAC	502	Beirut	16:30	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05	KAC	691	Muscat	17:15
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	KAC	542	Cairo	16:30	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	FDB	052	Dubai	17:40
FDB	069	Dubai	05:00	QTR	1072	Doha	16:35	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
KAC	382	Delhi	05:05	FDB	051	Dubai	16:40	IGO	1752	Chennai	05:10	KAC	283	Dhaka	17:45
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:10	FEG	341	Sohag	16:55	QTR	1077	Doha	05:30	FEG	242	Alexandria	17:55
THY	770	Istanbul	05:10	JZR	114	Doha	17:10	DHX	173	Bahrain	05:30	QTR	1073	Doha	18:00
JZR	404	Hyderabad	05:10	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	FDB	070	Dubai	05:50	KAC	331	Trivandrum	18:00
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	THY	771	Istanbul	06:40	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
JZR	112	Doha	05:25	JZR	214	Jeddah	17:45	JZR	251	Amman	07:05	JZR	733	Dubai	18:10
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00	RJA	643	Amman	07:15	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	344	Chennai	05:50	FDB	063	Dubai	18:15	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	402	Mumbai	06:05	JZR	124	Dubai	18:20	KAC	413	Bangkok	07:20	KAC	621	Doha	18:25
KAC	362	Colombo	06:10	QTR	1080	Doha	18:30	KAC	173	Munich	08:20	JZR	127	Dubai	18:35
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:10	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	JZR	601	Baku	08:30	JZR	403	Hyderabad	18:40
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:10	RJA	640	Amman	19:00	BAW	156	London	08:50	JZR	253	Amman	18:40
KAC	678	Dubai	06:55	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:25	FDB	054	Dubai	08:50	KAC	381	Delhi	18:55
BAW	157	London	07:05	RBG	555	Alexandria	19:25	KAC	501	Beirut	09:00	JZR	721	Alexandria	19:20
JZR	708	Luxor	07:15	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:30	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:05	FDB	064	Dubai	19:20
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:35	KAC	156	Istanbul	19:30	QTR	8512	Doha	09:05	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:35	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30	KAC	613	Bahrain	09:05	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
QTR	8511	Doha	07:35	NIA	161	Cairo	19:30	KAC	791	Madinah	09:10	QTR	1081	Doha	19:55
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	19:35	JZR	731	Cairo	09:10	RJA	641	Amman	20:00
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:50	KAC	101	London	09:45	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:05
KAC	358	Kochi	08:05	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50	KAC	671	Dubai	09:45	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	JZR	126	Dubai	19:55	KAC	741	Dammam	09:45	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
MSC	411	Asyut	09:00	KNE	381	Taif	20:00	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45	NIA	162	Cairo	20:30
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	KAC	620	Doha	20:15	UAE	856	Dubai	10:00	FDB	058	Dubai	20:35
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20	MSC	412	Asyut	10:00	KNE	232	Riyadh	20:50
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	DHX	172	Bahrain	20:20	KAC	773	Riyadh	10:10	JZR	401	Mumbai	20:55
QTR	1070	Doha	09:45	KAC											

Mauritania camelback mission seeks to win hearts and minds

NEMA, Mauritania: The sleepy Mauritanian village of Ouad Initi is about to get a makeover: A bigger school, a health center, and more running water. All part of internationally-backed efforts to win over hearts and minds and stop the spread of extremism. A lean, wrinkled man in sky-blue robes, the village chief, with several curious children at his heels, emerges to greet a posse of visitors - European Union workers out on a reconnaissance mission.

Remote villages like Ouad Initi, near the border with Mali, have long been neglected by authorities, making them easier prey for militants and other armed groups that have proliferated in Africa's Sahel region. Now they are at the heart of a push to win over grassroots support in Mauritania with authorities ramping up both security operations and infrastructure development to stop the spread of extremism. "What is boosting confidence and stopping Al-Qaeda recruiting is continuity in governance," a senior Mauritanian official told AFP.

The European Union has earmarked 13 million euros (\$14.7 million) of aid to boost Mauritania's development and security at the same time. "This type of joint civilian-military action is pioneering for the EU," said Francois-Xavier Pons, the project's head of mission. "We know very well that development allows for progress on the security front, encouraging people's loyalty to the state."

The vulnerability of remote villages is also a major concern for the five nations of Africa's fledgling G5 Sahel anti-jihadist force, which groups Mauritania with four others along the Sahara's southern rim: Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad. The five, which have been battling militants from Boko Haram and the Islamic State group, will seek funding for 40 projects in border areas at a conference in Mauritania's capital Nouakchott on Dec 6.

Villagers in Ouad Initi, where cows and camels graze

among rudimentary houses dotting a rocky landscape, have already provided valuable intelligence in the fight against extremism. In 2010 they warned officials that suspected militants had been passing through the area on their way to Nema, capital of the southeastern region. This led authorities to a plot to attack a barracks in Nema, which yesterday was to host celebrations for Mauritania's national day.

Infrastructure workers on the ground say strengthening the farming economy is key to preventing a rural exodus which would make such territory an easier target for militants. "There is a clear link between the difficulties affecting farming and the development of illegal activities such as jihadism locally," said Abder Benderdouche, who works on agricultural projects. Agriculture is the regional economy's lifeblood, he stressed, and encouraging it will help make remote areas more secure. "Areas in the Sahara and Sahel hold the region's meat reserves. That's worth its weight in gold," Benderdouche said.

Heavily-hit by militant attacks and the kidnapping of foreigners during the 2000s, Mauritania has been waging major efforts to improve security in recent years. It has sought to strengthen its army while boosting aid to remote areas where the state's grip had grown shaky, especially on the border with Mali. Last week, President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz said efforts to engage with "young people who were lost" had stopped "waves of Mauritians" leaving to join militant groups.

The military's Nomad Group (GN), which includes camel-back units, is a prime example of the two-pronged approach fusing security operations with infrastructure development. The GN has been growing in clout with support from the EU, which is set to buy 250 more camels for the force. "Where the state doesn't have any infrastructure in remote and isolated

areas, we're coming to help in terms of sanitation and education," said GN commander, Colonel Abderrahmane El Khalil. "My men can help to dig a well, but they're also there to collect information, thanks to their proximity to the population."

On camelback, GN members can travel up to 70 km a day, roaming villages for up to four weeks at a time. The construction of a G5 outpost 25 km from the



Mauritanian soldiers stand guard in a vehicle at a G5 Sahel task force command post on Nov 22, 2018 in the southeast of Mauritania near the border with Mali. — AFP

areas, we're coming to help in terms of sanitation and education," said GN commander, Colonel Abderrahmane El Khalil. "My men can help to dig a well, but they're also there to collect information, thanks to their proximity to the population."

On camelback, GN members can travel up to 70 km a day, roaming villages for up to four weeks at a time. The construction of a G5 outpost 25 km from the

Malian border, meanwhile, will also be accompanied by measures to boost the economy and win locals' trust. In Nbeikit Lehouache, two hours into the desert from Nema by road and dirt track, cash from the project will allow for a mobile hospital that will treat locals as well as G5 troops. "Here, a box of paracetamol is welcomed with joy. Imagine a hospital capable of performing operations," said Pons. — AFP

Aussie billionaire to spend \$72m on journalism institute

SYDNEY: A billionaire Australian philanthropist vowed yesterday to spend at least AU\$100 million (US\$72 million) of her fortune to create a journalism institute committed to "the pursuit of truth". Judith Neilson said the Sydney-based institute would "celebrate and encourage quality journalism in Australia and the world" at a time of "massive change" and challenges for the news media. "Journalism doesn't just need critics, it needs champions - people and institutions with the resources to help educate, encourage and connect journalists and their audience in pursuit of excellence," she said.

The Zimbabwe-born Neilson, a prominent patron of the arts in Sydney, said the Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas would run educational programs and events and provide grants for the development of independent, non-partisan reporting. Neilson said one of the first priorities of the organization once it is for-

MBS arrives in Buenos Aires for G20

BUENOS AIRES: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman arrived in Buenos Aires yesterday to join a Group of 20 summit, media reported, as he aims to shrug off the lingering stigma of journalist Jamal Khashoggi's murder. The prince was received at the airport by Argentina's foreign minister Jorge Faurie, according to Argentine press. The Saudi foreign ministry tweeted video footage of the crown prince getting off a plane in Buenos Aires.

Amir welcomes assembly action...

Continued from Page 1

labor law in the private sector, but did not explain the nature of the errors. MPs however have repeatedly called for amending certain provisions to encourage Kuwaitis to seek jobs in the private sector. The speaker also said that the Assembly will discuss in its next session the early retirement law and called for reaching a compromise on the controversial bill to serve the interests of pensioners and those of the social security institution at the same time. He said some amendments were needed to the existing law - which was rejected by the government - to achieve those targets, adding that the law will be debated in the next session on Dec 11.

Meanwhile, acting speaker MP Awdah Al-Awdah

Amir opens state-of-the-art...

Continued from Page 1

The opening of the hospital is a step in the right direction, affirmed Redha, who noted the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital is an integral part of the ministry's plans to take medical care to the next level in Kuwait. After the conclusion of speeches, a documentary depicting the different stages of construction was

prematurely adjourned the session for a lack of quorum needed to vote on requests by the public prosecution to lift the immunity of three MPs. MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subaei criticized the decision by the acting speaker, saying that he should have continued with issues that needed no quorum.

MPs Riyadh Al-Adasani and Abdulkarim Al-Kandari criticized whom they called pro-government MPs who did not attend the session, leading to its cancellation, adding that those same lawmakers who disrupted the session have been claiming that grillings prevent the Assembly from functioning. Kandari charged that the government mobilized these lawmakers in order to protect the prime minister and ministers during grillings and they are the ones who abstain from normal sessions, thus obstructing its work.

Also, MP Mohammad Al-Hadiya warned he would grill Information Minister Mohammad Al-Jabri over changing the name of a historical area named after Hadiya's Al-Awazem tribe and also over violations in the agricultural authority.

"Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman arrives to Argentina to head the delegation participating in the G20 summit," said a royal court statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency. Officials said the prince could meet Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the sidelines of the summit. That would be the first meeting of the two since Khashoggi's brutal killing at the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul on Oct 2. "There could be" a meeting, Turkish presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said.

Saudi Arabia has faced sharp international criticism over the murder of Washington Post contributor Khashoggi. The journalist was killed and dismembered in what Saudi Arabia said was a "rogue" operation. — AFP

prematurely adjourned the session for a lack of quorum needed to vote on requests by the public prosecution to lift the immunity of three MPs. MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subaei criticized the decision by the acting speaker, saying that he should have continued with issues that needed no quorum.

MPs Riyadh Al-Adasani and Abdulkarim Al-Kandari criticized whom they called pro-government MPs who did not attend the session, leading to its cancellation, adding that those same lawmakers who disrupted the session have been claiming that grillings prevent the Assembly from functioning. Kandari charged that the government mobilized these lawmakers in order to protect the prime minister and ministers during grillings and they are the ones who abstain from normal sessions, thus obstructing its work.

Also, MP Mohammad Al-Hadiya warned he would grill Information Minister Mohammad Al-Jabri over changing the name of a historical area named after Hadiya's Al-Awazem tribe and also over violations in the agricultural authority.

screened for the attendees. III the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad and III the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad received mementos during the ceremony.

The first phase of the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital will be operational by the beginning of next week, a top hospital official said yesterday. On the sidelines of the hospital's opening, Executive Director of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital and head of Mubarak Al-Kabeer's health district Dr Saud Al-Daraa told KUNA that outpatient clinics and basic medical services such as radiology, laboratories, and nuclear medicine will be available to the masses next week. He revealed that the hospital will be a valuable addition to the health service sector in Kuwait. — KUNA

Alarm over Duterte 'death squad' plan

MANILA: Rights groups raised fears yesterday after Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte announced plans to create a "death squad" targeting suspected communist rebels, saying it would worsen the "calamity" triggered by his deadly drug war. The Philippines' 50-year fight against communist militants, one of Asia's oldest insurgencies, long predates his anti-narcotics crackdown that has killed thousands and drawn international censure. Duterte, like previous governments, initially held peace talks with the communists but shelved negotiations last year over deadly attacks against soldiers and police.

In a speech Tuesday night, he took aim at the communist rebels' hit squads known as "sparrow units." "What I lack is my own sparrow. That is where they (communists) have an edge... So I will create my own sparrow, Duterte Death Squad against the sparrow," the president said. "I will match their talent also for assassinating people," he added. Philippine Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said yesterday his team would study the plan "very closely. Who will compose it, who will supervise it, who will be the targets," adding there was "great danger of abuse".

Since negotiations with the rebels broke down, Duterte also formally designated the Communist Party of the Philippines and its 3,800-member armed wing the New People's Army (NPA) as terrorist organizations. The low-level, simmering insurgency has claimed 30,000 lives by the government's count. The founder of the Communist Party, Jose Maria Sison, said yesterday that "sparrow units" only exist-

ed in the 1970s and 1980s at the height of the insurgency. "He is inventing so many sparrow units to justify his own death squads which are illegal," Sison told ABS-CBN television.

The president's announcement drew immediate concerns from campaigners, who said the death squad would worsen the already lethal environment encouraged by the drug war. Police say they have killed nearly 5,000 alleged users and pushers, while rights groups say the toll is at least triple that and could amount to crimes against humanity.

"His (Duterte's) statement is a declaration of open season against rebels, leftists, civilians, and critics of the government," Human Rights Watch said in a statement. "This new policy will only worsen the ongoing drug war-fueled human rights calamity in the Philippines." Amnesty International also expressed alarm, citing the practice of labelling government critics as communist rebels or sympathizers. "What is scary is that anyone can be a target," the group's human rights officer Wilnor Papa said.

Duterte's bellicose statements have alarmed rights groups, which say police are interpreting them as green lights to kill suspected criminals. Duterte has been dogged by accusations that he ran a death squad when he was mayor of Davao City and oversaw a fierce crackdown on crime. He denies the allegations.

Leftist group Bayan said in a statement Duterte was "inciting a killing spree against government critics, human rights defenders and just about everyone else tagged by the government as 'Red'". Senator Antonio Trillanes said Duterte was insecure about his hold on power. "He wants to strike fear again into the hearts and minds of the Filipinos by forewarning that there would be another round of killings," Trillanes said. "Fear is his only way to keep people in check." — Agencies

Egypt unearths eight mummies...

Continued from Page 1

The artifact was handed in to authorities in early 2018. "The mask is very naturalistic in the way it was made," said IAA archaeologist Ronit Lupu. "You can see the cheekbones, you can see a perfect nose. It's a rare mask," she told AFP. "The last one that we know was found 35 years ago. It's an amazing find, archaeologically speaking."

The West Bank is a Palestinian territory occupied by

Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War. Disputes over ownership of artifacts discovered there are just part of the long-running conflict with the Palestinians over the land. The IAA placed the mask at a pivotal period in Neolithic culture. "Stone masks are linked to the agricultural revolution," the authority said in a statement. "The transition from an economy based on hunting and gathering to ancient agriculture and domestication of plants and animals was accompanied by a change in social structure and a sharp increase in ritual-religious activities."

Among such activities, it said, was ancestor worship. "It was part of the ritual and retention of family heritage that was accepted at the time," the statement said. "Stone masks, such as the one from Pnei Hever, are similar in size to the human face, which is why scholars tend to connect them with such worship." — AFP

more than the salary of 18 months for workers who are paid monthly.

The study showed that domestic helpers work for more than 10 hours according to statements of 38.15 percent of employers, while 39.88 percent said they do not pay their domestic helpers for extra work hours, 28.90 percent of employers do not allow helpers to take a weekly day off and 45.66 percent of employers do not allow their workers to leave the house during their days off. — Al-Rai

earlier, they can do so.

Many Indians in Kuwait expressed happiness over the decision to postpone the rule, saying that they feel relieved. Some reiterated that the Indian government should allow them to register from their country of residence. The Indian foreign ministry had said that the objective of this registration was to obtain the data of Indian emigrants so that they could be reached without delay in case of any eventuality. "We are not against the online registration. It must be a hassle-free and easy process so that the vast majority of Indians abroad can register," said Ranvir Chaudhary, an Indian expat in Kuwait.

KSHR: 56% of employers don't...

Continued from Page 1

for each year for the first five years, then one month for every following year, provided that the total is not

India govt defers registration rule...

Continued from Page 1

local Indian community. In view of the above, the competent authority has decided to keep this advisory regarding registration of non-ECR passport holders in abeyance until further orders," it said. The statement added if any emigrant wants to register voluntarily as

Sports

IOC's 'New Norm' dominates 2026 Games presentations

Bach heaps praise on 'well prepared' Tokyo for 2020 Games

TOKYO: Stockholm and an Italian two-city bid made presentations to host the 2026 Winter Games yesterday with both embracing the IOC's 'The New Norm' programme which is aimed at making it cheaper and easier to stage the Olympics.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) faces its most serious bidding crisis in decades after several cities dropped out of the 2026 race, leaving just two candidates. The IOC has called The New Norm "an ambitious set of 118 reforms that reimagines how the Olympic Games are delivered".

On the first day of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) General Assembly, the Italian bid of Milan-Cortina D'Ampezzo said 93 percent of its venues would be temporary or already exist.

"We are interpreting the new rules to put together a big city like Milan and then the mountains, avoiding throwing away money and making a very sustainable offer," Milan mayor Giuseppe Sala told Reuters after the presentation.

Luca Zaia, president of the Veneto region, said there would be no "white elephants", whilst the Italians claimed 83 percent of Milan's citizens favoured the bid. Italian Olympic Committee President Giovanni Malago said giving a winter Olympics to countries such as Sweden or Italy, with their rich history of winter sports and pre-existing venues, was the future of Olympic bidding under The New Norm.

Stockholm's bid also played on themes of sustainability. "I think The New Norm and the new terms of organising Olympic Games definitely fits into our way of thinking," Swedish Olympic Committee chief Mats Arjes said after the presentation.

The Italian bid is far from guaranteed enough political support amid the country's financial woes, while Stockholm faces opposition from a new city government which said last month it would not back a bid that

includes taxpayer funding. The IOC will elect the winners in June, 2019.

Meanwhile, International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach says he cannot remember a host city being as well prepared as Tokyo, a little more than 600 days before the start of the 2020 Summer Games.

The German visited the offices of Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic organisers yesterday, lavishing praise on the hosts for their readiness to host the summer showpiece. "We see already now, two years before these Olympic Games, all the ingredients for successful Olympics Games are in place," said Bach, who is in Tokyo to attend an IOC Executive Board meeting that begins on Friday.

"We're really very impressed about progress in the preparations that we have been experiencing here. I cannot remember any Olympic city being so well and so much advanced two years before the Games as Tokyo 2020 is."

Bach's words are sure to warm the hearts of Games organisers, who have overcome a swathe of initial fears to get preparations on track ahead of the competition, which begins on July 24, 2020.

In 2015, Tokyo 2020 scrapped their initial Games logo due to allegations of plagiarism and the original design for a new Olympic stadium was also changed due to overwhelming costs. However, since budget cuts of \$300 million were announced in December 2017, Tokyo 2020 organisers have had a relatively pain-free ride. One area where questions remain is over Tokyo's ability to host a Summer Games in scorching temperatures, which reached a record 41.1 degrees Celsius in July this year. With average summer temperatures in the Japanese capital higher than 30 degrees Celsius since 1998, according to the Japanese Meteorological Agency, organisers have



TOKYO: Thomas Bach (R), President of International Olympic Committee (IOC), holds Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games mascots presented by staff of the Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Tokyo 2020) during his visit the office in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

been searching for counter-measures.

Few hard policies have actually been announced and there remains uncertainty over start times for the men's and women's marathons but Bach was not concerned. "The measures are being prepared and there is a closer cooperation with the organising committee,"

he added. "We had a special working group with medical people, with medical scholars. They are proposing some measures."

Bach is due to give a speech on the second day of the Association of National Committees General Assembly today. — Reuters

Ogier anticipates 'new chapter' at Citroen but not a title record

PARIS: World Rally champion Sebastien Ogier is buzzing at the prospect of starting work at new team Citroen but insists he has no plans to stay in the sport just to pass Sebastien Loeb's record of nine titles.

"We can't wait to start a new chapter," Ogier, who is moving with co-driver, told AFP on Tuesday. "I have the impression that the car has great capabilities. Here and there, it has shown nice turns of speed."

The 34-year-old Frenchman tied up his sixth consecutive title when he finished fifth in the season-ending Rally of Australia earlier this month. It was his last with the M-Sport team before the move back to Citroen for the 2019 season.

Ogier has signed a two-year deal with the French team after which, he says, he will take a step back, defying his fans by ruling out a bid to beat Loeb's record. "This question is as big as a house, everyone is asking me," said Ogier.

"The truth is that if I leave with eight titles, it would already be exceptional. I'm on six, so we'll try to aim for the seventh and then we'll see. "Whatever happens, it's not just the numbers in life. This is something that is often put forward but I think the most important thing is to have the feeling of leaving at the right time, to trust your feeling."

"Today, I am still enjoying it but I do not want to miss too many things at home that will be difficult to catch up."

For Ogier, the move to Citroen, along with co-driver Julien Ingrassia, is a bit like going home, a chance to round the circle by returning to the team where he began his WRC career in 2009. And it's not just any old team—it's a French team.

"It's nice to find a lot of familiar faces still here from the days when I started my WRC career. At the same time, to find a French team, it's interesting. Trying to win with a team that is 100 percent French, that would be fantastic."

For Ogier it is also a chance to win the title with a third team after his successes with Volkswagen (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016) and M-Sport (2017,



PARIS: French driver and six time world rally champion Sebastien Ogier poses during a photo session on Tuesday in Paris. — AFP

2018). "This is one of the arguments that pushed us to join Citroen," Ogier admits. "It's rewarding to win with multiple teams, not many have managed to do it. It's tough to adapt to a new environment, a new car, and take on the level of competition we currently have in the WRC."

Ogier is still at the getting-to-know-you stage with Citroen. He spent one day with them discussing plans before heading off to Portugal this week to start testing the new car. "There are still things to work on because the consistency isn't there. If they (Citroen) have been a little behind in these last championships, it's certainly because not everything was perfect."

"But that is also what attracts us. Trying to find new targets for Citroen and for us to try to keep adapting to a new environment is interesting and exciting." For Ogier, the contract with Citroen marks the beginning of the end of his dusty road in WRC.

"I see it as the last one (contract)," he says. "After that it will be time to move on. It doesn't mean no more cars because I would be unhappy with zero motorsport in my life. On the other hand, it will be a chance to slow down." — AFP

Marc Leishman desperate to land an Australian prize

SYDNEY: Marc Leishman believes not having won one of Australia's top tournaments is a significant gap in his golfing resume and the world number 21 is out to rectify that state of affairs at this week's Australian PGA Championship on the Gold Coast.

The 35-year-old Australian is a four-times winner on the US PGA Tour, most recently last month at the CIMB Classic in Malaysia, and has notched up top-20 finishes at all four majors, including second place after a playoff at the 2015 British Open.

On home soil, however, his success has been limited to amateur events at the start of his career. The Australian Masters has now disappeared from the calendar and Leishman decided to skip the Australian Open in Sydney two weeks ago, so the European Tour co-sanctioned event at Royal Pines is his only chance to break the drought this year.

"I haven't managed to win one of the three big Australian events yet and that's pretty high on my list—it's probably a missing part of my resume," he told reporters yesterday.

"Happy to be here and hoping to have a good week (but) it's a great field and whoever wins the event is going to have to play great golf. "It's something that every Australian wants to do. It would mean a lot to win it, but a lot has to go



Marc Leishman

right to win a golf tournament wherever it's played, on the Australian tour, on the PGA Tour or on the European Tour."

Leishman had a chance of winning a title for his country in Melbourne last week at the World Cup of Golf, but he and partner Cameron Smith came up three strokes short of Belgian winners Thomas Pieters and Thomas Detry.

Smith is the defending champion at Royal Pines and is joined in the field by his American predecessor Harold Varner III, who won the title in 2016 having lost out in a playoff the previous year.

Also teeing off on today are Englishman Andrew "Beef" Johnston and Geoff Ogilvy, the 2006 U.S. Open champion and 2008 Australian PGA champion who has recently returned to live in Australia after two decades in the United States. — Reuters

IOC weighs boxing Olympic KO

TOKYO: Top IOC officials will from tomorrow weigh the future of boxing as an Olympic event at a meeting in Tokyo expected to be dominated by concerns over the sport's governance.

The International Olympic Committee holds a two-day gathering in the 2020 Summer Games host city after its president said he was "extremely worried about the governance of AIBA", the International Boxing Association.

Thomas Bach said earlier this year that a report handed to the IOC in April "still lacks execution and substance in some areas" and that his organisation "retains the right to exclude boxing from Tokyo 2020".

This month, AIBA submitted an updated report it hopes will address the concerns and IOC officials are expected to decide boxing's fate, with some reports indicating the 2020 competition could be run under the auspices of a different body.

The IOC has been losing patience with boxing since a judging scandal at the Rio Games in 2016 when all 36 officials and referees were suspended amid allegations of bout-fixing.

There are also concerns over AIBA's finances, anti-doping, and its controversial newly elected president Gafur Rakhimov, who has been linked to organised crime by the US Treasury Department.

"The truth is that I, of course, have never been involved in transnational criminal organisations," Rakhimov told AFP, calling his presence on a US Treasury list a "mistake". The Uzbek businessman said last week that boxing has cleaned up its act and now "exceeded the governance requirement for change".

AIBA's financial situation is now "under control", amateur

WADA holds talks in Moscow on lab data deadline

MOSCOW: A World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) delegation held talks with Russian officials and visited a suspended Moscow anti-doping laboratory yesterday as it waits for Russia to meet a year-end deadline to hand over incriminating test data.

The Russian anti-doping agency, RUSADA, was suspended in November 2015 after a WADA-commissioned report found evidence of widespread, state-sponsored doping in Russian athletics. Moscow has vehemently denied the allegations.

WADA conditionally reinstated RUSADA in September, but said failure to provide access to the full data from the laboratory by Dec. 31 could lead to another suspension. Yesterday's visit, which included three WADA delegates, was meant to lay the groundwork for a subsequent

mission - on a date not yet announced - to retrieve the data.

In a statement, Russian Sports Minister Pavel Kolobkov confirmed that the WADA specialists had been given access to the laboratory but did not say when Russia would hand over the data. "At this stage it is too early to speak of deadlines and the amounts of work ahead," he said.

WADA did not immediately reply to requests for additional comment. WADA President Craig Reedie told Reuters two weeks ago that the agency had received guarantees that Russia would meet the year-end deadline.

The Moscow anti-doping laboratory was suspended after a 2015 WADA-commissioned report found that its then-director, Grigory Rodchenkov, had been an "aider and abettor" of doping activities and had admitted to having intentionally destroyed 1,417 samples to hinder a WADA audit.

Rodchenkov subsequently gave evidence that did much to expose the extent of the doping. Most Russian competitors were barred from this year's Winter Olympics in South Korea, as well as last year's World Athletics Championships. — Reuters

boxing is "100 percent compliant with anti-doping rules" and "boxing will always stay in the Olympics", added the 67-year-old. Regardless of the IOC's final decision, Bach has stressed that boxers will not suffer from the problems faced by its governing body.

"We don't want athletes to be punished by the bad behaviour of some officials," Bach has said. "Irrespective of the decision taken... we will make the necessary efforts to ensure that athletes have the possibility to pursue their Olympic journey."

Meanwhile, from Wednesday, officials from the powerful Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) will also gather in Tokyo under a cloud after the organisation's president stepped aside to fight allegations of forgery.

Sporting powerbroker Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahad al-Sabah said last week he was "temporarily" relinquishing his IOC duties as he faces forgery charges he says are "maliciously motivated by political factions within Kuwait".

A long-time IOC member seen as a close ally of Bach, Sheikh Ahmad is accused of orchestrating a complex forgery scheme linked to his efforts to prove his native country's former prime minister is guilty of corruption and plotting a coup.

The IOC hailed his decision to step aside, stressing the "presumption of innocence" and saying he had "taken the correct course of action with regard to the Olympic movement". Some 1,400 delegates from a record 206 national Olympic committees will also hear for the first time bids from Milan and Stockholm to host the 2026 Winter Games.

Rival bids to the two European cities have been dropping away amid a general trend against staging the Games in recent years. The Swiss city of Sion and an Austrian bid based around Graz have already withdrawn citing a lack of either political or public support.

Then the Canadian city of Calgary formally pulled the plug on its bid last Monday after residents roundly rejected it in a referendum. The northern Japanese city of Sapporo originally threw its hat into the ring to host the 2026 Games but then shifted its focus to 2030. — AFP

Sports

Ronaldo hits 100 Champions League wins as Juventus soar into last 16

Ronaldo gives us a sense of security and confidence: Allegri

TURIN: Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri hailed the impact Cristiano Ronaldo was having on the Italian champions as the Portuguese star became the first player to achieve 100 Champions League wins in Tuesday's 1-0 success over Valencia that clinched their passage to the knockout rounds.

"Ronaldo gives us a sense of security and confidence," said Allegri of the beaten finalists in two of the last four editions of the elite European competition. "The team is essentially the same as last season. We've grown, become faster in playing the ball, but then of course, there is Cristiano Ronaldo.

"This team is constantly improving - they're passing and putting play together more quickly." Ronaldo-who joined Juventus last summer from Real Madrid-is targeting a sixth Champions League title to add to his four with the Spanish team and one with Manchester United.

The Italian team are looking for their third European title and first since 1995. Last season they exited in the quarter-finals to Ronaldo's Real Madrid. The 33-year-old played a key role against Valencia providing the assist on 59 minutes which Croatian Mario Mandzukic tapped in for his third goal in as many matches.

Juventus had needed just a point to ensure qualification. Their win combined with Manchester United's late 1-0 win over Young Boys at Old Trafford means Valencia crash out of the competition.

Allegri's side will now have to wait to see whether they top Group H when they play their final group game mid-December in Bern against Young Boys. Ronaldo came out firing on all cylinders after his con-

troversial red card during his first Champions League game for Juventus in Valencia back in September, which Allegri's side still won 2-0. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner had two chances within the first three minutes to add to his record tally of 121 Champions League goals. Valencia had their best chance before the break when Mouctar Diakhaby's header off a corner was punched out with one hand by Juventus goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny. Just before the hour mark, Ronaldo broke free of Valencia defender Gabriel and with some fancy footwork fired low across the face of the goal leaving Mandzukic to finish off.

Valencia thought they had scored the equaliser two minutes later but Diakhaby's header was ruled to have come off his hand. Valencia goalkeeper Neto kept out a late goal-bound header from Ronaldo, who rose to meet Paulo Dybala's out-swinging corner.

"You can see how united we are including the forwards," said Juventus captain Giorgio Chiellini. "All three of them - Ronaldo, Mandzukic and Dybala, really put themselves out today. If we scrap like that, with the skill we have in the side, it makes everything much easier.

"We have to turn the page now - we'll start thinking about the Champions League again in February. We must focus on Serie A because we have a tough month ahead," added the defender as the league leaders target an eighth consecutive domestic title.

"The match was decided by great play by Cristiano," said Valencia coach Marcelino Garcia, "but our team gave everything, showing great spirit against one of the best teams in Europe." — AFP



TURIN: Juventus' Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo shoots on goal past Valencia's Danish midfielder Daniel Wass during the UEFA Champions League group H football match Juventus vs Valencia on Tuesday at the Juventus stadium in Turin. — AFP

Real Madrid seal top spot with 2-0 win at Roma

ROME: Real Madrid secured first place in Champions League Group G and ended AS Roma's eight-match unbeaten home run in Europe with a 2-0 victory at the Stadio Olimpico on Tuesday although the Italians are also through to the last 16.

Real's win thanks to second-half goals from Gareth Bale and Lucas Vazquez means the European champions are guaranteed to top the group due to a better

head-to-head over the hosts. Like Real, Roma had already clinched a place in the knockout stages with one game to spare thanks to Viktoria Plzen's 2-1 win at CSKA Moscow in the early kick-off, which leaves Eusebio di Francesco's side five points clear of third place. Real and Roma went into the game locked on nine points but having both suffered shock domestic league defeats at the weekend, the Italians losing 1-0 at lowly Udinese while Madrid suffered a stunning 3-0 reverse away to mid-table Eibar.

Roma were without injured striker Edin Dzeko, the Champions League joint-top scorer this season with five goals, and the Bosnian's absence was felt during a wasteful first half. Real keeper Thibaut Courtois blocked Patrik Schick's effort from point-blank range before an Aleksander Kolarov strike from distance whistled wide, but Cengiz Under spurned the best

chance just before the break when he fired over from close range. The home side were made to pay for their profligacy as Real went in front within two minutes of the restart as Welshman Gareth Bale pounced on a poor header back towards his own goal by Federico Fazio before finishing into the corner.

Santiago Solari's side doubled the advantage just before the hour. Bale curled a cross to the back post and Karim Benzema's knock-down put the ball on a plate for Vazquez to tap in. That knocked the stuffing out of Roma and it was the visitors who threatened to find a third, with Marcelo and Benzema both testing Robin Olsen in the Roma goal.

The result ended a run of eight home Champions League games without defeat for Roma as Real became the first away team to win at the Olimpico in Europe since Porto in August 2016. — Reuters

Guardiola says CL ultimate test after Lyon draw

LYON: Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola said the Champions League poses a tougher challenge than any other competition after his side salvaged a 2-2 draw at Lyon on Tuesday to qualify for the knockout phase.

The Premier League leaders clinched a place in the last 16 for the sixth season in a row as headers from Americ Laporte and Sergio Aguerro helped City twice recover after falling behind to goals from Maxwel Cornet.

City need a point from their final game at home to eliminated Hoffenheim to secure top spot in Group F, although they were fortunate to avoid a second defeat by Lyon—the only team to score more than once against them this season.

"Today the Champions League showed me again that it's another different competition and especially for one reason. The players are better," said Guardiola. "That's why every time we think about the Champions League and people say it's easy for Manchester City, they are really confused about this. "Words are words. The people who say this never saw a game of Lyon, a game of Hoffenheim, or a game of Shakhtar." City set a Premier League record with 100 points as they strolled to the title last term, and are again setting the pace this season having scored 40 times in 13 matches while conceding on just five occasions.

"You have time in the Premier League, you have 38 games. Here you have 90 minutes, 180 minutes—you make mistakes and they punish you," said Guardiola. Lyon already trail Paris Saint-Germain by 15 points in Ligue 1 after just 14 matches, but Bruno Genesio's side once again pushed City all the way having beaten them 2-1 in the reverse fixture in September. "People say in France it's just PSG. But they don't know how tough it is in France. The league is so complicated, so good, so that's why I give a lot of credit for the result and the performance today," said Guardiola.

"I'm really impressed about the amount of good young talent here in France. Both (Lyon) holding midfielders (Houssem Aouar and Tanguy Ndombele) are exceptional. "They're strong and they have vision. The people in front — (Memphis) Depay, (Nabil) Fekir...it's a team that's well organised but that's typical in the Champions League."

"Now we can focus on the Premier League and other competitions and try to arrive in February with everyone fit and try to compete against the best 16 teams in Europe," he added.

Lyon need to avoid defeat at Shakhtar Donetsk in their final game to join City in the last 16 after the Ukrainians scored a stoppage-time winner to earn a 3-2 victory at Hoffenheim and keep their qualification hopes alive.

"I'm proud to see how my team performed tonight. They're one of the best teams in Europe," said Genesio. "But there's also a bit of frustration that we didn't qualify tonight. There wasn't much in it, here or in Hoffenheim."

Lyon looked on course for another impressive win over City when Cornet scored his second goal to put Lyon 2-1 up with nine minutes to play, only for Aguerro to level just two minutes later.

"The players put in a display of very high quality. When we conceded the second goal I think we were still a bit euphoric and that's what allowed them to score," admitted Genesio. His team will conclude their group stage against Shakhtar on December 12 in Kharkiv. "I see it as a final for qualification, but we go into it full of confidence because we're still unbeaten despite a lot of draws." — AFP

Bayern rout Benfica to reach last 16

MUNICH: Bayern Munich romped to an emphatic 5-1 home win against Benfica on Tuesday to qualify for the Champions League last 16 and ease the pressure on coach Niko Kovac. Arjen Robben and Robert Lewandowski both scored twice before Franck Ribery completed the rout at the Allianz Arena after Gedson Fernandes had pulled one back for Benfica.

Kovac's team shrugged off lacklustre league form—winning just two and losing three of their last eight Bundesliga games—with a convincing display. "These goals were important not just for me, but for the team," said Robben.

"We played well, found the right tempo, attacked well and we did not concede much. "It's a convincing win and that's exactly what we needed at the moment." The victory eases the pressure on Kovac, who now needs another win at Werder Bremen on Saturday in the league. "We all know how it works in football, but we win together and we lose together, the coach is one of us, we work intensively together every day," added Robben. This is the 11th season in succession Bayern have reached the last 16 of the Champions League.

While Bayern sit just fifth in the Bundesliga, they are flying in Europe, having now chalked up four wins and a draw in the Champions League's group stage. They need just a point at Ajax in a fortnight to win Group A, while the best Benfica can hope for is third and a place in the Europa League knock-out phase.

Bayern were unrecognisable from the team which leaked goals in a 3-3 draw with Bundesliga strugglers Fortuna Dusseldorf on Saturday. They went ahead after just 13 minutes when Robben produced a stunning piece of skill for his 30th Champions League goal.

There was nothing on when the Dutch veteran darted through three defenders on the right wing, cut inside another and hit the top left corner with a superb shot.

The 34-year-old doubled Bayern's lead by wrong-footing Benfica defenders German Conti and crashing his shot past Odysseas Vlachodimos on 30 minutes. The third goal followed six minutes later when Lewandowski rose highest for a corner and steered 50th Champions League goal into the net via the post.

Bayern went into the break at 3-0, but they could have been five up as Vlachodimos twice had to palm shots away by Thomas Mueller and Lewandowski. However, the defensive errors which have blighted their recent performances returned to haunt Bayern straight after the break.

Benfica boss Rui Vitoria brought on Portugal international Gedson Fernandes for the second half and the teenage midfielder took just 48 seconds to score. Gedson sprinted onto a through pass and finished off a counter attack by slotting past Manuel Neuer to stun the hosts.

Bayern restored their three-goal cushion just five minutes later when Lewandowski again headed home another Kimmich corner. Ribery capped a gala night with an exchange of passes with David Alaba to slam home Bayern's fifth 13 minutes from time and claim his first Champions League goal for more than three years. — AFP



MANCHESTER: Manchester United's Belgian midfielder Marouane Fellaini (C) scores the opening goal during the UEFA Champions League group H football match between Manchester United and Young Boys at Old Trafford in Manchester, north-west England on Tuesday. — AFP

Mourinho brash as Fellaini late show secures Man Utd last 16 place

MANCHESTER: Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho boasted about his Champions League record after Marouane Fellaini's injury time winner fired his side into the last 16 with a 1-0 win over Young Boys at Old Trafford.

The three-time European champions sealed their place in the knockout stages with a slice of fortune when Fellaini controlled the ball with his hand before firing into the far corner, provoking Mourinho to throw a box of water bottles to the ground in a mixture of joy and relief. "For some of my lovers, for those who like stats, 14 seasons in the Champions League, 14 times qualify through the group phases," said Mourinho on his personal record as boss of Porto, Chelsea and Real Madrid as well as United.

"Never one of my teams stays behind the group phase. The season I didn't play Champions League. I won the Europa League."

But there was little for Mourinho to brag about from another laboured performance as United were on the verge of failing to score for a third consecutive European home game for the first time ever.

"The most important thing is to qualify," said Mourinho, who has had to withstand a barrage of criticism this season for United's poor results and insipid attacking football. In keeping with United's struggles under Mourinho, it could have been even worse but for the brilliance of goal-

keeper David de Gea, who produced a stunning save from Ulisses Garcia's deflected effort to deny Young Boys midway through the second-half. "From my position, David's save—only one save in the whole game—but it looks a phenomenal save," said Mourinho. "A save that the best goalkeeper in the world does and gives his team the possibility to win the match." Mourinho made the bold decision to leave Paul Pogba and Romelu Lukaku on the bench and Alexis Sanchez out of his squad as he made six changes from a drab goalless draw with Crystal Palace on Saturday.

Marcus Rashford was given his chance to start as centre-forward, but Mourinho was less than impressed with the 21-year-old just five minutes in when he dinked his finish over the bar with just goalkeeper David von Ballmoos to beat.

"This is the type of game where if you score in the first minute normally you go for a different kind of performance, but it is still very difficult for us to score," responded Mourinho when asked about his exasperated reaction when Rashford missed.

"If I saw my manager react like that, I would be absolutely livid!" Said former England striker Gary Lineker of Mourinho's response. An initial flurry of excitement quickly died down as again Mourinho's men laboured to break down the Swiss champions, who they beat 3-0 in Bern back in September thanks to a Pogba double. Mourinho's patience finally ran out as he summoned Pogba and Lukaku from the bench for the final quarter. But it was De Gea who came to the Red Devils' rescue at the other end moments later with a remarkable save to claw Garcia's deflected shot off the line.

Christian Fassnacht then blazed over another glorious opportunity to give the visitors a famous win. They were made to pay when Fellaini, was fortunate to not be seen controlling Lukaku's flick-on with his hand, fired the winner into the far corner. "For me it was not handball," insisted Fellaini. "I controlled the ball, if it touched my hand it was not on purpose." — AFP

25 IOC's 'New Norm' dominates
2026 Games presentations

26 Pakistan's Yasir targets
Australian legend's record

27 Ronaldo hits 100 Champions League
wins as Juventus soar into last 16



Raptors rally for 6th straight win

Nuggets rout Lakers for 4th straight victory



MEMPHIS: Wayne Selden #7 of the Memphis Grizzlies dunks the ball during the game against the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday at FedExForum in Memphis, Tennessee. — AFP

MEMPHIS: Kyle Lowry scored 24 points, including 15 in the second half, and the visiting Toronto Raptors overcame a 17-point deficit to defeat the Memphis Grizzlies 122-114 Tuesday night. Kawhi Leonard added 17 points and 10 rebounds for the Raptors, who won their sixth game in a row. Fred VanVleet was 6-for-6 from the field for 18 points off the bench — 14 in the second half—for the Raptors. Serge Ibaka contributed 16 points. Marc Gasol led Memphis with 27 points, and Mike Conley added 20 points.

NUGGETS 117, LAKERS 85

Paul Millsap had 20 points and 11 rebounds, Jamal Murray scored 20, and host Denver routed Los Angeles. Malik Beasley also had 20 points to establish a career high, and Nikola Jokic had 14 points,

seven rebounds and seven assists for the Nuggets. Denver has won four straight after dropping six of its previous seven. The Lakers were 5 of 35 from behind the 3-point arc and shot just 39.1 percent overall. Kyle Kuzma, who led Los Angeles with 21 points, was 1-for-7 from long range, and LeBron James missed all four of his 3-point attempts. James finished with 14 points and seven rebounds.

PACERS 109, SUNS 104

Domantas Sabonis scored 21 points and grabbed 16 rebounds to lead Indiana to a win at Phoenix. With the game tied at 104 with under a minute to play, Bojan Bogdanovic, the league's top 3-point shooter, cashed in from the corner to give the Pacers a 107-104 lead. After Devin Booker just missed a 3-point try, Darren Collison was fouled and made two free

throws to clinch the game for Indiana with 12 seconds left. Six players scored in double figures for the Pacers, who also got 21 points from Doug McDermott. T.J. Warren paced the Suns with 25 points, and rookie Deandre Ayton recorded his 12th double-double with 18 points and 12 rebounds.

HAWKS 115, HEAT 113

Rookie Trae Young had a double-double with 17 points and 10 assists as Atlanta edged host Miami. Trailing by two points, the Heat had the ball after a timeout with 14.4 seconds left in the fourth quarter. However, Dwyane Wade, coming off a 35-point game, passed up an open jumper on the left wing and got the ball to Josh Richardson, whose 3-point attempt missed off the front rim to end the game. Miami, which has lost six consecutive home games,

was led by Richardson, who scored nine of his 22 points in the fourth quarter. Atlanta won its second straight game overall and also snapped a seven-game road losing skid.

PISTONS 115, KNICKS 108

Blake Griffin scored 30 points, and Detroit continued its success at home at New York's expense. Griffin produced his sixth 30-point game of the season as Detroit shot 47.5 percent, controlled the paint by a 56-38 margin and posted its fourth straight home win. Reserve Stanley Johnson and starter Reggie Jackson contributed 21 points apiece as the Pistons also won for the seventh time in their past nine games overall. Rookie Allonzo Trier led the Knicks with 24 points and 10 rebounds off the bench, but New York saw a three-game winning streak end. — Reuters

Ireland footballing icon Robbie Keane hangs up boots

DUBLIN: Irish football legend Robbie Keane brought the curtain down on over two decades as a player yesterday saying his career had exceeded all his hopes when he was a "football-mad boy growing up in Dublin".

The 38-year-old — his country's record goalscorer on 68 well clear of Niall Quinn who is next with 21 — is to focus on his new duties as assistant manager to new Ireland handler Mick McCarthy.

Keane, who replaces Roy Keane (no relation) in the

role after the latter and manager Martin O'Neill were fired last week, captained Ireland for a decade. "Today, after 23 wonderful years, I am formally announcing my retirement as a professional footballer," Keane said in a statement.

"From Crumlin United around the world to the likes of Milan, London and Los Angeles, I could never have imagined the path my football life would take. "It has exceeded all the hopes I had as a football-mad boy growing up in Dublin."

Keane, unlike his near namesake, enjoyed good relations with McCarthy in the latter's first spell in charge of the national side. He was one of their stars at the 2002 World Cup—which infamously saw their one world class player Roy Keane sent home after launching a tirade of abuse at McCarthy—where the Irish went out on penalties in the last 16 to Spain.

Keane also enjoyed a highly successful, if peripatetic, club career which ended with a period as

player/manager at Indian outfit ATK, in the season that finished in March. In all, Keane scored 126 goals in 349 Premier League matches, 91 of them for Tottenham Hotspur, although he also had spells with Coventry, Leeds United and Liverpool in the elite league.

"Leaving home at 15 years of age to pursue my professional career in England seems a lifetime ago now," said Keane. "I was a street footballer full of hope armed with huge ambitions and a determination to succeed."

"All I needed was that one chance." Keane had especially warm words for his long service to his country on the pitch-winning 146 caps and aside from the 2002 World Cup appearing also in two European Championships. "Playing and captaining my country has been the highlight of my career," said Keane.

"I enjoyed every moment of the most incredible journey with the Ireland team over an 18-year period and as I have said many times before, words cannot express how proud I am to be Irish." — AFP



Robbie Keane