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In my view

Great potential in Saudi-Kuwait ties



By **Nada Al-Tuwajri**
Advisor at the Saudi
Ministry of Media

The historic visit by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to Kuwait did not only refresh the world's memory of how close the ties are between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, it also made us realise how much potential there will be because of unity and cooperation. I would like to kindly take the opportunity to point out how grateful we were by the generous hospitality of our closest neighbours (which did not come as a surprise) - in Arabic we usually say 'our hosts took care of us from the airport to the airport' as a sign of gratitude. Therefore, on behalf of the Saudi delegation, I would like to thank every individual for their efforts in making the visit a memorable one.

Before getting into the technicalities, allow me to first speak about this unique relationship from a historical perspective. Growing up in the '90s, we luckily had the opportunity to witness how strong the ties were from nation to nation, not only politically but also on a humane level. When the Gulf War took place in the early nineties (proud to say I am a daughter of a fighter pilot) the Saudis stood hand in hand to support their brothers in Kuwait to a point where some of the universities were evacuated to accommodate as many Kuwaitis as they possibly could.

To us, at that time, that was the least we could do for a nation we share blood with. Not only that, years before the war, Kuwait had been our strongest allies since the establishment of Saudi Arabia by King Abdulaziz Al-Saud in the early 1930s. This of course, is only a drop in the ocean when it comes to strong Saudi-Kuwaiti ties.

Now, speaking of utilizing the potential between the two, we both reached a point (politically, economically and socially) where we no longer represent ourselves separately; as a matter of fact, we today acknowledge our mutual interest in showing the world that not only is the GCC united, but also fully ready to support one another in achieving each other's vision and mission.

Speaking of all the meetings we conducted during our stay, we concluded that (we surely need to visit each other more often!) and 'get the ball rolling' in all the potential partnerships, specifically within the media field which is probably the fastest growing industry out there. Needless to say, with media being the medium and a tool for 'projection', we agreed that it's a winning investment. By that, I mean that all the ideas we had to develop the industry and help it grow on a multinational level are bound to succeed due to the high demand and the large percentage of 'creative passionate youth' who are turning the industry into an innovative one.

I truly wish I had the space to speak more in depth about how fruitful and genuine the negotiations were with our Kuwaiti brothers - but I shall leave the rest to the element of suspense and hope for this to be a start of endless and sustainable successes.

KUWAIT/DUBAI/LONDON: Inclusion in an emerging market benchmark and surging oil prices have helped Kuwaiti stocks outshine their regional peers in the past three months, but some major active emerging-market investors are waiting on the sidelines for more reforms. Kuwait's main index is up nearly 9 percent in the third quarter, beating other Gulf markets, including oil producers Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi, and edging past Qatar, the MSCI emerging market index and Russia.

More good news could be in store. Next year, US index provider MSCI will decide whether to reclassify its Kuwait index from the current frontier-market status to its widely used emerging-market benchmark. Analysts estimate such a move could trigger passive fund flows of \$2 billion. "We expect investor pick-up to be supported by the country's safe-haven qualities within the wider emerging-market backdrop," said Salah Shamma, head of investment, MENA, Franklin Templeton Emerging Markets Equity.

Index provider FTSE Russell will include 12 Kuwaiti stocks in two phases - September and December 2018 - which will result in a weighting of just over 0.5 percent in its FTSE Emerging All Cap index. Franklin Templeton's Shamma calculates this will translate into passive inflows of \$1 billion. Boursa Kuwait, which took control of the



Kuwait stock exchange in early 2016, introduced a number of reforms such as relaxing listing rules, delisting companies seen unfit for public investment and segmenting the market with different disclosure requirements.

But not all funds are convinced about Kuwait's equities story, which was a long time coming for the region's oldest bourse. The Kuwaiti economy has benefited from a surge in oil prices, which rose percent to a four-year

high on Monday. Depending on oil can be a disadvantage, however. "We have been looking at Kuwait for quite some time - but it is a one-trick pony: Oil, oil, oil," said Wim-Hein Pals, head of emerging markets at Rotterdam-based fund manager ROBECO, which manages about \$25 billion in emerging-market funds.

He said Kuwait is not interesting enough in a diversified emerging-market portfolio for anyone who can find dynamic oil companies in other markets. "It will remain on our radar and if we find something like an oil company at attractive valuations, we will jump onto it," said. Like its Gulf neighbors, Kuwait has kept its national oil company, Kuwait Petroleum Corp, out of public markets. The exchange's trading is dominated by financial services and real estate companies.

"Certainly, if you wanted to put in large amounts of money and a large percentage of your portfolio, you would end up with very, very big positions in not very many companies," said Andrew Brudenell, frontier markets portfolio manager at Ashmore in London. Saudi Arabia was the only Gulf country that promised to list its national oil giant, Aramco, but that move was shelved, dashing investor expectations about more privatisation in the kingdom and in the Gulf region.

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Physics Nobel for laser pioneers; first woman in 55 years

STOCKHOLM: Three scientists yesterday won the Nobel Physics Prize, including the first woman to receive the prestigious award in 55 years, for inventing optical lasers that have paved the way for advanced precision instruments used in corrective eye surgery. Arthur Ashkin of the United States won one half of the nine-million Swedish kronor (about \$1.01 million) prize, while Gerard Mourou of France and Donna Strickland of Canada shared the other half.

Strickland is just the third woman to win a Nobel Physics Prize since it was first awarded in 1901, while Ashkin, 96, is the oldest person to win a Nobel, beating out American Leonid Hurwicz who was 90 when he won the 2007 Economics Prize. Ashkin was honored for his invention of "optical tweezers" that grab particles, atoms, viruses and other living cells with their laser beam fingers. With this he was able to use the radiation pressure of light to move tiny objects, "an old dream of science fiction", the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said.

Study: Child abuse leaves 'molecular scars' on victims

PARIS: Children subjected to abuse may carry the physical hallmark of that trauma in their cells, scientists said yesterday, in research that could help criminal investigations probing historic mistreatment. The imprints may also shed light on whether or not trauma can be passed on between generations as has long been hypothesized. A team of researchers at the University of British Columbia examined the sperm cells of 34 adult men, some of whom had been victims of child abuse years earlier.

They found that the effects of the trauma were indelibly printed in 12 regions of the DNA of those men who had experienced varying levels of emotional, physical or sexual abuse. Scientists believe these alterations, known as methylation, could one day be used by inves-

tigators or courts to weigh allegations of child abuse. "If you think of genes as being like lightbulbs, DNA methylation is like a dimmer switch that controls how strong each light is - which in turn can influence how cells function," Nicole Gladish, a PhD candidate in the university's Department of Medical Genetics, told AFP. "This information can potentially provide additional information about how childhood abuse affects long-term physical and mental health."

The experiment is one of a growing number of trials looking into what turns genes "on and off" at different periods of human development, a field of study known as epigenetics. Once thought as entirely pre-programmed from conception, some genes are now known to be activated or deactivated by environmental factors or an individual's life experience.

Scientists involved in the study, published in the journal Translational Psychiatry, said they still did not know how methylation affects a person's long-term health. In addition, due to the difficulty in extracting egg cells, the team don't plan to replicate the experiment on women - statistically far likelier to have been

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A major breakthrough came in 1987 when Ashkin used the tweezers to capture living bacteria without harming them, the Academy noted.

According to Ian Musgrave of Britain's Central Laser Facility, optical tweezers make it possible to use lasers to manipulate very small objects, such as beads of glass or oil droplets, to position them precisely or control the environment around them. The tweezers can for example be used to "trap droplets from asthma inhalers to improve the efficiency of delivery through the lungs," he said. Ashkin made his discovery while working at AT&T Bell Laboratories from 1952 to 1991.

Meanwhile Mourou, 74, and Strickland, 59, won for helping develop a method to generate ultra-short optical pulses, "the shortest and most intense laser pulses ever created by mankind," the jury said. Their technique is now used in corrective eye surgery, among other things. Mourou was most recently affiliated with France's Ecole Polytechnique, while Strickland, who was his student at the University of Rochester in New York, is a professor at the University of Waterloo in Canada.

Contacted by AFP, Mourou said he was getting ready for his daily swim just before noon yesterday when he got the call from the Academy. "You don't expect it. You can imagine it, but when it actually happens, it's different," he said, adding that his day had turned out "crazy".

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Donna Strickland

News in brief

\$200m to boost Yemeni riyal

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia said yesterday it will deposit \$200 million in Yemen's central bank to help stem a slide in the riyal that has sent food prices soaring in the famine-threatened country. The emergency aid injection was aimed at "stabilizing the economy and increasing the value" of the Yemeni currency, the Saudi information ministry said in a statement. King Salman of Saudi Arabia had "approved a request" from Yemeni President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi to provide the funds, the official Saudi Press Agency reported. The riyal rose on news of the latest Saudi deposit, trading at just under 700 to the dollar yesterday against 820 the previous day, according to money-changers in the rebel-held capital Sanaa. — AFP

Woman barred from marrying

RIYADH: A Saudi woman has lost a judicial battle to marry the man of her choice as a court deemed him "religiously" unfit because he plays a musical instrument, a Saudi newspaper reported yesterday. Two years ago the suitor, a teacher, asked for the hand of the woman, a 38-year-old bank manager from the ultraconservative region of Qassim, Okaz newspaper said. But her family objected, saying he was not "religiously compatible" with her because he played the oud, the oriental lute which is popular across the Arab world. The woman told Okaz she will now seek intervention from the country's "highest authorities" - a reference to the royal court. The bank manager, who holds a master's degree and is responsible for more than 300 employees, said she was determined to marry her suitor, describing him as "very pious and with a good reputation". — AFP

Germany to ease rules to tackle worker shortage

BERLIN: Worker-starved Germany will ease immigration rules to attract foreign jobseekers, including giving well-integrated, irregular migrants who are employed a shot at staying in the country, ministers said yesterday. In a deal hammered out after marathon talks deep into the night, Chancellor Angela Merkel's center-right CDU party, their Bavarian allies CSU and the center-left SPD agreed on a

new strategy to combat fast-ageing Germany's worker shortage. Migrants without residency permits who are awaiting decisions on their asylum applications or their deportation may get to stay if they are gainfully employed and can show they have joined the fabric of German society.

Jobseekers from outside the European Union - including, for example, cooks, metal-lurgy workers or IT technicians - can also come to Germany for six months to try to find employment, provided they speak German. They would however have no access to Germany's social security system and must prove they are able to finance their stay. Manpower from with the EU bloc of around 500 million people would not suffice

to keep the German economy ticking, the coalition said.

"That's why we need workers from third countries," Interior Minister Horst Seehofer told a press conference about the strategy that has yet to be passed by parliament and become law. At the same time, the ministers were at pains to stress the continued "separation" of asylum and employment migration, mindful that Germany has been deeply polarized by the arrival of more than one million asylum seekers since 2015.

Immigration has become a hot-button issue in recent years over the record influx of mostly Muslim migrants, many fleeing war in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan. Railing against

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Horst Seehofer

Local

Amir extends condolences to Saudi King on passing of Princess Noura

Project of Shadadiyah and Al-Salmi Industrial City was also presented



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. — KUNA photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudan and members of the Board of Directors of the General Authority for Industry.



Members from the General Authority for Industry.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to Saudi King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud yesterday over the passing away of princess Noura Bint Turki Bin Abdullah Al-Saud. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent similar cables of condolences to King Salman.

Meanwhile at Bayan Palace yesterday, HH the Amir received His

Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. HH the Amir also received Kuwaiti Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudan and members of the Board of Directors of the General Authority for Industry. The members of authority presented to HH the Amir an explanation on the project of Shadadiyah and Al-Salmi Industrial City. HH the Amir praised the project, which is a vital step to create an industrial working environment that would support the country's income and provide greater employment

opportunities for Kuwaiti youth.

HH the Amir also sent a cable of congratulations to the President of Guinea Alpha Conde yesterday on his country's Independence Day. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Premier Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim has sent a cable of congratulations to his counterpart in Guinea Claudi Kory Kondiano on his country's national day.

Cabinet praises outcome of Saudi Crown Prince's visit



KUWAIT: Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the weekly cabinet meeting. — KUNA

KUWAIT: The government praised the outcome of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz's visit to Kuwait, during its weekly meeting on Monday. Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, who chaired the weekly meeting, briefed cabinet members about Prince Mohammad bin Salman's visit, including talks he held with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh said in a statement after the cabinet meeting.

The visit was part of the deep-rooted relations between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and was a great opportunity to exchange views over a host of issues of mutual interest, as well as further cementing cooperation at different levels, Al-Saleh added. Afterward, the cabinet was briefed by Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled on his speech to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) Ministerial Meeting in New York, including the results of the meetings held on the sidelines of UNGA 73rd Session. He had urged the international community to cooperate with the OIC to enforce security and stability in order to combat terrorism and live peacefully among nations.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled also briefed the cabinet on his participation in the coordinated meetings of OIC foreign ministers on the sidelines of the UNGA Session. This meeting tackled a number of issues, threats, and grave

challenges being witnessed in the Islamic world and called for boosting efforts to secure stability and peace in the Arab and Islamic worlds. The foreign minister later briefed the cabinet on his participation in the Security Council meeting, which was attended by US President Donald Trump, and highlighted ways to limit the spread of weapons of mass destruction, including meetings on the global war on drugs.

Later, the cabinet was briefed on Sheikh Sabah Khaled's chairing of GCC Troika with the EU that discussed friendship, cooperation and coordination, including ways to bolster ties in all areas as well as tackling issues of common concern. The cabinet was also briefed on the outcome of Sheikh Sabah Khaled's participation in a ministerial meeting of the Arab League council, which was held on the sidelines of the UNGA. A number of topics were discussed on the agenda, namely the Palestinian and Syrian conflicts, in addition to the challenges facing the region. Finally, the cabinet also expressed its deep condolences to Indonesia after the quake-tsunami disaster in central Sulawesi, which resulted in death of more than 800 people.

Saudi Crown Prince briefs Cabinet

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince, Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud briefed the Saudi Cabinet during its weekly session yesterday with outcomes of his recent official visit to Kuwait, official

media reported. Prince Mohammad bin Salman made his visit to Kuwait upon directions of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, and in response to HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's invitation, according to Saudi Press Agency. He told the Cabinet, which was chaired by the Saudi King, the Saudi-Kuwait discussions included ways to enhance the two countries' ties and interests in all fields, as well as affirming their historic relationships under the leaderships of the two countries.

Meanwhile, the session addressed Kingdom's affirmation at the UN General Assembly's 73rd Session regarding its foreign policy's firm stance toward a number of issues in the Middle East region, particularly the Saudi constant tendency to find peaceful solutions for conflicts, prevent any escalation, support mediation efforts, respect national sovereignty, and not interfere in other countries' interior affairs.

The Cabinet also reviewed the Kingdom's statement at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's recent meeting in New York, and its emphasis on the importance of the Palestinian cause for Muslim and Arab nations. It also stressed on the importance of Arab and Muslim identity in Jerusalem and Palestine's right to sovereignty over all its territories that have been occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem. The session also pointed out peace as a strategic solution to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative submitted by the Kingdom in 2002. — KUNA

Kuwaiti FM receives outgoing ambassadors

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received the outgoing Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Wang Di yesterday. During the reception, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled hailed the strong Kuwaiti-Chinese ties and cooperation on all levels. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled also received outgoing Myanmar Ambassador to Kuwait U Aye Khaing. The receptions were

attended by Acting Assistant Foreign Minister for the Office of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ambassador Saleh Al-Loughani and senior ministry officials.

Meanwhile, Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah received Qatari Ambassador to Kuwait, Bandar bin Mohammed Al-Attiyah at Bayan Palace yesterday. He also received the Hungarian Ambassador to Kuwait, Dr Stefan Jeola Shosh. Elsewhere, Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Sulaiman Al-Jarallah yesterday met with the preparatory committee of donor conference in support of Education in Somalia which is due to be held in Kuwait. During the meeting, they discussed the arrangements conducted by specialized bodies to host the conference. The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry's senior officials. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Myanmar Ambassador to Kuwait U Aye Khaing. — KUNA photos



Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah received Qatari Ambassador to Kuwait, Bandar bin Mohammed Al-Attiyah.

Kuwait's Arab League meets diplomatic institute graduates

CAIRO: Kuwait Permanent Representative to Arab League Ambassador Ahmad Al-Bakr met with the 6th batch of graduates from the Kuwait Saud Al-Nasser Diplomatic Institute, at the league's headquarters on Monday. Al-Bakr told KUNA that the meeting touched upon establishment of the Arab League and its history, Kuwait's relations with the pan-Arab body,

as well as its political, economic, social and cultural activities.

Al-Bakr added that Kuwait is not only represented by its embassy in Cairo or its permanent representative to the Arab League but also in various other Arab organizations in Egypt. Participants were also briefed on the work of the Kuwaiti delegation in various areas, and tasks entrusted to diplomats working there to promote joint Arab action.

On another front, the graduates visited the headquarters of the Arab Labor Organization in Cairo, during which the Director General of the organization Fayez Al-Mutairi talked about ALO, its establishment and structure. Al-Mutairi affirmed that Kuwait is one of the first countries in ratifying the charter of ALO, one of the specialized organizations affiliated with the League, noting that Kuwait joined the organization in 1968. — KUNA



CAIRO: Kuwait Permanent Representative to Arab League Ambassador Ahmad Al-Bakr meets Saud Al-Nasser diplomatic institute graduates. — KUNA

Local

Launch of Women's Empowerment Principles in Kuwait, first of its kind

EQUATE, Alghanim, Burgan Bank, Al Hamra Real Estate and GIC help champion women empowerment



Zain CEO Eeman Al-Rowdan



Group photo of the CEO's from all the main sponsors.



The audience at the event.

KUWAIT: Under the auspices of Her Excellency Mrs. Hind Sabeeh Barak Al-Sabeeh, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour and Minister of State for Economic Affairs, the Women's Research and Studies Center, College of Social Sciences at Kuwait University convened the launch of Women's Empowerment Principles in Kuwait on 1 October 2018, at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry. This initiative was designed to mobilize the Kuwaiti private sector to promote, support and accelerate gender equality between men and women and women's economic empowerment, in alignment with the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The high-level event was launched in partnership with the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). The event was held under the framework of Sustainable Development Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

In her keynote speech, HE Mrs Hind Sabeeh Barak Al-Sabeeh re-iterated her commitment to women's economic empowerment as a strategic government goal to ensure sustainable growth by unleashing the potential of women, who represent 50% of the local talent. To advance our economic growth and continue to excel in an increasingly more competitive world, it is paramount that we open up opportunities for women, and men, to address society's most pressing challenges and enable solutions that would take our country forward. More women mean smarter business and stronger economies, she concluded.

The 2035 Vision
Representative of the President of Kuwait University, Dr Jassem Ramadan Al Kandari delivered the opening speech to senior government officials, senior executives from Kuwait's private sector companies, international organizations, diplomatic corps and media representatives, emphasizing the importance of Kuwait's private sector development and advancing of the country's human capital in delivering the 2035 Vision, with higher and better participation of women in the workforce. He further stressed on the unwavering support and encouragement of Kuwait University for its belief that the empowerment of women in society is one of the core indicators on which progress and advancement of nations are measured as well as in the ranking of countries in various human development indexes.

Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, Dr Khaled Mahdi, who has been instrumental in this initiative stated: There is certainly scope to boost further women's economic empowerment in the private and public sector. We encourage all stakeholders to join hands to increase women's participation in all sectors of the economy, in line with the National Development Plan. Studies show that women's participation at senior levels, such as corporate boardrooms, increases productivity and overall performance. There is no doubt that women are an integral part of the economic progress of Kuwait, including at managerial levels. Dr Lubna Al-Kazi, Head of Women's Research, and Studies Center said, "This is the third event on Women's economic empowerment within the SDG5. Women's Research

and Studies Center rang the bell of Bursa Kuwait on March 8 this year so Kuwait was the first GCC country to do so. We have trained ten government agencies on gender-responsive budgeting. This particular initiative is aimed at the private sector which includes the participation of several major companies interested in achieving the new Kuwait vision 2035 by increasing the number of women in leadership positions." Dr Tarek El Sheikh, UN Resident Coordinator, and UNDP Resident Representative in Kuwait congratulated the participating stakeholders for their solid commitment to substantiate one of the key pillars of the National Development Plan set forth by the government under the effective leadership of the President of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, Sheikh Naser Sabah Al-Ahmad, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and under the direction of the Minister of State for Economic Development. Dr El-Sheikh reiterated that the implementation of the strategy, which is fully supported and sponsored by the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, will take the country one step closer to achieving SDG5.

High level of commitment
Speaking further on the WEPS, Dr. El Sheikh added: "The United Nations is very pleased to be a party to this multi-stakeholder platform and to see this high level of commitment to the economic empowerment of women that would help accelerate Kuwait's economic, political and social progress. Increasing women's participation in businesses will lead to better development outcomes for families and communities".

Ms Nicolla Hewitt, UN Women Senior Advisor noted, "Leading private sector companies in the State of Kuwait are joining the global level initiative, and signaling Kuwait's commitment towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals for the benefit of women, men and the community as a whole, and using the WEPS as a powerful tool to achieve this". Some of Kuwait's leading companies - EQUATE, Al Hamra Real Estate Co, Alghanim, Burgan Bank and Gulf Insurance Company formally endorsed the Women's Empowerment Principles by signing the CEOs' Statement of Support during the event, joining Zain who was the first Kuwaiti company to do so. Other prominent companies NBK, Gulf Bank, Agility Logistics, KIPCO and PACE will also participate in specialized training, between 2 and 5 October and convened by Kuwait University

The workshop is a capacity building and knowledge exchange platform for private sector companies. The workshop will be led by an expert from UN Women, who will explain the steps required for the implementation of the principles within the organizations in different sectors and scales to ensure women's empowerment in their workplaces, fields of activity and social responsibility projects.

Women's Empowerment Principles were launched by UN Women and the UN Global Compact in 2010 to offer a platform to mobilize business action to advance gender equality and women's empowerment at the workplace, marketplace, and communities. The WEPS provide a set of seven Principles through which businesses can analyze their current initiatives, benchmarks and reporting practices, and then tailor or establish policies and practices to achieve them.

SADC organizes art exhibition

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: The Southern African Development Community (SADC) yesterday organized an exhibition of art, sculptures and products from southern Africa at Jumairah Beach Hotel in the presence of dignitaries and invited guests. SADC is a regional economic community comprising of 16 member states - Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, eSwatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Eight member countries participated in an ongoing one-week-long activity to showcase their culture and products.

Speaking to Kuwait Times, Ambassador of Tanzania to Kuwait Dr Mahadhi Maalim said they worked hard with other embassies to display these products. "We invited artists and musicians to demonstrate their talents. Tomorrow (today), we are going to hold a mini-concert by the pool at Jumairah for people to enjoy our music," he said. "The things we displayed here are just a few works of art. The rest are displayed at the National Museum of Modern Arts in Kuwait City. We invite everyone to come and enjoy the expo. This day is organized to show our support to the International Women's Group," he added.

With regards to economic cooperation between Kuwait and southern African countries, Maalim admitted



Ambassador of Tanzania to Kuwait Dr Mahadhi Maalim

ted trade was limited, blaming a lack of awareness and appreciation. "Also partly to blame is the lack of direct flights from Kuwait to southern African countries. We are the greatest producers of quality vegetables and meat," Maalim said.

Eckel Nyamhondoro, an artist from Zimbabwe, displayed his stone sculptures. "I am very happy to be part of this exhibition and I hope to give pride to my country with this work. I have my own school of arts back in Zimbabwe and I am molding some young children. I am sure we can produce more and better in the coming years," he said. Nyamhondoro has exhibited his work all around the world including Germany, Canada and the United States. He trains kids aged 8-15 years at his Shona Art Center.



ABK sponsors Kuwait Medical Students Association ceremony

KUWAIT: Continuing its efforts to support and engage with exceptional young talent within the country, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK), partnered with Kuwait University's Medical Students Association for the cere-

mony of its honor students. The event was held at the Millennium Hotel on September 25th. Present at the event was Fawzy Al Thunayan - GM Board Affairs, who presented the certificates and trophies to the students. During the event, Al Thunayan delivered a speech through which he encouraged students to persevere in their pursuit of excellence. He reiterated the need to support Kuwaiti students in shaping the skills that will help them take on pivotal roles in the country. As part of its social responsibility agenda, ABK regularly supports career fairs and educational programs targeted at Kuwaiti professionals, confirming its commitment to the nation's young talent.

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Local

Workers in Kuwait caught between law redress, abuses

Voice against the rights of domestic workers



This report by the Kuwait Society for Human Rights examines the reality of labor in Kuwait, and specializes in monitoring legal, administrative, positive and negative changes happening in the field, and in reading the dimensions of these changes on migrant workers "noncitizens" and their impact on the Kuwaiti society, State, economic vision and foreign policy.

Positive steps

The State of Kuwait has taken a number of procedural and administrative reforms of a positive nature in the labor arena, and which have been monitored during the last months covered by this report. The following are the most important.

On 6/5/2018 Law No 17 of 2018 was published in the Official Newspaper, including the amendment of the last paragraph of Article (51) of Law No 6 of 2010, as amended previously under Law No 85 of 2017. That amendment was to protect the rights of workers in the private sector by extending the period of validity of Law No 85 of 2017, which amended the last paragraph of Article 51 to be the entry into force of the provision of this amended paragraph from the date of Act No 6 of 2010. The paragraph stipulates that the worker is entitled to a full end of service benefit at the end of his service in the agency where he works without deducting the amounts paid by this agency for the subscription of the worker in the Social Insurance Institution during his employment period.

The new addition under Law No 17 is that this provision shall enter into force from the date of Law No 6 of 2010 referred to above, that is, immediately retroactive because the amounts paid by employers for social insurance were deducted from the end of service benefits of the workers before the date of this amendment.

The Competition Protection Authority, through the judicial control teams of the Authority, conducted three days of tours, including the recruitment offices of domestic workers, to ensure that these offices did not enter into any agreements between themselves to harm and exploit the competitors and to activate the role of the Authority to detect any harmful practices to competition.

Those inspection tours after days from the issuance of Decision 614/2018 about the transfers of competences that are stated in Law 68/2015 on Domestic Labor from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor and the Public Authority for Labor Force, with the continuation of the existing regulations and resolutions in force until they are amended or canceled as a step to equate domestic workers with the rest of the other categories of workers through the subordination of the Public Authority for Labor Force.

Mechanism of absence

A statement from the Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior for Nationality and Passports at the opening of the Citizen Service Center inside the headquarters of Al-Durra Company for the Recruitment of Domestic Workers that the Ministry does not object to lifting absenteeism from migrant workers who are reported to be absent during the presence of the employer (sponsor).

The mechanism of absence notice is very complicated, because the notice after registration by the employer against the worker in the Labor Relations Department at the Public Authority for Labor Force is referred to the Ministry of the Interior after 60 days. The period was 90 days previously, but the permit period was reduced, as it limits extortion in some notices and proves the seriousness of the employer and the lack of malice. Arranging the contractual relationship between the worker and the employer is the responsibility of the Authority in general, and the Sector of public forces protection in particular, which



Kuwait Society for Human Rights

through all its departments provide legal protection to the worker and preserve all his rights guaranteed by Law No 6 of 2010, issued on the work in the civil sector.

Adopting a new regulation on the rules and procedures for granting work permission and issuing administrative decision No 552 of 2018 regarding the issuance of this regulation which consists of two sections, 14 chapters and 46 articles. The adoption of these regulations is the activation of a number of administrative and ministerial deci-

Recommendations

Kuwait Society for Human Rights praises the positive steps taken to protect the rights of workers in the State of Kuwait and makes the following recommendations:

1. To abolish and replace the sponsorship system, which restricts each worker to an employer as his guarantor, by a system that safeguards rights for all.
2. To provide interpreters who can speak the main languages spoken by migrant workers in the Department of Labor Relations and their branches in the provinces.
3. To follow unified principles in the investigation and conduction of the complaints submitted to the Public Authority for Labor Force by workers against employers, especially in complaints of cancellation and transfer.
4. To enforce labor laws and their implementing decisions with a view to providing greater protection to migrant workers, including domestic workers, through inspection, followup, investigation and referral mechanisms.
5. To enforce Law no. 912013/ on human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, to double investigative and prosecutorial efforts and to emphasize punishment for perpetrators of human trafficking offenses.
6. To double efforts to raise awareness of all forms of human trafficking, in particular domestic servitude, forced labor and sexual exploitation.
7. To suspend the decisions that obstruct the entitlement of migrant workers in government agencies for their labor rights such as the end of service benefits, only after the termination of their residences and the notification of leaving the country.
8. To ensure decent work for all workers, especially domestic workers.
9. To prepare studies and research on the scope of human trafficking in all its forms, causes and consequences.
10. To abolish administrative deportation and activate the role of the judiciary as the competent authority on the issue of deportation and provide the necessary guarantees as the right of appeal.

sions. The main provisions included in the regulation are the confirmation of closing the employer's file temporarily and permanently if he commits fraud, cheating and forgery in the information, and confirmation that employers should declare a notice of absence against the absent worker at the Labor center in order to determine the validity of the notice and that it is not malicious.

A working woman was given a four-month leave with full payment at the time of her husband's death. She was also given two hours to breastfeed during working hours under certain conditions. The most important provisions of the regulation is the possibility of issuing work permits to non-Kuwaiti partners in Kuwaiti companies as partners, thus guaranteeing the rights of these partner migrant workers and provide them with legal protection. In the past, the non-Kuwaiti partner's status as a partner was only mentioned in the company's memorandum of association, and his work permit does not include a statement of

Exposed workplaces

The Public Authority for Labor Force has begun implementing Resolution No 535 of 2015 on the prohibition of employing workers in exposed workplaces, where work is difficult due to extreme climatic conditions, which make it difficult to perform work in normal working hours, in accordance with the provisions of the Labor Law No 6 of 2010 and its implementing decisions, and the international conventions for the health and safety of workers. The prohibition is during the period from the first of June until the end of August from 11 am to 4 pm.

On June 19, the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor has revealed the transfer of a number of companies that were trading in work visas to the Kuwaiti judiciary in order to eliminate the trade of residences. She pointed out that the verdicts issued by the judiciary either fines or imprisonment indicating that there are cases that were not pleaded which means the verdict shall enter into force. This step



his partnership. Also employers in the civil and oil sectors were prevented from detaining the travel documents for their workers and the employers were allowed to cancel work permit of the prisoner or absentee worker.

Inspection tours

The Labor Inspection Department in the Public Authority for Labor Force has followed up the extent of employers' compliance with Law No 6 of 2010 regarding work in the private sector and its implementing ministerial and administrative decisions through inspection tours such as inspecting the facility to ensure the application of the legal provisions and commitment to the determined regulations and to ensure the compliance with the employment of workers who are allowed by the Public Authority for Labor Force only.

Monitor and follow-up process is necessary to ensure the application of law and its provisions. The number of violations that have been referred to the General Directorate of Investigations during the five months from 1/1/2018 to mid-May was 214 violations divided as follows: 139 violations of labor inspection, 25 occupational safety violations, 33 permanent suspension violations and 17 violations of (Article 20), ie employment of domestic workers in the private sector.

Final suspension of the administrative decision No 1280 of 2017 concerning the amendment of the administrative decree No 839/Q of 2015 regarding the organization of work in the civil and oil sectors, which include the prohibition of issuing work permits for workers from abroad, who hold diploma and above and are under 30 years of age.

The Board of the Public Authority for Labor Force decided a final suspension of the decision, and a development of alternative policies that regulate the labor market, attract the experienced and competent from abroad, as well as steer the employers to National labor, and create new jobs for young people. The above resolution was originally scheduled for early January, but was postponed for further technical study of the automated system for the completion of procedures related to the labor sector, which was supposed to be effective at the beginning of July, but it was finally suspended.

On May 31, the Minister of Health has approved the monthly wages of workers on the item (pay for work) in the various facilities of the Ministry for May, to be deposited in the accounts of workers, mostly non-citizenship category (Bedoon). The workers on the item (pay for work) in the Ministry of Health suffer from continuous delay in the payment of wages and they are about (3000) male and female workers in the Ministry, and receive low salaries compared to their peers.

is considered a great achievement in order to eliminate the phenomenon of the trade in residences in Kuwait, as it is growing despite the intensification of penalties in the Labor Law No6 of 2010 on work in the private sector through the amendment of Article 138 under Law No 32 of 2016.

Public and private deterrence through intensified punishment must be accompanied by law enforcement at the national level, ensuring the highest degree of legal protection of labor under the labor law. The Minister of Social Affairs and Labor has confirmed that the Ministry is currently working on the establishment of a shelter for male migrant workers and is considering relocating the women's shelter to another location to be more accessible and safe.

The labor attache at the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait has confirmed that the relations with Kuwait are fine and very good, especially after the Kuwaiti side understands his country's demands for providing the necessary protection for Philippine workers inside the country. This was done by signing a special agreement between the two parties. The most important change in the situation of domestic workers after the signing of the Philippine and Kuwait agreement is the provision of a complex to become a place where the workers gather to practice their hobbies, social and recreational activities, as well as meet with friends during the holiday stated in the agreement, as there is no specific place for those workers.

We are trying to address this problem and provide an off day during which the workers can practice their activities, in addition to providing recreational facilities, food and drink during their weekly leave. He also pointed out another important topic related to the establishment of a special monitor sector that enables the two sides to control the domestic workers' situation. The sector includes staff, secretary and service providers, in order to enable the Kuwaiti and Filipino sides to control the conditions of domestic workers and monitor the problems that they are exposed to and work to resolve them as well as respond to the concerns of those workers.

The Public Authority for Labor Force has cooperated with the Government of Britain to establish a website on the termination of forced labor, modern slavery and human trafficking to protect workers in the labor market through Labor Law No 6/2010 and to promote decent work. — Provided by Kuwait Society for Human Rights, visit www.kuwaitihr.org for more info

See this page for the continuation of this report in tomorrow's Kuwait Times



Local

The Green and Clean conference and exhibition opens at JACC

‘Kuwait is keen to develop and improve the environment’



Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Hossam Al Roumi (3R), Deputy Director General for Technical Affairs at the EPA Engineer Mohammad Al-Anzi (2R) and the General Manager of Leaders Group Nabila Al-Anjari (R). — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Under the patronage of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and attended by Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Hossam Al-Roumi, the Green and Clean conference and exhibition was held yesterday at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre (JACC). The event is organized by the Leaders Group Company for Consulting and Development in collaboration with the Environment Public Authority.

“The environment today has become a sensitive and important issue where action is needed to limit global warming. Kuwait is keen to develop and improve the environment, and is witnessing great efforts from officials to protect it. They are working in accordance with the system of green construction in the country,” Roumi said.

“All ministries and companies are concerned with the environment, especially after the new environment law and the implementation of the Kuwait Integrated Environmental Information Network and

multilateral environmental agreements for the achievement of internationally agreed environmental goals including the 2035 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. This is what we should focus on in future projects, and this is one of the plans of Vision 2035,” the minister added.

“Our relationship with the environment must be good because it affects our lives, our health, our future and the resources of our economy. In this respect, attention must be paid to the sustainable environment where Kuwait is starting to work on several projects that fall within the green economy, such as projects to increase natural habitats up to 11. Also, we have the national project for clean industrial production, the environmental fuel project, the use of solar energy, recycling of solid waste and more,” Roumi said.

“The Green and Clean conference and exhibition was organized to spread awareness of the importance of environment. We appreciate seasonal initiatives that care about the environment, but negative phenomena that are harmful to this environ-

ment are a concern. These phenomena push us to make more efforts to clean the environment and pay attention to it,” said Nabila Al-Anjari, General Manager of Leaders Group.

“Despite the nature of the desert of Kuwait, we have to make our environment beautiful and green. Many countries have achieved this goal with lesser potential. The problems of desertification, the environment and climate in general have become a universal concern. No matter how many summits are held locally, regionally and globally, their results remain incomplete if not accompanied by a local national movement that cares to change to a clean and green environment,” she explained.

Deputy Director General for Technical Affairs at the Environment Public Authority (EPA) Mohammad Al-Anzi affirmed that the care of HH the Amir reflects his great interest in making the environment better and emphasizes the challenges that the issue represents at all local and international levels. “The protection of the environment is the future of mankind. The lack of attention



to the environment has led to air pollution, global climate change and millions of deaths. The costs of pollution are estimated at \$4.6 trillion a year, equivalent to 6.2 percent of global economic output,” he

warned. The two-day forum includes several working and discussion sessions with the participation of senior officials, academics, experts and representatives of scientific and academic institutions.



(From left to right) Dr Khalid Al-Salehi, Dr Abdelrahman Al-Awadhi, Sheikhha Fadiya Al-Sabah and Dr Hussa Al-Shaheen.

CAN launches breast cancer awareness campaign ‘You Deserve Our Attention’

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: The National Campaign for Awareness of Cancer (CAN) launched a breast cancer awareness campaign under the slogan “You Deserve Our Attention”, coinciding with the International Month for the Awareness of Breast Cancer. The event was held under the patronage of the Chairperson of Kuwait Women Voluntary Society for the Service and Development of Society Sheikhha Fadiya Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. CAN Chairman Dr Abdulrahman Al-Awadhi, Deputy Chairman Dr Ahmad Al-Saleh and board member Dr Hussa Majid Al-Shaheen were in attendance.

Sheikha Fadiya said she was happy to cooperate with CAN, which has vast experience in spreading awareness about cancer, adding that the social partnership between both sides will, without a doubt, benefit the Kuwait people. She said the society is also responsible for health awareness, and that “we should not place the entire burden on the government”, adding “the society should take the initiative, and out of this we move to participate in such activities. We must face this disease without fear, because the earlier it is discovered, the better are the recovery chances. We hope that breast awareness does not stop in October but should continue the whole year.”

Dr Abdulrahman Al-Awadhi lauded the cooperation between the society and CAN in this campaign. “I am pleased to see the society making this partnership and joining us in the struggle to make people aware. This is a great initiative, especially since the society is closer to women,” he said. He stressed that the “prevention is better than cure” principle applies to all diseases, particularly cancer, which the earlier it is discovered, the better are the recovery chances. He said CAN has succeeded in making big achievements in the field of

awareness of cancers, as it was able to train more than 80,000 female secondary school students to self-examine, which is a big gain. It also saves the state a large amount of money, because breast cancer stays for a long time if it spreads in the body, adding CAN will keep training women. CAN Deputy Chairman Dr Khalid Ahmad Al-Saleh said registering cancer cases requires time and diligence, noting developed countries release statistics every several years. He said the latest official cancer statistics in Kuwait are from 2014, adding that the annual report from the Kuwait Center for Fighting Cancer for this year was received few days ago. The report indicates there is improvement in the recovery rate from cancer in general, and this is due to the improvement of early detection, which is something apt for breast cancer.

For a woman who comes for treatment during stage four of breast cancer, the recovery rate is not more than 20 percent, while if she comes in the first stage, chances of recovery are over 85 percent. Saleh said the report showed there is notable awareness activity, adding that what calls for optimism is that in early detection, there is no need for a mastectomy, so we must cooperate to spread the culture of early detection of this disease.

Dr Hussa Al-Shaheen said what distinguishes the activities of CAN throughout the year is that it has been expanding since its establishment and reaches all groups of people in all areas of Kuwait. It has contributed to raising the percentage of societal awareness about all types of cancer. She said the “You Deserve Our Attention” campaign is special because it touches the beating heart of the family, which is the woman, who if is in pain, the entire house is affected. We seek to increase the number of its activities and expand its presence to reach the largest number of women to make them aware of breast cancer.

Kuwait Fire Services Directorate debuts ‘The Last Mission’

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Kuwait Fire Services Directorate recently had the debut of their film “The Last Mission” under the patronage of Director General, Lt Gen Khalid Al-Mikrod, and in the presence of Deputy Director Maj General Eng Khalid Al-Tarkait. The film will be shown free of charge at the Laila Gallery in Salmiya.

Sergeant in hospital
KFSD Director General Lt General Khalid Al-Mikrad, accompanied by Deputy General Director for Prevention Sector Affairs Maj Gen Khalid Abdallah visited Sergeant Mahdi Shah in hospital as he was involved in traffic accident while on duty.



Day of German Unity

Germany has been reunited in democracy and freedom for 28 years. It is now almost three decades since the political division imposed by the Cold War was overcome. Courageous citizens in East Germany were instrumental in bringing about the fall of the Wall between the East and the West. Yet our partner states also played a crucial role. Without their trust in the peaceful and positive development of the united Germany in Europe, German unity would not have been possible.

This year, too, numerous countries have placed considerable trust in us. In June, Germany was elected by more than 180 countries to the United Nations Security Council as a non-permanent member for two years. We regard this trust from the international community as a commission to continue to do everything in our power to promote peace and security in the world in cooperation with our partners. This is only possible within the framework of a rules-based international order. True multilateralism must not impose the law of the strong but needs to create fair conditions for everyone. We want to work together towards this goal in an alliance for multilateralism which is open to all interested parties.

The world of the 21st century, which is

Store fire
Industrial Shuwaikh and Ardhiya fire centers responded to a call about store centering fire in the Rai area. The fire was put out and no injuries were reported.

Drug trading report
The criminal security department prepared a statistics report on the results of drugs trading for the third quarter of this year. Assistant Undersecretary for criminal security said the tremendous efforts were the results of the support from Deputy Premier, Interior Minister Lt General, (Rt), Sheikh Khalid Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and the follow up by Interior Ministry undersecretary to employ all the necessary counter-preventive measures.



Heiko Maas

increasingly characterized by mutual dependence, requires us to overcome isolation. Even though nationalist and populist sentiments are currently on the rise all over the world, it is right and it is possible to work to counteract these developments. In the mid-1980s, hardly anyone in the divided Germany believed that the fall of the Berlin Wall was a possibility, and yet fall it did just a few years later. Today we are again working in the European Union and with our partners throughout the world to overcome divisions, bridge the gap between differing opinions, help resolve crises and conflicts across the globe and promote human rights and the rule of law. One lesson from German reunification is that true progress can never take place by going it alone. We are, and will remain dependent on one another. And that is a good thing. — Message from Heiko Maas, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, sent by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany

MoH assigns doctors to head medical departments

KUWAIT: The decision issued by the Minister of Health stated that: Dr Nawaf Salem Al-Ajmi was appointed as head of the Radiology Department at the maternity hospital. Dr Adnan Al-Hadlaq for the head of the Pediatric Heart Department, Chest Diseases Hospital. Dr Mohammad Khaja Abdul Rasool as the Head of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care Department in Al-Jahra Hospital. Dr Mahmoud Al-Faily, Head of Nuclear Medicine Department, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Center for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging. Dr Ayman Matar Al-Shammari, Head of Nuclear Medicine Department, Al-Adan Hospital. Dr Al-Mutlouk, Head of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care Department, Farwaniya Hospital, Mubarak Al - Kabeer Hospital. Dr Hanan Al Harbi was also assigned to perform the tasks of Head of Anesthesia and Intensive Care Department. In further details, Minister of Health Dr Bassel Al-Sabah adopted the designation of the heads and rapporteurs of the specialized medical departments councils. The resolution called:

- First Article: The presidents and rapporteurs of the Specialized Medical Boards are called as follows:
- First:** The Council of Internal and Psychological Departments and its branches
 - 1- Dr Raja Hussein Dashti Chairman of the Internal Medicine Council.
 - 2- Dr Laila Al-Enezi as the director of the Internal Medicine Council.
 - Second:** The Council of Obstetrics and Gynecology Departments
 - 1 - Dr Khalid Najjar Chairman of the Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology Departments.
 - 2- Dr Abeer Zaidi, Rapporteur of the Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology Departments.
 - Third:** The Council of Pediatric and Premature Pediatric Departments
 - 1- Dr Abdullah Al-Sanea Chairman of the Board of Pediatrics and Premature Pediatrics Departments.
 - 2- Dr Salman Al-Tawala, Rapporteur of the Board of Pediatrics and Premature Pediatric Departments.
 - Fourth:** Board of Orthopedic Departments
 - 1 - Dr Salem Al-Shammari Chairman of the Board of Orthopedic Departments.
 - 2 - Dr Al-Mutairi, Rapporteur of the Board of Orthopedic Departments.
 - Fifth:** Council of ENT Sections
 - 1- Dr Al-Sihan is the Chairman of the ENT Sections.
 - 2- Dr Yasin Al-Yassin is the director of the ENT section.
 - Sixth:** The Council of Ophthalmology
 - 1- Dr Abdullah Ahmad Al-Baghli Chairman of the Council of Eye Departments.
 - 2- Dr Badriya Mubarak Mubarak as Rapporteur of the Board of Ophthalmology.
 - Seventh:** General Surgery Department Council
 - 1 - Dr Talab Hashim Gomaa Chairman of the General Surgery Departments.
 - 2- Dr Mubarek Ali Al-Kandari is the Rapporteur of the Board of General Surgery Departments.



Angry farmers clash with Indian police

Indonesia races against time as quake death toll hits 1200

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NORD: Photo shows a room of the Zahra Centre, the headquarters of a Shiite Islamic association in Grande Synthe, northern France, after it was raided by 200 police men as well as the homes of its leaders who are suspected of supporting "terrorist organizations." — AFP

French police raid Shiite Islamic centre

France moves against Iran over bomb plot near Paris

LILLE: About 200 police raided the headquarters of a Shiite Islamic association and the homes of its leaders who are suspected of supporting "terrorist organizations", security sources said. The operation against the Zahra Centre France in Grande Synthe, a suburb of the port city of Dunkirk, was staged as part of the "prevention of terrorism" procedures, regional authorities said in a statement.

A security source told AFP that 11 people had been arrested, while French authorities also froze the financial assets of the centre which is headed by Yahia Gouasmi, who is known for his anti-Zionist views and links to Iran. Police have been closely following the activities of the Zahra Centre "because of the strong support by its leaders for several terrorist organizations and in favor of movements backing ideas that are contrary to the values" of France.

On its website, the association says its purpose since its foundation in 2009 has been "to make known the message of Islam through the eyes of the Prophet and his

family." It was unclear whether the arrests were linked to a suspected plot in France to bomb a gathering of Iranian opposition group the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) in June. Police swooped on six people in Belgium, France and Germany after authorities revealed the alleged plot, including an Iranian diplomat. France is still on high alert after a wave of Islamist attacks since 2015 in which 246 people have lost their lives.

Bomb plot near Paris

In another development, France froze the assets of two suspected Iranian intelligence operatives on yesterday in retaliation for an alleged bomb plot uncovered near Paris in June, in a move that could cause diplomatic tensions with Tehran. The

French government announced it had frozen assets belonging to two Iranians and Iran's ministry of security and intelligence following the alleged plot to bomb an Iranian opposition group in a Parisian suburb in June.

"This extremely serious act envisaged on our territory could not go without a response," France's interior, foreign and economy ministers said in a rare joint statement. "In taking this decision, France underlines its determination to fight against terrorism in all its forms, particularly on its own territory," they added.

The foiled attack in June was to have targeted a meeting of thousands of Iranian opposition supporters which was also attended by leading US figures, including close allies of President

Donald Trump. Six people were arrested afterwards in coordinated raids by European police forces, including an Iranian diplomat called Assadollah Asadi, who is set to be extradited from Germany to Belgium for prosecution. Asadi was targeted by France for the six-month asset freeze yesterday along with another man named as Saied Hashemi Moghadam.

Iran has denied any involvement in the alleged bomb plot and said the opposition group, the People's Mujahedeen of Iran (MEK), had orchestrated the plot to discredit Iranian President Hassan Rouhani as he embarked on a tour of Europe. The counter measures by France could have major diplomatic repercussions at a time when France is working to keep Iran in the 2015 accord to limit its nuclear program amid major tensions in the Middle East. French President Emmanuel Macron had vowed to visit Tehran early in his term as president, but major differences between the countries on issues such as the wars in Syria and Yemen, as well as the bomb plot, have led to tensions.— Agencies



France freezes assets of two Iran operatives

Reunited Indonesian couple a rare ray of hope in quake zone

PALU: It was two agonizing days of searches through makeshift morgues and hospitals before Azwan found his wife Dewi alive and well after she was swept away in the tsunami that crashed into the Indonesian city of Palu. Recounting the story beside her at a small roadside stall in the quake-hit city, the 38-year-old civil servant struggled to keep his emotions in check, tears welling up behind his glasses. "I was so happy, so emotional-thank God I could see her again," Azwan, who like many Indonesians only has one name said. His is a rare story of hope, in a place where the sense of despair, grief and loss hangs thick. Dewi was registering guests for a festival at a beachside hotel when the tremor sent a jolt through the ground.

Soon a wall of water was rushing at her. "A wave

came and hit me hard. When I regained consciousness, suddenly I was on the street in front of the hotel. I remember hearing people shouting "Tsunami! Tsunami!", she said. Her clothes ripped and torn, she wandered through the debris-littered streets until she found an evacuation post where she stayed overnight. "No food, no water," she recalled. "We were told to wait until it was safe, while the aftershocks kept coming." On the other side of the city her husband, Azwan, was stricken with worry having survived the quake with their young daughter but without news of his wife.

After night fell, he began the grim task that would consume him for close to 48 hours: Checking patients and body bags at the city's overrun medical centers. "When I couldn't find my wife in any of the bags I went back to the hospital, the police hospital, and checked the morgue," he said. "There were a massive amount of dead bodies there. It was so messy-on the terrace, inside, on top of each other." On Sunday, just as he was beginning to accept "God's way", his wife appeared, injured and limping towards the family home. "When she got off the motorbike-it was euphoria," he said. "Everyone was crying. Our relatives broke into tears, they came to hug her." —AFP



PALU: Azwan hugs his wife Dewi Prasasti in front of their house and family members in Palu, Central Sulawesi, after an earthquake and tsunami hit the area. — AFP

An India village's fight to take the 'poo to the loo'

DUNGARPUR: Indian farmer Kokila Damor always looked forward to visiting the city hospital, but only so that she could use its toilet. Now she is not only a proud toilet owner but a sanitation champion for other villagers in the state of Rajasthan who have been used to defecating in the open since time immemorial. "Having a toilet has changed my life. I can sleep a bit more. Earlier I had to rush out at four in the morning," said Damor, a 34-year-old mother of three. "I would always look for an excuse to go to the hospital as I loved using a proper toilet with a door, water and lights," she said.

Before, during autumn it would be a struggle to find a secluded spot amidst the bare trees, while in the rainy season her hands would hurt from holding an umbrella-to say nothing of the fear of being spotted. But Bhuwalia, her village, is one of the success stories of a public health drive launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi-host of a sanitation summit in Delhi this week-on taking office in 2014. The houses in Bhuwalia now boast toilets with twin-pit technology that requires no sewerage, and a sloped pan design that minimizes water usage in the drought-prone region.

86 million toilets

Diseases caused by poor sanitation and unsafe water kill some 1.4 million children every year worldwide, more than measles, malaria and AIDS combined. Under Modi's scheme, tribal households get 15,000 rupees (\$205) each for building latrines, a boon for someone like Damor whose monthly family income is less than 10,000 rupees.

The Indian government says it has built more than 86 million toilets across the country of 1.25 billion people since October 2014. It also says it has slashed the number of people forced to go to the loo in the open from 550 million in 2014 to fewer than 150 million today. The "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan"

(Clean India Mission) is aimed at ending open defecation entirely by October 2 2019, birthday of India's independence hero and sanitation crusader Mahatma Gandhi. The multi-billion dollar campaign combines raising awareness, providing subsidies for making latrines, and communal naming and shaming of those still relieving themselves in the open.

'Good-morning squads'

UNICEF, one of the many global organizations that has been supporting the Indian mission, has embarked on a mass awareness campaign in the remotest corners to insist "poo must go to the loo". "We actually showed them how the flies sitting on stool were then sitting on their water and food," said Rushabh Hemani, who works for UNICEF in Rajasthan. "When they learnt how the flies were spreading diseases, they realised the need for covered toilets."

There were other challenges too. There were no approach roads to many villages in Dungarpur district, which meant transporting construction material for toilets was a Herculean task. The villagers, led by Laxman Damor-a former soldier and Kokila's father-in-law-then did what they knew best. They started building the road by themselves, using hoes, pickaxes and other basic tools. "Once the road was built, we used camels to bring up sacks of cement and tiles," said Laxman as he stood outside his toilet, the door scribbled with a slogan promoting hygiene.

Store room

But an Indian parliamentary report released in March red-flagged concerns over the rush to build toilets without making sure they were being used for the right purpose. Often villagers construct a toilet but end up using it as a store room. In order to motivate people to use the toilet, teams of government employees and volunteers roam villages to publicly shame those who relieve themselves in the open. Armed with torches and whistles, the so-called "good-morning squads" try to catch offenders red-handed during their early morning patrols. "We mean no harm. This is the only way," said Kokila Damor, who revels in the unusual task. "It's only through fear that you can stop people from defecating outdoors." —AFP

International

Indonesia races against time as quake death toll hits 1,200

Rescue teams scour for survivors in demolished Palu hotel

PALU: Indonesia is in a race against time to save victims of a devastating earthquake and tsunami on Sulawesi island, the government said yesterday, as the official death toll rose to more than 1,200 and looting fuelled fears of lawlessness. Four days after the double disaster struck, officials feared the toll could soar, as most of the confirmed dead had come from Palu, a small city 1,500 km northeast of Jakarta. Some remote areas have been largely cut off after Friday's 7.5 magnitude quake triggered tsunami waves, destroying roads and bridges, and their losses have yet to be determined.

"The team is racing against time because it's already D+four," Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of National Disaster Mitigation Agency, told a briefing in Jakarta, referring to four days since the quake. He said rescuers had reached all four of the badly affected districts, which together have a population of 1.4 million, but he declined to give an estimate of casualties. He gave few details of the conditions rescuers had found, saying they were similar to those in Palu. Earlier, President Joko Widodo called for reinforcements in the search for survivors saying everyone had to be found.

The official death toll surged to 1,234 with 800 people seriously injured. There has been particular concern about Donggala, a district of 300,000 people north of Palu and close to the epicentre of the quake, which only a few aid workers have managed to reach. Nugroho said it had been "devastated" by the tsunami. A video from the district, broadcast by the Antara state news agency, showed widespread destruction, including flattened buildings and a ship hurled into port buildings by the tsunami. "What we need is food, water, medicine, but to up now we've got nothing," said an unidentified man standing in ruins.

In Palu, tsunami waves as high as six meters smashed into the beachfront, while hotels and shopping malls collapsed in ruins. About 1,700 houses in one neighborhood were swallowed up by ground liquefaction, which happens when soil shaken by an earthquake behaves like a liquid,

and hundreds of people are believed to have perished, the disaster agency said. Before-and-after satellite pictures showed a largely built-up neighborhood just south of Palu's airport seemingly wiped clean of all signs of life by liquefaction. Nugroho said Sigi district was "flattened" by



Looting fuels fears of lawlessness

liquefaction. Among the dead were 34 children killed at a Christian bible study camp.

Leaving and looting

More than 65,000 homes were damaged and more than 60,000 people have been displaced and are in need of emergency help. Thousands of people have been streaming out of stricken areas. Commercial airlines have struggled to restore operations at Palu's damaged airport but military aircraft have taken some survivors out. Many more want to leave. The government has ordered that aid be airlifted in but there's little sign of help on Palu's shattered streets and survivors appeared increasingly desperate. A Reuters news team saw a shop cleared by about 100 people, shouting, scrambling and fighting each other for items including clothes, toiletries, blankets and water.

Many people grabbed diapers while one man clutched a rice cooker as he headed for the door. Non-essential goods were scattered on the floor amid shards of broken glass. Police were at the scene but did not intervene. The



PALU: Tsunami survivor Ahmad Ibrahim looks for his wife Fahria amongst bodies lined up outside Undata hospital in Palu in Central Sulawesi yesterday, four days after a strong earthquake and tsunami hit the area. — AFP

government has played down looting saying victims could take essentials and shops would be compensated. Indonesia is all too familiar with earthquakes and tsunamis. A quake in 2004 triggered a tsunami across the Indian Ocean that killed 226,000 people in 13 countries, including more than 120,000 in Indonesia.

It has said it would accept offers of international aid, after shunning outside help this year when an earthquake struck Lombok island. A spokesman for the main UN aid

coordinating agency, OCHA, said humanitarian agencies were in contact with the government and ready to help. "There is an immediate need for food, clean water, shelter, medical care and psycho-social support," the spokesman, Jens Laerke, told a briefing in Geneva.

State port operator Pelindo IV said a ship carrying 50 tons of supplies including rice and baby milk had arrived in Palu on Monday. It was unclear if the aid had been distributed. — Reuters

Landmines - the new scourge in war-torn Yemen

KHOKHA: For Imad and his sister Alia, life will never be the same after their father was killed by a landmine and they had to leave their endangered home in Yemen's western Hodeida province. With their house surrounded by the deadly munitions, the two children and their mother, left Al-Dunain village and headed for shelter at the Al-Waara camp in the Khokha district, some 30 kilometers from the town of Hays. Withdrawing Iran-backed Houthi rebels had dotted the area with mines, their mother Fethiyeh Fartout said. And it was while her husband made his way to market that he was killed on a road "riddled with landmines". "The Houthis then told us to either leave the house or risk being killed," she told AFP.

The family is just one of millions caught up in a dragging war in which Houthi rebels have been fighting for more than three years against the Yemeni government, which is backed by a Saudi-led military coalition. Rights groups say both sides have committed potential war crimes in the conflict which has killed an estimated 10,000 people, mostly civilians. While the Saudi-led coalition has come under fire for air raids that have killed civilians, including children, in rebel-held areas, the Houthis have been accused of widespread and indiscriminate use of landmines.

'Long-term threat'

Yemen is a signatory to the international Mine Ban Treaty, which came into force in 1999, and aims to eliminate landmines and clear up vast tracts of polluted land. And indiscriminate use of landmines is deemed a war crime by international bodies. While the Houthi rebels have made no media comments about landmines, in a letter to Human Rights Watch (HRW) in 2017 the rebel-controlled foreign ministry in Sanaa denied using landmines or having stockpiles, adding they were "vigilant in abiding by commitments" under the treaty.

But for Fartout and her children there is no way to return home, even if they tried, said her father Jamal Fartout. "The Houthis planted landmines everywhere, and their explosives destroyed the roads," he said. "All the roads leading back to our home are lined with explosives." HRW said in June that landmines in Yemen were hindering aid access and entrapping people. "Houthi forces have repeatedly laid antipersonnel, anti-vehicle and improvised mines as they withdraw from areas in Aden, Ta'ez, Marib and, more recently, along Yemen's western coast," the HRW said.

Landmines "will pose a threat to civilians long after the conflict ends," it warned. In July, the Washington Institute said that, while landmines have plagued Yemen for decades amid different conflicts, the Houthis are using them today "at an astonishingly high rate." While exact numbers are "notoriously difficult to verify", the institute said one "Yemeni de-mining official claims the Houthis have laid 500,000 mines since 2015" while de-mining teams "have reportedly removed 300,000 landmines". The non-governmental Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor recorded more than 2,100 casualties in Yemen from landmines in 2016.

"I asked the Houthis, 'where can we go when the breadwinner of the family was killed by a landmine?'" Fartout said. Hundreds of people now live in make-shift tents in Al-Waara - partly funded by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a key player in the Saudi-led coalition. While dozens of children, some barefoot, run around the camp, one boy sits in a wheelchair - his leg in a cast. He, too, was a victim of a landmine.

According to the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), sustained fighting in Hays has killed civilians, destroyed infrastructure and driven mass displacement for more than 10 months. — AFP

US First Lady touches down in Africa

ACCRA: Melania Trump yesterday arrived in Ghana on the first leg of her maiden, solo tour of Africa that has been billed as a chance to carve her own diplomatic path. The US first lady stepped off an overnight flight from Andrews Airforce Base near Washington and onto a red carpet at Accra's Kotoka International Airport. She was met by her Ghanaian counterpart Rebecca Akufo-Addo and a group of local schoolchildren in yellow and brown uniforms waving the US stars and stripes and the Ghanaian flag. An AFP reporter at the airport said the former model was smiling and looked relaxed as she was entertained by a troupe of traditional drummers and dancers.

The first lady's office has said the tour will be a "diplomatic and humanitarian visit" that will focus on her #BeBest campaign for "children and their well-being". It will also "showcase" the work of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), even at



ACCRA: US First Lady Melania Trump holds a baby during a visit to the Greater Accra Regional Hospital in Accra yesterday, as she begins her week-long trip to Africa to promote her 'Be Best' campaign. — AFP

a time when her husband's government is looking to slash US aid across the world. In addition to Ghana, she is due to visit Malawi, Kenya and Egypt before returning to Washington early on October 7. — AFP

Turkey detains 200 over 'illicit transfers' to US

ISTANBUL: Turkish police detained yesterday over 200 people in a major nationwide crackdown on illicit money transfers to individuals of Iranian-origin living in the United States. An

Istanbul court issued arrest warrants for a total of 417 suspects and have so far rounded up 216 in a nationwide operation carried out in 40 cities, the official Anadolu news agency reported.

The suspects are facing charges including criminal conspiracy and violating measures to prevent terrorism financing, Anadolu said. There were no further details on who the suspects are. An investigation found that from the beginning of 2017 some 2.4 billion lira (\$400 million) had been transferred from Turkey to a total of 28,088 accounts abroad from several banks, it added. — AFP

Hunger, fighting persist despite S Sudan 'peace'

KANDAK: South Sudan's warring leaders signed another peace deal last month, but while the political elites prepare to carve up power once again, hunger and fighting continue far from the capital. "We heard they signed peace, but we've yet to see it here," said Mary Nyang, a 36-year-old resident of Kandak, an isolated northern village. Here, hunger is the norm and battles between government and rebel soldiers a very recent memory. The war began in December 2013 when President Salva Kiir accused his deputy Riek Machar of plotting a coup.

A brutal conflict flared up, often fought along tribal lines and characterized by massacres of civilians, rape and looting. Nyang is one of a staggering 4.2 million people uprooted since South Sudan's latest war began - roughly a third of the population. A recent scientific study calculated that more than 382,000 people have died as a result of the civil war. Last year a man-made famine was declared in two opposition areas while the latest assessment, issued Friday, found that 6.1 million people are going hungry. "Conflict is the main driver of this desperate situa-

tion," said Pierre Vauthier of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Kandak is in an opposition part of the country and so suffers deliberate neglect: there are no public services, no schools, no health facilities. Harvests and markets have been disrupted by the war and so people here rely on aid agencies for deliveries of life-saving food. Lack of roads, insecurity and the sometimes deliberate targeting of aid workers - 107 have so far been killed during the war - mean that when food arrives it comes by air. "We are unable to move supplies either by road or river," said Tomson Phiri of the UN's World Food Program (WFP).

'Enough is enough'

As a result people are barely surviving. "Food is a challenge, it is very little," said 28-year-old John Jal Lam, a father of eight children from two wives, as he collected his family's rations of sorghum. On the other side of the country, Kerwa, close to the border with Uganda, across which over a million South Sudanese have fled, is also opposition territory. The fighting continues, despite the peace promises. "The government doesn't respect the peace," said Brigadier General Moses Lokujo, a commander of the SPLA-IO rebel forces.

Each side routinely accuses the other of being the aggressor, and both are belligerent in response. "We still fight for the freedom and democracy of our country, until we achieve the goal," said Lokujo.

Syrian refugee challenges therapy stigma

BEKAA VALLEY: Hana Al-Ali broke a stigma when she opened up to a therapist about the strains she faced as a Syrian refugee in Lebanon. Now, she is encouraging other refugees to talk through their problems. Pregnant with her second child, Ali escaped the Syrian city of Raqqa some six years ago to neighboring Lebanon's Bekaa Valley where she currently lives with her husband, two boys and one daughter in a refugee camp.

"When I first came here, I was very weak, I couldn't understand what happened. It was like a dream, every once in a while I would ask myself 'Oh God, I didn't wake up from this dream yet?'" said Ali, 30. "But it was not a period of weakness, it wasn't weakness, it was a lack of understanding, I was going through a crisis and suddenly came here, so I felt life became suffocating," she said, surrounded by her children as she spoke.

Help came some two years ago when she met a psychologist with the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC). "There was someone there who understood what I needed, I felt better little by little. I felt that the injustice we lived has become a source of strength - it did not break me." Lebanon is hosting nearly one million registered Syrian refugees who fled the conflict that

began in 2011 - equivalent to a quarter of Lebanon's population. More than half of them live in extreme poverty, and three quarters live below the poverty line, UN agencies said in January. Sarah Joe Chamate, the ICRC psychologist who helped Ali, said talking about mental health was often seen as a taboo.

"The stigma is a big problem and it still exists in our society, as well as Western society," she said. "People don't like to confess that they are weak ... as if being weak is not a human characteristic, or as if we are strong and can handle everything." One year after beginning her therapy, Ali felt much stronger and began reaching out to women and children in her community to encourage them to talk through the problems they face. "For a lot of women, after I started talking to them, their lives with their husbands improved... I feel as if I repaired the planet Earth," said Ali, who worked as a nurse in Syria.

Though she is not a trained psychologist, Ali's empathy and patience have encouraged other refugees to talk to her, Chamate said. "She is a good listener, you don't need to be a psychologist to be able to help people, it is something innate," she said, describing her as "a big inspiration".

Ali has joined English language and fashion design courses to meet more people who may be in need of a sympathetic ear: "When women come to me, they will speak, especially because sometimes, one would feel more comfortable with a stranger." — Reuters



PANYUME: Rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-in-Opposition (SPLM-IO), a South Sudanese anti-government force, take part in a military exercise at a base in Panyume. — AFP

Here, in the Central Equatoria region, the latest confrontations are, in fact, a result of the peace deal with government and rebels fighting over whose officials will hold sway where. The violence means people in Kerwa are still more abandoned than those in Kandak, with no aid agencies at all and no food deliveries.

"For us, we are tired," said Jocelyn Kako, who was forced from her home and now lives in a camp in Korijo, a nearby village, run by the rebels. While South

Sudan's poorest continue to starve and suffer its leaders are planning the next phase of their rule, with an interim government to include both Kiir and Machar leading to elections. Few believe the latest peace deal will fare much better than the last one, which collapsed in a hail of bullets two years ago. For civilians engulfed in the maelstrom there is one, simple message: "I want to tell them that enough is enough," Nyang said. "Let's have peace now." — AFP

International

Britain's PM and Johnson battle it out as Brexit deadline looms

May and her main rival woo party members

BIRMINGHAM: British Prime Minister Theresa May and her main rival Boris Johnson battled yesterday to woo their Conservative party members, as the European Union raised the pressure on London to offer compromises to reach a Brexit deal. Johnson will make his long-anticipated speech to the party's annual conference in Birmingham, central England, where he is expected to repeat his attacks on May's strategy for leaving the EU. Aides to the charismatic former foreign minister said he would also cover a wide range of domestic issues, reinforcing speculation that he is making a pitch for May's job.

In broadcast interviews yesterday, the prime minister acknowledged Johnson's speech would be a "lively" event, and called for her party to "come together". But she ensured she dominated the headlines by announcing a new immigration policy—something that was not expected until Wednesday, and will address many Tory members' concerns. Free movement of EU workers was a key issue in the 2016 vote for Brexit, and May confirmed that Europeans would be treated the same as non-EU citizens in future.

Her public battle with Johnson comes just weeks before May must return to

Brussels in a bid to break the deadlock in Brexit negotiations and reach a deal. The prime minister hinted at a possible compromise on how to keep the land border with Ireland open after Brexit, a key sticking point in the EU talks, on which London is due to publish new plans shortly. EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker meanwhile warned that London's threat to



EU raises the pressure on London

walk away from the negotiations without a deal would have consequences. "We want a deal. Those who think no deal would be the better solution are not aware of the difficulties such a scenario would imply," he told the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

Alternative plan

Johnson was a leading campaigner for

Brexit in the referendum. Even after being appointed foreign minister he continually challenged May's EU strategy. He quit in July in protest at her plan for Britain to follow EU rules in goods after Brexit, which she says will protect cross-border trade but he argues would keep London tied to the bloc well into the future.

The EU has also rejected the plan, saying it undermines the bloc's cherished single market. Numerous eurosceptic Conservative MPs have already drawn big crowds in Birmingham as they offer their own idea for a looser trade arrangement with the EU. Johnson endorses the same alternative proposal, but the maverick former London mayor has particular star power, and his lunchtime address in a 1,500-capacity hall is expected to be packed. "He's not a details guy, but he's a guy who has vision. And he's a winner," said Ian Burgess, a delegate in his 60s from Somerset in western England.

Think he's a clown

Johnson is known for his wit and confrontational style, and before the event he posed for a press photograph in a field of long grass. It clearly mocked May, who once said the naughtiest thing she had done was run through a field of wheat. But Johnson's



BIRMINGHAM: British Conservative Party politician Boris Johnson gestures as he gives a speech during a fringe event on the sidelines of the third day of the Conservative Party Conference 2018 at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham yesterday. — AFP

recent comments about her Brexit plan, calling it "deranged" and saying it strapped a suicide vest to the British constitution, have angered many fellow MPs. Several former

colleagues used the conference to make jokes at his expense, while finance minister Philip Hammond said his alternative Brexit plan was "fantasy". — AFP

Questions linger 50 years after Mexico student massacre

MEXICO CITY: Fifty years ago Tuesday, Mexican troops opened fire on student demonstrators, killing hundreds just days before Mexico City hosted the 1968 Olympics - one of the darkest episodes in a year of global turbulence. But five decades on, the October 2 massacre is little-remembered by the rest of the world, and is shrouded in mystery in Mexico, where no one has ever been punished. Today, it remains unclear exactly what happened, and how many people were killed. Felix Hernandez, one of the leaders of the student movement that had gathered thousands of people that night at a square in Mexico City's Tlatelolco neighborhood, recalls how the army just kept firing into the crowd for about half an hour.

"There were hundreds of dead, thousands of wounded, thousands arrested," said Hernandez, 72. "We still don't know exactly how many people died," he told AFP, his eyes red, the anger palpable in his voice. The authoritarian government at the time put the death toll at 20, claiming "terrorists" had fired on army troops, who responded in self-defense. That version of events has today been discredited. Independent reports say the firing came entirely from government forces, and put the death toll at anywhere from 300 to 500 people.

Olympics in troubled times

Just like in the United States and Europe, 1968 was a year of upheaval in Mexico, where student protesters were calling for democratic change after four decades of one-party rule. The turmoil increasingly alarmed President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz and the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) as Mexico prepared to host the summer Olympics, the first time a Latin American country had been awarded the Games.

"The government was terrified the students would sabotage the Olympics, to such an extent that they



MEXICO CITY: People take part in a performance on the eve of the anniversary of the student massacre 1968 in Tlatelolco neighborhood, in Mexico City. — AFP

were ready to eliminate the movement," said the writer Elena Poniatowska, author of an acclaimed book on the killing called "Massacre in Mexico." On the morning of October 2, 10 days before the opening ceremony, the leaders of the student movement met with authorities and agreed to cancel a march later that day.

A second meeting was scheduled for the next day to discuss suspending the movement altogether until after the Olympics, in return for the release of political prisoners. The student leaders did not call off a rally scheduled for that night in Tlatelolco, and informed the government of their plans, according to Hernandez. About 8,000 protesters gathered at the Plaza of Three Cultures — which is where student leaders were standing on an improvised stage addressing the crowd when the shooting started.

Official amnesia

Several different groups of government forces

fired into the crowd, each acting on different orders and unaware what the others were doing, according to the historian Sergio Zermeno. Regular army troops had orders to arrest the student leaders, with the help of a special unit that had infiltrated the protest movement.

The presidential guard, however, opened fire indiscriminately, aiming at both the army and the protesters, "to make the international press think the students were armed," said Zermeno. About 50 snipers positioned around the square did the same, he said. Fear and censorship kept witnesses and journalists silent for years - to such an extent that it has proven difficult to reconstruct exactly what happened and why. "When I asked to see my photographs, they told me government agents had seized them all. Five rolls of film," said Jesus Fonseca, a photojournalist whose images of the bloodbath never made it into his newspaper, El Universal. — AFP

Francophones living in 'fear' in Cameroon English hub

LIMBE: "We live in fear," said Edouard, a French-speaking resident of Limbe, a coastal town in Cameroon's southwest anglophone region where francophone people have been frequently targeted by armed English-speaking separatists. Trepidation has given way to terror in the cosmopolitan tourist town of 85,000 with a significant francophone population as the anglophone separatist crisis has grown following a symbolic independence declaration a year ago.

A number of French-speakers - both military and civilian - have fled the town with its sandy beaches and lush mountain backdrop after coming under attack. "I moved my family to Douala because we live in fear" here, said Edouard, a young secretary referring to the country's nearby economic capital. Other French-speakers, who spoke to AFP on condition of anonymity, described how their loved ones had been "tortured" by the separatists seeking to break away from Cameroon.

Cameroon's southwest, including Limbe, and northwest are home to largely French-speaking Cameroon's anglophone community who make up around one fifth of the population. The separatists have vowed to disrupt presidential elections on Sunday in which President Paul Biya, who has dismissed the nascent insurgency as mere "trouble", will seek a seventh term. Edouard said he will never again return to Mile 4, the outer suburb where he had lived for years until his departure in July.

Flanked by rolling hills, the area is isolated from the rest of the town and is one of the few places where separatists armed with machetes roam with impunity, according to witnesses. When the men of the separatist movement are not asserting their presence in Mile 4, they hide in the nearby foothills. Late on the night of September 26, there was an attack on Mile 4's police station that claimed the lives of two officers. The army encircled the area for several days following the audacious raid. Several other attacks apparently intended to intimidate the area's French speakers have been reported in Mile 4.

'Situation could deteriorate'

"They came into the areas and started demanding which were the French homes," said a resident. "They came to my house twice to kidnap me — but fortunately they didn't find me." They (also



LIMBE: People sit in the shade next to a campaign billboard of Cameroon's incumbent President Paul Biya in the southwestern coastal town of Limbe. — AFP

tried to kidnap a neighbor but he managed to escape." The resident added that the separatist elements came to the area nightly, singing the anthem of their self-proclaimed "Ambazonia Republic" in front of French households. The increasing number of incidents persuaded Edouard to move his family, first staying at a hotel before securing accommodation in another suburb. On Church Street, a smart road in the town centre

where stylish young people sat on cafe terraces drinking and laughing, French and English groups sat apart.

"Generally people mixed here. But because of the crisis there's a climate of mistrust — the anglophones mistrust the francophones, and vice versa," said Edouard. "The current situation could deteriorate into something worse," warned a member of a local community organization who declined to be named. — AFP

News in brief

Ethnic clashes kill 44

ADDIS ABABA: Weekend fighting between rival ethnic groups in western Ethiopia killed at least 44 people, state affiliated media reported yesterday. The clashes occurred on the border between the central Oromia and western Benishangul-Gumuz regions. Violence began when officials from Benishangul-Gumuz were killed by unidentified gunmen, said the Walta Media and Communication Corporate, citing the region's communications chief Zelalem Jaleta. The clashes between rival ethnic youths armed with rocks and knives reportedly forced tens of thousands of people to flee their homes with security forces deployed to pacify the area. Benishangul-Gumuz is one of Ethiopia's nine regional states, stretching to the border with Sudan. — AFP

13 die in suicide attack

JALALABAD: At least 13 people were killed in a suicide attack on an Afghan election campaign rally yesterday, officials said, in the latest violence ahead of this month's legislative vote. The attack is the first suicide assault since campaigning officially kicked off last Friday for the parliamentary elections, preparations for which have already been marred by bloody violence. More than 40 people were wounded when the militant blew himself up among supporters of candidate Abdul Nasir Mohmand in the Kama district of the eastern province of Nangarhar, provincial governor spokesman Ataullah Khogyani said. Mohmand was alive, Khogyani confirmed, but he did not say if the candidate had been hurt in the blast. Provincial health director Najibullah Kamawal put the death toll slightly higher at 14. — AFP

'Flying man' charged

SYDNEY: A French national claiming to be a former legionnaire leapt from a Sydney crane and parachuted over early morning commuters in a pre-dawn base jump, police said yesterday, describing the stunt as reckless. Police said they arrested the 24-year-old man who broke into a construction site and scaled 250 meters of the crane, before jumping at around 3.15am and sailing over traffic in the city hotspot of Darling Harbors with a faulty parachute. He was charged with breaking into the site and posing a risk to public safety. "I didn't want to make trouble for anybody," the man identified as Jonathan Perherin told commercial television broadcaster Channel Ten. "I know it's forbidden, but I don't regret because... I'm alive," he said. Perherin, who said he was a member of the French Foreign Legion, said that there were no issues with his parachute and no traffic at that early hour. — AFP

34 migrants drown

GENEVA: At least 34 migrants have died in a shipwreck in the western Mediterranean, which 26 people survived, the UN migration agency said yesterday, citing the Moroccan navy and a Spanish aid agency. Joel Millman, spokesman of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), told Reuters: "The boat was adrift since Sunday with 60 people aboard. At least 34 have drowned, it looks like there were 26 survivors." The information came from the Moroccan navy and a Spanish non-governmental organization Caminando Fronteras, he said. A Moroccan official, asking not to be named, said 11 bodies had been recovered, adding that the dead were all migrants, not Moroccan nationals. — Reuters

International

Angry farmers clash with Indian police in New Delhi

Protesting farmers demand better prices for their produce

NEW DELHI: Indian police yesterday fired tear gas and water cannons to halt and scatter a march by thousands of protesting farmers heading for the capital, New Delhi, to demand better prices for their produce. Reeling from a crash in commodity prices, more than 50,000 farmers from the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, a top producer of wheat and cane, blocked part of the main highway to the capital. They also sought loan waivers, cheaper power and tougher action to get sugar mills to pay dues owed for their cane, as discontent in rural areas turns to anger against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who faces tough general elections next year.

"Despite our repeated requests, the government has failed to help farmers in any meaningful ways," a farm leader, Dharmendra Malik, told Reuters by telephone from the protest site. "Left with no choice, we've decided to march to Delhi to highlight our plight." Cash-strapped sugar companies owe cane growers about 135 billion rupees (\$1.9 billion) in the current season. Saddled with huge piles of sugar and hit by a fall in prices, mills have said they are unable to pay farmers on time.

Television broadcast images of angry farmers clashing with police and driving their tractors into security barriers, in a protest that disrupted rush-hour traffic. Some farmers were injured when police fired tear gas and water cannon to keep protesters from breaking through barricades to reach New Delhi, the site of events to mark the birth anniversary of India's apostle of non-violence, Mahatma

Gandhi. Farmers had started trickling into the city late on Monday, prompting authorities to bar gatherings of more than four people.



Farmers block part of main highway

The government has allowed police to "brutally beat up" the farmers, said the opposition Congress party, which ruled India for most of its 70 years since independence from Britain, before losing power to Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party. "Can India's farmers not come and tell their own government that they are in deep pain?" asked Congress spokesman Randeep Singh Surjewala. Modi's rural woes have been worsened by a failure to deliver on a promise of tens of millions of jobs for young people that helped him win the largest mandate in three decades in 2014. — Reuters



NEW DELHI: New Delhi police use water canons to disperse and stop farmers activists of the Bhartiya Kisan Union at the border with Ghazipur during their march to New Delhi yesterday. — AFP

Syrian trapped in Malaysia airport

KUALA LUMPUR: A Syrian man has been arrested after almost seven months stranded in a Malaysian airport, an official said yesterday, in a bizarre saga that drew comparisons with hit movie "The Terminal". Hassan Al-Kontar had been stuck at the budget terminal of Kuala Lumpur International Airport since March 7, when officials refused to let him board a flight to Ecuador. Kontar, reportedly sought by authorities in his homeland for failing to serve in the military, was also refused entry into Cambodia and not allowed back into Malaysia due to visa issues. The 36-year-old was left stranded in the terminal, surviving on donated airline meals and washing in the

toilets. He made repeated appeals in a series of YouTube videos, lamenting that rights groups had refused him help and no one would take him in. But Malaysian immigration chief Mustafar Ali said that police had finally decided to arrest Kontar and remove him from the airport Monday, as his posts—which were garnering growing media attention—had embarrassed Malaysia. "His statements on social media shamed Malaysia," Ali was cited as saying by official news agency Bernama. "(He) was arrested yesterday because he was in a restricted area without a boarding pass." Officials will now work with the Syrian authorities to get him deported to his homeland, he said.

A civil war has been raging in Syria for the past seven years, leaving more than 350,000 people dead. Kontar's case is reminiscent of the 2004 film "The Terminal," in which Tom Hanks plays a man who finds himself stuck in a New York airport after his government collapses, rendering his papers useless. — AFP

On patrol with India's anti-plastic 'blue squad'

MUMBAI: Wearing matching blue Nehru jackets, the dozen inspectors fan out across Mumbai's hectic Crawford Market, each scouring for violators of an ambitious plastic ban. It doesn't take Mahindra Wayangankar long to find one: a dry fruits seller, wrapping his wares in plastic, is hit with a hefty 5,000-rupee (\$69) fine. Wayangankar, 50, is one of 311 officials dubbed the "blue squad" and tasked with enforcing a recent ban on single-use plastics in India's commercial capital. "The job is very stressful. When we fine traders and shopkeepers there is some form of resistance or violence in 99 percent of cases," he said. "It is difficult to work in such situations. Since the amount is huge, people don't pay up easily."

"(But) we are happy doing this job because it helps society and protects the environment. Our goal is not just to raise revenue but create awareness too," he adds. Mumbai, a bustling coastal city of 20 million people, has long been awash with vast mountains of plastic rubbish, like many urban centers in India. Plastic is regularly blamed for blocking drains and contributing to flooding during the city's four-month-long summer monsoon. Earlier this year, authorities decided something had to be done and introduced a ban across Maharashtra state, of which Mumbai is the capital.

The rules, which came into force at the end of June, prohibit the use of disposable plastic items such as bags, cutlery, cups and bottles under a certain size. Businesses and residents face fines of between 5,000 rupees for a first-time offence to 25,000 rupees or even three months in jail for repeat offending. Officials say citizens are already seeing the benefits of the ban. Nidhi Choudhari, a deputy municipal commissioner in charge of enforcing it, told AFP that



MUMBAI: A city civic officer (in blue) explains restrictions on plastic bag usage to shopkeepers at a wholesale market in Mumbai. — AFP

11.6 million rupees (\$159,326) in fines had been collected and over 21 tons of plastic seized.

Secret raids

A walk through Crawford Market and visits to grocery stores and food stalls suggest many traders have switched to cloth bags and paper straws. But others continue to violate the ban and large piles of plastic items can still be seen on the city's beaches and streets. Retailers associations complain that confusion over what is and isn't permitted has led some shopkeepers to be unfairly fined. Traders also say that a lack of cheap alternatives has hurt their businesses, threatening livelihoods.

Kombaiyya S, a street vendor, used to package takeaway orders of his Indian rice cakes and stew for office workers in small plastic bags. "I've lost most of my client base," he said. The

United Nations has warned that the world could have 12 billion tons of plastic trash by the middle of the century if use is maintained at current levels. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pledged to make India free of single-use plastic by 2022.

But while the majority of India's 29 states have a full or partial ban on single-use plastics, the law is rarely enforced. Members of the blue squad say they are too small in number to rid Mumbai of all its plastic, but are determined to do what they can.

A surprise inspection of a popular Hindu temple last week, which resulted in several fines, highlighted that nowhere is off limits. "We will up the secret raids," Sangita R Hasnale, an assistant commissioner at the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai said. "Within one year I think you will be able to give us a 90 percent pass rate." — AFP

IAEA fends off Israel pressure over Iran

VIENNA: The UN's nuclear watchdog yesterday refused to "take at face value" Israel's claims that Iran is harboring a secret atomic warehouse, fending off pressure to inspect the allegedly suspect site. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made the claim in front of the UN General Assembly last week.

Without explicitly referring to Netanyahu's claim, IAEA chief Yukiya Amano insisted that the agency's inde-

pendence was "of paramount importance" for its work. The IAEA "uses all safeguards-relevant information available to it but it does not take any information at face value," Amano said in a statement.

Netanyahu accused Iran of operating a "secret atomic warehouse for storing massive amounts of equipment and material from Iran's secret nuclear weapons program." He urged the IAEA to inspect the site. Amano said the IAEA would not be told how to do its work. "All information obtained, including from third parties, is subject to rigorous review," he said. He said the IAEA's work "must always be impartial, factual, and professional."

Under the 2015 deal, Iran agreed to scale down its nuclear activities and submit to IAEA inspections in exchange for relief from sanctions. — AFP

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Why Brazil business elites are warming to far-right flamethrower

Brazil's business class is quietly rooting for far-right presidential candidate Jair Bolsonaro to win the nation's highest office this month, fearful of a return to leftist rule in Latin America's largest economy. The nation's currency and equity markets have increasingly rallied in lock-step with favorable poll numbers for Bolsonaro, a firebrand congressman better known for his broadsides against gays and Afro-Brazilians than his embrace of free markets. Over a 27-year legislative career, Bolsonaro has voted repeatedly to preserve state-owned monopolies and against reforming Brazil's bloated public pension system.

But his selection of a respected University of Chicago-educated banker, Paulo Guedes, as his economic advisor is good enough for many investors and business owners. Some view Bolsonaro as the least worst alternative in a race that is shaping up as a showdown between the far right and far left. Pollsters are predicting a second-round run-off between Bolsonaro and former Sao Paulo Mayor Fernando Haddad, candidate for the leftist Workers Party, or PT, who has been surging in the polls. Many economists blame statist policies of the PT, which ruled Brazil for much of the past 15 years, for tipping Brazil into a deep downturn, whose vestiges are still weighing on the economy.

Luciano Hang, the owner of the privately-owned department store chain Havan, is one of few executives to openly support Bolsonaro, whose unabashed admiration for Brazil's former military dictatorship and frequent denigration of women and minorities have alienated large swaths of the electorate. Still, Hang estimates that "more than 80 percent" of people in a 300-member business council to which he belongs are backing Bolsonaro now that more moderate candidates in a crowded presidential field appear to be fading. "Business people and entrepreneurs throughout Brazil in all segments of the public favor Bolsonaro and will actively campaign for him," Hang said.

Bolsonaro's growing acceptance among Brazil's business elites underscores how a polarized political landscape is driving moderates to extremes, and how markets are unsettled by a wide-open and unpredictable race. Those jitters have already slowed the country's M&A and IPO markets to a crawl and last month sent Brazil's currency, the real, to a record low against the dollar. Bolsonaro is the current front-runner among 13 presidential candidates heading into the first round of balloting slated for Oct. 7, with 27 percent of the likely vote, according to a survey last week from polling firm Ibope.

But whether he ultimately prevails remains to be seen. If no candidate wins a majority on the first ballot, as is predicted, the top two vote-getters will face off in a final round of voting on Oct. 28, when the same poll shows Bolsonaro losing to Haddad by 4 percentage points. Haddad, an economist, has been meeting with major investors to quell fears about a PT return to power. Known for his bookish, calm demeanor, Haddad has played up his orthodox positions on inflation, exchange rates and deficits.

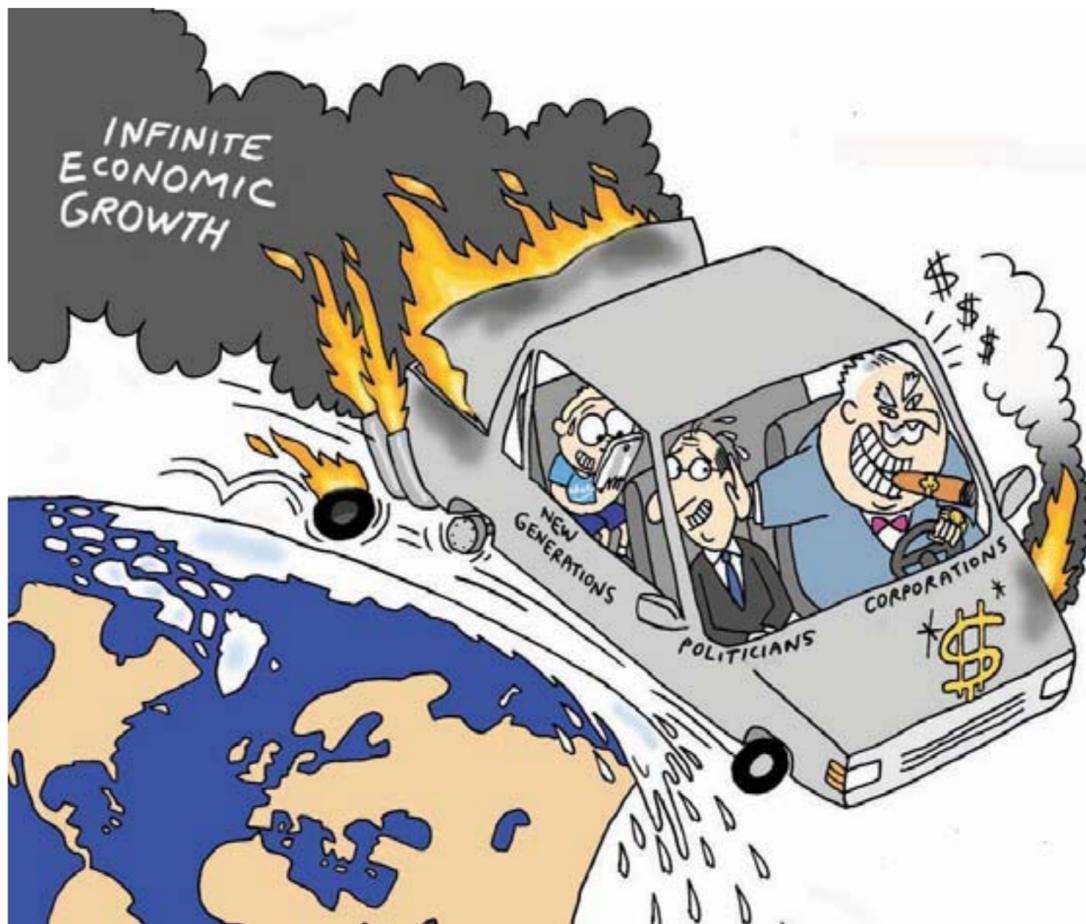
Still, he has acknowledged he would dump the labor and spending reforms of unpopular outgoing President Michel Temer. And he has made it clear his administration would run state-controlled oil company Petroleo Brasileiro SA or Petrobras as a development vehicle and scuttle the proposed sale of Embraer's commercial jet business to Boeing Co. Haddad recently tweeted that the market was "an abstract entity that terrorizes the public".

Super minister

Corporate admirers of Bolsonaro, meanwhile, point to his choice of advisor Guedes as a reason to tune out their candidate's divisive rhetoric, authoritarian leanings and wildly shifting views on Brazil's economy. Bolsonaro, for example, once suggested that ex-President Fernando Henrique Cardoso be gunned down for privatizing former government enterprises including iron ore miner Vale. In contrast, Guedes, currently the head of asset management firm Bozano Investimentos, is a fierce advocate of privatizing Petrobras and government-controlled lender Banco do Brasil SA.

If elected, Bolsonaro has promised to make Guedes a kind of super minister in charge of finance, planning and trade, with wide latitude to set economic policy. Guedes has held a series of meetings with investment banks, corporate chieftains and international investors to coax them onto the Bolsonaro bandwagon. The banker has also met with members of the Finance Ministry at least three times in an effort to signal continuity with Temer's reform agenda, including changes to the country's insolvent pension system.

"Paulo Guedes indeed gives Bolsonaro's candidacy a lot of credibility," said Claudio Pacini, head of Brazilian stock trading at US broker INTL FCStone in Miami. "Together with the fear of the rise of the left, the two things mitigate in Bolsonaro's favor." But some question how long the Bolsonaro-Guedes partnership might last even if the candidate is elected. "Bolsonaro is a recent convert to pro-market liberalism - that's not his thing, it's never been his thing," said Monica de Bolle, director of Latin American studies at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington. — Reuters



Village struggles to navigate tourism tightrope

From his rooftop, Luis Vazquez Miramontes has a front-row view of the vast construction site that promises to one day morph into a glittering Cirque du Soleil theme park, but he bets few in his village of Jarretaderas could ever afford tickets. Billed as a "first-of-its-kind immersive experience", the site being built by Mexico's Grupo Vidanta is the latest in a series of developments around the village, which locals say is being walled off from the nearby Ameca river and beachfront hotels. Some worry the development of the surrounding resort areas has altered the river's flow and could increase the flood risk to the Pacific Coast village, about 10km north of the beach town of Puerto Vallarta.

"This is like a ghetto - we're here, we can't see what's happening on the other side," said Vazquez, as trucks weighed down with construction materials trundled past his corner cafe. "We're not against development, it's welcome ... but it's putting us at risk (of flooding from the river)." Tourism is growing fast in Mexico's Nayarit state with a number of big-name resorts slated, but campaigners and residents warn some developers are riding roughshod over both the local environment and communities.

Driving along the cobbled streets of Jarretaderas through sprawling pools of stagnant rainwater, local campaigner Librado Consuedra Pascacio pointed out the security guards stopping villagers and fishermen from accessing roads to the river. Now guards on quad bikes patrol the fences and walls that run along two sides of the village, and the only way to reach the Ameca is through a flood-prone concrete tunnel built by Vidanta, he said. "Here we're boxed in ... all we see is fences and

fences," noted Consuedra, who said he was threatened at gunpoint by unidentified men two years ago for speaking out about the impact of the developments. "The economic benefits don't filter down to people living in the area."

Elsewhere in the village, a small farm and a street strung with washing are abruptly truncated by another wall behind which workers scale the skeletons of concrete buildings, and trucks landscape the theme-park site. "The government is mostly to blame as they permit it. We make complaints but they don't take any notice. The government has abandoned us," said Consuedra.

Grupo Vidanta, which owns luxury hotels such as the Grand Mayan between Jarretaderas and the Pacific coast, said it had teamed up with the Montreal-based circus and entertainment company Cirque du Soleil on the theme-park development in the Nuevo Vallarta resort area - which is expected to open in two years and will involve other companies. It said it was committed to a strong environmental and social policy, and that its developments complied with all environmental legislation.

Rising risks

Environmentalists say Vidanta has excavated tonnes of stone and gravel from the Ameca river to landscape its hotels and golf courses, altering the riverbed and banks, and increasing the risk it could flood Jarretaderas and nearby areas. Artificial riverside lakes being carved out near the new theme park site are worsening the problem, said Indalecio Sanchez Rodriguez, coordinator of the local Alianza de la Costa Verde, an environmental group. Sketching a map he said showed how the mouth of the river has also been narrowed,

he explained how a storm surge from the sea could push the river over its banks to flood the village. "Now the risk of flooding is higher for everyone, it's created more pressure. The river is going to look for a way out - they (Vidanta) need to build a protection wall," he said.

Increasing development for tourism has also disturbed the natural habitat for the Ameca's crocodiles, he said, which have been spotted roaming the streets of Jarretaderas. In emailed comments, Grupo Vidanta said it works with biologists to measure its environmental impact, and keeps 70-85 percent of the area it develops "intact". Using a homemade line to pull small fish out of the rust-coloured Ameca, pensioner Tereso Jauregui said the vast tourism developments had irrevocably altered the area and restricted public access to the river and the beach.

"All of this was beautiful, it was free, you could go to the sea from here but now they (developers) have blocked the streets," said Jauregui, sitting with his wife on the river bank opposite the wildlife-rich Island of Birds. "They opened the doors (to the hotels) ... and left them like kings to do whatever they wanted," he said, batting away mosquitoes.

'Paradox'

Activists say tighter restrictions on development and stringent application of environmental law are essential to protect Nayarit's beaches, estuaries and wildlife, while maintaining public access to its coasts and rivers. Thirty kilometres north, surfers are campaigning to stop developers blocking access to the popular La Lancha beach, while residents in nearby San Pancho are protesting the Punta Paraiso oceanfront development they say

encroaches on the public beach.

"The big investments we're getting create a lot of social inequality," said Javier Chavez, owner of surf business WildMex, who is footing the legal costs to try to keep La Lancha open. "Since people on the outside (of the hotel developments) are poor and unhappy, you have to build a big wall so these people don't come into your resort because it doesn't look cool."

Some hope Mexico's president-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador - who recently said "disorder" and "anarchy" had characterized the area's rapid growth - will review the environmental impact on federal concessions granted to developers. "The paradox is there are great tourist hotels, and communities that don't have water, drainage, paving, that are abandoned," Lopez Obrador told a recent event in Nayarit.

Despite worries in Jarretaderas that developers could eventually cut off more roads and encroach further into the village, campaigner Consuedra said locals now want damaged roads rebuilt with better drainage and improved river access. A handicraft market and river walkway could help lure tourists from their upmarket hotels to the village, home to many migrants from poorer Mexican states such as Chiapas who come to work in often low-paid hotel or construction jobs, he said.

Cafe-owner Vazquez wants tourists visiting nearby developments to better understand how both Jarretaderas and the local environment are being impacted as tourism expands, so they can bring their influence to bear on resort owners. "They (developers) are the only ones growing, not us. We've got to grow together," said Vazquez. — Reuters

Dutch tax break change cheeses off expatriates

Plans by the Netherlands to scrap a major tax break for foreigners have left expatriates in a spin at a time when the country is hoping to lure multinationals as part of a Brexit exodus. Thousands of foreign workers face a big hit to their salary under the proposals, confirmed in September as part of Prime Minister Mark Rutte's 2019 budget. The Dutch government says few expats actually use the full tax break, but major firms - including brewing giant Heineken - say the sudden cut will affect expats' financial planning.

The row comes at an awkward time for Rutte's government, which is separately scrapping a dividend tax in a bid to attract international firms and cash in on Britain's departure from the EU. The move has caused "a great deal of concern among the international community in The Netherlands," said the International Community Advisory Panel for the Netherlands (ICAP) - a bridging foundation between expats, local and national government. The tax break was introduced in the 1960s to bring in foreign talent to the land of cheese and clogs, and to boost The Netherlands' investment climate.

It originally allowed a carefully-selected group of highly-skilled foreign workers to use the so-called "30-percent tax rule" - which exempts 30 percent of their salaries from income tax - for a decade. The tax rule has been a drawcard ever since and is there to help newcomers cover extra costs such as school fees and pensions. It is

applied however with the proviso that expats "temporarily" remain in the Netherlands.

'Severe consequences'

In 2012, the government cut the rule's running time from 10 years to eight - and two weeks ago, it said it was slashing a further three years, meaning newcomers can use the rule for five years. But the government is also applying the change retroactively - meaning that thousands of expats already living in The Netherlands now stand to lose the tax benefit as early as Jan 1. Many expats say within three months they could be out of pocket by as much as 800 euros (\$942).

"We accept and support the right of the Dutch government to amend its tax legislation as it deems necessary," said Jessica Piotrowski, spokeswoman for lobby group United Expats in the Netherlands. "However, enforcing this policy change on current recipients will have significant and severe consequences on these people and their families," she told AFP. Founded last year, United Expats has garnered a petition with 40,000 signatures and raised more than 135,000 for a possible lawsuit.

"I think this is a huge mistake," one expat said, who asked not to be named as he is working for a major international tech company. "You can't just change things when people believe they have an agreement with government. That's how you drop people into trouble," said another expat, speaking on the same condition. The Dutch government based its decision on the findings from a 150-page study published last year by a research group based in the city of Utrecht. The report, which included a survey among 1,463 respondents, found that around 80 percent of the recipients of the tax cut "don't use the benefit for more than five years". — AFP

With drones, lasers, Costa Rica seeks to track its forests

Costa Rica has long monitored its forests and the carbon they hold but it hopes to soon have a cheaper and more effective way to do it: By drone. Deep Forest, a project backed by environmental group Fundecor, semiconductor manufacturer Intel and San Jose-based Aerial Robotix, aims to give scientists a better idea of what is happening in the country's forest canopy, and allow more frequent monitoring. "There are many ways of taking these metrics but none with this level of resolution," said Felipe Carazo, the executive director of Fundecor, a non-governmental organization that works on sustainable forest management. "Here the advantage is the precision in a scheme that is cost-effective," Carazo said at a Congress of Sustainability, Ecology and Evolution in San Jose.

The project will use a drone to fly over remote areas of forest, using a built-in laser to "scan" the forest. The effort, still in an experimental phase, will scan three forests near the Costa Rican city of Guapiles this year, said its backers, who are financially supporting the test. They say the method could scale up to help many countries monitor their forests more accurately - a step both

towards reducing emissions from forest loss and tapping into the market for carbon credits from forest protection. "It could help the region to fulfill the commitments we signed in the Paris Agreement," said Timothy Scott, Intel's governmental affairs manager.

The project is not the first to use advanced technology to monitor Costa Rica's forests. The Irazo project, a forest satellite monitoring system, also will track forests using a satellite launched in April. Around the world, drones are being used increasingly to gauge the health of forests, monitor illegal deforestation, and even replant forests from the air.

For Ruperto Quesada, a researcher at the Center for Research in Forest Innovation at the Technological Institute of Costa Rica (TEC), the technologies simply reinforce monitoring of forests that has gone on for more than 30 years in Costa Rica. "In the end, the important thing in a country like ours is to guarantee the existence of forest," he said. That, "in itself, guarantees the absorption of carbon, controls soil erosion, conserves biodiversity and provides other ecosystem services".

In part because of its monitoring systems, Costa Rica is the only country in Latin America to substantially reverse its rate of deforestation. The area of the country covered in forest has risen from a quarter in 1983 to more than half in 2010, according to United Nations data.

Costa Rica's decades of forest monitoring data make it easier to develop algorithms to analyse drone footage and judge what is changing in the forest, Carazo said. — Reuters

Business

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PARIS: Visitors look at the Tesla model 3 on the Tesla stand during the press days of the Paris Motor Show yesterday. —AFP

Carmakers brace for electrified revolution

Auto industry steps up warnings over disorderly Brexit

PARIS: Auto industry executives gathering this week for the Paris Motor Show will be rubbing shoulders with unusual company: dozens of tech experts eager to tackle what many consider the ultimate connected device. Electric vehicles are the stars of this year's show, with premium brands like Mercedes and Audi finally jumping into the fray, but the promise of self-driving cars is also on display with dozens of start-ups on hand.

"Each of these new cars requires 100 million lines of code: That's five to six times more than in a Boeing," Luc Chatel, head of the French auto industry association, told executives on Monday.

The enthusiasm for the electrified revolution is partly out of necessity, as regulators and local officials try to cut down on the smog choking many large cities. In Europe, carmakers are racing to comply with tough EU limits on CO2 emissions that take effect by 2021, and the introduction of tougher emission testing standards in the wake of the "dieselgate" cheating scandal.

After investing billions of dollars in new batteries despite a still-uncertain payoff, companies are also betting that electric cars will help their bottom lines.

More reliable and with fewer moving parts than combustion engines, electric motors require far fewer

workers to install and service. But industry chiefs know they won't be able to develop the full potential of an electrified, always-connected future on their own.

Google, Nokia and French IT specialist Atos are among the tech groups sending staff to the Paris show with pledges to help automakers navigate their industry's seismic shift.

"Obviously every company would love to do everything by themselves," Carlos Ghosn, head of the Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi alliance, said in a keynote address Monday.

"There is an explosion around the services of mobility, where carmakers are going to play a role, in partnership with others," he added, predicting that "we're going to see in the Motor Show less and less car companies." Ghosn expects his group to sell 14 million cars by the end of 2022, of which 10 percent will be all-electric.

Steep prices, uncertain future

But joining with tech companies means ceding part of the profit, not exactly a welcome prospect for an industry just recently back on a stronger footing after years of bailouts for many in the wake of the 2008 economic crisis.

Automakers are also grappling with lithium-ion bat-

teries," Pireh said by telephone, adding that regulations could be ready in six to nine months. Wakala sukuk pay a variable rate, giving them equity-like features compared with other sukuk in Iran, which pay fixed rates, he added. The SEO also plans to introduce warrants-contracts giving the option to buy underlying shares at a later date-following the earlier introduction of put and call options. The SEO's religious board is reviewing a proposal for warrants, which must be structured to obey Islam's ban on pure monetary speculation.

"The derivatives market has a lot of room to grow. Options were introduced in 2013, but the first trades were done in 2016," said Payam Afzali, managing partner and head of investment banking at Tehran-based Kian Capital Management. Warrants may not attract major investment in the short term but could be used to make bonds and equities more appealing to investors, he added. Meanwhile, the SEO is considering whether to introduce insurance-linked securities so that domestic insurers can offload some portfolio risk in the capital markets, Pireh said.

IIS are typically tied to natural catastrophes such as earthquakes and offer high yields; investors can lose their principal if a catastrophe loss is triggered.

They could serve as an alternative to reinsurance cover, which is scarce as sanctions mean Iran is shut out of global reinsurance markets such as Lloyd's of London. In August, the SEO published rules for crowdfunding, which allows start-ups to collect small sums of money from many individuals as an alternative to bank loans. An official at an Iranian securities exchange said several applications to conduct crowdfunding exercises were under review. — Reuters

ter costs that keep electric vehicle prices well above those of traditional cars-the new models are still loss-makers for most companies.

Mike David, an analyst with Bloomberg Intelligence, forecast that prices would not come down to competitive levels until 2025. And with new technologies comes the chance for upstarts to jump in: Tesla's market value is greater than that of Renault and PSA combined despite production snafus and recent blunders by its flamboyant founder Elon Musk.

Adding to the headwinds are changing consumer tastes: More people now live in urban centres where alternative modes of transport from cycling to scooters are flourishing amid the zero-emission zeal.

Many no longer see the need for owning a car, electric or not.

"Single-use vehicles are wasteful," said Ian Simmons of Magna International, a parts maker specialising in "green mobility". Car-sharing and ride-hailing services like Uber and Lyft—which are racing ahead with their own autonomous driving research—will require heavy tech investments in cars and city infrastructure, he said.

But with Audi and Mercedes showing off all-electric SUVs this week—shortly after Ferrari announced an ambitious plan for hybrids—more buyers might be con-

vinced their performance has caught up with combustion engines.

"Their arrival also dispels any doubts over battery or quality issues," JATO analyst Felipe Munoz wrote in a research note.

Meanwhile, carmakers ratcheted up their Brexit warnings yesterday, with France's PSA Group and Germany's BMW both saying UK production would suffer if Britain leaves the European Union without a deal. With less than six months before Britain is due to quit the EU on March 29, businesses are increasingly alarmed about the lack of agreement over future trading relations and the possibility of tariffs, delays at ports and extra red tape.

The car industry, one of the few British manufacturing success stories of recent decades, is particularly at risk given the thousands of parts, engines and finished models that move between Britain and the continent every day.

BMW boss Harald Krueger told the Paris Motor Show that he sees a "50:50 chance" of a disorderly, or "hard", Brexit and that this would lead the company to shift more production of its Mini vehicles - currently focused on its Oxford plant in southern England - to the Netherlands. — Agencies

From sukuk to warrants, Iran works to deepen capital markets

TEHRAN: Iran is developing a range of new financial products, from Islamic bonds to warrants and insurance-linked securities, in an effort to give local firms more funding options as sanctions put pressure on the economy. The Iranian rial has plunged 70 percent against the US dollar in the free market this year, inflation has risen and foreign trade has been disrupted after Washington repudiated an agreement on Tehran's nuclear program and reimposed sanctions.

But Iran's financial system has been able to ride out past periods of sanctions, and officials say they are working on new products to stimulate capital markets activity. All the products are structured to obey Islamic principles, such as a ban on interest payments.

The capital market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Organization, said it had started work on a new structure for Islamic bonds. The sukuk will use an agency format known as wakala, which is widely used in Asia and the Middle East but not yet offered in Iran, said Majid Pireh, senior Islamic finance expert in the SEO's research, development and Islamic studies department.

"This will be a new financing instrument for compa-

Trump hits Brazil, India over tariffs after clinching NAFTA deal

WASHINGTON: Fresh from clinching an updated North American commerce pact, US President Donald Trump on Monday criticized Indian and Brazilian trade tactics, describing the latter as being "maybe the toughest in the world" in terms of protectionism.

Addressing reporters at a White House event to celebrate the agreement of an updated trilateral trade deal between the United States, Mexico and Canada, Trump added India and Brazil to a growing list of countries that, he argues, treat the world's top economy unfairly in terms of commerce.

"India charges us tremendous tariffs. When we send Harley Davidson motorcycles, other things to India, they charge very, very high tariffs," Trump said, adding that he had brought up the issue with

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who he said was "going to reduce them very substantially."

Modi's office could not immediately be reached for a request for comment. India's government has become more protectionist in recent months, raising import tariffs on a growing number of goods as it promotes its 'Make in India' program. After criticizing India, Trump turned to Brazil, the second-largest economy in the Americas behind the United States.

"Brazil's another one. That's a beauty. They charge us whatever they want," he said. "If you ask some of the companies, they say Brazil is among the toughest in the world - maybe the toughest in the world." Brazil is one of the world's most closed major economies, and in recent months has tussled with the Trump administration over trade in sectors such as ethanol and steel.

After Trump's comments, Brazil's Foreign Trade Minister, Abro Neto, defended the relationship, saying it was "very positive." He added that over the last 10 years, the United States has enjoyed a trade surplus with Brazil of \$90 billion in goods, and of \$250 billion in goods and services.

Neto pointed out that the United States was Brazil's second-largest trading partner, behind China, and that the two countries had a "complementary and strategic" commercial relationship that could, nonetheless, be improved. — Reuters

Business

Alghanim Industries to bring top international brands to Assima Mall

Alghanim reiterates company's commitment to expand partnerships across Kuwait

KUWAIT: Committed to its expansion strategy that aims to enrich the retail industry in Kuwait, Alghanim Industries, one of the largest privately owned companies in the region, announced that it will bring a number of the international brands it represents to Assima Mall, part of the Assima Project set to officially launch next year.

The signing ceremony took place last Monday at the head office of Salhia Real Estate in Kuwait City, and was attended by the Chairman of Salhia Real Estate Company, Ghazi Fahad Al-Nafisi, and CEO of Alghanim Industries Omar K Alghanim.

Alghanim reiterated the company's commitment to expand its partnerships across Kuwait, reaching a larger number of customers to provide them with the best-in-class products and services offered by the renowned international brands it represents. He added: "I'm pleased to announce Alghanim Industries' partnership with Salhia Real Estate in the unique and impressive Assima project. This future landmark, located in the heart of Kuwait City, affords us with the opportunity to reach more of our valued customers in a way that is easy, convenient and places their needs



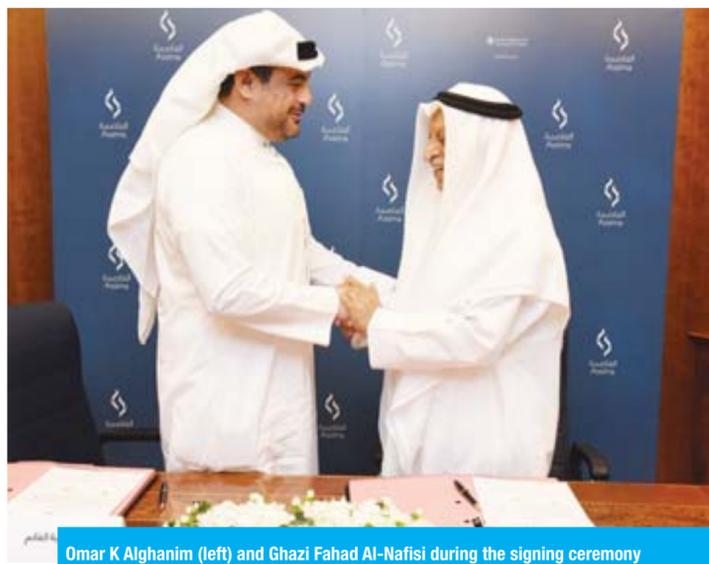
at the forefront. I'm confident our partnership through this project will have a big impact on the retail and cultural landscape of our beautiful city." Alghanim Industries will provide visitors of the Assima Project with a number of unparalleled experiences in different segments, in a total space of 1,500 sq m. Its biggest store in the mall will be a new X-cite branch, with a space of 1,150 sq m, bringing over 300 international electronics brands to the visitors of the new mall in a dynamic, convenient and fun shopping experience.

Alghanim will also bring Costa Coffee, London's most popular coffee shop chain to the visitors of Assima Mall, with its wide array of quality beverages, pastries, and a new line of healthy items. Additionally, the company will open a branch of Wendy's, everyone's favorite burger chain, with its signature 100 percent Angus beef square burgers and wide range of sandwiches.

Alghanim Industries will also be launching the flagship store of its first original food concept at Assima Mall.

Commenting on this partnership, Salhia Real Estate Chairman Ghazi Fahad Al-Nafisi welcomed Alghanim Industries on board, noting the long successful history of the company and the broad spectrum of international brands that it represents. He also reiterated both companies' aligned goals to enrich the Kuwaiti market.

Developed by Assima Real Estate, a company owned by Salhia Real Estate, the 380,000 sq m Assima project is set to be completed in 2019, and is already considered to be the largest mixed-use project in Kuwait City. The Assima project comprises of three main projects: Assima Mall, which will feature the largest hypermarket in Kuwait City, retail shops, restaurants, entertainment activities, cinema halls and a health club; Assima Tower, a 54-story tower of impeccable architectural design, featuring more than 150 offices overlooking stunning sea views and cityscapes; and Assima Residence, an extended-stay hotel suitable for business travelers as well as tourists with 170 one bedroom suites and studios.



Omar K Alghanim (left) and Ghazi Fahad Al-Nafisi during the signing ceremony

How Trump's son-in-law helped a \$1.2tn trade zone stay intact

OTTAWA/WASHINGTON: Robert Lighthizer was the public face of arduous, year-long talks to rework NAFTA, but as he savored a successful conclusion in the White House Rose Garden on Monday, the US trade representative singled out another man as the deal's architect. "I've said before, and I'll say again, this agreement would not have happened if it wasn't for Jared," Lighthizer told reporters.

The 70-year-old veteran negotiator was referring to Jared Kushner, more than 30 years his junior and Donald Trump's son-in-law, whom the president had asked to help out on trade early in the presidency, especially on Canada and Mexico. While Kushner's time in the White House has been turbulent - Chief of Staff John Kelly temporarily stripped him of his security clearance earlier this year and he has been criticized for his dealings with the Middle East - his role in keeping the North American Trade Agreement afloat was fundamental, multiple sources said.

A 37-year-old real estate tycoon married to Trump's daughter Ivanka, Kushner has the trust of his father-in-law, and crucially, is close to Lighthizer, a Canadian source with knowledge of the talks said.

His friendship with Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray, whom he knows through Wall Street connections, helped diffuse several blowups in that relationship and get a U.S.-Mexican deal over the finish line in August, another source close to the talks said.

"The deal fell apart more than once. And in every occasion it was one person that always found a way to put it back together: Jared Kushner," Videgaray told Reuters.

Similarly, from early on in the negotiations, two of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's most trusted advisers - chief of staff Katie Telford and private secretary Gerald Butts - forged ties with Kushner, Hassan Yussuff, president of the Canadian



Jared Kushner and Donald Trump

Labour Congress, said in a phone interview. Yussuff was part of the NAFTA advisory council for Chrystia Freeland, Canada's lead negotiator in the talks and the country's foreign minister.

A second Canadian source said Telford and Butts flew to Washington to meet Kushner in the early days of the presidency.

Taking on the tyrant

Those connections came to the fore again last week, when the mood became toxic between Lighthizer and Freeland, as the US-imposed Sept. 30 deadline to conclude the talks loomed. A third Canadian source directly familiar with the talks said the Americans "were incensed" when Freeland took part in a Toronto panel entitled "Taking on the Tyrant," which featured derogatory comments about Trump, following an earlier speech criticizing US trade policy.

Trump summed up the atmosphere in typically blunt fashion, saying on Wednesday, "We don't like their representative very much," as the Canadian negotiating team dug in on the politically sensitive issue of US access to Canada's dairy market.

"There was a moment where the traditional channels of negotiations appeared to break down because they just could not get through some of the largest issues, dairy being one of

them," said a person in Washington familiar with the situation. Kushner kept talking to Butts and Telford, and on Thursday a message got through that the United States wanted to know what was non-negotiable for Canada. The answer went back that Chapter 19, a dispute resolution mechanism, was a red line.

By Friday morning it was clear that the Trump administration was not going to fight for Chapter 19 anymore - "the Americans blinked," said a fourth senior Canadian source with direct knowledge of the talks. "I don't think the administration itself was that hung up on (Chapter) 19, I think Robert Lighthizer was," Yussuff said.

The breakthrough triggered concessions from Trudeau's team, most importantly on dairy. The fourth Canadian source described the thinking as "better get dairy out of the way now" rather than negotiating from a weaker position if talks failed and Trump hit them with 25 percent auto tariffs, the stick he had used to hurry along talks with Mexico and Canada since May.

On Friday, Kushner got Lighthizer on a conference call with Telford and Butts. "Together the four of them worked through some of the outstanding issues and that led to a breakthrough in the negotiations, ultimately leading to the success of the deal," said the person in Washington. — Reuters

Gulf Bank hosts Al-Danah's quarterly winner of KD 500,000



KUWAIT: Yesterday, Safiya Merza Murad Amin, the winner of Gulf Bank's third quarterly Al-Danah draw visited Gulf Bank's Head Office receiving her KD 500,000 prize from Tony Daher, CEO. The announcement was aired live on 26th September 2018, on 'Diwaniyat Al-Yaqout and Al-Ansari' program on radio station Kuwait Pulse (88.8 FM), in the presence of Ernest & Young.

Too much oil? Texas boom outpaces supply transport networks

MIDLAND, Texas: The west Texas drillers that drove the shale revolution have overwhelmed the region's infrastructure with oil production - driving up costs, depressing regional oil prices and slowing the pace of growth. The US government continues to forecast the country's oil output rising to fresh record. But competition for limited resources in Texas is making it harder for shale producers to turn a profit and encouraging some to invest elsewhere.

Texas is home to the Permian Basin, the largest US oil field and the center of the country's shale industry. In the past three years, production from the Permian has risen a whopping 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) to 3.43 million bpd. All that oil means pipelines from the shale patch are full, so producers are paying more to transport oil on trucks and rail cars. Shortages of labor, water and even the fuel used in fracking are driving up production costs. At the same time, Permian producers are getting less for their oil, which in August traded as much as \$17 a barrel below the US crude benchmark. Sellers have to offer the discount to compensate for the higher transport costs. "We're our own worst enemy," said Ross Craft, chief executive of Approach Resources, a small west Texas oil producer which last year aver-

aged about 11,600 barrels of oil equivalent daily output.

"We can drill, bring these wells on so quickly that we basically outpace the market. It is going to take a little bit of time," he said, for the infrastructure to catch up to producers.

Approach Resources is leaving some wells uncompleted. That means the firm drills the wells, but does not fracture the rock to produce the oil. Other shale producers are also leaving the oil in the ground, waiting for higher prices to make the drilling more profitable.

The number of uncompleted wells in the Permian jumped by 80 percent to 3,630 in August compared with a year earlier, according to US Energy Department data. For the rest of the United States, uncompleted wells are up 10 percent from the same period a year ago.

Some companies are reducing the scope of their operations in the Permian. ConocoPhillips and Carrizo Oil & Gas each moved a Permian drilling rig to another oilfield, and Conoco idled a second, the companies have said. Noble Energy also has cut back on its well completions and said it is moving some drilling resources to Colorado.

Global Drilling Partners, a drilling contractor based in the Woodlands near Houston, was set to drill seven wells with a Permian operator this July, but that has dropped to two wells starting in December due to lack of pipeline take-away, said John Hopkins, a managing partner at the company.

"There will be a shift out of West Texas temporarily until they can solve their midstream problems," he said. Companies are looking to boost their drilling in other fields in Texas, Colorado and Oklahoma, he said. Suppliers including sand and rail companies say they are hedging their bets by expanding elsewhere. — Reuters

Daimler chief says company can't be a 'behemoth'

PARIS: Daimler chief executive Dieter Zetsche hinted yesterday that the German carmaker must downsize under its new boss if it is to stay competitive in an industry that is shifting gears fast.

"We are a 160 billion euro company... and we are in an industry which is going through at least a transformation, some people even talk about a disruption," Zetsche told journalists at the Paris Motor Show. "In this situation, we think a behemoth of this size is just not responsible," said Zetsche, who is preparing to hand over the reins in May to fellow board member Ola Kalleniuss.

Daimler employs around 290,000 people, nearly 60 percent of them in Germany. But like its rivals, it expects future growth to come from new urban demand in emerging markets, where it is cheaper for Western car-

makers to set up factories. At the same time, the challenge of plateauing demand in Western markets is compounded by growing demand for zero-emission electric cars, which require far fewer workers to build.

Without directly addressing a potential downsizing in Europe, Zetsche said Daimler needed improved flexibility to pursue new technologies and partnerships.

He said this goal was shared with Kalleniuss, a Swede who will be the German group's first foreign CEO in over five decades. "Our strategy we developed together, so I think things will be consistent throughout this change."

Daimler has been investing heavily in foreign expansions while facing challenges on its home turf, not least the "dieselgate" scandal over emissions. This year the carmaker had to recall hundreds of thousands of diesel vehicles equipped with illegal devices designed to conceal high levels of emissions from regulators' tests. Facing tough new EU limits on CO2 emissions starting in 2020, Daimler has finally embraced electric vehicles in earnest, presenting in Paris its first SUV to be released late next year.

But for now electric cars remain too expensive for most buyers, and an expensive prospect for carmakers. "Overall the cost structure is improving, but we are not there



Daimler Dieter Zetsche

yet," Zetsche said.

He declined to be drawn on a deal expected on removing millions of older diesel cars from German roads, following crunch talks with Chancellor Angela Merkel's government on Monday. At stake are potentially billions of euros in trade-in bonuses for buyers of new cars and costs to refit older vehicles, as well as the future of Germany's auto sector and its 800,000 jobs. — AFP

Business

Zain launches two new smart home security kits

Kits feature security cameras and more starting at KD 6.5 monthly

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the launch of two new smart home security kits as part of its Zain Life smart home portfolio. The new kits feature a number of innovative solutions and security devices from smart home leaders FIBARO and EZVIZ.

Zain launched the new kits under its Zain Life portfolio and in line with its strategy to transform into an integrated digital lifestyle provider, which is centered around digital transformation leadership and empowering the community to enjoy a smarter portable lifestyle, as well as using advanced technology solutions to enable an easier and more flexible life.

The new kits feature a number of innovative security devices from smart home leaders FIBARO and EZVIZ, which were designed to provide a unique home security experience through several surveillance solutions that monitor the home and notify the user as soon as any unusual activity inside the home is identified, as well as other devices for detecting smoke, measuring temperature, controlling electrical appliances and lights, and more.

The first kit (Beginners Camera Kit by EZVIZ) includes 4 devices: two basic cameras and two advanced cameras for KD 6.5 monthly (with 24-month commitment) for Zain's postpaid customers. The kit can



Security devices from smart home leaders FIBARO and EZVIZ

also be purchased with a one-time payment without commitment for KD 165. The kit is easy to install, and features a privacy shutter, high resolution recording during day or night, and mobile alerts when move-

ment is detected. The second kit (Advanced Camera and Sensors Kit by FIBARO and EZVIZ) includes 8 devices: advanced camera, basic camera, motion/temperature sensor, door/window sensor, smart wall plug, double relay switch, home hub, and smart smoke detector for KD 14 monthly (with 24-month commitment) for Zain's postpaid customers. The kit can also be purchased with a one-time payment without commitment for KD 336.

The Smart Homes sector is one of the main elements of the digital transformation journey undertaken by telecoms around the world, particularly with respect to securing homes and protecting them against theft with the use of modern technology. Zain is working on designing new plans to match these transformation processes to be included in Zain Life in addition to its existing portfolio of smart solutions. Zain always aspires to new levels of excellence in all services it offers to its customers. Through the launch of these new kits, Zain affirms its continuous efforts in meeting its customers' needs and aspirations, and deliver its promise to offering the best services and latest technologies.



AUB announces Hassad grand prize winner of KD 250,000

KUWAIT: On 26 September 2018, Ahli United Bank held its Lifetime Salary quarterly grand prize draw as part of the Al-Hassad Islamic Savings Account program, which is the largest prize draw in Kuwait. It was a special occasion for Meshal Abdullah Al-Mutairi who won KD 250,000 as a lifetime salary paid over 250 months.

Ahli United Bank congratulates Al-Mutairi who is now able to achieve his dream of acquiring a house or his favorite car, to travel abroad, establish a new business or any dream he might have along with his aspirations - and all this, simply by having an account with AUB in Kuwait.

The Al-Hassad Islamic Savings Account program is the largest such draw in Kuwait with a total annual prize draw of KD 3,400,000. The program also provides 26 weekly prizes, which represents the largest number of weekly winners.

To qualify for the Al-Hassad Islamic Savings Account prizes, customers only need to open a savings account with a minimum of KD 100. For every KD 50 of quarterly balance in the account, customers earn one chance to enter the quarterly draw. Moreover, customers earn one chance to enter the weekly draws for every KD 50 of balance. This means the more deposits made, the higher the chance of winning. The Al-Hassad Islamic Savings Account's customers in Kuwait and Bahrain are eligible to participate in the draw in line with the account's terms and conditions.

KFH participates in SWIFT Mideast regional conference

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has participated in the SWIFT Middle East Regional Conference organized by SWIFT Global Company which is specialized in financial transfers through financial institutions in Dubai. The conference is held in presence of a huge crowd of financiers, business men, bankers and other interested people in the Middle East. KFH is always keen to keep up with the latest developments and events in the field of technology and top attend forums and conferences related to business and banking services based on modern technology.

Group Chief Operations - KFH, Abdulla Abu Al-Hoss stated that the conference stands as a highly significant opportunity to meet people working in the e-banking fields and automated banking services line at the regional level, discuss the latest events and developments in this field and enhance relations with strategic partners like SWIFT. He indicated that KFH was the only Kuwaiti bank to participate in the Innovation Lab held by SWIFT Company. The Innovation Lab is considered as an integral part of the annual conference.



Abdulla Abu Al-Hoss



Markaz monthly market review

GCC equities flat despite oil boom in September

KUWAIT: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" recently released its Monthly Markets Review report. Markaz report stated that Kuwait stock market continues to hog the limelight, as investors are upbeat on its inclusion in FTSE emerging market index, which officially took effect from September 24. There was a liquidity spike in the market on September 20. However, Kuwait stock market was flat during the month and is just about holding on to its yearly gain of 8.8 percent. Kuwait's All Share Index, despite its inclusion into the FTSE Emerging Market index fell by 0.83 percent during the month as the effect of FTSE inclusion was already factored in by investors during the build-up. Among Kuwait's blue-chip companies, Boubyan Bank was the biggest gainer, up by 6.8 percent during the month, while Zain underperformed, with its share price reducing by 0.2 percent.

The S&P GCC index was up 0.2 percent for the month, increasing the overall gains for the year to 9.8 percent. The rebound in Saudi and Dubai markets at the end of the month helped the S&P GCC index close on a positive note for September. Oman and Saudi Arabia's indices were the best performers of the month rising by 2.8 percent and 0.65 percent, respectively. Abu Dhabi was the worst performer, falling by 1.0 percent. The downgrade in credit ratings of two

Equity	Last close	MTD%	YTD%
S&P 500	2,914	0.4	9.0
MSCI World	2,184	0.4	3.8
MSCI EM	1,048	-0.8	-9.5
MSCI FM	949	-1.0	-15.4
S&P GCC	109	0.2	9.8
Saudi Arabia	8,000	0.6	10.7
Qatar	9,813	-0.7	15.1
Abu Dhabi	4,935	-1.0	12.2
Kuwait	5,706	-0.1	8.8
Dubai	2,835	-0.2	-15.9
Bahrain	1,339	0.0	0.5
Oman	4,544	2.8	-10.9
Commodities			
IPE Brent	83	6.8	23.7
Gold	1,192	-0.8	-8.5

Source: Reuters

Dubai based state owned companies by S&P Global in addition to the sluggish real estate sector weighed down on Dubai's equity markets raising its losses before staging a recovery at the end of the month. However, it remains the worst performer during the year, extending its losses to 15.9 percent. Qatar remained the best performing GCC equity market in YTD 2018 despite seeing its General Index falling by 0.7 percent during September.

Markaz report stated that Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank and Boubyan Bank were the top performers among GCC blue chip companies, rising by, rising by 12.8 percent and 6.8 percent during the month respectively. Announcement regarding a three-way merger involving Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank to form the fifth largest bank in the GCC enthused investor sentiments, causing the company's stock to rise and stand out among UAE

blue chip companies who posted negative returns for the month of September. Saudi based utility company Saudi Electric was the worst performer among blue chip companies, with its stock falling by 11.3 percent during the month, extending its YTD losses to 23.9 percent.

Brent crude is now trading at \$82.7/bbl, and is up 23.7 percent for the year. Supply concerns due to US sanctions on Iran and the increase in demand for oil have been major factors that have pushed up the global oil prices. Strong oil price should provide the needed fiscal relief for GCC countries though many countries still have break-even oil price above the current spot price.

Market trends

Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB) is exploring the possibility of a merger with its local counterparts Union National Bank (UNB) and the sharia-compliant lender Al-Hilal Bank.

Spicing up the M&A environment is a rumour of possible merger of two of the biggest GCC airlines i.e. Emirates and Etihad. However, there is no confirmation of this deal yet from either of them.

Meanwhile, Tit-for-tat imposition of tariffs continues between US and China with the former slapping tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese exports into US while China retaliated with tariffs on about \$60 billion of exports into China by US.

Negotiations are ineffective so far and analysts are hoping that post US mid-term elections the posturing can get mellowed. At the moment, China, along with other emerging markets, is feeling the heat with Shanghai index down 14.7 percent for the year and emerging market index down by 9.5 percent while S&P 500 is up 9 percent for the year. Imposing tariffs in a globalized world is a retrograde step and will only lead to lower global economic growth.

Get up to 10% cashback when using NBK Visa credit cards

KUWAIT: With its unique campaigns all-year-long enabling customers to win big every time they make a transaction, the National Bank of Kuwait launches its end of year cashback campaign for customers to enjoy up to 10 percent cashback on purchases made locally or internationally using their NBK Visa Credit Card.

Available for customers holding the NBK Visa Platinum Credit Card, NBK Visa Signature Credit Card or NBK Visa Infinite Credit Card, the cashback campaign is valid on purchases made at retailers in the following categories: Telecom bills, entertainment, duty free, restaurants, airlines and hotels. Customers will get up to 10 percent cashback when they use their card locally and internationally on selected merchants as follows: Telecom bills 10 percent, entertainment (cinemas, OSN, BeIN and Netflix) 5 percent, duty free 3 percent, restaurants 1 percent, airline 1 percent, and hotels 1 percent.

Highlighting the uniqueness of the campaign, Hanadi Khazal, Chief Marketing Officer, Consumer Banking Group, National Bank of Kuwait, said, "With our great campaigns launched during the year, and most recently the 'Win a Car of Your Choice' campaign which enabled five winners to win a car valued at KD 20,000, we end the year with another unique campaign that rewards our loyal customers and allows them to return up to 10 percent of their purchases. This campaign falls

in line with our commitment to customer satisfaction in every service and product we offer."

Khazal concluded, "NBK's credit cards offer unique features, providing customers with many benefits when using them in Kuwait or abroad. This includes NBK Rewards Program with 800 partner outlets around Kuwait, in addition to exclusive rewards in the campaigns that are launched all year round for the holders of these credit cards. All what customers need to do is use their credit cards on daily basis and enjoy NBK's rewards and benefits."

NBK Visa Credit Cardholders are eligible to a maximum of KD 150 cashback each month when making their purchases using their NBK Visa Credit Card at the previously mentioned merchants until the end of the campaign on November 30, 2018.

NBK's Visa credit cards have many features and benefits that include the NBK Rewards Program with more than 800 partner outlets across Kuwait, access to lounges in worldwide airports, free travel insurance, NBK's secure shopping service, free valet parking, concierge services in addition to exclusive promotions.



Hanadi Khazal



Health & Science

Perfect storm of factors behind deadly Indonesian quake-tsunami

Officials admit early-warning systems are no longer working

JAKARTA: Inadequate warning systems, a lack of education about what to do when the quake hit and a narrow bay that channeled the tsunami's destructive force—a perfect storm of factors spawned the deadly disaster in Indonesia. The massive 7.5-magnitude tremor struck Friday and sent monster waves barreling into the island of Sulawesi, leaving at least 844 dead in the seaside city of Palu and surrounding areas.

As victims were buried in a mass grave and rescue teams struggled to reach remote areas, questions mounted about what exactly happened and if more could have been done to save lives. The tragedy has highlighted what critics say is a patchy early-warning system to detect tsunamis in the seismically-active Southeast Asian archipelago. "There was no information about a tsunami recorded by the tide-monitoring station in Palu because it was not working," Widjo Kongko, a tsunami expert with the Indonesian government's technology agency, said.

The station keeps a check on changes in tides and should have detected if destructive waves were headed for the city. After the initial quake, Indonesia's geophysics agency—which monitors seismic activity—did

issue a tsunami warning but lifted it soon afterwards. It was only later that images emerged of a surging wall of water charging into the coast, flattening buildings and overturning cars. Tide-monitoring stations and data-modeling are the main tools in Indonesia for predicting if a quake has generated a tsunami.

Beset by problems

But even if all the country's stations are working, experts say the network is limited and in any case gives people little time to flee as they only detect waves once they are close to shore. Efforts to improve systems have been beset by problems, from a failure to properly maintain new equipment to bureaucratic bickering. After a quake-tsunami in 2004 off Sumatra island killed 220,000 across the region, with most victims in Indonesia, 22 early-warning buoys were deployed around the country to detect tsunamis. But officials have admitted that they are no longer working after being vandalized and due to a lack of funds for maintenance.

In another case, a major project with funding from the US National Science Foundation to deploy high-tech tsunami sensors in a quake-prone part of western



PALU: Survivors ride past debris in a devastated area in Palu, Indonesia's Central Sulawesi after an earthquake and tsunami hit the area on September 28. —AFP

Indonesia has been delayed. Louise Comfort, a natural disaster expert from the University of Pittsburgh who has led the American side of the initiative, said that it had been put on hold after disagreement between govern-

ment agencies and a delay in getting financing. "It's so disheartening and it's so sad because we've got the technology, we've got the knowledge, we know we can do it," she said. —AFP

“There was no information about a tsunami”

Ford introduces 2018 Warriors in Pink - Models of courage

KUWAIT CITY: October 1 marks the start of Breast Cancer Awareness month, and this year Ford continues profiling the stories of outstanding Models of Courage to help promote the importance of early detection in successfully beating the disease in the Middle East and North Africa region. Warriors in Pink, the breast cancer awareness campaign powered by Ford, marks its eighth year in the region, having worked, over the years, with more than 130 Models of Courage - survivors ready to help empower and inspire those currently in the fight with breast cancer.

For its 2018 edition, Ford Warriors in Pink asked its five Models of Courage to describe the challenges they faced when confronted with diagnosis and treatment, and to detail how life has changed for them now that they've moved past their most difficult days. "Our Models of Courage for 2018 each have incredible stories that we've highlighted in a



series of inspirational videos that take the viewer through the challenges of tackling cancer, and detail the fulfilling lives each of our survivors now lead," said Sue Nigoghossian, general manager, MENA Communications, Ford Middle East and Africa.

"We're proud to present their stories and hope that their humbling messages of courage, wisdom, fear and victory help inspire women to follow their advice on the importance of early detection. As a car company, we're not experts in breast cancer - but we can help by taking a number of initiatives like our Models of Courage, to help make an impact in the fight against breast cancer, the number one type of cancer affecting women

in our region," she added.

Breast cancer survivors representing various nationalities accepted the challenge - and while each story is unique, they all prove that cancer doesn't need to stop you in your tracks, or from living your life to the fullest. Breast cancer can affect any woman, at any age, no matter what walk of life she's from. Breast cancer affects one in five people in the UAE, and according to the Health Authority Abu Dhabi, it is the leading form of cancer in women in the country. And this trend unfortunately is similar across the Middle East, where in the next 20 years breast cancer cases are expected to quadruple in the Middle East according to the Saudi ministry of Health.

GOSH reveals story behind Superhope Initiative

KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait: An exclusive screening yesterday revealed the inspirational story of how GCC-based initiative, Superhope, in partnership with Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children (GOSH) in London, fulfilled the dreams of severely ill children from the GCC by transforming them into their superhero alter-egos. Six children from the region, including four Kuwaiti children, receiving treatment for hematology and oncology conditions at the London-based hospital took part in GOSHxSuperhope: a campaign which aims to look beyond a child's medical condition and bring their inner superhero to life.

Superhope creators, Tarik Batal and Basma Masri, launched Superhope in Dubai in 2014, and have since taken the initiative to hospitals across the globe, including the UK and the US, to spread awareness of the importance of Positive Mental Attitude (PMA) to help children fighting complex conditions strengthen their road to recovery. "What an incredible experience it was to have worked with the children at GOSH, and witness their journey transforming into the Superheroes they really are. They were fearless, creative, strong and full of positive life," said Basma and Tarik.

"The joy on their faces as we revealed their super-suits was one that not only sent a blast of happiness to us but to everyone who contributed to the "GOSHxSuperhope" campaign. The creative team, parents, GOSH staff and doctors all made this possible and it couldn't have happened without their belief in our vision and that of the children. It was a truly a pleasure to have executed our first campaign in London with such an incredible team and we look forward to future collaborations together," they added.



GOSHxSuperhope league

The Superhope journey at GOSH started in May 2018 with one central question: "if you were a superhero, how would you imagine yourself?" Best-selling London comic book artist, Amrit Birdi, visited GOSH to capture these answers and sketch out the children's imagination onto a page. These sketches, unbeknown to the children, were transformed into real-life costumes by children's costume studio, Atelier Spatz.

As soon as the costumers were ready, Superhope and GOSH surprised the children with their bespoke costumes, as well as a professional photo and video shoot led by globally-renowned talent including photographer Phil Haynes; production studio, Clean Slate Productions; digital composer, Roy Peker; post production studio, Featherwax and make up art by Ifrah. At the launch of the documentary film and trailer, invited guests and family members saw the patients as superheroes for the first time. As GOSH treats 1,500 children from the Middle East every year for rare and specialist conditions, the campaign was tailored towards empowering children from UAE and Kuwait during their time in hospital.

Speaking about what the experience meant for Kuwait patient Latifa (also known as Butterfly), her grandmother said "The Superhope initiative has had a very positive effect on Latifa and our whole family. Latifa needs something to encourage her and this initiative made her, and our family, so happy. She became a butterfly queen, very beautiful!"

Mother of Kuwaiti superhero ReFroze (Retaj) added "It is a beautiful initiative for us, and Retaj was so excited and happy! She felt so proud that she could be an ice princess and she kept talking about that for several days." Doctors and consultants at GOSH were also seen in the documentary video promoting the importance of fostering a positive mental attitude, as well as a positive patient experience, during the children's time in hospital.

"As doctors, we always emphasise how important a holistic approach to recovery is. It was great to see the real difference this campaign has made in improving the positive mental attitude of the children during their time being treated at GOSH. Being in hospital is often a traumatic experience for any child and their family, so to be able to spread some real joy and magic on the wards during their recovery has been truly incredible," explains Dr. Giuseppe Barone, Consultant Paediatric Oncologist at GOSH.

"We are delighted to have been able to collaborate with Superhope and offer our families at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children this unique opportunity," said Trevor Clarke, Director of the International and Private Patients Service. "We are committed to delivering a nurturing and family-centred experience that supports our world-class treatment and care. Superhope and other programmes like it that run at GOSH are our way of supporting our families and offering children a positive experience during their treatment at GOSH."

India watches for deadly virus as lion deaths spike

AHMEDABAD: Ten endangered Asiatic lions have died in the last two weeks in India, authorities confirmed yesterday, four of them from a virus that killed around 1,000 lions in Tanzania in the 1990s. The new deaths take the toll at the Gir sanctuary in the western Gujarat state, home to India's entire population of around 500 wild Asiatic lions, to 21 since September. India's National Institute of Virology determined that the canine distemper virus was responsible for four of the 10 latest deaths, Gujarat environment min-

ister Ganpat Vasava said.

In 1994, an outbreak of CDV—which can spread from dogs in the wild—killed around 1,000 lions in Tanzania's Serengeti National Park. While six of the latest 10 deaths were from a parasitic infection caused by ticks, the four CDV deaths have prompted authorities to run further tests on the 11 lions that died last month, according to D T Vasavada, Gujarat's chief conservator of forests.

"A team of experts is working to ascertain the reason for the viral infection. Since all 21 lions have died in one Sarasiya grassland, it is a matter of concern," Vasavada added. Local officials said another 31 lions from the same part of the sanctuary are being kept under medical observation, though they have not shown any signs of illness so far. According to the last count in 2015, there were 521 Asiatic lions in the Gir sanctuary, which is spread over 1,400 square kilometers. —AFP

New hummingbird species identified in Ecuador

QUITO: A team of ornithologists in Ecuador has identified a new species of hummingbird: a lovely blue-green creature that lives in a cold, barren highland area and is in danger of extinction. Team leader Francisco Sornoza saw one of the birds through binoculars a year ago and had a hunch that it was a previously unknown species. The bird is about 11 cm (four inches) long and has a stunning, deep blue neck, a white breast with a black stripe and greenish-blue head and body feathers.

It has been given the name Oreotrochilus cyanolaemus, or blue-throated star. The discovery was announced Thursday in a journal called The Auk: Ornithological Advances. The bird lives at an altitude of 3,000 to 3,700 meters in an area near the Pacific coast that straddles the provinces of Loja and El Oro. Researchers estimate there are only 300 of these birds and say its habitat is shrinking dramatically. Mining in the area

also threatens it. "It is a species that is in severe danger," Sornoza, who works at the National Biodiversity Institute, told AFP.

Ecuador is small but very rich in biodiversity. For instance, it is home to 132 species of hummingbird. These birds are very well documented so the discovery of a new one is extremely rare. This is the first such find in 30 years, said Sornoza. Also on the team with Sornoza were researchers Juan Freile of the Ecuadorian Committee of Ornithological Registries, Swede Jonas Nilsson of the bird observatory Wild Sumaco, Denmark's Niels Krabbe from the University of Copenhagen and Elisa Bonaccorso, a Venezuelan who teaches at San Francisco University in Quito.

Hummingbirds are distinguished by their colors and the shape of their beak. "Each one represents the colors of the jewels you can see in the world: diamond, ruby, amethyst," said Sornoza, who has studied birds for 30 years and is so crazy about them he imitates bird song. Hummingbirds are tough little creatures, he adds—their hearts beat 1,600 times per minute by day but that goes down to 200 at night to help them survive cold temperatures, said Sornoza. The new species has a slightly curved beak that helps it get at the flowers of the chuquiragua, a plant that Ecuadorian highlanders use to brew tea. It can eat up to two times its weight in nectar. —AFP



ZARUMA, Ecuador: Handout photo shows a male blue-throated hillstar hummingbird pictured at the Cerro de Arcos, near the village of Zaruma in El Oro province, Ecuador, border with Peru. —AFP

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What's On

Kuwait gears up for Red Bull Player One

Red Bull Player One, an international League of Legends tournament, is coming to Kuwait! 128 gaming enthusiasts can compete for the national championship title and head to the World Final of Red Bull Player One in Brazil. In a unique championship, that challenges in-game heroes across a variety of battlefields and game modes, the 1V1 format will be the platform for amateur gaming enthusiasts whose dream is to become a League of Legends star.

Red Bull Kuwait is, no doubt, in the position to impress hundreds of gaming enthusiasts. 128 participants can battle it out in the online qualifiers from October 14 to 17 and only the top eight thrown - thirsty gamers can head to the on-ground National Final, held at Grand Cinemas Al Hamra on

October 19. The winner of the coveted title will head to the World Final in Brazil in November to compete against finalists from 15 other countries that have participated in the series.

The series kicked off in Greece in March and the competition has continued since then in Ireland, Slovenia, Kosovo, Portugal, Peru, Chile, and Mexico. Qualifiers will continue in United Arab Emirates, Colombia, and Jordan. Red Bull Player One in Kuwait is sponsored by Grand Cinemas, X-cite by Alghanim Electronics, Quality Net, PLG, Legion, Talabat and Acqua Eva. Media partner, Kuwait Times will cover this popular event. Brazil hosted the first ever Red Bull Player One final in 2014 making it possible for all League of Legends gaming enthusiasts to put their skills to the test.



KIB hosts annual blood drive for staff members

As part of its community health initiatives, KIB organized its annual blood donation campaign for its staff, hosting the Kuwait Central Blood Bank's mobile unit for a blood drive at its head office. The initiative came as part of the Bank's ongoing strategy which aims at serving the local community, as well as its belief in the importance of encouraging its employees to adopt a healthier lifestyle through their participation in the blood drive.

This year's blood donation campaign saw the participation of over 70 donors from KIB. Accordingly, the blood donation campaign has become an annual tradition of KIB's social responsibility program, as the Bank believes this to be its humanitarian duty towards the community.

Accordingly, the Bank engages with various local social and humanitarian organizations to strengthen and promote a sense of collective responsibility between its employees and their community.

On this occasion, KIB commented saying: "This initiative comes as part of our strong belief in coming together to help people in need across the local community. By encouraging our employees to donate blood, we aim at shedding light on the importance of this support for health services, which offers many health benefits to the donor as well. We hope that by encouraging our employees to donate blood, we can also inspire others to contribute to this cause that can truly make a difference towards filling gaps in the supply of certain blood types, which in turn can help save the lives of many in need."

By cooperating with the Central Blood Bank, KIB managed to attract an impressive turnout of volunteers from amongst KIB staff during the one-day event. A number of volunteers arrived at the head office ready to demonstrate their strong commitment to their humanitarian duty towards all those in dire need of blood.



PAAET participates in UNESCO's regional 2018 forum

Basic Education College at Public Authority for Applied Education and Training participate in the UNESCO's regional 2018 forum on including education with citizenry and the common world values in teachers' preparation programs in the Arab world in Muscat.



NOTICE

TIES cordially invites you to another session of their series about some prophets and messengers of Allah (SWT) on October 4, 2018 (tomorrow) at 7:00 pm. In this class, we will learn why Yusuf (AS) requested control of Egypt's treasury, why the king trusted him, how he executed his duties, and how he treated the people who worked under him. We will also examine different opinions regarding Yusuf's marriage and the reasons the Egyptians eventually trusted and loved him very much. Finally, we will learn how he received his half-brothers from Canaan and how he convinced them to bring his full brother to him in Egypt. Come and learn more about the life and times of Prophet Joseph (AS) in a relaxed, encouraging and supportive atmosphere.

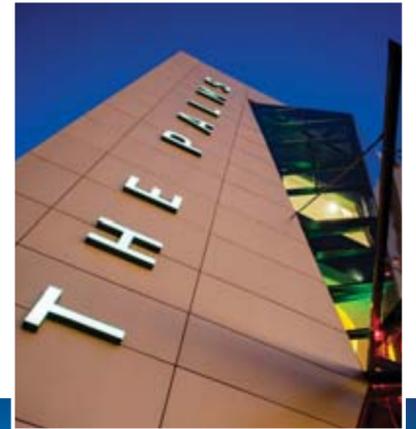
Enjoy BBQ nights at Palms Beach Hotel & Spa

The cool autumn breeze and its fascinating nights bring along The Palms Beach Hotel & Spa famous BBQ Nights that aspire a unique look this season. The spectacular shining event will take place every Wednesday Night with different theme each week.

This distinctive event of the Palms BBQ Nights to be held by the beach and around the swimming pool area surrounded by flowers, greenery and palm trees is considered one of the hotel's essential and unique events. It is looked for and well anticipated not only by the Hotel's guests, but also by all Kuwaiti people & expatriates that provides the ideal location for families, friends and gatherings with its great selection of food, fascinating ambience and atmosphere.

In addition to its rich buffet that abounds with delicious dishes from around the globe, there is the sumptuous BBQ of all kinds of meat and seafood that account for the event's fame, with the famous live cooking stations which The Palms

is well known for, starting from Seafood station, Iranian grilled station and tanour bread, Mongolian station, Shawarma station, BBQ station and more... where our experienced chefs will prepare the food right in front of your eyes while enjoying a selection of appetizers, salads, desserts and fresh juices.



Arms4u holds workshops

Arms4u, an association dedicated to the care and protection of the environment as well as philanthropy organized 'Power Up - A Day of Workshops' event on 11th of September at the Symphony Hall in Riggae. Arms4u President Alex John inaugurated the event and began the proceedings with a general body meeting. He addressed the gathering and spoke briefly about the association's history, mission and its past and future activities.

Secretary Vattiyorkavu Krishnakumar gave a presentation of the activities of the past two years and Prashant J.R., the treasurer read out the audited financial report with findings and recommendations from an independent auditor. The general body also dissolved the current panel of executives and a new panel was announced and approved by the members. The first workshop of the 'Power Up' event was a presentation and discussion of the various welfare schemes of NOR-KA by N Ajith Kumar its director in Kuwait.

One of schemes, the Pravasi Pension Scheme was a big favorite as it provided expat Keralites an opportunity to earn lifetime pension. The second workshop was conducted by Dr Manjusha Rajesh, PhD., who held



the audience captivated with her wonderful presentation skills on the subject - 'Hypertension among Adolescents'. Arms4u charity convener Ramesh Nair informed the members of the various charity initiatives that would be launched soon and requested participation from one and all. The program moderator was done by Rajesh Nair and program convener was Bilal Rajameeran.

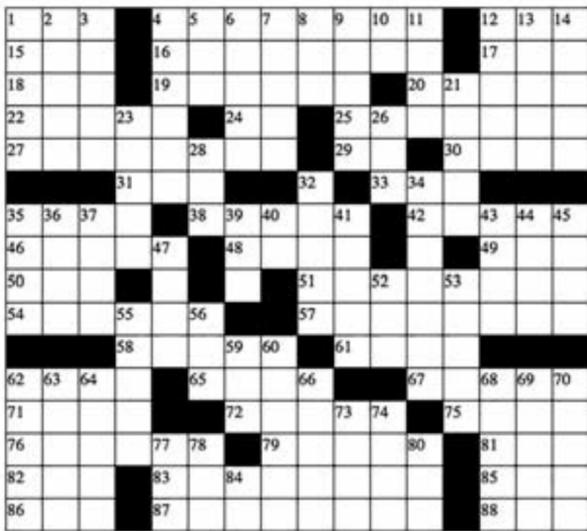


Within its constant awareness efforts to fight breast cancer and in concurrence with October, the Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) distributed pink ribbons, which are the international symbol of Breast Cancer Awareness, to all its employees, said CBK's deputy manager for corporate communication.



Stars

CROSSWORD 2024



ACROSS

1. Electronic warfare undertaken to prevent or reduce an enemy's effective use of the electromagnetic spectrum.
4. The absolute unit of pressure equal to one dyne per square centimeter.
12. 10 grams.
15. Of or relating to a member of the Buddhist people inhabiting the Mekong river in Laos and Thailand.
16. Relating to or like or divided into areolae.
17. 100 avos equal 1 pataca.
18. Late time of life.
19. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
20. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
22. Clear to the mind.
24. A chronic inflammatory collagen disease affecting connective tissue (skin or joints).
25. Evergreen shrubs with intricately twisted wire stems that in summer are smothered in small yellow flowers.
27. Oral antiarrhythmic medication (trade name Tambocor) used as a last resort in treating arrhythmias.
29. A public promotion of some product or service.
30. A sudden numbing dread.
31. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
33. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
35. By bad luck.
38. The seventh month of the Moslem calendar.
42. A chronic disease of the nose characterized by a foul-smelling nasal discharge and atrophy of nasal structures.
46. Greek anatomist whose theories formed the basis of European medicine until the Renaissance (circa 130-200).
48. Fleishy and usually brightly colored cover of some seeds that develops from the ovule stalk and partially or entirely envelops the seed.
49. A number of sheets of paper fastened together along one edge.
50. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
51. Of or relating to or characteristic of the African Republic of the Sudan or its people.
54. Port city of Denmark in eastern Jutland.
57. Of or relating to Aram or to its inhabitants or their culture or their language.
58. (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the unconscious.
61. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
62. A member of a Finnish people living in the northwestern Urals in Russia.
65. A small cake leavened with yeast.
67. The Mongol people living the central and eastern parts of Outer Mongolia.
71. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
72. A military trainee (as at a military academy).
75. A branch of the Tai languages.
76. Wish harm upon.
79. Russian country house.
81. A master's degree in business.
82. North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
83. Type genus of the Ascaphidae.
85. Tag the base runner to get him out.
86. A rapid escape (as by criminals).
87. Early-ripening apple popular in the northeastern United States.
88. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. Selected as the best.
2. South African plant widely cultivated for its showy pure white spathe and yellow spadix.
3. (from a combination of Modulate and DEModulate) Electronic equipment consisting of a device used to connect computers by a telephone line.
4. A diacritical mark (-) placed above a vowel to indicate a long sound.
5. A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement.
6. A large stringed instrument.
7. A decoy who lures customers into a gambling establishment (especially one with a fixed game).
8. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
9. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
10. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
11. Located in or toward the back or rear.
12. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
13. A means of serving.
14. Small goat antelope with small conical horns.
21. A yellow quartz.
23. Lower in esteem.
26. A lyric poem with complex stanza forms.
28. 4-wheeled motor vehicle.
32. A fractional monetary unit in Bangladesh and India and Nepal and Pakistan.
34. A doughnut-shaped chamber used in fusion research.
36. A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
37. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
39. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
40. A son who has the same first name as his father.
41. Utter impulsively.
43. A fencing sword similar to a foil but with a heavier blade.
44. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for aviation and spaceflight.
45. Chief port of Yemen.
47. A word that can be used to refer to a person or place or thing.
52. The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
53. Sole genus of the family Naiadaceae.
55. A member of a seafaring group of North American Indians who lived on the Pacific coast of British Columbia and southwestern Alaska.
56. A person's brother or sister.
59. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
60. A port city in southwestern Iran.
63. A port city of south central Ukraine on an arm of the Black Sea.
64. A woman of refinement.
66. Make fit for, or change to suit a new purpose.
68. A genus of Lamnidae.
69. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
70. Jordan's port.
73. The persistence of a sound after its source has stopped.
74. An aromatic gum resin obtained from various Arabian or East African trees.
77. A member of a Mayan people of southwestern Guatemala.
78. A committee in the executive branch of government that advises the president on foreign and military and national security.
80. The residue that remains when something is burned.
84. Being one more than one hundred.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

A desire to be part of the crowd comes over you today. You will find great satisfaction surrounding yourself with others. Playing a part in the lives of those you care deeply for is where you will find the most satisfaction. Different opinions and being able to share your thoughts with others will be very beneficial to you today. Seeing problems from the eyes of someone else always seems to make finding solutions easier and helps you put things into perspective. This should be a very enlightening time for you.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Nothing should come as natural for you today as your sense of belonging and self-confidence. You may find yourself craving an intimate lasting connection with someone. The need for that person is very strong today. You may feel as if a "me and you against the world" relationship is what you crave. A strong need for respect may be a driving force in your world today. Taurus. You are strong and confident, and these are qualities that attract others to you. You may find yourself the recipient of many compliments today. Remember being the center of attention can also bring out jealousy in others. Choose your company wisely.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Understanding is a good word to represent what today may bring to you. A deep understanding of yourself, your thoughts, and your moods! A day of understanding of those who surround you. An ability to communicate and captivate all who are in your presence. Life is becoming uncomplicated and simple to you. From dreams to the super natural all these things stir deep emotions within you Gemini. Today is a great day to let your creativity flow. The more you open up to others the more they seem to be willing to open up to you.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

What a day! It seems as everything is happening all at once. It is all good news. Things just don't get any better than this. Today is a day you will find easy solutions to old problems. A day of happiness. You may find you have a special bond with someone older or in authority. You may feel as if you are living in a fairytale. Enjoy your time to shine.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Just because something is easy doesn't mean it is the right thing to do or the right way to handle a situation. You may find yourself involved in a situation you need to put great thought into before you act. Actions have consequences. Be sure you are ready to face them. Hard work and determination will help you acquire your goal. Remember, avoid taking the easy way out.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

The sky is the limit for you today. You are optimistic and can accomplish anything you set your mind to. You have faith and are willing to take chances on an emotional level that may bring great reward and happiness your way. You may be deep within your feelings and have a desire to experience something new. An emotional wanderlust, if you will, is the desire of your heart. Today you are all about you. Your wants, needs, and desires, take over and all you can do is pursue what your heart wants. This is a very productive day for you physically and emotionally. You will find peace and happiness in accomplishing the goals you have set for yourself today. Reach for the stars! You may just be the one that can touch them.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Far from reality is where you may find your thoughts today. Dreaming of what the future holds can lead to peace and clarity in your life. Set a goal. Picture yourself accomplishing this goal. Imagine how you will feel once your dream becomes a reality. Make a list of everything you need to do to accomplish this. Today is the first day of the rest of your life. Make it happen. Dedication and determination can lead you to the position in life you wish to be. Love to learn and learn to love. Libra. The world has much more to offer you. Know this and own it!



Scorpio (October 23-November 18)

You have devoted yourself to your career and family life. You may find yourself craving respect for all you have done. You feel as though you have all aspects of your life organized and planned and are on the road to success. You may find it very easy for you to organize the lives of those around you. You may find that ambition is a main focus at this time and you are taking on any and every project in the work place that is offered. You are a born leader and tend to readily take on any opportunity that comes your way. Be sure to stay focused and prioritize all your duties. Scorpio as to not become overwhelmed.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may find yourself extremely creative today. This is a great way to express your emotions and feelings as well as having new experiences. You may feel drawn to take chances, take a new and different approach to problem solving or just change your routine all together. You are more willing at this time to take financial risk. Hopefully this will lead you towards the stock market rather than the casino. Either direction you may choose you are in the mood to do a bit of gambling. Good luck with this. Sagittarius. May the risks you take be profitable.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Deep thought and meditation may be in order. The easy way is not always the best way. You may have learned the biggest rewards come with the biggest challenges. All work and no play also can cause your sensitivity to be stifled. Work on finding a balance between your personal life and career. We all need to step back and take a deep breath sometime. This is your time to breathe. Personal growth is a priority. Do not let pursuit of wealth and your career stand in the way of this.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Imaging can be a powerful tool for attaining your goal. Remember when you were a child and could be anybody you wanted to be just by pretending? Some athletes have found that imagining themselves shooting long shots or hitting the baseball out of the park is a good substitute when they can't physically practice. Find a quiet place and image yourself being the person you wish you were. Pretend you are being assertive when someone takes advantage of you. Image yourself telling a coworker what you need from her. With a little practice, you will find yourself doing those things naturally.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Good communication is an asset in any relationship, whether it is business or personal. When people won't listen to you, listen to them. If you are not sure what they are saying, ask questions. Repeat what you heard and ask if you heard it correctly. The listener will appreciate that you are giving your full attention. The more you hear, the better you will understand the speaker. Conversely, when you talk, be sure the other person understands what you are saying. You may need to repeat your message or present it in more than one way.

Wordsearch Puzzle

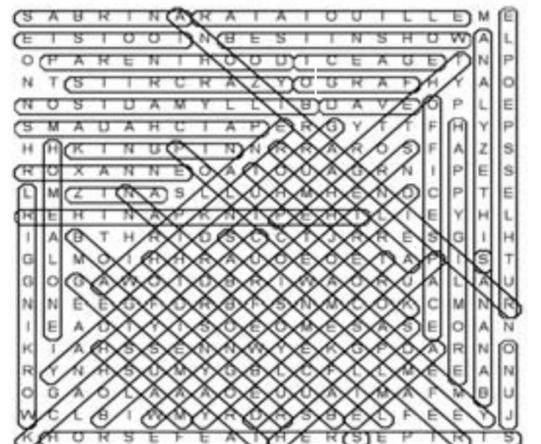
Computer Jargon 1

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



- | | | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| APPLICATION | DEFRAGMENT | GOOGLE | NANOSECOND | SCANNER |
| BACKUP | DIRECTORY | HTML | NETWORK | SECURITY |
| BINARY | DISK DRIVE | ICON | PARTITION | SHAREWARE |
| BLUETOOTH | DOS | INTERNET | PASTE | SOFTWARE |
| BOOT | DRAG | JAVASCRIPT | PDF | SPAM |
| BYTE | EMAIL | KERNAL | PIXEL | TASKBAR |
| CHAT | ENCRYPTION | LCD | POWER SUPPLY | THUMBNAIL |
| CLOCK | FILE | LOGIN | PROGRAMMER | UNIX |
| COOKIE | FIREWALL | MEMORY | ROUTER | WALLPAPER |
| CURSOR | FOLDER | MONITOR | SAVE AS | WIRELESS |
| DATA | GIF | MOUSE | | |

Yesterday's Solution



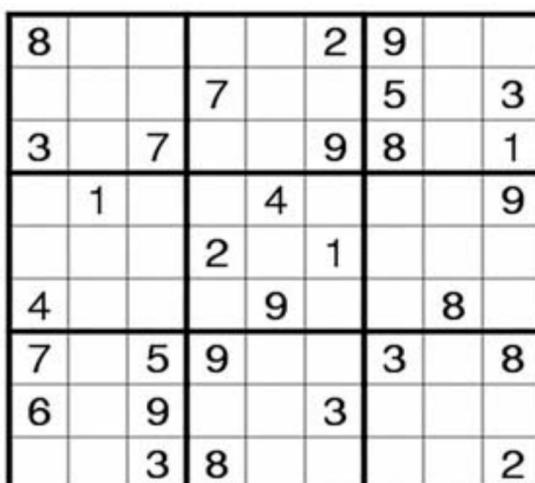
- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| AIRPLANE | DUCK SOUP | LIFE OF BRIAN | SABRINA |
| ANALYZE THIS | ENNA | HASH | SLASH |
| ANTZ | FARGO | OFFICE SPACE | STRIPES |
| ARTHUR | GET SMART | PARENTHOOD | THE JERK |
| BARANAS | GRU/REDWOOD DAY | PATCH ADAMS | THE PINK PANTHER |
| BEST IN SHOW | HAPPY GILMORE | POLICE ACADEMY | THE TRAMP |
| BILLY MADSON | HOME ALONE | RAISING ARIZONA | TOOTSEE |
| BLUES BROTHERS | HORSE FEATHERS | KATATOUILLE | TOOTSEE |
| BOWLINGER | ICE AGE | REAL GENIUS | WAYNES WORLD |
| BULWORTH | JURO | ROXANNE | WORKING GIRL |
| CADDYSHACK | KINGPIN | RUTHLESS PEOPLE | |
| DAVE | | | |

The hidden movie title is: MONTY PYTHON'S THE MEANING OF LIFE

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2018



Yemenis visit an art exhibition against war.



A Yemeni man pictures an art work with his mobile phone at an art exhibition against war.



Yemenis visit an art exhibition against war.



Yemenis visit an art exhibition against war by Yemeni painters.



A Yemeni woman and her child visit an art exhibition against war.



A Yemeni child touches an art work at an art exhibition against war by Yemeni painters at the People's Development Foundation in the Yemeni capital of Sanaa.

Yemen exhibition highlights human cost of war

Images of an emaciated child crying and a boy hobbling on crutches are among more than 100 paintings on display in Yemen's rebel-held capital aimed at highlighting the human suffering of war. The week-long exhibition, inaugurated by rebel leaders, is being held at an ultramodern gallery that stands in sharp contrast to the rest of conflict-scarred Sanaa. "It's a message to all humanity," said Akram Yahya Baker, head of the People's Development Foundation, consid-

ered close to the rebels. Art enthusiast Fouad Naji sees in the exhibition a "sign of resistance despite the wounds and blockade".

The show, which opened on Saturday, is the result of a workshop launched in early 2018 that saw artists visit bomb sites in Sanaa for inspiration, according to organizers. Yemen's capital, controlled by the Iran-backed Huthi Shiite insurgents, is frequently bombed by the warplanes of a Saudi-led coalition that intervened in 2015 on the side of the government.

The conflict has left around 10,000 people dead and more than 56,000 wounded since 2015, according to the World Health Organization, though aid workers believe the actual toll is much higher. The war, coupled with an air and sea blockade, has ravaged the already weak economy and created what the UN has described as the world's worst humanitarian crisis. — AFP

Cardi B charged with assault, endangerment over strip-club brawl

US rapper Cardi B surrendered to police in New York on Monday, charged with assault and reckless endangerment over an ugly brawl in a strip club that injured a female employee. The 25-year-old star was in the Angels Strip Club in Queens on August 29 when someone in her group lobbed furniture inside the night club, causing an employee to suffer "some bruising to her legs," police said.

The fast-rising rapper turned herself in at a Queens police station and was instructed to appear in criminal court on October 29, charged with one count of assault and two counts of reckless endangerment, police said. Celebrity gossip website TMZ said she allegedly ordered an attack on two bar-

tenders at the club, sisters who accuse her of harboring a grudge because one of them slept with her husband, the rapper Offset.

Cardi, who was at the club because Offset was performing in the hard-living hip hop trio Migos, allegedly told her group to attack the bartenders with bottles, chairs and a hookah smoking device, TMZ said. On Monday, she was filmed exiting the police station in Queens, dressed in a beige skirt suit and white blouse, escorted by burly bodyguards into a waiting SUV, making no comment to a bevy of cameras.

Hard past

The singer, real name Belcalis Almanzar, is one of the most prominent women in hip-hop and shares a child with Offset. Earlier this year, she confirmed reports that the pair had secretly married. Monday's police booking comes just weeks after she was involved in a fracas with fellow rapper Nicki Minaj at New York Fashion Week in which Cardi B accused her rival of throwing a shoe at her. Cardi B was photographed with a bump on her forehead. Minaj, one of the best-selling musical artists now performing and who was reportedly not hurt, declined to press charges.

The "I Like It" songstress later took to Instagram to imply that the older Minaj had questioned her parenting skills. She gave birth to a daughter, Kulture, in July. Cardi B has become one of the biggest new stars in US music since the runaway success last year of her song "Bodak Yellow," which touches on her former life making ends meet as a stripper.

A Bronx native, she is the first female rapper to have had multiple No. 1 songs on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. She performed in New York on Saturday at the Global Citizen festival, an unofficial closing event following the weeklong United Nations General Assembly, in what was her first concert since giving birth. She urged young people to pay attention ahead of the November 6 midterm elections, in which President Donald Trump's Republican Party risks losing control of Congress. — AFP



US rapper Cardi B performs onstage during the 2018 Global Citizen Festival: Be The Generation in Central Park in New York City. — AFP



Models present creations by Chanel at the end of the Spring-Summer 2019 Ready-to-Wear collection fashion show at the Grand Palais in Paris. — AFP photos



Lagerfeld takes Chanel to beach for his second youth

Karl Lagerfeld took Chanel for a paddle in the sea yesterday, creating a huge beach with real waves for his joyously zingy Paris fashion week show. The 85-year-old produced a winningly youthful collection to lift the spirits of jaded fashionistas on the last day of the packed nine-day schedule, which ends a marathon month of shows in New York, London and Milan. With soft drizzle falling outside and the October chill beginning to bite in a grey French capital, more than one regretted not taking a towel.

To further lift the spirits, the Kaiser seemed to have found something of a second youth, brilliantly applying the oversized trend to the classic Chanel tweed jacket and sending out a line of accessories and summery looks that set Instagram humming. He even did an impromptu little jig on a pier at the end to acknowledge the prolonged applause. Led by Lagerfeld's latest muse, Dutch-born Luna Bijl, models walked barefoot through waves which whispered onto the white sand thanks to a set of hidden pistons.

An army of stars and celebrities including singer Pharrell Williams and actress Pamela Anderson watched from the dunes as a battalion of catwalk queens including Cara Delevingne and Cindy Crawford's daughter Kaia Gerber came up from the beach and slipped into low mules to walk the broadwalk runway. Sometimes Chanel's spectacular sets are as talked about as the clothes. But this time the clothes had a lot to say for themselves.

Karl's fresh new look

The veteran creator hit the sweet spot from his oversized Chanel jackets and 1960s-style blue trapeze coat dress to a long line of classy casual looks using the show's beach umbrella motif. All the brand's couture touches were there in glittering flowery crystal embroidery and in little black tulle dresses fit for the most select beach villa soirees. With a beady eye on the bottom line, Lagerfeld used the brand's name in capital letters everywhere.

From the clothes themselves and a new line of big crystal necklaces, belts and earrings, the label's name also turned up on a set of glorious double-billed straw

hats with CHA at the front and NEL at the back. Little silver and black beach-ball bags came on Chanel chains and a black scallop shell-shaped number with patent spines had smartphones clicking. In the past Lagerfeld has turned the vast Grand Palais into an ocean liner, a rocket launch pad, the world's chicest supermarket and controversially a mid-winter wood full of trees.

After environmentalists attacked Chanel in March for felling decades-old oaks for its autumn-winter collection, the label said it would now "attempt to recycle, reuse and or find alternative uses for the materials" it uses in its shows. Having grown a snowy white beard earlier this year, Karl seems to be embracing change, ditching his trademark shades for the second time this week after turning up to Hedi Slimane's debut at Celine in a new pair of black-framed glasses. —AFP



Lifestyle | Fashion



Models present creations by Alexander McQueen at the end of the Spring-Summer 2019 Ready-to-Wear collection fashion show in Paris.

Philophiles versus Slimaniacs in fashion's new civil war

If Hedi Slimane had crushed a kitten under the heel of one of his studded boots he might have provoked less indignation than his debut show for Celine. The howl that went up after the hottest show of Paris fashion week on Friday night has since turned into a civil war on social media between his defenders—the Slimaniacs—and the supporters of his predecessor Phoebe Philo, the Philophiles. The latter accuse the superstar designer of grinding the artful British creator's feminist legacy at Celine into the dust, replacing it with retro-grade "crotch-skimming cocktail dresses" for wafer-thin teenage vamps.

Or as Lou Stoppard of GQ magazine put it, Slimane's slash-and-burn approach to "Celine was horrible. A big f*** you to women who just wanted something non-demeaning to wear." Even Slimane's fans admit that the man credited with inventing the much-copied skinny and the oversized looks, drove a steamroller over Philo's baby. His scorched-earth approach included calling his show "Celine 01", as if the 70 years before his arrival at the brand had not existed, and erasing Philo's clothes from the label's Instagram account. Her back catalogue with its "great-fitting trousers" has since reappeared on two rebel Celine accounts, with her cerebral ad campaigns featuring the likes of writer Joan Didion.

'Is Slimane fashion's Trump?'

Rubbing the work of such an iconic female designer as the #MeToo movement marked its first anniversary, and on the very night the world squirmed at the Kavanaugh Supreme Court vote in Washington, was particularly bad timing. "Is Hedi Slimane the Donald Trump of fashion?" the Hollywood Reporter asked. "Philo was notable for not equating a woman's power with her sexuality," grieved The Guardian.

Jo Ellison of the Financial Times—who attended a Philophile wake before the show—simmered with barely concealed fury about Slimane's approach after the decade of work Philo had put into making Celine a \$800-million brand. "I'm not going to blub about how a catwalk that once offered chic solution clothes in which a woman could walk with confidence, was now awash with... broken ballerina dresses in which a 17-year-old girl might walk the streets," she thundered before twisting the knife. Slimane, the recluse who had been hiding away in Los Angeles after making hundreds of millions for Dior and Saint Laurent, was hopelessly out of touch, she implied. "The Celine show seemed to celebrate a world preserved in aspic—super-skinny, teenage, and near exclusively white. I was hoping we might have moved on," Ellison added.



French fashion designer for Celine Hedi Slimane acknowledges the audience at the end of the Celine Spring-Summer 2019 Ready-to-Wear collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP

Stiletto to the heart

Vanessa Friedman of the New York Times wasted no time on niceties. "Two years ago when Mr Slimane departed fashion (and Saint Laurent), the world was a different place," she wrote. "Women were different... They have moved on. But he has not." Then Friedman delivered the stiletto heel to the heart. "For those who feared that" Slimane's arrival meant an end to "the days when Celine defined what it meant to be a smart, adult, ambitious and elegantly neurotic woman—you were right."

Tim Banks of the Business of Fashion website was equally withering. "Slimane's instincts for the moment have dulled, but his army of Slimaniacs will surely canter towards Celine stores in blissful ignorance of the brand's recent glories." Just as the ringing in Slimane's ears was subsiding, Fashionista's Tyler McCall branded him as a "one trick pony". Influential blogger Julie Zerbo followed that with the dagger tweet, "Hedi does Hedi (at Dior) does Hedi (at Saint Laurent) does Hedi (at Celine)..."

Of the major critics, the Wall Street Journal's Christina Binkley was a rare voice in warning against writing off Slimane's Midas touch. "When Slimane launched his thing at Saint Laurent, people hated it," she said. But the critics and the brand's owners, LVMH, "know the revenues are about to gush," she said. Fellow American fashion writer Mikelle Street agreed, observing wryly that "my favourite part of watching people tweet about Hedi Slimane is that they don't understand that there is a category of shoppers that follow him from brand to brand. So he can really do whatever he wants." —AFP

Lifestyle | Music & Movies

Neither rich nor crazy: Film noir sheds light on Singapore's migrant laborers

A world away from the opulence showcased in hit rom-com "Crazy Rich Asians", a critically acclaimed film noir is shedding light on a less well-known side of Singapore—the precarious existence of its migrant workers. "A Land Imagined" tells the story of a Chinese laborer who goes missing while working on a building site, and the efforts of a world-weary detective to track him down. His lonely life serves as a window into the world of the approximately 280,000 foreign workers who toil to build the affluent city-state's glittering skyscrapers and ubiquitous residential high-rises.

The movie debuted in August at the Locarno Festival, where it won the top prize, and features atmospheric scenes of bleak construction sites, drab workers' dormitories, and rain-lashed, neon-lit streets. Singaporean director Yeo Siew Hua said the film aimed to raise awareness about the lives of migrant laborers who have flocked to the wealthy city from poorer parts of Asia and are often regarded as "outsiders." "When we talk about the migrant workforce in Singapore, there is a certain blindness, especially in mainstream society," Yeo told AFP. "The film tries to show them as humans, as people with hopes and dreams."

Contrasting depictions

It had its debut around the same time as the US release of Hollywood film "Crazy Rich Asians", which was a box-office hit and won plaudits for its Asian-majority cast—but its depiction of the city-state could not be more different. The rom-com, about an American-Chinese economics professor and her Singapore boyfriend, focuses on the ultra-wealthy ethnic Chinese elite and features well-known sights, such as the impressive waterfront skyline. "A Land Imagined" follows the life of Wang Bi Cheng from China, who works for a land-reclamation company—about a quarter of Singapore sits on reclaimed land.

This is a long-running source of controversy as sand is imported for reclamation from other parts of Asia, a practice that green groups say causes environmental damage in the supplying countries. He lives in a shared dormitory next to a busy road and spends his nights playing computer games in a cybercafe—befriending the sassy woman who



File photo shows Singaporean actor Liu Xiaoyi (center) acting during filming of a scene for the movie "A Land Imagined" in Singapore. — AFP photos

works there—and hangs out with a Bangladeshi laborer who is struggling with debts.

When Wang goes missing, police send in a jaded detective, Lok, who is shocked when he encounters the migrants' living conditions. NGOs working with foreign laborers in the city-state of 5.6 million welcomed the film for drawing attention to their lives. Stephanie Chok, advocacy and communications manager from campaign group Home, said challenges for foreign laborers range from poor living conditions to long working hours and unscrupulous employers withholding wages or underpaying them. Depictions of workers' lives in the film ring true, such as huge, self-contained dormitory complexes in less desirable parts of Singapore and employers holding on to workers' passports to prevent them from leaving, she said.

Huge debts

Wang's Bangladeshi friend, Ajit, is unable to leave Singapore due to debts—a common problem for foreign laborers, who often take out loans for fees to secure work and are unable to pay them back due to low salaries, according to rights groups. Singapore's Ministry of Manpower, however, insists that surveys it has commissioned show the vast majority of foreign workers are satis-



File photo shows Singaporean actor Peter Yu acting during filming of a scene for the movie "A Land Imagined" in Singapore.

fied with working in the city and consider it "an attractive destination country". The ministry has a "comprehensive regulatory framework to ensure that foreign workers in Singapore are properly managed, and that their wellbeing is not compromised", a spokesman said in a statement.

It said workers were protected by laws in areas including payment of salaries, compensation for work injuries and ensuring they have accommodation of a decent standard. After its success at Locarno, the film is heading to other festivals, including Hamburg and Vancouver, and will have a commercial release in Singapore at the end of the year. Those fighting for a better lot for foreign laborers praised the effort to draw greater attention to their difficulties. "When we tell Singaporeans about the issues that the migrant workers face, they say 'no, no, Singapore is a country where we have very good laws, and these things cannot be happening'," Ethan Guo, from NGO Transient Workers Count Too, told AFP. "I think general awareness of the plight that these migrant workers go through is what we feel is needed more in Singapore." — AFP

Danube Home launches its impressive garden collection

Danube Home, the UAE's leading home improvement brand announced its exclusive Garden Collection 2019 on 27th of September 2018 at Danube Home Showroom, Al Rai, Kuwait. Present on the occasion were Adel Sajan - Director Danube Group, Shubhojit Mahalanobis - General Manager Danube Home, Sayed Habib - General Manager buying along with other senior management of the company. As part of the garden launch, a new 2018/19 catalogue was introduced featuring more than 1500 items, serving as a complete resource guide for outdoor furniture, accessories and lifestyle living.

The concept of this new catalogue is - 'Beyond the doors' which showcases four uniquely designed theme named as Tropical, Vintage, Urban and Arabian. These themes will help you to design your dream garden which will complement your property as per your style and taste. Whether you are looking to create traditional Arabian theme garden, bold and beautiful Tropical theme garden, calm and serene Vintage theme garden or a breath taking Urban theme garden you will find all at one store.

Moreover, the collection also includes a number of bold and vibrant products such as Arabic Majlis, all in one gazebo, bench which can be converted to table, furniture with lighting, sofa with utility function (added table), Modular collection, wall fountain, outdoor kitchen with BBQ, swings, barbecue sets, outdoor lights, outdoor umbrellas, fountains, cushions, lamps, lanterns, cushions, rugs, and much more; perfectly designed to create a calm, tranquil atmosphere for one and all.

Commenting on both the launches, Adel Sajan, Director of Danube Group, said, "We are pleased to announce our new garden collection across all Danube Home stores. We at Danube believe in offering our customers something of value, something that is unique to our store and comes in a pocket friendly price." "Our new garden collection will cater to different taste and the catalogue is inspiring, informative and packed with detailed product descriptions and handy tips on subjects including the benefits of artificial grass carpet, how to maintain outdoor furniture and cleaning hacks etc. to help customers make more out of their space

by offering multifunctional and modular solutions." He added

Sayed Habib, GM-Business Development, Danube Home said: "The new catalogue features emerging design and inspirational decor ideas to make the best of your outdoor space following 'beyond the door' concept. After a thorough research we have noticed every house needs a different style of garden as per their taste and to make our customers life easy this year's catalogue focuses on four different theme - Vintage, Urban, Tropical and Arabian. The catalogue will showcase the look in addition to full descriptions and vivid photography with more than 200 combinations to choose from. Also, Danube Home is the only brand who are offering free of cost interior design services for your garden. Last but not the least I would like to thank my team for the effort they have put in to get you the best product range from every corner of the world."

Robust growth

Habib further added "We continue to print the catalog because it has proven to be an engaging resource for designers, retailers and consumers alike." Shubhojit Mahalanobis, General Manager Danube Home said: "The Home improvement market is witnessing a robust growth all over the world and so are we. The growing significance of home décor has led to consumers seeking unique, designer home furnishings. We at Danube Home work towards improving the Lifestyle of our Customers by providing innovative products and Services by offering high value for money and quality products. Moreover, we are continuously making all efforts to exceed or customer's expectations towards engagements and service standards. Kuwait being a big and matured market we are also looking at few opportunities to expand and grow the brand Danube Home in the nearest future." "Furthermore, another interesting feature at Danube Home is the free interior design services that can be availed at all the stores by simply bringing the floor plans and garden plan of their home.



Busan film festival seeks 'reunion' after ferry tragedy row

Organizers of Asia's largest film festival have issued a rallying cry to its supporters as the event emerges from years of starring in its own political drama. The Busan International Film Festival hopes to draw a line under its role in a bitter row over the sinking of the Sewol ferry—one of South Korea's deadliest ever disasters—which divided and traumatized the nation. "This edition of the festival is a reunion," said Lee Yong-kwan, chairman of the BIFF organizing committee. "This year is about our recovery and a return of our status. It's about expansion and reformation."

The festival opens on Thursday with the world premiere of South Korean director Jero Yun's "Beautiful Days", which focuses on a North Korean family reunited after the mother escapes south looking for a better life. Its theme of reconciliation seems a fitting one considering the troubles BIFF has endured since the festival screened a controversial documentary about the Sewol ferry disaster in 2014. "The Truth Shall Not Sink with Sewol" was critical of the then-government's handling of the tragedy in April 2014 that left more than 300 people dead, most of them school children.

Investigations into and charges against festival organizers followed, along with significant funding cuts, as the dispute between BIFF and the government played out in public. Lee and former deputy festival director Jay Jeon were initially removed from their posts but have been reinstated for this year's edition, while the new government of President Moon Jae-in has thrown its support behind the festival. "We hope this year to become a place that once again brings filmmakers together and that the festival can be back on track," said BIFF programmer Nam Dong-chul. The 23rd edition of the BIFF runs from October 4-13 and will feature 323 films from 79 countries, including 115 having their world premieres.

The Korean film industry is expected to be out in force on opening night with an array of local celebrities gracing the red carpet, including star of the opening film Lee Na-young, as well as Park Hae-il and Moon So-ri, who have brought the Zhang Lu-directed romance "Ode to the Goose" to the festival.



In this file photo a woman walks past signboards for the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) after a press conference on the festival overview in Seoul. — AFP

K-Pop star turned actress

Joining them will be the likes of Hollywood producer Jason Blum (of Oscar-nominated "Whiplash" and "Get Out" fame), acclaimed Chinese art-house darling Zhao Tao ("Ash is the Purest White") and Indian hit-maker Rajkumar Hirani ("3 Idiots"). Oscar-winning Japanese composer Ryuichi Sakamoto will also be in town to accept BIFF's Asian Filmmaker of the Year Award as well as to perform on opening night. Highlights of the festival's main programs include the world premiere of multi-award-winning Hong Kong auteur Stanley Kwan's latest, the theatre-themed "First Night Nerves". Local films as always feature prominently, with 16 world premieres in the Korean Cinema Today section including the debut as a lead actress from sometime K-Pop star Choi Soo-young (Girls Generation) in "Memories of a Dead End". The festival's main competition—the New Currents award for first- or second-time Asian filmmakers—will this year be contested by 10 films from seven countries. It features a rare Bhutanese production, the drama "The Red Phallus" from Tashi Gyeltshen. Hong Kong filmmaker Yuen Woo-ping—famed for his work on the Oscar-winning "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and on Hollywood's "Matrix" franchise—has returned to the director's chair for the actioner "Master Z: The Ip Man Legacy". The film will bring the festival to a close on October 13 with its world premiere. "The unique part of BIFF is that it represents a wide range of cultures and filmmakers," said Yuen.

First-time Malaysian director Zahir Omar is among the new talents on show. Omar is bringing his stylised thriller "Fly By Night" to BIFF for its world premiere and said being accepted by the region's preeminent festival felt "surreal". The Busan festival "allows us the space and support to develop our art," said Omar. "Many international festivals overlook [Asian filmmakers'] efforts, but [BIFF] has become a festival that we all aspire to get into at some point in our careers. "To say it is a big event would be an understatement." — AFP



People lay flowers and place candles around the star of French-Armenian singer Charles Aznavour at the square named after him in Yerevan. — AFP



Flowers and candles are laid on French-Armenian singer-songwriter Charles Aznavour's Star on The Hollywood Walk of Fame in Hollywood, Los Angeles, in the early morning hours yesterday.

Armenia mourns 'tender soul' Aznavour

Armenia yesterday mourned one of its most famous descendants, singer Charles Aznavour who died Monday aged 94, commemorating him in parliament, on the streets and in underground train stations. Shops and cafes in the capital Yerevan played songs by the French-Armenian crooner. Wellwishers laid flowers and wreaths at memorials set up in a cultural center and a city square that bear his name. The Armenian parliament held a moment of silence to pay respects to Aznavour, who died in his home in southern France on Monday.

The Armenian government decreed a day of mourning for the day of the singer's burial. "Many people worship Aznavour and adore his music even if they don't understand a single word of French," said student Marina Sargsyan. "Charles's music penetrates hearts and souls and it speaks for itself even without words." In a food shop, cashier Armine Bayatyan said she and her customers were "in shock".

They recalled that Aznavour had promised to mark his 100th birthday with a con-

cert in Armenia. "There is such sorrow, such sadness in the eyes of everyone who comes into our store today," she said. In Yerevan Aznavour's music was played in all the metro stations. "Glory to the great Armenian, to our beloved Charles," the metro's spokesman Tatev Khachatryan wrote on Facebook. Aznavour was born Shakhnour Aznavouryan to Armenian immigrants in Paris in 1924. He was deeply involved in charity and activism in Armenia for decades. He was given honorary Armenian citizenship by former president Serzh Sargsyan in 2008. "Mankind has lost one of the most tender souls of the 20th century," current President Armen Sargsyan said in a statement. "A father has left us, one who only physically was far from his homeland," he added. "You are always with us, dear Charles, with your people and with your homelands, Armenia and France." — AFP

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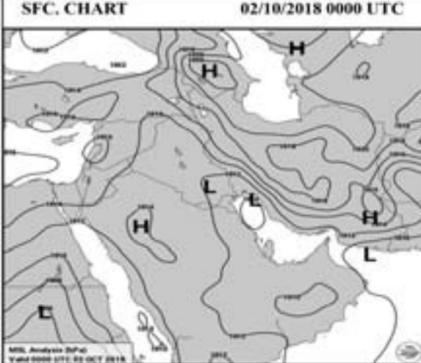
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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate north westerly wind changing to south easterly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h.

BY NIGHT: Fair and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind changing to north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 02/10/2018 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	41 °C	29 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	42 °C	23 °C			
ABDALY	40 °C	24 °C			
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C			
JAHRA	42 °C	27 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	39 °C	25 °C			
SALMIYAH	37 °C	30 °C			
AHMADI	35 °C	29 °C			
NUWAISIB	38 °C	25 °C			
WAFRA	41 °C	21 °C			
SALMY	40 °C	23 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Wednesday	10/03	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	43 °C	24 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 28 km/h
Thursday	10/04	Hot and rising dust over open areas	43 °C	26 °C	NW-N	20 - 45 km/h
Friday	10/05	Hot	42 °C	26 °C	NW-VRB	10 - 30 km/h
Saturday	10/06	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	41 °C	24 °C	NW-VRB	06 - 26 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:22
Sunrise	05:41
Zuhr	11:38
Asr	15:01
Sunset	17:33
Isha	18:50

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	42 °C
MIN. Temp.	26 °C
MAX. RH	51 %
MIN. RH	09 %
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

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Xaviker Fernandes, holder of Indian Passport No: J5550444, Civil ID No: 258082100643, hereby change my name to Xavier Fernandes. (C 5425) 2-10-2018

Gonsalves, father's name Peter Francis Gonsalves, mother's name Annie Francis Gonsalves to Anna Francisca Gonsalves. (C 5424) 1-10-2018

Nationality Indian, P.P No. N5195063, my name John Constance Peter Consalves to John Constance

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is
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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
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Indian Airlines	22456700
Oman Air	22958787
Turkish Airlines	22453820/1
Aeroflot	22404838/9

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Arrival Flights on Wednesday 3/10/2018				Departure Flights on Wednesday 3/10/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	405	Sohag	00:05	IAW	158	Al Najaf	13:00
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	RBG	554	Alexandria	13:10
KAC	102	London	00:50	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	JZR	144	Doha	13:55
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
MSR	618	Alexandria	01:35	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	CLX	792	Hanoi	14:30
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	JZR	802	Tbilisi	14:50
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	JZR	188	Dubai	15:10
JZR	651	Lahore	02:55	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	FEG	342	Sohag	15:25
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KNE	684	Madinah	15:50
RBG	215	Sohag	03:05	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:55
RJA	648	Amman	03:05	KNE	530	Jeddah	16:00
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	JZR	606	Kochi	16:00
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
KAC	796	Madinah	03:45	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	KAC	128	Sharjah	16:15
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	KAC	619	Doha	16:15
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	OMA	646	Doha	16:20
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:40
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	SVA	505	Madinah	16:55
KAC	544	Cairo	05:20	SAW	706	Damascus	17:00
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	KAC	503	Beirut	17:15
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	FDB	052	Dubai	17:20
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	KA	C361	Colombo	17:35
BAW	157	London	06:10	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	KAC	381	International, Delhi	17:55
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
JZR	143	Doha	07:00	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
KAC	358	Kochi	08:00	JZR	608	Hyderabad	18:25
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	JZR	240	Amman	18:30
JZR	529	Asyut	08:10	JZR	266	Beirut	18:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	JZR	538	Cairo	18:35
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	RJA	641	Amman	20:00
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
JZR	787	Riyadh	10:30	JZR	320	Alexandria	20:05
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	JZR	602	Mumbai	20:30
IRM	1188	Mashhad	10:55	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	DLH	624	Dammam	20:50
JZR	903	Baku	11:10	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:00
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	KAC	353	Bengaluru	21:00
IAW	157	Al Najaf	12:00	KAC	357	Kochi	21:00
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:30	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	JAV	622	Amman	21:15
CLX	792	Luxembourg	12:45	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:35
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
JZR	357	Mashhad	13:05	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:30	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
JZR	779	Jeddah	13:45	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:10
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	KAC	543	Cairo	22:15
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	UAE	860	Delhi	22:25
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10	JZR	604	Dubai	22:25
JZR	125	Bahrain	14:15	GFA	220	Ahmedabad	22:40
				KAC	783	Bahrain	22:50
				ETD	310	Jeddah	22:50
				KAC	411	Abu Dhabi	23:00
				QTR	1083	Bangkok	23:15
				SVA	515	Doha	23:20
				SVA	503	Riyadh	23:30
				JZR	560	Jeddah	23:45
						Sohag	23:45

Gaza night protests step up months of anti-Israel unrest

RAFAH: It's nearly 10:00 pm when young Palestinian men begin banging drums and chanting songs, while others attach incendiary devices to balloons - all closely watched by Israeli snipers on the border. For six months, Palestinians have gathered regularly along the fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel for often violent daylight demonstrations against Israeli policies. But in recent weeks they have deployed a new tactic: "night confusion units". Protests can go on until the early hours.

Organizers say they aim to force the Jewish state to ease its crippling decade-long blockade of Gaza, but residents in nearby Israeli communities say their lives are being destroyed. Israel accuses Gaza's rulers Hamas of controlling the protests. Hamas says it backs the demonstrations but is not commanding them and that the idea for nocturnal activity came from protesters themselves. "Every day the young men on the border invent ways to develop marches and the most recent was the night confusion unit," Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said.

An Israeli military official, who did not want to be named, said the night protests do not pose a new challenge. "Our soldiers, including our snipers, have night vision equipment," he said. "There are a few dozen, sometimes a few hundred demonstrators (at night)... they burn tyres, throw incendiary bottles and sometimes grenades and do not represent a more important threat than the daytime demonstrations."

The night protests come amid a resurgence in border demonstrations following a brief lull as Egypt and UN officials pursued a long-term truce between Hamas and Israel. Those talks have stalled, along with efforts to reconcile Hamas and Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas' rival Fatah group. As a result, there have been renewed warnings of yet another conflict between Hamas and Israel, who have fought three wars since 2008. One recent night, AFP watched as several hundred protesters gathered a few dozen metres (yards) from Israeli soldiers

- separated by the fence - near Rafah in southern Gaza.

In a tent slightly further into the strip, young men inflated dozens of white balloons inscribed with "I love you". They then attached flaming devices to the balloons, and launched them towards Israeli territory. Others hurled primitively built sound grenades: the booms resonated across the border. "We will not stop launching incendiary balloons until we break the siege on Gaza," said Abu Anas, one of the orchestrators of the night's activities. Anas insisted the movement was independent of Hamas.

Saqer Al-Jamal, 22, said he and fellow protesters believe Israeli soldiers fear their actions. "The goal is to confuse the occupation and send our message to the settlers nearby that there is no sleep until we achieve our demands of lifting the siege and returning to our country," he said. Rony Kissin, spokeswoman for the Israeli community of Kerem Shalom located next to the Gaza border, called the night protests a "nightmare". "Now they've started to throw sound bombs and it's very, very scary," Kissin said. "The children are very afraid of it. It's very dangerous. It is really like a weapon."

The border protests since March 30 have been labelled the "Great March of Return" because they call for Palestinian refugees to return to their former homes inside what is now Israel. More than 700,000 Palestinians fled or were expelled in the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation. At least 194 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed by Israeli fire since the protests began. One Israeli soldier has been killed in the border area over the same period.

Israel says its actions are necessary to defend the border and stop infiltrations and attacks, which it accuses Hamas of orchestrating. It also points to the hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage caused to Israeli farmland by the kites and balloons. But Israel's use of live fire during the protests and clashes has drawn international con-



RAFAH: Masked Palestinian protesters calling themselves the "night confusion units" hold incendiary devices attached to balloons to be flown towards Israel near the Gaza-Israel border in the southern Gaza Strip on Sept 26, 2018. — AFP

cern. Palestinians and rights groups say demonstrators have been shot while posing no real threat.

Just before midnight in one recent protest, dozens of youths approached the fence in an attempt to breach it. One of the youngsters collapsed to the ground. Medics treated the 17-year-old, who was shot in the foot.

Mohammed Abu Aqaleen, another 17-year-old who said he was shot three months ago and walks with crutches, vowed the demonstrators would "continue to confuse the enemy with sound grenades and horns". His family fled Jaffa - now inside Israel - in the 1948 war. "This confusion will bring us back to Jaffa," said Aqaleen. —AFP

Amazon raises minimum wage to \$15, urges rivals to follow

WASHINGTON: Amazon.com Inc said yesterday it would raise its minimum wage to \$15 per hour for US employees from next month, bowing to criticism of poor pay and working conditions at the world's second most valuable company. The increase pushes Amazon's lowest wage above that at Walmart Inc and Target Corp but it is still \$7 shy of the average for a non-management worker in transportation and warehousing in the United States as a whole. Lawmakers and unions have been calling for change at big US corporations, with Democratic Senator Bernie Sanders proposing legislation nicknamed the "Bezos Bill" aimed at making them pay workers more.

"We listened to our critics, thought hard about what we wanted to do, and decided we want to lead," founder and Chief Executive Jeff Bezos said in a statement. The pay increase, effective from next month, will benefit more than 250,000 Amazon employees in the United States, as well as over 100,000 seasonal employees who will be hired at sites across the country this holiday season, the company said. The online retailer also said it would now lobby in Washington D.C. for an increase in the federal minimum wage and urged its competitors to follow its lead as the union-led "Fight for Fifteen" movement pushes for higher remuneration.

Christine Owens, executive director at advocacy group National Employment Law Project, said Amazon's call for changes at the federal level was a "significant" move. "At \$7.25, the federal minimum wage is a poverty wage. Having major, profitable employers like Amazon join the fight could help finally unstuck it," she said. Amazon, which became the second company after Apple to cross \$1 trillion in market value last month, currently pays around \$11 per hour.

Analysts said the raise would cost it \$1 billion or less annually but would be offset by a recent \$20 increase in the cost of its Prime memberships. "While this is a step forward, it is a long way from where Amazon needs to be," said UNI Global Union, which represents retail employees. Amazon shares were roughly flat at \$2,007.28 in afternoon trading.

Sanders credited Amazon yesterday for doing the "right thing" and called on other corporations in fast food, airlines and retail industries to follow the retailer in raising wages. Workers have been protesting against fast food chains like McDonald's Corp and demanding



KENT, Washington: In this photo taken on Sept 21, 2018, an Amazon employee pulls goods from robotic shelves during a tour of Amazon's Fulfillment Center. — AFP

wage increases since 2012 but conditions at Amazon's warehouses, distribution centers and for its couriers have been drawing media attention and criticism for some time in both the United States and Europe.

Like several of the big US tech firms, Amazon is also facing increased official scrutiny over how much tax it pays. "With the Trump administration having previously taken aim at Bezos and Amazon, they need to be proactive to position themselves positively in the court of public opinion," said Tom Gimble, CEO of recruiting firm LaSalle Network. "With many municipalities raising minimum wage over the next few years to approaching \$15 per hour, this was not really a stretch for them to do that."

Target raised its minimum hourly wage last year to \$11 and promised to raise it to \$15 an hour by the end of 2020, while the world's largest retailer Walmart raised its minimum wage to \$11 an hour earlier this year, even as both struggled with high transportation and raw material costs. The company said it would increase its minimum wage for all full-time, part-time, temporary and seasonal employees. Amazon also raised its minimum wage in Britain to £10.50 (\$13.59) an hour for all employees in the London area and £9.50 an hour for staff in all other parts of the country, effective from Nov 1. — Reuters

said. "This would require many more family-run businesses to go public, and today there's not a clear case for them wanting to."

Politics in Kuwait could also be tricky. The country has an influential parliament, where government officials are often grilled about policy moves. The government has been pushing lawmakers to speed up legislation aimed at increasing the liquidity at Kuwait's General Reserve Fund, one of two funds managed by the Kuwait Investment Authority, and approve a law to allow the government to issue long-term sovereign bonds.

Kuwait has yet to implement a value-added tax, but the bill that would enable more diversified revenues for the government is highly controversial and expected to face a public backlash. "What MP will approve tax? If you approve tax, you will not get voted in next year, but Kuwait needs far-sighted people," said a Kuwaiti banker, who declined to be named. A senior banker said the government is becoming more receptive to foreign portfolio investment. "Before they were looking at it, like no, we have money and we invest outside," said Abdul Wahab Al-Majed, chief executive of Kuwaiti lender Boubyan Bank. "And now they know the difference that this money can do for it. Especially now for the stock exchange." — Reuters

Russia finds ISS hole made 'deliberately'

MOSCOW: Russian investigators looking into the origin of a hole that caused an oxygen leak on the International Space Station have said it was caused deliberately, the space agency chief said. A first commission had delivered its report, Dmitry Rogozin, the head of the Russian space agency Roskosmos, said in televised remarks late Monday. "It concluded that a manufacturing defect had been ruled out which is important to establish the truth."

Rogozin said the commission's main line of inquiry was that the hole had been drilled deliberately, a position that has been voiced in the past. "Where it was made will be established by a second commission, which is at work now," he said. The small hole in the wall of a Russian-made Soyuz space capsule docked onto the ISS was located in August and quickly sealed up. Officials have suggested a number of possible reasons for the appearance of the hole.

A top government official has denied a Russian media report that the investigation looked at the possibility that US astronauts had drilled the hole in order to get a sick colleague sent back to Earth. The current ISS commander, US astronaut Drew Feustel, called the suggestion that the crew was somehow involved "embarrassing". — AFP

Germany to ease rules to tackle...

Continued from Page 1

the newcomers, the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) has become Germany's biggest opposition party with more than 90 seats in the Bundestag. The government ministers stressed that the new immigration rules are not designed to allow failed asylum applicants to gain residency in Germany by switching over to become employment migrants.

Rather, the new rules are aimed at providing a "pragmatic solution" for migrants who, for instance,

have been in Germany for a protracted period because they cannot be deported because they face the risk of torture in their country of origin. A list of criteria would be drawn up for such cases, said the ministers. It's a "pragmatic solution that reflects reality," said Employment Minister Hubertus Heil, adding that it would avoid cases of Germany "sending the wrong people back".

One of the AfD's leaders, Alexander Gauland, immediately accused the government of seeking to sow confusion among the population by mixing asylum and immigration. The possibility of dodging expulsion has now been "greatly expanded", he charged. With unemployment at a record low since reunification, companies in Europe's biggest economy have been complaining that a chronic shortage in workers is threatening growth. — AFP

Study: Child abuse leaves 'molecular...'

Continued from Page 1

victims of child abuse than men. Scientists said the degree of "dimming" in the DNA regions were surprising - one part of the genome of the men who were abused as children was 29 percent different to those who were not.

And, because the degree of methylation changes over time, they were able to tell by looking at the men's cells roughly when the abuse occurred. "This might

help the development of tests that could be used by healthcare workers or potentially even as forensic evidence," Gladish said. Although researchers still have little idea whether or not the imprints of abuse contained within sperm cells would survive fertilization intact, lead author Andrea Roberts said the study "brings us at least one step closer" towards working out if trauma can be transmitted across generations. "We can look at our study as one small piece in the huge overall puzzle of how intergenerational trauma works," said Gladish.

She pointed out there are several other teams working on the conundrum, including experiments on mice and other animals. "It is certainly possible that epigenetic changes in sperm cells play a role in the physical and mental health of the next generation, but we don't know for sure." — AFP

Physics Nobel for laser pioneers; first...

Continued from Page 1

Laser research has been honored with Nobels on several occasions, including the 1964 physics prize and the 1999 chemistry prize.

Meanwhile, speaking by phone to the Academy, a moved Strickland said she was thrilled to receive the Nobel prize that has been the least accessible for women. "We need to celebrate women physicists because they're out there... I'm honored to be one of those women." Before her, only Marie Curie and Maria Goeppert Mayer had won the physics prize, in 1903 and 1963 respectively.

Her win comes a day after Europe's physics research center CERN suspended an Italian scientist, Alessandro Strumia, for telling a seminar at the organization's Swiss headquarters last week that physics was "invented and built by men". Jim Al-Khalili, professor of theoretical

physics at Britain's University of Surrey, said on Twitter it was "delicious" that Strickland had won the Nobel prize just days after Strumia's "misogynistic" comments.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has in the past lamented the small number of women laureates in the science fields in general. It has insisted that it is not due to male chauvinism bias on the award committees, instead attributing it to the fact that laboratory doors were closed to women for so long. "It's a small percentage for sure, that's why we are taking measures to encourage more nominations because we don't want to miss anyone," the head of the Academy, Goran Hansson, said on Tuesday.

On Monday, two immunologists, James Allison of the US and Tasuku Honjo of Japan, won this year's Nobel Medicine Prize for research into how the body's natural defenses can fight cancer. The winners of the chemistry prize will be announced today, followed by the peace prize on Friday. The economics prize will wrap up the Nobel season on Monday, Oct 8. For the first time since 1949, the Swedish Academy has postponed the announcement of the 2018 Nobel Literature Prize until next year, amid a #MeToo scandal and bitter internal dispute that has prevented it from functioning properly. — Agencies

Kuwait stocks shine in Q3 as market...

Continued from Page 1

Other funds contacted by Reuters said they will start looking at Kuwait after it has been added to the MSCI emerging market index. "The whole region has been witnessing a major transformation when it comes to markets operationally and improvement with friendliness to investors," said Fadi Al Said, director, fund manager, head of the MENA investment team at Lazard Asset Management.

Kuwait may have to do more to diversify its economy and widen its appeal to investors to sectors beyond real estate and banking, said Ali Al-Salim, co-founder of Dubai-based Arkan Partners, a consulting firm specializing in alternative investments. "Investor interest in Kuwait is limited by our stock market's diversity. Seven out of the 10 largest listings are banks," Al-Salim, a Kuwaiti national, said. "Seeing how consumption is a huge part of Kuwait's local economy, it would be nice to see more public consumer-orientated listings," he

Sports

Brewers top Chicago Cubs, win National League Central title

Buehler helps Dodgers win NL West by beating Rockies

CHICAGO: Orlando Arcia led off the eighth inning with the third of his four hits and trotted home on Lorenzo Cain's go-ahead single two batters later, delivering the Milwaukee Brewers the National League Central title with a 3-1 tiebreaker victory over the host Chicago Cubs on Monday afternoon.

NL batting champion Christian Yelich had three hits, and five Milwaukee pitchers combined to three-hit the Cubs, assuring the Brewers (96-67) the best record in the NL and home-field advantage at least through the NL Championship Series.

"It's special," Cain said after Milwaukee's eighth consecutive win. "I get to see it every day."

The Brewers will open the five-game NL Division Series at home tomorrow against the winner of Tuesday's NL wild-card game between the Cubs (95-68) and the Rockies (92-71). Colorado lost 5-2 to the Los Angeles Dodgers (91-72) on Monday in the NL West tiebreaker game.

The Cubs will host the wild-card game. Jon Lester will start for the Cubs, but Chicago manager Joe Maddon said Cole Hamels and possibly Kyle Hendricks would be available out of the bullpen. Kyle Freeland will start for the Rockies.

"Pretty spectacular season for them," Maddon said of the Brewers. "Hopefully we get another crack at them." On Monday, after starters Jhoulys Chacin and Jose Quintana were long gone following impressive efforts, Arcia's hit off Chicago's third pitcher, Justin Wilson (4-5), triggered a two-run, difference-making eighth inning against four Cubs pitchers.

Pinch hitter Domingo Santana sent Arcia to third with a double, after which Cain lined his lead-grabbing single to center field off Steve Cishek. One out later, Ryan Braun singled off Brandon Kintzler to score Santana and make it 3-1. Josh Hader, the fifth Brewers pitcher, took care of matters from there, throwing two innings of one-hit relief for his 12th save, striking out three. He got Anthony Rizzo, who had earlier hit his 25th homer, to fly out to right field to end the game as the potential tying run after Javier Baez kept the Cubs alive with a two-out single.

Corey Knebel (4-3), who pitched a scoreless seventh inning, was credited with the win. Each starting pitcher handed off the game to his bullpen in a 1-1 tie. Quintana pitched around six hits in five innings, twice stranding a

baserunner in scoring position. He struck out four and did not walk a batter.

Chacin contributed to Milwaukee's run off Quintana in the third inning with a sacrifice bunt after Arcia led off with a single. Yelich's RBI single came one out later.

Chacin took a no-hitter into the fifth inning before Rizzo's leadoff homer. It was the only hit and run Chacin gave up in 5 2/3 innings. He walked two and struck out three. Arcia scored twice and Yelich ran his batting average to .326 for the Brewers, who won their first NL Central title since 2011.

Rizzo's homer was the only extra-base hit for the Cubs, who were lost for just the second time in their past six games. Lester (18-6, 3.32 ERA) was 4-1 with a 1.52 ERA in September. He is 9-7 with a 2.55 ERA in 25 postseason appearances (21 starts).

Freeland (17-7, 2.85 ERA) also finished the season hot, with 11 consecutive quality starts. He has no post-season experience. Earlier, Walker Buehler dominated over 6 2/3 innings, while Cody Bellinger and Max Muncy hit home runs, as the Los Angeles Dodgers won their sixth consecutive division title with a 5-2 victory over the visiting Colorado Rockies on Monday in a National League West tiebreaker game.

Game No. 163 was scheduled for the Rockies and Dodgers after they each finished the 162-game schedule with identical 91-71 records.

As NL West champions, the Dodgers will now open the NL Division Series at home Thursday against the Atlanta Braves. The Rockies will travel to Chicago to play in the NL wild-card game Tuesday against the Cubs. The Dodgers became the first team to win six consecutive division titles since the New York Yankees won nine consecutive American League East titles from 1998-2006. The Dodgers had never won more than two consecutive division titles before the current run.

Buehler not only allowed just one hit, he had a hit of his own at the plate and even collected his first career RBI on his single in the sixth inning. The right-hander walked three with three strikeouts.

Buehler (8-5) did not give up a hit until Charlie Blackmon singled with one out in the sixth inning. The rookie finished the season with a 2.15 ERA against the Rockies over 37 2/3 innings this season and a 2.62 ERA overall in 137 1/3 innings.

Bellinger got the Dodgers' offense going with a two-



CHICAGO: Orlando Arcia #3 of the Milwaukee Brewers turns a double play over Kris Bryant #17 of the Chicago Cubs in the 2nd inning during the National League Tiebreaker Game at Wrigley Field on Monday in Chicago, Illinois. — AFP

run home run in the fourth inning, his 25th of the season. Muncy followed in the fifth inning with his own two-run home run, his 35th of the season. The Dodgers finished the season with an NL-leading 235 home runs.

Nolan Arenado and Trevor Story hit ninth-inning home runs for the Rockies off Dodgers closer Kenley Jansen. It was Arenado's NL-leading 38th, while Story hit his 37th.

Rockies starter German Marquez (14-11) gave up four runs (two earned) on five hits over 4 2/3 innings

with two walks and nine strikeouts. The right-hander finished the regular season with at least nine strikeouts in seven of his final eight starts and had 230 strikeouts on the season, fourth most in the NL.

The Dodgers won their fifth consecutive game against the Rockies going back to Sept. 9 and won the season series 13-7. The Dodgers closed out the season with 25 victories in their last 35 games. Despite the loss, the Rockies closed out the season by winning nine of their last 11 games. — Reuters

New Kangaroos skipper suspended after drink-driving charge

SYDNEY: New Kangaroos skipper Greg Inglis has been suspended for two games after being caught drink driving just hours after his appointment, the National Rugby League said yesterday. Inglis, 31, was charged with drink driving and speeding on Monday, shortly after he was handed the captaincy over main rival Boyd Cordner. The suspension means he will miss the Kangaroos' matches against New Zealand and Tonga later this month. "Australian coach Mal Meninga and NRL CEO Todd Greenberg agreed on the sanction," the NRL said in a statement.

"They said it was important to uphold the principles of the RISE values (respect, inspire, selfless, excellence), adopted by the Kangaroos." The statement said that the Queenslanders had accepted their decision.

The longer-term future of Inglis as skipper remains uncertain, with NRL.com reporting that the NRL Integrity Unit will investigate before a decision is made. Inglis earlier yesterday acknowledged he made "a stupid mistake" but refused to stand down from the cap-

taincy, saying it was up to the NRL to decide if he can retain the armband. "We'll just wait and see what the NRL decide, it's out of my hands now," Inglis told reporters in Sydney. "But it's still something that I'd really love, to be Australian captain. Obviously we have standards there... so it's disappointing from my end."

Inglis was pulled over for speeding in a black Mercedes on Monday afternoon near Lithgow, west of Sydney, and failed a breath test. The South Sydney Rabbitohs star had been attending an indigenous sports carnival and said he mistakenly felt he was under the limit and able to drive.

STAND DOWN CALLS

He is set to appear in Lithgow Local Court on November 22. "I don't think I've let my country down but I have let a lot of people down because of where I stand in the game as a proud indigenous role model," he said. "I think I've let a lot of kids down, a lot of people down in the sense of that community." Inglis said he believed he still deserved the captaincy and expected the matter to be dealt with by late Wednesday.

"In 13 years I haven't had any charges laid against me or been involved in any incidents at all, so hopefully we'll wait and see," he said. The South Sydney captain claimed to have the full support of the Kangaroos players. However, Test selector Laurie Daley earlier said Inglis's position as skipper was untenable and called for him to step down. Daley, himself a former Test captain, said Meninga had previously taken a hard line on player misbehaviour and could not let a drink driving offence slide. "I don't think you can have the Australian captain



SYDNEY: Newly appointed Australian rugby league skipper Greg Inglis attends a press conference in Sydney yesterday. New Kangaroos skipper Greg Inglis apologized after being caught drink driving just hours after his appointment but refused to stand down from the role. — AFP

going DUI (driving under the influence)," he told commercial radio. "I'm pretty sure Greg and Mal will come to the decision that he needs to step down as captain of his country. He's let himself down. He's let the game down and he'll pay a massive price for that."

Inglis checked into a rehabilitation centre last year to deal with depression and other mental issues but said the latest incident was unrelated. "This has got nothing to do with my mental health, this had got everything to do with me making one of those stupid mistakes that I shouldn't have done," he added. — AFP

Dakar Rally trio line up for all-new X-raid MINI JCW Team

PERU: Rally legends Despres, Peterhansel and Sainz excited for new challenge in Peru. Dakar Rally legends Cyril Despres, Stéphane Peterhansel and Carlos Sainz will line up in the 2019 edition for the all-new X-raid MINI JCW Team. Here is all you need to know: The former Team Peugeot Total drivers have accrued an astonishing 20 Dakar victories between them on four and two wheels since Peterhansel's first in 1991.

Sainz won the second of his two titles this year in South America with all three drivers switching from Team Peugeot Total to race a MINI John Cooper Works Buggy. The 2019 edition will see the trio race the rear-wheel drive car that has a top speed of 190kph and has been tested by X-raid's seasoned mechanics and engineers.

The off-road machine will be put through its paces by Despres and Sainz at the six-stage Rallye du Maroc starting on October 4 over the arduous Morocco dunes. Spaniard Sainz, who will return next January with trusty co-driver Lucas Cruz, said: "There are things you can only learn about a car during race, so let's see how we perform here. I'm convinced we'll learn a lot at Rally du Maroc and second to that we'll try to win. It's a perfect opportunity for us."

Despres, who already has five Dakar bike titles, will be looking to earn his maiden car victory after impressing with two Silk Way Rally wins. The Frenchman, who travels to Peru with co-driver Jean-Paul Cottret, added: "It's a huge benefit to be in this new MINI team with Stéphane and Carlos. In my experience the best teachers are those who have the most experience to share." Peterhansel's seven Dakar car wins make him the joint-most successful competitor in a single category alongside Vladimir Chagin's truck heroics for Kamaz. The Frenchman, who also has a staggering six bike wins, declared: "There is more power there than before. The shock absorbers have also had a big upgrade. The third aspect to mention is a reduction of weight, this has made the buggy faster." — Reuters



Cyril Despres

Gulf Bank 642 marathon offers companies discounted rates

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank is offering companies an exclusive discount on registration fees for Kuwait's most exciting event of the year, Gulf Bank 642 Marathon.

This year's fourth Gulf Bank 642 Marathon will take place on 17 November 2018 and has already received an overwhelming response from the public. The marathon, which serves as a qualifying race for international marathons, has four categories which are open to runners of all ages and abilities. From the 5K Family Fun Walk/Run and the 10K Souq Run to the more advanced 21K Half Marathon and Kuwait's only 42K Full Marathon. The route starts and ends at Souq Sharq, with runners making their way along the Gulf Road, past Kuwaiti landmarks such as Souk Al Mubarakiya, Al Seif Palace and Kuwait Towers.

Mr. Ahmad Al Amir, Assistant General Manager for External Communications at Gulf Bank commented: "Group activities foster a sense of goodwill within a team, and last year's event witnessed strong participation from a number of companies. We encourage individuals to have a healthy work-life balance and we look forward to welcoming more teams to this year's race."

Corporate rates are available until 15 October. Teams made up of a minimum of 40 persons will



receive a discount of 10%, while teams of 100 persons or more will receive a 20% discount. For more information regarding group registrations, contact cs@provision.com or call +965 9880 0003.

Ahmed Al Huzami, CEO of Pro-Vision Sport Management, said: "The race is a great team-building activity for employees, we're excited to see all the teams compete at this year's marathon. Corporate

teams will see their logo's on-site and, for the larger company teams, they will be featured on our social channels. Last year's marathon was filled with excitement and camaraderie, and we look forward to seeing the same on 17 November." For individual registrations and event information, please visit www.gulfbank642marathon.com or access the Instagram account @GulfBank642.

Sports

Kansas City Chiefs rally past Denver Broncos, stay unbeaten

Bell targets bye to join Steelers

KANSAS: Kansas City quarterback Patrick Mahomes engineered two fourth-quarter touchdown drives Monday, passing for 304 yards as the Chiefs outlasted the host Denver Broncos 27-23. With the Chiefs trailing 23-13, their flashy first-year starter sparked his first comeback as a pro. Kansas City went in front when running back Kareem Hunt crashed in for a 4-yard touchdown with 1:39 remaining.

Although he started slowly, Mahomes completed 28 of 45 passes while adding an 8-yard touchdown rush. The victory was the sixth straight in the series for the Chiefs (4-0), who opened a two-game lead in the AFC West while posting their 18th win in their past 19 matchups against division rivals.

Before the game-winning, 60-yard drive, Mahomes completed 8 of 10 passes to drive the Chiefs 75 yards, including a 2-yard touchdown pass to tight end Travis Kelce with 6:27 left. That march brought Kansas City within 23-20.

Kelce finished with 78 yards on seven catches. Hunt added 121 yards on 19 carries. On the decisive drive, the Chiefs faced second-and-30, yet Mahomes responded with a 23-yard pass to Demarcus Robinson and a 35-yarder to Demetrius Harris to get the ball to the Denver 11. Rookie running backs Phillip Lindsay and Royce Freeman rushed for 69 and 67 yards, respectively, to ignite the upset bid for Denver (2-2). Quarterback Case Keenum drove the Broncos to the Chiefs 28-yard line in the closing seconds, but an attempted catch-and-lateral on fourth down was ruled as an incomplete pass. Kansas City then took possession with 12 seconds remaining.

Keenum finished 21 of 33 for 245 yards with one interception. After the Chiefs tied the score at 13 with a 21-yard field goal by Harrison Butker in the third quarter, they could not capitalize on an interception by Eric Murray, stalling on downs.

That gave the Broncos a lift as they marched 80 yards and made it 20-13 on a 1-yard plunge by Lindsay with 2:05 left in the third quarter. Denver drove 60 yards in just more than two minutes for a 34-yard field

goal by Brandon McManus as time expired in the first half. The boot gave the Broncos a 13-10 halftime lead. Kansas City managed one first-half TD drive, going 89 yards, capped by Mahomes' TD run. A Freeman 14-yard run produced the game's first touchdown, tying the score 10-10 in the middle of the second quarter.

The Pittsburgh Steelers might have a timeline for the return of star running back Le'Veon Bell. Bell told ESPN that he intends to end his holdout at some point to play this season, his sixth in the NFL, all with the Steelers. A source told ESPN that Bell is targeting a return during Pittsburgh's bye, which is Week 7, the weekend of Oct. 21.

In that scenario, he could be back in action Oct. 28 for a home game against the Cleveland Browns. The Steelers are off to a 1-2-1 start this season, with the defense struggling and the offense mostly relying on the passing game. During the offseason, they placed the franchise tag on Bell for the second consecutive season, but the running back wants a multiyear contract with more money guaranteed, so he has not signed his franchise contract tender.

Without an agreement in place, the Steelers haven't been able to trade Bell either, despite reports that they have made him available. "It sucks having to sit out football," Bell told ESPN by telephone from South Florida on Monday, where he says he has been keeping in shape and could play "tomorrow."

"I want to play. I want to win games and the play-offs," Bell said. Over the summer, the Steelers reportedly offered Bell a five-year, \$70 million contract, but Bell balked because only \$17 million was guaranteed. Big-name running backs Todd Gurley and David Johnson, who signed new contracts, received at least double that much money guaranteed.

"I know the guaranteed money will be there (in March)," Bell said. "If a team wanted to, they could definitely do what they needed to do to make me happy and satisfied." Adisa Bakari, Bell's agent, has openly worried that the Steelers, not expecting to be able to keep Bell beyond this season, would overuse him while



DENVER: Quarterback Patrick Mahomes #15 of the Kansas City Chiefs escapes a tackle attempt by defensive end Derek Wolfe #95 of the Denver Broncos in the second quarter of a game at Broncos Stadium at Mile High on Monday in Denver, Colorado. — AFP

they had him this season.

Bell led the NFL with 321 rushes and 406 touches a season ago. Bell, who has 5,336 rushing yards and 35 touchdowns plus 2,660 receiving yards and seven scores in 62 games, all as the starter, at one point said he would join the team in time for the season opener. However, a Week 7 return still would get him enough service time to reach free agency in 2019.

The Oct. 28 game against Cleveland also occurs two

days before the NFL trade deadline. Bell's decision to wait another few weeks might have been influenced by the Sunday injury to Seattle Seahawks safety Earl Thomas.

Thomas held out in training camp for a multiyear contract and more guaranteed money and security, but he reported once the season started. He sustained a lower left leg fracture in the fourth quarter on Sunday against the Arizona Cardinals. — Reuters

Fury and Wilder crank up the hype as Joshua bides his time

LONDON: "My wife pushes harder than that you little bitch". It was not exactly akin to Muhammad Ali proclaiming "float like a butterfly sting like a bee, your hands can't hit what your eyes can't see".

But the way British heavyweight Tyson Fury responded to being shoved by Deontay Wilder after goading the World Boxing Council champion during a pre-fight news conference in London on Monday, was familiar enough. So too the sight of both boxers squaring up, while a much shorter man-in this case veteran promoter Frank Warren tried to keep them apart while muttering "save it for December 1", the date of Wilder and Fury's fight at Los Angeles' Staples Center.

Almost on cue, two security men made a token intervention as Fury and Wilder avoided coming to blows. If it was good 'theatre' for the watching television audience, there was certainly nothing new about the script.

And yet seeing the 6ft 9in Fury confront the 6ft 7in Wilder was to be reminded of the raw appeal of many a heavyweight contest-two colossal men each with the ability to inflict huge damage upon one another.

It was in sharp contrast to the mutual respect shown by Britain's reigning world heavyweight champion Anthony

Joshua and Alexander Povetkin ahead of their recent bout at Wembley which ended with the Russian suffering a brutal seventh-round stoppage defeat.

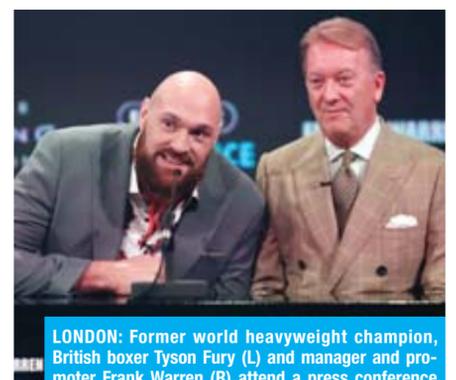
The game Povetkin was outmatched physically, giving away more than two stone in weight and several inches in height. Fury is the former International Boxing Federation, World Boxing Association and World Boxing Organisation champion-belts now held by Joshua. The 30-year-old Fury remains undefeated in 27 fights and still regards himself as the "lineal champion" because he never lost his titles in the ring but rather, for a variety of reasons, during a two-and-a-half-year absence following his shock win over former champion Wladimir Klitschko in November 2015. Fury, who struggled with mental health issues, returned with a farcical stoppage of Sefer Seferi in Manchester in June before beating Francesco Pianeta in August. Wilder has 39 knockouts in 40 fights and, amid all the jibes, Fury said: "I think it's going to be quite hard because he's a unique fighter. There's not going to be too many people like Deontay Wilder about."

"But then again he's got the same problem with me," he added before the old routine resurfaced. "I see a man, a skinny little man with two spaghetti arms and two spaghetti legs and when I bang him on the chin he's going to do a little spaghetti dance."

But an unimpressed Wilder said: "He thinks that by talking like he did with Klitschko, and getting inside his head, it's going to be the same thing, but I'm a different person. "You can't do that with me."

Joshua's management have already announced his next fight will be at Wembley on April 13. They want him to face Wilder, as a unification bout would be a huge money-spinner. That depends, however, on Wilder beating Fury, with the American's contract likely to contain a re-match clause in the event of a defeat.

Traditionally, overseas heavyweights have had to fight



LONDON: Former world heavyweight champion, British boxer Tyson Fury (L) and manager and promoter Frank Warren (R) attend a press conference in London ahead of his scheduled world heavyweight title fight against WBC champion, US boxer Deontay Wilder, on December 1. — AFP

in the United States if they wanted to make 'big money' and gain professional respect. But whereas the Staples Center holds 21,000, Wembley has a capacity of 90,000. That gives Joshua's team a strong negotiating position for all US promoter Shelly Finkel, addressing Fury on Monday, said: "We believe you are the best out there. We have nothing but respect because your countryman didn't step up. He was presented with a fortune." But Joshua, whose promoter Eddie Hearn is the son of Barry Hearn, long a rival of Warren, can wait for Wilder or Fury knowing he can sell-out Wembley. "If I were you, Joshua, I'd avoid me," Fury told his compatriot recently.— AFP

West Indies tests chance for India to fix opening woes

MUMBAI: India have the perfect opportunity to find a solution to their top-order batting woes before their year-end series in Australia when the world's top-ranked side host two tests against lowly West Indies, starting tomorrow.

Murali Vijay and Shikhar Dhawan opened for India in the first match of the recent five-test series in England but the duo were dropped following modest returns during the 4-1 defeat. Lokesh Rahul, the third opener in England, survived the axe after posting a 149 in the final test at the Oval and will walk out to face the new ball against West Indies in the company of either Mayank Agarwal or Prithvi Shaw, who are both uncapped.

Agarwal, 27, was rewarded for a 2017-18 season in which he scored heavily across formats while the 18-year-old Shaw has already been tipped to have a bright future in national colours. Agarwal and Shaw will be keen to make the most of their chances and book their place for India's four-test series in Australia, though Vijay has responded to being dropped by making a hundred and three half-centuries in his last five innings for Essex in the County Championship.

The trip to Australia will be the last chance in 2018 for Virat Kohli's men to show they can match their formidable home form with success abroad and show the world why they are the world's top-ranked test side. India, who last lost a Test series at home in late 2012 against England, started the year with a 2-1 loss to South Africa but then thrashed debutants Afghanistan at home in a one-off test before flying to England. Despite losing all-rounder Hardik Pandya and pace bowler Ishant Sharma to injury, India have opted to rest pace duo Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar for the West Indies Tests. The visiting batsmen will still have to contend with India's lethal spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja however, with left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav ready to chip in if pressed into action as the third slow-bowling option.

West Indies arrive in India on the back of strong Test form at home. They won both Tests against Bangladesh and drew 1-1 against Sri Lanka in a three-test series.

However, previous form against India in the five-day format offers little optimism. West Indies' last test win against them was in May 2002 in Kingston, while they have not won in India since a 243-run triumph in 1994. Despite the task facing his side, West Indies captain Jason Holder was upbeat. "It's been good. Our last two-test series were very good," Holder told reporters on the team's arrival in India. "I don't want to dwell too much in the past ... we have a big series ahead of us, a big winter to be precise. So the focus is on that and to play good cricket."

The Caribbean side also suffered a jolt in the buildup to the tour when Australian Stuart Law announced he would be stepping down as head coach following the tours of India and Bangladesh to take up a role at Middlesex in England. —Reuters



Under-17



Under-19

ICSK creates history with twin victory: U-17 and U-19

KUWAIT: ICSK has always been remarkably supportive in the field of sports. It forms an integral part of the education process. The students of ICSK are always encouraged to take part in various sports activities, and football is definitely one of them. For years, ICSK has been champions in football, and this year was no different, but better!

Days upon days of grueling training sessions and unbreakable passion, honed the skills of the footballers of ICSK. Each player was in his best form, and it's all thanks to the patient and strict training from the expert coaches and the imperishable will power of the young footballers. For the last month, the players along with their coach worked intensely in different grounds, enduring the scorching heat and unstable climate, with just one goal in mind, that of victory.

Aftaab Aboubecker Kallan, the captain (U-19) is praised as the wonder boy of Kuwait, and he is every bit deserving of the title. Under his captainship, his team had won the tournament the previous year as well. He is a star among the young players, a born footballer who is dedicated and committed to his passion. His finesse on the playground is matchlessly eminent and peerless.

The 20th CBSE Kuwait Cluster Football Tournament was conducted from 25th to 30th September 2018, at Bayan Football Ground. Under the exemplary captainship of Aftaab Kallan (U-19) and Mohammed Abdul Rahim Kolochi (U-17) and the adept training of their coach, Thulasidas, the young tigers of ICSK defeated the teams of ICS in both categories, creating history, becoming the champions of Kuwait. The scores of the tournament are as follows:

Category - Under 19: score 4-3

Category - Under 17: score 1-0.

The tigers undoubtedly earned their stripes!

The names of the members of each group are mentioned below:

Category - Under 17:

Mohammed Abdul Rahim Kolochi (captain), Aaron D'souza, Krishna Karthik, Fionn Firoz, J.A Shehan Sumudhitha, Vic Melloy D'souza, Saqib Ahmed, Ervin

Castelino, Derin Stephen, Mohammed Faaiz, Benin Gibi Varghese, Jeremiah Mathew, Ralph Ferraro, Riyaan Jamaludhin, Mohammed Fasil, Mohammed Marzook. And in Category - Under 19:

Aftaab Aboubecker Kallan (captain), Sharvan Ravi, Favian Shaun Mendonca, Mohammed Abdul Salam, Azam Kunchammed, Ayman Nayem, Aaron Niju John, Arnold Andrade, Mohammed Fasil, Mishal Alam, Noel George Kothel, Jeffin Job, Larson Gomes, Navin Zachariah, Sayeed Abdulla, Fahad Mohammed. Each player showcased their finesse on the playground without any inhibitions. They made the ICSK family proud beyond the shadow of a doubt. The team will be participating in a national tournament in Haryana from 10th to 14th October, 2018. Let's wish them all the best. There's no room for doubt when it comes to the quality of the performance of the ICSK football team. They are literally the best!

Sports help to build character and teach the importance of discipline in life. It inculcates a respect for rules and allows the participants to learn the value of self-control. It gives the players an opportunity to know and test themselves, stripping away their personality, letting the white bone of character shine through. It sparks the beginning of something beautiful. It is a journey of self-discovery and discipline, of pain and gain, victory and failure.

Sports

Barca clash has special meaning for Spurs boss Pochettino

Tottenham are capable of toppling Barca

LONDON: In dire need of a famous victor to revive his team's Champions League campaign, Mauricio Pochettino will draw on the memory of the most cherished success of his career when Tottenham host Barcelona today.

Pochettino's side can ill afford a damaging defeat against the Spanish champions after conceding two late goals to lose their opening Group B match 2-1 at Inter Milan. A loss against Lionel Messi and company at Wembley would leave Tottenham facing a tough task qualifying for the knockout stages in their remaining four games.

It is a perilous situation that leads Tottenham boss Pochettino to recall the day his Espanyol team upset the odds in the Barcelona derby to start his journey to managerial stardom. Pochettino's three years in charge of Espanyol came after he spent nine years with the club, in two spells as a player.

That time in the trenches made Pochettino a favourite son of Espanyol's fans, giving the Argentine a special affinity for the rivalry with Barca. Given Barcelona's history and financial might in contrast to the less glamorous Espanyol, it is little surprise Pochettino found it tough to get the better of the superpower from the other side of town.

In nine local derbies against Barca, Pochettino's team managed only one win, with five defeats and three draws. But that lone success remains a touchstone moment for Pochettino. Back in February 2009, Pochettino secured the first win of his managerial career in the most unlikely circumstances as lowly Espanyol stunned Pep Guardiola's star-studded Barca in the Camp Nou.

It was Espanyol's first victory at the home of their rivals for 27 years and, even now, Pochettino can't quite believe it happened. "I don't know how we did it. All the people were saying Espanyol were dead and had no

chance," he said. "It was a special victory and an unbelievable memory."

Pochettino's special relationship with Espanyol has seen him refuse to contemplate the possibility of ever managing Barcelona, even though it would rank as a step up from Tottenham. The 46-year-old believes taking charge at the Camp Nou would be a betrayal of the deep roots he planted during his time in Catalonia.

"It motivates me being a periquito (Espanyol's nickname) and living so many years in Barcelona," he said in quotes reported by Marca this week. "Going back to the city is always nice and playing against Barcelona, too. It is always motivating."

Asked whether it is certain that he will never manage Barca, he replied: "It's something that is more than understood. I have a lot of friends in Barcelona, who are from the Blaugrana and for whom I have enormous respect, but my path, and that of Barcelona, are different, opposite directions, and coaching there would be impossible." Having enjoyed an impressive Champions League group stage win over Real Madrid last year, Pochettino knows Tottenham are capable of toppling Barca as well.

Crucially, they go into the game with Harry Kane back in form after the England striker shrugged off his early-season lethargy to net twice in Saturday's 2-0 win at Huddersfield.

Tottenham haven't been at their best so far this term, but neither have Barca, with Ernesto Valverde's side failing to win any of their last three league games.

They did start their European challenge with a 4-0 drubbing of PSV Eindhoven however and Pochettino admits the long ball style played by Huddersfield at the weekend wasn't the best preparation for facing smooth-passing Barca.

"We are the third or the second team in the Premier League with most possession, but this was a different



LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur's South Korean striker Son Heung-Min (2R) takes part in a training session at Tottenham Hotspur's Enfield Training Centre, north London, yesterday on the eve of their UEFA Champions League Group B football match against Barcelona. —AFP

game," Pochettino said. "It was a game where the ball was more in the air than on the grass. I think if you were here you realised it was a massive fight between

both teams. "We'll see what happens today. I'm sure it will be a completely different game than it was at Huddersfield!" —AFP

Ronaldo denies 'fake news' rape claim as police reopen inquiry

LOS ANGELES: Police said Monday they had reopened an investigation into a rape accusation made by a former model who says soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo attacked her in his Las Vegas hotel penthouse suite in 2009.

Ronaldo, who now plays for Juventus in Italy's Serie A, rejected the charges as "fake news" during a live chat on Instagram. "What they said today, fake-fake news," the 33-year-old star of the Portuguese national team said in a post that was later deleted.

Kathryn Mayorga, 34, of Las Vegas, accused Ronaldo, in a 32-page complaint filed last month with a district court in Nevada, of raping her on June 13, 2009. The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department confirmed in a statement that didn't name the superstar it had responded to a call of a sexual assault on that date.

"At the time the report was taken, the victim did not provide detectives with the location of the incident or suspect description. A medical exam was conducted," it said. "As of September 2018, the case has been reopened and our detectives are following up on information being provided by the victim."

Mayorga alleges in the lawsuit that she was pressured into signing a nondisclosure agreement to keep the alleged rape secret and is seeking no less than \$200,000 in penalties and damages. The complaint was first reported by the German magazine Der Spiegel. Lawyers for Ronaldo have reportedly threatened to sue the magazine over the story.

In the suit, Mayorga said she met Ronaldo, who was then 24 years old, on the evening of June 12,

2009 at the Rain Nightclub in the Palms Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. It said she accepted an invitation to join Ronaldo and others in his penthouse suite to "enjoy the view of the Las Vegas strip."

She was invited to join guests in a hot tub but she declined because she did not have a bathing suit, the complaint said. Ronaldo offered her clothing and then followed her into a bathroom where she was going to change clothes, it said.

"When Cristiano Ronaldo completed the sexual assault of the plaintiff, he allowed her to leave the bedroom stating he was sorry, he was usually a gentleman," it said. The lawsuit said Mayorga reported the alleged assault to the Las Vegas police the same day and underwent an examination at a local hospital.

It said the assault had left her with "severe emotional and bodily injuries including but not limited to concussions, posttraumatic stress disorder and major depression." She developed an alcohol problem and was suicidal, according to court documents.

Under pressure from Ronaldo's "fixers," Mayorga settled the case "in exchange for a payment of \$375,000 and non-disclosure of the sexual assault," the lawsuit said. It claimed the agreement should be voided because she was "incompetent and lacked the mental capacity to participate in negotiations and settlement of her claims due to the injuries suffered during the initial sexual assault."

The suit also called for the agreement to be dismissed because it amounted to concealment of a crime for which there is no statute of limitations. The unidentified "fixers" were named as co-defendants in the lawsuit, which also accuses the Juventus forward of violating the 2010 nondisclosure agreement.

In an interview with Der Spiegel, Mayorga, who has a degree in journalism from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, said she was inspired to come forward in part by the #MeToo movement that has exposed the sexual abuse of women by powerful men.

Ronaldo is a five-time winner of FIFA's men's player of the year award. The Portuguese striker,

of this weighing on his shoulders. For most players, four Champions League titles is unthinkable but for Messi, playing through this era of Barcelona, it feels light. "It's time we won the Champions League," Messi told Catalunya Radio last month. The club feel it too. Winning La Liga has become more routine than remarkable. Even last season's double barely laid a finger on the disappointment of a third straight quarter-final exit, following a collapse at Roma when the Italian side overturned Barca's 4-1 first leg lead. Ernesto Valverde bore the brunt of the criticism, the most popular slight being that he exhausted the players in a league that had long been won. The other, always lurking, was that he had relied too much on Messi.

Both have bubbled ever since and then burst to the surface last week when Barca, with key players rested, failed to record a win in three consecutive league games. They drew at home to Girona and lost to bottom club Leganes. Valverde persisted, and it was Messi's turn on the bench against Athletic Bilbao.

He came on, and set up the equaliser, but that only gave greater weight to the argument Barcelona cannot do without him. "LaMessidependencia," ("the Messi dependence") Madrid daily AS termed it on Monday, before listing all the relevant statistics.

But the problem is perhaps less how to cope without Messi than how to overcome deficiencies elsewhere in the team. Barca's defence, the platform of their domestic success last season, is shaking, with fingers pointing at Gerard Pique whose mistakes have become too frequent to be ignored.

The midfield, without Andres Iniesta, lacks thrust while new signings Arturo Vidal, Clement Lenglet and Malcom are still bedding in. As for Messi, pressure is nothing new. Argentina proved at the World Cup that he cannot carry a poor team, but he can certainly inspire a



Cristiano Ronaldo

who is a married father of four, left Real Madrid this year to join Juventus for 100 million euros (\$117 million).

Ronaldo won two La Liga titles and four Champions League crowns with Real after joining from Manchester United in 2009 for a then world-record fee of £80 million (\$94 million). —AFP



Lionel Messi

good one. In 2011, they relied on him too. "We have great players but without him we would not be able to play the way we do," Pep Guardiola said, as his team celebrated on the Wembley turf. "We have hard work, talent and tactics that help, but Messi is unique, irreplaceable. He gives us that something extra." —AFP

Live		Matches on TV
		(Local Timings)
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE		
Paris Saint-Germain v Crvena Zvezda	beIN SPORTS HD 1	19:55
Lokomotiv Moscow v Schalke 04	beIN SPORTS HD 4	19:55
Atletico de Madrid v Club Brugge KV	beIN SPORTS HD 3	22:00
Borussia Dortmund v AS Monaco FC	beIN SPORTS HD 7	22:00
Tottenham Hotspur v FC Barcelona	beIN SPORTS HD 1	22:00
PSV Eindhoven v Internazionale Milano	beIN SPORTS HD 4	22:00
SSC Napoli v Liverpool	beIN SPORTS HD 5	22:00
FC Porto v Galatasaray Spor Kulübü	beIN SPORTS HD 6	23:00

Reborn Sturridge an extra weapon in Liverpool's armoury

LONDON: It was a sight that just a few months ago would have been unthinkable—Liverpool a goal down in a big game, and Mohamed Salah hauled off by Jurgen Klopp.

Klopp got the goal he craved for a 1-1 draw at Chelsea on Saturday that preserved Liverpool's unbeaten Premier League start, not via Salah's immediate replacement Xherdan Shaqiri, but another late substitute, Daniel Sturridge.

A reborn Sturridge is now Liverpool's joint top scorer so far this season with four goals despite remaining behind Salah, Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane in Klopp's pecking order. That he has remained there to be counted on at all, though, is a huge boost to Klopp's quest to both go one step further in the Champions League this season and deliver a first-ever Premier League title, 29 years after they last won the English top flight.

"Thank God he is here," said Klopp after Sturridge's sensational dipping effort from outside the box secured a point at Stamford Bridge. "It would be really unlucky for both sides if he was not. He is in the best shape since we've worked together." Sturridge has endured an injury-ravaged three years since Klopp took charge.

Farmed out to West Brom in January in a bid to refine his form and fitness, Sturridge's hamstring went again in his third game and he never scored for the Baggies as they were relegated.

"He was always a bit unlucky with injuries and stuff like that. That's how it is, timing in life is pretty important," added Klopp. "Now, the timing is perfect. We need him desperately and he is fit."

Sturridge's return further strengthens a squad already bolstered by the summer signings of Shaqiri, Naby Keita and Fabinho. That contrasts starkly with the limited options available to Klopp when Salah went off injured just 30 minutes into last season's Champions League final.

"We have a great squad, world-class players, and he's one of them," said Virgil van Dijk, whose own £75 million (\$98 million) move from Southampton in January has transformed Liverpool's defence.

"Before I arrived at Liverpool, I said he was one of the best strikers in the league and he shows it when he's fit."

"I know what he's capable of, how good he can be and when he's at his best by playing against him and seeing him in training with the hard work that he puts in and the positivity he brings."

Sturridge also played his part in getting his side's Champions League campaign off on the right foot with the opening goal during a thrilling 3-2 win over Paris Saint-Germain two weeks ago. —AFP

Messi back at Wembley looking to make up for lost time in Europe

BARCELONA: As Lionel Messi lay on the Wembley grass, his left hand grasping the Champions League trophy and his right pumping the air, he must have thought there would be many more European glory nights to come.

It was 2011 and Barca had beaten Manchester United 3-1. "No one has given us a hiding like that," Alex Ferguson said. They were so much better than the rest that many predicted a decade of European dominance after that mesmerising display. "We have a challenge with Barcelona, we all do," Ferguson said.

Messi had scored his side's second. Barcelona bounced in front of the photographers, the club's name carved into the trophy for a fourth time. For the 23-year-old Messi at the front, it was a third Champions League triumph in six years.

But there has been only one in the seven seasons since, when Luis Enrique led his 2015 Barca to a brilliant treble. To make matters worse, arch-rivals Real Madrid have been crowned European champions four times and three times in a row since 2016.

"They have made history and it's a thorn in our side," Luis Suarez said. Messi returns to Wembley to face Tottenham on Wednesday with happy memories but all

25 New Kangaroos skipper suspended after drink-driving charge

26 Fury and Wilder crank up the hype as Joshua bides his time

27 Ronaldo denies 'fake news' rape claim as police reopen inquiry



Juventus thrash Young Boys 3-0

Dybala flourishes with hat-trick in Ronaldo's absence



TURIN: Juventus' Italian forward Moise Kean (R) and Young Boys' Swiss midfielder Leonardo Bertone go for the ball during the UEFA Champions League group H football match between Juventus and Young Boys yesterday at the Juventus stadium in Turin. — AFP

TURIN: Juventus playmaker Paulo Dybala flourished in the absence of suspended Cristiano Ronaldo yesterday, scoring a hat-trick to give the Serie A champions a 3-0 win over Young Boys in their Champions League match.

Ronaldo, sent off in last month's 2-0 win over Valencia, missed his first game since joining the Turin club in July but Juventus made light of his absence as they cantered to their ninth straight win of the season in all competitions.

The win leaves them with six points in Group H while group stage debutants Young Boys have yet to pick up a point or score a goal after losing both games 3-0 — a stark contrast to their Swiss league record of nine straight wins.

Juve went ahead after five minutes with the simplest of goals. Defender Leonardo Bonucci sent a long ball looping over a flat Young Boys defence and Dybala timed his run perfectly to volley gently past David von

Ballmoos. Young Boys bravely went forward but looked vulnerable every time Juventus attacked and Dybala missed a chance to extend their lead by shooting weakly at von Ballmoos.

But the Argentine, who has struggled in Serie A, struck again in the 33rd minute by tucking in the rebound after von Ballmoos could only parry Blaise Matuidi's shot from the edge of the penalty area.

Dybala hit the inside of the post after the restart and

although Young Boys then enjoyed another good spell, they were caught out again in the 69th minute.

Juan Cuadrado was released on the right and his ball into the area was touched in by Dybala who became the fourth Juventus player to score a Champions League hat-trick. Young Boys finished with 10 men after defender Mohamed Ali Camara was sent off in the 78th minute after picking up two yellow cards in three minutes. —Reuters

Late Silva winner gets Man City back on track in Europe

SINSHEIM: A late David Silva goal sealed Manchester City's 2-1 victory at Hoffenheim yesterday as Pep Guardiola's side got their Champions League campaign back on track in Germany.

After suffering a shock 2-1 defeat at home to Lyon a fortnight ago, the Premier League champions badly needed the three points to move off the bottom of Group F. Silva poached the winner on 87 minutes when he reacted quickest to nick the ball off Hoffenheim defender Stefan Posch on the penalty spot and fire home.

The away win was thoroughly deserved as City were finally rewarded for their patience after dominating a determined Hoffenheim

defence for long spells. However, City got off to a disastrous start at the Rhein-Neckar Arena as Hoffenheim shocked the English side by taking the lead after just 44 seconds.

When central midfielder Kerem Demirbay spotted a hole in the City defence, his pass put Ishak Belfodil clear to fire past goalkeeper Ederson to the delight of the home fans. City hit back almost immediately when Silva's pass split the Hoffenheim defence and found Leroy Sane who put Aguerro into space to tap home the equaliser on eight minutes.

From that point on, City were repeatedly thwarted in their efforts to grab a second goal against a dogged Hoffenheim side until Silva struck. The Germans had a huge let-off on 14 minutes when England's Raheem Sterling held off his marker and dribbled across goal, but his final shot went wide.

City threatened again on 32 minutes when Sane managed to get the ball away to Aguerro again, but he could only fire over. The Argentinian had a total of seven chances, five in the first-half alone, and moments later Hoffenheim goalkeeper Oliver Baumann had to palm yet another Aguerro shot over the crossbar. Somehow, it

remained 1-1 at the break as repeated City chances went begging.

Hoffenheim started the second half just as they had the first — at full throttle. Belfodil again found space in the City defence, but fired wide as did midfielder Florian Grillitsch moments later in an explosive opening from the hosts.

City lived dangerously in chasing the elusive second goal. Ederson was caught way out of his goal by a Hoffenheim counter-attack, but the hosts failed to take advantage of the empty net.

City's growing frustrations bubbled over when left-back Kyle Walker was booked for a crunching tackle on Hoffenheim right wing Pavel Kadelabek. With 20 minutes to go, Aguerro had his head in his hands after wasting a golden chance by heading straight at Hoffenheim keeper Baumann.

Guardiola, back on the sidelines after serving a one-match ban against Lyon, leaped off the bench in fury when City were denied a penalty when Baumann brought down Sane in full flight in the area. However, Silva popped up with the winner to delight City's travelling fans. — AFP



SINSHEIM: Manchester City's Spanish midfielder David Silva scores the 2-1 during the UEFA Champions League group F football match between TSG 1899 Hoffenheim and Manchester City at the Rhein-Neckar-Arena in Sinsheim, southwestern Germany, yesterday. — AFP