



11 Boursa Kuwait granted full WEF membership



22 'Jewel of Roman Empire' faces dangers in Libya



24 Crucial foreign drugs are a rare commodity in sanctions-hit Iran



28 Neymar hat-trick inspires PSG to 6-1 Red Star rout



UN court tells US to lift Iran sanctions in blow for Trump

Tehran hails 'victory' • Washington terminates 1955 'Treaty of Amity' in response

THE HAGUE: The UN's top court ordered the United States yesterday to lift sanctions on humanitarian goods for Iran, in a stinging rebuke for the Trump administration which nonetheless made clear the decision would change nothing. Tehran hailed its "victory" after the International Court of Justice ruled that sanctions re-imposed after President Donald Trump pulled out of a nuclear deal put Iranian lives at risk. But the United States insisted it was already allowing humanitarian exemptions to sanctions and, accusing Iran of seeking a "propaganda" win, announced it was terminating a treaty on which the case was based.

The judges at the court in The Hague ruled unanimously that sanctions on some goods breached the 1955 Treaty of Amity between Iran and the United States that predates Iran's Islamic Revolution. They called on Washington to "remove by means of its choosing any impediments arising from the measures announced on 8 May to the free exportation to

Iran of medicines and medical devices, food and agricultural commodities" as well as airplane parts and services, chief judge Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf said.

The court said sanctions on goods "required for humanitarian needs... may have a serious detrimental impact on the health and lives of individuals on the territory of Iran". US sanctions also had the "potential to endanger civil aviation safety in Iran". Trump slapped a first round of sanctions on Iran in August after pulling out in May from the 2015 international deal aimed at curbing Tehran's nuclear ambitions, to the dismay of his European allies. A second round of punitive measures is due in November.

Iran dragged the United States to the ICJ in July, and during four days of hearings in late August, its lawyers accused Washington of "strangling" its economy. Foreign drugs are now a rare commodity in Iran which is also dealing with a free-falling rial currency and

price hikes. Official Iranian statements acknowledge the shortage and say imports of certain drugs are no longer subsidized. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif called the court ruling "another failure for sanctions-addicted US government and victory for rule of law". The foreign ministry said in a statement that the ruling was a "clear sign" that "Iran is in the right".

But US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo accused Iran of "abusing the ICJ for political and propaganda purposes" and noted that the court did not reject US sanctions more broadly. "The court's ruling today was a defeat for Iran. It rightly rejected all of Iran's baseless requests," Pompeo told reporters in Washington. He said that the United States was ending the 1955 friendship treaty, signed when Iran was ruled by the Western-oriented shah, prompting Zarif to slam the US as an "outlaw regime".

Continued on Page 24



WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo speaks during a press briefing at the US Department of State yesterday. — AFP

News in brief

Three held for armed robbery

KUWAIT: Three citizens were arrested over an armed robbery at Fahaheel Co-op, said security sources, noting that the three masked suspects attacked the co-op and stole some cash. One of the suspects was identified through the security cameras and an anonymous tip. He was arrested and led to his two accomplices. Security sources added that the gun used in the robbery turned out to be a toy. — Hanan Al-Saadoun

Prominent journalist 'missing'

ISTANBUL: A prominent Saudi journalist critical of Riyadh was still missing yesterday, 24 hours after he entered the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul, with his fiancée anxiously waiting for news and US officials investigating his case. Jamal Khashoggi, who writes opinion pieces for the Washington Post, has not been seen since entering the Saudi consulate building on Tuesday where he was to receive an official document for the couple's marriage. A senior Turkish official said the Saudi journalist was still being held at the consulate, which a Saudi official denied. — Agencies

10 die of MERS in Saudi Arabia

LONDON: Ten people have died among 32 infected with Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in Saudi Arabia since June in a series of clusters of the viral disease, the World Health Organization (WHO) said yesterday. The latest cases, recorded between June 1 and Sept 16, bring the global total of laboratory-confirmed MERS cases to 2,254, with 800 deaths, the United Nations agency said in a "disease outbreak" statement on its website. Among the 32 latest Saudi cases, 12 were part of "five distinct clusters", the WHO said. — Reuters

Suu Kyi stripped of honor

OTTAWA: Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi became the first person to be stripped of honorary Canadian citizenship on Tuesday over her refusal to call out atrocities by her nation's military against the Rohingya Muslim minority. The House of Commons granted the privilege to Suu Kyi in 2007, but her international reputation has since been tarnished by her refusal to call on the Burmese army to put an end to the atrocities committed against the Rohingya. Canada has granted honorary citizenship only to five other personalities, including Nelson Mandela, the Dalai Lama and Malala Yousafzai. — AFP

Houthis free Saleh sons

SANAA: Yemen's Houthi rebels yesterday announced they had released two of slain ex-president Ali Abdullah Saleh's sons, 10 months after they were captured following their father's murder. Salah and Medyen Saleh were pardoned by the rebels' supreme political council. Multiple political sources said neighboring Oman played a major role in brokering their release, which came on condition the two stepped down from Yemeni politics. Salah and Medyen were taken to Sanaa airport and were expected to leave for Jordan on a chartered UN flight. — AFP

Aston skids on market debut; Kuwaiti now a billionaire

LONDON: James Bond's favorite car-maker Aston Martin stalled yesterday after making a glitzy £4.3-billion (\$5.6-billion) debut on the London stock market. Aston, which plays a starring role in the fictional British spy's blockbuster films, turned on the glamour with its classic and modern day cars parked outside the London Stock Exchange in the heart of the City finance district and in the shadow of St Paul's Cathedral. The group said in a statement that it priced the partial initial public offering (IPO) at £19 per share for a quarter of its stock to become the only London-listed carmaker.

According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Kuwaiti engineer Najeeb Al-Humaidhi holds a stake valued at £940.2 million (\$1.22 billion) in Aston Martin following the automaker's IPO. He sold stock worth £331.6 million. Humaidhi, a civil engineer by training, is widely known in Kuwaiti business circles as a member of one of the country's oldest merchant families. The IPO gives Humaidhi and fellow Kuwaiti investors a return of more than 800 percent after they acquired a 79 percent stake from Ford Motor Co in 2007.

Humaidhi owns his shares through two wholly owned UK-based entities and through Adeem Automotive, a subsidiary of a Kuwaiti family investment house, which he shares with brother Waleed and Maryam Al-Khaled, an investor, according to Bloomberg. A graduate of Alexandria University in Egypt, Humaidhi owns an eponymous architecture and design firm that has studios in Kuwait City, Cairo, Turkey and Australia. His 30-year-old son Saud

Continued on Page 24



LONDON: Andy Palmer, CEO of luxury British sports car manufacturer Aston Martin, poses by models of Aston Martin cars as the company is floated on the London Stock Exchange yesterday. — AFP

Iraq names new president, PM; Amir sends congratulations

SULAIMANIYA, Iraq: Iraq's parliament on Tuesday elected as president Kurdish politician Barham Salih, who immediately named Shiite Adel Abdul Mahdi prime minister-designate, ending months of deadlock after an inconclusive national election in May. The presidency, traditionally occupied by a Kurd, is a largely ceremonial position, but the vote for Salih was a key step toward forming a new government, which politicians have failed to do since the election.

Under Iraq's constitution, Salih - a

58-year-old, British-educated engineer who has held office in both the Iraqi federal and Kurdish regional governments - had 15 days to invite the nominee of the largest parliamentary bloc to form a government. He chose to do so less than two hours after his election. Since Saddam Hussein was toppled in a 2003 US-led invasion, power has been shared among Iraq's three largest ethnic-sectarian components. The most powerful post, that of prime minister, has traditionally been held by a Shiite Arab, the speaker of parliament by a Sunni Arab and the presidency by a Kurd.

III the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday congratulated Salih on his election victory. The Amir wished him success in his duties to honor the aspirations of all the Iraqi people. III the Amir, during a phone call, invited Salih for an official visit to Kuwait. Appreciating the kind

Continued on Page 24



BAGHDAD: Newly designated Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi (center left) walks out of the parliament with newly-elected Iraqi President Barham Saleh (center right) late Tuesday. — AFP

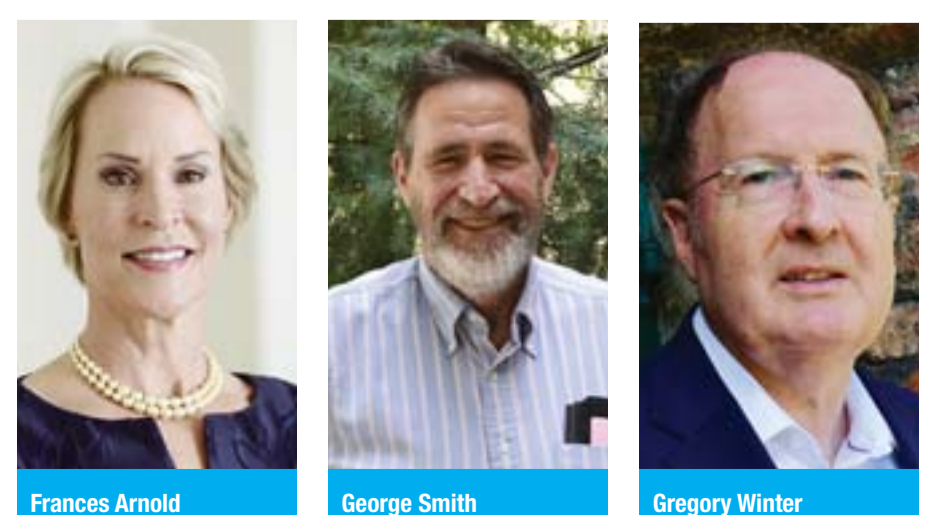
3 win Chemistry Nobel for work on key enzymes

STOCKHOLM: US scientists Frances Arnold and George Smith and British researcher Gregory Winter won the Nobel Chemistry Prize yesterday for applying the principles of evolution to develop enzymes used to make everything from biofuels to medicine. Arnold, just the fifth woman to clinch chemistry's most prestigious honor since Marie Curie was honored in 1911, won one half

of the nine million Swedish kronor (about \$1.01 million) award, while Smith and Winter shared the other half. "The 2018 Nobel Laureates in Chemistry have taken control of evolution and used it for purposes that bring the greatest benefit to humankind," the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences said.

Life on Earth exists because over the past 3.7 billion years organisms have adapted to their environment, with evolution solving complex chemical problems: Fish can for example swim in polar oceans because they have antifreeze proteins in their blood. The trio used the principles of evolution - genetic change and selection - to develop proteins now

Continued on Page 24



Frances Arnold

George Smith

Gregory Winter

Amir congratulates German, Korean presidents, receives top officials



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a cable of congratulation to the President of the Federal Republic of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier and the President of the Republic of Korea Moon Jae-in on the occasion of their country's national days. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem sent similar cables to President Steinmeier and President Moon Jae-in.

Meanwhile in Bayan Palace yesterday, HH the Amir received HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. HH also received National Assembly Speaker

Marzouq Al-Ghanem. HH later received Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, who was escorting the visiting Maltese Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion Carmelo Abela. The receptions were attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah.

Later, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem. HH the Crown Prince received Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. HH also hosted Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and Deputy Board Chairman of the Ruling Family, Sheikh Dr Ibrahim Al-Dueij Al-Sabah. — KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives visiting Maltese Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion Carmelo Abela.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Deputy Board Chairman of the Ruling Family, Sheikh Dr Ibrahim Al-Dueij Al-Sabah.

Bahrain, Kuwait boosting relations in various areas

MANAMA: Bahraini Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday received the visiting Kuwait's Minister of Finance, Dr Nayef Falah Al-Hajraf. During the meeting, he affirmed the mutual approach to boost further the distinctive relations bonding the two countries in different areas, said Bahrain News Agency (BNA) in a statement.

"During the meeting the Crown Prince and Kuwait's Minister highlighted both countries' efforts in hastening sustainable development while stressing the crucial role of Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in advancing shared strategic and economic interests", the statement added. In addition, Kuwait's Minister of Finance conveyed a letter from HH the Amir outlining the strength of Bahraini-Kuwaiti bilateral relations.

For his part, Al-Hajraf expressed his appreciation to the Crown Prince for his interest in developing Kuwaiti-Bahraini relations on all levels. The meeting was attended by Bahrain's Deputy Prime Minister,



MANAMA: Bahraini Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa received the visiting Kuwait's Minister of Finance, Dr Nayef Falah Al-Hajraf. — KUNA

Mohammed bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa, Minister of Finance, Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain Sheikh Azzam Al-Sabah. — KUNA

New Kuwait ambassador in Monaco

PARIS: Kuwaiti Ambassador to France Sami Al-Suleiman presented his credentials to Prince of Monaco Albert II as non-resident ambassador to Monaco yesterday. In a statement to KUNA, Al-Suleiman said he had relayed greetings of 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 to Prince Albert. He noted that he was proud to be the first Kuwaiti ambassador to Monaco since the two countries announced establishing diplomatic ties last July. The ambassador said that he and Prince Albert discussed boosting cooperation on all levels, especially in trade and investment. He added that Monaco is currently attracting Kuwaiti tourists who are



MONACO: Kuwait Ambassador to France Sami Al-Suleiman during the credentials ceremony. — KUNA

drawn to its beauty and tourist attractions. The meeting was attended by senior officials from Monaco's Foreign Ministry and Kuwait Embassy. — KUNA

Kuwait urges unified stand on refugees' hardships

GENEVA: Kuwait called on the international community yesterday to take a unified stance toward hardships of the refugees and displaced peoples and putting an end to flagrant abuses targeting them throughout the globe. This came in a statement made by Kuwait's Permanent Representative at the UN and International Organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghuneim, addressing the 68th session of the executive commission

of the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees — ongoing since October 1st.

Continuous violations of the refugees and the relocated people's human rights, as well as the international humanitarian laws throughout the world including the Middle East, are the result of aggravating strife and conflicts, Ambassador Al-Ghuneim noted in his address to the commission session. He also linked these abuses to degradation of basic services, namely medical care, lack of humanitarian activists and obstruction of medical deliveries. "They are not only suffering from fear but also losing hope," he said reflecting the refugees' miseries.

On the nearly eight-year-old Syrian crisis, the envoy noted "international inability" to find a solution to the issue, also underscoring negative impact on Syrian people, namely the estimated 12 million citizens who have become homeless, refugees or relocated. Losses in properties and the infrastructure,

caused by the internal fighting in Syria, cannot be assessed due to the massive destruction, he added.

Also in this vein, he noted that Kuwait had acted to relieve the war-stricken Syrian people since start of the crisis, hosting three international donors' conferences, participating in a fourth convention, held in London in 2016, and participating in a follow-up forum for Syria in Brussels in 2017. All these efforts had resulted in pledges amounting USD six billion, in addition to USD 3.7 billion for the period between 2018 and 2020.

Kuwait continues to coordinate with Syria's neighboring countries to secure medical, health care for Syrian children, in addition to contributions to UN agencies and international NGOs to relieve the Syrian refugees. Moreover, Kuwait has coordinated with the World Health Organization (WHO) to fight polio, rampant among the refugees in these neighboring countries. — KUNA

Kuwaiti Interior Minister affirms solid bonds with S Arabia, Jordan: Security

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior retired Lieutenant General Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah affirmed Kuwait's strong ties with Saudi Arabia and Jordan yesterday. The minister's remarks were made during separate meetings with both the Saudi and Jordanian ambassadors to Kuwait. In a

statement, the Ministry of Interior said that Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah and Saudi Ambassador Prince Sultan bin Saad bin Khaled discussed boosting security ties between the two countries. Meanwhile, the minister and Jordanian Ambassador Saqer Abu Shattal discussed boosting cooperation on different levels. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior retired Lieutenant General Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah meets with Saudi Ambassador Prince Sultan bin Saad bin Khaled. — KUNA photos



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior retired Lieutenant General Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah meets with Jordanian Ambassador Saqer Abu Shattal.

Protecting cultural values vital, says Minister Al-Jabri

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri stressed on the need to protect the values of the Kuwaiti culture, Al-Jabri, who is also President of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), made his remarks during a meeting with NCCAL members

yesterday. He noted the efforts of NCCAL in spreading knowledge about Kuwait's culture and bringing awareness to society as part of the council's 2014-2019 strategy. Al-Jabri also added that NCCAL works on investing in the talents and skills of youth in the cultural field. — KUNA

Local

Arab energy projects face financing gap' say experts

Countries forced to change development plans and priorities



MARRAKECH: Chief Executive Officer at the Arab Petroleum Investments Company (APICORP) Ahmad Ali Attiga. — KUNA photos



Economic advisor at the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development Dr Emad Al-Imam.

MARRAKECH: The fragility of the global economy, the changing dynamics of world markets and the shift towards non-fossil fuels, have left Arab energy projects grappling with a huge financing gap, experts have concurred. A total of 570 energy projects worth USD 77 billion are currently looking for financing, Dr Emad Al-Imam, an economic advisor at the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, said Tuesday at the 11th Arab Energy Conference currently held in the Moroccan city of Marrakech.

He noted that a financing gap in the fourth quarter of 2018 for a number of major energy projects has led some countries to change its development plans and priorities. Resolving the funding problem depends on the future global energy demand and prices, he argued. He suggested that a good strategy is the one which

diversifies financing sources, expands partnerships and keeps a close eye on the market.



Energy sector declined by about 25 percent

Moreover, Al-Imam expected an increase in the

financing costs in the coming years as credit rating agencies have reduced the rating of several Arab countries nine times in 2017 only. For his part, Chief Executive Officer at the Arab Petroleum Investments Company (APICORP), Ahmad Ali Attiga, said that the Arab investments in the energy sector declined by about 25 percent during the period from 2014 to 2016. He cited the rising of financing costs and the sluggish structural reforms as major impediments to investment in the energy sector in the Arab region. Attiga, however, stated that the private sector's contribution in financing energy projects in the Arab region is in an upward curve.

It is currently financing about 20 percent of these projects, he said, forecasting a steady growth of their financing activities in the GCC countries. Amid the current "trade war," Attiga predicted that energy

prices would fall over the next five years at "reasonable and acceptable" rates. He projected that Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Egypt will lead the Arab region towards a balanced growth in the energy sector, noting that current growth estimates in the energy sector stand at four percent.

The four-day conference is organized by the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO) under the theme of Energy and Arab Cooperation. The main objectives of the conference are to establish an Arab institutional framework to review oil and energy issues, to identify and assess energy resources in Arab countries to enhance resource development, and to evaluate the impact of international energy policies on Arab countries. — KUNA

Brief address on 150th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi

By Ambassador of India to Kuwait HE Jeeva Sagar

Good morning distinguished guests, thank you for joining me at the embassy early in the morning on a working day, to be part of the celebration of this important day - the one-fiftieth Birth Day of Mahatma Gandhi, which is also the UN-declared International Day of Non-violence. On behalf of my colleagues and my own behalf, I extend a very warm welcome to all of you.

Last evening, as I sat down and was trying to collect my thoughts to prepare my brief remarks for this morning, I expected that it would be an easy task. After all, Gandhi is a household name in India. Every child, after learning how to utter 'mommy and daddy', 'Gandhi' is the first proper noun he/she is taught. So I thought it would probably take an hour or two to get my thoughts organized. But very quickly I realized it's going to be a giant of a challenge! Thus went my dilemma - How can I grasp the personality of a man into linguistic idioms and phrases, whose Silent Resistance spoke more eloquently than the ripping sounds of thousands of guns and cannons!

Should I call him the greatest leader that India has produced?

Then I remembered how one of my foreign Ambassador friends exhorted me in my previous posting, 'Jeeva, how can you reduce a global leader into the territorial confines of India alone?' Should I say he is one of the 'Finest Statesmen' of our times? Surely he is, but a statesman may not necessarily be a mass-leader. Gandhiji has effortlessly combined statesmanship with massive popularity, not just in India but beyond its borders!

Shall I then call him the 'Darling of the Masses'?

Certainly he is! But what about the adoration and accolades he received from the world leaders! May be I should restrict myself to calling him a 'Man of Peace and Messenger of Non-violence'. Indeed he is! But would peace and non-violence explain Gandhi's power of



HE Jeeva Sagar

Truth and Ferocity of Courage against injustice and exploitation? No, I don't think so.

Here is a 5 foot 5 inch tall man, or shall I say short man, with a skinny frame, who told a mighty army, looking straight into their eyes: 'You can have my dead body but you can't have my obedience nor my spirit'. So, this man of peace and nonviolence is indeed a Man of Steel! If so, how do I describe Gandhi? What Metaphors or Adjectives can I use for him? Shall I repeat the words - 'Half-naked Fakir'? But how can this phrase express the pain and agony of millions of the Indian poor whose poverty Gandhi wanted to share, and hence rendered himself naked?

Okay then, let me describe him just as India's 'Father of the Nation', who gave his life to win freedom for his country! Yes, surely he did give his life for his country, but by then India had already won its freedom. He died in the process of making and building a new India! A robust and proud India that you see today! Finally I realized that all my efforts to squeeze a phenomenon called Gandhi into literary terms, is a futile exercise.

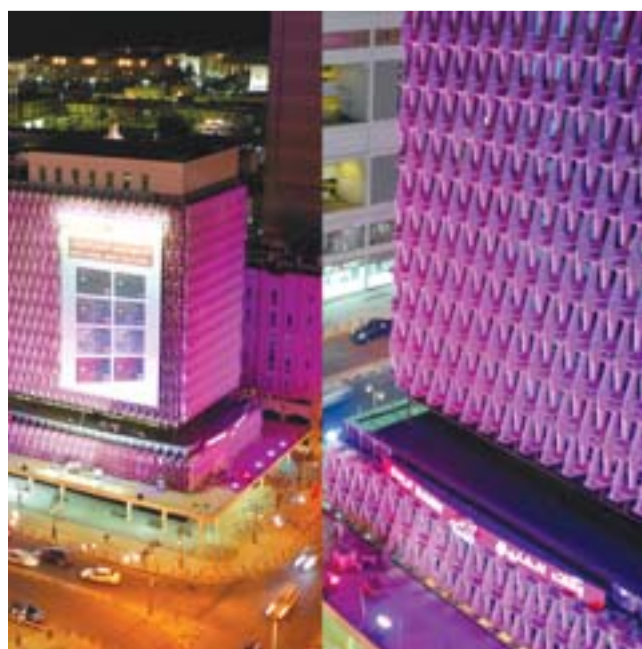
After all, even the great Albert Einstein could only exclaim and marvel at Gandhi saying: "Has such a man ever existed in flesh and blood?" because, he felt that words would be inadequate and would fall much short in capturing Mahatma Gandhi's personality, values, courage and deeds! So, what is the befitting homage that we can pay to this Great Soul?

There is no doubt that in today's fractured and bleeding world we need Gandhi again, to steer our destinies. Since it is beyond us to bring him back to life, the best tribute we are capable of is: To invoke his spirit and blessings, asking him to give us the strength and humanity to try and follow his values and ideals to the best of our ability and collective conscience.

Thank you.

GBK illuminates in pink to advocate Breast Cancer awareness

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank is lending its support to the Breast Cancer awareness month, from 1-31 October 2018, by lighting up their head office in pink to educate the residents of Kuwait about this important cause. Commenting on the campaign, Ahmad Al Amir, Assistant General Manager for External Communications at Gulf Bank said: "Gulf Bank is committed to supporting the community and raising awareness to an illness that affects so many. We want to use this as an opportunity to remind people that early detection is key to combat the battle against breast cancer."



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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.

Negative steps

The Labor Relations Department at the Public Authority for Labor Force has not responded to the efforts of Kuwait Society for Human Rights about providing interpreters in several languages (English, French, Filipino, Hindi-Urdu) free of charge for non-Arabic-speaking workers when they attend to the centers of Work Relations Department in all the provinces within the project "Support" which is implemented by the Society which aims to provide legal protection for migrant workers in Kuwait. Despite continuous attempts to activate and maintain this service, Kuwait Society for Human Rights has not received any response and that has lately forced the Society to suspend that service.

It is worth mentioning that the Society has obtained the approval of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor to provide interpreter and obtained preliminary approval from the Department of Labor Relations prior to the start of the project. The Public Authority for Labor Force does not provide interpreters in Work Relations Centers in all provinces. In addition, the complaint forms which are signed by the workers and subsequently submitted to the court as part of the official record are not available except in Arabic.

There is a lack of unified procedures to conduct the complaints submitted to the Public Authority for Human Rights, rather than asking questions to the employer and the worker, especially in complaints of cancellation and transfer. It is assumed that when the worker is the former to file a complaint against the employer, the employer is prevented from registering an absence notice against the worker, as it would be a malicious absence notice in this case. However, according to many of the complaints received by the Society through the hotline, workers reported that after they filed complaints, they were surprised that absence notices were registered against them after the date of filing their complaints.

A statement by a member of parliament demanding the allocation of the services of Al-Durra Company, which is a joint stock company that provides domestic labor for demanders, for citizens rather than expatriates after the start of its work. He called on the concerned authorities to instruct the company to make the priority of recruitment to meet the needs of the citizens, stressing that resolving this crisis is the government's responsibility.

In this regard, this allocation did not come as a security or legal justification, as he wanted to curb the waiting lines that continue because of overcrowding and has directed the cause of overcrowding to expatriates not citizens, and that was an unjustified discrimination. He said that Al-Durra Company was born from the suffering of the citizen so it must serve him and make him a priority not expatriate. And this discrimination between the expatriate and citizen does not solve the crisis of overcrowding, because nationality has nothing to do with it. Citizens may gather in



Kuwait Society for Human Rights

front of this company to create queues again without the presence of one expatriate, which confirms that it is a regulatory problem that can be solved by providing electronic requests and the regulation of traffic of clients and reduce overcrowding.

Monthly wages

Low monthly wages of petrol station workers up to 40 KD has been monitored, which is lower than the minimum wage, despite the categorical denial of sources in the Public Authority for Labor Force, that the monthly wage granted to fuel workers is that small, stressing that the system in the Authority does not accept transactions in which labor wages are less than 75 KD, since they are defined in advance in accordance with a minimum ministerial decree for wages of workers in the private and oil sectors.

However, the source who published the news confirmed that the salaries are actually low, and differ from one company to another, and start from 40 dinars in cash, and up to 50 or 70 or even 100 dinars, but not in cash, where the salary is deducted from several allowances as allowances of housing, transport to and from the work place, and meal, therefore the worker has little left.

The Civil Service Bureau has activated the decision of non-entitlement of migrant workers in government agencies for end of service benefits only after the cancellation of their residence under Article 17 of the Residence Law and providing them with a notice of leaving the country. Therefore, they are not allowed to transfer their residence to private sector or they will be denied their end of service benefits. This is contrary to the labor laws and the ILO conventions, since this decision is an arbitrary measure against migrant workers because the end of service benefit is a right of the worker that cannot be denied or linked to conditions that obstruct his access to it.

This decision is one from a set that were issued in order to apply the policy of replacement and reduction of the number of expatriates in government agencies in order to modify the demographic structure. However, that will harm the rights of migrant workers as well as it will not contribute to solving the problem of the demographic structure. Also the labor market is subject to supply and demand and the countries that receive workers should provide them with all the guarantees that ensure their financial dues, and should not prevent them from obtaining other employment opportunities in the country.

Residence traders

Kuwait Society for Human Rights has received a num-

ber of complaints from workers who were brought to Kuwait by fictitious companies (residence traders). They stated that they paid amounts of more than 1,500 KD (5000 USD). Upon arrival, they tried to contact the sponsor to complete the residency procedures to no avail.

The sponsor obtains profits from his illegal trade and when he brings workers to Kuwait, he evades his obligations. The worker finds himself unemployed and convicted, and that forces him to work in irregular circumstances and in violation of the internal law, in order to pay his accumulated debts, despite the punishment of three years and a fine of two thousand dinars and not more than ten thousand dinars for each employer who brings workers from outside the country or to use workers from inside the country and then not to hand them the work or prove the lack of actual need for them.

The Authority implements administrative deportations without reference to the worker or verification whether the decision was taken on a violation committed by the worker or not. In many cases, employers refuse to pay the salaries of migrant workers who have worked for them. So that the worker does not demand his right, the employer cancels the work permits or registers a malicious notice of absence. Therefore, a warrant of arrest is issued to arrest the worker and then to administratively deport him from the country. Sometimes, it goes beyond that and the worker is exploited to work in a labor sector other than that authorized for him to work in.

Workers and Shadow of Human Trafficking

Although Kuwait has enacted Law No. 91 of 2013 on Combating Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants, that states a punishment up to 15-year imprisonment and life sentence in some cases, the weakness of enforcement mechanisms has made it insufficient to reach all cases of human trafficking, and to ascertain suspected cases.

There is limited coordination among competent authorities and lack of unified operational procedures, although the current situation suggests trafficking suspicions hovering around many sectors of employment of migrant workers as we have received a number of calls on the Hotline from female domestic workers who are subjected to abuses, which may amount to crimes of trafficking. That is in addition to the practices followed by the majority of recruitment offices of deception about the nature and wages of work.

In August, a Guinean domestic worker suffered serious fractures after she threw herself out of the window of her room from the fourth floor of a house belonging to a recruitment office of domestic labor in Al-Manqaf district of Al Ahmadi province. She entered into a coma. In the same month, we received a report that a domestic worker has escaped from a shelter of a recruitment office in Hawally and resorted to her embassy in Kuwait, the Indian Embassy, where she reported that she and six other women were raped. We contacted the relevant authorities to investigate the case. In view of the above, we are concerned about the weakness of law enforcement mechanisms, while monitoring these violations of female domestic workers.

Voices against the rights of domestic workers

In early July, a social networking celebrity has

appeared to criticize a number of terms in the agreement signed by Kuwait and the Philippines on domestic labor, describing it as 'funny'. She works as a beauty expert and is followed by nearly two and a half million people. Following her statement through Snapchat, which is popular among Kuwaitis, a wave of anger broke out and turned into a local public opinion issue between the two countries.

In her press statement for Monte Carlo International, she said that the wave of anger against her is "unjustified" and she "refuses to apologize". She added, "It is my right as a sponsor to detain a servant's passport after paying up to 1,500 dinars. This is not an insult to the workers and has nothing to do with humanity and human rights, because I did not deprive these workers of the salary or expose them to beating". As a result of her previous statement, social networking sites caught up with their local and international accounts.

Most of them criticized this proposition and considered it inhuman because they saw it as a clear persecution of female workers, especially on the subject of the weekly leave, which may be considered as a simple right for anyone working for a whole week in domestic hard tasks which may cause continued fatigue, while supported by many, especially the employers who have domestic labor.

Following the wave of support, the Manila-based International Migrant Group said the account owner should make a public apology, saying she had "a backward view that literally descends into the dark ages". On the other hand, the Association of Home Help in the Middle East said in a statement, "We strongly demand that she makes a public apology and expresses real remorse for her (disgusting) statements." They added, "It would be more useful if she could visit the Philippines to witness the extreme poverty of many Filipino families and learn about the difficulties Filipino workers face in government employment companies before they are sent abroad."

As the pro-and anti-campaign continued towards these statements, the Association, through its websites and mailing lists, launched an awareness campaign on Domestic Labor Law 68 of 2015, which allows domestic workers to keep their personal documents such as passports and civil cards.

The Unit of Monitor and Followup of Workers' Rights in Kuwait has followed a large number of comments in the campaign on the provisions of the Labor Law. It noted that there is a lack of knowledge about the articles of the law issued in 2015 and lack of acceptance of some of its articles, believing that these articles are new decisions and have not been adopted three years ago. The Monitor Unit has considered that an awareness campaign should be conducted to raise the awareness of the society in general of the fundamental rights granted to the workers in Kuwait by the law. — Provided by Kuwait Society for Human Rights, visit www.kuwaithr.org for more info



Local

Parliament speaker assures victims of real-estate fraud

He would spare no effort to bring back their embezzled money

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem yesterday assured victims of deception in property transactions that he would spare no effort to bring back their embezzled money. Ghanem was speaking in Abdullah Al-Salem Hall during a reception of a number of citizens who had been victims of realty fraud and money laundering inside and outside Kuwait. Ghanem said the afflicted citizens informed him about fraud that cost them more than one billion dinars (\$3 billion), embezzled in only five years. "I believe it is our duty as representatives of the people to share them their predicament and play our role to help and defend them," Ghanem has stressed.

He said he agreed with his guests on "future steps", indicating that he will coordinate with the government and parliamentary committees in this respect, vowing that he would place all potentials in his possession at their disposal. "It is our duty and they must be able to re-attain their rights," he re-emphasized. Meanwhile, Hassan Al-Bahrani, head of the group of realty fraudulence victims, affirmed that the speaker assured them that he would do his best to help them. —KUNA



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem speaking to the press. — KUNA

Special needs child beaten inside bus, video goes viral

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: A video shot by a female citizen showing a helper beating a child with special needs in a school bus went viral on various social media networks. The child's father thanked MoE for suspending the bus driver and the assistant and also thanked the citizen who shot the video. The father also announced that he is currently abroad with his wife on a medical treatment and that he had hired a private specialized transport company to

take his child to school. He also held the company accountable for not hiring proper workers.

In other news, MoE assistant undersecretary for public education Fatima Al-Kandari yesterday filed an official request to retire, said well-informed educational sources, noting that Kandari had asked for a grace period to make her decision. Notably, a committee formed by Minister Hamed Al-Azmi to investigate shortcomings in preparations for the new school year had held former undersecretary Haitham Al-Athari and Kandari responsible. Azmi yesterday issued a ministerial decision assigning MOE's assistant undersecretary for financial affairs Yousif Al-Najjar to become acting undersecretary to substitute Athari, who resigned on Sunday because of the air-conditioning problems experienced in various schools at the beginning of the academic year.

Car auction at impoundment department

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The traffic department said the vehicles and motorcycles selling committee has announced an auction will take place on Wednesday 10/10/2018 at the vehicles impoundment department in Jahra. They have asked specified car owners to check with the department and for those who wish to buy any of the cars - they are required to inspect the vehicles a day before the auction.

Drug war

The Interior Ministry said drugs crimes are now happening between the borders and this



fight against drugs has become the ministry's top priority. It also said the criminal security department submitted statistics about the results of drugs fighting for the third quarter of this year.

Municipality inspections

The Hawally municipality emergency

team carried out an inspection campaign on cafes and shops in Salmiya which resulted in the issuing of 20 violations of law 190/2008, and 6 warnings for encroaching on state property. Meanwhile, the Jahra municipality emergency team removed 30 unlicensed farms, after taking all the necessary legal action.

NBK receives 13th batch of 'Yalla Watani' trainees



KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait received the 13th batch of "Yalla Watani" trainees for qualifying new employees to work in the Bank's various branches. The program includes several aspects of banking such as banking principles, credit cards, loans, letters of credit, insur-

ance, fraud risks and branch evaluation. The program includes training on self skills which is to help the development performances such as boosting self esteem, self evaluation, build distinguished performance, creativity and teamwork.

ICG sponsors Horeca 2019

KUWAIT: Preparations for the Horeca Kuwait 2019 exhibition is making progress and attracting more companies to take part in it as an event providing a golden opportunity to scientifically exchange expertise that would match the local market needs and future expansion plans. The exhibition is organized by the Leaders Group in collaboration with Hospitality Services Co at Mishref international fair grounds during the period of January 14-19, 2019.

In this regard, a statement issued by Leaders Group stressed that the number of sponsors is annually growing to include a number of prestigious specialized companies such the International Center Group (ICG) which has a market share covering Kuwait and the entire Middle East. "Ever since it was established by the late Shakir Al-Samman 58 year ago, ICG has come a long way in trading and food supplies", the statement added.

On his part, ICG's General Manager Emad Shaker Al-Samman stressed that the secret behind ICG's constant growth is its attempts to achieve perfection ever since it was established in 1960. He added that ICG had several subsidiary companies such as Al-Mohannad for Food Stuff, Al-Jawahara Roaster & Mills, Universal Center for Catering, Fourat Al-Sham Company and the Universal Center for Hotel Supplies.

Furthermore, Al-Samman stressed that taking part in Horeca Kuwait 2019 is a necessity for ICG and all those interested in hospitality and catering. "It is a unique and comprehensive exhibition with a high standard of organizational qualities", he added noting that the exhibition services mainly address B2B corporations and experts.

Arabnet Kuwait to launch its latest report

KUWAIT: Held under the patronage and with the participation of Khaled Nasser Abdullah Al Roudan, Minister of Commerce and Industry - Kuwait, the highly anticipated Arabnet Kuwait 2018 conference is expected to bring together 1000+ of the region's government leaders, digital practitioners and entrepreneurs. Al Roudan will launch the event on October 8th with an opening speech.

Taking place at Courtyard by Marriott, the conference will draw in more than 90 speakers and 40 exhibitors, as well as high-level sponsors including Boubyan Bank, Digital Media Services, Kuwait Finance House, KUWAITNET, Al Khaleejiah, KISP Ventures, VIVA Kuwait, Floward, JustClean, DotSpace, Wave Maker, SME Law and Careem.

In its third edition, the conference will launch the Kuwait Innovation Economy Tech Startups 2018 report on October 8th and will address the

main challenges facing tech startups in the ecosystem. The report's data reveals that 43% of Kuwaiti startups did not receive any amount of funding, indicating an early stage ecosystem. Furthermore, 71% of startups say it is very difficult to find the talent they need to grow their business. This makes talent-related issues the largest impediment facing tech startups in Kuwait.

Arabnet will also host global speakers and experts for the first time in Kuwait. A high-level group of global venture capital businesses including HOF Capital, Mustard Seed, 11.2 will gather during the Innovation and Investment forum. Moreover, the conference will bring together Kuwaiti banking leaders from Boubyan Bank, KFH, Warba, NBK Capital, among others, as well as fintech leaders from Supernovae Labs, Ripple and GetJenny who will take part in the Money track, sponsored by Kuwait Finance House.

Furthermore, the stage will welcome global media players from Snap Inc. and Twitter, to shed light on the technologies reshaping marketing and the consumer journey. For the first time this year, Arabnet Kuwait will host Founders' Day, sponsored by Boubyan Bank. It will take place on October 7th and will engage the participants with two tracks of hands-on workshops covering entrepreneurship and cutting-edge technology.

DCGA warns against the use of 'koudry'

KUWAIT: The Drugs Control General Department warned against a new type of drug hitting the streets. It is known among users as "koudry" and is supposed to be stronger than hashish. The word "koudry" is related to a piece of cloth or leather normally used for cleaning cars and furniture. This is considered to be a very dangerous drug.

A security source said DCGD men learned about a citizen possessing drugs for use and trading, during his arrest they found 10 pieces of "koudry" on his person, which after testing was confirmed to be the drug in question. The suspect said he bought it in Turkey and told customs officers it was for cleaning. He said he mixes it with nicotine to increase its effect, and that he sells each piece for KD 400. Certain procedures have been taken to prevent the spread of this drug. In related news, statistics by

criminal security showed that 515 kg drugs, 624,694 psychoactive tablets and 27,495 liquor bottles were confiscated during the period from July 1st until Sept 30.

Muggers arrested

Police arrested two citizens accused of mugging expats in Ahmadi, one of them is wanted on three separate theft cases. Police spotted a car in a pitch-dark area and when they approached the vehicle, they found the wanted criminals inside. When their IDs were checked, one was found wanted for prior criminal charges. Both eventually confessed to be involved in many thefts including breaking into cars as well as mugging expats.

Suspicious suicide

Jahra prosecutor ordered the body of a Nepalese woman be sent to the coroner to determine the cause of death and make sure there is no foul play in what is considered to be a suicide. Authorities are suspicious about her sponsor because according to reports, the maid didn't show any signs that indicated she wanted to take her own life. She was 33 year old. — Al-Anbaa, Al-Rai



KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House "Baitak" organized a mock evacuation in their Shuwaikh and Ardhya branches as a part of their training on how to handle emergencies. Arrangements were made earlier, and assembly points were decided. The evacuation took place in record time and the cooperative atmosphere was also praised.



India risks sanctions over Russia missiles

'Enough lies!': Bosnian village bans politicians

Page 7

Page 9



BIRMINGHAM: A combination of pictures shows Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May making a few dancing steps as she takes the stage to give her keynote address on the fourth and final day of the Conservative Party Conference 2018 yesterday. — AFP

End divisions or put Brexit at risk

May shakes it up with 'Dancing Queen' boogie

BIRMINGHAM: British Prime Minister Theresa May appealed to her Conservative Party yesterday to unite behind her plan to leave the European Union, warning critics their arguments could put Brexit in jeopardy. On the final day of her party's annual conference, May sought to rally members by addressing their concerns that the Conservatives are becoming increasingly directionless under the weight of Brexit, urging them to look to a brighter future.

Dancing onto the stage in the city of Birmingham to ABBA's "Dancing Queen" and a standing ovation, May poked fun at herself after her dance moves were mocked on a trip to Africa and after last year's conference when her speech was disrupted by a coughing fit, a stage intruder and a collapsing background set.

It was a warm welcome for a leader whose fragile position at the helm of her party has come under further pressure after the EU rejected parts of her so-called Chequers plan and critics stepped up calls for her to ditch her strategy on Brexit, Britain's most far-reaching policy shift for more than 40 years. With just six months before Britain is due to exit the EU, she has so far weathered the Brexit storm, shrugging off a barnstorming speech by her ex-foreign minister Boris Johnson that did little to hide his leadership ambitions.

Yesterday, May was keen to show she was in charge

of the Brexit talks. "If we all go off in different directions in pursuit of our own vision of the perfect Brexit, we risk ending up with no Brexit at all," she said, a rebuff to eurosceptic lawmakers who have published their alternatives plan for leaving the EU. "And there's another reason why we need to come together. We are entering the toughest part of the negotiations...If we stick together and hold our nerve, I know we can get a deal that delivers for Britain."

She also tried to return to the message she gave when she was appointed prime minister in 2016, promising to help those who feel "left behind" and pledging to end her government's austerity push after nearly a decade of spending cuts. And in another rallying cry for unity, she repeatedly attacked the main opposition Labor Party, saying their policies, including a renationalization of mail, rail and utilities, would mean increased taxes and business flight. Hard-left Labor leader Jeremy Corbyn, she said, would "outsource our conscience to the Kremlin."



PM rallies party faithful behind Brexit plan

Unity? Her words were aimed at easing the growing frustration of some Conservatives who openly say their party is meandering without substantive new ideas, unable to set an agenda amid their divisive feuds over how to depart the EU. The heat she faces from some in the party was underlined less than an hour before her speech when Conservative lawmaker James Duddridge said he had submitted a letter calling on her to resign.

Forty-eight such letters are needed to trigger a vote of confidence in the leader. Her spokesman declined to comment on Duddridge's move. But yesterday's speech seemed to have gone down well among the party faithful. Jeremy Hunt, her foreign minister, said on Twitter: "Congratulations Theresa May for a remarkable speech delivered with humor and passion. Firmness of purpose, clarity and conviction - EU friends do not underestimate!"

Pro-Brexit party activist Paul Whitehouse told Reuters: "She did enough to rally the grassroots and

that will be momentum enough for cracks to be paved over to a certain extent." Taking a swipe at hardline eurosceptic Johnson, May said she was making decisions on Brexit in the "national interest" - a nod to her argument that her former foreign secretary's alternative Brexit proposals would tear the United Kingdom apart by placing Northern Ireland under EU customs rules and thereby detaching it from the rest of Britain. "It is no surprise that we have had a range of different views expressed this week," May said. "But my job as prime minister is to do what I believe to be in the national interest."

With no agreement with the bloc over the terms of divorce or a future trade relationship, the last day of the conference marked the beginning of what some officials predict will be a frenzied couple of weeks of diplomacy between London and Brussels as the two sides try to pin down a deal. May and her team face weeks of difficult conversations with Brussels, especially after Hunt offended some in the bloc by comparing the EU to the old Soviet Union in asserting that the EU was trying to "punish" any member seeking to leave it. "Brexit fans have their backs to the wall," said Franziska Brantner, European affairs spokeswoman for Germany's Greens party. "Blaming the EU won't help them." At home it won't be any easier. — Reuters

Helicopter jailbreak notorious gangster arrested in France

CREIL: French police arrested yesterday a notorious gangster who had been on the run for three months after an audacious Hollywood-style helicopter jailbreak. Dozens of masked police swarmed a public housing estate in the Oise region north of Paris in the early hours, nabbing 46-year-old Redoine Faïd along with four other people in a raid on an apartment. Faïd's brother Rachid and two of the gangster's nephews were arrested along with the apartment's landlady, according to police sources.

Two guns were found in the flat, while two other alleged accomplices were arrested during a simultaneous raid in the Paris region, sources said. At around 3am, "I heard a racket," said Alliou Diallo, who lives on the ground floor of the small building, three floors below the apartment where Faïd was holed up. "I saw around a hundred police wearing masks," he said, adding of Faïd: "I never thought he could be here." Prime Minister Edouard Philippe hailed the "meticulous" police work that led to the arrests, saying in a tweet that they had pulled off the high-stakes operation "without any clashes".

Career criminal

But another local resident, Farah Ziane, was less happy—the police initially stormed her grandfather's apartment by mistake. "They broke down my 86-year-old granddad's door, it's shameful," she said, as the elderly man stood next to her, looking completely lost. Upright boxes lay in the corridor, while the bolt to the door had been smashed. A massive manhunt was launched after Faïd's daring July 1 escape, in which two heavily armed accomplices used smoke bombs and angle grinders to break through prison doors and whisk him to a waiting helicopter.

Faïd, a career criminal with multiple convictions for armed robbery, was sprung from the jail in Reau, 50 kilometers southeast of Paris. Around 100 elite police were deployed to track down Faïd, who has cited movie baddies such as Tony Montana in "Scarface" as an inspiration and said he discovered his "calling" at the age of 12. Scattered furniture and clothes could be seen on the floor of the apartment yesterday morning, along with police forensic gloves. Faïd, who previously escaped from prison in 2013 before being captured six weeks later, had been serving a 25-year term over a botched 2010 heist in which a policewoman was killed, though he claims her death was accidental.

Smoke bombs

The spectacular jailbreak saw two men posing as flight-school stu-



CREIL: Photo shows the broken entrance door of the flat where the French fugitive Redoine Faïd was arrested in Creil, in the department of Oise, northern France. — AFP

dents, who had already taken an introductory flight, force a helicopter instructor at gunpoint to fly them to the jail. The terrified pilot landed in the courtyard—the only part of the prison not fitted with anti-helicopter nets. A pair of black-clad men armed with assault rifles then alighted and set off smoke bombs before breaking into the visiting room, where Faïd was meeting with his brother who was later taken into custody. The wardens, who were unarmed, fled and raised the alarm.

But within 10 minutes Faïd was gone, cheered on by his fellow inmates. The helicopter was found shortly afterwards in a suburb northeast of Paris, along with the pilot, who had been beaten and was taken to hospital in a state of shock. Several days after his escape investigators found a stash of guns, masks and a cement cutter in the Oise region where Faïd grew up, which they believed belonged to his gang. — AFP

US restricts visas to unmarried gay diplomats

WASHINGTON: The United States is denying visas to the partners of more than 100 gay diplomats unless they get married, officials said Tuesday. The move comes as President Donald Trump's administration chips away at protections of the LGBTQ community, although officials cast the decision as motivated by legal reciprocity rather than an anti-gay agenda.

Under the new guidelines, diplomats regardless of sexual orientation will need to be married by the end of the year in order for their partners to receive visas. Under a previous policy implemented by former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, the United States issued visas to same-sex partners regardless of their marital status. Around 105 families are affected by the decision, of whom 55 are posted at US-based international organizations such as the United Nations, a State Department official said. Diplomats can still obtain visas for their partners if they get married, including if they do so while in the United States.

Former US ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power decried the Trump administration's move as "needlessly cruel & bigoted." She noted that only 12 percent of UN member states allow same-sex mar-

riage. The Human Rights Campaign, the leading US gay rights group, called the decision "unnecessary, mean-spirited and unacceptable." "This is an unconscionable, needless attack on some LGBTQ diplomats from around the world, and it reflects the hostility of the Trump-Pence administration toward LGBTQ people," said the group's government affairs director David Stacy.

A US official countered that the policy creates the same conditions for visas that the State Department sets for its own diplomats serving abroad in light of the 2015 Supreme Court decision that legalized same-sex marriage across the United States. "It is not meant to be an attack. It is not meant to be punitive. It is a recognition and a codification of the fact that same-sex marriage is legal in the United States," the official told reporters on condition of anonymity. The official said the United States was aware that many gay couples faced a lack of acceptance in their home countries but that the United States wanted to "ensure equal treatment and reciprocity."

While gay rights have made strong inroads internationally in recent years, only one country outside the Western world and Latin America—South Africa—explicitly permits gay marriage. Most diplomats affected by the US orders come from countries where same-sex marriage is legal, another US official said, without providing numbers. She said that the United States will make an exception if countries that do not recognize same-sex marriage agree to reciprocal treatment for gay US diplomats, citing Israel as an example. — AFP

International

Pope opens major bishops meeting in febrile atmosphere of abuse scandals

Pope gives Chinese bishops 'warm welcome'

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis opened a gathering of bishops yesterday with the Catholic Church in a swirling state of crisis over sex abuse, urging its leaders not to let the next generation's faith be snuffed out "by our own shortcomings, mistakes and sins". In signs of the extraordinary pressure the Church has come under from the worldwide abuse scandal, Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia had called for the "youth synod" to be cancelled so the Vatican could concentrate on preparing another bishops' meeting on preventing sex abuse.

Cardinal Joseph Tobin, the archbishop of Newark, New Jersey stayed home to deal with the scandal's fallout, and a Dutch bishop, Robert Mutsaerts of Den Bosch, boycotted, saying the synod lacked credibility. More than 250 other bishops from around the world will attend the month-long meeting with about 40 young people invited to take part as observers.

Meanwhile, Pope Francis yesterday offered a "warm welcome" to two Chinese Catholic bishops attending a synod for the first time following a landmark deal between China and the Vatican. "Today, for the first time, we have also with us two bishops from mainland China," the pontiff said in a speech to kick off the month-long advisory body meeting on the role of young people in the 1.2 billion-member church. "We offer them our warm welcome: the communion of the entire episcopate with the successor of Peter is yet

more visible thanks to their presence," he said.

On September 22, the Vatican and China reached a provisional agreement under which Pope Francis recognized seven clergy initially ordained by Beijing without the Vatican's approval. The accord could pave the way for the normalization of ties between the Catholic Church and the world's most populous country. One of those recognized, Bishop Joseph Guo Jincui, is attending the synod along with Bishop John Baptist Yang Xiaotin, another member of the Patriotic Catholic Association (PCA), a body created by the Chinese government to administer the church.

Although the synod's official title is "Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment," the worldwide sexual abuse scandal looms large in the background and many believe it will be part of the informal agenda in the discussions. "May the Spirit give us the grace to be a memory that is diligent, living and effective, that does not allow itself from one generation to the next to be extinguished or crushed by the prophets of doom and misfortune, by our own shortcomings, mistakes and sins," Francis said in his homily. The Church is enmeshed in sexual abuse crises in countries including Chile, Germany, the United States and Australia, and the Vatican knows it has to win back disenchanted young people.

The synod began a day after a new Pew Research Center survey found that confidence in the way the pope



VATICAN CITY: (From left) Brazilian Archbishop Sergio da Rocha, Madagascan Archbishop Desire Tsarahazana, Burmese Archbishop Charles Maung Bo and Papuan Archbishop John Ribat attend the Synod of Bishops, focusing on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment yesterday at the Vatican. —AFP

is handling the sexual abuse crisis has plummeted among American Catholics. While seven-in-ten American Catholics said the overall opinion of the pope was favorable, six-in-ten said Francis was doing an "only fair" or "poor" job handling the abuse scandal, nearly double the figure at the beginning of 2018. Francis said he hoped the

meeting, which ends on Oct 28 and will result in a papal document, will be "anointed by hope". The danger was that young people would be left "exposed to stormy seas, orphans without a faith community that should sustain them, orphans devoid of a sense of direction and meaning in life", he said. —Agencies

'Enough lies!': Bosnian village bans politicians

PODGORA: As politicians embark on their final days of campaigning for Bosnian elections on Sunday, there is one small corner of the country where they cannot pass: Podgora, a poor hamlet fed up with the government's broken promises. "You've been lying to us for years. No party is welcome in Podgora," reads a white banner strung across the main square of the 700-person village, which lies some 30 kilometers from the capital Sarajevo. Sunday's general elections will fill Bosnia's highest political offices, from a three-person presidency down to district assemblies. But few are expecting significant change in a nation that has been paralysed for decades, in part because of unresolved conflicts dating back to the ethnic conflicts that engulfed Bosnia in the 1990s.

The war killed 100,000 and split the country into two largely autonomous regions linked by a weak central government. Like huge swathes of the population, the people of Podgora are disillusioned by a political class known chiefly for corruption and dysfunction. "Enough lies!" Adi Silajdzic, 47, told AFP when asked why he supported the village's politician blockade. "We're fed up that every time they come they tell us stories

and make promises to ensure votes." "And every time, on the day after the elections, it is as if nothing had happened, as if they did not even come to see us," said the unemployed father.

Old pipes, dirt roads

A few political campaigners did not heed the warning and put up posters inside Podgora, which is home to Bosnian Muslims. But locals quickly ripped them down. To underscore their point, someone scrawled another message on the back of the banner with a spray can: "Did you read it? People have had enough." Families pitched in to pay for the 50-euro (\$58) banner—a hefty sum in a community where most are unemployed, living off of small vegetable farms and livestock.

Sitting around a wooden table in the shade of a plum tree, a group of local men said Podgora has been neglected by authorities ever since the war, which left lasting damage on Bosnia's economy and infrastructure. "We are the ones who replace bulbs for the street lights," said Silajdzic. "We do not have a single garbage container, there is no bus, and the drinking water supply system was constructed before the war with asbestos cement pipes that were not replaced," he explained.

Osman Hasic, a 56-year-old pensioner, joked: "They have promised so many times to pave the streets that the cement should be at least one meter thick by now." The village's dirt roads turn into a muddy mess as soon as the rains start in



PODGORA: Photo shows anti-campaign banner with the written "Did you read this? We had enough!" stretching across the main road in the small Central-Bosnian village of Podgora on the eve of Bosnian elections. —AFP

autumn, he added. After three years of work municipal, authorities last month celebrated paving 900 meters of a local road. It had "nothing to do" with the election campaign, according to the municipality of Breza, in charge of Podgora. But the ribbon-cutting was held before the final layer of cement was applied, the villagers said, stoking skepticism.

'All the same'

Less than 20 percent of the people trust their political parties, according to a study in May from the Bosnian Association of Journalists. The country's decentralized government and sprawling bureaucracy have halted development on many fronts, including economic reforms. High unemployment—around one third of

the population officially—has driven large waves of emigration in recent decades, especially among youth.

"They have to leave, they have nothing here," said Hasic, the pensioner, who used to work for a steel mill. Around 170,000 Bosnians have left since 2013, when a census put the population at 3.5 million, according to the Union for Sustainable Return NGO. Those who remain are eager for change. But many in Podgora see politics as a dead end. "We changed, voted for one (party), then for others, but it's still the same," said Vedad Silajdzic, 43, a construction worker. "They are all the same. They fight for the armchair and once in it, they do not think about people anymore," Hasic added. —AFP

Iraq PM-designate shouldering hopes home and abroad

BAGHDAD: Adel Abdel Mahdi, the veteran tapped to become Iraq's next prime minister, is seen as an independent capable of bringing together rivals on the country's fractious political scene. A Shiite and native of Baghdad, the 76-year-old has been handed the difficult task of navigating Iraq's tangled politics to form a government within 30 days. With a burly physique and a face framed by spectacles and a thin moustache, Abdel Mahdi is an economist by training who has served as oil minister. He will be able to call on years of experience as a regular on Iraq's diplomatic scene for the balancing acts he is expected to perform. Abdel Mahdi has the blessing of both Iran and the United States, a required consensus in the country fought between its two major allies who are foes.

He also has good relations with many Kurdish leaders, a major advantage in normalizing ties with the autonomous region of Kurdistan whose people voted overwhelmingly to split from Iraq last year. The son of a minister of during Iraq's monarchy, which met a bloody end in 1958, Abdel Mahdi joined the Baath party, which brought Saddam Hussein to power in the late 1970s. He became a leading opponent of the dictator, first as a communist and then as an Islamist, before fleeing Iraq, only to return after Saddam's overthrow in the US-led invasion of 2003.

'Heavy responsibility'

Abdel Mahdi later became a senior figure in the Supreme Iraqi Islamic Council, a Shiite movement close to Iran. A member of the interim authorities set up by the US military command who briefly served as finance minister, he became Iraqi vice president after the country's first multiparty elections in 2005. While he was vice president, he was lightly wounded in 2007 when a bomb exploded inside the public works



BAGHDAD: Newly designated Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi (center) walks out of the Parliament in Baghdad. —AFP

ministry. In 2014, he was appointed oil minister under Haider Al-Abadi, the man he is set to succeed as premier. He

excelled in the role, deftly negotiating with Kurds over oil before resigning after two years. —AFP

'More African': eSwatini adapts to contentious name change

MBABANE: At the main campus entrance, a large concrete sign welcomes students and visitors to "The University of..." followed by a blank space. After Swaziland changed its name earlier this year to eSwatini, the nine letters spelling out the old name of the country were removed from the university sign, and new letters have not yet arrived. "We are still waiting," said a security

guard at the gate. On the other side of the road, Banele Syabonga, 25, contemplated his country's sudden change of name in April, which took many citizens by surprise. "I like the new name—it is more African," Syabonga, who is unemployed, told AFP, standing outside Lucky's Hair Cut shop, a tin shack in Manzini, the second city of what is now known as eSwatini. "Swaziland was the British name. Now we have our own," he said, addressing one of the contentious debates about the new title.

In April, King Mswati III—one of the world's last absolute rulers—marked 50 years since his country's independence from British colonial rule by announcing that it would now be known as eSwatini ("land of the Swazis"). The monarch's decision, taken without warning or consultation, revealed much about his autocratic rule

and his country's history—as well as posing a logistical challenge as the name change came into immediate effect. Six weeks after the king's pronouncement, the country's representative informed the United Nations headquarters in New York, and the UN soon adopted the new nomenclature.

Regional bodies, including the African Union and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), have also quickly changed to eSwatini—though they sometimes swap between names in the same statement. The adjustment has taken some getting used to inside eSwatini, a landlocked nation of just 1.3 million residents between South Africa and Mozambique. Senior Swazi officials speaking to AFP during a visit last week repeatedly had to stop and correct themselves mid-sentence. —AFP

Cameroon's Biya at the helm of six-time election winning machine

YAOUNDE: President Paul Biya, the 85-year-old Cameroonian leader who will seek a seventh term on Sunday, has developed an effective system to stay in power despite long overseas absences. One of Africa's longest serving leaders, he has made Yaounde's Etoudi presidential palace his home since 1982. "Those who want power don't last, it's those who can (rule)" he told journalists in 2015, making a rare remark about his long time in charge of Cameroon. One aspect of his time in office is the "subtle balance of forces" which Biya has created in the country, in a region where leadership changes are often accompanied by force, according to International Crisis Group's (ICG) Hans de Marie Heungoup.

Cameroon's system was "designed so that everyone polices themselves and maintained inter-generational and ethnic rivalries," Heungoup said. "No one can move an active (security force) unit without the say-so of the president," he added, emphasizing the importance of the balance between the regularly army, the rapid intervention force, and the presidential guard—the last two of which report directly to the president. The president's appointment of loyalists to key posts has also assured his long rule.

'You'll be crushed'

The speaker of the National Assembly, the head of the army and the head of the state-run oil and gas company are all confidants of the president, and have each held their jobs for more than 15 years. The system has been strengthened through "a mix of resigned acceptance and patronage among certain elite leaders who rally behind the regime," said Fred Eboko, a researcher at the French Institute for Research and Development (IRD).

Biya's primary motivation since coming to office has been "to stay in power," he added. "The system is built on a single individual and this individual is identified with the job," said Titus Edzoa, a former confidant of the president who was secretary general of Biya's presidency between 1994 and 1996 and held ministerial posts on several occasions. "If you try to go against Biya, you'll be crushed," he said. "In power for 35 years... that's talent"

He should know. After resigning as a health minister in 1997 to stand in elections, he was arrested and accused of stealing millions of CFA francs. He spent 15 years behind bars. Now a free man, he warns that by centering the system on Paul Biya's personality "not only could the system implode, but so too could the whole of Cameroon" in the near future. "Whether you want him or not, he's still human and you have to think of the future," he said. "How do you look back on the story of a people dominated by an individual?" Oswald Baboke, the deputy director of the presidency, wrote in a book published in September that "Biya's fate seemed pre-determined" and "an opportunity given by God". "Being in power for 35 years and standing again, that's talent," added Edzoa.

His repeated long absences from Cameroon, mostly in Switzerland or in his home village in his country's south, have been bitterly criticized. According to the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), a consortium of investigative journalists, Biya spent "at least four-and-a-half years of his 35 years in power on private visits" abroad. But for the final leg of the campaign, which concludes on Saturday, Biya did at least make a rare public appearance, visiting the far-north which has been engulfed by Boko Haram jihadist violence—his first trip there since 2012. —AFP

International

Amid Kavanaugh fight, Trump says it is a 'scary time' for men

After days of restraint, Trump mocks Kavanaugh accuser

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that allegations of sexual misconduct against his US Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh, showed that "it's a very scary time for young men in America" who now may be presumed guilty even when innocent. Five days after an extraordinary Senate hearing watched by millions of people in which university professor Christine Blasey Ford detailed her sexual assault allegation against Kavanaugh, Trump raised the issue of false accusations against men.

"My whole life, I've heard you're innocent until proven guilty. But now, you're guilty until proven innocent. That is a very, very difficult standard," Trump said outside the White House. "Well, I say that it's a very scary time for young men in America when you can be guilty of something that you may not be guilty of." The fight over Kavanaugh's nomination to a lifetime job on the top U.S. court comes against the backdrop of the #MeToo movement fighting sexual harassment and assault that has toppled a succession of powerful men. Under pressure from Democrats and some moderate fellow Republicans, Trump on Friday ordered an FBI investigation lasting up to a week into the allegations against his nominee.

He told reporters on Tuesday he thought

Kavanaugh would win Senate confirmation once the FBI finishes its investigation. Kavanaugh's confirmation would consolidate conservative control of the Supreme Court, with disputes involving abortion rights, immigration, gay rights, voting rights and transgender troops possibly heading to the court soon. The fight over Kavanaugh's nomination has been unusually emotional and has unfolded just weeks ahead of Nov. 6 elections in which Democrats are trying to seize

“You're guilty until proven innocent”

control of Congress from Republicans.

Some Republicans fear pushing ahead with Kavanaugh's confirmation could alienate women voters, while Democrats are seeking to capitalize on the controversy. Trump, who was himself accused during the 2016 presidential race of sexual misconduct

with numerous women, tried to link the allegations against Kavanaugh to what he said was a broader problem. "What's happening here has much more to do than even the appointment of a Supreme Court justice. It really does. You could be somebody that was perfect your entire life, and somebody could accuse you of something. It doesn't necessarily have to be a woman," Trump said.

Ford testified that Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her at a party in 1982 when they were high school students in Maryland. At a rally in Mississippi on Tuesday night, Trump mocked Ford for not having answers to some questions during her testimony. "What neighborhood was it in? I don't know. Where's the house? I don't know. Upstairs, downstairs, where was it? I don't know. But I had one beer. That's the only thing I remember," Trump said in imitation of Ford's testimony. "And a man's life is in tatters," he said.

Angry denials

In angry and defiant testimony before the Senate, Kavanaugh denied Ford's accusation, as well as allegations by two other women of sexual misconduct in the 1980s. Senator Jeff Flake, a moderate Republican who could be pivotal in the confirmation vote, raised con-



WASHINGTON: This combo photo shows Dr Christine Blasey Ford, the woman accusing Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh (left) of sexually assaulting her at a party 36 years ago, during testimony during Kavanaugh's US Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington. —AFP

cerns about the judge's "partisan" tone at the Judiciary Committee hearing. "I tell myself, 'You give a little leeway because of what he's been through.' But on the other hand, we can't have this on the court. We simply can't," Flake, who is retiring as a senator in

January, said at an event in Washington. Flake voted to approve Kavanaugh in the committee's vote on Friday that sent the nomination to the full Senate, but he also insisted the FBI investigate the sexual misconduct allegations. —Reuters

New headache for Macron; interior minister resigns

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron was left scrambling to fill another key cabinet post yesterday after Interior Minister Gerard Collomb resigned, the third minister to step down in two months. Prime Minister Edouard Philippe took temporary control of the interior ministry while Macron began searching for a replacement for 71-year-old Collomb, who was one of the first politicians to back him for president. The fate of Collomb, nicknamed "France's top cop" because his ministry is in charge of security and immigration, has thrown the government into flux. Macron initially refused his resignation on Monday but on Tuesday night gave into Collomb's request to be allowed to run again for his former job as mayor of the eastern city of Lyon.

The Liberation newspaper described the back-and-forth as "extraordinary dilly-dallying which seems more like something from a music-hall than government politics". Collomb's departure adds to the woes of the France's centrist leader, who is battling record low approval ratings after 17 months in power. It comes just weeks after popular environment minister Nicolas Hulot resigned live on radio without warning Macron, saying he felt "all alone" in the government on green issues. A stony-faced Philippe vowed at a handover ceremony yesterday to "maintain the highest level of security for French people" while in charge of the interior ministry.

'Father and son'

Collomb, a political heavyweight, had indicated two weeks ago that he intended to step down next year to run for his old job in Lyon. But he came under pressure to resign immediately, with critics complaining that his focus had already shifted to the campaign trail. He has previously compared his relationship with Macron, 31 years his junior, to that of a father and son, and wept during the new president's inauguration in May 2017.

But their relationship is reported to have soured this



PARIS: French Interior Minister Gerard Collomb (right) gestures towards French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe as he speaks at The Hotel de Beauvau - Interior Ministry yesterday, during a speech after his resignation. —AFP

summer over a scandal surrounding Macron's former security aide Alexandre Benalla. Benalla was caught on camera roughing up protesters at an anti-government demonstration, apparently posing as a policeman. The affair blew up into a major scandal after it emerged that Macron's office knew about the incident but kept Benalla on staff, only firing him after Le Monde newspaper broke the story. Summoned to appear before a parliamentary inquiry, Collomb had pointed the finger of blame at Macron's office, saying it was up to presidency to report Benalla to prosecutors.

'Firing line'

Collomb "did not appreciate being put in the firing line over an affair which he didn't believe was anything to do with him", an aide said. The rift between him and Macron appeared to deepen in recent weeks, with Collomb saying last month that Macron's government "lacked humility"—echoing the accusations of arrogance often leveled at Macron personally.

Collomb served as Lyon mayor for 16 years until

Macron poached him for the interior ministry, and it had long been rumored that he was eyeing a fourth term at the helm of France's third-biggest city. He is the third minister to quit Macron's government since August, following ex-environment minister Hulot and former sports minister Laura Flessel. The search for a new interior minister—one of the most powerful jobs in France—comes as Macron wrestles with problems on multiple fronts in his second year in office.

The former investment banker came to power at the head of a new centrist party promising to clean up politics and revive France's sputtering economy. But his government has been forced to cut its growth forecast to a lacklustre 1.6 percent this year as his pro-business reforms struggle to jumpstart an economic turnaround. His ratings have tumbled, not helped by a string of comments seen as arrogant and dismissive towards ordinary people. An Ifo poll on September 23 showed only 29 percent of respondents are satisfied with his performance while a Kantar Sofres poll on September 18 showed only 19 percent felt he was doing a good job. —AFP

Melania Trump tours former slavery outpost

CAPE COAST: US First Lady Melania Trump visited a former slave trading fort in Ghana yesterday, the second day of her maiden solo tour of Africa promoting her children's welfare program. "Akwaaba (Welcome) to Cape Coast," read a sign hung from the whitewashed walls of the Cape Coast Castle, some 145 kilometers from the capital, Accra. But there were signs that the soft diplomatic push was yet to take off locally, as comparisons were drawn to the visit of former US president Barack Obama and his family in 2009.

"The interest is very, very muted and subdued. There are a lot of people (in Ghana) who are extremely indifferent about this visit," political commentator Else Sikanku said. A relaxed and smiling Melania Trump arrived in Accra from Washington on Tuesday to a red-carpet welcome of traditional dancing and flag-waving schoolchildren. In a day of engagements as part of her "Be Best" campaign in education and healthcare, she handed out teddy bears to newborns and met her Ghanaian counterpart, Rebecca Akufo-Addo.

The highlight of Wednesday's itinerary was the tour of Cape Coast Castle, a major outpost on the Atlantic slave trading route, where she also met members of the local Fante tribe. The imposing fort on the windswept coast, where untold numbers of people were kept in dark dungeons before being shipped overseas, is now on the UNESCO World Heritage List. It has seen a steady increase in visitors since Obama and his family toured the site. Obama—whose photo now adorns the wall of a hall renamed in his honor—said at the time that the cells were a



CAPE COAST: US First Lady Melania Trump walks with Kwesi Essel-Blankson, Museum Educator, at the Cape Coast Castle, a former slave trading fort, in Cape Coast. —AFP

reminder that "sometimes we can tolerate and stand by great evil even as we think that we are doing good".

Carve her own path

The first lady's visit to Ghana, Malawi, Kenya and Egypt has been seen as an attempt to carve her own path and emerge from her husband's shadow and his divisive presidency. It also comes after another turbulent week for the Trump administration, with controversy about his pick for the US Supreme Court, who has been accused of sexual assault. On Tuesday, President Trump openly mocked the university professor who made the allegations, drawing scorn from critics who said such taunts deterred survivors of assault. In Africa, interest in Melania Trump's

visit is being watched to see if she can mend fences after her husband's reported comment that the continent contained "shithole" countries.

Those who met her on Tuesday said they found the enigmatic former model "warm" and "gentle", although she made no speech and on Wednesday was heard largely thanking local dignitaries. Overall, there were doubts the visit would radically alter existing ties. The first lady wants to highlight the work of the US Agency for International Development, even as her husband looks to slash aid and restrict it to perceived friendly nations. The president has shown little interest in Africa since coming to power but tweeted about his wife's meeting with new mothers: "Proud of our great First Lady - and she loves doing this!" —AFP

News in brief

Woman sues Facebook

TEXAS: A Texas woman, claiming that she was raped, beaten and sex trafficked at the age of 15 by a pimp who posed as a Facebook "friend," has filed suit against the social network, alleging its executives knew minors were being lured into the sex trade on their platform. The woman, identified only as Jane Doe in court papers filed in Harris County District Court in Houston on Monday, also named as defendants the now-shuttered classified ads website backpage.com and its founders. Facebook did not respond to a request by Reuters for comment. Attorneys for Backpage.com and the former employees named in the lawsuit as defendants also did not return calls for comment. According to the lawsuit, the woman was "friended" on Facebook in 2012 by a user who appeared to know several of her real-life friends. The man messaged her through Facebook, according to the lawsuit, which was seen by Reuters. —Reuters

3 fall into deep well

MUMBAI: Three people have died after falling into a deep well during a Hindu ceremony in Mumbai, officials in the Indian city said yesterday. The victims—two women and a child—were among devotees performing rituals Tuesday evening above the 30-foot well when they fell to their deaths, a disaster official said. "Around 14 women fell into the well when the grill they were sitting on gave away and crashed," Tanaji Kamble, a spokesman for Mumbai's disaster management department said. Pictures from the scene showed emergency crews pumping water from the depths of the wide, murky well. Eleven women were rescued, with five rushed to hospital for treatment to injuries sustained in the fall, Kamble added. Fatalities and injuries are common during India's often chaotic religious festivities. —AFP

Putin slams poisoned ex-spy

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin yesterday called Sergei Skripal, a former Russian double agent poisoned in Britain, a scumbag who had betrayed Russia. Skripal and his daughter Yulia were found slumped on a public bench in the English city of Salisbury in March. Britain says they were poisoned with a nerve agent administered by Russian intelligence officers. Russia denies involvement in the affair, which has deepened its international isolation. "I see that some of our colleagues are pushing the theory that Mr Skripal was almost some kind of human rights activist," Putin said at an energy forum in Moscow when asked about the case. "He was simply a spy. A traitor to the motherland. He's simply a scumbag, that's all," Putin added, in remarks that drew applause from parts of the audience. — Reuters

White supremacists charged

WASHINGTON: US authorities charged four members of a white supremacist movement Tuesday with inciting violence over the deadly "Unite the Right" march in Charlottesville, Virginia in August 2017. The event culminated in a man driving a car into a crowd of counter-protesters, killing a woman and injuring 19 other people. President Donald Trump infamously took 48 hours to respond only to blame "both sides" despite overwhelming evidence that neo-Nazis were the principal source of violence. Benjamin Daley, Michael Miselis, Thomas Gillen and Cole White were arrested after being identified in pictures and video attacking counter-protestors during the march, which resulted in serious injuries, an indictment issued Tuesday said. All four were members of the southern California-based "Rise Above Movement," which prosecutors described as a militant white supremacist and anti-Semitic group. — AFP

International

Ricin suspected in mail sent to Trump and the Pentagon

US Secret Service intercepts suspicious packages

WASHINGTON: Mail addressed to President Donald Trump and the Pentagon was suspected of containing the deadly poison ricin, officials said yesterday. The US Secret Service said it had obtained a "suspicious envelope" addressed to Trump on Monday, the same day at least two suspicious packages were intercepted at a screening center for Pentagon mail, according to a Defense Department spokesman.

"The envelope was not received at the White House, nor did it ever enter the White House," the Secret Service said. "We can confirm that we are working jointly with our law enforcement partners to fully investigate this matter." Chris Sherwood, a Pentagon spokesman, said authorities at its screening site "recognized some suspicious packages," noting they were "suspected to be ricin." He stressed that authorities were still waiting for confirmation that the packages contained ricin. Pentagon police referred the matter to the FBI for investigation.

A defense official said the packages were addressed to Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Navy chief Admiral John Richardson. While located on the Pentagon campus, the mail facility is not within the main building itself. Employees wear white protective suits in order to examine mail suspected of containing ricin, which has been used in terror plots. The White and Pentagon pieces of mail were

likely linked and contained a crude substance made from castor bean that authorities were not technically calling "ricin" until further testing, CNN reported, citing a source familiar with the joint federal investigation.

Produced by processing castor beans, ricin is lethal in minute doses if swallowed, inhaled or injected. It is 6,000 times more potent than cyanide, with no known antidote. Highly toxic, it can cause nausea, vomiting, internal bleeding and difficulty breathing, leading to death from organ failure or the collapse of the circulatory system. "FBI Special Agents took possession of two suspicious envelopes that had been screened at the Pentagon mail facility. Those envelopes are currently undergoing further testing," the FBI said in a statement.

Colonel Rob Manning, a Defense Department spokesman, said all mail received at the Pentagon's screening facility Monday was "placed under quarantine and poses no threat to Pentagon personnel." Pentagon authorities showed reporters the secure area where mail is received. Defense Department workers in white protective suits screen every piece of post that comes in, about 500,000 items per year, officials said. Earlier, two people were hospitalized in Houston, Texas after being exposed to a white powdery substance found in letters addressed to Senator Ted Cruz, a Republican, US media reported. —AFP



WASHINGTON: US Defense Department personnel, wearing protective suits, screen mail as it arrives at the Pentagon in Washington, DC yesterday. —AFP



Ricin is lethal if injected, inhaled or swallowed

Time running out for survivors as Indonesia death toll tops 1,400

WANI: The death toll in Indonesia's twin quake-tsunami disaster passed 1,400 yesterday, with time running out to rescue survivors and the UN warning of "vast" unmet needs. Authorities have set a tentative deadline of Friday to find anyone still trapped under rubble, at which point—a week after this devastating double disaster on Sulawesi island—the chances of finding survivors will dwindle to almost zero. Military spokesman M Thohir said the number of confirmed dead has risen to 1,411, while the disaster agency said 519 bodies have already been buried. Government rescue workers seeking survivors are focusing on half a dozen key sites around the seaside city of Palu—the Hotel Roa-Roa where up to 60 people are still believed buried, a shopping mall, a restaurant and the Balaroa area where the sheer force of the quake turned the earth temporarily to mush. At least 150 people are unaccounted for beneath the rubble, officials said. According to the UN's humanitarian office almost 200,000 people need urgent help, among them tens of thousands of children, with an estimated 66,000 homes destroyed or damaged by the 7.5-magnitude quake and the tsunami it spawned.

Despite the Indonesian government urging foreign rescue teams to "stand down" because the crisis was in hand, residents in hard-hit, remote villages like Wani in Donggala province say little help has arrived and hope is fading. "Twelve people in this area haven't yet been found," Mohammad Thahir Talib said. "In the area to the south, because there hasn't been an evacuation we don't know if there are bodies. It's

possible there are more," the 39-year-old said.

In Geneva, the United Nations expressed frustration at the slow pace of the response. "There are still large areas of what might be the worst-affected areas that haven't been properly reached, but the teams are pushing, they are doing what they can," Jens Laerke, from the UN's humanitarian office, told reporters late Tuesday. The World Health Organization has estimated that across Donggala, some 310,000 people have been affected by the disaster. Survivors are battling thirst and hunger, with food and clean water in short supply, and local hospitals are overwhelmed by the number of injured.

Officials on the ground said that while the government was now inviting offers of help, there is still no "mechanism for this to be implemented". Landing slots at Palu airport are snapped up by the Indonesian military, although it was expected to be open to commercial flights from 7:59am today. Palu's port, a key transit point for aid, has been damaged. Signs of desperation are growing, with police officers forced to fire warning shots and tear-gas to ward off people ransacking shops.

Body bag shortage

Six of the Indonesian social affairs ministry's trucks laden with supplies were reportedly looted enroute to Palu and on one route out of the city, an AFP journalist saw youths blocking the road and asking for "donations". On the outskirts of the city, hundreds of people sifted through the ruins of a collapsed factory, salvaging food, drinks and construction materials. Indonesia President Joko Widodo, who faces reelection next year, insisted the military and the police were in full control. "There is no such thing as looting," he said on a visit to Palu.

As survivors pick through the shattered remains of their neighborhoods, the death toll continues to rise. The Indonesia-based ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance said that more body bags were "urgently" needed as fears grow that decomposing corpses could provide a breeding



WANI: A quake survivor stands among the debris of his neighborhood in Wani, Indonesia's Central Sulawesi yesterday, after an earthquake and tsunami hit the area. —AFP

ground for deadly diseases. Rescue efforts have been hampered by a lack of heavy machinery, severed transport links and the scale of the damage. In yet another reminder of Indonesia's vulnerability to natural disasters, the Sopotan Volcano in Sulawesi erupted yesterday, spewing volcanic ash up to 4,000 meters above the crater.

The state disaster agency warned people to stay at least four kilometers away, but said there was no need to evacuate for the time being. International aid offers have picked up since Jakarta's belated request for help, with the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund announcing late Tuesday that it was releasing \$15 million in aid. Yesterday, Australia said it was sending a medical team to the disaster zone and providing an additional \$5 million in aid.

With power returning to parts of Palu late

Tuesday and phone networks back up and running, there were some signs of things getting back to normal. But for most, daily life has changed beyond all recognition. Palu residents crowded around daisy-chained power strips at the few buildings with electricity, or queued for water, cash or petrol being brought in via armed police convoy. Queues to get a few litres of petrol lasted more than 24 hours in some places.

Sanitation is also a growing problem. "People everywhere want to go to the toilet but there's no toilet. So we do it along the road at night," said 50-year-old Armatwati Yarin. Indonesia sits along the Pacific "Ring of Fire", the world's most tectonically active region, and its 260 million people remain hugely vulnerable to earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. —AFP

India risks sanctions over Russia missiles

NEW DELHI: The United States has warned India against a planned purchase of S-400 surface-to-air missiles from Russia when President Vladimir Putin's visits New Delhi this week, saying such an acquisition would attract sanctions under US law. India's military wants the missile batteries, both as a deterrent against China and to gain an edge over traditional rival, Pakistan, as they are able to track and shoot down combat aircraft, even stealth planes, at unprecedented ranges. India and Russia will sign the missile deal, estimated at more than \$5 billion, during Putin's visit for annual summit talks with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi beginning on Thursday, a Kremlin aide said.

But the United States has warned countries trading with Russia's defense and intelligence sectors they would face automatic sanctions under a sweeping legislation called Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) that President Donald Trump signed into law last August. The law is designed to punish Putin for the 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine, involvement in the Syrian civil war and meddling in the 2016 US presidential election. "We urge all of our allies and partners to forgo transactions with Russia that would trigger sanctions under the CAATSA," a US State Department representative said.

"The administration has indicated that a focus area for the implementation of CAATSA Section 231 is new or qualitative upgrades in capability - including the S-400 air and missile defense system." Last month, the United States imposed sanctions on China's military for its purchase of combat fighters as well as the S-400 missile system it bought from Russia this year.

The United States is also concerned about NATO ally Turkey's decision to buy the Russian missile system, seeing it as incompatible with the alliance systems. —Reuters



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Low-wage workers in US demand better treatment in #MeToo era

Kim Lawson took a second job at McDonald's last year in Kansas City, Missouri, to help make ends meet as a single mother to a three-year-old girl. It did not take long before two co-workers - one a manager - began sexually harassing her, the 25-year-old says. One would repeatedly brush up against her. The other made suggestive comments about her body, telling her "You can talk to me when your boyfriend is not around." Her complaints to management did not stop the harassment. "I felt helpless," Lawson told AFP. "I was ashamed that it was happening to me."

One year after the #MeToo movement sprang up from the lurid allegations of abuse and harassment against Hollywood mega-producer Harvey Weinstein, McDonald's employees and other low-wage and blue-collar workers are seeking to join the movement. Lacking celebrity wattage or political might, they are turning to public displays, such as protests, legal battles, and teaching each other about their rights.

Lawson's allegations are detailed in a complaint to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) - the US agency tasked with investigating worker discrimination claims - filed in concert with nine other McDonald's workers in May. They range from a 36-year-old cook in Los Angeles who claimed a co-worker "spanked my butt" multiple times and asked her what sexual positions she preferred, to a 15-year-old girl who alleged an older male co-worker repeatedly made "offensive, sexual comments" and advances. "He said he liked my breasts and that they were 'plump,'" the girl claimed in a filing.

The official complaints are part of a campaign to pressure McDonald's to improve sexual harassment training and boost worker protections. The Chicago-headquartered company says it has policies in place at its corporate-owned stores and will increase training.

Economically vulnerable

In mid-September, McDonald's workers made a very public example of their company by staging a one-day protest in 10 US cities. They claim the company is not doing enough to address a culture of impunity for those who harass and abuse employees. And they hope that McDonald's - with 235,000 employees worldwide - might have a major impact, if it gets tougher on harassment. McDonald's workers' stories of mistreatment are not new nor limited to the burger giant.

In the restaurant industry as a whole, 40 percent of female fast-food workers say they have experienced sexual harassment, according to a 2016 survey by Hart Research Associates, a Washington-based public opinion firm. The problem also is not confined to restaurants. Female construction workers have alleged decades of animus and harassment from male colleagues, often in efforts to keep them away from male-dominated fields. Women workers at a Chicago-area Ford plant have sued over widespread harassment, also dating back decades. The automaker apologized in December and promised changes.

Modest victories

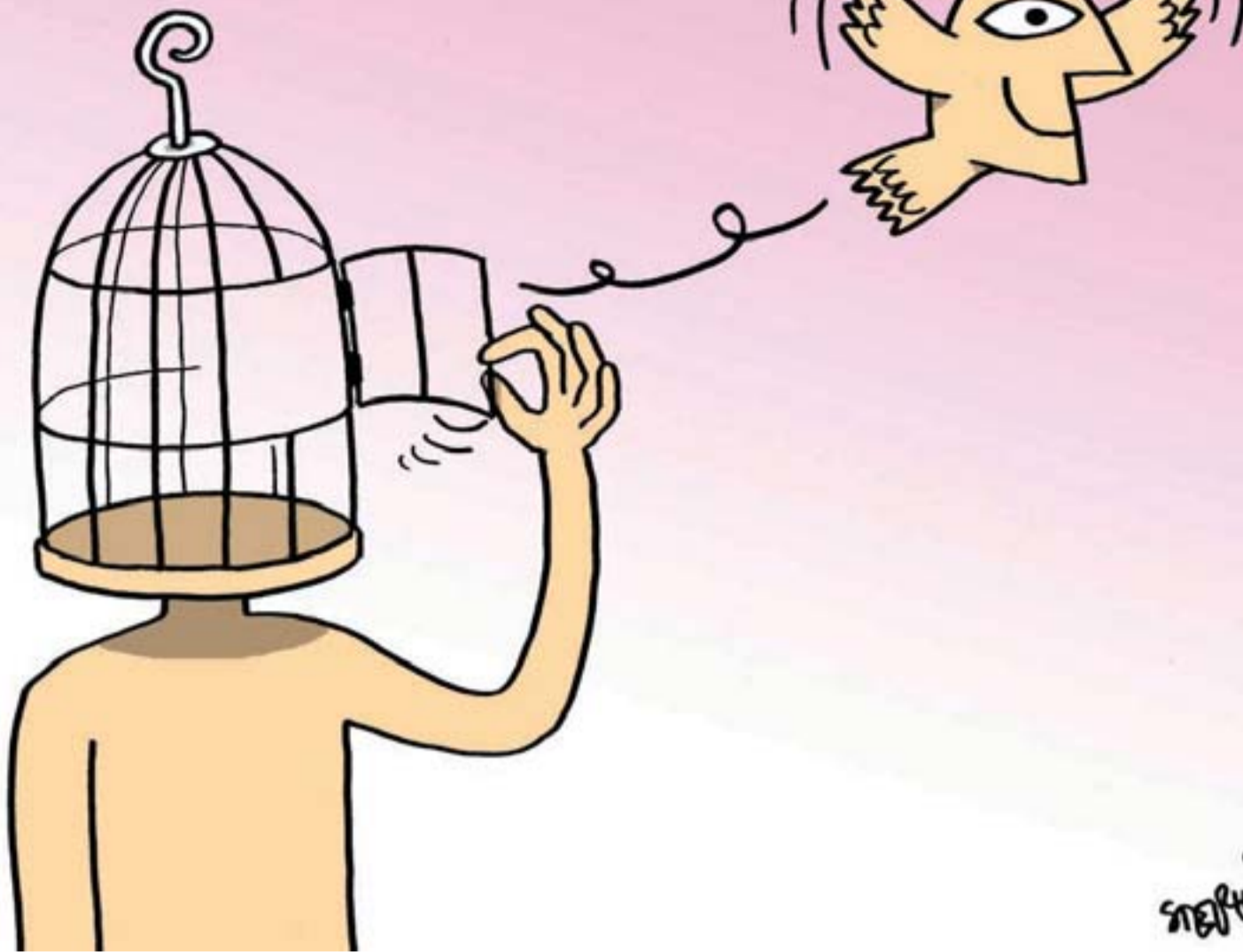
"These workers themselves don't have the power of celebrity," said Mary Joyce Carlson, a lawyer with Fight for \$15, a union-backed campaign to increase wages and workplace protections for low-income workers. "They have economic vulnerability and they are more easily exploited than women who have celebrity or power," Carlson told AFP. A year into the #MeToo movement, low-wage and blue-collar workers have scored some modest victories.

Among the most notable came in September, when five major US hotel chains agreed to distribute "panic" buttons to housekeeping staff to protect them from guests who harass them - a long-time complaint. And, the Time's Up Legal Defense Fund - set up to provide attorneys to workers who can't afford one - has collected \$21 million since its inception in January to help fight sexual harassment. About 3,500 people so far have asked for help, according to the fund's director Sharyn Tejana.

The fund is representing workers in a variety of industries - police officers and paramedics, restaurant and construction workers, and home health care providers. "Certainly, people are feeling like they can speak up more," she told AFP. "Our intakes are not slowing down." McDonald's employees' public campaign has put the burger giant on the defensive. The company says it already provides anti-harassment information to workers and training for managers at its owned and operated stores. It also has a hotline for reporting complaints.

The company promised "new mandatory training for corporate-owned restaurant general managers and staff" and an updated harassment and discrimination policy with "input from third-party experts". "We take employees' safety and well-being seriously, and will not tolerate harassment or discrimination of any kind at McDonald's owned and operated restaurants," it added in a statement. But McDonald's only owns nine percent of its locations. The other stores - more than 34,000 worldwide - are independently-owned by franchisees. — AFP

Cartoon for the Soul



Kazakh families torn apart in crackdown

When he looks back on his youth in China's far-west Xinjiang region, Akikat Kaliolla, an ethnic Kazakh, recalls the place's natural beauty and the big, colourful weddings typical of his majority-Muslim community. But now Emin County where he grew up is a sealed-off pocket in a region experiencing a security crackdown against what Beijing calls separatist elements. Over a million people are allegedly being held in a secretive network of extra-judicial, political re-education centers, according to a United Nations panel of experts.

In an interview with AFP in Kazakhstan, Kaliolla, a 34-year-old national, said this year he'd lost contact with his mother, father and two younger brothers, who he believes were interned in one of the camps. "What they are doing to people there, especially to my parents, is illegal," the professional musician said, during the interview in Kazakhstan's largest city, Almaty. "They are not livestock but people with rights. Both of my parents are elderly and in ill health."

About 1.5 million ethnic Kazakhs live in Xinjiang, a region that borders Central Asia and has long been home to ethnic tensions. They had until recently avoided the kind of state repression of which the mostly Muslim Uighurs, who make up the region's demographic majority, have long complained. But Kaliolla is just one of many to have been separated from relatives across the border, as the Chinese authorities now train their sights on the ethnic Kazakhs. He said that he knows of "around a hundred people" either interned in the camps or with relatives there. "Lots of them are the same people I watched get married," he added.

His only contact with the missing family members in over six months was in August, when his brother got in touch at the request of Xinjiang authorities, he said. He demanded that Kaliolla stop "speaking out imprudently" about their situation, as this would only bring them harm, he explained.

Advances in surveillance

A report by Human Rights Watch on political repres-

sions in Xinjiang said rights violations in the nominally autonomous region "are of a scope and scale not seen in China since the 1966-1976 Cultural Revolution". What has changed since that time, according to the report released in September, are advances in surveillance techniques and bio-data collection that are being practised systematically on largely Muslim minorities.

In August, Beijing described as "completely untrue" the claim by a United Nations human rights panel that over a million ethnic Uighurs and other ethnic minorities had been placed in re-education camps. Kaliolla, who moved to Kazakhstan after meeting his future wife, a citizen, at a music school in Xinjiang, said his family was targeted because his father spoke out against injustices perpetrated by police in Emin County. "My father was a legal counselor there. When the government began putting more and more pressure on the Kazakh people, he wrote an appeal to the central authorities in Beijing," he told AFP.

'Help us, please'

Unlike Uighurs, many of whom say they face cultural and religious repression, Kazakhs had long moved freely between China and their historic homeland. That freedom disappeared after hardline official Chen Quanguo, known for his control measures in Tibet, became the Xinjiang Communist Party chief in 2016. China has pointed to a series of attacks in Xinjiang by suspected Islamist radicals in recent years as justification for the clampdown.

With concerns growing over the rights of the region's ethnic minorities, neighboring Kazakhstan has inadvertently become the focus for those speaking out. Kazakhstan officials themselves have steadfastly refused to refer specifically to the camps, even after voicing concern over the situation. But Kazakh nationals with relatives missing in Xinjiang have been more forthcoming, sharing stories of despair and separation at press conferences in Almaty.

"Eight months and no contact! Help us, please!" exclaimed one woman, Gaukhar Kurmanaliyeva, to

reporters in August. Kurmanaliyeva spoke of how her male cousin, a Kazakh citizen, was snatched by Chinese police at a shopping area at the border. Her account was followed by that of Muratkhan Kasengazy, who said his wife - another Kazakh passport holder - had been held in China since December 2017 after going there for medical treatment.

In recent months, Kazakhstan risked China's wrath by refusing to deport an ethnic Kazakh woman of Chinese citizenship, who had confessed to crossing the border illegally to join her husband and children. The woman, Sayragul Saulybay, became an international media sensation after testifying in a court hearing that she had been forced by Beijing to work in a re-education camp, where, she said, 2,500 ethnic Kazakhs were interned.

Rare happy endings

Kazakh Foreign Minister Kairat Abdrakhmanov said in August that his country was in dialogue with Beijing over nearly 700 cases of Kazakhs unable to leave China. In some instances, the approach appears to have borne fruit. Guzalnur Jeniskazy went to China to visit relatives in 2016, leaving her four-month-old daughter at home for what was meant to be a short trip. But she ended up spending several months under house arrest and even a short stint in detention after losing her Kazakh passport, she told AFP correspondents, who witnessed her emotional family reunion at an Almaty bus station in July. "Thanks to the Kazakh consulate (in Urumqi, Xinjiang) I was freed," she said, holding her daughter tightly pressed to her.

Such happy endings seem a rarity, however. Dependent on China's economic largesse and seeking a pivotal role in its trillion-dollar trade and infrastructure drive, the oil-rich Central Asian country is poorly placed to make demands, analysts say. "Kazakhstan's leverage over China is miserly," Aidos Sarym, an Almaty-based political scientist, told AFP. "If China does not bend to the European Union and the United States, what can we say of Kazakhstan?" — AFP

Cameroon displaced fear disenfranchisement

"If you have the polling card, you go and vote, but it's complicated once you're there," said Yagana Adi, 55, who wants to vote in Cameroon's presidential election on Sunday. Her identity papers were lost when she fled an attack on her village by Boko Haram militants in 2014. The raid happened in Djakana in Cameroon's far north near the Nigerian border and forced her to abandon her home along with her 13 children. "I said to the children that we were leaving, we walked for hours, days, and we arrived in Maroua," the regional capital, she said. Two of her daughters did not manage to flee in time and were picked up by jihadists.

Nearly one in 10 people in the far north have followed a similar path to Yagana, fleeing repeated attacks by Boko Haram which is based in neighboring Nigeria. Roughly 80,000 have since returned home but 238,000 remain displaced, according to the International Organization for Migration. Many have sought refuge with friends and family in the region's towns like Maroua. "If you go into a Maroua neighbourhood, they're everywhere," said a humanitarian source on the ground. "The problem is that they don't have their papers anymore and so can't register on the voter roll."

'Challenges for displaced people'

The electoral commission Elecam has vowed that those who have been "displaced will be able to vote," according to the organizing body's regional director Amadou Ali. "They're not just displaced people - they are voters. The fact that they've been displaced will not have any impact on the election." He added that people without their documents will be able to register to vote in the towns where they have sought refuge. "It's not true, I

wasn't able to get a voting card," retorted Yagana, as she rested on a mat. "I've requested it but a local official asked me for 40,000 CFA francs (\$70)."

Yagana and her family are now living on a vacant plot of land lent to her by a Maroua resident where they have erected a makeshift shelter using sheets and tarpaulins. "I think less than one-third of those displaced in the far north are registered on the voters' roll," said Hans de Marie Heungoup, a Cameroonian researcher at the International Crisis Group (ICG) think-tank.

The region is Cameroon's most populous and its poorest and has previously voted overwhelmingly for President Paul Biya. "There'll be an election in the far north, but who the people vote for is another question," said a prominent figure in Maroua where Biya made his only appearance of the campaign so far at the weekend. It was also his first visit to the region since 2012. Majority-francophone Cameroon's two English-speaking regions - the southwest and northwest - have been rocked by a separatist insurgency since a symbolic independence declaration one year ago. "The challenges for displaced people to vote there are greater," said a senior military source based in Yaounde.

"The election? It doesn't concern us" The army has been deployed to the two restive regions to battle separatist fighters since the end of 2017. According to the ICG, the secessionists control "a significant proportion of rural areas and main roads" in the regions. Skirmishes are violent and occur daily, displacing thousands of local residents. In the southwest, 246,000 people have been displaced according to the UN, while no estimate exists for the northwest region which is largely inaccessible to aid groups and journalists. — AFP

DRC challenge: Fulfilling economic potential

"A Land of Many Potentials" is how DR Congo's investment promotion agency touts the mineral-rich nation of 80 million people, just weeks away from crucial elections. Yet the business community's wish list is frighteningly long in a country that is synonymous with corruption, according to its Transparency International profile, which ranked it 161 out of 180 countries last year. The gap between potential and the current state of affairs poses a daunting challenge for whoever succeeds President Joseph Kabila in the December 23 presidential poll.

Major progress is needed on all fronts from agriculture, electricity, roads, customs tariffs and fiscal policy to tackling endemic corruption. Business leaders say people are crying out for a savvy leader in a country ranked 176 on the Human Development Index by UNDP. "He must learn to manage the country like a business. We have excelled in political politics rather than a realistic economic policy producing wealth," businessman Yves Kabongo told a recent investment forum as the nation approaches the end of the Kabila era that has stretched almost two decades.

The next head of state must "avoid making political arrangements and instead choose expertise", insisted Alain Kahasha, managing director of the Congolese branch of Indian telecoms operator Airtel. DR Congo is blessed

with an abundance of mineral riches and fertile land but is one of the world's poorest nations. Annual economic output totals just \$457 dollars per person - or \$1.25 per day.

Change mindset

Economist Al Kitenge said a change in mindset is required. "It's time to think beyond the golden age of the mines," he said. The mining and export of cobalt, as well as copper, tantalum and gold, have been the biggest creators of wealth in the country. But those riches have been a factor fuelling devastating conflicts and had "a perverse effect on all sectors", said Kabongo. He said country needs instead to focus on agriculture, which could help provide jobs for many more than the mining industry ever could and help reduce hunger.

The government estimates that a vibrant agriculture sector could provide jobs for more than two-thirds of the population, but at the moment only 10 percent of land is used for farming. Staples such as rice, maize, manioc and other crops grow profusely in the lush tropical climate. Yet the state shells out more than \$1 billion year to import basic foodstuffs. And many Congolese are very lucky if they manage to eat three good meals a day. "Food self-sufficiency" has to be the goal, said Kahasha. But here as well there is a problem. "You can talk about agriculture, but if you don't have the infrastructure to transform and transport what is produced then there's no point," he said.

DR Congo's road network is so insufficient that farmers and traders often have to make a two-week trip in decrepit boats down the Congo river to sell their produce. Kabila recently told lawmakers that the vast nation that is around two thirds the size of Western Europe has just 27,877 km of roads. — AFP

Business

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2018

12 UK supermarket giant Tesco says profit dives by third**13** Italy deficit reports lift Wall Street, Euro stocks**14** Faith Capital closes multi-tranche seed round investment in Snapbook

KUWAIT: In this file photo, traders monitor share prices at the Boursa Kuwait. Boursa Kuwait ended trading yesterday in the green zone as the Premier Market index went up by 5.39 points to 5,328.93 points. The Main Market and the All-Share Market indices also rose up by 4.92 and 5.22 points. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Boursa Kuwait receives WFE membership

Another step towards market's integration into global financial markets

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait yesterday announced that the exchange has received a unanimous vote for admission as a full member of the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), the global trade association for the operators of regulated securities exchanges. The vote was conducted during the recent 58th WFE General Assembly in Athens, Greece.

The new membership marks another milestone on the Kuwaiti exchange's path towards further strengthening integration with global financial markets and benefiting from knowledge exchange with its peers.

Khaled Al-Khaled, CEO, Boursa Kuwait, commented: "We are very proud that Boursa Kuwait has been accepted as a full member of the World Federation of Exchanges. Since our privatization in 2016, we have put in a lot of hard and relentless work, and it is a pleasure to see it pay off. I am convinced that the excellence we have cultivated in our day-to-day operations has been a decisive factor in the positive vote. Not only has it given us a competitive edge

over other stock exchanges in the region, but it has now also earned us this remarkable recognition amongst our peers in the global trade association."

A rigorous assessment procedure preceded the membership vote. Boursa Kuwait was visited by a WFE inspection team, and several meetings with the management team as well as local key stakeholders, such as the Capital Markets Authority and the Central Bank of Kuwait, took place. The Kuwaiti stock exchange has been pursuing the creation and operation of an efficient, fair and transparent capital market platform that services all relevant asset classes. In their assessment report, the WFE Review Committee commended Boursa Kuwait on the attention paid to putting in place up-to-date regulatory and technological infrastructure, thus positioning the stock exchange for future growth and increased global exposure.

Al-Khaled added: "Especially in this day and age, the WFE membership is an important point of reference for many international

investors. The full membership status reflects Boursa Kuwait's pledge to implement the highest standards of international best practices. Our ambition is to become the foremost stock exchange in the Middle East, which is fully aligned with our country's Vision 2035, one of the key objectives of which is to establish Kuwait as a regional financial hub. Today's announcement is clearly an important step on that journey."

Nandini Sukumar, CEO, WFE commented: "The WFE is delighted to welcome Boursa Kuwait as a full member of the federation. Whilst a relatively new exchange, Boursa Kuwait has already delivered a great deal of positive change to the Kuwaiti capital market, focusing on three main fronts: transparency, efficiency and accessibility, values which are also central to the way in which the WFE itself operates. We are excited to support the exchange as it takes its steps towards an IPO, and look forward to working hand in hand over the coming years. We feel proud to include them in the global WFE family."



Boursa Kuwait was granted full WFE membership

Established in 1961, the WFE is the global industry association for exchanges and clearing houses. Headquartered in London, it represents over 200 market infrastructure providers, including standalone CCPs that are not part of exchange groups. Of our members, 36.8 percent are in Asia-Pacific, 42.6

percent in EMEA and 20.6 percent in the Americas. WFE exchanges are home to nearly 45,000 listed companies, and the market capitalisation of these entities is over \$82.5 trillion; around \$81.8 trillion (EOB) in trading annually passes through the infrastructures WFE members safeguard (at end 2017).

Oil price of \$65-\$75 per barrel would 'suit' Russia: Putin

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday said an oil price of \$65 to \$75 per barrel would "suit" Moscow, as crude soared this week to reach the highest level since November 2014.

"A price of \$65 to \$75 per barrel would suit us. This would be completely normal to ensure the efficient functioning of energy companies and the investment process," the Russian leader told an energy forum in Moscow. Oil prices spiked this week to a four-year peak, with Brent Crude at nearly \$85 per barrel on worries over stretched global supplies due to US sanctions on Iran.

Energy firms enjoyed big gains on the surge, after the world's top producers agreed to maintain output despite pressure from US President Donald Trump.

Trump accused OPEC-the Vienna-based oil producing cartel-of inflating crude prices and hurting consumers. "President Trump said that the price is high. He is partly right," Putin said.

"But such a price of oil is in large part the result of the current American administration's irresponsible policies, which directly affects the world economy," the Russian leader added.

OPEC and its non-cartel partners-including Russia-



MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin gives a speech at a plenary session of the Russian Energy Week international forum in Moscow yesterday. —AFP

agreed at the end of June to increase production after a previous agreement at the end of 2016 had limited supply to support prices. Despite this week's jump, oil remains far below record peaks of above \$147 reached in 2008 before the global economic downturn sparked a collapse in demand. Russia's economy remains highly dependent on exports of its energy resources. The 2014 collapse in oil prices along with Western sanctions over the Ukraine conflict plunged Russia's economy into a prolonged recession that severely curbed consumers' purchasing power. —AFP

UK economy shows steady growth, Brexit concerns weigh on firms

LONDON: Britain's economy appears to have kept up most of its steady growth in the July-September period, but uncertainty among companies remained high six months ahead of Brexit, a business survey showed yesterday.

The IHS Markit/CIPS UK Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) slipped to 53.9 in September from 54.3 in August, a shade weaker than the median forecast of 54.0 in a Reuters poll of economists.

IHS Markit said Britain's economy was on course to grow at a quarterly rate of just under 0.4 percent in the three months to September-the same as its average growth rate since the Brexit referendum of June 2016. The world's fifth-largest economy suffered a slow start to the year, when the country was hit by unusually cold weather, but grew solidly in the second quarter, albeit fuelled mostly by consumer

spending rather than trade or manufacturing.

Samuel Tombs, an economist at the consultancy Pantheon Macroeconomics, said yesterday's figures put scant pressure on the Bank of England to raise interest rates again before the March 2019 Brexit deadline.

"The economy remains a long way from overheating and growth is likely slow further if Brexit talks aren't amicably concluded soon, given that firms are reporting ... that political uncertainty is weighing on budget setting and confidence," he said.

IHS Markit said business optimism ticked up in September, but Brexit worries had kept it "firmly anchored" at levels that would normally indicate an imminent slowdown. Financial markets showed no reaction to the PMI, which was broadly as expected. London and Brussels have yet to agree the terms of their March 29 divorce, meaning there is still a chance of a no-deal Brexit that most economists think would harm British businesses.

Other data have also pointed to steady economic growth for now, although last week official statisticians said British companies cut their investment in the second quarter of 2018. Yesterday's PMI also pointed to growing cost pressures faced by British companies linked to rising oil prices-something BoE officials will be watching to see if this feeds through into broader inflation pressure. —Reuters

Business

Boursa Kuwait's segmentation will boost transparency: Expert

Capital market literacy to help bolster investor confidence

By Sajeev K Peter

KUWAIT: The three-tiered segmentation is a step forward for Boursa Kuwait's commitment to strengthen its regional and international track-record in terms of best practices to uphold transparency in the market and bolster investor confidence, said Simon Culhane, Chartered FCSI chief executive.

In an exclusive interview with Kuwait Times, Culhane said the new market segmentation enhances Boursa Kuwait's responsibility, especially with the modified Boursa Kuwait Rulebook and increases its competitiveness and liquidity. "It is encouraging to see leading institutions like Boursa Kuwait driving the improvement of capital market literacy and equipping investors with the tools to participate in the market with confidence," he said. Excerpts:

Kuwait Times: Kuwait's Capital Market Authority (CMA) has signed an agreement with the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment (CISI) two years ago. Do you observe any significant improvement in Kuwait capital market over the last two years, especially in the areas of integrity and ethics in finance?

Culhane: The Middle East has witnessed a better performing economy every year, with Kuwait being no exception. Kuwait's investment environment is getting more robust each year, evidenced by an increasing number of ultra-high net worth individuals coupled with the establishment of global and local corporations in the country. All of these point to the steady growth of the

Kuwaiti financial services profession, which shows no sign of slowing down in the foreseeable future.

The CISI is set to focus more on implementing ethics and integrity, both of which are crucial to developing trust in Kuwait's financial services profession. This will also demonstrate willingness amongst practitioners to continuously learn and develop or expand their skillset, as there are a minimum number of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) hours that need to be completed in order to remain a member of the CISI.

KT: As a global professional body for those who work in the financial services and investment profession, is CISI satisfied with the progress being made by Boursa Kuwait in setting standards of conduct and ethics for participants?

Culhane: With the launch of the educational portal on capital markets information, Boursa Kuwait is undoubtedly pursuing best practice and increasing transparency for the benefit of its stakeholders. As financial markets are constantly evolving, it is encouraging to see leading institutions like Boursa Kuwait driving the improvement of capital market literacy and equipping investors with the tools to participate in the market with confidence.

KT: Give me a brief about your partnership with Kuwait's Capital Market Authority (CMA) in the context of CISI certification standards.

Culhane: The CISI signed a memorandum of understanding with the Kuwait CMA in 2016 establishing a new qualifications framework, with international standards, to serve securities practitioners in the financial

sector. The agreement has also introduced a Kuwaiti local regulations exam to complement the existing international technical qualifications offered by the CISI, thereby ensuring the qualification has the local relevance Kuwaiti financial professionals require.

The partnership does not only aim to improve the efficiency of Kuwait's market participants, but it also keeps CMA's laws and regulations up-to-date with international best practices and qualification standards. This was aligned with the CMA's strategic plan to develop the securities sector, create an attractive investment environment, and raise Kuwait's profile as a financial hub in the region. The partnership is also a sign of the profession's increasing awareness of the importance of integrity and ethics in the financial services profession to gain investor confidence.

KT: Boursa Kuwait announced its second phase of market reform on April 1, 2018 bringing about a three-tiered segmented market, the introduction of new market-capitalized indices and circuit breakers on securities and indices. How do you look at these reforms on Boursa Kuwait?

Culhane: The announcement of the three-tiered segmentation is a step forward for Boursa Kuwait's commitment to strengthen its regional and international track-record in terms of best practices to uphold transparency in the market. In its efforts to restructure the market to increase competitiveness and liquidity, it addresses the need to provide an attractive investment platform that helps to improve the percentage of traded shares, there-



Simon Culhane, Chartered FCSI chief executive, during the interview.

by enhancing the condition of the market.

The new market segmentation increases Boursa Kuwait's responsibility, especially with the modified Boursa Kuwait Rulebook. With all members being required to comply with the updated rules and listing requirements, we can expect complete transparency for both investors and market participants.

Italy bond yields fall after Rome says to cut deficit from 2020

LONDON: Italy's government bond yields fell yesterday on reports that Rome plans to cut the budget deficit faster than it had previously indicated, easing fears about the fiscal policy of the euro zone's third-biggest economy. Rome foresees the budget deficit falling to 2.2 percent of gross domestic product in 2020 and to 2 percent in 2021 from the 2.4 percent expected next year, a government source from the right-wing League said yesterday.

That bought relief to the bond market, the euro and stocks. Later in the session, Economy Minister Giovanni Tria appeared to confirm the source-based report, saying Italy's budget deficit will fall gradually from 2020. Debt markets, in particular, have taken a beating since the coalition government - of which the League is a member - said last week it planned to run a deficit of 2.4 percent of GDP over the next three years, tripling the previous target.

Italian borrowing costs were lower yesterday after four days of sharp rises, but off lows hit in early trade, as a note of caution crept back in. The Italian government's multi-year budget plan will not be published yesterday, government sources said, as ministers continue to discuss the economic and fiscal targets. The 10-year Italian government bond yield was down 5 bps at 3.38 percent, below Tuesday's 4 1/2-year high around 3.46 percent.

That left the gap over benchmark German bond yields, a closely followed indicator of relative country risks, at 294 bps versus 300 bps late Tuesday. "The deficit forecast news is main reason markets are doing what they are doing today," said KBC rates strategist Mathias van der Jeugt. "But this is too little to bridge the gap between the EU and Italy. We might get some more relief, but I think it will be short-lived unless Italy comes up with a better proposal that is more aligned with what the EU wants."

EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker drew parallels on Monday between Italy's budget plans and the finances of Greece, which only emerged from its third international bailout in August.

"Let's not forget the yield is pretty high, so there is a carry element as well, so people latch on to any news flow that may be coming through," said Salman Ahmed, chief investment strategist at Lombard Odier Investment Managers, referring to the recovery in Italian bonds. UBS Wealth said that it now saw two-year Italian bonds as attractive after the heavy selloff.

The euro and stocks also benefited from the more positive noises coming from Rome. Italian shares rose 1.2 percent, outperforming European stocks overall. As Italy's bond market rebounded, yields on higher-rated euro zone bonds rose. Germany's 10-year Bund yield was up 2 bps at 0.44 percent. —Reuters

UK supermarket giant Tesco says profit dives by third

LONDON: Tesco, Britain's biggest retailer, said yesterday its purchase of wholesaler Booker helped support its underlying performance although first-half net profits sank as the supermarket group had booked an exceptional gain last year. Profit after tax slumped 32 percent to £426 million (\$553 million, 479 million euros) in the six months to the end of August, Tesco said in a results statement.

That compared with £628 million in the same part of the previous year, which was boosted partly by a large gain on the sale of its Korean operations. Tesco added that its latest underlying operating profit jumped 24 percent to £933 million, helped greatly by the recent acquisition of British wholesaler Booker.

However this figure undershot analysts' consensus forecast, contributing to Tesco's share price tanking 8.3 percent to 215.70 pence on London's benchmark FTSE 100 index, which was up 0.4 percent overall.

"Tesco's Central European operations suffered a setback as trading restrictions on Sundays and public holidays reduced the number of days its stores could open for business in Poland and Slovakia," noted Laith Khalaf, senior analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown. "It's commonly thought that Sunday trading restrictions displace rather than deter consumer activity, but Tesco's experience suggests otherwise, for the big supermarkets at least."

"The Central European business makes up just over 10 percent of group sales, so Tesco can probably take this one on the chin while its UK business is ticking along so nicely," Khalaf added.

Sales on a like-for-like basis, which strips out the impact of new floor space, climbed 2.3 percent in the second quarter. "We have made a good start to the

Goldman forecasts S African economic rebound in 2019

JOHANNESBURG: Goldman Sachs expects South Africa's economy to grow almost 3 percent next year, helped by President Cyril Ramaphosa's reforms and strong global growth, the bank's sub-Saharan Africa head told Reuters.

Colin Coleman's prediction is more optimistic than the view held by economists polled by Reuters last month, who saw Africa's most industrialized economy growing 1.7 percent in 2019 after sluggish growth of 0.8 percent this year. Ramaphosa's reform drive suffered a setback last month when data showed the economy entered recession in the second quarter, but he has since unveiled a "stimulus and recovery plan" to try to get it back on track.

Coleman said in an interview that this was a "shot in the arm" which had encouraged investors by giving certainty on mining and visa rules and by emphasizing skills development and education,

areas where South Africa lags other African states. "Part of the reason why Goldman Sachs is quite bullish on our ability to get back to 2.8 percent growth next year and 3.2 percent in 2020 is that the global backdrop is constructive. The two largest economies, USA and China, are doing well," added Coleman, who heads Goldman's Johannesburg office.

Since the upbeat mood that accompanied Ramaphosa's replacement of Jacob Zuma in February, business confidence has fallen as the scale of the challenges facing him became clear.

Liquidity challenge

One area of particular concern has been struggling state-owned firms, several of which were embroiled in corruption scandals during Zuma's nine years in power and which have been grappling with severe liquidity challenges. Coleman said power firm Eskom remained a major headache for the government, as it accounts for around three-quarters of its contingent liabilities, an area of concern for ratings agencies like Moody's, which is due to review South Africa's last investment-grade credit rating this month.



LONDON: Tesco, Britain's biggest retailer, said yesterday its purchase of wholesaler Booker helped support its underlying performance although first-half net profits sank as the supermarket group had booked an exceptional gain last year.

year," chief executive Dave Lewis said in the earnings release.

He added that the second quarter was driven mostly by solid performance in the UK and Ireland.

Tesco bought Booker for £3.7 billion earlier this year, in a radical repositioning of the UK retailer that has been troubled in recent years by an accounting scandal and fierce competition from supermarket rivals and dis-

count chains. Booker is Britain's the country's biggest cash-and-carry operator and sells goods to more than 503,000 customers-including grocers, pubs and restaurants across the country.

Tesco meanwhile recently launched a rearguard action against German-owned discounters Aldi and Lidl with the launch of discount food store chain Jack's.—AFP



"You've got to get a very significant equity injection (into Eskom), and practically it's unlikely to come from the government."

And for struggling South African Airways (SAA), Coleman said the list of potential equity investors would not be long. "Whoever would want to buy it

(SAA) would want a balance sheet that is not broken, a restructuring plan that is credible and control to effect the turnaround," he said. "You need to have terms which are sufficiently attractive to buyers." Eskom and SAA have been working on turnaround plans to shore up their financial position. —Reuters

Norsk Hydro halts output at key Brazil plant

OSLO: Norwegian aluminium group Norsk Hydro said yesterday it will suspend production at the world's largest alumina plant in Brazil as it had not received authorization to use a new waste deposit area. The company's share price plunged by 13.8 percent in morning trading on the Oslo Stock Exchange.

Norsk Hydro has since March been ordered to halve

its production at the Alunorte plant as Brazilian authorities have accused the group of having contaminated the Baracena municipality's waters with bauxite residues, which they claimed had overflowed from a deposit basin after heavy rainfall in February.

The company vehemently denies any toxic spill. Although both parties signed agreements in early September to settle the environmental dispute, Norsk Hydro has still not been allowed to resume full production at Alunorte or put a brand new storage basin into operation.

The existing deposit area is "approaching its end of life faster than anticipated, forcing Alunorte to take the responsible decision to temporarily shut down 100 percent of its operations," the group said in a statement. —AFP

Turkey annual inflation hits 24.5% in Sept

ANKARA: The annual inflation rate in Turkey rose to nearly 25 percent in September, official statistics showed yesterday, as the Turkish lira remains weak against the US dollar despite a sharp interest rate hike last month. Consumer prices accelerated to 24.52 percent in September from the same month last year, up from a 17.9 percent increase recorded in August,

according to the Turkish statistics office (TUIK).

The figure was substantially higher than the Bloomberg consensus forecast of 21.1 percent.

The Turkish lira weakened to 6.0 against the US dollar, a loss of 1.5 percent on the day, after the data were released. The lira has lost over 37 percent in value against the greenback since the beginning of the year.

Furnishings and household equipment saw the biggest gain, to 37.3 percent, TUIK said in a statement. Prices for transport rose 36.61 percent while those for food and non-alcoholic drinks climbed by 27.7 percent. The lira was hit hard by a diplomatic row between NATO allies Washington and Ankara over Turkey's detention of an American pastor for two years on terror-related charges. —AFP

Business

Italy deficit reports lift Wall Street, Euro stocks

Oil holding at four-year highs takes a breather

LONDON: Wall Street and European stock markets joined the euro in staging a mild recovery yesterday after signs Italy and the European Union can ease a spending row that has fuelled fears of another crisis in the eurozone.

While the China-US trade spat simmers, the source of angst among dealers especially in Europe had moved to Rome after Italy's populist government last week passed a purse-busting budget that drew a rebuke from Brussels and warnings to abide by EU rules on public spending. The EU's reaction prompted Italy's Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini to threaten to seek damages for scaring off investors as the yield on government bonds surged, making it more expensive for Rome to borrow on international markets.

But Finance Minister Giovanni Tria told a public meeting of the Confindustria industry confederation Wednesday the deficit would be squeezed "after 2019" as "we see confronting the reduction of public debt as fundamental," quite apart from restrictions of European spending rules.

The budget drafted last week raises spending and pushes the public deficit to around 2.4 percent of gross domestic product. Although Tria did not give figures in his Confindustria address, Italian media said Rome's populist government would shave budget deficit targets for 2020 and 2021 to 2.2 percent and 2.0 percent respectively.

"There is a feeling that the government in Rome won't be as radical as initially thought, and that is calming investors' nerves," David Madden, market analyst at CMC Markets UK, had noted earlier, suggesting the market had taken that as its cue.

Oil at four-year highs

Wall Street, which had ended Tuesday mixed amid lingering worries over US-China trade relations as well as Italian-flavoured EU concerns, rose in early trading as the Dow Jones added 0.36 percent and the Nasdaq rose 0.44 percent. Asian stock markets ended mixed, Tokyo shedding 0.7 percent after hitting a new 27-year high. Hong Kong eased 0.1 percent after plunging more than two percent the previous day, while Sydney put on 0.3 percent and Singapore gained 0.7 percent.

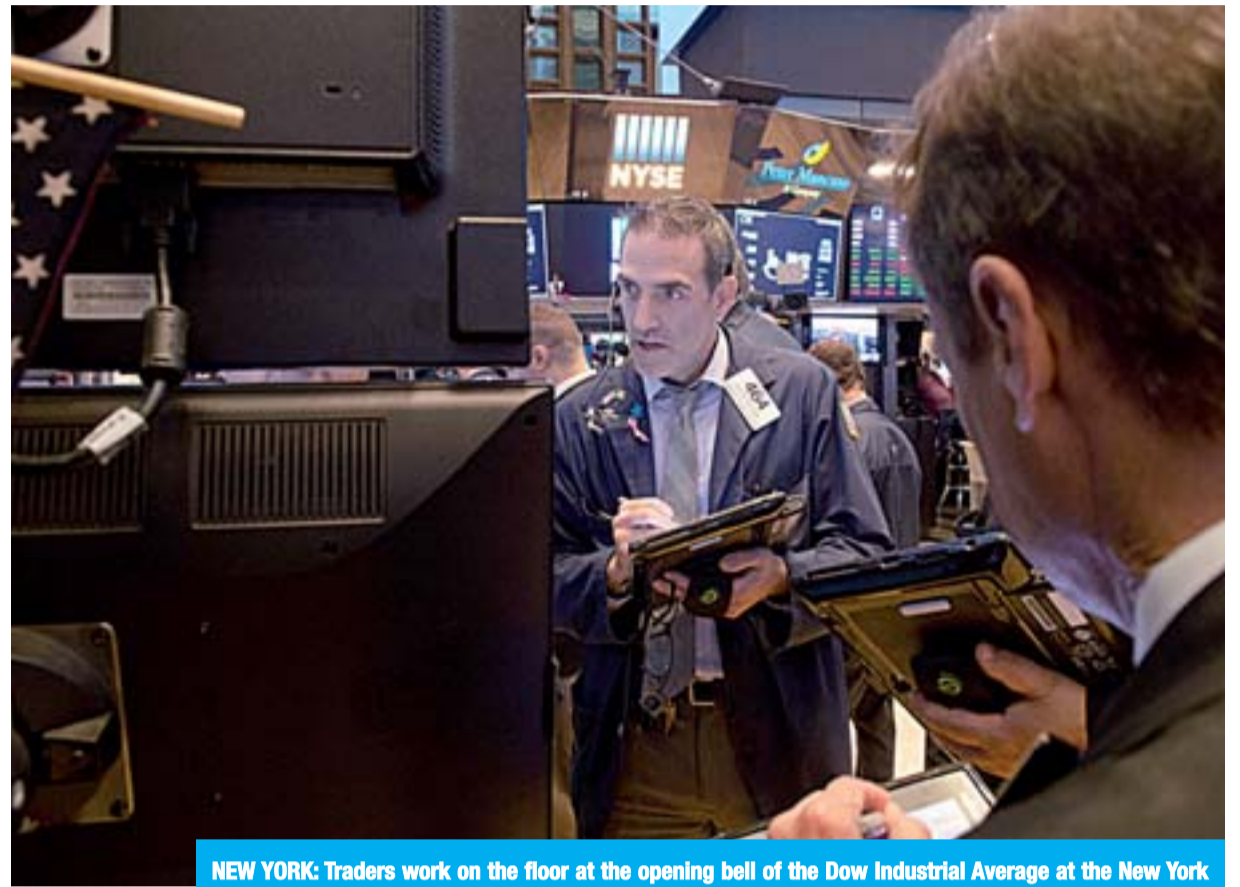
Shanghai, Seoul and Frankfurt were shut for public holidays.

Oil is holding at four-year highs but is taking a breather, with dealers eyeing a slight increase in US stockpiles. However, with Iranian supplies due to be taken out of the market, the dollar rising and Venezuela continuing to struggle observers are still predicting \$100 a barrel is on the horizon.

"A rise in oil prices of over 25 percent this year alone is also feeding through into higher input and output costs for business, while a rise in US rates is causing a sharp selloff in emerging markets as the US Federal Reserve worries that a rise in inflationary pressures will unleash an inflationary shock as President Trump's fiscal stimulus filters down into the US economy," warned Michael Hewson of CMC markets.

On the corporate front Wednesday, James Bond's favourite carmaker Aston Martin stalled after making a glitzy £4.3-billion (\$5.6-billion, 4.9-billion-euro) debut on the London stock market.

Aston Martin shares made a flat start before skidding almost 6 percent lower. —AFP



NEW YORK: Traders work on the floor at the opening bell of the Dow Industrial Average at the New York Stock Exchange. —AFP

Market 'discipline' on Italy? Be careful what you wish for

LONDON: The new Italian government's latest budget proposals have caused consternation in markets and irritation in Brussels - yet many at the heart of euro policymaking will quietly feel a dose of market discipline is a precisely what's needed to rein Rome in.

Let the bond vigilantes loose, is how thinking goes. A surge in Italian government borrowing costs and steep drop in the country's banking stocks have the power to change even the most ambitious budget mathematics and force Italy's coalition leaders to roll back their plans.

"If they do crazy things, let the market play its role. Market discipline exists, as we have seen," one policymaker put it recently. Sounds good in theory. But it may also be a case of "careful what you wish for". At what point does market discipline in Italy and its related political fallout infect the rest of the euro area and undermine the single currency?

A paper by Guido Tabellini, professor of economics at Bocconi University, published by the Centre for Economic Policy Research in July, found that efforts to impose market discipline work "very imperfectly", even if the economic fundamentals are relatively sound.

"The larger the outstanding debt, the higher the risk that market discipline degenerates into a debt run," Tabellini wrote, and a crisis of confidence in one euro zone country was likely to spread to others.

"The resilience of the euro area is not much higher than that of its weakest member. For this reason, reforms that increase the vulnerabilities of the weaker countries may be counter-productive for all," he found.

Italy's economic fundamentals are not particularly sound, and its outstanding debt is huge. While there's

been relatively little spillover to date from the turmoil in Italian markets, the recent history of euro crises shows it's dangerous to assume that will remain the case indefinitely. The scars of 2010-2012 are healing but run deep.

Greece - with an economy almost a tenth the size of Italy's - was the epicentre of that euro crisis. And yet the financial contagion associated with risk of an unprecedented euro exit ripped through Ireland, Italy, Spain and Portugal - eventually forcing ECB president Mario Draghi to do "whatever it takes" and fire up the bank's money printing presses to calm the storm.

Italian bond yields hit 7.45 percent in 2011 and the spread over Germany topped 550 basis points. We're not back there yet, but the 10-year yield is near 3.50 percent and the spread over Germany is 300 bps, both the highest in years.

Since Italy's general election in May, the country's stock market has lost 18 percent and bank stocks have plunged 30 percent. Wider contagion has been pretty limited, but at this stage it cannot be blindly dismissed.

Spillover

Goldman Sachs has constructed a model that shows that since 2010, on days when there's been an equivalent 100 bps rise in Italian yields, Spanish yields rise by around 40 bps, while safe-haven flows push German yields down by around 20 bps.

In equities, this results in Spanish, French and German markets falling 3.5 to 5 percent, and US, UK and Japanese stocks falling between 2 and 3 percent.

More broadly, Spanish financial conditions tighten by around 40 bps, and US, UK and Japanese conditions tighten by around 20 bps. Thanks to the fall in the euro's exchange rate and Bund yields, German financial conditions ease by around 15 bps. Spillovers in the 2010-13 period were obviously greater than the years since, but the analysis shows that meaningful moves in Italian bonds do move other markets. Some more than others. —Reuters

CBK promotion

KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced a 20 per cent discount on its individual banking services until September 30, 2019. The discount will be available to the clients at ALVIRA in the Avenues, Al-Zahra, Al-Salhiya, Al-Kout and Souq Sharq.

US private payrolls growth accelerates in September

WASHINGTON: US private payrolls recorded their biggest increase in seven months in September, boosted by hiring at construction sites and in the services sector, pointing to sustained labor market strength that should continue to underpin economic growth. Private payrolls rose by 230,000 jobs in September, the largest gain since February; the ADP National Employment Report showed yesterday, after an upwardly revised 168,000 increase in August. Economists polled by Reuters forecast private payrolls advancing by 185,000 last month following a previously reported 163,000 increase in August. The ADP report, which is jointly developed with Moody's Analytics, was published ahead of the government's more comprehensive employment report for September due on Friday. According to a Reuters survey of economists, nonfarm payrolls likely increased by 185,000 in September after jumping 201,000 in August. The unemployment rate is forecast to fall one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.8 percent, an 18-year low first hit in May. While the ADP report has a poor record predicting the private-payrolls component of the government's employment report, last month's jump underscored robust labor market conditions that is likely keep the Federal Reserve on track to raise interest rates again in December. —Reuters

US Fed's Powell: Global growth positive but under pressure

WASHINGTON: The global economic outlook remains positive, with instability in just a few emerging markets seeing instability-but is slightly less positive than a few months ago, US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said Tuesday.

"I think growth still healthy but maybe under a little bit of pressure," Powell told the National Association for Business Economics. While the outlook for the US can be summed up as more good news ahead, Powell said "it is very important to pay attention" to developments overseas and in emerging markets.

"It's one of the principal risks" facing policymakers, he said in response to a question. But for now, amid a slight slowdown in advanced economies, "just a handful of emerging markets are experiencing significant turmoil and some level of pressure." "We still see a reasonably positive picture, maybe slightly less positive than at the beginning of this year," Powell said. The Fed last week raised the benchmark US interest rate for the third time this year amid strong growth, and despite tame inflation, which has been hovering around the central bank's two percent target.

And the Fed chief remains upbeat about the US economy, downplaying concerns that asset prices are rising too high, amid multiple records in the major stock market indices.

"We do see high asset prices but you don't see, I think, a really bad case of financial instability that many had been concerned about." Instead, banks are taking fewer risks and have strong reserves against difficulties, while households have increased their savings rate, he said. —AFP

World Bank cuts sub-Saharan Africa's 2018 growth forecast

NAIROBI: The World Bank has cut its economic growth forecast for sub-Saharan Africa this year to 2.7 percent from an earlier forecast of 3.1 percent, mainly because of slower-than-expected growth in the continent's bigger economies, the bank said yesterday.

The region, which had posted a fairly fast average growth rate in the years leading up to 2015, suffered a loss of momentum in economic output after commodity prices crashed in 2015-16.

In April, the World Bank had predicted that the recovery would gather pace this year, with average growth expected at 3.1 percent, up from 2.3 percent last year. "The slower pace of the recovery in Sub-Saharan Africa ... is explained by the sluggish expansion in the region's three largest economies, Nigeria, Angola, and South Africa," the bank said in a statement. Lower oil production in Angola and Nigeria offset higher oil prices, and in South Africa, weak household consumption growth was compounded by a contraction in agriculture, the World Bank said.

The rest of the countries in the region have been growing steadily this year, the bank said, including those that don't depend on commodities, such as Ivory Coast, Kenya and Rwanda. —Reuters

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Business

Faith Capital closes multi-tranche seed round investment in Snapbook

Kuwaiti photo printing startup to boost its ongoing operations

KUWAIT: Faith Capital announced yesterday the recent close of a multi-tranche \$1.5m seed round of financing in Snapbook, a Kuwaiti photo printing startup, in order to bolster its ongoing operations and impressive growth with the aid of the Faith Capital team's expansive professional resources and regional expertise.

Having been founded in 2016, Snapbook has dominated the GCC photo printing market, becoming a notable regional leader in the market for photo books, photo prints, phone cases, gift items, home décor, apparel, and wall art. Snapbook's base of operations is in Kuwait, while recognizing international sales in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, and over 40 other countries.

"Snapbook intends to attain pre-eminence in the field of photo printing, and we'll work alongside Faith Capital to achieve a lasting global presence as a company with technology driving its core value

proposition and operating efficiencies," says Abdullah Boodai, the Founder and CEO of Snapbook.

"As the first institutional investor in Snapbook, we have long believed that the regional e-commerce sector is ripe for new entrants and product offerings, and we are proud to partner with Kuwaiti founders to pursue this unique market opportunity," says Abdulaziz B Al-Loughani, the Managing Partner of Faith Capital. "We look forward to further developing our professional relationship in the years to come."

"Faith Capital partners with founders who truly understand the value of technology in creating sustainable operations. Snapbook's investment in building such technologies demonstrates their long-term commitment to mastering their platform's scalability," says Abdulaziz Hayat, an Associate at Faith Capital. "Together, we'll expand the reach of MENA's first truly scalable custom photo printing startup." Faith Capital Holding is a Kuwaiti Venture Capital firm specializing in early stage technology startups.



Limak Insaat Kuwait showcases sustainability initiatives

KUWAIT: Limak Insaat Kuwait S.P.C. a subsidiary of Limak Holding, yesterday showcased some of its sustainability initiatives in Kuwait and other countries. The presentation took place at the first edition of Kuwait's "Green and Clean Conference and Exhibition" held at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center from October 2-3. Limak's participation stems from the company's belief that a clean and green environment is a national priority.

The event was held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and organized by the Leaders Group for Consulting and Development in cooperation with the General Environment Authority.

The two-day conference attracted more than 30 top tier companies and public authorities from various sectors in Kuwait to discuss various topics, including green energy, green transport, green buildings, waste technology and management, and clean water technology and management.

Limak Insaat Kuwait participated in the third panel discussion held on the second day under the theme "Kuwait's Green & Clean Environment". The panel focused on green buildings and waste technology and management in the country.

Speaking at the session LEED Coordinator at Limak Insaat Kuwait S.P.C., Eng. Orcun Ozhelvaci discussed different methods a country can pursue a 'green and clean' policy.

Eng. Ozhelvaci presented details on the Kuwait International Airport Terminal II currently under construction by Limak and the project's goals of being the largest airport in the world under LEED Gold certification. He touched upon the buildings key points to accomplish this standard and focused on the building's sustainable design and plans for integrated photovoltaic panels, energy efficient lighting systems, energy effi-



G&C Expo group photo

cient mechanical systems, water efficient systems, and higher indoor environmental quality.

Qualifying for LEED Gold certification is not only about a sustainable design, but also a sustainable construction process which includes erosion control on site, construction waste management, indoor air quality management, enhanced commissioning, and usage of environmentally friendly products.

The company has four ongoing LEED projects worldwide, including:

1. Kuwait International Airport (KIA) New Passenger Terminal Project (Terminal 2), targeted to receive LEED Gold certification.
2. Istanbul New Airport in Istanbul, Turkey, targeted to receive LEED Silver certification.
3. High Speed Train Station in Ankara, Turkey, targeted to receive LEED Gold certification.
4. Residence and Mall (Mixed-use building) in Skopje, Macedonia, targeted to receive LEED Gold certification.



LEED Coordinator at Limak Insaat Kuwait Eng Orcun Ozhelvaci

Burgan Bank completes The Leadership Challenge program



KUWAIT: To further solidify its position as a dynamic financial powerhouse, Burgan Bank recently concluded The Leadership Challenge (an evidence-based global leadership development program) with the second and third batch of internal management. Continuing to invest in its employees by providing the latest tools and resources for long term growth, the widely practiced model of leadership development was integrated to advance skills of high potential leaders in line with current market demands.

Working in tangent with the newly adopted strategy in the Learning and Development department at Burgan Bank, The Leadership Challenge that ran for two days followed by on the job coaching was successfully completed by nearly forty participants from middle and senior management level. The model is associated with the central psychometric tool (LPI) which is regarded as the most benchmarked for research purposes and is a global standard for developing leadership talent. Companies and their management are met with complex situations that challenge their thought and decision making process daily. Intrinsically designed models such as The Leadership Challenge have been devised from the culmination of interviews and case studies. It helps to transform ordinary people into world class performers, raise the professional standard of its staff and shape exceptional business leaders.

It was determined that discerning leaders engage in The Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership, which are the foundation of the business model. People who effectively demonstrate these leadership practices, regardless of their organizational position or field, make significant contributions. The program starts with 'Model the Way' wherein leaders set the example by aligning actions with their affirmed values, followed by 'Inspire a Shared Vision' in which leaders enlist others in a common vision by appealing to shared aspirations. Third step involves 'Challenge the Process' enabling them to take risks by generating small wins and learning from experience. 'Enable others to Act' strengthens others by enhancing self-determination and developing competence and lastly, 'Encourage the heart' celebrates values and victories by recognizing individual excellence.

Burgan Bank seeks to progress ahead to address changing needs and empower its leaders with ground-breaking solutions in a competitive business ecosystem. To aid this journey, the Bank's Learning and Development department broadens capabilities and equips the internal culture with leading insights and high impact training sessions to efficiently manage their role as leaders of tomorrow.



Panel discussion



Limak Insaat Kuwait Team

US car sales slump but Fiat Chrysler surges

CHICAGO: Almost all major auto makers reported North American sales declines on Tuesday, meeting analyst expectations for a pull-back by consumers in the second half of the year.

Compared to September 2017, sales at Ford, Toyota, and Nissan all declined 10 percent or more. Honda was down seven percent. The exception was Fiat Chrysler, where its North American subsidiary FCA US saw a sales growth of 15 percent compared to the year-ago period, on the strength of its refreshed Jeep SUV and Ram truck models. General Motors, which no longer reports monthly figures, said sales in the third quarter were down 11 percent.

"September doesn't appear to have many surprises this year," said Cox Automotive economist Charlie Chesbrough. "Sales reports are showing declines for most manufacturers, as expected."

The recovery last year from catastrophic flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey boosted auto sales during the equivalent time period-making this year's early fall numbers look even worse by comparison.

Analysts have been concerned that higher gas prices, rising interest rates, a large supply of relatively new pre-owned cars, and tariffs potentially raising prices, could depress demand in the new car market. The US Federal Reserve last week raised a key interest rate for the eighth time in two years.

"Results from August and now September suggest our expectations of a slowing market are correct," Chesbrough said. "With more interest rates hikes expected this year, and continued increases in transaction prices, monthly payments are rising and some car buyers are getting squeezed out of the market." But GM Chief Economist Elaine Buckberg pointed to strong US consumer confidence and a robust job market, predicting 2018 would end with total industry sales above 17 million units.

"The US economy and auto industry remain strong," Buckberg said in a statement. "A new United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement will reduce uncertainty for the auto industry and all three countries."

Trucks, SUVs

In the last three months, all five of the brand names GM sells in the United States lost ground. Chevrolet had the sharpest decline of 11.4 percent. On a bright note, the company said its average sales price was \$4,000 above the industry average, reflecting continuing strong demand for trucks and SUVs.

"At Ford and GM, trucks and SUVs accounted for over



DETROIT: In this file photo taken on January 13, 2018 the 2019 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 makes its official debut at the 2018 North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan. —AFP

80 percent of sales, a testament to the consumer's ongoing desire for utility," said Kelley Blue Book analyst Rebecca Lindland.

German automakers also struggled in September, along with their Japanese and American counterparts. Volkswagen

was down nearly five percent, and Mercedes-Benz USA declined nearly six percent. BMW Group eked out a two-tenths of a percent increase on strong demand for BMW-brand light trucks. Sales of the MINI brand compact cars declined more than seven percent. —AFP

Health & Science

JUUL: E-cigarette dominates market and fears of parents

FDA commissioner warns of epidemic of vaping among youth

WASHINGTON: In just three years, electronic cigarette maker JUUL has come to dominate the American market with its vaping devices that look like thumb drives, a business success that has brought a public health dilemma for authorities in the US, and elsewhere. On the one hand, e-cigarettes expose users to significantly lower levels of potentially toxic substances, except for nicotine, the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine said this year.

Converting conventional cigarette smokers to vaping would therefore reduce the number of cancer cases. At the same time, numerous parents and high schools say teenagers are using JUUL, raising fears that a new generation is being exposed to nicotine, which is addictive but not cancerous. The US Food and Drug Administration has denounced "an epidemic of regular nicotine use among teens," and confirmed to AFP that its agents made a surprise inspection Friday of JUUL's San Francisco headquarters, seizing more than a thousand pages of documents on its marketing practices.

The startup wasn't the first on the market, but it quickly dethroned tobacco giants, including British American Tobacco, which markets e-cigarettes using a different technology. JUUL has soared from a two percent market share in 2016 to 29 percent in December 2017, according to data published Tuesday in JAMA, the Journal of the American Medical Association. By September of this year, JUUL had reached almost 73 percent of the market, according to Nielsen data provided to AFP by JUUL.

The e-cigarette market remains a fraction of overall tobacco sales but is growing fast. "Like many Silicon Valley technology startups, our growth is the result of a superior product disrupting an archaic industry—in this case, one whose products are the number one cause of preventable death," JUUL told AFP in a statement. It added that the company "has helped more than one million Americans switch from cigarettes."

CEO Kevin Burns said the company is cooperating with the FDA to "keep JUUL out of the hands of young people," and has turned over 50,000 pages of documents to the federal health regulator since April. JUUL is also available

in Britain, Canada and Israel, although the latter country has forbidden sale of the strongest doses of nicotine. Others, including Australia and Japan, have limited sales of the product to medical use only.

No big deal

JUUL costs around \$20 for the device and \$30 for four refills, each containing the equivalent in nicotine of a pack-



Regulators to ban flavored e-cigarettes

et of cigarettes. They are available in a range of flavors from "Virginia tobacco" to creme brulee and mango. The company states that JUUL is not appropriate or intended for youth, but in well-off schools the product has an image of something innocent. "JUUL is no big deal," said a student at an upscale suburban Washington high school.

The number of high and middle school students who vape increased between 2011 and 2017, according to the latest national survey on tobacco and youth, although the number of smokers fell at the same time. But the market is evolving very quickly and the central question is whether tobacco consumption, by vaping device or cigarette, rose among youth in 2018. FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb suggested in September that the answer is "yes" when he said: "None of the other metrics that we track when it comes to kids and tobacco are moving in a favorable direction. "Not the number of kids using traditional cigarettes, or cigars or chewing tobacco."

He warned of an "epidemic" of vaping among the youth



WASHINGTON: An illustration shows a man exhaling smoke from an electronic cigarette in Washington, DC. — AFP

and said regulators are considering an immediate ban on flavored e-cigarettes. The FDA prohibited e-cigarette sales to minors in 2016, meaning they cannot be sold to people under 18. In some states, buyers must be 21. JUUL has ceased its marketing on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, and forbids on its website the sale to anyone under age 21. Buyers must provide a Social Security number or upload another form of identification.

Nonetheless, the company remains in the sights of Matthew Myers, president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. "By the time they pulled the social media cam-

aign, JUUL already had become the dominant product in high schools across the country," he said. Myers recognized that the product is, for now, popular only among well-off youth, but warns that manufacturers are working on making e-cigarettes cheaper. "And as soon as that happens, then the risk you run is it filters down," he said.

His organization wants a complete prohibition on online sales, as is effectively the case for cigarettes. Myers—along with the entire vaping sector and health professionals—is now waiting to see how far the administration will go in the next few months. —AFP

Paris builds zero-carbon future

PARIS: Arrayed between elegant stone buildings and run-down railway tracks in the northwest of Paris lie bustling playgrounds, plant-filled ponds and stretches of lush grass. The Clichy-Batignolles area, a former industrial wasteland, has morphed into the French capital's first "eco-neighborhood", billed as a model of sustainable development for the rest of the city. Clarisse Genton, project coordinator for the Clichy-Batignolles district, said it aims to be "environmentally responsible" — with solar panels on homes and clean geothermal energy for heating, for example.

But the eco-effort also has a social aim: to address the city's affordable housing crisis and ensure green benefits reach the poor as well as the rich. "We wanted to create a district that's accessible to all and to bridge the gap between poor and rich parts of the city," said Genton, referring to the neighboring posh district of Monceau and the poorer La Fourche. Paris is one of more than 70 cities worldwide that have pledged to become "carbon neutral" by 2050, meaning they will produce no more climate-changing emissions than they can offset, such as by planting carbon-absorbing trees.

Each is going about achieving the goal in its own way. But because cities account for about three-quarters of carbon dioxide emissions, according to the UN, and consume more than two-thirds of the world's energy, whether they succeed or fail will have a huge impact on whether the world's climate goals are met.

"Cities are where everything comes together: homes, transport, public spaces — so there's a real role for them to help create the living places of the future," said Eliot Whittington, director of the Prince of Wales' Corporate Leaders Group, a coalition of businesses promoting climate action. "We've got to a state of accepting a certain level of waste and energy (use), but climate change (and) heatwaves affect us all and have a real toll on people's lives," he said.

Global warming is currently set to exceed the more ambitious limit of 1.5 degrees Celsius called for in the 2015 Paris Agreement to curb climate change, according to a draft UN report due for publication in October. Following public consultations, Paris adopted its climate action plan in March. It aims to make the city carbon-neutral and entirely powered by renewable energy by 2050. From swimming pools heated by sewage to ensuring the city is fully "cyclable" by 2020, it includes more than 500 initiatives to reimagine Paris as a zero-carbon capital.

Green lung

The Clichy-Batignolles area of 54 hectares (130 acres), once chosen as Paris's Olympic village as part of the city's failed 2012 bid, is built around a 10-hectare park containing a skate park, deck chairs and wooden bridges. Martin Luther King Park acts as a "green lung" and an "island of coolness" for the neighborhood, said Genton, showing a miniature model of the district to two passersby. "Rainwater is channeled towards wetlands rather than discharged into sewers, and household waste is collected through an underground pneumatic system — removing the need for garbage trucks," she added.

Buildings are heated by a new geothermal plant, and about two-thirds of homes are equipped with solar panels on their roof. But the eco-district is about more than energy efficiency and biodiversity, said Genton, adding that "we urgently need affordable homes in a city that cannot grow and where prices are skyrocketing". Half of the neighborhood's newly built flats qualify as social housing and can be rented for about 300 euros a month, she said. —Reuters

Sleeping giants: Hawaii eruption reverberates in US Northwest

VANCOUVER: On a clear day, scientists at the Cascades Volcano Observatory can see the dimpled summit of Mount St. Helens from the rooftop of their base in a suburban office park. Once a majestic peak, the volcano, about 95 miles south of Seattle and 50 miles north of Portland, erupted in an explosion of hot ash in May 1980, spewing debris over a wide area. The deadliest volcanic eruption in US history, it killed 57 people and caused more than \$1 billion in damage.

But that disaster happened nearly four decades ago, and with an average of only two eruptions per century among the 13 snow-capped volcanoes strung along the US portion of the Cascade range, the threat has been a low priority for the region's emergency managers. This May, however, the awakening of Kilauea volcano on the US island of Hawaii was a stark reminder of the destruction eruptions can cause. With lava bursts of up to 160 feet high, it destroyed more than 700 homes and forced 2,000 people to evacuate.

In the aftermath, scientists from the Cascades Volcano Observatory were called in to relieve overworked Hawaiian colleagues who had been in 24/7 disaster mode, monitoring the volcano with drones, remote sensors and helicopters. The Vancouver scientists are now hoping their mission to Hawaii, where eruptions occur more often, will elevate concern back in Washington, Oregon and California.

"Big eruptions don't happen that frequently," said observatory volcanologist John Ewert, who spent two weeks at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory after Kilauea erupted. "It's going to be outside of most first responders' and emergency managers' experience."

With emergency staff in the Pacific Northwest occupied by annual disasters like summer wildfires and floods in the spring and fall, Ewert sees the observatory, maintained by the US Geological Survey (USGS), as the region's volcanic conscience.

It convenes regular working groups of local government officials, healthcare providers and first responders to remind them of the volcanic risks in their midst. "We have the institutional knowledge about the hazards, and what

are the considerations government needs to have to deal with these hazards," Ewert told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Lava vs. Lahar

The climate differs considerably between tropical Hawaii, where warm weather allows basalt lava to flow directly down mountains, and the temperate Pacific Northwest, where high-elevation volcanoes are capped with glaciers. On those peaks, an eruption would create dangerous mudflows known as lahars. While cooler than liquid-hot magma, lahar would pose a threat to buildings along river banks, just as the Hawaiian lava destroyed homes in its path.

Disparities aside, the questions raised by the Kilauea eruption have allowed Cascades Volcano Observatory scientists to extract valuable lessons for the event of a mainland eruption. After Kilauea blew, forcing the Hawaiian observatory to relocate to a nearby university, subsequent eruptions oozing magma and volcanic ash lasted months, with some mandatory evacuation orders only lifted in September.

In Hawaii, Ewert and his colleagues received real-time training on the kind of scientific information government officials and residents would seek if one of the Cascade volcanoes reawakens. Questions about the health effects of volcanic ash and gas were common as Hawaiian officials weighed messages for the public. Water and electric utilities wanted to know if the plumes of fine ash would affect water quality, and how they might interfere with transmission lines.

Coordinating chaos

By the time, Brian Terbush, a Washington State emergency manager, arrived in Hawaii in June, they had "a well-oiled machine going". "But they were able to tell me there had been an evolution of that process, and it had been pretty chaotic when it first started," he said by telephone from Camp Murray, Washington's emergency response headquarters. Terbush witnessed the importance of daily briefings with consistent flows of information, from the Red Cross updating the number of people in shelters to the Environmental Protection Agency reporting on air-quality monitoring.

"We're trying to set up ahead of time who is providing what information and what form it's going to come in — that's going to help us be a little bit less chaotic," he said. Liz Westby, a geologist at the Cascades observatory, spent three weeks assisting the Kilauea effort in June and July. She was struck by how quickly topographical assumptions that the volcano would not affect certain neighborhoods were overturned as lava veered off-course. —Reuters

Half of women at risk of dementia, Parkinson's, stroke

PARIS: Nearly half of women and one in three men are at risk of developing stroke or degenerative neurological diseases such as dementia and Parkinson's during their lifetime, according to a study published Monday. Dutch researchers considered all three conditions "in order to grasp how big the problem of incurable brain diseases in late life really is," said the study's senior author Arfan Ikram.

"We grouped these diseases together not only because they are common but also because there are indications that these often co-occur and might share some overlapping causes," Ikram, of the Erasmus MC University Medical Center Rotterdam in the Netherlands, told AFP. This could mean there are also overlapping ways to delay or avoid getting the diseases, and the research found that some preventative strategies may cut the risk by between 20 and 50 percent.

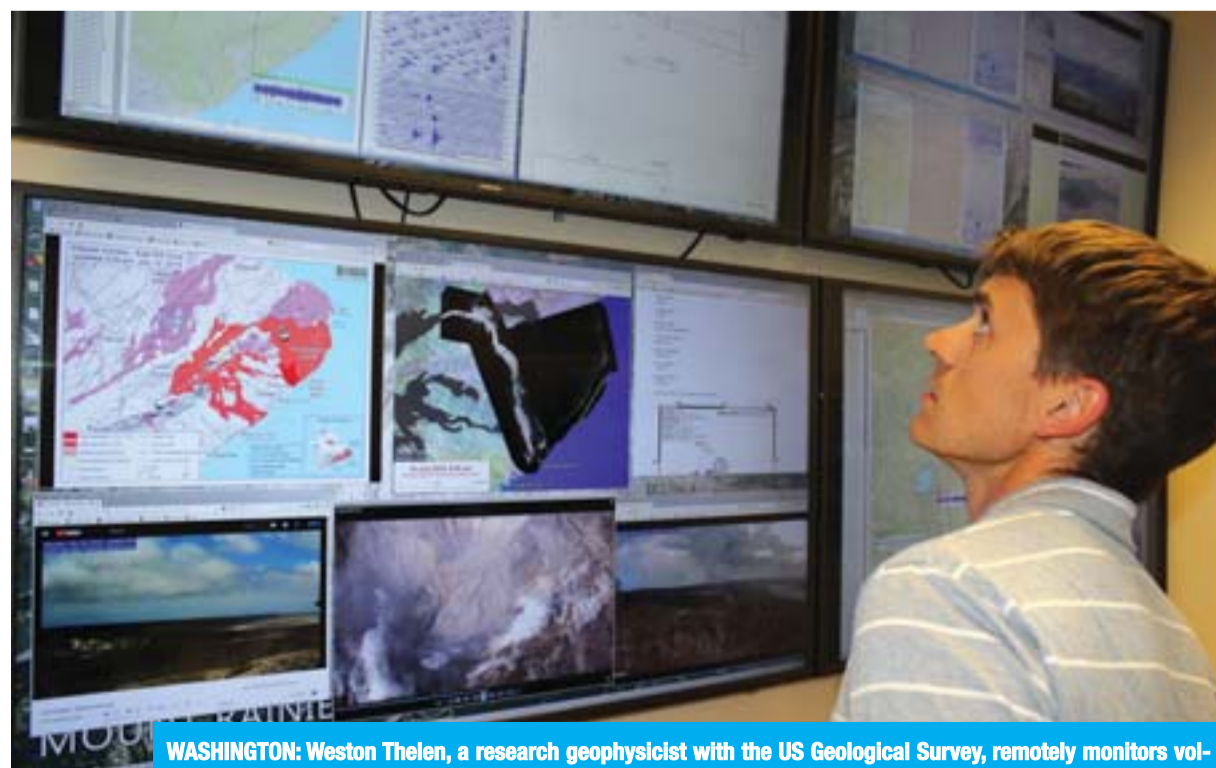
For the study, published in the Journal of Neurology Neurosurgery and Psychiatry, researchers tracked more than 12,000 healthy people over the age of 45 from 1990 to 2016. Over the 26 years, 5,291 people died. Nearly 1,500 were diagnosed with dementia — 80 percent with Alzheimer's-while 1,285 had a stroke and 263 developed Parkinson's. The results indicated that the likelihood of women aged 45 years or older getting the diseases was 48 percent, while it was 36 percent for men. The gender split is mostly due to the fact that men die earlier than women, Ikram said. "Our study does not show some sort of protective effect for men," he said. "Instead it is merely due to fewer men surviving to old age." Because they live longer, women have an increased risk of such diseases, and the study found women were twice as likely as men to develop both dementia and stroke. While there are no cures for these diseases, a healthy lifestyle—a good diet, not smoking or having diabetes—can protect against stroke and help prevent the onset of dementia, Ikram said. —AFP

For African bush elephants, wrinkles fight off parasites

LONDON: A study of the African bush elephant's vast network of deep wrinkles has found it is intricately designed to help the animals keep their cool, fight off parasites and defend against sun damage, scientists said on Tuesday. The fine pattern of millions of channels means the elephant's skin can retain five to 10 times more water than a flat surface, the scientists said. The research, conducted by scientists at Switzerland's University of Geneva and the Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, was published in the journal Nature Communications on Tuesday.

"Because of their huge body size, and their warm and dry habitat, African elephants can avoid over-heating only by losing calories through evaporation of the water they collect in and on their skin," researchers wrote. The scientists found that elephant skin channels are not just folds or wrinkles, but actual fractures in the animal's brittle outermost layer of skin.

The skin grows on a tiny lattice framework, they said, causing it to fracture under mechanical stress when the animals move. African elephants are known to love bathing, spraying and mud-wallowing, and since they have no sweat and sebaceous glands to keep their skin moist and supple, the tiny crevices trap and hold on to water and mud, helping to regulate body temperature. They also form a barrier against bugs and solar radiation. — Reuters



WASHINGTON: Weston Thelen, a research geophysicist with the US Geological Survey, remotely monitors volcanic activity on Hawaii's Kilauea from the Cascades Volcano Observatory in Vancouver, Washington. — AFP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199

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

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

Salmiya, Belajat Street, Tel: 1881122

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

ACADAMIC CERTIFICATES:

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

SPECIALIZED IN:

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

SHARQ, Ahmad Aljaber st., Building 54, Floor 13.
Tel.: (+965) 22060777
@DrFahadS, @FahadSabb, @decdonabb
Email: drfahad@beautybeyond.com.kw

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

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

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

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

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

Specialized in:

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

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

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

Specialized in:

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

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

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

Scope of Clinical Practice:

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

Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:

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

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

مستشفى دار الشفاء Dar Al Shifa Hospital
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DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM
Consultant Pediatrician

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

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

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

Academic Certificates - Training

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

Scope of clinical Practice.

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

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

What's On

Shaheed Park to launch various cultural activities



The Shaheed Park is currently preparing to launch a new cultural season that is due to include a number of selected cultural, artistic and sport activities for all age categories designed to enhance the park's role in reviving cultural activities according to the development plan adapted by the Amiri Diwan to reflect III the Amir's vision. In this regard, head of the Amiri Diwan's financial and administrative affairs department, Abdul Aziz Isaac expressed his joy with the positive reactions he had always received concerning the park and its activities. He also noted that LOYAC administration had exerted tangible efforts ever since the park was opened and faced a number of challenges.

Further, Isaac highly commended the role LOYAC plays in encouraging national youth and developing them through the park project, which offered them various jobs and continuous training opportunities. Speaking about the new season, the park's general manager, Yousef Al-Bu'aijan said that the third season would include various activities and training workshops in various fields designed to promote public taste and boost national economy at the same time. Further, Al-Bu'aijan said that the park recently issued its bilingual annual magazine (2017-2018) in both Arabic and English. He added that the park had so far received over 3.5 million visitors and organized around 3000 activities.



EXPERIENCE LAND, HISTORY & CULTURE

جغرافية وتاريخ وثقافة وطن

مرشدو الحديقة GUIDES PROGRAM



العدد الكلي للمنتفعين من برنامج مرشدي الحديقة
TOTAL NUMBER OF GUIDES PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES SINCE PARK OPENING

+300



100% مجموع اعمار مرشدي الحديقة تحت سن ٣٠
TOTAL NUMBER OF GUIDES ARE UNDER 30

مرشدو الحديقة PARK GUIDES



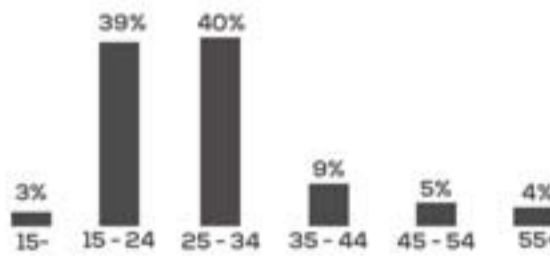
58% Women



42% Men

تجربة الزوار VISITORS EXPERIENCE

عمر الزوار VISITORS AGE



الزوار VISITORS



أوقات زيارة الحديقة PARK VISITORS TIMING



إحصائيات الحديقة PARK STATISTICS



العدد الكلي التقريبي للزوار منذ افتتاح الحديقة
TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS SINCE PARK OPENING

+3,500,000

والذي يعادل ٤,٩٣١ زائر في اليوم
WHICH AVERAGES 4,931 VISITORS / DAY



العدد الكلي للفعاليات منذ افتتاح الحديقة
TOTAL NUMBER OF EVENTS SINCE PARK OPENING

3,000+

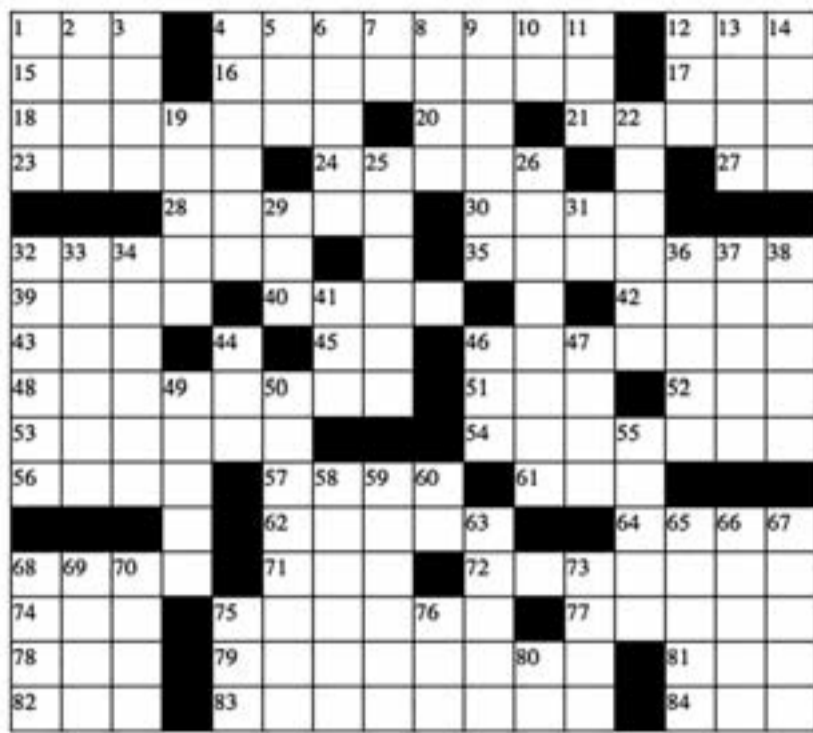


العدد الكلي للمنتفعين من الفعاليات منذ افتتاح الحديقة
TOTAL NUMBER OF EVENTS BENEFICIARIES SINCE PARK OPENING

1,900,000+

Stars

CROSSWORD 2025



ACROSS

1. A coenzyme derived from the B vitamin nicotinic acid.
4. An autonomous province of Georgia on the Black Sea.
12. A drug combination found in some over-the-counter headache remedies (Aspirin and Phenacetin and Caffeine).
15. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
16. Having or showing feelings of unwarranted importance out of overbearing pride.
17. The syllable naming the sixth (sub-diant) note of a major or minor scale in solmization.
18. Small buffalo of Mindoro in the Philippines.
20. A heavy silvery toxic univalent and bivalent metallic element.
21. Any plant of the genus Erica.
23. A religious belief of African origin involving witchcraft and sorcery.
24. The hair growing on the lower part of a man's face.
27. A public promotion of some product or service.
28. Type genus of the Rubiaceae.
30. Informal terms for a meal.
32. Type genus of the family Lycosidae.
35. Formed of two different metals or alloys.
39. (in Gnosticism) A divine power or nature emanating from the Supreme Being and playing various roles in the operation of the universe.
40. An exchange of ideas via conversation.
42. (Greek mythology) Daughter of Zeus and Demeter.
43. Worthless or oversimplified ideas.
45. A chronic inflammatory collagen disease affecting connective tissue (skin or joints).
48. The superior of a group of nuns.
51. A federation of North American industrial unions that merged with the American Federation of Labor in 1955.
52. A long projecting or anterior elongation of an animal's head.
53. Being one more than ten.
54. A person who lacks confidence, is irresolute and wishy-washy.
56. A port in southern Lebanon on the Mediterranean Sea.
57. A challenge to do something dangerous or foolhardy.
61. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
62. Sour or bitter in taste.
64. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
68. Singing jazz.
71. The month following October and preceding December.
72. Under a moral obligation to do something.
74. An implement used to propel or steer a boat.
77. Jordan's port.
78. The law enforcement agency in the Justice Department.
79. English writer and caricaturist (1872-1956).
81. An adult male person (as opposed to a woman).
82. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
83. Alternatively, a member of the family Nymphaeaceae.
84. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. An international organization created in 1949 by the North Atlantic Treaty for purposes of collective security.
2. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
3. Informal terms for a (young) woman.
4. Port city of Denmark in eastern Jutland.
5. An undergarment worn by women to support their breasts.
6. Malodorous tropical plant having a spathe that resembles the corolla of a morning glory and attains a diameter of several feet.
7. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
8. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
9. The capital of Croatia.
10. Not out.
11. Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
12. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
13. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
14. Of or relating to or characteristic of the Republic of Chad or its people or language.
19. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
22. Surgically remove a part of a structure or an organ.
25. Imperial moths.
26. Rum and lime or lemon juice.
29. Nocturnal mouselike mammal with forelimbs modified to form membranous wings and anatomical adaptations for echolocation by which they navigate.
31. A soft silvery metallic element of the rare earth group.
33. Occurring or payable every year.
34. Apparatus that makes copies of typed, written or drawn material.
36. Formerly included in genus Cedrela.
37. A unit of dry measure used in Egypt.
38. Designated paved area beside a main road where cars can stop temporarily.
41. Thickening of tissue in the motor tracts of the lateral columns and anterior horns of the spinal cord.
44. A strong emotion.
46. Being one hundred more than two hundred.
47. Erect bushy hairy annual herb having trifoliate leaves and purple to pink flowers.
49. Open and observable.
50. Pose a threat to.
55. A dyed fabric.
58. Absence of the pupil in an eye.
59. A lapel on a woman's garment.
60. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
63. Any particle that obeys Bose-Einstein statistics but not the Pauli exclusion principle.
65. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
66. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
67. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
69. Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
70. An elaborate song for solo voice.
73. A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
75. A gradual decline (in size or strength or power or number).
76. The compass point that is one point east of due south.
80. An expression of greeting.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

If there was a needle in the haystack you would be the one who could find it today. Your mind is sharp. You are paying close attention to detail and able to get to the root of any problem that presents itself. A new sense of self awareness is upon you. You are finding yourself more health conscious than in the past and ready to make some healthy changes to your diet and lifestyle. This is a time of great changes in your world.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may be feeling more at peace spending time to yourself lately. This could lead to a sense of loneliness. You may find yourself frequently deep in thought. You seem to be watching your life pass by. These deep feelings are drawing you closer to love ones. You may be putting more emphasis than ever before on your close relationships. You may find a strong sense of ambition come over you as feel you ready to conquer the world. Taurus. This is a great time to take into account areas you have fallen short in the past. Set your eye on the prize and make it happen.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

All that is dear to your heart takes priority today. You need to love and be loved. Take a chance today. You may receive a great reward. Love is a huge factor in your life today. You are learning to love yourself and pay close attention to the needs and want of those close to you. Getting in touch with your emotions and the emotions of those around you will cause others to be drawn to you. Gemini, others will value your opinions and sense of independence. You are becoming someone others look up to.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Emotionally you may be tempted to take the wrong route. What is easy is not always right. Your values and morals may be at odds with opportunity. Use caution, and put much thought into the decisions you make. You could find yourself being too generous or making bad decisions. Do not overspend or squander your resources. Be careful today to not let your kind heart put you in a bad position.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You may be faced with a career opportunity that goes against what you value. You have always prided yourself for clearly seeing things in life in black and white. There is no room for a grey area. If an opportunity that presents itself to you seems to good to be true, it probably is. Be sure you are able to lay your head down at night and sleep peacefully. You know right from wrong and this is a time for you to make the right choice. Actions have consequences and these consequences will have a lasting effect on your world. Do what satisfies your soul.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You crave all that is new and different. What has been great motivation to you in the past may seem meaningless. You have been a creature of habit as long as your friends can remember. This new you and the new path you have chosen may catch others off guard. Follow your heart. This is your journey and your journey alone. Do what makes you happy and put yourself first for a change. You can not change the way others see you. Chase your dreams and do what sets your soul on fire.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

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



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

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.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may be faced with a career opportunity that goes against what you value. You have always prided yourself for clearly seeing things in life in black and white. There is no room for a grey area. If an opportunity that presents itself to you seems to good to be true, it probably is. Be sure you are able to lay your head down at night and sleep peacefully. You know right from wrong and this is a time for you to make the right choice. Actions have consequences and these consequences will have a lasting effect on your world. Do what satisfies your soul.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This is a great day for letting your mind drift back in time. Memories of days gone by will bring a smile to your face and warm your heart. With time you have not only gained knowledge, but you have gained wisdom. There is no better teacher than life itself. You have had your ups and downs but overall you are a survivor. You have conquered the challenges and today finds you proud of all you have accomplished. It is at times like this your self confidence is boosted and you are truly proud of your position in life. Your positive attitude and strong will to be successful have always been a driving force in your life. Reach for the stars.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

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.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

A friend will seek your advice today. What she really wants is your approval for what she has decided to do. If you tell her what to do, it may lead to a rift in your friendship. You can give your opinion, but make it clear that she has to make the decision for herself. You might offer some options and point out the possible consequences of each. That mean she takes responsibility for her action. Regardless of how her decision turns out, your friendship will be strengthened.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Computer Jargon 2

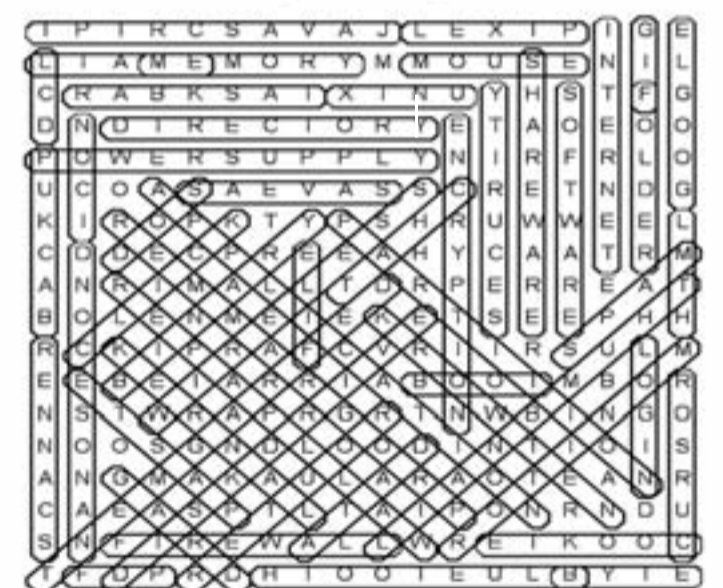
Find and circle all of the computer words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional computer word.



- | | | | | |
|------------|----------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| ASCII | DISK | HARDWARE | PASSWORD | SOUNDCARD |
| BANDWIDTH | DOCUMENT | INPUT | SPYWARE | |
| BIOS | DOWNLOAD | JAVA | PERIPHERAL | TERAFLOP |
| BUG | DRIVER | JPEG | PORT | TROJAN HORSE |
| CACHE | EMOTICON | KEYBOARD | PRINTER | UPLOAD |
| CHIP | ETHERNET | LINUX | REBOOT | USB |
| COPY | FAQ | MENU | RESOLUTION | USERNAME |
| CPU | FIREWIRE | MODEM | SAVE | VIRUS |
| CRASH | FONT | MULTIMEDIA | SCROLL | WEB BROWSER |
| CYBERSPACE | FIRMWARE | NETTIQUETTE | SERVER | WINDOWS |
| DATABASE | GIGABYTE | OPEN | SMILEY | ZIP FILE |
| DESKTOP | HACKER | | | |

Yesterday's Solution

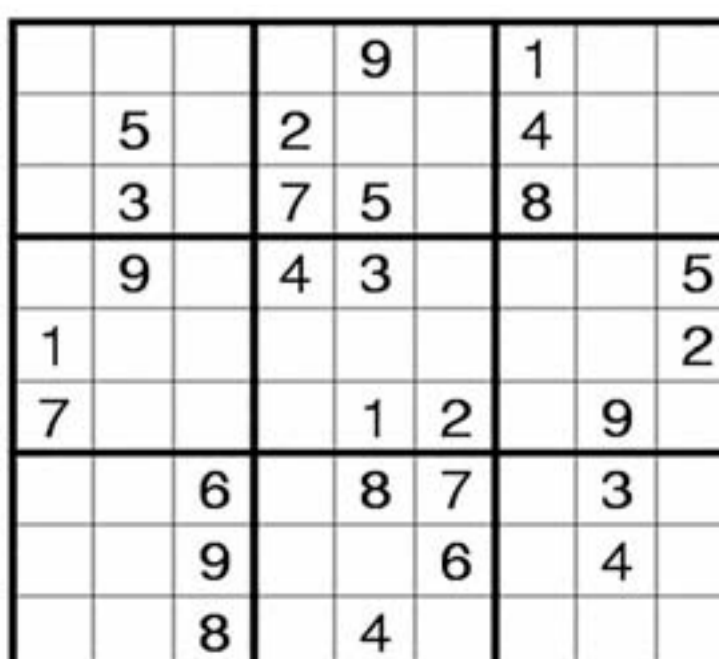
Computer Jargon 1



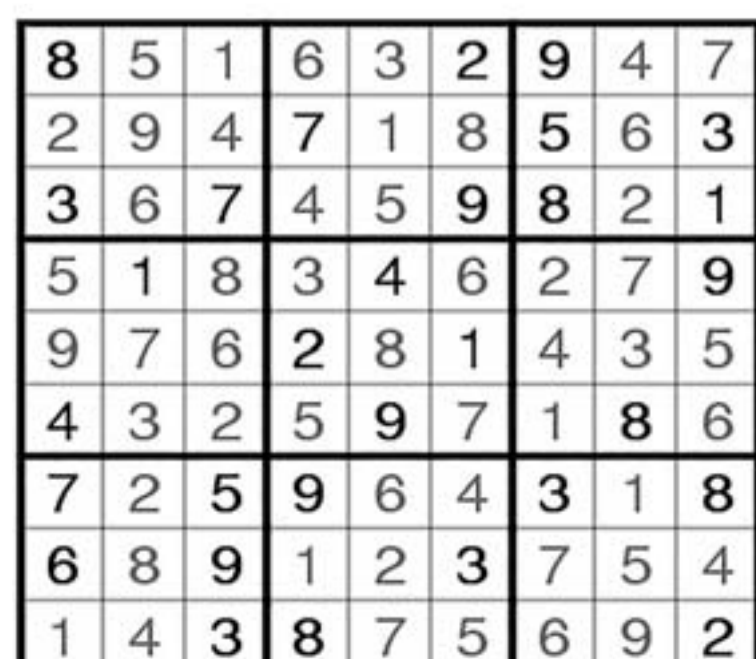
- | | | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| APPLICATION | DEFRAGMENT | GOOGLE | NANOSECOND | SCANNER |
| BACKUP | DIRECTORY | HTML | NETWORK | SECURITY |
| BINARY | DISK DRIVE | ICON | PARTITION | SHAREWARE |
| BLUETOOTH | DOS | INTERNET | PASTE | SOFTWARE |
|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

The hidden word is: MOTHERBOARD

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2018



Erik Origo reflected in the eyes of a cat prior to Simple Session in Tallinn, Estonia.
— Reuters photos



A photo shot in the sea

World Animal Day

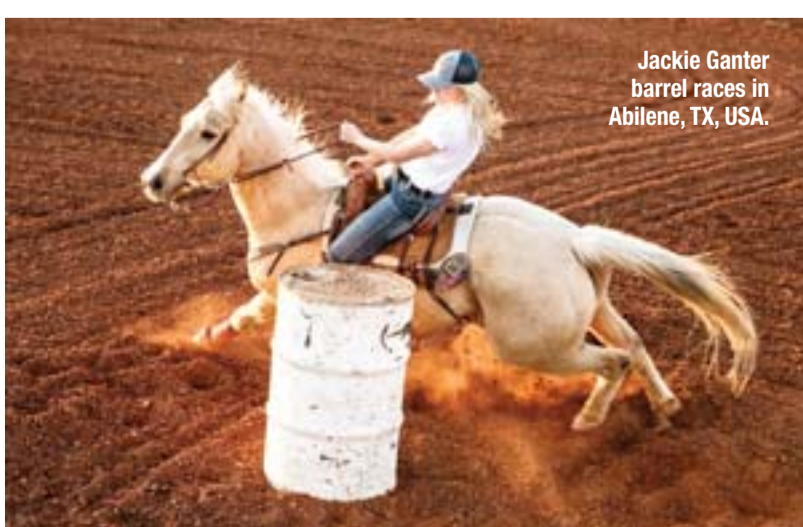
On the World Animal Day today enjoy this selection of photos featuring dogs, cats, elephants and more friendly companions.



Maikel Melero of Spain warms up in the South African savanna prior to the fifth stage of the Red Bull X-Fighters World Tour in Pretoria, South Africa.



Mads Andre Haugen seen with his dog during the production of the project 'The Tourist 2.0' in Geiranger, Norway.



Jackie Ganter barrel races in Abilene, TX, USA.



Wojtek Pawlusiak seen at Dune Freestyle in Abu Dhabi, UAE.



Elephants in the Ngorongoro Crater in Tanzania, Africa.



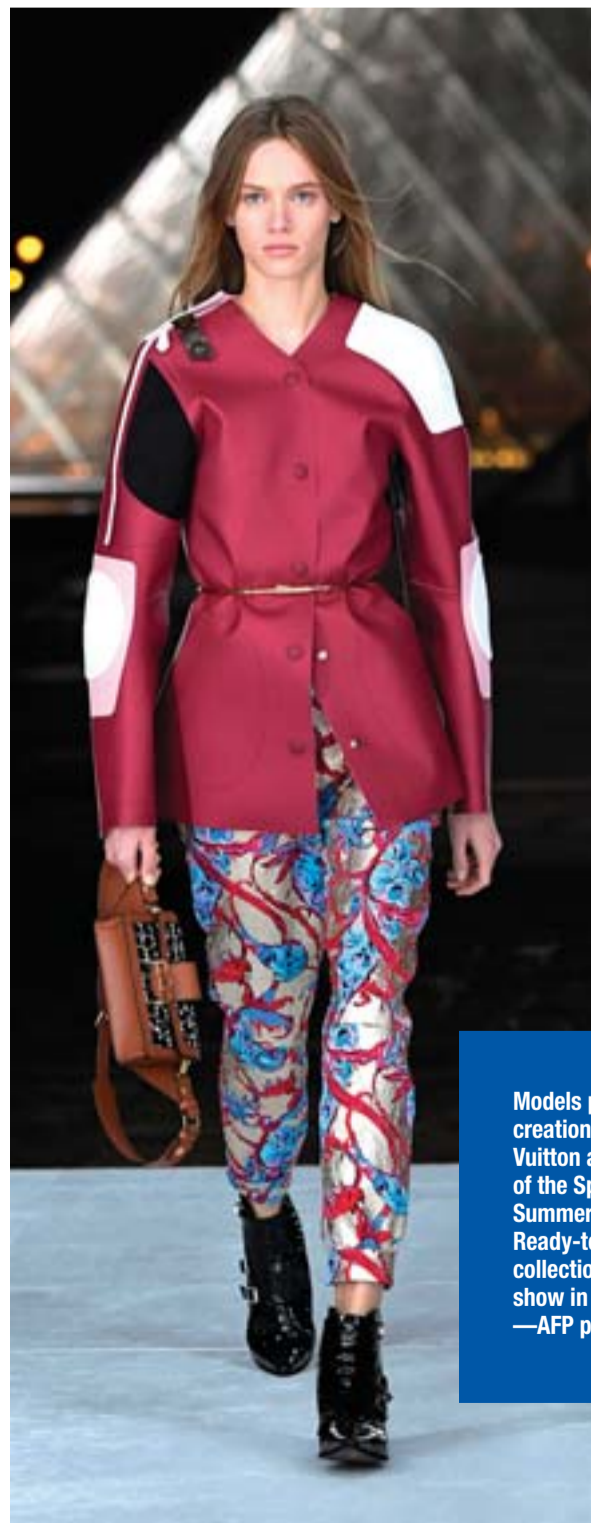
The Louvre Pyramid is illuminated in the night, prior to the Louis Vuitton Spring-Summer 2019 Ready-to-Wear collection fashion show in Paris.
—AFP photos

Vuitton brings intergalactic vibes to close of Paris Fashion Week

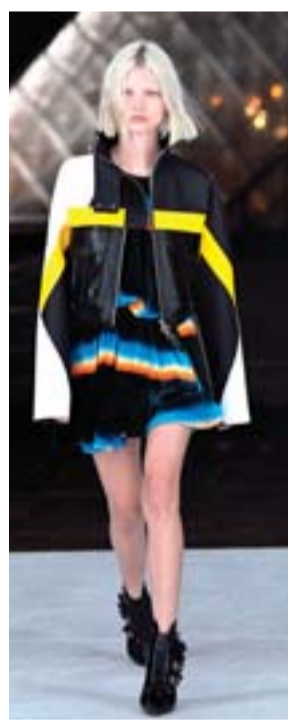
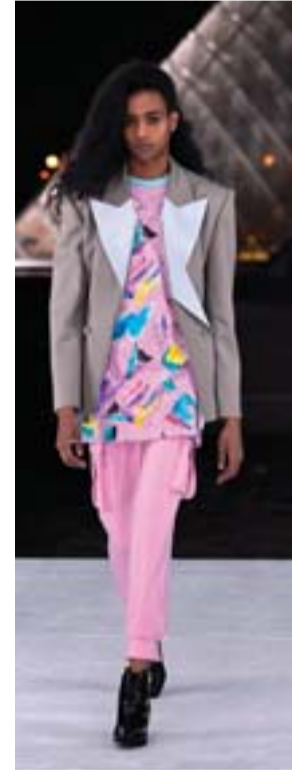
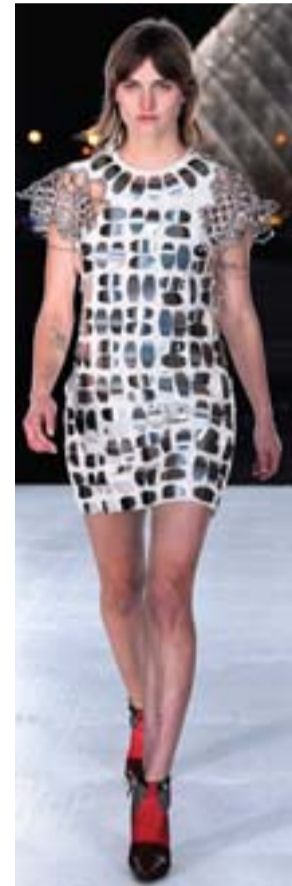


LVMH's Louis Vuitton presented a new collection fit for a space odyssey at the end of Paris Fashion Week on Monday, with futuristic, crystal-strewn looks, oversized sleeves and patterned dresses evoking skylines. Under white neon tube lights, models snaked around a specially constructed catwalk in one of the courtyards of the Louvre museum, with a front row that drew screen stars including Paul Bettany, Alicia Vikander and Cate Blanchett.

The show was the latest big budget display from the heavyweights of the luxury industry, with France's LVMH also pulling out all the stops for its revamp of Celine last week, and cross-town rival Kering parading models at Saint Laurent under the Eiffel Tower. At Vuitton, designer Nicolas Guesquiere gave mesh dresses a sci-fi vibe with angular shoulders, while some looks featured ruffles and bouffant sleeves worthy of a space-age musketeer. More sober styles included suit jackets with zipper fastenings. Some models donned other-worldly white bonnets, while most displayed an assortment of bags, including some shaped like gourds. Vuitton began as a luggage maker and still makes the bulk of its sales from high-margin leather goods. — Reuters



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



Lifestyle | Fashion



Fashion designer for Balmain, Olivier Rousteing (center) acknowledges the audience with the models, at the end of the Balmain Spring-Summer 2019 Ready-to-Wear collection fashion show in Paris.



Black is back: Top trends at Paris fashion week

Models present creations by Thom Brown during the Spring-Summer 2019 Ready-to-Wear collection fashion show in Paris.

As Paris women's fashion week ends Tuesday, AFP looks at some of the major trends from the spring-summer 2019 catwalk collections:

Black is the new black

Spring-summer is supposed to be about bright colors, prints and flouncy flowers. No longer if a deeply sombre Paris fashion week is any barometer. The last nine days has been one long funeral procession of black, with a little bit of white and the odd dazzle of silver to lift the gloom. Hedi Slimane went on a voyage to the heart of black in his highly controversial debut at Celine, as did his successor at Saint Laurent, Anthony Vaccarello.

Blink at Valentino, Margiela, Guy Laroche, Givenchy and even Balenciaga and you might have thought yourself at a wake there was so much black, while Rick Owens

Chanel. And we were spoilt for choice for them at Louis Vuitton, where they were also attached to belts. Natacha Ramsay-Levi's new C bag at Chloe isn't teeny tiny, but the biggest thing about it is the golden C she has stamped on it, while Maria Grazia Chiuri's new Dior one is more of a shoulder purse.

Spherical bags were also big, with Chanel introducing its little beach ball bags and Marine Serre's playful little cartoon bombs. Arora too had a few before taking the biscuit-or in his case the three-tiered cake-with his wedding cake as well as leopard-head bags which came with light-up-in-the-dark laser eyes. But for pure practical ingenuity, Issey Miyake's new bag hat is hard to beat. Made with shot fabric, it can be folded into a hat and worn in an almost infinite number of ways. Hats off!

Tights with sandals

For decades style gurus have preached that the very definition of icky was tights with sandals or open-toed shoes. No more. No greater authority than the temple of aristocratic taste that is the house of Givenchy reckons it's OK. It paired thick black tights with sandals and even-brace yourselves-white shoes.

Miu Miu, a pioneer/repeat offender of knee-length tights, teamed them and black tights with pink, silver, brown and purple sandals, some with platform soles straight from the 1970s. And revived Courreges dared to match skin-tone tights bearing its logo with miniskirts and flat sandals.

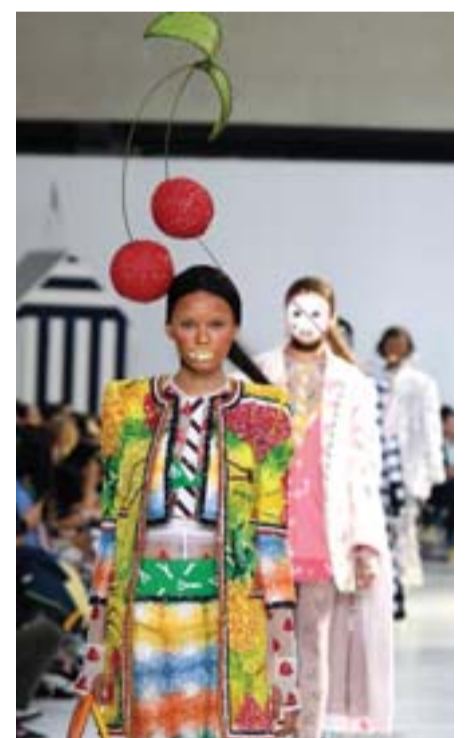
Gigantic shades

Summer is all about sunglasses, and next year they will be as big as picture windows. Dior was first to burst the frame with big boxy skin-tone shades, followed by Gucci's jet black giants inspired by sleeping masks with Loewe's equally massive ones, just a little more modular. Rick Owens and Paris newcomers Marques'Almeida continued the gigantism with almost identical fighter-pilot visor shades.

Like its collection, Guy Laroche's were two-tone while Saint Laurent and newbies Each x Other went all hippy dippy with heart- and diamond-shaped frames. For those who think shades are an unnecessary extravagance, Slimane's Paris by night-themed debut at Celine hammered home the style rule that one should never go out after dark without them. — AFP

Teeny tiny bags

Bags are getting smaller, much smaller. We appear in fact to be entering the era of the micro-bag with young guns Ottolinger and Jacquemus introducing handbags you can hold with one finger. Karl Lagerfeld may be more than half a century their senior, but he was bang on trend at





Columns of the amphitheatre at the site of the ancient Roman city of Sabratha, around 70 kilometers (45 miles) from the Libyan capital Tripoli. — AFP photos



A picture shows a portion of the site of the ancient Roman city of Sabratha.



A picture shows a detail from a high relief at the site of the ancient Roman city of Sabratha.



Detail of a low relief at the site of the ancient Roman city of Sabratha.

'JEWEL OF ROMAN EMPIRE' FACES LIBYA DANGERS

Perched on the edge of Libya's Mediterranean coast, the ancient city of Sabratha remains an awe-inspiring spectacle, the pink columns of its amphitheatre towering above turquoise waters.

But the world heritage site is classed as "endangered" by UNESCO, its majestic structures pockmarked by mortar and small arms fire. Shell casings and bullets still litter the surrounding earth, a year after clashes between rival armed groups. Locals say snipers positioned themselves at the top of the amphitheatre, once a jewel of the Roman Empire.

Bringing bloodshed back to the gladiatorial arena some 18 centuries after it was built, 39 people were killed and 300 wounded in the fighting. Today, the site around 70 kilometers (45 miles) from the capital lies eerily abandoned, encircled by parched grass and weeds. Since the toppling and killing of Libya's dictator Moamer Kadhafi in a 2011 uprising, Sabratha has become a key departure point for illegal migration. Smugglers and militias have profited amply from a chronic security vacuum. It is from the long and deserted shores a few kilometers (miles) from ancient Sabratha that most migrants start their perilous boat journeys towards Europe.

'Permanent danger'

UNESCO declared Sabratha to be at risk in July 2016, along with four other Libyan sites on its World Heritage list. The UN's cultural organisation based its decision on two factors—"damage already caused" and vulnerability to future destruction. It noted that "armed groups are present on these sites or in their immediate proximity". Experts fear worse is to come for

the country's historic sites, as armed groups continue to vie for ascendancy.

Libya's archaeological heritage is at great risk, warns Mohamad al-Chakhouki, head of the North African country's department of antiquities. The "entrenchment of armed groups inside archaeological sites and the battles which have unfolded near the sites, including Sabratha, pose a permanent danger", he told AFP. The conservation of sites was once entrusted to Western teams. But these experts have not travelled to Libya "for four years, because of the chaos and insecurity", said Chakhouki.

Spread out over 90 hectares (220 acres), including a part engulfed by the sea, Sabratha is one of three former cities that constituted Roman Tripolitania. The others are Oea-modern-day Tripoli and Leptis Magna in western Libya that was one of the sites classed as endangered by UNESCO two years ago. At the mercy of the scorching summer sun and the salty sea breeze, Sabratha suffers from stone erosion and degradation, said Mohamad Abu Ajela, an official at the city's office of antiquities. But the "damage caused by man is a greater fear", he said. A Spanish archaeological mission recently visited Sabratha and signed an agreement to restore some areas, including the theatre. But completion of the work "depends on the security situation", Ajela said.

Urbanisation and looting

Alongside armed conflict, several protected Libyan sites are threatened by uncontrolled urban expansion. One example is Cyrene, an ancient Greek city in northeastern Libya. Exploiting the chaos, people have claimed ownership of land and built within the archaeologi-



cal site's perimeter. Looting is another threat to these sites, as the lack of security has led to illicit excavation and smuggling of antiquities.

Several thefts of ancient objects have been reported. In March, Spain's interior ministry announced the seizure "of numerous works of art" from the Cyrenaica and Tripolitania regions, including seven mosaics, sarcophagi and pieces of Egyptian origin. Madrid said it had proof that two necropolises were looted by "terrorist groups". Officials in the antiquities department attempt to save what they can, often through desperate measures. Museums have closed-including in Tripoli-and some archaeological treasures have been transferred to a "safe place", Chakhouki said. — AFP

A picture shows a detail from a high relief at the site of the ancient Roman city of Sabratha.

French singer **Aznavour** died in his bath of natural causes: Autopsy

Singer Charles Aznavour died in his bathtub after suffering heart and breathing problems, an autopsy has found, as tributes continued to pour in Tuesday from around the world for one of France's most famous performers. Aznavour, 94, was found dead on Monday at his home in the southeast, sparking nationwide mourning for an entertainer who sold 180 million records during his eight-decade-long career.

Franco-Armenian Aznavour was discovered Monday lunchtime "lying in his bathroom bathtub, next to his bedroom," prosecutor Patrick Desjardins told reporters near his home in the town of Mouries. An autopsy found the death "occurred in the morning of October 1, in the wake of an acute oedema caused by cardiorespiratory failure," Desjardins said. "Foul play can be ruled out, but the circumstances surrounding the death are not precisely known." Aznavour had said last week that he wanted to breathe his

last on stage and was scheduled to appear live in Belgium and France in the next few weeks.

His legions of fans have been left heartbroken by his death, while fellow entertainers lined up to pay tribute to his influence as a taboo-breaking singer and original songwriter. Sting and Lenny Kravitz lauded the "eternal" legacy of the "gentleman" of traditional French singing, while Elton John wrote on Twitter that he was "honoured" at having sung with the man sometimes referred to as "France's Sinatra".

Aznavour's fanbase spanned the world thanks to his role in Francois Truffaut's film "Shoot the Piano Player" in 1960 that catapulted him to fame outside France, as well as his commercial success in America and loyal following among the Armenian diaspora. On Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles, well-wishers layed flowers on the pavement star bearing his name, while Armenia commemorated him in parliament and on the underground train

stations in the capital Yerevan which played his songs.

The Armenian government also decreed a day of mourning to coincide with the day on which he will be buried in France, with details of his funeral still unknown. Meanwhile the French presidency announced late Tuesday that the nation would pay homage to the beloved singer in Paris on Friday. President Emmanuel Macron will deliver a speech at a ceremony to be held in the courtyard of Les Invalides, a complex of buildings and monuments related to French military history.

Armenian heritage

Aznavour was born in Paris on May 22, 1924, to Armenian parents who had fled the massacres in their homeland and the singer would say that Armenians were "in my heart and in my blood". He had been due to accompany Macron as a guest of honor at a summit of francophone countries in Armenia on October 10 and 11. In Lebanon, which has a large Armenian population, his death was also front-page news and radio stations played his songs.

In Paris, the Eiffel tower was lit up in gold Monday night in his honor, while Mayor Anne Hidalgo called for the French capital to rename a street after him. French newspapers Tuesday splashed the singer on their front pages, with several praising him as the "last of the giants". Aznavour, who was three-times married, leaves a wife, Ulla, and five surviving children. Hundreds of thousands of people lined the streets of Paris in December for the funeral and national homage to another post-war French singer, Johnny Hallyday. — AFP

This picture shows a poster of the late French-Armenian singer Charles Aznavour, who died the day before, on display at a main square in the Lebanese-Armenian majority suburb of Burj Hammoud, north of the capital Beirut. — AFP



Disappeared China star Fan ordered to pay \$129m over taxes

Chinese superstar Fan Bingbing has been ordered to pay more than \$129 million in taxes and fines, state media said yesterday, months after the once ubiquitous celebrity disappeared from the public eye. The 36-year-old actress, model and producer has been a household name in China for years and tasted Hollywood success with a role in the 2014 blockbuster "X-Men: Days of Future Past." But her once active social media presence went silent in May after allegations that she had evaded taxes on a lucrative movie shoot, charges her studio called "slander".

She has not been seen in public since. Chinese tax authorities have now ruled that both Fan and companies controlled by her failed to pay tens of millions of dollars in taxes, the official Xinhua news service reported yesterday. The report said Fan would have to pay a total of 883 million yuan (\$129 million) in owed taxes, fines and penalties, adding that she would avoid criminal prosecution as long as she met a repayment deadline. At least one other person implicated in the probe has been detained for further investigation related to concealing and "deliberately destroying" accounting documents. Xinhua added without detailing that person's identity.

Following the investigation into Fan, authorities have declared a wider crackdown on the entertainment industry, Xinhua said. Offenders are being offered an amnesty until December 31 to pay up any taxes they owe. Fan's troubles began in May soon after she appeared on the red carpet at Cannes film festival when a former presenter for state-run China Central Television (CCTV) posted a purported movie shoot contract.

The documents suggested Fan was officially paid 10 million yuan (\$1.45 million) for a project while unofficially receiving an additional 50 million yuan—all for four days of work. So-called "yin and yang" dual contract arrangements—with one contract for income declared to tax authorities while the other is kept secret—are reported to be used in China to evade taxes. After the contract documents went viral, the national tax administration announced it had instructed authorities in eastern Jiangsu province to investigate alleged use of such dual contracts in the entertainment industry.



Chinese actress and member of the Feature Film jury Fan Bingbing waving as she arrives for the screening of the film 'Amant Double' (Amant Double) at the 70th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes. — AFP

Fan was not mentioned by name but she has businesses registered in Jiangsu. Last year, Fan topped Forbes magazine's list of top-earning Chinese celebrities with income of 300 million yuan (\$43 million). She is one of five leading international actresses cast in the forthcoming Hollywood spy thriller "355", alongside Jessica Chastain and Penelope Cruz. But her star has dimmed among authorities in China. A recent report by academics ranking the "social ranking" of Chinese celebrities placed Fan at the very bottom with a score of zero. The study was widely carried by Chinese state media. — AFP

Classifieds

Thursday, October 4, 2018

Kuwait Times
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STATE OF KUWAIT
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
 METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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 Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY NIGHT: Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h.

BY DAY: Hot with light to moderate freshening at times north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h with a chance for blowing dust over open areas.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.	SFC. CHART 03/10/2018 1200 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	45 °C	27 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	44 °C	25 °C			
ABDALY	44 °C	24 °C			
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C			
JAHRA	44 °C	26 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	43 °C	26 °C			
SALMIYAH	41 °C	33 °C			
AHMADI	38 °C	31 °C			
NUWAISIB	44 °C	24 °C			
WAFRA	45 °C	26 °C			
SALMY	42 °C	23 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Thursday	10/04	Hot with a chance for blowing dust over open areas	44 °C	25 °C	NW	15 - 40 km/h
Friday	10/05	Hot	44 °C	24 °C	NW-VRB	06 - 30 km/h
Saturday	10/06	Hot	43 °C	24 °C	VRB	06 - 24 km/h
Sunday	10/07	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for mist forming at night	39 °C	21 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 28 km/h

TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:24
Sunrise	05:42
Zuhr	11:37
Asr	14:59
Sunset	17:31
Isha	18:47

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	42 °C
MIN. Temp.	23 °C
MAX. RH	54 %
MIN. RH	11 %
MAX. Wind	S 25 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

REQUIRED

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

A leading Pharmaceutical company in Kuwait is looking for an accounting professional with thorough knowledge in ERP, Accounting, Finance, Budget, Excel, Reporting etc.

- English proficiency
- Minimum 7 years of experience required.

Interested candidates forward their CV to info@almulid.com.kw till 10th Oct, 2018.

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, PP No. N5195063, my name John Constance Peter Gonsalves to John Constance

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

Airlines

Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Wataniya Airways	22 066 536
Turkish Airlines	1884918
American Airlines	22087425
Jet Airways	22087426
FlyDubai	22924455
Qatar Airways	22414400
KLM	22423888
Royal Jordanian	22425747
British Airways	22418064/5/6
Air France	22425635
Emirates	22430224
Air India	22921555
Sri Lanka Airlines	224238184
Egypt Air	22424444
Swiss Air	22421578
Saudia	22421516
Middle East Airlines	22426306
	22423073

Required

Assistant HR Manager

An American school, located in Kuwait, is seeking an assistant HR manager, the applicant is to be native English speaker preferably of either American or British nationality, though other nationalities may be considered with the appropriate experience.

- Minimum of 3 years HR management experience.
- Must hold an MBA.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Excellent computer skills.

The successful applicant will have the ability to work at a fast pace, meeting set deadlines, unsupervised. Experience working in a school environment would be of an advantage but not essential.

To apply for position, submit your resume, covering letter and recent photograph To: recruitment@abs.edu.kw

REQUIRED

ACCOUNTANT

A leading Pharmaceutical company in Kuwait is looking for an accounting professional with thorough knowledge in ERP, Accounting, Finance, Budget, Excel, Reporting etc.

- English proficiency
- Minimum 7 years of experience required.

Interested candidates forward their CV to info@almulid.com.kw till 10th Oct, 2018.

REQUIRED

LOGISTICS OFFICER

A leading Pharmaceutical company in Kuwait is looking for a Logistics professional with excellent knowledge in ERP, Inventory control, shipping, customs clearance etc.

- English proficiency
- Minimum 7 years of experience required.

Interested candidates forward their CV to info@almulid.com.kw till 10th Oct, 2018.

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

Flight Schedule

Arrival Flights on Thursday 4/10/2018				Departure Flights on Thursday 4/10/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	405	Sohag	00:05	MSR	2614	Cairo	23:30
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	JZR	241	Amman	23:40
KAC	102	London	00:50				
DLH	625	Dammam	01:00				
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00				
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15				
JZR	267	Beirut	01:25				
RJA	642	Amman	01:35				
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40				
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45				
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50				
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00				
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00				
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15				
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30				
JZR	553D	Alexandria	02:50				
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55				
KAC	418	Manila	03:05				
RBG	215	Sohag	03:05				
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05				
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05				
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05				
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10				
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15				
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30				
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00				
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00				
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30				
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30				
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05				
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10				
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15				
KAC	544	Cairo	05:20				
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25				
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30				
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40				
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55				
KAC	362	Colombo	06:00				
BAW	157	London	06:10				
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25				
QTR	8511	Doha	06:35				
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40				
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45				
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50				
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00				
JZR	605	Ahmedabad	07:05				
JZR	143	Doha	07:20				
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30				
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45				
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50				
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50				
KAC	358	Kochi	08:00				
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05				
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25				
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55				
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00				
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05				
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30				
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40				
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00				
SYR	341	Damascus	10:00				
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40				
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55				
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00				
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45				
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:20				
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30				
MSC	411	Asyut	12:30				
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45				
ABY	121	Sharjah	12:55				
JZR	239	Amman	13:00				
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00				
JZR	357	Mashhad	13:05				
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10				
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:30				
KAC	792	Madinah	13:40				
JZR	779	Jeddah	13:45				
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55				
IAW	157A	Al Najaf	13:55				
KAC	1078	Doha	14:10				
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10				
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15				
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:15				
KAC	516	Tehran	14:20				
FDB	059	Dubai	14:20				
KAC	618	Doha	14:20				
KAC	798	Taif	14:40				
JZR	789	Riyadh	14:45				
KAC	788	Jeddah	14:50				
FDB	8065	Dubai	15:00				
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05				
KAC	304	Mumbai	15:05				
KAC	412	Bangkok	15:10				
KNE	529	Jeddah	15:10				
KAC	562	Amman	15:20				
OMA	645	Muscat	15:20				
KAC	502	Beirut	15:35				
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35				
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45				
SAW	705	Damascus	16:00				
KAC	118	New York	16:00				
KNE	531	Jeddah	16:05				
JZR	535	Cairo	16:10				
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15				
FDB	051	Dubai	16:20				
NIA	361	Alexandria	16:50				
JZR	125	Bahrain	16:55				
KAC	542	Cairo	17:00				
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15				
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30				
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35				
JZR	145	Doha	17:35				
JZR	177	Dubai	17:40				
QTR	1080	Doha	18:10				
JZR	483	Istanbul	18:20				
MSR	620	Cairo	18:30				
RJA	640	Amman	19:00				
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05				
UAE	875	Dubai	19:05				
FDB	063	Dubai	19:10				
KAC	744	Dammam	19:10				
ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20				
KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	19:25				
KAC	156	Istanbul	19:25				
NIA	161	Cairo	19:30				
KAC	776	Riyadh	19:35				
RBG	555	Alexandria	19:40				
KAC	674	Dubai	19:40				
FDB	057	Dubai	19:50				
KAC	174	Munich	19:55				
JZR	189	Dubai	19:55				
KAC	616	Bahrain	20:00				
DLH	624	Frankfurt	20:05				

Crucial foreign drugs are a rare commodity in sanctions-hit Iran

TEHRAN: "Talk of sanctions on Iran reemerged, and my essential medicine was no longer available," said Masoud Mir who suffers from thalassaemia, a genetic blood disease common in Iran. Mir, 36, is one of many patients in the Islamic Republic who not only have to deal with their disability, but also the consequences of trade sanctions re-imposed in August by the US, as well as a battered economy with a free-falling currency, a foreign drug shortage and price hikes. His essential medicine, a Swiss-made anti-iron overload drug, is now rationed by the government and can only be freely purchased at exorbitant prices on the black market. The same is true for other crucial drugs for treating multiple sclerosis, cancer and cardiac problems and even simple anaesthetics required for surgery.

Yesterday, the UN's top court stepped in, and ruled in favor of Iran which had called for the US sanctions to be suspended. Judges at the International Court of Justice in The Hague unanimously ruled Washington should remove barriers to "the free exportation to Iran of medicines and medical devices, food and agricultural commodities" as well as airplane parts. Official Iranian statements acknowledge the shortage of medicines and say imports of certain drugs are no longer subsidized.

Battered economy hits patients

"We are currently short of 80 pharmaceutical items," Mohammad-Naeem Aminifard, a member of parliament's health commission, told semi-official news agency ISNA. "The government and insurers have removed the support for foreign drugs that have a domestic equivalent which intensifies the pressure on patients." Iran produces 96 percent of the drugs it uses, according to the Syndicate of Iranian Pharmaceutical Industries, but imports more than half the raw materials to make them. The double-whammy of banking sanctions and a collapse in the value of its currency make total self-sufficiency difficult if not outright impossible.

For others with family health concerns, sanctions are adding to their burden. Ali, an electrical technician in his mid-30s, was fired from one job for spending too much time on hospital visits for his son. His next company went bankrupt, and his current employer, a Dutch-Iranian firm, is stalled because they cannot import equipment and has stopped paying staff. He spoke to AFP outside the busy 13 Aban pharmacy in central Tehran, where he had been hoping to buy a medicine for fungal infections caused by his son's cancer treatment. "They're not giving me any because of insurance problems," he said. "They said even if they could it's less than I need due to rationing. My son could die if his medicine is delayed for even a day."

Managers at the pharmacy, a state-owned outlet focusing on rarer diseases, declined to comment. But others in central Tehran said there was "a notable shortage" in some anticoagulants, beta-blockers or drugs to treat blood pressure problems. "The local versions are cheaper, but not as effective," one pharmacist told AFP. "Things will get worse if sanctions continue." Many patients cannot afford black market prices and risk side effects from locally-made equivalents, the head of Iran's thalassaemia society, Meysam Ramezani, told the conservative Tasnim news agency recently. Seven thalassaemia patients died in March alone, he said, blaming "either a lack of injections or low-quality drugs."

Who's to blame?

Iranians on social media are blaming many people: The US for its crippling sanctions, government economic mismanagement, and pharma firms for skyrocketing prices. Surgeon Hamidreza Vafayi said the refusal of international banks to work with Iran was the biggest challenge. The United States pulled out of the 2015 nuclear deal and re-imposed sanctions targeting key parts of Iran's economy including international banking ties and transactions in US dollars. "As far as I know, there



TEHRAN: An Iranian woman shops at a drugstore at Nikan Hospital on Sept 11, 2018. — AFP

is no official statement on sanctioning medicine trade with Iran," Vafayi told AFP. "Yet when we cannot have banking ties (with the world) we are in fact under an undeclared medicine sanction regime. The truth is that no company would sell us drugs now."

Sanctions are having even more direct effects, he said. Danish insulin-maker Novo Nordisk has cancelled a \$70 million production plant it had announced with

much fanfare in 2016, hoping to serve Iran's large number of diabetes patients. The company did not return a request for comment. Thalassaemia patient Masoud Mir also angrily recalled that when sanctions were imposed between 2010 and 2016, pharmaceutical firms exploited the situation by hoarding goods and manipulating prices. The same thing is happening today, he claimed.

Medicine importers get subsidized cur-

rency rates from the government, but their names are not publicly available, making it difficult to hold them to account if drugs do not appear in state-owned pharmacies. "In 2011, they kept saying that there was none (of his drug) in the market because of sanctions. But I could just walk out of the pharmacy and buy some from a street dealer at crazy prices," he said. "Not everyone can pay that, so they may face a slow death." — AFP

Iraq names new president, PM...

Continued from Page 1

sentiments and generous invitation, Salih in turn thanked HH the Amir, wishing him everlasting well-being and all progress and prosperity to the Kuwaiti people under his wise leadership.

HH the Amir also congratulated, during a phone call, Abdul Mahdi for his assignment to form a government. The Amir wished the prime minister-designate best wishes towards meeting the aspirations of the Iraqi people. The Amir hoped Iraq enjoys development and prosperity, inviting Abdul Mahdi for an official visit to Kuwait. In turn, Abdul Mahdi expressed his utmost appreciation for HH the Amir's sentiments and sincere wishes, as well as for the kind invitation, wishing prosperity for the Kuwaiti people under his wise leadership.

A former vice president, oil minister and finance minister, Abdul Mahdi now has 30 days to form a cabinet and present it to parliament for approval. He faces the daunting tasks of rebuilding much of the country after four years of war with Islamic State militants, healing its ethnic and sectarian tensions, and balancing foreign relations with Iraq's two major allies - Iran and its arch-foe the United States.

Abdul Mahdi, 76, is a trained economist who left Iraq in 1969 for exile in France, where he worked for think-tanks and edited magazines in French and Arabic. He is the son of a respected Shiite cleric who was a minister in the era of Iraq's monarchy, overthrown in 1958. He will become the first elected prime minister in post-Saddam Iraq not to hail from the Shiite Islamist Dawa party. Abdul Mahdi was nominated by two rival blocs, one led by Shiite cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr and outgoing Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi, and the other by Iran-backed militia leader Hadi Al-Amiri and former premier Nuri Al-Maliki.

Both blocs claim to hold a parliamentary majority but the dispute has been rendered irrelevant by their choice of the same man to be premier. "The nomination of Mr

Adel Abdul Mahdi came after an agreement between the Binaa bloc and the Islah bloc to nominate him via consensus and not a majority bloc in order to get past the issue of which is the majority bloc," said Ahmed Al-Asadi, a spokesman for the Binaa bloc led by Amiri and Maliki.

Ameri and Maliki are Iran's two most prominent allies in Iraq. Abadi was seen as the preferred candidate of the United States, while Sadr portrays himself as a nationalist who rejects both American and Iranian influence. The rival claims to a parliamentary majority and uncertainty over the composition of the new government had raised tensions at a time when public impatience is growing over poor basic services, high unemployment and the slow pace of rebuilding after the war with Islamic State.

Sadr's bloc welcomed Abdul Mahdi's nomination. The cleric earlier on Tuesday tweeted that "Iraq is bigger than the biggest bloc," a likely reference to the compromise. Abadi issued a statement congratulating Abdul Mahdi and wishing him success. "Abdul Mahdi's nomination represents the best choice to pleasing all the Shiite players who were about to reach a point of conflict and no return," said Baghdad-based political analyst Ahmed Younis. "All the Shiite blocs reached the conclusion that their divisions could lead to an intra-Shiite conflict which would weaken their position in Iraq," he said. "Now with Abdul Mahdi there are no winners and losers, everyone is happy."

If the nomination of Abdul Mahdi diffused Shiite tensions, Salih's election fuelled Kurdish ones. The presidency was fiercely contested between Iraqi Kurdistan's two main parties - the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), which nominated Salih, and its traditional rival, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP). Salih's election raises concerns of destabilization in the semi-autonomous Kurdistan Region because of escalating tensions between the KDP and PUK, who fought a civil war in the 1990s.

The KDP and PUK were unable to iron out differences and agree on one candidate as they have traditionally done. They competed in a parliamentary election in their semi-autonomous region in northern Iraq on Sunday. Allegations of fraud have created tensions. Results have not been announced. "I promise to safeguard Iraq's unity and safety," Salih said as he was sworn in, affirming his commitment to the country's unity a year after Kurds overwhelmingly backed a failed independence bid. — Agencies

Hague-based ICJ, which rules on disputes between United Nations members, are binding but it has no mechanism through which it can enforce its decisions. In 1986, Washington disregarded the court's finding that it had violated international law by supporting the pro-US Contra the ICJ's ruling rebels in Nicaragua. Iran in turn ignored the ICJ's ruling in 1980 to release hostages seized when revolutionary zealots took over the US embassy.

Trump has repeatedly voiced disdain for international organizations that he sees as limiting US sovereignty. Trump's national security adviser John Bolton recently threatened that the United States would take action against any judge from the separate International Criminal Court who pursues a case against US troops in Afghanistan.

Negotiated under his predecessor Barack Obama, Trump argues that the 2015 Iran deal gave Tehran money to support extremist groups and build nuclear-capable missiles. European allies have pledged to keep the agreement alive, with plans for a mechanism to let firms skirt the US sanctions as they do business with Iran. Hearings in a separate Iranian case against the US freezing of around \$2 billion of Iranian assets to help American terror victims is due to start at the ICJ next week. — Agencies

3 win Chemistry Nobel for work...

Continued from Page 1

used in a range of fields, in what is known as directed evolution. "They have applied the principles of Darwin in test tubes. They have used the molecular understanding we have of the evolutionary process and recreated the process in their labs," the head of the Academy's Nobel Chemistry committee, Claes Gustafsson, told reporters. "They have been able to make evolution many 1000s of times faster and redirect it to create new proteins."

Arnold, 62, who has survived breast cancer and is a single mother to three sons, is a professor of chemical engineering at the California Institute of Technology. Her method of rewriting DNA to mimic evolution has helped solve problems such as replacing toxic chemicals like fossil fuels. As a result, renewable resources like sugar cane are being converted into biofuels. More environmentally friendly chemical substances are being developed, improving everyday products such as laundry and dishwashing detergents to enhance their performance in cold temperatures.

"The most beautiful, complex, and functional objects on the planet have been made by evolution. We can now use evolution to make things that no human knows how to design," Arnold said in 2016. "Evolution is the most powerful engineering method in the world, and we should make use of it to find new biological solutions to problems," she said. "Instead of pumping oil out of the ground for making gasoline, now we can use sunlight stored in plants."

Aston skids on market debut...

Continued from Page 1

serves with him on Aston Martin's board. However, Aston shares made a flat start before skidding lower to stand down 4.79 percent at £18.09 in midday deals and failed to bounce back before the close, sparking valuation concerns among analysts. "Aston Martin failed to get the start it was looking for. The fanfare that was expected for the shares never materialized," said Jordan Hiscott, chief trader at Ayondo markets. The IPO sees investors Investindustrial, Adeem, Primewagon and senior management pocket more than £1.0 billion between them as Aston floats 57 million shares.

"Today's listing on the London Stock Exchange represents a historic milestone," Aston president and chief executive Andy Palmer said in the statement. "We are delighted by the positive response we have received from investors across the world and are very pleased to welcome our new shareholders to the register. "We are excited about the momentum across the company and are fully focused on continuing to deliver our exciting growth strategy."

The hotly-anticipated move is the largest IPO in the global automotive sector since Italian luxury car giant Ferrari listed on Wall Street three years ago. Ferrari stock had collapsed by 40 percent in the first six months of trade, but subsequently surged to stand at the current level of more than \$130 per share. "Some

Meanwhile, Smith, of the University of Missouri, and Winter, a 67-year-old genetic engineer at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology at Cambridge, developed an "elegant method" known as phage display, where a bacteriophage - a virus that infects bacteria - can be used to evolve new proteins, the jury said. Pharmaceuticals for rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and inflammatory bowel diseases have resulted from their research, as well as antibodies that can neutralize toxins, counteract autoimmune diseases and in some cases cure metastatic cancer.

"The discoveries by George Smith and Greg Winter are having an enormous impact, particularly on medicine with antibody drugs that have fewer side effects and are more efficient," Goran Hansson, the head of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, told reporters. Alan Boyd, president of Britain's Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine, hailed the award. "The use of antibodies has resulted in a paradigm shift in the way that we now treat so many diseases which has brought significant benefits to patients across the world and will continue to do so for years to come," he said.

Alfred Nobel, who created the prizes in his will, was himself a chemist, and devised his famed awards in part to atone for inventing dynamite. Arnold, Smith and Winter will receive their prize from Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on December 10, the anniversary of Nobel's 1896 death. The 2018 Nobel season continues on Friday with the announcement of the peace prize, and wraps up on Monday with the economics prize. 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. — AFP

investors have expressed caution that the valuation seems a little on the high side when compared to Ferrari, and the early price action certainly lends some support to that analysis," said CMC Markets analyst Michael Hewson.

Aston Martin, one of the few remaining British car-makers in a sector that is largely foreign owned, is cherished by Hollywood actors, global sports stars and British royalty. Bond's carmaker of choice had made its debut in 1964 film 'Goldfinger' and more recently featured in 2015's 'Spectre'. Nevertheless, the 105-year-old company - based in Gaydon in central England - has a troubled history and has declared itself bankrupt multiple times in the past. Aston is seeking to ramp up production and analysts predict that its top-end luxurious vehicles will likely be insulated from the twin challenges of Brexit and trade tariffs.

"For what it is worth, CEO Andy Palmer has said Aston Martin would probably benefit from a weaker pound in the case of a no-deal Brexit," said London Capital Group analyst Jasper Lawler. "It's fair to assume the average Aston Martin buyer is less price-sensitive than your average driver. "We think increased trade barriers are unlikely to influence a driver's decision to buy an Aston Martin." Lawler added: "The first public listing of a British carmaker in decades has the kind of dinner party appeal that few IPOs share."

Germany's Daimler AG meanwhile will not sell down its Aston Martin holding as part of the IPO, and will instead convert its non-voting 4.9-percent stake to shares. Aston, which was founded in a small London workshop, has been transformed into an ultra-luxury brand whose classic car owners include heir to the British throne Prince Charles. — Agencies

UN court tells US to lift Iran sanctions...

Continued from Page 1

"Today US withdrew from an actual US-Iran treaty after the ICJ ordered it to stop violating that treaty in sanctioning Iranian people. Outlaw regime," Zarif wrote on Twitter.

"This is a decision, frankly, that is 39 years overdue," Pompeo said, referring to the time since the 1979 Islamic revolution transformed Iran from one of the closest US allies to a sworn foe. "Given Iran's history of terrorism, ballistic missile activity and other malign behaviors, Iran's claims under the treaty are absurd," he said. The end of the treaty will have little direct effect but Iran has repeatedly cited it to seek claims against the United States, including when the US Navy downed an Iran Air civilian flight in 1988, killing 290 people.

Yesterday's ruling is in fact a decision on so-called provisional measures ahead of a final ruling which may take several more years, experts said. Decisions by the

Sports

Vettel needs Suzuka surprise to stay alive in title race

Vettel hopes the Red Bulls can get back into the mix to his advantage

SUZUKA: Sebastian Vettel may need to rely on a stroke of luck at the Japanese Grand Prix on Sunday if the German wants to keep alive his diminishing hopes of claiming a fifth Formula One title. Even victory at Suzuka may be a case of "too little, too late" for the Ferrari driver, with Lewis Hamilton sitting 50 points clear and just five races remaining.

The simple mathematics mean the Briton, who has won five of the last six races for Mercedes, including Russia last weekend, does not even need to register another victory this season to claim a fifth world title of his own.

"Maybe the next couple of tracks are better suited for us, we will know when we get there," said Vettel, who has five wins to Hamilton's eight this year and finished third in Sochi and at the previous grand prix in Singapore.

"We need to keep pushing and try. Who knows what will happen in the next races. It takes one DNF (did not finish) and then all of a sudden things look different," he told reporters after Sochi. "Ideally two—which I'm not wishing on Lewis but you never know what happens."

Ferrari team boss Maurizio Arrivabene likened the sweeping, high-speed Suzuka circuit to Silverstone, the British Grand Prix venue where then-championship leader Vettel won in July. "If it goes well, we will know that, despite the difficult situation in terms of the classification, we still have the right tools with which to fight all the way to the very end," the Italian said. Even then, there remains a sense that Ferrari are simply clutching at straws.

Hamilton won in Japan last year, while Vettel failed to

finish, with Red Bull's Max Verstappen and Daniel Ricciardo claiming second and third. This time, Vettel will be hoping the Red Bulls can get back into the mix to his advantage.

The former champions showed impressive speed in Russia, despite engine penalties dropping the cars to the back of the grid, with Verstappen climbing up from 19th to the race lead until a late pit stop saw him finish a creditable fifth.

Although Suzuka is expected to again suit the Red Bulls, Mercedes have won the last four races in Japan, three courtesy of Hamilton, and will be favourites to extend that run. It is a position the German team have enjoyed for most of the season yet once again they are taking nothing for granted.

"Suzuka will be another challenging weekend for us," declared Mercedes F1 boss Toto Wolff, whose team are 53 points clear of Ferrari in the constructors' standings. "It's a track that shows some similarities to Silverstone, where we didn't perform as strongly this year as we had done in previous seasons."

"So we're going to Japan knowing that we all have to be at our very best if we want to claim the win." Sunday's race could also mark a happier home coming for Honda, after the difficult McLaren years, as engine partners to Toro Rosso.

The Japanese manufacturer also absorbed engine penalties in Russia to position themselves better with an upgraded power unit for their home race. — Reuters



SOCHI: File photo shows third placed Ferrari's German driver Sebastian Vettel celebrates during the podium ceremony for the Formula One Russian Grand Prix at the Sochi Autodrom circuit in Sochi on September 30, 2018. —AFP

Nishikori squashes Paire to reach Tokyo quarters

TOKYO: Local hero Kei Nishikori put down a marker in his quest for a third Japan Open title as he outgunned France's Benoit Paire yesterday to reach the last eight. The third seed, who lifted the trophy in 2012 and 2014, completed a 6-3, 7-5 victory despite late resistance from Paire to avenge a semi-final defeat inflicted by the hulking Frenchman in Tokyo three years ago.

Meanwhile, former champion Nick Kyrgios flickered into life for just long enough to dispatch Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka 7-5, 7-6 (7/3) in the first round. Nishikori tore out of the blocks, winning the first five games before Paire finally got on the scoreboard.

Paire tugged at his beard in despair after Nishikori snaffled the opening set but raced to a 3-0 lead in the second set before the Japanese number one rattled off five straight games. An increasingly prickly Paire pulled off an outrageous between-the-legs volley and subsequently levelled with a backhand rocket, letting out a guttural roar as Nishikori shook his head in disbelief.

But the world number 12 almost took Paire's head off to break again for 6-5, further irritating the Frenchman, who flirted with a penalty point after kicking his racquet into his chair. Nishikori, who won the last of his 11 career titles in Memphis two years ago, closed out the match with a ferocious cross-court forehand that Paire battered wide.

"I had a few dangerous moments but I stuck to my game," said Nishikori. "It was important to stay with him and dig in. I'm in the quarter-finals now and hopefully I can kick on from here."

DIFFERENT ANIMAL

Kyrgios appeared a little distracted at times but the



TOKYO: Kei Nishikori of Japan hits the return during his men's singles second round match against France's Benoit Paire at the Japan Open tennis championships in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

controversial Aussie became a different animal after Nishioka, who won his first ATP tour title at last week's Shenzhen Open, forced a tiebreak in the second set.

Roused into action, Kyrgios unleashed a string of monstrous shots to steam through the breaker. The 23-year-old, who has complained that playing the late season tour in Asia makes him feel depressed and lonely, fired 20 aces and sealed victory with a flamboyant backhand overhead after 73 minutes to book a place in the last 16.

Kyrgios has been fined for "tanking" matches in Shanghai the past two years but captured one of his four career titles at the 2016 Japan Open. He faces

eighth seed Richard Gasquet for a place in the quarter-finals. Meanwhile, Wimbledon finalist Kevin Anderson survived a scare against Australian Matthew Ebden, the second seed coming through 4-6, 7-6 (7/1) to reach the last 16. The South African plays American Frances Tiafoe in the last 16. Elsewhere, three-time Tokyo finalist Milos Raonic, the tournament's sixth seed, overpowered Japanese qualifier Yosuke Watanuki 6-3, 7-6 (7/2) to reach the quarter-finals. Russian Daniil Medvedev awaits the Canadian after beating Slovakia's Martin Klizan 6-4, 6-3, while Australia's Alex De Minaur beat France's Gilles Simon 6-7 (1/7), 7-6 (7/5), 6-2 in first-round action. — AFP

China's rising star Wang admits 'surprise' at surge in form

BEIJING: China's rising star Wang Qiang is enjoying the hottest streak of her career but admits that she has surprised herself with her swashbuckling form. The 26-year-old is even being touted as a potential successor to double Grand Slam champion and China tennis icon Li Na who retired in 2014.

Wang demolished an injury-hindered Jelena Ostapenko, the former French Open champion, 6-0, 6-0 to surge into round three of the China Open on Tuesday. On the back of a momentous three months, Wang is now China's highest-ranking player at 28th in the world and chasing more WTA titles to go with the two she picked up in July and September.

"Now I'm doing well and this is kind of a surprise for all of us," she admitted after seeing off Ostapenko in double-quick time in front of a delighted Beijing crowd. "I believe at this stage when I'm relaxed, I can do better."

"I do not want to focus on ranking or victories, I just want to be relaxed and enjoy the matches here." Wang won her first WTA Tour 250 title at the Jiangxi Open at Nanchang in July, then her second last month at the Guangzhou Open.

She reached the semi-finals of the Wuhan Open last week before retiring hurt, but was rampant against the struggling 12th seed Ostapenko despite still nursing a leg injury. Wang's run of success also includes an Asian Games gold medal in Indonesia in August and she is fast making a name for herself in China and abroad.

Wang grabbed headlines at the French Open with her straight-sets demolition of Venus Williams, offering a hint of what was to come.

AUSSIE INFLUENCE

Aside from her undoubted talent, Chinese fans have warmed to Wang's personality, praising her as steely on the court but good-natured and humble off it. She credits her Australian coach Peter McNamara, a former top-10 player who previously trained Grigor Dimitrov, with playing a significant part in her recent rapid progress.

"He has always told me he is proud of me," said Wang. "I'm not so sure if he's saying it from the bottom of his heart, but after working together, I felt it was really helpful." Li, who triumphed at Roland Garros in 2011 and won the Australian Open in 2014 before retiring later that year, is one of Wang's idols and spurred a generation of tennis fans in China.

Wang, who will turn 27 in January, has left it relatively late if she is to become a major force in tennis—Japan's Naomi Osaka is just 20 and is already US Open champion. But Li was also a late developer and was 29 when she won the French Open, making history as the first Asian player to lift a Grand Slam.

Before the Asian Games, Wang—who is eager to dampen expectations and comparisons with Li—underwent an intense training programme. "The more practice, the more you run, on the court you will actually feel you are confident in your level of play," she said. Wang's next opponent will be the winner of today's match between seventh seed Karolina Pliskova and Aliaksandra Sasnovich. —AFP

Shooters all set for Crown Prince tourney

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Competitions of HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah began yesterday in the skeet-trap - 10m pistol and rifle - 50 meter pistol and Olympic archery at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex. Today, will see the official training of the men and women skeet and trap, followed by official training of archery and 50 meter prone rifle. Meanwhile, the 10 meter air rifle and pistol will be decided today.

President of the Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi thanked HH the Crown Prince for his continued support and having an annual tournament in his name for Kuwait shooters, and became one of the most important tournaments shooters are keen to participate in. He said the closing ceremony on Saturday will be under the patronage of Information Minister, State Minister for Youth Affairs, as a representative of HH the Crown Prince.

Al-Otaibi said this tournament is a distinguished launch of the local season, and expected it to witness a strong competition from Kuwaiti shooter and guests from brotherly countries. Al-Otaibi said the board of directors will start services preparations for the Eighth Asian Clay Target Tournament and the 11th air gun tournament to be hosted by Kuwait in November, as well as getting ready to participate in international tournaments at all levels, particularly those that qualify for the Tokyo Olympics.



Duaij Al-Otaibi

Del Potro seals ATP Finals spot as Dimitrov exits Beijing

BEIJING: Favourite Juan Martin del Potro avoided the fate of third seed Grigor Dimitrov to surge into the quarter-finals of the China Open and seal his spot at the ATP Finals yesterday. The towering Argentine top seed, enjoying one of the best seasons of his injury-blighted career, dismissed Russia's stubborn Karen Khachanov 6-4, 7-6 (7/4).

Victory means that Del Potro has qualified for the season-ending ATP Finals for the first time since 2013, joining Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic in London in November. It underlines the 30-year-old's return to the men's elite after years of wrist problems that threatened to destroy his career.

The world number four faces Filip Krajinovic of Serbia in the last eight on Beijing's outside hard courts. Bulgaria's Dimitrov was on the end of a major shock in the Chinese capital, totting up nine double faults in a three-set defeat to Serbian qualifier Dusan Lajovic.

Lajovic meets Britain's fifth seed Kyle Edmund in the quarter-finals. Del Potro was imperious from the off, breaking the unseeded Khachanov in the first game of the match and then winning his own service game to love.

Del Potro, losing finalist at the US Open last month, finished off the first set with an ace to highlight his superiority. Khachanov, ranked 24th in the world, forced the second-set tie break with a break of Del Potro's serve but was always playing catch-up after going 3-1 down.

Del Potro sealed the match—and his ATP Finals



BEIJING: Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina serves during his men's singles second round match against Karen Khachanov of Russia at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing yesterday. — AFP

place—with his 11th ace. Javier Mascherano, the Argentine international footballer formerly of Barcelona and now playing in China, was in the crowd to see his countryman and friend. In the women's draw, number two seed Caroline Wozniacki rounded off a polished display with an ace in a 7-5, 6-3 victory over Petra Martic of Croatia. The Dane faces Estonia's Anett Kontaveit in the last 16. Seventh seed Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic set up a meeting against China's top player Wang Qiang. —AFP

Sports

Rockies edge Chicago Cubs in 13-inning, wild-card classic

Rockies to face top-seeded Brewers in best-of-five NL Division Series

CHICAGO: Backup catcher Tony Wolters drilled a two-out, two-strike RBI single to center field to score Trevor Story with the eventual winning run in the 13th inning Tuesday night, and the Colorado Rockies outlasted the host Chicago Cubs 2-1 in the National League wild-card game.

By winning the longest winner-take-all playoff game in major league history, the Rockies earned the right to face the top-seeded Milwaukee Brewers in the best-of-five NL Division Series beginning today in Wisconsin.

"This is going to go down as a classic, and it was great to be a part of," Rockies manager Bud Black told ESPN. Hours after starting pitchers Kyle Freeland and Jon Lester ended brilliant performances, the Rockies got consecutive two-out singles from Story, Gerardo Parra and Wolters in the 13th off Kyle Hendricks (0-1). The result was Colorado's first postseason win since the 2009 NLDS against the Philadelphia Phillies.

"I was trying to get something to get into the outfield," Wolters told ESPN of his game-winning hit. "Saw a changeup. Hit it up the middle. Felt great. Great feeling right there." Scott Oberg, who went 8-1 in the regular season, got the win after entering the game with two outs and no one on base in the 12th. He struck out all four batters he faced, including going 1-2-3 in a 13th inning that included an overturn on a Rockies-requested review when Cubs leadoff man Terrance Gore had been ruled to have been hit by a pitch.

Shut out by Freeland for 6 2/3 innings and trailing 1-0 two outs into the eighth, the Cubs got a two-strike, RBI double from Javier Baez to draw even against Adam Ottavino after pinch runner Gore had stolen second. Gore was running for Anthony Rizzo, whose two-out single had kept the inning alive. Rockies closer Wade Davis came on to end the inning at 1-1 by striking

out Albert Almora Jr. after Baez had stolen third.

Seven innings earlier, the Rockies needed just 13 pitches to score their only run of regulation play. After Lester walked Charlie Blackmon on five pitches, DJ LeMahieu belted a ground-rule double into the ivy in left-center, sending Blackmon to third.

Nolan Arenado, who drove in 110 runs during the regular season, then delivered Blackmon with a deep sacrifice fly. Lester stranded LeMahieu at third base, then allowed only three more hits-including doubles by Matt Holliday and Story-before leaving for a pinch hitter in the last of the sixth, still down just 1-0.

He was charged with one run on four hits in six innings. Lester struck out nine and walked one. "It wasn't like we beat ourselves," Lester said. "Sometimes you have to tip your hat to the opponent. But I feel like we should have won that game."

Freeland, meanwhile, allowed just one Cub to reach scoring position before leaving two outs into the seventh inning. He surrendered four hits and one walk while striking out six. Ian Happ got to second in the sixth inning on a walk and a one-out single by Kris Bryant. However, Freeland got Rizzo to ground into a double play, ending the threat.

Ottavino took over two outs into the seventh inning with Almora aboard following a single. The Cubs loaded the bases on a walk and a catcher's interference, but Ottavino struck out pinch hitter Jason Heyward to retain the 1-0 lead.

"We've played that game a lot," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said. "We've been fighting with this. We had some opportunities. Just couldn't cash in. They pitched pretty well, too. Left too much chicken on the bone."

Story finished with three hits for the Rockies, who won nine of 10 to end the regular season before falling



CHICAGO: Tony Wolters #14 of the Colorado Rockies hits a RBI single to score Trevor Story #27 (not pictured) in the thirteenth inning against the Chicago Cubs during the National League Wild Card Game at Wrigley Field on Tuesday in Chicago, Illinois. — AFP

5-2 to the Los Angeles Dodgers in the NL West tiebreaker game on Monday. Almora had two of just six hits for the Cubs, who were appearing in the postsea-

son for the fourth consecutive season. "We played our hearts out," Rizzo said. "It was a game obviously where the offense didn't live up to its hype." — Reuters

Australia names pay-row negotiator as new boss

SYDNEY: Cricket Australia (CA) yesterday named insider Kevin Roberts—who spearheaded an ill-fated attempt to slash players' pay last year—to lead the troubled organisation in the wake of the ball-tampering scandal.

Roberts was appointed chief executive officer and on October 25 will formally replace James Sutherland, who announced in June he was stepping down after 17 years at the helm. Roberts takes over with CA still under fire over the cheating scandal and smarting from divisions between players and administrators over the bitter pay dispute. "The game and Cricket Australia have faced some difficult times recently, but we will bounce back," the 46-year-old said. Sutherland won plaudits during his long tenure for negotiating a lucrative new television rights deal and popularising the Big Bash League, day-night Tests and women's cricket.

But he faced a career-ending crisis in March when former captain Steve Smith, his deputy David Warner and batsman Cameron Bancroft attempted to alter the ball in the third Test in South Africa. They were all sent home in disgrace and handed lengthy bans, with then-coach Darren Lehmann resigning and Sutherland eventually choosing to walk after coming under sustained pressure.

His replacement Roberts is a former opening batsman for New South Wales who moved into business when his cricketering career failed to take off. He worked for a range of sporting companies including adidas, 2XU and Canterbury before joining Cricket Australia in 2012, first as a board director, then as part of the executive management team. Roberts was lead negotiator for Cricket Australia in last year's pay row, when the organisation was accused of using hardball negotiating tactics in a bid to cap remuneration costs.

'BUILDING BRIDGES'

The brinkmanship saw top players left off contract for a month and resulted in the cancellation of an Australia A tour to South Africa before CA eventually backed down. The dispute cemented a view within the game that Roberts is the favoured protégé of CA chairman David Peever, a polarising figure with a reputation for union busting in his former life as a mining executive.

The promotion of an internal candidate to replace Sutherland will also raise questions about CA's commitment to changing the organisation's culture in the wake of the ball-tampering affair. The cheating scandal rocked Australian cricket to its core, undermining the long-held notion that its players were "tough but fair".

Critics blamed a win-at-all-costs mentality that they said developed under Sutherland and his management team, including Roberts. CA denied the charge but set up two separate inquiries to examine how the scandal occurred, one looking at player behaviour and the other examining the team's culture.

Neither report has yet been released but CA has chosen to appoint one of its own to the top job. Peever said the chief executive's role was so complex that it made sense to promote from within.

The Australian Cricketers' Association, the players' union which locked horns with Roberts last year, wished Roberts well and said he needed to help cricket "reconnect" with disillusioned fans. Roberts also sounded a conciliatory note, saying he wanted to improve relations with the players' body.—AFP

Shaw to make India Test debut against W Indies

MUMBAI: Teenage batting prospect Prithvi Shaw will make his debut for India in the opening Test of the two-match series against West Indies starting in Rajkot today. In a departure from previous team announcements, India named a 12-man squad one day ahead of the match and while 18-year-old right-hander Shaw made the cut, fellow rookie opener Mayank Agarwal, 27, missed out.

Murali Vijay and Shikhar Dhawan opened for India at the start of the recent five Test series in England but both players have been overlooked following modest performances during the 4-1 defeat. Shaw has played only 14 first-class games, scoring 1,418 runs at an average of 56.71, and will open alongside Lokesh Rahul, who was the third opener in England and survived the axe after posting a breezy 149 in the final Test at the Oval. "We have a change at the top of the order and we will give these guys enough space and enough chances to feel comfortable at that position," India captain Virat Kohli told reporters. "We want them to be confident about what they are doing."

"Apart from the top of the order getting cemented, I don't think that with these two Test matches there's a lot that we are looking at. The rest of the things feel quite settled. "At the top of the order these guys are new, so they will take a bit of time to get into it. They definitely have the skill-set, they are supremely talented and what we have seen of them is very, very exciting."

India, who last lost a home Test series against England in 2012, started the year with a 2-1 loss in South Africa but then thrashed debutants Afghanistan in a one-off Test at home before flying to England.

Shaw, who was a non-playing squad member for the final two Tests in England, has already been tipped for a bright future in national colours, while Agarwal came into the reckoning for a 2017-18 season in which he scored heavily across all formats.

Shaw, and Agarwal if he makes the side for the second Test, will be keen to book their places on India's four Test series in Australia, which represents a last chance in 2018 for Kohli's team to take their

Kuwait squash tournament concludes

KUWAIT: The closing ceremony and prize distribution of the 10th open refresher squash tournament for the 2018/2019 season was held at the Kuwait Squash Federation in south Surra in the presence of Chairman of the Board Adel Al-Gharib, Deputy Chairman Hamid Imran and other board members, along with sports clubs officials.

Al-Gharib welcomed officials and athletes, and congratulated them for lifting the suspension, allowing players to participate in various international events.

He also appreciated the efforts of the competitions and referees committees at the federation in organizing the tournaments of last season and wished them success in coming events.

Results of the tournament were as follows:

Under 11 years:

- 1) Rayan Khan - Salmiya club
- 2) Abdelrahman Al-Sane - Kheitan club
- 3) Talal Ghul - Kheitan



RAJKOT: Indian cricketer Prithvi Shaw looks on during a training session ahead of the first Test cricket match between India and West Indies at the Saurashtra Cricket Association stadium in Rajkot yesterday. —AFP

formidable home from overseas.

BOWLING OPTIONS

"We will like to take this series as a benchmark we want to set and keep repeating those things," Kohli said. "As a side, you want to see three or four Tests so that you have ample time to test your skills and test out the areas that you need to improve on."

"But having said that, we have to utilise the time that we have and make the most of these two test matches that we have in front of us... try and solidify the areas we need to going ahead as a test side."

All-rounder Hanuma Vihari and fast bowler Mohammed Siraj were the other two players to miss out from the original 15-man squad. Should India opt for a third spinner then Kuldeep Yadav will play alongside Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja, while Shardul Thakur will make his test debut if a third fast

bowler is called upon. Kohli, meanwhile, is returning to the international arena after skipping India's recent 50-over Asia Cup triumph in the United Arab Emirates. "I feel rejuvenated. It was both mental and physical because of the intensity at which the two tours in South Africa and England went," the world's top-ranked test batsman said. "I definitely needed the break as my back went once in South Africa and again in England. "These things are very important to consider... to give players ample rest and opportunity to train well and come back stronger. You don't want guys breaking down in very important series." The second test is in Hyderabad from Oct. 12-16

India squad: Virat Kohli (captain), Lokesh Rahul, Prithvi Shaw, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Rishabh Pant (wicketkeeper), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Shardul Thakur. — Reuters



The winners of the squash tournament seen along with sports clubs officials.

Under 13 years:

- 1) Qadeer Ghul - Kheitan club
- 2) Mohammad Saleh - Qurain club

3) Abdelrahman Al-Maghrabi - Salmiya club.

Under 15 years:

- 1) Qadeer Ghul - Kheitan club.

Sports

Madrid slip to shock defeat by CSKA after Kroos mistake

'We played aggressively, boldly, we defended really well'

MOSCOW: Toni Kroos' mistake proved costly as Real Madrid's goal scoring problems continued on Tuesday with a surprise 1-0 defeat to CSKA Moscow in the Champions League. Gareth Bale and Sergio Ramos were among a number of key players missing at the Luzhniki Stadium but it was Kroos' dreadful back pass that allowed Nikola Vlasic, on loan from Premier League Everton, to put CSKA ahead after just 68 seconds. Madrid searched for an equaliser but, despite hitting the woodwork three times, was resisted by a determined CSKA defence. The reigning European champions have now failed to score in three consecutive matches.

CSKA's veteran goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev was sent off deep into added time after picking up two yellow cards for dissent but nothing could spoil the hosts' victory which lifted them above Madrid in Group G.

Julen Lopetegui's side lacked spark, thrust and cutting edge in attack. They missed Bale, Isco and, perhaps even, the lethal touch of Cristiano Ronaldo. "Goals come when you keep creating chances and believe you will be more accurate," Lopetegui said.

"That is all we can do. I am sure we will soon be scoring again and winning again." Some of the changes were enforced, with Isco and Marcelo out injured, but Bale and Ramos were left at home to rest and Luka Modric started on the bench.

Keylor Navas came in for Thibaut Courtois in goal to continue Lopetegui's policy of one in La Liga and the other in Europe. The absence of the established names meant a youthful line-up, which included a debut for 21-year-old left-back Sergio Reguilon, who joined the club's academy aged eight.

Dani Ceballos also started while summer signing Alvaro Odriozola came on for his Champions League debut after Dani Carvajal pulled up injured. "It seems Carvajal has a small injury in his calf, we will have to wait on the tests," Lopetegui said.

Madrid were three down by half-time against Sevilla last week and this time they were behind within two minutes. It was self-inflicted as Kroos tried to half-volley a bouncing ball back to Navas but Vlasic read it and intercepted. Raphael Varane was slow to react and the weaving forward finished into the corner.

CSKA coach Viktor Goncharenko said biggest concern was that his players would slump after the high of a remarkable victory. "We played aggressively, boldly, we defended really well. Of course an early goal helped us a lot," he said.

"Now we will all enjoy the evening. I'm afraid my players' emotions will come down after this win. Hopefully because they are young they will survive it without any serious damage." Madrid hardly troubled CSKA during the first half, despite Casemiro's long-range shot clipping the outside of the post and Karim Benzema's header plopping off the top of the crossbar.

Mariano Diaz and Modric finally came on for Casemiro and Vazquez shortly before the hour but even FIFA's best player in the world was unable to engineer any penetration through midfield.

The hapless Benzema dragged a shot on the turn and Ceballos had a deflected effort pushed wide by Akinfeev, who was shown two yellow cards for dissent in the dying moments. Mariano headed Ceballos' cross onto the post for one final chance but Madrid could hardly complain. — AFP



MOSCOW: Real Madrid's Spanish defender Nacho Fernandez and CSKA Moscow's Slovenian midfielder Jaka Bijol vie for the ball during the UEFA Champions League group G football match between PFC CSKA Moscow and Real Madrid CF at the Luzhniki stadium in Moscow on Tuesday. — AFP

Out-of-sorts Bayern held to Champions League draw by Ajax

MUNICH: Noussair Mazraoui's superbly worked first-half equaliser stunned an out-of-sorts Bayern Munich on Tuesday, as Ajax held the German giants to a surprise 1-1 draw in Bavaria. After a draw at home to Augsburg and a shock 2-0 defeat to Hertha Berlin last week, Bayern's miserable form continued as they struggled against Ajax, who stay top of Group E.

"It wasn't an easy game today, but we've only scored two goals in our last three games, and that is not enough by our standards," Bayern captain Manuel Neuer told DAZN. Bayern coach Niko Kovac had demanded a reaction from his players ahead of the game, and they delivered in furious fashion in the opening exchanges.

After early chances had fallen to Franck Ribery and Arjen Robben, Mats Hummels gave a dominant Bayern the lead after just four minutes, heading in Robben's inswinging cross. The visitors worked their way back into the game, however, and Hakim Ziyech forced a scrambling save from Manuel Neuer on 16 minutes.

They were rewarded five minutes later when Noussair Mazraoui linked up brilliantly with Dusan Tadic and lashed the ball past Neuer. Unsettled, Bayern completely lost their rhythm and, other than a handful of half-chances for Hummels and defensive midfielder Javi Martinez, created little of note before half-time.

Ajax came closer, Ziyech once again testing Neuer with a vicious long-range shot just before the break. "We started well with a lot of momentum, but we let Ajax into the game," Bayern midfielder Thomas Mueller



MUNICH: Ajax's Dutch midfielder Dani de Wit and Bayern Munich's German defender Mats Hummels clash heads during the UEFA Champions League Group E football match between Bayern Munich and Ajax Amsterdam in Munich, southern Germany, on Tuesday. — AFP

told DAZN.

"Our commitment was good, but we were trying to get forward too quickly and kept losing the ball too easily." The underdogs remained the better side in the second half, Nicolas Tagliafico calling Neuer into action again straight away.

Thiago's shot brushed the outside of the post on 66 minutes, but Ajax should have taken lead 20 minutes from time, Donny van de Beek missing a sitter after finding acres of space in the box.

Bayern, in turn, had their chance to win the game on 77 minutes, Serge Gnabry setting up fellow substitute James Rodriguez, whose toe-poke was clawed away at the far post by Andre Onana.

The home side's hearts were in their mouths one more time deep into stoppage time when Lasse Schone's free-kick thundered against the bar, and Bayern's grim evening was compounded as Hummels stumbled off the pitch just before the end having picked up a second blow to the head. — AFP

Mourinho and Man United longing for past glories

Manchester: Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho again pointed the finger at his players' failings rather than his own shortcomings after a 0-0 Champions League draw with Valencia that did little to lift spirits at Old Trafford.

Mourinho has now failed to win in four consecutive home matches for the first time in his career following defeat to Tottenham, a draw against newly promoted Wolves and a League Cup exit on penalties to second division Derby.

Already nine points adrift of Premier League leaders Manchester City and Liverpool, it now appears a question of when and not if Mourinho goes, with an unhappy squad now mirrored by disgruntled fans and outspoken former players.

The home faithful implored their side to "attack, attack, attack" in the second half of Tuesday's stalemate. But unlike the old days under Alex Ferguson, there was no late onslaught on the Valencia goal as the Spaniards, who have won just one game in nine themselves this season, comfortably held out for a point.

"We don't have the technical quality to build from the back," said Mourinho of United's often route one football. "We knew we wouldn't create 20 chances. Our attacking players aren't in their best moments of confidence and individual level."

As some of Ferguson's most famous pupils watched on, it was another 90 minutes that showed how far United have fallen since the class of '92 made their mark by going for the throat of Barcelona, Bayern Munich and Juventus among others on thrilling European nights at Old Trafford.

David Beckham, Ryan Giggs, Gary Neville and Nicky Butt were in attendance, while Paul Scholes was scathing of Mourinho even before the match started following a dire 3-1 defeat at West Ham on Saturday. "I think his mouth is probably out of control and I think he's embarrassing the club," said Scholes, who also expressed his surprise that Mourinho is still in charge.

For how much longer will depend on how long the club's executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward is willing to let his bet on the Portuguese run before cutting his losses. A failure to qualify for the Champions League is what forced Woodward's hand in the past in firing David Moyes and Louis van Gaal. Mourinho's contract with United runs until 2020, meaning sacking the Portuguese would mean a significant payout. United already sit five points off the top four after seven games and have daunting trips to Chelsea and Manchester City to come in two of their next five Premier League games as well as two Champions League clashes with Juventus.

Mourinho has at least got the three-time European champions back on the Champions League stage by winning the Europa League in his first campaign and finishing second to City in the Premier League last season.

He has cited both achievements in the past few days in defence of his record in just over two years in charge, but increasingly Mourinho is having to lean on his past glories to justify a future. After a 3-0 defeat to Tottenham in August he called for more respect as a three-time Premier League winner. However two of those titles came more than a decade ago, with Chelsea in an era when United really were the benchmark. Now, like their manger, they are a club longing for days gone by. — AFP



LONDON: File photo taken on May 26, 2018 Aston Villa's English manager Steve Bruce gestures on the touchline during the English Championship play-off final football match between Aston Villa and Fulham at Wembley Stadium in London. Aston Villa yesterday sacked manager Steve Bruce with the club languishing 12th in the Championship after just three wins in 11 games. — AFP

Aston Villa sack manager Bruce

LONDON: Aston Villa yesterday sacked manager Steve Bruce with the club languishing 12th in the Championship after just three wins in 11 games. Bruce had come under increasing pressure after Villa's poor start to the season and had a cabbage hurled at him during Tuesday's 3-3 home draw with Preston.

The 57-year-old, who has won promotion to the Premier League twice with two different clubs—Birmingham and Hull—replaced

Roberto Di Matteo at Villa Park in October 2016. "Aston Villa can confirm that manager Steve Bruce and his assistants Colin Calderwood, Steve Agnew, Stephen Clemence and Gary Walsh are leaving their posts with immediate effect after having their contracts terminated," the club said in a statement on their website.

"The process to appoint a new manager is under way." A further statement issued on behalf of the board said: "We would like to place on record our gratitude to Steve and his team for their hard work and commitment. We wish them well for the future. "The process of recruiting a new manager has begun." Villa, who won the European Cup in 1982, were relegated to English football's second tier at the end of the 2015-16 season. — AFP

Saudi football chiefs appoint first women board members

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's Football Federation (SAFF) appointed women to the board for the first time in the kingdom's history yesterday, and also named a new president. The two women are Adwa al-Arifi and Reham Al-Onaizan and the new president is Qusay bin Abdulaziz al-Fawaz.

Saudi authorities said al-Fawaz was the sole candidate who met all conditions for a post left empty after Adel Ezzat resigned on August 19 to run for the presidency of the Asian Football Confederation. Al-Arifi was, Saudi media has reported, appointed in February as "the first woman committee member" in the history of SAFF. She was part of a seven-member corporate social responsibility committee, and holds a degree in business administration.

Al-Onaizan's LinkedIn page says she was "corporate performance and initiative management Senior Manager at the (Saudi) General Entertainment Authority". Qusay al-Fawaz is close to the head of Saudi Arabia's general

authority for sports head Turki Al-Sheikh—who in turn is close to the kingdom's powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman who has been making social and economic reforms.

These included allowing women to enter a football stadium to watch a match for the first time in January, an easing of rules separating the sexes. However, his reforms have been paralleled by a crackdown on all dissent, with 12 women's rights campaigners arrested over the summer-eight of them women.

Al-Fawaz has served as president of the Saudi Chess Federation and was a member of the team that oversaw Saudi Arabia's participation in the 2018 World Cup in Russia. Saudi Arabia has long been a marginal player in football's ruling classes, unlike its Gulf rival Qatar-set to host the 2022 World Cup—with which it is embroiled in a year-long diplomatic spat. But the oil-rich kingdom is in the middle of a major push for global influence in football governance. — AFP

25 Nishikori squashes Paire to reach Tokyo quarters



26 Rockies edge Chicago Cubs in 13-inning, wild-card classic



27 Aston Villa sack manager Steve Bruce after 3 wins in 11 games



PSG stroll with Neymar's treble

PSG Red Star Belgrade 6-1 in Champions League



PARIS: Red Star Belgrade's Comorian forward El Fardou N'Gouan vies for the ball with Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian forward Neymar during the UEFA Champions' League football match Paris Saint Germain (PSG) against Red Star Belgrade at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris yesterday. — AFP

PARIS: Neymar continued his return to top form with a hat-trick in a sublime display to lead Paris Saint-Germain to a 6-1 rout of Red Star Belgrade in the Champions League yesterday. The world's most expensive player admitted on the eve of this game that he still did not feel back to 100 percent after the foot injury which required surgery and saw him miss the last three months of last season.

But he tore a hapless Red Star apart with two goals in the space of two first-half minutes at the Parc des Princes, the first a delightful curling free-kick, before completing his hat-trick from another stunning free-kick late on.

Edinson Cavani, Angel di Maria and Kylian Mbappe also scored as PSG bounced back from a 3-2 defeat at Liverpool two weeks ago to register their first points in Group C.

They have a double-header to come next against Napoli, and the Italian side will surely offer a sterner test than Red Star, the 1991 European Cup winners who had been unbeaten in 34 games before arriving at the Parc des Princes and being utterly outclassed.

The Serbians grabbed a consolation goal through Marko Marin in the second half, but they could not cope with the home side's front four, a quartet who cost PSG almost 530 million euros (\$610 million) in transfer fees alone. Such was the imbalance between the teams that PSG were never likely to be troubled despite playing this game with one end of the Parc des Princes closed, a punishment following incidents in the defeat against Real Madrid back in March.

FREE-KICK DOUBLE

Neymar had already drawn plenty of attention from

opponents before he won the free-kick which led to the opening goal in the 20th minute, the Brazilian getting up to curl a fine strike past Canadian goalkeeper Milan Borjan from 25 yards.

The French league leaders scored again two minutes later as Neymar found Mbappe before meeting the return pass with a lovely cushioned finish.

That was Neymar's ninth goal in nine games this season between Ligue 1 and Champions League.

The former Barcelona forward may not yet be back to the same level as before his injury, but he certainly looks in the mood again, with his performance here also notable for a brilliant nutmeg on Milos Degenek that created another shooting opportunity just before half-time. PSG had already scored twice more by that point, with Cavani finding the net on 37 minutes with the aid of a deflection after some brilliant footwork and Di

Maria guiding a Thomas Meunier cross past Borjan in the 41st minute.

Neymar produced some more magic in the build-up to PSG's fifth goal 20 minutes from the end, finding Juan Bernat, who squared for Mbappe to get his name on the scoresheet. Red Star supporters were given something to celebrate as Marin, the former German international winger whose career lost its way after a move to Chelsea, blasted into the roof of the net for a consolation goal in the 74th minute.

But Neymar had the last word, curling another free-kick high into the net to complete his hat-trick nine minutes from time, taking him into double figures for the season.

PSG coach Thomas Tuchel then immediately substituted his star player, who walked off to a standing ovation. — AFP

Lokomotiv derailed by late McKennie header

MOSCOW: Schalke 04 midfielder Weston McKennie scored with a header two minutes from time to give the Bundesliga side a 1-0 win at Lokomotiv Moscow in a rain-soaked Champions League match yesterday.

Schalke's first victory in Group D, in a disappointing game littered with misplaced passes, left them with four points from two games while the Russian champions have yet to get off the mark. Porto (one point) were hosting Galatasaray (three) later on Wednesday.

Lokomotiv, whose 71-year-old coach Yuri Semin is in his fourth stint at the club, edged the first half and Dmitiri Barinov had their best chance with a low shot from the edge of the area which was turned away by Ralf Faehrmann.

That proved to be Lokomotiv's only shot on target. Schalke, who have lost five of their opening six Bundesliga matches, improved after the break and carved out several openings.

One neat move down the left ended with Breel Embolo slipping the ball to Mark Uth whose shot went straight at goalkeeper Guilherme. Uth also flashed a low shot centimetres wide of the post in the 85th minute. They finally broke through in the 88th minute when 20-year-old American McKennie outjumped three defenders at a corner to head in. — Reuters



MOSCOW: Schalke's US midfielder Weston McKennie (L) and Lokomotiv Moscow's Portuguese midfielder Manuel Fernandes vie for the ball during the UEFA Champions League group D football match between FC Lokomotiv Moscow and FC Schalke 04 at the RZD Arena in Moscow yesterday. — AFP

Fan blinded at Ryder Cup feared being trampled

LYON: The spectator who was blinded in one eye after being struck by a wayward Brooks Koepka tee shot at the Ryder Cup said yesterday that she feared being trampled by crowds while lying stricken on the ground. Frenchwoman Corine Remande, 49, was hit by Koepka's drive on the short par-four sixth hole on Friday's opening day of the event at Le Golf National, near Paris.

"Before being moved, in a big mess, I was afraid of being trampled because Tiger Woods was coming and the crowd was growing around us," she told AFP on Wednesday. "What shocked me too was that the spectators were taking pictures of me, but no one was calling for help." She is taking legal action, and said that was because fans by the green were not warned that the ball was heading in their direction.

Ryder Cup organisers have stated that "fore" was "shouted several times" and that they had been in contact with Remande and her family. "The stewards should have shouted 'fore'," she said.

"They did not do it. To make a show, the organisers moved the tees forward on the sixth hole to allow the big hitters to reach the green in one shot. "Without warning the spectators, the public cannot see the players and anticipate and protect themselves. That's why I'm angry." — AFP