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Saleh urges govt to abandon plan to hike service charges

Hayef warns to grill PM over bedoons • Hajraf questions plot distribution

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: MP Khalil Al-Saleh yesterday called on the government to completely drop the idea of imposing charges on public services as a means of boosting non-oil revenues, saying that verbal assurances are not sufficient. He said that in order for the government to provide strong assurances, it must exclude raising charges on public services from its program of economic reforms in the same way it excluded taxes on companies.

The lawmaker called on the finance minister to quickly answer a question he sent to him on why the government economic reform plan included the intention to raise charges on public services while it dropped plans to impose taxes on companies. Saleh's

remarks came as Finance Minister Nayef Al-Hajraf reiterated the government's determination to continue with economic reforms that include subsidy cuts despite the surge in oil prices, which provide around 90 percent of public revenues.

Between late 2014 when oil prices crashed and last year, the government introduced several measures to boost non-oil revenues, including raising fuel and power charges, but most of them targeted expatriates in the country. The government also raised medical charges for expatriates.

Meanwhile, MP Mohammad Hayef, a member of the National Assembly's human rights committee, yesterday warned that he may file to grill the prime minister if the government continues to ignore providing a humanitari-

an solution to thousands of stateless people, locally known as bedoons. Hayef charged that the central agency for bedoons has so far failed to provide a viable solution that provides essential services for some 120,000 bedoons living in Kuwait.

The remarks came after a meeting between the Assembly panel and bedoons agency to study ways to resolve the humanitarian concerns of bedoons. Acting secretary general of the agency Najib Al-Othman said he briefed the Assembly panel about the measures taken by the agency toward a group of bedoons who had obtained fake third-country passports or those who were never registered by the agency.

He said that the agency began implementing an agreement with the Assembly to provide those bedoons

with health cards that allow them to obtain essential services from the government, adding that the agency had communications with over 70 government departments regarding the issue. He said that the agency has boosted cooperation with the Assembly panel to resolve problems facing bedoons.

Separately, MP Mubarak Al-Hajraf yesterday charged that Commerce and Industry Minister Khaled Al-Roudhan misled the government over the distribution of industrial plots in two projects that were not ready. He said that the minister announced the distribution in the two projects which were supposed to have been completed, but work has not even started on them. The lawmaker said he will include the new "scandal" in a grilling he plans to file shortly against the minister.

Riyadh denies Khashoggi killed in its consulate

ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday said he was awaiting the results of an investigation into the disappearance of a Saudi journalist who a government source said was killed at Riyadh's consulate in Istanbul. Washington Post contributor Jamal Khashoggi, 59, vanished after an appointment with Saudi officials on Tuesday. A Turkish government source told AFP that police believed Khashoggi was killed at the Istanbul consulate, which Riyadh strongly denied. The consulate rejected the claims that the journalist was killed there as "baseless", in a Twitter message. It said a Saudi team was in Turkey to investigate the disappearance.

According to a report on the official Saudi Press Agency, a consulate official strongly denounced these baseless allegations, and expressed his doubt that they came from Turkish officials that are informed of the investigation or are authorized to comment on the issue. The source added that a security delegation of Saudi investigators arrived in Istanbul Saturday based upon a request by the Saudi government, and the acceptance of the Turkish authorities.

The source noted the kingdom's appreciation for the brotherly Turkish government's acceptance of the request. The delegation is there to assist in the investigations regarding the disappearance of Khashoggi, SPA quoted the source. The source stressed that the kingdom holds the safety and wellbeing of its citizens wherever they are, and that relevant authorities in the kingdom are diligently following up on this matter to uncover the complete facts.

Khashoggi had gone to the consulate to

obtain documents needed to marry his Turkish fiancée. Erdogan said he would wait for the outcome of the current investigation before taking a decision. "I am following the (issue) and we will inform the world whatever the outcome" of the official probe, the president told reporters in Ankara. "God willing, we will not be faced with a situation we do not want." He said police were examining CCTV footage of entrances and exits at the consulate and Istanbul airport.

Police said earlier that around 15 Saudis, including officials, arrived in Istanbul on two flights on Tuesday and were at the consulate at the same time as Khashoggi. "Based on their initial findings, the police believe that the journalist was killed by a team especially sent to Istanbul and who left the same day," the government source told AFP on Saturday. The journalist went to the building but "did not come back out", police were quoted as saying by Turkey's state-run Anadolu news agency.

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ISTANBUL: A Saudi official gestures as he stands at the door of the Saudi consulate in Istanbul yesterday. —AFP

News in brief

20 killed in NY limo crash

NEW YORK: Twenty people have been killed in a car crash in the US state of New York, police confirmed yesterday, with local media reporting that one of vehicles slammed into a crowd of pedestrians at a country store. Police said the accident occurred Saturday afternoon when two cars collided in Schoharie County, near the state capital, Albany. An SUV-style stretch limousine sped down a hill, crashing into pedestrians outside the Apple Barrel Country Store and Cafe, the Albany Times Union said, citing police. A witness named as Bill Waterson said the limousine was carrying a party on their way to a wedding reception. It was unclear how many of the fatalities were pedestrians or occupants of the vehicles but witnesses at the scene said several bodies could be seen on the ground outside the Apple Barrel. — AFP

Bahrain approves draft VAT law

DUBAI: Bahraini legislators approved a draft law yesterday that would see value-added tax (VAT) imposed for the first time in the kingdom, state news agency BNA reported. The House of Representatives approved a Gulf agreement to introduce VAT after a royal decree ordered parliament to hold an extraordinary session yesterday, BNA reported, without giving details of the vote. The move came a few days after Bahrain's wealthier neighbors Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Kuwait offered a \$10 billion aid package to avoid the risk of a debt crisis in the country, which was also tied to fiscal reforms. The bill is yet to be approved by the parliament's upper house, which is expected to hold a similar session later this week. Introducing VAT at a 5 percent rate was part of a GCC agreement in 2018. — Reuters

39 dead in DRC collision

KINSHASA: Thirty-nine people died in an oil tanker accident in the Democratic Republic of Congo, according to an official death toll yesterday, as President Joseph Kabila decreed three days of mourning for the victims. Earlier tolls put the number of dead at between 20 and 60. The accident happened early on Saturday when the oil tanker collided with a vehicle on a highway 120 km west of the capital Kinshasa. Transport Minister Jose Makila and Health Minister Oly Ilunga said 20 people died at the scene and 19 later at the hospital. — AFP

Kavanaugh sworn in after fight

WASHINGTON: Conservative US judge Brett Kavanaugh was confirmed to the Supreme Court Saturday by a razor-thin margin in the Senate, ending months of partisan rancor over his nomination and offering Donald Trump one of the biggest victories of his presidency. Kavanaugh was sworn in shortly after the Senate voted 50-48 in his favor - a move that cemented the high court's shift to the right under the Republican leader, who has chosen two of the nine sitting justices.

Protesters rallied in Washington and other US cities against the ascent of the 53-year-old judge, who has faced multi-

ple allegations of sexual misconduct and been criticized for his angry partisan rhetoric. The prolonged nomination battle has roiled American politics, disrupting the status quo on Capitol Hill and firing up both Republicans and opposition Democrats a month before crucial midterm elections. The two-vote margin of victory made it the closest Supreme Court confirmation vote since 1881 - and by far the most contentious since Clarence Thomas in 1991.

"This is a historic night," Trump told supporters at a rally in Kansas after signing Kavanaugh's commission aboard Air Force One. "I stand before you today on the heels of a tremendous victory for our nation, our people and our beloved Constitution." Trump will host Kavanaugh at the White House for a public swearing-in ceremony today, following Saturday's formal oath-taking at the high court.

Continued on Page 24



WASHINGTON: Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr (right) administers the constitutional oath to Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh in the Justices' Conference Room in the Supreme Court building on Saturday. Ashley Kavanaugh holds the Bible. — AFP

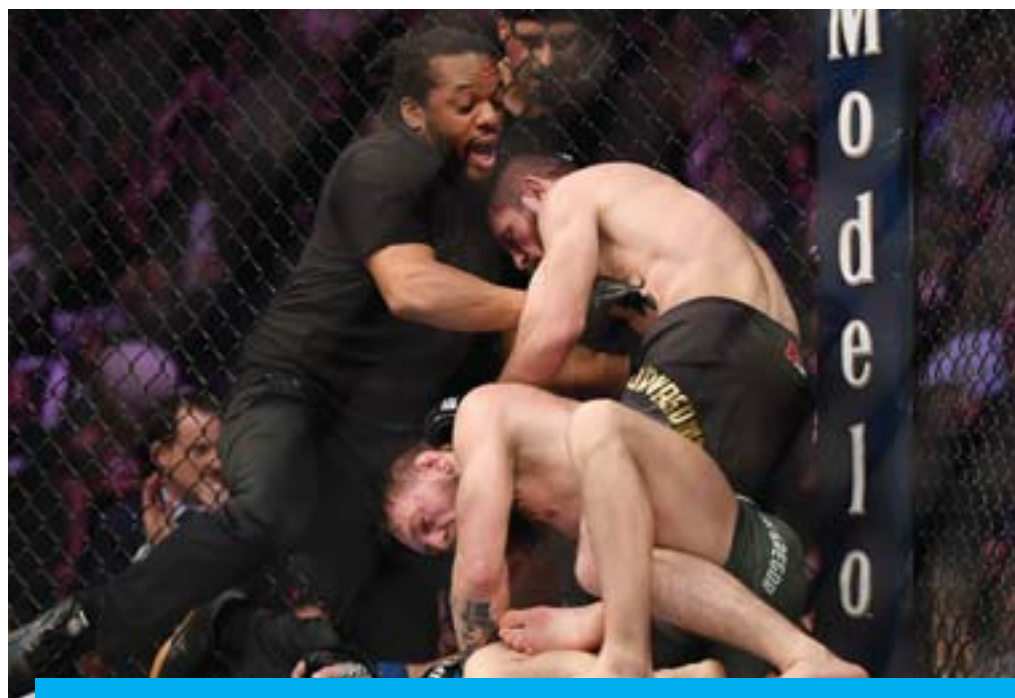
Nurmagomedov beats McGregor as brawl mars bout

LOS ANGELES: Khabib Nurmagomedov thwarted Conor McGregor's bid to regain the UFC lightweight crown Saturday with a dominant submission victory in a grudge match marred by a post-fight brawl. Nurmagomedov improved to 27-0 in his professional career - 11-0 in UFC bouts - with the win at a sold-out T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas. The UFC lightweight champion had McGregor on the ground less than a minute into the opening round and kept the Irish fighter - a former UFC featherweight and lightweight champion - on his back for much of the fight.

McGregor managed to stay on his feet for most of the third round, but the once feared striker couldn't hurt Nurmagomedov and in the fourth, the champion took him down again. McGregor managed to roll away briefly before Nurmagomedov ended up in a full mount, getting him in a brutal rear-naked chokehold that had McGregor tapping out at 3min 3sec of the round.

Nurmagomedov had barely released his hold when he launched himself over the octagon fence, apparently targeting McGregor's training partner Dillon Danis. As security tried to quell the chaos in the crowd, two people from Nurmagomedov's

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LAS VEGAS: Referee Herb Dean separates Khabib Nurmagomedov (top) of Russia from Conor McGregor of Ireland after McGregor tapped out in their UFC lightweight championship bout at the T-Mobile Arena on Saturday. — AFP

Local

His Highness the Crown Prince's audience



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. — KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received at Seif Palace National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. HH also received Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, who escorted vis-

iting Afghan Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani. HH the Crown Prince then received Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh. Elsewhere, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh

Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah paid a visit to the First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at the latter's residence in London on Saturday. The prime minister wished a speedy recovery and a safe return home for Sheikh Nasser.

Kuwait's embassy partakes in charitable bazaar in Jordan



AMMAN: Kuwait's embassy in Jordan participated on Saturday in the annual fundraising "Diplomatic Bazaar" to support the orphans of the country. Kuwait is keen on contributing to such events annually as part of its humanitarian strategy to help needy people worldwide. Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan Abdulaziz Al-Daihani said in a statement to KUNA in the opening ceremony of the bazaar organized by Mabarrat Um Al-Hussein in the presence of its president Basma bint Talal Al-Daihani said that all the income raised from this event will be given entirely to Mabarrat Um Al-Hussein's humanitarian projects, especially to its childcare services for orphans. The Kuwaiti diplomat hoped that this event can achieve its purposes in easing the human suffering of the orphans. — KUNA



SUEZ: Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt Mohammad Al-Thuwaikh pays his respect at the graves of the fallen Kuwaiti soldiers. — KUNA

1973 October war reflective of Arab strength

SUEZ: The 1973 October, which pitched Arab forces against Israel in the Sinai region and elsewhere, was reflective of the strength and solidarity of Arab nations against a common foe, said a Kuwaiti diplomat Saturday. Speaking on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the October war and his visit to Kuwaiti soldiers' graves in Suez governorate, Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt Mohammad Al-Thuwaikh said that the war was a victorious event in Arab history, standing as a testament for Arabs' just cause against the Israeli aggressors.

The Ambassador took a chance to remind people of the brave actions undertaken by Arab troops, namely the Egyptian army, which took command of the armies including soldiers from Kuwait and elsewhere. Kuwaiti troops stood alongside Arab brethren on both the Suez and Golan heights fronts in an act of defiance against Israel, said the Ambassador who affirmed that Kuwait's stance with Egypt

went beyond the military field to include other domains such as politics, economy and others.

Speaking to KUNA on the occasion, the Suez province governor Abdulmagid Saqer expressed his pride in the victories achieved during the October war, affirming that Kuwait and other Arab nations played an important part in the war. The presence of some 20 graves of Kuwaiti soldiers in the region is evi-

dent of the strong relations linking Kuwait and Egypt especially when both people fought a common enemy for the right of land and dignity, he said. Saqer thanked the Kuwaiti leadership and people for their sincere wishes during this tremendous occasion, indicating that Egypt and Kuwait will always fend off together enemies and foes meaning harm to the Arab countries. — KUNA

Kuwaiti FM receives credentials of Croatian envoy

KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday received the ambassador of Croatia to Kuwait, where the latter presented a copy of his credentials as

a new envoy to the country. During the reception, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled wished the newly-appointed ambassador the best of luck in performing his diplomatic duties, and hoped for more developed bilateral relations between both countries. Sheikh Khaled also met with Afghan Minister of Foreign Affairs Salahuddin Rabbani. During the meeting, the two sides discussed developed bilateral relations and issues of mutual concerns, as well as latest developments in the area. Deputy Foreign Minister, Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah and a number of senior ministry officials attended these meetings. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives the ambassador of Croatia to Kuwait. — KUNA photos



Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives the Afghan Minister of Foreign Affairs Salahuddin Rabbani.

Kuwait Food Bank seeks hunger-free world: Al-Ansari

KUWAIT: Kuwait Food Bank said it was coordinating with food banks in Muslim countries in order to establish an international association to help implement its global initiative - a hunger-free world. The initiative, aimed at highlighting Kuwait's global humani-

tarian status seeks to further promote philanthropic action in and outside Kuwait in a professional manner, the bank's vice-chairman Mishal Al-Ansari said in a statement.

The initiative, said Al-Ansari, paved the way for unprecedented amounts of humanitarian contributions to ultimately reduce food waste and to reuse this waste in a professional and hygienic manner. Kuwait Food Bank, he noted, sought to rationalize food consumption, reduce excess food and food waste, as well as redistribute food. "Kuwait's youth have a great role within the Bank's operations and it was all part of Kuwait's humanitarian activities inside the country and abroad," said Al-Ansari.

Local

UN official pushes plan to build competitive market in Kuwait

The workshop seeks to examine the varied human development indicators



KUWAIT: The participants of the workshop with representatives from the UN office and the Government of Kuwait on the sidelines of the workshop. — KUNA photos



Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister for International Affairs Ambassador Nasser Al-Hein



The Secretary General of Kuwait's Supreme Council for Planning and Development Dr Khaled Mahdi

KUWAIT: "It is imperative to employ a comprehensive strategy that aims to create a highly competitive local market amid an alluring business environment", said a UN official yesterday. The UN's Resident Coordinator and UN Development Program's (UNDP) Representative to Kuwait Tarek El-Sheikh's remarks came in a workshop held in collaboration between the Kuwaiti government and the UN. He said that the workshop revolves around the notion of how the most cut-

ting-edge institutional systems, coupled with the proper legislation, can contribute towards the human capital development.

On such methods, the UN official said that cooperation between the private sector and local research bodies can be instrumental in bringing Kuwait's development strategy for the year 2035 to fruition. He said that the workshop seeks to examine the varied human development indicators in an effort to ensure a proper

business environment that is conducive for growth.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister for International Affairs Ambassador Nasser Al-Hein said that the Gulf state enjoys an "illustrious and historic" relationship with the UN. He went on to say that Kuwait has always been a trusted partner of the UN, having contributed vigorously towards various endeavors, including the protection of human rights and global development.

The Secretary General of Kuwait's Supreme Council for Planning and Development Dr Khaled Mahdi echoed Al-Hein's sentiments, saying that Kuwait's development goals largely hinge on the support of prominent international bodies such as the UN. He added that the workshop would also look into what more government bodies can do to push forward an action plan based on shared goals and common agendas with the UN. —KUNA

Kuwait's HR record globally recognized, says diplomat

KUWAIT: Kuwait's human rights record has been widely praised by concerned international agencies, said an official yesterday. "The political leadership attaches great importance to human rights issue", said Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister for Consular Affairs Ambassador Sami Al-Hamad. His remarks came in a speech at the first Kuwaiti-Filipino technical meeting on the South Asian country's labor in Kuwait.

In the meeting, Ambassador Al-Hamad stressed Kuwait's keenness to cater for the rights of all residents, including the Filipino community, within the framework of laws in force. He praised the positive role played by this community in various sectors of Kuwait, pointing out that this meeting strengthens the friendly relations between the two countries and their desire to overcome the recent crisis regarding the domestic workers' issue.

He assured the full readiness to cooperate with the Philippines to resolve all employment-related issues in line with local laws and regulations. He also referred to



KUWAIT: The 1st Kuwaiti-Filipino technical meeting on the South Asian country's labor in Kuwait. — KUNA

Kuwait's "deep and friendly" relations with the Philippines, which are based on trust and cooperation in accordance with international charters and laws. For his part, the Philippine's Deputy Foreign Minister for Domestic Workers' Affairs Renato Ibarley praised Kuwait's concern toward Filipino workers.

He stressed that bilateral relations are on "high levels," hoping to discuss the employment contracts in detail, including the provisions of housing and food,

keeping of passports and cell phones, and opening of bank accounts for domestic workers. He also expressed his appreciation to attend such a meeting, which he described as "complementary" to the agreement reached last May on organizing Philippines domestic employment in Kuwait. "In order to reach positive results, the Philippine is keen to implement the legal aspects to complete the agreement," Ibarley explained. —KUNA



Dr Ravi Pillai

'Rising Again' campaign receives tremendous support

By Sajeev K Peter

KUWAIT: Dr Ravi Pillai, the person who has been entrusted to head a committee to raise funds from Kuwait and Bahrain for rebuilding Kerala, an Indian state, in the aftermath of devastating floods, said the response from Kuwait towards Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund is overwhelming. The committee initially set a target of collecting around 300 million Indian rupees from Kuwait as donation towards rebuilding the state. But, in view of the deluge of support the committee receives from Indians residing in Kuwait and many Kuwaiti citizens, it is expected that the fund could even reach the mark of Rs 500 million, he said.

Addressing a gathering of Kuwaiti citizens, Indian organizations, businessmen and media persons, at Jumeirah Hotel, Dr Pillai said Kerala's Minister for Industries E P Jayarajan will visit Kuwait to discuss the future plan to assist Kerala in implementing the reconstruction projects. He urged the gathered to share valuable ideas and thoughts with the minister during his visit and hand over the contribution towards Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund. He appealed to the community in Kuwait to join his team in this cause of supporting the victims of this natural disaster. The committee on the spot received around 55 million rupees from citizens and other guests who were present at the meeting.

Dr Pillai is the director of Non-Resident Keralites Affairs (NORKA) Roots and Chairman of Loka Kerala Sabha Administration & Kerala Development Fund Creation. Sam Painummodu, a member of the Loka Kerala Sabha from Kuwait welcomed the gathering. Kerala Pravasi Welfare Board Director N Ajithkumar and Loka Kerala Sabha member Babu Francis were also present at the meeting. Thomas Mathew Kadavil proposed a vote of thanks.

A special meeting titled 'Rising Again -God's Own Country' was held in Kuwait on 21st September to discuss ways and means to help Kerala rebuild following the catastrophic floods. The floods took a heavy toll on life and property. It was the most severe deluge in the history of the state that left more than 400 people dead and rendered thousands homeless. The government of Kerala has estimated the damages to be over \$4.3 billion.



KUWAIT: Goldsmiths are well respected in Kuwait because of their elaborate skills, which can turn solid gold into works of art. As they have done many times in the past and continue to do so in the present, goldsmiths import raw gold from abroad, using various tools at their disposal to shape the valuable material into whatever they desire.

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Local



KUWAIT: Al-Jahra Natural Reserve - a safe haven for many of Kuwait's migratory birds. — KUNA

GBK concludes inaugural direct sales academy program

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank recently concluded its first Direct Sales Academy Program that saw new trainees attend a month-long program, which aimed at the expanding of the trainee's horizon in fields that are crucial for their success in their future role as Direct Sales Officers. In line with Gulf Bank's vision to position itself as an employer of choice for nationals, the program aimed to build knowledge, expertise, and skills to empower a new batch of Kuwaiti potentials that will join the Bank's Direct Sales workforce.

General Manager of Human Resources Mrs Salma Al-Hajaj stated, "We are proud to empower Kuwaiti talents that are keen to raise the bar of customer excellence in the field of banking." Further stating, "At Gulf Bank we believe



Salma Al-Hajaj

that when we empower our Kuwaiti talents, and train them to the right level, they are more than capable of achieving the targets that the Banking sector is based upon."

Echoing this view Mrs Jennah Al-Mattar Assistant General Manager - Head of Learning and Development stated, "The Direct Sales Academy was an innovative program that will help increase the number of Kuwaitis in the banking sector, as it opens up the doors for a greater number to be employed in an area that in the past many were reluctant to join." As part of its commitment to the wider society, Gulf Bank always seeks to hire, train, and retain the most competent national caliber, and seeks to provide opportunities for growth and development across all levels to its staff in order to enhance the services that it provides to its esteemed clients.



4th edition of Fikra program now accepting applications

KUWAIT: Under the kind patronage of HE Khaled Al Roudan, Minister of Commerce & Industry, the Fikra Program- 4th Edition was launched yesterday at Al Hamra Luxury Mall. Fikra Program proved to be successful in supporting and training entrepreneurs in the three previous editions and has begun accepting applications to the program through the website www.fikraprogram.com and the deadline for applying is November 11, 2018. Fikra Program is an intensive training program that provides entrepreneurs with the tools they need to start their own businesses.

Mariam Hisham Al-Rayes, Fikra Program Manager at Cubical Services Business Incubator, sincerely thanked all the supporters of the program, strategic partners, Ministry of State for Youth Affairs and the National Fund for SME Development, platinum sponsors Al Hamra Real Estate Company, gold sponsors Gulf Bank, Markaz Financial

Center, Innovation Partners KFAS (Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences) and KUWAITNET, and media partner Grand Cinemas. Fikra Program is organized and managed by Cubical Services Business Incubator.

Fikra program achievements

Fikra Program's three previous editions combined witnessed over 550 applications, 45 business ideas, 57 training sessions and 76 trained entrepreneurs, in addition to providing the entrepreneurs with the support they needed to start their own business. Following the third edition of Fikra Program which ended in May 2018, over 40% of the participating entrepreneurs have successfully established their businesses and are now fully operational.

Cubical services business incubator

Cubical Services established in 2009 is a leading business solution company for business owners and helps aspiring entrepreneurs to start their own business. Since its establishment Cubical Services has served over 500 business ventures in 12 different industries. Cubical Services has signed an MOU with the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs to work together and represent the youth as needed. Cubical Services is a licensed business incubator certified by the National Fund for SME Development.



KFH participates in opening of students exchange office

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in the opening of the students exchange office at the College of Business Administration at Kuwait University. The opening was held in the presence of the Associate Dean for student Affairs, Dr Nayef Al Shammari, and the Manager of the Exchange Program Dr Yaser Alkulaib, along with KFH representatives. KFH continuing support to the students is in line with its strategy of social responsibility

and the focus on the students and the youth. Al Shammari praised KFH support in the opening of the new office, in addition to the continuing support in many other events and activities at the College of Business Administration. He added that KFH support contributes to the university's endeavors in widening participants from other worldwide universities that are accredited globally in regards to the student exchange program.



Dr Nayef Al Shammari honoring the KFH representative.

KIB sponsors LOYAC's 'BridgeWorks' program

KUWAIT: KIB offered its sponsorship to LOYAC's 'BridgeWorks' youth development program. LOYAC's latest training program comes under the umbrella of its larger 'Bridge' program, designed for participants aged 16 years and above. 'Bridge' focuses on delivering workshops covering a wide range of essential professional skills, including: customer service management, communication, workplace ethics and behavior, resume writing, as well as valuable advice on how to succeed in a job interview.

The development program launched its first workshops in cooperation with a number of trainers from the field of self-development. Additionally, a group of KIB employees participated in one of the workshops held at Marina Hotel, which was designed for participants aged 16 to 27. The second workshop was hosted by Latifa Al-Wazzan who shed light on professional behavior, such as proper appearance, actions and attitude at the workplace. The attendees were also introduced to different communication styles, as well as methods for how to effectively adapt to each one of those styles. Additionally, attendees also took part in role-play scenarios to help demonstrate how best to handle different social and business situations.

KIB noted that its sponsorship of this unique program comes as part of the Bank's leading social responsibility program, a large portion of which is dedicated to supporting students and youth in their academic and professional careers. Additionally, the Bank continues to be a strong advocate of LOYAC's mission, as it succeeds in attracting a large number of youth and offers them a myriad of opportunities that foster a strong sense of social justice and commitment to volunteering.



On her part, Executive Board Member of LOYAC, Mona Al-Kalouti, expressed her delight at the support given to this program by KIB and lauded the key role the Bank continues to play in the development of the local community, adding: "We are extremely proud of this cooperation, which stems from KIB's belief in youth's vast potential to create value for the nation in the future."

KIB also noted that it continues support BridgeWorks, which brings youth together by empowering them and developing their professional skills. The program also offers various opportunities for youth to develop their employability skills through training, making them more self-reliant and providing them with necessary skills and expertise in order to join the job market in the future.

Local

KFSD issues the first fire license to National Guard



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Director General of Kuwait Fire Service Directorate Lt General Khalid Al-Mikrad received the National Guard Undersecretary Lt Gen Eng Hashim Al-Refae at the KFSD premises in the Mubarak Al-Abdallah Al-Jaber area on the occasion of the National Guard being issued their first fire license. It was held in the General Command building in Reqeec area.

Fire at museum

KFSD yesterday received a report about a fire at the National Museum, said security sources, noting that on rushing to the scene, firemen from Hilali and City found the fire was in a shack with sponge stored in it behind the museum. No casualties were reported. In a similar incident, fire broke out in a shack used for storing furniture and electrical appliances at a school in Fahaheel. Security sources said firemen from Fahaheel and Mangaf rushed to the scene and managed to prevent the fire from spreading to adjacent shacks. No casualties were reported.

Crises management

Relations and Security Info General Department of the Interior Ministry said a delegation headed by Undersecretary Lt General Essam Al-Naham, accompanied by Assistant Undersecretary for Training and Education Affairs Maj Gen Sheikh Mazen Jarrah Al-Sabah has left for France on an official trip to attend a conference on the latest developments in rapid intervention and crises management.

Municipality campaigns

Municipality Public Relations said the roaming vendors violations follow up carried out a campaign against random markets in Jleeb and Dhajej



areas, as part of the planned removal of random and illegal markets. Head of Cleanliness and Road Occupancy in Farwaniya Saud Al-Harby said the campaign resulted in the issuing of 11 roaming vendor citations and the confiscation of one truck load of vegetables and three truck loads of used clothes. Meanwhile, head of inspections and municipality follow up services in Farwaniya Nasser Al-Rashidi said an inspection tour resulted in 40 stores being checked and the issuing of 13 citations.

Special committee to provide financial aid for imams

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Fareed Emadi issued a decision to form a special committee to provide monetary aid for imams, preachers and Mo'azens working at the mosques' sector and those who are going through financial hardships.

Doctor dismissed

Health Minister Dr Basel Al-Sabah yesterday issued a decision to dismiss an Egyptian female doctor who was found responsible for the death of one of her patients by committing a fatal medical mistake. Al-Sabah also addressed MIO's request to ban the concerned doctor from leaving the country before referring her to public prosecution.

Indian detained for performing surgery, illegal abortions

KUWAIT: A 42-year-old Indian was charged and sent to the public prosecution for practicing medicine without a license and stealing drugs. The Indian and four of his partners were arrested inside a grocery store which he was using to carry out surgeries and abortions in exchange for money, most of which came from residency violators. Investigations revealed the medicines he was using were stolen from government health centers. These thefts were carried out by another Asian, who was also arrested.

Car accidents

A drunk man caused a three-vehicle accident in Sulaibiya, and was arrested despite fierce resistance. He is currently facing legal action. Elsewhere, a traffic accident on Sixth Ring Road injured an Asian and burned two vehicles. Traffic came to a standstill before firemen managed to put out the blaze. The accident took place near Sulaibiya farms.

Drug dealer confesses

A police source said an Iraqi expat who was charged with bringing 42 kg of hashish and 400,000 illicit tablets across the Iraqi-Kuwait border confessed to bringing in two drug shipments before. He also provided four mobile numbers, said to be of drug traders, who are currently being investigated. The Iraqi has a valid residency permit and is said to be a major supplier of drugs in Jahra governorate.

Running over police

An elderly bedoon was detained at Shuwaikh Industrial police station after attempting to run over a traffic policeman. He tried to escape, but was later arrested. He has not provided any reasons for his actions. Police noticed the suspect was driving the wrong way and he was stopped. Then while the policeman was attempting to explain to him the violation he had committed, the bedoon insulted him verbally and attempted to run him over. —Al-Rai/Al-Anbaa

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International

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2018



Madrasas a place of prayer and peace for Rohingya kids

Israel PM's wife goes on trial in delivery meals case

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PETOBO: This aerial photograph shows devastation from soil liquefaction at Petobo in Palu yesterday, following the September 28 earthquake and tsunami. — AFP

Indonesia's disaster agency recovers 1,763 bodies

5,000 missing in quake neighborhoods

PALU: The number of people believed missing from the quake and tsunami that struck Indonesia's Palu city has soared to 5,000, an official said yesterday, an indication that far more may have perished in the twin disaster than the current toll. Indonesia's disaster agency says they have recovered 1,763 bodies so far from the 7.5-magnitude and subsequent tsunami that struck Sulawesi on September 28.

But there are fears that two of the hardest-hit neighborhoods in Palu — Petobo and Balaroa — could contain thousands more victims, swallowed up by ground that engulfed whole communities in a process known as liquefaction. "Based on reports from the (village) heads of Balaroa and Petobo, there are about 5,000 people who have not been found," agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho told reporters yesterday.

"Nevertheless, officials there are still trying to confirm this and are gathering data. It is not easy to obtain the exact number of those trapped by landslides, or liquefaction, or mud," Nugroho said the search for the unaccounted for will continue until October 11, at which point they would be listed as missing, presumed dead. The figure drastically increases the estimates for those who disappeared when the disaster struck 10 days ago. Officials had initially predicted some 1,000 people were buried beneath the ruins of

Palu. But the latest tally speaks to the considerable destruction in the worst-hit areas of Petobo and Balaroa as the picture on the ground has become clearer.



Death toll mounts as hopes fade

Wiped out

Petobo, a cluster of villages in Palu, was virtually wiped out by the powerful quake and wall of water that devastated Palu. Much of it was sucked whole into the ground as the vibrations from the quake turned soil to quicksand. It was feared that beneath the crumbled rooftops and twisted rebar, a vast number of bodies remain entombed. In

Balaroa, a massive government housing complex was also subsumed by the quake and rescuers have struggled to extract bodies from the tangled mess in the aftermath of the disaster. The government has been considering declaring those communities flattened in Palu disaster as mass graves, and leaving them untouched. Hopes of finding anyone alive have faded, as the search for survivors morphs into a grim gathering and accounting of the dead. "This is day ten. It would be a miracle to actually find someone still alive," Muhammad Syaugi, the head of Indonesia's search and rescue agency said yesterday.

'Great need'

The grim news comes as relief efforts were ramped up to reach 200,000 people in desperate of help after days of delays. Looters ransacked shops in the aftermath of the disaster more than a week ago, as food and water ran dry and convoys bringing life-saving relief were slow to arrive. But the trickle of international aid to Palu and local efforts to help the survivors have accelerated in recent days. Planeloads of supplies were landing with increasing frequency in Palu, where daisy chains of troops unloaded supplies directly onto trucks or helicopters. More than 82,000 military and civilian personnel, as well as volunteers, are on

the ground while Indonesian army choppers are undertaking supply runs to remote areas blocked off by the disaster. "They are in great need because the road is cut off and it's accessible only by air", Second Lieutenant Reinaldo Apri said after piloting a chopper to rugged Lindu district, some 40 kilometers south of Palu. Hercules planes carrying tons of donations from Australia and the United States reached Palu yesterday morning, as did a plane chartered by Save the Children and another carrying a South African medical team. Teams of Indonesian Red Cross workers set up warehouses and fanned out to distribute supplies across the region. But relief workers face a monumental task ahead.

The tens of thousands left homeless by the disaster are scattered across Palu and beyond, many squatting outside their ruined homes or bunkered down in makeshift camps and entirely dependent on handouts to survive. "There is nowhere else to get food, nowhere is open," said 18-year-old Sela Fauziah in Palu's central market, where she queued with hundreds for essential food items being distributed by soldiers. Things are even more desperate in remoter areas. "I am coming to Palu to report that we need tents, because 95 percent of our village has been destroyed," said Simsom Mudju from Lindu, who clambered aboard the chopper to tell the outside world about his marooned community's plight. — AFP

'Explosion' scare for Nehru-Gandhi scion

NEW DELHI: Rahul Gandhi, India's opposition leader and scion of the political Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, had an explosion scare after balloons at a political roadshow burst into flames near his vehicle, police said yesterday. Gandhi, head of the main opposition Congress party, was leading the campaign event in Madhya Pradesh state when the bunch of balloons held one political worker touched oil lamps held by another. Leaders on top of the campaign vehicle including Gandhi, 48, can be seen reeling back at the sudden ball of fire in a video that has gone viral on social media. "We have checked. There was no security breach or real scare for anyone. No one received even minor injuries," local police chief Amit Singh told AFP.

"The people carrying the celebratory

campaign balloons and lamps as a mark of respect for the leader are Congress party activists, and it was just a minor accident," Singh added. The Nehru-Gandhi family has dominated Indian politics since independence from Britain in 1947, when Jawaharlal Nehru became the country's first prime minister. The dynasty has produced three prime ministers and a member of the family has been in charge of the country for nearly 50 of the 71 years since independence. In 1984, Nehru's only daughter Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards when she was prime minister.

She had groomed her younger son Sanjay to be her political heir, but he was killed in 1980 when the small plane he was piloting crashed. Her eldest son Rajiv-father of Rahul-reluctantly took over her political mantle, and served as prime minister from 1984 to 1989. He too was assassinated in 1991. Rahul is facing questions over his leadership after a string of electoral setbacks for Congress since 2014. But he hopes to silence his critics in five state votes in November and December ahead of general elections due in 2019 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi will run for a second term. — AFP

At least 11 dead in Haiti earthquake

PORT-AU-PRINCE: A 5.9-magnitude earthquake struck off the northwest coast of Haiti late Saturday, killing at least 11 people, injuring more than 130 others and damaging homes in the Caribbean nation, authorities said. The epicenter of the quake was located about 19 kilometers northwest of the city of Port-de-Paix, the US Geological Survey reported.

The quake, which was felt across the country, struck at 8:10 pm at a shallow depth of 11.7 kilometers. Government spokesman Eddy Jackson Alexis told AFP that 11 people had been reported dead so far, seven of them in Port-de-Paix, the capital of Haiti's Nord-Ouest department. Four others were killed in the town of Gros-Morne, about 50 kilometers to the southeast, the spokesman said. Haiti's civil protection agency put the preliminary number of injured at 135.

Two minor aftershocks were registered, the agency said, adding that no tsunami warning was issued in connection with the quake activity. The town of Chansolme and the small island of Tortuga also suffered damage, officials said. The tremor rattled the capital Port-de-Prince, sparking fear among residents still reeling from



GROS MORNE: Haitian people collect metal yesterday in Gros Morne, Haiti, from the destroyed auditorium, after the earthquake that struck north of Haiti, on October 6, 2018. — AFP

the massive 2010 earthquake that left at least 200,000 people dead and 300,000 more wounded. "I urge the population to remain calm," President Jovenel Moise said on Twitter, adding that local and regional authorities were assisting those in need.

Prime Minister Jean-Henry Ceant is heading up an inter-ministerial disaster response task force, he said on Twitter. "The injured are being treated at area hospitals," the civil protection agency said, noting that some of the injuries were sustained when people panicked after the quake. The agency confirmed that some homes were destroyed or damaged,

without offering specific figures. Images of damaged homes and partially destroyed buildings were circulating on social media, but AFP was not immediately able to confirm their authenticity.

The Nord-Ouest department is the poorest part of impoverished Haiti, with many areas isolated due to the dire state of the roads. The devastating 7.0-magnitude quake in January 2010 left more than 1.5 million people homeless. Tens of thousands remain in makeshift camps. The damage caused was worth an estimated 120 percent of GDP in Haiti, the poorest country in the western hemisphere. — AFP

International

Iran's parliament approves counter-terror finance bill

Bill aims to bring Iran's laws in line with international standards

TEHRAN: Iran's parliament yesterday approved a bill to counter terrorist financing that was strongly opposed by conservatives but seen as vital to salvaging the nuclear deal with European and Asian partners. The bill aims to bring Iran's laws in line with international standards and allow it to join the UN Terrorism Financing Convention. It is one of four bills put forward by the government in recent months in a bid to meet demands by the international Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which has given Iran until later this month to tighten its laws against money laundering and terror financing.

"Neither I nor the president can guarantee that all problems will go away if we join (the UN convention)," said Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif during yesterday's debate. "But I guarantee that not joining will provide the US with more excuses to increase our problems," he added. The issue has become particularly pressing since the United States walked out of the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran earlier this year and began reimposing sanctions. The other parties to the deal—Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia—have sought to salvage the agreement and maintain trade with Iran, but have demanded that it accede to the FATF.

Joining the UN convention has been controversial because hardliners say it will limit Iran's ability to support armed groups in the region such as its Lebanese ally, Hezbollah. Iran is alone with North Korea on the blacklist of the FATF, although the Paris-based organization has suspended counter-measures since June 2017 while Iran works on reforms. A previous bill on the mechanics of monitoring and preventing terrorist financing was signed into law in August. Two other bills - on money-laundering and organized crime - have also been passed by parliament but have been delayed by higher authorities that vet legislation, including the Guardian Council.

'Death to traitors'

Conservatives were furious after yesterday's bill passed by 143 votes to 120, with protesters chanting "death to traitors" outside parliament. In a heated debate ahead of the vote, opponents of the bill said it would not solve the



New law seen as vital to salvaging nuke deal

country's financial problems, and would help its enemies.

Hardline lawmaker Mohammad Dehghan warned the bill means "providing the enemy with intelligence during an economic war" and that passing it amounted to "treason". Economists say greater transparency could cause problems for powerful behind-the-scenes networks, including the Revolutionary Guards military organization, which is deeply embedded in Iran's opaque economy. Both sides of the debate have evoked supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to support their position. Conservatives pointed to Khamenei's statement in June that Iran has "no need to join" global conventions.

But parliament speaker Ali Larijani, who supports the government's position, said he had received a letter from Khamenei explaining that his remarks were about "conventions in general" and not meant to oppose any



TEHRAN: Iranian MPs display their disagreement over the bill to counter terrorist financing in parliament in Tehran yesterday. The bill, one of four put forward by the government to meet demands set by the international Financial Action Task Force (FATF), was passed by 143 votes to 120, according to the semi-official ISNA news agency. — AFP

particular bills. Reformist lawmaker Mohammad Feyzi told the session that Iran does not have "the luxury of choice" and will face negative consequences if it refuses to join the FATF.

Ali Najafi, spokesman for the parliament's com-

mission which produced the bill, said Iran retained the right to walk away from the UN convention "wherever it acts against the Iranian constitution" and emphasized that it does not force Iran to recognize Israel. — AFP

Israel PM's wife goes on trial in delivery meals case

JERUSALEM: The wife of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu went on trial yesterday for allegedly using state funds to fraudulently pay for hundreds of meals, part of a list of legal troubles facing the family. The start of Sara Netanyahu's trial was the latest chapter in a saga intensely scrutinized in Israel, but dismissed by the Netanyahus as another "absurd" attempt to discredit them. She smiled at her lawyers when entering the court and the session began with a hearing on whether the trial should be overseen by a panel of three judges instead of one due to the case's "public sensitivity."

The court adjourned shortly afterward until November 13, with the trial expected to run for months. The premier himself faces possible charges in separate corruption investigations, leading to speculation that he will eventually be forced to step down. Sara Netanyahu was charged with fraud and breach of trust in June. Prosecutors accuse her of misusing state funds to pay for catered meals costing \$100,000 (85,000 euros) by falsely declaring there were no cooks available at the premier's official residence.

From 2010 to 2013, she, her family and guests received "fraudulently from the state hundreds of prepared meals", the indictment read. According to the charge sheet, the meals were ordered from a variety of well-known Jerusalem businesses, including an Italian restaurant, a Middle Eastern grill joint and a sushi establishment. Sara Netanyahu, 59 and a high-profile presence at her husband's side throughout his long tenure, has denied any wrongdoing. "For the first time in history, charges are being pressed against a leader's wife over noodles and take-away containers from six to seven years ago," a statement from her lawyers said yesterday. The meals were ordered "against Sara Netanyahu's will", it said.

'Blood spilled'

But the case has again turned the spotlight on the Netanyahu family and past allegations of misbehaviour.



JERUSALEM: Sara Netanyahu (center), wife of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, attends a hearing at the Magistrate's Court in Jerusalem yesterday. — AFP

Sara Netanyahu has previously been accused of pocketing cash from deposit refunds for empty bottles returned from the official residence. She has also faced accusations of mistreating staff, and in 2016 a court awarded some \$47,000 in damages to a former housekeeper who accused the couple of repeated workplace abuse.

The Netanyahus have hit back calling the allegations - which have been closely covered in the Israeli media - grossly unfair smear attempts. Sara Netanyahu has in the past said that her "blood has been spilled publicly". One particularly high-profile example occurred in 2017, when both the premier and his wife appeared in court in their libel case against a journalist's claim that Sara Netanyahu kicked her husband out of the car during a row. Benjamin Netanyahu testified that the story was a "ridiculous" fabrication. The court later awarded the Netanyahus \$32,500.

But there are potentially more serious allegations facing Benjamin Netanyahu. The right-wing prime minister has held the job for a total of more than 12 years, first from 1996-99 and again beginning in 2009. He could next year surpass the record set by Israel's founding father David Ben-Gurion, who spent more than 13 years in office.

But Netanyahu faces a possible indictment in the months ahead. On Friday police quizzed him for a 12th time as a suspect in various cases. — AFP

12 years on, Politkovskaya murder still unsolved

MOSCOW: Russian liberals yesterday marked 12 years since top journalist Anna Politkovskaya was gunned down as her newspaper accused authorities of refusing to find the instigator of the murder. An investigative reporter with Russia's top opposition newspaper

Novaya Gazeta, the 48-year-old Politkovskaya was shot dead on October 7, 2006, in the entrance hall of her apartment block in Moscow. In 2014, a court finally sentenced two men to life in prison for Politkovskaya's murder, and handed lengthy prison terms to three others involved in the killing.

But 12 years on, investigators have yet to identify who ordered the apparent contract killing, and Novaya Gazeta said yesterday the authorities had no interest in pursuing the investigation any further. "Investigators are not replying to queries, they are not in touch with the complainant," said Sergei Sokolov, Novaya Gazeta's deputy editor. "There's an impression that the case is being buried in the sand," he told Echo of Moscow radio station. — AFP

Palestinian kills two Israelis


BARKAN INDUSTRIAL ZONE: A Palestinian shot dead two Israelis and wounded another at a West Bank settlement's industrial zone yesterday as security forces hunted the suspected assailant who also worked at the site, the Israeli army said. Since the attack was allegedly carried out by a Palestinian employed at the Barkan industrial zone in the occupied West Bank, questions were raised over whether he knew the victims and over the motivation behind the shooting. Army spokesman Jonathan Conricus called it a "terrorist attack" but added that other unspecified factors were involved.

The 23-year-old Palestinian used a home-made gun, known locally as a "Carlo", according to Conricus, in the apparent "lone-wolf attack". Security forces were searching for the suspected perpetrator, Conricus said. Surveillance footage spread online that appeared to show the Palestinian fleeing the site with a gun. — AFP

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International

Nigeria's Buhari to face political heavyweight in re-election bid

Ex-VP Abubakar wins primary to challenge Buhari

PORT HARCOURT: Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari will run for re-election in February 2019 against former vice president Atiku Abubakar, a Muslim from the country's north who was nominated yesterday as the main opposition party's poll contender. Buhari, a 75-year-old former military ruler, was the sole candidate for his ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) party, so his confirmation by some 7,000 delegates gathered in the capital Abuja was a mere formality on Saturday.

The APC swept to power in 2015 with the first opposition victory at the ballot box in the country's history. But next year's presidential race appears to have tightened in recent months with the APC hit by a wave of defections over Buhari's leadership style. Yesterday, delegates to a convention of the former ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), nominated Abubakar, 71, as his challenger for next year's poll.

The politician and business tycoon has made four previous bids for the top job in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation. Abubakar comes from the Muslim-majority north, and his nomination follows an unwritten rule in Nigeria that the presidency should alternate every two terms between a candidate from the north and south. The PDP vote was held in the oil hub of Port Harcourt, in the heartland of the southern Niger delta. Abubakar garnered 1,532 votes, trouncing his closest rival Aminu Tambuwal, the governor of northern Sokoto state who scored 693 votes.

Port Harcourt streets had been festooned with conference banners, while police said thousands of officers were deployed to the PDP primary. Despite hum-

ble beginnings in northern Nigeria, Abubakar rose through the ranks of the customs service for two decades, eventually becoming the institution's number two during military rule. He then entered the private sector, investing in oil services and agriculture, among other industries. From there he joined the civilian government where he became one of Nigeria's most recognizable and enduring politicians. But he has been dogged by controversies over his numerous wives and more than 20 children as well as corruption allegations.

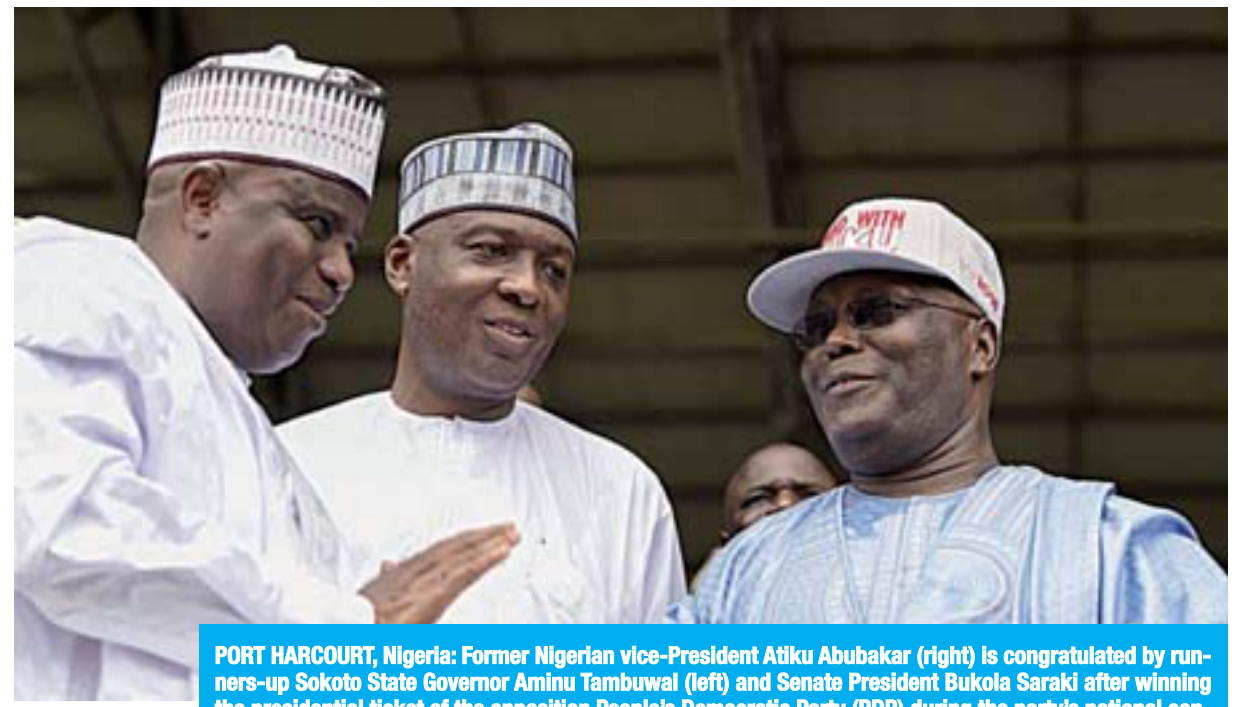
'Baba Go Slow'

Buhari had indicated in April that he planned to run for a second term. The retired general, who headed a military regime in the 1980s, has faced growing pressure to step down because of failing health after spending several months in London last year receiving treatment for an undisclosed ailment.

Dubbed "Baba Go Slow" because he took six months to appoint cabinet ministers, he has also faced attacks for his handling of the economy, which plunged into recession in 2016. He has also come under criticism on security

issues, including the Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast, long-running farmer-herder clashes in the centre and militancy and kidnapping in the south. "The fact that nobody came forward to challenge the president is an indication that the party members are satisfied with his performance and they want to see more of him in office," presidential spokesman Garba Shehu told AFP.

Also yesterday, fierce Buhari critic Obiageli Ezekwesili announced that she would throw her hat



PORT HARCOURT, Nigeria: Former Nigerian vice-President Atiku Abubakar (right) is congratulated by runners-up Sokoto State Governor Aminu Tambuwal (left) and Senate President Bukola Saraki after winning the presidential ticket of the opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP) during the party's national convention in Port Harcourt, Rivers State yesterday. —AFP

into the ring for the presidency. The 55-year-old former minister, who was also the World Bank's vice president for Africa from 2007 to 2012, said in a statement that Nigeria was becoming "a country where the worth of life is trending down to zero." Ezekwesili, co-founder of the Berlin-based corruption watchdog Transparency International, is best known in Nigeria for creating the BringBackOurGirls movement after Boko Haram jihadists abducted more than 200 schoolgirls in 2014.

Also in the running is Donald Duke, the former governor of the southern Cross River state, whose opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) formally elected him its flag-bearer yesterday. As governor in 2004, Duke initiated the Calabar carnival that is now popularly known as "Africa's biggest street party." Nigerian law allows for a president to serve a maximum of two four-year terms. Voters in the former British colony will elect governors and lawmakers as well as the president in elections set for February and March next year. —AFP



SDP nominates Donald Duke as flag-bearer

Cameroon votes in presidential polls as conflict rages

YAOUNDE: Cameroonians voted in presidential polls yesterday with octogenarian leader Paul Biya seeking a seventh term against a backdrop of deadly violence in the country's English-speaking regions. The vote follows a last-minute opposition unity bid to dislodge the 85-year-old incumbent, one of Africa's longest-serving rulers. Two leading opponents have formed the first electoral union since 1992, but talks between various other opposition parties to create a "super-coalition" to deny Biya another seven years were apparently fruitless.

Biya and his wife Chantal, who wore a matching canary yellow skirt, jacket and handbag along with her signature brown bouffant hair, voted in the Bastos public school in the capital Yaounde surrounded by heavily-armed soldiers. "The election campaign was conducted peacefully... as president, it would be satisfying to be reelected to see that the people trust me," he told journalists as he left the voting booth and returned to his Mercedes-Maybach limousine. "I feel proud," said Patrick, 38, an airport worker who also voted in Bastos.

"I want the next president to consolidate what we have achieved in Cameroon. I want the elections to pass off peacefully, that's my only hope for the polls." Cameroon's 6.5 million eligible voters are casting their ballots as violence rages in the anglophone southwest and northwest. Those regions have been rocked by a separatist insurgency launched a year ago

against the mainly francophone state. The violence has killed at least 420 civilians, 175 members of the security forces and an unknown number of separatists, according to the International Crisis Group (ICG) think-tank.

After voting got underway yesterday, security forces shot dead three suspected separatists who had allegedly been firing at passersby from a motorcycle in Bamenda, the main city in the northwest region, a local official said. In Buea, capital of the so-called Ambazonia Republic were gunned down on Friday and a priest was executed by soldiers on Thursday, according to witnesses. The far north is also mired in insecurity, as Nigeria-based Boko Haram fighters mount attacks despite US efforts to equip and train Cameroon's military to battle the jihadists.

'Massive fraud?'

In a rare coordinated political manoeuvre, a key opposition frontrunner, Maurice Kamto, agreed late Friday to a unity deal between his Movement for the Rebirth of Cameroon (MRC) and the People's Development Front (FDP), meaning he will stand for both parties. However it is unclear whether the eleventh-hour deal will sway the vote, which runs until 1700 GMT. "This alliance, though interesting for the vitality of Cameroonian democracy, may have arrived too late," said Hans de Marie Heungoup, an ICG researcher.

Kamto's MRC has warned that a "massive fraud" is underway to secure a Biya win. "We're not preparing for war, but wherever there is fraud, there will be a firm response," said MRC spokesman Paul-Eric Kingue. The government hit



YAOUNDE: Cameroon's incumbent President Paul Biya and his wife Chantal arrive at a polling station to vote in the Bastos neighborhood of Yaounde yesterday during Cameroon's presidential election. —AFP

back, apparently in response to the MRC, saying that it would "not tolerate any disorder before, during or after the presidential vote". The opposition has long accused the authorities of supporting Biya. But despite the ubiquity of Biya's posters, he has been virtually absent from the campaign trail, except for a single event last weekend.

Travel lock-down

It is unclear if polling will proceed normally across Cameroon's English-speaking regions, where separatists hold a "significant" amount of territory, according to the ICG, and have threatened to disrupt the vote. A team of election officials received a military escort as they travelled to the outskirts of Buea yesterday, according to AFP journalists.

The government said it was possible there were "troublemakers" in the anglophone regions.

"But the vast majority of residents are ready and willing to vote," said Communications Minister Issa Tchiroma Bakary. Authorities have imposed a raft of security measures including a ban on inter-regional travel and sealing the borders. A total of 246,000 people have fled their homes in the southwest and 25,000 have left the country altogether for Nigeria, according to UN figures. It is thought that the displaced will struggle to vote, which could favor Biya as anglophones have traditionally backed the Social Democratic Front (SDF) party of rival candidate Joshua Osih. Results must be posted within 15 calendar days of the poll. —AFP

News in brief

China knife attack

BEIJING: Three are dead in China after a man fleeing the scene of a stabbing drove into a crowd and attacked onlookers, police said yesterday. The 42-year-old man surnamed Wang got into a dispute with a companion after an afternoon of drinking and karaoke in the eastern province of Zhejiang. Angry over the confrontation, Wang purchased a fruit knife, stabbed his friend's mother and fled the scene, according to a statement on the official social media account of Ningbo city's public security bureau. The drunken Wang proceeded to steal a car at knife point and hit a cyclist, at which point the car burst into flames and Wang abandoned it, police said. Wang fled on foot, stabbed two pedestrians, stole a driving instructor's car, and drove it into a crowd of nine people, at which point he jumped out and stabbed another five. The incident is under investigation, the police said. —AFP

Japan officer killed

TOKYO: Japan's military said yesterday one of its members was killed in a car crash in the Philippines during joint exercises with US and Filipino troops. Suguru Maehara, a 38-year-old sergeant of the Ground Self-Defense Forces, was involved in the accident on Tuesday last week, according to a GDSDF spokesman who confirmed his death. "It is the first time a GDSDF member has died during an overseas drill," the spokesman said. Maehara was delivering food supplies to members participating in the drill when the accident happened. The exercise, code-named Kamandag (meaning 'Venom'), marked the first time Japanese armored military vehicles were used on foreign soil since the country adopted a pacifist constitution after its 1945 defeat. But Japan is not involved in the combat component of the military exercises. —AFP

Train kills 3 elephants

COLOMBO: A passenger train hit and killed three young elephants in eastern Sri Lanka, officials said yesterday, weeks after two calves and their pregnant mother were fatally struck in the same region. The Colombo-bound train with 600 passengers hit the herd near the village of Welikanda, 260 kilometers east of the capital on Saturday night, railway officials said. "Four compartments derailed, but fortunately there were no casualties among the passengers," a railway official said adding that the track was extensively damaged. The incident came less than three weeks after a similar crash involving a fuel train in the same region. The three elephants, part of a larger herd, were crossing the railway track at dawn in jungle near Habarana, 180 kilometers northeast of Colombo, when they were hit and killed late last month. The latest accident came even as the authorities investigated the previous crash to determine if the train driver had followed standard procedures while operating in jungle areas with elephant populations. —AFP

7 security forces killed

OUAGADOUGOU: Six police officers were killed in an ambush with an improvised explosive device in northern Burkina Faso, while another member of the security forces died in a blast in the country's east, security sources said yesterday. The first attack took place late Friday on a police convoy in the town of Solle near the border with Mali. "The leading vehicle ran over a mine and six were killed," one source said, adding that the convoy then came under gunfire leaving some other officers injured. Another security source said that "at least" six police had died in Friday's attack, adding that a search for the attackers was underway in the area. Separately, one member of the Burkina Faso security forces was killed late Saturday and another was injured when a similar device exploded in the eastern town of Pama, according to a security source. —AFP

Protesters rage in Washington as Kavanaugh is confirmed

WASHINGTON: Two of America's hallowed institutions, the US Capitol and the Supreme Court, became a nexus of public rage and frustration Saturday as President Donald Trump got his controversial nominee Brett Kavanaugh confirmed onto the high court. Protesters swarmed Washington, and rushed the steps of the Supreme Court to bang loudly on its bronze doors around the time Kavanaugh was set to be sworn in inside.

"This is our court, these are our steps, these are our institutions!" proclaimed Jessica Campbell-Swanson, 35, to AFP just after raising a defiant fist and then coming down from the lap of the large marble Contemplation of Justice statue in front of the Supreme Court. Hundreds of her compatriots chanted and waved anti-Kavanaugh placards — one read "This ain't over" — as dozens of officers pushed them back from the doors and then stood guard. After a week of deep anxiety in

Washington and nationwide, tensions surged about Kavanaugh, who stands accused of sexual misconduct.

Several hundred protesters, most of them women, barged through barricades to lay claim to the front steps of the US Capitol. Dozens were arrested as they and others chanted "Vote them out!" and "No justice, no seat!" Protesters also disrupted the vote itself in the US Senate multiple times before being dragged from the public galleries, yelling "Coward!" at lawmakers who backed Kavanaugh. When Vice President Mike Pence, who presided over the vote, exited the Senate, he was loudly booed and heckled by onlookers outside until he ducked into his limousine.

The confirmation of Kavanaugh has come in the midst of a MeToo movement that has put sexual assault squarely in a cultural crosshairs. And it has prompted several assault survivors to take up the protest banner. "I am here because President Trump mocked sexual assault victims," said North Carolina native Kara Harrington, 50, as she held a sign that read "Shame," and stood with her daughter and husband in front of a police cordon on the court steps. "It unleashed something inside me. I was assaulted when I was younger and I didn't tell anybody," she added.

But she also spoke of the country's bitter divisions, and how American politicians and the Trump administration



WASHINGTON: Demonstrators protest at the steps of the US Supreme Court against the appointment of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh in Washington DC. —AFP

have done little to douse the flames. "We have a separation of powers that doesn't exist any more, and it's very scary," she said. "And I'm horrified that we can't seem to have any kind of middle ground or common sense." Across the street from the Supreme Court, a man wearing a "Trump 2020" shirt took in the scene. Chuck Thompson, 41, said

he and his wife recently traveled from Georgia to visit Washington on their 20th wedding anniversary, and found a city heaving in protest. But he scoffed at the idea that Kavanaugh's nomination, and the tumult it has unleashed, will help Democrats in November's midterm elections. "This whole thing is going to backfire," he said. —AFP

International

Kim Jong Un and Pompeo agree to 2nd US-North Korea summit

North Korea leader praises their 'nice meeting'

SEOUL: Kim Jong Un has agreed to hold a second summit with US President Donald Trump as soon as possible, Seoul said yesterday, after Washington's top diplomat held "productive" talks on denuclearization with the North Korean leader in Pyongyang. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with Kim yesterday morning for around two hours of talks followed by a lunch in the North's capital, before flying to Seoul on a whirlwind diplomatic visit to the region.

Pompeo said "he agreed with Chairman Kim to hold the second US-North Korea summit at the earliest date possible." South Korea's presidential office said in a statement, although no specific time or location has yet been agreed. Pompeo and Kim also discussed "denuclearization steps that will be taken by North Korea and the issue of attendance by the US government," as well as "corresponding measures" to be taken by the US, the statement said.

The visit was Pompeo's fourth to North Korea. US President Donald Trump met Kim in Singapore in June for the first-ever summit between the countries, resulting in what critics say was only a vague commitment by Kim towards denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. "We continue to make progress on agreements made at Singapore Summit. Thanks for hosting me and my team," Pompeo tweeted. Kim also praised their "nice meeting", telling Pompeo via an interpreter following the morning's talks that it was "a very nice day that promises a good future ... for both countries."



the North until its "final, fully verified denuclearization". Last month the North's foreign minister told the United Nations there was "no way" his country would disarm first as long as tough US sanctions remain against his country.

After a previous visit to Pyongyang in July, Pompeo had said the two foes made progress on key issues-but within hours of his departure the North condemned "gangster-like" demands from the US, raising questions over how much the two sides really saw eye to eye. Another planned trip by Pompeo to Pyongyang was scrapped after what Trump said was insufficient progress towards implementing the terms of the Singapore declaration. An official yesterday's latest visit to Pyongyang with Pompeo said the trip was "better than the last time", but added: "It's going to be a long haul."

Pompeo's 4th visit to North Korea

Following his arrival in Seoul from Pyongyang yesterday, Pompeo said at a meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in that he had "a good productive conversation" with Kim, in talks which represented "another step forward". The dovish Moon, who held three summits with Kim this year and also brokered the Trump-Kim summit in Singapore, said yesterday the "whole world" was watching with keen interest the outcomes of Pompeo's trip. "I hope your trip to North Korea and the upcoming second US-North Korea summit will provide a good opportunity for achieving irreversible, decisive progress in terms of denuclearization and the peace process on the Korean peninsula."

Grand bargain

Analysts say Washington may now consider new options as China, Russia and South Korea seek to relax sanctions. "North Korea took some steps towards denuclearization and the US will face criticism from the international community if it continues to



SEOUL: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (center) meets with South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha before meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in at the presidential Blue House in Seoul yesterday. Pompeo held talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang yesterday, before landing in Seoul on a whirlwind diplomatic visit to the region. —AFP

demand complete denuclearization without any lifting of sanctions," said Yang Moo-jin, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul.

"We can't rule out the possibility that Washington... may move in the direction of partial easing of sanctions based on progress in denuclearization," he said. South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha has given a hint of what a grand bargain between the two countries could look like. In an interview

with the Washington Post, she said the North could agree to dismantle Yongbyon, its signature nuclear site.

In exchange, the United States would declare a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War-which concluded with an armistice rather than a peace treaty-but North Korea would stop short of delivering an exhaustive list of its nuclear facilities, she said. After Seoul, Pompeo ends his trip Monday in China, North Korea's political and economic lifeline. —AFP

Madrasas a place of prayer and peace for Rohingya kids

COX'S BAZAR: Inside a stifling bamboo shanty, eight-year-old Saleema Khanam throws a bright yellow shawl over her head and steps out into the enormous Bangladesh refugee camp tightly clutching her treasured Quran. She is the only girl in her local madrasa-or Islamic seminary-catering to Rohingya children driven from Buddhist-majority Myanmar by a wave of genocidal violence.

Since formal schooling-which suggests a permanent presence-is not allowed in the camps, for many children the madrasas are the only places to learn. It is just a short distance from Saleema's family's shack to the school, one of thousands to spring up in the world's largest refugee camp since a massive influx of Rohingya Muslims last year. She steps carefully through the crowded alleyways in Kutupalong with her blue-bound Koran held tight to her chest, removes her shoes and enters the dimly-lit classroom. Inside, more than a dozen young boys with white prayer caps rock back and forth, reciting passages from the Islamic holy book.

She takes her position in the front, flanked by two brothers, and opens the book. "I come here to learn the Quran. My mother wants me and my brothers to learn, to become a better person," the young student said. The Rohingya are a deeply conservative Muslim minority from western Myanmar, where decades of state-sanctioned oppression and violent persecution has forced them out in droves. An army purge that began in August 2017 has forced more than 700,000 Rohingya over the border into Bangladesh-most of them children.

New generation

Islamic schools and houses of worship were torched in the crackdown by Myanmar troops and Buddhist gangs that UN



KUTUPALONG: Saleema Khanam (left) (8) studies inside a makeshift madrasa (Islamic seminary) with other boys in Kutupalong camp, in Ukhiya near Cox's Bazar. —AFP

fact-finders said amounted to crimes against humanity and genocide against the Rohingya. "By targeting our madrasas and mosques, they tried to erase our culture and religion from Rakhine," said Rohingya activist Rafique bin Habib, referring to Myanmar's westernmost state where the minority dwelled.

"But many of our top madrasa teachers survived and fled to Bangladesh, where they have set up schools in the camps so that our new generation can be deeply rooted in our culture and religion," Bangladesh, which hosts one million of the displaced Muslims in camps near the border, is determined the Rohingya will be returned to Myanmar. Some of the madrasas are

attached to prominent mosques and large enough for 400 students. Others, like Saleema's, cannot fit more than a dozen children. Classes are taught not just in the Rohingya language but also in Bengali, Arabic, Urdu and English. "These madrasas play an essential role in the survival of the Rohingya language," said bin Habib. As the call to prayer sounds across the camps, the boys in Saleema's class file out to the local mosque to perform their ablutions before the Friday sermon. Saleema, the lone girl, stays behind. She finds a quiet spot at the back of the classroom, faces Makkah and, holding her palms to the sky, places her forehead to the ground in solemn prayer, alone. —AFP

Brazil votes for new president, far-right Bolsonaro in lead

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazilians began casting ballots yesterday in their most divisive presidential election in years, with a far-right politician promising an iron-fisted crackdown on crime, Jair Bolsonaro, the firm favorite in the first round. Surveys suggest the 63-year-old former paratrooper, who wants to cut spiralling debt through sweeping privatizations and embrace the United States and Israel, could count on more than one in three voters in the vast Latin American nation.

But at least as many in the 147-million-strong electorate reject the veteran federal lawmaker. He is known for repeated offensive comments against women, gays and the poor, and for lauding the military dictatorship Brazil shucked off just three decades ago. If Bolsonaro gets more than 50 percent of the vote to lead the field of 13 candidates, he will win the presidency outright. Otherwise, a run-off will be held on October 28. Analysts say a first-round victory for Bolsonaro is possible-but unlikely.

The last surveys released late Saturday credited Bolsonaro with 36 percent against 22 percent by his nearest rival, leftist former Sao Paulo mayor Fernando Haddad. With blank and invalid votes stripped out, Bolsonaro could pocket 40-41 percent of the vote to 25 percent for Haddad, polling firms Ibope and Datafolha said. A run-off was seen as too close to call, given the two-point margin of error, though Bolsonaro was seen with a small edge: 45 percent, to 41-43 percent for Haddad. Voting began at 8:00 am (1100 GMT) under tight security. Initial results were expected shortly after the last polling stations close at 2200 GMT in the western Amazonian state of Acre. —AFP

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Analysis

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Washington Watch

Criticism of
Israeli policy
not anti-Semitic

By Dr James J Zogby

I was provoked to write this discussion of what is and what isn't anti-Semitism by an article in Ha'aretz on the "controversy" created by the awarding of the 2018 Nobel Prize in Chemistry to George P Smith. According to the reporting, Dr Smith is not only a brilliant scientist whose work has helped lead to the creation of new drugs that can treat cancer and a range of autoimmune diseases, he is also an outspoken supporter of Palestinian rights and a critic of Israeli policies.

The Ha'aretz piece notes that Dr. Smith has long been "a target of pro-Israel groups" and is listed on "the controversial Canary Mission website" - used by supporters of Israel to harass and silence critics. As I read through the article looking for evidence of Smith's sins, I found quotes saying that he "wished" not for Israel's Jewish population to be expelled but "an end to the discriminatory regime in Palestine."

At another point, Ha'aretz quotes from an op-ed written by Smith condemning Israeli policies in Gaza which he concludes by expressing his support for the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement (BDS) calling it "Palestinian civil society's call for the global community of conscience to ostracize Israeli businesses and institutions until Israel repudiates [their violence against Palestinians] and the Palestinian people, including the exiles, achieve full equality with the Jews in their shared homeland."

I read all of this in the context of this worrisome campaign that is unfolding here in the US to silence critics of Israel or the exclusivist vision of Political Zionism. It is a well-funded multi-pronged effort, one component of which is the shadowy Canary Mission website that publishes the names, photos, and backgrounds of pro-Palestinian students and professors - terming them anti-Semites or supporters of terrorism. It does so with the expressed purpose of harming their careers.

The Canary Mission list is also used to taint and smear these activists to intimidate politicians from engaging with them. And the lists have been used by the Israeli government to deny entry to, in particular, Palestinian Americans or progressive Americans Jews seeking to see family, study, teach, or simply visit that country. While the Canary Mission has done its best to keep its operations, leadership, and funding secret, recent articles published in the Jewish press have revealed that the project has been financially supported by some mainstream American Jewish philanthropic entities.

In addition to the Canary Mission there is the campaign that seeks to criminalize support for BDS or to penalize supporters of the movement to hold Israel accountable for its systematic violations of Palestinian rights. This effort is massively funded by the likes of Sheldon Adelson and we now learn, also from a recent expose in a prominent American Jewish newspaper, by millions of dollars funneled to the campaign from the government of Israel. Then there is legislation currently pending in Congress designed to make boycotting Israel a crime, complementing the 25 states that have already passed laws denying salaries, contracts or benefits to individuals who support BDS.

Finally, in a replay of the effort that pressed the UK's Labour Party to define criticism of Israel as anti-Semitic, Trump's appointment to lead the Civil Rights Office at the US Department of Education has made clear his intent to investigate anti-Israel activism on college campuses as forms of anti-Semitism. And there is legislation pending in Congress - the Antisemitism Awareness Act. Both this bill and the action by Kenneth Marcus at the Education Department seek to extend the definition of anti-Semitism to include criticism of Israel.

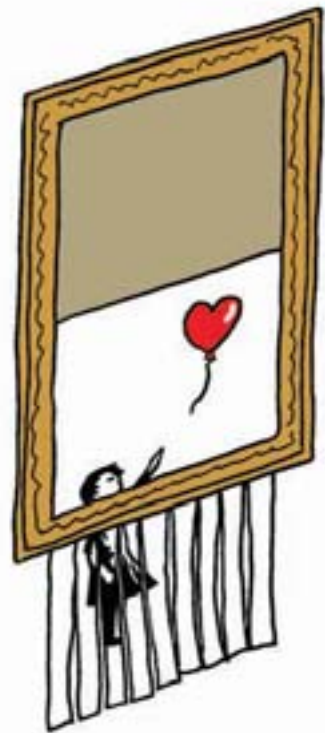
Distraction

In reflecting on these developments, there are several observations that should be made: anti-Semitism is real, ugly, and dangerous; criticism of Israel is not anti-Semitism; and the effort to conflate the two not only silences needed debate, it distracts from the effort to root out real anti-Semitism, a scourge that has created great pain and enormous suffering in human history.

Anti-Semitism is hatred toward Jews - individually and as a group. It is also the attribution of evil intent or negative qualities to individuals or a group just because they are Jews. On the other hand, criticism of Israeli policy is not anti-Semitic. When Dr Smith has criticized Israel's massacres at the Gaza border or its systematic denial of equal rights and justice to Palestinians, he is not attributing this behavior to their religion or even suggesting that this behavior is due to their being Jews.

For example, he is not saying "Israel is oppressing Palestinians because that's the way Jews behave." Nor is he saying that all Jews, as a group, are responsible for these actions - this would be anti-Semitic. He said no such thing. The only reason to target Smith and those, like him, who critique the policies of the state (that by the way are not supported by all Israelis or Jews, worldwide) is to silence their voices.

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

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India's Rohingya struggle with hatred, fear

Hours after Indian TV channels flashed that the country was deporting seven Rohingya Muslims to Myanmar, Sahidullah said he received a call from his nephew: "Uncle, please get us out of here. They will send us back too." Sahidullah, a Rohingya living in the far north of India after fleeing what he called persecution in Buddhist-majority Myanmar in 2010, said his relative, Sadiur Rahman, 40, was lodged in one of several detention centers for illegal immigrants in the distant northeastern state of Assam.

Rahman, he said, had been incarcerated with his brother and eight other relatives since being caught in 2012 at a railway station as they fled to India via Bangladesh. Sahidullah had taken the same route two years earlier, but like many others had escaped detection. He said Rahman made the phone call when he was taken out for a routine medical checkup on Oct 3, the day when India moved the seven Rohingya men out of a similar detention center and took them to the border.

They were handed to the Myanmar authorities the next day, the first ever such deportations of Rohingya here, spreading panic among an estimated 40,000 refugees who have fled to India from its neighbor. About 16,500 of the refugees, including Sahidullah, have been issued identity cards by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that it says helps them "prevent harassment, arbitrary arrests, detention and deportation".

India says it does not recognize the cards and has rejected the UN's stand that deporting the Rohingya violates the principle of refoulement - sending back refugees to a place where they face danger. "Anyone who has entered the country without a valid legal permit is considered illegal," said A. Bharat Bhushan Babu, a spokesman for the Ministry of Home Affairs. "As per the law, anyone illegal will have to be sent back. As per law they will be repatriated."

In recent days, Reuters interviewed dozens of Rohingya in two settlements, one in the northern city of Jammu and a smaller one in the capital, Delhi, and found communities who feel they are being increasingly vilified. Many now fear Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government is about to act on its stated position - that it wants to deport all Rohingya Muslims from the country. With a general election due by next May, they worry that targeting them will be a populist tactic used by Modi and

his ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Addressing an election rally in the central state of Madhya Pradesh on Saturday, BJP chief Amit Shah said that all illegal immigrants were "like termites eating into the nation's security". "Elect us back next year and the BJP will not allow a single one of them to stay in this country," Shah said, without specifically mentioning any group of migrants.

“It's definitely an election issue”

Hatred growing

Sahidullah - who like many Rohingya goes by only one name - is not just worried about his detained relatives but also his family living in a mainly Hindu region of India's only Muslim-dominated state, Jammu & Kashmir, in the country's northern tip. The restive Himalayan state that borders Pakistan and is home to Muslim separatists battling Indian rule, has the biggest population of Rohingya in the country with around 7,000 people scattered in various makeshift settlements, largely in the Jammu region.

"We came to India because people told us things were better here, there's more work and one could move freely unlike back home," said Sahidullah, who works as a cleaner at a car showroom in Jammu city to support his aging amnesiac mother, wife and four children. "All that's true and we are thankful to India for letting us live here. But hatred against us is growing," he told Reuters as he sat on a colourful linen sheet laid on the floor of his self-made wood and plastic-sheet house built on a rented plot of land.

Mohammed Arfaat, a 24-year-old Rohingya youth leader in Jammu, said that locals often accuse them of having links with militants without any proof. "They want us out of here and that has got our families worried," said

Arfaat, switching between English and Hindi as nearly a dozen community elders seated around him on the rough concrete floor of a Rohingya house started leaving for Friday prayers. "Everybody here is aware of the deportation and is afraid."

Indian authorities said that the repatriation of the seven was a routine procedure and that it sends all illegal foreigners back home. But the UNHCR voiced deep concern on Friday about the safety and security of those expelled, saying they had been denied access to legal counsel and a chance to have their asylum claims assessed. "Current conditions in Myanmar's Rakhine state are not conducive for safe, dignified and sustainable return of stateless Rohingya refugees," said UNHCR spokesman Andrej Mahecic. Most Rohingya used to live in Rakhine. In August last year, attacks by Rohingya fighters on security posts in Rakhine led to a bloody military crackdown that caused around 700,000 Rohingya to flee across the border to Bangladesh. The United Nations has accused Myanmar of acting against the Rohingya with "genocidal intent," a charge Myanmar refutes, saying its military did not use excessive force and was reacting to militant attacks.

The atmosphere facing the Rohingya in India has been getting increasingly ugly. Jammu's Chamber of Commerce & Industry last year threatened to launch an "identify and kill movement" against the settlers, which it said pushed the government into taking the issue of Rohingya more seriously. The chamber's president, Rakesh Gupta, told Reuters on Friday that there was nothing new in taking the law into one's hands if "someone becomes a threat to our security, to the nation's security, and the security forces don't tackle them".

In some of the more virulent parts of India's media, the Rohingya are not only accused of being terrorists but also of trafficking in drugs and humans, and of having the money to elbow out local businesses. The Pioneer newspaper, which supports the BJP, said in an editorial on Saturday that "the Rohingya are a problem", declaring that those that are radicalized Islamist extremists need to be dealt with ruthlessly and the rest are economic migrants that India cannot afford to help. India, which considers itself a victim of Islamist militancy and is trying to boost economic ties with Myanmar to counter China, said late last year that it shared Myanmar's concern about "extremist violence" by Rohingya militants. — Reuters

Illegal miners
try their luck in
Mozambique
ruby rush

Deep inside a forest, sweating men haul earth out of rough excavation holes and carry it in bags on their backs to a stream. Then they sift for the small, red stones that could make their fortune - miners say they have sold single rubies for thousands of dollars, many times the local monthly wage which is typically under \$200. In northern Mozambique, informal - and illegal - ruby mining is a tough business that has attracted thousands of itinerant workers despite strenuous crackdowns by police and private guards.

The ruby deposits, which were discovered only nine years ago, are relatively accessible in shallow ground, triggering the sudden birth of a frantic wildcat mining industry. Mozambique now accounts for 80 percent of global ruby production - but the illegal mining is a far cry from the giant mining companies and the chic auction houses in Singapore where millions of dollars of gems are sold.

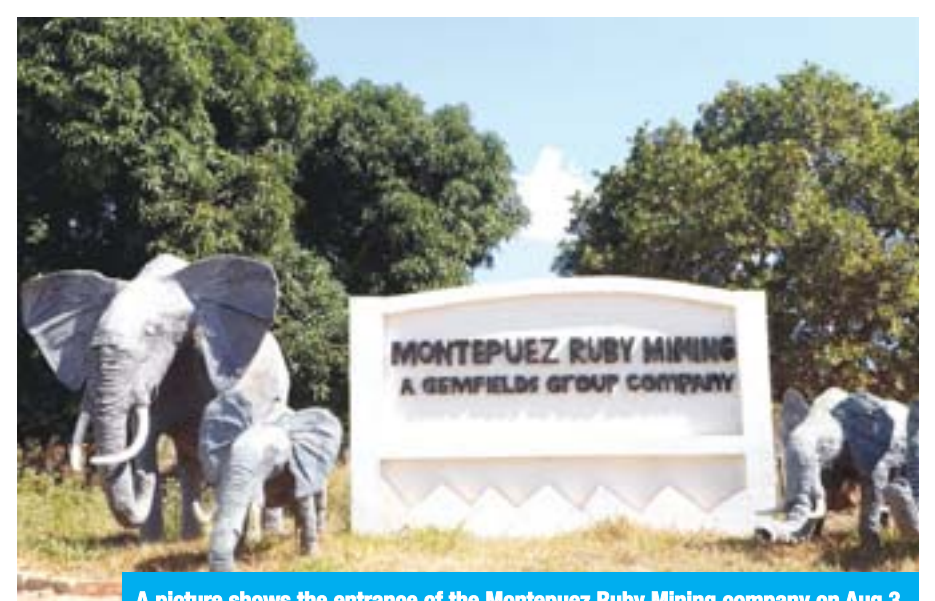
"I'm here because of poverty," Faque Almeida, 46, who has spent much of the last eight years in the forests of Montepuez in search of the blood-red gemstones, told AFP. He said he left his home province of Nampula, 400 km south, unaware that it was illegal to look for rubies in Montepuez

district after the government sold the rights to a large mining company. "I was unemployed. When I left my home, I thought that breaking into the owner's door is a crime, but I did not know that digging the land is also a crime," said Almeida. "Last year I was arrested, I stayed in jail for 14 days. I was released when my family paid 14,000 meticais (about \$240) to the police," he said, holding a pickaxe in one hand. Montepuez Ruby Mining (MIRM), a subsidiary of London-based Gemfields, won the mining rights to 36,000 hectares of ruby-rich land in Mozambique in 2011.

'I've lost many friends'

The arrival of the British mining firm saw the authorities and an army of private security officers swoop down on the area and the hundreds of illicit miners known as "garimpeiros". "Sometimes holes collapse and fall on top of us. I've lost many friends and a brother here. But the biggest problem is the police and security guards," said Fernando Zulu. "They come, arrest us, torture us and even bury our colleagues in the holes. Our demand is that the government authorise us to dig, extract the rubies and sell them to the government."

To evade the authorities, miners like Zulu have retreated deeper into the forest, hours on foot from the nearest road. Miners sleep in makeshift huts for weeks in search of a sizeable stone which, if found, is immediately taken to the nearest village. There it is sold to foreigners including Senegalese, Malians or Nigerians at the start of the illegal chain of trading. "I buy the stones and resell. I don't think I'm an illegal migrant. I'm on my continent," said Senegalese gem reseller Amadou Wantaka. The stones then



A picture shows the entrance of the Montepuez Ruby Mining company on Aug 3, 2018, in the mining town of Montepuez, Mozambique. — AFP

end up in the hands of bigger dealers from Thailand, South Asia or Vietnam.

Violence against the miners, which has allegedly cost numerous lives, has been closely documented by observer groups but police and Gemfields categorically deny any involvement. Gemfields CEO Sean Gilbertson told AFP that "the relationship between our security men and the illegal miners is not necessarily friendly, but we do everything to respect the human rights of illegal miners". He said there had been a few "very worrying" cases of police or guards being bribed to allow illegal mining but the number was limited and guards now wore body cameras to ensure good

conduct. And he stressed that legal mining generated million of dollars of tax revenue for Mozambique - in contrast to illegal mining. Augusto Guta, police spokesman in Cabo Delgado region, insisted all police operations were safe and legal. Cassiano Johane left his hometown Lindi in Tanzania 650 km away in 2011 to head to Montepuez in search of rubies. "I have found stones several times and after selling them I send the money to my family," he said. But Johane's life in Montepuez has been as harsh as that of all illegal miners. "I was detained once in 2011, taken to Pemba prison for five months. I was badly beaten by the police," he recalled. — AFP

Business

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2018

12 Dollar appreciates on hawkish rhetoric, economic fundamentals**13** Saturated Lisbon airport puts Portugal tourism boom at risk**14** Are transportation stocks the market's canary in a coal mine?

KHARTOUM: An employee checks banknotes at a foreign currency brokerage office in Khartoum yesterday. Sudan slashed the official value of its currency against the US dollar by more than half yesterday, the third devaluation this year. — AFP

Sudan slashes value of its currency by half

Third devaluation this year as mounting economic crisis bites

KHARTOUM: Sudan slashed the official value of its currency against the US dollar by more than half yesterday, the third devaluation this year in the face of a mounting economic crisis.

The move came just weeks after President Omar Al-Bashir replaced the government over its failure to curb economic woes including soaring food prices.

The central bank pegged the Sudanese pound at 47.5 against the dollar. Previously, the official rate was 28 to the dollar, while the currency had fallen to 45.50 on the black market last week.

The central bank had said a committee would look into the acute shortage of foreign currency that has been weighing on the pound. "The committee decided that today's rate is 47.5 Sudanese pound to a dollar," Abbas Abdallah, a committee member and head of the bankers'

union, told AFP. "The committee will now announce the market rate daily."

At the end of last year, the official rate stood at 6.7 pounds to the dollar. It was unclear whether the latest devaluation was part of efforts to float the pound as recommended by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to curb the wide gap between the official and unofficial exchange rates that had severely impacted Sudan's economy.

"For a proper functioning of the currency market, the central bank needs to have good reserves of dollars as well as Sudanese pounds," said a senior executive of a leading business group in Sudan. "As for dollar reserves, everybody knows the situation faced by the bank."

Traders dismiss devaluation

Sudan has struggled to boost its foreign currency

reserves since the south split from the north in 2011, taking with it the bulk of the country's oil revenues. Traders expressed surprise at yesterday's sharp devaluation but said the disparity between the official and unofficial markets would continue.

"This devaluation won't have much of an impact as international banking transactions remain cumbersome," said a black market trader on condition of anonymity.

But the IMF has pushed for unifying the exchange rates. "A unified and market-determined exchange rate is key to further reducing external imbalances and boosting competitiveness, investment, growth and fiscal revenues," the IMF said in December 2017.

Despite the IMF's recommendation, Sudan has been wary of allowing the currency to float freely on the foreign exchange market, fearing that it might trigger unrest.

Protests erupted in January after the authorities cut wheat subsidies, but they were quickly curbed by security forces. Food prices have since more than doubled on the back of surging inflation that stands at nearly 70 percent.

A much-awaited economic revival also failed to materialize after Washington lifted its decades-old sanctions in October 2017. Washington has kept Sudan on its list of "state sponsors of terrorism," which officials say makes international banks wary of doing business with Sudan—a key reason for the foreign currency crisis.

Sudan's annual economic growth averaged over six percent during the decade to 2008, but it has since declined, with the crisis only growing since the secession of the south. The economy grew 3.2 percent in 2017, according to the IMF. — AFP

Lucky Gulf Bank draw winner to claim KD 25,000 today

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank will announce the lucky winner of their third quarterly salary account draw today. The draw, where one lucky winner will claim KD 25,000, will be broadcast on Kuwait Pulse (88.8FM) radio program "Diwaniyat Al-Yaqout & Al-Ansari" at 1.30 pm.

The salary account offer is tailored to Kuwaiti customers, allowing them to benefit from a number of unique offers when they transfer their salaries through Gulf Bank.

Speaking of the draw, Ahmad Al-Amir, Assistant General Manager for External Communications at Gulf Bank said: "It is our pleasure to reward our long-term customers and forge a deeper connection with new Gulf Bank customers. We at Gulf Bank are committed to providing value to our loyal customers with the best in class products and services to exceed their expectations and help make their dreams



Ahmad Al-Amir

come true." The salary account gives new customers the opportunity to receive either a KD 100 cash gift upon transferring their salaries to Gulf Bank or an interest-free loan. Customers must have a minimum salary of KD 500 and be fully eligible for the offer following their first salary transfer to Gulf Bank.

Customers can also enjoy a one year free of charge Visa or MasterCard credit card, as well as a chance to apply for loan up to KD 70,000, or a consumer loan up to KD 15,000.

Existing and new customers, who transfer their salaries to Gulf Bank are automatically enrolled in the quarterly draws and have the chance to win valuable cash prizes, including three quarterly prizes of KD 25,000, in addition to Kuwait's largest salary prize of KD 250,000 in the last draw. The Gulf Bank's final salary draw, for the large prize of KD 250,000, will be held on 7 February 2019.

Turkey keen on budget discipline

ANKARA: Turkish Finance Minister Berat Albayrak said there would be no compromise in budget discipline in his program to combat surging inflation due to be announced next week, the state-run Anadolu news agency reported yesterday. Earlier this week data showed Turkey's inflation soared to a 15-year high of nearly 25 percent in September, with prices jumping 6.3 percent from a month earlier.

The size of the increase far outpaced expectations and underscored the deep impact of a currency crisis on the economy and consumers, after the lira lost nearly 40 percent of its value this year. — Reuters

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Business

NBK Money Market Report

Dollar appreciates on hawkish rhetoric, economic fundamentals

Euro remains volatile on lingering Italian turmoil

KUWAIT: The US economy is currently booming. The unemployment rate is near its lowest level since the 1960s with expectations of dropping further in the coming months. Wage growth has accelerated to its quickest pace in nine years while GDP reported higher than 4 percent in the second quarter of 2018. The yield on the 10-year treasury just hit its highest level since 2011. A fast-growing US economy traditionally brings along a fear of inflation. US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell set to calm such concerns during his speech stating that rising wages and low employment do not necessarily coincide with high inflation and would not force him to hike rates aggressively, adding such correlations have diminished in recent decades. Powell further affirmed his opinion stating that the US Central Bank is still far from its neutral state, which is the rate at which the economy is neither stimulated nor restrained. Powell's hawkish approach bolstered expectations of further rate hikes while the markets witnessed a strong dollar across the board following the statements. The markets implied probability for a fourth rate hike in December is around 80 percent. The US dollar index gained nearly 1.19 percent over the past 15 days.

Looking at equities, high yields on US treasury bonds continue to weigh heavily on global equity markets. The yield on 10-year treasury notes hit 3.23 percent on Thursday, reporting its highest yield since 2011. Stocks fell across the board with the Stoxx Europe 600 Index losing 1.1 percent, the MSCI Emerging Market Index tumbling 2.5 percent, and the MSCI Asia Pacific Index dropping 1 percent to its lowest level in 3 weeks. US stocks fell the most since June as volatility spiked following allegations of China's infiltration with American companies. The S&P dropped to a 3 week low while technology shares suffered the greatest as the Nasdaq 100 Index reported its worst day since June, sliding 2.1 percent.

Manufacturing

Looking at US economic fundamentals, US manufacturing eased in September, though still reported a growing trend. The Institute for Supply Management reported activity at 59.8, down 1.5 points from August's 61.3 level that was the highest reported since May 2004. September's figure represents the 25th straight

month of the sector reporting levels of expansion.

Non-manufacturing PMI rose to a record high since the index was created in 2008. The PMI rose to 61.6 in September, up from August's 58.5 level and beating market expectations of 58. While the levels appear positive for the economy, such growth can possibly be attributed to companies preparing for the Trump administration's tariffs and retaliatory tariffs in return. Companies have already complained of disruption from tariffs as exports decreased to their slowest level in 10 months. Regardless, data emerged strong and further supported the US dollar.

NAFTA dispute comes to an end

The trilateral pact between the US, Canada, and Mexico known as NAFTA, has been renamed by President Trump as the "United States Mexico Canada Agreement", or USMCA. Following months of uncertainty, the US and Canada have reached an agreement just hours before the deadline, tackling issues related to the dairy sector, dispute settlement mechanisms, car tariffs, and cultural provisions. All three parties will sign the revamped agreement on November 30. However, the vote would not occur until 2019 when a new US congress will form, possibly complicating the deal's prospects if the Democratic Party were to win control of the House of Representatives. After re-writing the 24-year old NAFTA agreement, president Trump shifted his attention to the European Union. The US has already levied tariffs on imports of EU steel and aluminum while Brussels retaliated with tariffs on \$3.2 billion worth of US goods. Though the US and EU had agreed to halt negotiations back in July, president Trump has again threatened to slap tariffs on the EU's car exports.

A tightening labor market

Adding to the strong economic data trend for the US, the unemployment rate fell to its lowest level since 1969 for the month of September. The Bureau of Labor Statistics also reported on Friday that non-farm payrolls rose by 134,000, significantly below the 185,000 expectations. However, August's upward revision to the previous month eased concerns as employers added 270,000 jobs. July's figures also revised up to 165,000 from 147,000. The unemploy-

ment rate came in better than expected at 3.7 percent, below expectations of 3.8 percent. Average hourly earnings rose in line with expectations by 2.8 percent. Overall, this week's figures boosted optimism about the US economy's health and are in line with the Fed's expectations of ongoing economic expansion.

Turmoil in Italy

The euro experienced a volatile week as political turmoil began with the Italian populist coalition government announcing their preparation of a new controversial budget proposal. The running coalition has planned to run a deficit of 2.4 percent of GDP next year, which more than triples the previous government's target, and 2.2 percent in 2020. The announcement shook markets as the Euro fell, losing 1 percent throughout the week. Currently, the Euro is trading around 1.1523. Prime Minister Theresa May failed to provide any news of advancement on Brexit negotiations during the Tory Party Conference speech. Though she pledged to accept no deal rather than a bad one, the sterling barely moved in response. What may also have added to the sterling's resilience are comments made by the UK Brexit negotiator Dominic Raab, as he confidently stated that they will be able to submit a deal by November. Nonetheless, the final Brexit outcome remains highly uncertain as May sticks to her Chequers deal plan, which may solve the Irish border issue. However, it relies on the UK staying within the single market for goods and has grown to be unpopular even among her party. A harder break has been called for which would see the UK leaving the single market, free to negotiate a free trade deal with the EU and the rest of the world. Looking forward, EU leaders are set to meet at the European Council in Brussels on October 18-19.

UK manufacturing

The Manufacturing sector activity in the UK economy unexpectedly saw an uptick in September, beating expectations of a drop to 52.5 and instead rising to 53.8 following an upwardly revised figure of 53 in August. Output and new order growth both accelerated, while business optimism improved as over 53 percent of companies expect production to increase over the next year. Looking at the broader picture however, the manufacturing sector has contracted sig-



nificantly compared to a strong performance of growth in 2017, mainly due to the effect of Brexit uncertainty. Still, the sterling remained the most resilient currency against the strengthening US dollar.

China's hacking scandal

The world's two largest economies are at a face-off after news of China hacking US companies dragged investor sentiment. The MSCI AC Asia Pacific Index hit its lowest level since July 2017 after a Bloomberg News article was released on Friday. The article claimed that Beijing had hacked American computer networks using a microchip built by its spies. US investigators found that China's People's Liberation Army had inserted the chips during manufacturing. China's computer maker at the center of the allegations Lenovo Group Ltd dropped 23 percent, reporting its biggest loss in almost a decade. Paired with a months-long tariff dispute, the latest developments raise the question of China's place in the supply chain to the US consumer.

Japan's consumption

Japan's household spending and base pay rose in August to their highest levels in years. Household spending recorded its biggest jump in 3 years, rising 2.8 percent in August. Base pay also saw its biggest rise since 1997, climbing 1.4 percent over the year. Consumer spending is seen as key to the self-sustaining recovery attempted by the BOJ as bigger pay raises this year are expected to help households face

Commodities

As for the commodities complex, oil prices tumbled 3 percent on Thursday on the prospect of increased production from Saudi Arabia and Russia. Recently, oil prices had gone up to four-year highs as US sanctions on Iran and supply losses from Venezuela contributed to the high priced market. In an attempt to counteract soaring prices, Saudi Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih announced on Thursday that the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries was able to raise output by 1.3 million barrels per day. The kingdom also plans to invest \$20 billion to expand its spare oil production capacity.

Markets now brace for US sanctions on Iran's oil exports that will take effect on November 4. The main concern is that less supply will affect Asian buyers who are usually reliant on Iranian imports. Adding to the markets pressure, a strengthening dollar makes dollar-denominated oil more expensive for buyers with other currencies. Brent crude fell 1.02 percent to \$84.16 a barrel this past week, while US West Texas Intermediate faced a 1.06 percent loss, settling at \$74.33 a barrel.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar USD/KWD opened at 0.30335 yesterday morning.

US economy booms as elections near, but who gets credit?

WASHINGTON: Control of the US Congress hangs in the balance in hard-fought midterm elections next month. And, even with a booming economy, the party in power does not have the wind at its back.

The lowest unemployment level in nearly 50 years has also not substantially lifted President Donald Trump's standing in opinion polls, and he remains among the least popular US leaders of the last 70 years. Forecasts point to solid chances that Democrats could wrest control of the House of Representatives away from Republicans, drastically shifting the political landscape in Washington.

Below are some facts on the recent run of the world's largest economy.

How good is the economy?

Quite. By most measures, it is unusually strong. US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said last week the outlook was "remarkably positive." GDP grew at a 4.2 percent clip in the second quarter, the strongest in nearly four years and the fastest among advanced economies—though it was helped by a few one-off factors that are unlikely to be replicated later in the year.

The last time the unemployment rate was this low — 3.7 percent—president Richard Nixon was enacting tax reform and The Beatles were breaking up. Inflation is rising only slowly, but enough to eat into wages, which also are growing sluggishly. Job creation through September has averaged 218,000 net new positions a month so far this year, the fastest rate since 2015. Consumer and business confidence, as well as measures of services and manufacturing activity, are all at historically high levels. But the housing sector, which can be a leading indicator in the economic cycle, appears in decline, with building and sales steadily weakening. Wall Street also has been very happy for much of the past 20 months, repeatedly smashing records.

But economist Jared Bernstein, adviser to former Vice President Joe Biden, notes that prosperity has not been evenly shared. Corporate after-tax profits rose 14.9 percent in the first six quarters of the Trump era, but mid-level hourly wages gained only 0.5 percent in the same period.

Credit to Trump or Obama?

Economists caution against attributing economic performance, good or bad, solely to presidents. Trump has forcefully claimed ownership for the current economy but it was former President Barack Obama who presided over most of the recovery. "There's no question that there's a mixture of credit involved. President Obama took office during the worst downturn since the Great Depression," Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a Republican former director of the Congressional Budget Office, told AFP.

But Trump has slashed taxes and regulations to energize businesses, Holtz-Eakin said. Following December's tax cuts and a big spending package enacted in February, the US economy does appear to be growing faster than it did in the prior two years—for now—and business investment picked up. The International Monetary Fund in July forecast US growth of 2.9 percent for 2018, which would match the expansion in 2015 under Obama. But as unemployment has fallen and available workers have become scarce, job growth has actually slowed under Trump.

Since January 2017, the economy had added 3.9 million jobs. But in the final 21 months of Obama's presidency, there were 4.5 million net new positions created. And, since peaking at 10 percent in October 2009, the US unemployment rate has fallen 6.3 percentage points: 5.3 points of that was under Obama and just one under Trump. —AFP

Infiniti Al-Babtain lights in in solidarity of 'Breast Cancer Awareness' month

KUWAIT: Reinforcing the importance of early detection, and check-ups as part of its awareness campaign, Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co (AABC), the sole authorized dealer of Infiniti vehicles in the State of Kuwait, showed its support by lighting up the showroom and external facade in 'Pink'. As a long term advocate of the important cause and of the prevention and control of the rapidly growing disease in Kuwait, Infiniti Al-Babtain urges every woman to educate themselves on potential risks, symptoms, and treatment methods.

Globally, October is observed as the month of 'breast cancer awareness' where in different organizations come together to address the new dangers as well as commit to sharing possible life saving solutions. Women are an important foundation of the society and it has fast become a priority among medical

and governmental bodies to curb the dangers of this disabling condition.

According to last year's statistics, ten of 1,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer wherein women over 40 years are at a higher risk and are advised to conduct regular examinations.

Driven by its corporate social responsibility to bring about positive change within the communities it thrives in, Infiniti Al-Babtain has been campaigning for several social initiatives that matter to the brand, ranging from safety precautions while driving, youth empowerment through sports and healthy lifestyle options, and breast cancer awareness.

In lieu of the pink month, Infiniti Al-Babtain will be holding several offers and promotions to celebrate women and their inherent role in the community.

Al Babtain Group was founded in 1948, to present a model of honesty, integrity and total dedication, gaining a solid reputation in the State of Kuwait and the Middle East area. Today, Al-Babtain Group has licensing rights for some of the world's leading brands stretching the globe from the USA to the Far East.

For 70 years, Al-Babtain Group has experienced continued success and a large measure of this success came from the Group's advanced flexible manage-

IMF in quake-hit Indonesia to focus on global economic tremors

BALI: Rising protectionism, vulnerable emerging markets and record debt levels: The IMF holds its annual meeting this week in earthquake-stricken Indonesia, as it shines a light on tremors in the global economy. Finance ministers and central bankers from 180 nations will be among 32,000 attendees in Bali for the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, which takes place every three years outside of Washington. The gathering will be held from Tuesday to Sunday.

The resort island of Bali is 1,125 kilometers (700 miles) from Palu, the city on Sulawesi that was wracked by an earthquake and tsunami on September 28 that left more than 1,500 dead and 1,000 missing.

Despite the distance, security is a major concern for Indonesian organizers.

Bali experienced a series of volcanic eruptions over the summer, while the neighboring island of Lombok was struck by a string of deadly earthquakes. If there is an earthquake, Jakarta recommends participants stay in the conference center, which, like many hotels in Bali, is built to withstand such seismic events.

In case of tsunami risk, attendees would be evacuated to a nearby building.

But the focus of the meeting is averting economic rather than natural disasters. The trade war launched by US President Donald Trump against China, along with disputes with allies like the European Union, Mexico and Canada, is a key source of concern. The dispute caused a proliferation of protectionist measures in recent months that is weighing more and more on international trade.

Risks materialize

Trump has imposed tariffs on \$250 billion of annual imports from China, to try to pressure Beijing to change trade policies he calls unfair, including theft of American technology. Beijing countered by imposing punitive duties on \$110 billion of US products. Washington also has imposed steep tariffs on steel, aluminum, washing machines and solar panels, drawing retaliation from Canada, Mexico, China and others.

Like the OECD, which lowered its economic growth forecast for the world economy to 3.7 percent for 2018, IMF chief Christine Lagarde signaled the fund would cut the outlook which in July stood at 3.9 percent. After sounding the alarm in recent years about threats to the global economy, Lagarde said last week "some of those risks have begun to materialize" and "there are signs that global growth has plateaued."

The rise in trade barriers is slowing trade, and dampening investment and manufacturing as uncertainty increases, she said. And she repeated the warning about rising debt levels which "reached an all-time high of \$182 trillion—almost 60 per-



ment style and long-term vision. These astounding results were achieved due to a versatile strategic formula focusing on growth amongst its sphere of activities; including automotive, technology, investment, information technology, industrial and Finance.

The automotive sector is the main activity within Al-Babtain Group's busi-

ness, which represents some of the best-selling brands in Kuwait, in addition to heavy equipment. The Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co. (AABC) is proud to be the sole authorized dealer and distributor of leading Japanese, European (French) and Chinese vehicles in Kuwait such as Nissan, Infiniti Renault & Citroen.



DENPASER BALI: This handout photo taken and released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) yesterday shows IMF managing director Christine Lagarde (left) and Indonesia Minister Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan (right) carrying their finished coral fragments to the water where it will help rehabilitate the threatened coral reefs, ahead of the start of the 2018 IMF/World Bank annual meetings in Nusa Dua on the Indonesian resort island of Bali. —AFP

cent higher than in 2007."

That creates concerns for emerging market economies which will come under increased pressure as the US central bank raises interest rates, while investors are likely to pull out of those markets seeking higher returns.

Argentina and Turkey already have been hit by headwinds, seeing their currencies collapse and forcing Buenos Aires to go the IMF for help. The fund recently increased support for Argentina by \$7 billion to \$57 billion in exchange for tough economic policy reforms, although the loan has not yet been approved by the IMF board. But Economist Monica de Bolle of

the Peterson Institute for International Economics said Brazil also was likely to see market turbulence next year and South Africa is vulnerable as well.

"This is not going to end well," de Bolle said of the emerging market outlook.

There could be broader repercussions in the event China's economic engine slows sharply amid the trade confrontation. Group of 20 finance ministers also are due to meet in Bali on the sidelines of the IMF meeting to discuss topics such as US sanctions against Iran or taxes on digital giants. This will be the last meeting prior to the leaders' summit in Buenos Aires at the end of November. —AFP

Business

Saturated Lisbon airport puts Portugal tourism boom at risk

Record passenger traffic a bittersweet achievement for economy

LISBON: A record number of passengers using Lisbon's airport is proving a bittersweet achievement as daily delays and a lack of space to park planes threatens to strangle the goose laying golden eggs for Portugal's economy. Tourists flocking to Lisbon to soak up some sun and while away evenings listening to Fado music in the city's bars has been one of the bright spots in Portugal's economy, which was wracked by the eurozone debt crisis at the start of the decade.

But with Lisbon's Humberto Delgado airport having already in 2016 passed its capacity forecasts for 2025, there are mounting concerns that without rapid investments it might soon act as a choke valve on the motor of Portugal's economy.

In 2017, the airport set a new record of 26.7 million passengers, a 66 percent increase over four years. And traffic is up another 11 percent over the first eight months of this year.

The Portuguese government, national airline TAP and the tourism sector all agree: construction of a second airport for the capital needs to get underway.

'Frustrating' situation

The plan under discussion is to convert Montijo airbase on the opposite side of the Tagus river from Lisbon into a civil airport. As a stop-gap measure, a little-used secondary runway at the current airport, located in the city's northern suburbs, will be closed to make space to park planes. The Montijo project, which would take overall capacity to 50 million passengers per year, has been the subject of discussions since February last year between the government and ANA, the operator of 10 Portuguese airports that is owned by French construction and management firm Vinci.

The discussions are well advanced and should be

wrapped up soon, say both sides. But for airlines, the wait is uncomfortable. "The delivery calendar for our new planes is set, but I don't know yet if I'll have space to park them. It's really frustrating," the chief executive of TAP, Antonioaldo Neves, said at a recent conference.

"If we don't move forward with the necessary speed, all of Portugal will be left behind," he said.

TAP is the principal airline at Lisbon airport, and constraints there could begin to stunt their company's growth next year. "What are we waiting for to move forward with the Montijo option?" questioned the head of the association of tourism firms, Francisco Calheiros.

Some estimates say Portugal stands to lose one million tourists per year because of the situation.

Prime Minister Antonio Costa recognized there is "no other solution" but said the government is waiting for the results of an environmental impact study to "make the decision absolutely irreversible".

'Correct the mistake'

The situation Lisbon finds itself in is also part of the legacy of the eurozone debt crisis, which pushed the country into seeking an international bailout in 2010. As part of the bailout the government slashed spending and investment, including abandoning plans to build an entirely new airport in a town adjacent to Montijo.

"We need to correct the mistake made when it was decided not to build an airport that we already needed then," said Costa. For Thierry Ligonniere, the chief operating officer of ANA and a member of the management board of Vinci Airports, the problem is to some degree a consequence of success.

"If we have difficulties at Lisbon airport, it is because traffic grew rapidly," he told AFP on the sidelines of the conference. The conversion of Montijo



LISBON: A man stands on the sidewalk in front of Humberto Delgado airport in Lisbon. —AFP

would require ANA to make investments totaling several hundreds of millions of euros, the company estimates. "We are content to be in a situation of investing

so much money so quickly because that is saying good work has been done in traffic development," he said. —AFP

US advertising firms grapple with 'Me Too'

NEW YORK: Some of corporate America's dirty secrets were aired this week at a conference that overlapped the anniversary of the "Me Too" movement and the contentious debate over Brett Kavanaugh, who was confirmed as the latest Supreme Court justice on Saturday. An Advertising Week session on human resources veered between confession and crusading.

One speaker described the indignity of being harassed while pregnant. Others discussed soul-crushing details of working on non-disclosure agreements for harassment victims paid off to leave the company and keep quiet. Advertising—a field that like entertainment sometimes rewards those who push the boundaries—is yet another industry that has seen executives pushed out of major firms following allegations of sexual misconduct.

"There are a lot of ways in which HR has been complicit," said Rebecca Weaver, cofounder of HR Uprise, an activist group launched over the last year.

"If you've ever sent out that email saying 'so and so has resigned to explore other opportunities,' you're lying to your

team," said Weaver, who called for a "reckoning" in HR policies for the longtime good of the industry. The conference was held as the US reeled over the nomination and eventual confirmation of Kavanaugh to a lifetime position on the Supreme Court after several women accused him of sexual assault while in the 1980s.

The Kavanaugh allegations came a year into the "Me Too" uprising spawned by horror stories of Hollywood executive Harvey Weinstein and other serial harassers usually aided by a phalanx of corporate henchmen.

Senior female advertising executives came together earlier this year to form Times Up Advertising to "create equitable and safe cultures within our agencies," according to a mission statement signed by 180 women. "Sexual harassment is not OK. Never. No exceptions. No amount of talent, missed cues, or being great in the room unchecks the No Sexual Harassment box," said the letter. "Time's up on silence."

The more anarchic Diet Madison Avenue, an anonymously-run Instagram account, also is pushing for changes in the industry, calling out agencies and alleged individual harassers, leading to some dismissals. One of those executives, Ralph Watson, denied the allegations and sued Diet Madison Avenue in a California court for defamation after he was dismissed from Crispin Porter & Bogusky. Lawyers in the case for Watson and Diet Madison



Industry officials say they are rethinking workplace policies, including teaching bystanders to speak up, and allowing victims to feel safe filing a complaint. —AFP

Avenue are sparring over whether Instagram should be forced to respond to a subpoena that could unmask the group.

Ending 'whisper networks'

Industry officials say they are rethinking workplace policies, including teaching bystanders to speak up, and allowing victims to feel safe filing a complaint.

Experts say behavioral remedies could be far more critical than tweaking written

policies in turgid employee handbooks. One focus is on "bystander training," getting employees to call out sexist or racist statements made by colleagues.

In the infamous "Access Hollywood" tape in which Billy Bush laughed as US President Donald Trump made lewd comments about women, "You're really trying to reach Billy Bush and not Donald Trump," HR expert Weaver, who works at a Seattle advertising firm, told AFP. —AFP

Al-Tijari announces winners of Al-Najma weekly & monthly draws

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced the winners of the weekly and monthly draws as follows:

Monthly draw prize KD 20,000 - Nayattil Sarangupani Rajeeve

Weekly Draw prize KD 5000 - Fazel Amin Khanim Ullah

The draw was conducted in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative Abdulaziz Ashkanani. Al-Najma Account was recently revamped by adding several benefits to the prize program through which now the account provides its customers the chance to win the biggest annual cash prize offered by a bank in Kuwait and over the globe as much as KD 1 million and half (KD 1,500,000) so that customers' dreams can easily turn to reality.

The bank stated that the account prizes this year is featured by the highest cash prize and diversity of prizes throughout the year clarifying that Al-Najma Account will offer weekly prize of KD 5,000 and monthly prize of KD 20,000 and a semi-annual prize of KD 500,000 in addition to the grand prize (the biggest prize in the world) of KD 1,500,000 for which the draw will be held in January 2019. Al-Najma Account can be opened by depositing KD 100, and customer should maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 to be eligible to enter all draws on Al-Najma Account prizes. As for the chances of winning, the more balance a customer maintains in Al Najma Account, the more chances the account holder will get to win, where each KD 25 will give the customer one chance to win, the account also offers additional benefits like the ATM card, a credit card against customer's account and all CBK banking services that customer can enjoy.

Now CBK existing customers can open Al-Najma Account through Al-Tijari Online and enter all draws without visiting the Bank branch. However, CBK non-customers can submit account opening application via the Bank's website where the Bank's Sales Unit will call them to arrange visit to the customers to complete the account opening formalities.

China slashes banks' cash reserve ratio amid trade war

BEIJING: China's central bank yesterday announced a steep cut in the level of cash that banks must hold as reserves, stepping up moves to lower financing costs and spur growth amid concerns over the economic drag from an escalating trade dispute with the United States.

The reserve requirement cut, the fourth by the People's Bank of China (PBOC) this year, comes as Beijing has pledged to expedite plans to invest billions of dollars in infrastructure projects as the economy shows signs of cooling further, with investment growth slowing to a record low.

Reserve requirement ratios (RRRs) - currently 15.5 percent for large commercial lenders and 13.5 percent for smaller banks - would be cut by 100 basis points effective Oct. 15, the PBOC said, matching a similar-sized move in April. Economists predicted further cuts ahead.

Beijing has stepped up liquidity support across the financial system this year as policymakers have focused on calming fears of capital outflows and sought to soothe battered markets even as anxiety grows that a heated trade war with the United States could deal a damaging blow to the broader economy.

China's yuan currency has faced strong selling pressure this year, losing over 8 percent between March and August at the height of market worries, though it has since cut losses as authorities stepped up support.

Yesterday's move will inject a net 750 billion yuan (\$109.2 billion) in cash into the banking system by releasing a total of 1.2 trillion yuan in liquidity, with 450 billion yuan of that to offset maturing medium-term lending facility (MLF) loans. The RRR cut, announced on the last day of China's week-long National Day holiday, indicates that the central bank is worried about the impact of "external shocks" to markets such as a speech last week by US Vice President Mike Pence,



LONG BEACH: Shipping containers (right) are unloaded beside the Battleship USS Iowa (left) at the Port of Long Beach, in Los Angeles County. —AFP

said Zhang Yi, chief economist at Zhonghai Shengrong Capital Management.

Pence intensified Washington's pressure campaign against Beijing on Thursday by accusing China of "malign" efforts to undermine US President Donald Trump ahead of next month's congressional elections and reckless military actions in the South China Sea.

Pence's speech marked a sharpened US approach toward China, going beyond the bitter trade war between the world's two biggest economies, which has magnified concerns about the outlook for China's economy. Weakening exports were already a drag on growth in the first half of the year after giving an added boost to the economy last year, highlighting the need for sustained strength in domestic demand if significant new US tariffs are imposed.

The "very timely" RRR cut is big enough to help boost confidence in the economy, said Xu Hongcai, deputy chief economist at the China Center for International Economic Exchanges, a Beijing think tank.

"The trade war's impact on the economy is showing. There is room for further reductions and I expect another 1 percentage point cut by the year-end," Xu added.

The central bank said yesterday it would continue to take necessary measures to stabilize market expectations, while maintaining a prudent and neutral monetary policy. —Reuters

Warba Bank announces Al-Sunbula draws

KUWAIT: Warba Bank, "the Best investment Bank" and "Best Corporate Bank" in Kuwait, held its monthly draws which includes: Al-Sunbula Account monthly draw and the 36th weekly draw for Al-Sunbula Account. The draw announced the 9 lucky winners in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Bank officials.

The bank proudly announces the lucky four winners of its monthly draw for the month of October, Farhan Salem Farhan Al-Ajmi and Morouj Nadhem Nahi Al-Khalifah won KD 5,000. Talal Kanaan Mohammad Al-Otaibi and Abdulmajeed Salem Bnayyan Al-Dosari won KD 10,000 which is the grand prize. However, the lucky 5 winners who received 1000 KWD each are: Adel Arbeed Jluwi Al-Arbeed, Fatemah Meshari Abdullah Yousef, Mastourah Khashan Mohammad Al-Khaldi, Ghala Yousef Abdullah Fayeze and Hala Mahmoud Mohamed Youis.

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

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

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

Business

NBK Capital Monthly Market Commentary

Global equities continued winning streak in Sept; Fed rates edge up

Trump clinches trade deal with Mexico and Canada

KUWAIT: Global equities continued their winning streak for the third straight month in September closing 0.3 percent in the green as measured by the MSCI All Country World Index. For the quarter, the index closed up 3.8 percent. In the US, both the Dow Jones and S&P 500 were up for the month 1.9 percent and 0.4 percent respectively while for the quarter, the indices were up 9.0 percent and 7.2 percent. During the month, President Trump was able to come to an agreement with both Mexico and Canada to replace NAFTA with a new trade agreement, while implemented additional tariffs on Chinese products valued at \$200 billion.

The Federal Reserve met towards the end of the month and increased its fed funds rate by 25 bps as was widely expected and provided guidance for potentially one more hike in 2018 and possibly three in 2019. Gross Domestic Product came in at 4.2 percent on an annualized basis, meeting expectations while both the Market Manufacturing PMI and Markit Services PMI remained above the 50 mark at 55.6 and 53.5, respectively.

In Europe, markets in September were able to stop the bleeding from the previous month closing up 0.2 percent while registering a gain of 0.9 percent for the quarter. The two largest sub-markets within Europe had mixed performances. The CAC 40 Index posted a gain of 1.6 percent closing out the quarter up 3.2 percent while the DAX Index closed both the month and quarter down 1.0 percent and 0.5 percent, respectively. Towards the end of the month, Italy's budget, targeting a deficit of 2.4 percent of GDP over the next three-years, surprised both EU officials and market participants alike. The European Central Bank did not change its monetary policy during its monthly meeting although it did confirm its intention to unwind its monthly asset purchase program starting next month. Consumer Confidence within the eurozone dropped from -1.9 to -2.9, whereas the Markit Manufacturing and Services PMI each continue to indicate growth with readings of 53.2 and 54.7, respectively.

FTSE 100

The UK's FTSE 100 Index closed the month of September in positive territory up 1.0 percent while posting a loss of 1.7 percent for the quarter dragged

down by performance in August. Brexit remains the main topic of discussion surrounding the UK and EU. During the month, the EU rejected the latest proposal from UK's Prime Minister May leaving the split unsettled and moving towards a hard divorce. This has given way to discussions within the UK on a snap election as early as November or even a second referendum. The Bank of England met earlier in the month and kept rates unchanged, as expected, citing concerns related to Brexit. On the economic front, the Gfk Consumer Confidence dropped to -9 from -7 while Gross Domestic Product year-on-year for Q2 grew by 1.2 percent. The Markit Manufacturing PMI increased from its last reading to 53.8 while the Markit Services PMI slipped to 53.9 from 54.3.

Japan's Nikkei 225 continued its positive run into September posting its largest monthly gain of 5.5 percent year to date. On a quarterly basis, the index is the best performer relative to other global indices posting a gain of 8.1 percent. Furthermore, the index hit an intraday high during the month, its highest level dating back 27 years to November 1991. Defensive stocks have contributed significantly to this performance in addition to the Bank of Japan's plans to continue with its accommodative monetary policy. The Nikkei Manufacturing PMI came in at 52.5, slightly below the previous month's reading of 52.9. The Markit Services PMI retreated from August's reading of 51.5 to 50.7. In addition, the Consumer Confidence inched up to 43.4 from 43.3, although it remains below the 50 mark.

Emerging markets drop

Emerging markets, as measured by the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, posted a loss of 0.8 percent resulting in a quarterly decline of 2.0 percent. This underperformance was a result of major concerns revolving around the US-China trade war and the turmoil in major emerging market economies such as Turkey and Argentina among others. China and South Korea's main indices performed well in September with the Shanghai Composite Index up 3.5 percent and the KOSPI 200 Index up 0.2 percent. On a quarterly basis, China's index posted a negative return of 0.9 percent



while South Korea's index broke through into positive territory posting a gain of 0.3 percent. China has been unable to find common ground with the US in terms of de-escalating a potential all-out trade war and instead retaliated with tariffs of its own on US goods worth USD 60 billion. In terms of economic data, China's Caixin Manufacturing PMI dropped by 0.6 to 50 while Non-Manufacturing PMI increased to 54.9 from 54.2. In South Korea, the Nikkei Markit Manufacturing PMI crossed the 50 mark to settle at 51.3.

Brent Oil continued to rally posting a gain of 6.8 percent in September bringing its Q3 performance up to 4.1 percent. During the month, the commodity reached a high of USD 83.0pb, a level not seen since it began falling in the second half of 2014. Contributing to this rally are several factors including OPEC and Russia's decision not to increase production to compensate for supply shortages coming from Iran, due to US sanctions, and Venezuela, due to its economic crisis. Gold continues to

perform poorly, for the sixth month straight posting a loss of 0.9 percent resulting in a Q3 negative return of 4.9 percent.

GCC equities ended the month in positive territory, closing up 0.5 percent in September, as measured by the S&P GCC Index. On a quarterly basis the Index is up 0.7 percent. The regional markets were supported by the pick-up in global investor sentiment as well as anticipated capital inflows ahead of Kuwait's inclusion in FTSE's Emerging Market Index. The best performing index was Oman's MSM 30 Index up 2.8 percent followed by Saudi Arabia up 0.7 percent and Bahrain up 0.03 percent. The worst performing index was Abu Dhabi's ADX General Index down 1.0 percent followed by Qatar down 0.7 percent, Dubai down 0.2 percent and Kuwait down 0.1 percent. MENA equities also ended the month up 0.6 percent, as measured by the S&P Pan Arab Composite Index while Egypt's EGX 30 posted losses of 8.7 percent.

VIVA sponsors ArabNet Kuwait Conference 2018

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, has recently announced its sponsorship of "ArabNet Conference 2018 - Kuwait", that will take place from 8 to 9 October, 2018 at the Courtyard Hotel's Arraya Ballroom.

VIVA's participation aimed to reinforce the relation between telecom sector and entrepreneurs to support the vision of H.H. the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, about transforming Kuwait to a financial and commercial center "Kuwait 35". In addition, to foster the vital role of entrepreneurship in the society in order to create real opportunities to the upcoming generation and emphasize the importance of transferring valuable knowledge, experiences and expertise in the field of technology to young business owners to put them on the right track, and promoting innovative ideas in small to medium sized businesses.

Dedicated VIVA staff will be present at the VIVA's booth promoting the latest products and services offerings from VIVA that cater to personal and business requirements.

Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi account draw

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners are:

1. Lateefah Mohammad Hamad Albusaili
2. Raed Ahmad Aldabbousi Alqut
3. Eman Sulaiman Ahmad Alzamek
4. Bader Esam Bader Alessa
5. Fatimah Mosatafa Ali Mostafa

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, wherein the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.

AUTO1 opens exclusive genuine parts store

KUWAIT: AUTO1's automotive aftermarket parts entity Kuwait Auto Parts Imports Co WLL, opened its first-ever genuine parts showroom on Canada Dry Street, Shuwaikh Industrial Area during a distinguished event on the 1st of October 2018. The ceremony was attended by members of management from Al-Ghannam and AUTO1, guests from Al-Sayer and customers from the trade and retail.

The newly-opened store will exclusively showcase the entire range of genuine parts and accessories for the Toyota and Lexus range and will cater to both customers in both retail and trade segments. The prominent guests included the team from Al-Sayer - Aftermarket Parts Division comprising of

Das - Manager and Mohammed Zakir - Supervisor representing the principal agents of Toyota and Lexus in Kuwait.

Fouad Al-Ghannam - Board Member of KAPICO Group Holding Co, after inaugurating the store said "We have had an exceptional relationship with Al-Sayer Group in the past and we have been dealing for Toyota and Lexus genuine parts for a many years. Today, we are delighted and privileged to commence our exclusive store serving the genuine parts customers."

Ranveer Handa - CEO, KAPICO Group Holding Co was also present during the inauguration. He expressed that he was excited on the opening of the new showroom adding "AUTO1 has been for decades serving the Japanese auto parts market, this store means a new chapter in glorious AUTO1's story is about to begin. Toyota and Lexus being one of the leading vehicle brands in Kuwait, the demand for genuine parts has always been strong and steadily growing which has initiated the idea of this genuine store concept. We are very happy to serve our customers from this exclusive store and would like to thank Al-

Wall Street Week Ahead

Are transportation stocks the market's canary in a coal mine?

NEW YORK: The US transportation sector, which many see as a proxy indicator of the economy's health, has retreated 3.1 percent from its Sept. 14 record, hinting to some analysts that the longest bull market on record has entered its late stages.

Railways, freight carriers and package deliverers get less attention than heavy-hitting momentum stocks like Apple Inc and Amazon.com, but the sector could be showing cracks in what analysts and the US Federal Reserve characterize as a robust economy. Several constituents of the Dow Jones Transportation Average (DJT) have provided disappointing guidance in recent months. As the third-quarter reporting season approaches, investors will watch to gauge whether trade, fuel and dollar risks are affecting the sector's bottom line. The 20-company DJT has recently diverged from the broader market after a strong run since late June, suggesting these headwinds could be taking a toll. As the DJT has retreated, the broader Dow Jones Industrial Average has moved in the opposite direction. The Dow reached its most recent all-time high on Tuesday, 13 trading days after the DJT's Sept. 14 record.

Diverging highs between the two indexes can signal growing market instability. Similar divergences occurred leading into the recessions of 2001 and 2008-2009, and most recently heading into the market correction that began in late January. "The transports have been going sideways and haven't confirmed the new highs in the industrials," said Michael O'Rourke, chief market strategist at JonesTrading in Greenwich, Connecticut. "If the transports were to break down further from these levels, if you saw them declining another 2 or 3 percent in the near future, you would call that a bearish non-confirmation."

New NAFTA deal

On Friday, both indexes closed lower, with the DJT slipping 0.8 percent and the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropping 0.7 percent. Delta Air Lines Inc is due to report on Oct. 9, a week after lackluster forecasts from the company and its peer United Continental pulled US airline stocks lower. The bulk of the companies in the DJT are expected to post results in the latter half of October.

FedEx Corp, the first in the group to post quarterly earnings on Sept. 17, missed Wall Street estimates as costs weighed on

Sayer for their continuous supports."

"The store will be "one of its kind" catering to a discerning audience who are looking only for the best quality genuine parts, making it possible for them to keep their car as good as new. Hussein K Fawaz - Associate Vice President of Kuwait Auto Parts Imports Co WLL commented, "We would like to welcome all our customers to this store, where we will be offering extensive inventory of genuine parts. Located right in the heart of the automotive market, this location is ideal and will allow quick and easy access to the customers to buy their parts when they need at fair prices. Being an exclusive genuine parts store, customer will be rest assured that the parts sold from this counter will be all original, delivering the best fit and performance for the vehicles."

Kuwait Auto Parts Imports Co WLL, is a leader in automotive aftermarket parts for Asian origin vehicle models since decades and serves customers through its several stores across Kuwait. It also represents exclusively in Kuwait some of major aftermarket OEM parts manufacturers in world, covering the entire of automotive parts industry.

Flydubai to operate flights to select destinations from DWC

KUWAIT: Flydubai has announced yesterday that it will operate flights to select destinations from Dubai World Central (DWC) in order to provide more travel options to passengers during the southern runway refurbishment project previously announced by Dubai Airports. The refurbishment project is scheduled to take place between 16 April 2019 and 30 May 2019.

Flydubai will operate flights to 39 destinations from DWC during the period of the refurbishment project to ensure minimum disruption to passengers' travel plans. At DWC, passengers will continue to benefit from all the convenient travel services offered by flydubai at one of the world's future aviation and logistics hubs. During this period flights to ten of these destinations will also be available from DXB. Flights to all other flydubai destinations will continue to operate from Dubai International (DXB).

Commenting on the announcement, flydubai's Chief Executive Officer, Ghaith Al-Ghaith, said: "As we saw in 2014, runway enhancement programs continue to support the long term vision for aviation in the UAE. With flydubai flights operating to select destinations from DWC, we aim to not only support this vision but to provide our passengers with as much choice as possible to travel across our network with minimum disruption."

Flights to 39 destinations from flydubai's network of 92 destinations will operate from DWC during the runway enhancement project including flights to Alexandria, Delhi, Istanbul, Jeddah, Kuwait, Mumbai and Riyadh. Following the completion of the runway enhancement project on 30 May 2019, flydubai will resume its flights to these 39 destinations from Dubai International (DXB).



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

margins. The global package delivery company has been challenged this year by the ongoing trade disputes between the United States and its major bilateral trading partners, notably China and Europe.

Although a preliminary deal to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement has boosted railway stocks, looming tariffs threaten to increase the cost of transporting goods and services, further testing other DJT constituents. "There may well be blood in the water before we actually get some kind of agreement on trade between the US and China," said Bernard Baumohl, managing director and chief global economist at the Economic Outlook Group in Princeton, New Jersey. "It could do some serious damage in the long run as China seeks to establish new supply chain routes from other countries and rely less on the United States."

Analysts see costs of transportation fuels, which include gasoline, diesel and jet fuel, continuing to climb due to tightening supply and increasing demand.

Rising fuel costs are "depressing stocks that make up the transportation index," Baumohl added.

Brent Crude prices have risen nearly 26 percent since the beginning of the year and energy analysts see the trend continuing well into 2019.

"In the near-term we've seen prices increase as a result of Iranian sanctions reducing the supply of crude oil to the market," said Andrew Lipow, consultant at Lipow Oil Associates in Houston. "I expect that over the next year, the price in transportation fuel is going to be increasing." —Reuters

Technology

Russian hackers long tied to military and secret services

Russia faces accusations of waging a global campaign of cyber attacks

MOSCOW: During the Soviet era, the country's top computer scientists and programmers largely worked for the secret services. That practice appears to have resumed under President Vladimir Putin, as Russia faces accusations of waging a global campaign of cyber attacks. Dutch officials have accused four Russians from the GRU military intelligence agency of attempting to hack into the global chemical weapons watchdog in The Hague.

The agency has investigated both the fatal poisoning of Russian former double-agent Sergei Skripal; and an alleged chemical attack by Moscow-allied Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad. The Baltic states were the first to accuse Moscow of mounting attacks to knock out their sites back in 2007. Estonia said one such attack had put the country's main emergency service phone number out of action for over an hour. Since then, accusations of cyber attacks have continued against Moscow.

The Russian hacker group variously known as Fancy Bear, APT 28 and Sofacy has been linked to GRU and accused of attacks on the US Democrats' 2016 presidential campaign, together with Russia's FSB security service, the successor to the KGB. The skills of Russian hackers today developed from a tradition of excellent computing and programming skills dating back to the Soviet era. "The whole structure of the economy was skewed towards the military sector," said Oleg Demidov, a consultant at the Moscow-based independent think-tank PIR Center. "All the achievements of Soviet science including the first computers went to serve the military sector." The most brilliant students were pushed to work in the military and space sector, he added.

Banking crime

After the Soviet Union fell apart in 1991, its armed forces were broken up and most of the top specialists turned to the nascent banking sector in Russia, either to work there or to attack it. In this era saw the first cyber attacks on banking operations and the first mentions of Russian hackers. "Now Russian hackers are excellently trained and equipped and they still occupy one of the top positions in banking crime," said Demidov-even if the Russian justice system has begun to crack down on them.

In 2016, Russian cybersecurity giant Kaspersky estimated that between 2012 and 2015, Russian hackers had stolen at least \$790 million worldwide. Russian computer scientists study at "very strong universities in Saint Petersburg, Moscow, Novosibirsk, Kazan or Krasnoyarsk", said Denis Kuskov of TelecomDaily specialized research agency. They "can work anywhere in the world, in any

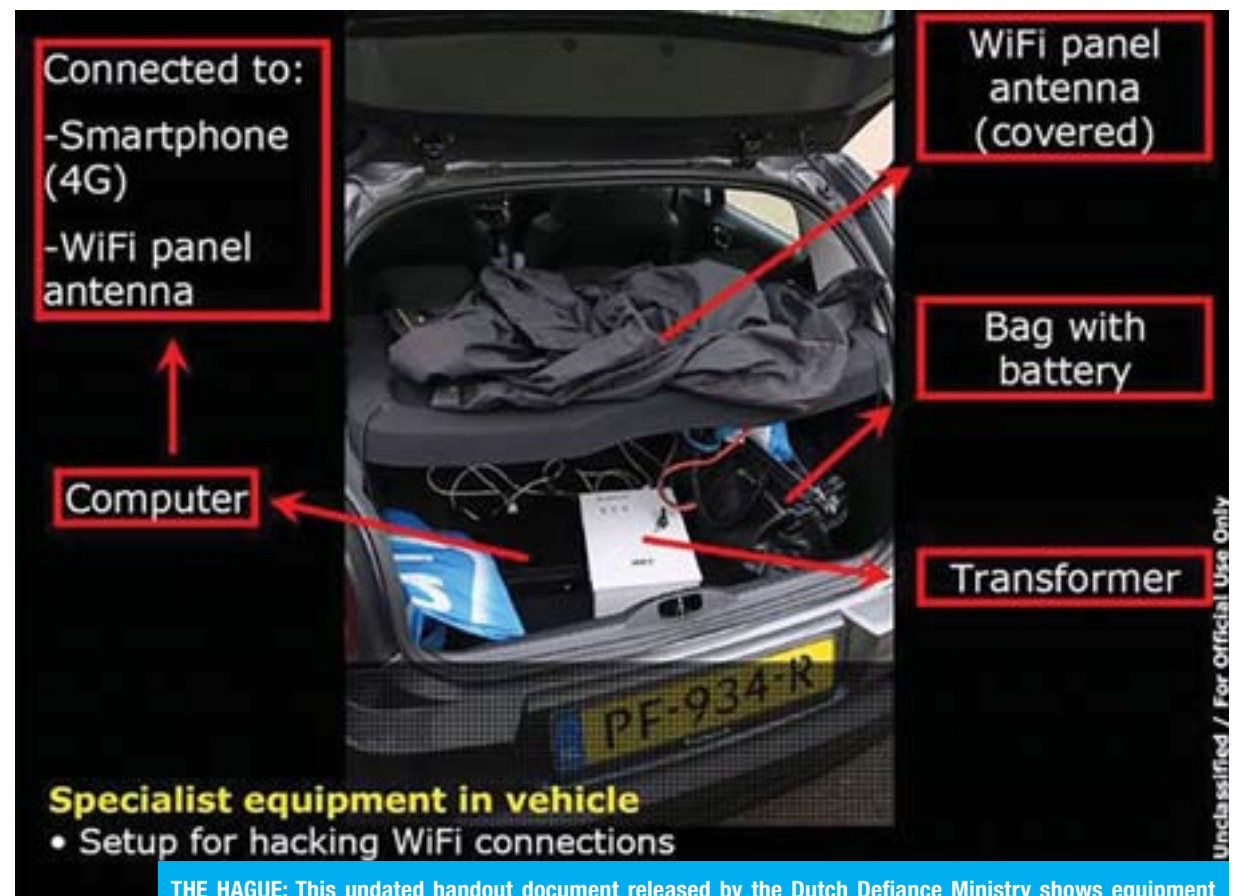


Fancy Bear, APT 28, Sofacy linked to GRU

international company," he added. In recent years, however, more have opted to stay in Russia, he said. "The secret services have grown more interested in good programmers and it's easier for them to find work in Russia now."

In 2012, the Russian defense ministry announced it was creating its own "cyber troops". It launched a wide recruitment drive that included promotional videos on social media. For Demidov, the growing wave of attacks attributed to Russian hackers has come about as Russia becomes better able to defend its own cyber security more strongly, the military sphere included. "These efforts... have begun to bring results," he said. Today however, even the most established players in Russian IT are in the sights of the West. The US in 2017 imposed a ban on the use of Kaspersky's anti-virus software by federal agencies amid concerns about the company's links to the Russian intelligence services.

While many young Russians may choose to work for the military and secret services for reasons of patriotism, some may still be more interested by the money. This week a mili-



THE HAGUE: This updated handout document released by the Dutch Defiance Ministry shows equipment found in a vehicle in The Hague as The Netherlands expelled four alleged Russian agents after uncovering a spy-novel-style bid by Russia's GRU military intelligence agency to target the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague. — AFP

itary tribunal in Moscow held a closed-doors trial for the head of operational control at the FSB's centre for information security, Colonel Sergei Mikhailov and three alleged accom-

plices. Kommersant daily reported that they were accused of passing secrets on the Russian secret services' cyber technology to the FBI in return for \$10 million. — AFP

Ahead of US poll, angst over the hacking threats

WASHINGTON: At a Boston technology conference last month, computer scientist Alex Halderman showed how easy it was to hack into an electronic voting machine and change the result, without leaving a trace. Halderman staged a mock election in which three conference attendees voted for George Washington, but an infected memory card switched the result to give a 2-1 victory to Benedict Arnold, the military officer who sold secrets during the Revolutionary War.

Halderman's demonstration was on a voting machine still in use in 20 US states, which had no paper ballots that could be compared to the electronic output, and thus no way to determine if vote totals had been altered. "What keeps me up at night is the threat that a hostile nation-state could probe every swing state or swing district (and) find the ones most weakly protected, to silently change the results of a national election," the University of Michigan professor said.

A month ahead of the midterm congressional elections, security experts say the risks remain high for a hack on voting machines or other targets. The vote comes two years after the US national election in which, according to intelligence officials, Russian agents probed voter registration networks in at least 20 states and accessed at least one. Halderman said the Russians had the ability to destroy or alter voting records, which could have led to chaos on election day. He added however that, according to a Senate Intelligence Committee investigation, "they did not pull the trigger on that ability."

Other researchers have shown flaws which could allow hackers to penetrate voting machines or networks, and have stepped up calls for new methods to replace all-electronic systems with no paper backup, still in use for an estimated 20 to 25 percent of US voters. The Defcon conference of security researchers discovered a voting tabulator used in 23 states is vulnerable to a remote hack via a network attack and another machine used in 18 states could be hacked within two minutes.

More paper needed

A National Academy of Science report in September recommended that every effort should be made to use paper ballots in the 2018 election and that by 2020 "human readable" ballots should be standard. States



THE HAGUE: (Left to right) Head of Dutch Military Intelligence and Security Service Onno Eichelsheim, Minister of Defiance Ank Bijleveld and British ambassador Peter Wilson attend a press conference of the Dutch Military Intelligence and Security Service (MIVD). Dutch intelligence thwarted a Russian cyber attack targeting the global chemical weapons watchdog in April and expelled four Russian agents, the government said. — AFP

should mandate audits prior to the certification of election results, it said, getting enough data to ensure that any electronic totals match the ones on paper. US elections are managed by state and local officials, meaning standards may not be uniform, and some states have resisted efforts to impose norms, claiming this would impinge on their authority.

In Georgia, a judge declined to order the replacement of electronic voting machines for the November 6 vote because it was too late, but warned that voters may have a case that their constitutional rights were violated. Five states still use "paperless" systems without any form of backup, according to Joseph Hall, who heads an election security research team at the Center for Democracy and Technology. Hall said that in addition to voting machines and election rolls, hackers may look at other targets such as candidates, or the networks of state or local officials who run the elections. "We are increasingly worried about adversaries attacking the election system," Hall said.

In addition to possible attacks from nation-states, Hall

pointed to opportunistic attackers who don't have political motives but want to "make a name for themselves." Mike Murray, of security firm Lookout, said attackers could disrupt the election by hacking into mobile phones of candidates, staffers, activists and others-sometimes simply by sending a text message infected with malware. "There's a whole electoral ecosystem" of people whose phones can be hijacked, Murray told a Capitol Hill briefing. "The mobile device has become one of the primary targets of nation-states."

Congress this year allocated \$380 million to states to improve election security. But lawmakers declined to pass a proposed Secure Elections Act that would have mandated security standards and audits. The National Association of Secretaries of State, comprised of officials in charge of state election systems, has downplayed the risks from hacking demonstrations, saying they don't reflect real-world conditions. Meanwhile US Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said there have been "tremendous strides" in election security in the past two years. — AFP

China using chips on US computers to steal secrets

WASHINGTON: Tiny chips inserted in US computer equipment manufactured in China were used as part of a vast effort by Beijing to steal US technology secrets, a published report said. The Bloomberg News report said the chips, the size of a grain of rice, were used on equipment made for Amazon, which first alerted US authorities, and Apple, and possibly for other companies and government agencies. Bloomberg said a three-year secret investigation, which remains open, enabled spies to create a "stealth doorway" into computer equipment, a hardware-based entry that would be more effective and harder to detect than a software hack.

Citing unnamed US officials, Bloomberg

said a unit of the People's Liberation Army were involved in the operation that placed the chips on equipment manufactured in China for US-based Super Micro Computer Inc. Supermicro, according to Bloomberg, also manufactured equipment for Department of Defense data centers, the CIA's drone operations, and onboard networks of Navy warships. The report said Amazon discovered the problem when it acquired software firm Elemental and began a security review of equipment made for Elemental by California-based Supermicro.

According to Bloomberg, the spy chips were designed for motherboards-the nerve centers for computer equipment-used in data centers operated by Apple, Amazon Web Services and others. Apple said in a statement it "has never found malicious chips, 'hardware manipulations' or vulnerabilities purposely planted in any server." A statement by Amazon to AFP said that "at no time, past or present, have we ever found any issues relating to modified hardware or malicious chips in Supermicro motherboards in any Elemental or Amazon systems."



WASHINGTON: A man types on a computer keyboard in this photo illustration taken in Washington, DC. An elite group of North Korean hackers has been identified as the source of a wave of cyberattacks on global banks that has netted "hundreds of millions" of dollars, security researchers said. — AFP

Supermicro could not immediately be reached for comment, but Bloomberg said the firm denied any knowledge of the espionage or investigation. — AFP

Electric cars still have long road ahead

PARIS: Under dazzling autumn sunshine in the heart of Paris, Marc Fiot steps out of a new Zoe, Renault's flagship all-electric hatchback, and readily declares it "the future". Does that mean the 70-year-old retiree, who says he hasn't missed an edition of the Paris Motor Show since 1966, is ready to join what carmakers insist will be the electric revolution? "Not right away," Fiot says. "What's stopping us is the price-it's a bit expensive for a small car."

The base price for a Zoe starts at 23,000 euros (\$26,500) in France, and doesn't include battery rental costs-though the government is offering a 6,000 euro clean car rebate. But higher costs relative to traditional vehicles are just one of the hurdles facing the industry as it races to bring electric cars into the mainstream. "The problem is the range isn't enough," said Guillaume Magne, an 18-year-old who just recently got his license, after trying out Citroen's C-Zero.

Eleven automakers have made 33 cars available for free 30-minute test drives at the Place de la Concorde as part of the motor show, which runs until October 14. But the crowd was thin as the show opened to the public on Thursday, though the exhaust and constant honking from traffic charging chaotically through to the huge square wasn't exactly an enticement to get behind the wheel. Although global sales of all-electric cars jumped 50 percent last year, according to Jato Dynamics analyst Felipe Munoz, they represented barely 1 percent of new registrations.

Optimism and doubts

Electric optimism was nonetheless on full display, with executives predicting that crackdowns on pollution and the push for self-driving vehicles made the shift from combustion engines inevitable. "There isn't a single carmaker which isn't planning to develop its own range of models in the next three or four years," said Guillaume Crunelle, an auto expert at Deloitte. He expects that by 2022-23, "they will absolutely be competitive in terms of price." And Carlos Ghosn, head of the Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi alliance, said that once buyers are assured that a car can go at least 300 kilometers (185 miles) on a single charge, "range is no longer a concern". That is indeed the case with the new models on display, including SUVs from Mercedes and Audi, which long resisted offering all-electric models.

But executives admitted that a limited and disparate network of charging stations-often using incompatible plugs or payment systems-remained a deterrent to potential buyers. Long charging times remain an issue as well, with minimum waits of about 15 minutes currently. The goal with new batteries expected to hit the market in coming years is for ultrafast charging in seven to eight minutes, similar to the time it takes to fill up at a petrol station. But engineers still have to figure out how to contain the extreme heat generated by such power transfers.

For Yves Bonnefont, head of the high-end French carmaker DS, depending on the level of government support, "the market can either accelerate sharply, or develop slowly". Such support has given China a huge head start in the market, with Chinese brands largely unknown outside the country making up eight of the top 10 electric carmakers by volume-the others being Renault and Nissan. US and European carmakers worry this could make them dependent on Chinese battery technology, not least because China holds huge reserves of the rare-earth minerals needed for lithium-ion and other battery technologies. Another challenge for carmakers is that electric vehicles are far less complicated to build and service, requiring just a small fraction of the thousands of workers currently employed across the industry. — AFP

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- ◆ 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

Republic of Korea celebrates the nation's National Foundation and Armed Forces Day

The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Hong Youngki hosted a reception on the occasion of the National Foundation and Armed Forces Day at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel over the weekend. Higher officials, diplomats, South Korean community and media persons attended the event. HE Dr Hong Youngki, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea gave a speech at the reception. Here is the transcription of that speech -

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, It is a great honor and pleasure for me to address such distinguished guests on the occasion of the National Foundation Day of the Republic of Korea. First of all, I would like to extend my best wishes for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the State of Kuwait. I also would like to take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for good health and every success to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah as well as my heartfelt greetings to people of Kuwait.

The Republic of Korea and the State of Kuwait are peace-loving countries, pursuing to contribute to peace and stability both on regional and international levels. Both countries are devoted to humanitarian values. His Highness the Amir was recognized by the United Nations as a humanitarian leader and supporter and Kuwait has played a leading role in humanitarian work in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.

This year, as you may know, much has happened on the Korean Peninsula. Indeed, the changes have been dramatic, and we are witnessing history being made. Last year we were faced with rising tension, and talk of military options in the face of repeated North Korean nuclear and missile provocations. Today, after three successful inter-Korean summit meetings and the first-ever US-North Korea summit, we are expecting to see concrete action by North Korea to live up to its complete denuclearization commitment and joint efforts to establish a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula.

It was in 1979 that the diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and the State of Kuwait were established. Since then the two countries have indeed been fostering close ties of friendship and cooperation in a whole range of realms spanning the political, economic, social and cultural fields. The bilateral relations have been characterized by being both dynamic and effective.

The Korean companies and Korean people residing in Kuwait have made a significant contribution to strengthening our bilateral ties. I am truly glad that today here Korean community people are celebrating our National Foundation Day with our dear Kuwaiti friends all together. Some of them spent more than 40 years in Kuwait and love this country as their second



—Photos by Joseph Shagra



home. Some dispatched workers, engineers and managers who spent some years in Kuwait working for big Korean engineering companies came back to Kuwait again because Kuwait was so dear and friendly to them.

Our relations have recently witnessed notable impetus, well revealed in exchange of very high level visits. The visit of His Highness the Prime Minister to Korea in May 2016 was of great significance. Korean National Assembly Speaker, the Honorable Chung Sye-kyun visited Kuwait in April 2017 in response to invitation by his Kuwaiti counterpart His Excellency Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, who also visited Korea in May 2015. I am also convinced that our bilateral relations will be further enhanced on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of our two countries' diplomatic ties next year.

A simple glimpse on the fast-increasing trade volume between the two countries which exceeds USD 10 billion in 2017 shows a strong potential in our economic cooperation. Our two countries have actively contributed to each other's economic development through close bilateral cooperation. Consequently, Korea is the first largest importer of Kuwait's crude oil while Kuwait

is Korea's second largest oil supplier.

Kuwait is also the third largest construction market for Korea. Since as early as 70's Korean construction and engineering companies have participated in major national development projects of Kuwait and proved their diligence and capacity as one may often see all around Kuwait the roads, bridges and residential areas. This partnership also helped Korea successfully overcome economic difficulties in the aftermath of oil crises in 1970s and 1980s.

To this day, Korean companies are proudly participating in many infrastructure projects like Mubarak Port and New Refinery Project as faithful partners for the future of Kuwait as outlined in His Highness the Amir's "Vision 2035". Currently, Sheikh Jaber Causeway Bridge, one of the world's longest bridges upon completion is being built by Korean firms.

In the cultural area, the Embassy organized many diversified cultural events showcasing Korean music, arts and cuisine over the past few years and all were great success with excellent turnouts. Many Korean art troupes have visited Kuwait and another Korean art

troupe will visit Kuwait to bring hearts of the two countries closer through wonderful performances on 20th October. Most remarkably, young people in Kuwait who love Korean music and culture have voluntarily organized the Korean-Kuwaiti Cultural Diwaniya, running many cultural events. I am very glad to see these young people here with us today. All these cultural events are good examples of people-to-people exchanges.

Also, in the education field, the two countries concluded agreements to boost their educational cooperation, including an agreement to send Kuwaiti students to the Korean universities with scholarship. There are also Korean students studying at Kuwait University. We will seek more cooperation in this educational field in the years to come.

I humbly hope that Korean people's toils in these projects and others will make a contribution towards a better future of the State of Kuwait, bringing people of two countries even closer. It is my honor to contribute to the strengthening of such good cooperation between our two governments and peoples. Thank you.



Farwanlyia governor, Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah recently received the former Kuwait Writers Association secretary general, Hamad Abdul Mohsen Al-Hamad who presented a copy of the latest books titled 'Encyclopedia of the Heritage of Patriotic Poetry in Kuwait', which traces patriotic poems back to the days of Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah.

The Italian food festival opens at Lulu Hypermarkets

Lulu Hypermarket, the retail leader in the region, launched its Italian Fest 2018 at the Al-Qurain outlet of the hypermarket on Wednesday, 3 October. The food festival was inaugurated by the Italian Ambassador to Kuwait HE Giuseppe Scognamiglio, in the presence of top management of the hypermarket and a large gathering of shoppers and well-wishers.

The week-long food extravaganza, which runs from 3 to 9 October at all outlets of Lulu Hypermarket in the country, features a broad array of Italian branded products at very special prices. Among the Italian brands showcasing their products during the food festival are such leading names as, Biofactor, Crispo, Dececco, Forno Bonomi, Midi and Renna among others.

During the seven-day festival, Lulu Hypermarket venues have been done up in cut-outs of well-known Italian landmarks and historic buildings and monuments. The Italian Fest 2018 is a reiteration of the hypermarket's commitment to offer high-quality international food products that provide shoppers in Kuwait with the opportunity to experience foods from around the world. The food festival is also yet another reminder that when it comes to offering the widest range of quality products at highly competitive prices throughout the year, Lulu Hypermarket stands in a league of its own.



ICSK Junior celebrates Gandhi Jayanthi

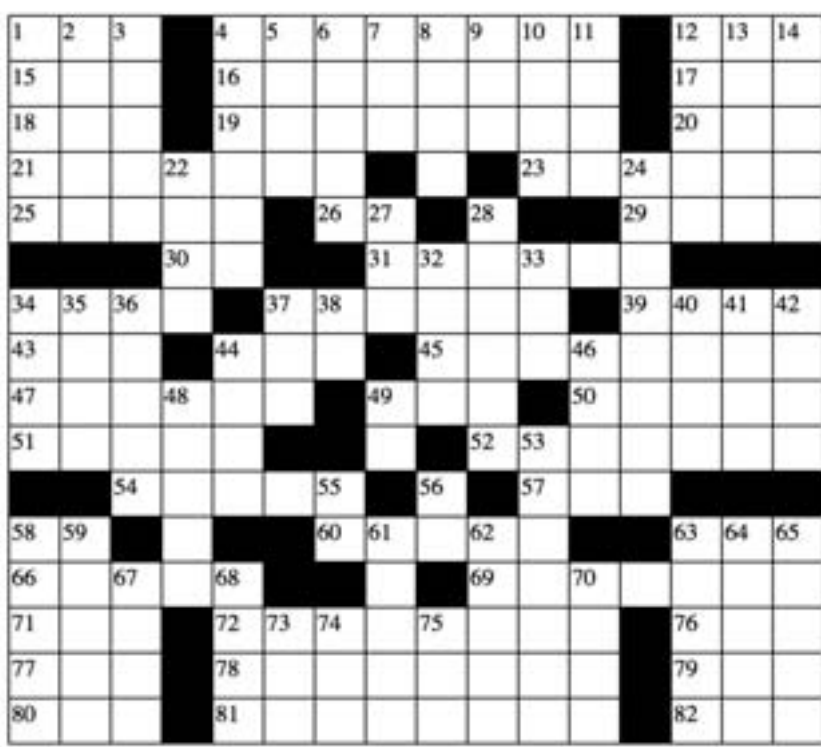
ICSK Junior celebrated Gandhi Jayanthi in a great splendor on 3rd and 4th October, 2018. Informative speeches were delivered on Gandhiji's life. Melodious group songs were rendered by the students. Students presented skits based on the glimpse from Gandhiji's life and paid homage to the

various freedom fighters. The skit was followed by a heart-warming patriotic group song. This was followed by a colorful and power-packed dance performances. Violin was played by a student rendering the soulful Indian National Anthem that created a serene atmosphere. Principal, Mrs Sherly Dennis addressed the students on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanthi emphasizing the values such as non-violence, truthfulness and simplicity. She shared her views on Gandhiji's principles of "Swacchata" and encouraged the students to keep the classrooms, school and their environment clean.



Stars

CROSSWORD 2028



ACROSS

1. A clawed foot of an animal especially a quadruped.
4. Decorative cover for a bed.
12. The unit of frequency.
15. Flower arrangement consisting of a circular band of foliage or flowers for ornamental purposes.
16. Coelenterate genus of order Madreporaria, including staghorn corals.
17. The basic unit of money in Romania.
18. A unit of surface area equal to 100 square meters.
19. A corticosteroid drug (trade names Decadron or Dexamethasone Intensol or Dexone or Hexadrol or Oradexon) used to treat allergies or inflammation.
20. The sign language used in the United States.
21. Small genus of east African herbs.
23. Of or relating to or near the sacrum.
25. (Greek mythology) A princess of Colchis who aided Jason in taking the Golden Fleece from her father.
26. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
29. A Loloish language.
30. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
31. One of the Aesir having a strong and beautiful body but a dull mind.
34. The 11th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
39. A primeval personification of air and breath.
43. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
45. A language spoken by the Atakapa people of the Gulf coast of Louisiana and Texas.
47. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
50. Having the head uncovered.
51. (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
52. North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
54. The basic monetary unit in many countries.
57. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
58. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
60. Having a face or facing especially of a specified kind or number.
66. A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.
69. A young hare especially one in its first year.
71. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring on the sea or ships.
72. A peninsula in southwestern Asia that forms the Asian part of Turkey.
76. A religious belief of African origin involving witchcraft and sorcery.
77. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
78. (Japan) Ritual suicide by self-disembowlement on a sword.
79. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
80. Type genus of the Muridae.
81. A member of the Samoyedic people living on the Taimyr peninsula in Siberia.
82. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. The protoplasm of the germ cells that contains chromosomes and genes.
2. The lofty nest of a bird of prey (such as a hawk or eagle).
3. Of power or authority.
4. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
5. A very light brown.
6. A dramatic work intended for performance by actors on a stage.
7. Payment due by the recipient on delivery.
8. German industrialist who was the first in Germany to use an assembly line in manufacturing automobiles (1871-1948).
9. The sound made by the vibration of vocal folds modified by the resonance of the vocal tract.
10. (Greek mythology) God of love.
11. Type genus of the Ranidae.
12. United States explorer who (with Meriwether Lewis) led an expedition from St. Louis to the mouth of the Columbia River.
13. (Judaism) A Jewish festival (traditionally 8 days) celebrating the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt.
14. Perennial of southern Europe cultivated for forage and for its nectar-rich pink flowers that make it an important honey crop.
22. Not only so, but.
24. Any of various long-legged carrion-eating hawks of South and Central America.
27. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet.
28. Mint plants.
32. Toward the mouth or oral region.
33. Remaining after all deductions.
35. By bad luck.
36. Rice cooked in well-seasoned broth with onions or celery and usually poultry or game or shellfish and sometimes tomatoes.
37. An international organization of European countries formed after World War I to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
38. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
40. A member of a rural Finnish people living in eastern Russia.
41. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
42. A quantity of no importance.
44. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
46. Norwegian mathematician (1802-1829).
48. A kind of heavy jacket ('windcheater' is a British term).
49. A public promotion of some product or service.
53. A Brazilian river.
55. A radioactive transuranic element.
56. Date used in reckoning dates before the supposed year Christ was born.
59. A city in southeastern South Korea.
61. One of the proteins into which actomyosin can be split.
62. A republic in southeastern Europe on the southern part of the Balkan peninsula.
63. Any property detected by the olfactory system.
64. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
65. A city in central New York.
67. South African term for 'boss'.
68. German chemist who was co-discoverer with Lise Meitner of nuclear fission (1879-1968).
70. Characteristic of false pride.
73. Someone (especially a woman) who annoys people by constantly finding fault.
74. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
75. A Turkish unit of weight equal to about 2.75 pounds.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Good news! The things you've been working toward so ardently are coming together nicely now. Okay, you're not quite 'there' yet, but there will be some major indications that you are tantalizingly close today. How to make the most of this wonderful momentum? Just keep going! Try not to celebrate prematurely, but do give yourself a little congratulatory gift (or two). You deserve the positive encouragement -- you are ready to take this ball and run with it.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Getting back in touch with a friend or ex has been an excellent boost to your self-esteem and happiness -- but if you need to slow things down, don't hesitate to be up-front about rearranging a social obligation. You have reestablished a firm footing with this person -- they will not take your request as a bad sign. Rather, they'll be relieved that you want an honest, open relationship. Freeing up your time should be a goal today -- you need some time by yourself to regroup.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

For a while now, there have been exciting promises and opportunities hovering around you, tantalizingly close but still just out of reach -- stretch out a bit longer! Make a few phone calls and send a few bold emails today, because your timing could be perfect. Polish up your resume and upgrade your wardrobe -- your skills are perfectly matched to an opening no one else knows about yet. If you put out your feelers, you might just beat the crowd!



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Titles can be meaningless -- often it's the unnamed folks behind the scenes who do all the real work while others get the glory. You know this story from firsthand experience, but today that won't stop you from expertly and efficiently doing what needs to be done. Make no concession to appearances -- just jump right in and do what you need to, because no one else is paying attention. The best part is that this time, you will get all the glory.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Great news: You've been holding back for a while now, but it's finally time to break loose! Put out all your feelers and find out what's up with friends -- then go get involved! Take on the role of instigator and cook up some plans with your craziest bunch of pals. Think big, and include many options for people to choose from. Some of your energy should definitely go toward attacking your ever-growing 'to-do' list, but for the most part, have fun today and don't look back.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Not everything or anyone is as pretty as they seem at first glance today -- there are interesting nuances that only someone with a skeptical eye can see. You notice some beautiful imperfections in someone new -- they comfort you and make you all the more intrigued. People are saying things they don't mean -- so if you're getting the cold shoulder, stick around and wait things out. You may be greeted much more warmly under different circumstances, so try again another day.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Your brain is definitely in need of some massive stimulation today. If you've been feeling unchallenged at work, set up a meeting with your supervisor and talk to them about getting some more responsibilities -- or at least let it be known that you want to get more involved. Sometimes a well-placed comment works better than a big official request. Romantically, it's time to test out some new waters. Push things a little harder and see what happens.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

An unpredictable situation brings out the worst in someone -- you thought you'd never see them like this. After the shock wears off, give thought to what this could mean for your relationship. There are big trust issues involved here, and you might want to pull back on how much you disclose; protect yourself. In contrast, another person you barely know shows you a more quiet side of their personality -- and you're intrigued. Get to know them better.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You'll need a good night's rest in order to prepare for this day of bustling activity, split-second decision-making, and lots of surprises! With quick thinking, you'll handle everything like a Jedi master and will have a lot of fun tackling the next puzzle. Put yourself in the center of the action and let everyone know that you're a force to be reckoned with -- and a superstar in the making! Reach out to a blue friend and encourage them to get happily distracted in all the activity.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You've been heading down the home stretch for weeks, now look for a big sign welcoming you to your destination -- it could be a social invitation, a pay raise or merely a smile that indicates that you've broken through someone's tough shell. You're absolutely on the right path, and the crowds are cheering you on -- listen a bit harder, and you can hear them. Support is all around you -- it's payback for all the times you've been there for the people you love. Karma is on your side today.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Networking doesn't have to be a pressure situation, especially if you understand that it's more about genuine personality than anything else. In a work context, today will give you quite a few opportunities to make business connections. Be sure to follow up! Romantically, someone who cares about you is intent on making you understand exactly how much. Just make sure you're prepared to provide the feedback they may be expecting. This could be the start of a new phase.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Just because the other people in the room have more experience behind them doesn't mean that they know more than you (at least in certain situations). You can participate with the best of them, so jump right in. You'll be sure to take control and no one will mind. In fact, people are eager to hear what you have to say -- your quiet nature has been getting people talking about you. So why not give them some more to talk about? You'll be glad you did.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Delicious Desserts

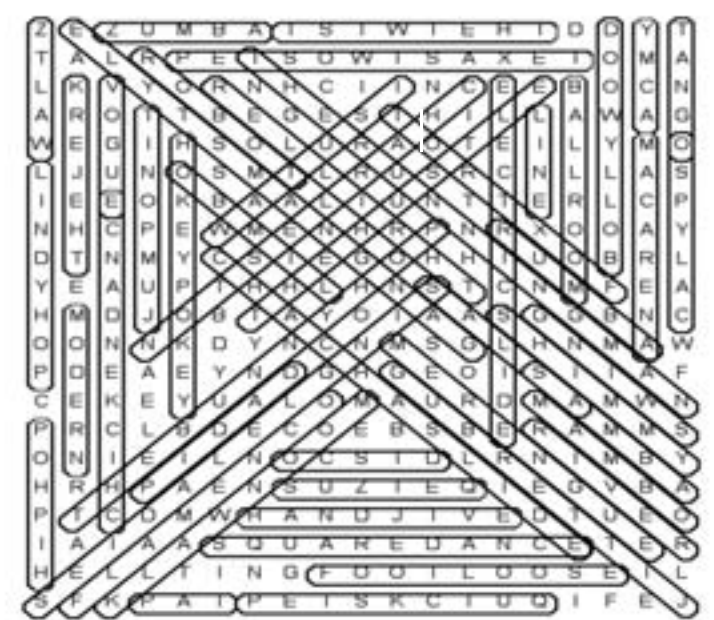
Find and circle all of the desserts that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message.



- | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| AMBROSIA | CINNAMON ROLLS | JELLY ROLLS | PINEAPPLE DELIGHT |
| APPLE CRISP | CREME BRULEE | LEMON BARS | PLUM SQUARES |
| APPLE PIE | CREPES | MACARONS | RAISIN PUDDING |
| BAKED ALASKA | ECLAIRS | MERINGUES | RUM BALLS |
| BAKLAWA | EMPANADAS | MONKEY BREAD | SORBET |
| BANANA SPLIT | FLAN | MOUSSE | STRAWBERRY SHORT CAKE |
| BREAD PUDDING | FRUIT CRUMBLE | NUT BRITTLE | STRUDEL |
| BROWNIES | FUDGE | PARFAIT | SUNDAE |
| BUTTER TARTS | GELATO | PASTRIES | TIRAMISU |
| CARROT CAKE | GINGERBREAD | PAVLOVA | TORTES |
| CHEESE CAKE | ICE CREAM | PEACH COBBLER | TRIFLE |

Yesterday's Solution

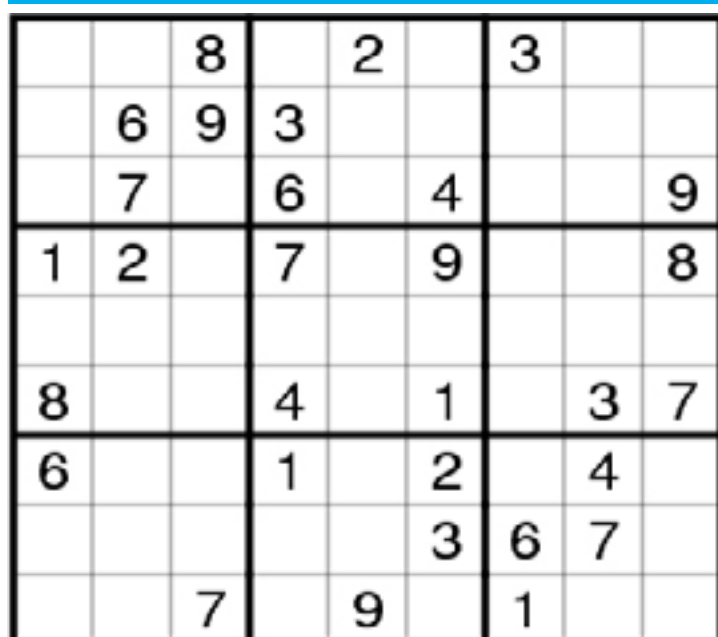
Dance crazes



- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| BALLROOM | HAND JIVE | QUICKSTEP | TEXAS TWO-STEP |
| BOLLYWOOD | HIP HOP | RIVER | THE BUNNY HOP |
| CALYPSO | HOCKEY POCKEY | ROBOT | THE HUSTLE |
| CHA CHA SLIDE | JITTERBUG | RUMBA | THE JERK |
| CHARLESTON | JUMP ON IT | SALSA | THE RUNNING MAN |
| CHICKEN DANCE | LIMBO | SAMBA | THE TWIST |
| DA DIP | LINDY HOP | SHIMMY | THRILLER |
| DISCO | LINE | SINGLE LADIES | VOGUE |
| ELECTRIC SLIDE | MACARENA MAMBO | SQUARE DANCE | WALTZ |
| FLAMENCO | MERENGUE | SUZZIE Q | WATUSI |
| FOOTLOOSE | MODERN | SWING | YMCA |
| FOXTROT | MOONWALK | TANGO | ZUMBA |
| GANGNAM STYLE | TAP | | |

The hidden message is: DANCING IS THE BODY'S WAY OF CELEBRATING LIFE

Daily SuDoku



very hard

Yesterday's Solution



easy

Lifestyle

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2018



Abha Shah (center) Choreographer of Surtaal Performing Arts, poses along with her group members as they participate in a 'Garba' dance rehearsal ahead of the forthcoming 'Navratri' or dance festival of nine nights begins October 10 and culminates with the celebration of 'Dussehra'. — AFP

Ukraine's fashion prodigy Belinskiy conquers Paris

Long considered Ukraine's most promising young fashion designer, Anton Belinskiy now jokes he cannot afford his own clothing as he prepares to present a collection at Paris Fashion Week. The 31-year-old comes from a young generation of creatives in the ex-Soviet country which has been locked since 2014 in a bloody conflict with pro-Russian separatists and struggling through economic hardship and entrenched corruption. His creations often reflect Ukraine's harsh realities-incorporating everything from the national yellow and blue colours and Ukraine's passport cover to the currency symbol flickering in the exchange booths of Kiev.

Sporting shabby sneakers and military fatigues as he meets AFP in the historical neighborhood of Ukraine's capital shortly before his departure to Paris, Belinskiy says his designs are a reflection of the city. "I'm trying to make Kiev sound better than other cities, and to show the best we have to everyone who does not know this," Belinskiy says. His career has taken off since he became a semifinalist in 2015 for the LVMH Prize, a sought-after accolade for young designers-the first Eastern European to be so honored by the luxury goods group. Since then, Vogue has described Belinskiy as "one of the brightest talents in Kiev", and in Paris his designs will share the catwalk with such legendary brands as Chanel, Miu Miu, and Louis Vuitton.

'Beautiful and strange'

Born and raised in Kiev by a Russia-born mother and Jewish father, Belinskiy graduated from the National University of Technologies and Design, and launched his namesake brand in 2009. His clothes and accessories draw on the 1990s and he says he sometimes draws inspiration from old family photos. While they are not for sale in Ukraine, his creations are distributed in Europe, America and Asia.

Belinskiy says his income is a stable zero, which he finds liberating. "That's actually cool, in fact this is the essence of freedom, and I'm all about freedom," smiles the young man with bright eyes and ultrashort hair. Born just a few years before Ukraine became independent from Moscow, Belinskiy joined pro-EU protesters on Kiev's main square Maidan in 2013, and incorporated the events in his work. At the height of bloody clashes between protesters and police, Belinskiy did a fashion shoot on Maidan for a collection featuring national symbols including a flower wreath and Ukrainian embroidery. The model had dark red tears painted on her face.

Two years later, when Ukrainians were waiting for the EU to grant them visa-free travel, the designer made white t-shirts with an image of a Ukrainian passport over the breast pocket. Another collection featured bright, geometrical shapes in a nod to Kiev-born avant-garde artist Kazimir Malevich. And in his spring collection 2018, Belinskiy included brown puffer coats evoking the tufted leather couches in the Ukrainian parliament-his interpretation of official corruption in the country. The new spring-summer collection to be shown in Paris on October 2 is about the search for God, Belinskiy explains near a church he frequents in Kiev, holding his pet husky on a leash.

Tanya Solovey, editor of Ukrainian Vogue, calls Belinskiy "a visionary", but also a keen networker who surrounds himself with creative talent. Besides driving his own brand, Belinskiy has helped other, even younger designers by founding One



Ukrainian fashion designer Anton Belinskiy walks his dog in Kiev. — AFP photos



Day Project, a sort of DIY fashion event giving a platform to budding talent. "His antenna that catches the world news stretches further than anyone else's, it goes straight into space," Solovey says. Now at the helm of a team of five,

Belinskiy says the secret to success is remaining true to yourself and absorbing the world around you, all the while remembering where your homeland is. "We need to do something authentic, something different, something that surrounds us,"

he says, looking around and pointing at random passers-by. "Look around! It's impossible to invent such a style, the way people dress here, in the former Soviet Union-it is beautiful and strange at the same time." — AFP

Abstract Zao Wou-Ki painting fetches \$65m: Sotheby's

A ten-meter-long triptych by Zao Wou-Ki-one of the 20th century's most prominent Chinese painters-fetched \$65 million (HK\$510 million) at auction, Sotheby's Hong Kong said. Entitled "Juin-Octobre 1985", the abstract artwork was commissioned personally by the world-renowned Chinese-American architect I.M. Pei. Zao and Pei were both born to affluent bankers during the Chinese Republican era. They first met in Paris in 1952 and began a long-running friendship, according to the auction house.

The triptych-Zao's largest work-set a world auction record for the late Chinese-French artist, surpassing the \$26 million paid at Christie's last year for the painting "29.01.64". The painting represents a period of Zao's career which marks "a perfect example of how he merged Eastern and Western techniques and philosophy into the painting," said Vinci Chang, head of modern Asian art at Sotheby's, at a preview last week.

Born in China in 1920, Zao moved to Paris in 1948. He was influenced by Western modernism and moved towards abstraction before also returning to Chinese brush-and-ink techniques by the early 1970s, according to Christie's. He died in 2013. Hong Kong auction houses have seen

frenzied bidding among Asian buyers in recent years, with sales of diamonds, paintings and ancient ceramics shattering world records. A nearly 1,000-year-old ink-on-paper

handscroll entitled "Wood and Rock", by one of China's greatest literary masters Su Shi, is expected to fetch \$51 million at Christie's Hong Kong in November. — AFP



In this photo a man walks past 'Juin-Octobre 1985' by Chinese painter Zao Wou-Ki during a media preview for the piece at the Sotheby's auction house showroom in Hong Kong ahead of its auction on September 30. — AFP

Indian actress takes #MeToo claims to police

The Indian actress whose public allegations of sexual harassment by a Bollywood star is sparking a string of similar #MeToo claims has filed a formal complaint, police told AFP yesterday. Former Miss Universe contestant Tanushree Dutta first alleged in 2008 that multi-award-winning Nana Patekar behaved inappropriately towards her during the making of a romantic comedy the same year. No action was taken at the time against Patekar and she made no formal complaint.

But emboldened by the global #MeToo campaign—where women have shared accounts of harassment or assault—Dutta

repeated the allegations in a recent interview and on Saturday went to the police to officially report the 2008 sexual harassment claims. "Dutta visited the police station last night and submitted a written complaint," Shailesh Pasalwar, a Mumbai police inspector, told AFP. "We are investigating the case but right now, it is not an FIR (First Information Report, or a formal investigation) but a written complaint about harassment incident," he added.

She also alleged in the interview that filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri had behaved inappropriately towards her during the shooting of the 2005 movie "Chocolate: Deep Dark Secrets". The actress said in a

statement last week that she had received legal notices from both Patekar and Agnihotri, who deny her accusations. Dutta said she had also received "violent threats" from the fringe, far-right nationalist group Maharashtra Navnirman Sena and has been hounded by a "smear campaign" on social media since reiterating her claims against the pair. "This is the age-old saga of survivors in our nation," she said. India has yet to witness its own version of the #MeToo movement that rocked Hollywood last year, but Dutta has received the backing of several high-profile stars including Priyanka Chopra, Farhan Akhtar and Sonam Kapoor. Other actresses have

however begun to speak out about an issue almost never discussed in Indian media. In December, star Swara Bhaskar said she had been harassed by an unnamed director early in her career.

Bhaskar also referred to a "casting couch" culture where young women are expected to exchange sexual favours to secure film roles. Bollywood's cliquy nature also made it difficult to go public, she said. In recent days, #MeToo claims have also begun to surface against men in other sectors, including several top Indian newspaper editors, comedians and writers including a top-selling English language author.—AFP



In this file photo Indian Bollywood actress Tanushree Dutta poses for a photo during an event for the Mandate Model Hunt contest in Mumbai.—AFP

'Whiplash' producer Blum unrattled by China trade war backlash

Hotshot Hollywood producer Jason Blum predicts his plans to tap into the lucrative Chinese movie market won't be derailed by the tit-for-tat trade war that has erupted between Beijing and Washington. Tensions have soared following President Donald Trump's policy of implementing billions of dollars of tariffs on China with film buffs closely watching for any fallout within the world's two largest movie markets. But Blum said he was unruffled by any potential fallout. "I like challenges," he said, speaking on the sidelines of the 23rd Busan International Film Festival.

The driving force behind such global hits as the Oscar-nominated "Whiplash" and horror sensation "Get Out", Blum has forged a reputation for turning low-budget productions into box office gold. He revealed Thursday he still had his eyes on a collaboration in China, and on similar partnerships within other Asian markets. "I was intrigued by the notion of producing a movie that would qualify as a local scary movie, to follow all the rules of the [Chinese] censor and to make it scary," said Blum, referencing the hoops foreign film have to jump through to be viewed in China. "I'm interested in making local language scary movies," he added.

China's huge population remains a lucrative market for Hollywood, despite the cooling in trade relations between the two economic giants. Beijing has moved to curtail foreign investment across all industries, including film after a string of high-profile takeovers of Hollywood studios by Chinese investors. The most prominent buy up was a \$2.6 billion purchase of AMC Entertainment in 2012 by the Dalian Wanda Group.

The Hollywood Reporter said the topic dominated discussions at the recent US-China Film and Television Industry Expo in Los Angeles. Blum has an established reputation as Hollywood's "king of horror" thanks to his string of hits. When asked during the press conference if there was anything that scared him, he replied: "What scares me is our president. Our president is a scary man."

Horror with Chinese characteristics

The joint Shanghai and Los Angeles-based Tang Media Partners entertainment group recently announced an ambitious plan to roll out a string of low budget Chinese-



Hollywood producer Jason Blum

language horror and thriller films in partnership with Blum. The American said yesterday the plan now was to make one film. "We're developing it," said the 49-year-old. "But it's not a big part of our business so that part of the political climate is not going to affect me."

Blum and his Blumhouse Productions have ridden a wave of critical acclaim since the company was formed in 2000, with first the gripping musical drama "Whiplash" (2014) and then the cutting edge horror "Get Out" (2017) receiving Oscar nominations for Best Picture. Those low budget movies were also impressive money spinners, raking in and estimated US\$50 million and US\$255 million from the global box office, respectively. Blum has also been behind a string of low cost but successful horror hits including "Paranormal Activity" (2007) and "The Purge" (2013). Blum looks to have another box office hit on his hands with the sequel to the horror classic "Halloween", which is poised for its roll out into theatres around the world and is making a splash in Busan, Asia's largest film festival. "Halloween" is being positioned as a direct sequel to the John Carpenter-directed "slasher" classic that was released in 1978 despite the fact the franchise has now produced 11 films. The film reunites Jamie Lee Curtis and Nick Castle in the lead roles from the original and it picks up on the tale of Laurie Strode (Curtis), sole survivor of the reign of terror unleashed by killer Michael Myers (Castle), as their fates collide once again.

There's been a buzz around screenings of the film at this year's edition of BIFF as Blum takes it on a tour of the world's festival circuit, as there has been from film market watchers who predicted it would collect as much as US\$60 million from its October 19 opening weekend in North America. "We're at the top of a [horror] cycle right now," said Blum. "And if you make good horror movies, there's always an audience."—AFP



Julia Roberts

and Julia stars alongside 'Ant-Man' actor Bobby Cannavale and 'Shots Fired' star Stephan James.—Bang Showbiz

Roberts won't limit herself as an actress

Julia Roberts doesn't consider herself a film actress. The Academy Award-winning star is making a move to TV with her role in new Amazon Studios TV series "Homecoming", but although she is most famous for making movies she has never closed herself from any role. Speaking to BANG Showbiz, she said: "I mean, I've never called myself a film actor, I'm just an actor. I think for me, I go where the parts compel me and I don't know that a lot of creative people that would compartmentalize their places to be creative in that way."

"We're all just looking for the thing that we think we can bring something of value too it's not really the medium so much that is pursued." In psychological drama "Homecoming", Julia plays Heidi Bergman a caseworker at a secret government facility helping traumatized soldiers but who has a desire to return to civilian life. The psychological thriller is based on the original podcast series of the same name created by Eli Horowitz and Micah Bloomberg

Boyzone's connection to Stephen Gately

Boyzone insist it has always been "very important" to retain their connection to Stephen Gately. The quartet - Ronan Keating, Shane Lynch, Mikey Graham and Keith Duffy - were devastated when their bandmate died from natural causes in 2009 but they've always been "very respectful" of his memory and were delighted to use his vocals on 'I Can Dream', a track on their upcoming final album 'Thank You and Good Night'.

Keith told BANG Showbiz: "We've always been very respectful of Stephen's memory but at the same time we wanted to keep his memory alive. Every show we do we dedicate part of it to him, we have his voice in certain songs, we've always been highly respectful of Stephen, we've never used his misfortune to better ourselves, we've always made sure we were respectful and grounded. We lost our brother, it was devastating, so we try and keep him involved is very important to us, and when this song landed in our laps, there wasn't a dry eye in the studio."

Following the release of the album, the 'No Matter What' group will be heading out on a farewell tour, and have pledged to devote part of the show to their late bandmate. Keith added: "The song will feature in the show



Boyzone

and we'll put together some footage for the show. We celebrate him now, it's not sad any more, we celebrate his life, he was an amazing character, full of beans." Ronan admitted the group spent years in "limbo" after Stephen's death. He said: "The best years were when we got back together in 2007, we lost Steo in 2009 and we've been in kind of a limbo for the last few years, trying to figure who we are and what we're about. "We've got to this stage with the help of Step, we've got to 25 years, he's on the album with a track he wrote 17 years ago."—BangShowbiz



A picture in Moscow shows a woman holding a magazine with a promotional ad for the "House Arrest" comedy series.—AFP

'House arrest' drama and others test boundaries in Russia

Russian courts are sometimes described as a theatre of the absurd, but it is television and cinema that have recently pushed political boundaries with their depictions of trials on screen. A comedy series called "House Arrest" on a popular Russian entertainment channel has links to real, high-profile cases, while a new Leo Tolstoy biopic has parallels with opposition struggles today. Several recent genre films have made mild digs at contemporary politics including "The President's Holiday" this year, a mistaken-identity comedy about Vladimir Putin going incognito among ordinary people in Crimea.

The productions come as the Kremlin continues its crackdown on the opposition, and dramas tackling sensitive subjects are sometimes banned or simply never receive state funding to get made. The weekly "House Arrest" on the TNT channel is based on the tribulations of a provincial mayor who is confined to his home after being caught taking a bribe in a sting by the security services. Creator Semyon Slepakov said a friend who is currently under house arrest gave tips for added authenticity, but he refused to name names.

The real prison service even showed makers how to attach an ankle bracelet and gave the crew a special phone used by people under house arrest. "House arrests were constantly being talked about," Slepakov said in a recent interview in his office decorated with posters for US shows "Seinfeld" and "Californication." Top theatre and film director Kirill Serebrennikov has spent more than a year in his Moscow flat awaiting trial on fraud charges in a controversial embezzlement case his supporters see as a crackdown on artistic freedom.

Former economy minister Alexei Ulyukayev spent months under arrest in his mansion before and during his trial and is now serving eight years in a penal colony after being found guilty of taking a bribe. Slepakov also cited the case of former defense ministry official, Yevgenia Vasilyeva, whose two and a half years of house arrest in a large luxurious flat awaiting trial for embezzlement prompted much mockery in Russia. "The main thing for me was the humor in these house arrests, that people (detained) because of economic crimes were basically kept in good conditions," Slepakov said. But in a fictional

twist, his mayor has to swap a glitzy mansion for the residence he claimed for tax reasons—a communal flat with blue-collar inhabitants and a shared toilet.

No red lines

The show was praised as "a charming satire of corrupt authorities" by Meduza independent news website but others criticized it for playing it safe with positive depictions of security services. "Showing 'House Arrest' is an obvious signal of what is permitted and what isn't, i.e. who can't be touched and who can," wrote opposition newspaper Novaya Gazeta. The British comedy "The Death of Stalin" was blocked from release in Russia, while Serebrennikov's production at the Bolshoi Ballet based on the life of gay dancer Rudolf Nureyev was postponed and apparently censored.

Showings of films and documentaries about the conflict in eastern Ukraine from Kiev's point of view have been cancelled at the last moment or faced audience heckling and threats. Slepakov said that no topic was banned in comedy, nor were there any red lines. "I think those warnings in the West are quite exaggerated that in our country you can't stick your head out because you'll get bashed. I think we're far from North Korea," he added.

Russia surrounded by enemies

Meanwhile, a period film based on the life of novelist Leo Tolstoy has proved unexpectedly timely, with obvious similarities to cases such as director Serebrennikov's. In "The Story of One Appointment," the young novelist tries to save a lowly army clerk from execution for hitting a senior officer, pleading for mercy from Tsarist Russia's disproportionately harsh justice system. "You automatically link this to the present day and the trial of Oleg Sentsov," wrote film critic Andrei Plakhov in the Kommersant Daily, referring to the Ukrainian filmmaker, who spent 145 days on hunger strike after being sentenced to 20 years for "terrorism" in Russia-annexed Crimea.

In the film, the prosecutor argues that national security calls for harsh measures, saying Russia is "surrounded by external enemies" and torn apart by internal ones. Director Avdotya Smirnova, whose husband Anatoly Chubais was a key liberal reformer in the 1990s, has urged the authorities to pardon Serebrennikov and other arts figures facing trial. "Pardon them, please, set them free," she said at a Russian festival. But she stressed at a later presentation that any similarities are accidental since the screenplay was written before Sentsov and Serebrennikov's cases. "To be honest, I don't feel delighted that the current situation makes the film so much about today," she said. "I had hoped we were passing such a fork in the road, but I hoped in vain."—AFP

DJ David Morales arrested in Japan for ecstasy possession

American DJ David Morales was arrested early yesterday at a southern Japanese airport on suspicion of drug smuggling after a tiny quantity of ecstasy was allegedly found in his possession, police and local media said. Morales was detained at Fukuoka airport after a customs officer found the euphoria-inducing drug MDMA, better known as ecstasy. "He was arrested for allegedly violating the law on narcotics and psychotropics control," a police spokesman told AFP.

Authorities allegedly found five granules of MDMA-weighing 0.3 grams—in Morales' carry-on suitcase, according to the Asahi Shimbun newspaper. The Sankei Shimbun newspaper reported that the 56-year-old DJ denied the allegation, saying: "It's not mine. (Someone) might have tried to frame me". Morales was scheduled to perform at events in Fukuoka on Saturday and Tokyo yesterday, according to his website. Morales was an influential figure in the New York dance scene during the 1980s and 1990s. He has remixed and produced releases for artists including Mariah Carey, Aretha Franklin, Michael Jackson and Janet Jackson, according to his website.

Morales was nominated for his first Grammy Award in



American DJ David Morales

1996 as a producer for Mariah Carey's song "Fantasy." Two years later, he won the Grammy for "Remixer of the Year." Japan has strict anti-drug laws where even possession of minute quantities can lead to jail sentences. Possession of ecstasy for personal use, however small the quantity, carries a maximum jail sentence of seven years and a three million yen fine (\$26,000) fine. In arguably Japan's most infamous music drug bust, Paul McCartney spent nine days in a Tokyo jail in 1980 after being caught at the airport with a bag of marijuana in his suitcase.—AFP

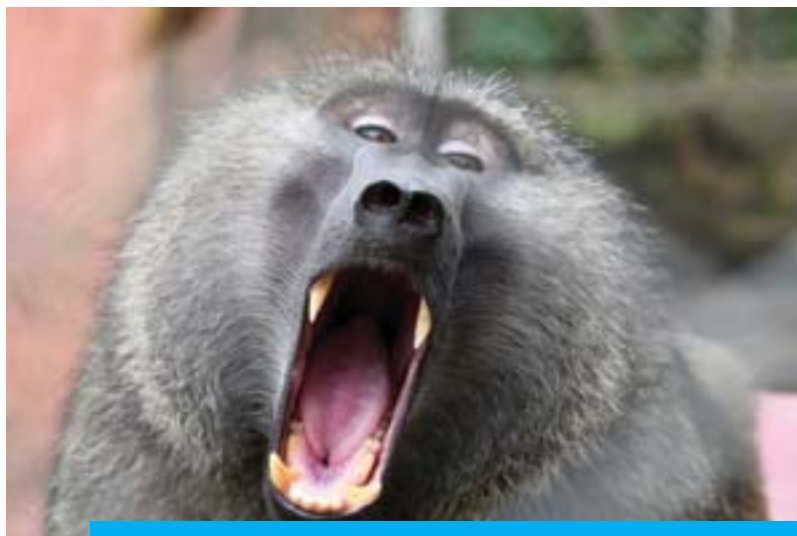
Honduras zoo struggles to replace the drug money that built it



General view of the Joya Grande zoo and eco-park in Santa Cruz de Yojoa, Cortes department, 160 km north of Tegucigalpa, Honduras.—AFP photos



A worker touches a hippo at the Joya Grande zoo and eco-park in Santa Cruz de Yojoa.



A baboon is seen at the Joya Grande zoo and eco-park.



Deer are seen at the Joya Grande zoo and eco-park.

An imposingly tall giraffe, powerful African lions and proud Bengal tigers are among the many highlights of a zoo-created by wealthy drug traffickers—that is like a Garden of Eden in the green mountains of Honduras. But the Joya Grande animal park is now languishing because of a shortage of funds. The zoo was allegedly modeled after the Hacienda Napoles—the vast estate of the late Colombian drug kingpin Pablo Escobar—by a violent Honduran cartel known as the Cachiros, which was sanctioned by the United States in 2013. “The eco-park was very profitable, it was new, we had a lot of investment, but now we lack the capital that the owners had” since their arrests, biologist and zoo manager Maria Diaz told AFP.

Diaz, who is Guatemalan, is desperately hoping for government economic assistance to keep the park going. Four months of demonstrations against the re-election last November of President Juan Orlando Hernandez blocked the main access road to the zoo, sharply curtailing the number of visitors. The facility sits atop a hill 150 kilometers (95 miles) north of the capital city Tegucigalpa. A sign formed of white stones set on a grassy hillside welcomes tourists with the words “Great Jewel Zoo.”

The giraffe stretches out its neck to greet

visitors, while zebras leisurely munch on hay in a nearby corral. Further down a steep slope are enclosures for deer, camels and big, pig-like tapirs—including a newborn—as well as the pools in which hippos wallow. Next come cages and enclosures containing powerful members of the cat family—African lions, Bengal tigers, jaguars and pumas—followed by bison, llamas, wildebeest, ostriches, peacocks and other exotic animals.

Visitors can rent water bicycles, ride horses or enjoy the zoo’s cafeterias, pools and restaurants, as well as the 15 cabins for tourists—who are sorely lacking. Honduras’s Office of Seized Assets (OABI) confiscated the facility from the drug cartel in April 2014, at which point the biologist Diaz—who had been in charge of caring for the animals—managed to obtain a government concession to operate the place for \$7,400 a month.

In crisis

To oversee the administration of the park and its hundreds of animals, she created a firm called Noah’s Ark Veterinarian Services. The park was doing well financially until the protests against President Hernandez erupted. At the same time, the OABI and the public prosecutor’s office seized 200 animals on

grounds of mistreatment, further eroding the park’s allure. Even if no one comes, Diaz said, “we have to pay our employees and suppliers—and the animals will always have to eat.”

The salaries of 65 employees, food for the animals and the water and electric bills cost about \$42,000 a month. With low visitor numbers, there is no clear way to pay off the zoo’s \$83,000 in debt. Adding to the challenge, the nation’s economic situation has only become worse, meaning “people prefer to spend on essentials, and not on entertainment, like visiting a zoo,” the biologist lamented. “We are hoping for a debt cancellation and a reduction of the monthly payment” to the OABI, said the animal-loving Diaz, who wore a safari suit during an interview in her office.

OABI director Jose Luis Andino told AFP he has lawyers examining whether Diaz’s requests are “legally possible.” He added that his office was “working with the people there to make the zoo sustainable,” while trying to maintain and improve its facilities. The eco-park, he added, was not just a tourist attraction but has educational value as well. Diaz says she cannot imagine ever closing the zoo, despite its steep financial challenges. “There are 500 animals that have to eat,” she said. “I love them all... and they love me.”—AFP



Youngsters pose as they prepare to play paintball at the Joya Grande zoo and eco-park.



Japanese chicken and deer are seen at the Joya Grande zoo and eco-park.



Tapirs are seen at the Joya Grande zoo and eco-park.



Zebras are seen at the Joya Grande zoo and eco-park.



Visitors look at a giraffe at the Joya Grande zoo and eco-park.



A leopard plays with a coconut at the Joya Grande zoo and eco-park.



A boat with visitors is seen at an artificial lake of the Joya Grande zoo and eco-park.

Greece's skirt-wearing, selfie-attracting guard unit turns 150



Presidential guards, called Evzones, march in central Athens. —AFP photos

Already dressed in white leggings and black garters, Greek presidential guard Christos Lialis stands absolutely still so his watch mate can affix his many-pleated fustanella skirt, the unit's world-renowned symbol. He is used to standing still—it's required of the Evzones, the all-male guard symbolizing the epitome of Greek valour, who are also a tourist highlight in Athens attracting countless selfies every day. The Evzones turned 150 this year and while they are now ceremonial, when founded in 1868, in the early years of the modern Greek state, they were a crack light infantry.

They fought with distinction in the Balkan Wars, World War I, the Asia Minor Campaign and the Greco-Italian War. Today, there are around 100 Evzones in a small compound in the National Gardens, a short distance from their guard duties at the Presidential Mansion and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Syntagma Square, Greece's foremost military monument to the fallen. They also raise the Greek flag on the Acropolis after sunrise every day and form a guard of honor during official visits by foreign heads of state.

An elite force still officially part of the Greek army, the Evzones are carefully selected each year from among the tallest and toughest of young Greeks on infantry conscript duty. Applicants must be between 1.87 and 2.10 meters tall (6.1 to 6.9 inches) and undergo six weeks of tough training to prove themselves equal to the task. Only a third of applicants are accepted.

Movement 'considered an outrage'

The Evzones' commander, Captain Nikolaos Vavlekis, says new recruits must have "endurance, discipline and precision". Whether in rain, snow, or heat-wave, Evzones are strictly prohibited from moving or making eye contact for the duration of their one-hour guard duty, no matter the reason. They can only tap their rifle to alert their watch commanders and blink to communicate with them—once for yes, twice for no. "Any movement in response to external events

is considered an outrage to the mission," says Vavlekis. Putting on the uniform—which weighs more than 20 kilograms (44 pounds) — takes a minimum of 45 minutes and is impossible without the aid of an Evzone's watch mate, who is assigned to him for the duration of their service.

Their studded, tough leather clogs known as tsarouchia weigh another two kilograms, while their rifle adds another seven kilograms. Even without being able to move a muscle, the Evzones exude a certain charm—Pantelis Xystros, the unit's Facebook administrator, says he met his future wife while on guard duty in 1976. British tourist Caroline Perkins enjoyed seeing the Evzones. "It's very impressive to see these traditional clothes (...) very nice with their bearskins, different from ours," she says, referring to Britain's Queen's Guard who also famously stand still—and attract selfies.

400 pleats of history

The number 400 has special significance for the unit, symbolizing Greece's occupation by the Ottoman Empire for nearly 400 years. Accordingly, the Evzones' white cotton skirt, the fustanella, has 400 pleats. And when carrying out their elaborate "Evzones step", the unit's upraised foot twirls a "4" in the air. The rest of the outfit is also heavy with symbolism. The fez is blood red and its black silk braids represent tears for the fallen, says resident tailor Vangelis Lazos. The entire uniform is reminiscent of the peasant garb worn by the klephts, the irregular warriors of the Greek war of independence.

Taught by his father, who preceded him at the post, Lazos is among a small group of a dozen in-house cobblers, tailors and seamstresses who still craft and repair the Evzones' uniforms by hand. One of the ceremonial waistcoats takes six months to make, he says. Lialis, 24, says he is "moved" as his service in the unit nears its end. "Some of them break down in tears before their final guard duty," says Dimitra Psychogiou, the unit's public relations officer. —AFP



Lialis gets help putting on his ceremonial fustanella skirt, which has 400 pleats to symbolise Greece's occupation by the Ottoman Empire for nearly 400 years.

SAYONARA TSUKIJI! EXODUS AS RELOCATION OF TOKYO'S FAMED FISH MARKET BEGINS

Hundreds of fishmongers on forklifts and trucks rose before dawn in Tokyo to join a mammoth exodus of vendors as the world-famous Tsukiji market relocates to a new site. In small vehicles and the market's famed "turret trucks"—one-man flatbeds with a barrel-shaped steering column at the front—they drove out of the Tsukiji site one last time, headed for Toyosu, the market's new home. The main bridge out from the market was closed to traffic for the move, with security guards in place to wave along the leaving wholesalers who drove in orderly lines between safety cones topped with flashing red and green lights.

Hundreds of the 900 businesses that once handled 480 kinds of seafood worth \$14 million daily—as well as 270 types of fruits and vegetables—are relocating. A total of 2,600 turret trucks and forklifts will drive about 2.3 kilometers (1.4 miles) from Tsukiji to the new site over a period of five days, according to the Tokyo metropolitan government. The move began a day after the last tuna auction at the market, a pre-dawn ritual for Tokyo's food world that also once drew crowds of tourists hoping for one of just 120 spots to watch.

The 83-year-old market's move has been in the works for decades, prompted by its rundown state, but it has been a lengthy and controversial process, hindered by pollution rows and construction delays. The discovery of soil contamination at Toyosu, formerly home to a gas plant, sparked safety fears about the new site and forced local authorities to spend millions of dollars to clean up the area. After experts declared Toyosu safe, the Tokyo governor took the final decision to move the market there in late 2017, ending years of delays.

But while the new site promises state-of-the-art refrigeration and will keep gaping tourists away from the business of the market in a gallery behind glass, the move has still left a bitter taste for some. "I feel nostalgic as Tsukiji has been my home ground for 15 years. We are sad to lose the Tsukiji brand," vegetable wholesaler Tsukasa Kujirai told AFP on Saturday. Opened in 1935, Tsukiji was for many years known only to its vendors and the food industry, but it gained international renown in recent decades and its tuna auctions even hit the headlines, with one fish going for a record \$1.8 million at the market's New Year's auction in 2013. The highest bidder at Saturday's final auction paid 4.4 million yen (\$38,700) for a bluefin tuna weighing 162 kilograms (357 pounds) caught off Aomori, northern Japan. Toyosu will officially throw open its doors on October 11. —AFP



A fishmonger cleans his shop at the Tsukiji fish market in Tokyo yesterday, the first day of relocation to the new Toyosu market following Tsukiji's final tuna auction. —AFP



Tsukiji's workers drive famous turret truck across Tsukiji bridge yesterday, the first day of the moving process to Toyosu market.

Cheese squeeze: Japan cheesemakers fret over EU trade deal



Employees of the Nasunomori cheese factory preparing brie cheeses in Nasushiobara, Tochigi prefecture. —AFP photos

It was three decades ago, but Kazuhiko Ochiai still remembers his first taste of cheese when he visited France, a palate pleaser that inspired the former researcher to start producing his own variety in Japan. But he now frets that a massive EU-Japan trade deal could spark a flood of cheap cheese imported from Europe that could take a generous slice out of his own business. Ochiai makes five kinds of cheese, including brie and a variety similar to comte. Business has boomed with sales of 20 million yen (\$177,500) this year, up from just two million yen when he started a decade ago. "We cannot keep up with the demand," said the 74-year-old, who employs just a handful of staff.

But he acknowledged concern about the impact of the free-trade deal, which will eliminate the hefty 29.8-percent tariff currently imposed on imported cheese. "I'm worried for the long term," Ochiai told AFP at his small factory in the mountainous city of Nasushiobara, north of Tokyo, as colleagues busily shaped and wrapped specialty cheeses. "I think the price competition will be fierce. It's hard for us to lower the price because it takes time and effort for small cheese makers," he said, adding that milk is much cheaper in Europe than in Japan.

The deal signed in July—the largest ever negotiated by the EU—creates a huge free-trade area covering nearly one-third of global GDP, eliminating tariffs for everything from Japanese cars to French cheese. Touting the deal, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Japanese people would "be able to enjoy excellent wine or cheese from Europe". Japanese consumption of cheese is increasing, from 279,000 tons in 2007 to 338,000 tons a decade later, according to the most recent statistics from the farm ministry.

But there is plenty of room for growth. Per capita, annual consumption is a scant 2.66 kilograms (5.86 pounds) compared to 27.2 kilograms in France, 24.7 kilograms in Germany and a whopping 28.1 kilograms in Denmark. Around three-quarters of the cheese consumed is imported, mostly from Australia and New Zealand.

'Delicious cheese'

Hundreds of kilometers to the north, on the island of Hokkaido where most Japanese dairy products are made, cattle farmers are also watching trade developments with unease. "We're concerned that demand for cheese made in Japan might be lost," the Japan Agricultural Co-operative in Hokkaido told AFP.

Another worry was the possibility that cheese manufacturers facing greater competition might in turn pressurize dairy farmers to cut their prices. Almost all of the milk used in cheese production comes from Hokkaido. Keen to support domestic farmers—a key political support group for Abe—the government has already announced measures to cushion the impact. Abe's administration has earmarked 15 billion yen in subsidies "to counter the increase of European cheese before the trade deal takes effect," according to the farm ministry. Manufacturers can use the subsidies to expand their facilities, attend training overseas to improve quality or to promote cheese consumption.

Ochiai is pinning his hopes on the cheese tastes of Japanese con-



An employee of the Nasunomori cheese factory sticking labels on cheeses in Nasushiobara, Tochigi prefecture.



An employee of the Nasunomori cheese factory cutting a Reblochon cheese.



Kazuhiko Ochiai of the Nasunomori cheese factory looking at cheeses in Nasushiobara.

Classifieds

Monday, October 8, 2018



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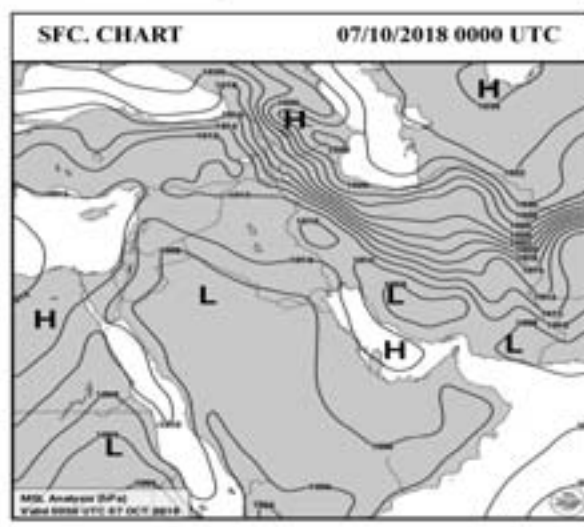


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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate north easterly wind changing to south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h.

BY NIGHT: Fair and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to variable wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h with a chance for mist forming.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 07/10/2018 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	39 °C	31 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	40 °C	25 °C			
ABDALY	41 °C	24 °C			
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C			
JAHRA	40 °C	28 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	39 °C	28 °C			
SALMIYAH	38 °C	31 °C			
AHMADI	39 °C	30 °C			
NUWAISIB	41 °C	24 °C			
WAFRA	41 °C	25 °C			
SALMY	41 °C	24 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Monday	10/08	Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	39 °C	23 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 30 km/h
Tuesday	10/09	Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	41 °C	25 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 30 km/h
Wednesday	10/10	Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	40 °C	25 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 28 km/h
Thursday	10/11	Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	41 °C	25 °C	SE-SW	08 - 30 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:26
Sunrise	05:45
Zuhr	11:36
Asr	14:57
Sunset	17:27
Isha	18:44

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	43 °C
MIN. Temp.	26 °C
MAX. RH	25 %
MIN. RH	08 %
MAX. Wind	W 39 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Hospitals

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

Clinics

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

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

Flight Schedule

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Monday 8/10/2018				Departure Flights on Monday 8/10/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
FEG	441	Asyut	00:05	AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	KAC	417	Manila	00:25
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
KAC	102	London	00:50	MSR	2615	Cairo	00:30
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	PIA	206	Lahore	01:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	FEG	344	Sohag	01:05
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	JZR	528	Asyut	01:05
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KA	C677	Dubai	01:30
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	THY	773	Istanbul	01:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	285	Dhaka	01:50
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	KAC	363	Colombo	01:50
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	JZR	502	Luxor	01:55
JZR	651	Lahore	02:55	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:15
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	JZR	142	Doha	03:45
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:25
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	JAI	571	Mumbai	05:00
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	QTR	1077	Doha	05:15
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:35
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	FDB	070	Dubai	06:00
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:20	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	RJA	643	Amman	07:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	KAC	167	Paris	07:30
BAW	157	London	06:10	KAC	173	Munich	07:35
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	KAC	413	Bangkok	07:40
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	JZR	778	Jeddah	08:00
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	KAC	501	Beirut	08:00
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	BAW	156	London	08:20
JZR	143	Doha	07:20	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30	KAC	691	Muscat	09:00
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:05
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	KAC	161	Geneva	09:05
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	117	New York	09:05
KAC	358	Kochi	08:00	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	IAW	158	Al Najaf	09:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
IAW	157	Al Najaf	08:30	KAC	561	Amman	09:40
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	JZR	534	Cairo	09:45
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	773	Riyadh	09:45
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:55
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
MSC	405	Sohag	10:15	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	JZR	124	Bahrain	10:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	101	London	10:00
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	617	Doha	10:20
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	IAW	158	Al Najaf	11:00
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:30	MSC	406	Sohag	11:15
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	AXB	890	Mangalore	11:20
JZR	125	Bahrain	12:55	JZR	788	Riyadh	11:20
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:30	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
JZR	779	Jeddah	13:45	SYR	342	Damascus	12:00
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05
IAW	157A	Al Najaf	13:55	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10



Members of the "Colla Vella Xiquets de Valls" human tower team celebrate after forming a "castell" (human tower) during the XXVII 'castells' competition in Tarragona yesterday. These human towers, built traditionally in festivals within Catalonia, gather several teams that attempt to build and dismantle a human tower structure. — AFP

China says Interpol chief probed 'on suspicion of violating law'

Wife of Meng says she received knife emoji

BEIJING: China said yesterday the president of Interpol, who went missing shortly after arrival in his home country, is under investigation for possible criminal activity, as Beijing broke its silence about his fate. Meng Hongwei, who is also China's vice minister of public security, "is currently under investigation on suspicion of violating the law", according to a statement on the website of the National Supervisory Commission, which handles corruption cases involving public servants.

Meng, the first Chinese president of Interpol, was last heard from on Sept 25 as he left Lyon - where the

international police organization is based - for China. His disappearance was disclosed by French officials on Friday but China had remained tight-lipped about his status until now. Meng had lived with his wife and two children in France since being elected Interpol president in 2016.

The agency's secretary general Juergen Stock, who oversees day-to-day operations, said Saturday that it was seeking "clarification" on his whereabouts from Chinese authorities. It is the latest high-profile disappearance in China, where a number of top government officials, billionaire business magnates and even an A-

list celebrity have vanished for weeks or months at a time. When - or if - they reappear, it is often in court.

Speaking to reporters yesterday in Lyon, Meng's wife said she feared that her husband's life was in danger. "This matter belongs to the international community," Meng told a press conference. She said the last social media message she received from her husband came on Sept 25, depicting a single knife emoji. That day, his wife said he sent a social media message telling her to "wait for my call", before sending the emoji signifying danger. "I'm not sure what has happened to him," she said. She kept her back turned to the

reporters present, and refused to be photographed out of fear for her safety.

China's recently established National Supervisory Commission holds sweeping powers to investigate the country's public servants with few requirements for transparency. Although the commission did not detail the allegations against Meng, its mandate is to investigate corruption cases as part of Chinese President Xi Jinping's anti-graft campaign. Some critics of the effort - which has punished more than one million officials - say it also functions as a tool for Xi to eliminate his political rivals. — Agencies

Kavanaugh sworn in...

Continued from Page 1

Kavanaugh's nomination as a replacement for retiring justice Anthony Kennedy was controversial from the start - but the initial focus was solely on the conservative views held by the married father of two. But his ascent to the Supreme Court was thrown into doubt when university research psychologist Christine Blasey Ford testified that he had sexually assaulted her at a party when they were in high school.

Ahead of the Senate vote, protesters vented their rage on the steps of the US Capitol. As they chanted "Shame!" and "November is coming!" police took several dozen demonstrators down the steps and put them in plastic flex-cuffs. Later, the protesters moved to the Supreme Court, at one point rushing the steps and banging on the building's ornate bronze doors. "I am here because President Trump mocked sexual assault victims," said North Carolina native Kara Harrington, 50. "It unleashed something inside me. I was assaulted when I was younger and I didn't tell anybody."

In the Senate chamber, the vote was disrupted on several occasions by angry protests from the gallery. Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who has rallied against Kavanaugh's critics, said he was "proud" of his colleagues and predicted a bright future for his party. "Our base is fired up. We finally discovered

the one thing that would fire up the Republican base, and we didn't think of it. The other side did it," he told reporters after Kavanaugh's confirmation.

Indeed, Kavanaugh's confirmation reflects a high-water mark of the Trump presidency, before the halfway point: Republican control of the White House, the Senate and the House of Representatives, along with a firm conservative majority on the judiciary's top court. But the saga - fueled by ugly accusations and counter-claims aired at nationally televised hearings, followed by an 11th-hour FBI probe to address the assault allegations - has inflamed political passions.

The nomination laid bare the partisan gridlock on Capitol Hill and the political polarization of America, ahead of the midterm Congressional elections set for Nov 6. In Kansas, Trump seized on the moment to skewer his opponents. "The radical Democrats have turned into an angry mob," he said. "The Democrats are willing to cause such destruction in the pursuit of power - just imagine the devastation they would cause if they ever obtained the power they so desperately want."

He hailed Kavanaugh as "a man of great character and intellect" and said he would work alongside Trump's other Supreme Court pick, Neil Gorsuch, to protect the "sacred rights" of Americans. Later, in a phone interview with Fox News, Trump said he was "very happy" that he did not pull the plug on Kavanaugh's nomination. Democratic senators, who worked to block Kavanaugh, insisted the caustic battle would motivate their party faithful at the polls next month. "It is a sad day, but the recourse will have to be on election day," Democratic Senator Amy Klobuchar told reporters. — AFP

foreign ministry on Wednesday summoned Saudi Arabia's ambassador over the issue. Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said on Twitter that if reports of his death were confirmed, "this would constitute a horrific, utterly deplorable, and absolutely unacceptable assault on press freedom".

Fred Hiatt, the director of the Washington Post's editorial page, said if the reports were true "it is a monstrous and unfathomable act". "Jamal was - or, as we hope, is - a committed, courageous journalist. He writes out of a sense of love for his country and deep faith in human dignity and freedom," Hiatt said in a statement on the US newspaper's website. A European Commission spokesperson said in a statement that Brussels was "closely" following the case, adding it was "awaiting clarifications from the Saudi authorities on the fate of Mr Khashoggi."

Khashoggi fled from Saudi Arabia in Sept 2017, months after Prince Mohammed was appointed heir to the throne. The journalist said he had been banned from writing in the pan-Arab Al-Hayat newspaper, owned by Saudi prince Khaled bin Sultan Al-Saud, over his defense of the Muslim Brotherhood, which Riyadh has blacklisted as a terrorist organization. He has also criticized Saudi Arabia's role in Yemen, where Riyadh leads a military coalition fighting alongside the government in its war with Iran-backed rebels. Saudi Arabia has launched a modernization campaign since Prince Mohammed's appointment as heir to the throne. — Agencies

Frankfurt book fair gets political in 'stormy' times

FRANKFURT: "We need to talk." With these words, the Frankfurt book fair is this week kicking off its most politically charged edition in years, shining a spotlight on everything from #MeToo and free speech to life in Trump's America. The outspoken stance comes a year after the last edition of the world's largest publishing event ended in scuffles and chants of "Nazis Out", triggered by the presence of a far-right German publisher and its controversial speakers.

Organizers have defended the platform given to the Antaios house, notorious for anti-immigration and anti-Semitic publications, saying the book fair stood against censorship of any kind. "We allow all opinions to be heard, whether we like them or not," director Juergen Boos told a pre-fair news conference. "But we have opinions too. And we will make our points of view very clear."

Against a backdrop of rising euroscepticism, the book fair will start by sending a distinctly pro-EU signal at tomorrow's opening ceremony, giving the stage to the bloc's foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini. The following day, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier will join a debate on how to combat anti-foreigner and populist voices "in stormy times".

The fair has also teamed up with the United Nations and Amnesty International to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the UN human rights declaration, an achievement Boos said "cannot be taken for granted". Freedom of expression in

Vladimir Putin's Russia, Turkey's media crackdown and concerns about the rule of law and free speech in Poland will all be topics of discussion.

Commentators will also take stock of the #MeToo movement, a year after it sparked a global discussion about sexual harassment, and renowned US authors Meg Wolitzer and Paul Beatty will talk feminism and race in the era of President Donald Trump. African authors are likewise getting a chance to shine with the continent preparing for its "biggest ever" presence at the fair, which organisers said reflected the African publishing industry's increasing professionalism and international reach.

Nigeria's Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, author of "Americanah", will discuss her smash-hit essay "We Should All Be Feminists", while Trifonia Melibebe Obono will present her coming-of-age book "La Bastarda", the first ever novel by a woman from Equatorial Guinea translated into English. And although the Antaios company is skipping this year's event, two other German far-right publishers will be manning stands at Frankfurt's giant conference center.

Several lawmakers from the country's anti-Islam, anti-immigration AfD party are also expected to show up, Boos said. But with 7,300 exhibitors from over 100 countries, he stressed that the far-right represented "a mini group" at the fair. "They get a lot of attention. The question is whether they deserve it."

This year's event will once again showcase hi-tech novelties in a bid to encourage the book publishing industry to think creatively about how to plug into new technologies, including through augmented reality. Valued at around \$120 billion annually, the global book publishing industry has seen steady but slow growth in recent years, and sales of e-books have stagnated. Hologram singer Maya Kodess will perform at the fair, as will Spanish "cyborg activist" Moon Ribas who has implanted a sensor in her body that vibrates whenever there's an earthquake. — AFP

Riyadh denies Khashoggi killed...

Continued from Page 1

The journalist's fiancée, Hatice Cengiz, said on Twitter she was "waiting for an official confirmation from the Turkish government" before she could believe the claims. Khashoggi has been critical of some of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's policies and Riyadh's intervention in the war in Yemen. His criticisms appeared in both the Arab and Western press. The former government adviser, who turns 60 on Oct 13, has lived in the United States since last year to avoid possible arrest.

Yasin Aktay, an official in Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) who was close to the journalist, said Khashoggi had made an appointment in advance with the consulate and called to check the documents were ready. "His friends had warned him, 'Don't go there, it is not safe,' but he said they could not do anything to him in Turkey," said Aktay. He added that he still hoped the reports of his friend's death were untrue.

Prince Mohammed said in an interview published by Bloomberg on Friday that the journalist had left the consulate and Turkish authorities could search the building, which is Saudi sovereign territory. Turkey's

Nurmagomedov beats McGregor...

Continued from Page 1

camp leapt into the cage, one of them taking a shot at the exhausted McGregor, who eventually departed in a huddle of security personnel. Nurmagomedov was also hustled out surrounded by security officers as the pro-McGregor crowd jeered and threw drinks at him.

UFC chief Dana White refused to hand Nurmagomedov his belt, saying he feared it would further inflame the crowd. "If I put this belt on you, everyone's going to start throwing sh*t into the octagon," he told Nurmagomedov. The ring announcer declared Nurmagomedov the winner after both fighters had departed. Nurmagomedov told reporters that Russian President Vladimir Putin had called to congratulate him. He also criticized McGregor for trash-talking, saying: "This is a respect sport."

White said that the Nevada Athletic Commission, which oversees combat sports in the state, was withholding Nurmagomedov's purse pending an investigation. "It's a big deal," White said, adding that three members of the Russian's camp were briefly detained by police. White

said a suspension and "big money fines" could be looming for Nurmagomedov, who might also find himself facing difficulties obtaining a visa to fight in the United States in the future.

McGregor was returning to mixed martial arts for the first time since Nov 2016, having detoured in 2017 to a cross-combat boxing bout against Floyd Mayweather which ended in defeat - but still earned McGregor some \$100 million. His return sparked massive interest, with White predicting the bout would break the UFC record of 1.65 million pay-per-view buys. The crowd included a mass of chanting, flag-waving Irish fans as well as a sprinkling of celebrities including Hollywood stars Matt Damon and Mel Gibson and Northern Ireland golf star Rory McIlroy.

Taking on the powerful champion from Dagestan in his comeback fight was a risk for McGregor, but the drumbeat for a showdown between the two intensified in April, when McGregor was at the center of an extraordinary melee in New York. McGregor hurled a dolly through a window of a bus filled with other UFC fighters at the Barclays Center - apparently angered that Nurmagomedov had intimidated one of the Irish fighter's friends, Artem Lobov. Two athletes were injured and McGregor pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct in a Brooklyn criminal court in July in a plea deal that allowed him to avoid jail time. All felony counts were dropped and he was ordered to do five days of community service. — AFP

Sports

Victory eases pressure on Michael Cheika but coach needs more wins

Big challenge now is to go to Japan where they play against New Zealand

SALTA: A half-time shellacking from coach Michael Cheika turned around one of the most remarkable rugby internationals in history on Saturday but the Australians will need more than words if they are to improve on a disappointing Rugby Championship.

Fans were calling for Cheika's head at half time in Australia's Rugby Championship match against Argentina, with the home side 31-7 ahead and the Wallabies looking hapless and destined for a fifth loss in six games that would leave them last in the table.

The Australians, however, scored five tries in the second period after Cheika got them back to the dressing room at the break. A silent video showed the angry coach pacing up and down and berating his charges and although he refused to reveal what he said, skipper Michael Hooper perhaps euphemistically acknowledged they were read the riot act.

"Yeah, he had some pretty firm words there in the second half," Hooper said. "But like I said it was the choice of the players to come out in the second half and I'm very proud to react like that. The key for us is to do it for longer."

The transformation was immediate as Australia

scored five tries in 22 minutes to beat the hosts 45-34 and Cheika lauded his players for taking responsibility to redeem themselves after their atrocious first half.

But the comeback, the biggest in the Wallabies history, cannot obfuscate their performances in this year's tournament. They won only two of their six Rugby Championship matches and avoided the wooden spoon by the slimmest of margins and have won just three matches in their last 11 tests.

Cheika acknowledged his critics may not be assuaged by a come from behind win against Argentina. "We haven't been winning and so that's what happens," he told reporters. "You get critics and you accept that." The big challenge now is to go to Japan where they play their third Bledisloe Cup game against New Zealand on Oct 27.

The All Blacks, who have already retained the Bledisloe Cup and won a third consecutive Rugby Championship, have beaten the Wallabies in nine of their last 10 encounters. "We must improve a lot on our match today so we can win and that is what we are going to try, not try, that's what we are going to do," Cheika said. — Reuters



SALTA: Australia's team celebrates with the cup after an International Rugby Union Championship match against Argentina at the Padre Ernesto Martarena stadium in Salta, Argentina, on Saturday. — AFP

Crown Prince annual shooting tourney concludes



By Abdellatif Shara

KUWAIT: HH the Crown Prince Annual Shooting tournament concluded on Saturday at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Complex by a closing ceremony.

HH the Crown Prince was represented by Information Minister, State Minister for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri, who expressed pride in representing HH the Crown Prince and congratulated the winners.

He said the political leadership is always in support of athletes and lauded the efforts of Kuwait shooting sport club resulting in making significant achievements in the name of Kuwait during international events.

Meanwhile, President of Arab and Kuwait Sports Federations Eng Duajj Al-Otaibi said the tournament witnessed the participation of the best Kuwaiti shooters along with a number of Gulf shooters, as he thanked HH the Crown Prince for his care of shooters.

He said Kuwait shooting was able this year to make several major achievements, most important of which is the qualifying of shooter Abdelrahman Al-Faihan for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. He added the club had another win through shooter Mansour Al-Rashidi who won a gold medal at the Asian games in Jakarta, Indonesia. He said "we will always work towards making more achievements in the coming days.

Results of the tournament were as follows:

Skeet-men: Abdallah Al-Rashidi, Mansour Al-Rashid, Saud Habeeb.

Trap-men: Nasser Al-Miqlid, Fahad Al-Mutairi, Ayed Al-Mutairi.

Skeet-women: Iman Al-Shamma, Sheikha Al-Rashidi, Afrah Adel.

Trap-women: Sarah Al-Hawal.
10m air pistol - men: Ali Al-Mutairi, Othman Al-Failakawi, Hamad Al-Namshan.

10m air rifle - men: Abdallah Al-Harby, Mohammad Abdelrahman, Khalid Ibrahim.

50m rifle-men: Turkey Al-Shimmari, Mohammad Shateel, Majid Abboud.



50m rifle 3 positions - men: Khalid Ibrahim, Abdallah Al-Harby, Majid Abboud.

50m pistol - men: Hamad Al-Namshan, Ali Al-Mutairi, Hassan Abdelmajid.

10m air rifle - women: Fatima Abdelmalek, Munira Al-Anjari, Yara Al-Kahlaf.

10m air pistol - women: Amira Awadi, Sheikha Al-Qattan, Israr Saqer.

Olympic Archery : Abdallah Taha, Faisal Al-Rashidi, Bader Al-Mutairi.

Open category archery: Mohammad Al-Hadher, Bader Al-Ajmi, Abdallah Al-Husseainain.



Sixth Turkish Airlines World Golf Cup

KUWAIT: Turkish Airlines, a global leader in civil aviation, brought its ever-growing Turkish Airlines World Golf Cup to Kemer Golf & Country Club in Istanbul between the 28th-30th September. The airline, being the first in terms of country and international destinations that reached worldwide, prides itself on its award-winning Business Class service and its many other innovative and distinguished services that performed for offering its passengers an unparalleled flight experience, together with its commitment to the Turkish Airlines World Golf Cup, which has more than 8,000 invited guests competing in more than 100 destinations around the world within this year.

Turkish Airlines is firmly committed to the aspirational vision of sporting competition and trusts in its ability to unite people from different nations. That support extends from football, basketball, rugby and golf at all levels and the amateur series is a fine example of this from the carrier, which offers a multiple award-winning Business Class service and

allows guests to take clubs for free.

With this year's tournament, the winners of the qualifiers progress to the Grand Finals in Antalya in November, when they have the chance to secure a place in the Turkish Airlines Open pro-am, will fly Business Class in Turkish Airlines and enjoy a five-star accommodation.

In the men's category Mehmet Ziyilan will represent Istanbul there after winning the competition with 41 points, while Sedat Devrim was runner-up, Okan Sezer was third. In the ladies' category Moon Sook Shin will represent Istanbul there after winning the competition with 43 points, while Aysen Erdogan was runner-up, Canan Erem was third. The Nearest the Pin competition on the 17th hole was won by Yigit Ilgaz for the men and on the 9th hole Pervin Topba? won the ladies nearest the pin. Enre Ipeker won the mens lowest gross and Hyun Young Shim won the ladies gross award.

"We would like to thank all of our guests who made the Turkish Airlines World Golf Cup here in Istanbul a huge success. We congratulate our winners, Mehmet Ziyilan & Moon Sook Shin. We wish them the best of luck in the Turkish Airlines World Golf Cup Grand Finals in Belek, Antalya, Turkey." Seda Kalyoncu, SVP Corporate Communications for Turkish Airlines, said.



Hamilton storms to Japan win, close on world title

SUZUKA: A rampant Lewis Hamilton led a Mercedes one-two at the Japanese Grand Prix yesterday to move to the brink of a fifth Formula One world title. The Briton dominated at Suzuka after starting on pole, stretching his lead over Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel to 67 points with just four races left as the German's hopes were dashed by a collision with Red Bull's Max Verstappen.

Valtteri Bottas held off Verstappen to take second almost 13 seconds behind Hamilton in a breathless 53-lap race at the fast-flowing Japanese circuit. "Woo-hoo! I love you guys!" Hamilton screamed over team radio after his sixth win in the last seven races and fourth in a row.

"I hope you guys are not getting bored of this—because I'm definitely not." Vettel realistically needed to win to keep alive his fading title hopes but, despite making up four places in a frantic start after starting on the fourth row, spun off on lap eight in a shower of sparks after a risky lunge on Verstappen. The German, who began from eighth

in qualifying, survived the scrape but found himself back in 19th and could only finish sixth, dealing a hammer blow to his slim title hopes. After posting his 71st career victory and his 50th with Mercedes, Hamilton will retain his world title if he wins the next race at Austin and Vettel finishes lower than second.

"It's a great one-two for Mercedes and a true showing of the strength in depth we have," said the Briton after his fifth Japan victory and ninth of the season.

'UNLEASH THE BEAST'

"I can't wait to unleash this beast in Austin," he added, pointing at his car. "It's really weird—obviously I have been racing a long, long time, but the happiness I have inside is as high as always. "We've gone from strength to strength this year as a team but honestly I'll take it one step at a time."

Daniel Ricciardo finished fourth for Red Bull after starting way back in 15th with Kimi Raikkonen fifth. Vettel was left wondering what might have been after a ruining an electric start with an ill-advised attempt to duck inside Verstappen at turn 13.

"In that corner you can't overtake," shrugged the Dutchman, who had earlier received a five-second penalty for nudging Raikkonen off the track. "I even gave him space but he under-steered into my car." —AFP

Sports

Party-pooper Medvedev stuns Nishikori to win Japan Open

Ailing Del Potro suffers shock Beijing final loss

TOKYO: Kei Nishikori's hopes of a third Japan Open crown were dashed yesterday by Russian qualifier Daniil Medvedev, who crushed the local hero 6-2, 6-4 to play party-pooper. Medvedev punched well above his world ranking of 32 and overpowered third seed Nishikori in a one-sided Tokyo final, taking just 63 minutes to scoop his third career title.

Nishikori, who won the tournament in 2012 and 2014, had not dropped a set before running into the beefy Russian and came into the match as the overwhelming favourite. But Medvedev snaffled an early break thanks to a wild backhand from Nishikori, who gift-wrapped the first set to his opponent with a tame double-fault.

A misfiring Nishikori, who won the last of his 11 career titles in Memphis two years ago, continued to struggle as his towering opponent grew in confidence. Chasing a first tournament victory after recovering from a lengthy wrist injury, the world number 12 never really threatened Medvedev's serve and went out in a flurry of unforced errors.

Medvedev completed the upset with a drilled forehand to join a eye-popping list of Japan winners that includes Roger Federer, Pete Sampras, John McEnroe and Ken Rosewall.

In Beijing, Juan Martin del Potro said that he was battling illness after he suffered a shock defeat in the China Open final yesterday, losing 6-4, 6-4 to unseeded Nikoloz Basilashvili of Georgia. In the women's final, world number two Caroline Wozniacki defeated Latvia's Anastasija Sevastova 6-3, 6-3 for her 30th WTA singles title.

Argentine top seed Del Potro was clearly far from his best and has been fighting flu or a cold for several days in the Chinese capital. The world number four said

that he did his best in difficult circumstances.

"I did everything that I can to be better for the final, it wasn't enough time to feel 100 percent," the 30-year-old said. "As you can see, my game today wasn't as good as it was in the last matches in the tournament. I had some problem the last three days and it affected a little bit my game."

Del Potro, who reached last month's US Open final and is enjoying one of the best seasons of his injury-interrupted career, is now in a race to be better for this week's Shanghai Masters.

"I wasn't able to play with that fire that I have in all my matches," Del Potro added, saying however that 34th-ranked Basilashvili "played unbelievable".

It is only the second title of 26-year-old Basilashvili's career, having won his maiden ATP title in Hamburg in July.

There was to be no surprise in the women's decider. Denmark's Wozniacki was impressive all week, never dropping a set and rarely looking troubled, sealing her spot in the WTA Finals Singapore in the process.

The 28-year-old, who won her maiden Grand Slam at the Australian Open at the start of this year, was imperious against the unseeded Sevastova. It is her second China Open crown—she also won it in 2010—and 30th overall. "I'm just happy to have reached 30 today, I'm going to enjoy that," said Wozniacki, a former number one.

"As a little kid I had a dream of becoming a professional tennis player, becoming number one in the world. "Then after number one in the world, I wanted to win a Slam, then I wanted to lift trophies.

"Having done everything, all of that, it's pretty amazing. "I think I had a dream of that, but I don't know how



TOKYO: Winner Daniil Medvedev of Russia kisses the champion trophy during the awards ceremony of the men's singles final against Japan's Kei Nishikori at the Japan Open tennis championships in Tokyo yesterday. —AFP

realistic I really believed that was going to be." Wozniacki, whose form has been patchy in the second half of the year, was ruthless on her serve and wrapped up the first set with an overhead smash to underline her superiority.

Sevastova, 28, will find herself just outside the top 10 in the rankings after her run. "She didn't give me any presents, it was tough," said Sevastova, who retired in May 2013 because of persistent injuries, only to return in January 2015. —AFP

Toews' hat trick lifts Blackhawks

CHICAGO: Jonathan Toews recorded a hat trick, including scoring the game-winning goal in overtime, as the Chicago Blackhawks outlasted the host St. Louis Blues for a 5-4 win on Saturday night. Toews scored in the first period and third period before burying the decisive goal 2:20 into overtime. Patrick Kane and Marcus Kruger also scored one goal apiece for Chicago. Vladimir Tarasenko tallied a pair of goals in a losing effort for St. Louis. Colton Parayko and Chris Butler had one goal apiece. Chicago has won each of its past 44 games when Toews and Kane both score at least one goal.

LIGHTNING 2, PANTHERS 1 (SO)

J.T. Miller and Nikita Kucherov scored in the shootout as host Tampa Bay defeated Florida. Lightning goalie Andrei Vasilevskiy, who made 42 saves through regulation and overtime, stopped Panthers captain Aleksander Barkov in the shootout. The other Panthers shooter, Mike Hoffman, hit the post. Hoffman also hit the post in overtime on what could have been a game-winning shot. In addition to the loss, the Panthers may have paid a heavy price for this game as starting goalie Roberto Luongo left due to injury with 7:39 left in the second period. Florida was leading 1-0 when it appeared that Panthers forward Frank Vatrano was pushed and fell on Luongo's left leg.

FLAMES 7, CANUCKS 4

Elias Lindholm scored twice in a three-point night, and Johnny Gaudreau collected one goal and two assists to lead Calgary to victory over visiting Vancouver. Trailing by one goal going into the third period, the Flames rallied with a pair of power-play goals to exact revenge on the Canucks, who won the season opener for both clubs Wednesday. Elias Pettersson scored twice and added an assist for the Canucks, giving the Vancouver rookie five points in his first two NHL games.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS 2, WILD 1 (SO)

The Golden Knights tied the game late in regulation, and Erik Haula scored in the third round of a shootout as visiting Vegas rallied past Minnesota. Haula, taking the



CALGARY: Mikael Backlund #11 of the Calgary Flames takes a shot on Jacob Markstrom #25 of the Vancouver Canucks during an NHL game at Scotiabank Saddledome on Saturday in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. —AFP

second attempt in the third round after Marc-Andre Fleury stopped Mikko Koivu's try, fired a shot between the pads of Devan Dubnyk that squirted into the net for the game-winner. Fleury saved all three Minnesota shootout attempts. Max Pacioretty sent the game into overtime by scoring the tying goal with 1:31 remaining in the third period. Fleury, yanked in the season opener after giving up five goals on 16 shots, finished with 29 saves and won for the first time in four career starts at Xcel Energy Center.

PREDATORS 4, ISLANDERS 3

Viktor Arvidsson scored two goals, including what proved to be the game-winner late in the second period, as Nashville spoiled New York's home opener. Mattias Ekholm and Craig Smith scored in between Arvidsson's goals for the Predators. Goalie Juuse Saros made 26

saves, including seven in a scoreless third period, as Nashville hung on to its narrow lead. Mathew Barzal, Valtteri Filppula and Anders Lee scored for the Islanders.

DUCKS 1, COYOTES 0

Rookie left winger Max Comtois scored his second goal in as many games, and goalie John Gibson posted his 17th career shutout as visiting Anaheim knocked off Arizona in its home opener. Comtois scored on a breakaway with 32 seconds remaining in the second period, beating Coyotes goalie Antti Raanta low between the pads. Defenseman Cam Fowler set up the goal with a banked pass off the left boards at center ice that Comtois controlled as he got behind the defense. The Coyotes have been shut out in both of their games this season, losing the season opener 3-0 in Dallas on Thursday. —Reuters

Pakistan's Hafeez hits ton, Australia toil on first day

DUBAI: Mohammad Hafeez marked his return to Test cricket with a century as Pakistan reached 255-3 at stumps on the first day of the series-opening Test match against Australia yesterday. Veteran all-rounder Hafeez, playing in his first test since 2016 and his 51st overall, frustrated Australia en route to his 10th century before being trapped in front of the wicket for 126 by pace bowler Peter Siddle in the final session.

His fellow opener Imam-ul-Haq was a lot more aggressive in his knock of 76, as the first-wicket pair added 205 runs after Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed won the toss and opted to bat on a dry wicket at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Australia's attack then tightened things up after the two openers were back in the dressing room. Haris Sohail was batting on 15 with night watchman Mohammad Abbas on one at the end of the day's play.

Earlier, Australia captain Tim Paine brought on off-spinner Nathan Lyon after only eight overs and left-armers Jon Holland shortly afterwards. Holland could have had Hafeez



DUBAI: Pakistan cricketer Mohammad Hafeez leaves the field on day one of the 1st Test cricket match between Australia and Pakistan at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai yesterday. —AFP

caught in the deep for 74 but Mitchell Marsh dropped a difficult chance in the 45th over. Barring that error, Hafeez looked in full control during his 208-ball knock which contained 15 hits to the fence. —Reuters

No plan B for 2026 Winter Games campaign

BUENOS AIRES: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has no backup plan for the 2026 Winter Games if more cities drop out of the race, IOC President Thomas Bach said on Saturday. Calgary, Stockholm and an Italian bid involving Cortina D'Ampezzo and Milan made the IOC shortlist this week, with Turkey's Erzurum dropped.

But all three bids face major obstacles that could potentially end their candidacies. Calgary has planned a non-binding plebiscite in November which could bury the Canadian bid to host the winter Olympics for the second time since 1988 as early as next month.

The Italian bid and Stockholm have both struggled with getting crucial government support for their projects, while Torino pulled out of the Italian bid over project differences. Three other cities—Austria's Graz, Switzerland's Sion and Japan's Sapporo—have dropped out in recent months, scared off by the size and cost of the Games or after facing strong local opposition to the bids.

"There is no Plan B and we will not enter into any speculation," Bach told reporters when asked about what the IOC would do if more cities dropped out ahead of next year's vote for the 2026 Games host.

Bach said although there was a need to continue with cost-reducing measures for the Olympics, especially the Winter Games, there was still strong demand for them. "We have more than a dozen sports who would like to join Olympic programme," he said in the Argentine capital ahead of the opening ceremony of the Youth Olympics.

"Quite a number of interested cities, big number of interested cities (for the 2032 summer Games). We should not be worried for the future." — Reuters

Yankees rout Red Sox to level baseball playoff series, Astros win

WASHINGTON: Gary Sanchez smashed two home runs and Aaron Judge blasted another to power the New York Yankees over arch-rival Boston 6-2 on Saturday in the Major League Baseball playoffs.

The Yankees pulled level at 1-1 in the best-of-five American League playoff series with game three set for today in New York. Either the Red Sox or Yankees will face defending champion Houston or the Cleveland Indians in the American League Championship Series, with the Astros moving to the brink of advancing Saturday with a 3-1 home victory over Cleveland.

The Yankees smacked the most homers of any club in major league history this season with 267 and have sustained their superb slugging into the playoffs. Judge belted a solo homer over the famous "Green Monster" left-field wall at Boston's Fenway Park to put the Yankees ahead in the first inning.

Sanchez followed with another solo blast atop the left-field wall in the second inning. "He threw me something high in the zone and I was able to do something with it," Sanchez said through a translator.

Andrew McCutcheon hit a run-scoring double to left-field in the second for a 3-0 New York lead, prompting the Red Sox to remove starting pitcher David Price. Xander Bogaerts answered for the Red Sox with a solo homer in the fourth.

But Sanchez smashed a three-run homer out of the ballpark off Red Sox reliever Eduardo Rodriguez in the seventh for his first multi-homer game since May 19 to give the Yankees a 6-1 advantage. "He left something there for me and I was able to hit it well," Sanchez said.

Boston's Ian Kinsler responded with a run-scoring double in the seventh but the Red Sox came no closer. Japanese ace Masahiro Tanaka started for New York and allowed Boston batters only one run on three hits with one walk and four strikeouts over five innings.

The Yankees have won a record 27 World Series crowns, most recently in 2009, while the Red Sox last captured the title, their eighth, in 2013.

COLE STRIKES OUT 12

At Houston, Astros starting pitcher Gerrit Cole struck out 12 Cleveland batters with no walks while scattering only three hits over seven innings.

The 28-year-old American right-hander became only the second pitcher with so many strikeouts and no walks in a playoff game, following Tom Seaver's 13-strikeout effort for the New York Mets in 1973.

"When it's on the line, you just want to perform. You want to give them a shot to win the game, I felt like we did that," Cole said. "I'm pretty thrilled with the no walks. Pretty special day. "I had good command with it. I had good command. I really just kept trying to pound the zone and stay aggressive."

Alex Bregman smashed a solo home run and Marwin Gonzalez smacked a two-run double among four hits for the Astros, who seized a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five American League series. The Astros, who beat the Los Angeles Dodgers in last year's World Series, can sweep out the Indians with a victory in game three on Monday in Cleveland. —AFP

Sports

Lacazette, Ramsey star as rampant Arsenal make it nine in a row

Records their biggest win of the season, move into Premier League's top four

LONDON: Arsenal swaggered to a ninth successive win as Alexandre Lacazette's double and a goal of the season contender from Aaron Ramsey inspired a 5-1 rout of Fulham yesterday. Unai Emery's side turned on the style on the banks of the River Thames, recording their biggest win of the season as the resurgent Gunners moved into the Premier League's top four.

Lacazette was at the centre of Arsenal's powerful show at Craven Cottage, with his superb second-half strike restoring their lead after Andre Schurrle had cancelled out his opener. Ramsey's audacious back-heeled goal put Arsenal in complete control to cap a stunning move that recalled the club's finest days under Emery's predecessor Arsene Wenger.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang netted twice in the closing stages as Arsenal won six consecutive league matches within a single campaign for the first time since 2016. They have also recorded three consecutive away league victories for the first time in two years.

Emery was expected to need a long period to revive Arsenal after the depressing final years of the Wenger era. But the north Londoners are quickly rediscovering their verve and struggling Fulham had no answer to their enterprising display.

Arsenal were battling fatigue after touching down in London in the early hours of Friday morning following a 4,000km flight from Azerbaijan, where they beat Qarabag 3-0 in the Europa League on Thursday.

But Emery freshened up his side with six changes, although one was enforced as Mesut Ozil was sidelined due to a back spasm, and there were no signs of fatigue as they took the lead in the 29th minute.

Alex Iwobi was the catalyst with a clever pass to Nacho Monreal. Monreal clipped his cross into Lacazette and the French striker left Tim Ream flat-foot-

ed with a nimble turn and close-range strike for his fourth goal of the season. Fulham are the only side in the Premier League yet to keep a clean sheet this season and it was easy to see why as Arsenal carved holes in the hosts' creaky five-man defence.

Arsenal were close to a second goal as they again exploited the space behind wing-back Cyrus Christie, with Henrikh Mkhitaryan's effort well saved by Marcus Bettinelli.

INSPIRED MOVE

Fulham hit back against the run of play in the 44th minute. Unhinged by Monreal's wasteful pass, Arsenal were out of position as Luciano Vietto slipped a pinpoint pass to Schurrle, who caught Rob Holding ball-watching as he sprinted through to chip a fine finish over Bernd Leno for his third goal this season.

Undeterred, Arsenal stepped on the gas after the interval and Lacazette restored their lead in the 49th minute. Danny Welbeck headed onto Lacazette and he took Bettinelli by surprise with a powerful 20-yard drive that flashed past the newly called-up England keeper.

Aubameyang and Ramsey had both been left on the bench, but Emery introduced them for the final half hour in a bid to kill off Fulham. It proved an inspired move as Ramsey sealed the points with a majestic finish in the 67th minute. A flowing attack saw Hector Bellerin and Ramsey combined in a blur of flicks and delicate touches in midfield before the ball was worked wide to Aubameyang. Aubameyang whipped over a low cross that was slightly behind Ramsey, prompting a superb adjustment from the Wales midfielder as he guided a back-flicked shot into the far corner. Aubameyang put the seal on Arsenal's stroll in the autumn sunshine in the 79th minute, deftly converting



LONDON: Fulham's Irish defender Cyrus Christie (L) vies with Arsenal's English striker Danny Welbeck during the English Premier League football match between Fulham and Arsenal at Craven Cottage in London yesterday. — AFP

Bellerin's cross. The Gabon striker wasn't finished yet and, in the last minute, he smashed in Ramsey's pass for his sixth goal of the season.

No wonder jubilant Gunners crammed into one corner of Craven Cottage celebrated the goal with chants of "We've got our Arsenal back". — AFP

Correa winner against Betis sends Atletico top of La Liga

MADRID: Atletico Madrid shot to the top of La Liga after Angel Correa's goal proved the winner in an untidy 1-0 win over Real Betis yesterday. Atletico sat seven points behind Real Madrid and Barcelona after winning only one of their opening four league games but as their rivals have stumbled, Diego Simeone's side have sprung into form.

Even if Barca return to the summit by beating Valencia later, this was Atleti's fifth win in six in all competitions, with their only dropped points coming in a stalemate away to Real Madrid. "We look at everything quietly and continue to improve," Simeone said. "We

have grown." Simeone can take some of the credit too for this victory at the Wanda Metropolitano, after throwing on both Correa and Thomas Parthey as substitutes in the second half. Thomas provided the assist.

"When the players respond, the coaches look better," Simeone said. "The teams that challenge up the top of the table are there because of the players they can bring off the bench." The contest was billed as a classic clash of styles, with Atletico's stubborn defence up against the free-flowing Real Betis, who lit up the league last season with their flurry of goals.

It is testament to the threat they pose that opponents have become more cautious this season and Atletico were successful here in their strategy of absorb and counter-attack. "A great coach once said, the best Plan B is always to do Plan A better," said Betis coach Quique Setien.

They could also have gone top with a win, such is the scrunched nature of the top half, but instead Betis stay seventh. "We have less points than our performances deserve," Setien added. Diego Costa was missing

with a thigh injury, allowing Nikola Kalinic to make his first start since joining from AC Milan in August.

There was a lack of width and clear thinking in the first half although Betis had the best chance early on. Loren Moron raced through a rare gap in the Atletico defence but the ball got stuck under his feet and he skewed wide.

Atletico posed a threat on the break but repeatedly fluffed the final pass. Kalinic struck the post early in the second half after Aissa Mandi gave it away, before Rodrigo lashed a shot at Pau Lopez. Simeone flapped his arms to beckon the home crowd and Atleti were finding their rhythm as Antoine Griezmann pulled back for Kalinic and then Correa fired across goal but neither Griezmann nor Diego Godin turned it in. Correa, on for the quiet Thomas Lemar, had made a difference with his direct running and he deserved his goal in the 74th minute. Thomas flicked it into his path and with no better option, the forward drove low into the bottom corner. Betis pushed in the latter stages but there was little hint of an equaliser. Atletico held on. —AFP

Immobile fires Lazio into third, Milan extend unbeaten run

MILAN: Ciro Immobile scored his first-ever goal against Fiorentina to send Lazio third in Serie A with a 1-0 win at the Stadio Olimpico yesterday, while AC Milan continued their strong form by beating Chievo.

Simone Inzaghi's Lazio went into the match looking to bounce back from their 3-1 derby defeat by Roma last weekend, and did just that to draw level on points with second-placed Napoli, who face Sassuolo later in the day. "Today we saw the real Lazio, the team with heart that battles hard, that wins duels and games," midfielder Senad Lulic told DAZN. "If we play like this, then we can beat anyone. You could see today how hungry we were for the three points."

Marco Parolo flashed a shot narrowly wide early on, before Lazio defender Wallace got away with a slack pass as Marco Benassi's effort was kept out by Thomas Strakosha. Immobile made the breakthrough in the 38th minute, as Stefan Radu nodded on a corner and the Italy striker stretched to volley in at the back post for his fifth league goal of the season.

The 28-year-old, who signed a contract extension which will keep him at the club until 2023 earlier this week, has now scored 57 Serie A goals since the start of the 2016-17 campaign. Giovanni Simeone had a penalty appeal waved away for the visitors, while Marko Pjaca also went close to an equaliser, but the home side held on for their fourth win in five league games. Milan extended their unbeaten run to eight matches in all competitions as Gonzalo Higuain scored twice in a 3-1 victory over lowly Chievo at the San Siro. Suso teed up Higuain to tap in a 27th-minute opener, before the former Liverpool winger slipped a through ball into the feet of the Argentinian to make it two before half-time.

Higuain has now scored six goals in just seven appearances for Gennaro Gattuso's men since joining from Juventus in the close-season. "Higuain is a champion, a great finisher, a lad who at this moment is working really hard for the group, is demanding and also well-loved," Gattuso told Sky Sport Italia.

Suso made it a hat-trick of assists as Giacomo Bonaventura collected his pass and drilled home in the 56th minute. Veteran striker Sergio Pellissier, 39, scored a consolation for Chievo, but the visitors remain rooted to the foot of the table on minus-one points after being deducted three by Serie A earlier in the season for "false accounting".

Milan sit 10th, but only three points off the top three with a game in hand. Elsewhere, Sampdoria edged out Atalanta 1-0 with a goal from Lorenzo Tonelli to move into the top four ahead of Roma on goal difference, while Parma claimed a fourth win in five outings by winning 3-1 at Genoa. —AFP



SOUTHAMPTON: Chelsea's Spanish striker Alvaro Morata watches the ball as he hurdles Southampton's English goalkeeper Alex McCarthy to score his team's third goal during the English Premier League football match between Southampton and Chelsea at St Mary's Stadium in Southampton, southern England yesterday. — AFP

Sarri's Barkley call rewarded as Chelsea beat Southampton

SOUTHAMPTON: Maurizio Sarri has got little wrong in the three months since he was appointed Chelsea head coach and the Italian was in credit again after starting Ross Barkley in a 3-0 Premier League victory at Southampton yesterday.

Barkley has operated largely as understudy to Mateo Kovacic in recent weeks but, having been selected ahead of the on-loan Real Madrid man, the England international responded by setting up Eden Hazard's 30th-minute opening goal before adding the second-his first for the club-just before the hour.

Alvaro Morata came off the bench to complete the win at St Mary's in added time. Hazard's goal was his eighth of the season, seven of which have come in Chelsea's opening eight Premier League games, and continued his outstanding form since Sarri succeeded Antonio Conte as Blues boss in July.

But Barkley's performance was also a major factor in Chelsea's victory that ensured they maintained the pressure at the top of the Premier League immediately before fellow title-contenders Liverpool and Manchester City met

at Anfield later. This was only Barkley's fifth league start since his £15-million (\$20 million, 17 million euros) transfer from Everton in January, a move that had been put on hold from the previous August while the player continued his recovery from a serious hamstring injury.

But having shown promising signs earlier in the season, the midfielder, who was recalled to the England squad last week, offered compelling evidence at Southampton he is nearing a return to his best.

Kovacic has performed excellently since arriving at Stamford Bridge but Barkley's display suggests the options available to Sarri are increasing as Chelsea look to build on their unbeaten start to the league campaign.

Chelsea were always expected to beat a Southampton side who have so far failed to reverse last season's woeful home form, but Arsenal's comprehensive 5-1 defeat of Fulham earlier in the day only added to the pressure on Sarri's side to collect three points.

Yet while this initially looked as though it would be a stroll for the visitors, Southampton could easily have made it a more uncomfortable afternoon had they made the most of a number of good chances.

The confidence and belief that has grown within Sarri's side during the opening weeks of the season was evident in the way Chelsea overwhelmed Southampton during the opening stages of the game, denying the hosts the opportunity to establish any kind of foothold.

Resolute, desperate defending by the Southampton back five together with Chelsea's tendency to over-elaborate denied the visitors the early lead. —AFP

Mourinho reveals board backing after United's win over Newcastle

MANCHESTER: Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho revealed he had received a text message of support from the English giants' board ahead of his team's thrilling 3-2 win over Newcastle at Old Trafford on Saturday.

Speculation over Mourinho's position mounted before kick-off following United's poor start to the season and, with his team trailing 2-0 inside 10 minutes, the Portuguese boss looked like he could be on his way out.

But Alexis Sanchez capped United's incredible second-half comeback when he rose to meet Ashley Young's cross and head in the winning goal in the final minute of the game. Afterwards Mourinho admitted he needed an unofficial 'vote of confidence' from a board member, believed to be executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward, before the game to know he could discount a newspaper report that he would be sacked this weekend, regardless of the result against Premier League strugglers Newcastle.

"The ones that read the papers, that are connected with social media, they thought maybe I had gone," said Mourinho. "If I hadn't had an SMS from my board not to read (the papers) I would have been convinced too," he added.

But 10 minutes into the visit of lowly Newcastle perhaps even Woodward was re-thinking his position. The visitors' goals resulted from appalling defending from a United side that has looked weak in that department all season, both coming from Newcastle throw-ins which would have been dealt with by an organised defence.

In the seventh minute, Ayoze Perez played a routine through-ball inside full-back Young and Kenedy easily beat him, for skill and pace, before finishing ruthlessly. Barely three minutes later, it was Jonjo Shelvey who collected a throw-in, his cross beating Eric Bailly's half-hearted attempt to clear and landing at the feet of Yoshinori Muto who evaded Young before turning to beat David De Gea.

Mourinho, who had sent Juan Mata on after just 19 minutes, sprinted down the tunnel at half-time and made further changes, bringing on Marouane Fellaini and playing Paul Pogba in a deeper role to have him see more of the ball.

But Pogba's early shot was only parried by Martin Dubravka, the ball falling to Nemanja Matic who somehow cleared the open goal from six yards with a miss which summed up United's woes.

Mourinho's men, however, got back into the game with 20 minutes left when, after Anthony Martial was tripped on the edge of the box, Mata planted a magnificent free-kick past the Newcastle wall and into the corner of the net. The comeback continued six minutes later when Martial received a header from Pogba, played a one-two with his French team mate featuring a clever Pogba back-heel, before scoring with a precise finish from 15 yards.

Sanchez's winner also saw United supporters, who had been muted in their backing for Mourinho to that point, sing his name out loud around Old Trafford. "I'm amazed by that but I don't want that," he said. "If I could tell them please don't do it, I would say that."

The former Chelsea manager added: "I think this is not about me, it is about the football club, the club they love and about the club we represent with all the honour and dignity but I'm amazed by that. "At half-time we were losing 2-0 and the fans were magnificent to the team." — AFP

25 Victory eases pressure on Michael Cheika but coach needs more wins

26 Party-pooper Medvedev stuns Nishikori to win Japan Open

27 Lacazette, Ramsey star as rampant Arsenal make it nine in a row



Liverpool and City share goalless draw

Man City's Mahrez misses late penalty



LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's English midfielder Jordan Henderson (R) vies with Manchester City's Portuguese midfielder Bernardo Silva (C) during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Manchester City at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England yesterday. — AFP

LIVERPOOL: Manchester City's record signing Riyad Mahrez blazed an 86th-minute penalty over the bar to preserve Liverpool's unbeaten Premier League record as both sides failed to lay down an early marker in the title race with a disappointing 0-0 draw at Anfield.

City remain top of the table on goal difference, but both teams are now locked with Chelsea, who were 3-0 winners earlier at Southampton, on 20 points from eight games. Unlike the four enthralling encounters between the two last season when Liverpool beat the English champions three times, a highly-anticipated clash fell flat with neither side managing to register a shot on target until after the hour mark. City had the golden chance four minutes from time when substitute Leroy Sane was upended by Virgil

van Dijk and referee Martin Atkinson pointed to the spot after waving away two earlier strong appeals from the visitors for a penalty. With Sergio Aguero replaced on the hour mark, Mahrez, a £60-million (\$78.7 million) signing from Leicester in July, took responsibility but fired high over the bar to Liverpool's relief as City's wait for a first win at Anfield since 2003 continued.

After starting the season with seven straight wins, though, Liverpool have now failed to win in any of their last four matches as the upcoming international break comes at the right time for Jurgen Klopp's men.

Pep Guardiola had lost on all three of his previous visits to Anfield as City manager and the champions looked unnerved from their recent experiences early on.

Ahead of the game, Klopp tried to play down Mohamed Salah's slump in form after an incredible 44-goal debut season at Anfield. But the Egyptian again looked far from his best and snatched at the sort of chances he buried last season.

Salah had the first opening after just three minutes when he pulled his shot wide after jinking inside John Stones. That was as clear a chance as there was before half-time as both teams' exertions during Champions League games in midweek seemed to take their toll in a first 45 minutes lacking the intensity of their meetings from last term.

Klopp made just two changes from a 1-0 defeat by Napoli on Wednesday, with Dejan Lovren making a sur-

prise return in central defence and Joe Gomez moving to right-back at the expense of Trent Alexander-Arnold.

But the decision to recall the Croatian could have backfired when Lovren was lucky to avoid conceding a penalty for bringing down Aguero inside the area.

City quickly neutralised Liverpool's threat by keeping possession for long periods without forcing Alisson Becker into a save before the break. The second half followed the same pattern as Liverpool's initial burst fizzled out and City took control.

Guardiola was furious as another penalty shout was turned down when Van Dijk was instead awarded a free-kick for a pull by Fernandinho as the Dutch defender handled inside the area.—AFP

Farah wins at Chicago in third marathon start

CHICAGO: Britain's Mo Farah won the Chicago Marathon with a spectacular finishing surge yesterday, shattering the European record to serve notice his distance-racing dominance is far from over. In only his third marathon start, Farah won in 2hr 5min 11sec under cool and rainy conditions to defeat Ethiopia's Mosinet Geremew by 13sec with Japan's Suguru Osako third in 2:05:50.

"It was amazing to cross the line first," said Farah, who pumped his fists and blew kisses to the crowd as he neared the finish line. The 2012 and 2016 Olympic and three-time world 5,000 and 10,000-meter champion, who switched to the marathon distance a year ago, became the first British man to win at Chicago since Paul Evans in 1996.

Farah smashed the former European mark of 2:05:48 set by Norwegian Sondre Nordstad Moen in Fukuoka last December and easily improved on his former British record and personal best of 2:06:22 from a third-place showing

at London in April. Farah's marathon debut was an eighth-place showing at London in 2014, his only prior competitive test at the distance until six months ago. In slick and windy weather that was far from ideal, novice marathoner Farah averaged 4:46 miles and delivered the eighth-best time in Chicago Marathon history.

"The conditions weren't great and everyone was thinking about conditions rather than time," Farah said. "But toward the end we picked it up. I felt good toward the end of the race. At the beginning I felt a bit sluggish but overall I'm very happy." The 35-year-old Somalia-born Briton stayed with the lead pack most of the race, fell back at 30 kilometers but charged directly back among the leaders then outlasted every rival to the finish, dispatching Geremew with a strong closing kick.

Kenya's Brigid Kosgei won the women's title in 2:18:35, also a personal best. Ethiopia's Roza Dereje was second in 2:21:18 with compatriot Shure Demise third in 2:22:15.

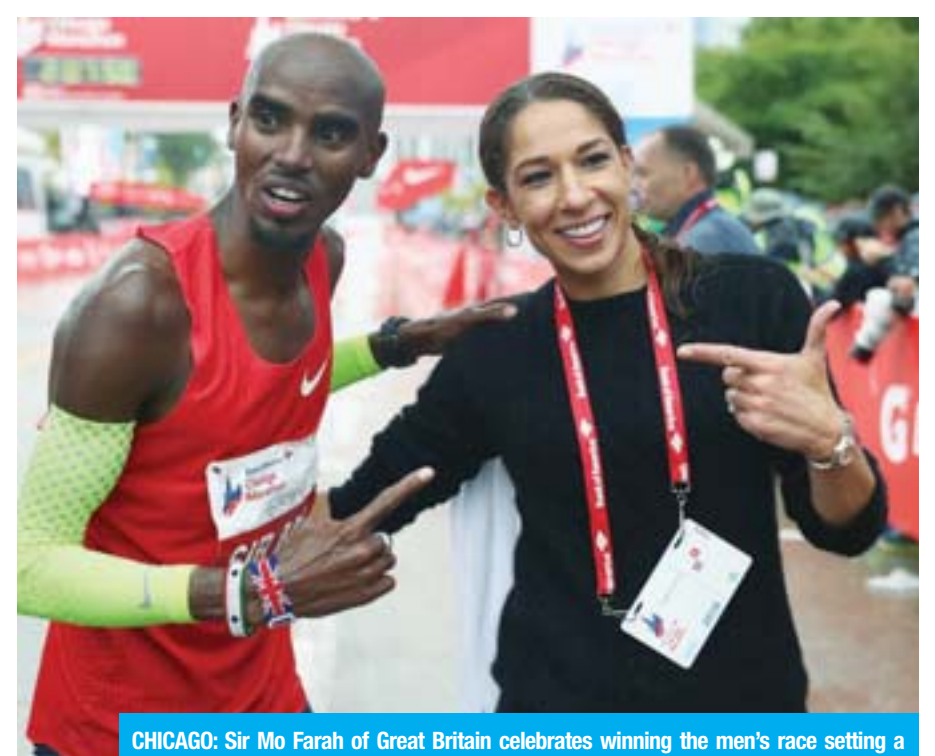
Each champion took a top prize of \$100,000. In the first major marathon since Kenyan Eliud Kipchoge smashed the world record in Berlin last month in 2:01:39, Farah stole the show in what was billed as a battle with his former training partner, 2017 Chicago winner Galen Rupp of the United States.

Farah and Rupp weathered the wet and windy conditions that greeted 45,000 runners, hanging in a pack behind the pacesetters that battled early

headwinds. Rupp and Farah, who once trained together in Oregon under Alberto Salazar, stayed together until the American slowed at 35km and slipped from the lead pace. Geoffrey Kirui, who won the 2017 Boston Marathon and World Marathon Championships crowns, faded before 40km to set up the final duel.

Rupp, who still trains with Salazar, finished fifth, 70 seconds off Farah's time and 24 seconds adrift of fourth place Kenneth Kipkemoi of Kenya. "I'm happy for Mo to win. He ran unbelievable," Rupp said. "I ran as hard as I could. At the end of the day I'm not going to look back with any regrets." Farah, who wore "Sir Mo" on his race bib, works with Gary Lough, the husband of British star Paula Radcliffe, the 2002 Chicago women's champion. "It was nice to be able to race against Galen," Farah said. "He won last year here and it was nice to be able to come back the following year and win."

For women's winner Kosgei, it was a breakthrough win after runner-up showings last year in Chicago and this year in London. She was among seven African runners that pulled ahead by more than 70 seconds after the first 5km and doubled that margin by the 10km mark. Kosgei, 24, surged ahead by 45 seconds at 35km and stretched her lead to the finish line. Two-time champion Florence Kiplagat of Kenya, returning to competition after dropping out of last year's race with a thigh injury, was fourth, 7:33 adrift.—AFP



CHICAGO: Sir Mo Farah of Great Britain celebrates winning the men's race setting a new European record in 2 hours, five minutes and 11 seconds alongside his wife Tania Farah during the 2018 Bank of America Chicago Marathon yesterday in Chicago, Illinois.—AFP