

9 Israel approves 31 settler homes in flashpoint Hebron



16 Tunisia fishermen turn tide to cash in on blue crab menace



22 Egypt seeks to weave cotton renaissance



28 'New' Djokovic wins Shanghai to close on world no. 1 Nadal



Pressure mounts on oil minister, senior execs over probe results

Domestic helpers' department moved to manpower authority

Jordan king vows to fight corruption

AMMAN: Jordan's King Abdullah II yesterday vowed authorities would crack down on corruption in the country, following mass protests against graft and price rises earlier this year. "All Jordanians have an equal right to justice, and corruption will not be left unaddressed to become a chronic social illness," the king said in a speech to mark the opening of parliament in Amman. "I hereby affirm that the state's institutions are well capable of uprooting corruption and holding to account those who dare to encroach on public funds," he added.

Thousands of Jordanians hit the streets at the start of June to protest against corruption, price rises and austerity measures. The week of mass demonstrations forced the prime minister's resignation and the withdrawal of a controversial



AMMAN: Jordan's King Abdullah II delivers a speech to the parliament as he opens its third regular session yesterday. — AFP

income tax bill. With a lack of natural resources to boost state coffers, Jordan relies heavily on foreign aid and faces an unemployment rate of

18.5 percent. In 2016 Amman secured a \$723-million loan from the International Monetary

Continued on Page 24

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Lawmakers stepped up the pressure on the oil minister and top oil executives after a ministerial investigation committee found that some of the allegations against them were true. MP Abdulwahab Al-Babtain said on Twitter yesterday that the results of the investigation committee prove that the grilling of Oil Minister Bakheet Al-Rasheedi was correct. Babtain and MP Omar Al-Tabtabaei grilled the minister several months ago over a variety of allegations, including accusing the minister and top oil executives of squandering public funds and corruption.

The lawmaker said that the committee to investigate the allegations was formed by the government and found that some of the allegations, especially squandering of public funds, were true. Babtain called on the minister and the oil officials to step down over the outcome of the probe, otherwise they will be forced to resign.

MP Faisal Al-Kandari said the outcome of the investigation is yet another proof that the accusations of squandering of public funds and corruption were true. He said the committee report found there were violations totaling \$1.5 billion at a Vietnam refinery which was built jointly by Kuwait. He directly accused the CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC). He said top oil executives are now trying to extend their employment by five more years in violation of the law,

adding that the oil administration has become an example of corruption. The lawmaker insisted that he and other MPs are prepared to grill the minister for as much as 10 times to ensure that the law is applied and corruption stopped.

MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subaei called last week on the oil minister not to renew fresh terms of top oil executives, saying that they have completed their legal terms and must quit. He warned that if the top oil officials do not quit or are not forced to resign, the oil minister will face a new grilling either in December or in January.

MP Mohammad Hayef said he will support any non-confidence or non-cooperation votes against the government during future grillings because authorities have failed to fulfill promises. Hayef said the government has deliberately delayed returning the citizenships that had been illegally revoked of a number of opposition figures.

Meanwhile, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh said that transferring the domestic helpers' department from the interior ministry to the manpower authority will improve combating abuses against maids. In a response to a parliamentary question, the minister said the decision allows placing all forms of workers under the authority, which has sufficient means to defend them. She said the authority has inspectors who have the right to inspect maid recruitment offices and other violations.

Saudi Arabia vows retaliation if punished

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia warned yesterday it would retaliate against any sanctions imposed on the oil-rich kingdom over the disappearance of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, as the Riyadh stock market plunged on growing investor jitters. From tech tycoons to media giants, a host of Western companies are now distancing themselves from the Gulf state, imperiling Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's economic reform drive. US President Donald Trump threatened ally Saudi Arabia on Saturday with "severe punishment" if Khashoggi, who has been critical of Prince Mohammed, was killed inside its Istanbul mission.

But Riyadh vowed to hit back against any punitive measures. "The kingdom affirms its total rejection of any threats or attempts to undermine it whether through threats to impose economic sanctions or the use of political pressure," an official source said, quoted by state news agency SPA. He said Riyadh would "respond to any action with a bigger one", pointing out that the oil superpower "plays an effective and vital role in the world economy".

According to Saudi-owned Al Arabiya, the kingdom has "over 30 measures" that it could implement to

combat sanctions. These measures include using sales of oil and arms, exchange of information between Riyadh and Washington, and a possible reconciliation with regional archrival Iran, said the report. In a column published just after the SPA statement, Al Arabiya channel's General Manager Turki Aldakhil warned that imposing sanctions on the world's largest oil exporter could spark global economic disaster. "It would lead to Saudi Arabia's failure to commit to producing 7.5 million barrels. If the price of oil reaching \$80 angered President Trump, no one should rule out the price jumping to \$100, or \$200, or even double that figure," he wrote.

US senators have triggered a provision of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act requiring the president to determine whether a foreign person is responsible for a gross human rights violation. The act has in the past imposed visa bans and asset freezes on Russian officials. Anti-Saudi sentiment in the US Congress could conceivably raise pressure to pass the so-called No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act, which would end sovereign immunity shielding OPEC members from US legal action.

As investors took fright, Saudi stocks tumbled by around seven percent at one point yesterday, wiping out their gains for 2018. Business barons including British billionaire Richard Branson and Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi, as well as media powerhouses like Bloomberg and CNN,

Continued on Page 24

Zain uses its technological capabilities to achieve New Kuwait vision at GITEX

Bader Al-kharafi showcases Zain's future vision and smart technology

KUWAIT: Zain Kuwait inaugurated its dedicated booth at the Gulf Information Technology Exhibition (GITEX Technology Week 2018). The international event is hosted in Dubai until Oct 18, where technology leaders and pioneers gather under one roof for five days to showcase the latest tech applications that will enrich the digital world's revolution.

The opening ceremony witnessed the visit of Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council of Dubai, where he was welcomed by Zain Group's Vice Chairman and Group CEO Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi and Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan, with the attendance of Kuwait's General Consul in Dubai Thiab Al-Rashidi as well as Zain's executive management and Zain's strategic partners from global firms.

During his tour at Zain's booth, Sheikh Hamdan expressed his admiration of the leading role Zain plays in transforming the telecom sector in the Middle East, as well as the company's efforts in advancing innovation within the enterprise sector that witnesses constant leaps of change in the region's markets.

Zain's participation in this global

event, organized by the Dubai World Trade Center and featuring the biggest global companies, organizations and entities from the telecom and IT industry, came to stress the importance of this event within the telecom sector, as it is considered one of the biggest events in the industry around the world.

Zain's participation highlights its efforts to achieve its strategy to enrich its transformation into a fully-integrated digital service provider. Zain started its digital transformation journey by launching many smart services and solutions to both consumers and businesses throughout the past two years. Zain is participating as the only telecom company that represents Kuwait in this leading global and regional event amongst the presence of international firms.

Through its participation at GITEX Technology Week, Zain aims to showcase its capabilities as an active partner in achieving the goals of the Kuwait National Development Plan (New Kuwait 2035) that stems from HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's conceptualized vision of a new Kuwait by 2035, which is based on five expected outcomes and seven key pillars. Through its booth at GITEX, Zain

Continued on Page 3



HH Sheikh Hamdan (left) converses with Zain Group's Vice Chairman and Group CEO Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi.

Filipinos deeply conflicted on Duterte drug war

MANILA: Jailed drug user Bitoy Paras perks up when describing his support for Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's deadly war on narcotics, an unlikely fan of a campaign that has left Filipinos deeply conflicted. "Duterte talks tough, saying he will get rid of addicts... I am happy he's doing that," he told AFP at Manila's main jail, which is packed with drug suspects. "But I feel uneasy about the killings," said the 22-year-old rickshaw driver, whose real name cannot be used due to prison policy.

Paras' seemingly paradoxical backing

echoes that of millions of Filipinos, who polls say support the crackdown but not the thousands of slayings that are central to it. Duterte's drug war - his signature initiative - helped bring him to power in mid-2016, promising to rid society of narcotics by any means necessary. Since then, police say they have killed 4,854 alleged drug users or dealers in self-defense, while rights groups estimate the true toll is at least triple that.

According to the latest survey by pollster SWS, the campaign still has the backing of 78 percent of Filipinos, a figure undented in over a year. Drug war proponents regularly point to these statistics as proof that the internationally-condemned crackdown is the will of the people. But those same polls show near unanimous agreement - 96 percent - among the nation in opposition to the killings, saying the suspects should be taken alive.

Experts say Duterte's campaign has

tapped into genuine popular outrage over disorder, crime and dysfunction in a developing nation with millions of poor people and a turbulent political past. "It's not like they're turning a blind eye (to the killing) but they're really worried about the drug problem," said Steven Rood, a fellow-in-residence at pollster SWS. "It has been a problem for a long time and finally the president of the Philippines is doing something about it," he added, describing how many Filipinos view the narcotics issue.

But for the family of Duterte voter Katherine Bautista, that belief was suddenly turned on its head by tragedy last year. Bautista supported the crackdown until her stepson John Jezreel David was shot dead in what police said was an anti-drug operation even as she insisted her son was not a drug user. "I was even saying that the tears of

Continued on Page 24



MANILA: This photo taken on Aug 13, 2018 shows inmates standing next to a portrait of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte inside the city jail. — AFP

Amir hosts officials after Sheikh Abdullah center wins int'l award

Amir names cultural hall after late senior official



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (center) meets with Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and Director of Financial and Administrative Affairs at the Amiri Diwan Abdulaziz Ishaq. — KUNA photos



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



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

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Seif Palace Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and Director of Financial and Administrative Affairs at the Amiri Diwan Abdulaziz Ishaq. The reception came after Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center (ASCC) won the International Property Award as the best Public Services Architecture building in the Middle East and North Africa 2018. They presented to His Highness the Amir the (ASCC) cultural agenda for the year 2018-2019 in title of 'Cultural Bridges', as well as the upcoming cultural program for Al-Shaheed Park.

Meanwhile, Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah said that the main showroom of the fine arts center in Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center, in Salmiya area, has been named after the late Ibrahim Al-Shatti, former

undersecretary of Amiri Diwan. Such a kind gesture is called upon the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in honor of Shatti's great



Amir, Crown Prince meet state officials

accomplishments and benevolent services to his country during his educational and working career, throughout which he occupied several senior posts, added Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah.

Amir meets officials

Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir received at Seif Palace His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah who was the Amiri representative at the 73rd UN General Assembly held in New York. His Highness also received Acting National Assembly Speaker Salah Khorshid.

Also yesterday, His Highness the Crown Prince received His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak and Salah Khorshid. His Highness the Crown Prince also received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, as well as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Khaled Al-Saleh. — KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Acting National Assembly Speaker Salah Abdulreda Khorshid.

Amir congratulates KFAS chief on winning distinguished award

KUWAIT/WASHINGTON: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent yesterday a cable of congratulations to the Director General of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) Dr Adnan Shihab-Eldin on winning the 2017 Elise and Walter A Haas International Award. In the cable, His Highness the Amir expressed his congratulations to Dr Shihab-Eldin who was honored during a ceremony held at University of California (UC), Berkeley, in recognition of his continuous scientific efforts in the Arab world, wishing him good health and well-being. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to Dr Shihab-Eldin.

Dr Shihab-Eldin was awarded in recognition of his "enduring passion to build up the modern higher education and scientific research system for Kuwait and the Arab world." In a statement to the press, Berkeley said that Dr Shihab-Eldin "embodies the illustrious, innovative spirit of UC Berkeley alums who have so definitively exhibited a deep and distinguished record of global service." It affirmed that Dr Shihab-Eldin "is a

foremost expert on energy technology, economics, and the environment and his countless contributions toward the greater good continue to inspire us."

"It is an honor to count Dr Shihab-Eldin as an alum, and we'd like to add our applause to the many as Dr Shihab-Eldin is presented with this award, one he so richly deserves," it added. Dr Shihab-Eldin graduated Phi Beta Kappa from UC Berkeley with a BS in Electrical Engineering and a master's and PhD in Nuclear Engineering. The Elise and Walter A Haas International Award honors an alumnus who is a native, citizen, and resident of another country and who has "a distinguished record of service to that country in the arts, science and engineering, education, business, environmental protection, government, or any other field."

Dr Shihab-Eldin is also recognized "as a visionary leader in the field of energy globally, well respected by energy ministries and heads of state throughout the energy-producing world," where his contributions to Kuwait "exemplify Berkeley's highest values." Also, his contributions "have not only helped to facilitate and advance Kuwait's scientific and innovation ecosystem, but has also strengthened solid foundations for research and development in the wider Middle East region."

Meanwhile, Dr Shihab-Eldin thanked "all those that have been a part of this journey" with him. He expressed his gratitude "to the leadership of my country, Kuwait, for the generous support and opportunities I received throughout my education and career."

"Finally, my gratitude goes to the University community at large and all the people that con-



WASHINGTON: Director General of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) Dr Adnan Shihab-Eldin (right) receives the 2017 Elise and Walter A Haas International Award. — KUNA

tinue to carry its legacy to inspire others to make a difference," he added. He noted that the most valuable lesson "one learns from studying, working and living in Berkeley, is not only to strive to excel academically and professionally, but also to give back, and contribute to the betterment of our individual societies and the global community; in essence, pass on the Berkeley legacy that was embodied within each of us." — KUNA

Kuwaiti, Jordanian IPU proposals on UNRWA merged

GENEVA: Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem announced the agreement to merge the Kuwaiti and Jordanian proposals related to the deficit in the budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

Ghanem made his remarks after his participation in the coordination meetings of the Arab and Islamic groups held in Geneva on the sidelines of the 139th session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The two proposals were merged into one to increase the chances of winning the vote, he added. He noted that other geopolitical groups (African, Latin American and European) agreed to form a coordination committee, adding that the vote will take place today in the General Assembly of the Union.

Kuwait's top lawmaker thanked the members of the Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation and the General Secretariat of the National Assembly's staff for their efforts to achieve Kuwait goals and support the Arab Islamic nations. — KUNA



Marzouq Al-Ghanem

Deputy FM receives outgoing Chinese Ambassador



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with the outgoing Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Wang Di. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah received yesterday the outgoing Ambassador of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to Kuwait, Wang Di. The deputy foreign minister wished the departing envoy success in his future tasks. The meeting was attended by the assistant foreign minister for affairs of the deputy minister's bureau, Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar. — KUNA

Amir dedicates special concern for children: Official

CAIRO: A visiting Kuwaiti official affirmed yesterday that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah devotes special attention to care for children particularly those of special needs. His Highness the Amir supports children of special challenges, says Rashed Al-Elaimi, member of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, affiliated with the Kuwaiti Cabinet. He was speaking at the conclusion of the forum about childhood. Elaimi has indicated at existing cooperation among the Kuwaiti associations and charities for promoting childhood and boosting education about children's rights. — KUNA

Deputy chief of staff holds talks with senior Egyptian military official



KUWAIT: Deputy Chief of Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lt Gen Abdullah Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah meets with the visiting Egyptian Armed Forces Armament Authority Deputy Chief, Major General Mohammed Salah-Eddine Mustafa. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Deputy Chief of Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lt Gen Abdullah Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah discussed yesterday issues of joint concern with the visiting Egyptian Armed Forces Armament Authority Deputy Chief, Major General Mohammed Salah-Eddine Mustafa, and his accompanying delegation. The Kuwaiti

Army said in a statement that the two sides discussed topics related to means of boosting cooperation at the military level. The meeting was attended by Maj Gen Anwar Al-Mazidi, the head of armament and equipment of the Kuwaiti Army, and the Egyptian military attache, Brig Yahya Al-Samadi. — KUNA

Local



KUWAIT: Bader Al-Kharafi and Eaman Al-Roudhan with Zain officials in a group photo



Bader Al-Kharafi, Eaman Al-Roudhan and Hamad Al-Marzouq viewing one of the smart solutions at Zain's booth.



HH Sheikh Hamdan with Kuwait's General Consul in Dubai (right), Bader Al-Kharafi, and Eaman Al-Roudhan.

Zain uses its technological capabilities to achieve New Kuwait vision at GITEX

Continued from Page 1

provides the technologies required under each of the 7 Pillars to achieve the goals of the Kuwait National Development Plan.

At GITEX, Zain offers its latest innovative solutions for empowering a smart life, a safe community, and an efficient business sector based on the 7 Pillars of the Kuwait National Development Plan, which are Smart Security, Smart Education, Smart Health, Smart Mobility, Smart Living, Smart Economy, and Smart Infrastructure.

The smart solutions Zain showcases at GITEX includes solutions for Smart Security, like access control, identity management, mass notification, video surveillance, inter-campus communications, and business intelligence. Solutions for Smart Education include connected classrooms and virtual classrooms. Solutions for Smart Healthcare include remote chronic illness management, remote medical collaboration solutions, healthcare cloud services, and more.

Zain's smart solutions also feature solutions for Smart Mobility, including smart parking, remote monitoring, and smart public signage. Solutions for Smart Living



HH Sheikh Hamdan converses with Bader Al-Kharafi

include smart districts, energy management, facility management, smart metering, smart lighting, smart benches, digital signage, and smart waste bins. Smart Economy solutions include the smart investment platform, E-Wallet, payment platform, and smart retail. Finally, Smart Infrastructure solutions include the integrated DNX

Platform, which enables all individual services to run in a cohesive environment, and synergizes across applications by fusing data and analysis to provide a 360-degree platform view for digital service development, management, and operations.

During GITEX, Zain also greatly focuses on showcasing the full capabilities of the integrated 5G technology that it started investing in last June, which represents a quantum leap in the operational efficiency of Zain's network in Kuwait, and makes Zain one of the first companies in Kuwait and the region to adopt this solution to meet the ever-growing needs of its individual and enterprise customers, as well as support the expansion of digital transformation applications.

Zain's participation at GITEX will also include the showcasing of the company's artificial intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) solutions, which extend to serve numerous essential sectors and industries. The company designed these solutions specifically to enrich its leadership as an active partner in creating the future of smart life in Kuwait. In addition, NXX, Zain's smart city arm, is also present at GITEX to offer strategies and innovative smart solutions that achieve the New Kuwait vision

goals, especially in relation to increasing the efficiency of the infrastructures of the various government entities in the country, as well as developing areas of education, health, security, community safety, and economic progress.

Zain affirmed that it is committed to expand in smart life and digital transformation applications to participate with the public sector in executing the seven pillars of the New Kuwait 2035 vision to enrich economic development and digital diversity, along with its strategic partners. Zain's strategy is centered around digital transformation leadership and empowering the community to enjoy a smarter portable lifestyle, as well as using advanced technology and Zain's long experience to enable an easier and more flexible life. The company places itself as an active partner in creating the future of smart life in Kuwait.

Zain's participation at GITEX Technology Week contributes to prove the company's full potential in triggering the digital community, and will enrich its collaborations in Telecom and IT areas with its strategic partners on multiple levels. The company's participation in such global events will motivate its efforts to becoming a fully integrated digital lifestyle provider.

EPA keen to support Jahra nature reserve

KUWAIT: Minister of Public Works Hussam Al-Roumi affirmed yesterday Kuwait Environment Public Authority's (EPA) keenness to preserve environment in the country and back Jahra nature reserve, which currently sees a unique wildlife due to efforts by wildlife protection institutions. Roumi, also Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, made his remarks on sidelines of his field visit to Jahra nature reserve to implement the second phase of EPA's project to plant grey mangrove (Avicennia marina).

The reserve thrives on local and migratory birds and other creatures, which show EPA's keenness to preserve such diversity and protect it from extinction, he noted. Currently, there are future schemes to increase production of animals and grey mangrove inside the reserve, Roumi said, disclosing intention to transfer such plans to other environments in Kuwait such as Bubiyan Island.

Meanwhile, EPA's Director General

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah stated the goal behind planting grey mangrove is to increase biological diversification inside the reserve's coastal environment. Such a step is one of EPA's projects aimed to enrich the environment and increase arable lands in all around Kuwait, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad said, adding there are also plans to increase the number of nature reserves and biological diversity in the country. Planting grey mangrove would significantly contribute in enriching the coastal environment, increasing wildlife creatures, and fish habitats in Kuwait, said the senior official.

Jahra nature reserve is one of EPA's main reserves and an environmental tourist attraction. Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad noted, adding EPA has allowed school students and research bodies to visit the reserve and conduct studies in it. He also said the reserve would soon be open to the public during the winter season to enable citizens and residents enjoy the natural sections inside it, adding the place contains five different environmental areas: freshwater, coastal, marine, sea, and desert. On pollution incidents in Doha and Fintas areas, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad mentioned that EPA is closely following the situations there and currently awaiting latest laboratory results of the samples taken from Doha and Fintas beaches, urg-



KUWAIT: Minister of Public Works Hussam Al-Roumi (right) and EPA's Director General Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah plant grey mangrove (Avicennia marina) in Jahra nature reserve. —KUNA photo

ing citizens and residents to inform the Authority about any environmental accident in order to allow EPA teams to intervene swiftly and contain the hazard.

Furthermore, Sheikh Abdullah said that an agreement was made with relevant bodies, including Kuwait Municipality, to use new locations for spring camps that are not

too far from residential areas to reduce camping in remote and border areas. Speaking during the visit, Sheikh Abdullah said the EPA urged Kuwait Municipality to provide enough garbage containers near the camps during the camping season which starts on November 15 and ends on March 15. — KUNA

National Guard, EU body cooperate against pollution

KUWAIT: Undersecretary of Kuwait National Guard Lt Gen Hashim Al-Refai affirmed the significance of yesterday's visit by a delegation representing the European Union Centers of Excellence Initiative to the Guard's affiliated chemical and radioactive monitoring center. Lt Gen Refai said in a press release that the visit was due to enhance Kuwait's cooperation with other parties at the international level, in addition to boosting expertise and information exchange. "This comes as an application to what the strategic objectives document (2020), themed Security First, called for, in

line with instructions by the supreme command of the National Guard namely the Chief His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah and National Guard Deputy Chief Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah," he said. The delegation was briefed about the center and its role to protect the Kuwaiti environment from pollution. The EU Centers of Excellence (COE) initiative began in 2010 as a new methodology for providing technical assistance to countries outside the union in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Undersecretary of Kuwait National Guard Lt Gen Hashim Al-Refai meets with a delegation representing the EU Centers of Excellence Initiative. — KUNA

State departments urged to 'Kuwaitize' committees

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) urged all state departments to 'Kuwaitize' all committees they form with only one exception for specialized consultants, said well-informed sources, noting that this step comes as part of a general policy to replace expatriates in the public sector with citizens.

Private universities

The Private Universities Council's Secretary General Habib Abul called for allocating 600,000 sq m instead of the land previously allocated in Sulabiya to be used to build at least four universities. In a letter he sent to Kuwait Municipality, Abul stressed that Amiri decrees had already been issued concerning a list of private universities. Abul added that Sulabiya lacks the proper infrastructure needed to build the new universities.

Overdue bills

The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) managed to collect KD 160 million in overdue bills in six months, from the new fiscal year till the end of September, assistant undersecretary for consumer affairs Meshaan Al-Otaibi said. He also predicted that the total amount to be collected until the end of the year might reach KD 320 million, a 40 percent increase compared to last year.

Bank robbery suspect denies charges

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: A suspect detained over accusations of robbing a bank branch using a toy gun denied all charges in court yesterday. A Gulf Bank branch was subjected to a robbery a little over three weeks ago, and no injuries to clients or employees were recorded, the bank had confirmed. Police announced three days later that a Jordanian man in his 20s was arrested over the robbery. Sources said that detectives found the gloves the suspect had worn, adding that he had stashed a large part of the KD 4,500 he stole in his Filipina girlfriend's apartment in Salmiya. Detectives said the suspect had spent KD 250 from the stolen money. Police said the man had discarded the abaya and niqab he had worn during the heist in a dumpster, adding that the pistol he had used was a toy.



KUWAIT: This picture released by Kuwait Municipality yesterday shows alleged encroachments on state property.

KD 712,488 fines collected for state property violations

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality said it will continue its field campaign to confront companies who use state property by fencing lots without a license or do not comply with regulations. Director of the Safety Department in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Maisa Bushehri said that 25 citations were issued in the past five months with total fines of KD 712,488. Violations varied between having storage yards without fencing or exceeding the limits, not having

fire extinguishers in temporary offices and a lack of a construction works license.

Traffic campaigns

The traffic department carried out several campaigns from Thursday, Oct 11 to Saturday, Oct 13, resulting in issuing 13,789 citations, impounding 428 vehicles and two motorcycles, while 30 persons were detained for committing grave violations.

Salmiya fire

Fire broke out on the tenth floor of a Salmiya building, prompting Bidaa, Salmiya and technical rescue stations to respond. Three persons were slightly injured and treated onsite.

Suicide

An Asian man died after he threw himself from the fifth floor of a Mahboula building in an apparent suicide. An investigation was opened to determine the circumstances behind the case.

Local

KIPCO Group commits to support UN's Women Empowerment Principles

Supporting gender equality and women's economic empowerment



Burgan Bank Chairman, Majed Al-Ajeel, signs the WEPS statement of support.



KUWAIT: Chairmen and CEOs of signature companies with Minister Hind Al-Sabeeh.

KUWAIT: KIPCO - the Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - and its Group companies expressed support for the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPS), launched in 2010 by UN Women and the UN Global Compact.

The WEPS offer a platform to mobilize the private sector to promote, support and accelerate gender equality and women's economic empowerment. Kuwait is the first GCC country to join this global initiative, thanks to the efforts of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development and the Women Research and Studies Center (WRSC) at Kuwait University. The WEPS fall in line with the UNDP's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Goal #5 on Gender Equality.

The WEPS 'Statement of Support' was signed by Burgan Bank Chairman, Majed Al-Ajeel, and Gulf Insurance Group Chairman,

Farqad Al-Sanea, alongside CEOs of leading Kuwaiti companies. The signing ceremony took place at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) under the auspices of the Minister of Social Affairs and

Labor and State Minister for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh. KIPCO Group's participation comes in line with its contribution to the 'Kuwait 2035' vision of His Highness the Amir

Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Commenting on this occasion, Faisal Al-Ayyar, KIPCO's Vice Chairman (Executive), said: "The participation of women in our companies, at all levels, makes sound business sense and serves to broaden the pool of talent we employ. At KIPCO, we believe that equal opportunities for women and men in the workplace is important for ensuring the sustainability of our operations, and it is the right thing to do."

In line with this commitment, representatives from KIPCO, Burgan Bank and Gulf Insurance Group took part in a training workshop titled 'Private Sector and Women's Empowerment Principles'. The workshop was organized by the WRSC in cooperation with the UNDP and UN Women. The three-day program focused on the implementation of international best practices that impact women in the workplace.



GIG Chairman, Farqad Al-Sanea, signs in support of WEPS.



In line with
'Kuwait 2035'
vision

NBK partners with JACC to support Kuwaiti culture

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) partners with Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Cultural Centre (JACC) in supporting its 'Tonight 80s' show during October, as part of the bank's continuous efforts to maintain the social and cultural institutions' initiatives in Kuwait.

NBK's participation in the "Tonight 80s" show reflects the bank's distinguished legacy economically and socially. NBK's eighties era mirrors Kuwait's financial history being the first bank in Kuwait and one of the largest social contributors. NBK's camel money box remains until today one of the most symbolic connection between the bank and its the community. NBK's Public Relations and Communications Assistant General Manager, Manal Al-Mattar, said that NBK's support to "tonight! 80s" show is a gesture of recognition of the important and pivotal role that this leading cultural institution plays in promoting our culture and shedding light on its arts and rich heritage.

"Our CSR strategy focuses on supporting cultural activities that aim at building bridges between generations," she added. "We trust that cultural and historical related events do attract a large segment of the society. It is our duty as a leading institution to be part in spreading cultural activities, helping youth to be engaged more and continuing to enhance Kuwait's history and tradition for years to come."

Over the past six and a half decades, NBK has committed itself to supporting social and cultural ceremonies in Kuwait as part of its social responsibility. As a leading and prestigious institution, NBK has a track record of serving and supporting the Kuwaiti society. Its partnership with JACC supports promoting and highlighting the richness of history and civilization.

It's worth mentioning that the 'Tonight 80s' show took the audience on a memory trip to the eighties. The era that is considered the 'Golden Age' of the Kuwaiti television, with its various programs, series and songs, engraved in the memory of Kuwaitis. The audience re-lived the glorious eighties, looking back in our past not with sadness or nostalgia, but with pride and appreciation to the years that formed the characteristics of our society today.

JACC is a multidisciplinary public space owned by the Amiri Diwan striving to entertain, educate and inspire the people of Kuwait. It offers a range of events - in music, theatre, film, workshops and spoken word - for every generation and sector of society. JACC provides a space for dialogue to share and showcase skills and knowledge, giving younger voices a forum in which to speak.



Manal Al-Mattar

Gulf Bank 642 Marathon partners with KRCS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank has announced its partnership with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) for this year's 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon'. The partnership encourages people to donate funds for medical aid to those who are unable to afford medical treatment in Kuwait.

All proceeds will go towards the provision of medical devices such as, pacemakers, cochlear devices, hearing aids, electric wheelchairs and stents. Donations can be made online through the dedicated icon on the marathon's website, or through the web link <https://donation.krsc.org.kw/en-US/Campaign>. There will also be a dedicated donation booth across the four days leading up to the race and on the day of the marathon.

Speaking of the partnership, Ahmad Al-Amir, Assistant General Manager of external Communication at Gulf Bank, commented: "Each year, the 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' partners with a leading organization to raise awareness for a worthy cause. This year, Gulf Bank is pleased to confirm our partnership with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS). It is our honor to aid a local campaign that assists individuals in need of medication or healthcare, including those suffering from chronic diseases and disabilities. We thank you for your support and hope that this initiative will provide a platform to inspire individuals to support a notable cause that leads to the creation of a more empowered society."

Lama Al-Othman - Resource Mobilization Director at Kuwait Red Crescent Society, said: "We are thrilled with Gulf Bank's decision to collaborate with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society for this year's Gulf Bank 642 Marathon. The marathon will raise national aware-



(From left) Ahmad Al-Majed, Pro Vision; Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager for Human Resources at Gulf Bank; Anwar Al-Hasawi, Vice Chairman - Kuwait Red Crescent Society; Tony Daher, CEO at Gulf Bank and Ahmad Al-Amir, Assistant General Manager for External Communications at Gulf Bank.

ness of the cause, as well as assist us in our goal of providing medical aid to those who need it the most."

The 2017 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' was an unprecedented success with 6,000 attendees representing over 130 nationalities. This year's fourth Gulf Bank 642 Marathon will take place on November 17, 2018 and has already received an

overwhelming response from the public. The marathon has placed Kuwait on the map for international sporting events. It is the only road race in Kuwait to have received accreditation from the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS). The marathon is also supported by the public and private sectors.

KIB sponsors Kuwait Students Club at the University of Arizona

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently announced that it has offered its sponsorship once again to the Students Club at the University of Arizona, covering the club's entire program of activities for the academic year 2018/2019. The Student Club comprises a group of Kuwaiti youth studying in Arizona, whose active engagement sees them participating in a number of extracurricular activities throughout the academic year.

This sponsorship comes under the umbrella of KIB's ongoing strategy focused on supporting youth engagements, activities and programs - both in Kuwait and abroad. The bank has always believed that youth-focused programs and initiatives outside the direct realm of academia, play an important role in promoting the personal development of students; helping to refine their skills and equip them with the necessary tools to actively contribute to national growth and development.



In its statement, the bank said: "KIB has long been a committed supporter of youth programs and initiatives of all kinds. We believe that the youth population is the single greatest asset any country has, and we are fully dedicated to our mission to empower the youth in Kuwait in every possible way."

It serves to note that KIB devotes special attention to supporting student-based activities throughout different stages of students' academic journey - sponsoring and organizing a variety of sports events, exhibitions, field visits and much more. By doing so, the bank continues to enhance the significant contribution its leading social responsibility program seeks to make across all segments of the community.

Food Bank launches campaign for Indonesia victims

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Food Bank announced yesterday that it had launched a campaign to aid the victims of Indonesia's floods and earthquake, which resulted in the death of over 2,000 people and severe damages to infrastructure.

Director General of the Kuwait Food Bank, Salem Al-Hamar said that the natural disasters, which hit the city of Palu in the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, had led to considerable losses and destruction beyond imagination, affirming that the campaign launched by the bank was aimed at easing a bit of the suffering felt by the victims. The campaign is within His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's directives to aid all those in need worldwide, said Al-Hamar who called on the people of Kuwait to contribute to this just and humanitarian cause by providing their donations to the bank headquarter in Al-Adailiyah area. — KUNA

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: The eastern imperial eagle in pictured at the Kuwaiti desert. —Photo by Omar Al-Sayed Omar (KUNA)



BEQAA VALLEY, East Lebanon: Officials open a medical clinic in Bait Al-Yasmine school. —KUNA



KRCS backs Syrian refugees' education in Lebanon

BEQAA VALLEY, East Lebanon: Kuwait Red Crescent Society's (KRCS) General Secretary Maha Al-Barjas affirmed yesterday the organization's support for educating Syrian refugees and its keenness on protecting their future. Barjas was speaking to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) during a visit by a KRCS' delegation to a couple of schools in Hosh Al-Harima and Al-Qadriah, villages located in the West Beqaa Valley in eastern Lebanon, to give support to 580 Syrian students. "Education is important and it's a basic need that a person should have to assure his (her) future specifically and protect his (her) country generally," Barjas said.

Lack of education leads to corruption, endangers the next generation and allows illiteracy to spread in society, meanwhile the world is making an effort to erase illiteracy, as Barjas says. "Unfortunately, wars and armed conflicts prevent people from education and increases number of illiterate people around the world denying them one of the most important chances for (normal) living," she adds. The KRCS general secretary has called on humanitarian institutions to support this cause, affirming KRCS' continuous support for providing multiple types of aid to ease life for the refugees.

Meanwhile, 'Bait Al-Yasmine' team's representative, Khadeeja Al-Madani, said in a statement to the press that "Kuwait has contributed to organizing and facilitating all sorts of humanitarian and charitable works for voluntary teams inside Kuwait and abroad." 'Bait Al-Yasmine' was licensed by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor in 2016. The relief team operates under the KRCS umbrella. KRCS is a leading humanitarian organization that provides aid and support for Syrian refugees in Lebanon: with consistent activities and projects all year long. — KUNA



Members of Kuwait Red Crescent Society's delegation are seen with Syrian students.

CONDOLENCE



Mrs. MEENA GAUR
(Department of Commerce)

We, the Management, Staff and students of the Indian Community School, Kuwait deeply mourn the sad demise of our beloved teacher. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. May Her Soul Rest In Peace.

Management, Staff & Students



THE INDIAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL, KUWAIT

U.S. University Fair



KUWAIT #LindenTours #YouAreWelcomeHere

October 2018 Monday, 15th
University Fair: 6:00pm - 9:00pm
Location: Marina Hotel
Off Arabian Gulf St. Salmiya, Six Palms
Kuwait City

Meet Top U.S. Universities:

- DUKE Kunshan University
- University of California Berkeley
- University of Minnesota Twin Cities
- University of California Santa Barbara
- University at Buffalo - The State University of New York, and many more...

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FREE ADMISSION

Register Here! lindenfair.com/register



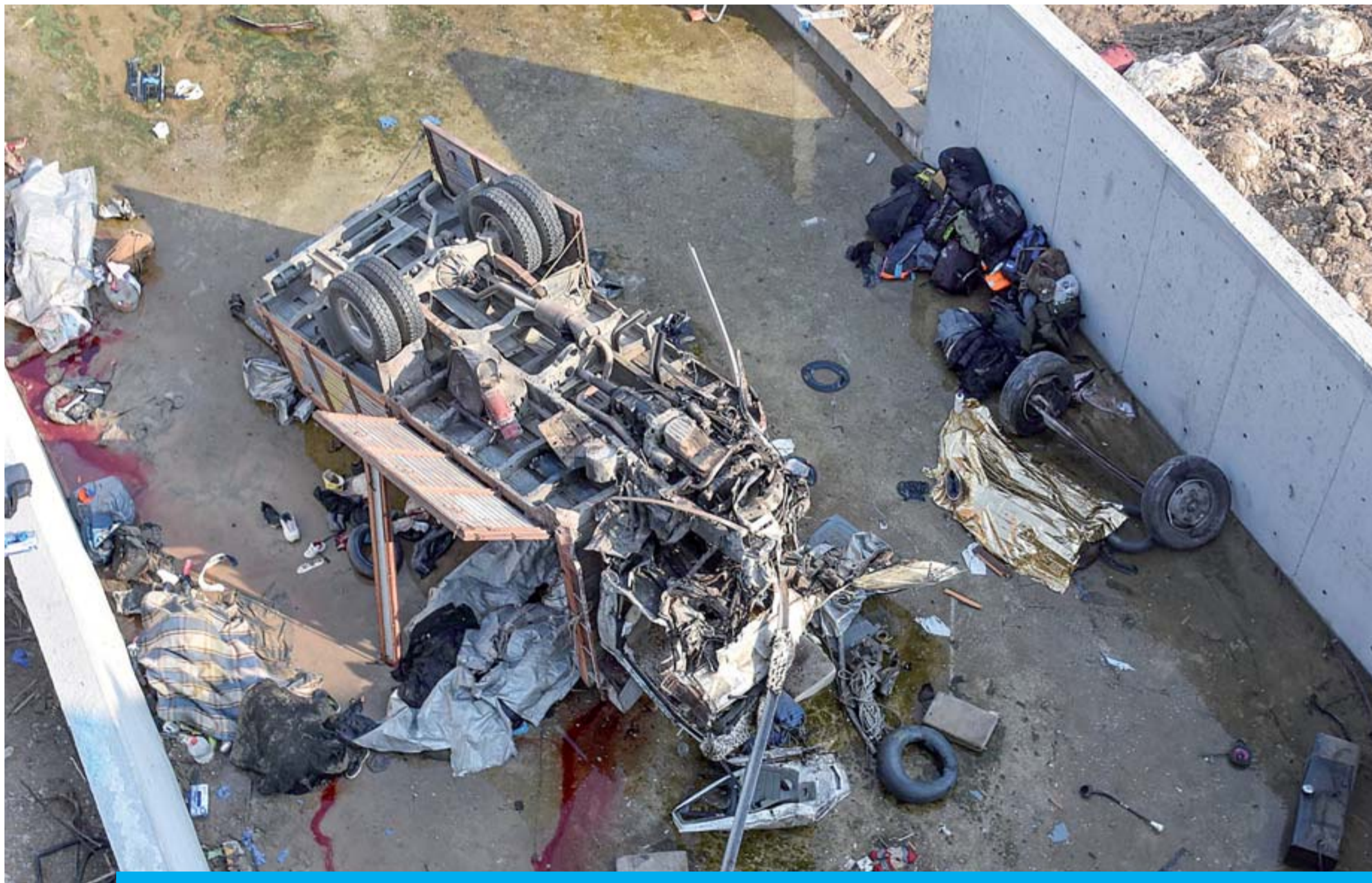


'Zombie' storm Leslie hits Spain, Portugal

Rebels fire shells from Syria buffer despite pullout

Page 7

Page 8



IZMIR: Turkish police forensic experts examine the wreckage of a truck, carrying migrants, after it crashed in Izmir yesterday. —AFP

Migrant truck crash kills 22 in Turkey

Vehicle plunges off the highway into a waterway

ISTANBUL: Twenty-two people, including children, died yesterday when a vehicle carrying migrants reportedly heading for EU member Greece plunged off the highway into a waterway in western Turkey. The vehicle, described as a lorry, was travelling on a highway in the Izmir region close to Izmir airport when it flipped over and fell into the channel several meters below, state-run Anadolu news agency said.

The nationality of the migrants was not made clear. Twenty-two people were killed, the agency said, lifting an earlier toll of 19, while 13 more were injured. Turkish television pictures showed the stricken wreckage of the vehicle, which was reduced to burned-out metal by the impact of the crash with

corpses strewn beside. The DHA news agency said the driver of the vehicle, a Turkish man aged 35, survived and told police from his hospital bed that he had swerved to avoid an oncoming white vehicle.

The dead included two babies and two children as well as a pregnant woman, it said. Once the driver's hospital treatment is completed, he will be sent to court with a demand to be arrested, Anadolu said. Regional prosecutors have opened an investigation, it added. DHA said that the vehicle was headed for the coast of the Izmir region, from where the migrants planned to take inflatable dinghies, which had been packed into their vehicle, to Greece's Samos island. Samos is just a few kilo-

meters north of Turkey's Dilek peninsula that juts out from the Izmir region.

Key transit point

Turkey is a key transit point for migrants from troubled countries in the Middle East, Asia and Africa seeking a new life in Europe. A million migrants crossed from Turkey into Greece in 2015, mostly by boats, in a crisis which forced a deal between Ankara and the EU to stem the flow of people. Numbers have fallen since but people are still undertaking what is a highly perilous journey and the flow has ticked up this year from 2017. According to UN figures, more than 24,500 migrants have arrived

in Greece by sea so far this year, with 118 people losing their lives via this route.

Last week, eight migrants were found drowned off the Karaburun district, also in Izmir province, after their boat capsized. Twenty-six others are still officially listed as missing after that accident, according to Anadolu. The trips of migrants towards Greece are often organized by smugglers who demand hundreds and sometimes thousands of dollars per person to sort out the logistics. After the disaster off Karaburun, four suspected smugglers were arrested following evidence given by an Iraqi who survived, Anadolu said. They had demanded a fee of \$1,500 from each migrant.—AFP

Murdered archbishop, Paul VI become 'saints'

VATICAN CITY: Slain Salvadoran archbishop Oscar Romero and Pope Paul VI, Catholic giants who sparked controversy during their lifetimes, joined the church's highest rank yesterday with an elevation to sainthood. Pope Francis wore a blood-stained rope belt which belonged to Romero, who was murdered at the altar, as he led the ceremony in front of tens of thousands of pilgrims from across the world. The pontiff also used a chalice and pastoral staff belonging to Paul VI, in a canonization being seen as a reminder of Francis's call for "a poor church for the poor". Both men have been hailed by Francis for their courage in turbulent times and their dedication to social justice and the downtrodden.

The men's giant portraits hung on Saint Peter's Basilica along with those of five other new saints, including an orphaned youth and a German nun. "Paul VI spent his life for Christ's Gospel, crossing new boundaries and becoming its witness in proclamation and in dialogue, a prophet of a Church turned outwards, looking to those far away and taking care of the poor," Francis said. "It is wonderful that together with him and the other new saints today, there is Archbishop Romero, who left the security of the world, even his own safety, in order to give his life according to the Gospel, close to the poor and to his people," he added.

Romero stood up for peasant rights in the face of a right-wing backlash which painted him as a radical supporter of "liberation" theology in his small, impoverished central American nation. On March 24, 1980, the man dubbed the "voice of those without voice" was shot in the heart, killed by a single bullet as he prepared communion. His killing came at the start of a bloody civil war which claimed some 75,000 lives. Relics of each new saint were carried to the altar-part of a bone for Romero and the shirt Paul VI was wearing when he was stabbed in an assassination attempt at Manila airport in 1970.

'Gave his life'

Overnight, hundreds of pilgrims from across Central America celebrated the impending canonization in El



VATICAN CITY: Portraits of Pope Paul VI (right) and the martyred Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero are seen during a canonization ceremony mass in St Peter's Square at the Vatican yesterday. —AFP

Salvador's capital. The visitors, many in clothes printed with Romero's face, gathered in front of his tomb, in the crypt of San Salvador's central cathedral, and at the Hospital of Divine Providence chapel, where he was assassinated.

"We are arriving here to honor the memory of Monsignor Romero, who took his faith to the point of giving his life for what he believed was right," said Francisco Navarro, a 51-year-old Honduran, at the chapel along with some 30 of his compatriots. "Since before he was killed, he defeated his killers by forgiving them. Because he knew they were going to kill him," added university professor Julia Lainez. For a long time, efforts to recognize Romero met with heavy opposition from conservative Catholics and the Salvadoran

right, who saw veiled Marxism in his sermons.

But Francis—the first Latin American pope—beatified Romero as a "martyr" in 2015, to popular acclaim. Paul VI, who encouraged Romero in his struggle—was the first head of the Roman Catholic Church to attempt to reform the Vatican's powerful and unruly Curia, the church's governing body. It was a challenge Francis also took on. He was also famously the first to reject the papal trappings of luxury, setting aside the traditional tiara—a jewel-encrusted, three-tiered, conical crown—shortly after his election in 1963 and donating its value to the poor. It was a gesture echoed by Francis, who renounced the papal apartment and gold cross.—AFP

Merkel's Bavarian allies face threat of poll debacle

MUNICH: Voters in the southern German state of Bavaria went to the polls yesterday in an election where Chancellor Angela Merkel's arch-conservative CSU allies were bracing for heavy losses. The Christian Social Union (CSU), who have almost single-handedly ruled the wealthy Alpine beer-and-leatherhosen state since the late 1950s, are expected to lose their absolute majority, polls say.

The other partner in Merkel's fragile 'grand coalition', the Social Democrats, were also set to do poorly while the far-right and anti-immigration AfD looked certain to enter the state assembly. The biggest winners, however, may be the left-leaning Greens who have doubled their poll ratings to 19 percent since the last state elections, which would make them the second strongest party. Poll booths opened at 0600 GMT for 9.5 million eligible voters. Large numbers had said they were still undecided shortly before the vote, and first projections were expected from 1600 GMT.

If the polls prove correct, the Bavarian election will mark another step in the demise of 'big-tent' mainstream parties and the fragmentation of the political landscape, as seen in other western democracies. For Merkel, now often labelled a lame duck leader in her fourth and final term, it would further raise political pressure two weeks ahead of another dangerous vote, in the central state of Hesse. Parliamentary speaker Wolfgang Schauble, a veteran Merkel ally, has conceded that the two state polls will "affect national politics and thus the reputation of the chancellor," who seeks re-election as Christian Democrats (CDU) party chief in December.—AFP

International

The tale of 2 brothers reflects Syria rebel unity and divisions

Two brothers belong to different groups but share goals

ISTANBUL: Brothers Abu Eliyas and Abu Yousef have fought at opposite ends of the insurgency against Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad. One is a member of a rebel group that was once backed by the CIA. The other is a jihadist in an internationally proscribed terrorist movement. Yet despite their ideological differences, they live under the same roof in rebel-held Idlib province and have fought on the same side against pro-Assad forces and Islamic State.

"The important thing is we fight the same enemy," said Abu Eliyas, 40, a member of the Turkey-backed Failaq al-Sham group. "At home, we exchange military skills and information, and discuss the Syrian scene." Abu Yousef, 27, belongs to the jihadist Tahrir al-Sham, formerly known as the Nusra Front. He believes the brothers' "points of agreement are greater than the points of division."

"We are members of one religion, one country and one goal", he said. Their parallel journeys through the civil war that began in Syria in 2011 illustrate the complexities of sorting insurgents deemed "radical" from more moderate rebels. This is the task facing Turkey as it seeks to shore up a deal with Russia over Idlib, which is part of an arc of rebel-held territory at the Turkish border. The province is part of the opposition's last big foothold in Syria and is effectively - at least for now - in a zone of Turkish influence under the agreement reached last month.

Russia expects Turkey to bring about a separation of insurgents, with "radical" rebels to leave a newly created demilitarized zone at the frontline with government forces by Monday, Turkey says the "moderates" can stay where they are. The Turkey-backed groups, gathered under the umbrella of the National Liberation Front (NLF), have said they will cooperate with Turkey's efforts, despite some misgivings. The tougher part for Turkey is bringing the jihadists into line, particularly foreign fighters estimated to number in the thousands. President Tayyip Erdogan has suggested Tahrir al-Sham is cooperating, though the group has yet to comment on the deal.

Battling Assad's forces

The experiences of Abu Yousef and Abu Eliyas show that the line between the "radical" and "moderate" rebels is not always easily drawn. Abu Eliyas is a trained lawyer with seven children who was working as a government employee when the conflict began. He took part in the first

protests against Assad in the brothers' home town of Deir al-Zor in eastern Syria.

"They were unforgettable days. The feeling was very strange for us - that we are in Syria and going out in protest against the regime and the Assad family," he said. Abu Eliyas took up arms with a Free Syrian Army group early in the conflict. After seizing the area, Islamic State militants destroyed his house in Deir al-Zor by rigging it with explosives and then blowing it up in what he described as an act of revenge. Abu Yousef, who is not married, was a student when the conflict began. He joined Nusra Front when it first emerged in Deir al-Zor, drawn by what he saw as the piety of its members, including foreigners.

Both fought Islamic State when it attacked eastern Syria in 2014 and went north with their family when IS conquered the area. Once there, Abu Eliyas joined Failaq al-Sham, and cited its standing in Turkey as one of the attractions. Failaq al-Sham has ties to the Syrian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, which mounted an uprising in the 1980s and is deemed a terrorist group by the government. Close to Turkey, Failaq al-Sham was also one of the recipients of aid channeled through a US Central Intelligence Agency program that was shut down by President Donald Trump.

Tahrir al-Sham has clashed several times with other rebels in the northwest, and crushed a number of foreign-backed factions. The brothers have always stayed out of these troubles, though enmity runs deep between the jihadists and some Idlib rebels. Tensions in Idlib have eased of late. Rebels formed a joint "operations room" in anticipation of an offensive by Syrian government forces that had been expected until Turkey and Russia struck their agreement last month. Tahrir al-Sham, with which Abu Yousef fights, has widened contacts with other groups and been visiting their rivals, an official in a rival faction said. If it holds, the agreement between Turkey and Russia could stabilize the map of the Syrian conflict for some time to come. Though Assad is still vowing to take back the area, an Idlib campaign without Russian support is seen as out of the question. Writing in the Wall Street Journal last month, Erdogan said "moderate rebels" should be part of an "international counterterrorism operation" that would target "terrorist and extremist elements" and "bring to justice foreign fighters". — Reuters

an AFP correspondent in western Aleppo reported mortar fire in the area after several days of quiet. The Observatory said it was not clear which groups fired the mortars, as both the Turkish-backed National Liberation Front (NLF) and rival jihadist factions were present in the area. The NLF - which holds just under half of the Idlib region and has welcomed the accord - did not immediately respond to AFP's request for comment on the shelling. The lion's share of Idlib is held by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), an alliance led by former Al-Qaeda members, as well as more hardline jihadists like Hurras al-Deen and Ansar al-Islam.

Those fighters also control more than two-thirds of the planned buffer zone and are supposed to withdraw today. But that deadline appeared increasingly precarious yesterday, with no hardliners visibly leaving the zone as the clock winds down. The Observatory said it had not monitored any withdrawals, and an AFP correspondent in Idlib also said no jihadist factions had moved any of their units in recent days. Hurras al-Deen has publicly rejected the agreement, although it apparently withdrew its heavy arms from the area last week. HTS, widely considered the most powerful force in Idlib, has not publicly commented on the accord but also quietly abided by its first deadline and re-stationed heavy arms elsewhere.

'Vast ramifications'

Persuading these jihadist factions to implement the deal's second half would be much more challenging, observers say. In a recent report for the Turkey-based Omran Center, expert Nawar Oliver described HTS's approval as the deal's ultimate "test". "If HTS acts as a spoiler to the agreement on the ground, this will probably lead to one of two scenarios: either Turkey and the NLF launch military action against HTS, or Russia will seize the opportunity with the support of the regime and its allies to enter Idlib," he said. "The ramifications of that move could be vast," he added. Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad and other top government officials have warned that the Idlib deal was only a "temporary" measure. On Friday, residents around Idlib received warning messages on their mobile phones from the Syrian army. "Get away from the fighters. Their fate is sealed and near," one said. — AFP



Turkey faces task of sorting jihadists from moderates



MAARET AL-NUMAN: Syrian men ride a motorcycle past heavily-damaged buildings in the rebel-held town of Maaret Al-Numan in the north of Idlib province. — AFP

US charity school in Liberia in rape scandal storm

MONROVIA: An acclaimed US charity operating in Liberia has admitted to major failings after girls at a school set up to save them from a life of sexual exploitation were systematically raped. "We are profoundly, deeply sorry," the charity More Than Me said on its website on Saturday after US investigative media said girls at a pioneering school in a slum had been repeatedly abused by the charity's co-founder, Macintosh Johnson. Johnson eventually died of AIDS and there are fears

that he infected some of his victims - who were aged as young as 10 - with the HIV virus which causes AIDS, the investigative site ProPublica said in a lengthy investigative piece co-published with Time. "To all the girls who were raped by Macintosh Johnson in 2014 and before: we failed you," More Than Me said. "We gave Johnson power that he exploited to abuse children. Those power dynamics broke staff ability to report the abuse to our leadership immediately."

"Our leadership should have recognized the signs earlier and we have and will continue to employ training and awareness programs so we do not miss this again." The assaults took place at a school at West Point, a notorious slum in the capital Monrovia. It opened in 2013 to a blaze of publicity, becoming the first of 18 schools that More Than Me opened in the impoverished West African state to empower girls. — AFP

Rebels fire shells from Syria buffer despite pullout

BEIRUT: Opposition fighters have fired mortar shells from a planned buffer zone in northwest Syria, in a deadly attack that threatens a deal to protect the last major rebel bastion from a regime offensive. The Russian-Turkish accord also provides for jihadists to withdraw by Monday from the demilitarized zone ringing rebel-held areas in and around Idlib province. But a monitor and AFP correspondent said yesterday no hardliners had been seen leaving the region yet.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor reported "heavy mortar shells" were fired late Saturday from the planned buffer area into regime territory, killing two soldiers. The deal agreed last month is only the latest in a string of truces throughout Syria's seven-year war, which has killed more than 360,000 and displaced millions. It calls for setting up horseshoe-shaped buffer zone around the Idlib region that would be free of heavy arms by October 10 and of "radical fighters" by October 15. Rebels and jihadists had reportedly met the first deadline, with Turkish officials, armed factions and the Britain-based Observatory reporting that the area was free of heavy-duty weaponry. But the shells which Saturday hit an army position in Hama province appear to have violated the accord. "This is the first clear violation of the deal since the heavy weapons were withdrawn. This area is supposed to be clear of heavy weapons, including mortar shells," said Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman. He said intermittent regime shelling had been hitting the planned buffer for days, but the deal does not require government forces to withdraw any of their weapons.

Syrian pro-regime daily Al-Watan also reported rebel shelling, saying that western parts of Aleppo province were being hit with "rocket fire and shelling with heavy weapons, which were supposed to be pulled out from the area". And



HAMA PROVINCE: Syrian students attend a class at a school that was damaged in the Syrian war in the rebel-held town of Morek, in the northern countryside of Hama province. — AFP

STAY CONNECTED

- Read Kuwait Times now on your phone for **FREE**
- Send Subscribe to **+965 944 88888**
- Enjoy the first daily paper in Kuwait on your phone

P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait
 Tel: 24833199 - 24833358 - 24835616/7 | Fax: 24835620 - 24835621
 E: info@kuwaittimes.net

International

Congolese migrants flood home, Angola denies brutal crackdown

Hundreds of thousands cross from Angola to DRC

KAMAKO: Congolese migrants and officials said dozens of people were killed this month in neighboring Angola in a crackdown on artisanal diamond mining, an accusation Angolan security forces strongly denied. Angola, the world's fifth largest diamond producer, has launched an operation in recent weeks to clear tens of thousands of people involved in digging for precious stones in the northeast of the country in order to attract more private investment. Many of them are from neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and hundreds of thousands of people have poured over the border into the Kasai region, border guards there told Reuters.

In interviews with Reuters, more than 20 Congolese migrants who crossed the border between October 4-12 described violence, looting and forced displacement by Angolan security forces as well as a local tribe called the Tshokwe. The worse of the violence, they said, occurred in the town of Lucapa, located some 100 km south of the border with DRC in the heart of the diamond-rich Lunda Norte province. Angolan security forces stormed the town, according to 15 witnesses, killing dozens of people, burning down homes, looting property and forcing people to leave. Some of those people were legally residing in Angola, the witnesses added.

"There was a lot of violence in Lucapa. The military was shooting at us while Tshokwe were killing people with machetes. They jointly killed more than a dozen people," said Victor Tshambapoko, 28, who worked as a diamond digger in the region. Reuters could not independently verify the accusations. Angolan Police Commissioner Antonio Bernardo,

spokesman for the operation, denied there had been rights abuses by security forces, and said the only fatality he knew of was in a traffic accident. "We have no record of any burning of homes, much less reprisals and or assaults on anyone," he told Reuters.

"Angola and its government appeals to the common sense of the international community to realize that there is no underlying xenophobia, but only the legitimate normalizing of the socio-economic life of the country and national security." Amadou Kabaseke Taty, Kasai's provincial director of the Congolese border agency (DGM) told Reuters that he believed there had been "serious violations of human rights" during the Angolan operation. "I am worried about the situation," he said. "Congolese people have been expelled in degrading conditions. They have been molested, beaten and killed, especially in Lucapa, by the Angolan military police."

Fears over stability

Angolan President Joao Lourenco is trying to boost investments in his country and wean it off a heavy reliance on oil exports.

Reforming the diamond industry is part of that drive, and "Operation Transparency" in Lunda Norte aims to reduce diamond smuggling and raise more revenues for state coffers from the lucrative sector. Several Congolese migrants who entered from Angola in recent days said the authorities there had given them an Oct. 15 deadline to leave. Border guard officials said the Angolan operation began on Oct 1.

According to an internal DGM document seen by Reuters, 200,000 people crossed into Kasai region from Angola in the first 12 days of October. Border officials believe the true figure is higher because



OICHA: A soldier from the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) is seen at the military base outside Oicha. Attacks on FARDC bases by the ADF has become more common. The ADF usually attack at night over the weekends, in search of arms, ammunition and medical supplies. —AFP

people also cross through the bush rather than checkpoints. The need to resettle so many people threatens to further destabilize Kasai, a region which saw widespread violence involving armed groups and government forces in 2016 and 2017. Security sources in DRC and Angola have already said they are concerned about heightened tensions in the area in the run-up to Congolese elections in December.

A Reuters reporter in the Congolese border town of Kamako saw thousands of people making their

way on foot and in trucks along the red dirt road to Tshikapa, the provincial capital of Kasai located some 50 km to the north. Exhausted men and women rested by the side of the road, washed in a river or picked fruit from giant mango trees to feed themselves on a journey that lasts up to a week. Many carried household belongings on their head, including plastic chairs, mattresses, animals and even ovens. Some said they also had diamonds in their possession. —Reuters



Angola forces deny abuses

News in brief

18 Afghan soldiers killed

HEART: At least 18 soldiers were killed in Taliban raids on two military posts in western Afghanistan, officials said yesterday, as militants step up attacks ahead of parliamentary elections. Poll-related violence killed or wounded dozens of civilians on Saturday, a week before voters cast their ballots across the war-torn country. Another 15 soldiers were captured and five wounded during the overnight attacks involving "a large number of Taliban" in Pusht-a-Rud district of Farah province, provincial council Chief Farid Bakhtawar said. Defense ministry spokesman Ghafoor Ahmad Jawed said reinforcements had been sent to the area. "The Taliban have also suffered huge losses," Jawed added. The militants seized weapons and armored vehicles during the assault, provincial council member Dadullah Qaneh said. —AFP

Iran arrests 'suspect'

TEHRAN: Iran has arrested a member of its military in connection with a gun attack on a military parade in the city of Ahvaz last month which killed 25 people, semi-official Fars News agency reported yesterday. An Iranian ethnic Arab opposition movement called the Ahvaz National Resistance, which seeks a separate state in oil-rich Khuzestan province, claimed responsibility for the attack. Islamic State militants also claimed responsibility. Neither group provided conclusive evidence to back up their claim. "Eleven people were summoned and one was arrested, all of whom were military, and the case has been sent to Tehran," Gholam-Hossein Mohseni Ejei, spokesman for the judiciary, was cited as saying by Fars. Ejei did not provide any further details. Activists in the Ahvaz region have accused Iranian security forces of detaining their colleagues after the shooting attack last month. —Reuters

Mountain biker shot dead

LYON: A 34-year-old British restaurant owner riding a mountain bike was shot dead by a hunter as he sped down a wooded track in the French Alps, officials said yesterday. The victim, whose name was not released, had been living for several years in the small town of Les Gets and was shot Saturday evening as a hunting party beat its way through nearby woods near Montriond, according to the local prosecutor. The victim was "perfectly identifiable" and was on a well-used but hard to access mountain track when he was shot by a 22-year-old hunter who was taken to hospital in shock. An enquiry has been launched for "aggravated manslaughter", the prosecutor said. —AFP

Minister denies allegations

MUMBAI: Indian minister M J Akbar called the multiple allegations of sexual assault against him "wild and baseless" yesterday, and said he plans to take legal action against the women who have made the accusations. At least 10 women have gone public in the past week with accounts of having faced inappropriate behavior and sexual harassment from Akbar, a former journalist who is now minister of state for external affairs in the Indian government. Akbar, a veteran editor who founded several newspapers and magazines, is accused of a range of inappropriate behavior by female journalists who previously worked as his subordinates. "The allegations of misconduct made against me are false and fabricated, spiced up by innuendo and malice," said Akbar in a one-page statement given to Reuters partner ANI in India. —Reuters

'Zombie' storm Leslie hits Spain and Portugal

LISBON: Storms packing nearly 180 kilometer-per-hour winds hit Portugal yesterday leaving hundreds of thousands of people without power before carrying heavy rain on into Spain, authorities said. Twenty-seven people suffered minor injuries, civil defense commander Luis Belo Costa told reporters. The region around capital Lisbon and the centre of the country at Coimbra and Leiria were worst hit with trees uprooted, cars and houses damaged and local flooding reported.

Aveiro, Viseu and Porto in the north also suffered damage with rescue services reporting a total of 1,900 incidents. The civil defense services said 324,000 people were left without electricity while more than 60 people had to leave their damaged homes and flee to safety. Power was being restored across the north and centre of the country during the morning. Leslie was dubbed a "zombie" hurricane as it first formed on September 23, only to meander through

the Atlantic Ocean for weeks.

There were fears it could be the worst storm to hit the region in more than 150 years, but it weakened to a post-tropical storm before reaching the Portuguese coastline in the early hours of yesterday. "The greatest danger has passed," Costa said. "The north and centre were the worst affected." At Mealhada, in Aveiro district, the roof blew off an indoor sports stadium putting an end to the European final of the women's roller hockey competition. Portuguese authorities had urged those living by the coast to batten down and stay indoors amid warnings of high winds which reached 176 kilometers per hour (110 miles per hour).

"I have never seen anything like it," one witness told SIC television in Figueira da Foz, 200 km (120 miles) north of Lisbon. "The town seemed to be in a state of war with cars smashed by fallen trees," he said. "People were very worried." Maritime authorities advised fishermen at sea to return to the nearest port and Portugal's TAP airline cancelled seven flights to and from Lisbon. Only five hurricanes have ever arrived in this region of the Atlantic Ocean, and it had been feared Leslie could turn out to be the most powerful storm to hit Portugal since 1842.

UK vs Europe, the final countdown?

BRUSSELS: Exhausted diplomats in Brussels have taken to calling this stage of the Brexit negotiations "The Tunnel". British and EU officials are negotiating day and night to get to the outline of a Brexit deal by Wednesday. They need to resolve the final sticking points, notably on customs checks for Northern Ireland, before EU leaders meet to decide on next steps. Here's what you need to know to understand an unprecedented divorce battle:

The core of the talks so far have concerned arrangements

for Britain's "orderly" separation from Europe after 40 years of shared trade and laws. Often called the "divorce agreement", this text will take the form of a legal treaty and it must be agreed quickly to allow the British and EU parliaments to ratify it. If it's not in place and ratified by March 29, Britain will crash out of Europe in a "no deal" Brexit with serious economic and legal consequences.

But there's also a second text. The "political declaration" will be much shorter, maybe six or seven pages. It will not be a legal text, but it could prove politically explosive. The declaration will outline the parameters of future British relations with Europe, with goals like a free trade pact to be negotiated after Brexit day. It won't be binding, but British lawmakers and voters may balk at paying tens of billions of euros in a divorce settlement with no detailed promises on future ties.

Hopes fade for more survivors of hurricane

MEXICO BEACH: The hunt for missing people in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael yesterday is turning into a search for the dead, as hope of finding more people alive fades in the Florida Panhandle, US officials said. "We're going into recovery mode, unfortunately," said Fire Chief Alex Baird of Panama City, one of the coastal Florida communities clobbered by the hurricane that made landfall Wednesday as a Category 4 storm, packing more than 140 mph winds and deadly storm surges.

"At sunrise, we'll start again on our search," Baird said. "We hope that we'll find more (survivors), but it's more and more doubtful." President Donald Trump is expected to visit both Florida and Georgia early this week to inspect the damage, and

the White House said late Saturday the president was fully committed to helping state and local agencies with the recovery.

The death toll of the storm reached at least 18 Saturday night and is expected to rise in the US Southeast as rescuers go door-to-door in coastal communities in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas. Search and rescue volunteers have already located hundreds of people reported missing last week. On Saturday, rescue crews heard cries for help and crowbarred into a mobile home crumpled by the storm in Panama City, freeing a mother and daughter, both diabetics who had been trapped in a closet without insulin for two days and were on the verge of diabetic shock, rescuers said.

A lack of food and water is among the most pressing issues for people reeling from the storm, said one volunteer who had been working in the Panama City area. Rescue teams, hampered by power and telephone outages, used cadaver dogs, drones and heavy equipment to hunt for people in the rubble. More than 1,700 search and rescue workers were deployed, including seven swift-water rescue teams



FIGUEIRA DA FOZ: Trees broken during the post-tropical storm Leslie are pictured in Figueira da Foz yesterday. —AFP

One in 176 years

Over the past 176 years, only Hurricane Vince has made landfall on the Iberian peninsula, hitting southern Spain in 2005, according to weather records. In October 2017, strong winds from Hurricane Ophelia, which travelled north off the coast of Portugal and western Spain, fed forest fires that killed around

40 people during a heatwave. Ophelia then made landfall in Ireland as a violent storm, killing three people. Spain's civil protection agency said the storms could still be "very strong locally" and that heavy rain was forecast for the north and east. On Tuesday, intense rain sparked flash floods in the Spanish holiday island of Majorca, killing 12 people. —AFP

Where are we now?

EU negotiator Michel Barnier says the Brexit treaty is 80 to 85 percent ready. Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney went as high as 90 percent. Both sides have agreed language on the rights of each others' citizens on their territory. They have put a number on the huge bill that Britain will pay. A transition period has been agreed: Britain will apply EU rules and pay into the budget until 2020, while the future relationship is negotiated in more detail. But you only get to 90 percent of a deal by leaving the hardest stuff until last. Britain has not yet agreed that the European Court of Justice will have oversight if either side complains about the other breaking the treaty. And the issue of Northern Ireland's borders could yet break the deal. —AFP



MEXICO BEACH: View of the damage caused by Hurricane Michael in Mexico Beach, Florida, four days after Hurricane Michael hit the area. —AFP

and nearly 300 ambulances, Florida Governor Rick Scott's office said. Electricity and phone service were being

slowly restored, but it could be weeks before power is restored to the most damaged areas. —Reuters

International

Israel government approves 31 settler homes in Hebron

Netanyahu threatens to inflict 'very strong blows' on Hamas

JERUSALEM: Israel's government yesterday approved the construction of 31 settler homes in Hebron, the first such green light for the flashpoint West Bank city since 2002, a cabinet minister said. Construction permits were agreed in October last year but needed the government's approval, according to the Peace Now NGO which monitors settlement construction in occupied territory.

"For the first time in more than 20 years, Hebron will have a new Jewish neighborhood where a military camp once stood," Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said after the weekly cabinet meeting. He said in a statement that the project will comprise 31 settler homes and two kindergartens. "It is an important step in the global activity which we are carrying out to reinforce settlements in Judea and Samaria," added Lieberman referring to the occupied West Bank. Hebron is holy to both Muslims and Jews, with Old Testament figures including Abraham believed to be buried there.

The city is a flashpoint reflecting the deep tensions that run between Palestinians and Israelis. Hebron is home to around 200,000 Palestinians, with about 800 settlers living under Israeli army protection in several heavily fortified compounds in the heart of the city. The Hebron units are to be built on Shuhada Street, once a bustling shopping street leading to a holy site where the biblical Abraham is believed to have been buried. The street is now largely closed off to Palestinians who have repeatedly demanded that it be reopened to traffic.

The area was seized in the 1980s by the Israeli army which built on it a military base to protect Hebron's Jewish settlers. The 1994 massacre of 29 Muslim worshippers in Hebron by Israeli-American Baruch Goldstein led to an agreement three years later giving the Palestinian Authority control over 80 percent of the city. The settlers and about 30,000 Palestinians living adjacent to them fall under Israeli military rule. Peace Now said in a statement that the land on which the settler homes will be built legally belongs to the Palestinian municipality of Hebron.

Israeli settlements are considered a violation of international law and major stumbling blocks to peace efforts as they are built on land the Palestinians want for their future state. But Israel disputes that and says Palestinian intransigence, violence and "incitement" against it are responsible for stalled peace efforts. According to Peace Now settlement



First such green light for flashpoint city

plans in the West Bank have increased since the beginning of 2017, when Donald Trump, a key ally of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, was inaugurated as president of the United States. About 430,000 Israeli settlers live among 2.6 million Palestinians in the West Bank, occupied by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War.

'Very strong blows'

Meanwhile, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday threatened to inflict "very strong blows" on Hamas after fresh violence along the border with the Gaza Strip controlled by the Islamist group. "Hamas has apparently not understood the message-if these attacks do not stop, they will be stopped in another way, in the form of very, very strong blows", Netanyahu said during the weekly cabinet meeting. "We are very close to another type of action which would include very strong blows. If Hamas is intelligent, it will cease fire and violence now", he added.



HEBRON: Palestinians walk in the divided city of Hebron in the occupied West Bank yesterday. Israelis government has approved the construction of 31 settler homes in Hebron, the first such green light for the flashpoint West Bank city since 2002, a cabinet minister said. — AFP

Israel on Friday suspended fuel deliveries to the Gaza Strip, after fresh protests along the border that saw seven Palestinians killed by Israeli troops. The suspension came days after fuel supplies had begun running to the enclave, in a fresh bid to ease an Israeli blockade that has lasted more than 10 years. A UN-brokered deal had seen Qatar, a long-time Hamas backer, pledge to pay \$60 million (52 million euros) for fuel to be brought into Gaza over six months to

supply the strip's sole power plant. On Saturday, Israel's Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said fuel deliveries would only resume if there was a "total cessation of violence, the launching of incendiary balloons (from Gaza towards Israel) and the use of burning tyres against Israeli towns" near the enclave. Hamas has organized months of often-violent border protests, with at least 205 Palestinians and one Israeli killed since March 30. — Agencies

15 civilians killed in Yemen's Hodeida

SANAA: At least 15 civilians were killed in attacks on minibuses in Yemen's embattled Hodeida province, a UN agency said yesterday, as Houthi rebels blamed air strikes by the Saudi-led coalition. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs did not specify the type of strikes Saturday in the Jabal Ras district, but Yemeni rebels said they were air raids by the coalition fighting alongside the government. The coalition's spokesman, contacted by AFP, had no immediate comment. The UN agency said at least 20 more civilians were injured, in what Lisa Grande, the world body's humanitarian coordinator for Yemen, termed "a horrific incident".

The Norwegian Refugee Council condemned "an unacceptable pattern of attacks on civilian women, men and children by parties to the conflict who profess concern for the interests and welfare of Yemeni people". Saudi Arabia and its allies intervened in Yemen in 2015 to support President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi's government after the Iran-aligned Houthis ousted it from the capital Sanaa and swathes of the country's north. The coalition has used air power to oust the rebels from much of the country's south, but the Houthis have held onto Sanaa and the key Red Sea port of Hodeida.

Following the collapse of United Nations-backed talks in September, the coalition announced it was relaunching an assault on Hodeida city and its Red Sea port. The fighting has since eased and the coalition has focused its raids on the city limits and other parts of the surrounding province. — AFP

Somalia executes perpetrator on anniversary of deadliest attack

MOGADISHU: Somalia yesterday executed by firing squad a man linked to one of the country's deadliest ever attacks, one year after the tragedy which left over 500 dead, a court statement and police sources said. Hundreds of Somalis gathered at a ceremony to mark the anniversary of the attack in which a truck packed with explosives blew up at a busy intersection, destroying some 20 buildings in an apocalyptic scene in a city used to regular explosions at the hands of Islamist group Al-Shabaab. A year on, the Al-Qaeda linked group which still governs large swathes of territory, has never claimed responsibility, which observers attribute to the public outrage caused by the attack.

To coincide with the anniversary, a military court announced yesterday morning that a member of the team involved in the attack, had been executed. Hassan Adan Isak, was sentenced to death for "driving one of the vehicles used in the blast," read a statement from the court. "Today, the 14th October 2018, the death penalty was carried out against him." Isak was the driver of a vehicle which he parked near an airport checkpoint shortly after the truck went off, and was arrested for suspicious behavior. The target of his attack was unclear and there were no casualties in the second blast. Police sources said he died by firing squad.

'Justice and protection'

Business at the Zoopie intersection has returned to normal, and some buildings have been reconstructed, now



MOGADISHU: Somali people gather to commemorate the first anniversary of bombing attack which killed more than 500 people at Soobe Junction, named now as 14 October Junction. — AFP

carrying billboards depicting harrowing pictures of the blast and its victims. A memorial tower has been erected in the middle of the intersection. "All we can do is pray for them, I have lost them, I don't think commemoration would bring them back to me, but I hope nothing like the October tragedy happens again," said Omar Haji Mohamed, a disabled father who lost two children in the blast.

"I still cry from the bottom of my heart where people cannot see and only God knows how much I go through every day of my life after that tragedy," he added. Some frustrated

residents said mourning would not solve the insecurity in the capital. "I don't think mourning is the right and sufficient answer to wipe the tears from the eyes of those who have lost their loved ones, these people were massacred, so the perpetrators need to be chased and eliminated," said Ali Adan, a Mogadishu resident who lost three of his friends in the blast. Abdalsalan Mohamed, 23, who lost his brother, agreed: "I can still see the disaster right in front of me. We can mourn as much as we can, but it will not bring back our relatives, all we need is justice and protection." — AFP

Kuwait Times Premier Brands

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

ANNIVERSARY OFFERS 10 YEARS

Panasonic NA-W70L1WRU Washing Machine (7 Year Warranty) - 89 KD / 129 KD (Save 40 KD)

Panasonic NA-127VB6WAS Washing Machine (7 Year Warranty) - 1200 RPM, 33cm Wide Door, Allergy Care Program, Double Layer Door, White Color - 89 KD / 129 KD (Save 40 KD)

Panasonic NA-F115A1WRU Washing Machine (11.5 Year Warranty) - 8 Programs, 10 Water Level Settings, Air Drying (90min), Child Lock - 119 KD / 169 KD (Save 50 KD)

EC-BG1805A-RZ Vacuum Cleaner - 1800 W

NI-317TATH Steam Iron - 1800 W

best AL-YOUSIFI

Credit: Start from 5KD • Up to 48 month • Instant approval

Shop Online: www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809

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

Analysis

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian Gulf

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

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

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

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

At IMF meetings, China globalization agenda left behind in trade debate

Three days before US President Donald Trump took office in Jan 2017, Chinese President Xi Jinping portrayed Beijing as the champion and defender of globalization at the Davos World Economic Forum amid rising fears of trade protectionism. A few months later, as Xi launched a forum on China's vast Belt and Road effort, promising to spread Chinese investment and soft power through the world, it appeared his country's global stature was rising.

But now the luster on Beijing's trade and investment story has dulled amid rising US tariffs, higher interest rates and capital flight from emerging markets, all of which threaten to erode global growth. At the International Monetary Fund and World Bank annual meetings on the Indonesian resort island of Bali, some of that sentiment spilled into the open. "I think there is a broad view growing in the West that China has in some ways taken advantage of the system," said Charles Dallara, former head of the Institute of International Finance, who attended the meetings. "It reminds me of the view in the West of Japan in the 1980s, very much so."

Calls to fix global trading rules are tellingly coming not just from the Trump administration. IMF managing director Christine Lagarde this week laid out what needed to be done. "This means looking at the distortionary effects of state subsidies, improving the enforcement of intellectual property rights, and taking steps to ensure effective competition - to avoid the excesses of market-dominant positions," she said at a trade conference during the Bali meetings.

Lagarde did not mention China, but all those issues are charges frequently levelled by the Trump administration. Others were less restrained. "We absolutely need to address the issue of overcapacities in China. Nobody can say that this is not a problem. This has to be dealt with," European Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs Pierre Moscovici said at the same event. US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin struck a more confident tone at the Bali meetings compared with similar gatherings over the last year, when he was the target of near-universal criticism over Trump's tariff plans.

Fresh off a deal to revamp the North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico and Canada, and with trade talks coming soon with the European Union and Japan, the U.S. administration is trying to build a coalition of allies to revamp global trade rules to combat technology transfer and other trade policies it associates with China. Mnuchin said US allies first viewed Trump's trade views as simply protectionist but now have a better understanding of his desire for "free, fair and reciprocal trade". "This is not a coalition to pressure China. This is a coalition of like-minded people who have very similar issues as it relates to China," Mnuchin said.

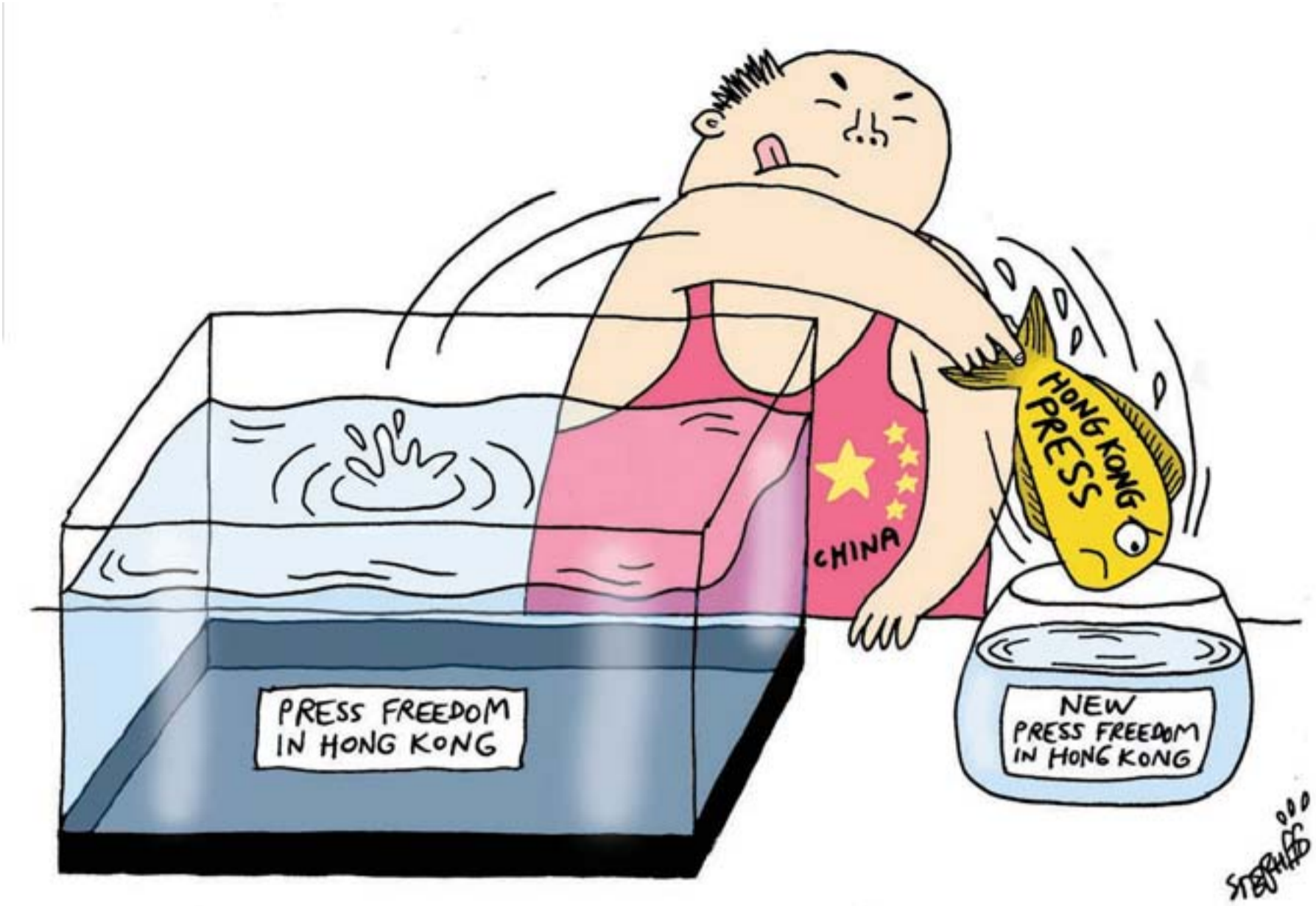
Belt and Road

China is still a major political and economic power, but Chinese officials appeared more on the defensive this week, with the tone of debate at some IMF forums shifting more quickly than Beijing may have expected. Vice finance minister Zou Jiayi, on a World Bank panel on Xi's signature Belt and Road Initiative, found herself fielding questions from other panelists and the audience over debt sustainability, how effectively small countries could negotiate with Beijing, and whether the effort was viable in the midst of a protracted trade war.

The debt burdens from the Belt and Road initiative came into sharper focus as Pakistan, a major recipient of Chinese-financed port, rail and road projects, formally sought an IMF bailout program during the Bali meetings. Zou said China was using risk analysis methods from bodies such as the IMF and World Bank, and would supervise the projects' debt more vigorously. But she also said that they are essentially commercial projects and that countries should exercise caution and make their own evaluations of their commercial viability.

And she said some of the risks came from a drastic change in external environment, giving an example of an unnamed African country with sound debt levels that sank into crisis after oil prices tanked and its currency fell. David Dollar, a former US Treasury official and a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution who spoke on the panel, said that Belt and Road could reduce trade costs, but that more work needed to be done. "For low-income countries, there is really this risk of taking on too much debt even if the projects are very, very good," Dollar said.

Some delegates from China at the Bali IMF and World Bank meetings expressed frustration that Beijing's agenda was being bypassed while international institutions had largely been ineffective in deterring Trump's tariff actions. "Personally I think unfortunately the G20 hasn't contributed much to reconciliation and coordination of macroeconomic policies across the world," said Xiang Songzuo, deputy director of International Monetary Institute at Renmin University of China, who was a speaker at a sideline event during the meetings in Bali. "We wish all these forums including G20, UN, World Bank, IMF, WTO, would become stronger, stronger and more productive in containing all these wrong things - protectionism, unilateralism," Xiang added. — Reuters



After Kavanaugh, #HimToo gains attention

The notion that it is dangerous to be an American man in the #MeToo era took off during the angry debate over Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. But tossing more fuel onto the fire were a sarcastic tirade from Donald Trump and a painfully awkward tweet from a seemingly over-anxious mother. On the day Kavanaugh was sworn in as the junior justice to the high court, Pieter Hanson's mother posted a message on the social media network comparing the plight of the jurist - who had vigorously denied allegations of sexual aggression - to the dating challenges facing her 32-year-old son.

Under the hashtag #HimToo, she said her son was refusing to go on "solo dates due to the current climate of false sexual accusations by radical feminists with an axe to grind". To emphasize her point, she posted a photo of the good-looking young man, an angelic smile on his face, posing in his crisp, white navy uniform. The post immediately went viral, inspiring hundreds of mocking memes, most of them having fun with the seemingly overwrought concerns of Pieter Hanson's hovering mother.

The young man, now a navy veteran, responded by quickly posting a new photo of himself, in the same pose as the first one but in T-shirt and jeans, to gently take exception with his mother. "Sometimes the people we love do things that hurt us without realizing it," he tweeted. "I respect and #BelieveWomen. I never have and never will support #HimToo." In a series of subsequent TV appearances, Hanson, joined by his brother Jon, made good-natured sport of the whole matter.

The US president himself took up the same theme early

this month before reporters at the White House. "It's a very scary time for young men in America, where you can be guilty of something that you may not be guilty of," said Trump, himself the target of multiple allegations of sexual aggression, which he has denied. Then a few days later, Trump mercilessly mocked Kavanaugh's accuser, Christine

"Men perceive that if women gain, men lose," Clara Wilkins, a social psychologist at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, told AFP. She said research shows that "men think they are experiencing bias now more than they ever have before." "The fact that Trump said this guy (Kavanaugh) has been unfairly accused is increasing men's belief that men are victimized," Wilkins said.

'A very frightening time'

Men's fears have "a rational basis," insisted attorney Andrew Miltenberg, who told AFP he has defended "hundreds" of young men from allegations of sexual abuse, most of them arising in university settings. "In most cases - not all - women are seeking revenge on ex-boyfriends or young men they found have played around too much," he said, adding that "it's very difficult for young men to get a fair opportunity to be heard." "It's a very frightening time" for men, Miltenberg continued. "I don't really believe you can be alone in a room with a young woman now in this climate," at a time when such allegations can "destroy" a man's life and career.

A US Justice Department study, however, found that such false accusations are rare - comprising no more than two to 10 percent of all complaints. Moreover, one rape victim in 10 is a man, and an estimated three percent of Americans have been raped or sexually attacked. Victims' rights groups thus stress that American men are at around the same risk of being the victim of sexual aggression as of being falsely accused - meaning the #MeToo hashtag would apply to many more than the #HimToo. — AFP



Men as the real victims?

Blaise Ford, during one of his big political rallies. Pretending to be Blaise Ford, he sneered at her lapses of memory over the alleged aggression dating from the 1980s, drawing uproarious laughter from supporters.

Men as victims

Pieter Hanson's mother didn't invent the #HimToo hashtag, which gained steam during the bitter debate between Blaise Ford's supporters and those who see Kavanaugh as a poster boy for men falsely accused of sexual misconduct.

Ethiopia and Eritrea back in business

For two decades, little besides soldiers, refugees and rebels moved across Ethiopia and Eritrea's closed border, but today the once-barren no man's land teems with activity. Horse-drawn carts, buses full of visitors and trucks piled high with bricks and plywood make their way across the frontier, watched by relaxed soldiers from the two nations' armies who just months ago stared each other down from trenches carved into the rocky soil.

After 20 years of bloody conflict and grim stalemate, the Ethiopia-Eritrea border is bustling once again, revitalizing frontier towns and allowing the countries' long-stranded populations to reacquaint themselves. "We have everything we didn't have before, from the smallest to the biggest products," said Abraham Abadi, a merchant in the Eritrean town of Senafe whose shop is now filled with biscuits, drinks and liquor made in Ethiopia. Yet the border's re-opening has sparked a surge in refugees and also raised concerns over the black market currency trade that some fear will destabilize the economy.

Back in business

Once a province of Ethiopia, Eritrea voted for independence in 1993 after a bloody, decades-long struggle. A dispute over the border plunged the neighbors into war in 1998, leaving tens of thousands dead in two years of fighting. The conflict continued as a cold war after Ethiopia refused to honour a UN-backed commission verdict demarcating the border, a policy Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed reversed in June.

Flights restarted and embassies reopened shortly afterwards, and in September, Abiy and Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki re-opened the crossing at Zalambessa, an Ethiopian town on a major route into Eritrea. The opening was transformative for the town, a strip of shops and restaurants damaged in the war and eco-

nomically paralysed by the border closure that now bustles with shoppers. "We're selling sandals and these shida shoes," said trader Ruta Zerai, gesturing to a pile of the open-toed footwear popular with Eritreans.

In Senafe, a trading hub 23 km north of the border, the impact of the rapprochement is clear. Twice a week, organized groups of Ethiopian merchants cross the border, marked by a bare strip of earth only recently cleared of anti-tank mines, for Senafe's market days. They bring with them recharge cards for the Ethiopian telecom whose service can be picked up in parts of the town and tef, the once-scarce grain needed to make the staple injera food. Some even decide to stay. "I live where I can get a job. As long as I have a job, I'll stay here," Sanle Gebremariam, an Ethiopian currency trader working in Senafe, said at a roadside where busses from both countries congregate.

Heading in the opposite direction are thousands of Eritrean refugees fleeing the country's repressive government and stagnant economy. Eritreans, many of whom aim to reach Europe, came across the border when it was closed, but the UN says arrivals in Ethiopia have increased nearly eight-fold since its opening. Meanwhile, Ethiopian traders are grumbling over the unstable value of the Eritrean nakfa against their birr currency. "We're trading together, but the exchange rate is unregulated, unstable and illegal," said Taeme Lemlem, a bar owner in Zalambessa, echoing similar complaints, made before the border war, that were never resolved.

Getachew Teklemariam, a consultant and former Ethiopian government adviser, said the unregulated trade at the border, where there appears to be little customs or immigration controls, risks opening a "shadow monetary front". "The exchange rate is being governed by largely speculative perceptions from both sides of the border," said Getachew. "The overall trade scenario has to be guided by some strategy." Both countries' governments have said they hope the renewed trade links will boost their economies. But the neighbors are not equals. Eritrea's economy has underperformed since the war, while Ethiopia has grown at some of Africa's fastest rates, which hasn't escaped the notice of visitors to the country. "I'm very surprised. — AFP

Journo murder toxic mystery one year on

A year after a car bomb killed Maltese anti-corruption journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, those who ordered the murder remain free while others continuing her work in the EU's smallest state are branded traitors. The windswept field where the mother-of-three's burnt-out car ended up on October 16, 2017, has become a monument to her life. Supporters of free speech like Tania Attard come to this isolated spot to place flowers under a banner calling for justice, fluttering alongside a Maltese flag. "If the person responsible for this is established, perhaps then we can rest and see that justice is done," Attard told AFP. "I'm sure they never realized that it would come this far, that it would... turn into something so important and international."

After her death an international consortium of journalists launched the Daphne Project, coordinated by Forbidden Stories, a Paris-based organization dedicated to continuing the work of killed or imprisoned journalists. "They just thought they would eliminate her and then feel better but I don't think that is the result at all, I think that it has backfired on them," said Attard. But while journalists abroad can continue her work, those in Malta calling for justice say they are branded traitors.

Caruana Galizia's blog sought to expose scandals on the island of less than half-a-million people, from petrol smuggling to money laundering, offshore bank accounts to nepotism, implicating members of the government and organized crime. It also launched highly personal attacks on Maltese politicians.

Threats and insults

Journalist and blogger Manuel Delia says that he receives threats and insults in the street because of his work, includ-

ing speaking to foreign journalists, just as Caruana Galizia did when she was alive. "The more time passes the more we realize that democracy doesn't really work well here, the rule of law does not prevail," said Delia, who worked for years for the Nationalist party until it lost to Labour in 2013. "Institutions are completely co-opted and possessed by the government, and the government is possessed by people who are motivated by their own power and personal profit."

Supporters of Caruana Galizia hold a vigil on the 16th of every month, demanding justice. Meanwhile, officials regularly dispatch street cleaners to remove an impromptu memorial that keeps reappearing in Valletta's historic center. The government of Labour Prime Minister Joseph Muscat eventually replied to repeated requests for comment with a statement saying Caruana Galizia's murder was "an attack on our freedom of expression, which was unacceptable". "The Maltese government believes the Fourth Estate is essential in a democratic system... journalists in Malta currently engage in their work freely, without any interference by the state."

Three men who allegedly carried out the car bombing have been arrested and are facing trial, but whoever ordered the killing remains free. The political opposition to the Labour government consists of the Nationalist party, which was headed by Simon Busuttil until June last year. He says that Caruana Galizia's corruption investigations and accusations crossed party lines, although she more regularly skewered members of the Labour party. "You know her last words (on her blog) were 'the situation is desperate' and I feel that today the situation is even more desperate," Busuttil told AFP at his offices in Valletta.

"Because the people who ordered her killing are still at large and because the corruption stories that she revealed have still not been resolved and those corruption stories involve people who are actually running the country." He says Brussels should ensure the rule of law is applied in the island, which joined the European Union in 2004. — AFP

Business

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2018

12 Equity markets enter sell-off phase; Trump slams Fed

13 US draws China FX into trade dispute as IMF seeks solution

14 Multi-currencies now available with Gulf Bank at Al-Jazeera terminal



الرمز	اسم الشركة	السعر	التغير	الرمز	اسم الشركة	السعر	التغير
11250	البنك الكويتي	11.8	-0.1	10000	البنك العربي	10.5	-0.2
14176	البنك التجاري	12	-0.1	10000	البنك الدولي	11.5	-0.1
305	البنك الإسلامي	2	-0.1	10000	البنك السعودي	10.2	-0.1
30245	البنك العمومي	30	-0.5	10000	البنك المصري	9.8	-0.2
3027	البنك الأهلي	11	-0.1	10000	البنك الهندي	9.5	-0.1
3232	البنك الكويتي	82	-1.2	10000	البنك الصيني	9.2	-0.1
3030	البنك الكويتي	80	-0.8	10000	البنك الياباني	9.0	-0.1
3034	البنك الكويتي	22.2	-0.3	10000	البنك الكوري	8.8	-0.1
81981	البنك الكويتي	22	-0.2	10000	البنك البرازيلي	8.5	-0.1



KUWAIT: Traders watch the price monitors at the trading floor of Boursa Kuwait yesterday. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Saudi stocks fall amid investor concerns

Bursa Kuwait drops 1.9%, Gulf markets edge lower

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's shares plunged as much as 7 percent yesterday as investors worried about deteriorating relations with the international community after the disappearance of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. The Tadawul All-Shares Index (TASI) quickly lost more than 500 points on the first trading day of the week, wiping out all the gains it had made since the start of the year. The index had already dropped 3.0 percent on Thursday, following a rout on world stock markets fuelled by worries about higher interest rates and US President Donald Trump's attacks on the Federal Reserve. The TASI was trading at just above 7,000 points, a 10-month low, having reversed all of the 18-percent gain it had notched up since the start of 2018. All 15 sectors in the market were in the red while almost all listed shares dropped. In just two sessions the Saudi bourse, the largest in

the Arab world, has shed almost \$50 billion of its capitalisation, which now stands at around \$450 billion. The index suffered its biggest intraday decline since December 2014, when oil prices were crashing, with the Gulf region's biggest petrochemical producer, Saudi Basic Industries, tumbling as much as 7.9 percent. By the close, the Saudi market had recovered some of its losses, ending down 3.5 percent. Saudi Arabia's stock market is due to be reclassified by MSCI as an emerging market next year. "It's the political environment. The market is reacting negatively to sentiment around the Khashoggi case and the political noise around it," said Salah Shamma, head of investment for the region at Franklin Templeton Emerging Markets Equity, a big global fund manager. The Saudi exchange reported that foreigners were net sellers in the market in the week ended Oct. 11. Foreigners sold 1.62 billion riyals worth of shares, and

bought 995.8 million riyals. Shamma noted the fundamental situation of the Saudi economy had not so far been affected. But regional traders said speculation the Khashoggi case might deter some inflows of foreign investment - and that a backlash in the US Congress could lead to US sanctions against some Saudi individuals - had triggered panic selling of stocks by some local investors. "It seems that international accounts are punishing the Saudi exchange," a regional broker added. Khashoggi, a prominent critic of Riyadh and a US resident, disappeared on Oct 2 after visiting the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. US President Donald Trump said on Saturday there would be "severe punishment" for Saudi Arabia if it turned out that Khashoggi was killed in the consulate. Media companies and some technology executives have pulled out of a major Saudi investment conference scheduled for next week in Riyadh because of growing

outrage over the disappearance. Boursa Kuwait declined 1.9 percent after regional investment bank EFG Hermes cut its target price for the company by two percent to 0.46 Kuwaiti dinars. Other stock markets in the Gulf were dragged lower, with the Dubai index sinking 1.5 percent. State-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (ADNOC)'s listed unit, ADNOC Distribution, declined 3.5 percent even after shareholders approved an interim dividend of 0.06 dirhams a share. In Egypt, the blue-chip index rose two percent. Shares of Egyptian property developer Medinet Nasr rallied 10 percent after property firm SODIC said it intended to make a tender offer to acquire the company through a share swap. Oman's benchmark rose 0.2 percent, lifted by HSBC Oman which reported a nine-month profit of 25 million rials, compared with 13.7 million rials the same period a year earlier. Shares of HSBC Oman rose 3.4 percent. —Agencies

Fed official says rate hikes 'right course' for US monetary policy

NUSA DUA: The US Federal Reserve does consider the impact of interest rate hikes on emerging markets when setting policy, but the increases are the "right course of domestic policy" for the world's largest economy, said a top Fed official on Saturday. The comments by Fed Vice Chair Randal Quarles came as some emerging markets face increasing pressure this year as higher US interest rates draw foreign capital away, and due to fears of fallout from a tariff war between the US and China. The Fed has also been at the receiving end of criticism from President Donald Trump, who on

Thursday called its interest rate increases a "ridiculous" policy. Those surprisingly caustic remarks came a day after the president told reporters, in response to a Wall Street rout, that the "Fed has gone crazy." "If you look around the world, I think the Asian region as a whole is reasonably strong relative to certain areas in the past," Quarles said, responding to a question on the region's capacity to withstand interest rate shocks. "We do consider" the implication of US monetary policy on emerging markets and the rest of the world, he said at the annual meeting of the Institute of International Finance on the Indonesian resort island of Bali. Rising US rates, coupled with fears over the impact of US-Sino trade war, have hurt emerging Asia, and currency, bond and share markets in India, Indonesia and the Philippines and elsewhere in the region have all come under pressure. The Fed last month raised interest rates for the third time this year, and foresees another hike in December, three more next year, and one increase in 2020. "It's not going to be in the interest of anyone in the world ... for us to get behind the curve in the US by moderating what we think is the right course of domestic policy," Quarles said. — Reuters

Philippines to suspend oil tax hike to cool red hot inflation

MANILA: The Philippines said yesterday it would suspend the implementation of a further increase in excise tax on fuel products, set to take effect in January 2019, to stem rising inflation expectations. Inflation in one of Asia's fastest-growing economies has been rising since January, due to higher taxes, costlier food and fuel and a weak peso, causing a decline in President Rodrigo Duterte's popularity. The Department of Finance (DOF) expects foregone revenues of up to 40 billion pesos (\$740 million) a year from the suspension. That amount is part of the crucial funding for Duterte's \$180 billion "Build, Build, Build" program, which aims to upgrade the country's infrastructure. Under the Tax Reform for Acceleration and

Inclusion (TRAIN) law, the excise tax on fuel products is to be gradually increased between 2018 and 2020, with the first hike implemented in January and the second to take effect on Jan. 1 next year. The law allows for the suspension of the second hike if the average price of Dubai crude, based on Mean of Platts Singapore, reaches or exceeds \$80 per barrel from October to December 2018. "The President is making an early announcement of the temporary suspension of the January 2019 oil excise increase" ahead of the trigger, the Department of Finance said in a statement. "Today's price and multiple estimates of crude prices over the next two months show that the average price will stay above the \$80 threshold," it said. The government expects the tax hike suspension to help tame inflation, which quickened to 6.7 percent in September, the fastest in nearly a decade and marking the seventh straight month the rate stayed outside the 2-4 percent target this year. Higher inflation and expectations that it will remain elevated in the last quarter prompted the central bank to tighten monetary policy by hiking key interest rates. The central bank, which has two more policy meetings this year, expects inflation to return to within its 2-4 percent target next year. —Reuters

Equity markets enter sell-off phase; Trump slams Fed

Confidence wanes as US-China trade war lingers on

KUWAIT: An unhappy US president and a tumbling stock market. This was the theme of the week as equity markets entered into a sell-off while suffering their worst fall in eight months. The recent interest rate rises undercut popular trading strategies and sent the shares of the once high-flying technology stocks falling. The Dow fell more than 800 points, while the S&P tumbled more than 3 percent in its worst day since February.

Tech-heavy stocks were hit the hardest as the Nasdaq Composite dropped more than 4 percent, its biggest one-day decline since June 2016. Last week also saw the global FTSE All-World index recoil for a sixth day running, erasing all of 2018's gains in one of its worst weeks of the year. The selling streak did not seem to slow down given that investors had many aspects to worry about: the US-China trade war, rising yields, waning confidence, and the VIX volatility index spiking to nearly 30 points, its highest level since the market mayhem of early February. As the global sell-off spread, Asian markets tumbled on Thursday as well.

Japan's Topix index was down 3.4 percent just shortly after markets opened. In Hong Kong, stocks also dropped 3 percent. The equity sell-off looks to be triggered by the rise in bond yields which reached a seven year high of 3.26 percent. Furthermore, the hawkish tone of Fed officials forced investors to reappraise their optimistic outlook for further interest rate increases.

On Friday, the sell-off showed signs of a slowdown in Asian markets, while the 10-year US Treasury retreated down to 3.14 percent. Tokyo's Topix was down 0.5 percent versus the 3.4 percent drop in the previous session, while Hong Kong shares were up 0.4 percent in early trading. Early futures trading also indicated a more positive open for equities in London and New York, with the FTSE 100 set to open flat and the S&P 500 expected to rise 0.6 percent.

The stock market decline brought along public criticism from president Trump who claimed the US Central Bank's commitment to raising rates is a mistake. President Donald Trump showed strong disagreement with the hawkish Fed, he went as far as saying that the Fed has gone crazy. "They're so tight. I think the Fed has gone crazy," the president said. It is typical for presidents to refrain from commenting on the Fed's decisions in order to emphasize its independence from political pressure, but Trump has been frequently voicing his opinions on the Fed's actions. He did say that he was "disappointed" in the Fed's chair Powell, but ensured that he was not thinking of removing him. According to Trump, the "ridiculous" policy is making it more expensive for his administration to finance its escalating deficits.

Rising US producer price index

The US producer price index advanced for the first time in 3 months reporting a 0.2 percent rise in September. The PPI figures came in line with forecasts and saw a recovery from the unexpected 0.1 percent drop in August. The increase was mainly attributed to a 1.8 percent rise in transportation and warehousing services. Overall however, the cost of goods reflected a decline in both food and energy by 0.1 percent. Service prices were able to offset the drop by increasing 0.3 percent. The core PPI which excludes food, energy, and trade services recorded its highest growth since a 0.5 percent increase in January, rising 0.4 percent last month.

The dollar continued to lose ground after an incredibly strong week, as both the sterling and yen gained against it. The greenback closed the week down 0.5 percent at 95.259.

US consumer price inflation

In reinforcement of the Federal Reserve's judgment to carefully proceed with further short-term interest rate hikes, the US recorded steady consumer price inflation in September. Both CPI and core CPI increased 0.1 percent last month after rising 0.2 percent in August. A drop in fuel and energy costs slowed headline CPI to 2.3 percent from a year earlier, down from the 2.7 percent we saw in August, making it the slowest growth since March. Core CPI, which excludes volatile food and fuel prices held a steady 2.2 percent year-on-year price growth. It is firmly upping its last year performance, when it was rising at a 1.7 percent year-on-year pace. This combined with unemployment hovering at its lowest level since the 1960's could be forcing the Fed to tighten policy more aggressively. Yet, Fed Chair Powell has been signaling that he has no appetite to accelerate the pace of rate rises given the expectations for continued soft inflationary pressures.

UK & Europe recovering UK GDP

In the UK, growth has appeared to recover from the difficult start to the year as the summer brought along a boost in the economy. The Office for National Statistics reported on Wednesday that GDP rose 0.7 percent in the 3 months ending in August, beating expectations of 0.6 percent. Construction activity rose 2.9 percent over the 3 months, while production rose 0.7 percent. However, the summer boom cannot deny the stagnant overall growth, as ONS official Rob Kent-Smith explained: "The economy performed particularly well during the hot summer months", adding "However, long-term growth continues to lag behind its historical trend."



Brexit deal in the horizon

We are now in the period of the highest stakes on Brexit since the UK's 2016 EU referendum. A breakthrough is expected as negotiators are planning to agree a complete draft treaty before the end of the weekend. The agreement should define the terms of Britain's departure, a 21-month transition, and the solution to Northern Ireland's border conundrum, with the latter seeming to be the most challenging issue. The Democratic Unionist party in Northern Ireland has threatened to vote against the UK government's budget if their "red lines" over any form of Irish border are breached. A senior DUP figure said: "It is unacceptable that we would be treated differently to the rest of the UK. We will not be bounced into anything. If Theresa May doesn't take our concerns on board, she may not be the leader to take us through Brexit."

On Thursday night, Theresa May briefed her inner cabinet that a historic Brexit deal is close. An official to the Brexit talks said: "The prime minister never brings the cabinet together to tell them what's going on. That's not her style. It feels to me like the deal is practically done." Cabinet ministers said that the issue of the Irish backstop was close to being settled.

In response to the optimism towards a potential Brexit deal and a recovering GDP, the sterling rose, the week up 0.18 percent at 1.3147.

US-China trade wars

If Beijing does not produce a detailed list of concessions, Donald Trump will not engage in trade talks with Xi Jinping at next month's G20 summit, warned US officials. The Chinese are saying that they do have such a list, but they are not willing to produce it without a guarantee that it will be received in a stable political environment in Washington. They are demanding a point person with a mandate to negotiate on behalf of the Trump administration. Earlier in August, Chinese negotiators mentioned a possibility of an agreement on around a third of the demands in a relatively quick manner, and willingness to engage in discussions on another third. They added that the remaining third were off limits due to concerns of national security. Chinese officials were prepared to present a detailed response at a fifth round of trade talks last month, but those discussions were cancelled after Trump added tariffs on more than half of all Chinese exports to the US. Officials now are saying that they need China's response well in advance of the G20 summit in order to pave the way for practical trade discussions between the two leaders.

Kuwaiti dinar

USD/KWD opened at 0.30300 yesterday morning.

Al-Tijari announces winner of Al-Najma draw

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced the winner of the weekly draw as follows: Weekly Draw prize KD 5,000- Hussain Ali Hussain Abdullah

The draw was conducted in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative Ms Latifa Al-Jean.

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 & 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's branch. However, CBK non-customers can submit an account opening application via the Bank's website where the Bank's Sales Unit will call them to arrange a visit to the customers to complete the account opening formalities.

Japan to pledge 2019 tax hike to address debt mountain

TOKYO: Japan will announce a sales tax hike today in 2019 after repeated delays, reports said yesterday, in an effort to address the nation's huge public debt.

The world's third-largest economy has one of the highest debt-to-GDP ratios among rich nations. Much of it is held domestically at low interest rates, allowing Japan to avoid a Greek-style cash crunch.

Critics say that raising the tariff from eight to 10 percent is crucial to finance snowballing social security expenditure-especially medical fees-in the rapidly ageing society. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will announce the sales tax hike at a cabinet meeting today, the mass circulation Yomiuri Shimbun and Jiji Press both reported. The increase-originally planned for October 2015 - has been pushed back twice due to fears it could derail the fragile economy.

Tokyo's last tax rise in April 2014 was blamed for pushing Japan into a brief recession.

This time, Abe is confident that with new government subsidies launched alongside, he can avoid a sharp drop in consumer spending that hit the



NUSA DUA: Bank of Japan governor Haruhiko Kuroda attends a press conference at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank annual meetings in Nusa Dua on Indonesia's resort island of Bali yesterday. —AFP

economy after the 2014 hike, the reports said.

Abe recently said that reforming the country's social security system-pension and national health insurance, among others-is "the biggest challenge" ahead and pledged to tackle the issue.

IMF chief Christine Lagarde warned earlier this month that the challenges facing the country will "only grow as Japan's population continues to age

and shrink," noting that both the size of the economy and the population are on track to shrink by a quarter over the next 40 years.

A loss of confidence in Tokyo's ability to pay its debts could send interest rates soaring and increase the risk of a bankruptcy. Ratings agencies have previously cut Japan's credit standing over its debt levels. —AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
Euro	0.393355	0.407255
Czech Koruna	0.005646	0.014946
Danish Krone	0.043184	0.048184
Euro	0.344502	0.358202
Georgian Lari	0.134733	0.134733
Hungarian Forint	0.001335	0.001335
Norwegian Krone	0.033131	0.038331
Romanian Lei	0.065082	0.081932
Russian ruble	0.004618	0.004618
Slovakia	0.009074	0.019074
Swedish Krona	0.029925	0.034925
Swiss Franc	0.300522	0.311522
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.208449	0.220449
New Zealand Dollar	0.191957	0.201457
Canada Dollar	0.228192	0.237192
US Dollars	0.299750	0.305050
US Dollars Mint	0.300250	0.305050
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.002970	0.003771
Chinese Yuan	0.042467	0.045967
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036965	0.039715
Indian Rupee	0.003561	0.004333

Indonesian Rupiah	0.000016	0.000022
Japanese Yen	0.002630	0.002810
Korean Won	0.000258	0.000273
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069670	0.075670
Nepalese Rupee	0.002627	0.002967
Pakistan Rupee	0.001776	0.002546
Philippine Peso	0.005454	0.005754
Singapore Dollar	0.215826	0.225826
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001469	0.002049
Taiwan	0.010426	0.010606
Thai Baht	0.008945	0.009495
Vietnamese Dong	0.00013	0.00013
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.791398	0.807898
Egyptian Pound	0.014274	0.019992
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000208	0.000268
Jordanian Dinar	0.42260	0.433260
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000156	0.000256
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022449	0.046449
Omani Riyal	0.782903	0.788583
Qatar Riyal	0.079170	0.084110
Saudi Riyal	0.079940	0.081240
Syrian Pound	0.001288	0.001508
Tunisian Dinar	0.103851	0.111851
Turkish Lira	0.045722	0.057222
UAE Dirhams	0.081302	0.083002
Yemeni Riyal	0.000988	0.001068

Unwelcome guest: US tariffs loom at China's biggest trade fair

BEIJING: Amid gathering gloom over the state of the Chinese economy, exporters of motorcycles, tractors, photocopyers and Christmas tree lighting will join thousands of other companies peddling their wares at China's largest trade fair yesterday.

Many of those exporters will have something in common - uncertainty over future U.S. orders as a trade war with the United States rages. The turmoil has added to concerns over the health of the Chinese economy, already under pressure from a cooling property market, a crackdown on corporate debt and risky lending practices, and a nationwide anti-pollution campaign.

The United States over the summer levied tariffs of up to 25 percent on \$250 billion of Chinese goods as punishment for what it says are unfair trade practices by China. The latest tariff salvo represented half of the \$500 billion of products that the United States bought from China last year.

The rapid escalation of the trade dispute has taken many

Chinese exporters by surprise. At the spring session of the twice-a-year Canton Fair in Guangzhou, only a quarter of the exporters whom Reuters spoke to said they expected a full-blown trade war. As exporters gather at the autumn session of the three-week gathering that started yesterday, a far more somber outlook is expected to pervade the tens of thousands of exhibition booths at the fair. US President Donald Trump has repeatedly threatened to slap tariffs on more Chinese imports in an intensifying trade war that has led many forecasters, including the International Monetary Fund, to cut their global economic projections for 2018 and 2019.

Beijing has been urging Chinese exporters to diversify their overseas destinations and rely less on the United States - China's biggest trading partner - or turn their focus to domestic customers instead.

"Our existing US orders are relatively stable, but our US clients are not increasing their orders," said an official at a Guangzhou-based battery maker, one of many facing higher US tariffs on Chinese batteries. "We're keeping prices stable and swallowing the tariffs ourselves," the official said. As export-reliant cities and provinces like Guangdong show the strain, policymakers are increasingly rolling out measures to help businesses weather the trade storm. The central bank has cut the amount of cash that commercial banks need to set aside as reserves four times this year to spur lending to small businesses. The finance ministry has reduced taxes and increased tax rebates to help lower the overheads of businesses. Billion-dollar infrastructure projects have been put on the fast track to stimulate growth. —Reuters

Business

US draws China FX into trade dispute as IMF seeks solution

China's CB chief pledges to keep yuan value stable

NUSA DUA: The United States sought to make currency a central part of any solution to a bruising trade fight with China, keeping the pressure on Beijing to speed up economic reforms at a gathering of world policy makers who pledged to do more to safeguard global growth.

China's central bank governor Yi Gang on Saturday promised to keep the yuan currency's value "broadly stable" at International Monetary Fund and World Bank annual meetings in Bali where the IMF attempted to prod the world's two largest economies to resolve their disputes.

The People's Bank of China governor's statement to the IMF steering committee echoed Fund members' to avoid competitive currency devaluations. "China will continue to let the market play a decisive role in the formation of the RMB exchange rate," Yi said in the statement "We will not engage in competitive devaluation, and will not use the exchange rate as a tool to deal with trade frictions."

A communique issued by the IMF's member countries on Saturday - which followed fresh tumult in finan-

cial markets - also sought to soothe nervous investors with a pledge to step up their dialogue on trade issues.

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on Saturday that Chinese officials told him that further yuan depreciation was not in China's interests. He told Reuters in an interview on Friday that currency issues needed to be part of US-China trade talks.

"We want to make sure that (yuan) depreciation is not being used for competitive purposes in trade," Mnuchin told reporters on Saturday. The yuan has fallen more than 8 percent against the dollar since the end of April to about 6.91 on Friday, close to the psychologically important 7.0 level not seen in a decade.

In the communique from the International Monetary and Financial Committee, the Fund's member countries also agreed to debate ways to improve the World Trade Organization so it can better address trade disputes. "We acknowledge that free, fair, and mutually beneficial goods and services trade and investment are key engines for growth and job creation," the IMFC said in the statement.

"We will refrain from competitive devaluations and

will not target our exchange rates for competitive purposes," it added.

Rate hike worries

On Thursday, IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde urged members to "de-escalate" trade tensions and work on fixing global trade rules. She also warned against adding currency to the trade conflict, saying this would hurt global growth as well as "innocent bystander" nations, including emerging markets that supply commodities to China. She urged.

Some of these countries, including Indonesia, the host of the IMF and World Bank meetings, are already struggling to contain capital outflows prompted by higher US interests rates.

Fears that rates could spike sharply higher - and the international trade tensions - touched off a searing sell-off in global stock markets over the past week. European Central Bank Governor Mario Draghi warned on Saturday that a "snap back" in rates and a sharp repricing of asset prices were the biggest risks to the economic outlook. —Reuters



NUSA DUA: (From L to R) World Bank President Jim Yong Kim, International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Christine Lagarde, Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, Indonesia's Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati and Indonesia's Central Bank governor Perry Warjiyo pose for a family photo at the close of the IMF and World Bank annual meetings in Nusa Dua yesterday. —AFP

German business losing patience with limping Brexit talks

FRANKFURT: With just under six months until Brexit day, German business is losing patience with negotiations ahead of a vital deadline, warning ever more stridently of the risks of a no-deal departure.

"Europe must stop a worst-case Brexit scenario," Joachim Lang, director of the Federation of German Industry (BDI) said Tuesday, warning that "a separation of the UK from the EU without a departure or transitional agreement or clarification of the future relationship is still a possibility."

At stake for Germany are some 50,000 jobs the BDI says depend directly on business with the UK. In financial terms, Europe's

largest economy sold 84.4 billion euros (\$97.4 billion) of exports to Britain in 2017, making the island nation its fifth-biggest customer, while importing 37.1 billion.

The scale means a no-deal Brexit would be "a disaster that would cause great difficulties for tens of thousands of firms and hundreds of thousands of workers on both sides of the English Channel," Lang said. Current talks aim to settle Britain's divorce issues and agree a "transition phase" to ease its departure by keeping it under EU law through 2020.

But while much is already agreed, negotiations have snagged on thorny issues like the Irish border that allow for little compromise and divide British PM Theresa May's majority. An EU leaders' summit this week has been dubbed a "moment of truth", as two sets of lawmakers-in Westminster and the European Parliament-must both green-light any deal and will need time to debate it before Brexit day on March 29. Adding to the pressure, the European Commission said last week it was making plans to cope with a no-deal scenario.

'Will Brits be reasonable?'

Businesses on the front line of potential Brexit disruption mostly strike a less alarmist tone than the BDI chief. "If Britain becomes a 'third country' (losing membership of the EU's single market) it's not a problem, we already work with 50 third countries," said Samia Zimmerling, head of export administration at Delta Pronatura-a cleaning products maker with operations in both Germany and the UK.

But she lamented the drawn-out talks, which are delaying concrete adjustments companies must make to any new trade arrangements, like updating complex IT systems.

"We're waiting every day," she said. "We don't have any faith in the British (government), they're just indecisive." Zimmerling and around 200 other businesspeople attended a Wednesday conference organized by Frankfurt's Chambers of Commerce and Industry (IHK), one of a string of events in economic centers around Germany. —AFP

First commercial flight in 41 years links Ethiopia to Somalia

MOGADISHU: An Ethiopian airline on Saturday made the first commercial flight between Addis Ababa and Mogadishu in 41 years, in yet another sign of warming ties between neighboring Horn of Africa nations — Ethiopia and Somalia.

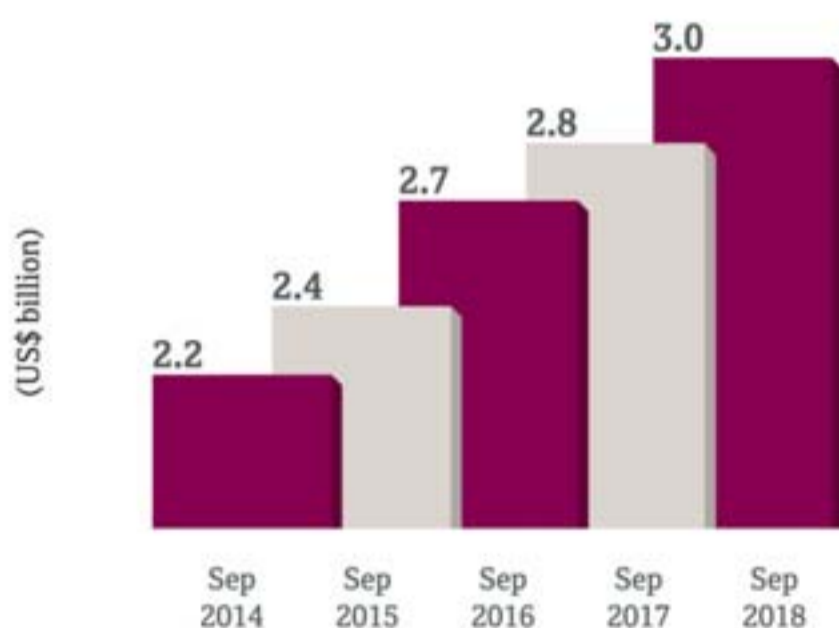
A plane from the private airline Ethiopia National Airways landed at Mogadishu's Aden Adde airport, and will conduct four flights per week, officials said. "It's a historical day for us as we launch this direct flight between Addis Ababa and Mogadishu. It has never been easy, we have been trying so many times, but finally we succeeded and this day finally came," said airline owner Abera Lemi at a ceremony in the capital.

Ethiopian Airlines in July launched the first flights between Addis Ababa and Eritrea in two decades in a whirlwind peace process between the two nations after a bloody conflict and extended cold war. The peace process led by Ethiopia's reformist young Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, has been followed by a flurry of diplomacy in the region that has also seen Somalia mend ties with Eritrea and a move to end tensions between Djibouti and Eritrea. In June Abiy paid a visit to Mogadishu where he and Somali President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed agreed to strengthen relations.

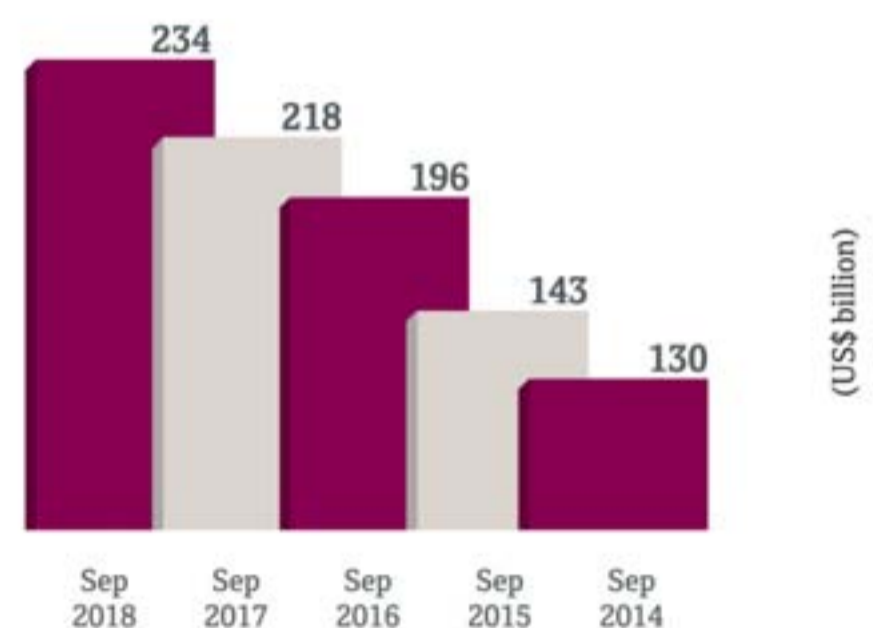
Somalia and Ethiopia have gone to war several times over disputed territory. In 2006, Ethiopia sent troops into Somalia to crush the Islamic Courts Union which had seized large parts of the country including Mogadishu. Counterterrorism experts say this invasion fuelled a full-fledged insurgency by the ICU's radical faction Al-Shabaab, which later allied with Al-Qaeda and continues to stage deadly attacks. Ethiopia supports the transitional government and has troops in Somalia now forming part of an African Union mission to combat Al-Shabaab. —AFP

QNB Group, the largest financial institution in the MEA region delivers another record result for the nine months ended 30 September 2018

Net Profit US\$3.0 billion, up by 6% on September 2017



Total Assets US\$234 billion, up by 8% on September 2017



QNB Group achieves record financial results for the nine months period ended 30 September 2018.

- QNB Group, the largest financial institution in the MEA region, is currently present in more than 31 countries across three continents
- QNB Group staff exceeds 29,000 serving more than 23 million customers through 1,200 locations and 4,300 ATMs
- QNB Group enjoys one of the highest credit ratings: Capital Intelligence AA-, Fitch A+, Moody's Aa3, Standard & Poor's A

Call +974 4425 2444 or visit qnb.com

Business

Multi-currencies now available with Gulf Bank at Al-Jazeera terminal

USD, AED, EUR and SAR are available now at Gulf Bank multicurrency ATM

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank has launched a multi-currency ATM machine at Al-Jazeera departure terminal, providing travellers with access to four foreign currencies. The currencies available are USD, AED, EUR and SAR.

The launch of the multi-currency ATM machine is further demonstration of Gulf Bank's commitment to existing and potential customers. Meeting the needs of travellers from Kuwait and the world, Gulf Bank is making travel easier, adding value and convenience to travellers' journey, from last minute withdrawals to additional cash. Gulf Bank is ensuring that whether you are starting a journey or stopping off on the way to your final destination, you will be able to withdraw the currency you need.

Speaking of the launch, Ahmad Al-Amir, Assistant General Manager for External Communications at Gulf Bank, said: "Gulf Bank prides itself on meeting the needs of our cus-

tomers, and with the multi-currency ATM, we are providing existing and future customers with the tools needed to ensure they can relax and enjoy their trip from start to finish."

Gulf Bank is one of the leading conventional banks in Kuwait with total assets of KD 5,683 million for year ended 31 December 2017. The Bank provides a broad offering of consumer banking, wholesale banking, treasury, and financial services through its large network of 58 branches and more than 200 ATMs in Kuwait.

The Bank was founded in 1960 and is listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange (Boursa Kuwait) since 1984. The Bank is currently ranked 'A' by the four leading international credit rating agencies.

The Bank kicked off last year by setting an international Guinness World Records achievement for its Al-Danah account prize of KD 1 million as the 'largest prize linked to a

bank account in the world'. Gulf Bank's performance continues to be strongly recognized on local, regional, and international levels, spread over different sectors of its work.

Gulf Bank is strongly committed to giving back to Kuwait and society through its corporate social responsibility program. The Bank supports numerous events focusing on youth, education, health and fitness, helping the underprivileged, women's empowerment, as well as promoting Kuwait's heritage and culture.



Ahmad Al-Amir



Malabar Gold & Diamonds to triple outlets to 750

DUBAI: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the world's largest jewellery retailer, announces ambitious global growth plan on the eve of its silver jubilee (25 years) celebrations that will see the company triple its retail network from 250 showrooms this year to 750 outlets in the next five years with annual turnover exceeding \$6.16 billion (INR 45,000 crores) and the Group turnover to \$6.85 billion (INR 50,000 crores) by 2023.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



MUMBAI: Malabar Group unveils their 25th anniversary celebration logo at the press meet held at Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai, in the presence of MP Ahamed, Chairman - Malabar Group, Abdul Salam KP, Group Executive Director, Malabar Group and Shamli Ahmed, Managing Director - International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

growth-driver of our jewellery business," he added.

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

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

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

Central Indian brothers also to join the movement and share our success."

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

Shamli Ahmed, Managing Director of Malabar Gold & Diamonds' International Operations, said, "As an Indian-born international jewellery brand, we take pride in our roots in India and help connect the global consumers to the Indian heritage and art. Our strong retail presence across 10 countries coupled with the jewellery manufacturing capabilities that mostly produces Indian culture-inspired designs that are exported to the rest of the world through our international retail network. Our further expansion in the international arena will lead to Indian artisanal jewellery being showcased at prominent global destinations." The group has earmarked 5 percent of its annual profit for CSR activities in five key areas such as housing, health, environment, women empowerment and education.

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

Turkish Airlines' load factor reaches 83.4% in September



KUWAIT: Turkish Airlines has recently announced the passenger and cargo traffic results for September and left behind a month of high load factor with 83.4 percent performance. On top of the strong base effect of September 2017, growth in the number of passengers, revenue per kilometer and load factor, is an important indicator of the continued growing interest in Turkey and Turkish Airlines.

According to September 2018 Traffic Results;

- The passenger growth trend continued in September, thus total number of passengers carried went up by 1 percent reaching about 7 million passengers, and Load Factor went up to percent83.4.

- In September 2018, Total Load Factor improved by 2 points, while international Load Factor increased by 2 points to 83 percent, domestic Load Factor increased by 2 points to 87 percent approximately.

- International-to-international transfer passengers (transit passengers) went up by 3 percent approximately.

- In September, cargo/mail volume continued the double digit growth trend and increased by 22 percent, compared to the same period of 2017. Main contributors to the growth in cargo/mail volume, are Domestic Lines with 48 percent, N. America with 32 percent increase, Africa with 23 percent increase and Far East with 20 percent increase.

- In September, Africa showed load factor growth of 7 points, while Europe, Domestic Lines and Far East showed load factor growth of about 2 points.

According to the January-September 2018 Traffic Results:

- During January-September, increase in demand and total number of passengers was 10 percent and 12 percent, respectively, over the same period of last year. Total number of passengers reached to 58 million.

- During January-September, total Load Factor improved by 3 points up to 82 percent. While international Load Factor increased by approximately 3 points exceeding 81 percent, domestic Load Factor went up by 2 points exceeding 85 percent.

- Excluding international-to-international transfer passengers (transit passengers), number of international passengers went up significantly by 13 percent.

- Cargo/mail carried during the nine months increased by 25 percent and reached to 1 million tons.

Citibank Kuwait and KBA host cyber security workshop

KUWAIT: Citibank Kuwait and the Kuwait Banking Association co-hosted the first workshop entitled "Cyber Security Systems in Financial Institutions". The workshop discussed recent cyber trends and Citi's perspective and approach to Cyber Security.

Fatah Adour, Citibank Kuwait General Manager and Dr Hamad Al-Hasawi, Kuwait Banking Association's Secretary General inaugurated the workshop and welcomed the attendees. More than 100 attendees including bankers from Kuwait's financial institutions and interested officials from other sectors attended the workshop.

The workshop was led by Larry Zelvin, Citi Global Head of Cyber Security. He began by providing an overview of the major Cyberattacks that hit the world with their impacts, then discussed damages caused by the Wannacry and Petya/Non-Petya malwares in 2017. Larry gave an example on the Swift attack that could target financial institutions and how the issue relates to lack of weak IS controls on the financial institution.

Larry then went on to cover the Attacker Categories which are generally driven by their motivation and include Cyber Criminals, Hacktivists, Cyber Terrorists, Nation State Actors and Insiders. He also highlighted Citi's Intelligence led Cyber Security Approach and end efforts on how Citi is addressing the increasing number of cyber threats. He also talked about Citi Cyber Security Fusion Centers that operate 24/7 to monitor



through various team and resources cyber-attacks.

Finally, Larry highlighted the importance of Information sharing between financial institutions around the world and underlined how crucial the co-operation with the regulators and public sector is to combat this risk.

Fatah Adour, Citibank Kuwait General Manager added: "Citibank is keen to share its expertise, knowledge and information with other banks in Kuwait and the region especially when it comes to cybersecurity, a major challenge to the banking sector. We are pleased with the turnout which reflects the importance of the topic and we will be working on organizing other workshops in the near future".

Dr Hamad Al-Hasawi, Kuwait Banking Association's Secretary General commented: "Kuwait Banking Association cooperated with Citibank Kuwait in organizing this workshop in light of the banks' interest in the topic due to its importance in improving banks' operations and in order to protect data and customers' information and maintain in a controlled manner. KBA also



Larry Zelvin, Global Head of Cyber Security, Citi



Dr. Hamad Al-Hasawi, Kuwait Banking Association's Secretary General

saw the importance of cooperating with Cybersecurity experts in Citigroup because of the Bank's high technical expertise which local banks can benefit from".

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. Rashed Khaleel Ibrahim Rashed
2. Osama Ahmed Soqiyah
3. Sherooq Ali Abdullah Dashti
4. Mariam Abbas Abdullah Abdulaziz
5. Gurvinder Singh Amrik Singh Sahni

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.

Technology

WhatsApp hits the road with skits to stamp out fake news in India

Texts, pictures and videos aim to sow discord

JAIPUR: On a hot morning in India's tourist hub of Jaipur, an open truck painted in the signature lime-green colors of Facebook's WhatsApp messaging service pulls into a dusty lane, where five men spill out and begin to perform a skit. The event is part of a major grassroots effort by WhatsApp to battle fake news, which has triggered numerous lynchings in a country where 200 million people use the service, more than anywhere else in the world.

The actors soon draw a crowd as the play unveils how spreading misinformation online can stir up mob violence, especially in the countryside, where caste and religious prejudices run deep. "Our society is better than theirs and that's why you should hate them," says one, citing one example of an incendiary text circulating on WhatsApp in India. "If you are truly one of us, spread this message."

Such texts, pictures and videos aim to sow discord, warns another, as the viewers in the capital of India's western desert state of Rajasthan are then told how to identify forwarded messages and use WhatsApp responsibly. The drive follows intense government pressure for both Facebook and WhatsApp to fight fake news and rumor-mongering that have led to more than 30 deaths in about 70 lynchings attempts since Jan. 2017, data portal IndiaSpend says.

The campaign is not entirely altruistic. It is being run in conjunction with Reliance Jio, the fast-growing telecom carrier controlled by billionaire Mukesh Ambani that recently made WhatsApp available on its \$20 JioPhone.

“If you are one of us, spread this message”

Instructions on how to install and use the app on the JioPhone, which has connected tens of millions of low-income Indians to the Internet for the first time, are also a part of the 10-city roadshow. Hundreds of people from WhatsApp and Jio are helping drive the campaign, with

some WhatsApp employees having flown in from California, a WhatsApp spokeswoman said in an emailed statement, adding that the company did not reveal financial details. A source familiar with the matter said the costs were mostly being paid by WhatsApp.

Political heat

WhatsApp's efforts to battle fake news in India include a limit on forwarded messages in a market where more users pass around messages, photographs and videos than any other. It has launched newspaper and radio campaigns and tied up with Delhi-based non-profit Digital Empowerment Foundation to develop a digital literacy curriculum for India.

The company is also training police and law enforcement officials to use WhatsApp in helping them do their jobs. "Our goal is to drive one of the largest coordinated public education efforts on misinformation to date anywhere in the world," WhatsApp said. India's technology minister has demanded the company do more, including working out how to trace the origin of "sinister" messages. But WhatsApp says it will not take such steps, which would require it to weaken encryption and other privacy protections.



It is not clear how much the public information campaigns will change people's behaviour. But in Jaipur, at least some of the messages seem to be getting through. "I learnt how to quit a WhatsApp group created by strangers," said Bhawani Singh Rathore, a 35-year-old teacher, who began using the service just months ago and attended. "And I also learned how to identify a forwarded message and to not send it ahead without checking its accuracy," he said. — Reuters

Oxxo corner stores are cashing in on Mexican e-commerce

MEXICO CITY: Stroll the aisles of any Oxxo in Mexico and you will find the staples of convenience store sustenance: beer, cigarettes, enough candy to keep dentists at full employment. Look closer and you will see this old-school chain is a linchpin of the country's e-commerce. The retailer, with more than 17,000 locations throughout Mexico, has cracked two of the biggest barriers to online shopping in the developing world: payments and pickup.

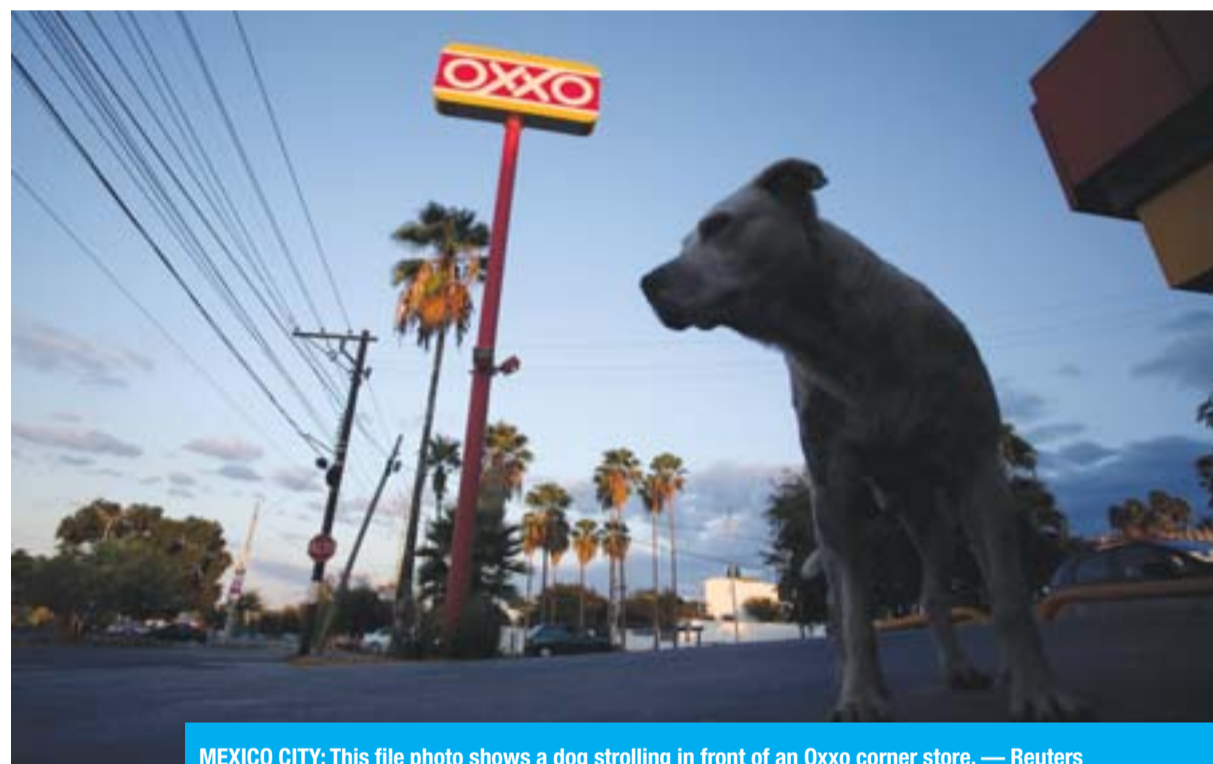
Shoppers lacking bank accounts - more than 60 percent of Mexico's population - can plunk down cash at their local Oxxo to make purchases from more than a thousand online merchants. Those who live in dangerous or remote areas where home delivery is complicated can then head back to Oxxo to retrieve their merchandise.

The pick-up program, offered with Amazon.com Inc, operates in nearly 3,000 Oxxo locations, with plans to expand. Oxxo is in talks with other merchants to handle their packages too, said Asensio Carrion, Oxxo's director of financial and electronic services. Oxxo takes a cut from both merchants and consumers on most transactions. It's not rocket science. But analysts say Oxxo has seized on a lucrative opportunity to cement itself into the e-commerce supply chain in places where online shopping is not the seamless affair it is in wealthy countries.

That makes it one of the few companies in the world with the leverage to go toe-to-toe with Jeff Bezos, Amazon's billionaire founder. At a time when many brick-and-mortar retailers view e-commerce as a threat, Oxxo has found a sweet spot. "Mexico runs on cash. This is the huge advantage of a company like Oxxo," said Enrique Culebro, head of Mexico's internet association. That is good news for parent company Fomento Economico Mexicano, known as Femsas. Oxxo generates about 35 percent of Femsas's revenue and is the "driver of the company," said Jose Cebeira, an analyst at Mexico City brokerage Actinver. Femsas shares are up about 50 percent since the end of 2014.

Not content with remaining a middleman, Oxxo is working on e-commerce efforts of its own. The company will test a home-delivery app next year, and is considering an e-wallet that would allow shoppers to store balances for online purchases, Carrion said. But Oxxo must ensure that its e-commerce experiments do not clog registers and undermine its core business of selling Cokes and smokes, says Mexico fintech consultant Gabriela Zapata.

"For the person behind you who just wants a quick pack of cigarettes, waiting four minutes is not ideal," she said. The small, irregular floorplans of Oxxo stores have already posed challenges for Amazon's package program, which is limited to small items worth up to 1,500 pesos (\$79). A clerk at an Oxxo in Mexico City said her store



MEXICO CITY: This file photo shows a dog strolling in front of an Oxxo corner store. — Reuters

only accepts goods she can tuck under the register to avoid attracting thieves. And competition is mounting: Amazon in August began selling non-perishable food and beverages in Mexico.

Banking on the unbanked

With around 125 million people and Latin America's second-largest economy, Mexico is a magnet for online merchants. But to reach millions of Mexicans without bank accounts, they have been forced to get creative. Oxxo began addressing this challenge in 2012 after Mexican regulators allowed retailers to perform certain banking operations. The chain became a place where customers could pay household bills in cash. In 2013 it rolled out Saldazo, a debit card whose name loosely translates to "big payment." More than 10 million cards are now in circulation.

Next up was online shopping. "We're good at cash in and cash out," Carrion said. "But we saw e-commerce growing very fast, and we saw that we could participate in other parts of the value chain." In 2016, Femsas invested in digital payments startup Conecta and partnered with the firm last year to launch Oxxo Pay, which gives online merchants real-time confirmation when customers pay in cash. "We are the bridge between the unbanked and companies that want to get payments from the unbanked," Conecta co-founder Hector Cardenas said.

The company is in talks with Amazon to bring the company onto the Oxxo Pay platform, he added. Oxxo also sells pre-paid gift cards for Amazon, Netflix and Spotify,

catering to cash-only shoppers. The convenience chain is also fine-tuning its operations to ensure the new transactions do not bog down basic shopping. Carrion said Oxxo is exploring cash registers dedicated to services.

Tough negotiator

Companies that work with Oxxo say it knows the value of its scale and brand - and its terms are not cheap. Merchants on Oxxo Pay, for example, are charged a 3.5 percent commission per transaction. Consumers hand over 10 pesos. In contrast, 7-Eleven, with 1,900 stores in Mexico, typically charges lower corporate commissions, knowing it cannot match Oxxo's vast network, a former 7-Eleven executive said.

Oxxo's business model has tested its relationship with Amazon. The companies clashed over whether Oxxo could charge fees to Amazon customers for pickups and deposits to Amazon Cash, which lets customers store a balance in an Amazon account, according to a person familiar with the matter. Amazon launched its pickups without customer fees. But negotiations for Oxxo to handle Amazon Cash are shaping up differently, Carrion said. If the partnership goes through, he said Oxxo will collect a fee from users. "We collaborate with every business partner in order to ensure projects that will bring benefits for our customers, without dictating any terms unilaterally," Femsas said in a statement. Amazon declined to comment. Meanwhile, some startups complain Oxxo takes too big a slice of their business. — Reuters

Why is a finger sticking out of your mobile?

PARIS: A French researcher has invented a robot finger that attaches to your mobile phone. It can wriggle across your desk. It can stroke your hand. And guess what? It's creepy. No, really, watch the video. Creepy, see? He wants to know why.

"My PhD subject is around touch in communications," explains Marc Teyssier, a researcher at Telecom Paristech engineering school. "When we talk with people in real life we touch each other to communicate emotions, for example a stroke on the arm, or stuff like that. But for mobile devices and interaction in general in computers, we don't use touch at all. So my starting point was: how can we bring touch in human-computer interfaces?"

So he designed, built and patented the MobilLimb robotic finger, which plugs into a mobile phone and looks very much like a real finger. It can drag the phone across the table. Your friends can activate it and operate it remotely, to give you a comforting pat on the wrist when they talk to you. But when people saw it, everyone had the same reaction.

"We have a ton of reaction on the internet, like: 'It's creepy'. Everybody tells me it's creepy. And it is, actually, in fact," Teyssier said. "We communicate with humans with touch. We use fingers. We use motion. But when we put that on a mobile device, everybody thinks it's crazy and creepy." The creepy phone finger tells us something about who we are, and what we expect from a world where your phone listens and responds to your commands like a person, but still doesn't have a moving body, Teyssier said. For now, he thinks, the robot finger is both too human, and not quite human enough.

"I think to some extent we are right in the uncanny valley. Technology looks like human, but its not exactly human, so our brain - we don't know how to react." But Teyssier imagines a world one day where you would interact with objects the way you do with other people or pets. Someday, you might walk into your kitchen and get a hug from your fridge. — Reuters

Netherlands in a 'cyberwar' with Russia: Defense minister

THE HAGUE: The Netherlands is in a 'cyberwar' with Russia, Defense Minister Ank Bijleveld told Dutch television yesterday, speaking in the wake of an alleged hacking attempt by four Russians in The Hague. "What happened is really dangerous," Bijleveld told Dutch broadcaster NPO, referring to the incident, which happened in April outside the headquarters of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

Asked if the current situation between the two countries could be described as "cyberwar" she replied: "Yes, that is the case." On October 4, the defence ministry announced it had expelled four GRU military intelligence agents. Officials said the men entered the country on Russian diplomatic passports on April 10 and were caught on April 13 with a car full of electronic equipment in the Marriott Hotel next to the OPCW headquarters.

Russia has vehemently denied the accusations. Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov insisted on Monday that the incident was a "misunderstanding" and that the Russians had been on a routine visit. But yesterday Bijleveld said: "People try to interfere in various ways in our life all the time, to influence our democracy. We have to shake off the naivety in this domain and take measures," which was why they had taken the decision to make the incident public, she added. Following these incidents, the defence ministry had beefed up its budget for cyberwarfare, she said.

"We are investing more in intelligence services to be able to see what is going on and take measures if necessary." NATO was also considering a Dutch offer to use its "cyber-soldiers", she added. The alleged attempt to hack into the OPCW network came as the organization was investigating the fatal poisoning of former Russian spy Sergei Skripal in London. Britain has blamed Russia for the attack, which took place in March in the southern English city of Salisbury and also claimed the life of Skripal's daughter, Yulia. Moscow has denied any involvement. The OPCW was also investigating a suspected chemical weapons attack in the Syrian city of Douma, which western sources say was carried out by forces of the Russian-backed Syrian government. — AFP

Google tells lawmakers it is mulling options on China services

WASHINGTON: Alphabet Inc's Google unit has told US lawmakers it was considering "a variety of options" to offer additional services in China, but declined to detail plans for addressing Chinese censorship. The company has come under criticism after reports it was considering re-entering China's search engine market and would comply with its internet censorship and surveillance policies.

In an Aug 31 letter to six senators made public on Friday, Google Chief Executive Sundar Pichai said the company was "thoughtfully considering a variety of options for how to offer services in China in a way that is consistent with our mission." The letter was reported earlier by The Intercept, a news website. Google declined to comment. Reuters and other outlets had reported in August that Google planned to launch a version of its search engine in China that would block some websites and search terms. The move would mark its return to a market it abandoned eight years ago on censorship concerns.

Senator Mark Warner, the ranking Democrat on the Intelligence Committee, said on Friday he was "really disappointed with Google's response," through the letter, to questions from senators about the company's plans in China. Google said it was "unclear" if it would move forward with a search engine in China, and that it was "not in a position to be able to answer detailed questions."



NANTES: A file photo taken on November 20, 2017 shows logos of US multinational technology company Google displayed on computers' screens. — AFP

"Their response to the Senate failed to provide any information about Google's reported plans to consider launching a censored search engine in China," Warner said. "Any effort to get back into China could enable the Chinese government in repressing and manipulating their citizens." In September, a bipartisan group of 16 US House lawmakers asked Google to disclose precautions it would take to protect the safety of its users if Chinese regulators allow its search engine to operate.

The letter said Google was "committed to promoting access to information, freedom of expression, and user privacy, as well as to respecting the laws of jurisdictions in which we operate." On Thursday, three other US senators wrote Pichai to explain why it delayed disclosing vulnerabilities with its Google+ social network. — Reuters

Operator challenges network tapping by German spy agency

FRANKFURT: Internet exchange operator DE-CIX said on Thursday it had filed a constitutional complaint against the tapping into its network by Germany's main spy agency, after an earlier petition was thrown out by a federal court. The case raises questions over the extent to which state surveillance is acceptable in an open, democratic society, similar to those asked in the United States after whistleblower Edward Snowden revealed the extent of snooping by the National Security Agency.

DE-CIX said it received orders from the Federal Intelligence Service (BND) to allow it to access data at its internet exchange in Frankfurt. The BND has in recent years received a mirror image of the traffic as part of its counter-terrorism and cyber-security efforts. The company filed a case against the federal government two years ago seeking a judicial examination of the practice. Its suit was thrown out in May by the Federal Administrative Court in Leipzig, which found the BND was acting within its rights.

"For us, the decision by the Federal Administrative Court to dismiss the case without consideration of the objections raised is legally not acceptable," Klaus Landefeld, a member of the supervisory board of DE-CIX Group AG, said in a statement. "The violations of the principle of the secrecy of correspondence and telecommunications which were comprehensively demonstrated and argued in our lawsuit were not even dealt with by the Federal Administrative Court in the process. This is, for us, inexplicable." — Reuters

Health

Tunisia fishermen turn tide to cash in on blue crab menace

‘Look, there are only Daesh, they’ve destroyed everything’

DJERBA: Tunisian fishermen saw the blue crab wreak such havoc on their catches when it first appeared that they nicknamed it after the terrifying jihadists of the Islamic State group. But now — four years after these scourges of the sea invaded their waters — the predators have turned into prey as fishermen in the North African country cash in on the crustaceans. Jamel Ben Joma Zayoud pulls his nets out of the water off the Mediterranean island of Djerba to find them full of blue crabs with their fearsome-looking spikes.

“Look, there are only Daesh, they’ve destroyed everything,” he says, using the Arabic term for IS that has become the crabs’ nickname. The blue crab, once a native of the Red Sea, first showed up in the Gulf of Gabes off Tunisia’s coast in 2014 and immediately set about snapping up the rich pickings it found. “It quickly became a curse,” Zayoud, 47, tells AFP. “It eats all the best fish.”

Feeling the pinch

There are two explanations for how the blue crab, or *Portunus Pelagicus*, made it all the way to the shores of Tunisia, says researcher Marouene Bedioui, at the National Institute for Marine Sciences and Technologies. Either their eggs were transported on boats to the region or they arrived as part of a lengthy migration that started when the Suez Canal opened in 1869. However the crabs turned up, their impact has been damaging.



ZARZIS: Tunisian fisherman catch blue crab on August 30, 2018 off the Tunisian coastal city of Zarzis. —AFP photos

The hard-up fishermen along the coast, already struggling to make ends meet, felt the pinch as the crabs attacked their nets and the local fish. “One thousand, one hundred fishermen have been hit by this plague in Gabes,” said Sassi Alaya, a member of the local labor union. “Nowadays we change our nets three times a year, while before it was once every two years.” In 2015 and 2016, fishermen demonstrated over the issue — and eventually the government took notice.

The authorities last year launched a plan aimed at helping fishermen to turn the

pest into profit. They were taught how to trap the crabs and the government began subsidising the cost of purchasing what was caught. Plants popped up to freeze the crabs and ship them to markets in the Gulf and Asia where customers are willing to shell out for their meat.

Crab lunch

One of them is managed by a Turkish company — putting to use the experience it gained dealing with an influx of the crabs back home. Each afternoon a line of refrigerated vans forms outside the facility



ZARZIS: Employees sort crabs at a storage facility on August 30, 2018 in the Tunisian coastal city of Zarzis.

delivering the crabs caught that morning from nearby harbors. “When the crab appeared we didn’t know how to make money from it,” said Karim Hammami, co-director of the firm Tucrab. “Tunisians didn’t consume it so the fishermen avoided catching it — but when investors came in and the authorities began moving we started targeting foreign markets.”

In the first seven months of this year, Tunisia produced 1,450 tons of blue crab worth around three million euros (\$3.5 million), the ministry of agriculture says. For those making their livelihoods from

the sea, the transformation has been stark. “The situation has completely changed,” said fisherman Zayoud. He has now started going after fish with his nets, and crabs with cages. So successful have the fishermen been that they are now even planning to limit themselves in order not to deplete crab stocks too much. And even they have got a taste for their former foe. For their lunch, Zayoud and his crew select, cook and tuck into a healthy male crab. “Daesh eat all the best fish,” explains the fisherman. “So their meat has to be delicious.” —AFP

Canada cannabis crackdown worries tokers

OTTAWA: Canada is just days away from legalizing cannabis, but as apartment buildings, schools and other spaces move to ban pot smoking on their premises, some enthusiasts fear they won’t have anywhere to exercise their newly acquired rights. Across Canada smoking tobacco is prohibited in or near entrances to bars and restaurants, offices and even parks. These rules are supported by decades of research linking smoking — including second-hand — with an increased risk of cancer and cardiovascular disease.

Taking a cue from the anti-smoking campaigns of the 1980s and 90s, managers of private and public spaces are now rushing to crack down on cannabis before legalization comes into effect on Wednesday in order to prevent the same kinds of concerns arising from pot smoke. But the move has provoked a backlash, notably from renters who face “being left out in the cold” with nowhere to consume what will be a legal product.

“When legalization hits, only people who own their homes will be able to consume it because rentals have moved to restrict smoking,” pot advocate and renter Shawn MacAleese told AFP. “The idea that you’ll be able to be able to purchase a product but not use said product unless you own your own home or property is ridiculous,” he said. Canada will become only the second country in the world to legalize cannabis on October 17, following Uruguay,



LINCOLN: Employee Martin Henderson waters a tray with cannabis plants at the Up cannabis factory. —AFP

which led the way in December 2013.

According to the government statistics agency, about 13 percent of Canadians currently smoke tobacco. By contrast, about 4.6 million Canadians or 16 percent of the population have used cannabis this year, and the number is not expected to rise significantly once the mind-altering drug is legalized, a recent Statistics Canada survey found. A recent report by the Canadian Cancer Society noted 65 of the country’s roughly 260 university and college campuses have banned pot smoking or vaping, praising them for “providing a healthier environment” for students. Others have resisted, including the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, whose spokesman Hubert Lai told local media

the institution did not wish to “drive the behavior underground.”

Rentals on the rise

Dorothy Church of Condo Management Group, the largest residential building manager in Ottawa (overseeing more than 300 buildings), said there has been a push by most condominium corporations to have restrictions in place by October 17. “The majority of condo owners don’t want marijuana in their buildings,” she said, because of its pungent smell and health concerns. About 4.5 million or nearly a third of Canada’s 14 million households rent, with demand for rentals outstripping demand for buying for the first time in decades. —AFP

Pot: A new golden goose

NEW YORK: The world’s major alcohol producers can no longer ignore the pot phenomenon, as young consumers may increasingly swap beer and cocktails for joints and cannabis-infused drinks. Some have decisively seized the moment. Constellation Brands, maker of Corona beer and Svedka vodka, has poured \$4 billion into the Canadian marijuana firm Canopy Growth.

The coming market is “potentially one of the most significant global growth opportunities of the next decade,” said Constellation Chief Executive Robert Sands. Sales of legal marijuana and related products should reach \$200 billion within 15 years and the market is opening “much more rapidly than originally anticipated,” he said. Following in Uruguay’s footsteps, Canada on Wednesday will become the second country in the world to legalize recreational marijuana.

Cannabis is still banned under US federal law for any purpose but nine states so far have legalized its recreational use under their own laws, while others have moved toward softening its prohibition in recent years. As a result newer methods of consumption are proliferating: edibles in the form of candies, baked goods and ice creams as well as vaporizers and ointments. And then there are drinks.

Diageo, the world’s largest producer of spirits, including Smirnoff vodka and Johnny



LINCOLN: Warning label on 1 gram of cannabis is seen at Up’s cannabis factory. —AFP

Walker whisky, is in talks with Canadian producers, according to Bloomberg. In response to a question from AFP, the company said only that it was closely watching the market. Beer producer Molson Coors has also announced a joint venture with Canada’s Hydropharmacy Corporation. Others are more reluctant.

Alexandre Ricard, CEO of Pernod Ricard, explained at the end of August that his company was keeping an eye on the market, especially “cannibalize” consumption of high-end liquors. And for now, the signals are mixed. Researchers at the University of Connecticut and Georgia

State University last year found sales of alcohol dipped 12.4 percent in US counties where medical marijuana was legalized.

But others, including the Distilled Spirits Council, an industry body representing liquor makers in the United States, say sales have not been hurt. “It is still too soon to say one way or the other,” said Keith Villa, a Colorado brewmaster. Creator of the popular Belgian-style “Blue Moon” wheat beer, Villa plans to market a non-alcoholic brew containing THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. “As with a regular beer, you get a buzz that is similar to the alcohol buzz,” he said. “But the next morning you should not have a hangover.” —AFP

DR Congo identifies ‘second wave’ of Ebola in east

KINSHASA: A second wave of the Ebola virus has been confirmed in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, where an initial outbreak has already killed 125 people, a minister said Saturday. The latest wave is centered in Beni, a town in North Kivu near the border with Uganda, said Health Minister Dr Oly Ilunga. “We don’t yet know the scale of it,” he added. “The epicenter, which was in Mangina is now in Beni.” The two towns lie about 20 kilometers apart.

This second wave occurred as a result of community resistance to measures taken to tackle the disease, Ilunga said. “The epidemic in Beni is high risk.. and the situation is worry-

ing.” Two new cases were confirmed in the Beni region, according to health ministry statistics published Saturday, taking the total to 127 in the area since August 1. There were 35 other suspected cases. On Friday, the World Health Organization expressed concern over the growing number of cases in recent weeks, especially in Beni. The latest outbreak is the 10th in DR Congo since Ebola was first detected there in 1976. Officials in Beni have announced measures to protect health workers after a number of incidents where response teams were assaulted.

Fears and misconceptions about the virus have led to widespread mistrust and resistance to Ebola response workers, including those who come into communities wearing hazmat suits to orchestrate burials. A staff member of the UN peacekeeper mission MONUSCO was among the latest victims of the virus, the UN and health ministry said. The work of health officials is also hampered by violence in a region which has long been ravaged by armed conflict. —AFP

Thousands march against ‘pro-life’ Verona

VERONA: Thousands of protesters marched in the northern Italian city of Verona on Saturday, after the local council passed a motion to fund Catholic anti-abortion groups. The motion, proposed by a member of the far-right League party, declared the city “pro-life”. Under the scheme, pregnant women will be encouraged to give up unplanned babies for adoption.

Women wearing white cone hats reminiscent of those worn in Margaret Atwood’s “The Handmaid’s Tale”, a reference to women’s rights, led the march through the city famed for Shakespeare’s ode to love, Romeo and Juliet. “We are furious, so are many women who fought in the 1970s to legalise safe, free abortions,” Sara De Falco, a member of one of the organisations behind the protest, told AFP. “We’re angry because this motion is the symbol of the link today — in Verona but also in Italy as a whole — between the far right and Catholicism,” she said.

The vote on the motion came just days before Pope Francis compared having an abortion to hiring a contract killer. Right-wing mayor Federico Sboarina dismissed the row, saying the motion is “not anti-anything, but pro-life and the freedom of women”. The measures would help women to “overcome the reasons, which can also be economic, which might lead them to terminate a pregnancy,” he said. Italy’s Family

Minister Lorenzo Fontana, a League member himself, also backed the new measure. It does nothing more than apply the existing law, “helping a woman choose, so she can carry her baby to term”, he argued.

‘Turning back the clock’

“The city risks being drawn into a chain of events on a national level and be labelled as an intolerant city,” said Tommaso Ferrari, an opposition politician at the march and one of the few to have voted against the League’s motion. “We risk turning back the clock... it’s not just dangerous for Italian policies but European ones too”. Under the 1978 law, women can have abortions until the 90th day of their pregnancy, or within the 5th month for “therapeutic abortions”, induced if deemed medically necessary.

But forty years on, the law remains highly controversial, largely due to the sway of the powerful Roman Catholic church, both in terms of its care structures and the training of doctors. “We have an increasing number of hospitals that open their doors thanks to the financial support of the Vatican, while public hospitals have ever fewer resources,” gynaecologist and pro-abortion activist Elisabetta Canitano told AFP. Private hospitals, especially ones funded by the church, can refuse to perform abortions.

She points to the Mater Olbia Hospital, a brand new facility located in Sardinia and owned by Qatar, and Rome’s Gemelli Hospital, which is run by the Vatican. The Gemelli University Hospital Centre is also home to one of the most renowned medical schools in Italy. Foreign women in particular — including refugees and prostitutes, often of African origin — are being forced into back-room abortions, she said. —AFP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199

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

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

Salmiya, Belajat Street, Tel: 1881122

@Malhajry

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

ACADAMIC CERTIFICATES:

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

SPECIALIZED IN:

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

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

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

All general and specialized surgeries such as:

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

**Global Medical Center, Bneid Al-Qar
Bour Saeed Street, Block-1, Building-128.**

Telephone: 1871111 @globalmedcenter
www.globalmed-center.com

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

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

**مستشفى دار الشفاء
Dar Al Shifa Hospital
Tele:1802 555**

daralshifa

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

Specialized in:

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

alsalam.int.hospital

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

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

Specialized in:

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

alsalam.int.hospital

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

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

Dr. Hani Haider
General Surgery Consultant

http://www.international-clinic.com Tel: 1886677 ic_kwt

Scope of Clinical Practice:

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

Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:

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

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

daralshifa
Email: aalhaddad@daralshifa.com

DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM
Consultant Pediatrician

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

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

DR. WALEED S BUHAIMED
Consultant of General Surgery
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

Stars

CROSSWORD 2034



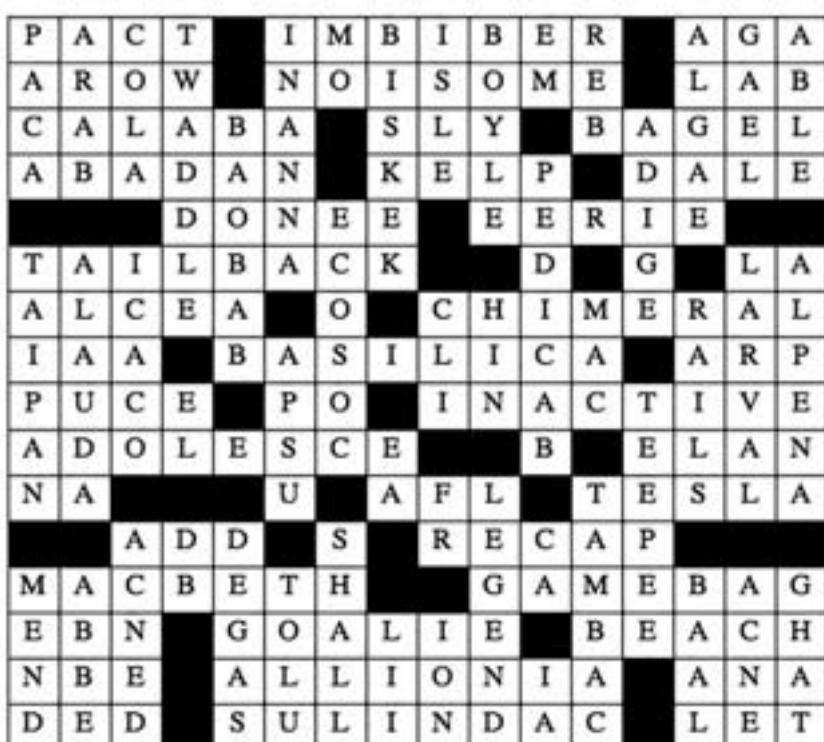
ACROSS

- (informal) A witty amusing person who makes jokes.
- Drawn into the lungs.
- Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
- Any of various systems of units for measuring electricity and magnetism.
- Of or involving the ovaries.
- Medium-sized tree having glossy lanceolate leaves.
- The capital and largest city of Mongolia.
- The basic unit of money in Nigeria.
- The sixth month of the civil year.
- A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
- A member of an agricultural people in southeastern India.
- French novelist.
- Date used in reckoning dates before the supposed year Christ was born.
- A town and port in northwestern Israel in the eastern Mediterranean.
- A Mid-Atlantic state.
- A city and port in northern Jutland.
- Widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions for its fragrant flowers and colorful fruits.
- A slender double-reed instrument.
- A very young child (birth to 1 year) who has not yet begun to walk or talk.
- A non-aromatic saturated hydrocarbon with the general formula C_nH_(2n+2).
- Any physical damage to the body caused by violence or accident or fracture etc.
- Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
- A member of an agricultural people of southern India.
- A mountain peak in south central Sri Lanka (7,360 feet high).
- Valuable fiber plant of East Indies now widespread in cultivation.
- Any thick messy substance.
- Not only so, but.
- (informal usage) A general feeling of boredom and dissatisfaction.
- According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
- Type genus of the Alciidae comprising solely the razorbill.
- A translucent mineral consisting of hydrated silica of variable color.
- A Hindu prince or king in India.
- A statement that deviates from or perverts the truth.
- Tag the base runner to get him out.
- The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
- Elder brother of Krishna.
- Free from liquid or moisture.

DOWN

- Flightless New Zealand rail of thievish disposition having short wings each with a spur used in fighting.
- An Asian river between China and Russia.
- A Russian prison camp for political prisoners.
- An electrically charged particle.
- A state in the western United States.
- A bag used for carrying money and small personal items or accessories (especially by women).
- A member of a widespread group of Amerindians living in northeastern South America.
- Being three more than fifty.
- Earn on some commercial or business transaction.
- A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
- Tangled in knots or snarls.
- An ancient port city in southwestern Spain.
- Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
- English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
- (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
- Sheet glass cut in shapes for windows or doors.
- American dramatist (1928-).
- An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
- God of love and erotic desire.
- A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
- Having deeply indented margins but with lobes not entirely separate from each other.
- 40th President of the United States (1911-).
- The compass point midway between northeast and east.
- A republic in West Africa on the Gulf of Guinea.
- Of or pertaining to hearing or the ear.
- (folklore) A corpse that rises at night to drink the blood of the living.
- A Turkish unit of weight equal to about 2.75 pounds.
- Indian sitar player who popularized classical Indian music in the West (born in 1920).
- A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
- A Loloish language.
- A member of the Semitic speaking people of northern Ethiopia.
- Of or relating to or supporting Islamism.
- The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- All the plant life in a particular region.
- English essayist (1775-1834).
- Type genus of the Aceraceae.
- Someone who copies the words or behavior of another.
- The (prehensile) extremity of the superior limb.
- Slightly open.
- Being or befitting or characteristic of an infant.
- An accountant certified by the state.
- A metallic element having four allotropic forms.
- A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
- A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are fiercely independent, especially today. You have drive and ambition. You may be focused on a goal but may be drawn to accomplish it in a less conventional manner than you normally would. You are bored with your usual routine and seeking a bit of change. Thinking outside the box may lead to some exciting new experiences. This may also lead to recognition for your creative thinking from those around you. The choices you make today will be clear and concise. These choices will also clearly be the correct ones and will be reaped great rewards in the future from decisions made today.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may find yourself with a desire to get down to the root of any problem that comes your way. You will not be able to take things lightly today. Be careful not to take everything too serious, as this can cause tension and bring stress into your world.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Today finds you all about "YOU"! Your hard work and dedication seem to have finally paid off and you are on top of the world. You are admired by your peers and it seems as if the world is raining sunshine directly on you. You are on fire and seem to find sharing the spotlight with others and showering them with kindness, appreciation, and gratitude is extremely rewarding to you. You want to share this feeling and make sure others around you feel your gratitude and love. You feel as if you want everyone to feel this feeling. You are full of love of life and love of those all around you. A sense of pride and accomplishment will fill your world for days to come.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Today you may feel led by your heart maybe even more loving and emotional than usual. Today is a great day to spend time with someone you love. This closeness is something you long for. Intimacy and love are driving factors for you today. You could be extremely sensitive and emotionally unable to express your feelings to someone very close to you. This is something unfamiliar to you as your words usually flow with grace and style. Cancer. This may leave you feeling somewhat vulnerable.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You feel great about your accomplishments and position in life. You may feel as if you need to put forth as much hard work on your physical well-being as you put in other areas of your life. This may be a great time to join the gym, take the walk, or start the meal planning you have been thinking about. If you do not care for yourself physically you may not be able to continue the hard work. This is a great time to take this seriously and set your goals. You should have much success in this area of your life. You are devoted and determined, and this should work out for you as well. Leo, this should be just what it takes to make you feel great about yourself.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may find yourself realizing how special you are today. Appreciating all your gifts and talents and feeling a sense of pride. This is a great time of communication with those around you as you are able to express your emotions clearly to others. Dedication and devotion have gotten you to this point in life and you in a position you can provide much help to others. You are in touch with not only your emotions but also very in touch with the needs and emotions of those close to you. This is a very nice time in your life. You may find someone close shows great support and sympathy to you today when a situation you encounter puts you in need of a listening ear.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Today seems to bring an awareness of a sense of time into your world. You aren't getting any younger. You can honestly say with age has come wisdom. You are wise beyond your years and you have life experience to thank for that. You have successfully turned every road block into a life lesson and learned from your mistakes. This awareness will be a guiding force in decisions that need to be made today. If one thing is certain, making the same mistakes you have made in the past is not an option. You have lived and learned. Be grateful for the bumpy road you have traveled. It is leading you straight to the ultimate goal you crave. Live, laugh, and learn, Libra. You've got this!



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may feel a need for seclusion today. Family is where you will find your comfort. Career decisions should be left for another time as you are just not feeling it. A great evening for game night or to spend just curled up watching movies with those you love. Grab a pizza and hide from the world. You need to relax and rid your mind of stress.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Romance is in the air and what your heart desires today. An emotional release is on the horizon. This is one of those days your heart is full. There is no more room inside and these emotions have to be shared with someone who is very special to you. A candlelit meal, a long talk, or cuddling on the couch with that special someone is in order. You may find you develop and even stronger bond this evening with someone close to you. Focus on the future and the one you want to spend it with Sagittarius. It is a time of nurturing and love for you.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may have discovered you are giving more than you are receiving. You have a tendency to give too much of yourself to others. This is a time you may need to turn your focus on you. Get serious about your health and mental well-being. Remember taking care of you is a necessity. You tend to see this as being selfish. Remember if you do not take care of you, you will not be able to continue the constant care you give to others. Feed your soul, spoil yourself, but most of all, learn to relax. Today is the day to take a deep breath, grab a quick nap, and face the world with a new refreshed attitude. Capricorn. Learn to put yourself first.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You may have been so focused lately you have been missing out on a social life. Today is a great day to get out and about. Hit the town but choose your company wisely as not to experience any conflict while doing so. Surround yourself with like-minded friends. Choose friends who are positive and share your love of life. You may find yourself experiencing a real spiritual awakening and the desire to share this with others. You should be pleasantly pleased at how receptive your friends are. A great day for you where the lines of communication open in all aspects of your world.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

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

Wordsearch Puzzle

Elvis

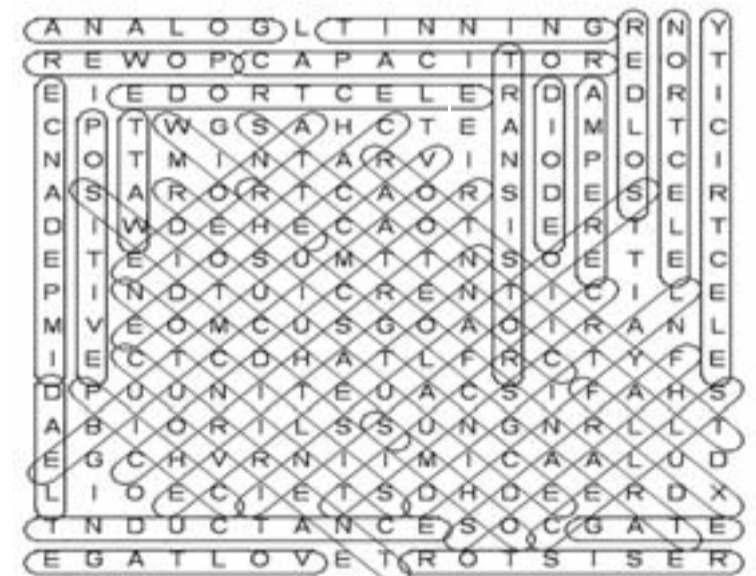
Find and circle all of the words, names, songs, and movies that have to do with Elvis. The remaining letters spell a line from an Elvis song.



- | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| AARON | GOOD LUCK CHARM | LITTLE SISTER | STUCK ON YOU |
| ALL SHOOK UP | GOSPEL | LOVE ME TENDER | SUN RECORDS |
| BLUE HAWAII | GRACELAND | MEMPHIS | SURRENDER |
| BURNING LOVE | GYRATING | ONE NIGHT | SUSPICIOUS MINDS |
| CLAMBAKE | HEARTBREAK HOTEL | PRISCILLA | THE KING |
| COLONEL PARKER | HOUND DOG | RCA | TOO MUCH |
| DON'T BE CRUEL | IN THE GHETTO | RETURN TO SENDER | TUPELO |
| DRAFTED | JAILHOUSE ROCK | ROCKABILLY | U.S. ARMY |
| G.I. BLUES | KENTUCKY RAIN | ROUSTABOUT | VERNON |
| GIRL HAPPY | KING CREOLE | SHE'S NOT YOU | VIVA LAS VEGAS |
| GLADYS | LISA MARIE | | |

Yesterday's Solution

Electronics



- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| AMPERE | CURRENT | INDUCTANCE | SOLDER |
| ANALOG | DIGITAL | INSULATORS | SWITCHES |
| ANODE | DIODE | LEAD | THYRISTOR |
| CAPACITOR | ELECTRICITY | NEGATIVE | TINNING |
| CATHODE | ELECTRODE | OHMS | TRANSFORMER |
| CELLS | ELECTRON | POSITIVE | TRANSISTOR |
| CHIP | FARADS | POWER | VACUUM TUBE |
| CIRCUIT | FLUX | RESISTANCE | VOLTAGE |
| CONDUCTOR | GATE | RESISTOR | WATT |
| CONTACTS | IMPEDANCE | SILICON | WIRE |

The hidden item is: LIGHT EMITTING DIODE

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2018



View of the installation 'Law of the Journey (Prototype B)' by Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, at the Ibirapuera Park, in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Chinese visual artist Ai Weiwei will inaugurate in Sao Paulo on October 20 his exhibition 'Ai Weiwei Root', the biggest retrospective of his relevant and controversial works, a cry against repression and human rights violations. — AFP

Karaoke office: Japan inc shifts to unusual workspaces

From tiny one-person cubicles in underground stations to camping tents under towering skyscrapers and even karaoke clubs: in workaholic Japan, salarymen are never short of a place to work. Unusual work venues are popping up all over Japan as firms try to move from chaining their employees to their desks towards offering staff more freedom in their working practices and as the gig economy spreads even to this temple of corporate culture. On the pavement in Tokyo's Marunouchi financial district, groups of businesspeople clutching laptops sit on pillows around a low table... in a camping tent surrounded by shimmering glass buildings.

These temporary "outdoor offices" created by Snow Peak Business Solutions are also available in riverside parks in Tokyo suburbs and are proving a hit with firms keen to get staff out of the stuffy office. Yasuyuki Minami, who works for the Japanese arm of software giant SAP, said the unusual surroundings sparked "new business ideas" in their meeting held in the shade of the tent under the blazing sun. His boss Tsutomu Ushida, an SAP Japan vice-president, agreed. "We tend to have fixed and stereotyped ideas when we are in the office."

This was a good experience of working in the open air—something we don't experience every day," Ryo Murase, the head of the company promoting these open offices, said people enjoyed working "under the sunshine and feeling a gentle breeze". "We live in a world where AI and robots are taking over. I believe we humans should do something more emotional, inspiring, compassionate and exciting," he told AFP.

'Very convenient'

Still inside but a long way from a conventional office is the teleworking karaoke room offered by Japan's biggest karaoke operator. Daiichikoshu started the new service in April last year and now opens up its singing rooms for office space at 33 outlets close to business



This photo shows company employees working inside camping tents erected on the lawn outside an office building in Tokyo. — AFP photos

districts in big cities. For 600 yen per hour (\$5.30), users can display images directly from their laptop computers onto the big screen on the wall usually used by karaoke singers for lyrics.

Shy public speakers can also practice business presentations using the karaoke microphone and a white board—all in a soundproof room. Hideyuki Aoki, an employee at NTT Communications, uses the service several times a week while he is on the road. "At first, I felt uncomfortable but once I used the room, I found it very convenient," Aoki said. "Now I'm using it as my business hub."

Takayuki Suzuki, from Daiichikoshu, says many travelling businesspeople or freelancers use cafes for work but are worried about opening sensitive documents with others around. "You can have your own enclosed space at a karaoke club, so you can work without worrying about information leaking or people peaking onto your desk," said Suzuki.

'Trend of the times'

Also catering for teleworking professionals, Fuji Xerox and the Tokyo Metro system have installed "satellite offices" in major subway stations around the Japanese capital. The black-and-white cubicles are equipped with a desk and a chair as well as a computer display and wifi and can be reserved online for 200 yen per 15 minutes. Unlike in many major cities, commuters in super-polite Japan rarely use their mobile phones to avoid disturbing others and the cubicle offers an opportunity to make a business call without hesitation.

"The conventional office space will not disappear, but we want to get rid of space barriers and improve the diversity of working practices," said Yasutaro Tanno, an official at Fuji Xerox, at a cubicle set up at Tameike-Sanno station in downtown Tokyo. Experts say a shrinking labour force and ageing population will increasingly force companies to shake up their working practices and offer hard-pressed staff more flexibility in where they work.

Furthermore, freelancing, which has been popular in the United States and other developed nations for some time, is gradually spreading in Japan as the nation's corporate culture with its job for life and seniority system falls into decline. The number of freelancers in Japan, including those who work a second job, was estimated to have reached 11.2 million this year, up from 9.1 million in 2015, according to IT and staffing agent Lancers. Offering different places for both independent contractors and employees to work in is "a trend of the times," said Kentaro Arita, senior economist at Mizuho Research Institute. "The working environment will increasingly change as working practices evolve," he added. — AFP



Employees of Japanese software giant SAP work in a camping office offered by Snow Peak Business Solutions in Akishima.



A karaoke outlet in Tokyo, where teleworking karaoke rooms could also be rented for business use.



A Fuji Xerox employee working in a cubicle installed at a subway station in Tokyo.



Businessman Hideyuki Aoki working in a rented room at a karaoke outlet in Tokyo.



Company employees working inside camping tents erected on the lawn outside an office building in Tokyo.

Lifestyle | Gossip

Peter Andre's Snoop Dogg dream

Peter Andre wants to collaborate with Snoop Dogg. The singer may be best known for his safe pop tunes but he thinks teaming up with the 'Drop It Like It's Hot' rapper would make for a very "different" sound than his fans are used to. Asked who he'd most like to work with, he said: "Good question. Someone like Snoop Dogg. It would be different." It could be possible that Snoop, 46, is interested in making a hit with Pete because he just laid down some bars for Olly Murs' latest single 'Moves' in an unexpected collaboration. Pete, 45, is heading out on tour in 2019 to celebrate 25 years of musical success and he admitted it can be annoying that some people still think of him as a one-hit wonder

who is only famous for his 1995 single 'Mysterious Girl' - which was also re-released in 2004 and became a number one in the UK singles chart, doing better than its original number two placing. Speaking to *New!* magazine, he said: "There are people that will always think you've only ever done one song and usually artists are remembered for one song, but I had number ones before 'Mysterious Girl' in 2004 and I've had quite a few number one albums and singles since. "[Being called a one-hit wonder] never angers me, it's just laziness on their part. How can I sell out Wembley and The O2 Arena on one song? It's just ignorance but I don't get offended." The 'Behind Closed Doors' singer is proud of his career success but thinks he would

have been even bigger if he'd taken on board some of the advice he was offered in the early days. Asked what he'd advise his younger self, he said: "To listen more. There was some advice on styling and song choices I ignored, which could have taken me to stadiums rather than arenas. Then again, I'm still here doing what I love 25 years later." And Peter admitted he regrets his 2004 single 'Insania', which he wrote in the jungle whilst competing on reality TV show 'I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!', the program on which he met his first wife Katie Price. He said: "I should have left 'Insania' in the jungle. It charted at number three but it wasn't my proudest achievement."



RODGERS SAYS WOEFUL PERFORMANCE LED TO SOBRIETY

Nile Rodgers admits an embarrassing on-stage performance convinced him to give up drink and drugs. The 66-year-old musician - who rose to prominence as a member of the band Chic - has revealed he decided to kick his self-destructive habits after he listened back to a performance he'd given while he was drunk. Appearing on 'Desert Island Discs', Nile shared: "My performance said I was pretty lousy. The difference between the reality and the imagined reality was just too strong for me to take. And I knew that the only thing responsible for that was me doing drugs. "My drugs made me think it was amazing. The people freaking out made me think it was amazing. My beautiful date made me think it was amazing. "But the tapes don't lie. It was not amazing. And that's the last time I ever had a drink or drugs and it was 24 years." Meanwhile, Nile recently admitted he feels like the "luckiest man in the world" after beating cancer for a second time. Chic have just released their first new album in more than two decades, and Nile - who had his second cancer scare in 2017 - admitted he feels fortunate to still be alive. The musician - who had a "mysterious growth" discovered on his right kidney last year - said: "One of the songs we wrote was called 'Get Lucky', and, you know, I feel like the luckiest man in the world because I have now beaten cancer twice, as I stand here before you I'm cancer free!"



Hodges memorial concert announced

A memorial concert for Chas Hodges will take place in December. The 'Ain't No Pleasing You' singer - of Chas and Dave fame - passed away last month at the age of 74 from pneumonia and he will be remembered with a star-studded London concert on December 17, hosted by his music partner Dave Peacock. A message on the pair's joint Twitter account said: "An evening of music and entertainment in memory of Chas Hodges. Shepherd's Bush Empire, Dec 17th. It'll be very strange for me playing a show without my mate. But I'm sure he'd have been well-pleased with the line-up that will be paying tribute to him." Dave Peacock: "The tweet also featured a poster advertising the concert, with a picture of the late singer. Joe Brown, Albert Lee, Paul Whitehouse, Matt Lucas, Martin Taylor, Ralph McTell, Ed Tudor Pole, Jackie Lynton and Richard Smith will be among the acts performing. It has also been revealed that Chas' private funeral was held earlier this week. His team said on Twitter: "Thank you to all who got in touch asking about Chas' funeral details. We held a small, private service earlier this week for Chas." However, the memorial concert will give fans a chance to pay their respects to the late star. All proceeds from the concert will go to Chas' favourite charity, WaterAid. The Chas and Dave star was believed to have died of oesophageal cancer, however his relatives have since learned that the disease was "under control" before he passed away peacefully and he was in fact battling pneumonia at the time of his death. His family added that the 'Ain't No Pleasing You' singer would have felt comforted to know that other people fighting cancer continue to believe "hope remains" in beating the disease. A statement posted Twitter previously stated: "For the record, we would like to clarify that Chas did not die of cancer. "The doctor's final diagnosis was pneumonia and the cancer was under control at the time of death. "We feel this is important to state as Chas wanted to bring comfort and hope to people suffering with cancer through his own experience with the disease, and it would mean a lot to him that the hope remains." Chas & Dave rose to fame in the 1970s for their eclectic mix of music from the pop and folk genre. Their hits include 'Ain't No Pleasing You', 'The Sideboard Song' and 'Rabbit'. — Bang Showbiz

Bieber under pressure to release new music

Justin Bieber feels under pressure to release new music. The 24-year-old singer - who recently tied the knot with Hailey Baldwin - is enjoying a break from his career and is not ready to get back on tour. A source told PEOPLE: "Justin is feeling a lot of pressure right now and it makes him unhappy. "People have expectations that he will produce new music, but he hasn't been feeling inspired. He wants to take his time and not feel rushed about work. He knows with new music, he will also be expected to tour and he absolutely doesn't want to." Justin is also reluctant to work on new music as he wants to enjoy time with his bride. The insider explained: "Right now, he wants to be left alone with Hailey. He wants to enjoy being with her and not think about work. He thinks he should be allowed to just be for a while longer." Justin's last album was 2015's 'Purpose'. Meanwhile, Justin's manager Scooter Braun recently admitted he discovered the star "by mistake on YouTube". The 37-year-old music manager - whose roster includes Justin, 'Sweetener' hitmaker Ariana Grande and Carly Rae Jepsen, among others - used social media to find artists when he started his business and said he was instantly "blown away" when he accidentally discovered the 'Sorry' hitmaker. Scooter said: "I started my business in freshman year. I did that for three-and-a-half years and I had all these ideas about social media and no one was listening to me. Music artists were at their biggest when there was a feeling of self-discovery. For these kids it was social media. By starting my own record label and management company, I signed a kid off MySpace named Asher Roth, then after finding Asher, I went on YouTube and saw by mistake, a kid singing who had 60,000 views in his church in Canada and I was blown away with what I saw. I knew I could make this kid one of the biggest artists in the world. I just knew instantly. That was Justin Bieber, a 12 year old singing in a church, and I called every school district in that part of Ontario until his mum called to get rid of me and I convinced her to get on the first plane she and he had ever been on."



Boy George wants unique Las Vegas residency

Boy George wants to perform a residency in Las Vegas. The 57-year-old Culture Club singer is keen to follow in the footsteps of the likes of Britney Spears, Celine Dion and Sir Elton John and find a home for his music at one of the hotels but he has an idea to play a show without the razzmatazz associated with Sin City and instead make it "stark and shocking". Speaking to the Las Vegas Review Journal newspaper, he said: "I want to do a string of shows, a residency, in Las Vegas. But I want to do something different - and I don't know what that will mean. It has to be the opposite of glitz and lights, opposite of acrobatics. It has to be bare, stark and shocking and emotional. I want a bit more dystopian Las Vegas that is specific, where there is no 'vague' in Vegas." Culture Club - also comprised of Jon Moss, Ro Hay and Mikey Craig - are getting ready to release their new album 'Life' on October 26 and they are then heading out on 'The Life Tour', which will also feature Belinda Carlisle and Tom Bailey from the Thompson Twins. George - who reinvented himself as a house DJ in the 90s - admits it's exciting to be bringing out their first studio album as a band for 19 years because he didn't want the group's reunion to be all about "nostalgia". The 'Karma Chameleon' hitmaker said: "In any creative form or art - whether it's ceramics, painting, writing, making music - if you have nothing new to say, you are wallowing in nostalgia. That would be hell. Our message is multiculturalism, and that is as prevalent now as it was in the late-1970s and early 80s. "We have come full circle, expressing that



we want to live in a tolerant world, and even if we are performing for people who have entirely different views than us, we treat them with love and kindness." Culture Club formed in 1981, split in 1986 and reformed numerous times, most recently in 2014.

Hill reveals email exchange with 'best friend' Morrissey

Jonah Hill wrote a personal letter to Morrissey to convince him to write a song for his directorial debut. The 34-year-old actor helmed the new comedy-drama 'Mid90s', and Jonah has revealed how he convinced one of his musical heroes to contribute to the project. He shared: "We didn't have money and the soundtrack is crazy. We had no money, so I had to write letters to all of my favorite artists ... Every song that's in the film, I wrote the scene to have that song in it." Morrissey, 59, wrote one song for the soundtrack and Jonah is thrilled that he agreed to contribute to the movie. The Hollywood star joked that he and the controversial musician are now "best friends". Jonah told 'The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon': "I wrote to Morrissey, and I wrote him a really personal letter, and he emailed back, 'It is my pleasure and I can't wait to see Mid90s, Morrissey! All caps...' "I was like, Morrissey knows what 'Mid90s' is! He said the words 'Mid90s'! Morrissey is my best friend! We are best friends! I'm best friends with Morrissey!" Meanwhile, Morrissey previously bemoaned the state of the music industry, describing it as "obvious and predictable". He explained: "There are no bands or singers who become successful without overwhelming marketing. There are no surprise success stories. "Everything is stringently controlled, obvious and predictable and has exactly the same content. "So, we are now in the era of marketed pop stars, which means that the labels fully control the charts, and consequently the public has lost interest. It's very rare that a record label does something for the good of music."



Mouskouri wants to cover Sheeran song

Nana Mouskouri wants to cover an Ed Sheeran song. The 83-year-old Greek pop legend has released over 200 albums over the course of her career and has covered numerous tracks by other artists such as Peggy Seeger's 'The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face', Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah' and Bob Dylan's 'Tomorrow Is A Long Time'. Nana is planning to make a new album and she is such a big fan of Ed's hits that she wants to lend her unique vocals to one of his tracks but isn't sure which one she wants to recreate yet. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, she said: "I know Ed's music very well. I don't know him personally but I have followed him for a few years now. The first time I saw him at the Grammys a friend of mine who is in America he sent me some records which included his first album and I started to really listen to him and lots of other singers as well. "I haven't dared yet to sing something by him, but who knows? I cannot tell you which one! You know why? Because I need to totally be able to do a song. It to do with the words of course and the melody. The words and the melody have to be striking for me because I don't want to sing a song that makes me sound like a foreigner, it has to be his song but my version ... It takes time for me but I will come up with something. Some of his songs I cannot sing because I'm not the right age, he's singing about things that at my age I couldn't say. One day I will listen to a song and then I jump on that song and I decide to do it." The 'Only Love' hitmaker insists 27-year-old Ed deserves all the incredible success he has achieved with his three albums because he has his own unique style of music, something which all British artists share. She added: "Ed stands out from the others because he has an originality, that's what's wonderful him and the British, they have personality, they may be from the same country but they have different personalities and Ed stands out." Nana is to perform a greatest hits set at The Royal Festival Hall in London on October 17 which will showcase all of her most beloved songs from her six-decade spanning career.

Chinese action debut, South Korean family drama win at Busan

A thrill-a-minute actioner from China and a moving South Korean drama about a unique family reunion have taken the top prize at Asia's largest film festival, with judges lauding both for their "original" takes. "Savage", from first-time Chinese director Cui Si-wei, pits a forest ranger against gold thieves in a snowy mountain range and won praise from the New Currents award jury at the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) for being "strikingly accomplished and riveting".

South Korean production "Clean up", from debut feature director Kwon Man-ki, charts the tale of a struggling woman who is offered a salvation of sorts when she meets someone from her past. It is a film with "perfect control and masterful psychological development," the jury statement read. BIFF's New Currents award comes with prizes of \$30,000 for the two most impressive efforts from first- or second-time Asian filmmakers and there had been a buzz around town after screenings of "Savage" in particular.

The film now looks certain for wide commercial release in China and beyond. Veteran South Korean director Kim Hong-joon, who led the New Currents jury, said the judges were unani-

mous in their decision to award "Savage" its prize. "[It shows] a mastery of genre cinema, with multi-dimensional characters and thrilling action sequences," said Kim. Other highlights of this year's BIFF included a documentary section that featured films that scratched away at the region's political and social scars.

The gripping Taiwanese effort "Opening Closing Forgetting", from director James T. Hong, looked at how Chinese farmers survived human experimentation by occupying Japanese forces during the Second World War, but have never really recovered from the horrors they were put through. It took the BIFF Mecenat Award for best documentary-winning praise from the award panel for its "profound dedication to its story" - along with Kelvin Park's "Army", which shed light on lives led by South Korea's military conscripts.

Nod to a martial arts master

BIFF draws to a close Saturday night with the gala world premiere of martial arts master Yuen Woo-ping's "Master Z: The Ip Man Legacy", a branch off from the franchise of Hong Kong-produced box office hits which were centred around the life of the man famous

for teaching Bruce Lee. This time the story focuses on one of the men Ip Man fought, played in the film by rising martial arts star Max Zhang who must face off against an evil drug lord played by Hollywood's David Bautista ("Guardians of the Galaxy"), among others.

It will be the first time in its 23-year history that BIFF has brought the curtain down with a martial arts or action film. It is a fitting tribute to the 73-year-old Yuen, the man who added the action to the likes of Oscar-winner "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" (2000), and both "The Matrix" and "Kill Bill" franchises. "It is a great honor," said Yuen after a press preview screening of the film. "Film has always been my life. I think that martial arts films are full of humanity and I hope to share that with the world."

The Busan festival will by its close on Saturday night have screened 324 films from 79 countries across its varied programs-including 115 world premieres-and just over 195,000 people attended over the ten days, a boost for organizers who came in to this year's event having shrugged off a few years of political pressure and controversy.

It all started in 2014 with the screening of a documentary about the Sewol ferry disaster of that



year-which resulted in the deaths of more than 300 people. It was critical of the then government and both funding cuts and sackings followed its screening but the air has now cleared under the government of President Moon Jae-in. — AFP

An installation for the Busan International Film Festival at Busan Cinema Center. — AFP



New Angry Birds television series being hatched

Producers are laying plans for a new "Angry Birds" television series based on the cult video game, its distributors said Saturday. The game, about a furious flock of multi-colored birds protecting their eggs from a tribe of green pigs, has already inspired a blockbuster movie franchise, a game show and a theme park in Qatar. Now it's Finnish creators Rovio are planning to expand its hit TV shorts into a full-length series based on characters from the game, which has been downloaded more than four billion times.

The series is likely to screen next year just as the second "Angry Birds" film rolls out in cinemas across the world. The first "The Angry Birds Movie" grossed more than \$350 million. The news of the series aimed at 6- to 12-year-olds broke as the MIPJunior global children's entertainment market opened in Cannes, France. The British-based producers of the series, Cake, have not said how long the episodes will be.

Each episode of the existing shorts series "Angry Birds Toons", and its two spin-offs, "Angry Birds Stella" and "Piggy Tales", which star the birds' nemesis, Bad Piggies, lasts only three minutes. "Long-form content marks the obvious next step in extending the 'Angry Birds' brand on the small screen," Cake's CEO Tom van Waveren told Variety. Cake signed a distribution deal with Rovio in June after which its managing director Ed Galton said, "We are looking forward to catapulting these iconic characters to television audiences around the world." — AFP

Richard Madden 'set to be offered James Bond role'

Richard Madden is reportedly set to be offered the role of James Bond. The 32-year-old actor is said to have impressed Bond bosses with his performance in the BBC drama series "The Bodyguard", and he is now being eyed to replace Daniel Craig as 007. A source said: "It's seriously looking like he [Madden] is going to get the job." Barbara Broccoli, the executive producer at Eon Productions, is likely to have the final say on who will become the next Bond. And she's apparently been convinced by the actor's performance in "The Bodyguard" to offer the role to him.

The insider told the Mail on Sunday newspaper: "Not only is he on top of Barbara's list, but she is preparing to offer the role." A number of well-known actors, including Idris Elba, Tom Hiddleston and Tom Hardy, have all been linked to the role of Bond over recent years. However, Idris claimed earlier this year that the world isn't

ready for a black Bond. The London-born actor explained: "I think in England we have reached that stage [of having a black James Bond] because culturally we're sort of a lot more diverse but the rest of the world is not like that and I think there is a real sort of stigma. "It's like, 'Oh he's black, can he do it because he's black?'"

Idris also rejected claims that people would be more accommodating to the change because of recent historical moments, such as Barack Obama becoming America's first black President. He explained: "Obama can be President because he's a very smart man and I'm sure he had same feelings like, 'Well, I'm not the first black President, I'm Obama. I'm the first Obama.'" "So for me you know I don't like to make a big deal of it, the point is that it's a great rumor. If it was to ever happen, I think it would be the will of a nation."



Richard Madden

Pike felt 'inspired' by A Private War

Rosamund Pike was eager to star in 'A Private War' because she thinks the real-life story is "inspiring". The 39-year-old actress plays the role of war correspondent Marie Colvin - who was killed in 2012 after illegally crossing the Syrian border - in the Matthew Heineman-directed drama, and Rosamund has revealed what attracted her to the project. She shared: "I think it's a combination of things. Marie was a woman who I greatly admired, but I also thought it would be a story that other people, if they didn't know her already, would find inspiring. "Precisely because there's the trope of the fearless war reporter, but here [in this story] is someone who is not fearless, who has tremendous fear, but also has tremendous belief and goes through that fear in the name of the cause she believes in."

Rosamund - who previously starred in 'Gone Girl' - also revealed she was excited by the prospect of working with Matthew. Speaking to Deadline, the actress explained: "When I heard that Matthew Heineman was going to direct it, I thought, 'Well, this seems perfect, because I'm sure he's someone who would have made a documentary about Marie had she lived, and I thought, 'He's going to be fearless. Or at least he is going to be ruthless in his examination of the subject matter. "He's not going to shirk from a very real portrait of both Marie and Paul [Conroy, a photographer] and the war zones that they were covering."



Michelle Williams

Michelle Williams liked 'larger scale' of Venom

Michelle Williams wanted to "try something on a larger scale" with 'Venom'. The 38-year-old actress loved working with Tom Hardy on the comic book movie and enjoyed being pushed out of her comfort zone. She said: "It's not like people are always asking me to be in these kinds of movies. I thought it would be fun to try something on a larger scale and to see if I can relax." And "The Greatest Showman" actress wanted it to be obvious that 'Venom' was released as the #MeToo movement swept over Hollywood.

She added to gulf news: "There were certain lines that I felt were too passive or sweet. I wanted to make sure that she could stand her ground. I wanted it to be unmistakable that it was made in a #MeToo era. I said, 'I know that you guys won't let me wear a #MeToo T-shirt, but that's the vibe that I want.'" Meanwhile, Michelle previously revealed she loved working with someone as fearless as Tom on 'Venom' and says filming was taken in "all kinds" of unexpected directions.

She shared: "It's super fun because you wind up in all kinds of situations that you wouldn't have imagined. We would come up with things that weren't scripted and all of a sudden you're taking this non-linear leaps [to] places and then it's just really fun. You're truly improvising not only the particulars of what you're saying to each other, but the situations you're in. It feels almost like flying. You don't know exactly where you just were, you don't know where you're going but you're in it together." — Bang Showbiz



Rosamund Pike

Sound mixer falls to death on set of Tom Hanks movie

An award-winning sound mixer died after falling from a balcony on the set of a new movie starring Tom Hanks as the children's television presenter Mr Rogers. James Emswiler, who won an Emmy award in 2015, appeared to have fallen from a balcony in Mount Lebanon, Pennsylvania, during a breaking in shooting, police said. Police said witnesses had reported that Emswiler, 61, "was alone on the balcony taking a cigarette break when he may have suffered a medical emergency resulting in his fall from the balcony."

"Initial information does not indicate any foul play," the police said. Emergency services rushed Emswiler, who had previously worked on the superhero film "The Avengers," as well as the teen tear-jerker "The Fault in Our Stars," to hospital but he died shortly afterwards, local media said. Police said shooting of the movie, provisionally titled "You Are My Friend," was halted while they investigated the fatal fall. The movie is based on the creator of the much-loved children's show "Mr Rogers' Neighborhood," which launched in 1968 and ran until 2001. — AFP



Tom Hanks



Henry Cavill

Henry Cavill is the man, says director

Christopher McQuarrie thinks Henry Cavill is "the man". The 59-year-old filmmaker worked with the British actor on 'Mission: Impossible - Fallout' and Christopher has admitted to relishing his time with Henry, praising his can-do attitude on the movie's set. He said: "Henry is the man. He's really ... and more so, he would come to work every day and find out that whatever his character was the day before was not that character anymore. "Ah, we rethought that, it didn't work, it's a whole other thing," and Henry would say, 'Well, can I do this? Yeah? Can I do that? Yeah? Okay.' And then he would just go off to work, and he'd never complain."

Despite being one of Hollywood's best-known actors, Henry was open to new ideas and was flexible in his approach to the film. Christopher told Collider: "He understood from the beginning, 'Mission' has a mind of its own, it's gonna go where it wants to go, just go with it and you'll be delivered. "And you see remnants of our figuring out his character early on in the story, and he really was great. He's really extraordinary." Christopher also hailed Henry as the "unsung hero" of a dramatic helicopter sequence in the movie, which was shot in the winter in New Zealand. He said: "You know, when they say everything Fred Astaire did, Ginger Rogers did backwards and in high heels, everything Tom Cruise is doing, Henry is doing backwards with the doors open in sub-zero temperatures. Freezing his eyeballs." — Bang Showbiz



A picture shows an Egyptian farmer working in a cotton field in the Egyptian Nile Delta town of Kafr El-Sheikh. — AFP photos



An Egyptian farmer working in a cotton field.



A worker preparing a thread on a machine at the Marie Louis textile clothing and textile factory.



A worker preparing a threads on a machine at the Marie Louis textile clothing and textile factory.

Egypt seeks to weave cotton renaissance



A tailor sewing at the Marie Louis textile clothing and textile factory.



An Egyptian farmer working in a cotton field.



A worker checking textiles on a machine at the Marie Louis textile clothing and textile factory.

Reading carefully among his sprawling green plants in the Nile Delta, Egyptian farmer Fatuh Khalifa fills his arms with fluffy white cotton picked by his workers. Durable, fine and luxuriously soft, cotton sourced from Egypt has long been seen as the best on the market. But recent years have been far from smooth for the North African country's farmers. "I cultivate 42 hectares (104 acres) and it's expensive ... while the price (of cotton) is very low", said Khalifa, who has been growing the premium long-fibre variety for over 30 years. Profits are "meagre", he lamented, his head shaded by his cap from the unforgiving sun on his farm in Kafr El Sheikh.

Cotton was once Egypt's main source of wealth in the 19th century, as the Nile Delta provided fertile grounds for the crop used to make the towels, sheets and robes coveted by Europe's burgeoning bourgeoisie. But decades of fierce international competition has diminished returns. Well-marketed short-fibre cotton—while lower quality than the long-fibre variety—looks good and has increasingly been used by textile giants, dealing a heavy blow to Egyptian players.

The United States and Brazil are now the world's top cotton exporters, according to this month's report by the US Department of Agriculture, followed by India and Australia, leaving Egypt trailing far behind. Back in 1975, Egypt exported \$540 million of cotton. By 2016, the sector's export receipts had fallen to \$90.4 million, according to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Major challenges

The popular uprising that toppled president Hosni Mubarak in 2011 dealt a fresh blow to the cotton sector, as political and economic chaos hit production and export chains. Egypt's output of cotton fibres fell as low as 94,000 tons in 2013, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, down from 510,000 tons in 1971. Last year brought producers some respite, thanks to rising prices and higher export volumes. But a trade spat between the US and voracious importer China has seen benchmark global cotton prices fall afresh, as traders take fright over Beijing imposing tariffs.

The commodity was trading at a shade under \$0.77 per pound (0.45 kilos) in early October, after reaching \$0.95 — the highest level in more than six years—in early June. In



Egypt, the price has dropped back to the minimum guaranteed by the state of some 2,700 Egyptian pounds (\$150, 130 euros) per 100 kilos. Egypt's cotton union says buyers are even demanding lower prices, without triggering any intervention by the government.

Productivity, modernization

Others offer a different diagnosis of the sector's ills. "The drop in prices is not in itself a bad thing", said Ahmed El-Bosaty, CEO of Modern Nile Cotton, one of the biggest companies in the sector. Bosaty said the major challenge is boosting productivity. "A rise in productivity rather than prices would ensure better incomes for work-

ers", he said. A cotton expert at the agriculture ministry acknowledged that modernization is key. "Productivity is rising", said Hisham Mosaad. But cotton enterprises must invest in mechanization, as the industry is still entirely manual, he added.

Another challenge is that few Egyptian firms make finished products. "We produce raw cotton for direct export", said Mohammed Sheta, director of research at the Kafr El Sheikh cotton institute. Egypt does not have "the factories or the means allowing us to transform it into fabric", he lamented.

State reforms

The state has tried to spur activity, boosting areas under cultivation over the last four years by around 50,000 hectares, to more than 140,000 hectares. In an experimental move, the government in September even allowed the cultivation of short-fibre cotton, but only outside the Delta region. Experts and farmers remain skeptical, believing Egypt will struggle against foreign heavyweights in the short-fibre market segment. But many companies see the situation as urgent.

Even though official exports of Egyptian cotton rose 6.9 percent by volume in the three months to the end of May compared to the same quarter of 2017, there was a 57.9-percent fall in consumption of Egyptian cotton at home, due to the domestic market turning to imported products. At the high end of the value chain, designer Marie Louis Bishara runs one of the few Egyptian firms that produces high quality finished products locally for the international market.

Young men and women work side by side in her modern factory in northern Cairo, in roles ranging from overseeing looms to packing finished shirts. Promising Egyptian quality, she has dedicated one of her lines to local long-fibre cotton. "We try to show the world that if you want to make luxury products, you have to use extra-long cotton from the Delta", she said. Shirts, trousers and jackets stamped "Made in Egypt" have gone from the design stage on her factory floor to grace shop shelves in France, Italy and her home country. — AFP

German National Tourist Office

to host travel-trade roadshow in the Gulf

GNTO to showcase impressive line-up of German tourism partners to the GCC travel trade industry at roadshow events

As part of its continued efforts to boost tourist arrivals to Germany, the German National Tourist Office (GNTO) will be embarking on its annual roadshow in partnership with Emirates Airline. The B2B roadshow, targeting travel trade professionals, media and other key opinion leaders will kick off in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on 21 October 2018 with further stops being Jeddah (22 October), Abu Dhabi (23 October) and Kuwait (24 October). The trade event - spanning vibrant cities, medical travel, designer outlet shopping, luxury hotels as well as German tour operators - aims at informing guests of the latest travel attractions in Germany, such as the upcoming winter holiday season with its festive Christmas markets and will also include raffle draws.

Recognising the importance of the Gulf region, Sigrid de Mazieres, Director for the Gulf countries at the German National Tourist Office (GNTO), an affiliate of the German National Tourist Board (GNTB), commented: "The Gulf region is Germany's third largest non-European source market after the US and China, and we are looking forward to strengthening ties with the local travel industry and connecting them with leading German tourism partners." She added, "Face-to-face meetings and partnerships with mem-

bers of the trade are one of the most effective ways we can attract travellers from this region. This is why these roadshows are so important."

Adil Al-Ghaith, Senior Vice President Commercial Operations, Gulf, Middle East & Iran said: "We are pleased to team up with the German National Tourist Office to further strengthen our partnership with the travel trade and to attract more GCC travellers to Germany. This is a very important market for us and we are committed to stimulating more tourist arrivals to Germany by offering fantastic connections and more travel options to Munich, Frankfurt, Dusseldorf and Hamburg via Dubai, especially as we introduce our flagship A380 to Hamburg this month. We are confident that the results of all our joint activities and marketing efforts will create more awareness around Germany and inspire more people to travel there."

Through this promotional and networking initiative, the German National Tourist Office aims to not just raise awareness for 'Destination Germany' among the local travel trade, but to help to diversify their product offering which eventually leads to enhance travel agency's sales and customer satisfaction levels. The latest inbound tourism figures from the Gulf region reflect that Germany is increasingly

becoming a popular holiday destination for Gulf nationals. From January to July 2018 overnight stays from the region increased by 5.3% compared to the same period in 2017. Leading German partners at this year's GCC roadshow, hosted in partnership with Emirates Airline:

Cologne Tourist Board
DMC-Destination Management
Excelsior Hotel Ernst - Cologne
Hotel Nassauer Hof - Wiesbaden
Hotel Waldorf Astoria Berlin
Messe-Reisen Falk GmbH
TCME touristic concept GmbH
Value Retail Management Germany, Wertheim Village and Ingoldstadt Village VisitBerlin

The workshops will take place as follows:

21 October 2018 - Riyadh
22 October 2018 - Jeddah
23 October 2018 - Abu Dhabi
24 October 2018 - Kuwait

Cool turn for Carven as Icicle takes over storied brand

China's Icicle, a fashion firm that focuses on using natural fibres, was selected Friday to take fashion label Carven out of bankruptcy, lawyers for the storied French firm told AFP. Carven was founded in 1945 by Marie-Louise Carven, who was a driving force in taking France's postwar fashion international. But after passing through several owners the house abandoned haute couture to focus on ready-to-wear, then struggled and sought bankruptcy protection in May. Carven's lawyer Patrick Atlan said that Icicle presented the best offer that will see 72 employees, nearly the entire staff, keep their jobs.

One of seven offers, Icicle bid a little more than 6.5 million euros (\$7.5 million) for the company and pledged to invest another 8 million into the firm. Carven's last publicly disclosed figures were a net profit of 67,000 euros on sales of 49 million euros in 2015. Carven labelled perfumes and cosmetics was not part of the bankruptcy procedure. Two-thirds of the Beranger holding that controlled Carven was owned by the Hong Kong distributor Bluebell since 2016. — AFP



What's On

BBQ nights by the beach every Wednesday at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa



Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa, Kuwait's idyllic resort, has launched the new season of its unforgettable Barbecue Nights by the beach. The special evening was attended by His Excellency Mzolisa Bona, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of South Africa to Kuwait and Embassy representatives following a week of cultural cooperation to bring the

rich and diverse cultural and gastronomic heritage of the Southern African Countries to Kuwait.

The festival of culture and cuisine enthralled guests with live music from a variety of African bands and a diverse offering of culinary classics from a country renowned for its barbecuing. Award-winning guest chefs, flown in for the event were on hand to share their

secrets of Southern African cuisine to complete the experience.

General Manager Savino Leone hailed the double celebration, marking the resort's famous barbecue season and Southern African culture: "It was a great pleasure to highlight the majesty of the Southern African countries and their unique cultures during this week

long of activities, announcing at the same time the return of our renowned BBQ Nights by the beach". Barbecue Nights every Wednesday starting 7pm are just one of the many themed culinary nights hosted by the resort, with upcoming celebrations of different themes from different countries, all complemented by authentic live music.

DWC meeting at Millennium Hotel



The Diplomatic Women Committee recently held a meeting held at the Millennium Hotel in the presence of the ambassador of Kirgizia to Kuwait and a number of female diplomats. Speaking at the meeting, the ambassador stressed that the commit-

tee activities have contributed to boosting social, cultural and heritage activities amongst the member states. She also highlighted the role played by female diplomats in building strong bridges amongst various countries.

Burgan Bank invites customers to attend screening of 'First Man'

Burgan Bank in collaboration with Grand Cinemas announced yesterday that Premier Banking customers will be offered the chance to watch the first screening of "First Man" movie for free at the most luxurious movie theatre - Grand Class VIP in Al Hamra Center, on Thursday, October 18th, 2018.

Each Premier customer can reserve two free tickets in one of the 3 show times dedicated to them. Reservations are on first-call-first-serve basis as free seats are limited. Burgan Bank allocated a special number to receive calls from Premier cus-

tomers to reserve their free VIP seats for any of the three shows that will be available that day. Premier Customers can call 22988405 from 9am till 5 pm.

Burgan Bank is committed to reward its premier customers with exclusive offers and a wide range of benefits that are especially designated for them. Burgan Bank is committed to always provide superior products and services to its esteemed clientele. To find out more about Burgan Bank's Premier Banking benefits and latest promotions, customers are encouraged to visit any of the bank's branches, or contact the call center



Admissions open at UIIS for the 2019-2020 academic year

United International Indian School is affiliated to the CBSE, Delhi. UIIS is a sister concern of UIS with 33 years' experience in the field of education. UIIS is located on a vast campus of 12000 sq/meters, with green ambience and 24 hours security. The school is housed in a two-storey centrally air-conditioned building.

Trained, well qualified teaching faculty with high-tech class - rooms equipped with computers and internet facility; aesthetically done up and well stocked library; most modern Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Computer labo-

ratories and modern Audio Visual technology ensure a holistic learning environment. UIIS also has a basketball court of international standards and a school canteen that will be serving healthy snacks. Ample parking space on campus with a fleet of air conditioned buses is also provided.

The Administrative block of the new school was inaugurated on Saturday 13th October 2018, at 11.30 AM by the Chairman of the School Mr Thomas Chandy MLA, the former Transport Minister of Kerala State and Kerala Legislative Assembly Member from Kuttanad constituency. Sponsor of United Indian School, Mr Jassim Ahmed Jasim Al Nesif, Director and Principals of United Indian School and other sister schools, community leaders, Teachers from sister schools were also present to grace the occasion. Admission is open for LKG to Std IX in the new school. The office of the new school will function from 14th October, 2018. The Management offers good discount for the siblings.



The Ambassador of Spain D Alvaro Rodriguez Alvarez hosted a reception on the occasion of the Spanish National Day at the Symphony Style Hotel over the weekend. Higher official, diplomats and media persons attended the event.

ICSK Khaitan integrates ACCA

Widening the horizon of Higher Secondary education, offering innovative courses with better and challenging dodge for students to encounter the need of the time, ICSK Khaitan launched Class 11 Commerce Stream integrated with ACCA (first time in the history of CBSE schools) and Class 11 science stream, on Tuesday, 9th April 2018. The school had successfully commenced 11th Science Stream with various optional subjects in April 2017, and now turned out to be a full-fledged school ranging from KG to class 12. The auspicious inaugural ceremony began with the recital of verses from Holy Quran followed by the National anthems of India and Kuwait.

Principal KG Shirsath cordially welcomed the guests, parents and students to the inau-



gural ceremony and spoke about the facilities arranged by the school and the special features of ACCA which provides tremendous and challenging opportunities in the field of Accounting. Through an informative presentation on ACCA, Aqeel Ahmed Khan and Mrs Shafqat Hussain Naaz illustriously elucidated to parents and students the advantages of the course and how it will mould and guide the

students to emerge in the future to encounter successfully the rat race to get aspiring jobs.

Ratna Kishore, the chief guest of the day, well asserted the vitality and opportunities offered by ACCA in the current job market and reminded the students that great things never comes from comfort zones. The invocation dance and motivational song presented by students made the occasion vibrant and exhilarating.



Rouhani: US lost by abandoning nuke deal, wants regime change

TEHRAN: Iran's president boasted yesterday that the United States has lost against the Islamic republic's "righteousness and wisdom" by walking out of the landmark nuclear deal. "Everyone knows that America has lost legally and politically by giving up on its international obligations and that we have achieved victory," said President Hassan Rouhani in a speech at the University of Tehran to mark the beginning of the school year. "There are but a few countries in the world that would call the US withdrawal from the JCPOA (nuclear deal) a good move," he added. "Those that are cautious express disappointment, those that are more frank say it was a mistake, and the outspoken say it was illegal."

Washington pulled out of the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers in May and is reimposing punishing sanctions on the country, hoping to pressure Tehran into what President Donald Trump calls a "better deal". The US is due to complete the reimposition of sanctions on Nov 5, targeting Iran's oil sector and central bank. Rouhani said nothing would change on Nov 5 since "America has already done

whatever it can".

The other parties to the nuclear agreement - Russia, China, the UK, France and Germany - have all pledged to continue to try to make the deal work, despite their firms being vulnerable to the US sanctions if they keep doing business with Iran. Rouhani said Iran's response had left Washington "empty-handed". "They expected us to leave the JCPOA hours after they announced they are, and what would have happened? The case would have returned to the UN Security Council, turned against Iran and isolated us," he said. He said Iran had lost nothing by staying in the deal and could leave "whenever" it chooses.

Rouhani also said the US is seeking "regime change" in Iran, adding that the current US administration is the most hostile that the Islamic Republic has faced in its four decades. "In the past 40 years there has not been a more spiteful team than the current US government team toward Iran, Iranians and the Islamic Republic," Rouhani said in the speech broadcast on state TV. "There was a time when there was one person who had enmity. The rest were moder-

ate. Now...the worst have gathered around each other," he added.

Rouhani accused the Americans of using psychological and economic warfare and questioning the legitimacy of the Islamic Republic. "Reducing the legitimacy of the system is their final goal. When they say getting rid of, regime change in their own words, how does regime change happen? Through reducing legitimacy, otherwise a regime doesn't change." He used the English phrase "regime change" to emphasize his point.

Vice-president Eshaq Jahangiri played down the impact of the planned restrictions. Iran has been able to find new partners to buy its oil even though some countries have stopped purchases, Jahangiri said yesterday, according to Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB). "America will certainly not be able to reduce Iran's oil exports to zero," he said. "America thinks Saudi Arabia can replace this oil. But right now Iran's oil has reached more than \$80 and with half the previous exports we will have the same income as before," he added on comments on the IRIB website. — Agencies



TEHRAN: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani gives a speech during a ceremony at Tehran University marking the beginning of the new Iranian academic year. — AFP

Seeds of next global financial crisis being sown

NUSA DUA, Indonesia: Rising US interest rates, tanking emerging market currencies and a bitter US-China trade spat could push the world towards its next financial crisis but there is still time to avert disaster, global finance chiefs have said. The world economy is still growing but faces an "unprecedented" combination of threats, the International Monetary Fund cautioned at an annual meeting with the World Bank in Bali this week.

Among them is growing protectionism championed by the Trump administration and the intensifying trade-and-currency battle between Washington and Beijing, which have imposed tit-for-tat tariffs on billions of dollars worth of goods. Opening the Bali talks, Indonesian President Joko Widodo compared the dispute between the world's two biggest economies to the hit television series "Game of Thrones". "Great houses, great families, battle each other fiercely to seize control over the Iron Throne," he said. But "confrontation and collision impose a tragic price not only on those who are defeated but also on the winners". And IMF chief Christine Lagarde warned of a "degree of uncertainty that we have not seen before" in international trade.

Disaster can still be averted, officials said at the Bali meet, with reassurance talk from the global financial elite that growth remains strong - the IMF projects 3.7 percent for this year and the next - and could yet withstand the risks gathering on the horizon. And despite tensions, US and Chinese officials in Bali also sounded conciliatory tones. US Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin described "productive" talks with the Chinese on the yuan, which Washington has accused Beijing of keeping artificially low to boost exports. And China's central bank governor Yi Gang called for "constructive solutions" to the damaging tariff, but insisted that Beijing was not devaluing its currency to gain trade advantages - a practice the IMF this week called on members to avoid.

But there are also other brewing concerns,



NUSA DUA: Indonesian President Joko Widodo delivers his speech at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank annual meetings on Oct 12, 2018. — AFP

including the US Federal Reserve's decision to raise interest rates. This year has already seen three hikes, which experts largely agree are necessary to avoid overheating an economy with strong growth and low employment. That has squeezed emerging markets, which are seeing capital flee towards the US enticed by higher returns, and also threatens developing countries that have large debt burdens denominated in dollars.

"The global economy continues to grow but the outlook is now challenging especially for emerging markets due to the normalization of the US monetary policy," Brazilian central bank governor Ilan Goldfajn warned yesterday. The US "needs to be very mindful that spillover from the effect of their policies is very real for many countries," Indonesia's Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati added, in an interview with Bloomberg TV.

Still, there is little expectation for now of a change of gear by the Fed, despite President Donald Trump's vocal criticism of the rate hikes. And top officials said emerging markets should prepare for more hikes with measures that could cushion the impact, including flexible exchange rates and careful management of capital move-

ment. The consensus among central bankers and leading economic officials is that while the next global crisis may not be imminent, now is the time to prepare for it.

"The time to repair your roof is when the sun is shining," French central bank governor Francois Villeroy de Galhau told AFP. He said the current stable global growth was a good moment "to rebuild budget reserves" and for states that can to reduce their debt loads. The IMF has also called on central banks to begin "normalizing" loose monetary policy that began in response to the last financial crisis a decade ago, to give them more room to maneuver in the case of a fresh economic disaster.

The need for a "cushion" in case of disaster has also been exacerbated by the rise of so-called "shadow financing", a largely unregulated system that has spread globally, and an alarming expansion of public and private debt to more than double the world's GDP last year. Lagarde urged vigilance as she addressed the meetings in Bali, warning against "collective amnesia" about what sparked previous financial crises. "Geopolitical tensions combined with... increased protectionism produced terrible developments." — AFP

Trump: 'Sort of Democrat' Mattis 'could be' leaving

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said in an interview airing yesterday that Defense Secretary Jim Mattis "could be" leaving, referring to him as "sort of a Democrat". Mattis, seen as one of the steadiest but also more independent members of Trump's cabinet, has served as a low-profile counterweight to the president in his often abrasive treatment of US allies. In an interview aired yesterday on CBS's "60 Minutes", Trump was asked whether he wanted Mattis to leave. "It could be that he is, I think he's sort of a Democrat, if you want to know the truth," Trump said, according to an excerpt released by CBS. "But General Mattis is a good guy. We get along very well. He may leave. I mean, at some point, everybody leaves."

Trump said he had lunch with Mattis two days earlier and the retired Marine four-star general had not told him that he was leaving. Rumors that Mattis's days as defense chief are numbered have circulated since a book by journalist Bob Woodward about Trump's chaotic White House said the general had questioned Trump's judgment, likening his understanding to that of a 10- or 11-year-old child. "Of course, I don't think about leaving," Mattis told Pentagon reporters last month. "I love it here."

Trump's comments come as he eyes another cabinet shakeup. Last week, his ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, announced her resignation, effec-



James Mattis

tive at the end of the year. She gave no reason for the surprise move, but observers have noted that the ascension of John Bolton as national security adviser and Mike Pompeo as secretary of state have shifted the power dynamics on Trump's national security team.

The generals who once dominated security policy increasingly have appeared to be on the outs with Trump. Lieutenant General HR McMaster was replaced by Bolton in April, while John Kelly, the White House chief of staff and also a retired four-star general, is reported to have lost influence with the mercurial president. Mattis has been careful to avoid public conflict with Trump, but has nonetheless performed in ways that contrast sharply with his boss, emphatically defending the US commitment to its NATO allies and calling out Russia.

Earlier this month, as NATO announced its biggest military exercises since the Cold War, Mattis reassured allies of America's "iron-clad" commitment to the 69-year-old alliance. The US, he told reporters in Paris, is "keenly aware of the dangers close to your home". While Bolton and Pompeo also have taken a hard line on Russia, Trump has often expressed a desire for better relations with Russia's President Vladimir Putin. He used a NATO summit in July to berate allies as "delinquent" on defense spending. — AFP

Jordan king vows to fight corruption...

Continued from Page 1

Fund, but the resultant economic reforms led to price hikes. The king yesterday acknowledged "dissatisfaction with the way current challenges are being addressed". "The process of development in Jordan, as in other coun-

tries, has been marred by some mistakes and challenges, which we must learn from, resolve, and prevent from reoccurring, so that we may move forward," he said.

Abdullah put the current situation down to "a weakening (of) public trust in government institutions, as well as an atmosphere of skepticism". Stability in Jordan is seen as fundamental to the region and in the wake of protests Amman was offered a \$2.5 billion aid package from three Gulf backers. More than \$1 billion has already been deposited in the central bank by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, a Jordanian government source said earlier this month. — AFP

Filipinos deeply conflicted on...

Continued from Page 1

families (of those killed) seemed fake. But when it happened to us, I felt the pain they were feeling," Bautista told AFP. "If it doesn't happen to your family, you won't wake up to the truth," she added.

A significant strand in the opposition to the killings is the fear a loved could be slain just by being in the wrong place, not necessarily because of involvement in drugs. "People feel very afraid that their families or their relatives might be placed in a situation where they could be the targets," Randy David, a sociologist and newspaper columnist in Manila, told AFP. "But how can you possibly disagree or not lend support for a campaign to rid this country of illegal drugs?" David added, saying the lethal methods were what prompted questions.

There has been broader condemnation of the crackdown, at home and abroad. Rare protests were held in the Philippines last year following the deaths of teenagers, while outrage over alleged abuses has

prompted Duterte to twice remove police from the frontlines of the campaign - only to reinstate them, and promise to pardon officers convicted of murder. The International Criminal Court has launched a preliminary examination into the killings, while rights groups say Duterte may be overseeing a crime against humanity.

Meanwhile, Duterte hammers the menace posed by drugs in near daily speeches in which he has described addicts as "not human". Analysts say the president uses clear and repeated messaging in an effort to buttress backing for his campaign. "The way (the message) is delivered is that there is a very big threat, so first there's the production of massive fear," said Ateneo de Manila University psychology professor Cristina Montiel. "Then (comes) the salvific message that this program or this leader is here to save you," she added. "That's how popular support is produced."

As the campaign continues, the death toll is well over Amnesty International's count of 3,240 people killed during the nine years of martial law rule under dictator Ferdinand Marcos, the country's darkest chapter since World War II. Duterte recently addressed the thorny issue of the killings, delivering what critics called a clear admission they are suspect. "What are my sins? Did I steal money? Even just one peso? Did I prosecute somebody I sent to jail?" he asked in a September speech. "My only sin is extrajudicial killings." — AFP

Saudi Arabia vows retaliation...

Continued from Page 1

have pulled out of next week's Future Investment Initiative (FII) in Riyadh, dubbed "Davos in the desert".

Britain, France and Germany told Saudi Arabia they were treating the case with "the utmost seriousness". "There needs to be a credible investigation to establish the truth about what happened, and - if relevant - to identify those bearing responsibility for the disappearance of Jamal Khashoggi, and ensure that they are held to account," the foreign ministers from the three countries said in a joint statement. "We encourage joint Saudi-Turkish efforts in that regard, and expect the Saudi Government to provide a complete and detailed response. We have conveyed this message directly to the Saudi authorities." The statement, by British foreign minister Jeremy Hunt, France's Jean-Yves Le Drian and Germany's Heiko Maas, made no mention of potential actions the countries might take.

Khashoggi, a Washington Post contributor, vanished after entering the consulate on Oct 2. Turkey on Saturday stepped up pressure on Saudi Arabia by accusing the kingdom of failing to cooperate with a probe into the journalist's disappearance. Turkish officials have said they believe Khashoggi was killed inside the mission and claims have been leaked to media that he was tortured and even dismembered. Saudi Arabia insists Khashoggi left the building safely and dismissed accusations that authorities had ordered his murder by a hit squad as "lies and baseless allegations".

The kingdom's Tadawul All-Shares Index (TASI) lost more than 500 points, diving by seven percent in the first two hours when trading resumed after the weekend, in panic selling reminiscent of the days after the global financial crisis in 2008. It later clawed back some losses to close down 3.5 percent at 7,266.59 points. Mohammed Zidan, market strategist at Thinkmarket in

Dubai, said the drop in Saudi stocks was the result of panic selling because of several political and economic factors. "There has been a kind of uncertainty surrounding the situation of the disappearance of Khashoggi which has caused the market to fall," Zidan told AFP. "The withdrawal of top participants from the Riyadh investment conference has also negatively impacted traders' sentiment," he said.

White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said yesterday that Saudi Arabia should take Trump's warning seriously. "When the president warns, people should take him at his word," he told Fox. "If the Saudis are involved, if Khashoggi was killed or harmed or whatever, bad outcome here. He (Trump) will take action."

The cancellations have cast a pall on the annual summit at which Prince Mohammed wowed investors last year with talking robots and blueprints for a futuristic mega city. The withdrawal of Uber's Khosrowshahi from the event is particularly symbolic as the kingdom's vast Public Investment Fund (PIF) has invested \$3.5 billion in the ride-hailing app. Branson, who dropped two directorships linked to Saudi tourism projects around the Red Sea, said claims about Khashoggi's disappearance would "change the ability of any of us in the West to do business with the Saudi government".

Global multinational corporations "see potential in a developing market like Saudi Arabia, but for many the reputational risk of being associated with FII outweighs the potential gains from the Saudi economy," said Michael Stephens, a Middle East expert at the RUSI think tank. Washington lobbying firm Harbour group, which represented the Saudi government, has also terminated its \$80,000 per month contract. "We (have) ended the relationship," Richard Mintz, managing director of the firm, told AFP.

Additionally, actor Gerard Butler pulled out of a trip to the kingdom, where he was scheduled to attend the premiere of his new movie "Hunter Killer". "We heard about Khashoggi going missing the day before we were supposed to leave... and it just didn't feel like a smart move," the 48-year-old Scot told CNN on Saturday. — Agencies

Sports

Australia's Leishman breezes to victory in CIMB Classic

Sharma of India comes back strongly with four birdies in four holes

KUALA LUMPUR: Australia's Marc Leishman unleashed an early birdie barrage as he romped home by five shots to claim top place in the \$7 million CIMB Classic yesterday. At the par-72 TPC Kuala Lumpur, Leishman closed with a seven-under par 65 to finish the only PGA Tour event in south-east Asia at 26-under par 262 for his fourth win on the PGA Tour.

His effort was five shots better than Argentina's Emiliano Grillo (66), and the American duo of Chesson Hadley (66) and Bronson Burgoon (68) — all of whom finished on 21-under par 267. Two-time champion and former world number one Justin Thomas (64) closed with three birdies in his last three holes to surge up the leaderboard and finish in tied fifth place at 268, where he was joined by Mexican Abraham Ancer (65), South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen (69) and fellow Americans Charles Howell III (67) and Gary Woodland (71).

The world number 24 Leishman won the Arnold Palmer Invitational and the BMW Championship in 2017 and continued his winning streak in 2018 with the CIMB Classic win. It all would have looked a distant dream when the 34-year-old almost

quit the game around the time of the 2015 Masters, when his wife Audrey was diagnosed with and nearly died from acute respiratory distress syndrome and toxic shock syndrome.

An emotional Leishman, who made eight birdies, including a putt from nearly 50 feet on the par-4 ninth, and a solitary bogey, said it felt "unbelievable" to win. "It was a very tough time that we went through, but it certainly made us stronger as people, made us appreciate just the everyday things, appreciate our kids more, appreciate friends, family, everything," he said of his wife's illness.

"I won't say it made golf less important, but it made me realize that golf's not life or death... As long as I give it my best shot, that's what it's all about." Leishman opened with a par and then made four birdies in the next four holes to pull ahead. A brace of birdies on the ninth and 10th had taken him to 25-under par, with none of his closest pursuers putting any pressure on him.

Overnight joint leader Shubhankar Sharma of India started in a shaky manner before coming back strongly with four birdies in four holes from the eighth onwards, but he made three straight bogeys

from the 11th to finish on even-par for the day. Woodland also had an up and down round and never got going. Grillo could have had a much better finish-but after getting to six-under par for the day after 12 holes, he could not make a single birdie on the last six holes.

The 26-year-old Argentine said: "I played very well, I shot 30 on the front nine. I started thinking if I could shoot seven-under, it would give me the chance. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to play as well on the back nine, but four rounds in the 60s is always good."

Hadley, 31, made a double bogey on the ninth hole, but four birdies on the back nine resurrected his round, and he was delighted with his finish after a poor run of form lately. "Delighted like you wouldn't believe. I haven't been playing well for a while and to have a good tournament like this is really nice," said the 2014 Puerto Rico Open champion.

Burgoon, who led after the opening day with a 63, recorded only his third top-10 finish in three years on the PGA Tour. The PGA Tour next moves to Korea for the CJ Cup. — AFP



KUALA LUMPUR: This handout from the Asian Tour taken and received yesterday shows Marc Leishman of Australia posing with the winner's trophy after winning the CIMB Classic golf tournament in Kuala Lumpur. — AFP

Jet Ski team honoured

KUWAIT: With the attendance of the Sports Authority Director, Dr Sager Al-Mulla, KSSC Chairman, Maj General Fahad Al-Fahad and the American Ambassador to Kuwait, Lawrence Silverman, a special reception ceremony was recently held to receive Kuwait's Jet Ski team which won the 2018 Blowsion World Finals Competition held in Arizona, USA and organized by the International Jet Sports Boating Association (IJSBA) with participation of 30 countries.

The team managed to win a total of 13 medals including 4 gold, seven silver and 2 bronze earning it the total of 300 points in the competitions.

Speaking on the occasion, Al-Mulla stressed the sports authority's keenness on supporting athletes in various sports. On his part, Maj. General Al-Fahad expressed his and KSSC's pride in the international achievements made by the team.



Chun In-gee wins first LPGA title in two years

INCHEON: Local favourite Chun In-gee shot a final-round 66 to win her first LPGA title in more than two years before a cheering home crowd yesterday. Chun, ranked 27th in the world, finished 16 under par 272 to claim the US\$300,000 first prize at the LPGA KEB Hana Bank Championships.

The 24-year-old fired seven birdies and one bogey in the final round to finish three strokes ahead of Charley Hull (71) of England at the Sky 72 Golf Club's Ocean Course in Incheon. An emotional Chun couldn't hold back the tears after clinching her third career LPGA win and first non-major title.

"When I realized I won I just felt the hard times through the last few years just go away," she said. "I'm so happy to get this win." The world's top two players, Park Sung-hyun (69) of South Korea and Thailand's Ariya Jutanugarn (71), were tied at third at 12 under.

"A lot of fans came out today so I was very grateful and in awe but I'm disappointed I couldn't show them a better play," Park said. The 25-year-old, who will attend the Buick LPGA tournament in Shanghai next week, added: "I wasn't satisfied with my shot all season but I've gained confidence in the past two weeks so I'm looking forward to the remaining tournaments."

Park's compatriot and defending champion Ko Jin-young (64) shot eight birdies to finish seventh at 11-under. —AFP

Shockwaves of Olympic 'Black Power' protest still rumble

LOS ANGELES: Fifty years after raising clenched fists in protest during the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, the shockwaves unleashed by John Carlos and Tommie Smith's salute of defiance are still rippling around the sporting world.

The image of the African-American sprinters standing on the medal podium on October 16 1968, heads bowed while each raising a solitary, leather-gloved fist into the night sky would become one of the most iconic photos of the 20th century.

The protest redefined the concept of athlete activism as the stuffy, antiquated world of the Olympic movement under then president Avery Brundage collided with the political and cultural maelstrom raging across the globe in 1968.

America had already been convulsed by the twin assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King in April and the murder of presidential hopeful Robert F. Kennedy in June. In between the trauma of those events, deadly rioting erupted in Chicago.

Large-scale protests against the Vietnam War gained momentum throughout a year which also saw civil unrest in France as student-led demonstrations and general strikes plunged the country into chaos.

By the time of the Olympics, the febrile mood sweeping the world had reached Mexico City. Just days before the Games got under way, Mexican government forces crushed a protest by students and civilians. Independent reports say between 300-500 people were killed, with thousands wounded and more than 2,000 arrested.



MEXICO CITY: Mexican former Olympic track and field athlete, Enriqueta Basilio symbolically lights the Olympic cauldron, during the ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of Mexico's 1968 Summer Olympics, at the Olimpico Universitario stadium, in Mexico City on October 12, 2018. —AFP

BLOODY CRACKDOWN

That bloody crackdown set the stage for an Olympics that will forever be associated with Smith and Carlos's "Black Power" salute. On the morning of October 16, Smith won the 200m in a then-world record of 19.83sec, with Carlos taking bronze behind Australia's Peter Norman.

At the medal ceremony that evening, Smith and Carlos proceeded with their planned protest which had been hatched before the Olympics.

The two sprinters had been drawn to activism while at San Jose State University in California,

where they had been members of the Olympic Project for Human Rights (OPHR) set up by sociologist Harry Edwards.

As they walked out for the ceremony, the two athletes received their medal without shoes to symbolise black poverty in the United States.

Smith wore a black scarf to reflect black pride while Carlos wore a beaded necklace intended to represent "those individuals that were lynched or killed and no-one said a prayer for." Initially, both athletes had planned to bring gloves, but Carlos forgot his so the two men shared Smith's pair. —AFP

Simone Biles calls out new USA Gymnastics president over Nike tweet

LOS ANGELES: Olympic champion Simone Biles appeared less than impressed on Saturday with the appointment of former US congresswoman Mary Bono as the latest interim president of embattled USA Gymnastics.

Biles took to Twitter to take issue with a tweet Bono posted last month that was critical of apparel maker Nike after the company's ad campaign featuring Colin Kaepernick. Bono posted a photo of herself blacking out a Nike logo on a golf shoe. "Playing in a charity golf tournament raising money for our nation's Special Forces operators and their families. Unfortunately had these shoes in my bag. Luckily I had a marker in my bag too..." wrote Bono, who also re-tweeted a response that said "#BoycottNike."

In response, the Nike-sponsored Biles tweeted on Saturday: "*mouth drop* ... don't worry, it's not like we needed a smarter usa gymnastics president, or any sponsors or anything." Critics of Nike were angered in September by the company's decision to embrace Kaepernick, the former San Francisco 49ers quarterback who triggered a political firestorm after kneeling during the US national anthem in 2016 to protest racial injustice.

The tension is another setback for a USA Gymnastics federation desperately seeking stability in the wake of the sexual abuse scandal involving former team doctor Larry Nassar.

More than 200 women, including Biles and other Olympians, have come forward over the past two years saying they were sexually abused by Nassar under the guise of treatment. USA Gymnastics announced Bono's appointment on Friday, saying she would serve as interim president and chief executive until a permanent replacement for Kerry Perry is found.

Perry resigned last month under pressure from the US Olympic Committee after nine months in the job. Her departure came after the appointment and resignation of elite coach Mary Lee Tracy—who had made comments supportive of Nassar in 2016 when allegations of abuse against him had begun to emerge.

Biles, the reigning Olympic all-around champion and winner of four golds at the 2016 Rio Games, will lead the US team for the Gymnastics World Championships in Doha October 25-November 3.

The team was named on Friday at the conclusion of a selection camp in Florida. —AFP

Sports

India's Yadav helps seal 2-0 West Indies series sweep

It's a tough series and we didn't play our best cricket: Holder

HYDERABAD: Paceman Umesh Yadav claimed a match haul of 10 wickets to lead India to a series sweep against the West Indies with a win inside three days in the second Test yesterday. The hosts chased down their 72-run target in just 16.1 overs in an extended final session to win by 10 wickets.

Prithvi Shaw and Lokesh Rahul, both on 33, remained unbeaten. The 18-year-old Shaw hit the winning boundary as the world's top Test side registered their 10th successive series triumph on home soil.

India have not lost a Test series at home since 2012, when they went down to England 1-2. Yadav, who returned overall match figures of 10-133 — his maiden 10-wicket haul in 40 Tests-taking four wickets in the West Indies' second innings.

"Not many people realise but he is a very, very talented bowler. He can bowl you unplayable deliveries every now and then which we experience in the nets all the time," skipper Virat Kohli said of the paceman.

"It's just that he is gaining more confidence about his own game." Sunil Ambris top-scored with 38, offering some resistance with skipper Jason Holder for the seventh-wicket, but the tourists were bowled out for just 127 in the final session.

Ravindra Jadeja ended their stand, getting Holder caught behind for 19 and then trapping Ambris lbw. Yadav had rattled the West Indies top order earlier, sending back opener Kraigg Braithwaite on the second delivery of the innings.

Shai Hope then scored a gritty 28 before falling to



HYDERABAD: Indian cricket team members pose with the Paytm India-West Indies Test series trophy after winning the second Test cricket match against West Indies at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Hyderabad yesterday. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second and final cricket Test between India and the West Indies in Hyderabad yesterday:
West Indies 1st innings 311 (R. Chase 106, J. Holder 52; U. Yadav 6-88)

India 1st innings (overnight 308-4, A. Rahane 75, R. Pant 85)

L. Rahul b Holder	4
P. Shaw c Hetmyer b Warrican	70
C. Pujara c sub (J Hamilton) b Gabriel	10
V. Kohli lbw Holder	45
A. Rahane c Hope b Holder	80
R. Pant c Hetmyer b Gabriel	92
R. Jadeja lbw b Holder	0
R. Ashwin b Gabriel	35
K. Yadav b Holder	6
U. Yadav c sub (J Hamilton) b Warrican	2
S. Thakur not out	4
Extras: (lb1, lb2, nb5)	19
Total: (all out, 106.4 overs)	367

Fall of wickets: 1-61 (Rahul), 2-98 (Shaw), 3-102 (Pujara), 4-162 (Kohli), 5-314 (Rahane), 6-314 (Jadeja), 7-322 (Pant), 8-334 (K. Yadav), 9-339 (U. Yadav), 10-367 (Ashwin)

Bowling: Gabriel 20.4-1-107-3 (nb3), Holder 23-5-56-5 (nb2), Warrican 31-7-84-2, Chase 9-1-22-0, Bishoo 21-4-78-0, Braithwaite 2-0-6-0

West Indies	
K. Braithwaite c Pant b U. Yadav	0
K. Powell c Rahane b Ashwin	0
S. Hope c Rahane b Jadeja	28
S. Hetmyer c Kohli b K. Yadav	17

S. Ambris lbw b Jadeja	38
R. Chase b U. Yadav	6
S. Dowrich b U. Yadav	0
J. Holder c Pant b Jadeja	19
D. Bishoo not out	10
J. Warrican b Ashwin	7
S. Gabriel b U. Yadav	1
Extras: (lb1)	1
Total: (all out, 46.1 overs)	127

Fall of wickets: 1-0 (Braithwaite), 2-6 (Powell), 3-45 (Hetmyer), 4-45 (Hope), 5-68 (Chase), 6-70 (Dowrich), 7-108 (Holder), 8-109 (Ambris), 9-126 (Warrican), 10-127 (Gabriel)

Bowling: Umesh 12.1-3-45-4, Ashwin 10-4-24-2, Kuldeep 13-1-45-1, Jadeja 11-5-12-3

India 2nd innings (target 72)

L. Rahul not out	33
P. Shaw not out	33
Extras: (b6, lb2, nb1)	9
Total: (0 wickets, 16.1 overs)	75

Did not bat: C. Pujara, V. Kohli, A. Rahane, R. Pant, R. Jadeja, R. Ashwin, K. Yadav, U. Yadav, S. Thakur

Bowling: Holder 4-0-17-0 (nb1), Warrican 4-0-17-0, Bishoo 4.1-0-19-0, Chase 4-0-14-0

Result: India won by 10 wickets

Azhar admits pressure will be on Pakistan to beat Australia

ABU DHABI: Senior batsman Azhar Ali admitted Pakistan will be under pressure of expectations in the second Test against Australia starting in Abu Dhabi from Tuesday. Pakistan dominated much of the first Test in Dubai but failed to get the last two wickets as Australia finished at 362-8.

Set a daunting 462 runs Australia's fight-back was led by opener Usman Khawaja's 141, ably assisted by Travis Head (72) and skipper Tim Paine (61 not out). "I can't say if the pressure will be more on Pakistan or Australia but we are the home side and obviously people expect us to win and so there is pressure," said Azhar yesterday.

"However, having said that these are favourable conditions for us and we have to make the most of it. "Pressure is always different in every match and obviously this is a decider. Being the home team we have to win it and we will enter the field thinking that. We will look to play positive cricket and hopefully the result will go our way."

Pakistan will be forced to make a change after regular opener Imam-ul-Haq fractured his finger in the first Test and was ruled out, opening an option to bring Azhar as opener.

The 33-year-old held the opening spot since the Oval Test in England in August 2016 and struck a triple century against the West Indies in Dubai and a double hundred against Australia in Melbourne-both in 2016.

He went to his customary number three



Azhar Ali

position for the two Tests against Sri Lanka last year and in last week's first Test against Australia. Pakistan can also bring in limited over specialist Fakhar Zaman to play his first Test, despite a poor form in the Asia Cup scoring only 56 runs in five matches with two ducks.

Azhar said he will do it against for his team. "When playing for Pakistan one has to be ready for everything," said Azhar. "I have always believed in that and whatever the team management decides or the captain decides, I will be ready to do that."

Azhar admitted Pakistan players were disappointed at not winning the first Test. "We are not disheartened but, yes, disap-

pointed, obviously after dominating the Test match throughout and then not winning it," said Azhar, a veteran of 66 Tests.

"Unfortunately we couldn't win but I think we also have to give credit to the Australians as well as they showed resilience and kept fighting till the end." Azhar said he remains focused despite not in the best of form, managing only 95 runs in the last four Tests.

"A batsman always wants to score runs and it doesn't feel nice when he doesn't score runs," said Azhar. "But the important thing is to stay focused and believe that once you get a good knock things will start rolling again." —AFP

Sarfraz faces questions over Test tactics, team composition

DUBAI: Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed faces some searching questions to answer for the second Test against Australia over his bowling attack and batting lineup after Tim Paine's side produced a battling draw in the first test in Dubai.

Usman Khawaja defied pre-match predictions and a poor return on turning pitches in Asia to score a battling 141 and anchor his side's defiance as they survived 139.5 overs in stifling conditions to ensure a draw.

Sarfraz's bowlers were unable to put concerted pressure on the visitors with Khawaja reverse sweeping leg-spinner Yasir Shah seemingly at will on a pitch that was deteriorating and offering assistance to Pakistan's four slow bowlers.

Left-arm quick Wahab Riaz also failed to effectively exploit any reverse swing he was achieving with the older ball, forcing Sarfraz to continually change his tactics and fielding positions in an effort to manufacture a wicket.

The second test starts in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday and Sarfraz's side will be forced to make at least one change with opening batsman Imam-ul-Haq having surgery on a broken finger and ruled out of the match.

Imam scored an impressive 76 in a 205-run opening stand with Mohammed Hafeez that set up Pakistan's first innings of 482.

He added 48 in Pakistan's second innings of 181 for six declared but broke the little finger on his left hand while field-

ing on the fifth and final day and was forced from the ground. The left-handed opener had surgery in Dubai on Saturday and would return home on Tuesday, the Pakistan Cricket Board said.

His absence will necessitate changes to the batting order with Fakhar Zaman the only other specialist opening batsman in the squad, although he is yet to make his test debut at the age of 28 and not played a first-class match in more than a year.

Azhar Ali, who scored just a total of 22 runs in the first test, could also be promoted up the order to open with Hafeez with leg-spinning all-rounder Shadab Khan possibly coming into the squad to bolster the team's bowling stocks.

The 20-year-old Shadab, however, is battling a groin injury that ruled him out of the first test and which thwarted coach Mickey Arthur's plans of combining him with Yasir to attack Australia's inexperienced batting lineup. —Reuters

Australia were 'too aggressive', says England's Anderson

LONDON: Australia's cricketers have sometimes "tried too hard to be aggressive" as they sought to live up to a traditional stereotype of what is expected from them, England's James Anderson said yesterday.

England have often been on the rough end of Australian aggression, an approach which culminated in three players, including captain Steve Smith, being banned following the ball-tampering scandal in South Africa.

Australia have themselves questioned their own win-at-all-costs approach, which led to off-spinner Nathan Lyon saying he hoped his side could "end the careers" of several opponents before last year's Ashes games.

For Anderson, England's record wicket-taker, the memory of that difficult period appears still raw, with England also claiming that in 2015 Moeen Ali was called "Osama" by an unnamed Australian in that Ashes series.

Australia carried out an investigation into the incident, which was closed last month after they could not find "any new additional evidence". "They have tried too hard to be that stereotypical Australian team that are aggressive and go hard at people,"

Anderson, 36, told the BBC although he added that he felt Lyon's comments were taken "out of context".

Last week Australia's new-look side attempted to introduce a softer look, shaking hands before play against Pakistan in Dubai, when they held on for a creditable draw in their first test since the turmoil in South Africa.

Anderson said new Australia captain Tim Paine was "a genuinely nice guy" and was also complimentary about other team members. "Mitchell Starc is not naturally aggressive despite being a fast bowler and even Steve Smith is a really good bloke - there is no real malice with anything he does - so it was really out of character," said Anderson.

However, he added: "The thing about wanting to be good blokes is that you can only be a good bloke if you really are a good one." "When Brendon McCullum was New Zealand captain, he made it all about being entertaining and showing off your skills," he said.

"Both Eoin Morgan in ODIs and Alastair Cook in Tests took from his way and tried to incorporate it into their captaincy." Australia visit England in an Ashes series next summer. —Reuters

S Africa and Zimbabwe T20 abandoned

BENONI: Rain and a wet outfield caused the abandonment of the third and final Twenty20 international between South Africa and Zimbabwe at Willowmoore Park yesterday. South Africa won the series 2-0 after winning an earlier one-day series 3-0.

The matches were largely one-sided and South Africa used them to test the depth of their resources, using 22 players across the five matches. South Africa travel to Australia later this month to play

three one-day internationals and a Twenty20 international, while Zimbabwe depart later this week for Bangladesh where they will play three one-day internationals and two Tests. The first one-day international is in Dhaka next Sunday.

Zimbabwe captain Hamilton Masakadza said his team's batting in South Africa had been disappointing. "We will have to adapt quickly to Bangladesh conditions. As the top three or four batsmen, we must make sure we build a platform," he said.

JP Duminy, who was due to captain South Africa yesterday, said the objective of giving opportunities to several players had been achieved. "The selectors got a look at quite a few guys," he said. "We will be going into Australia with some confidence, although it is a work in progress." —AFP

Sports

Pastrnak notches hat trick as Bruins rout Red Wings

Stars blitz Ducks with 4-goal period to steal win

BOSTON: David Pastrnak scored his second career hat trick, Jake DeBrusk added two goals and Patrice Bergeron had three assists as the Boston Bruins cruised to an 8-2 victory over the visiting Detroit Red Wings on Saturday afternoon. Anders Bjork had a goal and an assist. Charlie McAvoy and Sean Kuraly also scored goals and Brad Marchand, Brandon Carlo and David Krejci each had two assists for Boston, which has won four in a row since a season-opening 7-0 loss at defending Stanley Cup champion Washington. The Bruins have outscored their opponents 22-6 during the streak. Tuukka Rask had 32 saves for the Bruins, who improved to 15-1-1 in their last 17 games against Detroit, including seven wins in a row. Filip Hronek scored the first goal of his NHL career, and Dylan Larkin added a short-handed goal for Detroit. Jonathan Bernier had 31 saves for the winless Red Wings, who are off to their worst start since beginning 0-5 in the 1980-81 season.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS 1, FLYERS 0

Cody Eakin scored with 1:25 remaining in the third period, and Vegas ended a three-game losing streak with a win at Philadelphia. Eakin fired a shot from the left circle for his second goal of the season on a pass from Ryan Carpenter. The Golden Knights needed a spectacular save by goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury, who sprawled across the crease to get his glove on a shot by Philadelphia's Claude Giroux with 38 seconds left.

STARS 5, DUCKS 3

John Klingberg's power-play goal late in the second period capped a four-goal explosion by Dallas, which overcame a shaky start to rally past visiting Anaheim. Klingberg, who also had an assist, put the Stars on top with 2:14 to play in the second period when he took a pass from Alexander Radulov and fired a long shot from the point that found the back of the net through traffic. Radulov, Connor Carrick, Jamie Benn and Radek Faksa also scored for Dallas, which outshot the Ducks 51-25. Jakob Silfverberg, Kiefer Sherwood and Adam Henrique each scored for the Ducks, who were up 3-0 at the 8:09 mark of the second period.

OILERS 2, RANGERS 1

Connor McDavid scored a power-play goal 6:23 into the third period and added an assist as Edmonton picked up its first win of the season at New York. McDavid has either scored or assisted on all of Edmonton's five goals this season. He recorded the secondary assist on Ryan Nugent-Hopkins' first goal of the season in the opening period. McDavid scored the tiebreaking goal when he put a backhand-after getting a cross-ice pass from Leon Draisaitl while positioned at the left side of the net-in the low slot off Henrik Lundqvist's left leg.

SENATORS 5, KINGS 1

Chris Wideman enjoyed his first career two-goal game, scoring in the first and third periods for host Ottawa in a rout of Los Angeles. Wideman's multi-goal effort came in his 161st career game and one day shy of the anniversary of his last goal. Chris Tierney, Mark Stone and Colin White also scored for the Senators, who raced out to a 4-0 lead midway through the second period and were never threatened. Goaltie Craig Anderson recorded 36 saves as Ottawa snapped a two-game losing streak.

HURRICANES 5, WILD 4 (OT)

Sebastian Aho's second goal 2:57 into overtime lifted Carolina over Minnesota at Saint Paul, Minn. Justin Williams' goal—the captain's first of the season—with 1:09 remaining in regulation forced overtime. Aho picked up his second assist of the night on the tally. Jordan Staal and Brett Pesce also scored for the Hurricanes, who matched their best five-game start in franchise history with a 4-0-1 record. Mikael Granlund scored with 4:13 left in the third period to give the Wild a short-lived 4-3 lead. Minnesota goalie Devan Dubnyk made 52 saves in defeat.

CANADIENS 4, PENGUINS 3 (SO)

Paul Byron and Jonathan Drouin scored shootout goals as Montreal edged visiting Pittsburgh. The Canadiens received two goals and an assist from Tomas Tatar, and Brendan Gallagher added a goal and an assist. Antti Niemi made 25 saves and stopped Evgeni Malkin and Sidney Crosby in the decisive shootout. Kris Letang and Phil Kessel each registered a goal and an assist, and Malkin added two assists for the Penguins. Dominik Simon also scored for Pittsburgh. Casey DeSmith stopped 37 of 40 Montreal shots.

LIGHTNING 8, BLUE JACKETS 2

Tampa Bay skated to a three-goal, first-period lead and cruised past visiting Columbus. Brayden Point had two goals for the Lightning, and Victor Hedman, Cedric Paquette, Yann Gourde, Alex Killorn, Nikita Kucherov and J.T. Miller also scored. Tyler Johnson, Mikhail Sergachev and Miller each had two assists. Josh Anderson and Oliver Bjorkstrand tallied for the Blue Jackets.

CANUCKS 3, PANTHERS 2

Bo Horvat scored the go-ahead goal with 13:49 left in the third period as Vancouver defeated Florida at Sunrise, Fla. Horvat, skating on the left side, took a nifty backhand, cross-ice pass from Sven Baertschi before scoring his third goal of the season. Elias Pettersson and Antoine Roussel also tallied for the Canucks. Jonathan Huberdeau and Vincent Trocheck scored for the Panthers, who have yet to earn a win in three games this season and are 0-for-12 on the power play during that span.



MONTREAL: Goaltender Casey DeSmith #1 of the Pittsburgh Penguins stops Max Domi #13 of the Montreal Canadiens during the NHL game at the Bell Centre on Saturday in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The Montreal Canadiens defeated the Pittsburgh Penguins 4-3 in a shootout. —AFP

MAPLE LEAFS 4, CAPITALS 2

Josh Leivo scored his first goal of the season on a power play in the third period to break a tie and help visiting Toronto down Washington. Auston Matthews added his 10th goal of the season late in the third to clinch Toronto's fourth straight win. He also had an assist. Kasperii Kapanen and Par Lindholm scored the Maple Leafs' first two goals. Chandler Stephenson and Evgeny Kuznetsov scored for the Capitals. Alex Ovechkin had two assists.

PREDATORS 5, ISLANDERS 2

Calle Jarnkrok, Filip Forsberg and Viktor Arvidsson scored late in the first period as host Nashville cruised past New York. Kyle Turris scored in the third period while Forsberg added an empty-netter for the Predators, who completed a quick season sweep of the Islanders. Nashville beat New York, 4-3, in the latter's home opener on Oct. 6. Brock Nelson and Andrew Ladd scored for the Islanders, who began a four-game Western Conference road swing.

BLACKHAWKS 4, BLUES 3 (OT)

Alex DeBrincat scored with nine seconds remaining in overtime to lift Chicago over visiting St. Louis. DeBrincat finished with a pair of goals for Chicago, which became the first team in NHL history to go to overtime in five straight games to start the season. Artem Anisimov and Patrick Kane also scored for the Blackhawks, and goaltender Cam Ward made 35 saves

to earn the victory. Brayden Schenn scored twice for St. Louis, which had to settle for a point after leading for much of the third period. David Perron also scored for the Blues, who lost to the Blackhawks in overtime for the second time in eight days despite 46 saves from goaltender Jake Allen.

SABRES 3, COYOTES 0

Top draft pick Rasmus Dahlin scored his first career goal, and Jeff Skinner and Conor Sheary also tallied as Buffalo extended its recent series dominance with a shutout of Arizona at Glendale, Ariz. Sabres goalie Linus Ullmark made 36 saves for his first career shutout in his first start of the season as the Sabres improved to 8-2-1 in their last 11 games against the Coyotes and 9-2 in their last 11 games at Gila River Arena. The Coyotes have been shut out in three of their first four games and have not scored an even-strength goal all season.

FLAMES 3, AVALANCHE 2 (OT)

Johnny Gaudreau scored on a breakaway 46 seconds into overtime as Calgary rallied from an early 2-0 deficit to defeat Colorado at Denver. Elias Lindholm, who tied it with a goal with 1:54 left in regulation, and Sam Bennett also scored for Calgary. David Rittich finished with 24 saves for the Flames. Nathan MacKinnon and J.T. Compher scored goals for Colorado, which lost at Pepsi Center for just the fifth time in its last 26 games (20-5-1) dating back to last season. Semyon Varlamov had 38 saves in suffering his first loss in four starts for the Avalanche. —Reuters

Netherlands hammer Germany to increase pressure on Loew

AMSTERDAM: Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk led the Netherlands to a crushing 3-0 win over Germany on Saturday in the Nations League to ramp up the pressure on German coach Joachim Loew.

A first-half header by Dutch skipper Van Dijk gave the hosts the lead in Amsterdam. With the German defence in disarray, late goals from Memphis Depay and Liverpool's Georginio Wijnaldum sealed the win on a golden night for the Oranje at Amsterdam's Johan Cruyff Arena.

This is the first time the Dutch have beaten Germany for 16 years and the comprehensive defeat leaves Loew under increasing pressure to resign after 12 years in charge. These are dark days for the Germans, still reeling from their woeful World Cup display when they crashed out early after finishing bottom of their group.

Defeat in Loew's 168th international means Germany are once again last-in-time bottom of Group One in the Nations League. Van Dijk opened the scoring with a well-taken header after Ryan Babel had headed against the crossbar on 30 minutes.

Depay then compounded Germany's misery by stroking home a pass from Quincy Promes three minutes from time after the pair got in behind the defence. Depay then hit the Germany crossbar moments before Wijnaldum netted Holland's third goal just before the final whistle.

Germany now face world champions France in Paris tomorrow and Loew can ill afford another heavy defeat. Earlier Saturday, Munich-based newspaper, the Sueddeutsche Zeitung, revealed there is a release clause in Loew's contract, which runs until 2022, allowing either party to end the agreement prematurely.

Loew had promised an improved performance from the Germans. Yet again, his senior players let him down

Substitute Schick earns Czechs 2-1 win over Slovakia

PRAGUE: A late header by substitute Patrik Schick gave the Czech Republic a 2-1 win over neighbouring Slovakia on Saturday and earned the visiting side their first points in the Nations League competition.



AMSTERDAM: Germany's defender Jonas Hector (L) vies with Netherlands' forward Memphis Depay during the UEFA Nations League football match between Netherlands and Germany, on Saturday at Johan Cruyff Arena in Amsterdam. —AFP

as the Bayern Munich axis of Manuel Neuer, Jerome Boateng, Mats Hummels and Thomas Mueller struggled.

Loew pulled a surprise before kick-off by starting Manchester City starlet Leroy Sane on the bench. Schalke striker Mark Uth made his debut up front with RB Leipzig winger Timo Werner and Mueller on the flanks. Loew opted for a 4-3-3 formation, just like his opposite number Ronald Koeman who started with Besiktas' Babel, Lyon's Depay and Eindhoven striker Steven Bergwijn up front. Uth and Werner both forced chances early on to keep Jasper Cillessen, Holland's

Barcelona goalkeeper, busy.

The Dutch went ahead after 30 minutes when Babel out-jumped Germany midfielder Joshua Kimmich to the ball, headed onto the post and Van Dijk pounced on the rebound. Germany had their chances as Mueller and then his replacement Sane, who came on for the last half an hour, both fired wide with the goal at their mercy. Having broken the German defence in the final 10 minutes, Depay hit the net, then the crossbar before Wijnaldum swept in their third goal just before the final whistle. —AFP

All the goals came after an even opening half in which Slovakia controlled possession but the Czechs had the best chance when Matej Vydra's volley from the edge of the box was cleared on to the post in the ninth minute.

The League B Group 1 match also marked former national team assistant Jaroslav Silhavy's first game in charge of the Czech side since replacing Karel Jarolim following the team's 5-1 defeat to Russia in a friendly in September.

Ukraine top the group after beating Slovakia 1-0 at home and coming from behind to snatch a 2-1 victory in the dying seconds over the Czech Republic away. —Reuters

Ighalo hat-trick for Nigeria, Fajr rescues Morocco

JOHANNESBURG: Nigerian Odion Ighalo scored a hat-trick, Moroccan Faycal Fajr spared blushes and Zimbabwean Knowledge Musona was a hero and villain in Africa Cup of Nations qualifying Saturday.

China-based Ighalo bagged a matchday 3 treble as Nigeria crushed Libya 4-0 in Uyo to continue a Group E recovery after starting with a shock home defeat by South Africa. Fajr converted a penalty seven minutes into stoppage time as Morocco sneaked a 1-0 Group B win in Casablanca over the Comoros, ranked 104 places below them in the world.

Captain Musona scored and was sent off within five minutes as Zimbabwe went clear in Group G thanks to an upset 2-1 victory over the Democratic Republic of Congo in Kinshasa. There was also a record six-goal victory for South Africa and a goal-keeping howler that gifted Namibia three points in Mozambique as the third series of qualifiers was completed.

Ighalo converted a fourth-minute spot-kick after being fouled and rounded goalkeeper Mohamed Nashush to tap in and double the lead on 58 minutes. When a Libyan failed to cut off a low cross, former Watford striker Ighalo scrambled the ball into the net to complete his hat-trick with a quarter of the qualifier remaining.

A last-minute Samuel Kalu goal completed the rout of the 'Mediterranean Knights', whose Belgian coach Adel Amrouche quit this week over unpaid salaries. Nigeria B pacesetters Cameroon, Ronald Pfumbidzai struck a superb goal midway through the first half to put Zimbabwe on the road to glory at a packed 80,000-seat Stade des Martyrs. —AFP

Goalkeeper Romeo Barra prevented an even more embarrassing scoreline for the Indian Ocean islanders as South Africa bettered the five goals they netted against Guatemala in 2010.

Lebo Mothiba, who has been in sparkling French Ligue 1 form, was among the scorers and set up a goal for Percy Tau with a brilliant back-heel. Another Indian Ocean island state, the Comoros, were on the verge of their greatest achievement as they frustrated 2018 World Cup qualifiers Morocco for 96 minutes. But then came heartbreak for the visitors as they conceded a penalty and Fajr scored to lift Morocco within a point of Group B pacesetters Cameroon. Ronald Pfumbidzai struck a superb goal midway through the first half to put Zimbabwe on the road to glory at a packed 80,000-seat Stade des Martyrs. —AFP

25 Australia's Leishman breezes to victory in CIMB Classic



26 India's Yadav helps seal 2-0 West Indies series sweep



27 Netherlands hammer Germany to increase pressure on Loew



Djokovic wins Shanghai Masters

'I am very close now to Nadal in the rankings and put myself in a good position'



SHANGHAI: Novak Djokovic of Serbia poses with his trophy after beating Borna Coric of Croatia in their men's singles final match at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament yesterday. — AFP

SHANGHAI: The "new" Novak Djokovic warned that he was gunning for Rafael Nadal's world number one ranking after winning the Shanghai Masters with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Borna Coric yesterday.

The 14-time Grand Slam champion has been imperious all week and barely offered a sniff to the 19th-ranked Croatian, a good friend and sometime-training partner. The end when it inevitably arrived was anti-climactic, with the Serb winning the championship point after a video review.

Djokovic buried his head in his hand at the absurdity of it. The 31-year-old will leapfrog Roger Federer into second in the world when the rankings are released on Monday but will not stop there as the season reaches its climax.

Spanish great Nadal, who was not in Shanghai or

Beijing last week because of a knee injury, will be just 215 points ahead of Djokovic in the race to finish as year-end number one. "I could not ask for a better scenario," Djokovic, who last sat atop the rankings two years ago, said of his late surge to the summit of men's tennis. "I am very close now to Nadal in the rankings and put myself in a good position for the last period of the year."

Red-hot Djokovic has now been victorious in 18 ATP matches in a row and in recent months won Wimbledon, the Cincinnati Masters, the US Open and now Shanghai for a fourth time. It is all a far cry from just five months ago, when Djokovic fell to 22nd in the world as he struggled following elbow surgery in February. He missed the second half of 2017 with elbow and off-court issues, but said he had adapted his game since

the operation.

Djokovic, who has been particularly dominant on his serve, not dropping one service game in Shanghai, said: "I think you're seeing the new Novak. I don't need to describe him, that's all I can say. I had to reinvent myself and find, you know, (a) proper formula for success. I found it and I'm just trying to hold on to it as long as I can." Asked by AFP if he had a message for the under-pressure Nadal, the Serb smiled: "I will leave that up to your creative spirit of journalism."

The 32-year-old Nadal could return from his latest injury for the Paris Masters, which starts at the end of this month. Djokovic said he could play Vienna or Basel, the week before Paris, in an effort to further rein in his rankings rival.

The 21-year-old Coric said that he had no com-

plaints about losing to "one of the best in the history of tennis". In what was the biggest match of his life, he wore heavy strapping on one thigh and has been troubled by a stiff neck that saw him ponder pulling out before the tournament.

But he refused to blame those for defeat to the man he considers something of an idol. "He was the much better player on the court. I was playing good, really. I was really happy how I played," he said.

"I felt even if I was serving a little bit better, he'd still return my serves, so there is nothing I can do." Coric, the 13th seed, was chasing only the third title of his career and defeated top seed Federer in the semi-finals to underline his rich promise. He also dispensed of three-time Grand Slam winner and Federer's fellow Swiss Stan Wawrinka in his opening match. —AFP

Yastremska blitzes Wang to claim first title in HK

HONG KONG: Ukrainian teenager Dayana Yastremska said yesterday she was dreaming of a Grand Slam after she crushed Chinese number one Wang Qiang 6-2, 6-1 at the Hong Kong Open to claim her first ever title.

The 18-year-old comprehensively outplayed the world number 24 to win the tournament without losing a set all week, walking away with a cheque for \$163,265 and more than doubling her career winnings at a stroke.

Wang—who has been touted by some as a potential successor to Chinese tennis icon Li Na—was chasing her third title but was never in the match, which was over in little more than an hour.

Despite chants of "Keep going Wang Qiang!" ringing out in Cantonese round the Centre Court, the 26-year-old appeared curiously listless, the day after she had put both world number five Elina Svitolina and former Wimbledon champion Garbine Muguruza to the sword. Until yesterday, Yastremska's chief claim to fame had been 2016 Wimbledon girls singles finalist, but earlier this year she became the first player born this millennium to break into the WTA top 100 rankings. She did not appear overwhelmed appearing in her first final, despite saying she had woken up so nervous she could not eat.

"I thought it would be more difficult," she said. "But if before the match you think it's going to be really difficult you put your focus, and when you go on court you stay more dedicated to each point, that's what helped me to stay that calm during the whole match."

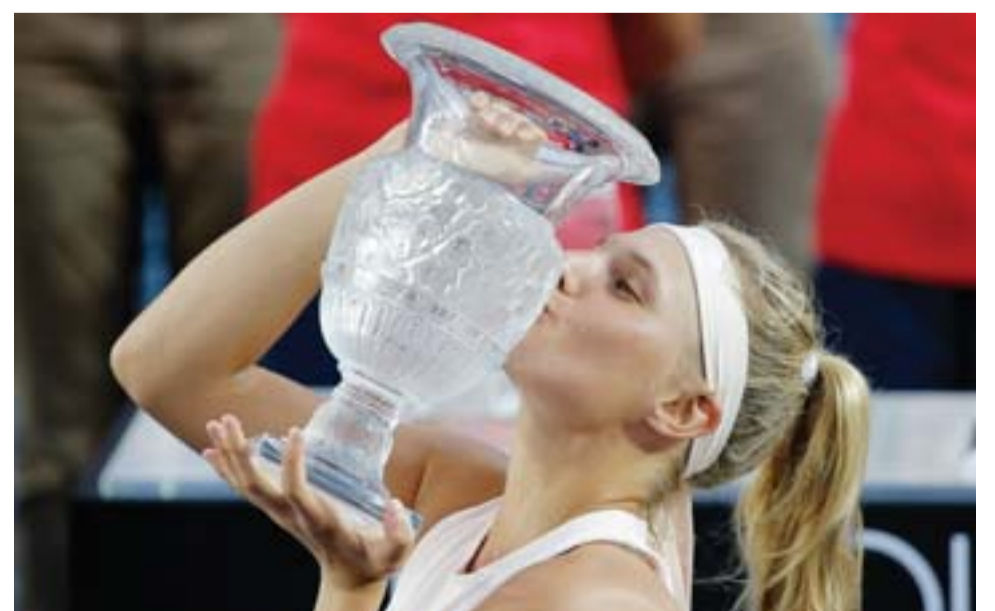
She instantly put her opponent under pressure by forcing two break points in the opening service game, eventually breaking Wang to go 4-2 up, and claimed the set with a blistering backhand return.

Yastremska started the second set in much the same style, immediately breaking Wang

with a forehand winner. But the Ukrainian's nerves were on display in the long final game of the match, serving a total of three double faults. "It was (the) toughest game," she said. "In your mind you're visualising the way you're winning, but at the same time you have to stay right here, right now playing this point." She won her maiden title with a heavy serve, and stood on court for a moment looking dumbfounded.

The world number 102 said she was not "a star yet", adding she had no time to celebrate as she flies out of Hong Kong to prepare for her next tournament in Luxembourg. "To go to Luxembourg and win—that's the goal. Every tournament I play, every match I play my goal is to win, to perfect myself, to get experience and to win one day a Grand Slam," she said.

Wang blamed fatigue for her flat performance after a frenetic summer and autumn which seen her claim two titles, a host of big name scalps and a gold medal at the Asian Games. "I think I was really tired after the last two months," she said. "It was really tough to play against (Yastremska) — she played really aggressive, not too many mistakes, good serve, good return." —AFP



HONG KONG: Dayana Yastremska of Ukraine poses with the champion's trophy after winning her women's singles final match against Wang Qiang of China at the Hong Kong Open tennis tournament yesterday. — AFP