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Amir praises generosity of Kuwaitis

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah affirmed yesterday that the strength and good reputation of Kuwait's charitable activities around the world have been made possible by the generous people of the country. The Amir, speaking during a meeting with members of the National Diwan for Human Rights at Bayan Palace, said: "I want to assure you that Kuwait is safe not because I rule it - it's because of the strength of its people, praise be to (His Almighty) Allah. Their (Kuwaitis') generosity boosts the (philanthropic works') strength and good reputation all over the world, so we all must preserve this country together."



HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

HH the Amir bears the United Nations' designation of Humanitarian Leader, accorded to him for spearheading ongoing wide-scale philanthropic and relief works locally and throughout the globe. The UN has also honored Kuwait with the title of Center of Humanitarian Action. — KUNA

KUWAIT/ISTANBUL/WASHINGTON: Kuwait stands in opposition against all accusations and unlawful campaigns targeting Saudi Arabia in relation to the case of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, said a statement by the Kuwaiti Cabinet yesterday. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh said strong relations between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia dictated the current Kuwaiti position on the issue.

Saleh stressed it was important to wait for the results of the investigations in Khashoggi's case, affirming that the Kuwaiti Cabinet continues to follow the situation with interest. Kuwait rejects all allegations aimed at soiling the reputation of Saudi Arabia and interfering in its sovereignty, said Saleh who commended the kingdom's role in maintaining security and stability within the Arab, Islamic and international spheres.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump said yesterday "rogue killers" may have been behind the disappearance of Khashoggi and dispatched Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to meet King Salman over the case. Khashoggi, a US resident, Washington Post columnist and leading critic of the powerful Saudi Crown



ISTANBUL: Turkish police and other officials enter the Saudi consulate yesterday to search the premises in the investigation over missing Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. — AFP

Prince Mohammed bin Salman, vanished after entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul two weeks ago to get marriage documents. Turkish officials say they believe he was murdered there and his body removed, in a case that has

provoked an international outcry. Turkish police yesterday searched the Saudi consulate for the first time since Khashoggi went missing.

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News in brief

Disrespect will be punished

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah affirmed yesterday that the foreign ministry will not hesitate to legally pursue anyone who disrespects Kuwait and its figures. He said that the ministry is looking closely to what is posted on various social media through Kuwait's official missions abroad. Jarallah said the country will continue to take all legal actions to retaliate against anyone who tries to insult the country, indicating that strict instructions have been given to Kuwaiti missions abroad in this respect. Such instructions have already been implemented in cases where Kuwait has been targeted, he said, noting that legal action in such cases has been taken. The ministry, he pledged, will pursue such an approach resolutely to deter any person who tries to target the country. — KUNA

Degree verification outsourced

KUWAIT: Kuwait Engineers Society has finalized an agreement with a Swedish company to verify expat engineers' degrees. Head of the society Faisal Al-Atal said the company has been working in the Gulf region and is responsible for verifying engineers' certificates in Saudi Arabia and the UAE. About the process, Atal said: "The engineer submits all his degrees to the company and authorizes it to make inquiries. The company then contacts his university to find whether he studied in its college of engineering, decides the period of his study and the subjects he studied as a first step. The second step will be to check the degree's seals and data." He said the "the company will also provide us with information about the criminal record of every person who wants their certificate authenticated", adding the fees will be collected directly by the company. — Al-Rai

MEW to buy surplus solar power

KUWAIT: The ministry of electricity and water, in coordination with the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, is preparing an agreement to buy power from citizens who have installed solar or photoelectric panels on their rooftops to encourage others to invest in such projects. Director of Technical Supervision Iqbal Al-Tayyar said installing solar panels (thermal or photoelectric) on the roofs of citizens' houses will reduce their electricity bills. She said the agreement will guarantee consumers who have a surplus that MEW will buy it at a certain price to be determined later. Tayyar said the agreement also includes buying the energy produced at the Shiqaya power production project according to tariffs to be decided for each stage of the project's four stages. The project is being implemented in line with Kuwait's goal to source 15 percent of its total power from renewables by 2030. — Al-Rai

Kuwait Airways to buy 8 Airbus A330-800neo jets

TOULOUSE, France: Kuwait Airways Chairman Yousef Al-Jassem announced that the national carrier signed yesterday an agreement to purchase eight A330-800neo medium-to-long-range Airbus aircraft. These planes are characterized with operational and economic efficiency compared to aircraft of the same category. The agreement came in implementation of the national carrier's strategic plan and to enhance its operational capabilities through its fleet.

Kuwait Airways is considered one of the first carriers in the world to approve such modern planes for its fleet. According to this agreement, Kuwait Airways managed to reduce the capital costs of the fleet in its new combination, not to mention the lower operational costs for the aircraft. Signing this agreement came as the culmination of extended negotiations between Airbus representatives and Kuwait Airways during the

Iran's new breed of charities on poverty frontline

TEHRAN: At an outreach center in southern Tehran, teenagers are learning to be journalists, while upstairs their mothers are fine-tuning their sewing skills and rushing to fill an order for hospital uniforms. The brand-new center in the working-class neighborhood of Shah-e Rey caters to hundreds of struggling families and Afghan refugees. It's a relatively new approach for Iran, where social welfare has often been left to informal groups based around the bazaar and mosque or fallen to large-scale government-controlled organizations.

Today, privately-run charities are emerging, with managers, targets and buzzwords such as "empowerment" and "skills-training", and funded by wealthy business people who have made fortunes in booming industries such as private healthcare. This center is run by the ILIA Foundation, created by social workers and members of the Nikan Hospital Group, who have partnered with UN refugee and health agencies to help around 1,000 families from deprived backgrounds.

For now these groups can only reach a small number of those in need but supporters say it is providing a model for future social work in Iran. At one of the sewing machines is 27-year-old Somareh Ghazvani, a second-generation refugee - one of around 3 million Afghans who have fled decades of conflict across the border. "It was a surprise to find this place. The conditions are much better than other places I have worked, so I'm very happy," she said. In the computer room, 16-year-old Masoumeh is working with InDesign and Photoshop as part of her summer classes in journalism. "Our families have really counted on this center. If we go to classes somewhere else, the fees are so high we can't afford it," she said.

past five months. Accordingly, Kuwait Airways fleet will be composed of 38 aircraft for achieving flexible operations through long-, medium- and short-range planes - five A350-900 Airbuses; Eight A330-800neo Airbuses; 15 A320neo Airbuses and 10 B777-300ER Boeings. The new Airbus aircraft will be received according to a time plan that stretches from 2019 till the end of 2026. The new planes will replace the currently leased aircraft as per the time schedule agreed upon.

On the newly-opened terminal at Kuwait International Airport, Jassem told KUNA that Kuwait's flag carrier will launch flights to Europe out of the terminal from next week, followed by other destinations in the Indian subcontinent and Asia Pacific, in addition to Iran and the United States. He added that the new terminal solely serves the national carrier, thanking the Kuwaiti government for its steadfast support over the years.

Airbus' Chief Operations Officer Christian Shearer hailed the deal as a productive endeavor that will bring both sides closer together, acknowledging Kuwait Airways as among the most reputable airlines in the world. He added that Airbus' relationship with Kuwait Airways dates back years, hoping that the deal will be a launch pad for closer ties. — Agencies



TOULOUSE: Kuwait Airways' Chairman Yousef Al-Jassem and Airbus' Chief Operations Officer Christian Shearer seal a deal to purchase eight aircraft from the Airbus A330-800neo family yesterday. — KUNA



TEHRAN: Students study at the ILIA charity complex that caters to hundreds of struggling families and Afghan refugees on Sept 11, 2018. — AFP

One of the pioneers of the new approach to charity is the Imam Ali Popular Students Relief Society, which was recognized by the UN in 2010 and has built a network of 12,000 volunteers helping Iran's poorest children. A recent football tournament it organized for street kids was a reminder of Iran's diversity, as Azeris, Baluchis, Kurds and many others were thrown together on the pitch in Tehran. "The only choice for most of these kids in their neighborhoods is violence, poverty and misery. We have tried to give them self-confidence through sports to improve their lives," said Meysam Vahdeh, head of sports for the foundation.

Ten-year-old Obeidollah had travelled since 3:00 am from one of Iran's poorest cities - Sarbaz in southeastern Sistan-Baluchistan province - and, inevitably, dreams of being the next Cristiano Ronaldo.

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MIT unveils new \$1bn college for artificial intelligence

WASHINGTON: The Massachusetts Institute of Technology announced plans yesterday to create a new college of artificial intelligence with an initial \$1 billion commitment for the program focusing on "responsible and ethical" uses of the technology. The prestigious university said it would add 50 new faculty members and create an interdisciplinary hub for work in computer science, AI, data science, and related fields. A large part of the new funds will come from a gift from the financial giant Blackstone, after whom the new college will be named.

"As computing reshapes our world, MIT intends to help make sure it does so for the good of all," said MIT President Rafael Reif. An MIT statement said the initiative represents the single largest investment in computing and AI by an American academic institution. The initiative comes amid growing concerns about the impacts of artificial intelligence on global institutions, and fears that China is overtaking the United States in this field.

"There is no more important opportunity or challenge facing our nation than to responsibly harness the power of artificial intelligence so that we remain competitive globally and achieve breakthroughs that will improve our entire society," Schwarzman said. "We face fundamental questions about how to ensure that technological advancements benefit all - especially those most vulnerable to the radical changes AI will inevitably bring to the nature of the workforce." The new college is slated to open in Sept 2019, with a new building scheduled to be completed in 2022. — AFP

Amir hosts Human Rights Diwan board, outgoing Chinese envoy



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Khaled Al-Saleh and Chairman of the National Diwan for Human Rights Ambassador Jassem Mubarak Al-Mubarak, who presented to His Highness the Diwan's members on the occasion of forming a new board. The audience was attended by the Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also received the outgoing Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Wang Di. — KUNA

Speaker urges MPs worldwide to reject Israeli practices

Ghanem calls for voting in favor of Kuwaiti-Jordanian proposal

GENEVA: Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem yesterday called on parliamentarians around the world to reject the Israeli practices against the Palestinians. Ghanem, addressing the Inter-Parliamentary Union's (IPU) General Assembly, said the Palestinians have been seeking peace for over 50 years only to be rewarded by rockets and artillery. He said the Palestinian file has deteriorated over the past six months because of Israel's Jewish-state law, budget deficit of UNRWA and crisis of Khan Al-Ahmar village, where the Israeli occupation wanted to demolish properties of hundreds of Palestinians.

Ghanem said Kuwait, among other countries like Norway, Germany and Ireland, contributed to UNRWA to enable the UN agency carry out its operations. Ghanem

urged lawmakers to join hands to confront the different challenges facing mankind, like human rights violations and sustainable development.

Kuwaiti-Jordanian proposal

Meanwhile, Ghanem called on IPU General Assembly members to vote in favor of Kuwaiti-Jordanian proposal, as an emergency resolution, related to addressing financial deficit of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). During his speech, Ghanem said "as representatives of all the peoples of the world, not a particular geopolitical group, I appeal to you to vote for our proposal as an emergency call to UNRWA because of the urgency and gravity of this humanitarian issue not only today since the foundation of

UNRWA in 1949."

Ghanem added, "five million beneficiaries of UNRWA services, 677 schools, 143 medical centers and thousands of jobs will suffer and will be effected due to UNRWA's financial deficit." Therefore our duty as representatives of the people to stand by our Palestinian brethren who are in dire need of our standing and support today," he said. The Kuwaiti-Jordanian proposal on the emergency item calls for the need to support the activities of the agency in attempt to save them from financial deficit.

Prominent status

Separately, member of the Kuwaiti parliamentary caucus MP Dr Khalil Abul said yesterday that Kuwait has occupied a prominent international status, indicating a

major role by the Kuwaiti parliament in this regard. MP Abul was speaking to the press on sidelines of the 139th Assembly of the IPU in Geneva, after the permanent Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade meeting.

Alluding to his observation of much dependence on Kuwait within the IPU quarters in addressing issues, Abul boasted of the dependence on Kuwait, namely the parliament and Speaker Ghanem, along with members of parliamentary caucus, stating that "it gives me pride and appreciation and it raises Kuwait's name." MP Abul added that the meeting participants discussed importance of free fair trade and usage of renewable energy and its effect on development. — KUNA



GENEVA: Kuwait's National Assembly speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem addresses the Inter-Parliamentary Union's (IPU) General Assembly. — KUNA

Jarallah meets with Malaysian, Russian envoys



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah held meetings yesterday with the Malaysian Ambassador to Kuwait Dato Mohammad Ali Selamat, discussing bilateral relations, regional and international issues. Later in the day, he met with

the Russian Ambassador Nikolay Makarov, holding talks on the bilateral ties and identical affairs. The meetings were attended by the assistant foreign minister for the deputy minister bureau affairs, Ambassador Ayham Abdullah Al-Omar. — KUNA

Kuwait affirms keenness to fight transnational organized crime

VIENNA: Kuwaiti Ambassador to Austria and Permanent Representative to International Organizations in Vienna, Sadeq Marafi, affirmed yesterday keenness to support and strengthen international and regional cooperation in combating transnational organized crime. Marafi was speaking on the sidelines of the 9th session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, where a Kuwaiti delegation, represented by the Ministries of Interior and Foreign Affairs, was highlighting Kuwait's efforts in the fight against transnational crime that threatens the security and stability of all countries. He noted that the participation in this session came to emphasize Kuwait's commitment to international agreements and absolute obligation to support global and regional cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime.

Marafi stressed the importance of concerted international efforts as well as responsibility sharing to face crimes in all its forms and manifestations. The 9th session was launched earlier today and will continue until October 19 with the participation of about 800 representatives of governments, crime experts and civil society partners. It will discuss several topics, including the promotion of strategies capable of dealing with organized crime such as the arms trade, trafficking in human beings and the smuggling of illegal immigrants.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Attorney-General Bader Al-Masad stressed the importance of strengthening international cooperation in combating organized crime to achieve greater stability and national security. In a statement on the sidelines of the session, Masad said that Kuwait has several laws against human trafficking and money laundry, as well as the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Authority and the National Bureau for Human Rights, in light of its commitment to the ratifica-



Sadeq Marafi

tion of international conventions. He stressed that Kuwait has taken important steps in practical and legal terms in strengthening international cooperation, as it has ratified a large number of international conventions and instruments related to combating crimes. Kuwait urges the international community to cooperate over criminal matters at both the global and regional levels to combat money laundering, the exploitation of information and communication technology to support and finance criminal acts, he added. Masad noted that Kuwait supports the global campaign in combating all illegal electronic uses as well as calling for drafting an international instrument to combat cybercrime as a protocol to the international convention. — KUNA

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Local

No medical error in five-year-old child's death: Health Minister

5,000 bedoon students transferred to schools in Jahra, Taima, Sulaibiya

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah announced that the committee entrusted to investigate the death of five-year-old child Hajer Al-Mutairi reported that no medical error was involved. Responding to a parliamentary inquiry by MP Riyadh Al-Adsani, Sheikh Basel stressed the issue was referred to the public prosecution to hold whoever responsible accountable after the child's father lodged a complaint claiming that a medical error occurred. Notably, the child was involved in a traffic accident on March 27 and rushed to Adan Hospital for treatment.

Bedoon students

The Education Ministry announced transferring over 5,000 bedoon students to schools in Jahra, Taima and Sulaibiya. Meanwhile, the ministry announced setting the sizes of public and private schools in newly built residential areas to 10,000 sq m for kindergartens, 14,000 sq m

for primary, 16,000 sq m for intermediate and 22,000 sq m for secondary schools. The regulations also conditioned that private schools for one stage should be at least 2,000 sq m, while those including all stages should be at least 8,000 sq m.

Access control system

Using the biometric access control system in school will be deferred till the next school year instead of the second term this year, said informed sources. The sources explained that the fatwa and legislation department had approved the contract but requested some modifications, which made the ministry return it to the Central Agency for Public Tenders and the State Audit Bureau to approve the modifications prior to offering the tender for bidding to specialized companies. "These proceedings will take 6-8 months," added the sources, noting that the related contract will be signed by April or May in a process that takes three months.

90 requests

Pre-monitoring reports made by the State Audit Bureau revealed that it had received 90 requests from 25 state departments to study 90 tenders and contracts with a total value of KD 78 million. The reports showed that the Ministry of Health made 26 requests, Ministry of Education made seven, Ministry of Electricity and Water and the Finance Ministry made six each, while other government bodies made one to three requests.

Manager released

The Public Authority for Roads and Transportation's Director Ahmad Al-Hassan decided to relieve the manager of the Jahra road development project from his duties. In a letter he sent to the consultancy consortium supervising the project, Hassan justified his decision by stating that the manager, who was hired by consultants, was incapable to interpret the contract conditions, made too many contradicting decisions, took too long to take those decisions,

made unjustified delay in responding to inquiries and failed to study the project's technical problems well enough.

KPC projects

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) plans to borrow around KD 16 billion to fund its capital projects in the coming five years, starting from 2018, well-informed sources said. The sources added that KPC's demands were made during a meeting held by the Cabinet's economic affairs committee to discuss its future plans to increase daily crude oil production to 4.75 million barrels by 2040.



Dr Basel Al-Sabah

Citations issued in crackdown against roaming vendors



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality roaming vendors' follow-up department in Farwaniya car-

ried out a campaign against street markets in Hasawi. The campaign resulted in issuing five citations for roaming vendors and removing three truckloads of vegetables, fruits, used

clothes and woodworks to be sent for incineration. Meanwhile, a campaign in Riggae resulted in issuing eight citations for using open areas without a license.



Dasman Institute, Blue Circle sign agreement

KUWAIT: Dasman Diabetes Institute signed an agreement with Blue Circle to offer blood glucose monitors and its consumables at a minimal cost for patients with diabetes. Blue Circle is a voluntary team of young adults with different backgrounds and various experiences, working together to

impact the lives of young people with diabetes by offering support and improving their physical, social and mental well-being as well as change the misconception of diabetes in society. Both the Dasman Diabetes Institute and Blue Circle through this collaboration will also offer training and education on how to use these monitors. This initiative aims to promote frequent blood glucose checking to make sure patients can do that themselves at their convenience, which helps better control their diabetes. This stems from the belief of the Institute that self-care is essential in the comprehensive approach of the management of diabetes, where the patient is involved and empowered to partake in his/her treatment plan.



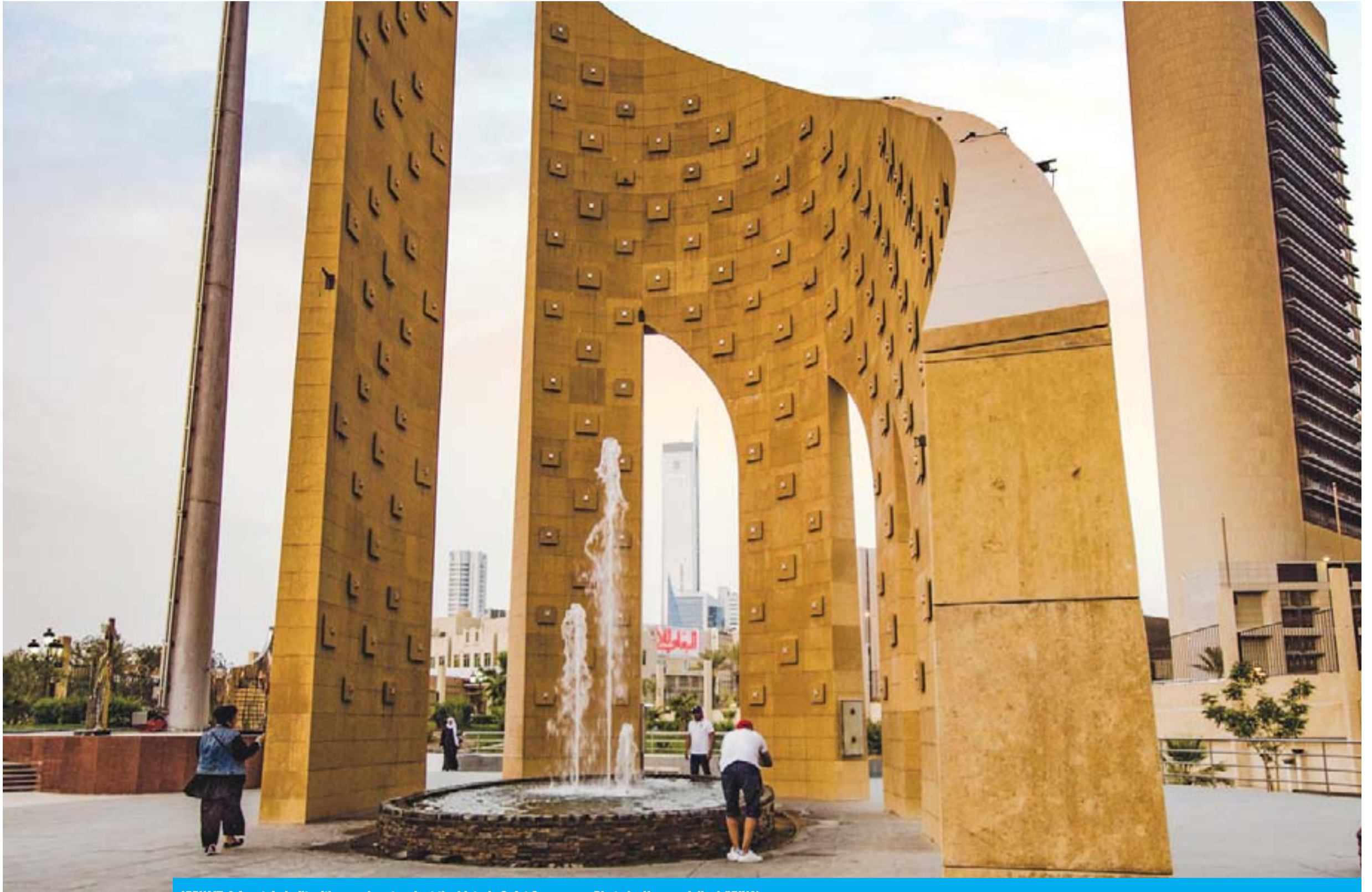
KUWAIT: Several Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) faculties hosted elections yesterday for students' lists, featuring large participation from students. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah received Qatari Ambassador to Kuwait Bandar bin Mohammad Al-Attiya yesterday at his office. He also received Kuwait's Ambassador to China Sameh Jouhar Hayat.

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A fountain built with a modern touch at the historic Safat Square. — Photo by Hassan Jalloul (KUNA)

93.2% professionals say employers responsible to promote health and wellbeing at work: Poll

Nearly 7 in 10 respondents place greater value on health insurance

KUWAIT: The Bayt.com 'Health and Wellbeing in the MENA' poll, conducted with over 9,000 respondents in the region, revealed a variety of insights about lifestyles of professionals and how employers can elicit a healthy change in the workplace. According to the poll, a great majority (93.2 percent) of respondents believe that it is the employer's responsibility to promote health and wellbeing at work. In fact, nearly seven in 10 respondents place greater value on health insurance compared to a higher salary.

The poll, administered by Bayt.com, the Middle East's #1 job site, aimed to gather opinions about the impact of work environments on the mental and physical health of members and the steps employers can take to foster workplaces focused on health and wellbeing.

Health and wellness behavior

Potentially preventable risk factors such as poor diets, high body mass index (an indicator of obesity and overweight), and smoking are seen as contributors to unhealthy lifestyles of employees - 44 percent of respondents are smokers and 56 percent do not smoke. Numerous MENA workplaces (57.9 percent) permit smoking on the premises, 19.7 percent have designated smoking areas and merely 14.4 percent prohibit it. 7.9 percent didn't know what their company's policy on smoking

is. The poll results indicated a growing trend of MENA respondents transforming their sedentary routines - 12.2 percent exercise regularly and follow a healthy diet. 8.4 percent have successfully changed their lifestyle and



Impact of work environments on health

become more active whilst 12.7 percent plan to adopt better eating habits and physical activity. That said, 95.4 percent of respondents said they would exercise more often if their workplace had a gym or offered subsidized gym memberships.

"Your career choices can have a significant impact on your health and wellbeing. Lack of job satisfaction or work-related stress are major causes of health complications. Our poll sheds light on how an increasing focus on health is shaping MENA jobseekers' choices and what employers can do to promote a holistic approach to wellness at the workplace," said Suhail Masri, VP of Employer

Solutions, Bayt.com.

"Developing a mindset focused on health and wellbeing can open up a whole world of possibilities and help working professionals exceed their potential. We encourage employers to be aware of talent priorities when it comes to this topic. Likewise, we urge job seekers to navigate our job site for 15,000+ jobs and plenty of information on companies and workplaces in the region."

Critical components of workplace wellness

The bulk of poll respondents (93.2 percent) believe that it is their employer's responsibility to promote health and wellbeing at work. Working together to make changes is not only believed to benefit employees' emotional and physical health, but also to improve the organization's overall productivity.

Poll results highlighted that employers can help reduce stress and develop a culture that fosters a healthy mindset in the workplace through dedicating time and resources to physical activity (71.1 percent), offering a flexible workplace environment (9.6 percent), organizing social activities for the team (2.5 percent), encouraging healthy eating habits (0.9 percent) or all of the above (15.1 percent).

Working longer hours is associated with a range of health risks. The MENA region fares well in this area, with 86.9 percent of respondents reporting that their work schedule allows them to allocate time for physical



Suhail Masri

exercise compared with just 8.9 percent employees whose work schedule does not allow them to follow healthier pursuits.

The ability of workplace programs to improve health outcomes cannot be overlooked. A majority of respondents (79.7 percent) said that their employers provided health and well-being plans, workshops and educational sessions, whilst 13.9 percent reported that their workplace does not have such initiatives. Likewise, communication can help achieve physical and mental health goals. Most respondents (77.2 percent) are extremely satisfied and only 3.3 percent are dissatisfied with the level of communication that exists within their organizations.

High levels of stress can interfere with professionals' sleep patterns and their mental and physical wellbeing. The Poll results look promising in that regard. 80.7 percent of the respondents get at least seven hours of sleep each night and 19.3 percent get less than seven hours.

The jobseeker perspective

The poll also gauged insights about the ideal work environment from the jobseeker perspective.

While health care costs have witnessed escalation in recent times, combined with lifestyle risk factors, insurance has become a top priority for jobseekers in the region. A majority of professionals (69.1 percent) said that they would prefer working for employers who provide health insurance over a higher salary although 25.3 percent said that health benefits and compensation are equally important.

While looking for a new job, MENA professionals prioritize initiatives that promote health and well-being in the workplace through a relaxed and friendly environment (72.8 percent), flexible work hours (2.9 percent), health insurance (1.8 percent), gym facilities, free memberships or subsidies (1.4 percent), healthy meals or snacks provided by employers (0.4 percent) or all of the aforementioned initiatives (18.6 percent).

Data for the 2018 Health and Wellbeing in the MENA poll was collected online from August 2, 2018 to September 23, 2018. Results are based on a sample of 9,810 respondents from countries including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Palestine, Syria, Yemen, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Sudan among others.

MP expresses pride on women advancement

GENEVA: Kuwaiti MP Safaa Al-Hashem Sunday expressed her pride on the advancement of women in Kuwait. This came in a press statement after her participation in the meeting of women parliamentarians in Geneva as part of the conference of the 139th Inter-Parliamentary Union. Hashem pointed out to the big presence of women parliamentarians in the discussion session that dealt with enhancing the role and status of women in parliament or in all aspects of life. She noted that the discussions were about science and technology, noting at the same time her pride in the leadership of Kuwaiti women in this field. — KUNA



MP Safaa Al-Hashem

Kuwait plays pivotal role in Arab culture plan: Minister

CAIRO: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Mohammad Al-Jabri said yesterday that Kuwait plays a central role in the Arab culture plan, which is the main pillar in shaping the policies of Arab cultural bodies. This came in a speech Jabri delivered at the 21st session of the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Cultural Affairs in the Arab World, which was held in Cairo under the patronage of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi.

Jabri stressed in his speech the continued approach of Kuwait in supporting Arab cultural institutions. He added that the Youth Council would be launched in the coming period to be a youth platform to express their issues and aspirations and develop their partnership with government institutions, civil society and the private sector.

Jabri said that Kuwait, with the support of its brothers, friends and the international community represented by the United Nations, was elected to serve as non-permanent



Mohammad Al-Jabri

member on the Security Council for two-year term 2018-2019. In this context, he stressed that Kuwait, through this membership, is keen on supporting the Arab countries and their causes to achieve development at all levels, including cultural levels.

The Kuwaiti minister added in his speech that the agenda of the new session was full of topics related to joint Arab action, expressing hope to reach the recommendations and decisions that would activate and

enhance the joint work. He also praised the efforts of the Arab League Educational Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) and The Standing Committee for Arab Culture for launching the strategic study on 'Cultural Information in the Arab World in the Light of Digital Development.' Moreover, Jabri thanked Egypt for hosting the sessions and for the continuous efforts of the General Secretariat of the Arab League for Education, Culture and Science during each session of the Conference. — KUNA

Arab MPs condemn unjustified attack on Saudi Arabia

BEIRUT: The Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (APIU) condemned yesterday the unjustified attack on Saudi Arabia which is intended to undermine the Kingdom's high-esteem position in the Arab and Islamic regions. It is considered a deliberate distortion of facts, the APIU said in a statement, alluding to the rhetorical and media campaign intended to tarnish Riyadh's image globally, stressing that the reputation of the Kingdom will not be affected by such rumors and lies. It affirmed the ability of Saudi Arabia to defend its rights and reveal the facts, renewing trust in the Kingdom leadership to "manage the crisis in a manner that would maintain its sovereignty and stability." — KUNA

Local

Sudden sandstorm hits Kuwait, visibility below 1,000 meters

Airport aviation unaffected; motorists advised to take precaution



KUWAIT: Photos showing the effect of a sandstorm that hit Kuwait yesterday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KUWAIT: Kuwait experienced a sudden sandstorm yesterday which caused low visibility, said the Kuwait meteorological center. The strong sandstorm, caused by winds at a speed of 60 kilometers per hour from the northwest which also created a chance of a thun-

derstorm, had reduced horizontal view to under 1,000 meters, Meteorologist Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi said. The sea state witnessed huge waves at seven meters, added Qarawi.

Despite the abnormal weather condition as a result

of a sudden sandstorm, aviation at Kuwait International Airport continued as usual, said the Kuwait General Directorate of Civil Aviation (DGCA). For operations to stale at the airport, horizontal vision should be under 300 meters, DGCA's Deputy Director for Aviation

Services Khaled Al-Shuaibi said, adding that proper procedures would have been taken if it came to that predicament. Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry also advised road users to take extra precaution due to the sudden sandstorm. — KUNA



Boulevard Lake turns pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

KUWAIT: Based on its social responsibility role, Al-Salmiya Group for Enterprise Development Company has launched a campaign in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Visitors were given the opportunity to share their wishes and prayers to all women who suffer with breast cancer around the world and hang their wishes on the fence of the lake so that the lake fence turns pink in a few hours. Also, pink roses were distributed to women to remind them of their importance in the community and urged them to periodically check for breast

cancer. Al-Salmiya Group for Enterprise Development Company also took this opportunity to advise all women of 40 years and above to get a mammogram screening test by visiting the centers of the Ministry of Health. Early detection is the most important factor of full recovery, which is a valid medical information confirmed by many doctors specializing in cancer tumors. The discovery of cancer in its early stages can accelerate the process of treatment and thus increase the rate of recovery to a large extent.



Health ministry launches heart care campaign

KUWAIT: Kuwait's health ministry has initiated a large-scale public awareness campaign dedicated to the benefits of a heart-healthy lifestyle, an endeavor that brings together cardiologists and ministry officials. Chronic and non-communicable diseases have become the leading causes of death in many parts of the world, the ministry's undersecretary Dr Mustafa Redha told a press conference yesterday. He cited official World Health Organization (WHO) statistics showing that chronic diseases are responsible for 72 percent of deaths in Kuwait in 2016, while cardiovascular ailments come in second with 41 percent.



Dr Mustafa Redha

As part of its sustainable development goals for 2030, WHO has placed much focus on plans to fight heart disease, Redha added, which the UN agency hopes will be instrumental in boosting public health. The Kuwaiti official said that heart procedures in the Gulf state have made much progress over the years, having witnessed an unprecedented advancement in cardiac surgery.

The campaign aims to generate awareness over the dangers of congestive heart failure, especially among patients who are highly susceptible to the disease, Ghalia Al-Mutairi, the head of the ministry's information office, pointed out. She revealed that the month-long campaign, which includes surveys and the screening of documentaries, would run concurrently with a similar initiative online. — KUNA

Kuwaiti-Qatari trade volume hits \$360 million in 2017

KUWAIT: The volume of trade between Kuwait and Qatar has surged to \$360 million in 2017, a significant growth by 100 percent, compared to \$173 million in 2016, Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry announced yesterday. Meanwhile, KCCI mentioned, in a press statement, its hosting earlier of the Qatari-Kuwaiti Business Forum, which is organized by Qatar Development Bank in partnership with Ernst and Young Global Limited.

The two-day event is part of preparing a study on the Kuwaiti market to evaluate commercial opportunities available in vital industries such as plastic, aluminum, iron, medicine, food, oil, and gas, it said. KCCI's board member Wafa Al-Qatami represented the Kuwaiti side at the forum, while the Qatari side was represented by Hassan Al-Mansouri, Executive Director of Qatar Export Development Agency 'Tasdeer', added the statement.

Qatami, also head of KCCI's financial and investment committee, said the event tends to enhance investment and commercial ties between Kuwait and Qatar, noting the Kuwaiti business sector closely follows, with pride and appreciation, the Qatari economy and its successes in establishing solid and advanced economic foundation through best use of the country's natural resources, geographic location, and modern infrastructure.

The Qatari business sector is very familiar with the core components of the Kuwaiti economy, especially after the recent amendments in economic legislations and laws, she said, adding such amendments contributed in improving business and making it more attractive to foreign capitals in Kuwait. Meanwhile, Mansouri noted that the comprehensive study on the Kuwaiti market, conducted by QDB, focused on the private sector's products by Qatari small and medium-sized enterprises, adding around 38 products have been evaluated and founded to have attractive exporting qualities and ability to compete in the Kuwaiti market. — KUNA



Jihadists fail to quit Syria's buffer zone

King steps in as Riyadh defends itself in Khashoggi case

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VILLEGAILHENC: An aerial view shows a flooded Peugeot car maker garage in the city of Villegailhenc, near Carcassonne, southern France, following heavy rains that saw rivers bursting banks. — AFP

Floods hit southwest France; 13 dead

Violent rainstorms turn rivers into raging torrents

TOULOUSE: At least 13 people died as violent rainstorms turned rivers into raging torrents in southwestern France yesterday in the latest episode of wild weather in Europe, officials said. Flash floods swamped a number of towns and villages around the fortress city of Carcassonne, leaving a trail of overturned cars, damaged roads and collapsed homes.

An elderly nun was swept to her death as rising waters smashed through a nunnery in the village of Villardonnelle to the north of Carcassonne. Meanwhile, at least four people died overnight in the hard-hit village of Villegailhenc, local authorities said yesterday. As Prime Minister Edouard Philippe headed to the scene, the French interior ministry said a total of 13 people had died after the equivalent of three months' of rainfall in just a few hours.

"There's water everywhere in the house. Everything is flooded," Helene Segura told AFP by telephone from Villegailhenc where at least one small bridge had collapsed. "When I look out the window, I can only see water and mud everywhere. It's sad when you're 70 years' old like me and you need to redo your house, change the furniture and all the upholstery," she said. Authorities rushed in helicopters and 600 firemen to help with rescue operations, particularly those in the floodplain of the Aude river which hit its highest level in 100 years, according to the Vigicrues flood agency.



Flash floods swamp towns and villages

The storms were triggered when a front of warm and humid air from the Mediterranean Sea slammed

into colder air around the Massif central mountain range in central France, inundating an area from the eastern Pyrenees to Aveyron further north.

Violent storms on Sunday also hit Portugal, leaving 28 with minor injuries and hundreds of thousands without power amid flooding in the region around the capital Lisbon. The heavy rain, which later rolled on through Spain, was the tail end of hurricane Leslie in the Atlantic which weakened to a post-tropical storm as it made landfall. Last week, an unrelated weather system moving across the Mediterranean left 12 dead in the Spanish island of Majorca and another two died in southeastern France. Firemen responded to more than 250 calls overnight, as 160 to 180 mm (6 to 7 inches) of rain fell within five hours in Carcassonne.— AFP

Tensions rise over women's entry to Indian temple

NEW DELHI: Thousands of devotees joined street marches in southern India yesterday as tensions mounted over a recent Supreme Court verdict revoking a ban on women entering a famous Hindu temple. The Ayyappa temple in Sabarimala—considered one of the holiest for Hindus—in Kerala state has traditionally barred all women of menstruating age, between 10 and 50.

But India's top court revoked the ban on women entering the temple in September, ruling that patriarchy cannot be allowed to trump faith. Those protesting against the court's decision yesterday, including hundreds of women, warned they would step up their protests before the temple reopens tomorrow, when it will have to allow all women entry as per the court order.

"These protests have taken place in several districts over the last few days. We don't yet have an exact number but the people ended their march in the state capital Thiruvananthapuram today," Pramod Kumar, Kerala police spokesman said. Local media showed thousands participating in the march supported by the local unit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Smaller protests have also taken place elsewhere in India in recent days including in Ahmedabad in western India.

Modi's BJP—which has historically been on the margins of state politics in Kerala—and its allies have supported these marches in different parts of the state over the last few days. Several other local religious and political organizations have also given their support to the protest marches. "We will meet each villager in Kerala



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, India: Indian Hindu devotees take part in a protest against a Supreme Court verdict revoking a ban on women's entry to a Hindu temple, in Thiruvananthapuram in southern Kerala state yesterday. —AFP

and chalk out a massive agitation plan to protect the temple, its centuries-old traditions and sentiments of Lord Ayyappa devotees," Kerala BJP president P.S. Sreedharan Pillai told NDTV. Pillai warned the local government of even bigger protests if the issue wasn't resolved within the next 24 hours.

Violation of rights

Millions of devotees visit the temple every year to seek the blessings of Lord Ayyappa, the presiding deity who is believed to be celibate. According to the temple website, pilgrims have to observe celibacy for 41 days before entering the shrine. Some worshippers take an arduous forest route to reach the hilltop temple, located some 1,200 meters (4,000 feet) above sea level. Dipak Misra, Chief Justice of India at the time the ban was revoked, said banning the entry of a

large section of women was discriminatory and violated their rights. "Prohibiting women (from entering the temple) violates the right of a woman to worship and practise religion," he said.

Activists battling for women's entry into the temple argued that the ban reflected an old but still prevalent belief that menstruating women were impure. The devotees opposed to the court ruling have argued that it affects the core belief of the decentralized Hindu temple system, where the deities have certain rights. Women in India have been intensifying campaigns in recent years to be allowed to enter temples and other religious sites. In 2016, women campaigned in Maharashtra state to successfully end a ban on women entering the Shani Shingnapur temple. Women were also prevented from entering Mumbai's Haji Ali Dargah mausoleum until the court scrapped the rule in 2016.—AFP

Air hostess falls out of Air India jet, suffers injuries

MUMBAI: A flight attendant fell out of an Air India plane while trying to close its door yesterday, the airline said, reportedly breaking her leg when she landed on the tarmac. The accident occurred at Mumbai's international airport as the crew were getting ready to welcome passengers aboard the New Delhi-bound flight. "The cabin crew member fell off while closing the back door of the Boeing 777 and sustained injuries yesterday morning," Pravin Bhatnagar, a senior manager at Air India said. "She is receiving treatment in hospital. An investigation will be carried out to determine the exact cause of the incident."

Indian media reports said the woman, a 52-year-old, was conscious but had leg fractures. A spokesperson for Nanavati Hospital, where the flight attendant was taken, was not immediately available for comment when contacted by AFP. Debt-laden Air India has been hit by a string of technical glitches and other embarrassing incidents, including staff turning up late for flights, over the years. The state carrier last week grounded two pilots after one of its jets carrying 136 people hit an airport perimeter wall on take-off and then flew for almost four hours with a damaged body before landing safely.

In December 2015 a technician working for Air India died after being sucked into a jet engine as the plane pushed back for take-off at Mumbai airport. The tragedy happened when the co-pilot mistook a signal from ground staff and started the engine. Last month an Indian passenger sparked panic in mid-air when he tried to open a plane door, apparently mistaking it for the toilet. The man, who according to media reports was a first-time flyer, was travelling on a GoAir flight from New Delhi to Patna.— AFP

International

Crossing point between Syria and Israel-held Golan reopens

UN peacekeepers to monitor the region

GOLAN HEIGHTS: The sole crossing point between Syria and Israeli-controlled territory reopened yesterday after a four-year hiatus, as Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime bolsters its control in the wake of sweeping advances against rebels. The reopening of the crossing on the Golan Heights was the result of a deal between Israel, Syria and the United Nations, and it will allow UN peacekeepers to monitor the region. Two UN white jeeps crossed into Israeli-controlled territory through the reopened crossing near Quneitra in the Golan Heights, during a low-key ceremony. The Syrian flag was raised on Syria's side of the crossing, an AFP correspondent said.

The main border crossing between Syria and Jordan also reopened yesterday. The Quneitra crossing is used primarily by the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), which has around 1,000 troops to monitor a ceasefire line separating Israeli-occupied parts of the Golan Heights from Syria. UNDOF resumed its patrols in the area of the crossing point in August, after withdrawing in 2014 when Al-Qaeda-linked rebels overran the area. An Israeli military official said initially the crossing would open twice a day for UNDOF forces, but openings could be expanded in the coming months.

Lifeline

Assad's forces, backed by Russian and Iranian military support, have regained control of large swathes of Syria in the past year, including forcing rebels from the Quneitra region and also along the border with Jordan. Israel seized much of the Golan Heights from Syria in the Six-Day War of 1967 and later annexed it in a move not recognized by the international community. The Jewish state supported some rebel groups in the Golan during the seven-year

Syrian civil war, seeking to create a buffer zone against Iranian influence.

Last month, it ended its 'Good Neighbor' support program for rebels in the Golan that saw thousands brought to Israel for medical treatment, as well as aid shipped across the border. It has expressed concern that Iranian-backed groups allied to Assad, including Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, could move into the Golan, creating a threat to Israeli cities. So far there is no Hezbollah presence near the crossing, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, and the Israeli army has said it expects the UNDOF forces to keep "hostile groups" from the region.

The United States has hailed the reopening, saying it would "allow UN peacekeepers to step up their efforts to prevent hostilities in the Golan Heights region". Syria and Israel remain technically at war, though the border had been quiet for decades before the Syrian conflict. For Eyal Zisser, director of the Middle East Studies Department at Tel Aviv University, the reopening forms part of a "return to normal". "The border between Israel and Syria was very calm before the start of the Syrian civil war and the return to normal is very convenient for Israel," he said.

"There is no Daesh (the Islamic State organization), no Iranians or Hezbollah, there is a clear address on the other side, that's all that Israel wants," he added. The crossing is also used by Druze families who held onto Syrian citizenship after 1967 but live on the Israeli side to travel to Syria for trade, education, religious ceremonies and weddings. Nazeeh Ibrahim, 65, one of a handful of Golan Druze who witnessed yesterday's opening, described the crossing as a "lifeline". "Every (Druze) household in the Golan has family" in Syria, he said. "We want to be with our parents, our families." — AFP

Sariheen called the reopening of Jaber a source of "great happiness for all of us" which will help ease "economic hardships" caused by the closure of the crossing. "Our conditions have worsened over the past years. Our work was halted because of the closure of the border between Jordan and Syria," he added. The border crossing, known as Jaber on the Jordanian side and Nassib on the Syrian side, was a key trade route before Amman closed it after the post was overrun by rebels in April 2015. The reopening comes after Syrian government troops retook their side of the crossing in July under a deal with rebel fighters brokered by Moscow.

Before it was shut the crossing was a major link not only for direct trade between the neighboring countries but also for longer-distance transit, which was a significant source of revenue. Its closure strained the economy of Jordan—a desert kingdom with little resources which is heavily reliant on imports and foreign aid. Nabil Roman, a Jordanian trade official, told AFP in 2015 that "70 per cent of what we eat, of everything we import and export, passed through Syria".

Cross border trade between Jordan and Syria in 2010 — a year before the war broke out — stood at \$615 million (530 million euros). Damascus hopes that resumption of activity across the border post will help revitalize its own economy which has been devastated by the war. After seven years of civil war, Syria's government has recaptured large swathes of territory from rebels with backing from Russia, but it still only controls around half the 19 crossing points with neighbors Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey. — Reuters



Syrian flag raised on Syria's side of the crossing

Jordan reopens border post with Syria after 3 years

JABER BORDER CROSSING: Jordan yesterday reopened its main border crossing with war-torn Syria, a key Middle East trade route, after a three year closure. AFP reporters said. The black metal border gate was opened from the Jordanian side of the crossing at 8:00 am as more than a dozen police and customs officials stood nearby. Cars bearing Jordanian license plates queued to enter Syria as travelers expressed their joy at being able to cross the border. Syrian businessman Hisham Falyoun, who lives in Jordan with his wife and children, was the first person to cross the border in his black Mercedes jeep.

"I am extremely happy. I can't express my feelings. This crossing should have been reopened earlier as it is a very vital line for all Arab countries not only Jordan and Syria," he said. "I wanted to be the first person to cross to show everyone that Syria is safe, Syria is back," said Falyoun, who was hoping to surprise his parents in Damascus. Other travelers were likewise elated to make the crossing. "Today is a celebration for us and I wanted to be among the first to cross the border," said Syrian businessman Mohammed Hisham as he waited for his turn to enter Syria from Jordan where he now lives. Jordanian taxi driver Imad

Riyadh defends itself in Khashoggi case

DUBAI: Saudi King Salman has begun weighing in to try to defuse the growing crisis over missing journalist Jamal Khashoggi, as the kingdom goes on the offensive triggering a fierce online media campaign. In a phone call with US President Donald Trump yesterday, the king denied "any knowledge of whatever may have happened to our Saudi Arabian citizen", the US leader said in a tweet. Trump added he was "immediately" sending Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to Riyadh "to meet with the king" for talks on the crisis.

The disappearance of Khashoggi, last seen entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2, has whipped up international concern, with new Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman increasingly the focus of sharp criticism. Turkish officials have said they believe Khashoggi—a Washington Post contributor who was critical of Prince Mohammed's policies—was killed inside the mission, and lurid claims have even been leaked that he was tortured and even dismembered.

After an initial silence, Riyadh said Khashoggi had left the consulate safely and then at the weekend denied as "baseless" claims that orders were given to have him killed. As western companies began to distance themselves from the oil-rich Gulf nation which is seeking outside investment to diversify its economy, the king also Sunday discussed the scandal with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. He reiterated Riyadh's "solid" relations with Ankara, according to the state-run Saudi Press Agency. It is not the first time that King Salman



ISTANBUL: Saudi officials leave the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul yesterday. — AFP

has sought to ease tensions surrounding the 33-year-old Prince Mohammed, who has been cultivated by the US but whose reformist credentials are being quickly shredded by the mystery surrounding Khashoggi's fate. In an earlier phone call with Trump in April, King Salman reiterated Riyadh's position that Jerusalem must remain the capital of Palestine amid speculation that the kingdom had given up on the longstanding position.

'A message to the US'

Aleksandar Mitreski, a security and defense analyst, said Saudi Arabia cannot control the international narrative but can try to alleviate the most damaging fallout. Saudi Arabia warned Sunday it would retaliate against any sanctions imposed over the Khashoggi's disappearance after Trump threatened "severe punishment" if the writer was found to be a victim of a state-sponsored killing. "The purpose of (Sunday's) message broadcasted by the Saudi national media is twofold: one goal is to satisfy the domestic public opinion that Saudi Arabia and its royal family will not be humiliated and the other goal is to send a message to the US," Mitreski, researcher at the University of Sydney, told AFP.

The kingdom's warning was not only a response to Trump, but also

targeted at US decision-makers amid rising calls for Congress to step in and put key arms sales on hold, he said. "It will be the task of political advisors and strategists to prevent Trump from causing damage to the US-Saudi relationship," he added. As the United States and Turkey have ratcheted up pressure on the kingdom, Saudi companies, officials and princes have also gone online in a wave of solidarity with the ruling family.

Saudi flags, photos of the king and crown prince looking stern, and pro-Saudi hashtags were making the rounds on social media yesterday with a common theme: Saudi Arabia and its ruling family are a "red line". Saudi Minister of Information Awwad Al-Awwad tweeted on Sunday that the kingdom "always prevails against its enemies... under the wise leadership of the king and crown prince" using the Arabic hashtag #Saudis_In_Line_With_TheLeadership. Billionaire Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal—who was among those temporarily detained as part of what Saudi authorities said was an anti-corruption crackdown—tweeted an image of the Saudi flag Sunday in support of the ruling family, saying: "God, then the king, then the nation." One Twitter user said the Saudis "will not bow down and will not kneel, but only to God... We are all Salman, and we are all Mohammed". — AFP



JABER: Photo shows portraits of Jordan's King Abdullah II (right) and his late father King Hussein of Jordan above the checkpoint at the Jaber border crossing between Jordan and Syria (Nassib crossing on the Syrian side) on the day of its reopening. — AFP

China live-streamer held for 'insulting' national anthem

SHANGHAI: A popular Chinese live-streamer has been sentenced to five days detention for "insulting" China's national anthem by waving her arms and mimicking a conductor as she sang the song during a broadcast to millions of her followers. The woman, Yang Kaili, was detained by authorities in Shanghai Saturday for violating a national anthem law that was enacted last year. In a broadcast on the Huya live-stream website on October

7, Yang, 21, appeared wearing an antler-shaped headband and hummed a ceremonial song in combination with some of the words of "The March of the Volunteers", while waving her arms and mimicking a conductor.

Huya subsequently blocked Yang's live-stream channel, froze her account and removed her videos. Yang's husky voice became popular on another live-stream platform, TikTok, and in August she was invited to perform by Chinese state broadcaster CCTV. "The national anthem is solemn and should not be sung in a live-stream room," Yang wrote in an apology and self-criticism to her 1.1 million followers on Twitter-like platform Weibo. "I will stop all live-stream work, perform self-rectification, draw lessons from the bitter experience, deeply reflect and fully accept education on ideological politics and patriotism." — AFP

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International

European ministers frustrated; failure looms amid Brexit talks

EU adopts new chemical weapons sanctions

LUXEMBOURG: Frustrated European ministers yesterday insisted there was still time to reach a Brexit deal despite the latest failed round of divorce talks, but the EU warned it was stepping up preparations for failure. Meeting in Luxembourg, foreign ministers from the bloc's 28 members admitted that no agreement will be struck this week at an EU leaders' summit that had earlier been billed as the "moment of truth". EU Brexit pointman Michel Barnier met his British counterpart Dominic Raab in Brussels on Sunday, but they failed to agree to a draft Brexit divorce arrangement, as EU leaders prepare to arrive on Wednesday for the summit.

Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney, whose country would suffer the biggest economic impact after the United Kingdom from a "no-deal" Brexit, said the latest stumble was "frustrating and disappointing". And in Brussels, European Commission spokesman Margaritis Schinas said the bloc's own "no deal" preparations were being stepped up. "While we are working hard for a deal, our preparedness and contingency work is continuing and intensifying," spokesman Margaritis Schinas said.

British Prime Minister Theresa May is facing a political high-wire act in trying to reach a deal that is acceptable to both the EU and lawmakers at home, where her minority government relies on the support of Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). Highlighting the challenges she faces, the DUP's Brexit spokesman Sammy Wilson yesterday warned it was "probably inevitable" Britain would leave the EU with no deal. "Given the way in which the EU has behaved and the corner they've put Theresa May into, there's no deal which I can see at present which will command a majority in the House of Commons," he told the Belfast Newsletter.

'Difficult period'

But ministers in Luxembourg insisted there was still time to resolve the outstanding issues, including the dispute over rules for trade in and out of Northern Ireland, before a pos-

sible emergency summit in November. "I think this is obviously a difficult period," British Foreign Minister Jeremy Hunt told reporters as he arrived for a scheduled meeting of the EU Foreign Affairs Council. "There was always going to be a moment like this, but we should remember that a huge amount of progress has been made. There are one or two very outstanding issues, but I think we can get there." Much will depend on the stance taken by the EU's two big power players France and Germany, with French President Emmanuel Macron insisting on a firm line in Brexit talks.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas warned that "time is now pressing hard" to reach a deal in time for it to be ratified before Britain's departure at the end of March. But he said Berlin believes "it is still possible to reach an agreement... and we will do everything in our power to achieve this in the next few days". Spain's Josep Borrell said ministers were disappointed that a draft deal had not been possible over the weekend, but added: "We don't have to dramatize, we still have time. We still have one month." Linas Linkevicius, the Lithuanian foreign minister said that after Sunday's setback "it is difficult to be more optimistic", but said both sides should redouble their efforts.

Irish conundrum

Sunday's talks ended without a breakthrough on the crucial issue of trade to and from Northern Ireland, which has emerged as a possible deal-breaker and even a threat to May's leadership. London, Dublin and Brussels all say they want no checks imposed on the land border between EU member Ireland and British province Northern Ireland, but the problem persists of how to square that aim with Britain's decision to leave the European single market and the customs union. Britain has proposed sticking with EU customs rules after Brexit as a fallback option to keep the border open, until a wider trade deal is agreed that avoids the need for frontier checks.

The EU's suggestion would see Northern Ireland remain aligned with Brussels' rules, thus varying from the



LONDON: A video grab shows Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May (left) speaking in the House of Commons on the latest progress on exit negotiation talks with the EU yesterday. —AFP

rest of the United Kingdom—which is unacceptable to the DUP. The British side suggested the talks broke down on Sunday because the EU negotiators were seeking further assurances on how to avoid checks on the land border. A government source told AFP that the EU is now asking for a second backstop to be put in place, very similar to their earlier proposal involving just Northern Ireland, in case the British version is not ready in time.

Chemical weapons sanctions

Meanwhile, the EU set up a new sanctions mechanism targeting those who use and develop chemical weapons yesterday, as part of a crackdown in the wake of the Skripal attack. The framework gives the European Union the power to impose restrictive measures on anyone identified as being involved in the development or deployment of chemical weapons, regardless of their location or nationality.

Fears have been growing among world powers that the century-old taboo on the use of chemical weapons is being eroded, following the nerve agent attack on a former Russian spy in Britain and repeated uses of gas and banned substances in the Syrian conflict. EU foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg agreed to the new measures, which will freeze the assets held in the block by targeted individuals and organizations and ban them from travelling to any of the 28 member states.

"The restrictive measures target persons and entities who are directly responsible for the development and use of chemical weapons as well as those who provide financial, technical or material support, and those who assist, encourage or are associated with them," the European Council, which groups the member states, said in a statement. "This decision contributes to the EU's efforts to counter the proliferation and use of chemical weapons which poses a serious threat to international security." —Agencies

News in brief

'Okay to be white' vote

SYDNEY: Australia's indigenous affairs minister and several of his colleagues faced calls to resign yesterday, after they backed a failed parliamentary motion tabled by a controversial senator that declared: "It is okay to be white." Several government ministers - including those for trade, communications and indigenous affairs minister Nigel Scullion - backed a resolution drafted by populist firebrand senator Pauline Hanson which railed against what it described as "the deplorable rise of anti-white racism". Luke Pearson, the founder of influential anti-racism group, IndigenousX, echoed a string of calls for Scullion to resign after the vote. "The minister for Indigenous Affairs, voting in support of what is widely known to be a white supremacist slogan. 'It's okay to be white', makes his position as minister entirely untenable. He needs to resign," Pearson wrote. —AFP

Man takes hostage

COLOGNE: German police said an unknown man believed to be armed had taken a woman hostage in a pharmacy inside Cologne's central railway station yesterday. "Eye-witnesses reported hearing shots, others spoke of smoke bombs, but we cannot confirm any of that so far," a police spokesman told news channel NTV. "We have made contact with the attacker," he said, adding that police were trying to clarify "what does this man want, what are his demands, and is he armed?" Police commandos were deployed and the busy railway station was closed off to all passengers and trains. —AFP

Palestinian shot dead

JERUSALEM: A Palestinian was shot dead yesterday after trying to stab an Israeli soldier in the occupied West Bank, the army said. An Israeli military statement said the man who tried to attack the soldier near the Jewish settlement of Ariel was shot and killed. There were no immediate details on the alleged attacker's identity. A series of deadly incidents have increased tensions in the West Bank this month. On October 7 a Palestinian shot dead two Israelis and wounded another in a West Bank settlement. Israeli forces continue to hunt for the suspect. On Friday, a Palestinian woman died after Israeli settlers threw stones at her car near Nablus in the northern West Bank, Palestinian medical and security sources said. The Israeli police confirmed the incident but did not say who threw the stones. —AFP

9/11 accomplice expelled

BERLIN: Germany yesterday expelled to Morocco a convicted Moroccan accomplice in the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, media reported. Mounir el Motassadeq was sentenced in January 2007 by a German court to 15 years in jail for his role in the death of 246 passengers and crew aboard hijacked aircraft used in the September 11 attacks. He was the first person ever convicted for complicity in the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The Moroccan was flown at midday yesterday by helicopter from the Hamburg jail where he has been serving his prison term to Frankfurt, according to Spiegel Online and Bild daily. Photographs carried by national news agency DPA showed Motassadeq, dressed in a checked shirt and beige trousers, being led blindfolded and handcuffed by two police officers to a waiting chopper. —AFP

Chaos as 200,000 Congolese expelled from Angola

KAMAKO: Life fell apart last week for mother of four Dorcas who was among 200,000 Congolese attacked and then forcibly thrown out of neighboring Angola despite having lived there for a decade. Speaking in Kamako, a frontier town in southern Democratic Republic of Congo, the woman in her forties said she and her husband had made their lives in the Angolan border town of Lupaca until the nightmare began.

"There were rumors circulating that the Angolan authorities would be expelling foreigners," from Lunda Norte province which borders on DRC, she said. "Suddenly on Monday (last week) we saw youths from the Tchikwe community with Angolan policemen starting to burn the homes of those perceived to be foreigners. "When they came to our house, they attacked my husband with a machete and we were forced to flee taking whatever little we could carry," she said.

"All our children were born in Angola and only speak Portuguese," she said. Angola was a former Portuguese colony while DR Congo was ruled by the Belgians and is a francophone country. Oil-rich Angola attracts hordes of Congolese as it is relatively more stable and offers better employment

prospects. DR Congo has an abundance of mineral wealth but large swathes are rocked by unrest and violence unleashed by rebel groups and militias from within and neighboring nations such as Uganda and Rwanda.

The operations last week against migrants triggered clashes between Congolese, security forces and local Angolans. Local media and an NGO reported that several migrants have been killed, though Angolan authorities deny any deaths or forcible repatriations. Lunda Norte's governor, Ernesto Muangala, on Saturday said that "more than 200,000 Congolese living illegally in Angola have been repatriated on a voluntary basis." Trucks were seen plying incessantly over the weekend taking Congolese nationals to the border from Dundo, the capital of Lunda Norte.

Several Congolese patiently waited outside the Angolan consulate in Kamako, brandishing their Angolan residence permits. The doors of the mission were closed. "What are we going to do in DRC? We have all lived in Lucapa for 10 or 20 years," said Daniel Mukenge, a man in his forties. "We are condemned to death here" - "Our papers are all in order. We have invested and built homes," he said. "Now the authorities are refusing to recognize the documents that they themselves delivered. We are now asking our authorities to intervene so that the Angolan authorities buy our houses otherwise we are condemned to death here," he said.

An Angolan official at the consulate



KAMAKO: Congolese migrants who were living in Angola carry belongings near the Congolese border town of Kamako, after returning to their country following a security crackdown by Angolan authorities. —AFP

meanwhile told the group: "The solution does not lie here." And an Angolan immigration official at the Kamako border outpost feigned incredulity. "How can these people refuse to go back to their country? It makes me laugh," he said. The Congolese authorities say they are struggling to cope with the returnees, with up to 1,000 arrivals every hour. "At this rate we cannot register them," said Mahieu Boma, a local official from the national commission of refugees. In Kamako, the new arrivals take shelter wherever they can—under mango trees, in schools and churches.

Sunday mass in many churches began late as a result of the influx. "For the present, there are 750 families of between three and four people each who are sheltering in our facilities," said Father Crispin Mfamba from the local Saint Gabriel parish. Dorcas meanwhile has lost track of one of her four children during the move. "We are here in Kamako without money," she said. "We are selling what little we have so that we can eat." "My four-year-old child has disappeared and I sold my dress for \$1.20 to pay for a radio announcement to help find my child," she said. —AFP

Senator releases DNA test backing Native American ancestry: Report

WASHINGTON: A US Senator seen as a top contender for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020 has released a DNA test providing "strong evidence" that she has Native American ancestry after her claims had been mocked by Donald Trump, a report said yesterday. Elizabeth Warren, a leading voice from the left of her party, has been derisively called "Pocahontas" by the president and accused of lying about her heritage in order to gain advantages in her career including a plum teaching job at Harvard.

But an analysis of her DNA performed by Stanford University professor Carlos D Bustamante concluded that while "the vast majority" of Warren's ancestry is European, "the results strongly support the existence of an unadmixed Native American ancestor," the Boston Globe reported. Bustamante calculated that Warren's Native American ancestor appeared in her family tree "in the range of 6-10 generations ago."

The result appears to tie in with what Warren has said about her family lore of a great-great-grandmother who was at least partially Native American. Warren, who was raised in Oklahoma but represents Massachusetts, was planning an elaborate rollout yesterday of the results in



ROXBURY: US Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) addresses a town hall meeting in Roxbury, Massachusetts. —AFP

order to dispel questions from Republican critics that have dogged her for years, the Globe said.

At a campaign-style rally in July Trump revived the attack in a challenge to Warren: "I will give you a million dollars to your favorite charity, paid for by Trump, if you take the test and it shows you're an Indian." "I have a feeling she will say no," the US president added. Warren's move is reminiscent of Barack Obama's decision in 2011 to release his long form birth certificate following years of haranguing led by Trump, who pushed the conspiracy theory that the nation's first black president was born in Kenya. —AFP

Lewinsky affair not an abuse of power, says Hillary Clinton

WASHINGTON: Hillary Clinton has said her husband Bill's affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky was not an abuse of power and he was right to not resign from the US presidency in the wake of the scandal. The two-decades old episode has come under renewed scrutiny in the #MeToo era, with critics questioning whether the power imbalance between a sitting president and an intern made it impossible for the relationship to be considered consensual. Some, like New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, have said that Clinton should have stepped down after he was impeached by a Republican-controlled House in late 1998 for lying about the affair.

But speaking on CBS News on Sunday, former presidential candidate and secretary of state Hillary Clinton said she disagreed. "Absolutely not," she replied when asked whether her husband should have resigned. Pressed on whether the relationship was an abuse of power, Clinton said: "No, no" and noted that Lewinsky, who was 22-years-old at the time, "was an adult." "There was an investigation and it, as I believe, came out in the right place," she added.

In 1999, the Senate held a month-long trial of president Clinton that ultimately fell well short of the two-thirds majority required to convict and remove him from office. Lewinsky, for her part, long maintained the affair was consensual, but in an essay published in Vanity Fair earlier this year wrote she had begun to re-evaluate that view. —AFP

International

Jihadists fail to quit Syria buffer zone, throwing deal into doubt

HTS, extreme jihadists hold over two-thirds of buffer zone

BEIRUT: Jihadists in Syria's Idlib failed to meet yesterday deadline to leave a planned buffer zone ringing the country's last rebel bastion, casting fresh doubt over a deal to avert bloodshed. A Russian-Turkish truce agreement reached nearly a month ago for the northwestern region gave "radical fighters" until October 15 to leave a proposed demilitarized area between government and opposition forces.

The accord was a last-ditch effort to stave off a regime onslaught on Idlib, the largest rebel stronghold left in war-ravaged Syria and home to around three million people. But the target date for the withdrawal came and went without any hardliners leaving. "We did not document the withdrawal of any jihadist fighters from the entire demilitarized zone," Rami Abdel Rahman, the head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor, said yesterday morning. Jihadists had until midnight Sunday to Monday to pull out, according to Abdel Rahman and two rebel commanders in Idlib.

Syria's government said it would take "time" to judge if the deal had failed. "We have to wait for the Russian reaction. Russia is monitoring and following the situation," Foreign Minister Walid Muallem told reporters in Damascus. He said he hoped Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan would still be able to "fulfill the agreement from his part". Hours before the cut-off time, Idlib's jihadist heavyweight Hayat Tahrir al-Sham vowed to continue fighting. "We have not abandoned our choice of jihad and fighting towards implementing our blessed revolution," said HTS, an alliance led by Al-Qaeda's one-time Syria branch.



Last-ditch effort to stave off Idlib onslaught

HTS has yet to take a formal stance on the Sochi accord and its most recent statement made no mention of the deadline. But it and other jihadists appeared to have quietly pulled out their heavy arms in line with the first deadline on October 10. That observers said, could indicate that hope was not yet lost for the buffer. "Even if the agreement is not fully implemented today, it doesn't mean that it's not holding," said Haid Haid, research fellow at the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation. HTS would seek the "best possible scenario" for its own survival, but that may include "a partial withdrawal".

Better late than never?

Sam Heller, an International Crisis Group analyst, said the ambiguity in HTS's statement "could be seen as a sort of implicit acceptance of the Sochi deal and its implementation". The onus was now on Ankara and Moscow-the deal's two sponsors and the chief powerbrokers of the Syrian war-to overcome the missed deadline. "October 15 is a test of Turkey's ability to implement the deal, but at the same time it's a test of Russia's intentions and how serious it is about continuing the agreement," Heller told AFP. It would show whether Moscow was committed to keeping the deal alive or "implementing it to the letter," he said. Last week, Russia hinted that it could accept a brief delay if it meant the spirit of the deal was still upheld.



RASHIDIN: A Syrian rebel-fighter from the National Liberation Front (NLF) enters a building in the rebel-held Al-Rashidin district of western Aleppo's countryside near Idlib province yesterday. —AFP

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the buffer should be fully operational by October 15, but that a delay of one or two days would "make no difference." Syria's top diplomat would try to fix the vote.

But in a surprise turn of events, a little-known united opposition candidate, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, was declared the winner, sparking celebrations across the tropical holiday destination. Yameen initially said he accepted defeat, and was ready to step down when his term ends on November 17. But last week he launched the Supreme Court challenge seeking a fresh vote. At a hearing on Sunday which resumed yesterday, Yameen's lawyer Mohamed Saleem accused the printer of coating ballot papers with an unnamed substance to make votes marked in Yameen's box vanish.

Saleem said a "special pen with disappearing ink" was also given to people who were going to vote for his client, a reporter at the hearing said. Counting officials also allegedly carried secret pens with which they marked ballots for the opposition. A lawyer for the EC denied any wrongdoing, including using any special ink. Yameen had also accused the EC of colluding with the printer of the ballots.

Ahead of the court hearing in the capital Male, the United States warned "appropriate measures" would be taken if the will of the Maldivian people was undermined. Europe and India have also issued similar warnings in the past. The US and its allies have been concerned by growing Chinese influence in the strategically positioned Indian Ocean archipelago, especially under Yameen's authoritarian rule. Yameen's Progressive Party (PPM) on Saturday said the vote was the "most farcical election in living memory" with the organization "abysmal" and vote-rigging "rampant". —AFP

Muallem said earlier this month that the deal may take until December to execute. But he hinted yesterday that the military option was not off the table, saying jihadists should be removed from Idlib. "We have to wait, but at the same time, our troops are still ready around Idlib," he said. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has said the Idlib is only "temporary," and that the area would eventually fall back to government hands. —AFP

Hungary's new law bans rough sleepers

BUDAPEST: A tough new law that bans homeless people from sleeping on Hungary's streets came into force yesterday, prompting criticism from human rights groups who say it is inhumane. The law, which follows a constitutional amendment approved in June that brands rough sleeping a crime, empowers police to order homeless people to move into shelters. If they disobey three times within a 90-day period, the police can detain them and destroy their personal belongings. Prime Minister Viktor Orban's right-wing government has said the new law aims to provide proper living conditions for the homeless and has set aside money to help them. But Gabor Ivanyi, who leads the group Oltalom (Shelter) which operates homeless shelters with 600 beds in Budapest, said the government had failed to conduct a proper dialogue with charity organizations before it passed the legislation.

"This law serves the aim of scaring the homeless to prompt them to flee (the streets)," Ivanyi said. "They are scared and don't know what to do now. We don't know what will happen tomorrow." Homeless people had all but disappeared yesterday morning from underpasses in central Budapest where there would normally be plenty. The government says it has allocated about 9 billion forints (\$32.17 million) to homeless care in its 2018 budget plus an additional 300 million forints to expand shelter capacities. "We believe we need to give additional help and not additional rights to homeless people," Bence Retvari, state secretary, told reporters on Saturday according to a video posted on HirTV website. Retvari said further help would be available, without elaborating. On Sunday around 500 protesters demonstrated against the law outside the Hungarian parliament. "I believe this is shameful... that they criminalize the impossible and helpless situation that these people are in," said Agnes Merenyi, one of the demonstrators. —Reuters

Indian bishop granted bail in nun rape case

NEW DELHI: An Indian bishop accused of raping a nun was granted bail yesterday in a case that has triggered rare dissent within the country's Catholic Church. Bishop Franco Mulakkal was arrested on September 21 in the southern state of Kerala on suspicion of raping the nun 13 times between 2014 and 2016. Pope Francis suspended him the day before his arrest, appointing another bishop in his place.

Mulakkal, 53, who headed the diocese of Jalandhar in the northern state of Punjab, has denied the allegations and has called the scandal a conspiracy against the church. The nun first made the allegations in June but police only started formal questioning in September as fury over the case mounted. The lack of action provoked outrage and five nuns—in a rare public show of dissent within the Indian Church—and dozens of supporters staged days of protests. Senior members of the Kerala Church have however come out in support of Mulakkal. —AFP

Maldives leader blames defeat on 'disappearing ink'

COLOMBO: Outgoing Maldives President Abdulla Yameen has told the Supreme Court that disappearing ink and specially treated ballot papers were to blame for his heavy election defeat last month. The comments came as the court considered a petition by Yameen to have the September 23 election result annulled due to what his party called "rampant" vote-rigging. Yesterday afternoon the five-judge bench put off the case until today when it will announce whether to allow testimony from three unnamed witnesses named by Yameen's lawyers. His lawyers told a packed court room that the trio of yet unnamed witnesses could substantiate Yameen's allegations.

However, the country's independent Elections Commission (EC) through its lawyers insisted that the petition was based on false allegations and should be dismissed. Local media also reported four of the five election commissioners have fled the country and sought refuge in neighboring Sri Lanka following death threats after Yameen lost the September 23 vote. The strongman leader of the honeymoon island nation had been expected to romp home in the election, with opposition leaders jailed or exiled, and warnings that he



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Analysis

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ACCOUNTS : 24835619
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P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Fleeing hardship at home, Venezuelans struggle abroad, too

Every few minutes, the reeds along the Tachira River rustle. Smugglers, in ever growing numbers, emerge with a ragtag group of Venezuelan migrants - men struggling under tattered suitcases, women hugging bundles in blankets and schoolchildren carrying backpacks. They step across rocks, wade into the muddy stream and cross illegally into Colombia. This is the new migration from Venezuela.

For years, as conditions worsened in the Andean nation's ongoing economic meltdown, hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans - those who could afford to - fled by airplane and bus to other countries far and near, remaking their lives as legal immigrants. Now, hyperinflation, daily power cuts and worsening food shortages are prompting those with far fewer resources to flee, braving harsh geography, criminal handlers and increasingly restrictive immigration laws to try their luck just about anywhere.

In recent weeks, Reuters spoke with dozens of Venezuelan migrants traversing their country's Western border to seek a better life in Colombia and beyond. Few had more than the equivalent of a handful of dollars with them. "It was terrible, but I needed to cross," said Dario Leal, 30, recounting his journey from the coastal state of Sucre, where he worked in a bakery that paid about \$2 per month.

At the border, he paid smugglers nearly three times that to get across and then prepared, with about \$3 left, to walk the 500 km to Bogota, Colombia's capital. The smugglers, in turn, paid a fee to Colombian crime gangs who allow them to operate, according to police, locals and smugglers themselves. As many as 1.9 million Venezuelans have emigrated since 2015, according to the United Nations. Combined with those who preceded them, a total of 2.6 million are believed to have left the oil-rich country. Ninety percent of recent departures, the U.N. says, remain in South America.

The exodus, one of the biggest mass migrations ever on the continent, is weighing on neighbors. Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, which once welcomed Venezuelan migrants, recently tightened entry requirements. Police now conduct raids to detain the undocumented. In early October, Carlos Holmes Trujillo, Colombia's foreign minister, said as many as four million Venezuelans could be in the country by 2021, costing national coffers as much as \$9 billion. "The magnitude of this challenge," he said, "our country has never seen."

In Brazil, which also borders Venezuela, the government deployed troops and financing to manage the crush and treat sick, hungry and pregnant migrants. In Ecuador and Peru, workers say that Venezuelan labor lowers wages and that criminals are hiding among honest migrants. "There are too many of them," said Antonio Mamani, a clothing vendor in Peru, who recently watched police fill a bus with undocumented Venezuelans near Lima.

'We need to go'

By migrating illegally, migrants expose themselves to criminal networks who control prostitution, drug trafficking and other rackets. In August, Colombian investigators discovered 23 undocumented Venezuelans forced into prostitution and living in basements in the colonial city of Cartagena. While most migrants are avoiding such straits, no shortage of other hardship awaits - from homelessness, to unemployment, to the cold reception many get as they sleep in public squares, peddle sweets and throng already overburdened hospitals.

Still, most press on, many on foot. Some join compatriots in Brazil and Colombia. Others, having spent what money they had, are walking vast regions, like Colombia's cold Andean passes and sweltering tropical lowlands, in treks toward distant capitals, like Quito or Lima. Johana Narvaez, a 36-year-old mother of four, told Reuters her family left after business stalled at their small car repair shop in the rural state of Trujillo. Extra income she made selling food on the street withered because cash is scarce in a country where annual inflation, according to the opposition-led Congress, recently reached nearly 500,000 percent.

"We can't stay here," she told her husband, Jairo Sulbaran, in August, after they ran out of food and survived on corn patties provided by friends. "Even on foot, we must go." Sulbaran begged and sold old tires until they could afford bus tickets to the border. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has chided migrants, warning of the hazards of migration and that emigres will end up "cleaning toilets". He has even offered free flights back to some in a program called "Return to the Homeland", which state television covers daily.

Most migration, however, remains in the other direction. Until recently, Venezuelans could enter many South American countries with just their national identity cards. But some are toughening rules, requiring a passport or additional documentation. Even a passport is elusive in Venezuela. Paper shortages and a dysfunctional bureaucracy make the document nearly impossible to obtain, many migrants argue. Several told Reuters they waited two years in vain after applying, while a half-dozen others said they were asked for as much as \$2,000 in bribes by corrupt clerks to secure one. Maduro's government in July said it would restructure Venezuela's passport agency to root out "bureaucracy and corruption." — Reuters



New Delhi braces for choking smog

Hours after a mechanized harvester chugged through the rice paddy, flames and a thick plume of black smoke rose into the twilight sky in India's northern Haryana state as farmers burned the residue to prepare for the next season's planting. Similar fires seen by a Reuters reporter last week in the nation's farm states of Haryana and neighboring Punjab suggest that efforts by authorities to stave off a massive spike in pollution in nearby New Delhi in the next few weeks may fail.

Late last year, Delhi and a large part of northern India were covered in a dangerous toxic smog that forced authorities to shut schools, ban diesel-run generators, construction, burning of garbage and non-essential truck deliveries. The World Health Organization said earlier this year India was home to the world's 14 most polluted cities, with Delhi ranked the sixth most polluted. As pollution levels climbed to 12 times the recommended limit and the Indian Medical Association declared a public health emergency in the capital last year, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal called the city a "gas chamber." On Friday, he warned the city may face the same fate this year because of the unrestrained stubble burning.

Gurkirat Kirpal Singh, a spokesman for the Punjab government, said the state administration had formed a committee of senior officials which was working to ensure that incidents of stubble burning drastically come down this year. He did not elaborate. An official at the prime minister's office, which is coordinating efforts to bring down pollution in the capital, declined comment. The smog worsens when the heavy smoke from crop burning combines with vehicle and industrial emissions at a time of year when wind speeds drop significantly. Fireworks set off to celebrate the major Hindu festival of Diwali, that fell on Oct 19 last year and will be on Nov 7 this year, exacerbated the problem.

After last year's crisis, the Indian government introduced some measures aimed at curbing the crop fires, in particular offering to pay up to 80 percent of certain farm equipment, such as a Straw Management System (SMS) that attaches to a harvester and shreds the residue. The plan was for the shredded material to be mulched using another machine and irrigated at least twice to get it to decompose. All this would be done without any crops being burned. The only problem is that 14 farmers Reuters spoke to on a visit last week to six villages in the rice and

wheat growing areas of Haryana and Punjab, said the plan wasn't working.

Cheaper to burn

They say that was largely because the subsidy for SMS and mulching machines wasn't covering the costs of the equipment and the labor involved. It was still much cheaper and easier to burn the residue. "Farmers know about the repercussions of burning crop stubble and that's why you



Farmers set fire to stubble

won't come across a single farmer who really wants to continue with the practice," said Hardev Singh, 58, who grows rice and wheat in the village of Shahjahanpur, which is part of Haryana's Karnal district. But the cost of disposing of crop residue is so prohibitive that most farmers are forced to set the stubble on fire, Singh said.

It is also time consuming, and the farmers do not have a lot of time. After harvesting rice, farmers get a short window to plant winter crops such as wheat and rapeseed, and late sowing means lower yields. The farmers also complained about the lengthy bureaucratic processes to claim the subsidies for the machines. "The fact that government officials want us to use expensive machines like SMS clearly shows that they are far removed from reality," said Sandeep Pannu, who leases his farms to small growers in Phulak village in Haryana state.

For most farmers, burning the residue does not cost more than 2,000 rupees (\$27.20) per acre but using the machines raises the cost to 6,000 rupees despite an 80 percent subsidy from the government, Pannu said. Three other farmers standing in the shade under a tree with

Pannu also complained about a sharp fall in the prices of their produce and the rising cost of diesel, widely used in tractors and farm equipment. With their incomes under strain, they said they have less capacity, and enthusiasm, to address environmental issues.

Heads could roll

The message from Haryana and Punjab could be disconcerting for the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose office has been actively involved in framing policies and taking initiatives to help avoid the repeat of last year's dangerous spike in pollution levels. "The message from the top office is to take steps to avoid the repeat of 2017. Otherwise heads will roll," said a senior Indian government official who declined to be identified in line with government policy.

Other measures by the authorities to combat air pollution this year include pressing road sweeping machines and water sprinklers into service in an attempt to reduce dust in Delhi, and the large-scale planting of saplings to eventually act as a shield against pollution, said the official. "We'll also ensure that no one gets to burn dry leaves, garbage and other solid waste and we'll see to it that all construction sites get covered," he said, conceding that the first two weeks of November, when crop residue burning peaks, would be critical.

That is also when India's majority Hindu community will celebrate the Diwali festival, traditionally ushered in with the setting off of firecrackers. Last year, the Supreme Court banned the sale of fireworks in the capital until after Diwali, but many residents bought them in neighboring states. The various steps taken by authorities could be meaningless if the crop stubble burning continues. "What is happening right now is that we are looking at the satellite data and we can see a little bit of crop burning which could increase and intensify by the first week of November," said Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director of the New Delhi-based think-tank, the Centre for Science and Environment. Satellite images from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the US confirm the burning has started across the two states. Last year 40,000 and 25,000 crop residue burning incidents were recorded in Punjab and Haryana respectively, said the Indian government official. — Reuters

Tightening Arizona race threatens Dems' Senate hopes

For most of this year, Democratic US Senate candidate Krysten Sinema of Arizona has run what has been viewed widely as one of the best races in the nation. But with less than a month to go to Election Day, there are doubts whether she can make it across the finish line. Her matchup with Republican Martha McSally appears to be tightening at the same time that some voters are casting their ballots with the start of early voting in the state. That is unwelcome news for Democrats, who just weeks ago believed they had a chance to gain more than the two seats they need to take control of the Senate.

Since the furious battle over the Oct 6 confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, the national picture seems to have shifted. Republicans have taken an upper hand in states such as Tennessee and Texas - and have stayed competitive in places like Florida and Indiana. That makes Arizona and neighboring Nevada the best hopes for Democrats to flip seats held by Republicans. Democrats have a better chance to assume control of the House of Representatives, where they need 23 seats to become the majority. Should they take either chamber, much of Trump's agenda

would be thwarted and his administration would be subject to greater oversight.

The odds, however, have always been against Sinema, a member of the House who is seeking to replace retiring Republican Jeff Flake. Arizona has long been a right-leaning state, one that has come, in a sense, to embody the divisive politics of President Donald Trump. This is the "build that wall" state. The state of anti-immigrant former Sheriff Joe Arpaio, where Flake was basically driven from office because of his criticism of Trump. It has not elected a Democrat to the Senate in 30 years. But Sinema surprised observers by building an early advantage in the race. She had little competition for her party's nomination and built a steady edge over McSally, also a member of the House, who had to stave off two challengers, including Arpaio.

Center line

Sinema has billed herself as an independent voice while courting the moderates she needs to win, even as some left-wing progressives have groused that she has been too cautious. She stayed quiet for much of the Kavanaugh fight, only opposing his confirmation at the very end. She has backed the efforts of the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, amid calls from some in her party for its abolishment. Asked last week about supporting "Medicare For All," a universal healthcare policy favored by many Democrats this election season, she said she wants more practical solutions.

Much was made locally about Sinema's choice to not endorse the Democratic candidate for Arizona governor, David Garcia, a progressive. She has not appeared at

events with Garcia and other members of the Arizona congressional delegation. Her centrist approach, however, won over Steve Jensen, 63, a disabled veteran and longtime Republican who attended a Sinema event in central Phoenix last week. Jensen said he had come to disdain the "politics by fear" on the Republican side and did not like that McSally increasingly seemed to be aligning herself with the president. "Most of McSally's votes to me seem to be going along with Trump," Jensen said. Sinema's candidacy stands in marked contrast to that of Representative Beto O'Rourke in conservative Texas, the Democrat who is running against incumbent Republican Senator Ted Cruz unabashedly as a left-wing progressive.

'Still a liberal'

Sinema seems now to be in a better position than O'Rourke to win her race while receiving much less national attention. "She has run the best Democratic campaign that I have seen here for a long time," said Chad Campbell, a Phoenix-based Democratic strategist. That has made her a top target of well-funded conservative advocacy groups who have bombarded the airwaves in an attempt to stop Sinema and boost McSally. Campbell conceded that the ads "have chipped away at her lead."

Many of the ads have a common theme: Sinema has misrepresented herself: she is a stealth liberal disguising herself as a moderate. Sinema began her political career in Arizona as a member of the Green Party, but joined a moderate Democratic caucus when elected to the House in 2012. "She's trying to go right, right, right," former Arizona Governor Jan

Brewer, a Republican, told a Phoenix radio station last week. "She's still a liberal."

McSally, a former Air Force fighter pilot, has run multiple ads showing Sinema protesting the Iraq War while dressed in a pink tutu. One conservative group, Defend Arizona, sent out an anti-Sinema mailer last week that depicted a mushroom cloud over Phoenix. "It's clear she's engaged in desperate and ugly behavior," Sinema said after a campaign event last week. A national Republican source told Reuters that the party believes the attacks on Sinema's image are effective and will persist through the rest of the campaign.

McSally's campaign has turned to high-powered surrogates for help. On Friday, former Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney, a candidate for the Senate from Utah, appeared with her at a rally in the town of Gilbert. And it remains likely Trump will visit the state before the race ends. "We are literally in a dead heat right now for this Senate seat and this Senate majority," McSally told the crowd while blasting Sinema as unpatriotic. Tim Bushnell, 60, of Fountain Hills, Arizona, who attended the rally, said he could not vote for Sinema. "Her history is pretty radical-left," he said.

Sinema's campaign believes she can weather the attacks because she spent money early in the race on ads defining herself to voters while Republicans were still fighting among themselves. She is still raising money, taking in \$7 million in the third quarter. If Sinema prevails, she will be able to argue that her moderate strategy may be the best way for Democrats to defeat Donald Trump in 2020. If she loses, any hope her party has of taking the Senate likely will fade with her. — Reuters

Business

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Bader Al-Kharafi with the Zain Drone team

Zain announces the launch of drone services in Kuwait on 2nd day of GITEX

Al-Kharafi: The disruptive power of drone solutions will bolster efficiency for businesses, govt entities

DUBAI: Zain Group, the leading mobile telecom operator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, announced the launch of its pioneering Zain Drone service in Kuwait, with the plan to expand its operation to other markets across the Zain footprint in due course. The launch was announced at a show-casing ceremony held in the Zain booth on the second day of GITEX Exhibition and Technology week held in Dubai, attended by Zain Group and Zain Kuwait executive management, many distinguished Kuwaiti ministry officials and economic personalities as well as Kuwait and regional media.

Zain Drone-as-a-Service (DaaS) is set to unlock opportunities in various industries to fast-track growth and exploit the Internet of Things (IoT) in an efficient, safer and faster way. It will offer state-of-the-art bespoke drone solutions and provide advanced analytics for governments and businesses.

Zain Drone will offer multiple solutions across core industries such as Oil and Gas (Flare Inspections), Utilities (Power Line Inspections), Construction (BIM), Infrastructure (Asset Inspections), Security, Real Estate, Telecom Infrastructure, Agriculture and other similar type industries. The service will facilitate the gathering of image data concerning work advancement through measurement of key parameters, assessing image data to evaluated compliance with original designs, and performing automated stock-taking along with reducing accidents and human errors.

Zain has created a corporate entity to focus on the delivery of the drone-powered solutions, building upon its pioneering position in digital innovation across all markets in which it operates. Zain Drone is investing heavily to build the required capabilities in drone operations and is positioning itself to become the leading strategic partner in the fast-developing

markets for unmanned data acquisition.

Zain Group's Vice-Chairman and Group CEO, Bader Al-Kharafi commented, "The disruptive power of drone solutions will bolster efficiency for many businesses and government entities across the MENA region. This technology is maturing and growing exponentially across Europe and US, and we are confident that the MENA region will embrace drone powered solutions."

Al-Kharafi added, "As a leading innovator we shall continue to invest heavily in Zain Drone services, positioning ourselves favorably to maximize the many valuable opportunities in the area, while at the same time fulfilling our digital transformation strategy of offering unique and business enhancing services."

Zain enjoys solid in-house expertise in drone technology, drawing from international experts, and enjoys unparalleled knowledge of the enterprise market in Kuwait and across the region. Given Zain's long history in the region, the company also possesses solid relationships with government entities, having deep experience in collecting, transferring, storing and processing huge quantities of data in a reliable and trusted manner. Furthermore, Zain has the distinct advantage of offering reliable connectivity with an extensive network of towers across its regional footprint (22,000+), and enjoys vast experience in cloud infrastructure, system integration and data analytics.

Complementary services

With its range of complementary services and integrated reporting leveraging data from drone, Zain Drone will be able to offer additional services including unified communications, fleet management, control rooms and managed services.

Additional use cases for Zain Drone-as-a-Service



Unlocking opportunities from above



Zain Kuwait CEO Eaman Al-Roudhan with Zain executives at the Zain Drone launch on the Day 2 of GITEX.

also exist in drone border security, offering aerial control over state borders by providing high-resolution image data from high-altitude fixed-wing drones. Sensors providing visual and thermal video footage for traffic and event identification can also be implemented. Zain Drone has application in mass control environments and emergency situations, as well as in media services with respect to live and high-resolution streaming.

Zain Drone will also offer Artificial Intelligence-enabled autonomous drone systems that will improve business decisions with its access to high accuracy data, while reducing manpower costs by requiring minimal human interaction. AI drones are capable of

self-diagnostics, self-charging, and autonomous navigation utilizing a set of sophisticated sensors and high accuracy data.

Another application powered by Zain Drone will be a suite of Anti-Drone solutions to assist governments and security forces to identify and passively monitor unauthorized drones that threaten safety, security and privacy. This is achieved by using a combination of proprietary multi-sensor detection technologies, an enterprise-grade network, real-time alerts and the collection of digital evidence.

The power of Drones in quick deployment and capturing precision data at various altitudes is extremely beneficial for business planning and decision making.

Business

NBK named the 'Best Bank in Kuwait 2018' by Global Finance

Award based on input from industry analysts, corporate executives

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has been named the Best Bank in Kuwait 2018 by the international financial publication Global Finance. NBK was chosen the Best Bank in Kuwait based on input from industry analysts, corporate executives and banking consultants. Criteria for choosing the winners included growth in assets, profitability, strategic relationships, customer service, competitive pricing, and innovative products.

"We have selected the winners based on performance over the past year, as well as subjective criteria, including reputation and management excellence," said Global Finance.

NBK continues to enjoy collectively one of the highest ratings among all banks in the Middle East from the three international rating agencies

Moody's, Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor's. The Bank's ratings are supported by its high capitalization, prudent lending policies, and its disciplined approach to risk management, in addition to its highly recognized and very stable management team. NBK was also named among Global Finance's list of the 50 safest banks in the world for 13th consecutive times and was awarded as the Best Bank in Kuwait in 2018 by the Banker, Euromoney and Global Finance.

NBK enjoys the widest banking presence with a local and international network reaching 4 continents. NBK's international presence spans many of the world's leading financial centers including New York, Europe, GCC, Middle East, Singapore as well as China (Shanghai).



Labor strife in India's manufacturing hubs may undermine Modi's jobs push

CHENNAI/NEW DELHI: Labor unrest is on the rise at two centers in India where motorcycles and components are manufactured, underlining the problems Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government faces in creating new manufacturing jobs that are sustainable and pay attractive wages.

Motorbike makers, such as Japan's Yamaha, and India's Eicher Motors - maker of the iconic Royal Enfield motorcycles - have been hit hard by walkouts, although major carmakers have been largely unscathed.

The workers are mainly demanding higher pay and job security, particularly by getting employers to reduce the use of contract labor, who are paid less than permanent employees and can often be fired at will.

Modi, who has to call elections by May next year, has promised to create new jobs by boosting manufacturing in Asia's third-largest economy, but has failed to match aspirations despite rapid overall economic growth. Those who have jobs feel left out of the growth story because of lagging wages.

Around the southern Indian city of Chennai, often dubbed the "Detroit of South Asia", there have been a series of work stoppages at the motorcycle makers, mainly over union recognition, contract labor and wage issues. Workers at several other companies in the area, including makers of auto parts and tire manufacturers, have protested in recent months against lower wages, and for more secure jobs and the right to unionize.

In Gurugram, on the outskirts of the capital New Delhi, hundreds of workers from companies, including car maker Maruti Suzuki, staged a day-long protest on Oct 7 over demands for job security and higher wages.

The labor unrest "exposes the vulnerability of the workers," said K R Shyam Sundar, professor of human resource management at XLRI, one of India's top management schools.

Contract workers don't have the same path to the middle class as employees - they are, for example, much less likely to get access to formal credit markets and their purchasing power will therefore be restricted, Sundar said. Underlying the militancy is a mixture of pressures facing the workers and their employers, including rising living costs and sluggish sales.

India's domestic passenger vehicle sales fell 5.6 percent in September from a year ago, data from the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) showed on Friday. The sales were hurt by rising fuel prices and higher interest rates.

A wave of labor stoppages could put additional pressure on the profitability of companies affected at a time

when they are already grappling with increasing input costs and uncertain demand.

Debt trap

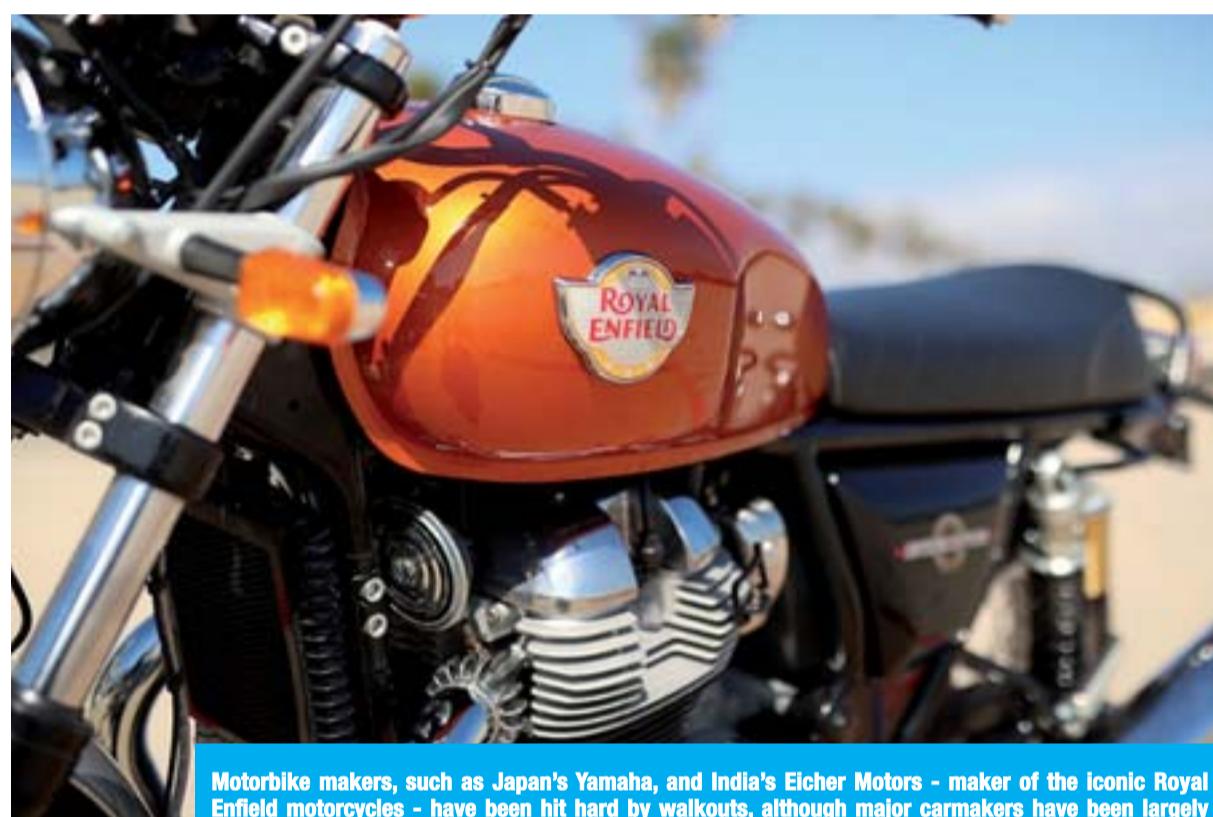
On a recent visit by a Reuters reporter to the industrial belt of Oragadam, more than 50 km (32 miles) southwest of Chennai, hundreds of workers wearing Yamaha uniforms sat meters (yards) away from the factory gates. Besides them were placards with slogans like "Do you know kindness?" and "Let us put an end to oppression" written in English, Japanese and Tamil.

Apart from higher pay and permanent jobs, the workers also want the right to form unions to collectively bargain. They went on strike after some employees were fired for forming a union.

"Nobody can tell us we can't fight for our rights," said one of the union leaders, E Muthukumar, to a crowd of cheering protesters. The Yamaha workers, who have now been on strike for about three weeks, earn up to 17,000 rupees a month (\$229) and say they want substantially more to meet rising living expenses.

Full-time workers at the nearby Royal Enfield motorcycle plant earn about 25,000 rupees every month on average and are demanding at least double that amount. They, too, have been on strike for most of the past three weeks after resuming work for a few days but then walking out again.

"We are in a debt trap because of the low wages. We can't imagine getting through our days without loans. We



Motorbike makers, such as Japan's Yamaha, and India's Eicher Motors - maker of the iconic Royal Enfield motorcycles - have been hit hard by walkouts, although major carmakers have been largely unscathed.

have no savings," said Rakesh, a 30-year old employee who has worked at Royal Enfield for 11 years. Royal Enfield dominates the higher-priced market for motorcycles in the 250-500 cc range, while Yamaha focuses on the lower-end of the market. Each have about a 4 percent share of India's booming two-wheeler market, which grew 15 percent to cross 20 million motorcycles in the last fiscal year.

Yamaha India, which filed for police protection after hundreds of its employees sat inside its premises in protests, declined to comment, but said in an affidavit filed with the Madras High Court it was "not averse to legitimate trade union activities".

Some employees have assembled to "make demands that are way beyond the practices prevailing in similar industries," it told the court, adding that a wage revision demanding a three-to-four fold increase in wages was being sought by the workers.

Yamaha sought and got the court to order the strikers to stop occupying the company's plant. Eicher Motors said in a statement that "all employees are treated equally without differentiation by level or location."

Faced backlash

Modi was voted into power in 2014 on promises to reignite growth and provide jobs. But his flagship "Make in India" initiative to lift the share of manufacturing in India's \$2.6 trillion economy to 25 percent from about 17 percent and create 100 million jobs by 2022 has shown little sign of progress. —Reuters

Portugal tourism boom slows with fewer visitors in August

LISBON: After seven years of strong growth in tourist arrivals which has benefited its economy, Portugal saw the number of foreign visitors fall 2 percent in August, which is traditionally the strongest month for travel, official data showed yesterday.

The National Statistics Institute (INE), which monitors hotel stays, said that between January and August that number edged up 0.5 percent to 8.6 million in a sharp slowdown from a near 12 percent jump in the same period a year ago. A record 12.7 million tourists visited Portugal during all of last year.

The drop in August alone, from the same month a year ago, followed a near 3 percent fall in July.

Hotel revenues, including from domestic tourism, still rose over 7 percent in January-August to nearly 2.5 billion euros (\$2.9 billion), INE said. During all of last year hotel revenues rose 17 percent.

The average hotel stay fell almost 2 percent to 2.8 nights. Travellers from all main European markets stayed fewer nights in Portuguese hotels, with Britain leading the trend, but a higher number of tourists from Brazil and North America spent more time in Portugal.

Tourism and all travel-related revenues account for over 10 percent of Portugal's gross domestic product, which is expected to expand 2.3 percent in 2018 in a slowdown from last year's 2.7 percent rise, which marked Portugal's strongest growth since 2000.

The tourism sector is also a key source of employment and big component of exports of services in the Atlantic coast country, which lures visitors with its sandy beaches, mediaeval castles, golf courses, and some of the lowest prices for wining and dining in western Europe. Tourism has been growing steadily since 2011, with hundreds of new hotels and thousands of refurbished apartments for tourists opening across Portugal. —Reuters

Market can cope with push for zero Iranian oil sales: US envoy

PARIS: The United States still aims to cut Iran's oil sales to zero and does not expect restored oil sanctions against Tehran to have a negative impact on a market that is well-supplied and balanced, a senior US official said yesterday. US special envoy for Iran, Brian Hook, was talking to reporters after a visit to India, a major importer of Iranian oil, and talks with officials from France, Britain and Germany before the start of a new round of US sanctions on Nov 4.

The three European countries have been trying to save the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and multiple global powers since US President Trump announced in May that the United States would withdraw from the pact. In a conference call from Luxembourg, where Hook was meeting European officials, he said that Iran uses oil revenue to support and fund terrorist proxies throughout the Middle East and that the US goal is for countries to cut Iranian oil imports to zero as quickly as possible. —Reuters

sumer spending should help to offset the impact on the economy from a widening trade deficit and persistent weakness in the housing market.

Strong economic growth

Growth estimates for the third quarter are above a 3.0 percent annualized rate. The economy grew at a 4.2 percent pace in the second quarter. Strong economic growth likely will keep the Federal Reserve on course to raise interest rates in December. The US central bank hiked rates last month for the third time this year.

The US dollar dropped against a basket of currencies and prices of US Treasuries slightly pared losses after the data yesterday. US stock index futures were trading marginally lower.

Last month, auto sales surged 0.8 percent after declining 0.5 percent in August. Receipts at clothing stores rebounded 0.5 percent after tumbling 2.8 percent in August. Online and mail-order sales soared 1.1 percent in September after rising 0.5 percent in the prior month.

Receipts at furniture stores increased 1.1 percent. Spending at hobby, musical instrument and book stores rose 0.7 percent last month. There were also increases in sales at electronics and appliances stores. But Americans cut back on spending at restaurants and bars, with sales dropping 1.8 percent. That was the biggest decline since December 2016.

While the Commerce Department said it was impossible to determine the impact of Hurricane Florence on the data, disruptions caused by the storm could have hurt sales at restaurants and bars last month.

Sales at building material stores nudged up 0.1 percent in September. Receipts at service stations fell 0.8 percent, likely reflecting a moderation in gasoline prices. —Reuters

US retail sales rise slightly; consumer spending strong

WASHINGTON: US retail sales barely rose in September as a rebound in motor vehicle purchases was offset by the biggest drop in spending at restaurants and bars in nearly two years. But other details of the report from the Commerce Department yesterday were upbeat and suggested that consumer spending ended the third quarter with strong momentum, which should provide a boost to economic growth despite anticipated drags from weak exports and a struggling housing market.

Retail sales edged up 0.1 percent last month after a similar gain in August. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast retail sales increasing 0.6 percent in September.

Retail sales in September rose 4.7 percent from a year ago. Excluding automobiles, gasoline, building materials and food services, retail sales jumped 0.5 percent last month. These so-called core retail sales correspond most closely with the consumer spending component of gross domestic product.

Data for August was revised down to show core retail sales were unchanged instead of the previously reported 0.1 percent gain. Consumer spending, which accounts for more than two thirds of US economic activity, is being driven by a robust labor market, with the unemployment rate near a 49-year low of 3.7 percent. Tight labor market conditions are gradually pushing up wage growth. Solid con-

EXCHANGE RATES

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.391121	0.405021
Czech Korune	0.005616	0.014916
Danish Krone	0.042991	0.047991
Euro	0.343314	0.357014
Georgian Lari	0.134778	0.134778
Hungarian O.001145	0.001335	
Norwegian Krone	0.033126	0.038326
Romanian Leu	0.065109	0.081959
Russian ruble	0.004612	0.004612
Slovakia	0.009078	0.019078
Swedish Krona	0.029841	0.034841
Swiss Franc	0.300189	0.311189

Australasia	BUY	SELL
Australian Dollar	0.207550	0.219550
New Zealand Dollar	0.191294	0.200794

America	BUY	SELL
Canadian Dollar	0.227804	0.236804
US Dollars	0.299850	0.305150
US Dollars Mint	0.300350	0.305150

Asia	BUY	SELL
Bangladesh Taka	0.002971	0.003772
Chinese Yuan	0.042513	0.046013
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036978	0.039728
Indian Rupee	0.003562	0.004334
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000016	0.000022
Japanese Yen	0.002630	0.002810
Korean Won	0.000258	0.000273
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069604	0.075604
Nepalese Rupee	0.002628	0.002968
Pakistan Rupee	0.001777	0.002547
Philippine Peso	0.005456	0.005756
Singapore Dollar	0.215129	0.225129
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001469	0.002049
Taiwan	0.010430	0.010610
Thai Baht	0.008940	0.009490
Vietnamese Dong	0.000013	0.000013

Arab	BUY	SELL
Bahraini Dinar	0.791663	0.808163

Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.590
Canadian Dollar	233.750
Sterling Pound	400.635
Euro	353.290
Swiss Frank	303.170
Bahrain Dinar	807.360
UAE Dirhams	83.060
Qatari Riyals	84.295
Saudi Riyals	81.855
Jordanian Dinar	429.480
Egyptian Pound	16.958
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.786
Indian Rupees	4.127
Pakistani Rupees	2.308
Bangladesh Taka	3.627
Philippines Peso	5.612
Cyprus pound	18.060
Japanese Yen	3.710
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.574
Malaysian Ringgit	73.885
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.315
Thai Baht	10.255
Turkish Lira	51.975
Singapore dollars	219.703

Business

Crowdfunded solar panels aim to supercharge business in Africa

Commercial-scale solar power transforming rural lives across East Africa

KISII, Kenya: Like many small-scale farmers in densely populated Kisii County in western Kenya, James and Janet Torori long depended on bananas, maize and a single dairy cow for food and income.

"Like everyone else around here we have relied on two crops to support our family and it has not been easy earning a decent income considering that what we have been producing is what everyone else produces," James Torori said. But over the last year they've found another promising source of cash: Using green electricity from a local solar micro-grid to power a hatchery and raise chicks for sale.

As part of the Kuka Poa ("smart poultry" in Swahili) project they now earn about \$80 a month more than they once did, said the couple from Kebaracho village.

Commercial-scale solar power - sufficient to run businesses as well as lights - could help many more rural people across East Africa earn a better living, say officials at Powerhive, a microgrid power company that provided the Kuka Poa panels.

But installing clean power requires cash - and for that the company is turning to a partnership with The Sun Exchange, a South Africa-based solar energy financier.

The Sun Exchange runs an online buy-to-lease marketplace for solar cells, where investors can buy solar equipment that is then leased to rural communities to help them run businesses. As the businesses make a profit, investors get a rental income over 20 years - and poor communities get access to clean energy without the big upfront costs often associated with installing renewable energy, said Abe Cambridge, The Sun Exchange's CEO.

Investors can use anything from credit cards to cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin to buy solar cells, "with transactions managed via blockchain, he said. "With

cryptocurrencies, the market is large and you access the whole world since you are using the internet. And the investor can put in as little as \$10, which may not be possible in traditional markets," Cambridge explained.

Since it was founded in 2015, the company has raised about \$800,000 via the model to fund five projects in South Africa, generating a total of 700 kilowatts of power. It has sold over 150,000 solar cells to more than 1,000 buyers in 90 countries, Cambridge said.

Triple win

One project powers the Cape Town offices of SouthSouthNorth, a South Africa-based environmental group. "What is fantastic about The Sun Exchange model is that it benefits us as the recipient of power and it benefits the people buying the solar cells - and it's also a win for the environment," said Carl Wesselink of SouthSouth North.

The Sun Exchange's model of financing solar, he said, could help drive wider installation of solar panels and be "the catalyst required for realising our (distributed) energy revolution".

Cambridge said The Sun Exchange's new partnership with Powerhive, which has operated in Kenya since 2011, would aim to fund about 150 solar projects "and then hopefully grow from there".

He said he hopes to raise enough cash to generate up to 10,000 kilowatts of new clean power over the next five years. Chris Honor, Powerhive's CEO, said his aim is to connect about 20,000 new households to power by the end of 2019.

The combined attraction of earning an income and helping some of the 600 million people living without electricity in sub-Saharan Africa should draw investors, particularly those who "want to be part of the energy revolution", he said. He said micro-grids his company



has put in place in Kenya have so far powered things such as hatcheries and welding shops - commercial uses of energy rather than power for lights and charging mobile phones.

According to William Brent of Power for All, an organization that promotes broader access to clean electricity, crowdsourcing has become central in financing energy projects in Africa and Asia, raising millions of dollars. "In the past three years, crowdsourcing has become an important tool for many com-

panies to raise capital to connect people to electricity for the first time," he said.

Several platforms are now offering crowdfunding for clean energy and that "will continue to grow, and to explore new and innovative financing models", he predicted.

Such methods of raising funds are particularly important when "many investors are still learning to fully embrace the energy systems of the future", he said. —Reuters

World's central bankers feel the heat as populists demand easy fix

NUSA DUA: Central bankers from the United States to Europe are coming under pressure from their governments to loosen their purse strings again as a decade of accelerating economic growth and booming markets fuelled by cheap cash comes to an end.

For 10 years since the global financial crash of 2008, the Federal Reserve and other central banks across the world have engineered a global upswing through ultra-low interest rates and massive money-printing programs.

As inflation recovers, rate-setters are now tightening their policy, leaving indebted governments, entrepreneurs and households feeling the pinch from higher borrowing costs and, in fragile emerging economies, sliding currencies.

What started as an issue for countries with sizeable US dollar debt such as Argentina and Turkey is now reaching the world's richest and supposedly most advanced economies in the United States and the euro zone.

US President Donald Trump launched a scathing attack on the Federal Reserve this week for being "too aggressive" in raising rates and labelled the institution "crazy", "loco", "ridiculous" and "too cute".

Earlier this year, Italy's ruling parties

floated the idea of getting the European Central Bank to forgive some of the country's huge debt pile or offer a guarantee on it. The central banks of Turkey and South Africa have also been blamed by their governments for being too tight with their policy.

The clash threatens to tarnish the golden rule of developed financial systems for the past three decades: keep the money-printing presses away from elected politicians if you want to keep inflation in check.

This risk, part of a global wave of populism and aversion towards technocrats, worried policymakers at the International Monetary Fund's annual meetings this week. "They're asking to change rates, (debt) cancellation, they're asking them to do other things, buy bonds," European Central Bank President Mario Draghi told a press conference at the IMF meeting on the Indonesian resort island of Bali.

"This is one of the risks in the geopolitical sphere."

Barry Eichengreen, a professor at Berkeley, said governments had more to lose than gain by discrediting their central banks. "Seriously infringing on the independence of the central bank would elicit a negative market reaction," Eichengreen said.

Standing their ground

So far, monetary guardians have stood their ground. Eurozone central bank sources at the IMF meeting told Reuters Italy won't receive any help from the ECB unless it secures a bailout from the European Union, which comes with stringent conditions in terms of budget tightening and economic reforms.

Khan was elected in July with the support of many poorer Pakistanis desperate for a change in a nation where the illiteracy rate hovers above 40 percent, healthcare is shoddy, and joblessness or underemployment rife among the country's 208 million people.

Creating 10 million jobs would require the economy to grow at 8 percent but that can only be achieved with economic shock therapy that in the short term will smother growth to far below the 5.8 percent achieved in the year to June, economists say.

"The path to Medina is full of thorns, not roses," said one expert at an international donor agency, who declined to be identified as he is not authorized to speak on the issue.

"To get there, they have to go through these painful measures now."

The IMF predicted this week Pakistan's growth will slow to 4 percent in 2019 and fall to about 3 percent in the medium term. A sharp increase in oil prices - Pakistan imports about 80 percent of oil needs - has contributed to a current account deficit that widened 43 percent to \$18 billion in the fiscal year that ended June 30. The weakening Pakistan rupee also contributes to a rise in local energy prices. On Wednesday, Khan blamed the previous government for the economic mess and urged Pakistanis to remain calm. "I want to tell all of you to stay strong and not to panic. This is a very short period of time which will go away."

"Fend for ourselves"

As an opposition leader, Khan vowed to never "beg" for money from the IMF and swept to power on an anti-corruption platform that was coupled with a promise to enact badly needed reforms, including widening the nation's taxation net and



NUSA DUA: (L to R) World Bank vice president and corporate secretary Yvonne Tsikata, Indonesia's finance minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati, World Bank president Jim Yong Kim, International Monetary Fund (IMF) managing director Christine Lagarde, South African Reserve Bank deputy governor Daniel Mminele, and United Nations secretary general Antonio Guterres pose before a meeting at the IMF and World Bank annual meetings in Nusa Dua on Indonesia's resort island of Bali. —AFP

The Fed's chair, Jerome Powell, did not react to Trump's comments but he bagged a resounding endorsement from the IMF's managing director Christine Lagarde.

Another central banker attending the Bali meeting said he was not giving Trump's comments too much weight. "I'd take him seriously if he removed Powell but I don't think he'd do that," the official said.

And Lesetja Kganyago, governor of the South African Reserve Bank, said at the Bali summit rate-setters needed to be "given the space to act independently without political interference".

Even in countries where central bank

independence is weaker or absent, monetary guardians are putting up a fight.

Turkey's central bank last month raised its benchmark rate by a hefty 625 basis points to boost the lira despite harsh criticism from President Tayyip Erdogan.

But Richard Portes, a professor at the London Business School, said the issue wasn't likely to go away until central bankers became more accountable and transparent. "Monetary policy has political consequence even though central banks are run by technocrats," Portes said.

"They must have interchange with the people." —Reuters



NUSA DUA: Pakistan's Finance Minister Asad Umar speaks during a seminar at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank annual meetings in Nusa Dua on Indonesia's resort island of Bali. —AFP

reforming loss-making state-run enterprises.

But local and foreign investors have welcomed the bailout talks, saying Pakistan's economy needs the IMF's protective blanket because of rising oil prices and emerging markets turmoil. However, they also warned of tougher conditions compared to 2013, when Islamabad was given repeated waivers and avoided harsh reforms after receiving a \$6.7 billion IMF loan.

"Better that we enter into a well-structured IMF program than try to fend for ourselves," the Pakistan Business Council said in a statement. In a nod to the IMF, which called the rupee "over-valued", Pakistan's central bank last week carried out its fifth devaluation

since December, sending the rupee tumbling 7.5 percent to take its losses to 26 percent in the past 10 months. More devaluations are expected. The bank has also hiked its main interest rate by 275 basis points since January, to 8.5 percent, and analysts say more rises are on the horizon.

The devaluations have stoked inflation worries and are putting extra pressure on debt servicing, which is a major concern for the new government. Debt service costs are set to account for 35 percent of the budget in the fiscal year to next June, according to forecasts from the previous government. Officials now expect the debt to GDP ratio to rise above 70 percent. —Reuters

CBK launches its Live Chat Service

KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently launched its Live Chat service which allows clients directly to do live audio or video chats with CBK using CBK Mobile App.

Speaking about the new service, CBK's individual banking services manager, Hameed Ibrahim Salman said that the live chat service is a new technology used through CBK mobile apps on smartphones. He added that the service is available 24/7 even if the client is abroad.

Further, Salman said that the new service provides immediate responses to clients' inquiries, allows them to activate or suspend their cards or accounts and do a series of other services.

Oil prices ease as funds continue profit-taking

LONDON: Hedge fund managers have continued to take profits on their bullish positions in crude oil as the late summer rally has faded and fears about oil consumption and the state of the economy have replaced concerns over sanctions on Iran. Fund managers cut their combined net long position in the six most important petroleum futures and options contracts by 36 million barrels in the week to Oct. 9 after trimming it by 19 million barrels the week before.

Liquidation was concentrated in Brent (-6 million barrels) and WTI (-37 million), while fund managers left positions unchanged in US heating oil and added them in US gasoline (+2 million) and European gasoil (+6 million).

Net positions in Brent and WTI have been cut by a total of 71 million barrels over the last two weeks after being raised by 177 million during the five previous weeks.

The earlier bullishness was driven mostly by concerns about a possible shortage of crude oil once US sanctions on Iran go into effect from early November. But in recent weeks Saudi Arabia, Russia and some other oil producers have pledged to boost their oil output to make up for any shortfall and stop prices spiralling higher. —Reuters

An IMF bailout set to impede Pakistan PM's populist agenda

ISLAMABAD: From cutting power subsidies to forcing currency devaluations that stoke inflation, the hard choices facing Pakistan as it seeks a bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) pose a major headache for populist new Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Pakistani officials met IMF representatives this week in Bali and formally requested Islamabad's 13th bailout since the late 1980s to give the economy breathing room, while they implement reforms aiming to end decades of boom and bust cycles.

On top of lending the nuclear armed state billions of dollars to avert another balance of payments crisis, the IMF is this time expected to push Islamabad much harder to enact structural reforms needed to rebalance the economy, and rein in spending that has boosted growth but blown out the government budget. Talks with the IMF have been launched and managing director Christine Lagarde has already said she would require "absolute transparency" of Pakistan's debts, including those owed to close ally China.

Any reforms prescribed by the IMF would threaten Khan's lofty campaign promises, like his vow to create 10 million jobs and establish an "Islamic welfare state" modelled on the ideas first voiced by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in the holy city of Madinah.

کرایہ کے لئے

کرایہ کے لئے اپارٹمنٹ
مختلف علاقوں میں
کویت کے اندر

بینڈ الغار - داسمان - حولی - سالمیہ

ایک بیڈروم لاؤنج باتھ روم باورچی خانے	2 بیڈروم لاؤنج باتھ روم باورچی خانے
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Business

Crafted in the spirit of amazing Lexus reveals LY 650 luxury yacht

65-foot Lexus yacht joins LS sedan, LX SUV and LC coupe as 4th Lexus flagship



KUWAIT: Lexus continually evaluates what constitutes a luxury experience and has, as a result, ventured into the worlds of culinary, design, film, and more as alternative opportunities to interact with the brand. Driven by Lexus International President, Yoshihiro Sawa's vision of Lexus as a brand that, "explores new ways to deliver innovative and amazing experiences for our guests," Lexus has partnered with some of the world's finest purveyors of experience to further celebrate the phrase, Experience Amazing.

Lexus returns to the water with its next expression of a Lexus yacht in the form of the LY 650. Bearing the most contemporary expression of Lexus design

language, L-finesse, applied beyond the world of automobiles, the production LY 650 picks up where the stunning Lexus Sport Yacht Concept left off.

Several of the most attractive features from the 42-foot concept have made their way onto the LY 650. In 65-foot overall length, 19-foot beam form, the newest Lexus yacht has a distinguished style found in the strong, pronounced bow, curved deck accents and accentuated aft hips. Viewed from the profile, the elegant rise and fall of the yacht's distinctly Lexus roofline flows into rising, broad hips of the rear section.

Making this dream-like vision a reality, Marquis-

Larson Boat Group was selected to build, sell and service the next Lexus yacht based largely on their extensive experience with bespoke boat building and their proven capability, confirmed by their work bringing the Lexus Sport Yacht Concept to life.

Complementing Lexus' renowned heritage of Takumi craftspeople who are supremely skilled in their roles, Marquis' craftsmanship backbone is clearly demonstrated by their masterful boat builders, many of whom have been with the company for 30 years.

The first completed Lexus LY 650 is expected to be finished in the second half of 2019 and will make its global debut late in the year.



KFH hands over People's Choice Start-Up Award to start-up winner

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) handed over the People's Choice Award of \$5,000 cash prize to startup winner. The award ceremony was held on the sidelines of the ArabNet Kuwait forum that included workshops and startup battle competitions among entrepreneurs. The competitions aim to showcase the best of regional startups to an enthusiastic crowd of investors, incubators, media and digital professionals, as well as connect entrepreneurs with the digital world.

Executive Manager Group Public Relations and Media at KFH, Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaich handed over the award to Hasan Alenezy, expressing his pride in the Kuwaiti youth and stressing the importance of entrepreneurship, digitization and innovation in developing the economy. He added "this comes in line with Kuwait 2035" vision and KFH strategy of contributing the comprehensive development."

KFH participated as a platinum sponsor in the third edition of ArabNet Kuwait as part of its keenness to be present at forums and events concerned with the latest development in the digital world and the financial technology to be utilized in the financial



Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaich handed over the award to Hasan Alenezy

industry and customer service.

At the Money Forum, KFH officials demonstrated the latest developments in the financial technology Fintech and the role of digitization in the banking industry. They underlined the significant role of KFH in coping with

technology as per regulations and security manner.

The conference was a platform to explore trends in financial technology and the transformations created by big data, blockchain, AI and the practical opportunities available for banks and financial service providers.

Warba Bank announces winners of Al-Sunbula weekly draw

KUWAIT: Warba Bank, "the Best investment Bank" and "Best Corporate Bank" in Kuwait, held its week 37th draw for Al-Sunbula Account. The draw announced the 5 lucky winners in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Bank officials.

The bank proudly announces the lucky 5 winners who received KD 1,000 each are: Khaled Khadaan Mohammad Khadaan, Jassim Mohamed Al-Ibrahim, Alanoud Fahad Wabran Al-Meatiqah, Amal

Mohammad Owainan Al-Azmi and Shafi Abdullah Salman Al-Mutairi.

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

Thus, the new development of Al-Sunbula account has increased the total number of winners to 24, and the total amount of prizes to KD 50,000 instead of KD 30,000. As for the chances for winning, each customer

is eligible to enter the draw against each KD 10. It is noteworthy, that Warba Bank has recently launched the Al-Sunbula Fixed Deposit, which provides depositors with high returns of up to 3 percent, as well as getting monthly chances to win in Al-Sunbula Account draws.

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

Gulf Bank announces winners of Al-Danah weekly draw

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah weekly draw on the 14th of October 2018 announcing the names of its winners for the week from the 7th till the 11th of October 2018, in which five winners will receive KD 1,000 each, every week.

The winners this week are:

- Nawaf Mohammad Hammad Abu Jarwah
- Amal Jamil Amine
- Shaheerah Shamas Al-Deen Salama
- Abdullah Mashaan Tenan Alajmi
- Hayat Safar Ali Safar

Gulf Bank Al-Danah's 1st quarterly draw for KD 200,000 prize was held on 28 March, and the 2nd Al-Danah quarterly draw, for the prize of KD 250,000 was held on 27th June and the 3rd quarterly draw for the prize of KD 500,000 was held on 26th September. The final Al-Danah draw for KD 1 million will be held on 10th January 2019, where the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced.

Gulf Bank encourages customers to increase their chances of winning with Al-Danah by depositing more into their Gulf Bank accounts using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's online and mobile banking services.

Al-Danah offers a number of unique services to customers, including the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card, which allows account holders to deposit money into their accounts at their convenience. Account holders can also calculate their daily, weekly and yearly chances of winning the draws through the 'Al-Danah Chances' calculator available on the Gulf Bank website and app.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD 200 to open an account and the same amount should be maintained for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD 200 at any given time, a KD 2 fee will be charged to their account monthly until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the daily draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2018 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must meet the required hold period for each draw.

Bank of America reports a jump in 3Q profits

NEW YORK: Bank of America reported a jump in third-quarter earnings, benefiting from higher interest rates and overall loan growth in a strong US economy. The second biggest US bank by assets, Bank of America reported net income of \$6.7 billion, up 35.1 percent from the year-ago period.

Revenues rose 4.3 percent to \$22.8 billion. Bank of America's results were

the latest to show a lift to large US banks following a series of Federal Reserve interest rates that boost the amount that banks can charge for loans.

That benefit has been offset somewhat by a drop in revenues connected to mortgage refinancings. But credit quality has been holding up despite the higher interest rates on credit cards, with Bank of America lowering its funds set aside for credit losses. "Responsible growth, backed by a solid US economy and a healthy US consumer, combined to deliver the highest quarterly pre-tax earnings in our company's history," said Chief Executive Brian Moynihan. Shares of Bank of America rose 0.3 percent to \$28.55. —AFP



A sign for Bank of America is seen on 3rd Avenue in New York City. —AFP

Italian cabinet to approve budget today as EU, markets fret

ROME: Italy's cabinet was due to meet yesterday but the approval of the 2019 budget, which envisages a jump in the deficit that has upset financial markets and drawn criticism from the European Commission, slipped to today.

The government, backed by the right-wing League and the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement, has already issued the financial framework for the budget, raising the target for next year's deficit to 2.4 percent of gross domestic product.

That is comfortably below the EU's 3 percent ceiling, but up sharply from a targeted 1.8 percent this year, flouting EU rules which call on highly-debt countries like Italy to narrow the deficit steadily towards a balanced budget. —Reuters

Health & Science

Canada pot legalization poses health and safety challenges

Canadians among the highest per capita users of cannabis

OTTAWA: Canada will end its pot prohibition tomorrow with the goals of curbing the black market and use by youth, amid concerns around the public health and safety merits of legalization. Public health officials contend that smoking cannabis is as harmful as tobacco, but welcome the opportunity legalization affords for open dialogue.

Police, meanwhile, are scrambling to prepare for a predicted rise in drug-impaired driving and are not yet ready to lay three new charges, which require blood tests within two hours of being pulled over to show above-limit levels of THC, the psychoactive agent in cannabis. "As a doctor and as a father, I do not agree with the legalization of recreational cannabis," said Antonio Vigano, a medical marijuana specialist and research director at the Sante Cannabis clinic in Montreal, citing the risk of increased consumption among young people.

"There are health concerns," Gillian Connelly of the Ottawa Public Health Agency told AFP. "But legalization is creating an opportunity to have discussions about cannabis use, for example, parents starting a conversation with their kids about it. For decades, we've said: 'Just don't use,' but that hasn't worked," she said.

This failed messaging has helped to make Canadians among the highest per capita users of cannabis, with 4.6 million or one in eight having consumed pot this year (including 18 percent of Ottawa youth). There are now hundreds of millions of dollars in funding available for education, and, Connelly said, "a concerted effort to get information out to people about the harms of cannabis. People will also have information about what they're consuming, with THC levels on the package, in order to make informed decisions about how much is okay for them to consume," she said.

Driving while high

The government sent a mailer to 14 million households outlining the basics, including health warnings and the need to keep cannabis away from children and pets. Mothers Against Drunk Driving also partnered with Uber and pot grower Tweed in a campaign against high-driving.

Connelly noted a brief spike in hospitalizations after the US state of Colorado legalized cannabis in 2014, attributed to people not realizing its potency. THC has risen from an average of three percent in the 1980s to 15 percent today. "Our message is to start low and go slow," she said.

Employers, meanwhile, are setting a wide range of restrictions on its use affecting work. The military, for example, has ordered soldiers not to use cannabis eight hours before a shift, while some police and airlines have announced bans. Officials urged updating workplace policies, but acknowledged a patchwork of court decisions on employee drug screening has created challenges for employers.

Teenage tokers

In addition to legal gray zones, there is a dearth of scientific data on cannabis, which has made policy-setting harder. This became apparent when officials dismissed doctors' concerns about pot's impact on developing brains under 25, and set the minimum age for consumption at 18 or 19 in line with the legal age for alcohol.

A panel that recommended the framework for legalization to the government said the "current science is not definitive on a safe age for cannabis use." It also determined that setting the bar at 25 would undercut efforts to eliminate the black market, which in turn would undermine providing a safer product to consumers.

Connelly said she hopes legalization will spur research. Many of the current policies around cannabis, she noted, are based on alcohol and tobacco. For policing, corresponding consumption to impairment also remains hazy. To get around this, the government set limits of blood drug concentrations at, or over 2 nanograms of THC but under 5 ng; 5 ng and over; and 2.5 ng combined with 50 mg alcohol per 100 ml of blood, so prosecutors don't need to prove impairment.

"For people who drive, we know that the presence of THC is a risk for attention, concentration, judgment," said Vigano. But most forces do not yet have dedicated staff for taking blood samples. Officers are being trained to use



OTTAWA: In this file photo taken on April 20, 2016 A woman waves a flag with a marijuana leaf on it next to a group gathered to celebrate National Marijuana Day on Parliament Hill. — AFP

alternative roadside saliva testers for detecting THC, approved in August. But some forces, including the Ottawa Police Service, are opting not to use them over concerns about costs (Can\$6,000 each), their effectiveness in the cold and their admissibility in court.

"It functions best at temperatures from 4 degrees to 40 degrees (Celsius). In winter, which can stretch from October to April in this part of Canada, it may present challenges," said Ottawa police Constable Amy Gagnon. A Senate brief noted that drug-impaired driving cases take twice as long to litigate compared to alcohol-impaired driving cases, and are less likely to result in a

guilty verdict. Meanwhile, the government is hoping that undercutting traffickers on price will simply put them out of business.

But the proposed after-tax pricing is above the average Can\$6.74 (US\$5.16) per gram on the black market, according to Statistics Canada. For Jean-Sebastien Fallu, an addiction specialist at the University of Montreal, the risks do not outweigh the virtues of legalization. "Cannabis is not good for health, but prohibition is extremely harmful and worse than cannabis," Fallu said, citing the "catastrophic consequences" of "stigmatization, violence, crime (and) illicit economy." — AFP

Canon unveils regional findings of Insights at GITEX 2018



Ayman Aly

DUBAI: Canon Middle East has announced the findings of its Office Insights 2018 research, which reveals that Middle Eastern businesses are rapidly investing in cloud and mobile solutions at a rate far surpassing other EMEA markets. With a focus on the evolution of the digital workplace and addressing the business challenges identified in the research report, the leader in imaging solutions will be demonstrating its innovative solutions and services, designed to drive digital transformation success, at GITEX Technology Week 2018.

Rapid innovation is changing the nature of offices beyond its conventional boundaries, as knowledge workers can be productive anywhere, thanks to mobile, cloud, faster network access, and a growing number of online collaboration tools. The digital workplace of tomorrow is certainly beginning to take shape in the Middle East where a third of people in senior management positions have shifted from seeing little to no value in cloud and mobile services two years ago, to embracing the technology today.

With over 50% of Middle Eastern businesses believing that the cloud gives them an edge over their competitors and over 50% believing that it improves workforce pro-

ductivity, it is no surprise that cloud technology is a key driver of technological advancement in the region. The opportunity for cloud-based technology is far from shrinking, as 83% of Middle Eastern respondents consider cloud-based document access important or critical to business success, compared to 67% in the larger EMEA region. Around 67% are already using cloud-based solutions in the Middle East, double the EMEA region average of 34%.

The Middle Eastern region has also demonstrated a strong support for mobile working, with 60% of respondents citing the positive impact it has had on their businesses and 51% of IT departments in the region providing support to employees' personal devices. Respondents also believe that social media makes the workplace more collaborative, that remote working makes people more productive, and that personal devices should be brought into work. This attitude has meant that the adoption of cloud and mobile services has been faster in the Middle East than in other regions across Africa and Eurasia, with strong and impressive results.

On cloud-based document management and automation, 85% of Middle East respondents consider it critical or important to convert paper documents to editable, digital ones, recognizing that an organization can only harness the full potential of digital by integrating it into every facet of the enterprise. While no enterprises in the Middle East

have entirely stopped using transactional hard copies, 34% are focused on halting their use in the next 12 months. A longer timeframe for phasing out hard copies is planned among 39% of businesses in the region, who look to achieve this goal in the coming 2-3 years, and 16% in the next 4-5 years. The vast majority of ME respondents agree that more automation is inevitable, clearly outlining that this is the direction that the majority of workplaces are headed. From the Middle East, 93% of respondents already use Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems or similar, designed to efficiently manage information flow across different departments or sites.

Despite the fact that 57% of respondents worry about losing data in the cloud, this does not seem to deter the uptake of cloud solutions. The Middle East region is the most likely to be enhancing document security in the next 1-2 years (46%) whereas the average in EMEA is only 25%. This concern is translating into real-world action, with 55% in the Middle East consulting with external specialists to help them with document management solutions.

Ayman Aly, Senior Marketing Manager, Canon Middle East said: "It is very encouraging to see how aware our region is of the benefits of cloud and how best to implement it, making the most of upfront investments. When done right, cloud technologies and mobile access can actually improve both security and productivity, allowing users to access lost data, help to wipe machines remotely, and enable flexible working on-the-move. Understandably, many businesses are still cautious about integrating mobile and cloud technology into the office landscape. Our aim is to continue providing support and education to our customers and business partners in the Middle East, to ensure that they are able to reach their full potential, no matter the size or nature of their industry."

China purrs over its white tiger triplets

KUNMING: Three playful white Bengal tiger cubs are charming visitors as they clamber around their enclosure at a zoo in China. The rare, blue-eyed triplets were born nearly three months ago at the Yunnan Wildlife Zoo in Kunming, and made their public debut in early October. "The oldest one — the largest — is very naughty and has a real appetite. He's the

naughtiest. The youngest is like a baby, she's gentle. She never wins when fighting for food," zookeeper Hao Li said.

The cubs' busy mother is getting a helping hand keeping her youngsters from getting hungry, with keepers always ready to step in with a bottle. The tigers' white fur is a genetic variation of the common orange Bengal tiger. The mutation seldom occurs in the wild, but the zoo is home to 41 cats of this rare white variety.

There are currently more than 2,500 Bengal tigers outside captivity, most of them in India, according to conservation group World Wildlife Fund. A competition is being held to name the three newborns, with final names chosen at the end of October. — AFP



KUNMING: Picture of newborn white Bengal tiger cub in Yunnan Wildlife Zoo. — AFP

Kaspersky tech detects zero-day exploit for Windows

DUBAI: Kaspersky Lab Automatic Exploit Prevention technology, embedded in most of the company's endpoint solutions, has detected a series of targeted cyber-attacks. The attacks were attempted by a new piece of malware that exploited a previously unknown zero-day vulnerability in the Microsoft Windows operating system. The intention was for cybercriminals to gain persistent access to victim systems in the Middle East. The vulnerability was patched by Microsoft on 9 October.

An attack via a zero-day vulnerability is one of the most dangerous forms of cyberthreat, as it involves the exploitation of a vulnerability that is yet to be discovered and fixed. If found by threat actors, a zero-day vulnerability can be used for the creation of an exploit that will open access to a whole system. This attack scenario is widely used by sophisticated actors in APT attacks, and was used here.

The discovered Microsoft Windows exploit was delivered to the victims via a PowerShell backdoor. It was then executed in order to get the necessary privileges for persistence on victim systems. The code of the malware was of high quality and was written to enable the reliable exploitation of as many different Windows builds as possible. The cyber-attacks targeted less than

a dozen of various organizations in the Middle East during the late summer. It is suspected that the actor behind the attack could be related to the Fruity Armorgroup - as a PowerShell backdoor has exclusively been used by this threat actor in the past. Upon discovery, Kaspersky Lab's experts immediately reported the vulnerability to Microsoft.

Kaspersky Lab products detected this exploit proactively through the following technologies:

- Via Kaspersky Lab's behavioral detection engine, and Automatic Exploit Prevention components inside the company's security products.
- Through Advanced Sandboxing and the Antimalware engine within the Kaspersky Anti Targeted Attack Platform

"When it comes to zero-day vulnerabilities, it is critical to actively monitor the threat landscape on for new exploits. At Kaspersky Lab, our constant threat intelligence research aims to not only find new attacks, and establish the targets of different cybthreat actors, we are also intent at learning what malicious technologies these criminals use. As a result of our research, we have a foundation layer of detection technologies which let us prevent attacks- such as the one that intended to use this vulnerability," said Anton Ivanov, security expert at Kaspersky Lab.

Dell brings award winning portfolio at GITEX Technology Week

DUBAI: Dell Technologies' unique family of businesses including Dell, Dell EMC, Pivotal, RSA, SecureWorks, Virtustream and VMware will come together, on one stand, at GITEX Technology Week 2018. At the technology industry platform, the company will demonstrate the unique value it brings to the market, with all seven integrated companies under one umbrella.

The technology leaders will together demonstrate the power to bring digital transformation to life and make it real for businesses in the region, with the industry's most expansive portfolio from the edge to the data center to the cloud. Speaking about the event, Mohammed Amin, Senior Vice President, Middle East, Turkey & Africa at Dell EMC said: "Digital transformation is fundamentally changing how every business in every industry is built and operated and the world is entering a new era of digital economy wherein data is the new currency.

This highlights the increasing need of IT practitioners to have a one-stop shop for the essential infrastructure they need to build their digital future, transform IT and protect their information. Monumental change brought by the future of technology is rich with opportunity, and Dell Technologies is the transformational catalyst, and partner, for our customers to help them adapt to operate in this new digital world. With an attentive and relevant audience, GITEX is the perfect opportunity to share our vision of technology as the driver of human progress."

The Dell Technologies family of brands, through strong collaboration with customers and partners, brings technology innovation to life that is customer-enabled and inspired. During the event, experts from the seven companies will be on hand to demonstrate the connected ecosystem of IT infrastructure, applications, devices and security that can enable real transformation across organizations.

- Dell - Innovative devices built for the way we work
- Dell EMC - Infrastructure solutions to modernize and transform IT
- Pivotal - Software development platforms to digitally transform business
- RSA - Solutions for business-driven security
- SecureWorks - Intelligence-driven security expertise and solutions
- Virtustream - Enterprise-class cloud services and software
- VMware - Software to power cloud infrastructure and services

Through its long and successful presence in the region, Dell Technologies has longstanding customer and channel partner relationships across the region. The company has built a strong regional base of customers, enabling organizations to become more customer-centric by modernizing infrastructure, automating IT service delivery, and transforming processes, and thereby the 'people experience'. The technology company has a range of proven, market-leading technologies and services to help customers adapt towards and achieve their digital future. Dell Technologies is located at Stand D6-01 in Hall 6 of GITEX Technology Week at Dubai World Trade Centre.

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Surgery Department
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What's On

KIB hosts students from Al-Firdous Middle School at its head office

KIB recently hosted a group of students from Al-Firdous Middle School for girls for a visit at its head office. This initiative came as part of its leading financial literacy program which aims at spreading financial and economic awareness amongst all segments of the local community. During the visit, a team from the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB organized a tour for students to show them around the head office branch, familiarizing them with the working world of banking in a simplified manner.

The visit also included educational lectures about financial literacy which introduced students to basics of saving and spending. Additionally, the lectures also fea-

tured topics such as good money management. KIB strongly believes in the importance of educating children and youth, thereby nurturing a generation of financially-savvy adults capable of building a better future for the nation.

Moreover, students were introduced to the various Islamic banking products and services offered by KIB and enjoyed by its customers. These include diverse financing facilities and Murabaha financing, credit cards and many different bank accounts. The team at KIB also presented students with the benefits of the Bank's 'Al-Shabab Account'; the account caters to customers aged 14 to 21 and provides a number of features tailored to meet the needs and aspirations of youth.



KCST participates in the Kuwait University Programming Competition



Under the patronage of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) and the Global Programming Competition, Kuwait College of Science and Technology participated in the 6th Kuwait ICPC Programming Competition. Which focus on competing participants in programming languages, and organized by the members of the Organizing Committee of the Kuwaiti and Arab Programming Competition of the Global Programming Contest in C, C++, JAVA.

A team from Kuwait College of Science and Technology (KCST), consisting of three students: Ali Al-Awadhi, Nora Al-Sulaiman and Nasser Al-Saqabi, are formally invited to the Arab Programming Competition in November in Sharm El-Sheikh under the supervision of Tareq Al-Zayat. In the university and intensive preparations happen in order to enter the competition for the first time in addition to the efforts of organizers and the organizers of the competition.

Professor Khalid Al-Begain, President of Kuwait College of Science and Technology, said: "We are pleased to have the students of this university compete in this competition, and urge the contestants to develop their knowledge and skills in using the different programming languages, especially the most prevalent ones."

Professor Al-Begain assured that participating in the scientific competitions is the practical application that the students in the classroom harvest, and that they show the contestants the ability to use the different



programming languages to keep up the pace with modern technological development, which depends on understanding the basics of programming. He also confirmed that he is confident that the students of Kuwait College of Science and Technology are working hard before graduation, and the future is open to them in all fields.

Engineer Tariq Al-Zayat, a teacher in the Department of Computer Engineering and Computer Science, as well as the supervisor of the university's programming club, expressed that he found in the students a high level of proficiency in the programming languages; which gave them confidence to participate in this competition in the State of Kuwait. In also helping them to develop scientific skills, as they are always ready to learn and understand everything new in the world

of technology. Engineer Tariq Al-Zayat said that the programming club has designed various workshops, and the first of which was dealing with an application on the phone to teach the programming languages, and create new applications. They are also organizing the new workshops with different topics including Photoshop, creating web sites, and dealing with robot simulation programs. He assured that these workshops have received great success, and distinguished turnout from the university students; especially that the university offers distinguished specialties, which are presented for the first time in Kuwait. He is a Bachelor of Electronics and Communications Engineering, a Bachelor of Computer Engineering, and a Bachelor of Computer Science."

Workshop by the Anesthesia and ICU Department Council

Head of the infectious diseases hospital intensive care and anesthesia department Dr. Hanouf Al-Roudhan said intensive care units in all general and specialized hospitals of Kuwait receive 4000 to 5000 critical cases annually. She said this is a normal rate worldwide compared with the number of ICU beds in Kuwait.

Al-Roudhan who spoke during a specialized training workshop organized by the

Anesthesia, and ICU Department Council, in which more than 100 doctors participated from ICU, trauma, internal medicine and surgery departments in government and private hospitals to be informed about the latest in monitoring vital signs and dynamics of blood pumping in various parts of the body for critical conditions be it in ICU, trauma departments or during senseries.

She said there are major developments in the technology that help in measuring and monitoring vital signs and the blood circulation dynamics. She said it is highly important for doctors and nursing teams as well as all those working in the medical field to have a look at advanced technology in this field. She said the workshop focused on that technology and its efficiency in monitoring vital signs and blood circulation in various parts of the body and the types of cases that require that need such technology specially toxemia (blood poisoning) cases.

She said this modern technology help identify the reason behind the deterioration of the patient's condition, or having any emergency that threatens his life, and shows the nature of blood pumping in various parts of the body. She said ICU patient may experience a defect in the heart, brain, kidneys and breathing due to the inability of blood to deliver oxygen to the body's various organs. International studies show the death rates may reach 40% due to not diagnosing blood circulation disorder in time.

She said this technology help recognize warning signs and place of defects to determine the patient's of defects to determine the patient's treatment mechanism in time, and whether he needs liquids or medicines to support the heart, adding that there are three types of treatments that may be linked to each other or opposite each other, and without knowing the reason for drop in blood pressure we will not be able to deal with the case.



ASSP Kuwait holds Lead Auditor training program

Adding on to its illustrious pathways of educating and empowering its members, American Society of Safety Professionals, (ASSP) Kuwait Chapter organized ISO 14001:2015 Lead Auditor Training Program on 23rd to 27th September 2018, at Best Western hotel, Mahboula. ASSP-Kuwait Chapter led by Chairman Fadhel Al Ali, is a non-profit organization which always strives to excel in providing quality trainings and consultation in the field of Health Safety and Environment all across different public and private sectors in Kuwait.

Venkata Ramana, Executive of ASSP Kuwait chapter welcomed the participants and briefed about the significance of the training seminar and the importance of conducting the training program to help the people

get certification in the field of Health, Safety & Environment and wished success to all participants for their endeavor to become an IRCA EMS Lead Auditor and introduced the trainer Ravi Shankar from Dubai.

Ravi Shankar (Trainer TUV Middle East WLL) conducted various Lead Auditor trainings on ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and OHSAS 18001 in Middle East and in Asian countries. The closing remarks featured addresses by Aamir Rasheed president & Safdar Ali Khan, Treasurer of ASSP Kuwait Chapter. The five-day training session was attended by 20 ASSP Kuwait Chapter members. ASSP Kuwait Chapter will continue its strive to do their best for the progress of the society and its members in particular, by organizing such important and remarkable events in future too.



Indian expats given farewell

Indian expat Krishnan K Pillai and his wife Valsala Pillai were given a warm farewell by his friends and well-wishers on October 12 in Salmiya. Pillai, an Indian expat noted for his contribution in the fields of culture and community services, is leaving Kuwait for good after working in Kuwait for nearly four decades. In their speeches, both Pillai

and Valsala underlined the importance of building healthy relations among families and relatives to maintain social harmony. They spoke about the relevance of societal welfare and social relationships as opposed to focusing on just individual units of family. The party was bitter-sweet with over 45 people coming to wish the family happiness in their onward journey. In the felicitation speeches, their friends recounted the generous and cordial warmth that the family has always showered upon their friends. They were felicitated with a memento and a ponnada.



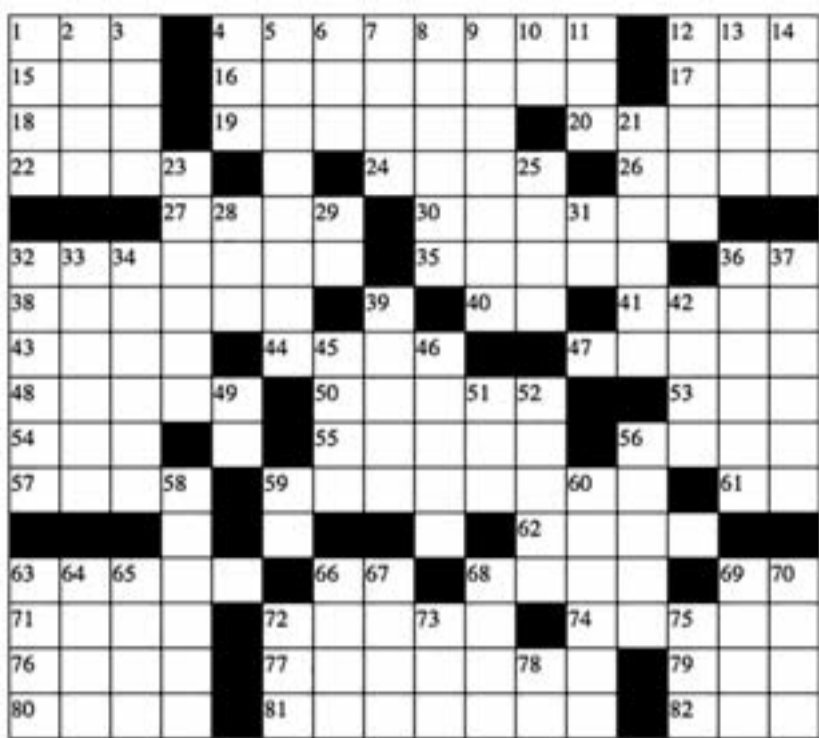
Embassy announcement

Study in CANADA exhibition: Organized by the Embassy of Canada, the 13th annual Education Canada Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Tour will be visiting Kuwait from October 24-25, 2018. Representatives of around 19 leading Canadian institutions will be available to meet students, parents, teachers

and guidance counselors to present the advantages of studying in Canada. On Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at 7:00 pm a study in Canada exhibition will be held at MARINA HOTEL, Arabian Gulf St, Salmiya for potential students and their parents to attend. For more information: please visit our website on: www.kuwait.gc.ca

Stars

CROSSWORD 2035



ACROSS

- The federal agency that insures residential mortgages.
- Taken before a meal as an appetizer.
- One thousand periods per second.
- A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
- Hindu sacred text instructing the Brahmins to perform the Vedic rituals.
- Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
- The most common computer memory which can be used by programs to perform necessary tasks while the computer is on.
- Shrub bearing round-fruited kumquats.
- A line on a sphere that cuts all meridians at the same angle.
- An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- Type genus of the Sulidae.
- River in eastern Asia.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- Large Indian antelope.
- Enthusiastic approval.
- Issue or terminate (in a specified way, state, etc.).
- The dialect of Malay used as the national language of the Republic of Indonesia or of Malaysia.
- Functioning correctly and ready for action.
- (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
- Divulge information or secrets.
- An inhabitant of Lapland.
- A constitutional monarchy on the western part of the islands of Samoa in the South Pacific.
- An ancient Hebrew unit of dry measure equal to about a bushel.
- Eurasian rose with prickly stems and fragrant leaves and bright pink flowers followed by scarlet hips.
- The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
- The seventh and last day of the week.
- East Indian annual erect herb.
- Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
- An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
- (of persons) Highest in rank or authority or office.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
- A coffee cake flavored with orange rind and raisins and almonds.
- Produced by a manufacturing process.
- A group of people attractively arranged (as if in a painting).
- An American doctorate usually based on at least 3 years graduate study and a dissertation.
- A primeval personification of air and breath.
- (Greek mythology) The virgin goddess of the hunt and the moon.
- A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.

DOWN

- A card game in which players bet against the dealer on the cards he will draw from a dealing box.
- A collection of objects laid on top of each other.
- The highest level or degree attainable.
- A defensive missile designed to shoot down incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles.

- Ninth month of the Revolutionary calendar (May and June).
- The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
- Deciduous or evergreen shrubs and shrubby trees of temperate and subtropical North America, South Africa, eastern Asia and northeastern Australia.
- Relating to the condition of immunity.
- Following surreptitiously.
- Not out.
- At a great distance in time or space or degree.
- An island of Hawaii northwest of Oahu.
- A set of tags and rules (conforming to SGML) for using them in developing hypertext documents.
- Domesticated ox having a humped back and long horns and a large dewlap.
- Doglike nocturnal mammal of Africa and southern Asia that feeds chiefly on carrion.
- West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
- In addition.
- An associate degree in applied science.
- The square of a body of any size of type.
- Of or related to the genital and urinary organs or their functions.
- A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
- The Muskogean language of the Choctaw people.
- On a ship, train, plane or other vehicle.
- A great waterfall on the border between Brazil and Paraguay.
- Battle in World War I (1917).
- A platform raised above the surrounding level to give prominence to the person on it.
- A French abbot.
- A spotted or calico horse or pony.
- A gray tetravalent metallic element that resembles zirconium chemically and is found in zirconium minerals.
- (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
- A summary that repeats the substance of a longer discussion.
- Genus of tropical plants with creeping rootstocks and small umbellate flowers.
- Quieter or silence (a sound) or make (an image) less visible.
- A crystalline metallic element not found in nature.
- (Greek mythology) Greek god of darkness who dwelt in the underworld.
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
- A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria.
- Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
- The state of owing money.
- (Linguistics) The form of a word after all affixes are removed.
- A Loloish language.
- A quantity of no importance.
- The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- An inflammatory disease of connective tissue with variable features including fever and weakness and fatigability and joint pains and skin lesions on the face or neck or arms.
- (computer science) A measure of how densely information is packed on a storage medium.
- The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today may find you in a very serious mood dismissing all that you find trivial in this world. You have a no-nonsense attitude and a strong desire to succeed. You may find yourself in an extremely strict and disciplined mode and very ambitious. You are driven and passionate about your career and this is being noticed in the workplace to the point you may be approached to take on a special project. You are an excellent manager of yourself and your time and this may lead to an opportunity to excel as a manager of others. Aries.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Get out and about. Hit the town. A social life is what you desire. Surround yourself with new people who have interests different from your own. The only way to pour some excitement into your world is to get out and experience more of what life has to offer. You have spent too much of your time alone. Step out of your comfort zone and live. You may find this brings a new sense of happiness into your world, Taurus.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may find yourself wanting to broaden your horizons. You know this is a big world and your life is contained in a tiny square of it. It may be time to take a step out of that box and find what the world has to offer you. You could find it difficult to communicate with others today because you find your mind is a million miles away. Curiosity has taken a hold on you and you can't seem to stay focused on the here and now. You may find this evening that a good book may be just what you need to find this escape you have been searching for. A good time for rest and relaxation is in order for you.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may be putting a great emphasis on your sex life. A desire for intimacy and a partner are strong on your mind. It is a great time for you to reflect and discover how you truly feel about yourself and what is driving your focus. Today will be a nice day for you, you may be tempted to be too strict on yourself. Loosen up a bit and enjoy what this world has to offer. You may find yourself in the company of someone who eager to follow your lead. Do not hesitate to take control.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You have a special place in your heart for those close to you. You seem to be the one the younger generation in your life look up to and admire. Your advice and guidance maybe sought from someone who looks to you as a mentor. You may feel as if your greatest growth comes when you are helping others. Today may be one of those days you are spinning your wheels getting physical tasks accomplished. Before frustration takes hold, stop and realize your shoulder to lean on and your listening ear and wonderful advice may be a much greater accomplishment that a completing a simple chore. Leo, be proud of who you are and what you mean to others.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may find yourself getting carried away and not as focused on the reality of what is best for you. You may be too focused on your wants rather than what you truly need. You may find that others will be quick to offer unsolicited advice when your actions aren't what they expected nor see as the best option for you. You may feel as the world around you is one big blur. This is a nice time to take a step back and focus on the decisions you are making and possibly put them off for a time your mind is clear. Virgo. You may find that others are not as drawn to you when you are in this dreamy state. You could greatly benefit from some time alone tonight.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Kindness is contagious. Pay it forward. When you are happy, everyone around you is happy. They say you become what you surround yourself with. In your case you have chosen to keep only like-minded positive individuals in your world. Your circle may be small, but quality is much preferred over quantity any day. Others will be drawn to you today. Share your wealth and wisdom freely. You may have just the words to help someone who is going through a rough time, Libra. Be an inspiration to someone today.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Have you ever felt as if you couldn't find the words to express your feelings? This is a predicament you may find yourself in today. You crave organization and just can't find the words to get across to others just what your feel needs to be done. You feel as if everything has a place and there is a place for everything. You will not stop until you have everything just like want it to be.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You feel great about your accomplishments and position in life. Your advice and guidance maybe sought from someone who looks to you as a mentor. You may feel as if your greatest growth comes when you are helping others. Today may be one of those days you are spinning your wheels getting physical tasks accomplished. Before frustration takes hold, stop and realize your shoulder to lean on and your listening ear and wonderful advice may be a much greater accomplishment that a completing a simple chore. Sagittarius, be proud of who you are and what you mean to others.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Today finds you ready to let loose and have some fun. Plan an outing or plan a party. Just get up and get out. You will find happiness and satisfaction by surrounding yourself with friends. Choose your company wisely. Good times will only come when you surround yourself with those who truly have your best interest at heart. People tend to be takers. You are a giver and will forever be the target of this type. Listen to your gut when comes to others. If something just doesn't seem right, trust. Once you see someone's true colors believe it. Live, love, and laugh today.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Today spending time really getting to know those around you could be very beneficial to you. You are longing for deep personal relationships and this could be a great way to progress toward the development of just that. You find yourself being very sensitive when it comes to the needs of others. You may find yourself being very understanding today and find it very easy to communicate your ideas and feelings to those around you, Aquarius. This is a time of growth for you in many ways. You are well on your way to a new and improved version of you. A sense of pride comes over you today.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

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

Wordsearch Puzzle

Fairy Tales

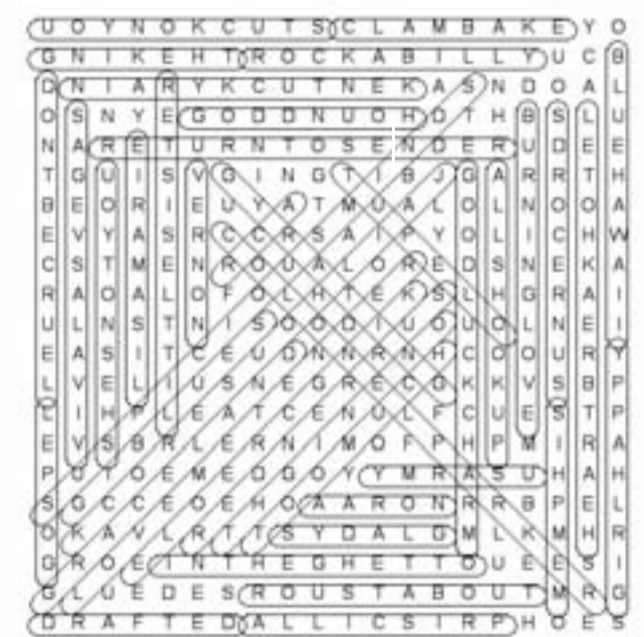
Find and circle all of the fairy tales that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message.



- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| ALADDIN | FROG PRINCE | LAMP | SINBAD |
| BEANSTALK | GIANT | LITTLE MERMAID | SNOW QUEEN |
| BEARS | GOLDEN GOOSE | LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD | SNOW WHITE |
| BEAST | GOLDILOCKS | MIRROR | STEPMOTHER |
| BEAUTY | GRANDMOTHER | PEA | STEPSISTERS |
| BIG BAD WOLF | GRETEL | PINOCCHIO | SWAN |
| CHICKEN LITTLE | HANSEL | PRINCESS | THREE LITTLE PIGS |
| CINDERELLA | HUNTER | SAPPHIRE | THUMBELINA |
| ELVES | JACK | RUMPELSTILTSKIN | UGLY DUCKLING |
| EMPEROR | KING MIDAS | SEVEN DWARFS | UNDOING |
| FAIRY GODMOTHER | | SHOEMAKER | WISHES |

Yesterday's Solution

Elvis



- | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 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 | HOW DO YOU FEEL | RCA | TOO MUCH |
| DON'T BE CRUEL | IN THE GHETTO | RETURN TO SENDER | TUPELO |
| DRAFTED | JAILHOUSE ROCK | ROCKABALLY | U.S. ARMY |
| G.I. BLUES | KENTUCKY RAIN | ROUSTABOUT | VERNON |
| GIRL HAPPY | KING CREOLE | SHE'S NOT YOU | VIVA LAS VEGAS |
| GLADYS | LISA MARIE | | |

The hidden sentence is: YOU CAN DO ANYTHING BUT LAY OFF OF MY BLUE SUEDE SHOES

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2018



This photo shows hot air balloons displayed on a square during the 2018 Outdoor Sports Conference in Xingyi in China's southwestern Guizhou province. — AFP

PRINCE HARRY AND WIFE MEGHAN EXPECTING A BABY



In this file photo Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex (right) and Britain's Meghan, Duchess of Sussex (left) meet with young people on a visit to Joff Youth Centre in Peacehaven in East Sussex, southern England. — AFP

Prince Harry and his wife Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, are expecting a baby in the spring of 2019, they announced yesterday as they began a Pacific tour. "The Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Sussex are very pleased to announce that the Duchess of Sussex is expecting a baby in the spring of 2019," their Kensington Palace residence said in a statement. "Their Royal Highnesses have appreciated all of the support they have received from people around the world since their wedding in May and are delighted to be able to share this happy news with the public," it said.

Harry and Meghan, a former US actress, wed in a fairytale setting at Windsor Castle on May 19. The two royals touched down in Sydney yesterday, kicking off a bumper Pacific tour that is their first major outing abroad as a couple. Their official visit, lasting more than a fortnight, will take in multiple stops in Australia, Fiji, Tonga and New Zealand—all members of the Commonwealth of predominantly former British colonies. Meghan, 37, made her name in acting as savvy para-legal Rachel Zane in the US television legal drama "Suits".

In her first solo charity project since the wedding, she launched a cookbook in September in support of families affected by the Grenfell Tower fire disaster in London. The duchess wrote the foreword to the recipe collection entitled "Together: Our Community Cookbook", produced by women who suffered from the fatal blaze. The June 2017 fire in a 24-storey residential block killed 71 people and left many more living in temporary accommodation. Meghan's every smile, step and wave has been scrutinized by royalty watchers curious to see how the mixed-race American actress will perform in her new role.

She is adored by the public and shadowed at every appearance by the press. British media last month commented on her closing her own car door at her first solo engagement—the opening of an exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts in London. The gesture was interpreted as a sign that Meghan remained a down-to-earth woman without pretenses, despite being married to the grandson of Queen Elizabeth II. — AFP

Indigenous Indians fight deforestation threat with gourmet coffee

Once forbidden by colonialists from cultivating coffee, indigenous people in southern India have won a prestigious award for their bean, which they farm while fighting deforestation. Araku Valley Coffee won gold in the Prix Epicures OR Award in Paris earlier this month. The beans are grown by Adivasis — or "original inhabitants" — of southern Andhra Pradesh state through a cooperative set up by the Naandi Foundation. The organic farming model has benefited more than 45,000 Adivasi families, with profits from the high-grade coffee put into schools, healthcare and other needs of the remote community, according to Manoj Kumar, who founded Naandi.

The initiative has been a success because it built on the strong connection that Adivasis have to the forest, he said. "They fully embraced the concept of biodynamic farming, because it is a holistic approach that benefits the eco-system, and is in tune with their traditional beliefs of caring for the community and the forest," he said. "This is not just about food security; it is also about pride in living without government hand-outs, and conserving the forest," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation over the phone.

The Adivasis are also countering deforestation by planting millions of mango, papaya and orange trees to provide shade for their coffee crops, as well as in other areas, with support from the Paris-based Global Livelihoods Funds. While India has pledged to keep a third of its total land area under forest and tree cover, a growing population and increasing demand for land for mining and other industrial activities are placing greater stress on forests.—Reuters



Norway makes rare discovery of Viking ship traces



This handout picture released yesterday by Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research (NIKU) shows an image generated from a georadar, showing what archeologists mean is a Viking ship buried near Halden.

Archaeologists said yesterday they have found what they believe are traces of a Viking ship buried in southeast Norway, a rare discovery that could shed light on the skilled navigators' expeditions in the Middle Ages. The boat-like shape was detected about 50 centimeters underground in a tumulus, a burial mound, with the use of a ground-penetrating radar in Halden, a municipality located southeast of Oslo. "In the middle of the mound, we discovered what is called an anomaly, something that is different from the rest and clearly has the shapes and dimensions of a Viking ship," Knut Paasche, an archaeologist at the Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research (NIKU), told AFP.

"What we cannot say for sure is the condition of the conservation. Yes there was a boat there, but it's hard to say how much wood is left," Paasche said. The Vikings, Northern European warriors and

merchants who sailed the seas between the 8th and 11th century, would bury their kings and chiefs aboard a boat hoisted onshore and left under a mound of earth.

Only three Viking ships in good condition have been discovered in Norway in the past, including the well-preserved Oseberg ship discovered in 1903. All three of them are now exhibited in a museum near Oslo. "We need more discoveries to explain what these boats looked like and how the Vikings would sail," Paasche said. Left without a bow and a stern, which is the back part of a ship, the traces were discovered in Halden prior to agricultural drainage operations. They are about 20 meters long, potentially making it one of the largest Viking ships discovered in Norway, according to NIKU. The institute says it now considering what to do with the discovery, but ruled out an excavation at this time of the year. — AFP

Bulgaria withdraws from 2019 Eurovision song contest

Bulgaria will not take part in the next edition of the Eurovision song contest to be held in Tel Aviv in May 2019, the public BNT broadcaster announced yesterday, citing financial constraints. "The decision is part of measures taken by television management in order to optimize the spending of public funds," BNT said in a statement. The broadcaster has acted as the organizer and producer of Bulgaria's entry in the annual music contest for the past two editions.

But BNT said that it could no longer afford the associated expenses, which also include a share of the costs for the organization of the contest. Bulgaria has been competing in Eurovision since 2005 and achieved its best result in 2017, when Kristian Kostov's song "Beautiful Mess" won second place. — AFP

Lifestyle | Gossip



Holland and Almond team up for new album

Marc Almond and Jools Holland have teamed up for a new album. The Soft Cell singer and the boogie woogie piano player - famous for his live music TV series 'Later... With Jools Holland' and work with Squeeze - have recorded 'A Lovely Life To Live' after deciding to finally get in the studio together after performing with one another on and off for the past 12 years. The record is comprised of 14 tracks, some of which are new compositions penned by the pair such as 'I Lost My City', 'Workhouse Blues' and 'London You Were My Lover' - all inspired by their love of London - whilst others are big band covers featuring Jools' Rhythm & Blues Orchestra, including Edith Piaf's 'Hymne A L'amour', Irving Berlin's 'How Deep Is The Ocean' and a reworking of Marc's most famous hit with Soft Cell 'Tainted Love'. Revealing the inspiration behind the LP, Jools, 60, said: "Over the last few years, Marc has toured with my orchestra giving amazing performances. I'm so delighted that we've now been given the

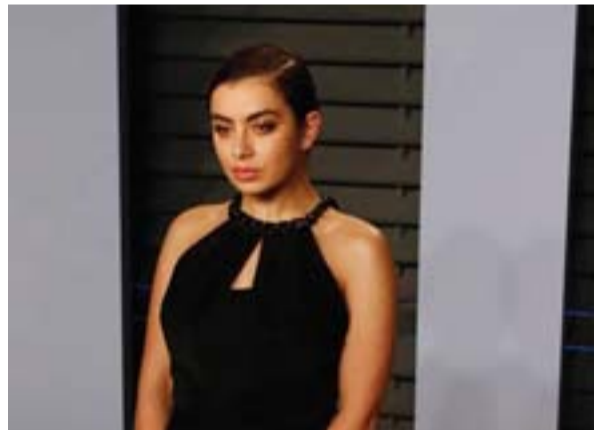
opportunity to capture this on record. It brings out, I hope, what is the best of both of us." And Marc, 60, added: "If this record were to be a movie, it'd be a black and white movie of the late 50s or 60s set in London and starring Dirk Bogarde (with maybe a brief visit to Paris where we'd meet Deneuve and Delon in a smoky bar)! "Jools and I have a performing history that stretches back many years now and at last we can bring our joint love of Bogarde, London, vintage cars, afternoon tea and the blues to a record. With Jools and the Rhythm & Blues Orchestra, it's always a lovely life." 'A Lovely Life To Live' is released on November 23 on CD and digital formats. The two musicians are also heading out on a tour of the UK and Ireland from October 20 in support of the album, performing in venues including London's Royal Albert Hall and Dublin's 3Arena.

Amy Winehouse biopic being made

Amy Winehouse's life story is being made into a Hollywood movie. The 'Rehab' singer tragically passed away at the age of just 27 in 2011 from alcohol poisoning leaving the world with her seminal album 'Back to Black' and haunting voice. Now, Amy's family has signed a multi-million pound deal to tell her story on the big screen with Alison Owen directing from a script by Geoff Deane, who previously worked on 'Kinky Boots' and 'It's A Boy Girl Thing'. Alison's company Monumental Pictures will produce and shooting is scheduled to start next year and the search is on for the actress who will play five-time Grammy winner Amy. Confirming the project is in the works, Amy's father Mitch Winehouse told The Sun newspaper's Bizarre column: "We have been approached many times. It's obviously something that we are going to do, 100 per cent. What we want is somebody to portray Amy in the way that she was ... the funny, brilliant, charming and horrible person that she was. There's no point really me making the film because I'm her dad. But to get the right people to do it, that's very important, and we will." Contemplating who might play his daughter on the big screen, he added: "It wouldn't be Lady Gaga. She doesn't speak our kind of English. I wouldn't mind betting it would be an unknown, young, English - London, Cockney - actress who looks a bit like Amy." The confirmation of the biopic comes after the Winehouse family announced



that a hologram of Amy is going on tour. The musician's estate has teamed up with the BASE Hologram company to create a virtual likeness of the star, which will go out on the road with a live band and backing singers to perform "digitally remastered" versions of her classic hits. Money raised from the virtual tour will go towards The Amy Winehouse Foundation, which works to help homeless young people and help those youngsters suffering with substance abuse issues.



Charli XCX feels 'confident' as an artist

Charli XCX feels "more confident" in herself following the response to her two mixtapes, 'Number 1 Angel' and 'Pop 2'. The 26-year-old singer released the two tapes in March and December of last year respectively, and has said her fans' positive reactions to the tracks - which feature a number of guest vocalists including Carly Rae Jepsen, Tove Lo, and Raye - have helped her to understand her "power as a curator and a collaborator". When asked about the response to the mixtapes, the 'Boys' hitmaker said: "I feel really, really happy and good about it, and I think since I released those two mixtapes, I feel like a lot of things have changed around me, and for me. I definitely feel more confident in myself as an artist. I think those two mixtapes have really helped me understand my power as a curator and a collaborator, and they helped me realise that that's my favourite thing to do. It's less about being front and centre and more about being surrounded by really fun, collaborative people and doing something together." Despite having released two mixtapes and several singles since her last full album, 'Sucker' - which was released in 2014 - Charli says she doesn't have a plan when it comes to her music in the future. Asked if she's planning a third studio album, she said: "You know, I don't really know. I don't really have a plan, so to speak. I'm just kind of releasing what I want when I want. I'm not sure what's next. Maybe it's an album, maybe it's not an album, maybe there's never an album, maybe there are 10 more mixtapes. I'm just kind of doing what I want to do and seeing where I go." The '1999' singer has spent most of 2018 on the road with Taylor Swift and Camila Cabello for Taylor's 'Reputation World Tour', and says the experience has been "really positive". Speaking to Entertainment Weekly magazine about the tour, she said: "It's been really great. It's kind of a bummer that it's coming to an end. I think it's really cool that she is so open with Camila and me - we perform with her each night. The vibe is really positive, it feels very relaxed. It just feels like we've all got each other's backs, and that feels really nice. It's a good vibe and it's been a really good experience."

Motley Crue have huge 'surprise' in store for fans

Motley Crue have teased a huge "surprise" for fans. The heavy metal band have recorded four new songs for their forthcoming biopic 'The Dirt' with legendary producer Bob Rock, which bassist Nikki Sixx says are "ball busters", but the 'Kickstart My Heart' rocker has promised there is much more to come from the group - who quit touring in 2015. He tweeted: "Can I just say it? I'm listening to the roughs of the new @MotleyCrue and it feels real and raw. Everybody is playing like mad and the songs crush. Bob Rock brought the sounds. Plus we have a surprise that will confirm that we're outta our minds. (sic)" When a fan questioned how "new" the songs could be if they are in a movie about the group's "past", the 59-year-old rock star replied: "You can trust us these are ball busters. Everybody can relax. Were soon gonna smack you upside the head with some killer new tracks. Bob Rock is producing. Its our movie. We know what were doing. (sic)" 'The Dirt' features an all-star cast including Douglas Booth (Nikki), Machine Gun Kelly (Tommy Lee), Iwan Rheon (Mick Mars), Daniel Webber (Vince Neil) and Tony Cavalero as Ozzy Osbourne. The movie is being helmed by 'Jackass' director Jeff Tremaine, and is based on the band's 2001 memoir 'The Dirt: Confessions of the World's Most Notorious Rock Band'. Last year, Motley - who retired from the road after their 'The End Tour' - released a special edition of their biggest hit, 'Girls, Girls, Girls', and hinted that more "surprises" are on the way. The band's 1987 studio album turned 30 in May, 2017, and the rockers took to Facebook to celebrate the milestone. The 'Home Sweet Home' hitmakers urged fans to sign up to their mailing list for more information. Sharing the music video for 'Girls, Girls, Girls' on the social media site, they wrote: "HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!! GIRLS, GIRLS, GIRLS turns 30 today and we'll be celebrating all year long! Sign up at motley.com now and get notified first about all the surprises coming up this year and how you can celebrate with us. Special anniversary edition of GIRLS, GIRLS, GIRLS out August 25! (sic)" The Crue are still regarded one of the most outrageous rock bands of all time.



Drake performs with Travis Scott on Sicko Mode

Drake was joined on stage by basketball star LeBron James and Travis Scott at his 'Aubrey and the Three Migos' concert at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Saturday night. The 31-year-old rapper sent fans into a frenzy when he brought out the 33-year-old Los Angeles Lakers player and Travis, 26, for a rendition of 'Sicko Mode', from Travis' third studio album 'Astroworld'. LeBron's appearance with Drake should come as no surprise as the pair are long-time friends and the Canadian musician appeared on the NBA superstar's new HBO sports series 'The Shop', and they engaged in a discussion of everything from fatherhood to his beef and Kanye West. The pair's appearance is the latest in a long-line of guest stars who Drake has brought out on his tour. At the Staples Center on Friday he was joined by Chris Brown, showing the world that their feud is well and truly over. The pair performed Chris' songs 'Party' and 'Freaky Friday' and afterwards Drake took to his Instagram account to reveal in the special moment with "C. Breezy". He wrote: "Last time I was on stage with Breezy was 2009 at Virginia Commonwealth University ... tonight I got to reconnect with him for the first night at Staples! I love a good full circle moment. Thank you." Drake's seven-night stint in L.A. has attracted a host of stars including Jay Z and his wife Beyoncé, who have just finished their own sell-out tour 'On The Run II', and Adele who left Drake "gassed" with her low-key attendance. The 'God's Plan' singer was shocked to find out the British singer was among the audience at the Staples Center on Friday. He wrote on Twitter: "Oiiiiiii don't get me gassed right now I love this woman and she came to the show. Thank god nobody



told me I would have been SHOOK (sic) Adele had earlier posted a tweet where she admitted Drake had "blew her mind" and will go down in history as one of her "favorite shows". Alongside a heart emoji, she wrote: "Oii Champagne Papi blew my mind tonight! Best production I've ever seen hands down and way up there with one of my favorite shows of all time. Huge love (sic)"

Little Mix want honest songs

Little Mix want to write songs that are "more honest". The 'Shout Out to My Ex' hitmakers - comprised of Perrie Edwards, Jesy Nelson, Jade Thirlwall, and Leigh-Anne Pinnoch - have revealed they penned a track called 'Woman's World' for their upcoming album which touches on the #MeToo movement, in which women have come forward to share their experiences with sexual assault. And the group say their decision to write a song about the heavy topic comes after they were left "angry" by what was happening, and felt the need to become more "bally" with their lyrics. Speaking to Noisey, Jade said: "So we wrote this song when the whole #MeToo movement was coming about. You know ... I was so angry about what was going on. It was important to write it with Jez, [a songwriter] who's a man. It holds an important message. We haven't written anything that's too controversial before, and now we're starting to write things that are slightly more honest. We want to be a bit more bally and say 'yeah, it is hard to be a woman.'" The 'Black Magic' singers admit they were "scared" to speak out about controversial issues when they started as a group after winning 'The X Factor' in 2011, but now understand it's "okay to be passionate about something". Jade added: "We were scared to say the wrong thing, basically. We didn't want to talk about something if we felt we weren't truly educated in it. But there's a change that comes with age, and also learning more about what's going on in the world. I think we're all doing that more in general, about the things we're passionate about - whether it's women's rights, LGBTQ issues or Black Lives Matter. All those things that once we would have been scared to touch on. But it's okay to be passionate about something, and speak up against something if you don't agree with it." Whilst Leigh-Anne said: "We do want to educate ourselves, and learn about these things, and help people."



Moby plans to release a new memoir

Moby is set to release a new memoir. The 53-year-old musician has announced he will release a new book called 'Then It Fell Apart' in 2019, with the memoir being handed a May release date in the UK and a June date in the US. 'Then It Fell Apart' will serve as the sequel to Moby's 2016 memoir 'Porcelain' and has been described as "a journey into the dark heart of fame and the demons that lurk beneath the bling and bluster of the celebrity lifestyle". Faber Books, which will be publishing the memoir, has also teased the new title. Faber said: "In summer 1999, Moby released the album that defined the millennium, 'Play'. Like generation-defining albums before it, 'Play' was ubiquitous, and catapulted Moby to superstardom. "Suddenly he was hanging out with David Bowie and Lou Reed, Christina Ricci and Madonna, taking ecstasy for breakfast (most days), drinking litres of vodka (every day), and sleeping with super models (infrequently). It was a diet that couldn't last. And then it fell apart." Meanwhile, Moby previously admitted he struggled to recognize that he'd developed a drinking problem. He explained: "When I was growing up, an alcoholic was someone who drank every day from the time they woke up to the time they went to sleep and they were getting in car accidents and they couldn't hold down a job and they had cirrhosis of the liver. "But then I started to see ... about two or three years before I finally got sober, I started to try and practice moderation and I simply couldn't do it and that was the first time I realized that I had a real problem."

Lifestyle | Gossip



ISAAC bemoans Hollywood's 'representation issue'

Oscar Isaac feels there's an "issue of representation" in Hollywood. The 59-year-old actor - who was born in Guatemala - has claimed that more needs to be done in order to challenge the lack of diversity in the movie industry. He explained: "I think it really needs to start more with the writers and directors. They're the ones that write the stories. "I don't think the reasons actors are interesting is for their representational qualities: it's for their transformative ones. That's where the magic trick is, where the craft is." Oscar - who plays the part of Poe Dameron in the 'Star Wars' movies - has claimed that corporations and movie studios ought to shoulder some of the blame for the lack of diversity. He told IndieWire: "It's so messed up what happens, how people who don't look like the stereotypical white American get marginalized. "It's the corporate entities and the studio entities that allow this to

happen, who have ideas about what the lead needs to look like. Time and again, those things are disproven. "So yeah, you've got to make them put more diversity in there. You have to knock it into their brains that it's a better business move to do that." Oscar's latest movie, 'Triple Frontier', tells the story of a group of military friends who reunite to tackle a South American drug lord. The actor's on-screen character is originally from Colombia, but he rarely plays characters that link him to his roots. He said: "I am excited to have done a film in Spanish, but not because I want to do something closer to my heritage. "My personal experience is not that interesting. It's fine. But just because you lived something doesn't mean you have the skill to portray it."

Davis feels limited to particular roles

Viola Davis feels she's always been limited to very particular on-screen roles. The Academy Award-winning star - who appears in the new Steve McQueen-directed heist movie 'Widows' - has claimed that in spite of being one of Hollywood's best-known actresses, she is rarely afforded the opportunity to play characters who are "motivated by love and grief". Asked why she wanted to star in 'Widows', Viola - who has also won an Emmy and a Tony Award - told the Chicago Sun Times newspaper: "I was struck by the fact she had a husband that she loved. "The fact she was motivated by love and grief - I have to say that I simply don't get those roles. I just don't, even after the Oscar." Viola, 53, plays one of the women who tries to complete a heist their husbands failed to finish in the new movie. Meanwhile, Viola recently admitted she regrets the way the characters in 'The Help' were portrayed. The acclaimed actress - who played maid Aibileen Clark in the 2011 period drama - explained that while she enjoyed the experience on set, she wasn't pleased with the final film. Responding to a fan's question, Viola confessed: "The friendships that I formed are ones that I'm going to have for the rest of my life. I had a great experience with these other actresses, who are extraordinary human beings. And I could not ask for a better collaborator than Tate Taylor. "I just felt that at the end of the day that it wasn't the voices of the maids that were heard ... I know that if you do a movie where the whole premise is, I want to know what it feels like to work for white people and to bring up children in 1963, I want to hear how you really feel about it. I never heard that in the course of the movie."



Zazie Beetz auditioned for Storm in X-Men: Apocalypse

Zazie Beetz auditioned for the role of Storm in 'X-Men: Apocalypse'. The 'Deadpool 2' star has revealed she was in line to nab the part in the Marvel Comics movie before Alexandra Shipp landed the gig as the mutant superhero. The actress told an audience at ACE Comic-Con in Chicago over the weekend that she "auditioned for young Storm, actually, and I didn't get it". The 27-year-old star says Storm is the character she has the biggest connection to and said it would have been a "nostalgic" tale for her as a young black woman. Asked which superhero she would most like to portray, she said: "I feel like growing up I always had an association with her. "I mean, obviously, because being a young black woman that was the one I associated with. "But I think that would have been a little fantasy of mine to do that, and sort of a nostalgic thing for me to try. So yeah, I'd say Storm." Meanwhile, Zazie is set to star in DC Comics' 'Joker' film. The 'Geostorm' star will take on the role of Sophie Dumond in the upcoming dark tale, a single mother who catches the eye of the titular master criminal, played by Joaquin Phoenix. A description of her character reads: "Not beautiful, has a hardness to her, a single mother living on the Lower East Side, doing the best she can, trying to make ends meet; worn out by the grind of the city. "She understands how the system is stacked against her and the people in her community, how unjust it all is for them.

She's just trying to catch a break." Phoenix previously teased that his portrayal of the villain - known for his pale face and scary red lips - would be "unique." The 43-year-old actor said: "I wouldn't quite classify this as like any genre. I wouldn't say it's a superhero movie, or a studio movie or a ... It feels unique, and I think more than anything, and probably the most important thing, is Todd seems very passionate about it and very giving, and so that's exciting. "I think, underneath the excitement of these films, and the size of them, there are these incredible characters that are dealing with real life struggles. And sometimes that is uncovered and exposed, and sometimes it isn't, and so I always felt, like, there were characters in comics that were really interesting and deserve the opportunity to be kind of studied. And so I think that's what Todd sees appealing about this idea." 'War Dogs' filmmaker Todd Phillips will direct from the script he co-wrote with '8 Mile' screenwriter Scott Silver, while Emma Tillinger Koskoff will produce. The studio - which reportedly has a budget of \$55 million to make the film - has described this iteration of the story as an "exploration of a man disregarded by society [that] is not only a gritty character study, but also a broader cautionary tale". 'Joker' is scheduled for release in October 2019.



Cruise won't say no to anything

Tom Cruise never says "no" to anything. Christopher McQuarrie has worked with the actor on multiple occasions including on 'Mission: Impossible - Fallout' and says the legendary actor never says no to any of his ideas and instead just says if something is boring. He said: "Here's what Tom says, he says 'Booooo'. Pitch him something, he'll say, 'Booo. Boring.' there's no bones about it. But no, he never says no." And Christopher feels lucky because the studio never says no either. He added to Collider.com: "The studio winces. I've never personally heard from the insurance company, that's Jake Myers' job, the producer. Extraordinary producer Jake Myers, who produced not only this, but also Rogue Nation. He produced the last few Chris Nolan films, came in on The Revenant. He's an incredible, incredible producer, who manages to wrangle all those people so I don't have to." However, there may come a time when Cruise has to take a step back from the stunts as he broke his ankle while shooting the new film 'Mission: Impossible - Fallout'. He said previously: "When you're doing these things, stuff like that happens. It was a hard hit, and I was trying to mitigate the hit. I thought, 'Well, I'm just going to touch my foot,' and I just

kept it there for, really, a split-second too long, to try to soften the impact of the side of the wall. I was like, 'It's broken, I know it's broken, just keep going and run past the camera so that we have the shot.' That was the first thing I thought: Just get through the shot."



Edgerton hopes Boy Erased soon becomes irrelevant

Joel Edgerton hopes his new movie will soon become irrelevant. The 44-year-old actor has written and directed 'Boy Erased', which tells the story of a gay American teenager who is forced to go through so-called conversion therapy - which is used to "cure" homosexuality - but Joel is hopeful that the film will soon become "a museum piece". He told the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper: "You always hope your films will live forever. "It would be great if it was redundant now or in a year, or in five years' time that there's no point even watching this movie. That it's a museum piece." 'Boy Erased' has been adapted from a memoir by Garrard Conley, and Joel has admitted to being captivated by the story. He explained: "It was this incredible family story based on confusion and opposing beliefs. "A boy who was born a certain way, who was never going to change, butting up against his father's belief that you couldn't be born that way and that there was a way of changing you." Meanwhile, Joel has also stressed that issues surrounding the LGBTQ community extend well beyond legislative measures. He shared: "You definitely need laws to protect people. "Beyond that, legislation doesn't shift personal opinion ... There are laws that say you can protect the rights of LGBTQ people yet people still infringe upon that so I think it's about awareness and understanding. "All change happens slowly but walking back freedom laws under the banner of religion sends out the wrong message."

Drew Goddard hails 'dream' cast of Bad Times at the El Royale

Drew Goddard worked with his dream cast on 'Bad Times at the El Royale'. The 43-year-old director teamed up with the likes of Chris Hemsworth, Dakota Johnson, Jon Hamm and Jeff Bridges for the new thriller film, and Drew admitted he relished the experience of working with such an accomplished cast. The filmmaker explained: "I wanted to work with actors and play around with a big ensemble cast because, at my core, I love artists and watching artists work. With this cast I had the opportunity to assemble the cast of my dreams." Drew feels fortunate to have

been given the opportunity to make the movie, as Hollywood is currently dominated by sequels and reboots of past successes. 'Bad Times at the El Royale' tells the story of a group of strangers who each are hiding dark secrets that come to a head on the same night. Reflecting on the current landscape of the film industry, Drew told Den of Geek: "The truth is that studios want product, and they want to make movies. I think we can sometimes self-edit ourselves a bit when we say nobody wants to make these movies. That has not been my experience. "They realize that we have to keep making new movies in addition to sequels and remakes, because otherwise we'll have nothing left. In this particular case the wind was at my back, and I'm very lucky and grateful that it was." Drew also insisted that, at its "core", the movie is less complicated than it may initially appear to be. He said: "The movie is about questions both literal and existential, and there were certain questions I thought would be more powerful left open ended. You're constantly trying to find that right balance, and I feel like the film answers what it needs to. I trust the audience to fill in the blanks with their own experience. "The movie seems complicated but at its core it's really just a story about people." — BangShowbiz



Keira Knightley: It would be lovely to win Oscar for Colette

Keira Knightley thinks it would be "lovely" to win an Academy Award for 'Colette'. The 33-year-old actress portrays real-life French novelist Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette, who was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1948, in the biographical-drama movie and she is proud it has generated so much Oscar buzz because that means people have responded



to the film in a "great way". Speaking to TalkRADIO at the UK Premiere of 'Colette' at the BFI London Film Festival at Cineworld in London's Leicester Square, she said: "It's lovely, the buzz, I mean whether it happens... I mean hey that would be lovely wouldn't it? But I think that anytime Oscars get mentioned for a film I think what you know is that the film worked. And that people are really responding to it in a great way and that's why you make films that's the whole purpose of it so that's great." The 'Pride & Prejudice' star channeled her writer alter ego by reading Colette's works - which include 1944 novella 'Gigi' - and she feels "super lucky" to have been able to "see the world through her voice". Speaking to BANG Showbiz, she said: "What's wonderful about playing a writer is that you can literally read her books and see the world through her voice. So I think I was super lucky about being able to delve into Colette's work and I knew like little bits of it and I knew Cheri but I never read the Claudine novels. And Vagabond which is the first one she wrote under her name and it was just delicious it was a joy to research. I just found it very empowering that I stood tall when I played her you know I think that she was a woman that lived without shame. She lived without shame in her sexuality and she lived without shame in her voice and I think still you know women in our culture are asked to hide their truths. They're asked to hide their experience and I think playing someone who didn't do that who refused to do that is amazing."



Brazil's fashion brands score poorly in first supply chain slavery index

The 20 biggest fashion retailers in Brazil - where slave labour is a major problem - scored poorly on an index assessing their social and environmental practices, with almost half failing to disclose any information, UK-based campaigners said on Thursday. Brazilian retailers scored an average of 17 percent in Fashion Revolution's first survey of the textile industry in Latin America's biggest economy, with German clothing retailer C&A winning top place with 53 percent.

Eight out of the 20 brands scored zero because their websites and reports did not reveal any information and they did not respond to a questionnaire focused on five areas, including supply chain traceability, governance and policies. "Information about supply chains is often

hidden on websites, or hosted on external websites that are difficult to find, in annual reports of more than 300 pages or simply not available," said Fashion Revolution Brazil's Eloisa Artuso.

"How can we make better decisions about what we buy, when information is either totally absent or presenting in such varied and long-winded ways?" the project manager asked. A labor ministry spokeswoman declined to comment because she had not seen the survey but said the ministry has rescued more than 1,200 workers from slave-like conditions this year. The index comes as businesses face growing consumer pressure to ensure their global supply chains are environmentally-friendly, slavery-free and pay their workers fair wages.

Brazil has the world's fourth largest garment production industry, with 1.5 million direct employees, mostly women, Fashion Revolution said. The textile industry is fragmented and informal, with thousands of immigrant subcontractors from Bolivia and Paraguay sewing clothes in sweatshops for well-known national retailers. Sweatshops in Brazil producing clothes for the Spanish store Zara - which came third in the index - were raided in 2011 after a supplier was accused of slave labor.

Brazil officially recognized the use of slave labor in 1995 and started launching raids which have freed about 50,000 people from slave-like conditions, often in logging and sugarcane work. "We are in favor of global transparency, not only in the textile industry but

in all sectors," said Fernando Pimentel, head of the Brazilian Textile and Apparel Industry Association. "Transparency is crucial ... to avoid informal business prevailing over formal business." Fashion Revolution started the Global Fashion Transparency Index of 150 big brands in 2016. The average score in this year's edition was 21 percent, with Sportswear giant Adidas and its subsidiary Reebok taking first place. The index is funded by the C&A Foundation, which partners with the Thomson Reuters Foundation on its human trafficking coverage. — Reuters



Villainous 'Venom' again rules in North American theaters

Sony's superhero film "Venom" held onto the lead this weekend in North American box offices, again followed by last weekend's No. 2 "A Star Is Born," industry tracker Exhibitor Relations reported Sunday. "Venom" took in an estimated \$35.7 million for the three-day weekend, dropping from last weekend's \$80 million, while Warner Bros.' well-reviewed "Star" had \$28 million in ticket sales, down from \$41.2 million. Universal's highly touted astronaut drama "First Man," from Oscar-winning director Damien Chazelle, took in just \$16.5 million in its opening weekend, to place third.



"Venom" stars Tom Hardy as a journalist who becomes the superpowerful host for an alien symbiote; his character is a villain in the "Spider-Man" world. Panned by critics, the film, which also stars Michelle Williams, nevertheless has had strong global ticket sales. "A Star Is Born," the third remake of a 1937 film by the same name, marks the directing debut of actor Bradley Cooper, who plays a hard-drinking country/rock musician who falls in love with a young singer played by pop superstar Lady Gaga, only to see her star rise as his tumbles.

"First Man" opened with high expectations, reuniting Chazelle with Ryan Gosling, his star from popular musical "La La Land." Because of its adult-skewing audience, analysts predict a long run for the film, which recounts Neil Armstrong's journey to the moon in 1969. Fourth place went to Sony's "Goosebumps 2: Haunted Halloween," which had ticket sales of \$16.2 million. The family-friendly sequel, based on the children's book series by R.L. Stine, stars Wendi McLendon-Covey and Madison Iseman.

In fifth was Warner Bros. animation "Smallfoot," with earnings of \$9.3 million. The comic film flips the usual Bigfoot tale on its head, telling the story of a group of Yeti terrified when they come across a human. Voices are by Channing Tatum, James Corden, Zendaya, Common and others.

Rounding out this weekend's top 5 were:
"Night School" (\$8 million)
"Bad Times at the El Royale" (\$7.2 million)
"The House With a Clock in Its Walls" (\$4.0 million)
"The Hate U Give" (\$1.8 million)
"A Simple Favor" (\$1.4 million)—AFP

'Beautiful Boy' tackles family's battle with drug addiction

A family battling with drug addiction is the focus of new Steve Carell and Timothee Chalamet drama "Beautiful Boy" with the duo portraying a father and son struggling with the problem for years. Known for comedies like "Anchorman" and "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" as well as the darker "Foxcatcher," Carell plays real-life American writer David Sheff in the movie, which is based on the memoirs of Sheff and his son Nic.

The tough and at times tear-jerking film sees Carell's character struggle to come to terms with the problem, as a teenage Nic, a keen reader and writer with a promising future in college, gets addicted to drugs including crystal meth, goes to rehab, but repeatedly relapses. "I identified with the fear of a father, of really any parent," Carell, who has two children, said at the movie's UK premiere at the BFI London Film Festival on Saturday. "I think it's relevant, it's very timely, it's an epidemic ... I hope that people realize ... addiction ... has all sorts of stigmas applied to it which it shouldn't have."

Chalamet, who was nominated for an Oscar this year for "Call Me by Your Name," plays Nic, vividly portraying the character as he moves between highs and aggressive lows. "If you're talking about the using stages ... not in an ironic way there's many a video on YouTube and just you go to rehab and ask people about their experiences," he said,

when talking about preparing for his performance. "There's a comfort in thinking that drug addicts or addiction can't affect your family or yourself when the reality is that it's a very human disease, it doesn't discriminate." The 22-year-old was greeted by screaming fans upon arrival in London's Leicester Square, with some even giving him gifts such as books and socks on the red carpet. "It's great, I feel full of gratitude," he said. — Reuters



Classifieds

Tuesday, October 16, 2018



STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Unstable weather with moderate to fresh northerly wind to north westerly wind, with speed of 20 - 50 km/h causing rising dust with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

BY NIGHT: Humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate southerly wind to south westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 30 km/h with a chance for fog forming over some areas and some scattered clouds will

WEATHER WARNING			Drop in Visibility	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 15/10/2018 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	37 °C	29 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	39 °C	25 °C		
ABDALY	40 °C	26 °C		
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C		
JAHRA	40 °C	27 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	35 °C	28 °C		
SALMIYAH	32 °C	30 °C		
AHMADI	33 °C	30 °C		
NUWAISIB	39 °C	26 °C		
WAFRA	40 °C	25 °C		
SALMY	39 °C	22 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	10/16	Relatively hot and some scattered clouds will appear	38 °C	25 °C	S-SE	10 - 35 km/h
Wednesday	10/17	Relatively hot and humid over coastal areas with a chance for mist forming at night	37 °C	25 °C	VRB-SE	10 - 40 km/h
Thursday	10/18	Relatively hot and humid over coastal areas with a chance for scattered clouds will appear	36 °C	24 °C	SE-VRB	06 - 35 km/h
Friday	10/19	Relatively hot and some scattered clouds will appear	36 °C	22 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 32 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:30
Sunrise	05:49
Zuhr	11:34
Asr	14:51
Sunset	17:18
Isha	18:35

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	40 °C
MIN. Temp.	24 °C
MAX. RH	99 %
MIN. RH	20 %
MAX. Wind	S 25 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Kamrudin Kazi S/o Abdul Razak Kazi, holder of Indian Passport No. P6324092 & Civil ID No. 273041904798 has changed my name from Kamrudin Kazi to Kamrudin Khaji hereinafter in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by name of Kamrudin Khaji. (C 5429)

I, A.SUDHAGAR (HINDU), S/o: Arunachalam, Passport No. J5548581, Civil ID No. 280031007474, date of birth 10.3.1980, No. 2/98, Mariyamman Koil Street, Palaiya Kunjaram, Villupuram - 607201, has converted Hindu to Islam with the name of MOHAMED JAFFER ARUNACHALAM (ISLAM). (C 5428) 16-10-2018

Embassy of India Kuwait

Replacement and Supply of Central Electric Water Heater Unit at Embassy of India building

Embassy of India, Kuwait invites bids from interested companies for replacement of old and supply of new Central Electric Water Heater Unit (CEWHU) at Indian Embassy building by 5th November, 2018. Details of scope of work, requirements, eligibility criteria etc. are available on Embassy's website: (URL: indembktwt.gov.in/eTender_for_Central_Electric_Water_Heater_4_oct_2018.pdf)

All offers should be in two separate sealed covers marked "Technical Bid" To be opened by addressee only and "Financial Bid" - To be opened by addressee only" and addressed to the "Head of Chancery", Embassy of India, Daeya, Diplomatic Enclave, Arabian Gulf Street, Safat 13015, Kuwait.

The offer must be delivered at the Embassy on or before 1200 hrs. on 05th November, 2018. Embassy of India, Kuwait

Airlines	
Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Wataniya Airways	22 066 536
Turkish Airlines	1884918
American Airlines	22087425
	22087426
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184

Required

Assistant HR Manager

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

- Along with a minimum of 3 years HR management experience they must hold a MBA.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills are a must along with excellent computer skills.
- The successful applicant will have the ability to work at a fast pace, meeting set deadlines, unsupervised.
- Experience working in a school environment would be of an advantage but not essential.

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

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

Flight Schedule

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 16/10/2018				Departure Flights on Tuesday 16/10/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	JZR	779	Jeddah	13:45
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	FEG	241	Alexandria	13:50
KAC	102	London	00:50	KAC	672	Dubai	13:55
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	QTR	1078	Doha	14:10
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15
JZR	267	Beirut	01:25	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	KAC	618	Doha	14:20
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC	516	Tehran	14:20
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	KAC	286	Dhaka	14:25
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:45
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	304	Mumbai	15:05
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	KNE	529	Jeddah	15:10
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	KAC	562	Amman	15:20
JZR	553D	Alexandria	02:50	OMA	645	Muscat	15:20
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	KAC	502	Beirut	15:35
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	KAC	118	New York	16:00
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	JZR	535	Cairo	16:10
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	QTR	8511	Doha	16:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	FDB	051	Dubai	16:20
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	NIA	361	Alexandria	16:50
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	KAC	542	Cairo	17:00
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	JZR	145	Doha	17:35
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	JZR	177	Dubai	17:40
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	QTR	1080	Doha	18:10
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:20
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:20	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	RJA	640	Amman	19:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
KAC	362	Colombo	06:00	KAC	744	Dammam	19:10
BAW	157	London	06:10	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
RUN	6376	Istanbul	06:10	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	KAC	156	Istanbul	19:25
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	NIA	0161	Cairo	19:30
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:35
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	KAC	674	Dubai	19:40
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	RBG	555	Alexandria	19:40
JZR	605	Ahmedabad	07:05	KAC	057	Dubai	19:50
JZR	143	Doha	07:20	KAC	616	Bahrain	20:00
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30	OMA	647	Muscat	20:05
KAC	358	Kochi	07:35	DLH	624	Frankfurt	20:05
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	KAC	620	Doha	20:15
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
JZR	123	Bahrain	08:00	KAC	166	Rome	20:25
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	QTR	1088	Doha	20:40
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	172	Frankfurt	20:45
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	JZR	553	Alexandria	20:50
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	ALK	229	Colombo	21:15
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:15
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	168	Paris	21:20
SYR	341	Damascus	10:00	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	564	Amman	21:50
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	AZG	565	Baku	22:00
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	QTR	1082	Doha	22:05
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:20	ICV	675	Luxembourg	22:05
JZR	325	Al Najaf	12:20	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	KAC	786	Jeddah	22:15
MSC	411	Asyut	12:30	AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	BBC	043	Dhaka	22:30
ETD	995	Abu Dhabi/Bahrain	13:00	JZR	185	Riyadh	22:50
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:00
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	MSR	2614	Cairo	23:30
				FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
				JZR	241	Amman	23:40

QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
MSC	412	Asyut	13:30
SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
JZR	144	Doha	13:55
MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
JZR	552	Alexandria	14:05
AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
FEG	242	Alexandria	14:50
ETD	9890	SGN	15:00
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
KAC	775	Riyadh	15:55
KNE	530	Jeddah	16:00
KAC	785	Jeddah	16:00
KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
KAC	563	Amman	16:10
KAC	619	Doha	16:15
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
KAC	615	Bahrain	16:40
FDB	052	Dubai	17:20
QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	381	Delhi	17:45
QTR	8512	Doha	17:45
NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	608	Hyderabad	18:25
JZR	240	Amman	18:30
JZR	538	Cairo	18:35
JZR	650	Lahore	18:35
QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
RJA	641	Amman	20:00
ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
RBG	556	Alexandria	20:20
JZR	602	Mumbai	20:30
NIA	0162	Cairo	20:30
FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
DLH	624	Dammam	20:50
KAC	357	Kochi	21:00
OMA	648</		



Cyclists are seen in a highway underpass for cyclists and pedestrians decorated with mirrors in central Munich in southern Germany on Sunday. — AFP

Bucking boycott, Palestinian eyes seat in Jerusalem city hall

Low turnout, Palestinian Authority condemnation pose hurdles

JERUSALEM: A civil engineer from East Jerusalem is bucking a Palestinian boycott of Israeli politics by running for a seat in city hall with a campaign that demands equitable municipal services while side-stepping the long struggle over sovereignty. A third of Jerusalem residents are Palestinians, in areas Israel captured in a 1967 war and annexed as its capital, a move not recognized abroad. They pay taxes and complain of neglect by Israeli authorities more attentive to western, Jewish districts. The estrangement has been reinforced by a policy of non-participation in Jerusalem municipal politics ordered by the Palestinian Authority (PA), which exercises limited self-rule in the adjacent Israeli-occupied West Bank and wants East Jerusalem as capital of a hoped-for future Palestinian state.

Ramadan Dabash, 51, is as old as Israel's rule and, having witnessed diplomatic deadlocks - the last round of statehood negotiations collapsed in 2014 - and spates of violence, is impatient for change. He talks in terms of pragmatic adaptation. "East Jerusalemites suffer greatly from lack of services and representation in the municipality of Jerusalem," Dabash told Reuters in his district of Sur Baher, where unkempt streets and open piles of refuse are common sights.

"Some of the people claim this is 'normalization' or 'Israelization', but that is not true," said Dabash, a political independent whose campaign has been condemned by the PA. "Receiving services is not considered normalization. It is a continuity of the normal daily life we are living - we do not have any other

alternative ... Rights are taken, not granted." Dabash has pointedly eschewed a run for mayor in the Oct 30 municipal election - a feted Israeli public office that four Jewish candidates, one of them a cabinet ally of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, are closely contesting.

Another Palestinian, Aziz Abu Sarah, announced a mayoral campaign but dropped out due to what he said were "threats against my residency in Jerusalem by (Israel's) Ministry of the Interior and pressure from the PA (Palestinian Authority)". During the race, Arabic-shouting protesters pelted Abu Sarah with eggs outside city hall. Dabash hopes to win as many as five seats on the 31-member city council. His "Jerusalem is My City" list has 13 Palestinian candi-

dates as well as a Jewish Israeli adviser.

Success looks unlikely. A candidate needs 8,000 votes to become a council member. Municipal data show that the turnout in the last two elections among Jerusalem's voting-age Palestinians - who number around 220,000 - has hovered around 3 percent, suggesting deep grassroots disaffection with Jerusalem politics. Palestinian leaders strongly disapprove of Dabash's bid. "These attempts have failed before, and will also fail this time, because our people in the city of Jerusalem will reject these outcasts who try to legitimise this occupation and the tools of this occupation," said Adnan Ghaith, the PA official in charge of the Jerusalem file. — Reuters

Kuwait rejects campaign against...

Continued from Page 1

Turkish authorities have an audio recording indicating that Khashoggi was killed in the consulate, a Turkish official and a security source told Reuters, and have shared evidence with countries including Saudi Arabia and the United States. They provided no further details. Saudi Arabia has strongly denied killing Khashoggi and has denounced such assertions as "lies", saying he left the building shortly after entering.

"The king firmly denied any knowledge of it," Trump told reporters after speaking with King Salman. "He didn't really know, maybe - I don't want to get into his mind but it sounded to me - maybe these could have been rogue killers. Who knows?" State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said Trump was sending Pompeo to Riyadh because "determining what happened to Jamal Khashoggi is something of great importance to the president".

After Turkish authorities placed high iron barriers in front of the Istanbul consulate - a motorcade of six cars drew up and Turkish police and prosecutors entered the premises. Some police were in uniform while other officials were in suits carrying printers and files, an AFP correspondent said. Dozens of media organizations - some of whom had set up tents - have kept a constant vigil outside the consulate in the expectation that the search would finally begin. A Saudi delegation had entered the consulate one hour before the Turkish police arrived and appeared still to be inside as the search was conducted.

A Turkish diplomatic source had earlier said a joint Turkish-Saudi team would search the building - the last place Khashoggi was seen before he vanished on Oct 2. "It has been 13 days since the event, so surely proving some of the evidence might be difficult, but we believe we will obtain evidence," the Turkish official said.

A Saudi official, not authorized to speak publicly, told Reuters that the king had ordered an internal investigation based on information from the joint team in Istanbul. Asked when the public prosecutor could make an announcement, the official said: "He was instructed to work quickly." King Salman and Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan spoke by telephone on Sunday evening and stressed the importance of the two countries creating a joint group as part of the probe.

Trump has threatened "severe punishment" if it turns out Khashoggi was killed in the consulate, although he has ruled out cancelling arms deals worth tens of billions of dollars with Saudi Arabia. European allies have urged "a credible investigation" and accountability for those responsible. Britain expects Riyadh to provide "a complete and detailed response" to questions over Khashoggi's disappearance, Prime Minister Theresa May's spokesman said yesterday.

Saudi Arabia has responded to Western statements by saying it would retaliate against any pressure or economic sanctions "with greater action", and Arab allies rallied to support it, setting up a potential showdown between the world's top oil exporter and its main Western allies. The Saudi riyal fell to its lowest in two years and its international bond prices slipped over fears that foreign investment could shrink amid international pressure. The Saudi stock market had tumbled 7.2 percent over the previous two trading days but rebounded 2 percent yesterday. Foreign capital is key to Saudi plans for economic diversification and job creation.

Concern over Khashoggi's disappearance has seen media organizations and a growing number of guests pull out of a "Davos in the Desert" investment conference set for Oct 23-25, which has become the biggest show for investors to promote Prince Mohammed's reform vision. A source familiar with the matter said Blackstone CEO Stephen Schwarzman and BlackRock Chief Executive Larry Fink were pulling out of the summit. Both companies declined comment. CNBC reported that Mastercard CEO Ajay Banga would not attend either.

Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF), which hosts the conference, has tentatively committed \$20 billion to an infrastructure investment planned with Blackstone Group. Prince Mohammed told Reuters last year that Blackstone and BlackRock Inc were planning to open offices in the kingdom. The organizer insisted the conference would go ahead, saying in an emailed statement yesterday that more than 150 speakers were confirmed from over 140 organizations.

Saudi Arabia's Arab allies have rushed to its support. Bahrain called for a boycott of Uber, in which PIF has invested \$3.5 billion, after its chief executive officer said he would not attend the conference. Similar campaigns trended on social media in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. UAE businessman Khalaf Ahmad Al-Habtoor urged a boycott of Virgin, which has suspended discussions with PIF over a planned \$1 billion investment.

Khashoggi, a familiar face on Arab talk shows, moved to the United States last year fearing retribution for his criticism of Prince Mohammed. The former newspaper editor once interviewed Osama bin Laden and later became a consummate insider, advising former Saudi intelligence chief Prince Turki Al-Faisal when he served as ambassador in London and Washington.

A pro-government Turkish daily published preliminary evidence last week from investigators who it said had identified a 15-member Saudi intelligence team that arrived in Istanbul on diplomatic passports hours before Khashoggi disappeared. The Saudi consulate referred Reuters to authorities in Riyadh, who did not respond to questions about the 15 Saudis. Asked if he had reviewed the purported recording of Khashoggi's killing, Trump told reporters on Saturday: "I have not ... We've all heard a lot about the audio. Nobody's seen it yet, so we do want to see it ... we're going to be seeing it very soon." — Agencies



KUWAIT: Australia's Mathew Leckie vies for the ball with Kuwait's Fahad Al-Hajri during a friendly football match between Kuwait and Australia at the Kuwait Sports Club Stadium yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Iran's new breed of charities on...

Continued from Page 1

The foundation brought him to Tehran so he could participate in the tournament in a sport he loves. "Some charity workers came to our city square. They saw me do a backflip and said 'Wow! What a boy', and now I'm here in Tehran playing football," he said, excitedly.

Official data on poverty is hard to pin down in Iran. The labor ministry said 800,000 households were eligible for government support because they earned below the poverty line of seven million rials (around \$160) a month, according to a report in January by the Financial Tribune. The English-language newspaper cited prominent economist Hossein Raghfar as saying some 12 million Iranians lived in absolute poverty, in a country with a population of around 80 million.

Faced with mounting economic woes, President

Hassan Rouhani has introduced welfare cuts and other austerity measures since coming to power in 2013. The government was already struggling to support the poor before the recent return of US sanctions - after Washington withdrew from a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers - which has sent prices soaring and threatens to take a huge chunk out of the budget this year. That has put more pressure on charities and private donors, and encouraged the more modern approach to charity work.

"We need to help these kids at an early stage of life to get them on the right path and help break the chain of poverty in their families," said Reza Taghdir, a doctor with the high-end Nikan hospital group and a director for the ILIA Foundation. It marks a change from the old ways of doing things, said one of ILIA's promoters, who asked not to be named. "In the past, some old guys would get near to death and start worrying about the afterlife, so they would hand out a load of money to build something in their name. It was really just about status and was not very organized," he said. "Now it's much more professional, the donors are younger and much more concerned to find real solutions to problems in society." — AFP

Sports

Warriors seek more NBA glory as title-hungry rivals lurk

Stare Warriors to open 2018-19 NBA campaign against Oklahoma City

WASHINGTON: Two-time NBA Most Valuable Player Stephen Curry will enjoy watching the Golden State Warriors hoist another championship banner today when they open the 2018-19 NBA campaign against Oklahoma City.

But the 3-point sharpshooter doesn't need to look to the rafters to know the Warriors remain the team to beat as they begin the quest for a third consecutive NBA title and fourth crown in five seasons.

"I'm still glowing," Curry said. "The glow won't wear down until you get beat." The Warriors boast three other All-Stars in two-time NBA Finals Most Valuable Player Kevin Durant, defensive stalwart Draymond Green and Curry's backcourt partner Klay Thompson plus a fifth in injured center DeMarcus Cousins, signed in July but still sidelined after left Achilles tendon surgery in January.

Working Cousins into the lineup once he returns could add some zest to the regular season for Golden State, which has so far avoided letting repetitive domination lead to complacency. "That's the thing I'm most proud of with our team," Curry said. "We're talented and all that, but the work that goes into it, the mental approach to turn the page, has been there the last three years. "You work so hard to earn the right to be proud of yourself at the end of the summer."

'CAN'T JUST SLEEPWALK'

Golden State will try to become the first team since the 2000-2002 Los Angeles Lakers to win three consecutive NBA titles and join the 1950s Minneapolis Lakers and 1960s Boston Celtics as the only clubs to win four titles in five years.

The Celtics dynasty, with eight titles in a row and

nine in all from 1957-1966, is the only NBA squad to reach five consecutive NBA Finals—a feat the Warriors can achieve this season. The Houston Rockets, who pushed the Warriors to seven games in last season's Western Conference finals, and the Boston Celtics, bringing back injured stars Kyrie Irving and Gordon Hayward to a team that was one win from last season's Eastern Conference crown, figure to lead a pack of rivals who ache for a chance to play for the championship.

"To be honest, it's fun," Curry said of wearing the target for every NBA rival. "No matter if it's a Tuesday night at home or a back-to-back in some random East Coast city, you're going to be tested and you can't just sleepwalk through stuff."

"We've been exposed at times in terms of when we're not extremely locked in that we can be beat. But when we are focused and in tune with each other, understanding what we're trying to do to be successful, obviously we're tough."

No one knows that better than the Rockets, who won a league-best 65 games last season behind NBA Most Valuable Player and scoring champion James Harden. Houston led Golden State 3-2 in the West finals before Chris Paul suffered an injured hamstring and missed the last two games, both won by the Warriors to reach the NBA Finals, where they swept Cleveland for the crown.

'WE'VE GOT AN ANSWER'

While four-time NBA MVP LeBron James left Cleveland for the Los Angeles Lakers, he's unlikely to lift them from 35 wins to title contenders in a season, leaving the Rockets to again offer the best threat in the



SAN JOSE: File photo shows Quinn Cook #4 of the Golden State Warriors dribbles the ball against the Los Angeles Lakers during a pre-season game on October 12, 2018 at the SAP Center in San Jose, California. —AFP

West to Golden State's supremacy after adding 10-time All-Star Carmelo Anthony to the lineup.

"We're trying to win a championship. The margin for error is very little," Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni said. "With this team, the depth we have, I think we've got an answer for everything. We've just got to figure

out what that answer is."

The Celtics have some sorting to do as well in an East up for grabs with James gone from Cleveland. Toronto added Kawhi Leonard and Philadelphia offers young star talent but Boston figures to be the best in the East. —AFP

Bradley's 3-run double helps Red Sox even ALCS

BOSTON: Jackie Bradley Jr. hit a go-ahead, bases-clearing double with two outs in the third inning, and the Boston Red Sox evened the American League Championship Series at one game apiece with a 7-5 victory over the visiting Houston Astros on Sunday night.

Game 3 is today in Houston. Andrew Benintendi and Rafael Devers had RBI singles in the opening inning off Gerrit Cole (0-1) before Bradley's key hit two innings later. "I mean, he's been doing that for a while," Boston manager Alex Cora said of Bradley. "Got to the point during the season that we had to actually take him out of the lineup for three, four, five days during the week—actually right before we went to Houston."

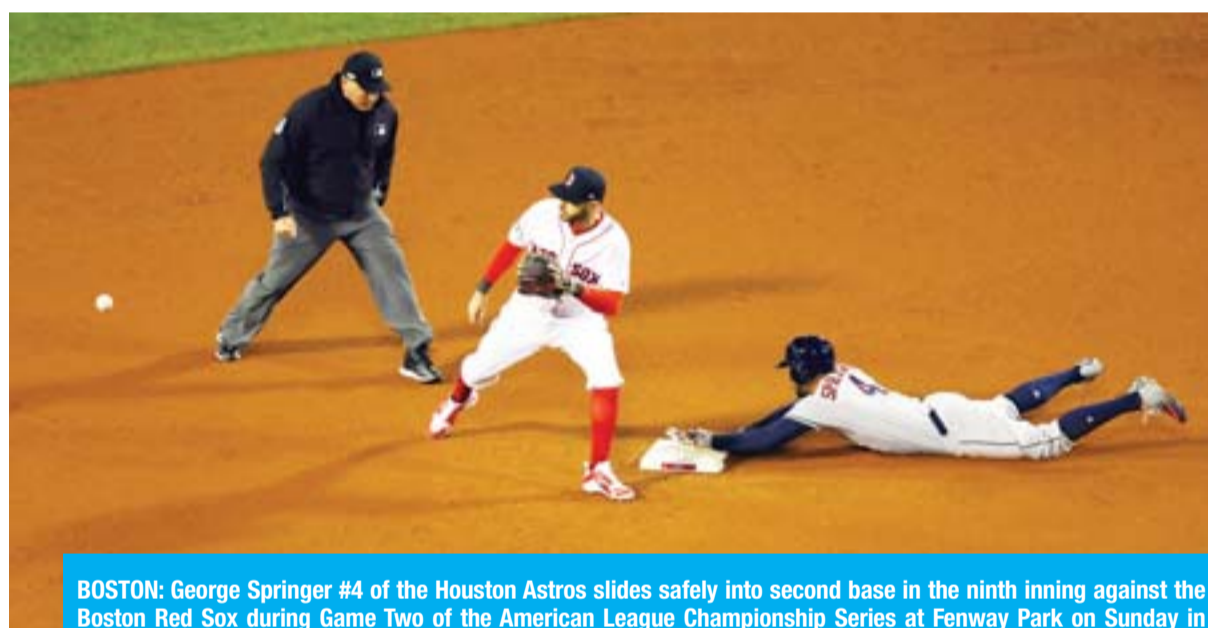
"And he worked on his craft. He found a few things that he really liked about his swing. Seems like now he understands who he is as a hitter. There's not too many hard-hit ground balls into his shift. He's staying through it."

Mookie Betts scored on Benintendi's hit and also scored an insurance run in the seventh on the second passed ball of the inning by catcher Martin Maldonado. He added an RBI double in the eighth off Hector Rondon.

Houston's George Springer extended his postseason hitting streak to 11 games with two hits, including a two-run double. Marwin Gonzalez hit a two-run homer for the Astros, who host the next three games after losing for the first time in this year's postseason.

Boston left-hander David Price remained winless as a starter in the postseason. In his 11th career playoff start, he allowed four runs on five hits in 4 2/3 innings. Price exited to a nice hand from the crowd after issuing two walks in the fifth, and it was the first time his team won any of his postseason starts.

"It wasn't the line I dreamed up to have tonight, but our offense, our defense, everybody rallied together," Price said. "That's what we've done all year. Whenever starters needed to be picked up, they picked us up and vice versa. So that was big." Matt Barnes followed Price



BOSTON: George Springer #4 of the Houston Astros slides safely into second base in the ninth inning against the Boston Red Sox during Game Two of the American League Championship Series at Fenway Park on Sunday in Boston, Massachusetts. —AFP

by getting the next four outs. Ryan Brasier retired Yuli Gurriel with tying run on base to end a scoreless seventh, and Rick Porcello struck out two in a perfect eighth.

Red Sox closer Craig Kimbrel allowed a two-out double to Springer in the ninth. Springer took third on a wild pitch and scored on Jose Altuve's single off the Green Monster, but Kimbrel got the save when Benintendi made a twisting catch in front of the wall on Alex Bregman's fly ball to left.

Cole allowed five runs (four earned) on six hits in six innings. "I thought he was a little over-amped," Houston manager A.J. Hinch said of Cole. "He was pretty excited. A lot of energy. Wasn't making a ton of pitches. And then he found it. ... The line's going to (look) a little bit tougher on him than he pitched."

The Red Sox took a 1-0 lead two batters into the bottom of the first when Betts doubled to deep center and scored on Benintendi's single. After Cole made a throwing error on a ground ball by Xander Bogaerts, he walked Steve Pearce to load the bases. Devers then

slapped a single to left.

The Astros tied the game in the second when Springer doubled down the right field line past Pearce's dive at first base. Gonzalez made it 4-2 when he hit Price's full-count fastball off an advertisement above the Monster seats with two outs in the third.

Gonzalez nearly exited the game in the bottom of the third when he crashed into the Green Monster attempting to catch Pearce's fly ball that went for a double. He crashed to the ground, was attended to by a trainer for a few minutes and stayed in the game.

Hinch said of Gonzalez, "He got back to the wall. He's played a couple of balls off this wall almost like a home player. He's pretty good out there. He banged his back, upper back and neck. We went out there to make sure there was no issue with his head. And there wasn't."

"The ball, the wall, he's backpedaling. He's got to make a decision on whether or not to concede the wall and try to play it off the wall or try to make a catch. It's not too dissimilar to what he's got to do at home, at our place. But it's a well-placed hit." —Reuters

Bolt fumes over drug test notice

SYDNEY: Sprint legend Usain Bolt says he's stunned after being handed a drug testing notice despite retiring from athletics and having no professional contract as he bids to launch a football career in Australia.

The 100m world record-holder quit athletics last year and is yet to be offered a deal by Australia's Central Coast Mariners, where he is currently on trial. "So guys I've retired from track and field looking to become a footballer but look at this," Bolt said yesterday via an Instagram video as he zoomed in on the notice.

The demand for the out of competition test—to collect urine and blood—appears to have been issued by Football Federation Australia. "How am I going to get a drug test today? I'm not even a professional footballer yet. Seriously," said Bolt.

"So I asked the lady, 'Why am I getting drug tested when I haven't signed for a club yet?' and she said they told her I'm an elite athlete so I have to get tested. Okay then." Despite his displeasure, it appears the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority guidelines mean he is eligible to be tested.

Their legislation defines an athlete as a "per-



Usain Bolt

son who competes in sport" if "the sport has an anti-doping policy". The eight-time Olympic champion, who dominated sprinting after taking double individual gold at the Beijing Olympics in 2008, is now bidding to become a professional footballer.

He made his case on Friday by scoring two goals for the Mariners in a pre-season friendly. The superstar, a massive Manchester United fan, has been handed a chance to train with the A-League side for an indefinite period in order to pursue his dream. —AFP

Papalii gets surprise nod for All Blacks tour

WELLINGTON: The All Blacks named uncapped flanker Dalton Papalii yesterday in a 32-man squad for a Test against Australia in Japan and their tour involving matches against England, Ireland and Italy.

Papalii, who turned 21 last week, the only newcomer in the squad, gets his chance after Sam Cane fractured a vertebra in the All Blacks' win over South Africa earlier this month. The young openside signed for Auckland this year and has enjoyed a strong domestic season, leading the competition tackle count with his team top of the ladder.

"He has played outstanding rugby this year and deserves his opportunity," All Blacks coach Steve Hansen said. The squad also included the return of a number of senior players, including hooker Dane Coles, lock Brodie Retallick, loose forward Liam Squire and prop Joe Moody.

The All Blacks will face Australia in Yokohama on October 27, England at Twickenham on November 10, Ireland in Dublin on November 17 and Italy in Rome on November 24. Hansen also named a 19-man squad to gather ahead of the Test against Japan in Tokyo on November 3, a week after the match against the Wallabies.

"Having the extra group come to Japan will allow us to send the bulk of our main squad to London early to acclimatise," he said. The squad for the Japan Test includes seven uncapped players and Hansen said it was an opportunity to build depth and knowledge of Japan ahead of next year's World Cup.

"We'll also be using the Japanese leg of our Tour to road test a few things ahead of next year's Rugby World Cup, as we will be using the same hotels and training facilities while we are there," he said.

New Zealand squad for Australia, England, Ireland and Italy Tests:

FORWARDS

Dane Coles, Nathan Harris, Codie Taylor, Owen Franks, Nepo Laulala, Joe Moody, Karl Tu'inukuafe, Ofa Tuungafasi, Scott Barrett, Brodie Retallick, Patrick Tuipulotu, Sam Whitelock, Vaea Fifita, Dalton Papalii, Kieran Read (capt), Ardie Savea, Liam Squire, Matt Todd.

BACKS

TJ Perenara, Aaron Smith, Te Toiroa Tahuriorangi, Beauden Barrett, Damian McKenzie, Richie Mo'unga, Ryan Crotty, Jack Goodhue, Anton Lienert-Brown, Sonny Bill Williams, Jordie Barrett, Rieko Ioane, Waisake Naholo, Ben Smith.

Additional squad for the Japan Test: FORWARDS

Asafo Aumua, Liam Coltman, Tyrel Lomax, Reuben O'Neill, Tim Perry, Angus Ta'avao, Luke Romano, Jackson Hemopo, Gareth Evans, Dillon Hunt, Luke Whitelock.

BACKS

Mitchell Drummond, Bryn Hall, Brett Cameron, Ngani Laumape, Matt Proctor, George Bridge, David Havili, Nehe Milner-Skudder. —AFP

Koreas to hold talks this month on joint Olympic bid

SEOUL: North and South Korea will discuss the details for their planned joint bid for the 2032 Olympics later this month to follow up on an ambitious agreement reached between their leaders in September.

The radical concept, which would require an unprecedented level of cooperation and mutual trust on the long-divided Korean peninsula, was included in a joint statement issued after a September summit between the North's leader Kim Jong Un and the South's President Moon Jae-in in Pyongyang.

"The South and North agreed to ... discuss the issue of South-North joint hosting of the 2032 Summer Olympics around the end of the month at the joint liaison office," read a joint statement issued after a high-level meeting yesterday.

No further details were given. Pyongyang boycotted the 1988 Seoul Summer Olympics after it demanded co-hosting rights and negotiations fell apart over how to share the events, but its decision to participate in this year's Pyeongchang Winter Games triggered a dramatic diplomatic turnaround on the peninsula.

It came after tensions mounted the previous year, with the North carrying out multiple missile launches and its most powerful nuclear test to date, and Kim trading personal insults and threats of war with US President Donald Trump. —AFP

Sports

India ready to unleash 'fearless' Shaw, Rishabh Pant on Australia

Shastri compares Shaw to Tendulkar and destructive Sehwag and Lara

HYDERABAD: "Fearless" young batting stars Prithvi Shaw and Rishabh Pant will be India's special weapons during their upcoming tour of Australia, according to captain Virat Kohli. Hailing the roles of 18-year-old Shaw and 21-year-old Pant in the two-Test victory over the West Indies, Kohli said they had been given free rein to play their natural games.

"We were looking at them playing with a lot of freedom, which they did," Kohli said after India's three-day, 10-wicket win on Sunday. "Prithvi was outstanding, Rishabh was really fearless. I am really happy that these guys have grabbed their chances."

Shaw became the youngest Indian batsman to score a century on his Test debut, smashing 134 in the first Test against the West Indies in Rajkot. He followed it up with a quickfire 70 in the first innings of the second Test in Hyderabad.

Left-hander Pant, who hit a century during this year's Test tour of England, followed up with scores of 92 in both the first and second Tests against the West Indies. "I know the conditions were not as challenging as they might get in future, but in Test cricket, the first and the most important thing is confidence and understanding that you can score runs at the Test level," said Kohli. "From that point of view, (I'm) very happy that these guys have taken their chance so well."

SHADES OF TENDULKAR, LARA

Pant, who shows an audacious range of strokes as a middle-order batsman, has been rewarded for his Test

performances with a call-up for the first two one-day internationals against the West Indies.

But it is Shaw who has stood out, with some pundits comparing him to the great Sachin Tendulkar. He scored 237 runs in three innings against the West Indies to get the Man of the Series award.

India coach Ravi Shastri compared Shaw to Tendulkar and the destructive Virender Sehwag and Brian Lara.

The diminutive right-hander aggressively attacked the West Indies bowlers and showed quick reflexes while fielding at forward short-leg—a dangerous position close to the batsman.

"He has been playing since the age of eight in the maidans (open spaces) of Mumbai. You can see all that hard work showing. There's a bit of Sachin there, a bit of Viru in him—and when he walks there's a bit of Lara as well," said Shastri.

Kohli said: "It's great to have a guy who is so fearless. He is not reckless, he is very confident about his game. He's a rare talent. I don't think any of us were even 10 percent of what he is when we were 18, 19."

India will play five ODIs and three Twenty20 internationals against the West Indies before starting a tour of Australia in November.

After series defeats in South Africa and England this year, India will take on Australia in three ODIs, four Tests and three T20 matches in what is being seen as a critical examination of their position as the world's top Test side. —AFP



HYDERABAD: File photo shows Indian cricketer Prithvi Shaw (2R) gesture with his teammates during a training session ahead of the second Test cricket match between India and West Indies at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Hyderabad on October 10, 2018. —AFP

Australia target first Asia series win since 2011

ABU DHABI: Australian skipper Tim Paine vowed his team would do its utmost to win the second Test against Pakistan starting in Abu Dhabi from today for a first series win in Asia since 2011. The trying conditions of the pitches and hot weather have stopped Australia from winning a series since they beat Sri Lanka 1-0 in 2011.

Since then they have lost 4-0 in India (2013), 2-0 in United Arab Emirates to Pakistan (2014), 3-0 in Sri Lanka (2016), 2-1 in India (2017) and drew 1-1 in Bangladesh last year. But Paine's side snatched a morale-boosting draw on the fifth and final day in the first Test in Dubai, the skipper and number 10 Nathan Lyon seeing out the final 12.2 overs after being set a daunting target of 462 runs.

"We want to win every series we are involved in," Paine said yesterday. "We are focusing on what we do and if we can do well for five days then we have a really good chance of winning it."

"We are reasonably confident. After the last few days we got a little bit of relief and a little bit of mileage, so we know if we play our best cricket we have got a chance to win this Test match."

"We are coming into this Test with a bit more momentum and guys know what to expect a bit more in these conditions," said Paine, who announced paceman Mitchell Starc will play in Abu Dhabi. That is hint enough that Australia are likely to keep the same starting XI.

A 'VERY GOOD TEAM'

Paine admitted Pakistan were a "very good team". "They have some good batters, particularly in these conditions. We know what we are up against and we know they are an excellent team and even better in these conditions."

Pakistan have been forced into making two changes after opener Imam-ul-Haq fractured his finger in Dubai. He will be replaced by Fakhar



DUBAI: File photo shows Australian cricketer Tim Paine (C) plays a shot during day five of the first Test cricket match in the series between Australia and Pakistan at the Dubai International Stadium in Dubai on October 11, 2018. —AFP

Zaman for his first Test. They also left out fast bowler Wahab Riaz, who went wicketless in the first Test, and will pick one from uncapped pacer Mir Hamza or leg-spinner Shadab Khan.

Pakistan's only series loss in United Arab Emirates—their neutral venue since attacks on the Sri Lankan team bus in 2009 forced them to play here—was last year. They lost to Sri Lanka 2-0, their first series loss in 10 attempts.

But Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed dispelled any fear of losing. "There is nothing like that (fear) and you would see that with the way we played the first Test. Throughout we played good cricket but unfortunately we couldn't get across the line," Ahmed said.

"The team morale is high, batsmen have

scored runs and bowlers have also taken wickets so we are very much hopeful of performing well to win the series."

TEAMS (FROM)

Australia: Tim Paine (capt), Ashton Agar, Brendan Doggett, Aaron Finch, Travis Head, Jon Holland, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Marsh, Shaun Marsh, Michael Neser, Matthew Renshaw, Peter Siddle, Mitchell Starc.

Pakistan: Sarfraz Ahmed (capt), Azhar Ali, Mohammad Hafeez, Fakhar Zaman, Babar Azam, Asad Shafiq, Haris Sohail, Yasir Shah, Shadab Khan, Bilal Asif, Mohammad Abbas, Mir Hamza. —AFP

ICC charges Sri Lankan legend Jayasuriya in anti-corruption probe

DUBAI: Dashing former Sri Lankan batsman and ex-chief selector Sanath Jayasuriya has been charged for not cooperating with a match-fixing probe and concealing information, the International Cricket Council said yesterday.

"The International Cricket Council (ICC) has charged Jayasuriya on two counts of breaching the ICC Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) and have given him 14 days to respond," the ICC said in a statement.

Jayasuriya, 49, was reportedly asked to cooperate with an inquiry from ACU chief Alex Marshall who visited Sri Lanka last month. "The charges include failure or refusal, without compelling justification, to cooperate with any investigation carried out by the ACU, including failure to provide accurately and completely any information and/or documentation requested by the ACU as part of such investigation," the ICC said.

The other count included "obstructing or delaying any investigation that may be carried out by the ACU, including concealing, tampering with or destroying any documentation or other information that may be relevant to that investigation and/or that may be evidence or may lead to the discovery of evidence of corrupt conduct under the Anti-Corruption Code".

The ICC's ACU is acting further on their previous investigation which in January 2016 saw Galle stadium curator Jayananda Warnawera banned for three years after he failed to cooperate with the ACU.

ACU head Marshall last month said: "The ACU works to uphold integrity in cricket and this includes conducting investigations where there are reasonable grounds to do so. "There is currently an ICC (ACU) investigation under way in Sri Lanka. Naturally as part of this we are talking to a number of people."

Jayasuriya played 110 Tests, 445 one-day internationals and 31 Twenty20s for Sri Lanka and was also a former captain during his illustrious career between 1989-2011. He is also a former member of Sri Lanka's parliament. —AFP

De Villiers included for S African T20 league

JOHANNESBURG: South African batting star AB de Villiers was yesterday named among 12 leading players for South Africa's new Mzansi Super League Twenty20 tournament. Six South African and six overseas players were named as marquee players at a Cricket South Africa media briefing. Six teams will be competing for their services in a draft in Johannesburg tomorrow.

England one-day captain Eoin Morgan and fellow England players Jason Roy and Dawid Malan will join West Indians Chris Gayle and Dwayne Bravo and Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan as the leading overseas players.

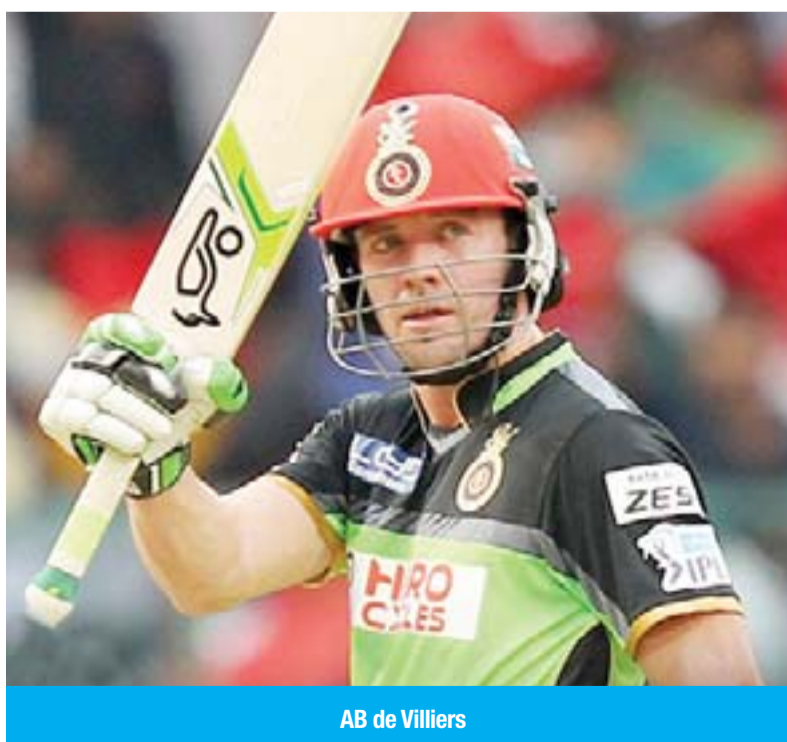
Six teams will be competing for their services in a draft which will take place in Johannesburg tomorrow. De Villiers, who retired from international cricket earlier this year, heads the list of designated South African players. He will represent the Tshwane Spartans, who will be based at his long-time home ground in Centurion.

National captain Faf du Plessis will play for the Paarl Rocks team in the Cape Winelands, Hashim Amla for Durban Heat, JP Duminy for Cape Town Blitz, Kagiso Rabada for Jozi Stars in Johannesburg and Imran Tahir for the Port-Elizabeth based Nelson Mandela Bay Giants.

The league, named after a colloquial term for South Africa, will run from November 15 to December 16. Cricket South Africa chief executive Thabang Moreo said there had been a big response from players from around the world who wanted to be included in the league.

"We have received applications from over 200 top international players who expressed interest in playing in this inaugural tournament and will have their names in the hat ahead of the player draft process," said Moreo.

South Africa's first attempt at staging a major Twenty20 tournament col-



AB de Villiers

lapsed in 2017, leading to the axing of then chief executive Haroon Lorgat and a loss of an estimated \$14 million.

It appeared doubtful that the concept would be revived in time for the current season before CSA announced on September 8 that it would go ahead. South Africa's national broadcaster, SABC, has been granted the rights to televise the tournament. —AFP

S Africa's WCup plans take shape

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's time for experimentation ahead of the 2019 Cricket World Cup is coming to an end, according to coach Ottis Gibson. Speaking after rain washed out his team's final Twenty20 international against Zimbabwe in Benoni on Sunday, Gibson said a short limited overs tour of Australia, starting later this month, would be a crucial part of the build-up to next year's World Cup in England.

"We want to go there with an attitude of trying to win," said Gibson. "The squad that we pick will reflect that and reflect our feeling on the formula and the way we want to play cricket."

South Africa were seldom under pressure in three limited overs and two Twenty20 internationals against Zimbabwe but tried to play the kind of positive cricket that will be needed for more demanding encounters.

"There is a lot being said about being positive. The key is having the will to stick with it even when things get tough," said Gibson. The Barbados-born coach said leading batsman Hashim Amla would miss the tour of Australia because of a finger injury but indicated that veteran bowlers Dale Steyn and Imran Tahir would make the trip, adding to the strike power of fast bowlers Kagiso Rabada and Lungi Ngidi.

"I know what Rabada and Ngidi can do but for me the real excitement was watching Dale Steyn bowling in the second game in Bloemfontein," he said. "It was fantastic to see him back to that level again, bowling quickly with that skill and accuracy."

"There are a lot of guys we have in our thoughts who will be in the squad to Australia," said Gibson. "For the last 12 months we have been looking at players. In the next couple of months, the players have been told that the window is closing all the time."

After three one-day internationals in Australia, South Africa will have five-match home series against Pakistan and Sri Lanka. "In those series we want to be focusing on a core of 17 to 18 players we will be looking at," he said. South Africa's squad for Australia will be announced on Thursday. —AFP

Sports

No Messi but Argentina 'have to' beat Brazil, says Romero

S American arch-rivals will face each other 105th time in an official match

JEDDAH: Argentina may be without superstar Lionel Messi but the two-time world champions simply must beat Brazil in a friendly in Saudi Arabia, Manchester United goalkeeper Sergio Romero says.

According to FIFA, this will be the 105th time the South American arch-rivals have faced each other in an official match, with Brazil marginally ahead on 40 wins to 38, with 26 draws. And while Brazil, record five-time winners of the World Cup, have picked most of their star names, Argentina are without the likes of Manchester City's in-form forward Sergio Aguero, Gonzalo Higuain of AC Milan and Paris Saint-Germain winger Angel Di Maria, as well as Messi.

"I would love Messi to be here because that would give us a boost in quality," said Romero, back in the Argentina squad following a knee injury that prevented him from featuring in two friendlies in September.

"Adding the best in the world would be best for the future of the national team." Messi also sat out Argentina's last three matches, all friendlies, since the country's disappointing last 16 elimination from the World Cup in Russia.

He is believed to have asked for some time off from international duty ahead of next year's Copa America in Brazil. He may have won the Ballon d'Or five times and helped Barcelona lift the Champions League four times and La Liga on nine occasions, but Messi's only international honour was an Olympic gold medal in 2008.

He's been on the losing side four times in major finals: the 2014 World Cup in Brazil and three Copa America title-deciders. At 31, he's starting to run out of opportunities to lead his country to international glory.

"I haven't spoken to him since the World Cup, but I hope his absence is only short-term. Hopefully he's just taking a rest," added Romero. Even without a host of

star names, and despite the prestigious opposition, anything other than victory would be met with consternation back home.

"Every time Argentina play, we have to win. And when playing against Brazil, even in a friendly, we still have to win and play our way, which is what the coach is asking of us," added Romero. "Here we have a new group of players and we'll try to do our best for the team."

MESSI BARELY MISSED

Argentina have not missed Messi too much so far, beating Iraq 4-0 in Riyadh on Thursday, having beaten Guatemala 3-0 in September, when they also drew 0-0 with Colombia.

Interim coach Lionel Scaloni picked an inexperienced line-up to face Iraq with Romero, defender Ramiro Funes Mori and striker Paulo Dybala the only established names on the team-sheet.

It will likely be a different-looking XI in Jeddah to take on a Brazil team that laboured to a 2-0 win over hosts Saudi Arabia in Riyadh on Friday. Despite featuring the likes of PSG star Neymar and Manchester City's returning forward Gabriel Jesus, Tite's side struggled on a muggy night in the Arabian desert.

But with Barcelona's Philippe Coutinho and Roberto Firmino of Liverpool likely to play too, Brazil won't need any help in getting fired up to face the Albiceleste. "Any game against Argentina is different, it takes on a huge dimension and we all know what this encounter means," said Inter Milan defender Miranda.

"Our team has prepared well and we hope to play a great match and win." But just like Scaloni, Tite wants to give some younger players a chance to prove their worth. He said it's a match "between two teams under-



File photo shows Sergio Romero dives to save a penalty kick.

going a renovation. Here, we're giving opportunities to youngsters."

The two sides last met in June 2017 in a friendly in

Australia, won 1-0 by Argentina, but Brazil romped to a 3-0 success in their last competitive fixture, a World Cup qualifier in November 2016. — AFP

Turkish star Turan could face 12 years jail for brawl

ISTANBUL: Turkish prosecutors yesterday charged Barcelona player Arda Turan over a brawl with a prominent singer, asking for the footballer to be sentenced to twelve-and-a-half years in jail.

The prosecutors charged Turan, who is currently on loan to Istanbul club Basaksehir, with sexual harassment, unlicensed possession of weapons and causing intentional injury over the fight with singer Berkay Sahin, the state-run Anadolu news agency said.

Sahin, who performs under his first name Berkay, was also charged, with prosecutors demanding up to two years in jail. Turan, 31, had last week been summoned to an Istanbul police station to give a statement about the incident but was allowed to walk free.

The incident, which took place outside an Istanbul nightclub and reportedly left Sahin with a broken nose, has transfixed Turkey over the last days. Turkish media reports said that the dispute concerned Berkay's wife, Ozlem Ada Sahin. Turan's wife Aslihan Dogan was not present. According to his statement to police, Turan said after the fight he went to the hospital where

Berkay was being held, clutching a gun and asking to be shot if the singer believed it was true he harassed his wife. He claimed to Berkay that he did not know that Ozlem was his wife. Turan said the gun then went off when he took it back, according to the statement cited in Turkish media. Video then emerged in Turkish media of the incident which shows a gun being flung onto the sofa at the hospital.

Former Turkish international Burak Yilmaz, who currently plays for Trabzonspor, was with Turan at the nightclub and is listed as a witness. In a statement on his widely-followed Instagram account, Turan described some media reports about the incident as a "lie" and also an affront to his wife, who is eight-and-a-half months pregnant.

Turan admitted he had reacted "disproportionately" and said "the only thing I care about is my wife Aslihan", admitting regretting leaving her at home to go to a nightclub just before she was due to give birth.

RECORD OF ILL DISCIPLINE

The attacking midfielder, who won 100 caps for the national side, has for years been Turkey's best known footballer and is a strong supporter of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. He backed Erdogan strongly after the failed July 2016 coup, appearing at rallies outside his home, and the Turkish president even came as a witness to Turan's marriage.

Turan is notorious for poor behaviour both on and off the field. He was banned for a record 16 games by the Turkish football authorities in May after he shoved



Arda Turan

and verbally abused a referee in a game for Basaksehir.

In June 2017, Turan was thrown out of a training camp by former coach Fatih Terim following a fracas with a reporter on a plane. Ironically, weeks later Terim himself resigned after himself becoming involved in a fight at a kebab restaurant.

Turan joined Basaksehir last season on loan from Barcelona, where he had largely endured an unhappy spell on the bench after joining from Atletico Madrid. Pundits say he has been on the decline ever since leaving Atletico. — AFP

Mancini off the mark as Italy awaken after winless year

MILAN: Roberto Mancini got his first competitive win as Italy's journey back from the abyss of their World Cup qualifying failure began to take shape with a last-gasp 1-0 win over Poland in the Nations League.

It was the first competitive win for the four-time world champions since a 1-0 victory over Albania in World Cup qualifiers on October 9, 2017. That was followed by the devastating failure to qualify for the World Cup for the first time in 60 years after a playoff defeat to Sweden at the San Siro in November last year.

Italian football has been in turmoil ever since. Although Mancini took over last May, the Italian football federation is still to elect a new president. It was perhaps not surprising that Cristiano Biraghi's last-gasp winner in Chorzow on Sunday night was celebrated as if the national side had won the tournament.

Despite Mancini's insistence that it would not be a drama if Italy lost the match, the League A Group 3 clash was a relegation playoff, with Poland dropping to League B. "The salvation of Italy and the turning point for Mancini," wrote La Repubblica, hailing the win as a "birth certificate for a new national side."

Former Manchester City boss Mancini's only success since taking over five months ago was a 2-1 win in a friendly against Saudi Arabia before the World Cup. "A new cycle has already begun," said the 53-year-old former Italian international.

"We'll go with pride to see the president of the republic," he added of yesterday's meeting with Italian President Sergio Mattarella in Rome to mark the 120th anniversary of the Italian FA. "All of Italian football will be there, it's important to go with a morale-boosting win like yesterday and for this we are proud," said Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) president Giovanni Malago. "I see a new generation of young Italians emerging. In recent years there has been a lack of foresight."

Mancini said a "new era has already begun", although he cautioned that "there are no magicians". "We simply started working, getting to know the players. "I don't like to think that the worst has passed for us, because for us it has never got that bad. There was never any specific kind of problem." Italian coach Fabio Capello believes "Mancini's choices have borne fruit," as the national side can now aspire to finishing top of their Nations League group ahead of European champions Portugal.

"The coach knows his players and tries to construct the match based on what he has," said the former England and Russia coach. Mancini stuck with the same eleven he started with in last Wednesday's 1-1 draw against the Ukraine.

He then opted to bring on Kevin Lasagna for his international debut in the second half over Lazio ace Ciro Immobile, and the 26-year-old, who plays for Serie B side Carpi, set up Biraghi for the winner. Nicolo Barella, 21, was also chosen to start over Lorenzo Pellegrini in midfield after making his international debut in Genoa. Fiorentina defender Biraghi was playing just his third game for Italy after earning his first call-up last month at the age of 26.—AFP

Golf rulemakers limit size, scale of green-reading aid

NEW YORK: The scale of putting-green maps, including those on electronic devices, will be limited under rules announced yesterday by golf's governing bodies, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club and the US Golf Association. The new interpretation of Rule 4.3 will come into force on January 1, 2019, and follows a six-week feedback period on plans to make the change. "It's important that we take steps to ensure that skill and judgment are the main determinants of success in reading the greens," R&A executive director for governance David Rickman said.

"We received some extremely useful feedback over the last six weeks that helped us finalize the limits." The rule will limit detailed green maps used by golfers during a round, including those on electronic or digital devices, to a scale of 3/8 of an inch to five yards (1:480) or smaller while a notebook or paper map image must not be larger than 4.25x7 inches.

A hole location sheet displaying nine or more holes on a single sheet of paper can be larger provided images of individual putting greens meet the scale limit. The move is meant to reaffirm the USGA and R&A view that reading greens is a crucial golf skill.

"These latest modifications provide very practical changes that make the interpretation easier to understand and apply in the field," said Thomas Pagel, USGA senior managing director for governance.

No magnification of putting green information is allowed other than normal prescription glasses or lenses. Hand-drawn or written information about a putting green is only allowed if contained in a book, or on paper, that meets the size limit and was written by the player or the player's caddie.

Digital or electronic putting green maps will violate the rules if they fail to comply with the size and scale rules or if the device produces a recommended line of play based on the ball location.

"The new interpretation is a first step in the process and we will keep green-reading materials under review in 2019 to assess whether any further action is required," Rickman said. —AFP

Halep secures second year-end No 1 ranking

PARIS: Simona Halep has secured the year-end number one ranking in the WTA standings for the second year running. The Romanian spent 40 weeks at No. 1 in 2018, a season that saw her win three titles from a tour-leading six final appearances, amassing a 46-11 win-loss record.

This year Halep has won the Shenzhen Open, the Rogers Cup and her debut Grand Slam crown at Roland Garros. In addition, she reached the title match at the Australian Open, in Rome and Cincinnati.

"Finishing the season as the WTA World No.1 last year was a huge honour for me," said Halep. "To do it for a second time in 2018 feels like a special achievement, especially having also won my first Grand Slam this year. To be able to see my name again alongside the other legends who have achieved the year-end No.1 ranking makes me very proud."

- WTA rankings as of October 15
1. Simona Halep (ROM) 7421 pts
 2. Caroline Wozniacki (DEN) 6461
 3. Angelique Kerber (GER) 5400
 4. Naomi Osaka (JPN) 4740
 5. Karolina Pliskova (CZE) 4465 (+1)
 6. Elina Svitolina (UKR) 4350 (-1)
 7. Petra Kvitova (CZE) 4255
 8. Sloane Stephens (USA) 4022
 9. Julia G?rges (GER) 3785
 10. Kiki Bertens (NED) 3740
 11. Anastasija Sevastova (LAT) 3240 (+1)
 12. Caroline Garcia (FRA) 3225 (+4)
 13. Garbine Muguruza (ESP) 3225
 14. Darya Kasatkina (RUS) 3150
 15. Aryna Sabalenka (BLR) 3145 (-4)
 16. Elise Mertens (BEL) 3115 (-1)
 17. Serena Williams (USA) 2976
 18. Jelena Ostapenko (LAT) 2863
 19. Madison Keys (USA) 2816
 20. Ashleigh Barty (AUS) 2605. — AFP



Simona Halep

25 Usain Bolt fumes over drug test notice



26 India ready to unleash 'fearless' Shaw, Rishabh Pant on Australia



27 Turkish star Turan could face 12 years jail for brawl



Patriots end Chiefs' unbeaten run

Brown, Steelers rally past Bengals on late TD



FOXBOROUGH: Stephen Gostkowski #3 of the New England Patriots kicks the game-ending field goal to give the New England Patriots the win over the Kansas City Chiefs at Gillette Stadium on Sunday in Foxborough, Massachusetts. — AFP

FOXBOROUGH: Tom Brady passed for 340 yards, and the New England Patriots got a 28-yard field goal from Stephen Gostkowski as time expired Sunday night to beat the Chiefs 43-40 at Foxborough, Mass., dumping Kansas City from the unbeaten ranks. Matched against a first-year starter, Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes, Brady led the Patriots on a game-winning drive in the final three minutes. His 39-yard strike to tight end Rob Gronkowski gave New England (4-2) a goal-to-go situation in the final seconds. The win was the 200th in the regular season for Brady as a starting quarterback. Sony Michel added 106 rushing yards for New England. Mahomes countered with 352 yards passing, going 23 of 36 with four touchdowns and two interceptions for the Chiefs (5-1).

RAMS 32, BRONCOS 20

Todd Gurley rushed for two touchdowns and a career-best 208 yards on 28 carries as Los Angeles remained undefeated, holding on for a victory at Denver. The Rams improved to 6-0, their best start since the 2001 St. Louis Rams won their first six games on their way to a berth in Super Bowl XXXVI. Rams quarterback Jared Goff completed 14 of 28 passes for 201 yards but did not have a TD pass, posting modest numbers during one of the coldest October games in Broncos' history. With temperatures at 23 degrees at kickoff, it was the coldest October game at Denver since 1969. Broncos quarterback Case Keenum was 25 of 41 for 322 yards and two touchdowns with one interception. Denver dropped its fourth consecutive game after opening the season 2-0. Broncos wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders caught seven passes for 115 yards and a touchdown.

RAVENS 21, TITANS 0

Baltimore set a franchise record with 11 sacks, one sack shy of the NFL record, and Alex Collins scored two touchdowns as Baltimore shut out Tennessee in Nashville, Tenn. The Ravens (4-2) outgained the Titans 361-106. Tennessee (3-3) converted just one of 10 third downs, and all nine of its possessions ended in punts. Joe Flacco completed 25 of 37 passes for 238 yards, one interception and a touchdown pass to Michael Crabtree, who had six catches for 93 yards. Collins finished with 54 yards on 19 carries.

STEELERS 28, BENGALS 21

Ben Roethlisberger threw a 31-yard touchdown pass to Antonio Brown with 10 seconds remaining for the game-winning score to lift Pittsburgh to victory in Cincinnati. Cincinnati (4-2), which has now lost to Pittsburgh seven straight times, including playoff matchups, took a 21-20 lead with 1:18 remaining on a 4-yard touchdown run by Joe Mixon, but the Bengals left too much time for the Steelers (3-2-1).

Roethlisberger was 32-of-46 passing for 369 yards to lead Pittsburgh, while Andy Dalton was 26-of-42 for 229 yards and two touchdowns for the Bengals.

COWBOYS 40, JAGUARS 7

Quarterback Dak Prescott threw for two touchdowns and ran for a third as host Dallas Cowboys embarrassed Jacksonville in Arlington, Texas. Prescott completed 17 of 27 passes for 183 yards while rushing for a career-high 82 yards on 11 carries. Running back Ezekiel Elliott pounded out 106 yards and a score on 24 carries, while wide receiver Cole Beasley torched the heralded Jacksonville secondary for nine catches, 101 yards and two touchdowns. Kicker Brett Maher added four field goals, including a career-high 55-yarder in the fourth quarter, for Dallas (3-3). The Cowboys sit a half-game behind first-place Washington (3-2) in the NFC East.

VIKINGS 27, CARDINALS 17

Latavius Murray rushed for 155 yards on 24 carries and a touchdown and Kirk Cousins had passing and rushing touchdowns as Minnesota downed Arizona in Minneapolis. Cousins completed 24 of 34 passes for 233 yards. Adam Thielen caught 11 passes for 123 yards and a score for the Vikings (3-2-1). Cardinals rookie Josh Rosen completed 21 of 31 passes for 240 yards and was picked off once. David Johnson gained 55 yards on 18 carries with one touchdown. Christian Kirk caught six passes for 77 yards and safety Budda Baker scored on a 36-yard fumble return for Arizona (1-5).

REDSKINS 23, PANTHERS 17

Alex Smith threw for two touchdowns and host Washington made a final defensive stand to defeat mistake-prone Carolina at FedEx Field in Landover, Md. The Panthers (3-2), who never led and were attempting to match the franchise's biggest comeback by digging

out of a 17-point hole, reached the Washington 16-yard line in the final minute before turning the ball over on downs with three straight incompletions. Smith completed 21 of 36 passes for 163 yards for the Redskins (3-2), who were fresh off the losing end of a throttling Monday night in New Orleans. Panthers quarterback Cam Newton was 27-for-40 for 275 yards with two touchdowns and an interception.

FALCONS 34, BUCCANEERS 29

Host Atlanta overcame four touchdown passes by Jameis Winston in his first start of the season and held on to defeat Tampa Bay, snapping a three-game losing streak. Matt Bryant kicked a 57-yard field goal for the Falcons (2-4) with 70 seconds left while hurting his leg, and a desperation lateral by the Bucs (2-3) went out of bounds inside the 10-yard line as time expired at Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Matt Ryan threw three touchdowns passes, including a 6-yarder to Tevin Coleman with 6:28 left, but Winston teamed with Peyton Barber on a 5-yard score with 3:47 remaining. Winston, suspended for the first three games and the backup in Week 4, completed 30 of 41 passes for 395 yards. He was intercepted twice.

CHARGERS 38, BROWNS 14

Quarterback Philip Rivers threw for two touchdowns and Melvin Gordon ran for three scores as Los Angeles shut down host Cleveland. The Chargers' offense confused the Browns with reverses, misdirection and pinpoint passing, handing Cleveland (2-3-1) its first loss at home this season. The Chargers' defense harassed rookie Baker Mayfield and shut down the NFL's second-leading rushing attack. Los Angeles (4-2) compiled 449 total yards, including 246 on the ground.

SEAHAWKS 27, RAIDERS 3

Russell Wilson threw for three touchdowns and the Seattle defense forced two fumbles by Oakland quarterback Derek Carr in the victory in London. With 84,922 in attendance, the largest crowd in the history of NFL football at Wembley Stadium, Wilson connected with Jaron Brown for a 5-yard score in the first quarter. David Moore from 19 yards out in the second and Tyler Lockett for 10 yards in the fourth, sending Seattle (3-3) to its third win in its last four games. Under constant pressure from a Seahawks defense that recorded six

sacks, Carr threw for just 142 yards, and Marshawn Lynch was limited to 45 yards on the ground against his old team, as Oakland (1-5) lost its fifth straight.

TEXANS 20, BILLS 13

Johnathan Joseph returned a late interception for a touchdown as host Houston topped Buffalo. Joseph picked off a pass by Bills backup quarterback Nathan Peterman, who replaced injured starter Josh Allen (elbow) late in the third quarter. The pass was intended for Kelvin Benjamin, and Joseph scooted 28 yards into the end zone to seal the win for the Texans (3-3). Houston had blown a 10-point lead and needed Ka'imi Fairbairn's 27-yard field goal to pull even 14 seconds earlier at the 1:34 mark of the fourth quarter. Peterman tossed a pair of interceptions after his 16-yard touchdown pass to Zay Jones gave the Bills (2-4) a 13-10 lead with 13:00 left.

JETS 42, COLTS 34

Sam Darnold became the first New York rookie quarterback since Joe Namath to throw multiple touchdown passes in consecutive games, and kicker Jason Myers booted a team-record seven field goals in a 42-34 win over visiting Indianapolis. The Jets (3-3) have won the first two of three consecutive games at MetLife Stadium. The Colts (1-5) have lost four straight. Darnold was 24-of-30 for 280 yards with two touchdowns and one interception. His scores—a 7-yard pass to Terrelle Pryor in the second quarter and a 32-yarder to Chris Herndon in the third quarter—opened and closed a run of 20 straight unanswered points by the Jets, who led by at least six points the rest of the way.

DOLPHINS 31, BEARS 28 (OT)

Rookie Jason Sanders kicked a 47-yard field goal as time expired in overtime as host Miami defeated Chicago. Miami (4-2), playing without injured starting quarterback Ryan Tannehill, snapped a two-game losing streak. Chicago (3-2) blew leads of eight and seven points in the fourth quarter and had its three-game win streak broken. The Bears, who have not allowed a rushing touchdown all season, appeared set to lose the game and that distinction until Kenyan Drake was stripped of the ball at the goal line by Akiem Hicks in overtime. Eddie Goldman recovered in the end zone for a touchback. — Reuters