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Kuwait moves to 54th rank in Global Competitiveness Index

Oil output from shared Neutral Zone remains on hold

Teenager kills 19 in Crimea college attack



KERCH, Crimea: Rescuers carry injured victims of a blast at a college yesterday. — AFP

SIMFEROPOL: Nineteen people were killed and dozens more wounded, most of them teenagers, after a student opened fire in a technical college in Russian-annexed Crimea yesterday, the authorities said. The toll rose to 19 yesterday afternoon, regional medical officials told TASS state news agency. They said 39 remained hospitalized

after the attack on the college in the city of Kerch on the peninsula annexed from Ukraine in 2014. Russia's Investigative Committee said the attack was carried out by 18-year-old student Vladislav Roslyakov. He was captured on security camera footage and later found dead with gunshot wounds. Roslyakov

enrolled at the college in 2015, according to its website. RBK newspaper quoted an anonymous fellow student as saying Roslyakov "really hated the college because of evil teachers and hinted he would take revenge on them". Violent attacks on schools and colleges are extremely rare in

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KUWAIT: Kuwait has advanced to the 54th position in the annual report of the 2018 Global Competitiveness Index, published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), the finance ministry said yesterday. The report, which placed Kuwait first in macroeconomic stability, reflected the country's improved place in 47 out of 90 indexes in different sectors, the ministry said in a press release. It showed Kuwait's improvement in the indexes of judicial independence, press freedom and reduction of burdens of government regulations that negatively affect economic competitiveness, it added.

The report also indicated improved services in transportation, road quality, air transport infrastructure, labor, wages and production, according to the statement. Kuwait's advanced rank also included pillars of institutions, such as the reduction of burdens of government regulation, protection of intellectual property and legal environment efficiency, it said. Also involved are staff training, vocational training quality, education output skills and digital technology skills, it indicated. The WEF Global Competitiveness Index report is a key index to gauge service improvement in various sectors. It is the 14th time for Kuwait to be included in the report, which measures the competitiveness of 140 countries.

Separately, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait will struggle to resume oil production from jointly operated fields anytime soon due to operational differences between

the Gulf OPEC allies, sources familiar with the matter said. The two countries halted output from the jointly run oilfields - Khafji and Wafra - in the so-called Neutral Zone more than three years ago, cutting some 500,000 barrels per day or 0.5 percent of global oil supply. As oil prices rose to a four-year high above \$85 per barrel this year, Washington has been pressing its top Gulf ally Riyadh to reduce crude prices by increasing production.

Riyadh does not want Kuwaiti laws to apply to US oil major Chevron, which operates the Wafra onshore field on behalf of the Saudi government, a source said. Another source said Saudi Arabia wanted a bigger say and more control in running oil operations in the zone. "The (regional) situation is not stable, so every country should think how to protect itself," Saleh Ashour, a member of the Kuwaiti parliament, told Reuters.

Oil output in the Neutral Zone, which dates back to 1920s treaties establishing regional borders, is divided equally between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The Wafra field is operated by state-run Kuwait Gulf Oil Co and Chevron on behalf of Saudi Arabia. The Khafji field is operated by state oil giant Saudi Aramco and Kuwait Gulf Oil. Tensions have been simmering since the last decade, when Kuwait was angered by a Saudi decision to prolong Chevron's Wafra concession until 2039 without consulting Kuwait. In 2014, Saudi Arabia closed Khafji, citing

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News in brief

Pakistan hangs child killer

LAHORE: Pakistani authorities yesterday executed a man convicted of raping and murdering a six-year-old girl, in an incident that shocked the country and sparked riots earlier this year. Chilling CCTV footage broadcast on television following the killing purportedly showed the young girl - Zainab Fatima Ameen - walking hand-in-hand with an unidentified man. Imran Ali, 24, was handed four separate death sentences for the rape and murder, which took place in the eastern city of Kasur in January. In all he confessed to eight attacks on children in the city, including five murders, in a spate of violence that terrorized society. "He was hanged this morning in the presence of a prison official and the father of the victim," said an official at Lahore's central prison, where the convict was executed. — AFP

300 'White Helmets' leave for West

AMMAN: Around 300 Syrian "White Helmet" rescue workers who fled Syria for Jordan three months ago have now left for resettlement in Western countries, a Jordanian foreign ministry statement said yesterday. In July the rescue workers, fleeing advancing Russian-backed Syrian government troops, slipped over the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights frontier and into Jordan, with the help of Israeli soldiers and Western powers. Jordan had accepted them after getting guarantees their stay would be temporary and they would be given asylum in Canada, Germany and Britain, Jordanian officials said. The "White Helmets", known officially as Syria Civil Defense, have been credited with saving thousands of people in rebel-held areas. — Reuters

Kidnapped Iran troops drugged

GENEVA: A group of Iranian security personnel kidnapped on the border with Pakistan this week were unconscious at the time, the commander of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards said, following reports that they had eaten drugged food. Iran's Fars News agency also quoted Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari yesterday as saying that infiltrators had helped with the abduction of at least 10 staff to Pakistan on Tuesday. An Iranian separatist group called Jaish al-Adl said on Tuesday it had seized the personnel, which included members of the Guards, at the Mirjaveh border post in Sistan-Baluchestan province to avenge the oppression of Sunni Muslims in the area. Jafari promised the kidnapers a tough response. — Reuters

Trump stays cautious over Khashoggi

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump yesterday denied covering up for ally Saudi Arabia in the suspected murder of a critical journalist and said that he should know what happened to Jamal Khashoggi within days. "No not at all, I just want to find out what's happening," Trump told reporters in the White House when asked if his consistently cautious approach to the scandal amounts to a cover-up. "I'm not giving cover at all." The president said he would get a "full report" from Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on the diplomat's return from meetings with Saudi and Turkish leaders and that he'd then know the truth. "We

will probably know that by the end of the week," Trump said.

The US president has been on the defensive ever since Khashoggi - a US resident and Washington Post contributor who had criticized Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman - vanished on Oct 2 after visiting the Istanbul consulate. Trump has slow-pedaled on the possibility of action against Saudi Arabia, which he has repeatedly praised as a historic customer for the US weapons industry.

Yesterday, he told Fox Business that the US relies on the kingdom in the fight against terrorism. Earlier, Trump tweeted that Prince Mohammed had denied knowing what happened in the Saudi consulate. "I think we have to find out what happened first," Trump told the Associated Press in an interview on Tuesday. "Here we go again with, you know, you're guilty until proven innocent. I don't like that."

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India minister in #MeToo storm resigns

NEW DELHI: India's fledgling #MeToo movement claimed its highest-profile scalp to date yesterday as a government minister and veteran editor quit after at least 20 women accused him of sexual harassment. M J Akbar, who became junior foreign minister in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government after a glittering journalistic career, maintained however that the barrage of allegations were false. "Since I have decided to seek justice in a court of law in my personal capacity, I deem it appropriate to step down from office and challenge false accusations against me," he said in a statement.

Allegations against Akbar snowballed last week after journalist Priya Ramani accused him of sexual harassment when the pair worked together in the 1990s. Akbar was "an expert on obscene phone calls, texts, inappropriate compliments and not taking no for an answer". Ramani had said. She said that he would



M J Akbar

often insist on conducting interviews and meetings in hotel rooms. "As women we feel vindicated by M J Akbar's resignation. I look forward to the day when I will also get justice in court," she said on Twitter yesterday.

Akbar earlier dismissed Ramani's accusations and said he would sue for defamation. But 20 other women have since offered to testify against him. Another woman said Akbar cornered and pawed her when she was a junior

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ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (right) and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo meet at Esenboga International Airport yesterday. — AFP



SOCHI, Russia: Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) meets Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi yesterday. — AFP

Sisi hails 'new chapter' in ties with Russia

SOCHI, Russia: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi yesterday said he welcomes a "new chapter" in relations with Moscow after signing a strategic agreement with his Russian counter-

part Vladimir Putin. The deal "opens up a new chapter in our cooperation" and "will take it towards new horizons," Sisi said in translated comments. The two signed the agreement in the presence of ministers in the Black Sea resort of Sochi. Putin said the talks "were held in a businesslike and constructive atmosphere". The leaders "discussed the whole spectrum of bilateral relations as well as key international and regional problems," he said.

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Amir receives senior state officials, visiting minister, outgoing ambassador

Crown Prince, Prime Minister meet new human rights' diwan members



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



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Dominican Republic's Foreign Minister Miguel Vargas.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan palace His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah accompanied by visiting Dominican Republic's Foreign Minister Miguel Vargas. His Highness then received the outgoing Ambassador of Myanmar to Kuwait U Aye Khaing, Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah attended both meetings.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh and members of National Diwan for Human Rights on the occasion of the formation of its new board. His Highness the Crown Prince praised the new establishment which will add more Kuwaiti achievements in the humanitarian field and its contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with international law and treaties. He also expressed pride in the Kuwaiti humanitarian mission and keenness on building a better future. The meeting was attended by Head of Protocols at the Diwan of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

The new Diwan members also met with His Highness the Prime Minister, who stressed the important role of the National Diwan for Human Rights in promoting Kuwait's democracy and in displaying Kuwait's civilized image to the rest of the world.

Also yesterday, His Highness the Crown Prince received His Highness the Prime Minister, as well as

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, and Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.

In other news, His Highness the Prime Minister met Hamza Al-Khayat, director of the linguistic creativity center. During the reception, Khayat presented His Highness the Prime Minister with a copy of a linguistic encyclopedia for children, which was authored by His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak. His Highness the Prime Minister commended the encyclopedia, of which 100,000 copies have been published in a short period of time, for its modern and funny style that makes it easy for children to learn on the basis of sound foundations and principles. Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak stressed that it is important to teach children Arabic and its grammar.

Furthermore, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak and Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled received Dominican's Foreign Minister Vargas and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan undersecretary Sheikhha Etemad Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Assistant Foreign Minister for Americas' Affairs Reem Al-Khaled.

Later yesterday, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah held a meeting with the visiting Dominican minister, during which they discussed ways to enhance relations on all possible spheres and also touched on means to coordinate efforts within the UNSC. The meeting was followed by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Kuwait and the Dominican Republic in the field of political consultations, diplomatic training, energy, trade and technical cooperation.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the outgoing Ambassador of Myanmar to Kuwait U Aye Khaing.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah, Director General of Saud Al-Nasser Diplomatic Institute Ambassador Abdulaziz Al-Sharekh, Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocols Ambassador Dhari Ajran Al-Ajran, Assistant Foreign Minister for the Office of Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Foreign Minister Ambassador Saleh Al-Loughani, Assistant Undersecretary for Foreign Trade and International Organizations Affairs Sheikh Nimr Fahad Al-Malik and Assistant Foreign Minister for Americas Ambassador Reem Al-Khaled.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled also received Director-General of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) Abdulwahab Al-Bader. KFAED's Deputy Director for Investment Ghanem Al-Ghenaime introduced the new Deputy Director-General for Operations Marwan Al-Ghanem and the new Deputy Director-General for Administration and Finance Nedhal Al-Olayan. Sheikh Sabah Khaled congratulated the team of KFAED and wished them the best of luck during their duty under the leadership of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince. — KUNA

Chinese official looks forward for new cooperation prospects with Kuwait

BEIJING: Vice President and Director General of China Petrochemical Corporation (Sinopec) Li Dia Nu expressed his hope yesterday for a new phase towards closer relations and cooperation between his country and Kuwait in various fields especially in the fields of energy and petrochemicals in light of the agreements reached between the two countries during His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's visit to China last July.

This came during a meeting with a Kuwaiti media delegation visiting the Republic of China at the invitation of the Chinese side to discuss ways of developing media cooperation between the two countries in light of His Highness the Amir's recent visit to Beijing. Li said that Sinopec has a close relationship with the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and this relationship strengthens the cooperation frameworks between the two countries, expressing his country's readiness to contribute to supporting the development and reconstruction of Kuwait. He added that the company has more than 125 activities in many countries in the world, including Kuwait, and these activities represent the government of China at the highest level of business development in the world.

In 2008, Sinopec entered the Kuwait market and was the first contractor with Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) and was the best company to provide high quality standards. He added that in the commercial process of crude oil, Kuwait ranks first in terms of volume of cooperation, which has increased over time, noting that the volume of imports of (Sinopec) of Kuwaiti oil currently stands at 300,000 barrels of oil per day. He added that the Kuwait market has become a large and open market, pointing out that the latest meetings of the bilateral committees, agreements were signed to expand and deepen relations in oil services between the two countries to create new opportunities for cooperation, especially in the petrochemical sector.

Kuwait also wants to benefit from China's great experience in the economic development process within the framework of the new development plan (Kuwait Vision 2035). He expressed his happiness at the level of cooperation between the two countries and wished a bright and promising future especially that the two parties are committed to achieving this vision, and that cooperation is what will distinguish this vision.

Meanwhile, Director of Oil Services in the Company Zhou Ji pointed to the activities and areas of work of Sinopec in Kuwait, explaining that the company is one of



BEIJING: Vice President and Director General of China Petrochemical Corporation (Sinopec) Li Dia Nu meets with the Kuwaiti media delegation. — KUNA

the largest suppliers of oil and petrochemical services. He added that the company's plan includes exploration, oil construction and production along with design, adding that the company has more than 5,000 representatives and agents in more than 30 countries around the world, the most important of which is Kuwait. He said the company has significant activities in the Gulf region with 56 drilling platforms in Kuwait and began drilling in 2009 with 15 platforms. In 2015 and 2016, the number has risen to 27, and the implementation time schedule has gone smoothly in recent years. He then took the delegation in a tour to the control hall of Sinopec, through which it manages all its activities including oilfields, oil exploration stations, transport pipelines, ships, refineries, gas transmission lines and liquefaction.

In the meantime, head of the media delegation, Deputy Director-General for the Editorial Sector and Editor-in-Chief of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Saad Al-Ali, said that the visit of the media team representing media institutions in Kuwait came in light of His Highness the Amir's vision for the future development plan and projects following his recent visit to China last July. Ali said that Kuwait, when it began its 2035 vision plan, China was the main country and the main key to Kuwait's projects. Kuwait is also a key country in the Silk Road project. The project was an essential part of His Highness the Amir's visit to China. He pointed out that Kuwait has great relations with oil companies from China, which enhances the desire for cooperation between the two parties as oil is the main source of Kuwait's economy. He stressed the need to increase awareness of the project of China and the transfer of its activities to the Kuwaiti citizen and there is a desire and interest from both sides to move forward in signing more cooperation agreements on all levels. He pointed to the great harmony between Kuwait and the Republic of China in various fields, calling for the promotion and

activation of media and cultural conventions for further convergence and acquisition of expertise. Sinopec was founded in 2000 and is headquartered in the Chinese capital Beijing and is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and recently the London Stock Exchange. It is also the largest oil refining company in Asia in terms of processing. The delegation, which is headed by Al-Ali, also includes a group of journalists from various Kuwaiti media institutions and Information Ministry.

Media's importance

Kuwaiti and Chinese journalists yesterday stressed the importance of the role of the media in promoting media and cultural cooperation between the two countries, especially following the agreements signed during the visit of His Highness the Amir to China last July. This came during a meeting between the Kuwaiti media delegation visiting China and Chinese media to enhance communication and dialogue among them and to become acquainted with the largest media institutions in China in light of the agreements reached between the two countries during the visit of His Highness the Amir.

"The visit of the Kuwaiti media delegation to China is important because of the role of the media as one of the channels that contribute to enhancing relations between the two countries," said Sun Changwa, deputy editor-in-chief of the 'China Daily' newspaper, in a statement to the press. He also stressed the importance of the role media can play in order to achieve cultural rapprochement between the two peoples, especially as each of them does not know the nature of the other. He added that the media men are capable of shedding more light on cultures between peoples as well as exchanging of information among peoples and this is the main goal of visits of media delegations, including the visit by the Kuwaiti media delegation. He expressed his happiness

with the visit of the Kuwaiti delegation to the headquarters of the China Daily and hoped that this exchange will continue in the future more than before.

Meanwhile, Ali stressed during the meeting with Chinese media the important role of the Kuwaiti media after the agreements signed during the visit of His Highness the Amir to China to promote media and cultural cooperation between the two countries. Ali stressed the need to close the gap between the two communities and learn more about the culture of the two countries to enhance cooperation between them. He said there are joint visits between the two countries to discuss the development plan and future projects. He stressed the need to activate the agreements between the Kuwaiti Journalists Association and the Association of Chinese Journalists and asserted keenness to strengthen communication between them. He praised China's strong ties with many countries, the Chinese President's economic expansion and the media role played by institutions in China.

In the meantime, an official of international relations in the Association of Chinese Journalists stressed the need to strengthen communication and dialogue between journalists and media and identify the media institutions in both countries because of their positive results in terms of relations between Kuwait and China. He added that the Association of Chinese Journalists represents 217 media organizations, and the number of members of the Association is about one million journalists, which reflects the interest of the Chinese people in the media. The 'China Daily', the largest English-language Chinese newspaper, was founded in 1981 and is headquartered in Beijing with offices in China's largest city and special publications in some capitals, such as New York and London. The media delegation, led by Ali, includes a group of journalists in Kuwaiti media institutions and the Ministry of Information. — KUNA

Local

Tabtabaei's call for calm overshadows Prime Minister's grilling plans

Non-Kuwaiti mothers of Kuwaiti children to receive social allowance

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: A call for calm made by MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei and to decelerate tension between the parliament and the government prior to opening the new parliamentary term on Oct 30 seems to have overshadowed MPs Mohammed Al-Muttair and Shuaib Al-Muwaizri's preparations to grill His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, as well as MP Riyadh Al-Adsani's preparations to grill Minister of State for Assembly Affairs Adel Al-Khorafi, said informed sources. The sources added that lawmakers who had expressed willingness to sign a motion of non-cooperation with HH the Prime Minister believe that Tabtabaei's call is justified, especially since along with his colleague Jamaan Al-Harbash, he is facing a prison sentence and a vote to annul their membership.

The sources further indicated that lawmakers believe that the call for decelerating tension will achieve an agreement with the government and have a general

amnesty issued to wrap up the case of breaking into the parliament and save Tabtabaei's and Harbash's membership. "Acceleration might lead to dissolving the parliament," the sources warned, noting that in such a case, the general amnesty law would be useless because both MPs would still be banned from running in parliamentary elections.

Social allowance

Municipal Council needs expat secretaries

90 percent of MSAL's services were now online, which has helped reduce the number of manual transactions.

Separately, 25 out of 40 charities operating in Kuwait asked MSAL's charity organization's department to connect their accounts to the ministry to avoid

any delays in disclosing their budgets and final statements. A meeting was held with MSAL's assistant undersecretary for social development Hana Al-Hajri, the department's manager Huda Al-Rashid and legal advisor Ahmed Majdi to discuss the request and the need to enforce the law equally on all.

Expat secretaries

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) agreed to provide 36 jobs to expats to work as secretaries for Municipal Council members and the secretariat general, said well-informed sources at the Municipal Council. The sources added that the council's deputy chairman Abdullah Al-Mahri and secretary general Yousif Al-Soqobi recently met CSC Undersecretary Bader Al-Hamad to request permission to hire secretaries and typists because of the huge amount of unfinished work. Notably, the Municipal Council secretariat is extremely understaffed.

Taxes

In view of the number of companies evading taxes, the finance ministry plans to publish these companies' names in the official gazette if the ministry's taxes sector fails to check concerned companies' addresses, quarters and representatives with the Public Authority for Civil Information's (PACI) assistance and checking

Minister of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) registers before taking legal action. Informed sources said the official gazette inclusion would be made if a company or its representative refuses to receive the tax letter sent by the ministry, if the company office is closed and no representatives are available or if the company's address or contacts are not found.

Camp licenses

The Environment Public Authority (EPA) made a proposal to Kuwait Municipality to not issue camp licenses to people who had not collected their insurance deposits after last year's camping season. The proposal also called for fining those citizens on applying for a camping license this year. In this regard, informed sources said the proposal would be discussed next week in a joint meeting between EPA and the municipality.



MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei

Alghanim Industries goes pink for breast cancer



Alghanim Industries' employees with Dr Nouralhuda Karmani and Dr Sameh Aziz.

KUWAIT: With pink ribbons, roses, pink-colored snacks and beverages, and complimentary nail art, Alghanim Industries, one of the largest privately owned companies in the region, observed Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In alignment with the company's mission to support the health and well-being of its employees, Alghanim Industries organized a breast cancer awareness session at its headquarters in Al-Hamra Tower for its female employees on Thursday, October 11, 2018. The seminar was presented by Director of Medical Services at Alghanim Industries Dr Sameh Aziz, who discussed various topics on women's health, including prevention and treatment of various issues, and Head of Breast Imaging Unit at Sabah Hospital and Consultant Radiologist at Nour Imaging Clinic, Dr Nouralhuda Karmani, who talked about the importance of self-examination, early detection, and treatment modalities, alleviating unnecessary anxieties and empowering attending employees to take charge of their health.

Commenting on the campaign, Alghanim Industries Chief Human Resources Officer, Henning Schlutt, said:

"At Alghanim Industries, we pride ourselves on supporting the health and well-being of all our employees. We're happy to hold this annual event, joining the world in creating breast cancer awareness with activities aimed at helping women keep up with the latest preventive healthcare procedures."

Following the breast cancer awareness session, Alghanim Industries held a networking event, where employees enjoyed raspberry-filled profiteroles and strawberry lemonade, courtesy of Costa Coffee, and complimentary pink nail art. Dr Sameh Aziz and Dr Nouralhuda Karmani joined employees during the event to answer any questions on breast cancer and other health-related issues.

Throughout the year, Alghanim Industries regularly holds employee engagement activities, ranging from awareness to networking events. These include blood drives in collaboration with the Kuwait Central Blood Bank (KCBB), breast cancer awareness campaigns in collaboration with different entities, in addition to charity runs and marathons, in which the company funds the registration fees for employees interested in participating.



KUWAIT: Group picture of Alghanim Industries' employees at the head office in Al-Hamra Tower.

Kuwait Food Bank marks World Food Day

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Kuwait Food Bank (KFB) recently joined the international community in celebrating World Food Day on October 16 by spreading the culture of preserving food, providing proper solutions to stop wasting food and spreading awareness on various social media networks. Notably, the World Food Day is annually marked on October 16 and was initially launched by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). It is also marked by many other relevant organizations including the World Food Program and other charities worldwide.

KFB General Manager Salem Al-Hamar said World Food Day aims at highlighting the sufferings of hungry and undernourished people around the world and encouraging people to take proper measures to halt and fight hunger. "Accordingly, KFB launches campaigns and special charity programs to provide the underprivileged and needy people with basic food needs," he added, noting that the food basket project has provided thousands of needy people around Kuwait with food.

Hamar stressed KFB also provides support and aid to needy and distressed people worldwide. He also called for boosting public awareness of the humanitarian roles played by Kuwaiti volunteers in aiding distressed people. Finally, Hamar stressed that Kuwait has a long history in humanitarian activities that earned HH the Amir the title of Humanitarian Leader and Kuwait the Humanitarian Center.

Maid injured in cooking gas cylinder explosion

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

KUWAIT: A domestic helper was injured after a cooking gas cylinder exploded in a Mubarak Al-Abdullah house yesterday. Firefighters from the Mishref fire station reported to the scene in response to an emergency call, and managed to put out the blaze. Paramedics took the injured woman to hospital. Meanwhile, firefighters from the Salmiya and Bidaa fire stations dealt with a blaze that broke out in a restaurant's chimney yesterday, Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (KFS) said in a statement. No injuries were reported in the case. Separately, firemen from Um Al-Haiman and Abdullah Port fire stations rushed to fight a fire reported on the first floor of a house. The fire was put out and no injuries were reported. Investigations were opened in each case to determine the circumstances behind them.

Negligence

A bedoon who was detained at Adan police station was able to leave the station briefly before returning, leading to an investigation of the station's officers, who were charged with

negligence. The bedoon, accused of car thefts, was able to escape before he was placed in the detention cell. He then returned after a short time with his father. The bedoon denied being a "car thief", saying his Iranian girlfriend "deserves luxury" and he committed the eight thefts just to show off to her. He told her he was a car dealer, so he had to change cars every time he met her. He said he used the cars he stole for a few days, then abandoned them in an open area. A security source said many of the cars were stolen after their owners left the engine running. Detectives were able to determine the suspect's identity and he was arrested in front of his house while driving a stolen car.

Girl freed

Two Kuwaiti citizens were detained in Hawally after they locked up a girl in an apartment. Both were drunk. The girl called police and told them the two took her to a furnished apartment and attempted to rape her, but she escaped, locked herself up in the bathroom and called for help. Policemen and detectives rushed to the apartment and had to break in, because the men refused to open the door. The girl was freed as the two were arrested while under the influence of alcohol.

Cross-dressers arrested

Vice detectives arrested a Kuwaiti and 14 expats cross-dressers red-handed. The expats (11 Filipinos, 2 Thais and one Egyptian) are held pending deportation, while massage parlor owners face legal action. Vice detectives learned

about immoral activities in massage parlors in exchange of money, so warrants were obtained and the parlors were raided. A Kuwaiti who had rented a private room and the 14 expats were arrested.

Liquor busted

Customs officers discovered 3,048 imported liquor bottles in a container that had been unclaimed for more than 90 days at Shuwaikh Port. The container had arrived from a Gulf country and no one had claimed it, so it was opened and searched. The liquor was found in hidden compartments. Authorities will question officials of the importing company to find out more details.

Juveniles fight

A passerby who saw a fight between juveniles told police a murder was committed, but only blows were exchanged. Police who arrived at the scene broke up the fight and arrested those involved.

Car stolen

Two thieves stole a car driven by an Asian after telling him there was a problem with one of its tires. The passenger of car pointed to the tire, so the Asian pulled over and got out of the car to see what was wrong. One of the men then knocked him to the ground, then got in the car and drove away, followed by his friend. The victim told his company about what happened, so the legal representative lodged a complaint at Fintas police station.

News in brief

Complicated surgery at Mubarak Hospital

KUWAIT: Mubarak Al-Kabeer Public Hospital has conducted a complicated endoscopic tumor-removal surgery for the first time. The announcement was made by Dr Abdullah Al-Haddad, a consultant general and colorectal surgeon at the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Public Hospital, in Hawally Governorate, in a press statement on the occasion of hospital's hosting of the fourth workshop on colorectal diseases. He pointed out that the three-day workshop, which started Monday with the participation of a large number of Kuwaiti and foreign doctors including several from the US, comprised several lectures and difficult surgeries such as tumor removal. — KUNA

Fiber optics project

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Minister of State for Housing Affairs Dr Jenan Boushehri signed a contract yesterday with an international consulting firm to study, design and prepare documents for the third phase of the fiber optics project. The Ministry of Services said in a press statement that it got necessary approvals from Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT), the Fatwa and Legislation Department and State Audit Bureau (SAB). The Ministry's Director of Public Relations Department Ahmad Al-Husseini said that the third phase of the fiber optics project is to replace the internet network from copper cables to fiber optic cables, covering the remaining areas of Kuwait. — KUNA

EPA monitors oil spill

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Environment Public Authority (EPA) said it was following an oil spill monitored by satellite Tuesday west of Kharj island, southeast of Abu Thar oil field, outside Kuwait's territorial waters. After receiving a report from the Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Center (MEMAC) about the oil slick, EPA began coordination with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) and Chevron Corporation to monitor the situation, EPA said in a statement. EPA said it was also coordinating with Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) to monitor satellite pictures, and coast guard to report any pollution that might spread to Kuwait territorial waters. — KUNA

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A general view of Kuwait Towers and the Arabian Gulf Road seen from Kuwait City. — Photo by Abdullah Al-Mohareb (KUNA)

AUB presents youth package in KU college

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced that it had set up a booth to promote the 'GO' Youth Package in Kuwait University's (KU) College of Engineering and Petroleum during the period from 7-11 October. This comes as part of the bank's extensive campaign to raise financial and banking awareness among young people in a number of universities across Kuwait. The Bank recently held booths at the University of Kuwait and at the Australian College of Kuwait. This campaign also aims to have students become acquainted with the benefits of the 'GO' Youth Package.

AUB recently launched the 'GO' package targeting youth and students aged between 15 and 24 years old, as an innovative package that offers them a variety of unique benefits and a full range of banking services, which have been designed to address their needs. 'Go' customers have the chance to enjoy profits and savings without a minimum balance to open their account.

The 'GO' Youth Package is sharia compliant and offers many advantages including instant discounts at over 160 merchants across Kuwait, while also enjoying special promotions and events throughout the year. Once stu-



KUWAIT: AUB's booth at the KU's College of Engineering and Petroleum.

dents transfer their allowance to the 'GO' Youth package they will receive a free Beizat Platinum Prepaid Card for their online purchases. The Beizat card also includes a number of benefits, whereby customers receive instantly 2,500 complimentary Pearl Points in addition to 3 Pearl Points for every KD 1 spent, which can be converted into Air Miles with Kuwait Airways, Gulf Air or Qatar Airways.

Commenting on the launch of the 'GO' Youth Package and its campaign, Ranjan Sen, AUB's Retail Banking General Manager, said, "We are aware that young people today are very familiar with financial developments,

and require efficiency and flexibility in their banking transactions and requirements. This is the reason why the 'GO' package from AUB has been developed to offer multiple benefits and to meet all their needs and make their banking experience a unique one."

Sen also added, "At AUB, we are keen to further develop our products and services with the aim of providing valuable banking solutions and unique services to our customers of various age groups, and one which is in line with their life styles. The 'GO' Youth Package reaffirms AUB's keen interest in the youth segment, being the future of Kuwait."

Every country has full right over its resources: Kuwait

NEW YORK: Kuwait has stressed that each country has full sovereign right to control and exploit its natural resources in accordance with the Charter and the principles of international law as a key factor if they are to be used for long-term economic growth and sustainable development. This came in a speech at the UN Security Council session on the root causes of conflict and the role of natural resources in conflicts, delivered by Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi on Tuesday evening.

Otaibi expressed Kuwait's belief that natural resources are a blessing of God's love to many countries. They must be a source and engine for sustainable development, prosperity of nations and the welfare of their peoples. He said that the management of natural resources legally, transparently and nationally at the national level were set by Kuwait as a priority for conservation and good use, taking into account the requirements of state security and national economy under the Constitution.

Otaibi expressed hope that today's discussion will lead to a better understanding of the link between natural resources

and conflicts, saying this is the third time that the Security Council has addressed this important issue. He pointed out that the time lag in discussing and dealing with them and developing the necessary perceptions and solutions does not indicate the Security Council's perception of the seriousness and repercussions on the affected countries and peoples.

Otaibi said conflicts over natural resources among sovereign states are no longer the same as they were before and during the Cold War, adding that during the past three decades, many wars and civil conflicts broke out, most of them in developing countries, with different political and economic roots. He added that these conflicts resulted in many tragedies and suffering as the Security Council dealt with them for many years and some of them are continuing. Otaibi pointed out that the Security Council in its resolution 1265/2005 and its presidential statement 22 of 2007 highlighted several key factors that are supposed to contribute to reducing and addressing this phenomenon.

The Council called for the strengthening of the role of peacekeeping forces by granting peacekeeping operations an appropriate mandate to assist the Governments concerned in preventing the illegal exploitation of natural resources. Otaibi said the council also called for supporting regional initiatives that contribute to reducing the risks of exploitation of natural resources such as the Protocol against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources on the Lakes Region and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, as well as the commitment to the Kimberley Process 2000. — KUNA

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Local

AMIDEAST marks 15th anniversary of Kennedy-Lugar YES scholarship

Alumni gathering hosted by CODED and attended by US Ambassador



Samar Khleif, AMIDEAST Country Director, speaks during the event.



KUWAIT: Attendees gather for a group photo during the event. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: AMIDEAST, in collaboration with Cod-Education (CODED), hosted an event to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Program (YES) held at the CODED headquarters in the Free Trade Zone in Industrial Shuwaikh. The YES program is being administered locally by AMIDEAST, an American non-profit organization engaged in international education, training and development activities in the Middle East and North Africa.

Samar Khleif, AMIDEAST Country Director, told Kuwait Times that around 200 Kuwaiti students have so far benefited from the YES program since its establishment. "We accept Kuwaiti students from grades 9 and 10 only. They will stay with a foster family while going to school in the United States for one year. In this way, they have the opportunity to live and experience US education and culture," Khleif explained. "After the program, the students will return back to Kuwait and continue their high school studies. They will become cultural ambassadors of the US to their

respective countries," she said.

AMIDEAST is in the process of selecting students for the next cycle of the YES Program. Both Kuwaitis and residents of Kuwait from select countries including Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bosnia, Egypt, Gaza, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and South Africa among other nations are eligible to apply. Students live with an approved American host family, study at an approved US high school, participate in youth leadership training programs, experience US culture and society firsthand, improve and practice their English speaking and writing skills and make life-long friends.

The scholarship is administered by AMIDEAST under the support and partnership of the US Embassy. Tuesday night's gathering was hosted by YES alumni and cofounder of CODED Ahmad Marafi. US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence R Silverman also attended the event and gave a speech. Silverman lauded the YES program alumni and mentioned Marafi's achievements and successes. "He is a great example of how to build success from the YES experience," he said.

"His CODED institute is helping to inspire and build expertise in computer coding among Kuwait's next generation," he said. He said to be chosen for the YES program, one has to demonstrate good grades, ambition, potential and drive.

"The US State Department offers many other exchange programs to help connect and help break down cultural barriers. In fact, we have more than 2,000 alumni of US State Department exchange programs in Kuwait. Just this month, we sent 12 Kuwaiti professionals to the International Visitors Leadership program which was created 50 years before YES. These professionals will interact with their counterparts from America and around the world to deepen their understanding of issues such as counterterrorism and environmental policy," Silverman said. He encouraged alumni to work together on projects involving entrepreneurship, English teaching, science and other subjects.

The deadline to apply for the scholarship is Dec 4, 2018. More details can be found at: <https://www.amideast.org/kuwait/academic-and-cultural-exchange/kennedy-lugar-yes-program-kuwait>



US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence R Silverman delivers a speech.

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Israel pounds Gaza after first rocket fire in weeks

Clashes erupt as Indian's temple accepts women

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FLORIDA: A destroyed house sits in debris and rubble in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael in Mexico Beach, Florida. The hurricane hit on October 10 along the Florida Panhandle as a category 4 storm causing massive damage and claimed the lives of more than a dozen people. —AFP

Over a thousand missing after hurricane

Michael flattens communities across the Florida Panhandle

PANAMA CITY BEACH: More than a thousand people were still missing yesterday a week after Hurricane Michael flattened communities across the Florida Panhandle, killing at least 27. Teams made up of hundreds of volunteers with the Houston-based CrowdSource Rescue organization were searching for more than 1,135 people in Florida who lost contact with friends and family, Matthew Marchetti, co-founder of Houston-based CrowdSource Rescue.

Most of those missing are from Panama City and many are elderly, disabled, impoverished, or live alone, Marchetti said. Florida officials have not given a number for how many people are considered to be missing. Those who are missing may be with relatives and friends, and not necessarily presumed dead. Debris, downed trees and power lines have hampered access to stranded people, but CrowdSource said a number of its missing person reports resulted from widespread phone

and power outages.

The death toll includes 17 in Florida, one in Georgia, three in North Carolina and six in Virginia, according to a Reuters tally of official reports. Officials said medical examiners were determining whether another four deaths in Florida were due to the storm. Michael slammed into the northwest coastal strip of Florida last Wednesday with top sustained winds of 155 miles per hour (250 km/h), unleashing a surge of seawater that demolished homes.

About 35,000 Floridians have called Federal Emergency Management Agency seeking help since and the agency has already approved

\$1 million in assistance for people in those 12 counties, spokesman Ruben Brown in Tallahassee said. FEMA has distributed about 4.5 million meals, more than 5 million liters of water and 9 million infant-and-toddler kits, he said. In Mexico Beach, which took a direct hit, the number of people missing dropped to three on Tuesday, said Rex Putnal, a city councilor. A day earlier, it was more than 30. The town of 1,200 residents had reported two fatalities as of Monday.

Nearly 163,000 homes and businesses remained without power in the US Southeast, with residents of battered coastal towns forced to cook on fires and barbecue

grills. At least 80 percent of customers in three mainly rural Panhandle counties were without electricity on Tuesday. Officials said it could be weeks before power returns to some. Countless others in the region's back-country have struggled for days without running water or sanitation, awaiting help from authorities. Some have been camping in tents with the belongings they were able to salvage.

The state government is distributing ice, water and about 3 million ready-to-eat meals, Governor Rick Scott's office said. Marchetti said the search has been hindered by spotty cell phone coverage in the devastated area, though authorities are making progress in restoring communications. Many residents have also expressed frustration at the slow pace of recovery of wireless networks. Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai on Tuesday called for wireless carriers to waive bills for customers affected by the storm. — Reuters



At least 27 killed

Saudi journalist disappearance

ANKARA: Here is a timeline of events in the disappearance of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a US resident who has not been seen since he entered the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul on October 2.

Goes inside

At 1:14 pm on October 2, Khashoggi is recorded entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul by a surveillance camera. The image is published by the Washington Post. He was at the consulate to receive an official document for his upcoming marriage. His fiancée, Hatice Cengiz, waits outside.

Alarm raised

On October 3 the Washington Post, for whom Khashoggi writes opinion pieces, raises the alarm, saying he has not been seen since he entered the consulate. His fiancée camps out near barricades in front of the consulate hoping for news. Turkish presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin tells a news conference: "According to information we have this individual... is still at the consulate as of now". The US State Department says it is investigating.

Saudi denial

On October 4, after an initial period of silence, Riyadh says Khashoggi disappeared "after he left the consulate building". The Saudi ambassador is summoned to the Turkish foreign ministry. On October 5 Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman tells Bloomberg that Khashoggi is not inside the consulate and



ISTANBUL: Turkish forensic and investigation officers arrive at Saudi Arabia's Consul General Mohammad Al-Otaibi's residence yesterday in Istanbul. —AFP

"we are ready to welcome the Turkish government to go and search our premises," which is Saudi sovereign territory.

Murdered in consulate?

On October 6 a government source says Turkish police believe Khashoggi was murdered inside the consulate. "Based on their initial findings, the police believe that the journalist was killed by a team especially sent to Istanbul and who left the same day," the source says. Riyadh calls the claim "baseless". On October 7 Turkey seeks permission to search the consulate.

Pressure on Riyadh

On October 8 Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan asks Riyadh to "prove" that Khashoggi left its consulate. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo calls for a "thorough" and "transparent" probe by Washington's ally Saudi Arabia.

Search granted

On October 9 Saudi Arabia agrees to let Turkish authorities search the consulate. Local media report on the possibility that Khashoggi was kidnapped and taken to Saudi Arabia. English-language state broadcaster TRT World says Turkish officials believe the Saudis may have taken the consulate's CCTV footage with them when they returned to the kingdom.

Kidnapping?

CCTV footage released by Turkish TV shows a van entering the consulate on October 2, before going to the nearby consul's residence. The Washington Post, citing US intelligence intercepts, says the Saudi crown prince ordered an operation to trap Khashoggi. The US State Department says it had not been tipped off about such an operation. US President Donald Trump calls for explanations from Saudi Arabia, saying he has talked "at the highest levels" to partners in Riyadh. —AFP

US strike in Somalia killed 60 militants

WASHINGTON: The United States conducted its largest air strike in nearly two years against militants in Somalia, killing about 60 Al-Shabaab fighters, the US military said Tuesday. "This precision air strike was the largest air strike against Al-Shabaab since November 21, 2017," when air-dropped US munitions targeted one of the group's training camps, killing about 100 extremists, US Africa Command said in a statement.

The strike took place Friday in the Harardhere area along the central coast of the Horn of Africa country, where US forces train Somali troops and also partner with the United Nations-backed African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Air assaults and missile strikes have increased in recent months against Shabaab, an Al-Qaeda affiliate fighting to overthrow the internationally backed Somali government in Mogadishu.

The surge in activity came after President Donald Trump last year loosened constraints on the US military in

Somalia, allowing commanders to take action against suspected militants when they judge it is needed, without seeking specific White House approval. "Air strikes reduce Al-Shabaab's ability to plot future attacks, disrupt its leadership networks, and degrade its freedom of maneuver within the region," Africa Command said in a statement. "The group uses portions of southern and central Somalia to plot and direct terror attacks, steal humanitarian aid, extort the local populace to fund its operations and shelter radical terrorists."

Friday's air strike came a day before suicide bombers killed at least 16 people at a restaurant and coffee shop in the southwestern city of Baidoa. It also came ahead of the first anniversary Sunday of a truck bombing that left more than 500 dead in Mogadishu, the worst ever attack in Somalia blamed on Al-Shabaab. Last month, Africa Command said American and allied forces had come under attack in Somalia, triggering an air strike in self-defense that killed 18 Shabaab extremists in the country's south.

In June, an American commando was killed during an attack in southern Somalia that also wounded four US military members and a Somali soldier, officials said at the time. More than 500 American personnel are partnered with Somali forces and AMISOM, which aims to counter the threat from Al-Shabaab jihadists. —AFP

International

Israel pounds Gaza after first rocket fire in weeks

A blow to efforts to avert a new war

GAZA: Israeli warplanes pounded the Gaza Strip yesterday after the first rocket fire from the Palestinian territory in weeks hit an Israeli city, in a blow to efforts to avert a new war. Gaza's Islamist rulers Hamas disavowed the rocket fire saying they rejected "all irresponsible attempts" to undermine Egyptian efforts to broker a new long-term truce. But Israel, which holds Hamas responsible for all rocket fire from the territory regardless of who launches it, struck 20 targets in Gaza, killing one Palestinian, according to the Hamas-run health ministry.

Israel also closed both its border crossings with Gaza in reprisal, further isolating the blockaded enclave where deteriorating living conditions have stoked violent protests along the border. Gaza militants fired two rockets before dawn, one of which caused major damage to a family home in the southern city of Beersheba, 40 kilometers (25 miles) away, the Israeli army said.

The family of three children narrowly escaped injury after their mother moved them into the safe room, with much of the rest of the house destroyed, the army said. "At 4 am (0100 GMT), Israelis in the city of Beersheba were running to bomb shelters after a rocket was launched from the Gaza Strip at Israel," the army tweeted. "We will defend Israeli civilians," it added. The other rocket came down in the sea off Tel Aviv, 70 kilometers (45 miles) from Gaza, the army said.

'Full responsibility'

The Islamists and allied militant group condemned the latest rocket fire as "irresponsible". But Israeli military spokesman Jonathan Conriscus rejected the disavowal, saying Hamas bore "full responsibility" as Gaza's de facto ruler. He said retaliatory strikes had hit 20 targets, including a Hamas attack tunnel and an "advanced weapons manufacturing site." One Palestinian the army said was preparing a rocket launch was killed in northern Gaza. At least three other Palestinians were wounded in the strikes, the Gaza health ministry said.

Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman ordered the closure of both of Israel's border crossings with Gaza in reprisal, making the heavily restricted Rafah crossing with Egypt the enclave's sole gateway to the outside

world. Lieberman also ordered the reduction of the permitted fishing zone off the Gaza coast to three nautical miles, the defense ministry body responsible for Palestinian civil affairs, COGAT, said. Lieberman already suspended deliveries of fuel that had been trucked daily into Gaza under a deal brokered by the United Nations. It had seen thousands of liters (gallons) of fuel paid for by Qatar delivered to generate desperately needed power in the impoverished territory.

'Dangerous escalation'

Hamas has fought three wars with Israel since 2008 and fears of a fourth have spurred efforts by Egypt and the United Nations for a wider deal that would see Israel ease its blockade in exchange for a long-term truce with the Islamists. During a meeting with Israeli President Reuven Rivlin yesterday, UN envoy Nickolay Mladenov called the latest rocket launches a "dangerous escalation."

"Unfortunately, they fit a pattern of provocations that seek to bring Israel and Gaza into another deadly conflict and confrontation," he said, pledging to work with all sides to avert one. Rivlin said there could be no easing of the blockade while Israelis remained under threat of rocket attack. "So long as the missiles and the provocation continue on, there is no chance of easing the suffering of the people of Gaza," he said. Rivlin praised the fast reaction of Israelis in Beersheba, saying the mother's actions saved her family's lives. The United Nations says Israel's 11-year blockade has resulted in a "catastrophic" humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Its two million residents endure routine power cuts and a chronic shortage of safe drinking water, and more than two-thirds are dependent on international aid. The latest flare-up comes after months of Palestinian protests along the Gaza border that have drawn a deadly response from Israeli troops. The protesters have been demanding an end to Israel's blockade and the right of return to land now inside Israel, from which their families were expelled or fled during the 1948 war that accompanied its creation. At least 207 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire since the protests began on March 30. One Israeli soldier has been killed by Palestinian sniper fire over the same period. — AFP

Israel closes border crossings in reprisal



GAZA: Mourners carry the body of Palestinian Najj Al-Za'aneen, 25, during his funeral procession in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday. The Israeli army said Za'aneen was preparing a rocket launch when he was killed in a retaliatory air strike. — AFP

Guantanamo to stay open at least 25 years

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE: Former president Barack Obama had vowed to close the US military-run prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, but now it will stay open for at least 25 years, the officer in charge of the facility said Tuesday. Rear Admiral John Ring said the prison, which holds several alleged plotters of the 9/11 attacks, is focused on readiness to make "sure that the facilities are going to last for 25 years." In January, President Donald Trump signed an executive order, reversing his predecessor Obama's ultimately fruitless

2009 directive to shutter the facility that has drawn global scorn.

Following Trump's move, "they told us we are going to be here for 25 years or more," said Ring, Commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. The Pentagon "sent us a memo saying plan to be open" for at least 25 years, Ring said during a visit regularly organized by the US military for journalists, with the aim of showing that prisoners are treated humanely at the American enclave in communist Cuba's southeast. In December, the top torture expert at the United Nations said reports from sources indicated at least one inmate was still being tortured at Guantanamo Bay. Nils Melzer, the UN special rapporteur on torture, said he had received information that torture through noise and vibrations was taking place against Ammar Al-Baluchi, a suspected 9/11 plotter. — AFP

Gaza: Months of deadly tensions

GAZA: Gaza has since late March been the scene of massive protests and clashes between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers along the border with Israel. At least 207 Palestinians have since been killed by the Israeli army and one Israeli soldier has been shot dead. Here is a recap of the violence around the Gaza Strip:

First deadly day

Major protests begin on March 30, 2018, to demand the right to return to homes, now inside Israel, that some 700,000 Palestinians fled or were expelled from in 1948 when Israel was created. Tens of thousands of Palestinians, including many women and children, converge along the border barrier that separates Gaza from Israel. Officially organized by civil society groups, "The Great March of Return" is backed by Islamist movement Hamas, which runs Israeli-blockaded Gaza. Several groups face off with Israeli soldiers, throwing stones and Molotov cocktails. Israeli snipers respond with live fire, killing 19 Palestinians. On March 31, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praises troops for "guarding the country's borders".

Kites on fire

On April 6, thousands of Palestinians gather again near the security barrier. Nine Palestinians are killed and nearly 500 injured. The confrontation continues over the coming days, with new deaths on the Palestinian side. The Palestinians employ a new tactic, sending kites across the border, some carrying explosive devices. The kites have since torched thousands of hectares of Israeli territory.

Bloodbath

On May 14, tens of thousands of Palestinians return to the barrier as the US opens its controversial embassy in Jerusalem after Washington recognized the disputed holy city as Israel's capital. At least 62 Palestinians are killed by Israeli fire in the ensuing violence and more than 2,400 wounded. A top Hamas official says most of those killed are its members. On May 29, Israel's air force strikes dozens of targets in Gaza in response to a barrage of mortar and rocket fire. The armed wings of Hamas and allied militant group Islamic Jihad claim joint responsibility for fire from Gaza.

United Nations

On June 1, the US vetoes a draft resolution at the UN Security Council calling for the protection of Palestinians in Gaza and the occupied West Bank. Four more Palestinians are killed and 100 injured, including an AFP photographer at the scene, as new demonstrations turn into clashes on June 8. On June 13, the UN General Assembly adopts a resolution, opposed by Washington, condemning Israel for the violence, rejecting an American amendment implicating Hamas.

Summer of violence

On July 14, Israel unleashes dozens of air strikes, killing two Palestinians, while 200 rockets target Israel. Six days later an Israeli soldier becomes the first to be killed in and around Gaza since 2014. Overnight August 8-9, Hamas fires some 180 rockets and mortars from Gaza, according to the Israeli army, which says its response targets 150 of the movement's military sites, leaving three Palestinians dead including a pregnant woman and her toddler. — AFP

US sanctions key Iran paramilitary

WASHINGTON: The US Treasury Department has slapped sanctions on an Iranian paramilitary group along with a network of businesses that were providing it financing, as part of Washington's campaign of maximum economic pressure against Tehran. In announcing the sanctions, the Treasury said a network of more than 20 businesses known as the Bonyad Taavon Basij was financing the Basij Resistance Force, a component of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

It also accused the hardline militia of sending child soldiers to Syria in support of President Bashar al-Assad's regime. "The international community must understand that business entanglements with the Bonyad Taavon Basij network and IRGC front companies have real world humanitarian consequences," said Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. "This helps fuel the Iranian regime's violent ambitions across the Middle East."

The Basij, a paramilitary force formed soon after the 1979 revolution, is one of the Iranian regime's primary enforcers of internal security with branches in every province and city of Iran, according to the US Treasury. "In addition to its involvement in violent crackdowns and serious human rights abuses in Iran, the Basij recruits and trains fighters... including Iranian children, who then deploy to Syria to support the brutal Assad regime," it said. It added that in addition to Iranians, the militia recruited Afghan immigrants to Iran through coercion, some of whom had fled to Europe as a result, as well as Pakistani nationals.

"Children recruited by Basij have tragically fought and died on the battleground in Syria," a senior administration official told AFP. The Bonyad Taavon Basij is said to provide the Basij militia social welfare services, including housing and financial support, and manages economic activities by funding small companies. "Bonyad Taavon Basij has expanded its reach into Iran's economy by establishing several investment firms through its financial and investment offshoot Mehr Eqtasad Bank," the Treasury statement said.

Among the other companies singled out was Iran Tractor Manufacturing Company (ITMC), the largest tractor manufacturer in the Middle East and North Africa that predates the Iranian revolution. It generates millions of dollars in profit for the investment firms that represent the Basij. Also targeted was Iran's Zinc Mines Development Company, described as the country's "pre-eminent, multibillion-dollar zinc and lead mining and processing holding company." "What we've designated here today is a multibillion-dollar network that has had significant (links) in Europe and the Middle East," said a second senior administration official. — AFP



TEHRAN: Turkmen Basij militiamen march during an annual military parade which marks Iran's eight-year war with Iraq, in this file photo. — AFP



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International

Human trafficking may be hidden in hotels in Britain

Traffickers using the cover of hotel life to hold, abuse and sell victims

LONDON: Sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll - nothing new for the hospitality industry but British hoteliers say loud music, used condoms and alcohol could hint at something darker: modern-day slavery. Add last-minute bookings, paying in cash or landing without luggage - all are warning signs that human traffickers could be using the cover of hotel life to hold, abuse and sell victims. Yet for hotel bosses - this is just the tip of the iceberg.

For modern slavery poses a triple threat to the hospitality industry, from people being sexually exploited in hotel rooms to goods made via global supply chains that are tainted by forced labor and sub-contracted workers at risk of coercion and abuse. Many hotels in Britain are teaching staff to spot the signs, and scrutinizing suppliers of goods from shampoo to sheets. But exploitation of their employees is the insidious threat. Countless hotels are in the dark about the backgrounds of their workforce - and may be inadvertently hiring slaves, experts say.

"Outsourced staff are a key risk in supply chains in the hospitality industry when it comes to modern slavery," said Dominic Fitzgerald, development director at Shiva Hotels group. "Unfortunately, responding to modern slavery is not something that is driven hard enough within the industry - there is no legal requirement," he said in a plush bar at a Hilton hotel near London's Heathrow Airport. Many major hotels in Britain hand control of their workforce to recruitment agencies - leaving mainly low-skilled and migrant workers vulnerable to debt bondage, poor pay and long hours, and working under duress to fill the pockets of their traffickers.

The hospitality sector employs at least 3.2 million people in a country estimated by rights group Walk Free Foundation to be home to 136,000 slaves - with the crime

growing and evolving. But many industry firms focus on the source of their goods rather than their staff - either unaware of the risk of abuse or unwilling to pay more to address the threat, according to Andrew Crane, an academic at Bath University and labor issues expert. "To prevent the misery of modern slavery from blighting our workforces ... companies need to be able to trace the origin of their employees in the same way as most can for their products."

Less talk, more action

Hospitality is one of Britain's top employers and fastest growing sectors, worth 130 billion pounds (\$172 billion) and set to create 500,000-plus new jobs by 2021, the trade body says. Traffickers are already deeply embedded, and an estimated 93,000 people are sexually exploited in hotels across Europe each year, according to a study funded by the European Union. A gang member who trafficked 19 Asian women to Britain and sold them for sex in hotels in a dozen cities was jailed in 2017 for four years in a case police and prosecutors said exploited the hospitality sector in an "organized operation". But several big players have joined forces to fight back.

The Stop Slavery Hotel Industry Network was founded in 2016 by the Shiva Foundation - an anti-trafficking group funded by Shiva Hotels - to boost ethical recruit-

ment and root out abuse, promote responsible supply chains and tackle sex trafficking. Thousands of hotel staff in Britain - from cooks to cleaners - are being trained to identify possible trafficking signals, such as excess alcohol in a room, or a child staying over.

Yet too few hotels - big or small - are doing enough to ensure their own workers are safe from exploitation, said Martin Birch, head of WGC, an outsourced cleaning services provider. "Modern slavery has become a hot topic, but hotels need to go a lot further," said Birch, who employs about 5,000 staff.

His workers are sometimes nervous on first joining, having suffered abuse from former bosses, seen their pay withheld or deducted, and faced threats of eviction from staff quarters. So WGC pairs new hires with older staff for reassurance, offers a helpline for staff to report complaints, and once even saved a worker from the clutches of traffickers, Birch said. With many firms paying lip service to the threat ahead of Anti-Slavery Day on Oct 18, Birch urged concrete action. "Modern slavery is not another health and safety type of heading. It needs to be eradicated ... not just spoken about."

Sustainability to slavery

Insiders say some hotels are knowingly passing the buck. "Hotels must stop hiding behind contracts - they should have direct contact with all workers rather than

absolving themselves of responsibility," said Peter McAllister of the Ethical Trading Initiative, a group of trade unions, companies and charities. "It is primarily a question of political will and money - and legal liability in some cases," the chief executive said.

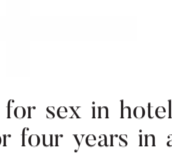
An ongoing review into the 2015 Modern Slavery Act - which requires firms with a turnover of at least 36 million pounds to report on their anti-slavery efforts - could see the law strengthened and force companies to do more, he added. Hotel bosses said sustainability had been the sector's watchword in recent years - from sourcing organic produce to encouraging guests to reuse towels to help the environment - and that slavery now deserved similar scrutiny and robust action. "It used to be the case that hotel chefs could tell you the name of the cow behind the piece of beef on your plate, but not the names of the housekeeping team," said Fitzgerald of Shiva.

'Yet that is changing'

The industry is also mulling how Brexit - Britain's planned 2019 departure from the European Union - and the rise of short-term home rental companies like Airbnb may affect worker rights and abuses, as well as sex trafficking in hospitality, he added. For 20-year-old Theodore Melbourne, a part-time cleaner with WGC who works at a Hilton when not at university, such concerns are beyond him as he goes about his daily housekeeping routine. After being misled and underpaid at another hotel, he is simply content to have an employer who treats him with respect. "The job is great - it is a friendly, positive environment," he said while making up a hotel bed. "It just feels right here." —Reuters



Something darker: modern-day slavery



Day on Oct 18, Birch urged concrete action. "Modern slavery is not another health and safety type of heading. It needs to be eradicated ... not just spoken about."

Sustainability to slavery

Insiders say some hotels are knowingly passing the buck. "Hotels must stop hiding behind contracts - they should have direct contact with all workers rather than

News in brief

Mob kills three in Ecuador

QUITO: A mob in Ecuador killed three people mistakenly suspected of stealing children, police said Tuesday. Officials said those three were not in fact accused of such a crime but rather had been arrested on suspicion of stealing money and cell phones. When they were brought to a police station in the southwest town of Posorja, a crowd outside overpowered officers and beat the detainees to death with rocks and sticks. Footage of the attack circulated on social media. The mob also burned a taxi and six motorcycles. Three police were injured. Police at the station tried in vain to convince the mob that the suspects were not accused of abducting children. —AFP

Greek minister quits

ATHENS: Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias quit his post yesterday, the government said, in a cabinet dispute over the country's controversial name deal with Macedonia. "Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras has accepted the foreign minister's resignation," the PM's office said in a statement, adding that Tsipras himself would take over the post. Kotzias on Tuesday had clashed in a cabinet meeting with Defense Minister Panos Kammenos, who is also the coalition partner holding up Tsipras' government. Head of the nationalist Independent Greeks party, Kammenos has threatened to defect from the government in opposition to the deal brokered by Kotzias and Tsipras earlier this year to rename Greece's neighbor North Macedonia. The deal has raised strong objections in both countries. Greece also has a northern province named Macedonia, the heart of Alexander the Great's ancient kingdom. —AFP

12 killed in Mali violence

BAMAKO: Eleven people were shot dead in restive central Mali on Monday by unidentified gunmen, while a blast killed one person and injured two, sources said. The gun attack took place in the village of Telly, a few dozen kilometers from the town of Tenenkou, a local official said. "They killed 11 civilians. Some of them came by motor bike," the source said. A Malian security source confirmed the attack in Telly and the death toll, and said "criminals" were to blame. "There are also people who have been reported missing. We don't know how many," the security source said. The defense ministry did not immediately return a request for information. In the central-eastern town of Menaka, meanwhile, a deputy mayor said one woman was killed and two others were seriously injured by a landmine on the road between Chamane and Tin Fadimata. —AFP

Ukraine plane crashes

KIEV: Ukraine's military and the US Air Force said yesterday that a US serviceman was one of the two pilots killed in a fighter jet crash during military exercises. The two pilots were aboard a Ukrainian Sukhoi-27 plane when it came down on Tuesday afternoon in the south-west of Ukraine during exercises dubbed Clear Sky 2018. "The bodies of the pilots have been found, the crew commander was Colonel Ivan Petrenko," the Air Force command of Ukraine's Armed Forces said on its Facebook account. "The second crew member was a member of the United States National Guard Air Force," it added in an updated report yesterday. US Air Forces in Europe and Africa said on its website that the unnamed American was a member of the 144th Fighter Wing of the California Air National Guard. He was taking part in a "single-aircraft familiarization flight with a Ukrainian counterpart". —AFP

Beijing ready to improve soured military ties: US

SINGAPORE: Beijing appears ready to normalize its interactions with the American military, a US defense official said yesterday, after relations soured during a sanctions spat and trade war. Randall Schriver, the Pentagon's assistant secretary of defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, said Defense Secretary Jim Mattis is set to meet his Chinese counterpart General Wei Fenghe in Singapore on Thursday at a regional security summit.

A meeting between the two men had initially been scheduled to take place in Beijing last weekend, but it fell through after China declined to make Wei available. "I think the fact that (Mattis is now) meeting with Minister Wei is some evidence that the Chinese are interested in keeping things normal and stable-as are we," Schriver told reporters travelling with Mattis. "What we have heard in our dialogue is the Chinese are interested in having a military relationship that's a stabilizing force in the overall relationship."

'Action!' US campaign videos go viral

WASHINGTON: An eye-popping \$4.5 billion is projected to pour into US political advertising in 2018, but a few thousand bucks last spring may have been the best-spent money of the entire midterm election cycle. When working-class New Yorker and political newcomer Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez heard the offer by two socialist-leaning videographers to produce her introductory congressional campaign ad for under \$10,000, her cash-strapped campaign jumped at the opportunity.

The result was a riveting, two-minute online video, with a persuasive voiceover by the then-28-year-old candidate who is shown changing into heels on a subway platform and making her case to voters. "This race is about people versus money," Ocasio-Cortez says in the video released in late May. "We've got people. They've got money." The ad - empathetic, defiant, authentic - was an instant hit, earning a staggering 5.1 million views.

Four weeks later Ocasio-Cortez shocked the political establishment by defeating a Democratic titan in their New York primary, a victory that reverberated nationally ahead of the midterm elections November 6. It also upended the notion of what smart political advertising can be, and how powerful digital campaigning has become. Several first-time candidates, many of them Democrats seeking to reclaim the House of Representatives from President Donald Trump's Republicans, are cutting through the political noise and introducing themselves to voters online.

Indeed, 2018 has been the year of

China reacted angrily after Washington last month imposed sanctions following Beijing's purchase of Russian fighter jets and missiles, and a close encounter between warships in the South China Sea raised the spectre of a military mishap between the two nuclear powers. Beijing's actions, which followed the imposition of the sanctions, included scrapping a planned port visit of a US warship to Hong Kong and cancelling a meeting between the head of the Chinese navy and his American counterpart. Defense ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are meeting in Singapore to discuss a range of regional security concerns.

Front and centre is China's military build-up in the South China Sea and its sweeping claims of sovereignty across the economically vital waters. In an incident the Pentagon decried as "unsafe and unprofessional", a Chinese warship last month sailed within just 45 yards (41 meters) of a US destroyer as it passed by Beijing-claimed features in the South China Sea, forcing the American vessel to take evasive action. The US periodically conducts such "freedom of navigation" operations to challenge China's claims over international waters.

Schriver said Mattis would be encouraging other countries in the region to



SINGAPORE: US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis (right) shakes hands with an official upon his arrival in Singapore yesterday. Mattis is visiting Singapore to take part in a regional security summit. —AFP

assert a presence in the areas which Beijing claims. "Our message will be no single country can change international law, international norms," he said. "We will fly sail and operate where international law allows but we are also looking for partners to give voice to keeping ...

international law ... upheld." Still, he stressed the importance of maintaining clear communication with the Chinese military. "We need to make sure that when we step on one another's toes it doesn't escalate into something that would be catastrophic," he said. —AFP



WASHINGTON: This combo photo shows (left to right), New York Democratic congressional candidate Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez; Wisconsin Democratic congressional candidate Randy Bryce and Texas Democratic congressional candidate MJ Hegar. —AFP

the viral campaign video. Nick Hayes, co-founder of Detroit-based Means of Production which did the Ocasio-Cortez ad, said the rise of Internet platforms has been a godsend for new candidates. "I think what social media and digital campaigning opened up is the ability for candidates who don't have \$4 million from some corporation to be heard, and to be able to communicate with voters in a way that wasn't possible before," Hayes, 21, told AFP in an interview. "By having a strong social media presence, by coming out with effective messaging, by staying on point and talking about working-class politics, you can topple these people, you know?"

Heroic stories

The "my story" videos have proven to be defining elements of several 2018 campaigns. But those by Ocasio-Cortez and another woman running for Congress, US Air Force veteran MJ Hegar of Texas, are already considered masterpieces of the genre. Hegar's 3.5-minute ad tells her heroic story, from being shot while piloting a search and rescue helicopter that crashed in Afghanistan - "I strapped myself to the skids, and returned fire on the Taliban while we flew to safety," she says - to

her successful effort to break down barriers for women in the military.

Set to Rolling Stones rock music, the fast-paced "Doors" spot also addresses the domestic violence she experienced as a child, and the doors she forced open while rising through the ranks. Broadway superstar Lin Manuel Miranda branded it "the best political ad anyone's ever seen." But will it help Hegar defeat eight-term Republican John Carter in red-state Texas?

Profound changes

Hegar was largely unknown when she launched her campaign. After her ad went viral (nearly three million views and counting), campaign contributions poured in and her race tightened. Democrats are not the only ones to embrace the genre. Tennessee congresswoman Marsha Blackburn, running for US Senate, cut a long-form ad that makes controversial reference to what she called "the sale of baby body parts" by Planned Parenthood. It was deemed too "inflammatory" by Twitter, which barred her from promoting the video on the platform until she removed the language. Blackburn refused, and fundraised on the controversy.

It has been Democrats who by and

large have exploited the long form to powerful effect. It began in 2017, when an unknown iron-worker named Randy Bryce dropped a spellbinding campaign ad on YouTube, highlighting his mother's illness, his dedication to his craft, and an obsession with keeping his family insured. Bryce's challenge is daunting: he is running in the Wisconsin district held by House Speaker Paul Ryan. "Let's trade places, Paul Ryan. You can come work the iron, and I'll go to DC," Bryce says as music reaches a crescendo.

The stirring video set the tone for the midterms, and reminded other Democratic candidates of their mission to give voters compelling reasons to choose them over the status quo. As the election nears, campaign ads fill Facebook, YouTube and other platforms. "Social media has profoundly changed the way political campaigns communicate with voters," political consultant Neil Oxman, who has managed ad campaigns for hundreds of races since 1980, told AFP. Digital advertising, projected to reach \$800 million this cycle according to Kantar Media, has begun to rival the \$3.7 billion broadcast and cable TV market. "Now you can just see them for free on your phone," Oxman said. —AFP

International

Clashes erupt as India's most sacred temple accepts women

Indian police charge protesters at flashpoint temple

NILACKAL: Clashes erupted in India yesterday as traditionalists tried to stop women visiting one of Hinduism's most sacred temples, with police waving batons charging stone-throwing protesters. Devotees opposed to allowing women into the Lord Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala in the southern state of Kerala earlier surrounded and intimidated journalists, including one from AFP.

Two other female journalists were reportedly injured. Even before the police charge, several people had blood streaming down their faces, suggesting further clashes had taken place. Last month India's Supreme Court overturned a ban on all females of menstruating age-judged between 10 and 50 — entering and praying at the hilltop temple. This enraged traditionalists, including supporters of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), with thousands protesting in the days before the scheduled opening yesterday afternoon.

Kerala's state government said it would enforce the court ruling and deployed 500 extra police to ensure free access to the remote complex, which is reached by an uphill trek that takes several hours. At Nilackal, a base camp below the temple, police cleared protesters yesterday morning and arrested seven people who were stopping vehicles. "Anyone who wants to go to the temple will be able to do so without hindrance," said police chief Manoj Abraham. "Stern action will be taken against anyone who prevents devotees from going to Sabarimala," Kerala's Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Tuesday.



Turned back
One 45-year old woman identified as Madhavi who wanted to enter the temple for the first time abandoned her attempt after activists prevented her climbing the hill, the Press Trust of India reported. Even though police gave the woman and her family protection and allowed them to move further, they gave up as agitated activists surrounded them, PTI reported.

Biju S Pillai, a local man in his 30s, was one of those opposed to the court ruling, telling AFP that he returned from working in Dubai to "protect the sanctity of the temple" with his mother and young son. "No one should be able to change the way this temple has functioned for centuries," he said. "If any change is made they will have to kill us and go over our bodies." "I am here to protest the Supreme Court decision," said engineer Anisha S., 23, one of a group chanting religious slogans. "We want to save our traditions. Ayyappa needs to be respected."

Female journalists reportedly injured

'Impure'

Women are permitted to enter most Hindu temples but female devotees are still barred from entry by some. Two years ago, activists successfully campaigned to end a ban on women entering the Shani Shingnapur temple in Maharashtra state. Women were also permitted to enter Mumbai's Haji Ali Dargah mausoleum, a Muslim place of worship, after the Supreme Court scrapped a ban in 2016. The entry of women at Sabarimala was long taboo but was formalized by the Kerala High Court in 1991, a ruling overturned by India's Supreme Court last month. The restriction reflected an old but still prevalent belief among many that menstruating



PATHANAMTHITTA: Indian police beat a Hindu activist as he pleads for his own safety as protesters rallied against a Supreme Court verdict revoking a ban on women's entry to a Hindu temple, in Nilackal in southern Kerala state yesterday. —AFP

women are impure, and the fact that the deity Ayyappa was reputed to have been celibate.

The Sabarimala chief priest, Kandararu Maheshwararu Tantri, 25, warned this week that "anger could easily escalate into violence if a few egotistical women try to enter." "I say ego because no devotee who has faith in Sabarimala will try to

break the 2,100-year-old rule... Moreover, there are other Ayyappa temples women can visit," the Times of India quoted him as saying. He claimed to have the support of several "scientists" that concurred with the view that the "positive energy" in a temple can be polluted by the entry of menstruating women.—AFP

China woos Bhutan, to India displeasure

THIMPHU: A peep into a Thimphu toy shop shows stacks of Pokemons, all made in China, a testimony to the quiet overtures Beijing is making in Bhutan at rival India's expense. China's annexation of Tibet in 1951 and an unresolved border dispute have long been irritants in ties with Bhutan, and India would prefer they remain estranged. India jumped to Bhutan's defense last year when Chinese troops started building a road on Doklam, a territory claimed by both China and Bhutan.

The eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation lasted 72 days before the Indian and Chinese armies pulled back. But now Beijing is seeking to mend relations and extend a hand of friendship to the tiny Himalayan kingdom, despite the two having no diplomatic relations. Chinese shipments have shot up in the past decade, with goods from machinery and cement to electricals and toys making Beijing the third largest source of foreign products to heavily import-dependent Bhutan.

And stuck between the competing regional powers, Bhutan has been gasping to assert its sovereignty and shrug off decades of heavy dependence on India. Many among Bhutan's 800,000 population feel India's embrace is becoming a stranglehold and getting in the way of Thimphu's ties with other countries. "Within Bhutan, there is a growing demand to diversify and loosen its dependence on India," University of British Columbia historian Tsering Shakya said.—AFP

Shootout near Kashmir Muslim shrine kills four

KASHMIR: A firefight near a 14th century Muslim shrine killed at least four in the Kashmir capital yesterday and sparked protests in the city, police said. While deadly violence has increased in recent months across the restive Indian-administered part of Kashmir — a territory also claimed by Pakistan — such shootouts are rare in Srinagar. Police said three militants and a police officer were killed in the gunbattle near the Khanqah-e-Moula shrine, a tourist draw in Srinagar's Old City. The clash sparked a showdown between protesters and police, who fired tear gas at stone-throwing demonstrators shouting anti-India slogans. Shops and schools shut as news of the deaths spread, and internet services were suspended across the city.

Indian government forces cordoned off the Fateh Kadal locality, close to the shrine, after they received information about armed militants hiding in a house, a police statement said. Witnesses said the gunfire broke out

after soldiers knocked at the door of a house and took away a young man. "We don't know where he is and now we hear (police) say he was a militant," the young man's brother Asif Nabi told reporters outside his home, which was burned down in the clash. Police rejected this version of events saying that the man, though not known earlier to authorities, refused to leave the house when given the opportunity.

"Instead, he picked up a weapon and opened fire on troops there, and consequently was killed," inspector general of police Swayam Prakash Pani told AFP. As the firefight wound down, officers turned on journalists reporting at the site of the encounter, injuring at least one reporter and two cameramen. "They (police) just lunged at us and started beating us with sticks and then fired in the air. The empty cartridges hit my head," Asif Qureshi, a journalist with an Indian news station said. Earlier this month suspected rebels shot dead two activists from a pro-India political group near the scene of yesterday's shootout.

The capital has however largely been spared the violence which frequently breaks out between anti-India



KASHMIR: Kashmiri Muslims carry a body of a top militant commander Mehrajuddin Bangroo during a funeral in downtown Srinagar yesterday. —AFP

militants and government forces across Kashmir. India has some 500,000 troops deployed in Kashmir, where separatist groups demand independence or a merger with Pakistan. Both New Delhi and Islamabad claim the whole of Kashmir. Tens of thousands of people, mostly civilians, have died in

the fighting. This year, at least 184 militants, 75 security personnel and 60 civilians have been killed. India accuses Pakistan of arming and training militants to attack Indian forces. Pakistan says it only provides diplomatic support for Kashmir's right to self-determination.—AFP

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How Russia moved into Central Africa

When Central African Republic (CAR) pleaded for help last year to fight marauding militias, former colonial ruler France offered guns it had seized off Somalia. But Russia objected and donated its own weapons instead. By early February, Russia had sent nine planes with weapons along with dozens of contractors to train local soldiers and secure mining projects, marking the start of its highest-profile military foray in sub-Saharan Africa for decades. Muscling in on a country dominated by France for years served as a statement of intent about Moscow's renewed push for global prestige and influence, and is part of a wider campaign shaking up long-standing power dynamics on the continent.

Since Western nations sanctioned Russia for annexing Crimea in 2014, Moscow has signed 19 military cooperation deals in sub-Saharan Africa, including with Ethiopia, Nigeria and Zimbabwe, according to its foreign and defense ministries and state media. The continent's 54 member states at the United Nations - three of which sit on the Security Council at any given time - form the organization's largest voting bloc and one of its most coherent, making them attractive allies for Russia. "The West is not very much loved by many countries. And many (see) Russia as the country that will oppose the West," said Dmitri Bondarenko, an anthropologist and historian at Russia's Institute for African Studies.

Besides sending arms and contractors to CAR, Russian national Valery Zakharov is a security adviser to President Faustin-Archange Touadera and Russia's defense ministry said last week it planned to establish a five-person team at CAR's defense ministry. Russia's moves come at a time when the defense ministry's influence over Kremlin foreign policy is growing against a backdrop of heightened tension with the West.

Seized weapons

When CAR made its plea in 2017, there was recognition that a spike in ethnic fighting could turn into a far larger conflict and that its security forces were too weak to tackle myriad armed groups. CAR has been under a UN arms embargo since 2013 so weapons shipments must be approved by the UN Security Council's CAR sanctions committee, made up of the Council's 15 members, including France and Russia. It operates by consensus. France first offered to help CAR buy old weapons but the proposal was too expensive. France then offered 1,400 AK47 assault rifles it had seized off Somalia in 2016, according to a Security Council memo and four diplomats.

Russia objected on the grounds that weapons seized for breaching the UN arms embargo on Somalia could not be recycled for use in another country under embargo, two diplomats said. But mindful of the need for a quick solution, the sanctions committee approved Moscow's donation of AK47s, sniper rifles, machineguns and grenade launchers in December, according to committee documents and diplomats. "We presented our problem and Russia offered to help us, subject to Security Council approval," said Albert Yaloke Mokpeme, CAR's presidential spokesman. "If peace is restored tomorrow in CAR, I think everyone will be happy."

Russia's foreign ministry did not respond to requests for comment about committee proceedings. France's foreign ministry said Russia must strictly respect the terms of its arms embargo exemption to keep the weapons out of the wrong hands.

'We're not interested'

During the Cold War, the Soviet Union forged close military and diplomatic ties with many African countries. It was involved in proxy wars in states such as Angola, Ethiopia and Mozambique and helped independence movements fight Western colonial powers. Russia is now trying to revive some of the relationships that lapsed after the Soviet Union's collapse. It joins a number of countries such as Turkey and the United Arab Emirates looking to set up bases in Africa, mediate in diplomatic stand-offs and strike business deals.

China has long had a major economic presence in Africa but it has shied away from any military involvement. It did go a step further last year, however, opening its first military base outside China in Djibouti. Near the world's busiest shipping lanes, Djibouti is also home to a large French base, the only US base in Africa, an Italian camp and Japan's only overseas base. Djibouti blocked Russian attempts to set up a base, however, saying it wanted to avoid becoming the terrain for a proxy war. Moscow is now planning to build a logistics center at a port in neighboring Eritrea.

While France has a military bases outside Djibouti in former colonies Gabon, Ivory Coast and Senegal and its soldiers also operate in Chad, Mali and Niger, analysts say Washington's influence is on the wane. Its trade with the continent has halved in the past decade, though much of that is due to U.S. shale replacing oil imports from Africa. Diplomatic posts have gone unfilled and a task force based in CAR tracking warlord Joseph Kony left last year.

"Our actions on the diplomatic and military side have sent a huge signal to our partners that we're not interested in Africa," said Donald Bolduc, who commanded US special forces across the continent until last year. US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Tibor Nagy said Washington's commitment to Africa was unwavering but, "there is space for other countries to play a positive role in the region". — Reuters



Lawsuits could stall #MeToo movement

Defamation lawsuits filed by two Indian public figures accused of sexual harassment have sparked warnings from women's rights activists and legal experts that prolonged court battles could put the brakes on the country's nascent #MeToo movement. The movement, that began in the United States just over a year ago in response to accusations of sexual assault and harassment in the entertainment industry, gained traction in India in the past two weeks after a Bollywood actress complained about inappropriate behavior on film sets and complaints of improper conduct roiled India's biggest comedy group.

Since then, more than a dozen men in politics, media, entertainment and the arts have been accused of a range of offences, with several prominent figures either resigning or being suspended as a result. The cases have transfixed India, published on newspaper front pages and becoming a key talking point on prime-time television news shows in a conservative country where discussions about sex are still taboo for many.

But two of those accused, former junior foreign minister M J Akbar and veteran actor Alok Nath, this week launched criminal defamation suits against their accusers. Lawyers and women's groups said that could act as a deterrent to more victims coming forward. Unlike in many countries, where defamation is a civil offence, Indian law also has provisions which classify it as a criminal offence punishable with a jail term of up to two years. Cases typically drag on for years in India's overstretched legal system. Legal experts say defamation lawsuits, in particular, are sometimes used as a tool to stall opponents, especially against those who won't have the wherewithal to respond effectively to such cases.

"Criminal defamation is usually an arm twisting tactic and works as a deterrent because nobody wants to be potentially embroiled in court for years or face a jail term," said Samudra Sarangi, a partner at Indian law firm Panag

& Babu which represents clients in defamation lawsuits. "Sometimes this law is used to suppress a victim's voice. Not all victims have the emotional fortitude to withstand the rigors of a criminal trial in India."

Late on Monday, more than one hundred female authors, journalists and media figures signed a letter to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi calling for Akbar's resignation and a government probe into the allegations. "A criminal defamation charge is a clear attempt to bully,

unanswered yesterday. However, Maneka Gandhi, minister for women and child development in Modi's cabinet, has previously said a panel of judges will be set up to look into "some" of the #MeToo cases. The opposition Congress party is piling pressure on Modi, who faces a series of big state elections later this year and a national election that is due by May 2019. "We want to ask the prime minister on which side he stands. Is he with the women or against them?" Congress spokesman RPN Singh told reporters on Tuesday.

Akbar, who founded and edited several newspapers before joining politics, has been accused of inappropriate behavior by at least a dozen women who had worked with him. He has called the accusations "wild and baseless". On Monday, he filed the defamation suit against one of his accusers, journalist Priya Ramani, at a Delhi district court. Ramani had "intentionally put forward malicious, fabricated and salacious" allegations to harm his reputation, the suit alleged. Ramani said in a statement on Twitter on Monday that she was ready to fight the defamation allegation "as truth and the absolute truth is my only defense".

Ramani's husband, journalist Samar Halarnkar, wrote a column on Tuesday saying the lawsuit was being used to "intimidate her, and through her to intimidate the others who have spoken up and silence others who have not". Meanwhile, Indian journalist Sucheta Dalal called for crowd-funding Ramani's legal costs in a Twitter post that received more than 3,000 likes, although an official fundraising campaign is yet to be set up. Akbar resigned yesterday.

The other defamation case was filed by well-known screen and television actor Nath against writer and producer Vinta Nanda, who recently accused him of raping her in 1999. Nath's lawyer Ashok Sarogi has said the allegations against his client were false. He did not respond to a request to comment on the defamation suit on Tuesday. Nath and Nanda could not be reached for comment. — Reuters

Akbar and Nath both sue accusers

intimidate and silence those who are bringing to light systemic abuse of women by men in powerful positions," said the letter, written by the Network of Women in Media, the Foundation of Media Professionals and the Brihan Mumbai Union of Journalists. "By ignoring this defining moment, and watching silently while a government minister sues a woman who has spoken out, your government is giving a regressive message: that the fundamental right to life, safety and dignity of a sizeable section of the workforce does not matter," it said.

Accused fight back

Modi is yet to publicly speak on the matter and calls to three spokespersons of his Bharatiya Janata Party were

Who would want to be an Afghan MP?

Doctors, mullahs, sons of warlords, feminists and even a prison inmate are among a motley crew of candidates contesting war-torn Afghanistan's Oct 20 legislative election. The more than 2,500 candidates campaigning for the third parliamentary ballot since the fall of the Taliban in 2001 have turned the political scene into a game of Where's Wally. Digitally-enhanced photos of political hopefuls, many of them running for the first time, have been plastered on blast walls, lamp posts and restaurant facades next to their symbol - such as a palm tree or a cricket bat - to help the largely illiterate population identify them.

Improving security and stamping out corruption are among the lofty promises made by candidates as they compete for the 249-seat lower house, which is widely derided as a lazy, ineffective body full of gangsters. "I am a medical doctor so I know the pathology of society, where the problems lie and how to solve them," said Ahmad Tamim Rahman, who is among more than 800 candidates contesting the 33 seats allocated to Kabul. "I am frustrated with the situation, with the never-ending poverty, war and misery."

But campaigning for public office is challenging in a country where daily life is stalked by the threat of suicide attacks and fierce fighting between militants and government security forces. Hundreds of people have been killed or wounded in the months leading up to the long-delayed ballot. At least 10 candidates have been killed so far, including Jabar Qahraman who was blown up Wednesday by a bomb placed under his sofa in the southern province of

Helmand. The Taliban have warned candidates to withdraw from the ballot, which it has vowed to attack. Kabul women's rights activist turned candidate Wida Saghary said she was not intimidated. "I have always risked my life to fight for the rights of people, in particular women," Saghary told AFP. "I am not afraid now that I am running for a seat in parliament."

Money means votes

There are lucrative incentives for taking the risk to contest Afghanistan's lower house, which is tasked with making laws and overseeing the government. An MP receives a monthly salary package of at least 200,000 afghanis (more than \$2,600), including an allowance for bodyguards and other expenses - a fortune in a country where more than half of the population lives in poverty. Immunity from prosecution also keeps them out of jail if MPs fall foul of the law and there are plenty of opportunities to exploit their powerful positions in business deals.

And many MPs have a record of sparse attendance in the chamber and often stay in Kabul rather than travel back to their home provinces. At least one candidate hopes he can represent his constituents from a prison cell. Convicted fraudster Abdul Karim Shafaq is still in the race for the western province of Farah even though he is serving a two-year jail sentence, a spokesman for the attorney general's office confirmed.

Sitting MP Kobra Mustafawi, who represented Kabul in the previous parliament and is seeking another term, said she was different. Mustafawi said she had always defended the underprivileged and would "continue to fight for their rights", she told AFP. Rahman, who has pledged to make "streets from gold, schools from diamonds and universities from emeralds" if elected, said he was not after power or privilege either. Afghanistan was lagging behind its neighbors and "I am trying to find a way to change that", he said. — AFP

Climate change pushes girls into prostitution

Four years ago, when her family's home in central Bangladesh was washed away by floods, Pakhi and her family migrated to Dhaka to look for work. But with many families arriving in an already overcrowded city, with jobs hard to find, and with the family struggling to eat, the teenager eventually took one of the few jobs available. "I was around 14 years old when I joined the sex industry," said Pakhi, now 18. "I did it only for the money. I had to buy food. I had to survive." Today she is the main provider for her family, bringing in between \$120 and \$180 a month, she said, or occasionally as much as \$240. But "there's a limit to what my body can manage," she said.

The work hasn't brought the family a better life, however. Pakhi - who asked that her real name not be used - still lives with her parents and younger siblings in one cramped room, and most of her income goes to pay the rent and for her siblings' education. She blames their plight on the changing weather that claimed their home. "The flood took everything away from us by destroying our house. We are in this situation because of the flood," she said, before turning silent.

As it brings stronger floods, storms, droughts and heatwaves, climate change is making life harder for many of the world's poorest - including driving some women and girls into prostitution. Every year, more than 20 million people, on average, are forced to leave their homes and migrate elsewhere, either temporarily

or permanently, to escape the ravages of an ever-more-extreme climate, according to a 2018 report by the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. Often it is women and girls who suffer most from such displacement, said Alexandra Bilak, the director of the centre.

More pressure

Linnea Engstrom, a Swedish member of the European Parliament, said displacement magnifies pressures women already face. "Women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate displacement because of already existing inequalities in society," she said in an interview in Stockholm. "The poorest people tend to be very vulnerable and that's usually women and girls," she said.

Much of the displacement associated with global warming so far is happening in poor countries, and "a large proportion of the migrants that come from rural areas to Dhaka come because of climatic reasons," said Saleemul Huq, director of the Dhaka-based International Centre for Climate Change and Development. "Poor countries are facing a greater problem than richer countries, both because they happen to be living in areas that are more vulnerable and also because they are poorer and have less ability to deal with the impacts of climate change," he said.

In Bangladesh, considered one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change impacts, hundreds of thousands of people a year are forced to leave their rural communities and migrate to urban slums as a result of sea level rise, violent storms, erosion and floods, Bilak said. "Bangladesh is a country that has high exposure to natural hazards (and) densely populated areas that are already at risk of being affected by these hazards," she said. As one of the poorest countries in Asia it "doesn't have the capacity to cope", Bilak said. — Reuters

Business

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A view of venues for the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Port Moresby. Papua New Guinea will deploy foreign fighter jets and special forces to protect world leaders attending a major Asia-Pacific forum next month in the crime-plagued capital Port Moresby, officials have said. — AFP

Zain teams up with Amazon Prime Video

Company to launch exclusive offer for the first time in Kuwait that will include Prime Video

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced the signing of a distribution agreement with Amazon to launch an exclusive offer for the first time in Kuwait that will include Prime Video. The announcement was made during Zain's participation at the fourth day of the 38th edition of The Gulf Information Technology Exhibition (GITEX Technology Week 2018). The international event, hosted in the United Arab Emirates, is organized by the Dubai World Trade Center, and features the biggest global companies, organizations, and entities from the Telecom and IT industry.

As part of the new relationship, Zain will launch an exclusive offer to its customer base - the largest in Kuwait - making it easier for them to enjoy Prime Video, including popular movies, TV shows, Prime Originals, and more.

The agreement was announced during Zain's participation at GITEX 2018, which highlights the company's efforts to enrich its transformation into a fully integrated digital service provider. Zain started its digital transformation journey by launching many smart services and solutions to both consumers and businesses throughout the past two



Eaman Al-Roudhan

years. Zain is participating as the only telecom company that represents the State of Kuwait in this leading global and regional event.

Zain always aspires to new levels of excellence in all of the services it offers to its customers. Through

partnering with the biggest tech leaders from around the world, Zain affirms its continuous efforts in meeting its customers' needs and aspirations, and delivers its promise to offering the best services and latest technologies.

Through its participation at GITEX Technology Week, Zain aims to showcase its capabilities as an active partner in achieving the goals of the Kuwait National Development Plan (New Kuwait 2035), which is based on five expected outcomes and seven key pillars. Through its booth at GITEX, Zain provides the technologies required under each of the seven Pillars to achieve the goals of the New Kuwait vision. At GITEX, Zain offers its latest innovative solutions for empowering a smart life, a safe community, and an efficient business sector.

Zain's strategy is centered around digital transformation leadership and empowering the community to enjoy a smarter portable lifestyle, as well as using advanced technology and Zain's long experience to enable an easier and more flexible life. The company places itself as an active partner in creating the future of smart life in Kuwait.

US housing starts, building permits fall in September

WASHINGTON: US homebuilding dropped more than expected in September as construction activity in the South fell by the most in nearly three years, likely held down by Hurricane Florence.

Other details of the report published by the Commerce Department yesterday were also soft. Building permits declined to their lowest level in almost 1-1/2 years. The housing market, which has been a weak spot in a robust economy, has been hobbled by an acute shortage of properties for sale.

Residential investment contracted in the first half of the year and the latest data supports economists' expectations that housing remained a drag on economic growth in the third quarter.

Housing starts fell 5.3 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.201 million units last month. Data for August was revised down to show starts rising to a rate of 1.268 million units instead of the previously reported pace of 1.282 million units. July's sales pace was also revised lower.

Starts in the South, which accounts for the bulk of homebuilding, tumbled 13.7 percent last month. That was the biggest decline since October 2015. Hurricane Florence slammed North and South Carolina in mid-September and flooding from the storm probably depressed homebuilding last month.

Building permits fell 0.6 percent to a rate of 1.241 million units in September. That was the second straight monthly decline and left permits at their lowest level since May 2017.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast housing starts declining to a pace of 1.220 million units last month. Starts surged 29 percent in the Northeast and rose 6.6 percent in the West. They fell 14.0 percent in the Midwest. US financial markets were little moved by the data.

Economists blame the sluggish housing market on rising mortgage rates, which have combined with higher house prices to make home purchasing unaffordable for some first-time buyers.

The 30-year fixed mortgage rate jumped 19 basis points to 4.90 percent last week, the highest level since mid-April 2011, according to data from mortgage finance agency Freddie Mac. The mortgage rate has risen about 91 basis points this year. While mortgage rates are still low by historical standards, the rise has outpaced annual wage growth, which has been stuck below 3 percent. House prices have increased 6.0 percent on an annual basis and are being driven by the dearth of properties.

Single-family homebuilding, which accounts for the largest share of the housing market, decreased 0.9 percent to a rate of 871,000 units in September. Single-family homebuilding has lost momentum since hitting a pace of 948,000 units last November, which was the strongest in more than 10 years. A survey on Tuesday showed confidence among single-family homebuilders rose in October, but builders said "housing affordability has become a challenge due to ongoing price and interest rate increases." — Reuters

Burgan Bank continues to empower future generations with core industry expertise

2018 Burgan intern students speak about their experiences



Burgan Bank PR Representatives with the trainees from the summer training program.



The summer program trainees visiting Burgan Bank Head Office.

For years, Burgan Bank has been driven by its mission to promote social advancement of the community it thrives in. These regular efforts fall under its dynamic full-fledged program entitled 'ENGAGE' – Together to be the change, which begins with a vital principle that as a leading Kuwaiti financial institution, its conduct and policies should be aligned with the needs and interests of the community. One such important aspect the bank is keen on investing in is the educational welfare of the young generation in Kuwait so they can reach their full potential and be successful in the job market.

With this in mind, to support youth development, in 2002, Burgan Bank launched a specially designed summer training program for high school students aged 15 – 19, also aimed to benefit the banking and financial sector as a whole. Since then, the program has continued to grow, playing a leading role in providing future generations with professional hands-on training and experience. This forward-looking initiative seeks to create high caliber young bankers, ensure better employment opportunities, and also encourage more youth to join the private sector upon graduation.

Burgan Bank is proud to have recently completed its annual summer training exercise with the 17th batch of students, which brought together 20 interns learning real life lessons through practical and theoretical exchanges on the banking sector, internal best practices and the modern aspects of financial operations. The intensive two-week educational course, organized annually by the Learning and Development department – under the Human Resources Management, also aims to enhance their leadership and public speaking skills, teamwork and creative thinking.

The training program is in response to the rapidly evolving banking and financial market which warrants a skills upgrade in the bank's quest for excellence, ensuring the highest standards of learning experiences, and up-to-date innovative practices to nurture exceptional professionals at an early stage. Burgan Bank invests heavily in attracting, selecting and training the most passionate and motivated young minds, opening up wider opportunities for their careers. The bank will continue to inspire new talents and invest in long-term career development for the benefit of individuals, organizations and society as a whole.

Burgan Bank has sponsored similar initiatives under the umbrella of Kuwait Projects Company Holding (KIPCO), to provide innovative educational platforms that help youth develop core competencies, labor market skills and modern day expertise. These include INJAZ-Kuwait, a private-sector driven non-profit NGO and the Protégé program. Additionally, the bank was part of the Tamkeen Youth Empowerment conference, which invests and facilitates aspiring young entrepreneurs to start small and medium size enterprises by granting them access to likeminded individuals and well established industry leaders.

- Burgan Bank Speaks to the intern Students from its 2018 Summer Training Program
- The Bank's determination to support Education and Youth Empowerment paves the way for Future Leaders...



Burgan Bank Speaks to the intern Students from its 2018 Summer Training Program...

Burgan Bank's Public Relations representatives conducted interviews with the students who were part of the program to hear about their opinions and overall banking adventure:

The Bank's determination to support Education and

Youth Empowerment paves the way for Future Leaders...

Group Chief Human Resources and Development Officer at Burgan Bank, Mrs. Halah EL-Sherbini said: "Long-term investment in local talent is part of our corporate vision and strategic approach to achieve sustainable development of highly skilled personnel and



Group Chief Human Resources and Development Officer at Burgan Bank, Halah EL-Sherbini



Burgan Bank Senior Manager - Learning & Development Mrs. Ghada El-Kadi.

ultimately, optimal customer satisfaction. We believe that supporting education and empowering youth is our duty and a shared responsibility we take very seriously. By providing capacity-building and mentoring programs along with new banking methodologies and hands-on experience, we are confident our students will become extraordinary professionals." Moving forward, Burgan Bank will continue to offer well-defined intensive training programs to serve as a methodological and scientific testing ground to create strong role models and successful leaders of tomorrow.

Burgan Bank Senior Manager - Learning & Development Mrs. Ghada El-Kadi added: "As a leading banking institution, the bank has created a benchmark on hard work and dedication reflecting its corporate culture that will sustain the brands strong local and regional position. Instilling similar values of diligence makes them productive and contributing members of society. Working as a catalyst to guide them on the right career path, Burgan Bank's training programs are constantly evolving and growing in popularity reflecting youth's increasing interest in banking. As one of the sought-after career destinations in Kuwait, we always encourage young people to invest and capitalize on their summer holidays as well, with productive learning experiences and gain new banking knowledge."



Tala Al-Sanousi

Tala Al-Sanousi also mentioned, I felt that joining Burgan Bank Summer training program would be a new experience for me as I've never done it before. After the training program was done I felt it's much easier for me now to choose my major when I join the university. This experience is highly beneficial to my future career because I learned about the banking skills as well as the social & communications silks.



Jessica Makedssi

Jessica Makedssi said: I am so delighted that I was accepted to join this program because I'm planning to study banking and finance to have better knowledge about the banking sector. Burgan Bank's work environment and corporate culture is unique. The training enabled me to learn new skills, while also discovering a new found passion for the banking business. Plus Burgan Bank is a well-known Bank to everyone, therefore; I would love to join the Burgan Bank family after my graduation.



Eliana Sayed Saadeh

Eliana Sayed Saadeh said that, I joined Burgan Bank training program because I wanted to get more experience in the banking sector, as I have many family members working in Burgan Bank for many years. And during my visit to the bank's many branches, I was given the opportunity to gain real life and on the ground experience with clients under the supervision of branch managers and employees. I became more aware of the premium level of professionalism required in this business. I also learned how to develop myself and my skills especially in a competitive environment like the banking sector.



Abhishek Daniel Joseph

Abhishek Daniel Joseph said that, ever since I was a kid my ambition in life was to become a chartered accountant, so when I heard about Burgan Bank summer training program I applied immediately and I was lucky enough to be accepted in this program. Through the program I gained more knowledge about the banking sector and had a lot of experiences as well.



Samantha Gonsalves

This summer, Burgan Bank program offered me an exciting opportunity to explore different aspects of banking and gain valuable career building experience," said Samantha Gonsalves. I learnt so much about the sector that I now feel more confident in the specialization that I would like to pursue upon graduation. I hope and look forward to being a member of the Burgan Bank family soon too.

Business

KIB achieves KD 15.5m net profit for 9 months ended 30 Sept 2018

Al-Jarrah: Bank successfully transitioned from its development phase to implementation phase

KUWAIT: KIB reported a net profit of KD 15.5 million attributable to the shareholders for the nine months ended 30 September 2018 compared to KD 13.5 million in the same period last year. This has reflected positively on earnings per share (EPS) which also increased by 15 percent to reach 16.58 fils compared to 14.42 fils in the same period last year.

Total financing income registered a growth of 21 percent to reach KD 64.9 million compared to KD 53.5 million in the same period last year, contributing to the increase of total operating income by 9 percent to reach KD 49.6 million compared to KD 45.7 million in the same period last year.

KIB's total assets increased by 10 percent, to reach KD 2.08 billion, compared to 30 September 2017. The Bank also witnessed a growth of 18 percent, or an increase of KD 233 million, in the overall financing portfolio, to reach KD 1.54 billion. Meanwhile, KIB's investment portfolio increased by 5 percent during this period to reach KD 130 million.

Furthermore, customer deposits reached a total of KD 1.3 billion, compared to KD 1.17 billion recorded at the end of same period last year, thereby recording an increase of KD 136 million, or 12 percent. KIB's promising financial trajectory can be credited to its new customer-centric strategy, which aims at delivering an excellent customer experience.

Commenting on these financial results, Chairman of KIB, Sheikh Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah, noted the continuous growth of KIB's distributions to depositors' accounts and the record growth of its profits and deposits. The annualized return at the end of the third quarter of 2018 on Al-Boushra (KD) three-year deposits was 3.45 percent and Arzaq (KD) deposit increased to 2.8125 percent. On the other hand, the savings investment account (KD) achieved a net return of 1.6875 percent per annum during the third quarter of 2018.



Sheikh Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah



Accordingly, this has enabled the Bank to achieve better financial results during this period. The next phase will bring with it further positive developments, promoting the Bank towards the "Bank for Life".



Al-Jarrah concluded by lauding the impressive roster of awards and recognitions garnered by KIB during 2018, including the "Excellence in Islamic Banking Products and Services Award" for the year 2018 from the World Union of Arab Bankers (WUAB). The Bank also received the 'Best Islamic Bank in Kuwait' for the year 2018 and the 'Islamic Banking Chairman of the Year' for 2018, awards from World Finance. Additionally, KIB was awarded "Best Customer Acquisition in Kuwait" for the year 2018 by CPI Financial, and many certificates in the information security field issued by specialized international institutions. Al-Jarrah was also awarded the Red Purple Sash adorned with the Golden Medal Award of Merit and a patent certificate in the category of Wise Leadership in the Arab region from Tatweej Academy for Excellence Awards in the Arab Region.

Transition

Al-Jarrah added: "KIB has successfully transitioned from its development phase and onto its implementation phase, which now focuses on enhancing the way we engage with customers. In this new phase, we are now offering customers next-level experiences that deliver much more than just traditional banking services. By leveraging cutting-edge technology, we are aiming at meeting the evolving needs of today's customers in this new era of speed, harnessing innovation to provide banking services that meet the needs of customers at all times and in all places."

In addition to developing a wide range of banking products and services, KIB always strives to provide its customers with new offers and reward programs. The Bank has launched a number of campaigns during the period.

Moreover, Al-Jarrah noted: "These new developments to enhance banking services and new offers have without doubt reflected on KIB's performance, as well as overall customer satisfaction."

China's economic growth slows in Q3: Poll

BEIJING: China's growth downshifted in the third quarter as investment slowed and the widening trade conflict with the United States weighed on sentiment, according to analysts surveyed by AFP.

The world's second largest economy expanded by 6.5 percent in the July to September period, the poll of 12 economists found ahead of the official release of gross domestic product figures on Friday.

The sluggish growth would mark China's slowest pace of expansion since the first quarter of 2009, when the financial crisis battered global markets and knocked China's export machine.

The trade row with the US comes at a tough time for China's economy, which has been hit by the government's efforts to tackle a mountain of debt, with credit for local governments and state-owned enterprises tightening and infrastructure investment declining.

The third quarter forecast is down from 6.8 percent and 6.7 percent in the first and second quarters, respectively. Chinese policymakers have set a growth target of roughly 6.5 percent for the year, down from 6.9 percent in 2017.

The slowdown could be from a combination of the trade war and deleveraging, said Betty Wang, China economist at ANZ. While China's exports to the US have held up and expanded this year as exporters rush goods across the Pacific to beat tariffs, the trade war has undermined confidence in the economy, Wang said. "The sentiment has definitely hit the market already," Wang said.

The key Shanghai Composite Index has fallen 22 percent this year amid the turbulence, while the yuan has fallen about nine percent against the dollar.

Beijing faces a delicate balancing act as it tries to increase lending to private companies in need of cred-



Farmers picking herbs in a field in Danzhai in China's southwestern Guizhou province. China's growth downshifted in the third quarter as investment slowed and the widening trade conflict with the United States weighed on sentiment, according to analysts surveyed by AFP. —AFP

it, without further inflating the debt balloon. The People's Bank of China has cut the amount of capital banks must hold in reserve several times this year, while the central bank's chief, Yi Gang, indicated this week there are more levers to pull to keep the economic growth rate up.

'May get worse'

Fixed-asset investment, especially in infrastructure, has fallen to record lows this year as Beijing pushed deleveraging and local governments idled or cancelled projects.

That has hit economic growth, analysts said, noting a rethink is underway. "We believe the authorities

have already given priority to boosting the domestic economy over the stability of the RMB (yuan) policy and financial deleveraging," said Liu Ligang, Citibank's chief economist for China.

Proactive policy responses could help stabilize growth at around 6.5 percent in the fourth quarter, Liu said. "The trade war may get worse before it gets better, and the impact on China's economy could be more material in the coming quarters," said Liu.

Relations between the world's two largest economies have soured sharply this year, as US President Donald Trump sought to inflict economic pain on China to force concessions in trade negotiations. —AFP

Don't mention oil price: US legal threat prompts change at OPEC

LONDON/DUBAI: OPEC has urged its members not to mention oil prices when discussing policy in a break from the past, as the oil producing group seeks to avoid the risk of US legal action for manipulating the market, sources close to OPEC said. Proposed US legislation known as "NOPEC", which could open the group up to anti-trust lawsuits, has long lain dormant, with previous American presidents signalling that they would veto any move to make it law.

But US President Donald Trump has been a vocal critic of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, blaming it for high oil prices and urging it to increase output to relieve pressure on a market hovering around four-year highs. That has made OPEC and its unofficial leader, Saudi Arabia, nervous about what it might mean for NOPEC, or No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act.

The decision to refrain from discussing a preferred oil price level—one way the group can guide market expectations—underlines how Trump's aggressive stance on the oil market is unsettling OPEC and testing ties between allies Riyadh and Washington. In July, senior OPEC officials attended a workshop in Vienna with international law firm White & Case to discuss the NOPEC bill, and the lawyers advised avoiding public discussion of oil prices and rather talk about the stability of the oil market, two sources familiar with the matter said.

OPEC officials were also advised to explore diplomatic lobbying channels to try and prevent the NOPEC bill from becoming law, one of the sources said. On Aug. 1, the OPEC secretariat sent a letter to the ministers making a similar recommendation. "We solemnly believe that market stability, and not prices, is the common objective of our actions," UAE Energy Minister Suhail Al-Mazroui, who holds the rotating OPEC presidency this year, wrote in the letter, seen by Reuters. "I would like to call upon OPEC Member Countries, as well as our participating Non-OPEC colleagues, to refrain from any reference to prices in their commentary about our collective efforts or oil market condition," he added.

White & Case did not respond to a Reuters request for comment. Specifying oil prices is not the only way OPEC tries to guide the market. By cutting production it can support prices and by raising supplies it can do the opposite, for example. But the private coordination of how to communicate

OPEC's message to the market represents a departure from past practice, when Saudi Arabia would often signal a preferred price level when speaking about OPEC policy and seek to push through actions to achieve that.

Ties strained

While chances of the law passing this year appear slim, concerns among OPEC members and other oil producers are growing that it may ultimately get the support of Trump, given his open criticism of OPEC and high oil prices. The OPEC letter came two months before US-Saudi relations were further strained when a Saudi journalist disappeared during a visit to the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul. Turkish officials say they believe Jamal Khashoggi, a critic of Saudi policies, was murdered and his body removed. Saudi Arabia has strongly denied killing Khashoggi.

Some members of the US Congress, which has long had a tenuous relationship with Saudi Arabia, have criticized the kingdom over the case. A Senate source familiar with the bill said renewed interest in NOPEC was likely, as lawmakers weigh any actions in response to Khashoggi's disappearance. The source, who declined to be named, said that with lawmakers out of town for the next several weeks, it was difficult to measure current sentiment. Over much of the last year, Saudi Arabia irked Washington by pushing OPEC to adopt measures to boost oil prices in a shift from its previous, more moderate stance. —Reuters

Turkmenistan opens \$3.4bn petrochemical plant

KIYANLY, Turkmenistan: Turkmenistan inaugurated yesterday a \$3.4 billion petrochemical plant as the Central Asian state seeks to both obtain greater value from natural gas and reduce its reliance on exporting it to China and Iran.

The plant should produce 386,000 tons of polyethylene and more than 81,000 tons of polypropylene—both used to make plastic—by processing 5 billion cubic meters of gas per year, according to fuel and energy chief Myratgeldi Meredov.

President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov, who participated in the opening of the facility on the coast of the Caspian Sea, said it is part of the country's "extensive plans to diversify the Turkmen energy complex, to increase the economy's export potential by launching production of gas and chemical products that are in demand on the global markets."

While Turkmenistan sits on the world's fourth largest gas reserves, its isolation means it has struggled to take full advantage of them. Its dependence on a few neighboring countries as customers was driven home when Russia decided to halt imports of Turkmenistan gas three years ago, leaving the country with just China and Iran as customers.

The chemicals produced at the plant will be exported to China, India, Turkey, Europe and other Central Asian countries. Built by a consortium that includes South Korean firms LG International Corporation, Hyundai Engineering Corp. Ltd and Japanese company TOYO Engineering, the plant was financed by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation. —AFP

FOR RENT

APARTMENTS FOR RENT IN DIFFERENT AREAS IN KUWAIT

BNEID AL GHAR - DASMAN - HAWALLY - SALMIYA

APARTMENTS CONSIST OF:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 2 BEDROOMS | BEDROOM |
| + LIVING ROOM | + LIVING ROOM |
| + 2 BATHROOMS | + BATHROOM |
| + KITCHEN | + KITCHEN |

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Business

Women's economic empowerment creates resilient businesses: Al-Houti

Kuwaiti companies pursuing a gender-balanced agenda

KUWAIT: Al-Hamra Real Estate Co has a gender-neutral approach to recruitment, training, and development and we have many highly qualified women leaders, including C-level executives, who make bold contributions to our business every single day, said Faisal Al-Houti, Chief Executive Officer, Al-Hamra Real Estate Co in an interview. Women's economic empowerment is also an accelerator of sustainable growth and economic diversification that ultimately creates more resilient economies, he said. Excerpts:

Kuwait Time: Al-Hamra has recently endorsed the UN Women's Empowerment Principles. Why did you sign up and what does this mean for the company?

Faisal Al-Houti: Advancing women economic empowerment is not only the right thing to do, but it brings tremendous benefits to business - higher productivity, profitability, innovation, creativity, and teamwork. It is also an accelerator of sustainable growth and economic diversification that ultimately creates more resilient economies. Let's not forget the contribution of women as inventors, scientists, politicians, artists, entrepreneurs, but also as consumers and business partners.

We are proud to be among the first companies in Kuwait to have formally committed to pursue a gender-balanced approach in business, provide equal opportunities for men and women to flourish and publicly recognize the immense contribution of women in business and society. As a WEP signatory, Al-Hamra has vowed to adhere to international standards to create an inclusive corporate culture that promotes equality and opportunity for everyone.

KT: How much is Al-Hamra currently doing to accelerate Kuwaiti women economic empowerment?

Al-Houti: Al-Hamra has a gender-neutral approach to recruitment, training, and development and we have

many highly qualified women leaders, including C-level executives, who make bold contributions to our business, every single day. Al-Hamra adheres strictly to the Kuwaiti labor law that is very clear on gender equality in the workplace and we commit to taking this further.

We are also proud of our CSR programs on female empowerment. Soon, we will launch an one-of-a-kind edutainment program named 'Sout Afkari', aiming at sparking healthy conversations on critical issues regarding young girls - beauty, identity, love, self-worth, talent, power and the workplace to help develop self-confident women. Al-Hamra also sponsors FIKRA, an intensive entrepreneurship training program for aspiring entrepreneurs, including many women. Recently, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, we have also held a voluntary national educational initiative to nurture the skills of middle and secondary level male and female students; giving them the opportunity to learn and excel academically.

KT: What is next in pursuing a gender-balance mindset within Al-Hamra?

Al-Houti: We will be working very closely with United Nations Development Programme, UN Women, General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, other partners and like-minded organizations to identify best practices and priority areas to bridge any gaps and advance our gender agenda. In this spirit, Al-Hamra also recently attended a three-day capacity building and knowledge exchange workshop organized by the United Nations and Kuwait University on the role of the private sector to achieve Sustainable Goal 5 - a commitment to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. We will then look internally on how to inject the principles within the DNA of our corpo-



Faisal Al-Houti



Al-Hamra Real Estate Co CEO Faisal Al-Houti signs the UN Women's Empowerment Principles.

rate culture and discuss the new business model that will accomplish their empowerment in the workplace, accelerate career opportunities, and ascertain rightful leadership positions.

KT: What do you foresee as the outcome of this commitment?

Al-Houti: Achieving new heights is not new to the country or us. Empowering women, economically and otherwise means unleashing talent and potential that is already available in Kuwait. This would open up opportunities for the Kuwaiti youth, create more private sector jobs and advance the country's human development, which are paramount to drive competitiveness and productivity. Embracing gender diversity to achieve sustainable economic development will inject dynamism to the economy, which will ultimately fuel business growth. There is also a strong social

imperative for women economic empowerment, as successful women serve as powerful role models for Kuwaiti girls, nurturing a generation of inspired girls and boys, who will be the leaders of tomorrow.

KT: Can we expect other major announcements from Al-Hamra in the near future?

Al-Houti: Al-Hamra is constantly evolving, adapting to local and global trends, and always bringing new products, services and perspectives to the market. We continue to inject new thinking into everything we do, which has led us to witness solid growth from year to year. This is a particularly exciting time for us as we prepare to make major announcements that may be transformational in our industry. You can also expect Al-Hamra to enhance its commitment to our communities through our very dynamic CSR programs, focused mostly around youth. Stay tuned!

KFH successfully concludes IMF, WBG meetings

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House Group (KFH) delegation successfully concluded its participation in the 2018 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Group (WBG) held in Bali, Indonesia.

The participation witnessed several significant meetings with international financial institutions, Central Banks Governors, the leaders of economy and the banking industry and senior government officials worldwide where they address financial and economic development issues, and reiterated the importance of cooperation and to exert extra efforts to strengthen this cooperation.

KFH High-level delegation included the Group CEO Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh, CEO- KFH-Turkey Ufuk Uyan, Group Chief Strategy Officer, Fahad Khaled Al-Mukhaizeem, Group Chief Treasury Officer,

AbdulWahab Essa Al-Roshood, Group Chief Corporate Banking Officer, Ahmed Soud AlKharji, and Iyad A AlQirtas, KFH Group CEO Office.

The delegation participated in the reception held by His Excellency the Minister of Finance Dr. Nayef Al-Hajraf in honor of the Kuwaiti delegations participating in the meetings of the IMF and WBG in the presence of the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Indonesia Abdulwahab Al-Saqr and the CBK Governor Dr. Mohammad Al-Hashel.

On the sidelines of dinner banquet held by Al-Hajraf in the honor of the Kuwaiti participating delegations, they discussed the role of Kuwait in the economy and the importance of strengthening its position on the map of the global economy. The delegations also reviewed the strength of the Kuwaiti banking sector and its role in serving the local economy as well as the role of regulatory bodies in improving the practices and activities of banking and financial institutions.

KFH's delegation also participated in the annual meetings of the Institute of International Finance IIF that discussed the latest developments in the banking industry and its impact on economic development, as well as the regional and global expectations and chal-

lenges in terms of finance and banking. The meetings aim to discuss the issues and topics of concern to the global economy. The IIF meeting also discusses opportunities for cooperation that contribute to the strengthening of economic relations between the participating countries.

KFH is keen on participating in the IMF annual meetings to stress the role of Islamic financial services industry and its role as a strategic alternative in the global economy.

It is worth noting that at the IMF, WBG meetings, KFH won three prestigious awards from Global Finance Magazine which are: the Safest Islamic Bank in the GCC -2018 for KFH, the "Best Islamic Bank in Turkey" for KFH-Turkey, and the "Best Islamic Bank" in Europe for KT Bank AG.

The selection of the awards was based on a number of professional criteria based on long-term credit ratings from Global rating agencies, extensive consultation with bankers, analysts and financial experts from around the world. The selection depended on different factors including Banks' technical innovation in service delivery, product quality, enterprise reputation, customer satisfaction, geographical spread, and strategic relationships.



Mazin Al-Nahedh and KFH delegation with Al-Hajraf, Al-Hashel and Ambassador



Agility's carbon measurement tool certified by Carbon Trust

KUWAIT: The Carbon Trust, an independent expert in sustainable strategies and technologies, has validated the methodology and processes that Agility uses to generate carbon footprint reports for logistics customers.

The Carbon Trust's assurance allows Agility to demonstrate that its carbon reporting methodology and processes comply with the organization's reporting guidance for transparency and accuracy. To receive assurance, Agility developed a methodology to ensure the accurate monitoring, quantifying and reporting of CO2 emissions data from the movement of customer cargo. This methodology was audited extensively and approved by the Carbon Trust, and it has now been incorporated into Agility's carbon reporting processes.

Agility has been providing free carbon footprint reports to customers since 2009, enabling them to track and reduce the amount of CO2 emissions created in their supply chains. With the Carbon Trust assurance, Agility's customers can now use the free CO2 reports to offset emissions resulting from the transportation of their shipments. This information is also available to small and medium-sized logistics customers (SMEs) using Shipa Freight, the online freight service powered by Agility. Shipa Freight customers will get free CO2 emissions estimates for their shipments when they receive quotes and invoices.

Frank Clary, Agility's Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility, said: "Agility and others in the logistics industry are determined to address the challenge of climate change. The Carbon reporting that is validated by an internationally recognized expert such as the Carbon Trust is a key part of this. Armed with accurate information, our customers can understand their carbon footprint and take steps to create cleaner, and in some cases zero-emission supply chains by offsetting reported CO2 emissions."

Clary said that for the first time SMEs can also make use of carbon-estimating technology to scrutinize their supply chains and choose shipment

options that reduce their emissions. "Shipa Freight, our online freight platform, provides SME customers with this information even at the quote stage. That helps them make informed, accurate decisions for their business and the environment."

Hugh Jones, Managing Director, the Carbon Trust, said: "Companies are starting to pay a lot of attention to the carbon emissions in their supply chains, especially in areas with the highest impacts such as logistics. By taking a best practice approach to emissions measurement, Agility is able to meet this demand by supplying its customers with accurate, credible data which they can rely on to understand, manage and offset carbon emissions. At the same time, Agility's Carbon Trust-assured measurement should unlock new opportunities, demonstrating Agility's competitive advantage in offering carbon cutting solutions, which are often synonymous with efficiency and effective cost savings."

Agility uses sustainable business practices in its own operations and works with customers and suppliers to develop and adopt sustainable practices. EcoVadis, an independent organization that evaluates and rates corporate sustainability programs, recently ranked Agility in the top 4 percent in environmental performance in its industry.

Motul launches new hybrid line product



KUWAIT: Motul showcased its latest developments and innovations including a new product in its Hybrid line, show first-hand how the Garage Concept program can work for members of Motul's Global Network, and put on display for the first time in Germany the new TVR Griffith - the result of a technical partnership between Motul and TVR.

Automechanika, the world's leading trade fair for the automotive service industry, that took place between 11th and 15th September in Frankfurt, Germany, welcomed Motul as one of 5,000+ exhibitors. Motul's booth featured the unique branding modules which form part of the Garage Concept program available within the Global Network. Potential members witnessed how their garage could look should they decide to join the program which offers not just branding but, more importantly, a wide range of benefits. Technical training via Motul School and support resources allow businesses to become specialists in the field of high-end lubricants, sharing of best practices helps increase professionalism and excellence, and an extended range of services ultimately helps profitability.

Moving up a gear with new Hybrid products

Motul's Hybrid Range - the first of its kind on the market is going from strength to strength as the hybrid and full-electric car market continues to grow across the world. A range of Hybrid engine oils (SAE 0W8, SAE 0W12, SAE 0W16, SAE 0W20) was prominently featured on the Motul stand and a brand-new product was launched to join the range: e-ATF (Automatic Transmission Fluid).

Using the racetrack as a living laboratory

Motul's philosophy of using racetracks to develop and refine products is in its bloodline, and the demands of racing offer the perfect living laboratory for innovation and ultimate product testing. Two successful racing partnerships of recent years are with British sports car manufacturer, TVR, and former FIA WEC championship winners, Rebellion Racing. The all-new TVR Griffith model, lubricated by Motul using the race-dedicated 300V oil, was on display together with a Rebellion TVR race simulator for visitors offering a chance to try their hand at a lap of the famous 14km Le Mans circuit!

Experts in excellence

Motul experts from different departments (Business, Sales, Marketing, Technical) were ready and available welcoming visitors during the week to share that same knowledge, passion and expertise on all things Motul. These experts included Egor Parienko, Head of Business Passenger Cars and Armin Bolch, Managing Director of Motul Deutschland.

The international Motul team highlighted the company's extensive range of high-tech automotive products and premium services, from its legendary 300V Motorsport Line to the Hybrid Range, to the rest of the advanced engine lubricants including the 8100 range which is formulated to suit all passenger car needs, not forgetting maintenance products including brake fluid, coolant, transmission and differential fluids.

Al-Sayer Engineering, a subsidiary of Al-Sayer Holding is the authorized distributor for Motul in Kuwait, world class lubricants with global presence in 160 countries. Technologically leading products from Motul lubricants will be available for customers at Al-Sayer Engineering's wide network of five centers for tires, oils and paints as well as in authorized dealers, co-ops, garages and Auto-repair shops across the State of Kuwait.

Health & Science

A green day: Canada legalizes marijuana for recreational use

Its implementation will be scrutinized and dissected

OTTAWA: Nearly a century of marijuana prohibition came to an end yesterday as Canada became the first major Western nation to legalize and regulate its sale and recreational use. The change was praised by pot enthusiasts and investors in a budding industry that has seen pot stocks soar on the Toronto and New York stock exchanges, but sharply questioned by some health professionals and opposition politicians.

"We're not legalizing cannabis because we think it's good for our health. We're doing it because we know it's not good for our children," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on the eve of the reform. "We know we need to do a better job to protect our children and to eliminate or massively reduce the profits that go to organized crime." The Cannabis Act, which fulfills a promise Trudeau made in the 2015 election campaign, makes Canada only the second nation after Uruguay to legalize the drug.

Its implementation will be scrutinized and dissected by Canadians ahead of the next election in 2019, as well as other nations that the prime minister has said may follow suit if the measure proves a success. Trudeau himself admitted in 2013 to having smoked pot five or six times in his life, including at a dinner party with friends after being elected to parliament. He has also said that his late brother Michel was facing marijuana possession charges for a "tiny amount" of pot before his death in an avalanche in 1998, and that this influenced his decision to propose legalizing cannabis. But Trudeau's office told AFP he "does not plan on purchasing or consuming cannabis once it is legalized."

In total, Statistics Canada says 5.4 million Canadians will buy cannabis from legal dispensaries in 2018 — about 15 percent of the population. Around 4.9 million already smoke. Stores in St John's in the Atlantic island province of Newfoundland were due to open their doors to pot enthusiasts as of 12:01 am local time (0231 GMT) yesterday. "I'm going to have a lot more variety than the black market dealers, so you have a lot more choice at our store. The prices are very comparable," Thomas Clarke, owner of

THC Distribution store, told public broadcaster CBC just prior to the big event.

A new industry is born

Under the new regulations, Canadians at least 18 or 19 years old (soon to be 21 in Quebec) will be allowed to buy up to 30 grams of cannabis, and grow up to four plants at home. A patchwork of private and public cannabis retail stores and online sales have been set up across the 13 provinces and territories, ramping up to 300 storefronts by year's end, the government predicts. Sales of derivatives like edibles will be legalized next year.

To meet demand, hundreds of growers have been licensed, some taking over horticulture and floriculture greenhouses. This new industry has attracted billions in funding, as well as interest from alcohol and soft drink makers such as Constellation Brands and Coca-Cola, respectively, which have expressed an interest in developing cannabis infused drinks. Cannabis sales are forecast to boost economic growth by up to Can\$1.1 billion and provide a Can\$400 million tax revenue windfall for the government, according to Statistics Canada.

Public health officials contend that smoking cannabis is as harmful as tobacco, but welcome what they call the opportunity that legalization affords for open dialogue. Some doctors, however, remain wary. Diane Kelsall, editor in chief of the Canadian Medical Association Journal, called legalization "a national, uncontrolled experiment in which the profits of cannabis producers and tax revenues are squarely pitched against the health of Canadians."

Police, meanwhile, are scrambling to prepare for a predicted uptick in drug-impaired driving. It's unclear as yet if the new framework will succeed in undercutting the black market, as prices for illicit pot have plunged in the last year to an average of Can\$6.79 per gram, and most sellers had planned to charge more. Bill Blair, a former police chief in Toronto who is Trudeau's pointman for pot legalization,



TORONTO: Torontonians gather at a local concert venue to watch the "bud drop" at the stroke of midnight, in celebration of the legalization of recreational cannabis use. — AFP

remains optimistic. "For almost a century, criminal enterprises had complete control of this market, 100 percent of its production and distribution and they profited in the billions of dollars each year. I suspect they're not going to go gently into the night," he told AFP. "But the fact that some

individuals want to cling to a prohibition model that has led to the highest rates of cannabis use of any country in the world is a little shocking to me," he said. According to a recent Abacus Data poll published on Monday, 70 percent of Canadians accept or support legalization. — AFP

Smell and stress sensors a smash at Tokyo tech fair

MAKHARI: State-of-the-art sensors that can measure stress levels, mood, posture, performance and even smell took centre stage at Asia's top high-tech fair in Tokyo. The big-screen TVs and entertainment systems that were all the rage 10 years ago at the CEATEC fair have gradually been replaced by tiny sensors that accurately measure the minutest facet of the human body — a Japanese specialty.

Electronics giant Panasonic showcased a prototype of an armchair that measures how much the user's hands sweat along with the seating position and facial expressions via a camera, all to determine stress levels. This could be useful for an airline pilot or long-distance truck driver for example but could also one day find its way into the workplace.

"You could imagine such a chair in the office and by combining the results with air conditioning and lighting levels, you could adjust the ambiance of the office to enable people to relax if necessary," a Panasonic demonstrator said. Components manufacturer Murata Manufacturing has pioneered a small device that is held for a minute between the thumb and forefinger to measure pulse rates and the nervous system.

"We are going to start selling this very soon to companies, so they can measure how stressed their employees are. Transport and taxi companies are especially interested," said Takashi Hayashida, a spokesman for the firm. Staff equipped with sensors could be under permanent surveillance to "improve their posture and productivity," according to Japanese electronics firm TDK. This also extends to the field of play, with Fujitsu demonstrat-

ing a 3D analytical system based on sensors to improve the performance of gymnasts.

Stress smells like onions

Sensors are also being put to work to improve healthcare — especially for the elderly, with nearly 28 percent of the Japanese population over 65. Using a device created by hygiene firm Lion, patients worried about their teeth can flash a smile at a smartphone and send it to a specialized server that returns data on oral hygiene. Housing equipment firm Lixil has developed a sensor for the bathtub that measures water temperature and key vital signs like pulse and body temperature in an attempt to reduce sudden bath deaths, which afflict more than 5,000 people annually in the country, 90 percent of them over 65.

At the other end of the age scale, sensors are being deployed in a bid to ease labor shortages in kindergartens and crèches. Japan's public New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization has developed a super-fine and sensitive film that can perform a host of functions related to childcare.

For example, placed in a cot, it can upload data to a computer showing whether a baby rolls onto its stomach or its temperature spikes — alerting an adult if necessary. "There is a staff shortage in creches. We need solutions to ease their task and enable them to watch over more children at a time," said a demonstrator. The same film can be used to determine how much and at what speed a meal is eaten — in a hospital or retirement home for example — by measuring the pressure applied on a table by a bowl or plate.

Of course, much effort is also devoted to matters that are less life and death, especially body odor, to which the Japanese are especially sensitive. Cosmetics giant Shiseido recently commissioned a study to demonstrate that the odor given off by a person under stress smells like... onions. And the sensors are not just for humans. Sharp has developed a cat litter tray equipped with monitors to measure kitty's urine volume and frequency. — AFP

Facebook makes reality TV its new weapon

CANNES: Facebook said yesterday it was reviving the pioneering MTV reality show "The Real World" as its secret weapon to lure viewers away from YouTube. The social media giant said it was also trying to harness the formidable online power of the "cute kitten" factor with a new show called "World's Most Amazing Dog" on its new Facebook Watch platform.

Users who think their pooch is cute enough to be a contender can enter audition videos from their phones, it told TV executives at MIPCOM in Cannes, the world's top entertainment showcase. The company's head of video Paresch Rajwat said Facebook Watch — which began to be rolled out in the US last year — was now available across the world, with "the time people spend on it increasing by 14 times since". "The Real World" was one of the first "social experiment" TV reality shows when it aired in 1992, spawning others like "Big Brother". It turns on the moment when "seven strangers put together stop being polite and start being real," said Facebook's content and strategy chief Matthew Henick. Three versions of the new Facebook variant of the show will be launched simultaneously in the US, Mexico and Thailand.

Users will be able to "co-watch with their friends and interact with the contestants", stealing a march on its internet rivals, Henick told the gathering in the French Riviera resort. Rajwat said Facebook Watch was "completely open" and was already being used by broadcasters, with new contestants on Germany's "X Factor" recently being introduced to fans on the platform before



MENLO PARK: In this file photo taken on March 21, 2018 a lit sign is seen at the entrance to Facebook's corporate headquarters location. — AFP

they made their TV debuts. He said its interactivity means "watching videos doesn't have to be a passive experience... with friends able to co-watch together in real time". A new service called "Watch Party" allowing "people to watch and comment all at the same time" has already been used on celebrity chef Jamie Oliver's "Veggie Challenge", he added.

A Facebook Watch show called "Sorry For Your Loss" about a "young widow struggling to put her life back together has led to long meaningful conversations about dealing with grief", Rajwat said, with many users "offering help to people who lost their beloveds. This is where Facebook is different," he said. MTV boss Chris McCarthy predicted that Facebook Watch was going to "create a whole new genre of shared reality TV", and help shows lift off when it was "harder and harder to break through with more and more content" out there. — AFP

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What's On

Al Mulla Exchange concludes two amazing events at AIS



Al Mulla Exchange, the leading money remittance company in Kuwait concluded its 162nd and 163rd amazing shows for Indian customers held at American International School (AIS) auditorium located in Maidan Hawalli, Kuwait. The first day of the concert was held on the 12th of October 2018 in the presence of Mr Dipen Sen, Financial controller of Integrated Logistics Co. and the following day hosted the second event in the presence of Mr Nidal Ahmed, owner of Sahara Air Conditioning Co WLL.

The event brought the talented singers Aishwarya Nigam and Leena Bose together, and provided their fans in Kuwait a wholesome entertainment for two days. The duo's songs had the audience swaying to the music. The singers entertained the packed hall for hours and the decorated stage and magnificent lightening were a magical addition to the event. Aishwarya Nigam is a famous playback singer in many Hindi films like "Dabangg", for which he received several awards for this film's song "Munni Badnaam Hui" and the singer

Leena Bose also won many awards for her songs that are liked by a large audience.

The excited audience showed great interaction thanking Al Mulla Exchange for holding such concerts that spread joy among them. Speaking to the media, R Shankar General Manager Al Mulla Exchange, thanked the crowd saying "Al Mulla Exchange has organized many shows in the past to provide our customers entertainment with a homely flavor. Al Mulla Exchange keeps conducting free events for our strong and loyal

customer base, and events of this nature are a token of our gratitude to them."

Al Mulla Exchange surprises its customers with unbeatable promotions all year long. The company offers them loyalty points and free insurance along with quick and safe transactions. They have a total of 82 branches, opened all over Kuwait, which facilitates the process of money transfer, and have launched an online app which allows the customers to remit from and to any place they want and at any time.

NBK concludes training program for KOC employees



Through Group Human Resources and in cooperation with Foreign Corporate, Oil and Trade Finance Group, the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) concluded a training program held for employees of the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) to introduce them to the operations of the various departments at NBK and develop their technical skills.

The training program lasted for four weeks and covered several sectors which included an introduction to the services provided by the Bank to its foreign clients, commercial financing, treasury, operations, project financing, syndicated loans, risk management, letters of guarantees and other forms of credit, in addition to anti-money laundering.

"NBK is focused on promoting the culture of banking among those working in the oil sector by introducing to the banking processes and operations, ultimately giving a clear

vision of the banking information that they may require during the implementation of their work," said Emad Ahmed Al-Ablani, General Manager -Group Human Resources, National Bank of Kuwait.

Al-Ablani highlighted the significance of the training program and its content, which contributes to increasing the knowledge of employees who work in sectors that need to deal and complete transactions with the banking sector. He added that the program covered both theoretical and practical training in order to develop the capabilities and skills of the human capital in the oil sector. He stressed on the importance given by NBK to the training of national human resources, as it comes as part of its corporate social responsibility and is an element of pride as NBK ranks one of the largest companies in the private sector in Kuwait to invest in national competencies.

On the other hand, Pradeep Handa, General Manager of Foreign Corporate, Oil and Trade Finance Group, National Bank of Kuwait, said, "We are pleased to conclude the training program for employees of KPC and its subsidiaries. NBK has a strong commitment to the oil and gas sector, supporting its strategy to realize its 2014 vision."

NBK's training initiatives deliver on its vision to invest in the human capital by allocating a team of leading banking professionals to share their expertise and experience to promising talents. The Bank holds these initiatives annually, in line with its aim to uphold its commitment to corporate social responsibility and its belief that such programs have an effective impact and serve the community and the individuals they target. NBK's programs continue to reflect the leadership role it has undertaken for decades in the local sector.

Invitation to Korea-Arab Friendship Caravan

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea in collaboration with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters will organize this month the 11th Korea-Arab Friendship caravan. Designed to promote mutual understanding and communication between Korea and the Arab world, the Korea-Arab Friendship Caravan has been



annually held since 2008. The event is hosted by the Korea-Arab Society (KAS) and sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and the Korea

Foundation. The event will be on Saturday, October 20, 2018 at 7pm at the Abdurredha Theater in Salmiya. Seating is available on a first come, first served basis.

ICSK donates INR 2.1m to Kerala Distress Relief Fund

The Indian Community School, Kuwait, has magnificently succeeded in generating the feeling of empathy and social commitment among the students through its charity program which instills the feeling of compassion and has succeeded in increasing their awareness and responsibility to the community around them and the world at large.

The Management, staff and students of the four branches of ICSK contributed generously towards the Kerala 'Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund' and an amount of 21 Lakh rupees was collected for this noble cause. The school tried to arouse the feeling of compassion in the students towards the numerous relentless efforts to rebuild the state which was hit by the worst floods in a century, through videos which depicted the pathetic condition of the people, as almost 50% of the student community did not belong to Kerala.

The amount was handed over to Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan (Hon'ble. Chief Minister, Kerala) at the Chief Minister's office in Thiruvananthapuram, by the Presidents of the school Senates of all the four branches of ICSK and Dr V Binumon Senior Administrator & Principal, on 12th October 2018 at 3.30 pm. They also presented the Chief Minister with a ship shaped memento, symbolizing Kuwait, to show appreciation and gratitude for the initiative taken, with a vision to help the people of Kerala.

The Chief Minister expressed his delight as this is the largest amount of money contributed by any school till now and acknowl-



edged that the students from ICSK are the first ones among the schools from the Gulf Region to donate and visit the Chief Minister to personally hand over their contribution to him for this noble cause. He appreciated and recognized the school for its generous gesture by issuing a letter of appreciation.

As the school is going to commemorate the 60th year of its existence next year, grand, yearlong 60th anniversary celebrations are being organized. The school is planning to conduct many activities during its Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

ICSK Super Mega carnival will be organized in a more attractive and splendid manner so that more people will attend and more students can get monetary assistance for their education. The carnival which is driven by the altruistic purpose of creating a 'Welfare Fund' - a fund to financially aid underprivileged students - a fund to ensure that economically weak students are not deprived of their fundamental right to education.

AUK RISE Center launches NASA Space Apps Challenge

The Center for Research in Informatics, Sciences, and Engineering (RISE) at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) is proud to organize NASA's International Space Apps Challenge, one of the largest hackathons on Earth, from the 18th to 20th of October, in Kuwait. RISE-AUK will collaborate with Kuwait Projects Company (KIPCO) as a strategic partner to host this event.

The hackathon will occur over 48 hours in 200 cities around the world. The Kuwait competition-which will take place at Marina Hotel, Salmiya-will bring together a variety of expertise ranging from scientists, coders, and space enthusiasts, to graphic designers and business analysts to develop useable solutions to address real-world challenges related to Earth and space. The top two winning projects from Kuwait will qualify to compete against the rest of the world's winners in a second round of project assessment.

Dr. Amir Zeid, Director of RISE-AUK, and Kuwait Country Lead of NASA Space Apps emphasized the importance of establishing links with international technology events of high relevance and benefit to the local community. "The idea of hackathons (programming marathons) is not new to Kuwait. It is increasingly becoming an effective developmental platform to generate young innovations and new

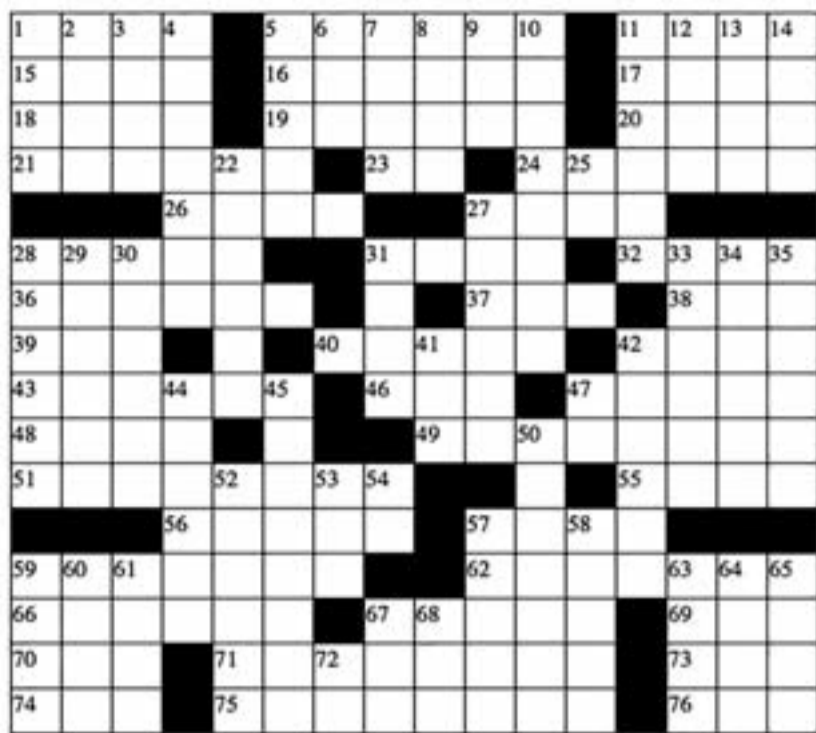
business ideas of local and international significance.

In the previous years, RISE-AUK hosted international hackathons aiming to solve marine problems. This year, we are expanding to Earth, outer space and beyond. We hope to continue this tradition of contributing to the world through utilizing local innovative brains from among our AUK students and Kuwait's youth at large. We treasure KIPCO's strategic partnership on this year's event, and we hope to continue working with them on more youth empowerment initiatives in the future," said Dr Zeid.

On her part, the Director of Corporate Social Responsibility at KIPCO, Abeer Al-Omar shed light on KIPCO's long-term community support strategies, of which youth empowerment gains prime importance as one of the main pillars of social development. Al-Omar expressed, "The Centre Center for Research in Informatics, Sciences, and Engineering at the American University of Kuwait has hosted numerous prestigious events and KIPCO is proud to be the strategic partner of the latest event hosted by them, NASA Space Apps Challenge. We are excited to see the solutions that the participants come up with as KIPCO has always been a strong supporter of empowering youth in their educational and developmental endeavors."

Stars

CROSSWORD 2037



ACROSS

1. An annual award for outstanding achievements in television.
5. Small genus of shrubs and lianas and trees of Africa and Madagascar.
11. Small deer of Japan with slightly forked antlers.
15. A Loloish language.
16. On a ship, train, plane or other vehicle.
17. In a murderous frenzy as if possessed by a demon.
18. A detailed description of design criteria for a piece of work.
19. A narrative song with a recurrent refrain.
20. A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
21. The act of escaping physically.
23. The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.
24. A soft cotton or worsted fabric with an open mesh.
26. A fine grained mineral having a soft soapy feel and consisting of hydrated magnesium silicate.
28. A liturgical headdress worn by bishops on formal occasions.
32. God of death.
36. Situated at an apex.
37. The quantity that can be held in a mug.
38. An anxiety disorder characterized by chronic free-floating anxiety and such symptoms as tension or sweating or trembling of light-headedness or irritability etc that has lasted for more than six months.
39. The basic unit of money in Bulgaria.
40. A woman of refinement.
43. Islands in the Atlantic Ocean belonging to Portugal.
46. A relativistic quantum theory of the electromagnetic interactions of photons and electrons and muons.
48. Offering fun and gaiety.
49. Ability to perform or produce.
51. Especially of some bacteria.
55. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits.
56. Not elegant or graceful in expression.
59. Leaves of the tobacco plant dried and prepared for smoking or ingestion.
62. A season's yield of wine from a vineyard.
66. Sorghum having slender dry stalks and small hard grains.
69. An audiotape recording of sound.
70. A resource.
71. (Old Testament) A son of Jacob and a forebear of one of the tribes of Israel.
73. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
74. Fish eggs or egg-filled ovary.
75. A river in northeastern Brazil that flows generally northward to the Atlantic Ocean.
76. The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.

DOWN

1. Other than what is under consideration or implied.
2. (computer science) A unit for measuring the execution speed of computers.
3. One thousandth of a second.
4. A member of the Mayan people of the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico.
5. A confusion of voices and other sounds.
6. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from abo cloth.
7. A long (usually round) rod of wood or metal or plastic.
8. Exhibiting or restored to vigorous good health.
9. A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement.
10. Textual matter that is added onto a publication.
11. A deep bow.
12. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
13. A member of a Finnish people living in the northwestern Urals in Russia.
14. A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
22. A ceremonial procession including people marching.
25. A state in east central United States.
27. A large fleet.
29. A medicinal drug used to evoke vomiting (especially in cases of drug overdose or poisoning).
30. A town twenty miles east of Rome (Tibur is the ancient name).
31. A republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
33. A loose narrow strip of skin near the base of a fingernail.
34. Flightless birds having flat breastbones lacking a keel for attachment of flight muscles.
35. One of 7 to 12 sons of Aditi.
41. The last (12th) month of the year.
42. American novelist noted for children's books (1832-1888).
44. Relating to or near the radius.
45. A city in southeastern Sicily that was founded by Corinthians in the 8th century BC.
47. An informal term for a father.
50. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
52. Remove the clip from.
53. A corporation's first offer to sell stock to the public.
54. A New England state.
57. A genus of Indridae.
58. (prefix) Within.
60. A midwestern state in north central United States in the Great Lakes region.
61. A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria.
63. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
64. An amino acid that is found in the central nervous system.
65. Make an etching of.
67. Airtight sealed metal container for food or drink or paint etc.
68. South American wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers.
72. A soft silver-white or yellowish metallic element of the alkali metal group.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Now is the time to go in new directions regarding love and friendship if you find you are unhappy; if you ignore this the situation will only worsen. Impetuous action regarding finances is not suggested at this time; watch and learn. Even so, you will come across opportunities to increase your finances; be careful. A situation will conclude or enter a sensitive phase of expansion. You will have the desire to work with electronic or some type of innovative theories combined with facts. Your energies run effectively toward making yourself felt in the material, perceptible outer world.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You notice changes taking place everywhere you look; this could cause you to take another direction in achieving your objectives; the actual objectives could even change! Now is the time to let go, not accumulate. Research and wisdom from a trusted mentor will ease anxiety and create confidence. Listen carefully for without appropriate advice you could step into a very negative situation; something you may have created. You may face opposition on the home front until you explain what is happening. You could feel unbalanced and trapped with the arrival of some new developments.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your social life is prominent now and you may have to reconsider changing your some of the people you call friends. Many of your co-workers look up to you and try to find the secret to your positive frame of mind. Hearing new methods and approaches are at the top of your list. Using research to get the correct details and reaching people clearly with your findings will be prominent; mistakes could cause serious setbacks. In many cases it could also mean the way you present yourself will help represent the company in a positive way; higher-ups are watching.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You could be disappointed with someone you thought to be reliable; take time to figure out what happened and make plans to go another direction. You could think things will work themselves out if you're patient and let them be; this is a dangerous chance to take! Things will flow smoothly today toward finishing an important project. Intuition will lead you to look into new medical care; this could possibly mean new exercise regimen or changes in the food you eat. You could find yourself on center stage as superiors or the boss realize the quality of work you do. Unpleasant disagreements could come about when someone tries to control what you do or think. Enjoy your evening doing exactly what you feel drawn to do.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This new cycle brings with it the opportunity to let go of denial on you have hung to for a long time. Looking at the truth will enable you to make sensible decisions that will clear the way for growth. If a method is not working discard it and find another way. You could feel like freeing yourself of the conventional thought that you need more things to be happy and fulfilled; you could unload many old items that are holding you back. Shedding old ways eliminates old, cumbersome energy that interferes with evolving of the mind and spirit.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

It seems that today will bring with it an energy of making impressive changes to your home by using simple, yet inventive methods. People will compliment you on your clever designs and the perfect application of them. You could be rewarded for very good business activity. You could come to the side of a friend to help defend something they believe in; this could involve children with chronic diseases or perhaps the homeless, but this will be a most helpful effort on your part.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may receive some information you have sought for a long time; savor the moment; it could seem that the facts of your life change in the twinkling of an eye; hold on for a rocky ride. It is better to halt in the middle of the stream than drown trying to reach the other side, be patient no matter how hard it seems. You find great enjoyment in your new studies and habits that bring positive outcomes. Hearing from a brother or sister will bring warmth and merriment to your day or this could indicate someone similar to a sibling.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

A new, exciting tool could appear that will support stronger communications. Decisions regarding work are clear-cut and everyone could agree; enjoy strong team unity throughout the day. A new idea could be polished and delivered to an appreciative client or customer. You could feel some resistance on a personal level that might puzzle you; be open to listening and learning. You may uncover an unfortunate mistake someone made and did not realize until now. You may need to ask for help later with an issue regarding a vehicle; could be flat tire or dead battery but nothing serious.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your vision is completely opposed to those you are involved with on certain levels; you may feel your way is the best way for you and not anyone else. Studying new concepts and methods is very important but remember that just because you read something doesn't mean you buy into it for it is merely something to learn about. Education is what separates many cultures and people because our experiences are so varied; have faith in making your way to a good, sound finish. You will be able to help lots of people and the sharing of answers will be available soon.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Trading email addresses and phone numbers will mark the beginning of an important time in your life. Seeing more of family and friends could provide support you need now. Interesting, cutting edge ideas and products hold your attention; you are completely bored with the mundane routines in life. You want answers to the social state of the world and the causes for it! Take care with your search for you will hear many different approaches from across the globe. Keep your wits about you and take your time with important thoughts; you could be in a position to let yourself believe something just to have an answer; beware of this! Enjoy your evening with art, reading, writing, movies, dance or theater.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Someone seeks you out for your wisdom and guidance in a difficult situation that could involve someone you love. You eagerly continue your spiritual search; remember not all leaders matters of religion, politics or theories can be trusted as they are human and imperfect. There are no simple answers; be patient, pray, meditate and listen to your own heart. In business and personal realms be certain you have documentation before you present your case. You may cancel plans for a small trip that could be problematic. You may not want to be around anyone tonight and this may offend someone.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You notice the tiny steps you have taken toward a certain goal will make a big showing this year. As a result, home, work and intimate relationships are front and center at this time; one small step at a time is perfect for you! You feel prepared and eager to clear away and solve blockages; your decisions could have to be remade tomorrow. You may feel upset over the way you have handled something but remember love conquers all. Societal issues could be your focus. If you feel people are siding against you or talking behind your back, relax because everyone who knows you loves you! Plenty of good times ahead as you continue your path toward learning and exploring ways to make life better for you and those you love.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Fantasy World 1

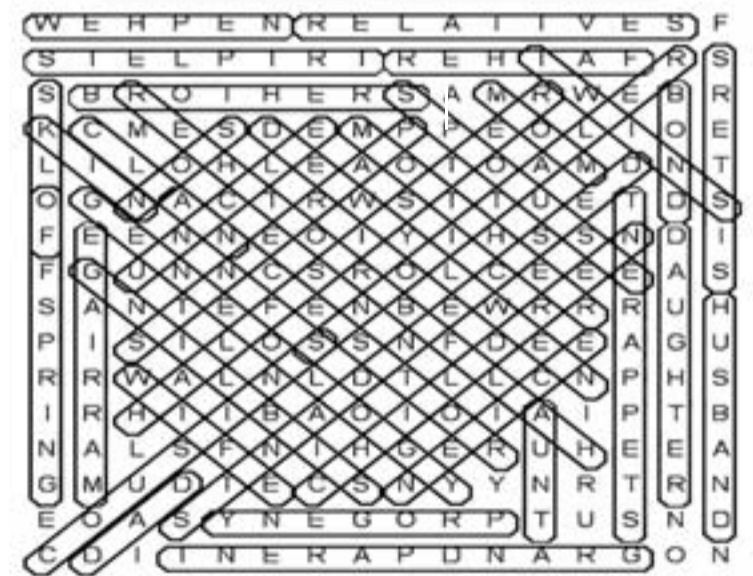
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 17 letters spell the name of a popular fantasy book series.



- | | | | |
|------------|--------|----------|---------|
| ALE | ELVES | LANCE | QUEST |
| BATTLE | FARM | MACE | SERVANT |
| CASTLE | FOREST | MAGIC | SPEARS |
| CENTAUR | GIANTS | MINSTREL | SPRITE |
| CHALICE | GNOMES | MOAT | STEW |
| CROSSBOW | GOLD | OGRE | TOWER |
| CROWN | GUARDS | PEASANT | WARLOCK |
| DAGGER | HERO | PEODLER | WEAPONS |
| DRAWBRIDGE | HORSE | POISON | WINE |
| DUNGEON | INN | PRINCE | WITCH |

Yesterday's Solution

Family Ties



- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| ANCESTOR | FATHER | MOTHER | SISTERS |
| AUNT | FOLKS | NEICE | SON |
| BOND | GENEALOGY | NEPHEW | SPOUSE |
| BROTHERS | GRANDPARENT | NEWLYWED | STEPARENT |
| CHILDREN | HALF BROTHER | OFFSPRING | TRIPLETS |
| CLAN | HALF SISTER | PARENTS | TWINS |
| COUSINS | HUSBAND | PROGENY | UNCLE |
| DAD | KIN | RELATIONS | WIFE |
| DAUGHTER | MARRIAGE | RELATIVES | |
| DESCENDANTS | MOM | SIBLING | |

The hidden message is: FAMILY REUNION

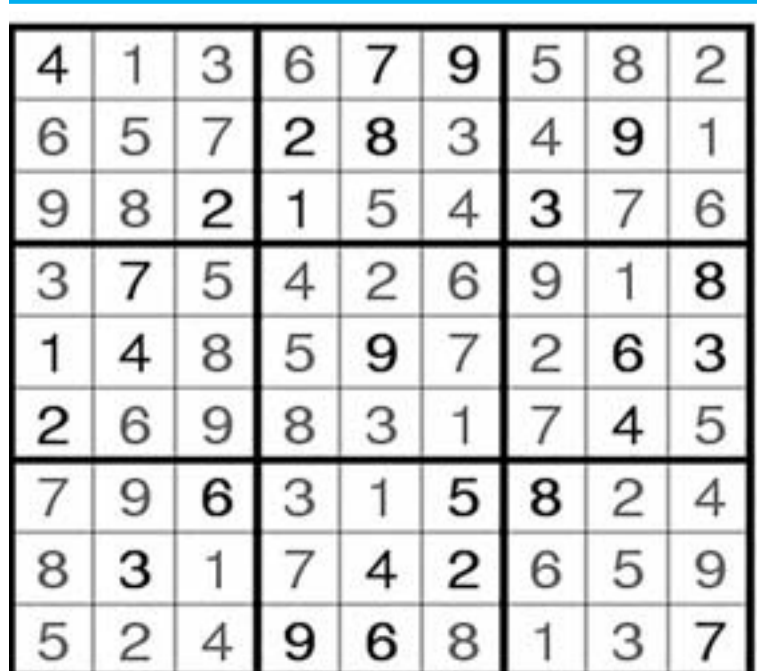
Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2018



English artist Grayson Perry poses during a photo session at "La monnaie de Paris" for his exhibition in Paris.— AFP

Malay Gamelan ... A combination of traditional music instruments

Gamelan orchestra is a traditional music using a combination of instruments made of copper and wood such as "Gendang" which is barrel drum, "gongs" which represents pairs of hangings, "Bonang Barung" a set

of 10 small kettle gongs and many others. The Malay gamelan, which existed in the 14th century in Malaysia, is basically from Java island in Indonesia. — KUNA



Blooming early! Japan's famed cherry blossoms make unexpected appearance

The delicate blossoms of the cherry tree might be synonymous with the onset of spring in Japan—except this year they're also blooming in autumn, a weather forecasting company said yesterday. Experts told local media that the rare late blooms could be the result of this year's unusual weather, including a particularly active typhoon season. Weathernews, a meteorological firm, said more than 300 people across Japan had reported cherry blossoms were blooming in their neighborhood, in a survey conducted last week. Local media spotted clusters of the famous pink and white blooms at several popular cherry blossom spots.

Hiroyuki Wada, a tree doctor at the Flower

Association of Japan, speculated that unusual weather patterns could be responsible for the blooms' surprise appearance. He told public broadcaster NHK that violent storms had stripped trees of their leaves, which usually release a chemical that inhibits blooming before spring. A series of unusually warm days after typhoons could also have confused the plants into flowering, he said. "This has happened in the past, but I don't remember seeing something of this scale," he said.

Japan has been battered by a series of typhoons this year, including Jebi, which claimed 11 lives and shut down Kansai airport in September. But Wada said the freak flowering should not affect the hugely popular

cherry blossom season, which draws tourists from around the world and sees Japanese flock to hold 'hanami' picnics in the shade of the blooms. "The buds that opened now won't blossom in the coming spring. But only a small number of them are being observed. I don't think it will affect cherry blossom viewing (next year)," he told NHK. — AFP

Thousands gather in Tokyo's Ueno Park for the annual cherry blossom festival known as 'hanami'. — Reuters





Sign's album **West** is 'almost done'

Kanye West will work to finish Ty Dolla Sign's album when he returns from Africa. The 33-year-old rapper has revealed that the finishing touches of his highly anticipated LP will be completed once the 'I Love It' rapper - who is currently working on his own upcoming record 'Yhander' - returns from his trip to Uganda. In an Instagram live video, he said: "The album is coming; I'm almost done with it now. Just putting the last, final touches on it. Me and Kanye are making it together. They left to Africa though. I'm doing my parts now, then when we get back together, we'll finish it." Kanye, 41, travelled to Uganda to work on his ninth record with his wife Kim

Kardashian West, 37, and while he was there the 'Gold Digger' hitmaker gifted the President of Uganda a pair of Yeezy sneakers. The pair met with President Yoweri K. Museveni, on Monday to discuss "tourism and the arts" and before they ended their brief meeting, they signed a pair of white sneakers for the leader. The President of Uganda tweeted: "I welcome American entertainment stars Kanye West and @KimKardashian to Uganda. I held fruitful discussions with the duo on how to promote Uganda's tourism and the arts. "I thank Kanye for the gift of white sneakers. Enjoy your time in Uganda. It is the true Pearl of Africa (sic)" Kim and Kanye have travelled with their five-year-old daughter

North West but are believed to have left two-year-old Saint and nine-month-old Chicago at home. The musician surprised fans when he posted an impromptu performance from Uganda on his Twitter account over the weekend. The controversial rap star returned to the micro-blogging platform over the weekend and has now posted a lengthy video of himself rapping while wrapped in the Ugandan flag. Kanye captioned the video "Spaceship call earth 3 Uganda Domes. (sic)"

Neville Staple struggles to sing Rudy song after grandson's death

Neville Staple struggles to sing his famous hit 'A Message to You, Rudy' since the death of his grandson. The former Specials singer was left devastated by the murder of his grandson Fidel Glasgow - the son of his daughter Melanie - who was stabbed in Coventry on a Saturday night on September 1. The Neville Staple Band performed at Coventry's Godiva Festival the next day and as well as giving a warning about knife crime Staple dedicated 'The Specials' 1979 hit to his daughter and late grandson. Staple struggled to finish the track that night and he is still finding it very emotional to perform that song on stage now. Being interviewed for the seventh episode of online music TV show 'Red Stripe Presents: This Feeling TV', he said: "There is [a serious message in the music]. Singing those songs: 'Message...', 'Concrete Jungle'. Once you're on stage singing it, kind of, what's happened to me... You do [think about]. But you've got to get the music to talk for you as well. Because I'm not a good talker. We won't get stuck, or too emotional [referring to death of his grandson]. Like on stage, after my grandson died, I was introducing 'Message...' and I couldn't finish it, so my wife, Sugary, had to take over. Because I get very emotional now." Next year marks 40 years of 2 Tone music in the UK and Staple and his wife Sugary believe that 'The Specials' aim to highlight social deprivation and call for racial harmony have never been more relevant than they are today. Speaking about the different generations that attend his concerts, Staple, 63, said: "It's kinda great when we're doing a festival and stuff and you get the kids singing along and you're thinking how comes they know that song? But then when you dwell into it, it's their parents that have been playing these songs and they just grow up liking it, loving it!" Referring to whether or not 2 Tone can help to bring society together, Sugary added: "Yeah I think so. It's more of a now or never. As you guys probably know, we've gone through a recent tragedy of our own, with knife crime and stuff. It's this [2 Tone] that has given us strength and the message through the lyrics. We've got all the classics, the Specials songs that Neville does, his own songs, some that we've done together on the new album, all of that, they all talk about what's happening around us. Which ska music has always done. You've got the fun party sound, everyone jumps and you can't help but move, but there's always important words in there."



Bono, Michael Stipe feature on dead cat record

Bono, Michael Stipe and Pharrell Williams are among the stars to have contributed to an album about an artist's dead cat. Sophie Calle has compiled a 37-track record which has been named 'Souris Calle' in honour of the late feline and attracted a string of guests to appear on the LP, including The National, Jarvis Cocker and Laurie Anderson. The album opens with a voicemail tribute from Bono, who speaks over a rock beat and says: "She seems to hide all looks that have ever fallen into her/ So that like an audience she can look them over/ Menacing and sullen, curls asleep with them/ Then all at once, as if awakened/ She turns her face to yours/ And with a shock you see yourself/ Tiny, inside the golden amber of her eyeballs." Sophie announced plans for the record in June and debuted the project at Paris' Perrotin gallery earlier this month, with the exhi-

bition also including photographs and autobiographical texts written by the French artist about the deaths of her cat, as well as close family and friends. She previously admitted people have dismissed her mourning of her furry friend as "ridiculous", even though she had a stronger bond with Souris - which translates to Mouse in English - than her immediate family. She told ArtNet: "When you say you're sad about the cat, it's a bit obscene for people. You can't say that. "I mean, if I say my mother or my father is dead, everyone tells me 'Oh, poor thing, she lost her mother, oh, poor thing, she lost her father,' but if we say that about our cat, we seem ridiculous. "It makes me laugh, when for me, in my daily life, it was almost more violent, because I lived with my cat. I didn't live with my parents."



Liam Payne and Cheryl planned Polaroid duet

Cheryl and Liam Payne were planning to duet on 'Polaroid'. The former One Direction singer released the track earlier this month but Jonas Blue - who wrote the song and features on the single with Lennon Stella - has admitted it was initially conceived as a collaboration between the former couple, who split in June. Jonas told the Daily Star newspaper: "About a year ago I said to my manager that I would love to do a collaboration with them both and I reckon it would have been 'Polaroid'. "It would have been perfect as I knew when I wrote the song I could hear Liam's voice on it." Jonas has also dismissed speculation Liam - who has 19-month-old son Bear with Cheryl - wrote the song about his break-up with the 35-year-old pop star. He told the Metro newspaper: "This song actually

stemmed from a Polaroid that I had of me and my girlfriend. It has been written that Liam wrote it about his break-up, but he didn't have any involvement in the writing. "When I wrote this song, they (Liam and Cheryl) were still together. I got it over to him and he was like, 'I absolutely love it.'" While Liam, 25, and Cheryl are no longer together, the 'Fast Car' hitmaker's relationship with girlfriend Melinda is going well, and he credits the effort she makes to accommodate his work for keeping their union strong. He added: "My girlfriend is super proud and happy, but it's tough trying to make it work. And if it wasn't for her it wouldn't work, because she flies out to see me wherever I am. "She kind of gets it. We have been together for 11 months now."



Peter Dinklage's new film 'took a quarter of a century' to make



Peter Dinklage's new film "took a quarter of a century" to make. The 49-year-old actor portrays Herve Villechaize - a French dwarf made famous in the 70s for his roles in 'James Bond' and 'Fantasy Island' - in 'My Dinner with Herve' and it was only Peter's 'Game of Thrones' success that persuaded movie executives to commission the film, which is based on writer Sacha Gervasi's interview with the titular character, who took his own life shortly after their meeting in 1993. Sacha said: "It took a quarter of a century, it took Peter Dinklage, it took 'Game of Thrones', but we did it in the end." Peter has admitted that although he is careful not "judge" Herve, he believes that "fame got the better of him" and he was left feeling "lost". He explained to the Daily Telegraph newspaper: "Herve followed this fame balloon that floated by and I think it derailed him from what was important. I'm

not judging him. He was a very intelligent, very artistically driven gentleman and an incredible painter but fame got the better of him. "And fame is a very abstract thing, it only results from good work and when you attach yourself to the just fame part of it, without the underlying reason for the fame, the work, then you're lost, I think. "Though Peter believes his most famous alter ego, 'Game of Thrones' Tyrion Lannister has "broke the walls" of being defined by his dwarfism, he still feels there is a long way to go in television and film representation. He said: "I don't know if it is all that different now, if you turn on the TV around Christmas time, it doesn't look very different - that's some panto s**t right there. "Tyrion was written for someone of my size, but he broke the walls of that and became a much more complicated person."

Morbius to shoot in February



Morbius will start shooting "early next year". Producers Matt Tolmach and Avi Arad have confirmed their next 'Spider-Man' spin-off will star Jared Leto as the titular villain and they hope to get filming underway in February. Asked what their next project will be, Matt confirmed: "Morbius" is the next one... "The plan is early part of next year. We're still working on it." Avi added: "More or less, February?" The producers are delighted to have Jared on board for the film because, just like Tom Hardy in 'Venom', he's passionate about the character but can be tricky to fit in new projects. Avi told Collider: "This is the great thing for us now, that an actor like him, and an actor like Tom wanted to have their own character. But the character they love. "Both of them, very hard to get them to do a movie. You actually cannot get them. We went in, we sat with them, and everybody told us, 'Oh, ba, ba, ba, ba, ba.' Nothing. That's what he wanted to do. Tom. And Jared, too. "We went to this place with them, and he just...good actors want to be different than what they are." Morbius the Living Vampire first appeared in the comic book series 'The Amazing Spider-Man' as an antagonist in 1971. The character started off life as a scientist but his life was turned upside down when he attempted to cure himself of a blood disease with disastrous results, leaving him with vampire fangs and a thirst for blood. Morbius landed his own series, 'Morbius, the Living Vampire', in 1992 until 1995. The new movie is yet to have a release date penciled in.

Lifestyle | Awards



The family of US rapper XXXTentacion accept his award for Best New Hip Hop Artist onstage at the BET Hip Hop Awards 2018 at Fillmore Miami Beach in Miami Beach, Florida. — AFP photos



US rapper Lil Wayne receives the I am Hip Hop award.



US rapper Lil Pump performs onstage.



DJ Khaled speaks after receiving the DJ of the Year award onstage at the BET Hip Hop Awards.



US rapper Young MA presents the DJ of the Year award onstage.

Cardi B wins big at the 2018 BET Hip Hop Awards



Host US comedian Deray Davis speaks onstage.



US standup comedian Lil Duval (right) and US rapper Ball Greezy (center) perform onstage.

Cardi B was the big winner at the BET Hip Hop Awards in Miami Beach on Tuesday night. The 26-year-old rap star claimed four awards at the annual bash, including MVP of the Year, Best Featured Verse, Made-You-Look Award (Best Hip Hop Style) and Hustler of the Year. After winning her four BET Awards, Cardi said: "I'm thankful and I'm grateful." Cardi's Best Hip Hop Style success came in the face of competition from Nicki Minaj, who was also among the nominees and is involved in an ongoing spat with the outspoken rap star. Cardi performed the tracks 'Get Up 10' and 'Backin' It Up' at the awards show, too. Elsewhere on the night, some more of hip hop's biggest names were also recognized, with rapper-turned-actor Childish Gambino winning the Best Hip-Hop Video gong for his eye-catching 'This Is America' video.

The 35-year-old star's cryptic video won the award ahead of Drake's 'God's Plan', Kendrick Lamar's 'Loyalty' and Cardi's 'I Like It' video. However, Drake was named the winner of the Hot Ticket Performer award, seeing off competition from Cardi and Kendrick in the process. Kendrick, 31, was named as BET's Lyricist of the Year

ahead of Travis Scott, J Cole, Drake and Childish Gambino. Meanwhile, The Carters - who are Beyonce and Jay-Z - won Single of the Year for 'Apes**t' and Album of the Year for 'Everything Is Love', while they were also named the Best Collabo, Duo or Group. Other notable winners on the night included XXXTentacion, who was named the Best New Hip Hop Artist, and Pharrell Williams, who won the Producer of the Year accolade.

Winners list

Best Hip Hop Video:
Childish Gambino - 'This Is America'

Best Collabo, Duo or Group:
The Carters - 'Apes**t'

Hot Ticket Performer:
Drake

Lyricist of the Year:
Kendrick Lamar

Video Director of the Year:
Karena Evans

DJ of the Year:
DJ Khaled

Producer of the Year:
Pharrell Williams

MVP of the Year:
Cardi B

Single of the Year:
'Apes**t' - The Carters

Best New Hip Hop Artist:
XXXTentacion

Hustler of the Year:
Cardi B

Made-You-Look Award:
Cardi B

Best Mixtape:
BlocBoy JB - 'Simi'

Sweet 16: Best Featured Verse:
Cardi B - 'Motorsport'
Impact Track
Childish Gambino - 'This Is America'

Best Hip-Hop Online Site/App:
Worldstar

Album of the Year:
The Carters - 'Everything Is Love'

—Bang Showbiz



US standup comedian Lil Duval (right) and US rapper Ball Greezy (center) perform onstage.



US rapper Gucci Mane performs onstage.



US rapper TI performs onstage.



Host US comedian Deray Davis speaks onstage.

Lifestyle | Features

Film lifts lid on Austria's secretive Glock pistol empire

From Hollywood to hip hop, it's the weapon that is wielded by cops and outlaws alike. The Glock pistol has achieved global cult status but the business is still shrouded in mystery in its native Austria. A new documentary about the Glock, titled "Weapon of Choice", says that since it was invented in the early 1980s by a previously unknown Austrian engineer called Gaston Glock, the brand has been the object of a "cult of secrecy".

Directors Fritz Ofner and Eva Hausberger have tried to shed some light on the company, whose 89-year-old founder has always shunned publicity. "Hundreds of press articles (on Glock) have appeared in Austria but they're almost all about the company's charitable activities or society events," Ofner told AFP. That could be because the firm is not reticent about taking action in the courts against those it deems to have unfairly damaged its reputation.

Ofner said the filmmakers were threatened with legal action when the documentary was in its early stages, followed by a letter from the company's lawyers once it was finished, "asking for a list of all the people we had worked with on the film". That "sword of Damocles" meant a year's delay to the release date, said Ofner.

'Steve Jobs' of the pistol

The strict secrecy around the Glock empire is of a piece with the character and background of

its mould-breaking founder, said Ofner. In the early 1980s Gaston Glock was running a business making knives and curtain rods when he decided to answer a call for tenders put out by the Austrian army, which wanted to update its pistols. He devised a firearm that revolutionized the field: made largely of non-metal components, "lighter, easier to take apart, more reliable, able to carry more bullets" than other brands. "You can really compare Glock—who had no experience at all in firearms—to Steve Jobs who invented the first Apple product in his garage," says Ofner.

Once the contract with the Austrian army was in the bag, the company's worth soared when it entered the American and then the global market, being adopted by police, gangsters and even jihadists. Between 2014 and 2017, the company's worth is estimated to have risen by almost 50 percent to 464 million euros (\$538 million). It employs some 1,325 people in four production sites, including at its headquarters in the town of Deutsch-Wagram, 20 kilometers (12 miles) outside Vienna.

American pop culture in particular has helped Glock attain its iconic status. "It's a new weapon which coincided with a new music: some hip hop and gangsta rap artists immediately adopted this minimalist black object, which fitted so well with their aesthetic," Ofner said. And as luck would have it, Gaston Glock's surname offers ample rhymes: lock, pop, cop, shock, drop...

"At the end of the 1990s, Glock was the most

mentioned brand in the American Top 50," according to Ofner. As for security forces, the Glock is also used by most US police forces as well as the US, Iraqi and Norwegian armies.

Larger-than-life characters

The film adds to the air of intrigue surrounding the firm with interviews with two notorious ex-associates of the company—the only ones who would talk to the filmmakers. Gaston Glock's former right-hand man in the United States, Paul Jannuzzo, was jailed for fraud before being released in 2013 when the conviction was quashed under the statute of limitations. Jannuzzo said he was the victim of a vendetta on the part of his old employer.

The filmmakers also travelled to a Luxembourg prison to interview Charles Ewert—also known as "Panama Charly"—who is currently serving a 20-year sentence for attempting to have Glock killed in 1999 after they fell out over financial disagreements. Faced with a cast of such larger-than-life characters, the directors don't even attempt to get into the story of Glock's ex-wife Helga, with whom he has been embroiled in a legal battle for years over the terms of their divorce.

Now remarried to a woman 50 years his junior, the billionaire has lately been investing in horse-racing, opening a vast equestrian complex in southern Austria. The Glock Horse Performance Center plays host both to races and red-carpet



events graced by the likes of Robbie Williams and Naomi Campbell. According to an investigation carried out jointly by the Dossier website and Austria's Der Standard newspaper—and which was published to coincide with the film's release—three government ministers from the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ) have been hosted at the Center as guests of the Glocks. —AFP

Cinematographer and director Fritz Ofner, creator of a documentary movie Weapon of Choice with Eva Hausberger, poses in front of the Film Casino movie theater in Vienna, Austria on October. — AFP



(From left) Photo shows Seinfeld and Friends.

Once kings of TV, US broadcast networks face reckoning

They once produced must-see television shows like "Seinfeld," "ER" and "Friends" but America's broadcast networks are facing a major crisis, as more and more viewers cut the cord in search of innovative content elsewhere. Some are even wondering if there is a future for scripted television at ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox, which were roundly snubbed in major categories at last month's Emmy Awards. NBC came away with 16 statuettes, half of them for sketch comedy juggernaut "Saturday Night Live," and nearly all of them in technical categories. Fox got three, CBS two and ABC a lonely award.

By comparison, premium cable network HBO got 23, as did streaming giant Netflix. "It is sad to say, but if the networks don't change the way they do business, chances are they won't be around five to 10 years from now," Martie Cook, a writer and producer who also teaches at Emerson College in Boston, told AFP. America's traditional networks basically invented the concept of the television series, and dominated the format for 40 years—from the 1950s to the end of the 1990s. Shows like "Dallas," "Star Trek" and "M*A*S*H" are part of television history. But the pioneers have been trumped, with basic cable (AMC), premium cable (HBO, Showtime) and streaming services (Netflix, Amazon, Hulu) churning out top quality programming with major stars and huge budgets—that wins major awards. At the Emmys and the Golden Globes in recent years, only a handful of network shows were even nominated. "They have to start taking more risks and stop pumping out the same kind of shows," said Cook. "They have to realize that what has worked in the past no longer works in the present... and what no longer works in the present surely won't work in the future."

Snobbery or too much good TV?

Some industry experts say the demise of the broadcast networks is simply a question of snobbery. "Entertainment-industry awards honor the productions they feel make them look good, not the ones the audience likes best," Rich Heldenfels, a veteran pop culture writer, said in a column for the Tribune Media Service. And indeed, if the networks are not raking in awards, they are snaring millions of viewers—for scripted series, reality shows and sports programming. On CBS, comedy "The Big Bang Theory" and crime drama "NCIS" each earned more than 12 million viewers during the week of October 1.

Over at NBC, singing competition "The Voice" earns roughly 10 million viewers twice a week. At HBO and Netflix, most shows, even the critical darlings, cannot boast of such viewership. "The audience now has so many more options," says Amanda Lotz, a professor of communications and screen arts at the University of Michigan. "Going forward, it requires them to recognize what they can do well as opposed to what a streaming service can do well."

'Do something different'

In recent months, some of network TV's biggest names—notably, "Grey's Anatomy" and "Scandal" guru Shonda Rhimes, and CBS comedy creator Chuck Lorre ("The Big Bang Theory") — have made huge production deals with Netflix. While Lorre's deal is not exclusive, Rhimes definitely

seems to be shifting her allegiance from ABC. Of course, the networks still create popular shows that do well.

NBC's "This Is Us" has earned critical praise and won multiple Emmys for acting in recent years, while Fox's music drama "Empire" was must-watch TV for younger viewers when it started in 2015. But most of the successful network shows are long-running series like "Big Bang," now in its last season, or crime procedurals popular with older viewers, like "NCIS." "They can still capture baby boomers and up with crime shows and family comedies, because those folks grew up on network television, so it feels familiar," says Cook.

"But to younger generations—the age range the networks most want to attract—network television is not something they race to. For many, if not most, it's not even on their radar screens." Lotz says the departures of big-name creators such as Rhimes are not necessarily a death blow for the networks. "It's still the case that producing for a broadcast network is in general far more lucrative," she told AFP. "So there still will be creative talent available for the broadcast networks as long as their pay rates are comparable or superior." After all, while they trail Netflix, which invested \$8 billion in content for 2018, traditional networks are still pouring \$3-4 billion a year into their content budget—and scripted series are only a part of that.—AFP

Japanese TV hit 'Train Man' finally cracks America

Hit Japanese series "Train Man" will be adapted for American audiences, its producers said Tuesday, reversing a historic trend that has almost always gone in the opposite direction. The half-hour musical series based on a true story about a nerdy young man who asks for dating advice on an online comic book chatroom, is a cultural phenomenon in Japan. His agonizing over how to talk to a girl he sees on a train has spurred a novel, a manga and a feature film as well as the hugely successful TV series.

Known as "Densha Otoko" in Japan, the American version of "Train Man" will be directed by Adam Shankman of "Hairspray" fame, its producers said at MIPCOM, the world's biggest entertainment showcase at Cannes on the French Riviera. It is the first time in its 50-year history that Fuji Television, one of the country's biggest networks, has sold a show to the US market. Its managing director Toru Ota said: "No words can express how thrilled I am that the Hollywood remake of our megahit drama has begun. 'Train Man' may have depicted our 'otaku', or anime cartoon nerd, in a comical way but audiences found him authentic and embraced him."

The US version of the series will be written by Phil Rosenthal and Tucker Cawley, who wrote the series "Everybody Loves Raymond". Executive producer Michael Connolly of Vertigo Entertainment said the show was "really ahead of its time in the way it used a social media platform to tell a Cyrano story." Meanwhile, British actor Joseph Fiennes announced earlier that he is in talks to make a new TV series drawn from "Cyrano de Bergerac", Edmond Rostand's classic play.—AFP

Ask WW1 questions before it's too late, director Peter Jackson says

Director Peter Jackson premiered his World War One documentary "They Shall Not Grow Old" on Tuesday, urging those whose family fought in the conflict to talk to their elderly relatives with knowledge of it before it is too late. The Oscar-winner, known for "The Lord of the Rings" and "The Hobbit" movies, presented his edit of footage from the "Great War" at the BFI London Film Festival, where he was joined by Britain's Prince William on the red carpet.

The film takes the viewer to the frontlines, with archive video footage from the trenches brought to 3D life by colourists and actors voicing conversations between soldiers there, which were deciphered by forensic lip-readers. "There's nobody alive that fought in the First World War but some people have probably got grandparents that their parents were in the First World War so now is the last time that people can ask questions in their family," Jackson told Reuters. "If you have any grandparents that their parents were in the First World War start to ask them questions because at some point in the future that opportunity won't be there. It'll be very hard to find out anything."

An estimated 17 million people were killed in the war, many of them on the battlegrounds in northern France and Belgium. Around 1 million of those who died were from Britain and its then-empire. Voiced by former soldiers, "They Shall Not Grow Old" shows how the men, some of them young teenagers, trained for fighting and survived or perished in the fighting. "What stood out for me once we saw the footage was that the men in the pictures were



Britain's Prince William, Duke of Cambridge (left) shakes hands with New Zealand film maker Peter Jackson as he attends the world premiere of Peter Jackson's film "They Shall Not Grow Old" during the BFI London Film Festival in London.—FP

exactly like us," Jackson, whose grandfather fought in the conflict, said.

Supporting the director at the film's world premiere was actor Dominic Monaghan, who starred in "The Lord of the Rings" and visited Jackson in his native New Zealand when he was working on "They Shall Not Grow Old". "I think Pete was struck more than anything else by the youth of the people that were in the war," Monaghan said. The "Lost" actor is set to make an appearance in "Star Wars Episode IX", the last film in the latest trilogy of the sci-fi saga. Asked if he could reveal anything about the movie due for release next year, he said: "Nothing, I'll get in trouble." — Reuters

Roseanne Barr character killed off in overdose, new show reveals

Roseanne Barr's eponymous character has been killed off by an opioid overdose, the first episode of the replacement sitcom revealed Tuesday, after the actress was fired for a racist tweet. The new ABC show "The Conners" still centers around a straight-talking working class American family struggling to make ends meet. But Barr's character has been written out, dead from an overdose of painkillers she took for a knee injury. Barr's original show was abruptly axed in May after she went on a Twitter rant in which she compared Valerie Jarrett, a black former advisor to president Barack Obama, to an ape.

The actress apologized but it was in vain. She tried to justify herself saying she had written the tweet while under the influence of the sleep-inducing medicine Ambien. Barr linked to a statement via her official Twitter account Tuesday evening which said the method of her character's death "lent an unnecessary grim and morbid dimension to an otherwise happy family show". "After repeated and heartfelt apologies, the network was unwilling to look past a regrettable mistake, thereby denying the twin American values of both repentance and forgiveness," the statement added.

She also tweeted separately: "I ain't dead, b***es!!!!" ABC had initially canceled the show altogether but then came up with the idea of doing it without Barr. Her husband is still played by John Goodman and the action starts



In this file photo actress/executive producer Roseanne Barr attends The Roseanne Series Premiere at Walt Disney Studios in Burbank, California.

three weeks after her funeral. Barr in real life and on the show is a supporter of President Donald Trump. Trump publicly weighed in on the cancellation of Barr's show but did not condemn her tweet. The first episode addresses the opioid crisis in America. In 2016 a total of 42,249 people died of overdoses, according to the Centers for Disease Control. — AFP



In this file photo (from left to right) Executive producer Whitney Cummings, actors Michael Fishman, John Goodman, Jayden Rey, Roseanne Barr, Sara Gilbert, Sarah Chalke and Emma Kenney attend The Roseanne Series Premiere at the Walt Disney Studios in Burbank, California. — AFP photos

Classifieds

Thursday, October 18, 2018

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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate variable wind to south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear with a chance for

BY NIGHT: Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to south westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 28 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear with a chance for mist

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 17/10/2018 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	36 °C	28 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	37 °C	23 °C			
ABDALY	36 °C	25 °C			
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C			
JAHRA	36 °C	26 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	34 °C	26 °C			
SALMIYAH	33 °C	30 °C			
AHMADI	34 °C	28 °C			
NUWASIB	33 °C	24 °C			
WAFRA	36 °C	22 °C			
SALMY	36 °C	23 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Thursday	10/18	Relatively hot and Humid specially over coastal areas and some scattered clouds will appear with	35 °C	22 °C	VRB-SE	10 - 35 km/h
Friday	10/19	Relatively hot and Humid and some scattered clouds will appear with a slight chance for rain	35 °C	23 °C	VRB-SE	10 - 40 km/h
Saturday	10/20	Relatively hot and Humid and some scattered clouds will appear with a slight chance for rain	34 °C	21 °C	VRB-SE	10 - 42 km/h
Sunday	10/21	Relatively hot and Humid and some scattered clouds will appear with a chance for rain that	35 °C	22 °C	S-SE	15 - 45 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:31
Sunrise	05:50
Zuhr	11:33
Asr	14:49
Sunset	17:16
Isha	18:33

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	36 °C
MIN. Temp.	23 °C
MAX. RH	69 %
MIN. RH	23 %
MAX. Wind	SE 21 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Hospitals

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

Clinics

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

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- Experience with implementing and support of CRM Recruit SaaS.
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- Must possess excellent information gathering, research, and reporting skills with exceptional interpersonal communication skills.
- Strong problem solving skills. Ability to perform within deadlines and ability to work and participate in a team environment.
- Experience with Learning Management System - Canvas will be an advantage.
- Experience in Argos reporting platform will be an advantage.

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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 JAFEER ARUNACHALAM (ISLAM). (C 5428) 16-10-2018



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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Thursday 18/10/2018				Departure Flights on Thursday 18/10/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	405	Sohag	00:05	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	MSC	502	Alexandria	00:10
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
KAC	102	London	00:50	MSR	2615	Cairo	00:30
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	JZR	528	Asyut	01:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	MSC	406	Sohag	01:05
JZR	267	Beirut	01:25	THY	773	Istanbul	01:45
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	JZR	502	Luxor	01:55
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	KAC	417	Manila	02:00
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	677	Dubai	02:00
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:45
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:55
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55
QT	R1086	Doha	02:30	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
JZR5	53D	Alexandria	02:50	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:10
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	JZR	142	Doha	03:45
RBG	215	Sohag	03:05	RBG	216	Sohag	03:45
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	MSR	607	Luxor	04:05
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	JAI	571	Mumbai	05:00
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	QTR	1077	Doha	05:15
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	KAC	303	Doha	05:35
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	FDB	070	Dubai	06:00
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	RJA	643	Amman	07:00
KAC	544	Cairo	05:20	JZR	356	Mashhad	07:15
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	JZR	283	Dubai	07:15
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	KAC	167	Paris	07:30
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	RBG	550	Alexandria	07:30
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	KAC	173	Munich	07:35
KAC	362	Colombo	06:00	KAC	413	Bangkok	07:40
BAW	157	London	06:10	JZR	238	Amman	07:50
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	JZR	778	Jeddah	08:00
QTR	8511	Doha	06:35	KAC	201	Beirut	08:00
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	QTR	8512	Beirut/Doha	08:05
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	BAW	156	London	08:20
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	KAC	791	Madinah	09:00
JZR	605	Ahmedabad	07:05	KAC	613	Bahrain	09:00
JZR	143	Doha	07:20	KAC	117	Shannon/New York	09:05
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:05
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	561	Amman	09:40
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
KAC	358	Kochi	08:00	JZR	534	Cairo	09:45
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	KAC	773	Riyadh	09:45
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:55
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	101	London	10:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	515	Tehran	10:00
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
SYR	341	Damascus	10:00	KAC	797	Taif	10:05
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	617	Doha	10:20
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	KAC	203	Lahore	22:00
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:20	MSR	308	Abu Dhabi	22:05
MSC	411	Asyut	12:30	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:10
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	KAC	1543	Cairo	22:15
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
ABY	121	Sharjah	12:55	KAC	383	Delhi	22:25
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
JZR	239	Amman	13:00	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
JZR	357	Mashhad	13:05	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:50
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:30	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
KAC	792	Madinah	13:40	JZR	560	Sohag	23:45
JZR	779	Jeddah	13:45	TRQ	231	KRT	23:55
IAW	157A	Al Najaf	13:55				

Palestinians win UN backing to lead developing country bloc



RAFAH: Smoke billows following an Israeli air strike in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. Israel launched raids against targets in the Gaza strip in response to rocket fire from the Palestinian territory that caused damage in a southern city, the Israeli army said. — AFP

UNITED NATIONS: The Palestinians won backing Tuesday to lead the biggest bloc of developing countries at the United Nations, raising their profile at the world body despite opposition from the United States. The General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to grant the observer-state of Palestine temporary rights to act as chair of the Group of 77 plus China, a bloc that has grown to 134 countries at the United Nations. A resolution drafted by Egypt was adopted by a vote of 146 to 3 with 15 abstentions. The United States, Israel and Australia were the only three countries to oppose the measure in the 193-nation assembly.

US Ambassador Nikki Haley branded the decision a "UN mistake", recalling that the "Palestinians are not a UN member state or any state at all" and should not be granted privileges reserved for full-fledged members. "Today's UN mistake undermines the prospects for peace by encouraging the illusion held by some Palestinian leaders that they can advance their goals without direct peace negotiations," said Haley in a statement.

The result came as no surprise as the G77 had agreed last month to give the Palestinians the chair and could easily garner enough support in the General Assembly to win approval for the measure. The resolution gives the Palestinians, who take up the year-long chair in January, additional rights such as the authority to submit proposals on behalf of the G77 and request that they be put to the vote. The measure does not, however, change the status of the Palestinians, considered a non-member observer state at the United Nations without voting rights at the General Assembly.

'Misguided'

Only UN member-states with full recognition should be entitled to speak and act on behalf of groups of

countries, US Deputy Ambassador Jonathan Cohen told the assembly ahead of the vote. Calling the resolution "misguided", Cohen warned that the United States will "leave no doubt about where we stand" and will not recognize the Palestinians in their new UN role. "When the Palestinians speak as chair of the G77 in the General Assembly, we will remind our fellow member-states that the United States does not recognize that there is a Palestinian state and that no such state has been admitted as a UN member state," he said.

Taking the floor, Palestinian ambassador Riyad Mansour pledged to "spare no effort" to defend the interests of the G77 and to work "constructively with all partners". "Australia's decision to vote no on this resolution reflects our long-standing position that Palestinian attempts to seek recognition as a state in international fora are deeply unhelpful to efforts towards a two-state solution," Australian UN Ambassador Gillian Bird told the General Assembly.

The G77 and China are influential on budgetary issues at the assembly and have been effective in pushing their agenda as the biggest bloc. The vote came amid tensions between President Donald Trump's administration and the Palestinians over US recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and other decisions deemed pro-Israel.

The Trump administration has cut aid to the Palestinians and funding to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, and is working on peace proposals that the Palestinians fear will be biased in favor of Israel. In 2012, the United States voted against the resolution that upgraded the Palestinians to UN non-member observer state, arguing there should be no international recognition for the Palestinians until progress is made in peace efforts with Israel. — Agencies

Sisi hails 'new chapter' in ties...

Continued from Page 1

The talks were overshadowed by an attack on a college in Crimea in which at least 17 were killed and more than 40 injured. Moscow initially described as it a "terrorist attack" before investigators reclassified it as a mass shooting. Investigators said the shooting was carried out by a teenage student who killed himself. Putin called for a minute's silence for the victims. Relations

between Russia and Egypt have strengthened in recent years despite the 2015 bombing of a Russian airliner by militants. The plane was carrying holidaymakers from a Red Sea resort that killed all 224 on board, a devastating blow to Egypt's tourist industry.

In December the countries signed an agreement for Russia to build Egypt's first nuclear power station. In April this year, a flight from Moscow to Cairo marked the relaunch of direct flights between Russia and Egypt. Flights had been suspended after the 2015 plane bombing. Charter flights to Egyptian resorts once popular with Russians remain suspended, however. "We considered the question of full restoration of air links... and noted that our Egyptian friends are doing all they can to ensure security," Putin said. "We will strive to restart charter flights in the near future." — AFP

Trump stays cautious over...

Continued from Page 1

After talks with the Saudi leadership in Riyadh marked by expressions of mutual goodwill, Pompeo met Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara. But Pompeo was tight-lipped, telling journalists he did not want "to talk about any of the facts".

Turkish police yesterday began searching the residence of the Saudi consul in Istanbul for their investigation, with forensics experts in white overalls entering the building, an AFP correspondent said. The Saudi consul Mohammed Al-Otaibi left Istanbul for Riyadh on a scheduled Saudia flight Tuesday afternoon, with Ankara insisting he had not been expelled but left of his own choice. Turkish police on Monday night also carried out an eight-hour search at the consulate itself, taking away soil and DNA samples. Erdogan said toxic material was found which had been "painted over".

Several US media outlets said Monday that the Saudis are preparing a report that Khashoggi's death resulted from a botched interrogation. However there has yet to be any sign of this being published. Pro-government Turkish daily Yeni Safak reported it had heard audio recordings of Khashoggi being tortured during an inter-

rogation, having his fingers cut off and then being decapitated. It said Otaibi can be heard on one tape saying during Khashoggi's torture: "Do this outside. You are going to get me in trouble." The daily reported that in another tape, an unknown individual tells Otaibi: "If you want to live when you return to Saudi Arabia, be quiet!"

The New York Times reported Tuesday that a suspect identified by Turkey was a frequent companion of the prince's. Three other suspects are linked to his security detail and a fifth is a high-level forensic doctor, the Times said. International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde was the latest to pull out of Prince Mohammed's investment conference next week. An IMF spokesman said she had postponed her planned trip to the Middle East with a stop in Saudi Arabia.

Pompeo came to Ankara after Riyadh, where he held a 20-minute talk with King Salman and then a brief meeting and much lengthier dinner with his son Prince Mohammed. The top US diplomat said that in Saudi Arabia he stressed the "importance of them conducting a complete investigation". "They made a commitment that they would show the entire world the results of their investigation," said Pompeo, adding Saudi also vowed that no-one would have immunity. Pompeo held 40 minutes of talks at the airport with Erdogan. Interviewed by state-run Anadolu news agency, Turkish Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu refused to be drawn into commenting on what may have happened inside the consulate. — Agencies

India minister in #MeToo...

Continued from Page 1

reporter at the Asian Age newspaper in 1997. "He ran his hands from my breast to my hips. I tried pushing his hands away, but they were plastered on my waist," wrote Ghazala Wahab on news website The Wire. "I ran out of his cabin and into the toilet to cry my eyes out," added Wahab, who now works as executive editor of Force magazine.

A third accuser said Akbar had greeted her in his underwear after calling her to his hotel room and then forcibly kissed her. "Suddenly you got up, grabbed me and kissed me hard - your stale tea breath and your bristly moustache are still etched in the recesses of my memory," journalist Tushita Patel wrote in an article for Scroll on Tuesday. She said the incident dated back to 1992 when she was a trainee.

While Modi's Hindu nationalist government did not make a public statement, pressure was building internally for Akbar's removal as more allegations of misconduct surfaced, sources in the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party said. Akbar's boss, Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj, and Women and Child Welfare Minister Maneka Gandhi both were opposed to him continuing in office while he fought a legal battle against his accusers, the sources, who cannot be named because of the sensitivity of the matter, said.

Since he got back from a tour of Africa on Sunday, Akbar had sought a meeting with Modi but that did not come through. He also asked to meet the National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, a close Modi aide, but that too did not happen. Ram Das Athawale, junior minister for social justice, said he supported Akbar's decision to quit. "The allegations against him should be properly investigated," Athawale said.

Sandeep Shastri, a political analyst at Jain University

in the city of Bengaluru, said Akbar's defamation lawsuit and his subsequent resignation could indicate damage limitation by the government. "You are facing an election in several states and this could have been highly embarrassing for the government. It would have been tough for the government to justify retaining him," said Shastri. Allegations of sexual harassment have ensnared the opposition party as well. This week, the chief of the youth wing of the Congress stepped down after a female member alleged harassment, the party announced.

India's belated #MeToo movement has made headlines in recent weeks with women sharing accounts of alleged harassment by several powerful men in the worlds of Bollywood, journalism, comedy and even cricket. The phenomenon remains confined to India's urban elite at present, with vast numbers of women elsewhere in the country lacking either access to justice or a platform to name their tormentors. The trigger appears to have been actress Tanushree Dutta, who recently accused well-known Bollywood actor Nana Patekar of inappropriate behavior on a film set 10 years ago. Patekar has denied the claims.

Last Friday, the production of a Bollywood blockbuster was halted after the film's lead called for the claims against Patekar, his co-star, and the feature's director Sajid Khan to be "stringently" investigated. Three women had accused Khan of sexual harassment the day before the film was halted. One said Khan had insisted that she strip during an audition while another alleged the director had flashed his penis at her during an interview. Khan has denied the accusations.

Bollywood director Vikas Bahl has meanwhile been accused of assaulting a female employee of Phantom Films, the production house behind Netflix series "Sacred Games", in 2015. Bahl has denied the allegations and threatened to sue his accusers for defamation. The hallowed world of Indian cricket has also not been spared, with the chief of India's powerful cricket board, Rahul Johri, on Friday giving a week to explain allegations of sexual harassment. Johri has yet to comment publicly. — Agencies

Kuwait moves to 54th rank in Global

Continued from Page 1

environmental issues. In 2015, Chevron shut Wafra after failing to agree operating rights with Kuwait. Shutting output is expensive because it requires investments of tens of millions of dollars per year for maintenance.

Teenager kills 19 in Crimea college...

Continued from Page 1

Russia but there have been several high-profile cases recently with far fewer victims.

The Investigative Committee, which probes major incidents, had initially classified the attack as an act of terror and described it as an explosion. But it later said it was investigating a mass murder after "this young man shot people dead in the college and then committed suicide", adding that all the victims died of gunshot wounds. Russia's National Anti-Terrorism Committee also said an "unidentified explosive device" had gone off in the canteen. Committee spokesman Andrei Przhedzomsky said that Roslyakov's body was found next to a pump-action gun.

Crimean leader Sergei Aksyonov told Russian television: "It was a mass murder committed by one scumbag." The reported killer was a "student in the fourth year who was studying at the college. His body was found in the college library," Aksyonov wrote on Facebook. A source in the emergency services told RIA Novosti state news agency that Roslyakov had legally acquired a gun license.

The Investigative Committee said most of the victims were teenagers. The college's website says it accepts students in the last three grades of school, from the age of 14. The regional health ministry said six of the injured were in an extremely serious condition and eight in a serious condition. Aksyonov announced three days of mourning from today over the "terrible tragedy".

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who was in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, said in televised comments that a "tragic event" had happened, speaking during talks with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi. "It's already clear that it's a crime, the motive and possible versions for this tragedy are being carefully examined," Putin said. "I want to express condolences to the relatives of the dead and express the hope that the injured recover as quickly as possible," the president said, calling for a minute's silence to mourn the victims. Kerch is linked to the Russian mainland by a bridge that Putin opened in May.

Witnesses said that the attacker fired shots but also spoke of hearing an explosion. A student at the college who asked not to be named told AFP: "I was in a class when I heard shooting on the first floor. When we all ran out into the corridor, there were others running and

shouting that some guy with a machine gun was randomly shooting everyone in turn."

"Then a strong explosion went off. But thank God, I was already outside and saw our guys being thrown out of the windows by the explosive wave," he said, adding that part of the building collapsed.

The director of the school, Olga Grebennikova, described the scene that she encountered when she entered the college building after the attack. "There are bodies everywhere, children's bodies everywhere. It was a real act of terrorism. They burst in five or 10 minutes after I'd left. They blew up everything in the hall, glass was flying," Grebennikova told Crimean media outlets. "They then ran about throwing some kind of explosives around, and then ran around the second floor with guns, opened the office doors, and killed anyone they could find."

Anastasia Yenshina, a 15-year-old student at the college, said she was in a toilet on the ground floor of the building with some friends when she heard the sound of an explosion. "I came out and there was dust and smoke, I couldn't understand, I'd been deafened," Yenshina told Reuters. "Everyone started running. I did not know what to do. Then they told us to leave the building through the gymnasium. Everyone ran there... I saw a girl lying there. There was a child who was being helped to walk because he could not move on his own. The wall was covered in blood. Then everyone started to climb over the fence, and we could still hear explosions. Everyone was scared. People were crying."

Photographs from the scene of the blast showed that the ground floor windows of the two-storey building had been blown out, and that debris was lying on the floor outside. Emergency services teams could be seen in the photographs carrying wounded people from the building on makeshift stretchers and loading them on to buses and ambulances.

Another witness who gave his name as Sergei and who worked nearby said in a video on the Kerch.tv website that he heard "a bang and shots". Sergei, whose shirt was covered in blood, said victims "were taken away in public transport, in minibuses and buses, with two or three people in each ambulance". "They are children and staff," the witness said. "I saw people without legs, without arms."

Attacks by disaffected teenagers at their schools and colleges have hit the headlines recently in Russia. In January, a school student attacked a teacher and fellow students with an axe in Siberia and tried to set fire to the school building and to kill himself. In April, a school student stabbed a teacher and a fellow student in the Urals Mountains and then set fire to a classroom. — Agencies

Sports

Texas offers Hamilton his first shot at fifth title

Hamilton is 67 points clear of Ferrari's Vettel with three races

AUSTIN: It will be high fives for Lewis Hamilton in Austin on Sunday if a fifth win in a row brings the Briton a fifth Formula One world title. The Mercedes driver is on the brink of joining the late Argentine Juan Manuel Fangio as a quintuple champion, with only seven times titleholder Michael Schumacher ahead of them in the all-time lists.

Hamilton is 67 points clear of Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel with three races—and a maximum 75 points—remaining after Texas. That means the title will be Hamilton's if he scores eight points more than the German, something the Briton has done for the past four races and a total of eight times in the 17 grands prix so far.

On paper, with Hamilton and Finnish team mate Valtteri Bottas one-two in the last two races and the champion triumphant in five of the past six races at the Circuit of the Americas—including the last four—the title is there for the taking.

Hamilton has won five races in a row before, in 2014 when the sequence involved the same five as this time, and is in the form of his life with nine wins so far this season. He has been busy with media activities in New York this week but his focus on the main task ahead remains laser sharp.

"With six race victories in the last seven races,

Lewis has shown what a class act he is," Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff said this week. "Both on and off the track he is more complete than ever before, showing commanding performance in the car and challenging the entire team to perform to higher levels at the same time.

"The battle is far from over, so we approach Austin the same way as every other race: take it one step at a time, focus on our job and make sure we bring performance and reliability to the track," added the Austrian.

The only other driver to have won in Austin to date is Vettel with Red Bull in 2013 — and he arrives with plenty of criticism of his performance in Japan after he started eighth, dropped to 19th and finished sixth.

Like Hamilton a four times champion, Vettel has failed to finish in the top two for four races and has slumped from title frontrunner to also-ran. "We know it's difficult from where we are but what do we have to lose?" the German said after the Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka.

"We are trying our utmost to fight and resist and let's see what the next races bring." Mercedes also lead the constructors' championship by 78 points but cannot yet wrap up their fifth successive team title, with that battle going on at least until Mexico the following weekend. —Reuters



Lewis Hamilton

Burgan Bank congratulates Wheelchair Fencing title holder Tareq Al-Qallaf

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, one of the leading contributors to the continued progress of the Kuwaiti community and its talented individuals, congratulated World Wheelchair Fencing Champion title holder, Tareq Al-Qallaf, for successfully bringing home three gold medals. Competing in the Milwaukee Open Championship, Al-Qallaf scored gold in the Foil, Epee and Sabre categories, and was also named 'Best Fencing Champion'.

This is the fourth consecutive year that Burgan Bank sponsors and supports the homegrown World Champion as he proudly represents Kuwait on global grounds. Through its support of sports and youth empowerment initiatives, the bank aims to influence positive social change and raise the standard of excellence for aspiring young Kuwaitis.

To bring home the gold medals, Tareq Al-Qallaf underwent a ten-day intensive training regime which involved strong will and determination to compete at the three day Milwaukee Open Championship. Achieving new heights worldwide as a sportsman since his first win in 1982, Al-Qallaf serves as the perfect example of hard work and exceptional performance for both the sports community and the special needs segment. Sports serve as a dynamic platform to develop better health, self-esteem, and overall lifestyle and play an important role in teaching the youth lifelong values such as confidence, discipline, skills building, and teamwork. Falling in line with its community program, 'ENGAGE' - Together to be the change, Burgan Bank sheds light on important aspects affecting every segment of the society by promoting social welfare through educational, cultural, social and health initiatives.



Tareq Al-Qallaf

Burgan Bank's approach to 'ENGAGE' begins with a vital principle that as a Kuwaiti financial institution, its conduct

and policies should be aligned with the needs and interests of the Kuwaiti society.

Asian MMA star slams 'shocking' Las Vegas brawl

SEOUL: Asia's highest-ranked mixed martial artist said fighters must remember they're idols for children as he slammed last week's "shocking" scenes after Conor McGregor's defeat to Khabib Nurmagomedov.

Chan "The Korean Zombie" Sung-jung said the post-fight violence, when Nurmagomedov and his team attacked McGregor and his entourage in images beamed around the world, had set back attempts to clean up MMA's image.

"We should be inspiring kids and not shocking them," the Seoul-based featherweight said ahead of this week's Angel's Fighting MMA event in Seoul, where all profits pay medical expenses for terminally ill children.

"As martial artists we are role models," added Chan, who is ranked 10th in the world by the UFC in his weight division. "Hyping up the fight is understandable but violence outside the cage is a no-go. We are adults and should remember the impact what we do has on kids."

Chan was speaking at his Korean Zombie Gym in Seoul as he prepared to fly out for his next fight, against the UFC's former champion and third-ranked featherweight Frankie "The Answer" Edgar.

The bout will headline the UFC's 25th-anniversary fight card in Denver on November 10, reflecting Chan's stature and the sport's global reach.

If he finds a way past the American veteran, the Korean fighter is expected to get a second shot at the featherweight title—and the chance to become the UFC's first Asian world champion. "Fighters are emerging from all over Asia, and from South Korea," said Chan. "The image of the sport has improved and it is up to us as martial artists to make sure this continues."

Chan's "Zombie" tag comes from his ability to keep moving forward into battle, even when under a barrage, and he is level-headed about the challenge posed by Edgar. "I know he will try to wear me down, try to exhaust me, but I am ready for that," said Chan. "My stamina is very good." Chan seemed destined for the top after joining the UFC in 2011, after starring on the domestic scene in South Korea. He went 3-0 before losing to then-featherweight champion Jose "Scarface" Aldo, dislocating his shoulder throwing a huge right before losing via TKO in the fourth. Following South Korea's compulsory military service and a knee injury, Chan exploded back on to the scene with a first-round knockout of Dennis "The Menace" Bermudez in February 2017.

Now with a career record of 14 wins and four losses, Chan will be faced with his biggest challenge yet against Edgar (23-6-1), the 36-year-old former UFC lightweight champion. But Chan said his time away from the cage—while also brought the birth of three children, aged four to three months—had put life into perspective. At the Angel's Fighting event, Chan was in the corner for a fighter from his gym. He said such charity initiatives showed MMA could have a positive impact. "In the past the image (of MMA) has not been great but we are seeing this change, and everything is looking positive," said Chan. "A while back I used to fight for myself, for fame. But now family overrides that and I am fighting for my family." — AFP



HOUSTON: This handout from Zuffa LLC via Getty Images taken on February 4, 2017 and released on October 16, 2018 shows Chan Sung-jung of South Korea (L) punching Dennis Bermudez of the US in their featherweight bout during the UFC Fight Night event in Houston, Texas. — AFP

Wallabies' Foley signs up to stay in Australia

SYDNEY: The Wallabies' experienced stand-off Bernard Foley has rebuffed foreign offers and opted to stay in Australia beyond next year's Rugby World Cup, sporting authorities announced yesterday. Rugby Australia said the 29-year-old—who successfully returned to the test XV fold this month in a stunning comeback against Argentina—will stay in Australia and at "the NSW Waratahs until the end of 2019".

Foley has 64 test caps but until recently been playing understudy to Kurtley Beale as Australia has lurched through several poor results. But Foley seized his chance to retake the gold 10 jersey in Salta, slotting home all six of his conversions and kicking a penalty to help Australia turn a humiliating 31-7 deficit at half time to a 45-34 victory.

Rugby Australia said Foley had "rebuffed offers from overseas to pursue World Cup glory in Japan next year". "I'm really happy to re-sign and now focus on pushing ahead to focus on what's a really big season next year," Foley said.

"The World Cup is obviously a major carrot and I've got a lot of belief in this group that if we continue to work hard and focus on improving every day, then we can push deep into the competition." Australia's poor form has seen them drop to seventh in the world rankings, one spot below Scotland.

Although largely unheralded, Foley stands behind only Aussie legends Matt Giteau, Matt Burke and Michael Lynagh in points scored for the Wallabies.

The Wallabies will wear an indigenous-themed jersey when they face England at Twickenham next month, the first time they have donned the kit overseas in tribute to the role Aborigines play in rugby.

The shirt designed by indigenous artist Dennis Golding symbolises indigenous and non-indigenous communities coming together as one, and was first worn by the Australians when they beat the All Blacks in Brisbane last October. The clash with England, on November 24, will be the third and final Test for the Wallabies during their northern hemisphere spring tour. Wallabies skipper Michael Hooper said the jersey gave the squad the chance to recognise the importance of indigenous culture in Australia.

"New Zealand and England are two of our closest rivals on the sporting field, no matter what sport you talk about, so I think it's very fitting that we will play our first two matches in this special jersey against these two teams," Hooper added.—AFP

Scotland name uncapped trio in big squad for November tests

EDINBURGH: Scotland have named New Zealand-born Blade Thomson, Australian Sam Johnson and former England youth international Sam Skinner in a 40-man squad for the upcoming Autumn internationals as they cast an eye towards next year's World Cup.

Scarlets back-row Thomson, who played for New Zealand at under-20 level, and Exeter Chiefs lock Skinner are eligible through family connections but are among just three new caps in an expansive squad named by coach Gregor Townsend yesterday.

The third is Glasgow centre Sam Johnson, a former Australian schoolboy international who played Super Rugby with the Queensland Reds before moving to Scotland, and qualifies on residency grounds, having joined the Warriors three years ago.

PREPARATIONS

All three are in line to make their debuts in one of the November tests against Wales, Fiji, South Africa or Argentina. "We now begin the last 12 months of our preparations for the World Cup with four tests in four weeks, a similar challenge to the one we'll face in Japan," Townsend said in a statement from Scottish Rugby.

"We've named a 40-man group for this campaign, which highlights the quality of player that is now available to us and the competition for places. "It also enables us to welcome more players into our training environment and hopefully give a few more players a taste of test rugby."

OPPONENTS

"It's going to be an exciting year for the squad but our primary focus is fixed on performing well against Wales—familiar opponents who have already recorded a win against us this year." Scotland face Wales in Cardiff on Nov. 3 and then play at their Murrayfield home against Fiji on Nov. 10, South Africa one week later, and Argentina on Nov. 24.

The Scots have been drawn alongside hosts Japan in Pool A at next year's World Cup, in a group that also contains Ireland, Russia and Samoa.

Squad:

Backs: Alex Dunbar (Glasgow Warriors), Dougie Fife (Edinburgh), Chris Harris (Newcastle Falcons), Adam Hastings, George Horne, Pete Horne, Sam Johnson, Huw Jones, Lee Jones (all Glasgow Warriors), Blair Kinghorn (Edinburgh), Greig Laidlaw (Clermont Auvergne), Sean Maitland (Saracens), Byron McGuigan (Sale Sharks), Ali Price (Glasgow Warriors), Henry Pyrgos (Edinburgh), Finn Russell (Racing 92), Matt Scott (Edinburgh), Tommy Seymour (Glasgow Warriors).

Forwards: Alex Allan (Glasgow Warriors), Simon Berghan, Magnus Bradbury (both Edinburgh), Fraser Brown (Glasgow Warriors), Allan Dell (Edinburgh), David Denton (Leicester Tigers), Matt Fagerson (Glasgow Warriors), Ross Ford, Grant Gilchrist (both Edinburgh), Jonny Gray, Rob Harley (both Glasgow Warriors), Murray McCallum, Stuart McNally, WP Nel (all Edinburgh), Gordon Reid (London Irish), Jamie Ritchie (Edinburgh), Sam Skinner (Exeter Chiefs), Blade Thomson (Scarlets), Ben Toolis (Edinburgh), George Turner (Glasgow Warriors), Hamish Watson (Edinburgh), Ryan Wilson (Glasgow Warriors). —Reuters

Sports

Abbas destroys Australia to put Pakistan in dominating position

Pakistan stretched lead to 281 as they were 144 for two at close

SCOREBOARD

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates: Scoreboard on the second day of the second Test between Pakistan and Australia played at Sheikh Zayed Stadium yesterday:

Pakistan 1st innings 282 (Fakhar Zaman 94, Sarfraz Ahmed 94; N. Lyon 4-78, M. Labuschagne 3-45)

Australia 1st innings

Usman Khawaja c Sarfraz b Abbas	3
A. Finch c Zaman b Asif	39
P. Siddle lbw b Abbas	4
S. Marsh c Sohail b Abbas	3
T. Head c Shafiq b Abbas	14
M. Marsh c Shafiq b Yasir	13
M. Labuschagne run out (Yasir)	25
T. Paine lbw b Asif	3
M. Starc lbw b Abbas	34
N. Lyon b Asif	2
J. Holland not out	2
Extras: (lb 3)	3
Total: (all out: 50.4 overs)	145
Fall of wickets: 1-16 (Khawaja), 2-20 (Siddle), 3-36 (S. Marsh), 4-56 (Head), 5-75 (M. Marsh), 6-85 (Finch), 7-91 (Paine), 8-128 (Labuschagne), 9-132 (Lyon).	
Bowling: Abbas 12.4-4-33-5, Hamza 9-2-27-0, Yasir 19-3-59-1, Asif 10-3-23-3.	

Pakistan 2nd innings

Fakhar Zaman c and b Lyon	66
Mohammad Hafeez c Head b Starc	6
Azhar Ali not out	54
Haris Sohail not out	17
Extras: (lb 1)	1
Total: (for two wks: 44 overs)	144
Still to bat: Asad Shafiq, Babar Azam, Sarfraz Ahmed, Bilal Asif, Yasir Shah, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Abbas.	
Fall of wickets: 1-15 (Hafeez), 2-106 (Zaman).	
Bowling: Starc 4-0-22-1 (Inb), Siddle 6-0-28-0, Lyon 20-3-59-1, Holland 10-3-17-0, Labuschagne 4-0-18-0.	

ABU DHABI: Medium pacer Mohammad Abbas registered a five-wicket haul to steer Pakistan into a dominating position in the second Test against Australia in Abu Dhabi yesterday. Abbas finished with five for 33 to bowl out Australia for a paltry 145 to give Pakistan a 137-run lead in the first innings on the second day at Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

Pakistan stretched that lead to 281 as they were 144 for two at close, with Azhar Ali not out on 54 for his first half century in the series and Haris Sohail was 17 not out. With eight wickets in hand Pakistan were in a great position to force a 1-0 lead in the two-match series after the first Test ended in a fighting draw in Dubai last week.

Azhar, who fell for disappointing scores of 18, four and 15 in the last three innings, batted with resolve, having so far hit three boundaries. But it was once again debutant Fakhar Zaman who lifted Pakistan with a brilliant 66 following up his 94 in the first innings, before giving a return catch to Nathan Lyon who took an evasive action but still managed to hold onto the ball. Zaman hit seven boundaries in an enterprising knock. Zaman said Pakistan were in the driving seat. "Yes, our position is good," said Zaman. "If we score 100-150 runs more on Thursday then with a turning wicket we have a very good chance of winning this Test." Zaman said he was lucky to have played this Test. "I was with the squad from the start but during the first Test I was about to return to Pakistan before, unfortunately, Imam-ul-Haq got injured and I got this chance of playing my first Test."

Mohammad Hafeez, who scored a hundred in the drawn first Test, fell to a lazy shot off pacer Mitchell Starc, caught at short mid-off for six. Earlier, Abbas and spinner Bilal Asif (3-23) wrecked Australia for 145 in their innings. Abbas had Shaun Marsh, in the fourth over of the day, for three and Travis Head for 14 before wrapping up the innings by trapping Starc leg-before for 34. This becomes Abbas's third five-wicket haul in a burgeoning career of ten Tests. Asif had removed Aaron Finch (39) and in the last over before lunch trapped Tim Paine leg-before for three.

Marnus Labuschagne offered some resistance during his 25 before falling to a freakish run out, backing up too far as a drive from Starc was deflected to the stumps by Yasir Shah with Labuschagne out of his



ABU DHABI: Pakistan cricketer Fakhar Zaman (C) plays a shot during day two of the second Test cricket match in the series between Australia and Pakistan at the Abu Dhabi Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday. — AFP

crease. Abbas, whose first wicket of the match made him the joint second fastest Pakistani to 50 wickets, gave Pakistan an early wicket in the fourth over of the day, removing Marsh with a catch in the slip.

He then had Head caught in the second slip to leave Australia at 56 for four. Leg-spinner Yasir made it 75

for five with the wicket of Mitchell Marsh, caught close to the wicket for 13 before Australia lose two more to reach lunch at 91 for seven.

After the Tests both the teams will play a series of three Twenty20 international with the first in Abu Dhabi on October 24. — AFP

Morris in, Amla and Duminy out for Australia tour

CAPE TOWN: South Africa will be without limited-overs stalwarts Hashim Amla and JP Duminy for their white-ball tour of Australia next month but welcome back all-rounder Chris Morris from injury.

Amla and Duminy have been sidelined along with 20-year-old all-rounder Wiaan Mulder as South Africa juggle a number of injury concerns. Morris had been a regular in the limited-overs side before missing series against Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe in 2018, and is likely to play a key role Down Under.

Also returning to the squad are all-rounders Farhaan Behardien and Dwaine Pretorius, while veteran seamer Dale Steyn has been included after he made a successful return to international action in the recent series against Zimbabwe.

"Chris confirmed his fitness with his excellent form for the Titans in the first two rounds of the 4-Day Domestic Series," Cricket South Africa (CSA) National Selection Panel (NSP) convener Linda Zondi said in a statement yesterday.

"He is the leading wicket-taker in this competition to date and also adds value as a batting option in the lower-order. "With Wiaan Mulder ruled out at the moment through injury we need to look at our resources as far as batting all-rounder options are concerned and



Chris Morris

Dwaine, in particular, fits into this category.

"We have also lost a lot of experience in our specialist batting order through the injuries to Hashim Amla and JP Duminy, and Farhaan gives us another experienced option in the top order."

South Africa will play three one-day internationals, starting in Perth on Nov. 4, followed by a one-off Twenty20 international on the Gold Coast on Nov. 17.

Squad:

Faf du Plessis (captain), Farhaan Behardien, Quinton de Kock, Reeza Hendricks, Imran Tahir, Heinrich Klaasen, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Chris Morris, Lungisani Ngidi, Andile Phehlukwayo, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi, Dale Steyn. — Reuters

Christian to play in South African Super League T20

JOHANNESBURG: Dan Christian, Samuel Badree and Jeevan Mendis headlined a modest list of international stars drafted into South Africa's new Mzansi Super League Twenty20 tournament yesterday.

Australian all-rounder Christian, Sri Lankan all-rounder Jeevan Mendis and West Indian leg-spinner Badree were signed for 750,000 rand (\$52,600) each for the month-long tournament, from November 15 to December 16. They will play for the Jozi Stars, Tshwane Spartans and Cape Town Blitz respectively.

Apart from six international marquee players, who had already been announced, none of the foreign players attracted bids in the top salary bracket of a million rand during a draw function in Johannesburg.

All the million rand players were South Africans: David Miller, Dane Vilas, Tabraiz Shamsi, Andile Phehlukwayo, Lungi Ngidi and Chris Morris.

Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan was assigned to Durban Heat, who had first choice of the international marquee players.

West Indians Chris Gayle and Dwayne Bravo will play for the Jozi Stars and Paarl Rocks respectively while England's Eoin Morgan, Jason Roy and Dawid Malan will represent the Tshwane Spartans, Nelson Mandela Bay Giants and Cape Town Blitz.

None of the international marquee players will be available for the full tournament because of commitments to international cricket and a T10 tournament in Abu Dhabi but they will all be available for the final 13 days of the South African event.

South African marquee players are AB de Villiers, Hashim Amla, Kagiso Rabada, Faf du Plessis, Imran Tahir and Quinton de Kock, with the latter replacing the injured JP Duminy.

Other foreign players who will play in the league are Asif Ali (Pakistan), Sean Williams, Brandon Mavuta and Sikhandar Raza (Zimbabwe), Ben Duckett (England) and Paul Stirling (Ireland).

The six teams were allowed to pick a minimum of three and maximum of four international players, including South African Kolpak players. Kolpak players selected were Vilas, Kyle Abbott, Marchant de Lange, Simon Harmer, Cameron Delpont and Heino Kuhn. — AFP

England rain hits Sri Lanka tour

KANDY: England yesterday blamed the crowded international cricket calendar for its decision to tour Sri Lanka during the rainy season as bad weather hit the third straight one-day international.

England said the number of tours left it no "wriggle room" in organising a tour of the island currently in the grip of inter-monsoonal storms. Heavy rain also hit yesterday's game in Kandy, England won the rain-disrupted second ODI on a faster-run rate and the first game was abandoned after just 15 overs.

A warm-up match against the Sri Lanka Cricket XI side on October 6 was also abandoned and England players and fans have become increasingly frustrated by rain interruptions during the two month tour.

"In respect of touring Sri Lanka at this time of year: The Future Tours Programme is congested involving 13 boards whose schedules all interconnect, so there are unfortunately a number of tours that have to take place outside prime match-staging periods," England Cricket wrote on its Twitter page.

It added that after hosting England, Sri Lanka spend coming months touring New Zealand, Australia and South Africa. "They play their first match in New Zealand on December 8, which left very little wriggle room," it said. The final Sri Lanka-England Test ends on November 27.

Weather permitting after the one-day games, England will play a Twenty20 international and three Tests against Sri Lanka on the tour. — AFP



PALLEKELE: Sri Lankan cricketer Kusal Mendis (R) gets dismissed by England Adil Rashid (unseen) as wicketkeeper Jos Buttler look on during the third one day international (ODI) cricket match between Sri Lanka and England at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium in Pallekele yesterday. — AFP

Sports

Warriors raise title banner, silence Thunder in NBA opener

Warriors will move to a new arena in San Francisco next season

SAN FRANCISCO: Stephen Curry and Kevin Durant accepted their championship rings Tuesday for leading Golden State to a third NBA title in four campaigns, then powered the Warriors over Oklahoma City 108-100 in their 2018-19 season opener.

Curry scored 32 points with nine assists and eight rebounds while Durant had 27 points, eight rebounds and six assists as the Warriors held off a fourth-quarter fightback to make a triumphant launch to their quest for a third consecutive crown.

"The first game could go either way with timing and overall execution," Curry said. "We had a terrible third quarter but we withstood the run and were able to get the job done. We've got to take care of the ball better. That will come with more possessions as we get through the season."

"We know what's at stake. Winning three in a row would put us in some very select company. We're not shy talking about it. But you have to do the little things throughout the season. I think we're ready for it."

The first game of the NBA season was in Boston, where Jayson Tatum scored 23 points and grabbed nine rebounds while reserve Marcus Morris added 16 points and 10 rebounds as the host Celtics ripped Philadelphia 105-87. But the night's highlight came when NBA commissioner Adam Silver handed out championship jewelry-Golden State's Steve Kerr taking his fourth as a coach to go with four he won as a player-and praised the Warriors dynasty for far more than on-court skills.

"The Warriors have a tradition of excellence based on universal values like teamwork, respect and unity," NBA commissioner Adam Silver said. "They continue a long legacy of NBA players and teams who compete for something bigger than a game by embracing the power of sport to build bridges and make better people's lives."

Then came the final championship banner raising at

Oracle Arena, the NBA's oldest arena, built in 1966. The Warriors will move to a new arena in San Francisco next season. "Last year was an unbelievable journey," Curry told the crowd. "We do all this for you guys. So let's enjoy this all to the fullest."

Curry scored 19 points in the first half, helping the Warriors seize a 57-47 half-time edge, but the Thunder opened the third quarter with a 22-9 run to seize their first lead at 69-66. German guard Dennis Schroder sinking the go-ahead 3-pointer for Oklahoma City.

The Thunder battled Golden State to the finish, a free throw by New Zealand's Steven Adams pulling Oklahoma City within 99-97 with 1:57 remaining. Curry answered with a 3-point play and Kevon Looney added a layup for a 104-99 Warriors edge. Durant followed with an inside jumper with 24 seconds remaining to seal his former club's fate.

The Thunder were without star guard Russell Westbrook, who has not been cleared to return after undergoing arthroscopic right knee surgery last month.

Paul George led Oklahoma City with 27 points while Schroder added 21 and Adams had 17 points and 11 rebounds.

HAYWARD BACK IN BOSTON

At Boston, Gordon Hayward contributed 10 points on 4-of-10 shooting with four steals in his return after breaking his left leg in last year's season opener. "A lot to work on for me but the joy of being out here was amazing," said Hayward. "It was so good to be out there, such a blessing I was able to play basketball again." Hayward was greeted by a standing ovation from the crowd when he left the game in the final seconds. Tatum had 13 points in the first half for the Celtics, who took advantage of injuries last season to have a stellar rookie NBA campaign.

"I'm a lot more sure of myself and confident and just



OAKLAND: Draymond Green #23 of the Golden State Warriors handles the ball against the Oklahoma City Thunder during a game on Tuesday at Oracle Arena in Oakland, California. — AFP

relaxed," he said. "It's my second year. I knew what to expect. I was just happy to get back on the floor."

Boston's Kyrie Irving, whose prior season ended early with leg injuries, made only 2-of-14 from the floor for seven points but added seven assists.

Joel Embiid scored 23 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead the 76ers while Australian guard Ben Simmons, last season's NBA Rookie of the Year, contributed 19 points, a game-high 15 rebounds, eight assists, four steals and two blocked shots. —AFP

Miranda silences Argentina with last-gasp winner

JEDDAH: Brazil snatched a dramatic 1-0 win over Argentina with an injury-time header from Miranda in their friendly match in front of a sell-out crowd in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on Tuesday. The Inter Milan centre-back was left all alone to thump in a 93rd-minute effort from Neymar's corner when the match between the fierce South American rivals seemed destined for a stalemate. The lapse spoiled an otherwise strong defensive performance from Argentina, who contained Brazil for long periods. He may be 34, but Miranda, whose career has also seen him play in France and Spain, says he is far from done in the yellow shirt of Brazil.

"Despite my age I've been able to show that I'm in good physical shape and, of course, I want to keep playing for the national team because I still have a lot to show in this jersey," he said.

With Neymar to the fore, Brazil exerted late pressure and could have scored in the few minutes before Miranda struck. Casemiro came close with a 25-yard free-kick manufactured by Neymar that flew past goalkeeper Sergio Romero's left post. Then Nicolas Otamendi stuck out a boot to deflect a diverted shot from Richarlison in the last minute.

Argentina's best chance came during a period of pressure around the hour mark, when Leandro Paredes hit a swerving, dipping drive that had Brazil keeper Alisson beaten. But while Brazil named a strong team including Manchester City's Gabriel Jesus, Philippe Coutinho of Barcelona and Liverpool's Roberto Firmino alongside Neymar in attack, Argentina were without a host of top stars, including Lionel Messi.

"It's always difficult, but our team is better than theirs because we've had the same foundations for



JEDDAH: Brazil's defender Miranda (L) kicks the ball before Argentina's midfielder Giovanni Lo Celso during the international friendly match Brazil vs Argentina at the King Abdullah Sport City Stadium in Jeddah on Tuesday. — AFP

many years while they're in the process of a drastic renovation," Brazil's full-back Felipe Luis told TV Globo. Missing from the Argentina line-up were also Manchester City's in-form forward Sergio Aguero, Paris Saint-Germain winger Angel Di Maria and AC Milan striker Gonzalo Higuain. Messi has sat out Argentina's last four 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. It was the 105th time the South American arch-rivals have faced each other in an official match, with Brazil marginally ahead on 41 wins to 38, with 26 draws.

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

Netherlands claim friendly draw in Belgium

BRUSSELS: The Netherlands continued their resurgence under Ronald Koeman as youngster Arnaut Groeneveld's first international goal secured a 1-1 friendly draw with Belgium in Brussels on Tuesday.

Dries Mertens fired the World Cup semi-finalists into a sixth-minute lead, but Groeneveld marked his full debut for the Dutch by equalising before the half-hour mark. This was another strong performance for the Oranje after Saturday's stunning 3-0 Nations League victory over Germany, while Roberto Martinez's Belgium remain unbeaten at home since a loss to Spain in September 2016.

"I think there is still a lot of work to do, but we've shown that we've made good progress lately and at the end of the match we tried to play more offensively to try to win," said Koeman. "We had the best chances and overall we can be very happy with the last 10 days." The hosts struck early through a fantastic goal from Mertens, as the Napoli winger pounced after some slack Dutch defending, curling the ball past goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen and two men on the line, and into the top corner.

The 31-year-old continued to run the visitors ragged, stretching to dig out an excellent cross which Romelu Lukaku could only head over from less than six yards out. The Netherlands almost levelled after a quick counter-attack, but Memphis Depay failed to get a clean connection on his shot and was denied by the legs of Simon Mignolet, making his first appearance in the Belgian goal since March. But the Lyon forward cut open the home defence in the 27th minute, sending through a perfect pass



BRUSSELS: Belgium's Thorgan Hazard (L) vies with Netherlands' Pablo Rosario (R) during the friendly football match between Belgium and the Netherlands, at the King Baudouin Stadium, on Tuesday in Brussels. — AFP

for Nigerian-born winger Groeneveld to slide home on just his second international appearance after coming on as a substitute against Germany.

The visitors continued to slice through the Belgium defence with ease, and Quincy Promes saw a fierce long-range strike bounce back off the post with Mignolet scrambling. Eden Hazard, who has already scored 10 goals this season for club and country, should have restored the

Belgian advantage before half-time, but shot wide with the goal gaping after Lukaku's clever lay-off.

Martinez rang the changes at the break, bringing on Michy Batshuayi for Lukaku and Dennis Praet for Mertens, while Thorgan Hazard replaced his older brother. Batshuayi twice almost scored early in the second period, shooting narrowly wide and seeing a twisting header clutched by a diving Cillessen. —AFP

Real outlines opposition to La Liga's Miami game in letter to Fed

BARCELONA: Real Madrid has written to Spain's football federation outlining its opposition to La Liga's plans to stage a match between Girona and Barcelona in Miami, delivering another blow to league hopes of playing one game a season in the United States.

A spokeswoman for the federation confirmed to Reuters that it had received the letter, which was widely quoted by local media yesterday. The Miami match, pencilled in for Jan. 26, would be the first game to take place as part of a 15-year deal struck between La Liga and entertainment company Relevent.

"First of all we would like to declare that Real Madrid were never informed that La Liga had requested to play the game nor of the intention to make the request, and we were never asked our opinion on it," Real said in the letter, signed by the club's Director General Jose Angel Sanchez.

"Nor, obviously, did La Liga obtain Real Madrid's agreement, despite the fact that this game affects a competition in which we participate." A spokesman for La Liga reiterated yesterday that no club would be forced to play in the United States and that it was entirely voluntary.

The Federation has told La Liga it cannot approve the proposal, which also requires the green light from UEFA, CONCACAF and the United States soccer federation, until it receives more information.

Federation President Luis Rubiales has expressed his opposition to the move while the Spanish footballers' union has also protested the plans. Real Madrid President Florentino Perez has spoken out against it while the club's coach Julen Lopetegui has said: "every team (in the league) should play at every ground".

Real's letter addressed the same concerns. "We cannot forget that the national league is a competition in which 20 teams participate, not two, and that it is fundamental that every team plays each other twice, home and away and at each stadium, as that guarantees the integrity and the equality of the competition," it said.

"As a consequence, Real Madrid manifests its opposition to the request made to play the game at the Hard Rock stadium in Miami as it affects the integrity and equality of the competition."

La Liga President Javier Tebas told Reuters earlier this month there were many things that could threaten the integrity of a competition but the Miami game was not one of them. "In a World Cup a team playing a ... semi-final on Tuesday has a greater advantage in the final than the team playing on Wednesday," Tebas said.

"Teams have also played at other stadiums while their grounds are being renovated or in order to generate more revenue. If we really believe in this sporting puritanism then we would need to make many changes in football." — Reuters

25 Asian MMA star slams 'shocking' Las Vegas brawl

26 Abbas destroys Australia to put Pakistan in dominating position

27 Warriors raise title banner, silence Thunder in NBA opener



McDavid sets record in Oilers' OT win

Knights rely on Fleury to shut down Sabres



NEWARK: Damon Severson #28 and Keith Kinkaid #1 of the New Jersey Devils defend against Devin Shore #17 of the Dallas Stars during the third period on Tuesday at Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey. — AFP

WINNIPEG: Darnell Nurse scored at 1:25 of overtime as the Edmonton Oilers rallied to beat the host Winnipeg Jets 5-4 Tuesday night behind a record-setting performance from Connor McDavid. Nurse's wrist shot from the left faceoff circle beat Winnipeg goaltender Connor Hellebuyck to the blocker side. Ryan Nugent-Hopkins assisted on Edmonton's final three goals, including the winner. McDavid had two goals and two assists for the Oilers, who scored three times in the third period to overcome a 4-1 deficit and force overtime. The former MVP had a point on each of the Oilers' first nine goals this season, breaking the NHL record of seven to begin a campaign set by Detroit's Adam Oates in 1986-87. Adam Lowry scored twice for Winnipeg, which had its 11-game home winning streak snapped that dated to last season. Ben Chiarot and Mark Scheifele also tallied for the Jets.

DEVILS 3, STARS 0

Kyle Palmieri became the first player in NHL history to score his team's first goal in each of the first four games of the season as New Jersey blanked visiting Dallas. Goalie Keith Kinkaid recorded his second shutout of the season as many as he had in the previous two seasons combined by making 24 saves for the Devils, who are the lone unbeaten team in the NHL. Blake Coleman and Jean-

Sebastien Dea also scored in the second period for the Devils. Goalie Anton Khudobin made 31 saves for the Stars, who lost for the second time in as many nights.

LIGHTNING 4, HURRICANES 2

Tyler Johnson scored his first three goals of the season as host Tampa Bay defeated Carolina. Yanni Gourde produced the Lightning's go-ahead goal in the third period. Johnson had a goal in each period, including an empty-netter to cap the scoring. Tampa Bay goalie Louis Domingue, who was making his season debut, stopped 38 shots. Micheal Ferland and Martin Necas scored for the Hurricanes. Carolina goalie Petr Mrazek stopped 23 shots.

FLYERS 6, PANTHERS 5 (SO)

Backup goaltender Calvin Pickard stopped Frank Vatrano's shot in a shootout to preserve a Philadelphia victory over visiting Florida. Jakub Voracek and Jordan Weal scored for the Flyers in the shootout. Aleksander Barkov tallied for the Panthers. Wayne Simmonds and Claude Giroux each scored two goals in regulation, and Weal added a goal for the Flyers, who replaced starting goalie Brian Elliott with Pickard after Florida's fourth goal. Barkov and Vatrano each scored twice while Evgenii Dadonov had one goal for the Panthers, who have lost four

straight to open the season.

RANGERS 3, AVALANCHE 2 (SO)

Defenseman Kevin Shattenkirk scored the deciding goal in the third round of a shootout, and host New York edged Colorado. Shattenkirk lifted a wrist shot over Semyon Varlamov's stick, giving the Rangers their second win in three games following a 0-3-0 start. The Rangers clinched it when Henrik Lundqvist made a left pad save on Gabriel Landeskog. Nathan MacKinnon extended his season-opening goal-scoring streak to six games, breaking the Avalanche franchise record set by Hall of Famer Mats Sundin with the 1992-93 Quebec Nordiques. MacKinnon scored the tying goal late in the second period.

CANUCKS 3, PENGUINS 2 (OT)

Brock Boeser scored 34 seconds into overtime to give Vancouver the win at Pittsburgh. The Canucks caught Pittsburgh in a line change for a three-on-two. Boeser carried the puck in and snapped a shot from the left circle, beating goaltender Casey DeSmith on the short side. Ben Hutton and Brandon Sutter also scored for Vancouver, which has won three straight. Tim Schaller added two assists, and goaltender Anders Nilsson made 26 saves. Jake Guentzel and Carl Hagelin scored for Pittsburgh, with Hagelin tying it in

the third period. DeSmith stopped 23 shots.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS 4, SABRES 1

Jonathan Marchessault scored two goals, and Marc-Andre Fleury had 26 saves for his 407th career win to lead Vegas to a victory over Buffalo in Las Vegas. Fleury moved into a tie for 10th place with Glenn Hall on the all-time wins list for NHL goalies. William Karlsson had a goal and two assists, and Cody Eakin also scored for Vegas, which scored more than two goals in a game for the first time this season. Reilly Smith added two assists. Vladimir Sobotka scored for the Sabres, who got 25 saves from Carter Hutton.

WILD 2, COYOTES 1

Eric Staal and Mikael Granlund each scored their second goals of the season, and Devan Dubnyk made 31 saves as Minnesota edged Arizona at Saint Paul, Minn. Staal slipped the puck into an open net after a scramble in front of the goal at 6:18 of the third period following a hard shot by Ryan Suter for the winning goal. The game featured strong play by goaltenders Dubnyk and Darcy Kuemper (26 saves). Brendan Perlini scored on a power play for the Coyotes, who are last in the league with three goals and have not scored an even-strength goal in five games this season. They have been shut out three times. — Reuters

Henry hopeful playing success rubs off on Monaco

MONACO: Thierry Henry hopes his illustrious playing days will help underpin a successful career in management as he embarks on his first top job in club football at Monaco. The 41-year-old French World Cup winner, who had been working as an assistant to Belgium coach Roberto Martinez since 2016, returned to the club where he began his professional career after replacing Leonardo Jardim. Henry scored a record 51 goals in 123 appearances for France, winning not only the 1998 World Cup but also Euro 2000, while starring for almost a decade at Arsenal before claiming the treble with Barcelona in 2009.

"I hope it will be an advantage," Henry said yesterday, when asked how his success as a player would serve him as a manager. "But that doesn't mean it's going to be easy because of that. I think it will help. But there are some great managers who haven't played football, and vice versa." The former striker will be joined at Monaco by Joao Carlos Valado Tralhao, under-23 coach at Benfica, and Patrick Kwame Ampadu, coach at Arsenal's academy and father of Chelsea player Ethan Ampadu.

Henry graduated from Monaco's youth system and made his debut for the club in 1994. "To have the chance to come back is incredible," he said. "When the offer came it seemed logical to me, it was the choice of my heart. You know my fondness for London, but here is where I started." Henry's first game in charge will be against Strasbourg in the league on Saturday with a must-win Champions League tie against Club Brugge four days later. However, he was reluctant to look too far ahead with Monaco languishing 18th in the league after just one win in 12 matches in all competitions this season.

"For me, a coach is supposed to make people better

first and foremost," Henry said. "Improving players for me is already a success, but then you have different types of success."

"How do you define success? It's difficult. At a big European club success is winning the Champions League. At other clubs, it's winning the league or helping players get better. "Long term, it's really far away when I know the situation we're in here and what we need to do." Jardim guided Monaco to the Ligue 1 title in 2017 but was sacked last week after a string of poor results. Club vice-president Vadim Vasilyev said there were no fixed goals for Henry, who follows former international team-mates Didier Deschamps, Zinedine Zidane and Patrick Vieira into management.

"We haven't set any objectives for Thierry Henry. Given we're 18th in the table today, it's difficult to set an objective," said Vasilyev.

"We need to get out of the relegation zone for a start. We're not thinking about the end of the season, we're only thinking about getting out of this difficult situation." — AFP



Thierry Henry