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Saudi Arabia says Khashoggi died after brawl in consulate

Kingdom sacks two senior officials, 3 others, arrests 18 Saudis



Jamal Khashoggi

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia yesterday said dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi died inside its Istanbul consulate. US President Donald Trump said he found the explanation credible, as Turkey kept up its investigation. Before dawn yesterday, Riyadh announced that Khashoggi died during a "brawl" inside the consulate on Oct 2. Eighteen Saudis have been arrested in connection with his death and two top aides of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, as well as three other intelligence agents, have been sacked.

Saudi Attorney General Sheikh Saud Al-Mojeb said Khashoggi died after talks at the consulate degenerated into a physical altercation. He did not disclose the whereabouts of the journalist's body. "Discussions that took place

between him and the persons who met him... at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul led to a brawl and a fistfight with the citizen, Jamal Khashoggi, which led to his death, may his soul rest in peace," the attorney general said in a statement.

The Saudi king also ordered the setting up of a ministerial body under the chairmanship of the crown prince to restructure the kingdom's intelligence agency and "define its powers precisely", Saudi state media said. Key members of the crown prince's inner circle, deputy intelligence chief Ahmad Al-Assiri and royal court media adviser Saud Al-Qahtani, were sacked. Saudi Arabia's Gulf ally, the United Arab Emirates, welcomed the moves by the king, as did Bahrain and Egypt.

Trump swiftly endorsed Saudi Arabia's

explanation, calling it an "important first step". "I do, I do," Trump said when asked if the Saudis' explanation was credible, while adding: "It's early, we haven't finished our review or investigation." UN chief Antonio Guterres stressed "the need for a prompt, thorough and transparent investigation into the circumstances of Mr Khashoggi's death and full accountability for those responsible", his office said in a statement. Britain's Foreign Office, which also has close ties to Riyadh, said it "was a terrible act and those responsible must be held to account".

Khashoggi's Turkish fiancée, Hatice Cengiz, tweeted in Arabic: "The heart grieves, the eye tears, and with your separation we are saddened, my dear Jamal," she said, also asking

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Angry protests after India train disaster kills 59

AMRITSAR, India: Angry relatives staged a protest yesterday on the tracks where a speeding train ploughed into crowds watching fireworks, killing about 60 people in the latest disaster to bedevil India's railway network. The Jalandhar-Amritsar express was hurtling at 90 km per hour when it hit scores of people who had gathered on the tracks late Friday to get a view of a firework-packed effigy of the demon king Ravana for a Hindu festival. Many of the victims were dismembered beyond recognition and police said it would take several days to complete the identification of the dead.

Some desperate families went from hospital to hospital in the northern city of Amritsar yesterday looking for missing relatives, while the first funerals of some victims were held. Hardeep Singh, chief medical officer for Amritsar, told AFP 59 deaths had been confirmed and 90 people had been injured, with seven in critical condition. Singh said only 25 bodies had been identified so

far. Amritsar's main hospital did not have enough space in its morgue, and some corpses were laid outside.

The disaster led to new demands for safety reforms to India's accident-plagued railway system, which records thousands of deaths each year. Sporadic protests broke out near the accident site, with scores of protesters calling for action against the local authorities and the train driver who was questioned by police yesterday.

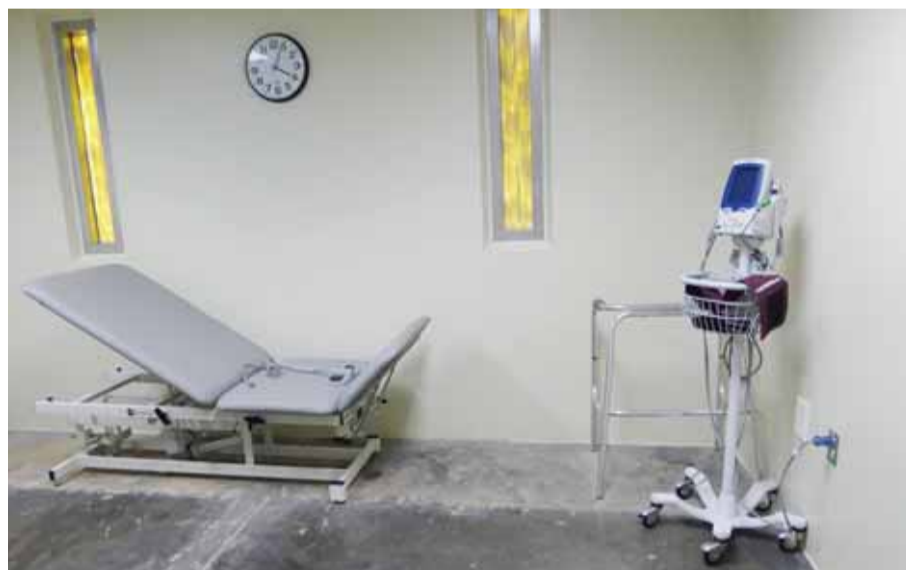
But federal junior minister for Indian Railways ruled out any punitive action against his staff, including the driver, saying the national carrier was not at fault. "There was no lapse on our part and no action against the driver will be initiated," Manoj Sinha told reporters in New Delhi, adding "trains travel in speed only".

Police moved the protesters off the tracks and brought in reinforcements to control a crowd of hundreds that gathered around the scene of the disaster. Investigators said victims did not hear the train because the drone of the locomotive was drowned out by firecrackers. Another train had narrowly missed the crowds two minutes earlier, officials said. According to media reports, the driver told police he did not see the revelers until the last second because he came around a bend in the dark into the firework smoke.

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AMRITSAR: Punjab police personnel carry a body of a reveler who was killed in a train accident as he was participating in the Hindu festival of Dussehra on Friday. — AFP



A physical therapy room for older detainees is seen at the US Guantanamo Naval Base on Oct 16, 2018. — AFP

Gitmo takes on geriatric airs; new judge for 9/11 case

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba: The controversial Guantanamo Bay prison still houses 40 aging inmates - and with no plans to close it, many of them will probably remain there until they die. The population still imprisoned at the military base in Cuba range from middle-aged to elderly - the oldest inmate is 71 - so the prison with a history of torture has taken on some airs of a geriatric facility.

The US Army - directed to ensure Guantanamo can stay open at least another 25 years - has revamped parts of the institution home to terror suspects to include a dedicated medical center and operating rooms.

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WASHINGTON: In this photo taken on Oct 17, 2018, a journalist looks at a website offering DNA testing. — AFP

US craze for DNA tests may bolster racism

WASHINGTON: Millions of Americans are using DNA test kits sold online to research their ancestry, either out of simple curiosity or to find answers about their identity. But some academics warn the craze could reinforce racial stereotypes and divisions. For around \$100 and a few drops of saliva, a number of companies offer to decipher the genome of their clients and, by comparing their DNA to other profiles, tell them whether their ancestors came mostly from West Africa, southern Europe or from the indigenous peoples of the Americas, for example.

In a country whose population, for the most part, arrived in various waves of migration - and where genealogy has caught the public imagination - the DNA tests have proven wildly successful. The main companies offering the service, Ancestry and 23andMe,

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SYDNEY: Liberal Party candidate for Wentworth Dave Sharma waits for voters outside a polling station during the Wentworth by-election in Bondi Beach yesterday. — AFP

Aussie govt loses crucial by-election

SYDNEY: Australia's embattled conservative coalition was yesterday dealt a spectacular defeat in a crucial by-election two months after it turfed out its latest prime minister, sending it into minority government. The poll in the wealthy Sydney seat of Wentworth was triggered after former prime minister Malcolm Turnbull of the Liberal Party was ousted in the party coup in August - the sixth change of national leaders in the last decade.

The result snuffs out the Liberal-National coalition's one-seat majority and sends the country into yet another period of political instability ahead of national elections that have to be called by mid-May next year. The Australian Electoral Commission said

with almost 40 percent of the vote in Wentworth counted, high-profile independent candidate Kerryn Phelps was leading 54.34 percent compared to 45.66 percent for the Liberals' Dave Sharma under Australia's system of preferential voting.

"I think we can say that Kerryn Phelps will win the Wentworth by-election and this has been a pretty bad result for the Liberal Party," respected veteran analyst Antony Green of national broadcaster ABC said. It is the biggest-ever swing in a by-election against a sitting government. At the heart of voter discontent in the traditional Liberal seat, which was held by Turnbull by an 18 percent margin, was widespread frustration about the leadership merry-go-round and constant infighting in Canberra.

"What we have done is tapped into a sentiment in the Australian people, to talk about the issues that are important to them, not the issues about survival for a particular political party,"

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Local

Man stabbed to death during fight near Sharq fish market

Two injured in car accident on Salmiy road



KUWAIT: Vehicles flipped over following an accident reported on Salmiy road yesterday.



The scene inside a Rehab house after firefighters put out a blaze reported there yesterday.

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

KUWAIT: A man was stabbed to death during a fight reported recently near the fish market in Sharq. The fight reportedly broke out between 12 citizens including two policemen where gunshots were fired. The fight left a citizen dead from a stab wound to his neck, while his twin brother and a friend sustained injuries. Al-Rai reported yesterday. The fight began near the fish market between nine citizens on one side and three on the other, including two policemen. According to eyewitnesses, one man confronted another when he felt he was staring at him in a disrespectful manner, which sparked the fight. The two exchanged blows, and one of the policemen pulled his pistol to scare the other nine and fired it. The policemen's friend was stabbed in the neck and bled to death. Police responded to calls and broke up the fight. They confiscated the pistol which belonged to the policeman, as one of the nine men claimed that his friend was killed by a bullet, but the coroner determined the death was due to a stab wound and not a bullet. Investigations are underway.

Salmiy road crash

A horrific car accident that took place on Salmiy road yesterday left two people injured — while one of them was trapped inside his wrecked vehicle. Shiqaya and occupational Jahra fire stations responded and freed the injured man, who was medevacked to hospital.

No injuries in fire

Firemen put out a blaze reported in a Rehab house yesterday. Firefighters from Farwaniya and Ardhiya fire stations responded to an emergency call, and they tackled the blaze which was in a first floor apartment after evacuating the building. No injuries were reported.



No injuries in Rehab house fire

received a call about a digger in the "tide" area of Kuwait Bay, so an inspection team went there. They found some boats were there without license and the oil was noticed on the soil.

Oil leak

The Environment Public Authority (EPA) issued citations to several ships docked in the high-low tide area of Kuwait Bay in Industrial Doha, because they caused an oil leak during maintenance. EPA

Intruder questioned

An Indian was arrested and taken to a Mubarak Al-Kabeer police station for questioning about the reason he stormed the house of his sponsor's neighbor. A citizen called police telling them that his neighbor's driver was drunk and was banging the door. When he opened it, the driver said he was facing a problem and needed KD 2,000. When he closed the door in his face, he beat at the door violently, prompting him to call police. The man was found drunk and was arrested.

Drug possession

An Egyptian man was arrested with a hashish joint. A police patrol noticed a fight between two persons, so they approached them to break up the brawl. They noticed that one of them was under the influence, then discovered the hashish. He told police "let me go and I will not do it again", to no avail. Separately, an Arab man was caught with hashish and alcohol at Kuwait International Airport. The passenger had the illicit material in his trousers. He was sent to concerned authorities.

Kuwait contributes to UN anti-crime portal: Official

VIENNA: A visiting official of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Justice said the department had contributed with a large number of local and international laws' copies to the UN Sherlock portal. The information and documents have been provided to the site, in line with a previous agreement among member states of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, said Zakariya Al-Ansari, the assistant undersecretary for legal affairs. He was speaking following a meeting with a UN official in charge of the site, on margins of the Ninth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Sherlock portal is a tool that contributes to enhancing international cooperation in legal matters, he said, also noting that the Kuwaiti side held the meeting with the officers in charge of the digital service for affirming the Gulf country commitment to international treaties and robust support for international-regional cooperation in combating transnational crimes. Participants in the session discussed, over the past five days, strategies for clamping down on organized crimes, such as trade in humans and arms, illegal immigrants' trafficking and bolstering global cooperation against emerging crimes.

Kuwait's efforts

Kuwait's participating delegation in the session's activities of the UN 9th session of Combating Organized Crime conference highlighted efforts exerted by authorities in Kuwait in combating crime, especially organized crime, Kuwait First Attorney General Bader Al-



VIENNA: Kuwait's delegation participating in activities of the UN 9th session of Combating Organized Crime conference. — KUNA

Massad said yesterday. He stressed Kuwait's keenness to attend regional and international forums that deal with fundamental and important issues such as this conference, including to gain experience from exchanging experiences with officials and participating delegations. Participation in this event was meant to emphasize Kuwait's commitment to international conventions in the spirit of shared responsibility and its absolute commitment to support international and regional cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime and its protocols.

Kuwaiti delegation from the Ministries of Justice, Interior and Foreign Affairs is keen to provide the appropriate and constructive visions and exchange of successful experiences with participating delegations through these sessions and discussions held on the sidelines of the conference. Massad added that the Kuwaiti delegation sought to strengthen cooperation with countries, including UN affiliated organizations with which they have agreements, and memorandums of understanding, stressing the importance of concerted international efforts and shared responsibility in confronting crimes in all its forms and manifestations. The conference also examined strategies to combat organized crime, such as trafficking in firearms, human trafficking, and smuggling of

illegal migrants, as well as discussing how to strengthen international cooperation in relation to emerging crimes and criminal matters.

New measures

The conference had agreed on Friday on a series of measures to implement the convention's protocols on human trafficking and illegal smuggling of immigrants and arms. Such measures would boost criminal justice response, Yuri Fedotov, Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, told reporters after closing of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Some 189 member-countries approved the new measures. Fedotov added, noting that the measures would also bolster implementation of anti-arms manufacturing protocol and anti-human trafficking protocol as well. The ninth session, which kicked off on Monday, tackled a wide array of key issues related to organized crimes, including the implementation of the protocol to prevent, suppress, and punish trafficking in persons, particularly women and children. It also discussed the protocol against smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air; and the protocol against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts, components, and ammunition. — KUNA

Kuwait condemns decision to build new settlement in Hebron

NEW YORK: Kuwait strongly condemned the Israeli government's recent decision to build a new Jewish settlement in the southern city of Hebron, home to 200,000 Palestinians, the first since 2002. This came during a speech by Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi on Thursday at a meeting of the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian issue.

Otaibi said, "this decision is added to the record of unjust Israeli settlement decisions, which constitutes a clear violation of Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2334, which, among other things, affirmed that Israeli settlements constitute a flagrant violation of international law and an obstacle to peace." The resolution called on Israel to immediately halt all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and stressed that the international community would not recognize any changes within the borders of June 4, 1967, including with regard to Jerusalem, except the changes agreed upon by the parties through negotiations, he added.

Otaibi noted, "We are meeting today, a few weeks after the conclusion of the general debate of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly, which continues to resonate to this day in the light of the overwhelming support received by a large number of heads of states and governments in their speeches." He stressed the support devoted to the message, which outlined the main features of the seven-decade-long conflict with the Palestinian cause: "forcing Israel as an occupying power to stop the cycle of violations of the most basic rules of international law."

"In a commitment to support UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to ensure its continued delivery of vital services to refugees, Kuwait decided last month to make an additional contribution of USD 42 million to the Agency's budget," he added. Otaibi pointed out that despite the resounding echoes of these messages, "unfortunately it did not work because the Israeli occupation forces continued their gross and systematic violations of the rules of international humanitarian and human rights law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory." According to the Special Envoy of the Middle East peace process, the death toll reached more than 205 people, while the number of



Mansour Al-Otaibi

injured more than 20,000 people, noting that the past two weeks only witnessed the fall of 10 Palestinian martyrs, including three children and injured 882 others, Otaibi said.

Otaibi reiterated his rejection of these aggressive practices and Israel's systematic policies against the defenseless Palestinian people. "In contrast, the Security Council is unfortunately unable to carry the occupying power to implement its resolutions, giving Israel the green light to continue its practices by consecrating the occupation and thereby undermining any chance for a genuine peace that gives the Palestinian people their legitimate rights," the Ambassador added.

Otaibi affirmed, "It is time to give this issue its right in light of the continuing Israeli attacks and continuation of the inhuman blockade of the Gaza Strip." Such persistence was an inevitable consequence of the absence of any serious call or demand by the Security Council for Israel to stop these repeated attacks and to abide by its international obligations as an occupying Power under the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, Otaibi said. "We insist on our strategic choice of finding a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, the principle of land for peace, the road map and the Arab peace initiative adopted by all Arab countries at the Beirut summit in 2002," he said.

The initiative is based on Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Palestinian territories, leading the Palestinian people's to full realization of their legitimate political rights, including the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital, he added. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Buses line up on all three lanes of the Fahad Al-Salem Street heading towards the Sheraton Roundabout shortly after embarking from a main bus stop in Kuwait City. Motorists and pedestrians often complain of congestions caused by the buses' rush taking place at main streets in the state's capital and other locations around Kuwait. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

Local

Departments coordinate to reduce security, cleaning, handling laborers by 25 percent

Panel demands creating jobs for over 7,000 unemployed with 'undesired qualifications'

By A Saleh and Mehsaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Manpower constantly coordinates with various ministries and state departments in order to reduce security, cleaning and handling laborers working in government projects by 25 percent, deputy director Hassan Al-Khodor said. He added that such coordination comes in view of the Cabinet's related decisions, and stressed that various bodies expressed readiness to make the reductions as a step towards resolving Kuwait's demographic imbalances and stop hiring expats without proper studies.

Separately, the parliament's replacement and employment committee demanded that government bodies create new jobs for Kuwaitis who are holders of undesired qualifications, especially those with intermediate school certificates, as they number 7,037 out of 12,000 unemployed people, Al-Rai reported yesterday. Most recent statistics show that those with intermediate and lower certificates form the biggest group looking for jobs at the Civil Service Commission (CSC), most of whom are females, who number 5,912 out of the abovementioned 7,037. The committee called for serious government steps to reduce the number of expats. It added in a memo that some jobs should have special consideration because they suit those without certificates.

Head of the Committee MP Khalil Al-Saleh said providing job opportunities to those with intermediate certificates is among

the most important measures, because these people make up the majority of jobseekers, adding that qualifying them and finding jobs for them is a correct step that will help resolve the unemployment problem.

Meanwhile, committee member Mohammad Al-Dallal said: "There is a loss of priorities related to dealing with manpower and implementing the replacement policy by giving Kuwaitis priority in employment and even pushing them to work in the private sector." He said the numbers of foreign communities must be reviewed, especially the Egyptian and Filipino ones.

Dallal said Kuwait is not in need of so many workers, and what is needed is quality and productive labor, and there should be rules for this. He said there should be a strategy to reduce the number of expats, because it has to do with national security. He said marginal labor constitutes a burden on the country and calls for replacement are mere slogans raised and not implemented.

Cancelled projects

Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Hossam Al-Roumi said the actual cost of the five cancelled road projects is KD 527 million. Roumi added that the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) still has no organizational, administrative, financial or legal structure to serve those projects. "According to the authority's establishment law, it will not become independent until all relevant liabilities and specialties are trans-

ferred to it from concerned ministries - Ministry of Interior (MoI), Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW), Kuwait Municipality and the Ministry of Services," Roumi underlined.

Roumi explained that the projects were cancelled after detecting some violations in the procedures followed to qualify some international companies for the road tenders as per the qualification principles declared in 2010 and amended in 2012. Responding to a question about legal and financial consequences of the cancellation, Roumi stressed that article 32 of law number 49/2016 concerning public tenders state that a bidder is not considered qualified for a tender unless all tender conditions are met. He added that the law also authorizes the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) to halt the tender procedures and cancel it for the greater good.

Meanwhile, chairman of MPW employees' syndicate Anwar Al-Azmi stressed, in response to an inquiry by MP Faisal Al-Kandari, that the syndicate had received several complaints by Kuwaiti youth working for PART, in which they complained about the authority director's abuse of powers and mismanagement, which drives away Kuwaiti youth. Azmi urged Kandari to contact the syndicate to review the complaints himself, noting that some of the complaints remain unattended to although they had been filed over four months earlier. He also urged the minister of public works and lawmakers to intervene and undo the injustice



KUWAIT: This archive photo shows laborers working on a project in Kuwait. The photo was used for illustrative purposes.

faced by Kuwaiti youth working for the road authority.

Full salary

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh seconded a proposal made by MP Khalil Abdullah concerning paying an employee escorting a disabled person on a medical trip full salary, and that the Civil Service Commission (CSC) should pay a disabled person's tuition fees from the age of 3 to 19. "Such a proposal will provide the disabled with educational services and help them get equally integrated in the society,

and work and produce like their healthy peers," she underlined.

Fishermen respond

Kuwait Fishermen Union issued a statement to comment on a video showing dead fish on Abdullah Port's coast, for which the Environment Public Authority (EPA) blamed fishermen. The union criticized what it called 'pointing fingers at fishermen without any solid proof' and denied that fishermen would throw unwanted fish back in the sea. The union also stressed that shrimping is being done 12 miles off all Kuwaiti islands and shores, which totally refutes EPA 'allegations'.

Proposal to release inmates who graduate rehab institute

KUWAIT: A committee entrusted to issue a final study on the project of establishing a government training institute to rehabilitate prisoners has completed its job. Al-Jarida reported yesterday quoting sources. The panel submitted the study with regards to requirements and wanted specialties, as well as Kuwaiti inmate groups that will be accepted by the institute. The study proposed the immediate release of an inmate who receives the institute's certificate, which is the equivalent of a diploma, the sources explained.

The committee, which includes several entities including the interior and awqaf ministries, Public Authority for Manpower, the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), completed all details, said the sources, adding that most specialties will be technical and related to handicrafts, and are equal to a diploma. They said the release of the inmate who receives the new certificate is conditional to good behavior for several months, adding that inmates who will benefit from this program are those in prison for misdemeanors with short sentences. The sources said the interior ministry will add its comments on the study and propose its budget, then submit it to the council of ministers for approval. It is expected to go into effect by the middle of next year if approved.

Kuwait steps up two ranks in competitiveness index: KDIPA

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) said yesterday that the 2018 Global Competitiveness Index showed in its annual report that Kuwait has advanced in the ranking based on the scale of proximity to the best performance (0-100), where the country registered 62.1 percent, up 0.5 percent from the level in 2017.

KDIPA affirmed that the annual report of 'Global Competitiveness' is one of the most important indicators of measurement, adding that this is the 14th time in a row in which Kuwait is included

in the report. The index witnessed a significant change this year in measuring the progress of countries in enhancing productivity, which stimulates sustainable economic growth and competitiveness within 12 pillars, which fall within four axes, favorable environment, human capital, markets and innovation system, it added.

Kuwait's Ministry of Finance announced that the annual report of the World Economic Forum's (2018 Global Competitiveness Index) showed Kuwait's progress to rank 54th in the world compared to last year. Kuwait Competitiveness Index (GCI), which showed that Kuwait is the world's top economy in terms of macroeconomic stability, reflected an improvement in its ranking in 47 out of 90 indices for different sectors, the ministry said. KDIPA is carrying out a project to study the promotion of Kuwait's competitiveness in international indicators, which will result in the national agenda to enhance the competitiveness of the country. — KUNA

News in brief

Kuwait Airways to use T4 for European destinations

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Airways announced Thursday that as of today, all of its inbound and outbound flights to and from all of its European destinations, except London will take place at the new passenger building (T4). In a press statement, the national carrier added that "as we would also like to remind you that all flights to and from GCC and Arab countries continue to be at T4." It also urged all of Kuwait Airways customers to head to T4 for these destinations, noting that pickups are to occur at the T4 as well. — KUNA

Ambassador to India

NEW DELHI: Kuwaiti Ambassador to India Jassem Al-Najem handed in yesterday his credentials to President of India Ram Nath Kovind during a ceremony held in the capital New Delhi. A press release by the embassy said that Ambassador Najem conveyed to President Kovind greetings from His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Ambassador Najem indicated that His Highness the Amir hoped that the strong and historical relations with India will continue to prosper for years to come. President Kovind, meanwhile, returned His Highness the Amir's greetings and also expressed similar wishes to further develop bilateral ties, said the Kuwaiti diplomat. — KUNA

Ambassador to Cape Verde

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Ambassador to Senegal Saleh Al-Saqabi has presented his credentials to President Jorge Carlos Fonseca of Cape Verde as a Non-resident Ambassador to his country. The ceremony was held at the presidential palace in Praia in presence of the country's foreign minister, head of the presidential office of foreign affairs, and head of presidential protocol, Kuwaiti embassy in Senegal said in a statement on Friday. Ambassador Al-Saqabi conveyed His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's greetings to Fonseca, and expressed His Highness' satisfaction with the current state of the two countries' relationship. He vowed to exert all efforts toward boosting the two countries' ties on a larger scale, expressing gratitude to Cape Verde for all the facilitations it provided him to make his job easier. Meanwhile, Fonseca lauded his country's relationship with Kuwait and praised His Highness the Amir's stances. He also thanked Kuwait for its valuable contributions to his country through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, and expressed his aspiration for a further cooperation between the two countries. — KUNA

Ghana President invited

KUWAIT: The Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Ghana Mohammad Al-Failakawi delivered yesterday a letter from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to President of Ghana Nana Akufo-Addo. In a statement by the Kuwaiti embassy, Ambassador Failakawi said the letter included an official invitation for President Akufo-Addo to visit the State of Kuwait whenever possible. The Kuwaiti diplomat hoped that such future visit would continue to develop relations between Kuwait and Ghana to achieve the expectation of both friendly countries. — KUNA



KUWAIT: These pictures taken yesterday in Kabad, 50 kilometers southwest of Kuwait City, show camels being prepared prior to a race. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: An artist makes pottery at an expo in Kuwait. — Photo by Salah Taqi (KUNA)

Relief, education, development dominate Kuwait's aid activities

Kuwait reiterates commitment to assist least developed nations

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti institutions' work in providing relief for needy countries focused last week on the relief level in Yemen, Indonesia and Bangladesh, while it focused on education in Lebanon, development in Tunisia and health in Sudan.

Last week in Yemen, the Kuwait Relief Society has announced a package of relief aid to the people of Al-Mahara governorate through its local partners. This step comes in response to the appeal of the Yemeni government and the local authorities in the province following the declaration of a disaster zone due to the storms that caused heavy losses in public and private property, said the society Board Chairman Ahmad Al-Jasser. Jasser expressed hope that this aid will contribute to alleviating the suffering of the affected families and meet their needs.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Food Bank had launched a campaign to aid the victims of Indonesia's floods and earthquake, which resulted in the death of over 2,000 individuals and severe damages to infrastructure. Director General of the Kuwait Food Bank, Salem Al-Hamar said that the natural disasters, which hit the city of Palu in the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, had led to considerable losses and destruction beyond imagination, affirming that the campaign launched by the bank was aimed at easing a bit of the suffering felt by the victims. The campaign is within His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's directives to aid all those in need worldwide, said Hamar who called on the people of Kuwait to contribute to this just and humanitarian cause by providing their donations to the bank headquarter in Al-Adailiyah area.

Rohingya refugees

On the other hand, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced the distribution of food baskets to 20,000 of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh to alleviate their suffering facing the refugees, and the hard condition they are going through. The head of KRCS delegation, Shamlan Fakhro, said that the association distributed aid to the residents of Cox Bazaar which includes 631,000 Rohingya refugees in cooperation with the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent (ICIC) with the participation of international organizations and Red Crescent Societies in Qatar, Bahrain, Turkey, Iraq and a large number of volunteers from Kuwait and Bangladesh. The Kuwaiti delegation was among the first delegations to reach the refugee camps and provide relief assistance and continues to provide humanitarian aid to the largest number of people, he said. He added that the association is currently working in cooperation with the Qatar Red Crescent Society to provide 1,000 homes to serve a large number of refugees in order to alleviate the tragedy.

Last week also, the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) General Secretary Maha Al-Barjas affirmed the organization's support for educating Syrian refugees and its keenness on protecting their future. Barjas was speaking during a visit by a KRCS' delegation to a couple of schools in Hosh Al-Harima and Al-Qadriah, villages locat-



NEW YORK: Chancellor Tahani Al-Nasser delivers Kuwait's speech before the United Nations General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development. — KUNA

ed in the West Beqaa Valley in eastern Lebanon, to give support to 580 Syrian students. "Education is important and it's a basic need that a person should have to assure his (her) future specifically and protect his (her) country generally," Barjas said. Lack of education leads to corruption, endangers the next generation and allows illiteracy to spread in society; meanwhile the world is making an effort to erase illiteracy, as Barjas says. "Unfortunately, wars and armed conflicts prevent people from education and increases number of illiterate people around the world denying them one of the most important chances for (normal) living," she adds. The KRCS general secretary has called on humanitarian institutions to support this cause, affirming KRCS' continuous support for providing multiple types of aid to ease life for the refugees.

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

A delegation from the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) started a visit to Tunisia last week to discuss the financing of a project to prepare 912 km of rural roads in 22 Tunisian governorates. Kuwaiti Ambassador to Tunisia Ali Al-Dhafairi said that the Development Fund delegation would hold meetings with officials of the ministries of development, investment, international cooperation, housing and territorial development of Tunisia. The talks between the delegation of the Kuwait Fund for Development and officials in Tunisia will lead to agreement on the draft financing the project.



Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) workers distribute aid to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

Least developed countries

Kuwait has reiterated its commitment to assist the least developed countries stemming from its full belief in the Sustainable Development Plan 2030. This came in Kuwait's speech before the United Nations General Assembly which was delivered by Chancellor Tahani Al-Nasser on the New Partnership for Africa's Development. "We have been very interested in the effective partnership between the United Nations and the African continent, which has culminated in the promotion of peace, security and stability," she said in a report presented by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). She hoped that the African countries would benefit from the report of the UN Secretary-General to work actively to support development and stability in the continent. This, in turn, contributes to addressing the political, economic and development challenges facing the continent in order to achieve effective implementation of the United Nations Secretary-General's Sustainable Development Plan 2030.

As part of the Secretary-General's review of developments with the African Union, Kuwait supports all measures taken to promote sustainable development in Africa and all measures to strengthen cooperation with the African continent through the African Union, she said. She noted the importance of the agreement signed between the United Nations and the African Union last year, "as it represents a cornerstone to support development in this continent."

Nasser praised the achievements of African countries in the field of development and supported all joint efforts between the United Nations and the African Union to develop a joint strategy for the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Plan 2030 and

the African Development Plan of the African Union 2063. The plan was announced at the African summit last January, which aims to accelerate the implementation of the African Sustainable Development Plan and integrate the UN and African plans into a single plan to ensure effective implementation and contribute to an environmentally sustainable, human-centered structural transformation in Africa.

'Cairo Water Week'

The Kuwaiti Ministry of Water and Electricity's Assistant Undersecretary for Water Maintenance and Service Khalifa Al-Furaj made remarks during the 'Cairo Water Week' conference, an endeavor that raises awareness over global water scarcity. It is imperative to provide the Palestinian Water Authority with the financial aid needed to address water shortages, said a Kuwaiti official. He revealed that an ad hoc committee dealing with water issues in Arab and Islamic nations, including Saudi Arabia and Turkey, among others, would soon be formed. The committee is also tasked with drawing up plans to make sure that water-related sustainable development goals come to fruition, the Kuwaiti official explained. He went on to say that, the Palestinians have expressed their gratitude for Kuwait's support, particularly in the water sector. The Egypt-hosted conference brings together officials from more than 70 nations, along with a number of international organizations. On the health field, Kuwait Patients Helping Fund Society, Sudan's office provided about \$30,000 to support the efforts in fighting (chikungunya virus) in the city Kassala in eastern Sudan. The Fund Society official Ibrahim Mustafa told KUNA that the fund provided free health services to 15,000 people through 250 medical cadres. — KUNA

Local

NoufEXPO organizes 6th E-Government Forum - Managing Change towards Digitization

Under the Auspices of His Highness the Prime Minister; called for by CAIT

KUWAIT: Engineer Qussai Al-Shatti, the Acting General Manager of the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), announced yesterday that the '6th e-Government Forum' (EGOV6) will convene under the motto of 'Managing Change towards Digitization' from 4 - 6 December 2018 at Al-Baraka Ballroom of Crowne Plaza hotel. He said that EGOV6 would focus on managing change during the digital transformation journey.

Shatti added, "We are honored by the continuous patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah of the EGOV Forum. His Highness's support enforces CAIT's and other government agencies' sense of responsibility to exert more efforts towards their joint mission. We are pleased also that Anas Khaled Al-Saleh, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Chairman of the Board of CAIT, will represent His Highness the Prime Minister during the opening ceremony. Saleh is carrying out an invaluable role in leading CAIT's programs and supporting its mission."

Commenting on EGOV6, Shatti said, "EGOV6 motto is complementing the topics that were discussed during EGOV5 that

focused on Digital Transformation. Change Management is mainly concerned with ensuring the success of digital transformation processes that accompany the development of e-government programs. Change management faces a long list of challenges along the way. These stem from the many administra-



**On 4 - 6
December at
Crowne Plaza**

tive, financial, legal, and legislative aspects of the e-government program. As well, we have to add to these factors the availability of qualified human resources that represents a global problem. There are also other challenges triggered by the need to cope with the fast pace of changes that characterize the current information technology phenomena

and affect the IT infrastructure systems, cloud computing, software development tools, databases, smart mobile devices, and information security. To be effective, change management should cope with all these factors at all times.

Shatti announced also that CAIT will continue the tradition of announcing the results of the e-Services Excellence Award during the opening ceremony of EGOV6. CAIT launched this Award during the opening ceremony of EGOV4 to honor the government agency that develops the best electronic service for use on Kuwait's official portal (www.e.gov.kw). Shatti said, "The e-Services Excellence Award encourages government agencies to speed up development of their e-Government programs according to the criteria of usability, ease of use, information accuracy, and information security set by CAIT. Other technical and operational criteria go into the evaluation process, as well."

In conclusion, Shatti said that EGOV6 will feature a wide GCC presence, reflecting the strides that Gulf e-government initiatives achieved in developing their information-based societies. He urged all government



His Highness the Prime Minister
Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah



Qussai Al-Shatti

agencies to demonstrate their e-services and participate in the e-Services Excellence Award contest. Shatti also sent his greetings to CAIT's partners of the global, regional, and local technology companies and invited them to take part in EGOV6 and share their expertise and change management services. Interested IT vendors, specialists, and agen-

cies may confirm their participation arrangements by contacting NoufEXPO, the organizing company, or EGOV6 Scientific Committee on +965 22469921 or via email info@noufexpo.com.kw. They may also visit the EGOV6 website at www.noufexpo.com.kw/egov6 for more details.

Burgan Bank holds breast cancer awareness campaign



KUWAIT: As one of the leading contributors to community development and a pioneer in supporting healthy lifestyles, Burgan Bank recently hosted its yearly breast cancer awareness campaign dedicated to the betterment of its staff. Titled "Together against Breast Cancer," the bank organized an educational workshop aimed to stress the importance of healthier nutrition, regular exercise, and raise awareness about symptoms, causes, risk factors, treatment, types, and prevention methods.

The workshop brought to light one of the most concerning health risks plaguing the country wherein, an alarming increase of cases have been reported both locally and internationally. This year's session was led by Dr Noha Al-Saleh, Consultant of General

Surgery and Surgical Oncology at Royal Hayat hospital. Backed by 10 years of first-hand experience at the Kuwait Cancer Control Centre, Dr Saleh brings a wealth of expertise in screening tests for breast and colon cancers, diagnosis, and treatment using the most advanced methods. The renowned doctor held an interactive lecture and Q&A session on the effects of the psychological state of cancer patients, ways to deal with the stress and how to overcome the potential challenges or cancer-related diseases by maintaining a healthy diet and lifestyle.

Burgan Bank aimed to create a supportive internal environment, where staff can join hands and fight a common issue together. Burgan Bank has been a strong advocate of breast cancer prevention for several decades.

Observed every year, these efforts are driven by the belief that through awareness-raising, positive reinforcement and credible role models, employees can achieve better health, ultimately building stronger families, organizations, and communities.

Burgan Bank's support of this initiative falls under its dynamic full-fledged community program entitled 'ENGAGE' - Together to be the change. This program sheds light on important aspects affecting every segment of the society by promoting social welfare through educational, cultural and health driven initiatives. Burgan Bank's approach to 'ENGAGE' 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.

Sirb Al-Hamam, Al-Ghurfa win cinema festival's top awards

KUWAIT: Sirb Al-Hamam (Flock of Doves) won the long movie category of Kuwait Cinema Festival while Al-Ghurfa (Chamber) won the short movie category, in a ceremony held at Kuwait National Library on Friday. In the long movie category, Ateej (Old) of Director Ahmad Khalaf and Sahwa

(Awakening) by Mohammad Al-Mujaibel won second and third places respectively. Hatem .. Jassem's Friend, and Compare (Stooge) won the second and third awards for the short movie category. The judging panel honored actor Khaled Al-Buraiki for his role in Ateej, and director Abdulaziz Mandani for his two movies: Tasamoh (tolerance) and Maneyya (death).

Fatma Al-Husainan, the Festival's Technical Director, said that the competition was tough and Kuwaiti youth proved their capabilities in movie productions. Husainan, also Head of Cinema Department at Kuwait National Council for Culture, Art and Letters (NCCAL), provided details about financial awards given for the winning movies. She said the first, second and third place winners

in long movie category received KD 29,000 (\$96,100), KD 14,000 (\$46,400) and KD 11,000 (around \$36,500) respectively. Husainan said the first, second and third winners of the short movie category would receive KD 6,000 (around \$20,000), KD 4,000 (\$13,250) and KD 2,500 (\$8,280) respectively.

Dr Essa Al-Ansari, NCCAL Assistant Secretary General for Culture, said that this year's Cinema Festival featured judges from different Arab countries. He added that KUNA the festival aimed at encouraging movie industry, hoping future festivals would witness further diversity. The festival, which began on October 15, featured a total of 19 movies as well as lectures and workshops. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Winners chosen during the second Kuwait Cinema Festival pose for a group photo with the event's organizers. — KUNA

Ooredoo partners with Souq Murouj for third consecutive year

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait is proudly partnering with Souq Murouj for the third consecutive year to bring to you Murouj Market, a monthly weekend market for local entrepreneurs and businesses. The market, which is held at Murouj Complex, includes an Ooredoo dedicated booth, local farm produce, artisanal food products and crafts, with a 'street food' section aimed at highlighting the culinary diversity of Kuwait's local food community. The market also offers a section dedicated for children's activities. It will be held once a month on weekends, from October 2018 until March 2019. The first market will take place on Friday 26th October from 4 pm to 10 pm.

Commenting on this sponsorship, Ooredoo Kuwait Senior Director of Corporate Communications Mijbil Alayoub said: "We are happy to be supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs through this engaging project. This sponsorship comes in



Mijbil Alayoub

tandem with our social responsibility strategy, which in turn is based on our core values of caring, connecting and challenging. We look forward to meeting those young enthusiastic small business owners as well as our valued customers at the market."



Kuwait, UNEP sign MoU part of global Clean Seas campaign

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Environmental Voluntary Foundation (EVF) and the UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) West Asia regional bureau signed yesterday a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) within the campaign for Clean Seas, which is a global initiative aimed at decreasing plastic pollutants in the oceans.

Head of the UNEP's bureau Sami Dimassi said that pollution at sea was a global problem that required a solution to deal with over eight million tons of waste mostly consisting of plastic pollutants. Dimassi commended Kuwait's EVF and other national bodies for their consistent effort to combat plastic waste at sea and on land, affirming that such efforts were contributing to the global fight against such environmental endemic.

Meanwhile, head of the diving team at the EVF Waleed Al-Fadhel said that the MoU signing was part of his team's long battle to rid Kuwait's environment from plastic pollutants. Collaborating with international entities such as the UNEP and other bodies will provide Kuwait with the necessary assistance to keep its environment from pollution and



KUWAIT: Head of the UNEP's bureau Sami Dimassi (left) and Head of the diving team at the EVF Waleed Al-Fadhel shake hands after signing the agreement. — KUNA

other ecological threats, said Fadhel, stressing that the diving team worked methodologically to address problems facing the ecosystem. The UNEP's campaign was launched at 2017's fourth World Ocean Summit held in Bali, Indonesia. — KUNA



Islamic State frees 6 Druze women, kids

Taiwan independence campaigners took to the streets

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WASHINGTON: In this file photo, women dressed as characters from the novel-turned-TV series 'The Handmaid's Tale' stand in an elevator at the Hart Senate Office Building as Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh starts the first day of his confirmation hearing in front of the US Senate on Capitol Hill. From US to Argentina, the red habit and white bonnet synonymous with 'The Handmaid's Tale' have become a powerful symbol of the #MeToo movement. — AFP

NY witches aim hex at Kavanaugh

Disgruntled Americans turning to the supernatural

NEW YORK: Melissa Madara was not surprised to receive death threats on Friday as her Brooklyn witchcraft store prepared to host a public hexing of newly confirmed US Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh this weekend. The planned casting of an anti-Kavanaugh spell, one of the more striking instances of politically disgruntled Americans turning to the supernatural when frustrated by democracy, has drawn backlash from some Christian groups but support from like-minded witch covens.

"It gives the people who are seeking agency a little bit of chance to have that back," Madara said. The ritual was scheduled to be livestreamed on Facebook and Instagram at 1200 GMT today. Seated at a desk phone among bird skulls and crystal balls at Catland Books, the occult shop she co-owns, Madara said the Kavanaugh hex is expected to be the most popular event the store has hosted since its 2013 opening, including spells aimed

at President Donald Trump. Madara declined to provide details of what the latest ritual will entail.

More than 15,000 people who have seen Catland Books promotions on Facebook have expressed interest in attending the event, vastly exceeding the shop's 60-person capacity. Not everyone is a witchcraft fan. Madara said she had fielded numerous irate calls from critics, with at least one threatening violence. "Every time we host something like this there's always people who like to call in with death threats or read us scripture," she said.

As far as supporters go, some are sexual assault sur-

vivors still angry that the US Senate confirmed Kavanaugh's lifetime appointment to the nation's highest court despite accusations

that he had sexually assaulted multiple women. Kavanaugh has denied the allegations, and an FBI investigation failed to corroborate his accusers' accounts. Democrats hope lingering outrage over Kavanaugh, particularly among women, will translate into election gains for them on Nov 6.

Republicans are likewise trying to seize on anger among conservatives at how they perceive Kavanaugh was mistreated. Believers in mysticism on both sides of the political divide are taking matters into their own hands.



Supreme Court Justice denies sex allegations

Plans for the Catland Books event have sparked "counter hexes" around the country by those seeking to undo the spell that the Brooklyn witches cast against Kavanaugh, Madara said. Even mainstream clergy was joining the fray. Rev Gary Thomas of the Diocese of San Jose in California said on Friday that he would include Kavanaugh in his prayers at mass.

"I think this is much more serious than people give it credit for," Thomas said. "Conjuring a hex can be very dangerous." Politically oriented witchcraft has seen a renewed surge in popularity since Trump took office. Magician Michael Hughes drew crowds of supporters and more than 12,000 "likes" to his Facebook page when he held a "mass spell" to curse Trump in February 2017. "We are embracing witchcraft's true roots as the magik of the poor, the downtrodden and disenfranchised," Catland Books said in Facebook post for its event. — Reuters

Thousands take to streets demanding second Brexit vote

LONDON: Tens of thousands of supporters of the European Union began marching through London yesterday as part of what organizers say will be the largest ever demonstration to demand that the British government holds a public vote on the terms of Brexit. The protesters waved the blue and gold flag of the EU and held up "Bollocks to Brexit" banners under sunny skies to call for another referendum on the eventual deal on how Britain will leave the world's biggest trading bloc. The march comes as pressure builds on Prime Minister Theresa May over her negotiating strategy with just over five months until Britain is due to leave. There is, so far, no divorce deal and some rebels in May's Conservative Party have threatened to vote down a deal if she clinches one.

James McGrory, one of the organizers of the march, said the public should have the chance to change their minds because the decision will impact their lives for generations. "People think the Brexit negotiations are a total mess, they have no faith in the government to deliver the promises that were made, partly because they cannot be delivered," he said. At the march, demonstrators carried placards saying "Brexit is pants" and "time for an EU turn." Members of parliament from all the main political parties are set to join the demonstration. Organisers estimate that more than



LONDON: Demonstrators pass Trafalgar Square as they take part in a march calling for a People's Vote on the final Brexit deal, in central London yesterday. — AFP

100,000 people will take part. Crowds will gather near Hyde Park and pass Downing Street and finish outside of parliament. The 2016 referendum saw 52 percent vote in favor of leaving the European Union. But the past two years have been politically fraught as the government has struggled to agree on a plan and there are fears that Britain leave the bloc without a deal. Some opinion polls have shown a slight shift in favor of remaining in the European Union, but there has yet to be a decisive change in attitudes and many in Britain say they have become increasingly bored by Brexit. The prime minister has repeatedly ruled

out holding a second referendum. The opposition Labour party said last month they open to a second referendum with the option of staying in the bloc in certain circumstances. Brexit supporters say a second referendum would trigger a major constitutional crisis. "We had a vote, we voted to leave, the idea to have a second referendum would be incredibly damaging," said Richard Tice, Vice-Chairman of Leave Means Leave, which wants a clean break with the EU. "People need to be under no illusions as to how people feel about what is a significant potential for a total betrayal of democracy in this country." — Reuters

Tradition, mobs, keep women out of Indian temple

SABARIMALA TEMPLE: At the Indian temple that is the focus of a battle over gender equality, Hindu hardliners are in festive mood, successful - so far - in their bid to keep women out. A Supreme Court decision to end a ban on women of "menstruating age" - those between 10 and 50 years - at the Sabarimala Temple in Kerala has sparked violent demonstrations on the roads leading to the site.

Traditionalists have threatened women trying to get to the complex and have clashed with police officers sent to enforce the court's ruling. But up at the hilltop temple, conservative Hindus are in celebratory mood. "You talk to anyone - men or women - who know about this temple's history and (they) believe in it," said pilgrim Rajesh P., one of thousands queuing up to ascend the golden stairs at the shrine.

"I am happy my daughter is experiencing this", he said, carrying the customary "irrumudi" offering made of coconut and clarified butter in a cloth

bag on top of his head. If traditionalists have their way, his daughter will be banned from the temple in a couple of years, when she turns 10, unlike at most other Hindu sites. This reflects an old but still prevalent conviction - not exclusive to Hinduism - that menstruating women are impure, and the belief that the deity Ayyappa, to which the temple is dedicated, was celibate.

In rural and semi-urban pockets of 1.25-billion-strong Hindu majority India, some women are still made to sleep and eat separately when they have their periods. The ban at Sabarimala - one of the holiest sites in Hinduism - goes back centuries according to traditionalists, but was only formalized in 1991 by the Kerala High Court. However, last month India's Supreme Court, following on from other recent liberal rulings like legalizing gay sex, overturned the ban, calling it discriminatory. "To treat women as children of a lesser god is to blink at the constitution itself," said Justice DY Chandrachud. The move enraged hardliners, many of them supporters of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling BJP Hindu nationalist party - and this week their anger was on display. On Wednesday, when the temple was due to open for monthly prayers for the first time since the ruling, groups of mostly men stopped and inspected vehicles to make sure no women of childbearing age were inside. — AFP

International

Islamic State frees six Syrian Druze women and children

Government agrees to pay a ransom of \$27 million

BEIRUT: The Islamic State group has released two women and four children among 27 surviving Druze hostages it seized during a deadly July attack on the minority community's heartland in southern Syria. State television broadcast footage of the six arriving in the city of Sweida yesterday, joyful at being reunited with their families but haggard after their three-month ordeal. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitoring group, said their release was the first part of a deal that would see at least 60 IS prisoners released in exchange and a \$27 million ransom paid.

The jihadists abducted around 30 people—mostly women and children—from Sweida province in late July during the deadliest attack on Syria's Druze community of the seven-year civil war. As negotiations for their release dragged on, families led a series of protests outside government offices in Sweida to demand more be done. "I cannot describe my joy," Rasmia Abu Amar told state television after being reunited with her husband. "But it is incomplete—my son has not yet been released," she said, her hair covered by a white headscarf.

A second woman appeared with her four children, their clothes still dirty from their long captivity and her sons with their heads shaved. Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman told AFP that the six were freed on Friday night and that further hostage releases were expected "in the next few days or hours". He said that in return for the release of all of the hostages, the Syrian government had agreed to free 60 Islamic State group prisoners and pay a ransom of \$27 million. "Nine IS women prisoners held by the regime have already been handed over to the group along with seven children," Abdel Rahman said.

During the coordinated assaults on July 25, IS carried out suicide bombings, shootings and stabbings that left more than 250 people dead, most of them civilians. Sweida province is the heartland of the country's Druze minority, which made up around three percent of Syria's pre-war popula-

tion—or around 700,000 people. Followers of a secretive offshoot of Islam, the Druze are considered heretics by the Sunni extremists of IS. The jihadists executed a 19-year-old male student among the hostages in August and then a 25-year-old woman in early October. IS said a 65-year-old woman being held by the group also died from illness.

Stiff price

Negotiations between regime ally Russia and the jihadists for the release of the hostages had stalled. But the latest round of talks appeared to have paid off—albeit with a stiff price.

60 Islamic State group prisoners to be released

The Observatory said IS had also demanded the halting of an offensive against them in Sweida. Government forces have battled its fighters in the volcanic plateau of Tulul al-Safa in the east of the province since the July attack.

Abdel Rahman said the Syrian Democratic Forces, a Kurdish-led alliance that controls swathes of the north and northeast with the support of a US-led coalition, "should also release some IS detainees" but he did not specify the number. There was no immediate comment from the SDF, which has been taking heavy casualties fighting IS in its last pocket of control in eastern Syria, around the Euphrates valley town of Hajin.

On September 10, the group launched a major assault on the pocket where they estimate some 3,000 jihadists are holed up. Hundreds of jihadists have been killed, but at the cost of scores of SDF fighters. Coalition air strikes on IS targets around the Hajin pocket killed at least 41 civilians, 10 of them children, on Thursday and Friday, the Observatory said. Syria's grinding civil war has claimed more than 360,000 lives since it erupted with the bloody repression of anti-government protests in 2011. A caliphate which the jihadists proclaimed across large swathes of Syria and neighboring Iraq in 2014 has crumbled in the face of multiple offensives against them but they remain a potent force. — AFP



SWEIDA: A handout picture shows a woman and four children among the six released of 27 Druze hostages held by the Islamic State (IS) group in a prisoner swap and ransom, upon their arrival at a government-controlled building in Syria's southern city of Sweida. — AFP

SE Asia boosts fight against 'real and present' threats

SINGAPORE: Southeast Asian nations seeking to combat the threat of militancy have agreed to share intelligence, Singapore's defense minister said yesterday, as he warned of a "real and present" danger to the region. More than a year after Islamic State-linked fighters seized the southern Philippine city of Marawi, the terrorist threat is as potent as ever, said Ng Eng Hen after hosting a meeting of defense ministers.

"Unfortunately even as the situation in Iraq and Syria improves,

we are expecting more foreign fighters to come this way," he added. Ng said all 18 ministers at the gathering in Singapore, from Southeast Asia and key partners outside the region, viewed "terrorism as a real and present threat". The Southeast Asian delegates adopted an information-sharing platform called "Our Eyes" that will be used to share real-time intelligence that can immediately be acted upon, the minister added.

This came after the countries realized that they had underestimated the threat before the attack on Marawi, where the rebuilding effort could cost around \$1 billion, he said. Proposed by Indonesia, the platform is based on an intelligence-sharing alliance set up by the United States, Britain and three other countries after World War II to monitor the former Soviet Union. The weekend security meeting was attended by the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as well as US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and their counterparts from countries including China, Australia, India and Russia. — AFP

Saudi Arabia Crown Prince ousted aides

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia yesterday sacked two top aides to Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman after conceding that critic Jamal Khashoggi was killed inside its Istanbul consulate. Deputy intelligence chief Ahmad Al-Assiri and royal court media advisor Saud Al-Qahtani were both part of Prince Mohammed's inner circle. Their ouster came alongside the arrests of 18 Saudi suspects and the dismissal of other intelligence officials. Here are the profiles of the top aides:

Ahmad Al-Assiri

Assiri, said to be in his 60s, was a high-ranking advisor close to the royal court and often sat in during Prince Mohammed's closed-door meetings with visiting foreign dignitaries. Prior to his promotion as the deputy head of general intelligence in 2017, Assiri served as the spokesman for the Saudi-led military alliance in Yemen which has been battling Houthi rebels since March 2015. Fluent in French, English and Arabic, the hard-charging official had developed a reputation for hassling journalists whose reports were not to his liking.

The Saudi daily Al-Hayat once described the major general, who trained at the renowned French military school Saint-Cyr, as the "best known Saudi pilot in the world". Last year Britain apologized after an anti-war activist attempted to make a citizen's arrest of Assiri, over Saudi Arabia's role in the Yemen conflict, and threw an egg at him during a London visit. Before his sacking yesterday, the New York Times reported earlier this week that Saudi Arabia would assign blame for Khashoggi's disappearance on Assiri to help deflect blame from the powerful crown prince.

Saud Al-Qahtani

A key counselor to Prince Mohammed, Qahtani was a media advisor in the royal court. He organized interviews with the prince for foreign journalists and also served as the head of the "Centre for Studies and Media Affairs", a unit operating inside the royal court. Saudi sources say Qahtani, said to be 40-years-old, steered online propaganda campaigns against the kingdom's adversaries such as Qatar and Iran on social media.

With 1.3 million Twitter followers, the firebrand official was known for aggressively targeting dissenters and rivals on the platform. Writing for the Washington Post earlier this year, Khashoggi alleged Qahtani maintained a "blacklist" for writers critical of the kingdom and was known to intimidate them. In an off-record interview to Newsweek magazine prior to his death—which was published yesterday—Khashoggi described Qahtani and another Saudi top official Turki al-Sheikh as "tuggish".

"People fear them. You challenge them, you might end up in prison, and that has happened," he was quoted as saying. He called Qahtani the "most important man in media", saying he controlled the government's PR activities. A known loyalist to Saudi rulers, he tweeted last year: "I don't do anything from my own head without an order. I am an employee and executor to my king and my crown prince." — AFP

Jamal Khashoggi: From Saudi royal insider to a critic

DUBAI: A complex man of contradictions, journalist Jamal Khashoggi went from being a Saudi royal family insider to an outspoken critic of the ultra-conservative kingdom's government, and was ultimately killed inside its consulate in Istanbul. In his final column for The Washington Post, Khashoggi perhaps presciently pleaded for greater freedom of expression in the Middle East. "The Arab world is facing its own version of an Iron Curtain, imposed not by external actors but through domestic forces vying for power," he wrote. "The Arab world needs a modern version of the old transnational media so citizens can be informed about global events. More important, we need to provide a platform for Arab voices." Khashoggi wrote. Now his voice has been permanently silenced.

The Saudi journalist - who disappeared after entering his country's consulate in Istanbul on October 2 to obtain marriage papers - went into self-imposed exile in the United States in 2017 after falling out with Saudi's powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. His disappearance has been shrouded in mystery, and triggered an international crisis for both Riyadh and Washington as Turkish officials accused Saudi Arabia of a state-sponsored killing. Riyadh, after insisting that Khashoggi left its consulate alive, finally said over two weeks after his disappearance that he died in a fight that arose from a dispute with people he met there.

Bin Laden to Muslim brotherhood

Khashoggi came from a prominent Saudi family with Turkish origins. His grandfather, Mohammed Khashoggi, was the personal doctor of Saudi Arabia's founder, King Abdul Aziz al-Saud. His uncle was the notorious arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi. A friend of a young Osama bin Laden, a Muslim Brotherhood sympathiser, an aide to the Saudi royal family, a critic of the kingdom's regime and a liberal — such conflicting descriptions were all ascribed to Khashoggi.

After graduating from Indiana State University in 1982, he began working for Saudi dailies, including the Saudi Gazette and Al-Sharq al-Awsat. When he was sent to cover the conflict in Afghanistan, a picture of a young Khashoggi holding an assault rifle and dressed in Afghan clothing was widely disseminated. Khashoggi did not fight in the country, but sympathized with the mujahideen in the 1980s war against the Soviet occupation, which was funded by the Saudis and the CIA.

He was known to have been drawn to the Muslim Brotherhood's policies seeking to erase the remnants of Western colonialism from the Arab world. It was this shared vision that brought him closer to a young Osama bin Laden, who went on to found Al-Qaeda, which carried out the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. As a young journalist, Khashoggi interviewed bin Laden several times, garnering international attention. But later in the 1990s, he distanced himself from the man who called for violence against the West. Born in the Saudi holy city of Madinah on October 13, 1958, Khashoggi spent his youth studying Islamic ideology and embraced liberal ideas.

But Saudi authorities came to see Khashoggi as too progressive and he was forced to resign as editor-in-chief of the Saudi daily Al-Watan in 2003 after serving just 54 days. Over the years, he maintained ambiguous ties with Saudi authorities, having held advisory positions in Riyadh and Washington, including to Prince Turki al-Faisal, who ran Saudi Arabia's intelligence agency for more than 20 years. — AFP

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International

Black 'lynching' advert illustrates race overtones, anger in campaign

Ad suggests 'white Democrats might start lynching blacks'

NEW YORK: Many political ads in this year's US elections pack an unusually harsh and personal punch - some with racial overtones. In Arkansas, a radio ad this week suggests white Democrats might start lynching black men. In New York, a congressman's supporters drew attention to his black rival's history as a rapper. In California, Ohio and Virginia, candidates and their supporters cast their opponents as terrorists. In Pennsylvania, a Republican state senator threatened to "stomp all over" his Democratic rival's face with golf spikes. And in Arizona, a lawmaker's six siblings urged voters not to re-elect their Republican brother.

While angry advertisements are a longstanding feature of US politics, many ads this year made little effort to disguise their candidates' rage, a vivid illustration of what many experts see as a coarsening of public dialogue since President Donald Trump shook up American politics. Heavy spending for a non-presidential election cycle and the speed with which ads are spreading online is magnifying the effect. Political spending on television spots is up 19 percent from 2014, the last US congressional midterm election cycle, to \$2.9 billion - levels closer to spending for a presidential election, according to MAGNA, an arm of advertising agency IPG Mediabrands.

"As the amount of money in campaigns increases I think the volume of negative ads is increasing," said Nathan Gonzales of Inside Elections, a nonpartisan campaign analysis group. A radio ad that aired this week in Arkansas in support of Republican US Representative French Hill featured women with exaggerated and stereotyped African-American accents saying black voters should support Hill and Republicans because Democrats will lynch black men when "a white girl screams rape." Hill's campaign did not run the ad and condemned it as "outrageous." Hill and his Democratic opponent, Clarke Tucker, are both white.



Adverts pack an unusually harsh, personal punch

Tied to Kavanaugh hearing
The ad cites the accusation that Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted a 15-year-old girl when he was a 17-year-old high school student. Kavanaugh denied the accusation, which dominated the final days of his Senate confirmation and which prompted Republicans to say Democrats had abandoned the idea of presumption of innocence. In the ad, a woman says "white Democrats will be lynching black folk again." "We have to protect our men and boys," the woman says. "We can't afford to let white Democrats take us back to bad old days of race verdicts, life sentences and lynchings when a white girl screams rape."

Bruce Bartlett, a senior policy adviser in the Republican administrations of Ronald Reagan and George HW Bush, called it "the most racist ad by a Republican I have ever come across." Vernon Robinson of Black Americans for the President's Agenda, a political action committee, produced the ads. He defended them in a Friday telephone interview and said they will run through the elections. "I could not believe

the lunatic fringe of the Democratic Party was pushing the presumption of guilt on the accused," Robinson told Reuters, referring to the Kavanaugh hearings, which did not have a racial aspect. "This is a serious threat to black men and the women who love them."

Malik Russell, a spokesman for the NAACP civil rights group, called the ad "one of the worst examples of racist ignorance and historic misappropriation." He blamed Trump for setting the tone. "The racism, hateful and disrespectful rhetoric targeting immigrants, women and communities of color coming from the White House has served as a powerful enabler to those around the nation who support white supremacy," Russell said. The shift in tone comes as Democrats are fighting for majorities in the US House of Representatives and Senate, which would give



WEST VIRGINIA: Democrat candidate for West Virginia's 3rd District Richard Ojeda marches in the homecoming parade for Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. Richard Ojeda is not a typical Democratic congressional candidate, the heavily tattooed Army veteran stomps around southwestern West Virginia in tight Grunt Style t-shirts, tactical pants and combat boots. —AFP

them more power to oppose the Republican president's agenda.

Opinion polls generally show Democrats with a strong chance of gaining the 23 House seats they need to take a majority, with a harder battle to pick up the two seats they would need for a Senate majority in the Nov 6 elections. That partly explains the preponderance of negative television ads in the Senate races - with half the ads running from Sept. 4 through Oct. 1 taking a negative tone, according to an analysis by the Wesleyan Media Project, which tracks political advertising. More than the 40.8 percent of House ads and 43.2 percent of governors' ads took a negative tone, according to the study.

Negative Republican ADS

It found that more than a third of Republican TV ads for Senate and House races were negative, which it defined as ads that solely focus on a candidate's rival. That is sharply higher than the 18.3 percent of Democratic Senate ads and 14.1 percent of Democratic House ads that were negative in tone. It also represented a switch from 2014, when ads by Democrats were substantially more negative than those by Republicans. Other 2018 election ads came in for criticism for threatening violence or perceived xenophobia. Scott Wagner, a Republican challenging Democratic incumbent Tom Wolf for governor of Pennsylvania, threatened his rival with the "golf spikes" ad. Polls show Wolf has a wide lead. —Reuters

News in brief

88,000 Syria rebels killed

MOSCOW: Russia's defense minister said yesterday that almost 88,000 rebels had been killed in Syria in the three years since Moscow's intervention to back government forces. "Over the course of the operation, a total of more than 87,500 rebels have been eliminated, 1,411 settlements have been liberated and more than 95 percent of Syria's territory," Shoigu was quoted as saying at a forum in Singapore in a ministry statement. "Most of the rebels have been liquidated," Shoigu said. Britain-based war monitor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says close to 365,000 people have been killed during the seven-year civil war. Russia launched strikes in support of President Bashar al-Assad's regime in September 2015. Russian air forces have carried out more than 40,000 bombing missions, hitting about 120,000 targets of "terrorist" infrastructure, Shoigu said. —AFP

27 killed in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG: At least 27 people were killed Friday in a road crash in South Africa's northern Limpopo province after a truck swerved into oncoming traffic when its tyre burst, a local minister said. The accident involving multiple vehicles killed 25 travelling in a mini-bus taxi and two more in a sports utility vehicle. "Overall we lost 27 people with four others sustaining serious bodily injuries," said the provincial transport minister Makoma Makhurupetje. "What happened today is nothing short of a disaster," she said in a statement. Earlier she told AFP the truck had burst one of its front tyres. "Unfortunately it crossed over into oncoming traffic with another four vehicles and one of the vehicles was a taxi (minibus)," Makhurupetje said. —AFP

2 killed by explosion

SAINT PETERSBURG: Two people died and several more were injured on Friday in an explosion at a fireworks factory outside Russia's second largest city of Saint Petersburg, regional authorities said. "The explosion took place at the Avangard factory in Gatchina," a town 25 kilometers south of Saint Petersburg, the regional authorities' health committee said. "Two people died and several people were injured according to preliminary information." Conflicting sources put the number of injured as between three and six people, including a 13-year-old girl who was hospitalized after breathing in fumes from the fire that broke out after the explosion. The regional Investigative Committee launched a criminal probe into breaches of safety rules at the factory. —AFP

Congo reporters 'abducted'

KINSHASA: Five journalists at a newspaper in the Democratic Republic of Congo were "abducted" yesterday, their managing editor said, after the publication of articles on the misappropriation of rations for police cadets. The detentions followed a series of prosecutions of journalists in the troubled nation, which is just two months away from tense elections to replace President Joseph Kabila. "The police proceeded early this morning to abduct five journalists from AfricaNews, Octave Mukendi, Bruce Landu, Roddy Bosakwa, Dan Luyila and Laurent Omba were taken to an unknown destination," AfricaNews managing editor Achille Kadima said in a statement. —AFP

GOP bastions under threat from 'blue wave'

HUNTINGTON BEACH: As the door slammed in his face, Josef Siroky understood that campaigning for a Democrat in the conservative California city of Huntington Beach was not going to be easy. But he kept knocking on doors, handing out pamphlets-and selling the idea of political change. Siroky is one of hundreds of volunteers canvassing the Golden State's conservative bastions like Huntington Beach, which Democrats are hoping to conquer in the November 6 midterm elections en route to winning control of the House of Representatives-and possibly, Congress.

On a sunny Sunday in October, Siroky and the other volunteers are going door-to-door for Harley Rouda, a former Republican who is now running for office as a moderate Democrat in a tight race with a veteran Republican. "It's great to see the blue wave right now," Rouda shouted, earning applause from the squadron of volunteers. California is often at the forefront of the leftist resistance to President Donald Trump. But Orange County, south of Los Angeles and home to three million people, has for decades been solid red Republican.

Hillary Clinton's 2016 victory over Trump in the mainly white, rich county by 100,000 votes motivated Democrats, offering them hope that they can turn the tables this year in the 14 House seats (out of 53) held by

Republicans statewide. Democrats are running viable races in seven of those districts, including the 48th, home to Huntington Beach and represented for 30 years by Dana Rohrabacher, whose ties with Russia have become an issue in the campaign.

Rohrabacher also has come under fire for seemingly defending the idea of arming schoolchildren when he was duped by actor Sasha Baron Cohen for his Showtime comedy "Who Is America?" "We've seen so many Republicans, moderate Republicans here in the district... who are disappointed with the extremist views of their current representative," Rouda said. "They want somebody who is more moderate." The 56-year-old Rouda, a real estate executive, says he thinks voters have grown weary of party politics as usual.

"I think people across America as well as here are getting tired about the question of whether it's a 'D' or an 'R' next to your name. It's about your character and about your values," he said. This is the main thrust of Rouda's campaign - de-emphasizing the party label. His volunteers are highlighting the fact that he was a Republican until 1997, that he is a businessman, and that he does not lean too far left. Basically, they tell voters he's not blue or red - but purple. "We don't want to lie, but we need to know our audience," said one campaign staffer who asked not to be named.

At full capacity

Siroky, a 22-year-old college graduate with a degree in political science, worked on one street in Huntington Beach with five other volunteers - all men, all his age. Here, the houses are huge and well maintained, and the lawns are pristine. The young Democrats have hard work on their hands. "It's like playing the lottery," says Siroky,

Marta Ornelas Cazares, who was nursing her baby - but had lost her other two children, aged 10 and 15, in the turmoil.

"I don't know what happened, I thought we were going to cross peacefully and then suddenly there were rocks flying and tear gas," she said. "We haven't eaten, the soldiers just sent us some water," Marina Alvarado, 48, said. "We are imprisoned here, like animals. Please, open the door," she pleaded. Mexican authorities insisted the undocumented migrants would have to file asylum claims one at a time in order to enter the country. They began letting them through in a trickle - first women and children, who were ushered onto trucks and taken to shelters.

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto described the situation as "unprecedented." "Violent entry into the country not only threatens our sovereignty, but also puts the migrants themselves at risk," Pena Nieto said in a video published on his social media profiles. He added Mexico remains willing to support migrants who enter the country and respect its laws. The migrants are generally fleeing poverty and insecurity in Honduras, where powerful street gangs rule their turf with brutal violence. With a homicide rate of 43 per 100,000 citizens, Honduras is one of the most violent countries in the world.



CALIFORNIA: California's Republican gubernatorial candidate John Cox tours Skid Row with Dean Joseph of the Los Angeles Police Department in Los Angeles, where he talked about the state's housing crisis. —AFP

whose father is of Czech descent and whose mother hails from Mexico.

After walking for five blocks, the team is not having much luck, with only two residents reached. At one home, a 74-year-old woman who is a registered Republican is the one who slammed the door on Siroky. At another, a much younger Asian woman who was not listed as having a party affiliation opened the door in her pajamas and listened to Siroky's spiel. "Definitely you're trying to convince people, but I think that I can show Republicans that Democrats have good ideas too," he said. All 435 seats in the House of Representatives are up for grabs in the election, along with a third of Senate

seats and governorships in 36 states.

In Orange County, Democrats are "energized, organized, and firing on all cylinders," Rachel Potucek, the party's local spokeswoman said. "Campaign events feel electric and unified. We feel like we're making history." Former president Barack Obama even stopped by last month for a campaign rally in Anaheim for Rouda and other candidates. "If these candidates win, I'm absolutely confident Washington will start working better," said Obama, who has ramped up his political activity in the run-up to the midterms. The Republican Party's office in Orange County did not respond to repeated requests for comment. —AFP



CIUDAD TECUN UMAN: Honduran migrants taking part in a caravan heading to the US, sleep in the main square of Ciudad Tecun Uman, Guatemala, in the border with Mexico yesterday. —AFP

Chaotic scenes

"We're staying here until they open this fence," said Adonai Sanchez, 36, who was traveling with his three nephews, aged two, three and 14. Others returned to the Guatemalan side late Friday, where shelters have been providing them food and water. The scene remained tense at the final border barrier, a tall fence of white metal bars.

Chanting "Yes we can!" and "Mexico! Mexico!" migrants earlier climbed or tore down a series of barriers, flooding across the bridge. The migrants could be seen passing babies overhead through the crowd, as women holding crying children by the hand or pressing their infants to their chests streamed past the broken metal barriers and onto the bridge. —AFP

International

Dozens of casualties as blasts rock chaotic Afghan elections

3 killed; 30 wounded in multiple explosions

KABUL: Dozens of Afghans were killed or wounded in poll-related violence yesterday as the legislative election turned chaotic with hundreds of polling centers failing to open and voters queuing for hours due to technical glitches and lack of staff. Election organizers, who have been skewered over their shambolic preparations for the long-delayed ballot, extended voting until today for 360 polling centers after hiccups with voter registration lists and biometric verification devices caused lengthy delays.

At least three people were killed and more than 30 wounded in multiple explosions across Kabul, acting health ministry spokesman Mohibullah Zeer said, after the Taliban warned voters to boycott the ballot "to protect their lives". The Italian NGO Emergency said 37 people had been taken to its trauma hospital in Kabul, including a dead child. An Independent Election Commission (IEC) employee was killed and seven others were missing after the Taliban attacked a polling centre in the northern province of Kunduz, destroying ballot boxes, provincial IEC director Mohammad Rasoul Omar said.

Three rockets also struck the Kunduz provincial capital, but there were no casualties. The Taliban claimed it carried out 166 attacks on voting locations, checkpoints and military sites yesterday morning. Despite the threat of violence, large numbers of voters showed up at polling centers in major cities where they waited hours for them to open. Most polling sites opened late after teachers employed to handle the voting process failed to show up on time, said the IEC, which promised to extend voting by four hours. University student Mohammad Alem said he felt "frustrated" after spending more than three hours trying to vote in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, only to discover his name was not on the registration list. "There also were some problems with the biometric devices because they were already running out of charge," he said. After waiting four hours at a polling cen-

tre, Tabish Forugh tweeted he had not seen "even remotely similar... chaos" at previous elections.

Rockets and bombs

Almost nine million people registered to vote in the parliamentary election, which is more than three years late. But attacks across the country yesterday are likely to deter many from turning up at the nearly 5,000 polling centers. Hundreds of people were killed or wounded in the months leading up to the poll. The killing of a powerful police chief in the southern province of Kandahar on Thursday further eroded confidence in the ability of security forces to protect voters. Voting in Kandahar has been delayed by a week following the attack. As well as Kunduz, there was a rocket attack near a polling station in the western province of Herat that a police spokesman said wounded a child and numerous explosions elsewhere.

Despite the risks, President Ashraf Ghani urged "every Afghan, young and old, women and men" to exercise their right to vote, after casting his ballot in Kabul. Photos posted on social media showed scores of men and women clutching their identification documents lining up outside voting centres across the country amid a heavy security presence. A woman dressed in a burqa leaving a polling centre in Mazar-i-Sharif told AFP she had been worried about "security incidents", but decided to vote anyway. "We have to defy the violence," Hafiza, 57, said. "In previous years we were not happy with the elections, our votes were sold out."

Taliban threats

The Taliban issued several warnings in the days leading up to the poll, calling on candidates to withdraw from the race and for voters to stay home. At least 10 candidates out of more than 2,500 contesting the lower-house election have been killed.



KHOST: An Afghan policeman searches voters before casting their votes at a polling centre for the country's legislative election in Khost Province yesterday. —AFP

Most of those standing are political novices, and include doctors, mullahs and journalists. Those with the deepest pockets are expected to win. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, which has spearheaded international efforts to keep Afghan organizers on track, on Friday called on voters to "exercise their constitutional right to vote".

The poll is seen as a crucial test for next year's presidential

election and an important milestone ahead of a UN meeting in Geneva in November where Afghanistan is under pressure to show progress on "democratic processes". Preliminary results will be released on November 10 but there are concerns they could be thrown into turmoil if the biometric verification devices are broken, lost or destroyed. Votes cast without the controversial machines will not be counted, the IEC has said.—AFP



Large numbers of voters show up amid threat

across the country amid a heavy security presence. A woman dressed in a burqa leaving a polling centre in Mazar-i-Sharif told AFP she had been worried about "security incidents", but decided to vote anyway. "We have to defy the violence," Hafiza, 57, said. "In previous years we were not happy with the elections, our votes were sold out."

US university to pay \$215 million over sex abuse

LOS ANGELES: The University of Southern California said Friday it had reached an "agreement in principle" to pay \$215 million in compensation over alleged sexual abuse by a campus gynecologist. Dr George Tyndall has denied allegations made by hundreds of women that ranged from rape to inappropriate touching during medical examinations during his 30-year career. He was also accused of taking photos of patients' genitals and making lewd remarks about their physiques, as well as racist and homophobic comments.

Despite multiple complaints by students and nurses, he was not investigated until 2016, when an internal inquiry was launched following a complaint by a nurse at the center managing reports of sexual aggression. Even though the investigation found fault with his examinations, Tyndall was allowed to retire under an amicable agreement with USC, the financial details of which have not been disclosed. Los Angeles police opened their own investigation and in June searched the doctor's house. According to the Los Angeles Times, a total of 463 women have sued the university, some of them as part of a class action suit. —AFP

Tens of thousands rally for Taiwan's independence vote

TAIPEI: Tens of thousands of Taiwan independence campaigners took to the streets yesterday for a major rally that is a rebuke to Beijing and a challenge to the island's already embattled government. The protest in central Taipei came as China increasingly pushes its claim to the self-ruling democratic island and President Tsai Ing-wen struggles to appease Beijing and independence factions.

It was the first large-scale protest calling for an outright independence vote since Taiwan first became a democracy more than 20 years ago. Organizers claimed a turnout of more than 100,000. Demonstrators gathered outside the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) headquarters chanting slogans and waving flags reading "Independence Referendum", "Want Referendum!" and "Oppose Annexation!" the crowd shouted. China still sees Taiwan as part of its territory to be reunified, despite the two sides being ruled separately since the end of a civil war on the mainland in 1949.

Taiwan considers itself a sovereign state, with its own currency, political and judicial systems, but has never declared formal independence from the mainland. Beijing has warned it would respond with force if Taiwan tried an official split. Organized by new group Formosa Alliance, which is backed by two pro-independence former Taiwan presidents, Lee Teng-hui and Chen Shui-bian, the rally called for a public vote on whether the island should formally declare independence from China. "We want to tell China to stop bullying Taiwan," Alliance leader Kuo Pei-hong, 63, told the crowd. "Taiwanese people want to be their own master," he added.

Families brought their young children to the event, but the majority of protesters were older residents, with some pro-independence church groups also joining the rally. "Only through holding a referendum can Taiwanese people show to the international community our right to build an independent new country," said Tsai Wen-li, 63, a retired postal worker who wore a T-shirt reading "Taiwan is my country". Engineer Rex Yang, 35, described Taiwan as an "orphan in the international community". "Taiwanese people want Taiwan to become a normal country...that is why I stand out here today", he said.



TAIPEI: Pro-Taiwan independence activists call for the referendum on the streets in front of the headquarters of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) during a demonstration in Taipei yesterday. —AFP

Beijing pressure

Even though the DPP is traditionally independence-leaning, Tsai has said she wants to maintain the status quo with China. But that has not prevented relations deteriorating since she took office in 2016, as she refuses to adhere to Beijing's line that Taiwan is part of "one China". Beijing

has made a multi-pronged attack to erase Taiwan from the international stage, including blocking it from global forums and poaching its dwindling number of official diplomatic allies. China has also successfully pressured global firms to list Taiwan as part of China on their company websites. —AFP

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Analysis

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

Washington Watch

What the closure of US consulate in E Jerusalem means

By Dr James J Zogby

This month's prize for dangerous moves and disingenuous press releases goes to the State Department for its Oct 18, 2018 notice, headlined "On the Merging of US Embassy Jerusalem and US Consulate General Jerusalem." The release was a statement by Secretary of State Michael Pompeo announcing that the US Consulate in East Jerusalem was being closed and its functions were being transferred to the US Embassy in Jerusalem - that was the dangerous part. The disingenuous part was the Secretary's claim that this move had no political meaning since it was merely a cost-saving measure.

Here is the beginning of the release:
"I am pleased to announce that following the May 14 opening of the US Embassy in Jerusalem, we plan to achieve significant efficiencies and increase our effectiveness by merging US Embassy Jerusalem and U.S. Consulate General Jerusalem into a single diplomatic mission. I have asked our Ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, to guide the merger. We will continue to conduct a full range of reporting, outreach, and programming in the West Bank and Gaza as well as with Palestinians in Jerusalem through a new Palestinian Affairs Unit inside US Embassy Jerusalem. That unit will operate from our Agron Road site in Jerusalem.

"This decision is driven by our global efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations. It does not signal a change of US policy on Jerusalem, the West Bank, or the Gaza Strip. As the President proclaimed in December of last year, the United States continues to take no position on final status issues, including boundaries or borders. The specific boundaries of Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem are subject to final status negotiations between the parties."

There is so much that is wrong and misleading with this announcement that I scarcely know where to begin in critiquing it. But let me start with the claim that this is just an effort to "improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations."

Surely the secretary must know that the Jerusalem consulate is not just another consular office. As for the "functions" described in the statement - namely, "reporting, outreach, and programming" - missing is the historic role that the consul general played as the official point of contact between the Palestinians in the occupied territories and the US government. The US Embassy in Tel Aviv dealt with Israel and Israeli affairs, while the consulate served as the "de facto embassy to the Palestinians." Even in difficult times, the US consul general and the consulate remained open to receiving Palestinians and hearing their concerns. It has been the sole point of contact for Palestinians (and, I might add, for visiting Palestinian-Americans) seeking assistance from the US government. Now Palestinians are left with the US Embassy in Israel as the sole American address in their region.

Serious move

It has been difficult enough for Palestinians to secure a permit from the Israeli occupation authority allowing them access to the consulate's current East Jerusalem location. Visiting the Embassy in West Jerusalem will be even more problematic. This guarantees that ordinary Palestinians will, for all intents and purposes, no longer have contact with official US representatives. Seen in this light, the move is bigger and more serious than a matter of "efficiency." One might suggest that if that were in fact the concern, why didn't the US close its consulate in Haifa?

Closing the East Jerusalem consulate and moving its "functions" to the US Embassy to Israel tells Palestinians that the US no longer sees them as a separate people deserving of their own direct access to the US. This is in line with a host of other recent US moves which add up to denying independent peoplehood and self-determination to Palestinians. [These US actions include: questioning the "legitimacy" of Palestinian refugees and cutting all US assistance to them, ordering the closure of the Palestine Office in Washington, and acquiescence to Israel's "Jewish Nation-State" law which declares that only the Jewish people have the right to self-determination in the "land of Israel."] What closing the consulate in East Jerusalem says to Palestinians is that they are not seen by the US as a separate people but as a "minority community" whose interests are of secondary importance to those of Israel.

It is also not believable for the secretary to claim that this move "does not signify a change of US policy on Jerusalem...[or] the specific boundaries of Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem." For decades, the US claimed that by maintaining a consulate in East Jerusalem, the US was sending the message that it continued to recognize that portion of the city was occupied territory. It's important to note that Ambassador Friedman has been shaping US policy on this issue ever since he assumed his post. He has ordered that the Palestinian territories no longer be referred to as "occupied" and recent State Department publications reflect this. It's also important to note that the press statement making the announcement about the move makes no mention of "East Jerusalem" - as if in Friedman's and the State Department's new lexicon the city is already one and it is Israeli.

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



Beware culture warriors of social media

The news media in the Western world remain dominated by newspapers, magazines and broadcasters still known as the mainstream. The most vivid proof of their continued reign over public opinion is in the figure of US President Donald Trump, whose repeated attacks on "failing" publications like the New York Times and the Washington Post as "enemies of the people" is a backhanded tribute to their continued power. Still, the dominance of the old media is under threat from the new. Trump has more than 55 million followers on Twitter, which he uses as his personal channel to fire up Americans - a vastly sped-up version of FDR's fireside chats during the Great Depression and World War Two.

And these new media channels now threaten to overtake that dominance. They bring voices from every part of the political and social spectrum in a fashion more intimate, direct and demotic than the mainstream - which is generally careful not to offend, to eschew profanity, to balance one view with another. Perhaps most importantly, the new platforms bring voices which claim to have been suppressed in the traditional media because they are too far-right, too incorrect, too inappropriate, but which flourish online.

A remarkable radio documentary - "Right Click" - aired on BBC Radio 4 this week, revealed a world of British activists whose already-large reach is growing, and who see themselves as the voices of the voiceless, the powers of the powerless. I say "revealed" because it was revealed to me, and no doubt to others in the mainstream media and their (often declining) audiences, while they are already part of the news and opinion ecology of many of the young.

According to "Right Click," they are part of "a huge new political movement" whose members consider traditional media to be the enemy and see themselves as warriors in a culture war. In the UK, where most journalists' default position is contempt for Trump, the new voices are fans, supporters and defenders of the right, and see the US president's enemies as their own.

One of the movement's leaders is Paul Joseph Watson, 36, from the depressed former steel capital of Sheffield. He took to YouTube in 2011 and his earnings from his more than 1.4 million subscribers and close to 327 million video views are estimated at around \$10,000 a month. That's likely a large underestimate of his total take: "Right Click"

Young entrepreneurs lend glamour to African agriculture

In a long-sleeved shirt and jeans, expertly navigating eastern Rwanda's bumpy back roads in a white four-wheel drive, Dieudonne Twahirwa looks nothing like the stereotypical African farmer. The 30-year-old owner of Gashora Farm knows what a difference that makes. "You need more role models," he said, standing among knee-high rows of chili plants. "If you have young farmers, they have land and they drive to the farm, (others) think, 'Why can't I do that?'" Twahirwa, a university graduate, bought a friend's tomato farm six years ago for \$150. He made \$1,500 back in two months. "You have to link (farming) with entrepreneurship and real numbers," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Many young Africans are abandoning rural areas, choosing not to toil in the fields - a job made tougher by climate change. But Twahirwa is one of a growing band of successful farmers working to jazz up agriculture's image on the continent. Some 1,000 farmers now produce chillies for him. He is starting a fourth farm of his own, and exports fresh and dried chillies and oil to Britain, the United States, India and Kenya.

Africa has the world's youngest population and 65 percent of its uncultivated arable land. Yet accessing land and loans is difficult, while African productivity is low with crop yields just 56 percent of the international average, according to the United Nations. "Agriculture is mainly associated with suffering and no young person wants to suffer," said Tamara Kaunda, who has put her career as a doctor on hold to buck the trend. She believes African agriculture needs a makeover to shed its old-fashioned image of backbreaking work with a hoe. "Show young

reports that Watson, who started broadcasting from his mother's basement, now has a very big flat in London.

Watson launches himself against such targets as the Harry Potter creator J K Rowling, showing pictures of her three "mansions" - in the Scottish Highlands, in Edinburgh and in Tasmania - and mocking her for calling for the UK to welcome more migrants, while hosting none of them in her homes. Watson defends the pro-Trump actor James Woods, who was temporarily shut out of Twitter in

share some of the ideas and aversions of more mainstream commentators, who insist they are "classical liberals". Much of what they say and broadcast is akin to mere anti-political correctness, and the highlighting of cases where liberals object to conservative speakers being given a platform.

But a Hitler-saluting pug? Doing his trick on the prompt to kill Jews? Shouldn't that be banned? Unlike the United States, the UK doesn't have the constitutionally-protected right to free speech that allows nearly all comments described as "hate". I would follow the Americans in this, in the belief that suppression even of a heinous statement gives it a wind at its back. But Count Dankula tests that position to a limit.



Dominance of old media is under threat from the new

September for posting a satirical meme claiming that Democrats were advising them not to vote in next month's midterm elections in order to increase the power of women's vote - a claim, Watson said, which was an obvious joke that only a "complete idiot" would take seriously.

The status of the joke is central to this strain of politics (and politics, serious politics, it is). Mark Meechan, who works under the name of Count Dankula, posted in 2016 a video of his girlfriend's pug dog sitting, with one paw held rigidly out from its body. The Count explained that he had taught the dog to give a stiff-armed Nazi salute in response to comments like "Sieg Heil" (Hail to victory) and "gas the Jews".

For this Meechan was fined £800 (\$1,045) for a contravention of the Communications Act in that he was "grossly offensive". Losing his appeal in August, he raised nearly £200,000 from followers - and said he would rather go to prison than pay. He was not, he insisted, a racist. His action was a joke - first, on his girlfriend and, second, on everyone else.

Much of what I have seen and heard from these new world commentators I thought reasonable debate. Some

people with tractors, green fields, nice irrigation systems, smartphones," she said.

A relative of Zambia's first president, the fast-talking 29-year-old runs Billionaire Farmer Agric Solutions, supplying vegetable seedlings across Zambia and in neighboring countries. Getting young people involved in agriculture does not mean they have to work on a farm, said Nigerian Olawale Rotimi Opeyemi, 29, whose agribusiness company JR Farms Africa has projects in Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Rwanda. For example, in coffee production, the beans go from the farm to the washing station, then to be separated from the husk. "There are people in the coffee value chain who just build washing stations and lease them. You just have to find a place to plug in," he said.

Modern methods

Stepping up the use of mechanized equipment and new technology is another key way to attract young people - and will also improve productivity, experts say. Today, 50 to 85 percent of farm work in Africa, such as ploughing and sowing, is done manually, according to the Malabo Montpellier Panel, a group of international agriculture experts. From servicing farm machinery to operating equipment for processing, packaging and distribution, mechanization would "open up a lot of business opportunities for young people", said Ousmane Badiane, the panel's co-chair and Africa director at the International Food Policy Research Institute.

Modernizing agriculture could also help turn it from seasonal to year-round work, said Rouffahi Koabo, director general of CIPMEN, Niger's first business incubator. "People need jobs not for only three months but... revenue for the whole year," he said. Rwandan Felicien Mujyambere, 35, was ready to migrate from his remote northern village after his wife died and his family's income dropped. But in 2017, he received a chick hatchery from the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) under a project that provides rural youths with business opportunities. Since then, he has used the profits

'Iceberg coming'

The matter is not confined to the cultural world, nor to a corner of politics. The BBC radio show reported that 92 percent of under-25s got their news and views from the internet, as did 62 percent of those aged 25-35. They, said the program's presenter, Gavin Hayes, are the "iceberg coming". And the present? Last weekend, the Christian Social Union (CSU) lost its position as the hegemonic party of the southern German state of Bavaria. The CSU is part of the governing coalition led by Chancellor Angela Merkel - as are the center-left Social Democrats (SPD), who also did very badly in Bavaria.

Though the CSU remains the largest party, it lost support to the far-right Alternative fur Deutschland and the leftist Greens, neither strong forces in Bavaria till now. The fragmentation of politics and the rapid decline of the mainstream parties has been already visible at the national level in Germany - as it is in France, Italy, the UK and Sweden.

It's not fanciful to say that the denizens of social media have a large part to play in this. The political culture war, between a part of the left and the media which have become intolerant and censoring of sharp debate, and a part of the right determined to test the boundaries of speech and humor, spills over into political choice. It forms many, especially the young, into opposing armies. And if it becomes an even more powerful force in the news media, it will course through our politics like a hurricane, destroying old media and the politics that went with them - and creating a new political landscape which we can only now glimpse. — Reuters

Leadership lacking

Nonetheless, young farmers struggle to get loans. Interest rates are high and few banks are willing to take the risk of lending to them, said Ruramiso Mashumba, chair of the Zimbabwe Farmers' Union youth wing. Interest rates of 30 percent or more are not uncommon, farmers and business owners told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "Even if you have been successful... you still cannot get finance to grow," said Mashumba, 33. More flexible, innovative funding is needed, she added. Her 650-hectare farm, Mnandi Africa, produces certified maize seed, grows indigenous organic grains, and trains women farmers. The International Fund for Agricultural Development is trying to address this financing gap with a new fund.

Meanwhile climate pressures are adding to farmers' woes, with extended dry periods, erratic rainfall and floods leading to crop losses and declines in yields - problems scientists predict will worsen as the planet warms. Yan Kwizera, a Rwandan tech entrepreneur, said more political leadership was needed at the top so that farmers do not feel they are facing challenges alone. "How many presidents do you know in Africa who own land and are cultivating?" he said. "They send their kids to learn investment banking, medicine, law, international development. Nobody's doing agriculture." — Reuters

Business

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2018

12 Kuwait project awards rise in 3Q18; remain relatively low



13 Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait Group ends Q3 with 23% growth in net profit



14 Arabia CSR Network honors Al-Sayer with prestigious award



DUBAI: Eaman Al-Roudhan and Charles Nahas with Zain and Microsoft's teams at Zain's booth in GITEX.

Zain Kuwait, Microsoft sign partnership to accelerate Cloud adoption in Kuwait

Partnership signed during GITEX 2018, aims at offering innovative cloud solutions

KUWAIT: Zain Kuwait, the country's leading digital service provider, yesterday announced that it has signed a partnership agreement with Microsoft to offer various cloud-based services to large enterprises and small-medium businesses across Kuwait, enabling them to drive digital transformation by better engaging their customers, empowering employees, optimizing operations and transforming their products and services.

The partnership was signed during Zain's participation in the fifth 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 this partnership, Zain Kuwait will package its own tools, products and services, and combine them with Microsoft's cloud solutions into one offering for its customers in the country, to make the most out of the intelligent cloud.

Eaman Al-Roudhan, Chief Executive Officer of Zain Kuwait, said: "We are delighted to further expand our strategic partnerships with global technology leaders like Microsoft to enhance and reinforce the portfolio of innovative solutions and services we offer to our enterprise customers. Enterprises are a central part of our country's economic ecosystem, and we are committed to expanding our portfolio to help empower a more efficient business sector in Kuwait".

"The cloud opens up massive opportunities for our

partners to combine their solutions with Microsoft's cloud offerings and drive digital transformation in a seamless manner," said Charles Nahas, General Manager, Microsoft Kuwait. "Zain Kuwait has been at the forefront of this transformation, and this partnership will accelerate its efforts by empowering them to provide end-to-end solutions to its customers, building stronger relationships and spur deeper engagement - enabling them to achieve more."

This collaboration will enable Zain to take advantage of the opportunity in the cloud and become its customers' trusted advisors. This empowers the company to be able to own and manage the end-to-end relationship with its customers.

Microsoft and Zain Kuwait have enjoyed a long-term

partnership over the years to bring innovative solutions to the market. Earlier last month, Zain announced the Launch of zBot, its first smart customer service channel. Built on Microsoft Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies, zBot is an autonomous virtual employee, fulfilling the role of frontline service agent for Zain's customers, who make up the largest subscriber base in the country.

"zBot is a great example of how the intelligent Microsoft Cloud can help organizations to engage customers, empower employees, optimize operations and reinvent products and services. This is digital transformation in action, and Zain is once more stepping forward as a leader in its sector and showing both customers and industry peers exactly what is possible," added Nahas.

KFH announces winners of Al-Rabeh draw

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the winners of two HSE 2018 Range Rovers and 3kg of gold biscuits in the 10th draw that took place under the supervision of representatives of the Ministry of Commerce.

The winners are: Khalaf Mohammad Alsabti- 2018 HSE Range Rover, Marwan Mohammad Raheel- 2018 HSE Range Rover, and Kholod Abdulrazzaq Althaqeb- 3kg of gold.

Al-Rabeh account is an investment savings account based on Mudaraba sharia principle that gives customers annual profit distributions. Customers can open this account at any of KFH branches across Kuwait. It is noteworthy that the account is offered

for customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts with the ability to save and invest. Al-Rabeh account is available for individuals in KD and it requires salary transfer as a prerequisite.

With regards to the prizes campaign terms and conditions, customers will have a chance to win remarkable prizes every three months along the year from KFH once they transfer their salary to "AlRabeh" account. KFH gives away two Range Rover's 2018 HSE for the first two winners and a 3kg of gold biscuits of 24 carat with purity of 999.9 for the third winner in draws to be held in the months of January, April, July, and October, providing that customers should have deposited 3 salaries in the three months prior to the draw, yet their minimum monthly balance is not less than KD 50 by the end of each month, bearing in mind that each KD 50 in the account entitles customers to one entry in the draw, thus more money in an account means more chances to win.

KFH is keen on improving its banking products and services in line with cus-



tomers' requirement in efforts to increase their satisfaction and cater more closely for their needs, yet consoli-

date Bank's prestigious status and excellence in offering products as per the highest standards of quality.

US Mega Millions jackpot hits \$1.6bn after no winners

WASHINGTON: Scores of American lottery players were disappointed they hadn't become an overnight billionaire yesterday — but they'll get another chance to scoop the jackpot, with \$1.6 billion up for grabs in a few days. The prize for Friday's Mega Millions contest had soared to \$1 billion, prompting long lines at gas stations and 7-11s across the country, the federal capital Washington and the US Virgin Islands where the lottery is held. But, although there were 15 second-tier winning tickets of at least \$1 million across nine states, nobody won the jackpot — putting the prize for Tuesday's draw at a record \$1.6 billion.

The previous largest single jackpot of \$758.7 million was won last year by Mavis Wanczyk, a 53-year-old mother of two from Massachusetts. In 2016, a \$1.58 billion Powerball prize was split three ways by ticket holders from California, Florida and Tennessee. Each took home \$528.8 million. —AFP

Business

NBK Economic Report

Kuwait project awards rise in 3Q18; remain relatively low

Pace of project awards expected to pick-up in coming quarters

KUWAIT: Project awards in the third quarter were higher than the previous quarter (a multi-year low), but remained relatively weak, at only KD 380 million. This was around half the average level of awards per quarter in 2017, for example. Government delays and cancellations have been at the root of the drop in awards in all quarters since the beginning of the year, with scheduled projects shifted to later in the year. Year to date, project awards are valued at KD 1.1 billion, only 29 percent of the KD 3.8 billion that had been planned for 2018. At this pace, it is unlikely that the planned figure will be achieved by year-end.

Looking forward, the pace of project awards - although not guaranteed - is expected to pick-up in coming quarters, according to MEED's project database. The expected pick-up in awards is partly due to the rolling forward of 2018 projects into 2019 due to delays, in addition to a large KD 3 billion chemical sector project expected in 2Q19. A strong rise in power, water and construction projects is also expected in 2019. Projects planned for 2019 are estimated to be worth around KD 9 billion, similar to the surge levels in 2014-2015.

Moreover, we believe the macroeconomic environment remains accommodative for growth in the projects sphere, as oil price forecasts remain high and the budget deficit continues to narrow. Further, inflation and interest rates remain low and conducive to spending and growth. We think it is likely that government agencies will strive to resolve delays and deliver on these projects in the coming quarters, as these awards and the health of Public Private Partnership projects (PPPs) in Kuwait are central to the government's development plans aimed at boosting and diversifying non-oil GDP.

Construction

Construction was the leading sector in terms of the value of projects awarded (KD 613 million) in the first three quarters of 2018 with a number of large infrastructure projects taking place, including numerous Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) housing mega-projects such as South/West Abdulla al Mubarak and East Taima, as well as the Diwan Al-Amiri New Justice Palace building, and the Kuwait National Guard - Kazma Camp project. Moreover, the bulk of these awards took place in the third quarter. Looking forward, KD 420 million in awards is

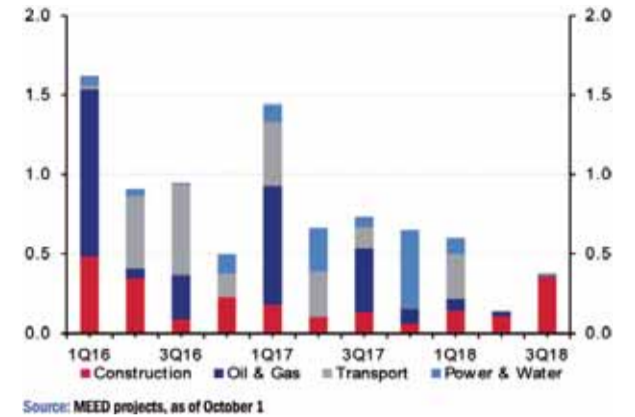
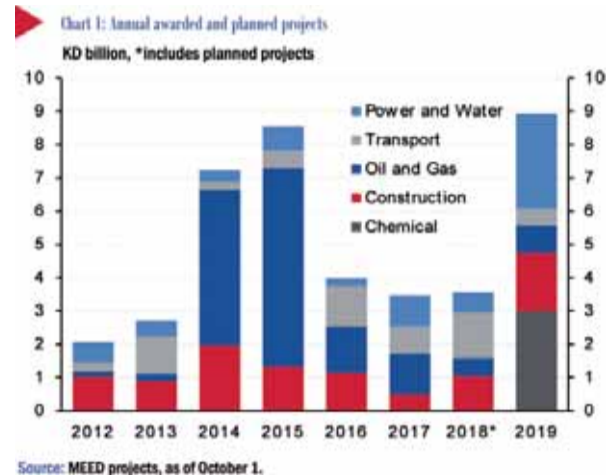
possible in the remainder of 2018, and KD 1.7 billion in 2019. Notable upcoming projects include the PAHW Jahra and Sulaibiya Low Cost Housing city, and the Kuwait Armed Forces Hospital, valued at KD 510 million each.

Transport

The transport sector saw no awards in 3Q18, but has had the second highest project awards in 2018 to date at just under KD 300 million in total, which is still low compared to a quarterly average of KD 660 million in 2017. The awards were due to a number of large road works taking place in Q1, including the PAHW South Al-Mutla City major infrastructure works, and the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) - Public Authority for Roads and Transport (PART) regional road south project. However, awards did not proceed on schedule in the following quarters, and this is likely due to the ongoing restructuring of PART due to a revision of its mandate. A number of road projects have already been cancelled or put on hold, and no transport projects were awarded after 1Q18. Provided there are no further technical/legal delays, awards could pick-up in coming quarters, with KD 1.1 billion provisionally planned in 4Q18, and KD 510 million in 2019. However, we may not see much progress until the review of the PART mandate is complete.

Oil, gas and chemicals

The chemical sector, having been dormant for about 13 years, should see some renewed activity next year. A KD 3 billion chemical project (Al-Zour Petrochemical Complex) is in the pre-qualification stage, and contributes nearly half of expected awards in 2019 (scheduled for Q2). The tendering of this project was delayed from 2018 due to a setback relating to the redesign of the KD 5.1 billion Al-Zour oil refinery, to which it is linked. The redesign came after a decision by the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) to use gas oil rather than fuel oil as originally planned for power generation. This in turn has delayed the execution of the petrochemical complex, which is to be integrated with the refinery. Further setbacks are due to delays in the construction of the KD 255 million supply pipeline tendered in 2014, but cancelled in 2017 according to MEED. We also expect KD 500 million in oil and gas projects to be awarded in the remain-



der of 2018, and an additional KD 820 million to be awarded in 2019, well above the KD 105 million awarded so far this year.

Power and water project awards stood at KD 155 million year-to-date (up to end of 3Q18), but could rise to KD 277 million by the end of the year, due to a number of projects planned for the fourth quarter. Although a drop from the KD 900 million awarded in this sector in 2017, power and water projects are expected to pick up strongly in 2019, with KD 2.9 billion in planned awards. All awards this year took place in Q1. Some setbacks include the delayed North Zour IWPP, due to a contractual dispute between the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) and private investors regarding project finance technicalities as well as the delay of the Boursa Kuwait listing and IPO originally scheduled for earlier this year. Key upcoming water and power projects include KAPP - Al Zour North IWPP Phases 2 & 3 and the KAPP - Nuwaiseeb Power and Water Desalination Plant, with a combined value of KD 1.4 billion, and the MEW-Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) Shagaya renewable energy complex, budgeted at KD 300 million. The challenging nature of PPP projects however could result in further award delays in this sector.

26 new winners included in Al-Hassad Islamic account

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank recently conducted its Al-Hassad Islamic account weekly draw. Kuwait's leading sharia-compliant rewards program that offers a broad range of prizes to the largest number of winners, on the 17th of October 2018. The account provides 26 weekly prizes that are comprised of KD 25,000 as a grand prize and 25 other prizes valued at KD 1,000 each. AUB also offers four quarterly prizes that are valued at KD 250,000 to each winner allowing them to achieve their dreams of travelling, studying abroad, or owning their dream home or car.

On this occasion Ahli United Bank announced, "With this draw, we are adding 26 new winners and prizes to the Al-Hassad Islamic account whereby, the total number of winners annually will include more than 1300.

The weekly grand prize winner of KD 25,000 Ali A Hussain Farhan.

25 other winners won prizes of KD 1,000 and are as follows: Mubarrak Mesfer Al-Ajmi, Abdulmajjed Zayed Al-Enezi, Bader Habeb Al-Awad, Husain Ali Ali, Hadi Awwad Al-Shammari, Khayriya Mohd Al-Buzhor, Yaqoub Yousef Al-Munayay, Zaid Fahad Al-Zaid, Maha Belal Belal, Jameelah Hanania Enestas, Fayzah Ahmad Ali, Saimaa Ali Al-Omar, Muhammad Azam Jamil, Jaser Fahad Al-Jaser, Mohammad Nawwaf Al-Enezi, Ahmad Abdulredha Al-Buloushi, Ahmad Mohammad Rahmah, Ahmad Ibraheem Al-Duwaisan, Faisal Zaid Al-Zaid, Taha S Borisly, Sara Mohamed Al-Fahani, Adel Hasan Buchir, Najah Maki Al-Senni, Martina Horan, and Ahmed Ebrahim Mahdi.

Bayan Weekly Market Report

Boursa Kuwait bearish amid lackluster trading

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait ended last week in the red zone. The Premier Market Index closed at 5,172.99 points, down by 1.60 percent, the Main Market Index declined by 0.44 percent after closing at 4,697.73 points, and the All-Share Index closed at 5,004.00 points down by 1.22 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover increased by 51.27 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching around KD 18.15 million, whereas trading volume average reached around 69.95 million shares, recording an increase of 4.82 percent.

The three market indices recorded different losses for the third consecutive week in light of the continued strong selling pressures that included many stocks of different sectors, especially the leading and heavy stocks, which was reflected on the Premier Market Index's performance in particular, the most declining Index during the last week. Also, the Market losses last week came amid a noticeable growth in the trading activity compared to the previous week's trading, especially the total cash liquidity that increased by more than 51.27 percent, reaching KD 90.75 million, while the total number of traded stocks during the last week increased by 4.82 percent, reaching 349.73 million stock.

In addition, Boursa Kuwait indices recorded remark-

able losses in the first session of last week, as it lost more than KD 410 million of its market cap by the end of the same session, which came due to the steep declines recorded by most of the international and GCC stock markets, and resulted in pushing many traders to execute random selling operations on most of the listed stocks in the Market, which were negatively reflected on the three Boursa indices, especially the All-Share Index and the Premier Market Index, that recorded its highest loss in one day, since the application of the new market segmentation.

Moreover, the Market's loss in a week reached around KD 347.21 million, as the market cap of the total listed stocks decreased by the end of the week to reach about KD 28 billion against KD 28.35 billion in a week earlier, with a loss of 1.22 percent. The Boursa gains, since the application of the new market segmentation, contracted to reach approximately KD 143.29 million only, or by 0.51 percent. (Note: The market cap for the listed companies in the Boursa is calculated based on the weighted average number of outstanding stocks as per the latest available official financial statements).

Furthermore, such negative performance of the Market during the last week came despite the positive disclosures of some local banks on its 9 months periodic results for the current year, meanwhile many traders are still watching for the disclosures of the remaining banks and listed companies to define their investment goals for the next period, especially that such results will determine to a great extent the financial performance of the listed companies during the year 2018.

Last week witnessed trading over 146 stock out of 175 listed stock in the Market, where prices of 51 stock

increased against prices of 79 stock decreased, and prices of 45 stock remained at no change.

Sectors' indices

Ten of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the red zone, only one recorded increase, while the Health Care sector remained at no change. Last week's highest loser was the Telecommunications sector, as its index declined by 3.90 percent to end the week's activity at 869.41 points. The Consumer Goods sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 2.19 percent, closing at 797.72 points, followed by the Technology sector, which index declined by 1.71 percent, closing at 836.63 points. On the other hand, last week's only gainer was the Basic Materials sector, achieving 0.33 percent growth rate as its index closed at 1,229.92 points.

Sectors' Activity

The Banks sector dominated a total trade volume of around 116.73 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 33.38 percent of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 23.24 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 81.28 million shares. On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 45.73 million or 50.39 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Telecommunications sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 15.14 million representing 16.68 percent of the total market trading value. —Prepared by the Studies & Research Department Bayan Investment Co.

EXCHANGE RATES

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.391171	0.405071
Czech Koruna	0.005538	0.014838
Danish Krone	0.042920	0.047020
Euro	0.343333	0.357033
Georgian Lari	0.134867	0.134867
Hungarian O.001146	0.001336	
Norwegian Krone	0.032976	0.03176
Romanian Leu	0.065164	0.082014
Russian ruble	0.004654	0.004664
Slovakia	0.009088	0.019088
Swedish Krona	0.029799	0.034799
Swiss Franc	0.299128	0.310128
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.208815	0.220815
New Zealand Dollar	0.194732	0.204232
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.002974	0.003775
Chinese Yuan	0.042415	0.045916
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037004	0.039754
Indian Rupee	0.003626	0.004396
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000016	0.000022
Japanese Yen	0.002627	0.002807
Korean Won	0.000259	0.000274
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069564	0.075564
Nepalese Rupee	0.002630	0.002970
Pakistan Rupee	0.001748	0.002518
Philippine Peso	0.005459	0.005750
Singapore Dollar	0.215547	0.225547
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001470	0.002050
Taiwan	0.010436	0.010616
Thai Baht	0.008961	0.009511
Vietnamese Dong	0.00013	0.00013
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.792194	0.808694
Egyptian Pound	0.014292	0.020010

Iranian Ryal	0.000084	0.000085
Raqi Dinar	0.000212	0.000272
Jordanian Dinar	0.424685	0.433685
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000156	0.000256
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022483	0.046483
Omani Ryal	0.783682	0.789362
Qatar Ryal	0.079252	0.084192
Saudi Ryal	0.080020	0.081320
Syrian Pound	0.001289	0.001509
Tunisian Dinar	0.102989	0.110989
Turkish Lira	0.048173	0.059673
UAE Dirhams	0.081384	0.083084
Yemeni Ryal	0.000989	0.001069

Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.790
Canadian Dollar	233.635
Sterling Pound	400.365
Euro	351.850
Swiss Frank	304.845
Bahrain Dinar	807.890
UAE Dirhams	83.115
Qatari Riyals	84.350
Saudi Riyals	81.905
Jordanian Dinar	429.760
Egyptian Pound	16.969
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.777
Indian Rupees	4.133
Pakistani Rupees	2.272
Bangladesh Taka	3.630
Philippines Peso	5.637
Cyprus pound	18.075
Japanese Yen	3.700
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.574
Malaysian Ringgit	73.930
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.220
Thai Bhat	10.310
Turkish Lira	54.775
Singapore dollars	219.848

MARKET ACTIVITY				INDICES PERFORMANCE			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Change (%)		Premier Market Index	Main Market Index (PI)	All-Share Market Index (PI)
Volume	349,733,439	333,665,907	4.82%	Weekly	5,172.99	4,697.73	5,004.00
Value (K.D)	90,753,799	99,996,982	31.27%	Previous week	5,257.16	4,718.42	5,065.81
Deals	18,879	17,438	6.26%	Change (Point)	-84.17	-20.69	-61.81
				Change (%)	-1.60%	-0.44%	-1.22%
				Close	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
				Change (Point)	172.99	-802.27	0.00
				Change (%)	3.46%	-16.05%	0.00%

MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)				
	Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Mkt Seg. to Date %
	27,999,613,283	28,346,823,125	-1.22%	0.51%

STOCKS ACTIVITY				
Total Listed Stocks	Traded Stocks	Up	Down	No Change
175	146	51	79	45

TOP GAINERS				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (PI)	Ch. %
CABLETV	30.00	15.00	15.00	100.00%
EFFECT	20.00	15.50	4.50	28.37%
FUTUREKD	100.00	88.00	12.00	13.64%
MENA	28.70	25.50	3.20	12.59%
REAM	200.00	180.00	20.00	11.11%

TOP LOSERS				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (PI)	Ch. %
SANAM	28.50	40.00	-11.50	-46.32%
PAPCO	60.00	80.00	-20.00	-25.00%
WINS	89.00	84.50	4.50	-5.21%
NH	59.00	70.00	-11.00	-15.71%
TAM	332.00	380.00	-48.00	-12.63%

MOVERS BY VOLUME				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Total Volume (Stock)	To Market (%)
ZAIN	440.00	464.00	32,992,243	9.43%
AUB	200.00	202.00	27,131,469	7.76%
ALTBARIA	80.90	79.30	25,556,952	7.31%
BURG	275.00	267.00	21,804,405	6.23%
NBK	815.00	822.00	19,517,804	5.52%

MOVERS BY VALUE				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Total Value (K.D)	To Market (%)
NBK	815.00	822.00	15,717,841	17.32%
ZAIN	440.00	464.00	14,734,653	16.24%
KFH	579.00	588.00	9,852,805	10.86%
AGLTY	811.00	832.00	6,022,885	6.64%
BURG	275.00	267.00	5,918,128	6.52%

INDICES PERFORMANCE				
	Value	%	AS Share Market Index (PI)	%
Weekly	5,172.99	-1.60%	5,004.00	-1.22%
Previous week	5,257.16	-1.60%	5,065.81	-1.22%
Change (Point)	-84.17	-1.60%	-61.81	-1.22%
Change (%)	-1.60%	-1.60%	-1.22%	-1.22%
Close	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Change (Point)	172.99	-802.27	0.00	0.00
Change (%)	3.46%	-16.05%	0.00%	0.00%

SECTORS WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY				
Sector	Value	%	AS Share Market Index (PI)	%
BANKS	45.73	50.39%	1,229.92	24.58%
REAL ESTATE	23.24	25.51%	797.72	15.75%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	15.14	16.68%	869.41	17.38%
CONSUMER GOODS	8.36	9.10%	797.72	15.75%
TECHNOLOGY	8.36	9.10%	836.63	16.73%
HEALTH CARE	8.36	9.10%	869.41	17.38%
INDUSTRIALS	8.36	9.10%	869.41	17.38%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	8.36	9.10%	869.41	17.38%
ENERGY	8.36	9.10%	869.41	17.38%
BASE METALS	8.36	9.10%	869.41	17.38%
UTILITIES	8.36	9.10%	869.41	17.38%
OTHERS	8.36	9.10%	869.41	17.38%

Business

Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait Group ends Q3 with 23% growth in net profit

Total assets reached KD 4.6 billion, up 6% from 2017

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) Group, one of the leading regional banks in Kuwait, continued its strong financial performance with a 23 percent growth in net profit for the first nine months of 2018 reaching KD 27.1 million. Operating Income for the period was KD 126.8 million, an increase of 11 percent over the same period last year. Total assets reached KD 4.6 billion, up 6 percent from 2017. Common Shareholders' Equity increased by KD 13.6 million to reach KD 576 million, a growth of 2.5 percent year-on-year.

ABK's customer deposits reached KD 3.14 billion, up 7 percent from 2017. Asset quality remained strong with the non-performing loan (NPL) ratio at 1.98 percent and NPL coverage of 349 percent. The Bank's capital adequacy ratio and Tier 1 capital ratio were 18.86 percent and 17.7 percent, respectively.

Commenting on the results, Talal Mohammed Reza Behbehani, Chairman of ABK said: "This quarter witnessed a period of continued strong performance and

steady growth across the countries we operate in. The financial results validate the successful execution of our strategy, and we are in an advantageous position with high asset quality and stable income, which will help deliver sustainable long-term shareholder value. We are particularly proud to be listed as one of the Top Ten Safest Banks in the region by Global Finance for the second consecutive year, and we will remain focused on delivering positive results, and achieving the Group's full potential."

Michel Accad, Group CEO of ABK said: "We are pleased with our first nine months performance as our geographical mix, technology enhancements, and Simpler Banking strategy continue to add to our strategic advantage. Our plan for the last quarter of this year and going forward will be to remain focused on the implementation of our strategic initiatives, enhancing our customer's experience and attracting the best talent while also developing our staff internally. The Group is moving toward implementation of the 2020 "Simplify &

Transform" plan, an ambitious program of new customer experiences, digital transformation and operational efficiency."

In September the Bank issued a \$300 million Tier 1 perpetual bond on the International Capital Markets, which was oversubscribed with very strong interest from investors outside the MENA region. This bond was also the first international capital issuance out of Kuwait in 2018. Furthermore, ABK's landmark \$800 million agreement with Dubai Aerospace Enterprise for syndicate funding was highly successful and achieved substantial oversubscription.

The Bank continued to maintain strong credit ratings of "A2" for senior unsecured debt by Moody's and "A+" for long-term issuer default by Fitch.

Additionally, ABK won numerous awards during the year including: "Best Digital Transformation" by Asian Banker, "Best Retail Bank" in Kuwait by four different international magazines Banker ME, Asian Banker,



Talal Mohammed Reza Behbehani

Michel Accad

International Finance Magazine and The European. The Bank was also named Bank of the Year by Arabian Business Magazine for the third consecutive year.

Bayt.com weekly report

How to ease your job search stress

KUWAIT: If you want to talk about ghosting, talk about jobs you applied for and never got accepted nor rejected by the employer...not cool. You're putting in so much effort in your quest to find a job, where's your Return on Investment?

The job market can definitely be competitive, job seekers need to try as hard as they can to stand out from amongst all the others in the oversaturated job market. You can't just click that "submit application" button for any job vacancy you see, hope for the best, and then get disappointed when they leave your application at the "seen" stage. You'll need to approach your job search in a strategic way that can increase the chances of securing a job that actually suits you.

Luckily, Bayt.com is committed to help job seekers to search, find and select the right job for them. So, here are a few points that you should note down, as it can help you with your job search and polishing your image in the eyes of employers.

Here are some things you might be doing wrong and that you should remedy at the soonest:

Network the right way

Now, it is true that you should try and inform everyone around you that you are actively looking for a job. But, you should definitely focus on connecting with professionals who have some sort of connection within the industry or company that you are seeking to get into, because they can act as a direct link between you and the employer. Don't expect your hairdresser to help you find a job at a law firm. Try online networking through "Bayt.com People," where you can connect with people who share your interests. Click here to start building your network.

Tip: always try to give your contacts accurate information about yourself and the job that you are pursuing, in order for them to appropriately refer you to an employer that is worth considering.

Use social media to your advantage

Do you even exist online if you don't have social media? There are many uses to social media, other than stalking people, obviously. Social media can act as a job searching tool, a networking tool, and a way for potential employers to know more about you; the candidate. Tip: many employers go the extra mile and use social media to vet applicants, so you should consider adjusting your accounts and making them more employer-friendly, as to portray your professionalism.

Don't only look to work for the big ones

A lot of job seekers have the misconception that the best way to "make it" in their careers is to work at a large reputable company. Okay, everyone gets it, you want live large and drive a foreign. Who doesn't? But that doesn't mean that it's the only way to

become successful in your career.

All job seekers, especially fresh graduates, should consider working at a small-medium enterprise (SME) or a startup, as they usually give employees more opportunity to develop their skills and qualifications by simply pushing them in the deep end. Working at a SME, there's a high chance that you'll have a greater amount of responsibilities than at a larger organization. This can give you a chance to genuinely make an impression at the company, as well as have a great looking list of responsibilities on your CV.

Similarly, work at a small company or a startup tends to be more varied, which can give the employees the chance to recognize where their true strengths are, as well as highlighting certain areas where their skills still need to be developed.

There is a possibility that you might be given a heavy load of work from the get go. And you also might be expected to know things that you don't. But, this doesn't mean you can't learn.

Tip: You have to realize that not all companies advertise their job vacancies, so you should consider applying using a speculative approach, where you'll need to proactively contact employers and ask about potential vacancies. At the same time, keep your Bayt.com profile fresh and complete so that you appear in employer searches for unannounced jobs.

Narrow down your search

Wait, take a step back before you start going at it with your job search, and try to reflect on what you're really looking for. What do you want in a job? Do you want a similar job to the one you currently have or do you want to change your career path all together? What are your goals? Are you looking for your first job?

You should try to dig deep and ask yourself these types of questions, you can hopefully have a better understanding of what type of jobs you should target. Rather than wasting your time and effort by just applying to as many jobs as possible, regardless of the role, as to increase the chances of getting hired. It doesn't work that way.

Sign up on bayt.com and use advanced search tools to tailor your job search. By using Bayt.com to search for jobs, you will have the ability to filter through thousands of jobs within the MENA region by applying appropriate filters such as job role, location, specialty, etc. Also, you can take advantage of Bayt.com's "Job Search Strategy Workshops" that can help you in searching, selecting and applying to the jobs that best fit you.

Also, if you're looking for a job that is within a certain pay range, you can use Bayt Salaries to find what kind of job best suits your financial needs and interests.

Finally, not hearing back from employers can certainly be frustrating, as well as demotivating for job seekers to continue their job hunt. But, you should know that it's all part of the process. It's a given, even if you have a strong background, and you're a "class A" people pleaser, you can't always impress everyone. You have to recognize that your job search can take a while, but everyone has a path to follow in life and it might take time to find it.

Moody's downgrades Italy credit rating on debt, deficit concerns

MILAN: Moody's has cut Italy's credit rating by a notch over concerns about plans for larger deficits and the high public debt load as the country's populist government clashes with Brussels over its budget.

The European Commission formally warned Italy late Thursday that its budget plans for 2019 are a serious concern, launching a high-stakes process that could see Rome hit with unprecedented sanctions for breaking commitments to Brussels. At the heart of the concerns is Italy's public debt, which amounts to 2.3 trillion euros, or 131 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the highest rate in the eurozone after Greece.

Brussels has demanded Italy cut spending and reduce its public deficit in order to pare down its debt pile. But the country's populist coalition government has done the opposite — offering a draft budget that boosted overall spending. The downgrade from Moody's — from Baa2 to Baa3 with a stable outlook —

is the latest move by international financial watchdogs sounding the alarm over Italy's economic health.

The decision cited "material weakening in Italy's fiscal strength, with the government targeting higher budget deficits for the coming years," as well as debt holding near the current 130 percent of GDP "rather than start trending down as previously expected". And Moody's said "stalling of plans for structural economic and fiscal reforms" also had negative implications for the country's growth outlook and debt.

Italy's deficit is now projected at 2.4 percent of GDP, far higher than the 0.8 percent estimate given by the earlier centre-right government.

Stinging criticism

The budget drew stinging criticism from the EU's top economic affairs officials, who penned a letter to Rome describing the plans as "unprecedented" and warning that Brussels does not rule out rejecting the entire budget. Aimed at fulfilling electoral promises, Italy's planned spending boost is what the government calls its "people's budget".

It includes a series of pension and tax changes that will cost 37 billion euros (\$43 billion), of which 22 billion will be paid for by expanding the deficit. "Following a temporary lift to growth due to the expansionary fiscal policy, the rating agency expects growth to fall back to its trend rate of around one percent," Moody's said. —AFP

S&P falls on interest rate, trade concerns

NEW YORK: The US benchmark S&P 500 stock index edged lower on Friday as strong earnings from Procter & Gamble Co were offset by ongoing concerns about rising interest rates and tensions over trade policy denting economic growth.

Shares of Procter & Gamble jumped 8.8 percent after the consumer goods company reported a surprise rise in first-quarter sales. The climb in Procter & Gamble shares lifted the Dow and helped advance the S&P 500 consumer staples index 2.3 percent.

The consumer staples sector, which has underperformed the broader S&P 500 this year, was set for its biggest daily percentage gain since August 2015.

Yet recent jitters regarding global trade tensions and rising interest rates, which have weighed US stocks this week, persisted. The S&P 500 index closed below its 200-day moving average, a key statistical indicator of long-term price trends. Defensive sectors - utilities and real estate in addition to consumer staples - led the S&P in percentage gains, signaling caution among investors.

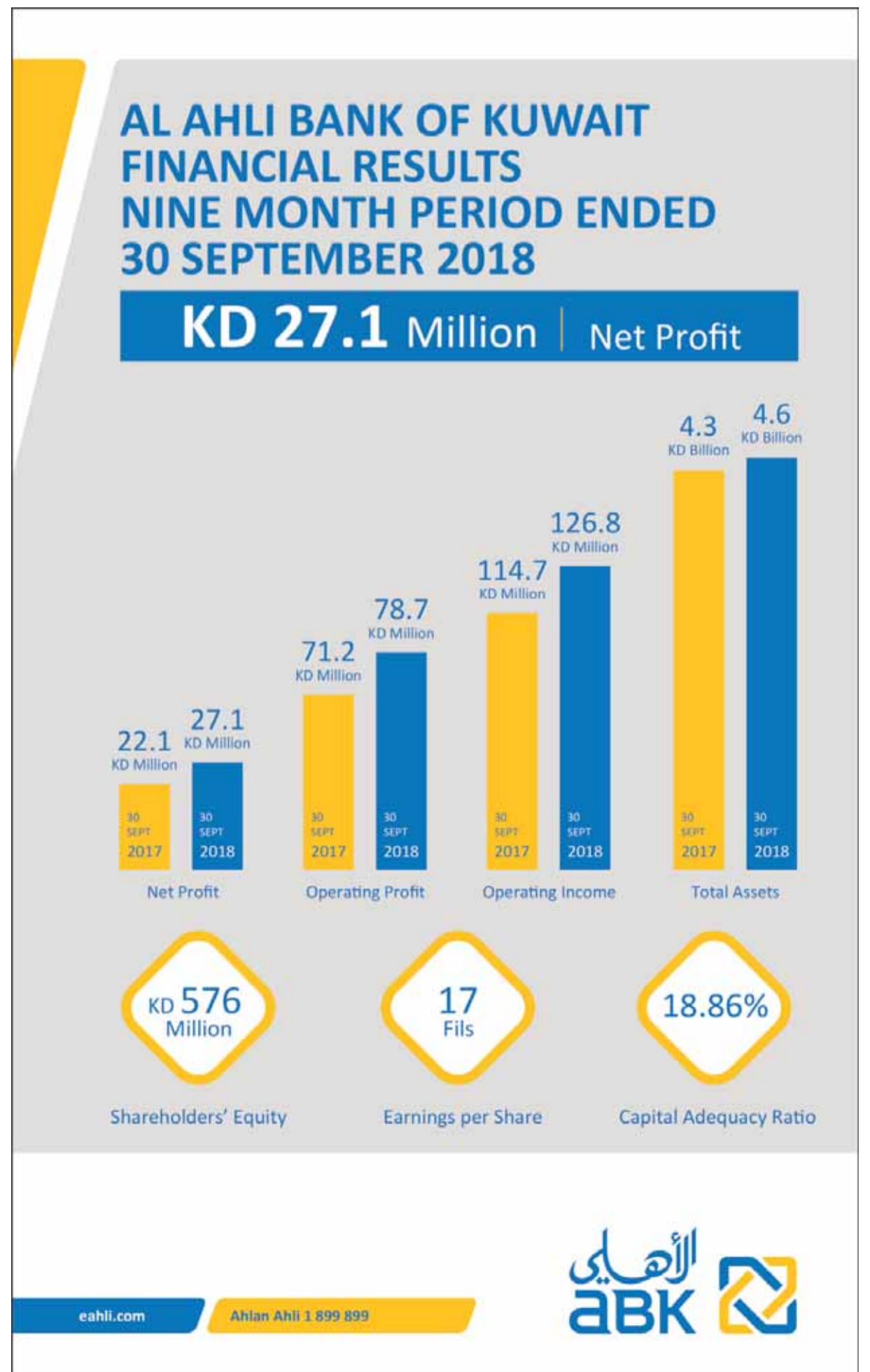
Trade policy worries weighed on shares of Honeywell International Inc, which erased early gains to end 1.1 percent lower after the industrial conglomerate said it was seeing slower growth in China and that tariffs would potentially cost it "hundreds of millions" of dollars in 2019. US home sales fell in September by the most in over two years as the housing market continued to struggle despite strength across the broader economy. Home sales have now fallen for six straight months, and rising mortgage rates are expected to slow demand.

"There are still concerns you can see in the market regarding whether or not higher interest rates are going to weaken growth," said Quincy Krosby, chief market strategist at Prudential Financial in Newark, New Jersey. As a result, Krosby said, investors will be looking specifically for strong sales, not just profits, as the earnings season progresses.

So far, 61.9 percent of S&P 500 companies have reported revenue above analyst expectations, below the 73 percent average over the past four quarters, according to I/B/E/S data from Refinitiv.

"What we need to see to get investors back into the market is stronger revenue growth," she said.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 64.89 points, or 0.26 percent, to 25,444.34, the S&P 500 lost 1 point, or 0.04 percent, to 2,767.78 and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 36.11 points, or 0.48 percent, to 7,449.03. —AFP



Business

Arabia CSR Network honors Al-Sayer with prestigious award

Building partnership for a sustainable future

KUWAIT: Al-Sayer Holding was bestowed with CSR award as 1st runner-up in large business category in the Sustainability Awards event at Dubai in the personal presence of Eng Sheikh Salem bin Sultan bin Saqr Al-Qasimi - Chairman - Department of Civil Aviation - Ras Al-Khaimah. The 11th cycle of Arabia CSR Awards recognized out of hundreds of entries, 29 organizations that were selected by a panel of 6 judges of the Arabia CSR Awards as the most sustainability-oriented entities in the region.

The ceremony was attended by Hamad Musaed Al-Sayer CEO Al-Sayer Franchisee and Vice Chairman of the Al-Sayer Sustainability and Corporate Excellence Committee, Eng Nehad Al-Haj, Deputy Group Manager Corporate Excellence along with Naser Mohammad Al-Sayer and Hamad Ibrahim Al-Fouzan, who are members of the Al-Sayer Sustainability and Corporate Excellence Committee.

According to Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer Chairman of the Sustainability Committee at Al-Sayer Holding, "We are honored to be part of the Sustainability benchmark of the Arab region receiving this prestigious recognition from Arabia CSR Network. Our efforts are constantly towards leading by example in terms of excellent service, quality products and sustainable business to enhance community and customer satisfaction at the same time securing a safe and productive workplace."

The winners, through a comprehensive online application and supporting documents, were required to prove their performance in areas of environmental management, social and governance practices, responsible growth and more. Governmental bodies, public and private sector companies, social enterprises and non-profits of all sizes feature among the finalists.

Speaking about the evolution of the Arabia CSR Awards, Arabia CSR Network President and CEO Habiba Al Mar'ashi commented "For the past decade and more, we have put in every effort to make it the most modern and relevant CSR/sustainability awards, fit to attract organizations across the Arab world. The evolving nature of the awards makes it a platform that keeps up with changing trends and emerging issues."

The annual Arabia CSR Awards mobilizes organizations across the Gulf, Levant and North Africa to compete with regional counterparts in the field of corporate sustainability. Twelve size based and sector specific awards categories, offer a range of organizations to participate. The criteria of the awards, based on global benchmarks such as the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) Principles, the Global Reporting



Winning regional teams at the awards event



Initiative (GRI) Standards and the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) model, makes it one of the most rigorous CSR awards in the region, in keeping with the linguistic diversity of the Region, applications can be submitted in English, Arabic or French.

Nehad Al-Haj of Al-Sayer Holding Corporate Excellence said "across several dimensions we scored outstanding ratings that contributed to winning this award. Keeping in mind the long-term business sustainability we have reinforced our compliance to social, governance and environmental standards. We have defined measurable performance indicators to measure and improve these standards based on our strategic priorities. Innovation is served as a central part of our

strategy to support sustainable business model for coming years with the spirit of do more with less."

Applications to the awards in 2018 were submitted by organizations from 18 Arab countries, representing 39 sectors. Among the applicants were regional industry leaders, global players, local businesses, SMEs and start-ups. From the 108 of organizations that applied this year, 29 made the final cut.

Congratulating the finalists, Al-Mar'ashi said, "It is a great honor to work with this impressive line-up of sustainability leaders. We acknowledge their efforts to conduct business responsibly and ethically, to contribute to society, and to respect the concerns of their stakeholders. They are the brightest stars in the sustainability horizon and will continue to impress and inspire for many years to come."

Ooredoo will offer iPhone XR starting 26 October

KUWAIT: Ooredoo yesterday announced it will offer iPhone XR, bringing the latest iPhone innovations to more people and will be available in select stores starting on Friday (26 October). For complete pricing details, please visit ooredoo.com.kw.

iPhone XR integrates breakthrough technologies from iPhone XS in all-screen glass and aluminum design featuring a 6.1-inch Liquid Retina display, the most advanced LCD in a smartphone, with wide color support and True Tone for a more natural viewing experience. iPhone XR brings the smartest and most powerful chip in a smartphone with A12 Bionic, a next-generation Neural Engine built for advanced machine learning in everything from photography to augmented reality, the TrueDepth camera system, faster Face ID, an advanced camera system that creates dramatic portraits using a single camera lens, long all-day battery life and six beautiful finishes: white, black, blue, yellow, coral and (PRODUCT)RED. This new design is splash and water resistant with a rating of IP67 and protects against everyday spills including coffee, tea and soda. iPhone XR also brings Dual SIM to iPhone through the use of digital eSIM.

Continuing its annual Apple launch event since 2014, Ooredoo Kuwait took the lead in launching Apple's latest devices, iPhone XS and XS Max, last month amidst a vast number of customers who came to the headquarter



in the heart of Kuwait City in order to get the devices which were paired with an exclusive unprecedented offer making this the biggest and most exciting launch event in Kuwait.

of 6.2 percent would likely be missed.

"This will be the 13th and the last IMF program," Umar said during a speech at the Karachi Stock Exchange. Prime Minister Imran Khan's administration has sent mixed messages over whether Pakistan will enter another IMF program, with the former cricketer suggesting this week that going to the fund may not be necessary.

But Umar spoke in grave terms of the country's balance of payment crisis, which has sparked a depreciation of the rupee and sent stocks tumbling.

"We are heading towards bankruptcy very fast. We have to save the 210 million Pakistanis," Umar added. An IMF team is set to arrive in Pakistan in early November to begin negotiations. —AFP

KIB appoints Othman Tawfiqi as GM of Retail Banking

KUWAIT: KIB recently appointed Othman Tawfiqi as the General Manager of the Retail Banking Department (RBD) at the Bank, after obtaining approvals from the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). In his new role, Tawfiqi will be responsible for developing the RBD and monitoring the implementation of its new business strategies.

With a wide breadth of experience in the finance and banking industry, Tawfiqi has served in a number of senior positions at banks in Kuwait. Previously, he held the position of Assistant General Manager of Retail Banking and was also the Head of Product and Business Development and Head of Delivery Channels at Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK). He also served as a board member and Vice Chairman of KNET in Kuwait.

KIB lauded Tawfiqi's vast expertise and skills and

pointed out that his appointment as the General Manager of RBD reflects its strong focus on attracting promising, local talents, as well as appointing them in positions that are in line with their skills and expertise; thereby enabling the Bank to achieve its ambitious goals aimed at strengthening its position in the banking and finance sector both locally and internationally.

In order to maintain its leading position, KIB aims at attracting and hiring talents who add exceptional value to the team and the Bank overall. Accordingly, Tawfiqi will join a high-caliber team of leaders with extensive expertise, enabling the Bank to cement its position as a leading financial institution.

Tawfiqi holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from Kuwait University in 2004. Additionally, he has also completed the executive education program for strategy and leadership at Harvard Business School.



Othman Tawfiqi

State-owned oil firm Petrobras: Brazil's crown jewel

RIO DE JANEIRO: Petrobras is the jewel in Brazil's crown: Latin America's most valuable enterprise, a \$100-billion oil and gas group whose crude output puts the country in the top 10 league globally, rivaling that of many OPEC members.

Yet it is also the most indebted oil company in the world. And it is at the heart of the biggest corruption scandal to rock Brazil: a graft probe that has claimed numerous political scalps, not least that of former leftist president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Much attention in Brazil and abroad is now being focused on Petrobras because of what looks likely to be a Brazilian presidential election victory by Jair Bolsonaro. The ultraconservative has expressed a willingness to oversee further sales of Petrobras' non-core assets.

Petrobras was founded 65 years ago as a government monopoly to tap the tiny reserves that existed at the time. It grew in the mid-1970s when shallow offshore fields was discovered, but they were not big enough to provide self-sufficiency for the vast South American nation.

Brazil's real oil bonanza happened in late 2006 when

Petrobras discovered what turned out to be huge amounts of crude lying under the oceanic crust far offshore—so-called pre-salt deposits. That pre-salt oil is costly to get at, but its extraction soon made the country a net exporter, propelled into the same league as members of OPEC, of which it is not part. Today, Brazil has proven reserves of 13 billion barrels and produces 2.5 million barrels of oil a day, according to the US Energy Information Administration. Half the production comes from the pre-salt fields, with that proportion forecast to grow.

Petrobras used to be the sole producer on all the pre-salt fields, though foreign oil companies were later allowed to participate. Under Brazil's outgoing center-right government tender conditions have eased up. Currently one deepwater zone, the Libra field, is being tapped by Petrobras in partnership with France's Total, British-Dutch giant Shell, and Chinese groups CNPC and CNOOC. Analysts believe the Libra field could by itself hold up to 15 billion barrels. —AFP

CBK offer

KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) will offer its clients a 20 per cent discount on shopping at Aura, Al-Zahra complex. The discount will be valid until September 30, 2019.

Next IMF loan will be 'the last': Pakistan FM

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's finance minister promised yesterday to end the country's reliance on International Monetary Fund bailouts to shore up its shaky economy, as officials prepare to negotiate a new loan. Asad Umar's pledge comes days after Pakistan's central bank warned inflation could double in the coming year—hitting 7.5 percent—while the country's growth target rate

Technology

Zain Kuwait partners with Cisco Meraki to deliver cloud-based solutions to enterprises in Kuwait

The solutions offer competitive advantage to enterprises in Kuwait

DUBAI/KUWAIT: Zain Kuwait, the leading digital service provider in the country, announced a strategic partnership with Cisco to deliver secure, cloud-based, managed network solutions to enterprises of all sizes in Kuwait. This partnership aims at empowering a more efficient enterprise sector in Kuwait in alignment with the country's National Development Plan (New Kuwait 2035). The announcement was made during Zain's participation at the fifth 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.

Zain will provide enterprise customers in Kuwait innovative and smart solutions, powered by Cisco Meraki that can deliver secure, high-performance network experiences. The solutions cater to businesses of all sizes, allowing them to manage their IT infrastructure from the cloud through an intuitive, web-based dashboard. The solutions also promise faster time to market and better end-user experience, while helping to reduce operational costs and create new revenue streams through Wi-Fi and network monetization.

Eaman Al-Roudhan, Chief Executive Officer of Zain Kuwait, commented: "At Zain, we are committed to further expanding our partnership ecosystem with global technology leaders like Cisco to empower a more efficient enterprise sector in Kuwait. Enterprises are the backbone that drives Kuwait's economic progress, and our partnership to offer them Cisco Meraki's smart solutions comes in line with our capabilities as an active partner in achieving the goals of the Kuwait National Development Plan (New Kuwait 2035). Zain's strategy is centered around digital transformation leadership and, by signing this partnership, we reaffirm our commitment to

meet our enterprise customers' aspirations, and deliver on our promise of unlocking opportunities and offering unrivalled services and latest technologies."

Stephen Koza, Head of Service Provider Worldwide Sales, Cisco stated: "Cisco Meraki is proud to partner with Zain Kuwait on their mission to be a leader on the path to digital transformation in Kuwait. With Meraki's innovative network infrastructure, built around simplicity and managed through Meraki's web-based dashboard, we know this partnership will allow Zain to deliver their customers a secure and high-performing network experience. We are excited to help deliver a solution that will allow Zain's customers to scale and accelerate their growth in Kuwait and beyond.

"As Kuwait accelerates its digital transformation initiatives, the proliferation of mobile devices and heightening user expectations are forcing businesses to rethink their network requirements, especially for Wi-Fi. Cisco Meraki's simplified, powerful cloud-managed technology will allow Zain to fulfill the wireless requirements of SMBs and enterprises in Kuwait, and offer them the intelligence to help grow their businesses. With this innovative, wireless, cloud-managed network solution, Zain will be able to solve networking and business enablement challenges for their customers," concluded Ali Amer, Managing Director, Global Service Provider Sales, Cisco Middle East and Africa.

For instance, The Wi-Fi solution has a feature-rich, easy-to-use dashboard that allows customers to centrally manage their Wi-Fi infrastructure at multiple locations and gain visibility into network users, devices and applications. Armed with rich, location-based analytics, administrators will be able to quickly create access control and application usage policies, optimizing both the end-user experience and network security, all from a single portal.



Eaman Al-Roudhan with Hamad Al-Marzouq, Nawaf Al Gharabally, Ali Amer, and Jihad Khoueiry at Zain's booth in GITEX.

Huawei launches the HUAWEI Mate 20 Series

LONDON: Huawei Consumer Business Group (BG) yesterday unveiled the HUAWEI Mate 20 Series, one of the most highly anticipated smartphone series of the year. Representing a momentous milestone in the history of the HUAWEI Mate Series, the HUAWEI Mate 20 Series embodies the pinnacle of innovation. Designed with the industry's most powerful and sophisticated process technology, the latest Huawei flagship devices set a new bar by which all 2018 smartphones will be measured.

The HUAWEI Mate 20 Series is powered by Huawei's densest and highest performing system on chip (SoC) to date—the Kirin 980. Manufactured with the advanced 7nm process incorporating the powerful Cortex-A76-based CPU and Mali-G76 GPU, the SoC offers improved performance and an unprecedented smooth user experience. The new 40W HUAWEI SuperCharge, 15W HUAWEI Wireless Quick Charge and large batteries work in tandem to provide users with the best battery life. The Matrix Camera System includes Leica Ultra Wide Angle Lens that lets users not only see wider, but also closer with its new macro distance capability.

The Hyper Optical Pattern on the glass back plays with light and shadows, producing an iridescent optical effect that is immediately captivating. The Matrix Camera System adopts the iconic Four-Point Design that exudes personality, giving the device a unique visual identity that is recognizable even at a distance.

Available in 6.53-inch, 6.39-inch and 7.2-inch sizes, the HUAWEI Mate 20 Series encompasses four devices: HUAWEI Mate 20,

HUAWEI Mate 20 Pro, HUAWEI Mate 20 X and PORSCHE DESIGN HUAWEI Mate 20 RS. "Smartphones are an important entrance to the digital world. The HUAWEI Mate 20 Series is designed to be the best 'mate' of consumers, accompanying and empowering them to enjoy a richer, more fulfilled life with their higher intelligence, unparalleled battery lives and powerful camera performance," said Richard Yu, CEO of Huawei Consumer BG.

Ultimate Performance and Battery Life

The SoC at the core of smartphones has a determining factor in a device's performance and efficiency. Manufactured with the cutting-edge 7nm technology process, the SoC fits 6.9 billion transistors within a die the size of a fingernail. Compared to Kirin 970, the latest chipset is equipped with CPU that is 75 percent more powerful, GPU that is 46 percent more powerful and NPU that is 226 percent more powerful.

This grants the CPU the flexibility to allocate the optimal amount of resources to heavy, medium and light tasks for unprecedented levels of efficiency, simultaneously improving the performance of the SoC while enhancing the battery life. The Kirin 980 is also the industry's first SoC to be equipped with Dual-NPU, granting it higher On-Device AI processing capability to support any and all AI applications.

HUAWEI Mate 20 Pro is the world's first smartphone to support the 4.5G LTE Cat. 21 standard, allowing consumers to experience download speeds of up to 1.4Gbps. It also supports the world's fastest Wi-Fi connection speeds—2GB footage requires only 10 seconds to download. The top-end flagship also supports dual-band (L1+L5) GPS positioning technology. The AI GPS Satellite Selection technology enhances the positioning accuracy across a wide range of scenarios.

Besides superb performance, the HUAWEI Mate 20 Series also features groundbreaking

improvement on battery life. The HUAWEI Mate 20 Pro houses a large, high-density 4200mAh battery, and supports 40W HUAWEI SuperCharge, which gives the device 70 percent charge in 30 minutes. The safety of the technology is certified by TUV Rheinland.

Matrix Camera System

Building on the foundation of HUAWEI P20 Series' camera system, Huawei augmented the HUAWEI Mate 20 with a powerful addition—16mm Leica Ultra Wide Angle Lens. This wider perspective creates a sense of spaciousness and a three dimensional effect to the images. The new camera system also supports macro distance, which produces crisp images of objects that are placed as close as 2.5cm from the lens. The added ultra-wide angle lens and macro support completes the feature set of the camera system, elevating it to a truly all-round camera that is ready to capture any and all action. The HUAWEI Mate 20 Pro is equipped with a 40MP main camera, a 20MP ultra wide-angle camera, and

8MP telephoto camera. Together, the trio of lenses supports a wide range of focal lengths (equivalent to the performance of a 16-270mm zoom lens), enabling it to mimic the results from professional cameras.

HUAWEI Mate 20 Pro and PORSCHE DESIGN HUAWEI Mate 20 RS both support 3D Face Unlock. The solution quickly and securely authenticates users within 0.6s at a false acceptance rate of below 1/1,000,000. Using the 3D Depth Sensing Camera System located at the front, the two devices can accurately read the facial features of a subject and recognize even small details. Besides user authentication, this suite of sensors also enables the portrait beautification effects to be realized in a more natural and effective way.

Futuristic Design

As an expression of the HUAWEI Mate Series DNA, all devices carry a FullView display with a high screen-to-body ratio. Compactly engineered, every device from the 6.39-inch HUAWEI Mate 20 Pro to the 7.2-

inch HUAWEI Mate 20 X can be comfortably used with a single hand.

The grace of natural elements is captured on the design of the HUAWEI Mate 20 Series. In particular the HUAWEI Mate 20 Pro's chassis is curved on all eight sides—a marvel to behold, and a pleasure to hold in the hand. For the PORSCHE DESIGN HUAWEI Mate 20 RS, Huawei and Porsche Design ingeniously combined race track elements with premium materials to create a device that exudes elegance and offers a firm, ergonomic grip.

The Matrix Camera array on the back of the HUAWEI Mate 20 Series features a four-point design with the three cameras and sensor encircled in a polished metal frame, producing an avant-garde look that is both bold and distinct. The devices retain a clean look even when they have been used extensively. Embodying exquisite design, powerful performance, extraordinary capturing capabilities and next-generation intelligence, the new HUAWEI Mate 20 Series is the partner of choice for professionals pursuing quality of life.



LONDON: Mr Richard Yu, CEO of Huawei Consumer Business Group at Huawei Mate 20 Series Launch in London

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Dr. Husain Alenezi

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

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

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DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM
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Consultant Pediatrician-Canadian & American Board in Pediatrics-Canadian Board in Pediatric Emergency

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DR. WALEED S BUHAIMED
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Academic Certificates - Training

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

Scope of clinical Practice.

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

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What's On

Marriott International leaders visit Kuwait to mark 50th anniversary



Arne Sorensen (center) with Fahad Abu Shaar and Monir Amer.



Arne Sorensen with Sheraton Kuwait Management and Employees.

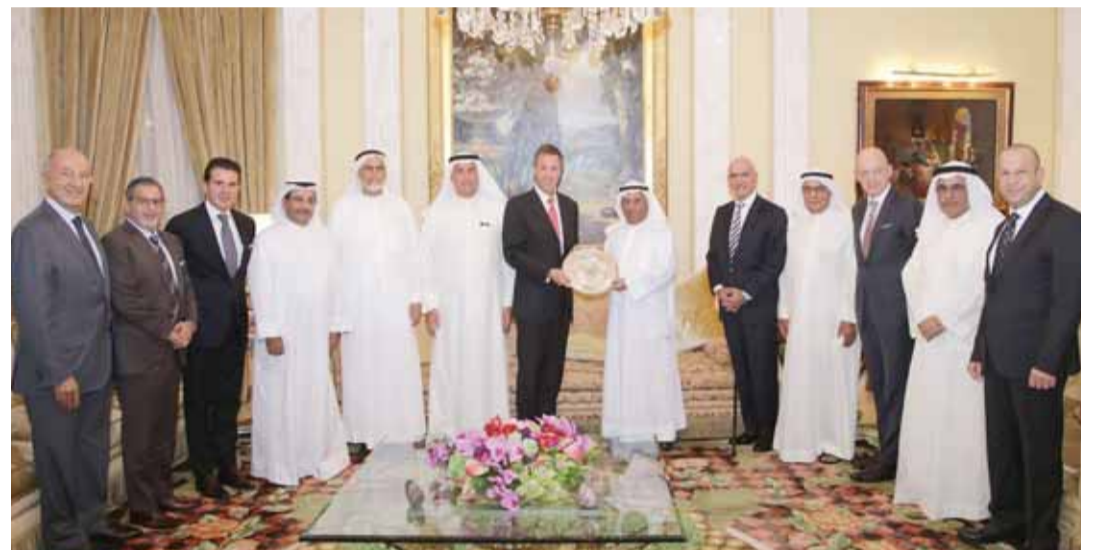
President and CEO of Marriott International Arne Sorensen, Chief Operation Officer, Alex Kyriakidis, Vice President of the Gulf and Levant, Guido De Wilde, President MEA, Safak Guvenc, and the Chief Development Officer, Samir Baidas visited Kuwait and met with the Chairman and Board members of the Oriental Hotels Company owners of Sheraton Kuwait, a Luxury Collection Hotel and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait managed by Marriott International.

On this occasion, Sorensen and Marriott officials met with Abdul Aziz Al Shaya, founder of Sheraton Kuwait & Four Points by Sheraton in the presence of the Chairman and Board Members of the Oriental Hotels Company, owner of both hotels. Al-Shaya honored Sorensen and presented him with the Golden Jubilee Shield marking the 50 years anniversary of Sheraton Kuwait.

Sorensen and his officials were welcomed by Fahed Abushaar, Complex General Manager and the hotel's executive management. Abushaar toured his guests around the hotel's lobby pointing out the major stages of Sheraton's history from its inception in 1966 to its partnership with Sheraton International, with other various partnership until it moved under the management of Marriott International Company.



Abdul Aziz Al Shaya (center) with Arne Sorensen and Fahad Abu Shaar.



Abdul Aziz Al Shaya presents Arne Sorensen with a plaque.

Speech by Vietnam ambassador on the occasion of Vietnam national day



Salam Alaykum, let me, first of all, welcome you all to our reception tonight. Thank you very much for taking time out of your busy schedules to join us in celebrating the 73rd national day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The establishment of the new Vietnam on September 2nd, 1945 opened up an era of independence and development in our history. Over the past 73 years, especially during recent thirty years of reforms, Vietnam has transformed itself from a war-torn country into a thriving and vibrant economy and an attractive destination for foreign investment and tourists.

This year, the World Bank forecasts that our economy will grow at 6.8%. The Asian Development Bank expects the figure will be even higher, 7.1%. In the first 8 months of this year, we received 25 billion USD in foreign direct investment and welcomed more than 10 million international holiday-makers. Vietnam has also been a responsible partner for regional and international security and development through its active membership in ASEAN, APEC and other multilateral organizations.

Those achievements could not have been possible without valuable support and cooperation from countries and organ-

izations of which you are representatives. Taking this opportunity, we would like to thank you once again for the friendship and assistance that your countries and organizations have rendered to Vietnam in our past struggle for national independence as well as in today's development process.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my special thanks to the leaders, people and friends of Kuwait for their leadership in and contribution to strengthening our bilateral relations over the years. In particular, I am delighted to see new progress made in our bilateral cooperation in the past year. In this regard, I would like to update you that the Nghi Son Refinery and Petrochemicals, the landmark, more than 9 billion USD project and symbol of Vietnam-Kuwait cooperation, is now at the final stage of commissioning, having consumed 24 million barrels of crude oil from Kuwait and will soon start commercial operation by the end of this year.

Progress in our bilateral cooperation in the past year can also be seen through the increase in the exchange delegations in both directions, many of those are the firsts. These include the first visit to Vietnam by H.E. Assistant Foreign Minister,

Ambassador Ali Sulaiman Al-Saeed for bilateral political consultation in April; the first ever exchange of visits by officers of Kuwait National Guard and the Ministry of Public Security of Vietnam in April and September respectively; also the first visit to Kuwait in April by the Governor of Thanh Hoa province, which is home to the oil refinery; and another the first visit by the Governor of HCM City of Vietnam to Kuwait later this month.

My list of the firsts can go on but I just want to mention one more, this is not a governmental visit but it is a very special one. This is the first ever visit to Vietnam at my invitation by Kuwait's number one travel blogger, Mr. Hani Almousawi, who I believe is well known to many Kuwaitis and who has so kindly and graciously agreed to help me introduce Vietnam to more and more people in Kuwait. He will go in two weeks' time. And I am so happy to have Mr. Hani Almousawi with us tonight. Thank you, Hani, for your very kind help. My one-year experience in Kuwait is that people will listen to you less after 5 minutes and a lot less after 7 minutes. Now, I am already in my sixth and a half. So, let me end my remarks here. Thank you for your attention. Sukran and enjoy the rest of your evening.

Successful marathon organized by ACK

The Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) organized a large sports marathon, where the Department of Public Relations and Marketing at the College invited all ACK students, faculty members and staff to participate. The Marathon brought together staff and students to compete in a dynamic and sportsmanship filled atmosphere.

The objective was to reinforce the notions of fitness, health consciousness especially in the hearts and

minds of the students. The first prize was won by student Anas Ghaleb, second place by Hamad Al Anezi, and the third place was won by Ali Al Sultan, as in the women category Salsabeel Al Sayyar won the first prize. The winners were awarded with medals. In addition, there were numerous cash incentives as well.

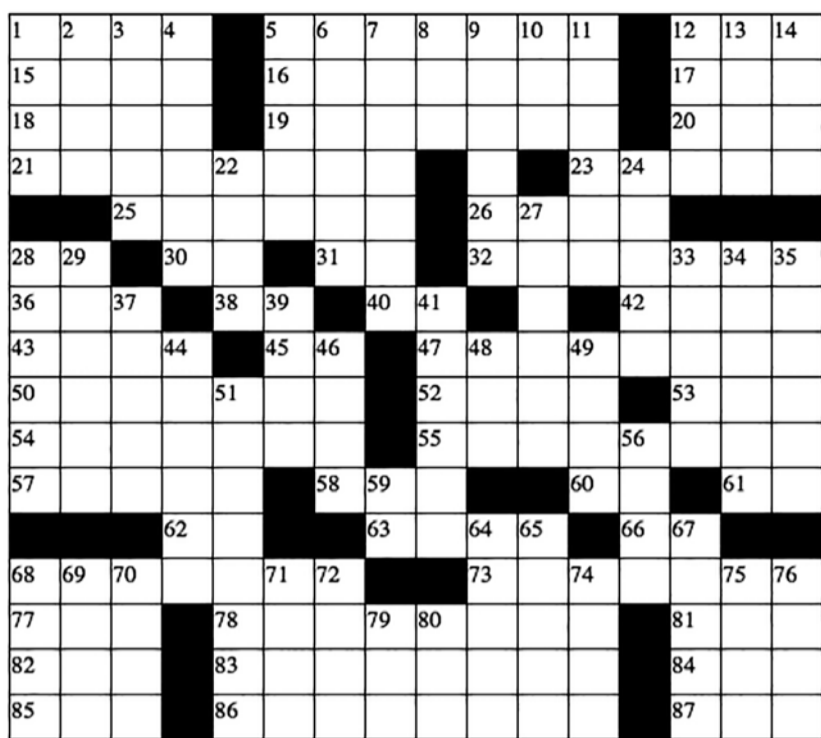
Commenting on the event, May Al Musallam, Student Life, Marketing & PR Senior Manager at ACK, said: "It was overwhelming to see that the young runners competing with their faculty members, adding, the entire student body joined the event by lining up all along the designated route and cheered the runners". At the same time, ACK places importance on the overall College experience and accordingly a wide range of sporting and club activities are available so that students can pursue their hobbies and interests with others and establish lifelong friendships.



The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently received a medical team from the Mowasat Hospital to conduct medical tests for the bank's employees at its main headquarters. Speaking on the occasion, CBK's deputy director, Amani Al-Wer'a said that the visit came as part of the bank's social responsibilities towards its own employees. She added that employees underwent a quick general check up for two days.

Stars

CROSSWORD 2039



ACROSS

1. Type genus of the Anatidae.
5. Having spots or patches of color.
12. Annual grass of Europe and North Africa.
15. Type genus of the Majidae.
16. Genus of tropical American herbs or shrubs.
17. 100 pyas equal 1 kyat.
18. Any property detected by the olfactory system.
19. (anatomy) A small structure resembling a rootlet (such as a fibril of a nerve).
20. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
21. A desert in southwestern Africa - largely Botswana.
23. A civil or military authority in Turkey or Egypt.
25. A medicinal drug used to evoke vomiting (especially in cases of drug overdose or poisoning).
26. Having an eye or eyes or eyelike feature especially as specified.
28. A state in the Rocky Mountains.
30. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
31. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
32. Without the natural or usual covering.
36. A member of a Mayan people of southwestern Guatemala.
38. A bachelor's degree in religion.
40. The use of bacteria or viruses of toxins to destroy men and animals or food.
42. Lacking companions or companionship.
43. A small carriage in which a baby or child is pushed around.
45. The eleventh month of the civil year.
47. Brush turkeys.
50. Nonfictional prose forming an independent part of a publication.
52. Very thin especially from disease or hunger or cold.
53. A unit of absorbed ionizing radiation equal to 100 ergs per gram of irradiated material.
54. A driver who obstructs others.
55. A fee charged for exchanging currencies.
57. A sharp bend in a line produced when a line having a loop is pulled tight.
58. An associate degree in applied science.
60. A colorless odorless gaseous element that give a red glow in a vacuum tube.
61. Half the width of an em.
62. (Greek mythology) A maiden seduced by Zeus.
63. A carriage consisting of two wheels and calash top.
66. A public promotion of some product or service.
68. Perennial herb of North America.
73. A mask with a filter protects the face an lungs against poisonous gases.
77. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
78. An airplane that can land on or take off from water.
81. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
82. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
83. An iron-clad vessel built by the Confederate forces in the hope of breaking the blockade imposed by the North.
84. A barrier constructed to contain the flow or water or to keep out the sea.
85. A local computer network for communication between computers.

86. Having the same sound (especially vowel sound) occurring in successive stressed syllables.
87. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. In a murderous frenzy as if possessed by a demon.
2. A quantity of no importance.
3. Garlic mayonnaise.
4. A long brightly colored shawl.
5. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
6. The mountain peak that Noah's ark landed on as the waters of the great flood receded.
7. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
8. A unit of pressure.
9. (informal) Having been got the better of.
10. An inflammatory complication of leprosy that results in painful skin lesions on the arms and legs and face.
11. Make more intense, stronger, or more marked.
12. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
13. An Indian nursemaid who looks after children.
14. A village in eastern Ireland (northwest of Dublin).
22. A plant lacking a permanent woody stem.
24. (of animals) Fully developed.
27. Of or relating to or characteristic of Yemen or its inhabitants.
29. United States lawyer famous for his defense of lost causes (1857-1938).
33. Sorghums of dry regions of Asia and North Africa.
34. Put into a rage.
35. Quietness or silence (a sound) or make (an image) less visible.
37. New Zealand conifer.
39. Herb of the Pacific islands grown throughout the tropics for its edible root and in temperate areas as an ornamental for its large glossy leaves.
41. A tributary of the Ohio River.
44. The vein in the center of a leaf.
46. Prolific Spanish playwright (1562-1635).
48. (of roads) Made of logs laid down crosswise.
49. Asiatic wild dog.
51. A tan discoloration of a woman's face that is associated with pregnancy or with the use of oral contraceptives.
56. A cooperative unit.
59. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
64. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
65. A language group of the Hoka family.
67. (Irish) Chief god of the Tuatha De Danann.
69. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
70. Any place of complete bliss and delight and peace.
71. The sediment from fermentation of an alcoholic beverage.
72. The 4th planet from the sun.
74. A subdivision of a larger religious group.
75. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
76. God of love and erotic desire.
79. In favor of (an action or proposal etc).
80. United States sculptor and architect whose public works include the memorial to veterans of the Vietnam War in Washington (born in 1959).

Friday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You find that your thoughts are staying about two steps ahead of your actions today. Your mind is in overdrive. You are quick and on your toes. There is no doubt you are extremely intelligent, and others are attracted to this quality. You may find that you can be of great counsel to others today. Your opinions matter to those close to you. You may find yourself seeking knowledge and wanting to surround yourself with others that have the same desire. Education is extremely important to you and you may find yourself led to continue yours in some form, whether it be additional training in your field of work or enrolling in new courses, Aries.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may find yourself attracted to all that is unique today. You are broadening your horizons and opening your mind to new and unusual things. You find yourself drawn to these things and people. Your own creative abilities soar to new levels. You are thinking a little farther outside of the box than ever before. This new way of thinking finds you a bit disconnected in the workplace and in a more dream like state. You may find others are not familiar with this side of you and are taken a little off guard and this may be what is causing you to feel a disconnect and lack of communication with them.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

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



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You find yourself in admiration of the mystical world around you. You are more determined than ever to put your talents to use whether artistic or psychic. You may find you are faced with opportunity to use these talents and bring the mysterious, the glamorous, and the intriguing into your life. You may be curious of how your mind could be so active and overwhelmed by the ideas that are flowing through in over drive. You feel the need to express these ideas as fast as they come to you and could catch yourself talking the ears off of anyone that would listen.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

All that sparkles may not be gold, but it sure does catch your eye. You have deep appreciation for the beauty surrounding you and find it hard to pass by any sparkling treasure in your path. Admire it and move on Leo, and this could be a very good financial period for you if you can resist the urge to spend. This may be a time of change in your life. The changes you are about to make or may be making may not be supported by those close to you. You may experience conflict or major pushback.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You don't care how, you want it now! This is your attitude when it comes to life today. You have taken love a step farther. Obsession is a more appropriate description of how you feel about your goals. This could be an extremely passionate time in your world. Jealousy and possessiveness may be emotions that play a role in your world. You may find your ambition is in overdrive and you will not stop until you have exactly what you want.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Details are important today. Be aware of what you say. Be sure anything you put on social media communicates what you intended. Words can be misinterpreted, and you may not have an opportunity to correct a misunderstanding. Written words are a permanent record, and they can come back to haunt you. Relationships can be permanently damaged because the reader did not get the message that was intended. Choose your words wisely today.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Stress plays a bigger role in your life than usual. Under pressure is not the best position to be in to make decisions. When tensions are high like you may experience today, it is best to but off any decisions for later. Hit the road, take a drive, or just do what it takes to add a bit of relaxation into your world. You may find someone turning to you for advice or as a shoulder to cry on. Pouring your time into helping someone may seem to relieve your stress and minimize your own problems. Helping others could be the best way to help yourself.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You are a practical person with an abundance of common sense. You are able to use both of these qualities as assets to make your way to the top in the career world. You may be feeling a need to change your focus and tighten your circle a bit. You feel as if you need to spend more of your time and attention on you and yours. At this point you may have accomplished your goal in the workplace but feel you need to continue to work on your goal at home.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Make a plan and put it in action. The ins and outs of your daily life have become mundane. You need excitement and change. Even though plans for a getaway may not go smoothly, the actual trip is just what you need to refresh and rejuvenate. Your focus tends to be centered on the wants and needs of those around you. This is a time in your life it will be best to put yourself first. Remember you must first take care of yourself to be able to help others.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

This day may find you longing for change. A new style, new friends, new experiences may be calling out to you. You want to break out and break away from the mundane life you have been leading. A major change is on the horizon. You may be led to really change things up in your life. Don't run out and get a tattoo or make any changes that can be reversed because this phase could fade as fast as it appeared. This change is in attitude is very evident to those around you and you may find you are being met with much opposition. The new you is not the highly respected hard-working role model that so many close to you have grown to admire.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Break the mold. Color outside of the lines. Today is a day you will find great satisfaction from being different. Thinking outside of the box will bring great reward. Stay positive and optimistic and sit back and enjoy the reward. Remember at times you can reap great reward from stepping outside of your comfort zone and taking a risk. This risk is worth the reward. Take a chance.

Wordsearch Puzzle

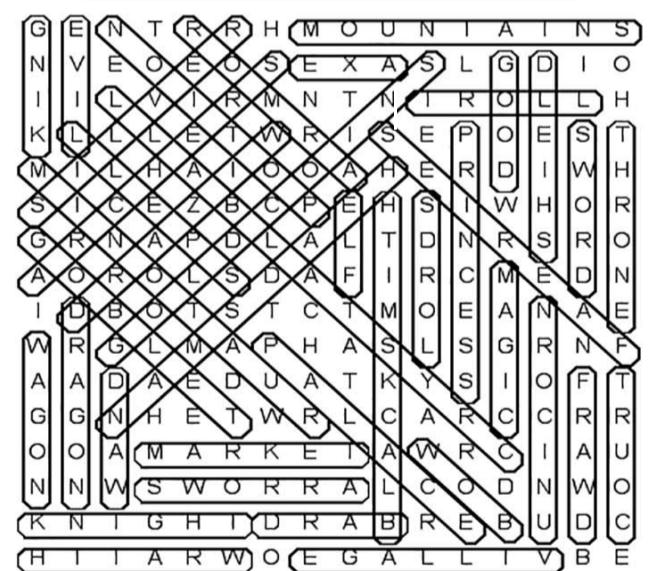
Farm

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a common farm animal.



- | | | | |
|--------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| BALER | FARMER | HOUSE | SOWING SEED |
| BARN | FENCE | LIVESTOCK | STABLES |
| BUTTER | FERTILIZER | MILK | TRACTOR |
| CAT | GOATS | PASTURE | TROUGH |
| CHEESE | GRAIN | PIG | TURKEYS |
| CORN | HARROW | PLOW | WEATHERVANE |
| COW | HARVEST | PRODUCE | WEEDS |
| CREAM | HAY | ROOSTER | WELL |
| DAIRY | HEN | SEEDS | WHEAT |
| DOG | HORSE | SOIL | |

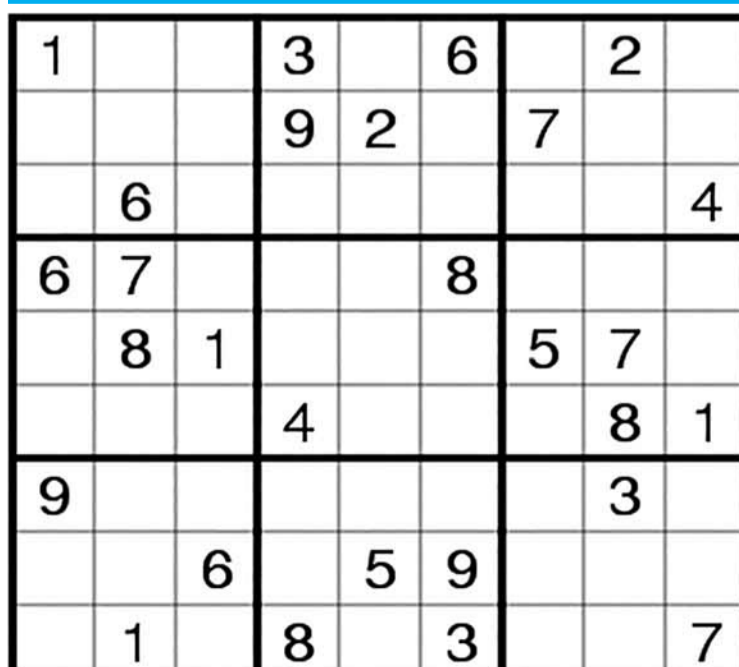
Fantasy World 2



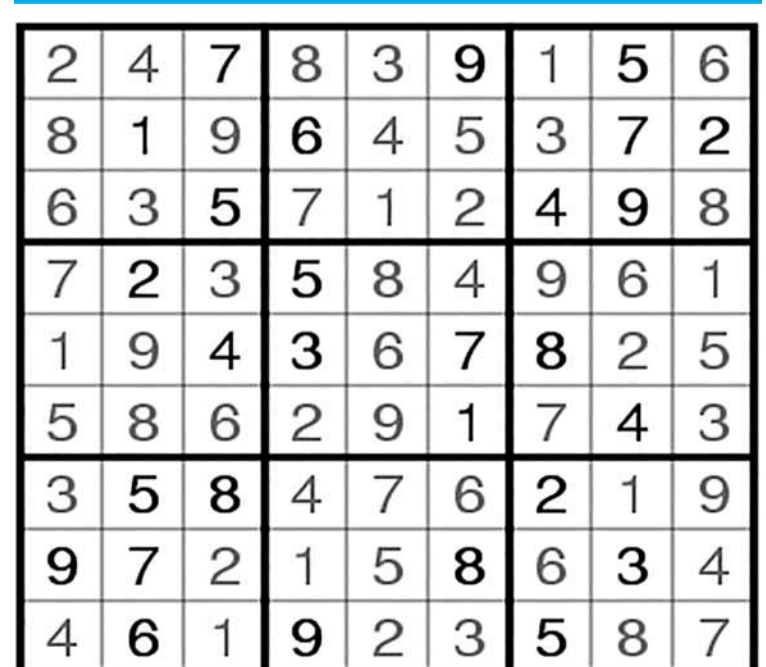
- | | | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------|---------|
| ARCHERS | DWARF | LORDS | SPELL |
| ARMOR | ELF | MAGIC | SWORD |
| ARROWS | EVIL | MARKET | THRONE |
| AXE | FAERIES | MINOTAUR | TROLL |
| BARD | GOBLET | MOUNTAINS | UNICORN |
| BLACKSMITH | GOLD COINS | PALACE | VILLAGE |
| BOW | GOOD | POTION | WAGON |
| COURT | HEADSMAN | PRINCESS | WAND |
| CRYSTAL BALL | KING | SHIELD | WIZARD |
| DRAGON | KNIGHT | SILVER | WRAITH |

The hidden message is: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

Daily SuDoku

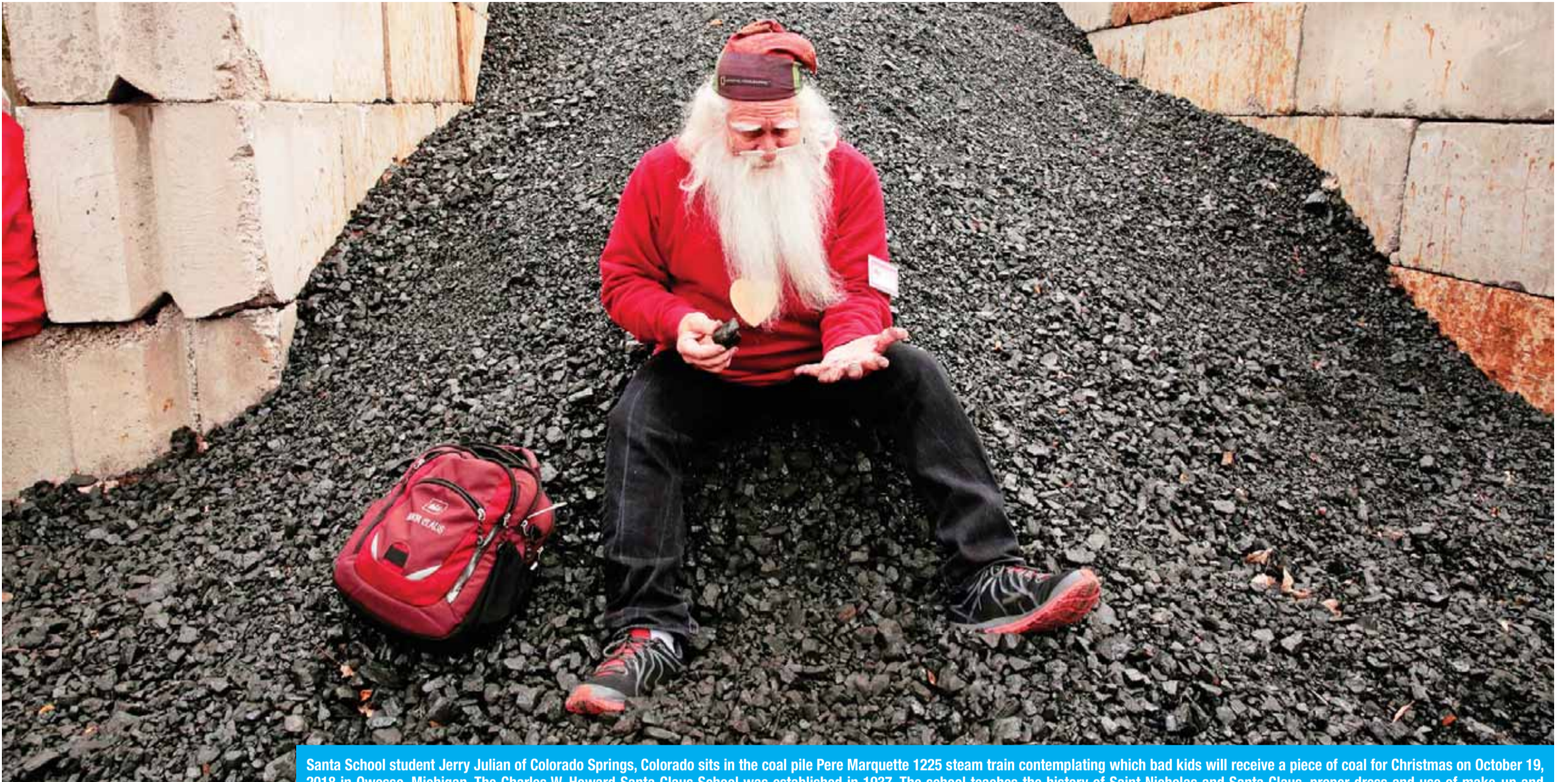


Friday's Solution



Lifestyle

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2018



Santa School student Jerry Julian of Colorado Springs, Colorado sits in the coal pile Pere Marquette 1225 steam train contemplating which bad kids will receive a piece of coal for Christmas on October 19, 2018 in Owosso, Michigan. The Charles W. Howard Santa Claus School was established in 1937. The school teaches the history of Saint Nicholas and Santa Claus, proper dress and use of make-up and singing, voice, and presentation skills during the three day course. — AFP



Visitors look at a model of Monumental sculptural portrait of Karl Marx by Russia's sculptor Lev Kerbel during exhibition "Karl Marx forever" at the State Russian Museum in Saint Petersburg. — AFP photos

Russian exhibit puts Marx in the picture, 200 years after his birth

No Russian artist painted revolutionary thinker Karl Marx during his lifetime and yet his image even now 200 years after his birth remains ubiquitous. Hundreds of those images—on canvas, in bronze, on vases, tapestries and posters—have now been brought together in a new exhibition in Saint Petersburg. "Attitudes towards Marx have changed many times, but the works of art will stay forever," said Evgenia Petrova of the State Russian Museum at the opening of the three-hall display. Statues of the German philosopher, whose theories were turned into the basis of communism by his followers, are still a common sight in Russia and most cities have a street named after him, despite the collapse of the Soviet Union in the 1990s.

Marx died in London in 1881 at the age of 64. His grave at the city's Highgate Cemetery is still a major tourist draw. The exhibition includes pre-Russian revolution works such as a 1905 bust by sculptor Anna Golubkina, as well as irony-tinged contemporary works. "For those of us who grew up in the Soviet era, Marx, Engels and Lenin were like the Holy Trinity. They were everywhere in public life," said Tatyana Yakovleva, a 69-

year-old pensioner visiting the museum. "The exhibit, Karl Marx Forever", runs until 14 January, 2019, at the State Russian Museum in Saint Petersburg. — AFP



A visitor looks at a painting 'Das Kapital' by Russian artist Igor Baskakov.



A visitor looks at the painting 'Symbols of Faith' by Russian artist Vadim Grigoriev at the exhibition "Karl Marx forever".



A visitor looks at the artwork 'Chapel of Marxism' pictorial and architectural object by the Wizard artists artistic sect at the exhibition "Karl Marx forever".

Banksey admits shredding stunt didn't go as planned

Banksey has admitted that one of his biggest pranks yet didn't really go according to plan. The British street artist created an art world sensation by sending one of his paintings through a shredder hidden in a frame moments after it sold at auction for £1,042,000 (\$1.4 million, 1.2 million euros). Experts say the "Girl with Balloon" is now probably worth even more because the stunt created a media stir that made many reassess their understanding of performance art. But there was always a nagging question: Why did only half the painting slip through the frame?

Was there a deeper meaning? Did Banksey—whose identity is known only to a select group of loyal friends—try to tell us something we were still failing to grasp? The secretive artist admitted on a video posted on his Instagram account this week that the real answer was much simpler. The painting got stuck. "In rehearsal it worked every time," he wrote at the end of a three-minute clip showing how he practiced sending an identical painting through a shredder in a frame. The entire thing sailed straight through.

Secret auction footage

The video itself was a classic Banksey piece of political art, poking fun at all the attention he had generated. It showed a white man dressed in a black outfit installing a shredder into a fancy frame with the red balloon painting. The clip then switched to secretly filmed footage of the London auction itself, men in suits and women wearing sparkling jewelry milled around the painting as a Sotheby's auctioneer extolled its virtues. "We've had a lot of interest on it as you can imagine. It's I think by far the most asked about lot in the sale," he says.



"The artist put the frame up as well. You get that quite often with Banksey—he quite likes the romanticism of having a National Gallery-esque frame." The auction resumes and the video's pace speeds up as it focuses on the anxious participants who watch as the bidding price shoots up. The hammer soon falls and an extreme close-up shows an anonymous hand press a small remote control device that looks like a garage door opener. It starts beeping and the picture starts falling through its frame. Those in the room take two or three seconds to notice—and then start whipping out their phones to capture the moment on film. The auctioneer himself says nothing and continues mechanically turning pages laid out before him while watching the painting being turned into paper spaghetti. —AFP

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Zara Larsson worries new single with encourage toxic relationships

Zara Larsson doesn't want her new single to encourage bad relationships. The 20-year-old singer has returned with her latest track 'Ruin My Life' - based on wanting to go back to an unhealthy romance and has opened up about her own toxic relationship - but fears that young women may get the wrong message from her lyrics. In an interview with Pop Justice, she said: "I can't lie: I've been there when you're coming out of a bad relationship and you just know this person is really bad for you, but you can't help wanting to go back. You're like: 'I know he'll ruin my life, he'll break my heart and I won't be able to eat or sleep for three months, but I WANT IT NOW.' I think everyone's been there. Or after two drinks you can't stop yourself sending the texts. But... I also argue against myself when it comes to songs. I'm very careful with things I say. And I don't want peo-

ple - young girls and women - to listen to the song and... Like, I don't want to be a girl who promotes bad relationships. 'Just go back to him, it'll be fine'. I don't want to do that. But I do also want to be an artist who can express something I'm feeling or that I've been through." The 'Lush Life' hitmaker admitted that the new song was originally meant to be a duet; however, Zara wanted the first single on her new album to be a solo track. She said: "I got the song sent to me - I wasn't in the room when it was written - and I really liked it, but it was originally thought of as a duet. 'I love to collaborate with people but I just didn't want it to be a duet. I wanted the first single from my new record to be just me."

Mike Campbell reflects on Tom Petty's death

Tom Petty "couldn't communicate" in his final days. The 'I Won't Back Down' hitmaker passed away in October 2017 at the age of 66 from an accidental overdose and his Heartbreakers guitarist, Mike Campbell, is thankful he had been given the opportunity to really "connect" with his friend on their final tour



together. He said: "In the hospital, lying in the bed, I talked to him a little bit. 'He couldn't communicate, but maybe he heard me. I don't know. 'It's hard to put into words but I had an opportunity on the plane a couple of times towards the end of the last tour to connect, to say all the things I really wanted to say to him. 'We were able to touch base, to identify our bond and our friendship in a very powerful way. 'I feel fortunate to have had those moments with him, not knowing what was going to unfold.' And Mike admitted he was stunned when he received an early morning phone call to say Tom had been rushed to hospital. He recalled to *Uncut* magazine: "The last time I saw Tom he looked like an angel. I got the call at four in the morning you always worry when the phone rings in the middle of the night. 'My wife picked it up then said to me, 'Tom's in the hospital'. I said, 'Tom who?' It didn't even occur to me it could be him, it must be some other Tom. That's how shocked I was. 'I knew he had a little pain in his hip, but he hardly ever complained about it on tour.' And Tom's death came at a time when he still had a lot of musical goals to achieve. Mike said: "We were looking forward. We talked a lot about what we were going to do after the tour. We had a lot of plans."

Madonna shares new song

Madonna has shared a clip of her new collaboration with Quavo. The 60-year-old singer has joined forces with the Migos rapper and Cardi B for new song 'Champagne Rose' and she took to Instagram to share a snippet with her fans. In the clip, she sings: "Drink me up Champagne Rose/It's my game/Please fill my cup Champagne Rose/It's my name."

Madonna added the caption: "Favorite Drink #champagnerose #quavohuncho." The track will feature on Quavo's upcoming album 'Quavo Huncho'. Meanwhile, Madonna recently confirmed she is still working on her 14th studio album, which will be her first new record for four years since 2015's 'Rebel Heart', and doesn't expect the record to drop until 2019. She said: "I'm finishing my record, which I'm going to release next year." Madonna insists she "cannot quit" making music, despite delving further in the fashion of beauty world of late, which has seen her release new skincare lines, as well as perfumes. She added: "Yep, in between rose mist spray and serums, I'm actually making music. Can't quit my day job." Madonna's latest claims come just a few months after revealing she would be dropping a new record by the end of 2018, and that her tunes will feature a heavy Portuguese influence after she moved to Lisbon to help son David Banda, 12, pursue his professional football career. She said: "I've just met lots of really amazing musicians, and I've ended up working with a lot of these musicians on my new record, so Lisbon has influenced my music and my work. 'How could it not? I don't see how I could have gone through that year without being informed by all this input of culture.' The 'Like a Prayer' hitmaker added that her new songs "will be collected in an album that will be released by the end of the year". In May, lyrics and details of the Queen of Pop's new tunes were leaked online. She had recorded a number of tracks at the time, to accompany her first new song in three years, 'Beautiful Game' - produced by 'Die Another Day' producer Mirwais - which she performed at the Met Gala earlier that month.



Britney Spears 'hip-hop' residency

Britney Spears' new Las Vegas residency show will have "an urban, street, hip-hop vibe". The 'Toxic' hitmaker recently announced her new show 'Domination' at the Park Theater at Park MGM but it is set to be very different from her 'Piece of Me' residency. According to TMZ, Britney's show will have an urban, street, hip-hop vibe that will be reflected in the music, wardrobe, choreography, backup dancers and set design". The stage is set to have "bleeding edge technology" and is being put together by two of Jennifer Lopez's creative directors. Britney announced the new residency with a parade celebration via a livestream on Ellen DeGeneres' YouTube channel from Toshiba Plaza in Sin City A huge carnival-style launch took place on the Vegas Strip - which was shut down for the event - with a light display and Britney's hits played in the background in the lead up to the hotly-anticipated reveal. The 'Oops... I Did It Again' hitmaker is set to rake in an impressive \$507,000 per show, which would mean she would suc-

ceed Celine Dion as the highest-paid Vegas resident. Sharing her excitement on Twitter, Britney wrote: "Excited to be returning to Vegas in February 2019 at the @ParkTheaterLV with a brand new show!!! Tickets go on sale Friday, October 26th, and fans on my mailing list will have access to an exclusive pre-sale at 10am PT tomorrow! #BritneyDomination (sic)" The 'Domination' run kicks off on February 13, 2019, and will wrap around August time. Britney's 'Piece of Me' shows at the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino, which launched in 2013, reportedly saw Britney - who has 13-year-old Sean and 12-year-old Jayden with ex-husband Kevin Federline - earn \$137.7 million. The 'Slumber Party' singer will bring her 'Piece of Me Tour' to a close on October 21 at the Circuit of the Americas in her hometown of Austin, Texas. Tickets for 'Domination' go on sale on October 26.

Sir Paul McCartney announces Archive Collection releases

Sir Paul McCartney has announced the details of two more Archive Collection releases. The iconic musician and his band Wings have seen their first two albums, 'Wild Life' and 'Red Rose Speedway', expanded into limited deluxe editions, which will be released on December 7, 2018. The limited deluxe edition of 'Wild Life' comes with the debut album from Wings - which released in December 1971 - as well as 25 bonus audio tracks, including rough mixes of the album, original single edits, B-sides, and home recordings. The set's DVD includes footage of acoustic home videos and rehearsals, while there's also a 128-page book written by David Fricke that tells the story behind the album. On the other hand, the limited deluxe edition of 'Red Rose Speedway' features three discs of audio, including the original album remastered at Abbey Road, as well as 35 bonus audio tracks. Other exciting features of the package include a DVD of previously unseen footage, such as the James Paul McCartney TV Special, interviews and music videos. The Archive Collection has been a big success since debuting in November 2010 with the re-release of 'Band on the Run', which won Best Historical Album at the Grammy Awards that year. Meanwhile, Paul recently admitted he sometimes forgets the lyrics to his biggest hits. The British icon - who has released 18 solo albums, seven with Wings and 12 studio records with The Beatles - has penned countless timeless hits over the years, but he revealed it can be tough to remember all the words when he's playing live. He said: "When I'm doing shows I listen to a lot of music, Beatles music, Wings music, to see what ones we're gonna do. 'And to learn them ... There's too many. Too many words. Too many notes. They're very hard. I mean, you know, it's not like they're all three chords."



Nicki Minaj set to perform at MTV Europe Music Awards

Nicki Minaj is to perform at the MTV Europe Music Awards in November. The 35-year-old rap star - who released her long-awaited fourth album 'Queen' earlier this year - is set to take to the stage at the annual awards bash, which is being held in Bilbao, Spain, this year. Other big-name stars scheduled to perform at the awards show include Halsey and Spanish singer Rosalia, while Janet Jackson - who was recently announced as the recipient of the Global Icon Award - will be performing a medley of her greatest hits. Nicki previously hosted the event when it was staged in Glasgow, Scotland, in 2014 and the chart-topping rapper's performance is sure to be one of the highlights of the awards show on November 4. Actors Michael Pena and Diego Luna have been revealed as two of the awards presenters, with Hailee Steinfeld serving as the host of the ceremony. Camila Cabello leads the nominations with six, while Ariana Grande and Post Malone are tied with five nominations each. Drake, Shawn Mendes and Dua Lipa are among the other well-known artists who have been nominated. Meanwhile, Nicki recently claimed that her critics are waiting to see her "fall". The outspoken star - who was involved in an altercation with rap rival Cardi B during New York Fashion Week - claimed that some people hope she is soon usurped as the most popular female rapper in the music industry. Nicki explained: "I've been at the top of this totem pole for a very long time. Sometimes people just want to see someone who's been at the top fall, just to see if it can happen."

Caplin and Massiah thrilled with All You success



MCaplin & Massiah are delighted their anti-Donald Trump anthem is soaring up the charts. The duo - comprising former Haysi Fantayzee producer Paul Caplin and his wife Zeeteah Massiah - penned 'All You' in defiance of the US president and couldn't be happier the club world has embraced the track. They tweeted: "Straight in at No.18! #AllYou breaks into the club Top 20 with help from the brilliant @WestFunkmusic and @Tracey_power99. Thanks guys! And thanks to all the DJs who supported the track. Let's keep it going.(sic)" And the duo have called on others who share their views to follow their lead and speak out against the controversial US leader. Caplin said: "Let's not get used to Donald Trump. He's a walking catalogue of character flaws, and he's doing immense harm. If we don't want people like that in positions of power, we need to say something." And her husband and bandmate stressed the track isn't just protesting against the former 'Apprentice' star, but others just like him. He added: "It's not just Trump. This song is also about anyone who thinks that money is the most important thing in their lives. We've all met people like that, and I hope you can relate to how we feel about them."

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MALEK 'IS SENSATIONAL' IN BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

Rami Malek is "absolutely sensational" in 'Bohemian Rhapsody', according to cinematographer Newton Thomas Sigel. The 37-year-old actor stars as Freddie Mercury in the biographical drama and Newton has hailed his performance in the new movie. He said: "I think the movie is fabulous. It is a real celebration of Queen and their music and Freddie Mercury's genius. "And I think it's both truthful and celebratory at the same time, which is a rare and wonderful combination, especially in a period of history that's not necessarily the most peaceful and tranquil. "I think Rami Malek is absolutely sensational. At this point, I can't actually imagine the movie or Freddie being played by anybody else. He so thoroughly inhabits the

character, and it's really breathtaking." Despite this, Newton still found Rami to be "terrifically easy" to work with. Speaking about the actor - who also stars in the popular TV drama series 'Mr. Robot' - Newton told Collider: "Rami goes very deep into the character, but he's very accessible, still, as an actor, when you are working with him on set. So he's actually quite easy to work with as a performer. And he's very savvy technically. "I think that enables him to move in and out of character in a way that actually makes my job very easy. He's terrifically easy actor to work with."

Amandla Stenberg has role responsibility

Amandla Stenberg feels a "responsibility" to only take on roles that serve a purpose. The 'Hate U Give' actress wants to use her position for good and to be a positive role model, but she also wants to stay true to herself. She said: "I feel a responsibility, but these are also the only sorts of roles I'm interested in. "It's probably something my mom instilled in me. "When I was younger, the only roles I would have received would be like, 'Daughter of a drug user' or 'overly sexualized young black girl'. But she always said, 'No, we don't have to touch the roles you don't want to play. "I don't really have interest in stereotypes of myself. "Or putting myself in a light that robs me of the ability to do more activism." While the 20-year-old star believes it's important to take "moral responsibility" and use her platform for good, she's understanding of those that don't follow her lead. She told Britain's Grazia magazine: "I think it should be everyone's moral responsibility and not necessarily postulate it as really radical, because it's what we should all be doing. "I have friends who exist within marginalized intersections of identity who have no interest in speaking out. Because they just want the ability to exist. And in many ways, I think that's enough." Amandla hopes 'The Hate U Give' helps to humanize the Black Lives Matter movement and wants her character, Starr, to help other young girls "feel validated" in the way she did when she first read Angie Thomas' novel of the same time. She said: "I felt like I had never seen anyone else like Starr in a book before. You know, a black girl who is

multi-dimensional and nuanced and actually reflective of who we are as black girls and women..." Hopefully playing [Black Lives Matter] within a personal narrative can help people understand the gravity of the situation. That we are a beautiful community who have experienced a lot."



Jungle Cruise release delayed until 2020

Disney's 'Jungle Cruise' has been pushed back to 2020. The family adventure movie - based on the popular theme park attraction of the same name - was originally expected to drop on October 10, 2019 but it has now been delayed until July 24, 2020. The movie's star Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson shared a trailer for the film on Twitter and wrote: "IT'S OFFICIAL - JULY 24th, 2020. Ladies and gentlemen and children of all ages. My partner in crime, Emily Blunt and I, lovingly invite you to join us for THE ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME. All aboard...@DisneyStudios JUNGLE CRUISE (sic)." The Disneyland attraction features a riverboat which takes travellers on a journey through a dangerous jungle, and producers are hoping it will follow 'Pirates of the Caribbean' as Disney's next big franchise. Earlier this year, it was revealed that Jack Whitehall is set to play Disney's first ever openly gay character in the movie. The 30-year-old actor's role is set to be a significant one in the studio's long history. A source said: "This is a huge gig for Jack and has landed him his biggest ever pay check. "But, more excitingly, he is playing a gay man - one who is hugely effete, very camp and very funny. It's a dream role. "Disney's always been incredibly supportive of the LGBTQ community. This latest script, set [in the 19th century] at a time when it wasn't socially acceptable to be gay, is another significant turning point." It's thought Whitehall has landed a seven figure deal for his role in the movie. Although his character will be the first openly gay man written into one of Disney's films, last year's 'Beauty and the Beast' saw Josh Gad's LeFou flirting with Gaston (played by Luke Evans) in the company's first 'gay moment' on screen.



Paul Greengrass says 22 July 'is relevant to every country'

Paul Greengrass thinks '22 July' is "relevant to every country". The 63-year-old director's latest project tells the story of the terrorist attack carried out by Anders Breivik in Norway in 2011, and Paul has explained why he thinks it was important to make the new drama film. He explained: "You've only got to look around the world, everywhere we look the hard right is on the rise. "There's a neo-Nazi party holding the balance of power in Sweden and in Austria, an extreme right-wing gov-

ernment in Italy, look at Tommy Robinson in the UK, Brexit, Trump, Steve Bannon. "It's important to make the point, that by and large they don't agree with Breivik's methods, but his opinions, which in 2011 were considered marginal are today mainstream. That argument that goes on about the betrayal by the elites, that's all standard stuff." Paul stressed that, at its core, '22 July' isn't really about the terrorist attacks in Norway. Instead, the filmmaker - who previously helmed the biographical drama 'United 93' about the terrorist attacks in America

in 2001 - is hoping to make a broader point to his audience. He told the Belfast Telegraph newspaper: "I wanted to make a film that dramatized it because the story of how Norway had fought for her democracy is what the film is really about. "It's not about the attack, although the first chunk is, but the story of how Norway fought for her democracy in the aftermath of the attacks is a story of today. It's relevant to every country."

Curtis says Halloween 'reflects changing attitudes to trauma'

Damie Lee Curtis thinks the new 'Halloween' movie reflects changing attitudes towards trauma. The 59-year-old actress - who has reprised the role of Laurie Strode in the latest installment of the horror franchise - has claimed that the new movie chimes with the #MeToo movement's determination to reveal the long-term impact of trauma. Speaking to the Independent, Jamie explained: "The film was written before the #MeToo movement. It was written in January of 2016 and the movement really began in August 2017." The #MeToo movement emerged in the wake of the Hollywood sex scandal and has helped to expose the prevalence of sexual assault and harassment. And Jamie - whose on-screen character is

a survivor of Michael Myers' killing spree in the hit movies - explained how the latest film overlaps with the movement. She said: "Women and men, all over the world, are starting to stand up and say: 'This happened to me, but it does not have to be the definition of me.' "We made a horror movie that's super scary but at its core is the subject of trauma. But in the world, we are having a conversation that has been silenced for a very long time." Jamie added: "Trauma is the residual effect of violence. We know that. We know that through history, we've studied history. Because it's generational. "It gets passed on if it's not worked out. And so, this is a movie about generational trauma."

Hemsworth to star alongside Vaughn in Arkansas

Liam Hemsworth has been cast alongside Vince Vaughn in 'Arkansas'. The 28-year-old actor will play the role of a low-level drug runner who is working for a kingpin, played by Vince, in the upcoming movie. 'Arkansas' - which is being directed by Clark Duke - tells the story of a drug deal that goes disastrously wrong. The movie is being produced by Patrick Hibler, Jeff Rice, Martin Sprock and Storyboard Media. And the project - which is based on a script penned by Clarke, who also stars in the movie - is set to start filming in Alabama. Liam recently completed shooting the action-thriller 'Killerman' and is poised to star alongside Rebel Wilson in the comedy movie 'Isn't It Romantic', which is scheduled for release in early 2019. The actor is part of one of Hollywood's most famous families, with his brothers Chris and Luke Hemsworth also starring in the movie business. And Liam previously admitted that he and his siblings have always been competitive with each other. He shared: "We used to fight all the time. "In the summer holidays we'd live in board shorts and we had a throwing knife, so we'd play this game where you'd have to stand about two meters away from each other and take it in turns to throw it as close to the person's foot and stick it into the ground. "It was

really dangerous. I mean, it was kind of blunt, but it would still hurt a lot if it hit you. We used to play that a lot. "There were a few cuts and bruises, a few shaves here and there. I think being a young, Australian guy you tend to do those kinds of stupid things."



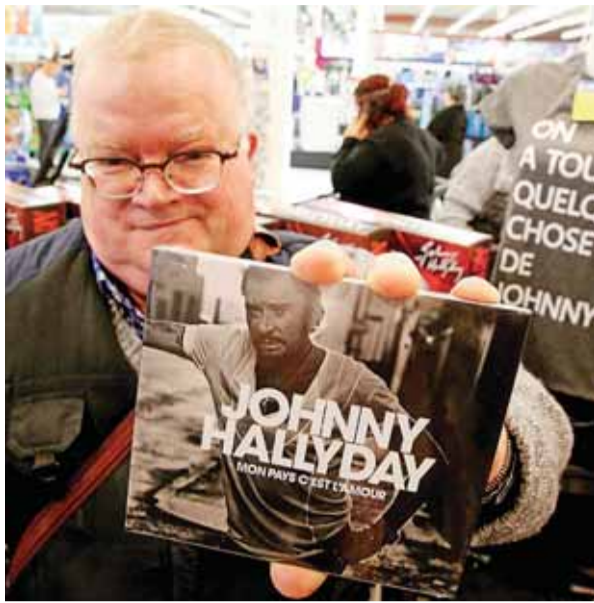
John Krasinski is penning A Quiet Place sequel

John Krasinski is writing a sequel to 'A Quiet Place'. The 38-year-old actor - who directed and starred in the original movie alongside his wife Emily Blunt - has revealed that he's already turned his attention to writing a sequel to the hit film, which was released earlier this year. John explained: "I had this small idea for a sequel, but I didn't think it would go anywhere. So, I said to the studio, 'Just go do the movie with somebody else.'" However, John found it difficult to move past his own idea for the sequel - which he eventually revealed to producer Andrew Form of Platinum Dunes. He told The Hollywood Reporter: "They heard some pitches, and I told Drew about this little idea. And he told me to

think about it a little longer. And then I thought, 'This might really work.' So, I'm currently writing the sequel." Despite the success of 'A Quiet Place', John previously admitted to being anxious about working with his wife. The American star - who has kids Hazel, four, and Violet, two, with Emily - said: "We were both really nervous about it for exactly that reason. It can go one of two ways, and one of the ways is horrible. "And so what I said was, let's approach it the way we approach our marriage, which is let's overly communicate about this stuff so that any problems we have remain small rather than huge." — BangShowbiz



Lifestyle | Music & Movies



Jean-Louis Buricand, cafe owner and fan of the late French singer Johnny Hallyday, brandishes the star's posthumous album "Mon pays c'est l'amour" on the day of its release, at the Leclerc Supermarket of Reims. — AFP photos



Fans watch a video clip of the late French singer Johnny Hallyday upon the midnight release of his posthumous album.



Fans celebrate as they walk in the Fnac Champs Elysees store at midnight to buy the late French singer Johnny Hallyday's posthumous album upon its release.

Posthumous Hallyday album sells 300,000 on first day

French rocker Johnny Hallyday's posthumous album sold 300,000 copies on Friday after going on sale at midnight, the late star's record company Warner Music France told AFP. Fans of the singer, whose death last year sparked a nationwide outpouring of emotion, queued outside record stores on Thursday night to get their hands on the album. Warner, which said the sales figure did not include downloads from streaming platforms, had earlier predicted that "Mon pays c'est l'amour" (My Country is Love) would go platinum (100,000 sales) within minutes of going on sale.

Hallyday's 1999 album "Sang pour Sang" ("Blood for Blood"), sold two million after selling 230,000 copies on its first day. Hallyday, who had been a star since the 1960s,

died from lung cancer in December aged 74. His death sparked a bitter inheritance feud between his two biological children, Laura Smet and David Hallyday, and his last wife Laetitia. Laetitia Hallyday on Friday said she had been trying to negotiate with the pair. "We are trying (but) it is complicated, because a lot of things have been orchestrated," she told the TFI television channel. "There is a lot of hate, contempt, humiliation, lies, which hurts. It's difficult to hear, it's difficult to suffer that," she added. — AFP

A fan of the late French singer Johnny Hallyday looks at Johnny Hallyday merchandising items.



Bollywood director fired in India's #Metoo storm

Fox Star Studios on Friday sacked a Bollywood director working on a Hindi-language remake of hit US movie "The Fault In Our Stars" after he was accused of sexual harassment by two women. Mukesh Chhabra is the latest to get embroiled in India's #Metoo movement which has been gaining traction, with several women calling out powerful men in government, Bollywood and the media. Fox Star Studios, a joint venture between Fox and Star India, said Chhabra had been asked to exit the project as it "takes allegations of sexual harassment of women at workplace very seriously".



An internal complaints committee would look into the allegations against Chhabra, it said in a statement on Twitter. Two women have accused Chhabra of sexual harassment during auditions, according to the local media, both anonymously. "He (Chhabra) asked me to enact a scene which had the hero and the heroine hugging each other," one of the unnamed women was quoted as saying. "Under the pretext of showing me how the scene should be performed, he grabbed me hard and felt me up. I could feel his hand on my bxxx."

The other woman, also anonymous, told a newspaper that she has a recording of a phone call with him in which he said she would "have to compromise, get physical with people in power". The film, starring Sushant Singh Rajput and Sanjana Sanghi, was supposed to be the directorial debut for Chhabra, who was previously a casting director. Chhabra has denied the "unsubstantiated wild anonymous allegations".

India's belated #MeToo movement has made headlines in recent weeks with women sharing accounts of alleged harassment on Twitter. The trigger appears to have been actress Tanushree Datta, who accused well-known Bollywood actor Nana Patekar of inappropriate behavior on a film set 10 years ago. Since then a slew of popular Bollywood figures have been accused of sexual misconduct, including Vikas Bahl, Sajid Khan and Alok Nath. All have denied the claims. On Wednesday India's junior foreign minister M.J. Akbar announced his resignation after at least 20 women accused him of sexual harassment during his time as a newspaper editor. Akbar—who denies the allegations—is suing one of the complainants, Priya Ramani, for defamation. The first hearing in the case has been listed for October 31. — AFP

Bangladesh music fans mourn rock megastar



Bangladeshi musicians gather near the coffin of Bangladeshi rock musician Ayyub Bachchu in Dhaka. — AFP

Thousands of Bangladeshi music fans gathered in the capital on Friday to mourn the sudden death of one of the country's most famous rock stars. Ayub Bachchu, widely known as AB among his fans, started his music career in 1978 and was one of the pioneers of the celebrated underground rock music scene in Bangladesh. The 57-year-old was also credited with introducing the blues music genre to Bangladeshi audiences and created several smash-hit rock tracks with his band Love Runs Blind. He was declared dead at a Dhaka hospital after a cardiac arrest on Thursday.

Fans grieved on social media over the passing of Bachchu, one of the major patrons of the rock genre in the conservative South Asian country. Over 10,000 peo-

ple took to the streets in the capital's Shahid Minar neighborhood with flowers to pay homage to the guitar maestro. "He stood tall and will stand tall with his songs," said reputed musician Hamin Ahmed. "He will be missed!" Bangladesh's president, prime minister and culture minister also all paid tribute. Thousands of people attended his funeral prayers for Bachchu in Dhaka before his body was taken to the port city of Chittagong, his hometown, where he will be laid to rest. "This is an untimely demise of such a legend," transport minister Obaidul Quader told reporters as he paid homage to the rock star. — AFP

Olivia Colman adds royal touch with 'The Favorite' at London Film Festival

The London Film Festival got its one of its starriest red carpets on Thursday when actresses Emma Stone, Rachel Weisz and Olivia Colman premiered "The Favorite," a costume piece with a difference being billed as an Oscar contender. With plenty of laugh out loud moments, the movie sees Colman portray Britain's 18th-century Queen Anne as an insecure, frail, tempestuous, childish royal who is easily influenced by her friend and confidante Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough. However Sarah, played by Weisz, soon finds herself vying for the queen's attention as well as affection when maid Abigail, portrayed by Stone, arrives.

"All three of us ... play parts that were filthy and sexy and emotional and sad ... which is normal, not just an attempt to be gorgeous all the time and a little bit sort of prettily flawed," Colman said at the BFI London Film Festival. The actresses, who have praised by critics, share the spotlight as three central characters, which Weisz described as "very textured and layered and complicated." "I suppose I find it sad that we have to bring that up but I suppose we do, it's still a little bit unusual although I don't think it was ... back in the Hollywood golden era," she said.

"There was Katharine Hepburn, Bette Davis, Barbara Stanwyck - the list goes on ... they were women that took the leading roles."

While set in the 18th century, the film directed by Yorgos Lanthimos, known for "The Lobster" and "The Killing of a Sacred Deer", has contemporary touches such as in the language used. "This was such a specific type of period story," Stone said when asked whether she would do more costume pieces. "It was kind of filthy and funny and ridiculous and all of it. So (if) there are more like this than then sure, of course." "The Favorite" first premiered at the Venice Film Festival, where it won the Grand Jury Prize, and Colman - soon to be seen portraying Britain's Queen Elizabeth in Netflix series "The Crown" - was named Best Actress, garnering Oscar buzz. Asked about the Oscar speculation, Lanthimos said: "It matters if you get it." "But I think it's best to not think about it too much and do the work, do the best that you can and then if people appreciate the film that's great." — Reuters



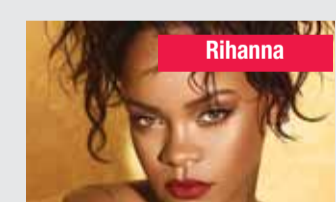
(From left) British-born US actor Rachel Weisz, British actor Olivia Colman and US actor Emma Stone pose upon arrival for the UK premiere of the film "The Favorite" during the BFI London Film Festival in London. — AFP



British actor Olivia Colman poses upon arrival for the UK premiere of the film "The Favorite".

Rihanna turns down Super Bowl show, backs Kaepernick

Pop superstar Rihanna declined an offer to perform at a Super Bowl halftime show because she supported former National Football League quarterback Colin Kaepernick and his protest against racial injustice, according to media reports. US Weekly and other reports cited an unnamed source as saying that the NFL and broadcaster CBS Corp "really wanted Rihanna to be next year's performer." However, she declined in support of Kaepernick, the first player to kneel as the national anthem played at a game in protest over racial inequality and police brutality against black people and minorities in the United States. "They offered it to her, but she said no because of the kneeling controversy. She doesn't agree with the NFL's stance," the source told US Weekly.



Rihanna's decision to reject the offer over a political issue follows her Instagram message earlier this month urging fans to vote in the November US congressional elections. She is one of several celebrities who have taken political stances ahead of the voting. The Super Bowl is the year's most-watched US television broadcast of the year, regularly drawing more than 100 million viewers. The game will be played on Feb 3, 2019, in Atlanta, Georgia. Representatives for the NFL and Rihanna did not immediately respond to requests for comment. A CBS spokeswoman directed questions to the NFL. An unnamed source told Entertainment Tonight that the NFL approached both Rihanna and singer Pink early in its halftime show discussions, but that both women moved on when the negotiations took a long time. That source said Kaepernick did not come up in those early conversations.

Kaepernick's decision to begin kneeling during the anthem in 2016 sparked a heated national debate, with critics including US President Donald Trump calling the players unpatriotic. The NFL gave in to pressure from Trump and ordered players not to kneel on the field during the anthem. After the protests, Kaepernick could not find a job for the 2017 season and sued the NFL, accusing owners of colluding to blackball him. He is still without a team. Several media outlets have reported that the NFL has selected pop band Maroon 5 as the halftime performer, but no announcement has been made. Representatives for Pink and Maroon 5 did not immediately respond to requests for comment. — Reuters

Classifieds

Sunday, October 21, 2018

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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Visibility will improve gradually and Partly cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times variable wind to south easterly wind, with speed of 10 - 40 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery later on

BY NIGHT: Clouds will increase gradually with light to moderate freshening at times south easterly wind, with speed of 10 - 40 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

WEATHER WATCH			Fog	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 20/10/2018 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	35 °C	27 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	35 °C	22 °C		
ABDALY	37 °C	23 °C		
BUBYAN	*** °C	*** °C		
JAHRA	35 °C	24 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	33 °C	25 °C		
SALMIYAH	31 °C	28 °C		
AHMADI	32 °C	26 °C		
NUWAISIB	36 °C	23 °C		
WAFRA	36 °C	20 °C		
SALMY	34 °C	21 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Sunday	10/21	Unstable and Cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery with a chance for rising dust	34 °C	23 °C	SE	20 - 50 km/h
Monday	10/22	Unstable and Partly cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times with a	33 °C	25 °C	SE	20 - 50 km/h
Tuesday	10/23	Cloudy to partly cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	34 °C	24 °C	SE	10 - 40 km/h
Wednesday	10/24	Partly cloudy with a chance for scattered rain	33 °C	25 °C	VRB-SE	10 - 32 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:33
Sunrise	05:52
Zuhr	11:33
Asr	14:47
Sunset	17:13
Isha	18:30

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	34 °C
MIN. Temp.	22 °C
MAX. RH	94 %
MIN. RH	36 %
MAX. Wind	S 36 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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Required Experience and Skills:

- Strong working knowledge and experience with Ellucian Banner SIS - Minimum 5 years
- Bachelor's degree Computer Science or Engineering with experience in higher education information technology support.
- Knowledge of entity relational database structures, Linux operating system, database triggers, SQL and PL/SQL are essential. Strong SQL language programming and query optimization skills
- Knowledge and experience working with Oracle Database Server.
- Experience with implementing and support of CRM Recruit SaaS.
- Highly motivated to work independently and effectively under pressure.
- 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.

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

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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Sunday 21/10/2018					Departure Flights on Sunday 21/10/2018						
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time		Airlines	Flt	Route	Time			
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:10	JZR	125	Bahrain	13:35	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	JZR	792	Madinah	13:40	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	JZR	779	Jeddah	13:45	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
KAC	102	London	00:50	FEG	341	Sohag	13:50	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	JZR	144	Doha	13:55
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15	JZR	552	Alexandria	14:05
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC	364	Colombo	14:20	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	KAC	516	Tehran	14:20	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	JZR	1330	Al Najaf	14:25
JZR	267	Beirut	02:10	KAC	618	Doha	14:20	JZR	802	Tbilisi	14:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	JZR	751	Madinah	14:30	FEG	442	Asyut	14:50
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:45	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:50	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	KAC	304	Mumbai	15:05	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KNE	529	Jeddah	15:10	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	OMA	645	Muscat	15:20	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:55
RJA	648	Amman	03:05	KAC	562	Amman	15:20	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:00
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	KNE	530	Jeddah	16:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	502	Beirut	15:35	JZR	606	Kochi	16:00
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	KAC	118	New York	16:00	KAC	619	Doha	16:15
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	JZR	535	Cairo	16:10	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
JZR	551	Alexandria	04:05	FDB	051	Dubai	16:20	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	KAC	542	Cairo	17:00	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	KAC	503	Beirut	17:15
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	FDB	052	Dubai	17:20
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR	145	Doha	17:35	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	JZR	177	Dubai	17:40	KAC	381	Delhi	17:45
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:20	JZR	1331	Al Najaf	17:45	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	QTR	1080	Doha	18:10	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:20	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
QTR	8511	Doha	05:30	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	RJA	640	Amman	19:00	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
BAW	157	London	06:10	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	JZR	608	Hyderabad	18:25
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10	JZR	240	Amman	18:30
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20	JZR	650	Lahore	18:35
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	KAC	156	Istanbul	19:25	JZR	538	Cairo	18:35
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:35	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
JZR	143	Doha	07:00	RBG	555	Alexandria	19:40	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
KAC	358	Kochi	07:35	KAC	674	Dubai	19:40	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	KAC	057	Dubai	19:40	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	KAC	104	London	20:00	RJA	641	Amman	20:00
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	DLH	624	Frankfurt	20:05	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	OMA	647	Muscat	20:05	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:20
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	620	Doha	20:15	JZR	602	Mumbai	20:30
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	KAC	166	Rome	20:25	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	QTR	1088	Doha	20:40	DLH	624	Dammam	20:50
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	JZR	803	Tbilisi	20:45	KAC	353	Bengaluru	21:00
IRC	528	Ahwaz	10:00	KAC	172	Frankfurt	20:45	KAC	357	Kochi	21:00
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	JZR	553	Alexandria	20:50	KAC	648	Muscat	21:05
JZR	787	Riyadh	10:30	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:15	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:35
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	ALK	229	Colombo	21:15	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
JZR	903	Baku	11:10	KAC	676	Dubai	21:35	KAC	203	Lahore	22:00
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	JZR	219	Madinah	21:50	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:05
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:20	KAC	564	Amman	21:50	KAC	1543	Cairo	22:15
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	QTR	1082	Doha	22:05	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:05	KAC	383	Delhi	22:25
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	KAC	786	Jeddah	22:15	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:50
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	JZR	185	Dubai	22:50	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:30	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:00	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
				MSR	2614	Cairo	23:30	KAC	411	Bangkok	23:15
				FDB	071	Dubai	23:35	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
				JZR	241	Amman	23:40	JZR	560	Shahg</	



Tourists throw stones in the "Blue Lake" surrounded by larch trees on a warm autumn day yesterday above Arolla in western Switzerland. — AFP

Kidnapped Tanzania tycoon Mohammed Dewji released

NAIROBI: Tanzanian tycoon Mohammed Dewji, who was kidnapped earlier this month, said yesterday he had been released and had returned home safely. "I thank Allah that I have returned home safe and sound," Dewji told a press conference in Dar es Salaam where he was abducted on October 11 as he entered a hotel gym. Clearly strained and appearing exhausted, he thanked the "Tanzanian authorities, including the police, who worked for my return". "I thank all my fellow Tanzanians and everyone around the world for their prayers," he added.

Tanzanian police said Friday they had identified the driver of a vehicle used in the kidnapping and were making progress in their investi-

gation. The family had offered a reward of half a million dollars for information that would help police find him. Mohammed Dewji earlier tweeted that he had been released and his father Gullam Dewji confirmed his son's release in comments to the Tanzanian daily Mwanachi. His uncle, Azim Dewji told Mwanachi in a video that "his abductors abandoned him and he was able to phone his father", adding that his nephew was in good health. The footage also showed a tired-looking Mohammed Dewji, in a T-shirt and jogging trousers, thanking the police.

Tanzania national police chief Simon Sirro told the press conference that Dewji had already provided some information about the

kidnapping. "Mohammed Dewji told us that the kidnapers wanted money but were very afraid, even though they were armed. He asked them several times how much they wanted but they gave no figure," Sirro said. He also gave his captors contacts for his parents but they feared that they would be caught if they approached them, Sirro said, adding that they had finally decided to give up. "We now know their network, we know which country the plans were made," he said, without giving details.

Dar es Salaam police chief Lazaro Mambosasa meanwhile told journalists that Mohammed Dewji had indicated to him that his abductors spoke a southern African language, confirming suspicions that the kidnapers were foreigners. They had eventually released him at the same hotel complex where he had been abducted. From there, he had made his way to

his home, where police interviewed him.

Africa's youngest billionaire, Mohammed Dewji, 43, heads the MeTL Group which operates in about 10 countries with interests in agriculture to insurance, transport, logistics and the food industry. He was born in Tanzania and studied at Georgetown University in the United States. He also served as a member of parliament from 2005 to 2015. In 2013, he became the first Tanzanian to grace the cover of Forbes magazine and was named Forbes Africa Person of the Year in 2015.

Mohammed Dewji is also the main shareholder in Tanzania's Simba FC football club. According to Forbes he is 17th on the list of Africa's billionaires, and worth \$1.5 billion. He is married with three children. In 2016 he signed a pledge to donate at least half of his fortune to philanthropic causes, according to Forbes. — AFP



Mohammed Dewji

US craze for DNA tests may...

Continued from Page 1

say they have tested between 15 million people between them. "I know my family tree, but there could have been something from another country that I did not know," said Beverley Shea, a 67-year-old pensioner who did the test because she was "just curious". "My test was boring," she joked. "I am exactly what I thought I was: Irish, English, Scottish, Welsh..."

Promoters say the new technology shows people their diverse backgrounds and will only increase racial tolerance. "There is spectacular human diversity in the world and we celebrate and embrace it," says the 23andMe website. By way of proof, the site showcases an African-American descended from a slave and a white person descended from a slave-owning family who found out through the company's tests that they have a common ancestor. They now meet at that ancestor's grave in the spirit of "reconciliation".

However, researchers from the University of California have shown that when white supremacists are confronted with evidence of a black ancestor, they scramble to explain away the results. Two sociologists, Joan Donovan and Aaron Panofsky, became interested in discussions on a far-right website called Stormfront, where users said they had received "bad news" from their DNA tests. Their research "points out that based on white nationalists' responses to genetic information upon learning their test results, there is no reason to believe that they would give up their racial ideology, and, more importantly, that genetic information cannot be relied on to change the views of white nationalists".

Timothy Caulfield, a specialist in health care law at the University of Alberta in Canada, warns that the DNA tests might even be reinforcing racial interpretations of society. "These services are marketing the idea that biological differences matter, that at some funda-

mental level, your biology defines who you are," he told AFP. In one advert for Ancestry's DNA testing service, a man tells how he used to wear Bavarian lederhosen because he thought he was descended from German immigrants, but switched to a kilt because he found he had Scottish ancestors.

"They are basically marketing a form of racism, a form that your genes are meaningful, you should think of what group you belong to based on your genes," said Caulfield. He acknowledged that most people just did it "for fun", and that "it does not really alter the way they see the world". But he said "it's emerging at a terrible time... where there is more tribalism, a time when people are looking for reasons to find others groups to be different."

Anthropologist John Edward Terrell also warned in the magazine Sapiens that these services are reviving the concept of "race" in a modern guise. "Human races are inventions of the human mind. Substituting words like 'ancestry' or 'heritage' for the disreputable old term 'race' may sound like progress, but it isn't," he said.

Native Americans showed this week they are already aware of the problem, when they rejected claims by Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren that DNA tests showed her Native heritage. The Cherokee Nation's Secretary of State, Chuck Hoskin Jr, said Warren's use of a DNA test to claim a connection to any tribal nation was "inappropriate and wrong". "It makes a mockery out of DNA tests and its legitimate uses while also dishonoring legitimate tribal governments and their citizens," he said.

That sentiment was echoed by Brandon Scott, editor of the Cherokee Phoenix, the nation's oldest native newspaper founded in 1828. He said Warren's actions - carried out in response to taunts by President Donald Trump, who dubbed her "Pocahontas" for claiming Native American ancestry - "add some legitimacy to the myth that Native American heritage is tied to DNA". "Heritage is not just who you are biologically," he said. "Our identity isn't present in a faux-buckskin outfit or a made-in-China headdress. It is in our communities, it is in the words of our elders and the faces of our children." — AFP

tions and this is the first time at eight o'clock (in the morning) we've had a queue," Liberal Party volunteer Kevin Berry told national broadcaster ABC. "It's quite extraordinary the level of interest in the election this time around."

Wentworth resident Roslyn Taylor said she was frustrated with politicians and the chaos that has plagued the main parties in recent years. "None of them have really got their mind on the job. None of them have got their mind on the people - the true needs of the people in terms of education, in terms of health," she told AFP outside a polling booth at Bondi Beach. The sprawling Sydney constituency takes in the famous beach well as the haunts of stars like Russell Crowe and Hugh Jackman.

The defeat is hugely embarrassing to Morrison, who even floated the idea of moving the Australian embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem - upending decades of Australian foreign policy - in a bid to woo Wentworth's Jewish voters. Arab diplomats expressed their worries to Canberra last week, and neighboring Indonesia warned that Australia was risking its trade and business relationship with the entire Islamic world. Sharma is a former Australian ambassador to Israel who is credited with first making the proposal to relocate the embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The Jerusalem proposal was the most controversial element of an already heated campaign. Turnbull's own son called on voters to shun the Liberal Party over its energy and climate change policies that have divided the party. — Agencies

Saudi Arabia says Khashoggi died...

Continued from Page 1

"#where is martyr Khashoggi's body?" The couple had been due to marry this month. Ankara said it regarded it as a "debt of honor" to reveal what happened. "We are not accusing anyone in advance but we don't accept anything to remain covered (up)," said ruling Justice and Development Party spokesman Omer Celik.

In Saudi Arabia, there was widespread support for

the king and the crown prince on Twitter, with hashtags such as "#1 am Saudi and I defend it" and "#Saudi kingdom of justice" trending. In Riyadh, preparations continued for an investment forum due to open on Tuesday despite high-profile international no-shows. "I think that the transparency of the statement has made it clear that Saudi Arabia is a great and strong country and transparent in everything," said one Saudi citizen, Futayes Moqren, as he drank a coffee at a cafe.

In a recent off-the-record interview published posthumously by US magazine Newsweek, Khashoggi said he would have accepted an offer to work as Prince Mohammed's adviser. "I'm not calling for the overthrow of the regime," the onetime royal insider said. "I'm just calling for reform of the regime." — Agencies

Gitmo takes on geriatric...

Continued from Page 1

"There has been a lot of thought put into what preparing for an aging detainee population looks like and what infrastructure we need to have in place to do that safely and humanely," said Anne Leanos, the public affairs director for Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

With a budget of \$12 million, a prison annex has been transformed into a public hospital, complete with a radiology room equipped with an MRI scanner, as well as an emergency room and three-bed intensive care unit. During a journalist visit to the new clinic, a walker sits in the corner of a room, which has a hospital bed, wheelchair and medical equipment akin to any other infirmary. But there is no window, and wire mesh serves as a partition, recalling that this is still very much a detention center.

Congress will not allow sick prisoners to travel to the United States for treatment: Guantanamo inmates are considered highly dangerous by the government, which accuses them of participating in various attacks including those of Sept 11. No prisoner needs a wheelchair yet - but if the need arises, the clinic is prepared with ramps. Patients suffer from ailments common for their age: diabetes, hypertension, gastrointestinal diseases and motor disorders. The second-floor psychiatric ward is equipped with two cells converted into consultation rooms. A third, completely empty cell is padded and serves as the isolation room for prisoners experiencing psychotic episodes.

Like any staff deployed to Guantanamo, prison psychiatrists usually stay just nine to 12 months on site, limiting the scope of their interaction with prison-

ers. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visits Guantanamo about four times a year to make sure the prison is complying with detention standards and to assess detainees' treatment. Since the infamous detention center opened in 2002, nine inmates have died: Seven committed suicide, according to the military, while one died of cancer and another had a heart attack.

The largest contingent - 26 inmates - at the military complex have never been charged with anything, but are considered too dangerous to be released. One "highly compliant" inmate was on a "non-religious fast," at the moment of the visit - a euphemism used at the prison to describe hunger strikes prisoners regularly observe in protest. Acts of rebellion are fairly common - and base commander Admiral John Ring said one inmate was currently under disciplinary action. "These are the ones that could not be released," said Ring. "Many of these gentlemen are still at war with the United States. Any act of resistance, no matter how small - they are still fighting the war through these minor acts of resistance."

Meanwhile, Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis has instructed military judge Douglas Watkins to oversee court proceedings for 9/11 suspects imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay, the Pentagon said Friday. Watkins, a US army colonel, replaces now-retired colonel James Pohl. As chief judge, Watkins will be responsible for assigning military judges to each case referred to a special military tribunal.

The so-called "9/11 Five" - including alleged mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed - have been locked up at the Guantanamo Bay military prison for years and were first charged in 2008. But an unending slew of legal missteps, issues with military court proceedings and problems stemming from evidence extracted under duress have seen the men's prosecution morph into a quixotic attempt at justice. — Agencies

Aussie govt loses crucial...

Continued from Page 1

Phelps told supporters during her victory speech. "It was said if we won the seat of Wentworth, it would make history, and, my friends, we have made history today."

Turnbull's successor Scott Morrison told supporters at an evening campaign event for Liberal candidate Dave Sharma as he conceded defeat that his party would keep fighting on. "Liberals are angry and they've expressed that," Morrison said. "The Liberal Party has paid a big price tonight for the events of several months ago. But as a party, we will continue to rise again."

While the result is ominous for the ruling coalition, who is battling poor polls and strong competition from the main Labor opposition party, the wealth of Wentworth also makes the electorate unique. Analysts have told AFP next year's elections would be more likely to fought in less moneyed marginal seats in outer city suburbs and regional areas, where the focus is on bread and butter issues such as tackling the high cost-of-living.

Voting is compulsory in Australia but the buzz around the polling stations was unusual for Wentworth, with dozens of volunteers from different parties inundating voters with leaflets for their candidates earlier yesterday after polls opened. "I've done over 20 elec-

Angry protests after India train...

Continued from Page 1

As the blame game spread, police said they had given permission for the display for the annual Dussehra festival fireworks but that organizers did not have approval from the city, health department and fire brigade. According to media reports the organizers, members of the ruling Congress party, had gone into hiding. Federal Railway minister Piyush Goyal returned early from a trip to the United States to go to Amritsar yesterday. Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh called off a trip to Israel and rushed to visit the injured in hospital, where he

ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident.

India's huge railway network is notorious for accidents, including scores who die while crossing the tracks illegally or falling off over-capacity trains. A 2012 government report described the loss of 15,000 passengers to rail accidents every year in India as a "massacre". The government has pledged \$137 billion over five years to modernize the crumbling network. In 1981, seven carriages from a train fell into a river as it crossed a bridge in the eastern state of Bihar, killing between 800 and 1,000 people. But nearly every month there are accidents involving trains that derail or hit vehicles on crossings. In April, 13 children were killed when a train hit their school bus. In November 2016, the Patna-Indore express derailed in Uttar Pradesh state in the middle of the night, killing 139 people. — AFP

Sports

WADA not fit for purpose and should be replaced: Thompson

Briton favours bringing the world championships back to London

PARIS: The World Anti-Doping Agency is not fit for purpose and should be replaced, Britain's double Olympic decathlon champion Daley Thompson has said following its decision last month to lift a ban on Russia's anti-doping body.

RUSADA's 22-month suspension was removed by WADA subject to various conditions but drew widespread criticism from some athletes and anti-doping agencies. The decision opens the door for Russia's eventual return to international sport, following February's reinstatement of the Russian Olympic Committee after the country was banned from this year's Winter Games in South Korea.

Thompson, the former world and European champion who won gold at the 1980 and 1984 Olympics, told Reuters WADA should be replaced because athletes' were not being listened to. "I just think WADA should be kicked into touch and we should have some people that are representing the athlete and the spirit of sport," he said at the Laureus Sport for Good Summit.

"A new body should be set up because the one there isn't fit for purpose." Athletics was at the forefront of the doping scandal that erupted in 2015 with Richard McLaren's independent report alleging a state-spon-

sored doping programme existed in Russia.

Critics say Russia has failed to meet steps laid out in a roadmap for RUSADA's reinstatement, which included the country acknowledging the findings of the WADA-commissioned McLaren report and allowing access to urine samples at its Moscow lab.

RIGHT DECISION

However, a WADA spokesperson defended its stance on RUSADA, saying in an email to Reuters: "WADA's Executive Committee... believes that the decision to reinstate RUSADA as compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code is the right one for clean sport and puts WADA in a much stronger position than we were before."

"What the decision means is that either we will have access to all the data from the Moscow laboratory by the end of the year, allowing us to catch more cheats and exonerate clean athletes, or RUSADA will be made non-compliant again."

Athletics' governing body has been one of the few to maintain a hard line, with the IAAF imposing its own conditions which the Russian Athletics Federation (RusAF) still has to meet before its athletes can com-

pete internationally again. "A lot of the other sports I think have done a disservice to their athletes," said 60-year-old Thompson. "Russia hasn't complied to some of the instructions that they were given in order to get back into international sport and I think that they've all capitulated... for whatever reason."

"I think that athletics has been the one true defender and I'm proud to be part of that family." The International Association of Athletics Federations set up the Athletics Integrity Unit in April 2017 as an independent body tasked with combating doping in sport.

TOUGH SELL

However, Thompson questioned the IAAF decision to stage the Sept. 27-Oct 6 world championships in Doha next year—the first time the event will have been held in the Gulf region. "It's going to be tough... I don't know how they're going to fill stadiums. Even football doesn't fill stadiums there. It was a tough call and hopefully they've got it right but looking at it today it's going to be a tough sell."

The Briton favours regularly bringing the worlds back to his home city, London, which staged last year's event. UK Sport recently announced they were looking



Daley Thompson

at bidding to hold the global event again within the next 10 years after breaking attendance records in 2017 at the London Stadium, which was also the packed centrepiece of the 2012 Olympics.

"And why wouldn't they? I don't know why the IAAF doesn't take their world championships—every third one or every fourth one—back to Britain because we filled the place," Thompson said. "We might be the only place in the whole world that fills it morning, afternoon, evening sessions—we love it." —Reuters

Chen grabs big lead after men's short programme

EVERETT: Defending champ Nathan Chen, who is back competing for the first time since being crowned world champion, seized the early lead after the men's short programme at the ISU Skate America on Friday.

Chen earned 90.58 points to finish well ahead of Czech Michal Brezina and Julian Yee of Malaysia, who is third with 81.52 points. Chen, of the US, attempted one quadruple jump on Friday and wobbled out of a couple other jumps, including a quad flip to lead by 8.49 points. But he takes a substantial lead into Saturday's free skate against a mainly inexperienced field at the Angels of The Winds arena in Everett, just outside of Seattle, Washington. Chen bounced back from finishing fifth at the PyeongChang Olympics to win the world title seven months ago by the largest margin in history. Chen, who is trying to become the first to win consecutive US Skate America titles since Timothy Goebel in 2001, is the lone skater in his category to have won a World or Olympic medal.

Russian Sergei Voronov sits fourth with 78.18 points while 2018 world junior bronze medalist Matteo Rizzo of Italy rounds out the top five at 78.09. Two-time European champions Evgenia Tarasova and Vladimir



EVERETT: Nathan Chen of the USA performs in the Mens Short Program during day one of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Skate America at Angel of the Winds Arena on Friday in Everett, Washington. — AFP

Morozov lead the pairs competition after the short programme with 71.24 points. Their Russia compatriots

Alisa Efimova and Alexander Korovin are in second with 62.38 points. — AFP

Vettel grid penalty boosts Hamilton's fifth title bid

AUSTIN: Lewis Hamilton was given a helping hand in his pursuit of a fifth world title at the United States Grand Prix on Friday when flagging rival Sebastian Vettel was hit with a three-place grid penalty for today's race. Hamilton topped the times for Mercedes in the rain-abbreviated second practice at the Circuit of the Americas which only burst into life for the final 40 minutes as the track dried. A relaxed Hamilton, looking to join Michael Schumacher and Juan-Manuel Fangio as a five-time world champion, clocked a best lap in one minute and 48.716 seconds that lifted him clear of the pack.

It confirmed a "double-top" for the Briton who had also been fastest in the morning's opening session and who needs to outscore Vettel of Ferrari by eight points to wrap up the 2018 championship. The German struggled through a difficult day of slithering in the rain and then picked up a potentially fatal grid penalty for speeding under red flags during the morning session.

Vettel was reported after Charles Leclerc of Sauber brought gravel back onto the circuit after a spin. All drivers are expected to slow down and drive back to the pits when red flags are waved.

Vettel and Ferrari had hoped the stewards, who spent several hours investigating his speeding offence in the morning, might take a more relaxed and "common-sense" approach to his misdemeanor.

"I think I saw the red flag, I slowed down, had a look around (to see) where was the car potentially stuck in the wall," said Vettel. "In my opinion it's not the right thing because if there's a car behind you, it might run into you, but more important that you don't get a penalty." His penalty followed two similar examples. Esteban Ocon of Force India and Daniel Ricciardo of Red Bull were given three-place penalties for speeding under red flags at the Japanese and Australian Grands Prix respectively. In the rainswept session, Hamilton was top ahead of Pierre Gasly of Toro Rosso, Max Verstappen of Red Bull, Fernando Alonso of McLaren and Nico Hulkenberg of Renault. — AFP

Wozniacki seeks repeat at wide-open WTA Finals

SINGAPORE: The women's tennis season concludes at the WTA Finals in Singapore next week and, like a majority of tournaments during the 2018 campaign, picking a winner from a wide-open field seems a near impossible task.

With Serena Williams battling to regain fitness and top form following a difficult childbirth in 2017, the Grand Slams went to four different women for the second consecutive year. Caroline Wozniacki was one of three first-time major champions when she captured the Australian Open in January and the Dane is back in Singapore to defend her WTA Finals title full of confidence and momentum.

The other maiden major winners were French Open champion Simona Halep and rising Japanese prospect Naomi Osaka, who stunned Williams in last month's controversial U.S. Open final, while Angelique Kerber beat Williams at Wimbledon to claim her third Grand Slam title.

Halep is the only one of the four Grand Slam champions to miss the WTA Finals after a back injury forced the world number one to withdraw just days before the event. Williams, who played in only seven events this year, three of them Grand Slams, has not been to the season finale since winning it in 2014, when it was first staged in Singapore.

The eight women who earned a spot at the tournament have been divided into two pools of four, with play getting underway on Sunday in the White Group when big-hitting Czech Petra Kvitova takes on Ukraine's Elina Svitolina.

World number two Wozniacki will open her campaign immediately after that clash in the other White Group match of the night against Czech Karolina Pliskova, a player she beat in last year's semi-finals on her way to the title.

"All the best players are here so there's no easy matches. I'm just excited to start the competition and do my best," Wozniacki said at Friday's draw ceremony. "As defending champion I want to defend my title and end the season on a high."

Kerber and Osaka are the top seeds in the Red Group with the German opening her campaign on Monday against Halep's replacement Kiki Bertens after Osaka takes on American Sloane Stephens, her predecessor as US Open champion.

Last year, Wozniacki rode the momentum of a late season surge all the way to victory at the Singapore Indoor Stadium and after the 28-year-old won her second China Open title earlier this month, she will be hoping for a similar outcome this time.

While half of the field have stuttered slightly after strong starts to the season, Osaka and Pliskova also have some momentum heading into the eight-day event, the Czech having beaten the Japanese at the recent Pan Pacific Open final in Tokyo. — Reuters



KUWAIT: Ahmad Al Amir, Assistant General Manager for External Communications at Gulf Bank and Fayed Al-Enezi, Director of PR and Media Department at Kuwait Airways.

Kuwait Airways official carrier of fourth annual Gulf Bank 642 Marathon

KUWAIT: Kuwait's official carrier, Kuwait Airways, has announced its gold sponsorship of the Fourth Annual Gulf Bank 642 Marathon. This is the first time Kuwait Airways has sponsored the marathon, which has become a firm fixture on Kuwait's sporting calendar. After the unprecedented success of 2017, which saw 6,000 attendees representing over 130 nationalities participate, Kuwait Airways and Gulf Bank are inviting the public to participate in this year's '642 Marathon' on November 17th, 2018.

Ahmad Al Amir, Assistant General Manager for External Communications, Gulf Bank, said of the partnership: "We are excited to have Kuwait Airways on board for what will be another successful marathon. The marathon is one of our event calendar highlights, and we are looking forward to bringing the community together, partnering in spreading awareness of the

importance of a healthy lifestyle." Fayed Al-Enezi, Director of PR and Media Department, Kuwait Airways, commented: "We are delighted to be the official gold sponsors of Gulf Bank's 642 Marathon. As the official carrier of Kuwait, we are committed to supporting and adding value to the local community, which is why this is a natural fit for us. We are proud to be lending our support and sponsorship to an event that raises awareness of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle as well as much-needed funds for Kuwait Red Crescent Society."

The marathon takes place on November 17th, 2018 and serves as a qualifying race for international marathon. It has four categories open to runners of all ages and abilities, ranging from the 5K Family Fun Walk/Run to the 10K Souq Run to the more advanced 21K Half Marathon and Kuwait's only 42K Full Marathon. The route starts and ends at SouqSharq, with runners making their way along the Gulf Road and past Kuwait landmarks such as Souk Al Mubarakiya, Al Seif Palace and Kuwait Towers.

Gulf Bank Marathon 642 has partnered with Kuwait Red Crescent Society to bring medical aid to those who are unable to afford medical treatment. All donations made will go towards the provision of medical devices such as, pacemakers, cochlear devices, hearing aids, electric wheelchairs and stents. Run for those who can't at the 2018 Gulf Bank Marathon 642 to raise much-needed funds for those suffering from chronic illness or disabilities.

Japan's Murata defends middleweight crown against Brant

LOS ANGELES: Japan's Ryota Murata puts his claim to boxing's world middleweight throne at risk yesterday when he faces American Rob Brant at Las Vegas. The 32-year-old from Tokyo defends the World Boxing Association "regular" middleweight crown for the second time, having stopped France's Hassan N'Dam a year ago to win the title and stopped Italy's Emanuele Blandamura in April to keep the crown. "It's the dream of all boxers to headline in Las Vegas, and for me, this is certainly a dream come true," Murata said. "I'm only getting started as a world champion."

Murata, 14-1 with 11 knockouts, has a lesser middleweight crown to that of WBA Super champion Saul "Canelo" Alvarez of Mexico, who fights WBA regular super-middleweight champion Rocky Fielding of Britain in New York in December.

London 2012 Olympic champion Murata suffered his only loss to N'Dam by split decision in May 2017 but won the rematch five months later to claim the crown. Brant, 23-1 with 16 knockouts, suffered his only loss last October to Germany's two-time light heavyweight world champion Jurgen Brahm by unanimous decision. He bounced back with a first-round knockout of compatriot Colby Courter in March. "I'm very excited," Brant said. This fight has been on my mind since before he fought Hassan N'Dam. Though I respect all his accomplishments, I've always felt as though I have all of the tools to clearly defeat him.

"Not only has it been a life goal of mine to be a world champion, but also to headline a card in Las Vegas. This means the world to me." Another middleweight title will be decided today in Boston when American Demetrius Andrade faces Namibia's Walter Kautondokwa for the vacant World Boxing Organization title. — AFP

Sports

Cricket world praise Pakistan's ten-wicket Mohammad Abbas

I see a new number one Test bowler coming: Steyn

ABU DHABI: Pakistan's newest wicket hunter Mohammad Abbas was showered with praise yesterday after rocking Australia with 17 wickets in the two Tests in Abu Dhabi. The 28-year-old right arm pacer took his maiden ten-wicket haul, with 10-95 (5-33 and 5-62) in the second match for Pakistan's biggest win of 373 runs in all Test cricket on Friday.

The unassuming pacer had taken seven wickets in the drawn first Test in Dubai, finishing with 17 to earn the man-of-the-series award. Since his international arrival Abbas has been the toast of Pakistan's Test attack. He became the first Pakistani fast bowler to take ten wickets in a Test since Mohammad Asif did so against Sri Lanka at Kandy in 2006. Dale Steyn tweeted Abbas can rise to number one, a rank South African paceman held for many years.

"I see a new number 1 Test bowler coming... Abbas," Steyn, who could be on the opposing side when Pakistan start a Test series in South Africa in December.

Former England batsman Michael Vaughan tweeted: "Having watched Abbas now for over a year ... I have decided he would get me out every time within about 6 balls ... The type of bowler I would poop my pants about ... Thought I would let you all know ...," he tweeted. Abbas took nine wickets in Ireland's inaugural Test at Malahide before taking ten in two Tests against England on Pakistan's tour in May-June this year.

Abbas's countrymen and legendary pace duo of Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis were also impressed.

"Awesome, Accurate and Advancing ... Abbas .. he bowled brilliant lengths to take ten wickets in the match.. congrats young man... you have miles to go and I am convinced you will continue rising to become one of the best.. all the best," tweeted Wasim. While Waqar, also a former Pakistan coach, tweeted: "Most admirable thing about Abbas's bowling is his simple plans .. He's always ready for all kinds of challenges... Great spell of bowling on a dead pitch." Australia's bowling coach David Saker admitted Abbas surprised his team.

"Abbas is so accurate with the ball, and obviously our preparation was more spin-oriented so we've been taken by surprise by the pacer," tweeted Saker.

Pakistan coach Mickey Arthur told AFO that Abbas "is a sensational bowler". "He has the ability to control the run rate and to build pressure, he doesn't bowl bad balls. Abbas has his feet on the ground, has an outstanding work ethic and will go from strength to strength to become one of the world's best." Abbas revealed his goal is to reach the top.

"I want to be world number one bowler," Abbas told AFP yesterday. "It is good to hear encouraging words from the greats of the game like Steyn, Vaughan and the two Ws. It gives you happiness but also adds a bit of pressure." —AFP



ABU DHABI: Pakistan cricketer Mohammad Abbas (L) celebrates after dismissing Australian cricketer Travis Head during day four of the second Test match between Australia and Pakistan at Sheikh Zayed stadium in Abu Dhabi on Friday. —AFP

England win rain-marred fourth ODI to bag series

PALLEKELE: England beat Sri Lanka by 18 runs via the Duckworth Lewis method in the rain-marred fourth one-day international yesterday to take an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series.

Chasing a target of 274 at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium, England were comfortably placed at 132 for two after 27 overs when rain forced the players off. No further play was possible in the penultimate match of the series and England were 18 runs ahead at that stage under the scoring method governing such rain-shortened fixtures.

England's test captain Joe Root was unbeaten on 32 at the crease with his ODI counterpart Eoin Morgan 31 not out, the duo adding a crucial 56 for the unbroken third-wicket partnership to keep their team ahead of the run rate. Sri Lanka had a chance to break the stand when Root was caught at short fine leg off spinner Dhananjaya de Silva but the delivery was called illegal by the umpire as the hosts had more fielders outside the 30-yard circle than permitted.

Sri Lanka spinner Akila Dananjaya dismissed opener Jason Roy for an attacking 45 off 49 deliveries and Alex Hales for 12 but the hosts made no further inroads. Earlier, half-centuries from opener Niroshan Dickwella and middle-order batsman Dasun Shanaka and some useful contributions from the lower order helped Sri Lanka to 273-7 after being put in to bat.

Dickwella hit a 70-ball 52 and with captain Dinesh Chandimal laid the foundation for Sri Lanka's innings with a second-wicket partnership of 70 runs. But the hosts slipped against the off-spin of Moeen Ali and leg spinner Adil Rashid, losing three wickets for 13 runs to be reduced to 102-4.

Shanaka then launched Sri Lanka's counter-attack, taking the aerial route to hit the spinners for sixes and fours. He added 52 for the fifth wicket with Dhananjaya de Silva to start Sri Lanka's recovery.

The 27-year-old hit five sixes and four boundaries in his run-a-ball innings before getting run out. All-rounder Thisara Perera made 44 off 41 balls as he and Shanaka added 58 for the sixth wicket. He then shared 56 runs with Akila Dananjaya who made 32 not out off 26 balls. The fifth and final one-dayer will be played in Colombo on Tuesday.—Reuters



KANDY: England cricketer Joe Root is watched by Sri Lankan wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella as he plays a shot during the fourth one day international (ODI) cricket match between Sri Lanka and England at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium in Kandy yesterday. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard from the fourth one day international between Sri Lanka and England in Kandy yesterday:

Sri Lanka		Bowling: Woakes 10-0-45-1, Stone 7-0-50-0, Curran 9-1-50-1, Ali 10-0-55-2, Rashid 10-0-36-1, Stokes 4-0-27-0.	
N. Dickwella lbw b Ali	52		
S. Samarawickrama c Buttler b Woakes	1		
D. Chandimal b Ali	33		
K. Mendis lbw b Rashid	5		
D. de Silva c Buttler b Curran	17		
D. Shanaka run out	66		
N. Perera run out	44		
A. Dananjaya not out	32		
S. Malinga not out	4		
Extras (lb 10, w 9)	19		
Total (7 wickets - 50 overs)	273		
Did not bat: M. Aponso, C. Rajitha			
Fall of wickets: 1-19 (Samarawickrama, 4.2 ov), 2-89 (Chandimal, 18.5 ov), 3-102 (Dickwella, 22.5 ov), 4-102 (Mendis, 23.1 ov), 5-154 (de Silva, 34.2 ov), 6-212 (Shanaka, 42.1 ov), 7-268 (Perera, 49.5 ov)			
England		Bowling: Malinga 5-0-15-0, Aponso 6-0-37-0, Rajitha 5-0-27-0, Dananjaya 7-0-27-2, de Silva 4-0-18-0.	
J. Roy lbw b Dananjaya	45		
A. Hales st Dickwella b Dananjaya	12		
J. Root not out	32		
E. Morgan not out	31		
Extras (b 8, nb 1, w 3)	12		
Total: (27 overs - 2 wickets)	132		
Did not bat: B. Stokes, J. Buttler, M. Ali, C. Woakes, T. Curran, A. Rashid, O. Stone			
Fall of wickets: 1-52 (Hales, 9.1 ov), 2-76 (Roy, 15.4 ov)			
England won by 18 runs under Duckworth Lewis run rate rule			
England lead five match series 3-0			

Bangladesh nervous of Zimbabwe upset in one-day series

DHAKA: Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Mortaza warned his players against complacency ahead of the start of a one day series against outsiders Zimbabwe today. Zimbabwe go into Sunday's game in Dhaka as whipping boys of international cricket after losing every match during a recent tour of South Africa.

The visitors have not won a one day international in Bangladesh since 2010. "If we win everyone will say this is what should have happened. But if we lose they will take it differently," said Mortaza, whose team are seventh in the world rankings against Zimbabwe's 11th.

"It can create pressure at the back of the mind. It's not as though we have never lost to Zimbabwe," Mortaza said the three match series-with two more 50 over games in Chittagong on Wednesday and Friday-would be doubly important as Bangladesh have only four more series to prepare for next year's World Cup in England.

"They have almost all their senior players back and outside Zimbabwe they have the best record in Bangladesh. So we have to give 100 per cent," he said. An eight-wicket loss in Friday's warm-up against a Bangladesh Cricket Board XI did not help the visitors' morale, but Zimbabwe captain Hamilton Masakadza insisted his side was not despondent.

"We didn't have a great time in South Africa or in the match yesterday. But the main thing is to focus on tomorrow and to focus on the tour and what we have come to achieve," he said. "We can only go up from where we are and we are really looking forward to this. The guys are upbeat." — AFP

Langer urges Australia to think with their feet

ABU DHABI: Head coach Justin Langer yesterday urged his batsmen to use their feet in Test matches following his side's 373-run defeat against Pakistan, to lose the two-Test series 1-0. Australian batting folded for 145 and 164 in the second Test in Abu Dhabi with none of the batsmen reaching half centuries against some accurate seam bowling by Pakistan's Mohammad Abbas, who finished with ten wickets in the match.

In contrast, Australia put up a great fight in the first Test to avert defeat in Dubai, with Usman Khawaja knocking a match saving 141 and 85, Aaron Finch scoring 62 and 49, Travis Head 72 and skipper Tim Paine 61 not out.

Langer, himself a batsman of great repute, said feet movement is important. "You talk about the great Australian players they moved their feet like boxers, every one of them," said Langer, who scored 7696 runs in 105 Tests during an illustrious career.

"They had footwork patterns and then from there you have the skill of run-scoring ability. And it's a really important thing. "Even in T20 cricket or one-day and most certainly first-class and Test cricket when the ball starts moving around, if you don't move your feet then you're going to come unstuck."

Langer termed series loss as disappointing after the first Test fightback. "I think really, a huge disappointment," said Langer. "I thought our preparation was brilliant. We came into the first Test really encouraged, really upbeat. We knew we were evenly matched with Pakistan in terms of ages and games played."

Langer revealed he couldn't sleep after his team let Pakistan off on day one of the second Test, from a precarious 57-5 to 282 all out. "I didn't sleep very well that first night," said Langer. "We had them 5-57, and that night, Pakistan ended up with 282 and I know how hard Test cricket is. —AFP

Brewers rout Dodgers to force decider

LOS ANGELES: The Milwaukee Brewers staged an early onslaught to set up a 7-2 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers to level their National League Championship Series here Friday and force a decisive game seven. Jesus Aguilar, Mike Moustakas and Erik Kratz all drove in first innings runs as the Dodgers' South Korean pitcher Ryu Hyun-jin turned in his worst performance of the 2018 season at just the wrong time. Brewers manager Craig Counsell said his team had benefited from the deafening support inside Milwaukee's Miller Park Arena.

Aguilar's early hit "lifted the roof off the place," Counsell said. "The first inning was loud from then on," Counsell added. "The rest of the game, whenever we got in a scoring situation it got really loud. And I thought it helped us."

The Dodgers-fresh from wins in game four and five-had hoped to lock up a return to the World Series at Miller Park on Friday as they aim to end a 30-year drought for the coveted baseball crown.

The visitors got off to a dream start when leadoff hitter David Freese smashed a 402-foot homer to right center field to give

them a 1-0 first inning lead. But the Brewers hit back with a devastating burst of scoring in the bottom of the first which ultimately decided the game.

Dodgers starter Ryu never looked comfortable in the face of an aggressive onslaught from the home side who got Lorenzo Cain and Ryan Braun on base either side of outs from Christian Yelich and Travis Shaw.

The arrival of first baseman Aguilar to the plate marked the opening of the floodgates, the Venezuelan lashing a double to right field which brought home Cain and Braun. Third baseman Moustakas then piled on the agony for Ryu, opening his at bat with a double to right field to score Aguilar and make it 3-1.

It got worse for Ryu immediately afterwards when veteran catcher Kratz drove to right field to allow Moustakas to cross home plate for a 4-1 lead as Miller Park erupted once again. By the time Ryu finally claimed his third and final out of the first inning he had conceded four earned runs-more than he had given up in any previous start in 2018.

The Dodgers then left Chris Taylor stranded on third base in the top of the second as Brewers starter Wade Miley shut down the visitors offense once more. The Brewers then picked up where they left off in the first, aggressively going after Ryu and quickly extending their lead.

Yelich doubled to right field and then Braun drove in another double to make it 5-1 as Ryu looked on aghast. The Dodgers



MILWAUKEE: Orlando Arcia #3 and Ryan Braun #8 of the Milwaukee Brewers celebrate after defeating the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game Six of the National League Championship Series at Miller Park on Friday in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. — AFP

pressed a run back in the fifth inning when Freese's double allowed pinch hitter Brian Dozier to score to make it 5-2.

But the Dodgers hopes of mounting a rally ran into a brick wall in the shape of Corey Knebel and Jeremy Jeffress. The Brewers then extended their lead when a wild pitch from Dodgers reliever Kenta Maeda flew past catcher Yasmani Grandal to allow Aguilar to score and hand the hosts

a 6-2 lead. Aguilar again punished the Dodgers in the eighth, finding a gap to score Lorenzo Cain and all but guarantee victory before Corbin Burnes rapidly disposed of Joc Pederson, Yasiel Puig and Matt Kemp to wrap up the win.

Game seven takes place in Milwaukee today, with the Dodgers looking to rookie Walker Buehler to resurrect their World Series dream. —AFP

Sports

Ten-man Bayern end winless streak as Alcacer keeps Dortmund top

RB Leipzig are third after a goalless draw with Augsburg

WOLFSBURG: Ten-man Bayern Munich ended their four-match winless streak yesterday as Robert Lewandowski scored twice in a 3-1 win at Wolfsburg, a day after the club's hierarchy launched an extraordinary attack on the German media.

After back-to-back league defeats, Bayern leapt from sixth to second in the Bundesliga behind Borussia Dortmund who routed Stuttgart 4-0 with Paco Alcacer claiming his seventh goal in four Bundesliga games.

Bayern got back to winning ways in Wolfsburg the day after chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and president Uli Hoeness slammed the media in Germany for "disrespectful and disgusting" reporting on star-studded Munich.

Bayern worked for the win, playing the last half an hour with ten men after Arjen Robben was sent off after receiving two yellow cards.

Head coach Niko Kovac left Thomas Mueller and Franck Ribery on the bench as Bayern broke their four-game winless streak in all competitions.

Lewandowski gave Bayern an early lead when he tucked away Thiago Alcantara's dummed pass past Wolfsburg goalkeeper Koen Casteels. It was the Poland striker's first goal after drawing blanks in his last five games for club and country.

With half-time approaching, Robben earned his first booking for a blatant dive in the area before Lewandowski struck again just after the break.

The Polish striker latched on to William's misplaced back pass and dribbled around Casteels to poke his shot into an empty net to make it 2-0. There were nervous looks in the Bayern ranks on 57 minutes when Robben was dismissed after a foul on midfielder Elvis Rexhbecaj.

Wolfsburg pulled a goal back five minutes after Robben's dismissal when Dutch striker Wout Weghorst buried the hosts' first clear chance. James Rodriguez calmed any nerves in the Bayern ranks with a stunning shot inside the post 18 minutes from time.

SANCHO NETS IN DORTMUND ROMP

In Stuttgart, Dortmund remain four points clear after their attack of Jadon Sancho, Marco Reus and Alcacer ran riot with the trio all claiming first-half goals. Before kick-off, Dortmund's sports director Michael Zorc revealed Borussia are set to make Alcacer's loan stay from Barcelona permanent.

The Spaniard demonstrated why with his 11th goal this season for Dortmund and Spain to become the league's joint top-scorer.

Fresh from making his senior England debut, Sancho, 18, put Dortmund ahead on just three minutes when he fired home after Reus' shot was deflected into his path.

Reus then made no mistake with his second chance for his fifth league goal of the season. Alcacer made it 3-0 after 25 minutes when his sublime chip beat the Stuttgart goalkeeper. The hosts tightened their defence after the break, but Dortmund deserved the win as Maximilian Philipp slammed home their fourth six minutes from time.

Elsewhere, England junior international Reiss Nelson, on loan from Arsenal, scored twice as Hoffenheim warmed up for their Champions League game at home to Lyon with a 3-1 win at Nuremberg.

RB Leipzig are third after a goalless draw with Augsburg which cost them their fourth straight win. Brazil defender Felipe was Hanover's hero, then villain after scoring their second goal, but was then sent off



WOLFSBURG: Wolfsburg's Dutch forward Wout Weghorst scores past Bayern Munich's German goalkeeper Manuel Neuer (L) during the German First division Bundesliga football match between VfL Wolfsburg and Bayern Munich, yesterday. — AFP

in their 2-2 goal at Bayer Leverkusen, whose Karim Bellarabi scored a late equaliser.

On Friday, Serbia striker Luka Jovic, 20, became

the youngest player to score five goals in a Bundesliga match as Eintracht Frankfurt romped to a 7-1 win over bottom side Fortuna Duesseldorf. —AFP

Real Madrid slump to third straight loss

MADRID: Real Madrid coach Julen Lopetegui's woes deepened as the European champions fell to a 2-1 defeat at home to Levante yesterday, setting an unwanted record of 482 minutes without scoring a goal in the process.

Jose Luis Morales put Levante ahead in the seventh minute after a defensive slip from Raphael Varane while Roger Marti doubled the lead in the 13th from the penalty spot after a handball by Varane, with the spot-kick awarded after consultation with the video assistant referee (VAR). Real created a number of chances down the other end but hit the woodwork three times and had a strike by Marco Asensio ruled out by VAR for offside and early in the second half they broke an unwanted club record of 464 minutes without scoring.

Marcelo finally snapped their long spell without a goal by smashing into the net midway through the second half, scoring the club's first goal in 482 minutes. But despite creating a glut of further chances Real slumped to a third straight loss in all competitions to pile the pressure on under-fire Lopetegui.

"We are feeling very bad, we 100 percent had to win this game and we kept trying until the end but it wasn't meant to be," said Real midfielder Dani Ceballos, who also gave his backing to Lopetegui.

"I believe in the coach, although the decision isn't mine. I don't think his job is in danger, we are right behind him." Real, who were booed by their fans, are fifth in the La Liga standings, three points behind leaders Alaves.

Champions Barcelona play at home to second-placed Sevilla later. Real were in dire need of a win after losing to CSKA Moscow and Alaves in their last two games and they were boosted by the return of influential figures Isco and Marcelo although Gareth Bale could only start on the bench after recovering from injury.



MADRID: Real Madrid's French forward Karim Benzema (C) vies with Levante's Uruguayan defender Erick Cabaco (L) and Levante's Spanish defender Sergio Postigo during the Spanish league football match Real Madrid CF against Levante UD at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid yesterday. — AFP

Madrid conceded the first goal for the seventh time in 11 games in all competitions when Varane failed to clear the most routine of through passes and forward Morales stole the loose ball and rounded goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois to score. Levante stunned the home fans into silence when they were awarded a penalty in bizarre circumstances for a handball by the hapless Varane on the line of the penalty area, which was finally given after consulting the video assistant referee (VAR) just as the visitors were about to take a free kick.

Courtois guessed the right way but Marti's penalty was too powerful for him. VAR was called into action five minutes later to cancel out a goal for Real from Marco Asensio for offside, the first of a flurry of chances for the home side which saw Mariano hit the crossbar and Levante's former Barcelona goalkeeper Oier Olazabal make a string of impressive saves. Olazabal made another superb save after the interval to thwart substitute Bale while fellow sub Benzema hit the post after Marcelo had reduced the deficit to a single goal. — Reuters

Lamela sinks Hammers as Spurs climb to top four

LONDON: Erik Lamela fired Tottenham into the Premier League's top four as the revitalised winger clinched a 1-0 win against London rivals West Ham yesterday.

Lamela struck with a cool header late in the first half at the London Stadium to give Tottenham their fourth successive league victory. That made it five goals in just eight appearances this season for Lamela, who was making only his second league start of the campaign.

Lamela could start more often after this influential display underlined his improvement since returning from over a year of injury problems that required surgery on both hips. Thanks to Lamela and a sturdy defensive display, Mauricio Pochettino's side were able to celebrate five successive top-flight London derby wins for the first time since January 1961.

It was the ideal warm-up for next week's crucial Champions League trip to PSV Eindhoven and the Premier League clash against champions Manchester City a few days later. West Ham's second consecutive loss punctured the optimism sparked by their win over Manchester United earlier in September. Adding to West Ham's woes, winger Andriy Yarmolenko was taken to hospital after suffering a serious ankle injury. Pochettino is adamant Tottenham can cope despite a raft of injuries to key players, including Dele Alli, Danny Rose and Jan Vertonghen.

And even without so many stars, Tottenham were quickly into their stride. Probing intelligently through Lamela and Lucas Moura, Tottenham worked space for Moussa Sissoko, whose deflected strike flashed just over from the edge of the area.

There is little love lost between West Ham and Tottenham fans, their animosity creating a tense atmosphere in the stands that inevitably led to a bruising



LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur's Argentinian midfielder Erik Lamela (2nd R) runs at the West Ham defence during the English Premier League football match between West Ham United and Tottenham Hotspur at the London Stadium, in east London yesterday. — AFP

encounter on the pitch. The frenetic tempo claimed a casualty when West Ham defender Pablo Zabaleta needed treatment for a head injury that left blood pouring from a wound above his eye.

Harry Kane has endured constant claims that he is suffering from post-World Cup fatigue and the England captain once again looked a little laboured in his movement. When Moura's pass sent Kane through on goal, the Tottenham striker couldn't find the extra gear to accelerate away from the West Ham defence and his shot was scrambled clear.

Given another sight of goal, Kane again reacted too slowly and Issa Diop had time to make the block that kept Tottenham at bay. Despite Kane's lethargy, Tottenham were the dominant force and took the lead in the 44th minute. Sissoko twisted and turned on the right flank

before whipping over a cross that Lamela met with a perfectly-timed run, the Argentine heading powerfully past Lukasz Fabianski from close-range.

It took a good save from Fabianski to prevent Davinson Sanchez doubling Tottenham's lead moments later. Tottenham keeper Hugo Lloris made an even better stop, leaping to his left to repel a header from Marko Arnautovic early in the second half.

Lloris won another duel with Arnautovic on the hour, this time keeping the striker's low drive with an outstretched hand. Sanchez squandered a chance to kill off West Ham when the defender, picked out by Kieran Trippier's cross, headed woefully over from close-range.

West Ham pressed hard in the closing stages, but Javier Hernandez's effort was ruled out for offside and Lloris denied Arnautovic as Pochettino's men held firm. — AFP

Live		Matches on TV	
		(Local Timings)	
ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE			
Everton FC v Crystal Palace	beIN SPORTS HD 2	18:00	
SPANISH LEAGUE			
Rayo Vallecano v Getafe CF	beIN SPORTS HD 3	13:00	
SD Eibar v Athletic de Bilbao	beIN SPORTS MAX 4 FR	17:15	
Huesca v RCD Espanyol	beIN SPORTS MAX 8 FR	19:30	
Real Betis v Real Valladolid	beIN SPORTS HD 3	21:45	
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE			
Frosinone Calcio v Empoli	beIN SPORTS HD 4	13:30	
Bologna FC v Torino FC	beIN SPORTS HD 13 EN	16:00	
Parma Calcio 1913 v SS Lazio	beIN SPORTS MAX 9 FR	16:00	
AC Chievo Verona v Atalanta	beIN SPORTS HD 4	16:00	
ACF Fiorentina v Cagliari Calcio	beIN SPORTS HD 8	19:00	
Internazionale Milano v AC Milan	beIN SPORTS HD 7	21:30	
	beIN SPORTS HD 4		

Mbappe scores again as PSG thrash Amiens for perfect 10

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain continued the blistering start to their Ligue 1 title defence with a record-extending 10th straight win as Kylian Mbappe scored in a 5-0 thrashing of Amiens yesterday. Coach Thomas Tuchel left key men Neymar, Thiago Silva and Thomas Meunier out of the squad altogether at the Parc des Princes with Wednesday's Champions League clash with Napoli in mind, but PSG had more than enough to see off Amiens.

Brazilian centre-back Marquinhos nodded the hosts into a 12th-minute lead and Adrien Rabiot made it two shortly before half-time. Germany winger Julian Draxler grabbed the third headed goal of the game, and the 19-year-old Mbappe fired in late on to score his ninth goal in just six league matches this season. It was a horrid mismatch with Amiens totally outclassed, and teenager Moussa Diaby came off the bench to complete the rout as the capital-city giants stretched their commanding lead at the top of the table to 11 points.

The champions did not waste much time in forging ahead, as Marquinhos met Angel Di Maria's inswinging corner with a flicked header into the bottom corner to score his first Ligue 1 goal since May 2017.

PSG were totally dominant—as Edinson Cavani saw a header brilliantly kept out by Amiens goalkeeper Regis Gurtner—but doubled the advantage three minutes before the break with almost a carbon-copy of the first goal.

Di Maria curled in another corner from the right, and this time it was Rabiot who made the near-post run and directed a header into the same corner that Marquinhos had found half an hour earlier.

Cavani wasted a golden opportunity by volleying wide from barely two yards out, but the match was as good as over heading into the second half. Tuchel's men appeared to have their attentions firmly focused on Napoli as they slipped into cruise control in the second half, happy the stroke the ball around under little to no pressure from an Amiens outfit seemingly pleased to limit the damage. —AFP

25 WADA not fit for purpose and should be replaced: Thompson

26 England win rain-marred fourth ODI to bag series

27 Real Madrid slump to third straight loss



Liverpool scrape past Huddersfield

Salah end a four-match goal drought for Liverpool with a sublime strike



HUDDERSFIELD: Liverpool's Egyptian midfielder Mohamed Salah (C) shoots past Huddersfield Town's German defender Christopher Schindler and Huddersfield Town's Danish goalkeeper Jonas Lossl to score the opening goal of the English Premier League football match between Huddersfield Town and Liverpool at the John Smith's stadium in Huddersfield, northern England yesterday. — AFP

HUDDERSFIELD: Mohamed Salah ended a four-match goal drought for Liverpool with a sublime strike that secured a nervous 1-0 Premier League victory away to Huddersfield yesterday.

Salah has struggled for consistency this season, and was a doubt for the trip to West Yorkshire after suffering a hamstring problem while on international duty with Egypt during the week. But in the 24th minute he steered in Xherdan Shaqiri's pass to score his 50th goal in English club football, ensuring Liverpool ended yesterday level on points with league leaders Manchester City. Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp could be pleased his players showed the strength of character required to see out victory over a team coached by his long-time friend David Wagner, but there were only fleeting glimpses of the free-flowing attack that lit up the Premier League last season.

Then again, this was something of a mix-and-match Liverpool line-up. Perhaps with Wednesday's Champions League home match against Red Star Belgrade in mind, Klopp freshened up his front line, restricting Roberto Firmino to a late substitute appearance. Sadio Mane was not risked after having surgery on a broken thumb during the week, so Daniel Sturridge made his first league start for Liverpool since last November, and midfielder Adam Lallana his first since New Year's Day.

Klopp had warned this match, against opponents without a home goal since April, could be a trap, and he was right to be wary. Wagner knew just how to make life difficult for the title hopefuls, setting Huddersfield up with a back three and leaving them tight on the visitors' front trio.

It was to Liverpool's credit that they fashioned a goal of genuine class to break down stubborn opponents midway

through the first half. Shaqiri collected Joe Gomez's ball from the right-back position, and played an excellent pass for Salah, who timed his run perfectly and found just the right angle to slide a shot past Jonas Lossl and into the far corner. For Salah, it was a moment of relief in what has been a testing season. But Huddersfield, in the relegation zone and without a league win so far this season, responded well and were unlucky not to have equalised by half-time.

Jonathan Hogg struck the post with a fine 25-yard drive as Liverpool failed to clear Erik Durm's cross, while James Milner escaped a loud penalty appeal when he diverted the ball with his thigh onto his arm.

Right at the end of the first half, Alex Pritchard thought he had ended the Terriers long wait for a home goal, but was rightly ruled offside as he slotted past Alisson following a Hogg header. Huddersfield continued to threaten after half-

time, with Laurent Depoitre-seeking to end a run of one goal in 27 matches — guiding a header from Florent Hadergjonaj's cross, which Alisson held comfortably.

Salah remained a threat when Liverpool got the ball to him, and almost added a second goal when he collected Sturridge's diagonal ball on his chest and steered a shot just beyond the far post.

Lallana, still getting back to the pace of Premier League football after a series of injuries, came off with just over 20 minutes left to be replaced by Fabinho, making his Premier League debut after a £39 million (\$51 million, 44 million euros) move from Monaco. The visitors still had to survive a scare after that, with Steve Moumie diverting fellow substitute Isaac Mbenza's cross over the bar on the turn as Virgil van Dijk and Dejan Lovren both failed to clear, but Liverpool got the job done. —AFP

City turn on style as last-gasp Chelsea deny Man United

LONDON: Manchester City brushed aside Burnley 5-0 to pull clear at the top of the Premier League yesterday after Chelsea snatched a point in a dramatic late finish against Manchester United.

City's win gives them a two-point cushion over Chelsea and Tottenham — 1-0 winners at West Ham-but Liverpool will join them on 23 points if they beat Huddersfield in the late kick-off. Pep Guardiola's side, who missed a late penalty to beat Liverpool at Anfield earlier this month, made it seven wins from nine league games as Burnley goalkeeper Joe Hart endured a miserable return to his former club at the Etihad.

Sergio Aguero opened the scoring in the 17th minute before second-half goals rained in from Bernardo Silva, Fernandinho, Riyad Mahrez and Leroy Sane. With the defending champions slipping ominously into gear, midfielder Kevin De Bruyne came on for just his second appearance of the season following a knee injury he suffered in August. Earlier, Ross Barkley scored in the sixth minute of injury time at Stamford Bridge to level the match at 2-2 after Anthony Martial had scored twice in the second half to cancel out Antonio Rudiger's opener.

It was a bitter blow for the under-pressure Mourinho, returning to his former club after a poor start to the season and he lost his cool in emotional scenes in the final seconds. Mourinho took exception to the celebrations of one of Chelsea's backroom staff, Marco Ianni, who ran in front of the Portuguese on the touchline, as he seemed set for a desperately needed win.

But after the final whistle the United boss played down the incident, saying Ianni had apologised to him. "It was not celebrations, but bad education. But I also made mistakes in football matches and I will make more so after the game when he came to offer his apologies. I accept," added Mourinho. The United boss, who has a tough run of fixtures coming up, including games against Juventus and Manchester City, described the 2-2 draw as an "awful" result for his team, who roared back from 2-0 to beat Newcastle United in their last match.

Sarri said his side lost out to United in the physical battle as the game wore on. "I am happy with the performance of the team for 60 minutes because for 60 minutes we played our football," said the Italian.

"Then after the goal of 1-1 we haven't played our football. We only played the long ball and we are not organised to go on the second half." Erik Lamela scored the only goal of the game as Spurs beat West Ham at the London Stadium to maintain their impressive start to the season.

Liverpool travel to Huddersfield looking to end a four-game winless run in all competitions following an electric start to the season. Elsewhere, Cardiff beat Fulham 4-2 while there were also wins for Brighton and Watford. Bournemouth drew 0-0 with Southampton. — AFP



MANCHESTER: Burnley's Welsh striker Sam Vokes (3rd R) has an attempt on goal during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Burnley at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England, yesterday. — AFP