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Prince Mohammed: Vision 2030 to help Kuwait make major gains

MBS speaks with Erdogan, vows to bring Khashoggi killers to justice

RIYADH: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman yesterday said Kuwait could achieve major accomplishments, thanks to the country's "Vision 2030" and financial resources. Prince Mohammed made the remark during a session on the second day of the Future Investment Initiative (FII) in the presence of Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Al-Hariri and Bahrain's Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad. Kuwait has huge financial resources and wonderful people as well as the "Vision 2030", which will enable the country to make major achievements, he said.

Prince Mohammed also vowed yesterday that the killers of Jamal Khashoggi would be brought to justice, in his first public comments since the journalist's murder sparked global condemnation. Striking a defiant tone, Prince Mohammed told international investors at a major conference in Riyadh that the furor over Khashoggi's killing at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul would not derail the kingdom's reform drive.

"We will prove to the world that the two governments (Saudi and Turkish) are cooperating to punish any criminal, any culprit and at the end justice will prevail," Prince Mohammed said to applause. The world's top oil exporter has come under increasing pressure over the death of Khashoggi, a columnist and one of the crown prince's most prominent critics. The crisis has strained Riyadh's ties with the West and led dozens of Western politicians, top world bankers and company

executives to boycott the conference that opened in Riyadh on Tuesday.

Saudi Arabia first denied any involvement in Khashoggi's disappearance after he entered the consulate but a Saudi official eventually attributed his death on Oct 2 to a botched attempt to return him to the kingdom. Turkey has dismissed Saudi efforts to blame rogue operatives and urged the kingdom to search "top to bottom" for those responsible. Prince Mohammed said Saudi Arabia and Turkey would work together "to reach results" on a joint investigation and described cooperation between the two countries as "special", despite criticism from Ankara. "The incident that happened is very painful, for all Saudis... The incident is not justifiable," the crown prince said on a discussion panel at the conference.

Erdogan spoke to Prince Mohammed yesterday and the two discussed the steps needed to bring to light all aspects of Khashoggi's death, a presidential source said. The phone call was at the request of the prince, the presidential source noted. Prince Mohammed painted a different picture of relations with Turkey. "There are now those who are trying to take advantage of the painful situation to create a rift between the kingdom and Turkey," he said. "I want to send them a message that they cannot do this as long as there a king named Salman bin Abdulaziz and a crown prince named

Continued on Page 24



RIYADH: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (left) arrives with Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Al-Hariri to attend the Future Investment Initiative conference in the Saudi capital yesterday. — AFP

News in brief

Kuwait places 9 on terror list

KUWAIT: Kuwait has designated nine terrorists for their link with Afghanistan's Taliban and Iran's Revolutionary Guard, the foreign ministry announced Tuesday. The designation was taken hand-in-hand with Riyadh-based Terrorist Financing Targeting Center (TFTC), co-chaired by the US and Saudi Arabia, as well as in line with UN Security Council resolutions under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, it said in a statement. The foreign ministry identified the terrorists as: Mohammad Owahdi, Esma'il Razavi, Abdullah Faroqui, Mohammad Muzzamil, Abdul Rahim Manan, Abdul Aziz Zamani, Sadr Ibrahim, Hafiz Majid and Naem Parech. The ministry said the designation is part of efforts by the TFTC to address terrorism financing and crack down on terrorist groups which posed a threat to the interest and security of TFTC member countries. — KUNA

Israel wins \$777m India order

JERUSALEM: Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) said yesterday it had won a \$777 million order from India to buy defense systems for its navy. The deal with India's state-owned Bharat Electronics Limited to supply the marine version of the Barak 8 air and missile defense system for seven more warships follows a \$630 million order placed last year. Israel's and India's leaders have pledged to deepen ties and the countries have been increasing cooperation in fields like agriculture and advanced technologies. "IAI's partnership with India dates many years back and has culminated in joint system development and production," IAI Chief Executive Officer Nimrod Sheffer said. "It constitutes further proof that security is an investment not an expense," Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said of yesterday's deal. "Israel Aerospace Industries is a pillar of the nation that we must conserve and strengthen," he added, recalling his opposition to proposals for partial privatization of the firm. — Agencies

One winning \$1.5bn ticket

WASHINGTON: A single winning ticket has been identified in a massive \$1.5 billion Mega Millions US lottery jackpot, the second largest on record, organizers said yesterday. The winning ticket was bought in South Carolina, but the lucky winner has not yet been identified. It's the largest single winning ticket ever and it dwarfed the previous Mega Millions record, set in March 2012 at \$656 million. The six winning numbers drawn on Tuesday night were five, 28, 62, 65, 70 and another five as the special "gold Mega Ball". The winner can take \$878 million in a lump sum cash payment or be paid out in annuities over 30 years. The massive jackpot had set off a lottery frenzy across America, with people lining up at convenience stores, supermarkets and liquor stores to buy a \$2 ticket that gave them a roughly one in 300 million chance of winning. — AFP

Adasani warns speaker over retirement law

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Opposition MP Riyadh Al-Adasani yesterday blamed National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem for the delay in sending to the government a key early retirement law that could result in preventing the Assembly from easily approving it. According to Adasani, the law was passed by an overwhelming majority of 43 MPs on May 15, 2018, but Ghanem took more time than expected to send it to the government.

Pipe bombs sent to Trump foes Obama, Clinton, CNN

NEW YORK: Pipe bombs were sent to Barack Obama, other top Democrats and CNN - all hate figures for backers of President Donald Trump - in a coordinated "effort to terrorize" days before polarizing US elections, officials said yesterday. Hillary Clinton was among some of America's most high-profile Democrats targeted with the country bitterly divided ahead of Nov 6 elections seen as a referendum on the Republican Trump. CNN is well known for its robust coverage of the Trump administration

and is routinely condemned by the president, who succeeded Obama and defeated Clinton in 2016. Signs at his rallies condemn the network.

The spree of bomb alerts was kicked off Monday when a device found at the New York home of billionaire liberal donor George Soros. "So far the devices have been what appear to be pipe bombs," said FBI agent Bryan Paarmann. "It appears that an individual or individuals sent out multiple similar packages," he added, in what appeared to be a coordinated effort.

Another suspicious device was sent to the Manhattan office of New York's Democratic state Governor Andrew Cuomo. In Florida, police also investigated a suspicious package near the office of a Democrat lawmaker, Debbie Wasserman Schultz. In California, suspicious packages provoked a false alarm at

This gave the government time to reject the law and send it back to the Assembly on July 5, when MPs were on summer recess, Adasani said.

Under the constitution, the government has the right to reject laws passed by the Assembly within 30 days of receiving them. The Assembly can overturn the rejection in two ways: Either by a two-thirds majority in the same term or by a simple majority in the next term. Adasani said when the speaker delayed sending the law to the government, it allowed it to reject the legislation within the stipulated constitutional period and send it back to the Assembly during the summer recess.

This means that to overturn the government rejection and pass the law again, the Assembly needs a two-thirds majority in this term, Adasani said. If the speaker had sent it a few days earlier, the government rejection would have come in the previous term, and the law could have been overturned in the new term, which will

open on Tuesday.

Adasani also blamed Minister of State for Assembly Affairs Adel Al-Khorafi for the delay and warned that this could trigger a constitutional crisis. The lawmaker said the delay is similar to attempts to scrap grillings in the Assembly. He also warned that he will include this violation in his grilling of Khorafi, expected to be debated on the Assembly's opening day.

Meanwhile, the Assembly's public utilities committee decided yesterday that the public roads authority should continue to exist and made a number of recommendations to amend a few provisions of its law. Separately, MP Mohammad Al-Dallal asked the oil minister about the number of Kuwaiti chemical and petroleum engineers in each oil company compared to expatriate engineers. He also asked why the oil sector did not hire Kuwaiti chemical and petroleum engineers in the past three years.



NEW YORK: (From left) New York City Police Commissioner James O'Neil, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio attend a news conference outside the Time Warner Building yesterday after an explosive device was delivered to CNN's New York bureau. — AFP

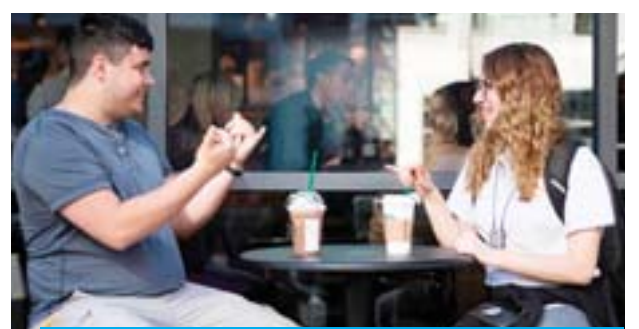
First Starbucks sign language US store opens

WASHINGTON: Rebecca Witzofsky, a 20-year-old deaf student at Gallaudet University in Washington, and her hearing friend Nikolas Carapellatti wanted to get a coffee. But on Tuesday, Witzofsky finally didn't have to struggle to make her order understood. US coffee giant Starbucks opened its first "signing store" in the United States in northeast Washington near the campus of Gallaudet, the world's only university with an entire curriculum designed to accommodate the deaf and hard-of-hearing.

At the store, all staff - most of them deaf or hard-of-hearing themselves - are required to communicate with customers using sign language. The cafe is modeled after a store that opened in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2016. At first glance, it doesn't look any different from a regular Starbucks, seen on seemingly every other street corner in the US capital. Employees wearing black shirts and green aprons emblazoned with the company logo scurry behind the counter to serve hot drinks, cold drinks and pastries to an eager clientele.

But despite the crowd - perhaps unusually big for mid-morning on a Tuesday - the cafe enjoyed a surprising calm, probably because most conversations were held in silence. For Witzofsky, it was a revelation.

Continued on Page 24



WASHINGTON: Sign language interpretation major, student Nikolas Carapellatti signs with deaf Gallaudet University student Rebecca Witzofsky outside the first US Starbucks cafe staffed by employees who are partially or fully deaf on Tuesday. — AFP

Amir, Crown Prince receive senior state officials



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.— KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness also received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem. His Highness then received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received at Bayan Palace Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. — KUNA



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



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

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ICRC eyes closer cooperation with Kuwait: Maurer

KUWAIT: President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Peter Maurer said Tuesday the relationship between the committee and the State of Kuwait is unique thanks to the humanitarian policy of Kuwait. Kuwait always responds promptly to emergencies worldwide and helps ensure respect for human dignity of the victims of crises and armed conflicts, he said in an interview.

Maurer, who concluded a two-day visit to Kuwait, said the aim of the visit was to enhance cooperation and express gratitude for the diplomatic and material assistance to the activities of the committee in crisis-hit countries. He noted that he reviewed with the Kuwaiti officials

the latest developments of the ICRC response to the humanitarian disasters in several countries, particularly Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

The regional mission of the committee works constantly to integrate the provisions of the international humanitarian law into the national legislations and the war games of the Gulf Cooperation Council member states, he said. Members of the committee visit the detainees and prisoners of wars, and address the humanitarian matters left by the Gulf War of 1990-91, he went on. He spoke highly of Kuwait's relentless efforts to bring the Yemeni political adversaries to the negotiating table, host donor conferences on Syria, and lobby for the reconstruction of Iraq.

Maurer noted that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, including the missing Kuwaitis, was one of the topics discussed during his stay in Kuwait. He added that the discussions dealt also with the possibility of enhancing cooperation with Kuwaiti charities and fund-raising organizations such as Kuwait Red Crescent Society and the International Islamic Charitable Organization. — KUNA

KIB platinum sponsor of Fintech Conference and Exhibition

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently offered its platinum sponsorship for the Kuwait Fintech Conference and Exhibition. Organized by Events 12, the two-day conference was held at the Palms Beach Hotel. The conference was held under the patronage of the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Khaled Nasser Al-Roudhan, and represented by the Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for Corporate Affairs and Commercial Licenses, Ahmed Al-Faris, supported by the Central Agency for Information Technology.

During the conference, a series of financial technology and blockchain topics were covered, such as electronic payments as seen from a technical, regulatory, and legal aspect. A total 16 speakers, from 10 countries across the globe, presented several

topics covering the latest developments and trends in fintech and blockchain, as well as their impact on financial technology and the public sector.

Speaking at the conference, Ziad Al-Hassawi, Assistant General Manager of the Business Services Department and Head of Information Technology at the bank, said: "Innovation is progressing exponentially, as new financial technologies are emerging faster than ever before around the world. There is no denying that its impact spans across industries, which of course, includes banking. The demand is growing for fintech, as it constantly develops, now integrating more and more into the banking sector."

Moreover, Hassawi pointed out that in line with His Highness the Amir's Vision 2035: KIB has adopted a number of ambitious goals and objectives, including the implementation of innovative technologies and methods. Additionally, the bank actively seeks to identify cutting-edge financial technologies to improve its banking products and services and boost customer satisfaction.

Meanwhile, Nawaf Najia, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, said: "Our sponsorship of this event came as part of KIB's ongoing support for initiatives that focus



on the importance of innovation in financial technology. Additionally, the event showcased the important role fintech plays in driving financial inclusion, and introduced attendees to a variety of fintech solutions. The event served as a platform, shedding light on emerging companies in the fintech arena and exploring valuable connections between fintech companies and various financial institutions."

Najia added that KIB continues to focus on the development of financial technology, as well as the future of financial services and possible obstacles the industry may face. Accordingly, the bank has always sought to identify key developments in fintech, in order to provide the latest services the industry has to offer to enhance the overall customer banking experience.



Local

Firemen tackle blaze at Dajeej commercial building

Several collapses reported at site; no injuries



KUWAIT: Firefighters tackle a blaze at a commercial center in Al-Dajeej yesterday.



Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) officials discuss the work plan at the site of the fire.

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Firefighters tackled a blaze that gutted a commercial center in Al-Dajeej yesterday morning, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) said. Operations received a call at 3:49 am over a blaze at a 10,000-square-meter business complex, where teams of firefighters were dispatched to the scene immediately, read a statement by the Kuwaiti fire department. Despite numerous obstacles, including a warning system malfunction and several collapses at the site, the fire crews managed to suppress the blaze with no reports of casualties.



Several arrests in traffic campaign

Traffic campaign
The Relations and Security Information Department at the Interior Ministry said the traffic department carried out a campaign from Oct 14 to 20, resulting in issuing 34,916 citations, impounding 1,267 vehicles and six motorcycles, nine 'wanted' cars were accounted for and 56 persons were detained - 42 were sent to the juvenile department, 11 wanted men were arrested, while three persons were arrested and sent for deportation. Four drug busts were carried out, while 26 persons were held for not having IDs.



A sports car impounded during a traffic camping held recently in Kuwait.



A traffic policeman is seen in the background as a sports car is impounded during a crackdown.

Municipal Council workshop discusses developing Jleeb

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Municipal Council yesterday held a workshop to discuss the project of developing Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. The workshop was attended by the council's Chairman Osama Al-Otaibi and Farwaniya committee members to discuss building an ideal public services area in Jleeb after purchasing the land from their owners.



KUWAIT: Municipal Council members attend a workshop to discuss the project of developing Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh yesterday. — KUNA photo

Sabah Al-Salem University

Well-informed sources said Kuwait University plans to have an international company to technically administer Sabah Al-Salem University buildings in Shadaddiya according to local laws and regulations. The source added that the university will be academically run by Kuwait University. The sources said the international company would be responsible for operating the buildings, supervising their infrastructure, cleaning and transport.

Bedoon military personnel

The Central Bank urged all banks to pay the salaries of bedoon (stateless) military and civil personnel working for the defense ministry with expired security ID cards for the next three months, provided they show their military IDs.

Teachers arrive

Thirty five Palestinian maths teachers

arrived yesterday to join the Ministry of Education's (MoE) school teaching staff and help cover the shortage of teachers in some schools, said a diplomatic source, noting that 79 more teachers will arrive from Gaza next week to take the total number of Palestinian teachers interviewed and hired in August to 150. In another educational concern, some educationists have questioned the legality of having subjects' supervisors take part in evaluating teaching staff members, noting that MoE had finally decided to contact the Civil Service Commission (CSC) for advice and issuing a decision that will end the debate and clearly define the duties of technical supervisors. In this regard, MoE's acting undersecretary Fahd Al-Ghais requested detailed reports from various supervisors about their job nature and the evaluation methods they follow. Ghais also requested legal advice from the ministry's legal affairs department before meeting with CSC officials to discuss the topic. Notably, many educationists believe that it is illegal that supervisors take part in

evaluating teachers because they are not their direct seniors, which has led to several teachers filing cases questioning their annual performance evaluation reports.

60 projects

Well-informed sources said Kuwait is about to execute 60 projects to build suitable infrastructure for the tourism, aviation, health and education sectors at a total cost of KD 13 billion in the coming five years.

Prices increase

Chairman of the Kuwait Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies (KUCCS) Khaled Al-Hudaiban said that the union will work hard on preventing companies from increasing prices and providing foodstuff at reasonable rates in all co-ops. Speaking on launching Yarmouk Co-op's promotional festival, Hudaiban said the union only approved a five percent increase for companies that had applied to increase the prices of their goods.

GCC health ministers meet

The fourth meeting of the Council of GCC Ministers of Health will be held in Kuwait today, with a focus on essential topics, Kuwait's Ministry of Health (MoH) yesterday said. Kuwait's Minister of Health Sheikh Bassel Al-Sabah said in a press release ahead of the meeting that health security will begin with examining expats at border crossings in line with relevant health regulations, and strategically stocking medical supplies and vaccines during emergencies. The meeting will discuss the citizens' ability to access health services, address the tobacco epidemic and follow-up on decisions of the Supreme Council on Health, in addition to many other topics related to GCC health challenges, he noted. — KUNA

Female judges in 2019

Sources said there is a plan in the offing between the public prosecution and the comprehensive court to appoint a number of female deputy prosecutors in 2019 after completing five years of work at the prosecution. The sources said they will be appointed as third grade judges in several judicial circuits at the court. Sources said the Supreme Judicial Council approved admitting law and sharia graduates in the public prosecution - both male and female - and asked advertisement be published in November. This will be the third batch in which women are accepted after proven successful as investigators. The sources said those to be accepted this time are this year's graduates from approved colleges after personal interviews and written exams at the Kuwait Institute for Judicial Studies. — Al-Jarida

Kuwait, French forces launch joint drills

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Army will conduct joint drills (Pearl of the West) with live ammunition in cooperation with the French Armed Forces between November 11 and 30, it said yesterday. The exercises are part of a series of drills that are carried out in cooperation with friendly armed forces with the aim of strengthening military ties, planning and operations, the Kuwaiti Army said in a press release. — KUNA

Statute of limitations applies to terrorism charges: Court

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The constitutional court yesterday confirmed that sentences in terrorism and money laundering cases are dropped after 20 years. The court stressed that article 42 of the money laundering and terrorism law, which prevents dropping those crimes by the statute of limitations, is unconstitutional.

Meanwhile, the court of cassation yesterday acquitted a defendant accused of smuggling diesel containers on the grounds that a procedural mistake took place. The error was described as confiscating the containers, emptying them and returning them to Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) before a judgment was issued by the concerned court, which prevented the court from examining the evidence.



The Palace of Justice

National Guard joins int'l police body

ANTALYA: Kuwait's National Guard has joined the International Association of Gendarmeries and Police Forces with Military Status to become the 19th member, alongside nations such as France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Turkey. Joining the body, also known as the FIEP, will help Kuwait to enhance its cooperation in security, the exchange of experience, coexistence and training with the other member countries' forces, National Guard Secretary Lt Gen Hasim Al-Refai said at the body's meeting on Tuesday. Kuwait is the seventh Arab country to join the body, founded in 1994, following Djibouti, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, and Tunisia. It does so along with Senegal, who both celebrated the occa-

sion at the talks which witnessed Turkey's Gendarmerie's handing of the annually rotating FIEP presidency to the Royal Marechaussee of the Netherlands. The announcement was welcomed by several existing Arab members.

Jordan's Darak forces representative Col Mohammad Al-Ammoosh, whose country presided over the body in 2017, praised Kuwait's efforts in support of global security and Jordan. Palestinian National Guard Assistant Chief Brig Gen Ismail Qadi also commended Kuwait's support of Palestinian forces. He proposed establishing a similar miniature regional body between the Arab members, focused on tackling cross border crimes such as terrorism, illegal migration, trafficking and organized crime.

Qatar's Lekhwiya Assistant Commander Maj Gen Abdulaziz bin Faisal said he had invited Kuwait's National Guard to attend Milipol Qatar, an international exhibition dedicated to the homeland security and civil defense sectors. — KUNA

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Kuwait City landmarks seen from Al-Shaheed Park. — Photo by Mohammad Sobhi (KUNA)

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Kuwait renews commitment to mediating Yemen peace talks

NEW YORK: Acting head of Kuwait mission to the UN Bader Abdullah Al-Munayekh said Tuesday his country is ready to facilitate the efforts of Martin Griffiths, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Yemen, to bring the warring parties back to the negotiating table. "The deterioration of the humanitarian situation is the unavoidable result of the armed conflict which affects, first and foremost, the economy," he said in a speech to a UN Security Council session on the situation in Yemen on Tuesday. "Given the non-payment of salaries and the (Yemeni) riyal's depreciation, the international community has a responsibility to support the Yemeni Government's economic response, as well as the Special Envoy's efforts," Ambassador Munayekh pointed out.

He commended Saudi Arabia's support to the Central Bank of Yemen, including a recent cash injection of \$200 million, bringing the total Saudi contribution to \$3.2 billion, in addition to \$70 million for teachers' salaries. Pointing to the Houthis' coup against the legitimate Government in Yemen and their seizing control of all State institutions by force, he said they are refusing to cooperate with political efforts to end the crisis, as seen most recently in Geneva. "That group is also seizing and looting humanitarian assistance," Ambassador Munayekh went on.

"The State of Kuwait stands ready to support international efforts to prioritize a political solution based on international resolutions, despite security challenges, including the targeting of Saudi territory with ballistic missiles and other weapons," he stressed. Efforts to end the crisis must stem from a political solution based on the Gulf initiative, the outcome of the national dialogue and relevant Security Council resolutions, he added.

Central African Republic

Separately, Munayekh said that Kuwait strongly denounces the attacks against Muslims in Central African Republic (CAR) as it did in cases of violence based on religious or racial grounds. The attacks by CAR extremist groups target not only Muslim figures, and their homes and places of worship but UN staffers and aid workers as well, he said in a speech to a UN Security Council session on the situation in CAR.

Ambassador Munayekh voiced profound concern over the repeated attacks on members of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUS-CA), which could hamper the relief effort. The State of Kuwait calls on the government of CAR to double its effort to halt all kinds of violence and hate, and promote the culture of coexistence among all segments of the society, otherwise the instability and insecurity could have a spillover effect on neighboring countries, he stressed. Meanwhile, he welcomed the inauguration yesterday of the criminal court on the Central African Republic as an important step towards restoring stability and security in the country and bringing the culprits of crimes to justice.

Recalling his visit to CAR on October 2-5 alongside a UN delegation, Ambassador Munayekh said he felt indications of improvement in the security and political areas although the situation was still fragile particularly in the capital city of Bangui. — KUNA

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Local

Symposium calls for more focus on Palestine in Kuwait's curricula

Organized by BDS movement in Kuwait in cooperation with Women's Cultural and Social Society

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement in Kuwait, in cooperation with the Women's Cultural and Social Society organized a symposium titled 'Palestine in our curriculum' on Tuesday. Dr Talal Al-Rushoud talked about Palestine in the school curricula of Kuwait historically and Professor Yousef Al-Mahameed discussed the Palestine case in Kuwait's curriculum today. The symposium was moderated by Dr Taghreed Al-Qudsi.

Rushoud said the absence of the Palestinian case in the curriculum might lead to the absence of knowledge of Palestine in the next generations. "The case of Palestine was present in the Kuwaiti curriculum issued in the early fifties. Palestinian Darwish El-Miqdadi, the Director of Education, played an important role in the development of the first Kuwaiti national curriculum," he said. He added Kuwait preceded Gamal Abdel Nasser, the second President of Egypt, in issuing a national curriculum based on the idea of Arab nationalism in 1957.

Mahmeed said since the National Center for Educational Development in Kuwait signed a partnership agreement with the World Bank five years ago, the curriculum began to change in Kuwait with the help of

Kuwaiti educational mentors and specialists. He explains that students in the tenth grade two years ago were studying about the challenges facing the Arab homeland. "The 'Arab Homeland' textbook discussed the issue of the Arab-Zionist conflict and not the case of Palestine," he said.

He explained that the 'Arab Homeland' textbook discussed the Arab-Zionist conflict in general and did not mention any names, saying: "Why doesn't our curricula have information about the Nakba, the Balfour Declaration, the apartheid wall, the right of return and the effects of the occupation on an entire people, despite the honorable actions of HH the Amir, senior state officials and the general public in supporting the Palestinian right on all platforms. There is no name of Palestinian or Arab leaders except of the late Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, and there are no names of Palestinian organizations. It is noteworthy that this book was canceled two years ago, which requires another study to put the Palestinian issue in the curriculum."

Mahmeed added that the study of social subjects in Kuwait starts from the intermediate stage, ie from the sixth grade to the ninth, noting that the sixth-grade syllabus mentions Palestine only twice. In the textbook 'Kuwait and the Arab Nation', Palestine is not mentioned, while Israel is mentioned once and Gaza twice



KUWAIT: Panelists attend a symposium titled 'Palestine in our curriculum', organized by the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement in Kuwait, in cooperation with the Women's Cultural and Social Society on Tuesday. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

“ Palestine in our curriculum ”

in the context of decisions of the Arab League. In the decisions of Kuwait and the Islamic world, Palestine is mentioned once and Israel thrice.

In the tenth grade, Mahmeed explained that students were studying the subject of the Arab homeland, but the education ministry replaced it with the "History of Kuwait" textbook. "There is no material in the secondary grade that deals with the Arab world. In geography, there is no mention of Palestine, but it is mentioned in the twelfth grade on the subject of water as one of the countries facing a water crisis," he said.

BDS is a Palestinian-led movement for freedom, justice and equality. BDS upholds the simple principle that

Palestinians are entitled to the same rights as the rest of humanity. BDS is now a vibrant global movement made up of unions, academic associations, churches and grassroots movements across the world. In 2005, Palestinian civil society organizations called for boycotts, divestment, and sanctions as a form of non-violent pressure on Israel. The BDS movement was launched by 170 Palestinian unions, political parties, refugee networks, women's organizations, professional associations, popular resistance committees, and other Palestinian civil society bodies. Inspired by the South African anti-apartheid movement, the Palestinian BDS call urges nonviolent pressure on Israel until it complies with international law.

Kuwait, Jordan sign MoU to develop industrial exports

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry signed yesterday a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Jordan on industrial exports' development during 2019 and 2021. On the sidelines of the MoU signing, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Dr Khaled Al-Fadhel said that this agreement would enhance trade, investment and economic exchange between the two sides. He added that the two countries are looking forward to improving the level of trade cooperation, stressing the need to follow up what was agreed upon in the Kuwaiti-Jordanian joint committee meeting held in Kuwait on Monday.

He praised the role of the joint committee's members for their efforts to make the



KUWAIT: Kuwait and Jordan sign a memorandum of understanding on industrial exports' development. — KUNA

meeting successful and to reach fruitful results that will benefit the two countries in coming years. The Kuwaiti-Jordanian joint committee meeting discussed many trade issues between the two countries, especially in the areas of transport, trade, investment, specifications and standards, enhancing the

trade exchange movement. According to previous data from Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the volume of trade exchange between Kuwait and Jordan in 2017 amounted to KD 84 million (about \$276 million) compared to KD 65 million (about \$214 million) in 2016. —KUNA

Health team discusses in Jordan ways to bolster ties

AMMAN: A delegation of consultant doctors from the Kuwaiti Ministry of Health discussed yesterday ways to enhance cooperation with Jordan in the field of medical and therapeutic services provided by the centers and hospitals in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Dr Fuad Al-Qattan, Director of the Treatment Abroad Management in the Ministry, said that the delegation's visit lasted for four days, and included field visits to several hospitals, medical and therapeutic centers in different Jordanian areas.

Qattan added that the delegation, which included consultants from the departments of surgery, abdominal surgery, bone and tumors, discussed with

Jordanian officials during the visit the possibility of exchanging experiences among doctors and training them for the continuing education program. Qattan said that the delegation also visited the Kuwaiti Health Office in Jordan and discussed several issues of concern to Kuwaiti patients with the head of the office Dr Badr Al-Enezi, including ways to provide more facilities for patients' procedures at the expense of the Ministry of Health and health insurance for Kuwaiti students. He also praised the role played by the Kuwaiti Health Office, extolling at the same time its exerted efforts and keenness to strengthen cooperation relations in the medical field with the Jordanian side.

Meanwhile, Dr Enezi said that the Kuwaiti delegation's visit comes within the framework of the 'privileged' cooperation relations between the two countries. Enezi praised Jordan's advanced experience in the medical and health spheres, both in terms of human resources and infrastructure, noting the importance of exchanging experiences with the Jordanian side to achieve the common interest of both sides. — KUNA

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Inside China internment camps: Tear gas, Tasers

Child bride refugees spur Sweden to tighten marriage law

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In this file photo, women shout slogans during an International Women's Day rally in Kathmandu. The rape and murder of a teenager provoked unprecedented protests in conservative Nepal, but activists say a #MeToo reckoning like that unfolding in neighboring India remains a distant prospect. —AFP

Long road ahead for #MeToo in Nepal

Rape, murder of teenager provoke unprecedented protests

KATHMANDU: The rape and murder of a teenager provoked unprecedented protests in conservative Nepal, but activists say a #MeToo reckoning like that unfolding in neighboring India remains a distant prospect. Thousands poured onto the streets after 13-year-old Nirjala Pant's body was discovered in July angered by allegations the police were protecting the perpetrators.

Two hashtags - #RageAgainstRape and #JusticeForNirjala - have become the rallying cries for protesters fed up with Nepal's woeful record of prosecuting cases of violence against women. But #MeToo has been largely absent from the ongoing debate. Those fighting for change say women still struggle to speak out against their abusers in Nepal. "I would love a society where you can say #MeToo," said women's rights activist Hima Bista. In recent weeks the #MeToo movement in neighboring India has gathered pace, a year after the hashtag first went viral.

The public allegations by Bollywood star Tanushree Dutta against a fellow actor emboldened a wave of women in India to tell their own stories. A government minister, M J

Albar, resigned this month after at least 20 women accused him of sexual harassment. A prominent Bollywood director was also sacked over similar allegations. The shockwaves have not gone unnoticed in Nepal, which shares strong cultural and religious ties with its influential neighbor, as well as a 1,850-kilometre open border. "You see a slight breeze come through," Bista said of the ripple effect from India.

'Fight for justice'

In the last two weeks, a handful of women have gone public with #MeToo stories in Nepal, including two accusing the former mayor of Kathmandu, Keshav Sthapit, of abusing his power. "Nepal also has serial predators who have been misusing their powers and positions," wrote Rashmila Prajapati, who says she lost her job in Sthapit's office 15 years ago after she rejected his sexual advances. "(It) is high time to reveal them." Sthapit has denied the allegations, describing them as "a rape of men's rights" in an recent interview with the Kathmandu Post newspaper.

But for most women in Nepal, particularly those in con-

servative rural communities, speaking out is not an option, says Mohna Ansari of the National Human Rights Commission. She is supporting two rape victims who brought their cases to court - a rare achievement in itself. But the women have been driven from their communities by gossip, a byproduct of speaking out about sexual violence. "They are now both hiding in a shelter.

The stigma and victim blaming is still too strong in our society," said Ansari. Bista is concerned that Nepal may not be ready for #MeToo, pointing out that so far only professional women in Kathmandu have felt able to speak out. "And the reaction has been very divided for and against (them)," she added. A change needs to come from the top, but the government's response to Pant's killing, the botched investigation and the ensuing protests has invoked outrage and derision.

Parliament passed a ban on pornography saying it would curb violence against women, while the home minister blamed rape on capitalism. He also described the #RageAgainstRape protest movement as a conspiracy

aimed at toppling Nepal's communist-led government. There have been small signs of progress: official figures show 479 complaints of rape and attempted rape were made from July to September this year - more than the total number of cases filed between 2008 and 2009 - suggesting the protests have encouraged some to speak up. In 2016 to 2017, 1,131 rapes were reported to the police, but only a tiny fraction ended up in court.

Sexual violence is making news too. An acid attack on two sisters by a jilted suitor in late September, and the gang rape and murder of a 10-year-old girl, dominated headlines for days. But activists say the sensationalist coverage and gratuitous detail paints women as weak victims with no agency - undermining their ability to call out their abusers. "Once we address the culture, then you have space for #MeToo," said Bista. Pant's killers meanwhile remain at large. "I don't have any hope of justice, because the investigations have come up with nothing despite public pressure," her father, Yagya Raj Pant, told AFP by phone. "But we still continue our fight for justice." —AFP

Hurricane Willa slams Mexico's Pacific coast

ESCUINAPA: Hurricane Willa crashed ashore in western Mexico Tuesday, lashing the Pacific coast with powerful winds and heavy rain before weakening to a tropical storm as it moved inland. The powerful storm, which was a maximum Category 5 hurricane on Monday, had weakened to Category 3 as it moved toward land. Forecasters warned that the storm still had the potential to unleash deadly flooding and landslides. However, storm surge levels will subside over the course of Wednesday and Willa is expected to dissipate by the afternoon, the US National Hurricane Center said.

As of 0600 GMT, the storm's maximum sustained winds had decreased to 45 mph (75 kph). Willa first swept over the Marias islands, where Mexico has a federal prison. The interior ministry did not respond to questions on whether it had evacuated the 1,000 inmates housed there or what other emergency measures were in place for the penal colony. "We do not have any reports of damages there so far," the head of Mexico's emergency services, Luis Felipe Puente, told a press conference. More than 4,250 people were evacuated from high-risk areas, including tourists who were on vacation at the beach, he said. They are being housed in 58 temporary shelters.

'Up against nature'

At a shelter in Escuinapa, a town of 30,000 people that sits in the middle of the storm's likely path, residents fretted over their houses as they waited out the storm. "Let's just hope this is over soon so we can go home," said Epigenio Cardenas, 44, a farmer who was among the 2,500 people huddled there. "You feel bad leaving everything behind, but what can you do? We're up against nature," he told AFP. Many residents had boarded up their windows with plywood. "They told us it was going to hit hard, and that we had to come here" to the shelter, said Maria Virginia Cardenas, 59, a cook. "God, please just let us go back home unharmed."

The Mexican army deployed troops to roll out a disaster response operation in the area. In Mazatlan, a trans-



ESCUINAPA: Aerial view of a collapsed church, after the passage of Hurricane Willa in Escuinapa, Sinaloa state, Mexico yesterday. —AFP

quil resort town with turquoise waters, the hotels that line the coast were largely empty as workers nailed plywood over the windows and built sandbag barriers to keep out the flood waters earlier in the day. As the storm moved over the town, drenching it in a light but steady rain, some hardy residents even went for walks or bike rides on the oceanfront avenue, the Malecon.

State of alert

At its peak, Willa packed maximum sustained winds of 195 kilometers (120 miles) per hour, the NHC said. It is expected to dump 15 to 30 centimeters (six to 12 inches) of rain on parts of Sinaloa, Nayarit and Jalisco states, with some areas getting up to 45 centimeters. The three states had already declared an alert and cancelled school. In the resort town of Puerto Vallarta,

Jalisco Governor Aristoteles Sandoval on Monday ordered the evacuation of hotels and coastal areas, warning the storm could have "very destructive consequences."

In Michoacan state, also on the Pacific coast, heavy rain caused a freight train to derail Monday in the town of La Goleta, injuring at least two workers for the Kansas City Southern rail line, authorities said. Adding to the weather chaos, the remnants of Tropical Storm Vicente were moving over Michoacan on Tuesday, bringing more heavy rainfall. Mexico's Pacific coast has already been hit by deadly storms and rains this hurricane season. In September, at least 15 people were killed when flash floods hit the states of Sinaloa and Michoacan. Last week, 11 more people died in Oaxaca, including seven children. —AFP

Knock, knock with an app: The US door-to-door campaign ritual

WILKES BARRE: Republican volunteer John Lombardo sets himself an ambitious target when going door-to-door on the campaign trail in battleground state Pennsylvania: a hundred door knocks every two hours. In the age of the smart phone and algorithms, door knocking has only cemented itself as a vital way to mobilize US voters, especially those traditionally apathetic when it comes to midterm elections. Lombardo, 25-year-old fire fighter and medic who volunteers for the Republican Party when not working three jobs, walks briskly from house to house in a middle-class suburb on the edges of Wilkes-Barre.

Yet even on a sunny day, visiting neat and tidy homes spruced up for Halloween with pumpkins and witches, is a thankless task. Only one in 10 actually answer the door. "It's not something as a volunteer to be discouraged by," Lombardo shrugs. "That word of mouth, that voter might tell his wife or five of their friends, it spreads like wildfire at some point." Wilkes-Barre sits in former coal-mining country. Largely white, heavily Catholic and traditionally Democratic, it bucked tradition and voted 58 percent for Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election.

The goal in the November 6 midterms is to make sure those Trump supporters show the president some more love and return to the ballot box in an election likely to have an outside influence on the rest of his term. All 435 seats in the House of Representatives up for grabs along with a third of the Senate, threatening to eat away if not capsize the Republican billionaire's slender working majority in both houses. Lombardo goes about his work, armed with his smart phone and the Geoconnect Pro app, which classifies homes' occupants as "hard" or "weak" Republicans and Democrats, based on a nationwide algorithm. —AFP

International

Inside China internment camps: Tear gas, Tasers and textbooks

Camps hold a million ethnic Uighurs, Muslim minorities

BEIJING: On state television, the vocational education centre in China's far west looked like a modern school where happy students studied Mandarin, brushed up their job skills, and pursued hobbies such as sports and folk dance. But earlier this year, one of the local government departments in charge of such facilities in Xinjiang's Hotan prefecture made several purchases that had little to do with education: 2,768 police batons, 550 electric cattle prods, 1,367 pairs of handcuffs, and 2,792 cans of pepper spray.

The shopping list was among over a thousand procurement requests made by local governments in the Xinjiang region since early 2017 related to the construction and management of a sprawling system of "vocational education and training centers". The facilities have come under international scrutiny, with rights activists describing them as political re-education camps holding as many as one million ethnic Uighurs and other Muslim minorities. Beijing had previously denied their existence.

But a global outcry, including from the UN and the US, sparked a PR counter-offensive. Government propaganda insisted the centers were aimed at countering the spread of separatism, terrorism and religious extremism through "free" education and job training. However, an AFP examination of more than 1,500 publicly available government documents - ranging from tenders and budgets to official work reports - shows the centers are run more like jails than schools.

Thousands of guards equipped with tear gas, Tasers, stun guns and spiked clubs kept tight control over "students" in facilities ringed with razor wire and infrared cameras, according to the documents. The centers should "teach like a school, be managed like the military, and be defended like a prison", said one document, quoting Xinjiang's party secretary Chen Quanguo.

To build new, better Chinese citizens, another document argued, the centers must first "break their lineage, break their roots, break their connections, and break their origins". "Detain those who should be detained" - The centre featured on state broadcaster CCTV last week is one of at least 181 such facilities in Xinjiang, according to data collected by AFP. Participation is voluntary, according to CCTV, which showed contented "students" wearing matching uniforms, studying Mandarin and learning trades like knitting, weaving and baking.

The centers first appeared in 2014, the year that authorities launched a new "strike hard" campaign against "terrorism" after deadly violence in Xinjiang. But the buildup began in earnest in early 2017, with local governments in predominantly Uighur southern Xinjiang ordered to speed up the construction of "concentrated educational

transformation centers for focus groups" - a euphemism for the religious, the poor, the uneducated, passport holders, and virtually all men of military age.

Shortly after, Xinjiang's regional government issued regulations on managing "religious extremism". Extremists could be hiding anywhere, officials warned, instructing cadres to be on the lookout for 25 illegal religious activities and 75 signs of extremism, including such seemingly innocuous activities as quitting smoking or buying a tent. "Detain those who should be detained to the greatest extent possible", cadres were told. Detentions surged, catching local governments unprepared.

In 2017, spending by justice bureaus throughout Xinjiang exploded, driven largely by huge outlays for building and running vocational centers. The offices spent nearly three billion yuan (\$432 million) - at least 577 percent more than planned - according to AFP's calculations. Counties in the south closed the gap with a special fund earmarked for centers in the region. At least some of that money came directly from the Communist Party's Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission - the group in charge of the nation's legal authorities - budget documents showed.

'Wolf's teeth'

Around April 2017, local governments began posting a wide variety of tenders related to the facilities. Some orders - furniture, air conditioners, bunk beds, cutlery - would not seem out of place at a typical Chinese university. But others resembled prison equipment: sophisticated surveillance systems, cameras for recording students in their rooms, razor wire, a system for eavesdropping on phone calls, and infrared monitoring devices. The centers also bought police uniforms, riot shields and helmets, pepper spray, tear gas, net guns, stun guns, electrified batons, billy clubs, spears, handcuffs and spiked clubs known as "wolf's teeth".

At least one centre requested "tiger chairs", a device used by Chinese police to restrain interrogation subjects. The gear was necessary, party officials in the regional capital Urumqi argued in an emergency request for Tasers, to "guarantee staff members' personal safety". Non-lethal weapons, it said, were important for "reducing the possibility of accidental injury in some situations where it is not necessary to use standard firearms". Despite repeated attempts by AFP, local authorities could not be reached for comment. At the end of 2017, "higher authorities" issued directions to standardize the facilities' operations. New "vocational education and training service management bureaus" were set up, headed by officials experienced in running prisons and detention centers, according to local government websites. — AFP



HOTAN: Uighur men pray in a mosque in Hotan, in China's western Xinjiang region. The prefecture in the region's south has seen an explosion in the construction of 'vocational training' centers for the region's Muslim minorities. — AFP

Pakistan urged to cut off extremists

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Tuesday renewed calls on Pakistan to curb extremists fighting in Afghanistan, saying Washington was holding its uneasy war partner accountable. Pompeo made the comment as he welcomed long-delayed legislative elections in Afghanistan, saying the United States was "encouraged" by voter turnout, despite reports of widespread problems including poll centers that failed to open or lacked voter rolls.

"Our expectation is that Pakistan will not provide safe harbor to terrorists on their western border," Pompeo told reporters when asked about Islamabad's role. "We couldn't have made that message any more

clear," he said, adding: "Pakistan will be held to account if they don't achieve that, if they're not sincere in that effort." "Everyone wants a reconciliation in Afghanistan and to achieve that, you can't have a safe harbor for Taliban, for Haqqani and for others inside of Pakistan," he said, listing extremist movements fighting in Afghanistan.

President Donald Trump's administration last month cut \$300 million in military aid to Pakistan after years of US complaints that Islamabad has kept nurturing ties with militants that target both Afghanistan and rival India. Pakistan has countered that it has paid a heavy price internally for fighting militants and that it can help bring the Taliban to the table. A Taliban delegation earlier this month met in Qatar with a US envoy. Pakistan's new Prime Minister Imran Khan is a longstanding supporter of negotiations to end the war in Afghanistan, where the United States has been deployed since 2001. — AFP

Child bride spur Sweden to tighten marriage law

LONDON: Among the tens of thousands of child refugees who have fled to Sweden from war-torn countries is a group of young girls who have presented the Nordic country with a major dilemma - they are married. The predicament is this. Should the country accept such unions even though they would be illegal under Swedish law and could expose girls to lifelong abuse? Or should it separate couples, potentially compounding their trauma and isolation? It is a conundrum that has also vexed Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands, which have re-examined their laws and policies since the European refugee crisis began in 2015.

Sweden bans marriage under 18. But foreign underage marriages are recognized if legal in the countries where they were carried out. That is set to change. Under a law, expected to come into force in January, Sweden will invalidate all underage marriages. If the couple want to stay together they will have to remarry when both reach 18. Rights activists are delighted. "We hear about these cases all the time," said Sara Mohammad, founder of GAPE, an organization which campaigns against "honor" related abuse, including child marriage. "We need to protect these girls, and we need Sweden to show the world that child marriage is not OK."

The debate in Sweden comes as global leaders are pushing to end child marriage by 2030. Advocacy group Girls Not Brides says 12 million girls under 18 marry each year worldwide, depriving them of education and increasing their risk of domestic and sexual violence. Mohammad arrived in Sweden in 1993 having fled Iraq where her brother tried to shoot her with a Kalashnikov after she ran away from her own child marriage on her wedding day. "If Sweden shows that these marriages are not allowed, most girls in forced marriages will not choose to go back to their husbands," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "The government must show these girls that it will protect them."

Outlawed

Sweden has been one of the most generous countries during Europe's migrant crisis. Some 400,000 people have sought asylum there since 2012. But there is no comprehensive data on how many married children are among the arrivals. In 2016, Sweden's Migration Agency said it had identified 132 married children, 129 of them girls. Most came from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. Mohammad said the real number was "much bigger". Tina Trygg, an expert on the issue at Sweden's governmental National Board of Health and Welfare, which provides guidance to social services, said there were probably more cases as young married girls who arrive with their parents may go undetected. Steps to tighten the law in Sweden follow similar moves in Germany, which has taken in more than 1.6 million asylum seekers, mainly from the Middle East and Africa, since 2014. Germany reported in 2016 that nearly 1,500 foreign children living in the country were listed as "married" on their paperwork. Last year it outlawed all marriages and engagements under the age of 18.

'Child abuse'

Swedish authorities have faced many difficulties knowing how to support married girls, with social workers complaining of a lack of guidance, according to an investigation by the National Board of Health and Welfare. Trygg said most of the girls had children, which meant social services had to balance the welfare of the young mother, who might be better off separated from her spouse, against her children's conflicting need to be with both parents.

One official quoted in the board's report also highlighted the risk of subjecting a girl to further trauma if she is "taken against her will when she has just arrived in Sweden and what she thought was a safe haven". In many cases, Trygg said, girls asked to remain with their husbands but social workers often found it hard to assess whether the girls were really expressing their own will. The board has produced a fact sheet on child marriage for new arrivals.

This states that sex with a child under 15 is a crime even if the child is reported to be married, that non-consensual sex - even within marriage - is rape, and that any married person can divorce even if their spouse is opposed. But child marriage is nothing new in Sweden. Zinat Pirzadeh, a school careers counsellor in Stockholm, said Swedish girls from ethnic minority backgrounds vanished every year to be married off in their parents' home countries. Pirzadeh, who suffered years of violence after she was married at 16 in her native Iran, said politicians and officials were often too scared to speak out for fear of being branded racist or Islamophobic.

But she said turning a blind eye was itself racist because it meant children were not being equally protected regardless of their background. "It's so wrong that we even use the term 'child marriage'," she added. "Children get raped in that kind of marriage. It's child abuse." Pirzadeh believes the new law is crucial. "A child should be a child. A child has to have a chance to grow up," she said. "I know from my heart how hard it is to be with some guy you don't know, don't love, don't want to share a roof with. I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy." — Reuters

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International

For migrant caravan children, a long trek to a murky dream

Migrants defying Trump, slowly trekking to US

HUIXTLA: The caravan of Honduran migrants defying President Donald Trump by slowly trekking to the United States includes hundreds of children whose parents are ready to risk everything to give them a better future. In the past five days alone - since the thousands of migrants crossed from Guatemala into Mexico - the children's parents have exposed them to a stampede, a treacherous river crossing and searing heat.

Driven from Honduras by violence and poverty, they have little choice, they say. Many of the mothers traveling in the caravan are barely 20 years old. But they tend to have one thing in common: they are fleeing Honduras to prevent gangs from killing or recruiting their sons, from kidnapping or raping their daughters, a fate that befell many of them. In a journey fraught with danger, there are plenty of worries to keep a parent awake at night, despite the fatigue. First among them: losing a child in the human ocean.

"Help me grab this child!" one of the volunteers accompanying the caravan shouted at a recent stop, clinging to a 10-year-old boy who was trying to run off in search of his mother, who had lost him. Ana Rivera, 27, meanwhile walked beside her two-year-old son, who was dressed only in a nappy, searching for her daughter in an improvised camp. Nearby, an adolescent approached an ambulance to take a look at her three-year-old son, who was almost constantly vomiting water. She was told to come back later, when the queue had died down.

Gate crush

The caravan, which left Honduras on October 13, comprises more than 7,000 people, according to the United Nations. Humanitarian organizations say a quarter of them

are babies and children. On Friday, as the caravan amassed in the Guatemalan town of Tecun Uman looking to cross the bridge that separates it from the Mexican town of Ciudad Hidalgo, a multitude of migrants pressed up against a border gate that had been sealed by police.



Migrants driven from by poverty and violence

Mexican riot police pushed back the migrants, but many children watched terrified as their parents, crushed against the gate, pleaded with authorities to let them through. "We were at the front, against the fence, and when the police fired tear gas, the child curled up in my arms," said Oscar Rodriguez, 22, while his 18-year-old wife, Ruth Fuentes, tried to calm a tearful Jasser, their toddler of 21 months. At the border crossing, many migrants opted to try to navigate the Suchiate river in improvised rafts made of inner tubes with a wooden board on top.

Guadalupe Del Carmen, 29, was one of them. But her nine-year-old son got scared and started crying: "Mommy, take me back. Mommy, I don't want to do this anymore." It was a very tense moment," she said. Her son, with skinny legs and big black eyes, listened intently to her



HUIXTLA: Honduran migrants aboard a truck - take part in a caravan heading to the US, in Huixtla on their way to Mapastepec Chiapas state, Mexico yesterday. — AFP

story. "I explained we can't go back, that the situation in our country is too difficult and that's why we had to run away," said Del Carmen, who has been unable to sleep soundly since leaving Honduras due to the stress of looking after her son. To distract him, Del Carmen was tickling him playfully, forgetting their surroundings amongst migrants with bloodied feet sleeping on wet and dirty pieces of cardboard.

Fleeing for their lives

Like a lot of the caravan kids, Jennifer Molina's two children, aged three and five, regularly have a fever. "I

know it's dangerous, I know we could be robbed, but we don't have another option," she said. "The gangs wanted to force my husband to transport drugs and when he refused, they threatened to kill us all." When not crying either over the imposing mass of migrants or from seeing their parents beg for food, the children entertain themselves with improvised games. They play at a future in which their parents' American dream has become reality. They "play as if they were already in the United States," said Molina, "as if their grandmother had already bought them a car, that they have this, that and the other thing, because they know their grandmother is waiting for them there." — AFP

News in brief

102-year-old charged

SYDNEY: A 102-year-old man has been charged with aggravated indecent assault against a 92-year-old woman at an old people's home in Sydney, police said yesterday. The unnamed man will appear in court next month, police said, after he was accused of assaulting the fellow resident at a care facility in the city's eastern suburbs. Police declined to give details of the alleged crime, but said the incident took place around lunchtime on Tuesday and was reported to police. Officers arrived on the scene, not far from Bondi Beach, and took the man into custody. If convicted, he could face up to seven years in jail. He was however granted bail pending a court appearance on November 20. — AFP

Woman gives birth on flight

MUMBAI: An Indonesian woman gave birth on an Etihad Airways flight from Abu Dhabi to Jakarta that had to be diverted to Mumbai yesterday, Indian officials said. Flight EY 474 left the emirate for Indonesia's capital in the early hours of yesterday but was diverted to India's commercial hub after the woman went into labor, a Mumbai airport spokesperson said. "The passenger delivered a female child about 40 minutes before landing" in Mumbai, the spokesperson said. The woman, described by the spokesperson as being of Indonesian origin, was taken to a nearby hospital and the flight departed Mumbai around 09:40 am to complete its journey to Jakarta. — AFP

Pope sacks US bishop

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis has removed from office Bishop Martin Holley of Memphis, Tennessee, the Vatican said yesterday. A Vatican spokesman said the decision had been taken over "an issue of management and had nothing to do with sexual abuse". The Vatican's statement was unusually tough, saying the 63-year-old had been "relieved of the governance" of the diocese. Such announcements usually say the pope has accepted a resignation. The widely-read National Catholic Reporter newspaper said Holley had been the subject of a Vatican investigation in June following complaints among priests about his leadership. The newspaper said Holley had transferred about 75 percent of the diocese's priests shortly after his appointment in 2016. — Reuters

Greek ex-minister jailed

ATHENS: A prominent Greek socialist ex-minister was jailed for graft late Tuesday in a 2003 case linked to a navy frigate upgrade, a court source said. Former defense minister Yannis Papantoniou and his wife were placed in pre-trial detention for allegedly stashing some 2.8 million Swiss francs (2.45 million euros) from contract bribes in dozens of Swiss accounts. Both deny the charges. A 69-year-old economist, Papantoniou, was a key minister in successive socialist administrations between 1994 and 2004, previously serving as finance minister as Greece prepared to join the euro. Papantoniou had been under investigation for the past 15 years. — AFP

Afghan forces kill 14

KABUL: At least 14 civilians were killed during an operation by Afghan security forces in eastern Nangarhar province, residents said yesterday. Government officials confirmed that security officials had conducted an operation against insurgents in the Shahidano Mena area of Rodat district on Tuesday and were investigating whether the operation resulted in civilian casualties. Both Taliban and Islamic State militants are active in eastern Afghanistan. Attaullah Khogyani, a spokesman for Nangarhar governor confirmed the death of 14 people but he refused to comment whether the victims were civilians or insurgents. Angry residents along with families of the victims said innocent men, women and children were targeted by the Afghan soldiers. — Reuters

Climate change swells migration to US: Experts

PANAMA CITY: Deepening climate change will swell Central American migration to the United States, the region's environment ministers and experts warned Tuesday as a caravan of mostly Honduran migrants trekked towards the US border in defiance of President Donald Trump. "The next migrants are going to be climate migrants," El Salvador's Environment and Natural Resources Minister Lina Pohl told reporters on the sidelines of a conference in Panama. Delegates heard climate change had caused prolonged periods of drought and rain in the region, damaging or destroying the crops of poorer subsistence farmers who are often forced to leave with their families to search for new opportunities.

"Central America has had recurrent losses in agriculture, with populations increasingly faced with fewer opportunities for work and development," Pohl said. Five Central American countries - Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic - are among the world's 15 most vulnerable states in the

face of extreme climate change events, ministers at the meeting of the Central American Commission for Environment and Development said.

"The impacts of climate change are part of the triggers of migration," they said in a statement. "All countries have a problem - that if you do not have food security or the means to survive, it causes migration - and all Central American countries are suffering," said Elvin Rodas, Honduras' deputy environment minister. "Independently of the caravan, the effects of climate change cause migrations, because you do not have sustainability in the place where you were born," said Rodas.

Droughts and Rains

The Central American dry corridor, which runs through Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, was hit by one of the worst droughts in a decade in 2016. That left 3.5 million people needing humanitarian assistance, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. In Guatemala, this year alone, more than 100,000 families had been affected by the loss of the corn and bean crops due to climate variability, said Guatemala's minister Alfonso Alonzo. Change in temperatures, prolonged drought and intensified rainfall mean that millions of Central American farmers who subsist on basic grains can see their crops wiped out.

"Climate change has no ideology, it has



CHIAPAS: Honduran migrants heading in a caravan to the US, climb on a truck in Huixtla on their way to Mapastepec Chiapas state, Mexico. — AFP

victims and we are seeing these victims suffering every day," said Alonzo. "Without doubt, climate change is adding to the terrible decision that people are taking to migrate," said Elena Pita, an official of the

UN climate change adaptation program for Latin America and the Caribbean. "Populations," she said, "are very vulnerable, because there is a high percentage of very poor people." — AFP

Over 20 injured as escalator collapses

ROME: More than 20 people, mainly Russian football fans, were injured Tuesday when an escalator in a metro station in central Rome collapsed, firefighters said. Most of those hurt, one seriously, suffered leg injuries after getting entangled in the escalator's mangled mechanics, Italian media added. A video of the drama shows the descending escalator at Repubblica station suddenly and dramatically pick up speed with dozens of people on it, many screaming as they piled on top of one another at the foot of the moving stairway.

Media reports said witnesses spoke of football fans, seemingly drunk, jumping and dancing on the escalator just before its collapse, but supporters denied this ever happened. "In any event, we are here to understand what happened and to offer our support to the wounded and their families," Rome mayor Virginia Raggi told journalists at the scene.

Some of the victims were seen wrapped in blankets and some wore neck braces as they were taken away from the scene on stretchers by emergency crews. Several investigations have been opened, and the metro station near Rome's Termini train station was closed. The horrific events took place around 1730 GMT, just over an hour before the kickoff of a Champions League match between Italy's Roma and Russian club CSKA Moscow. The Russian fans were headed for the metro that would have linked them to the train to the stadium.



ROME: Photo shows the wreckage of an escalator after it jammed at the underground metro station 'Repubblica' in Rome, injuring at least 20 people. — AFP

Victims offered support

There was heightened security in Rome for some 1,500 Russian supporters, notoriously rowdy, expected to watch the game. One Russian supporter, the subject of a stadium ban, had already been stopped at the airport as he tried to enter. But according to Italian media, this did not prevent an assortment of incidents around the stadium hosting the match. One Russian fan was stabbed with a knife, and two others were hurt in clashes with other supporters. Roma won the group stage match 3-0, tweeting after the match that: "The thoughts of everyone at #ASRoma are with the supporters injured prior to tonight's game. The club will do everything it can to provide the right support and assistance to those in need."

Red-Blue World, a CSKA fan group, set up a collection fund for those injured, as well as fans hurt in violence near the stadium. Rome's public transport is often criticized as

running on obsolete equipment. In recent years, more than a dozen municipal buses have caught fire while in service, with several reports of metro passengers injured by malfunctioning hardware. And a massive bridge collapse in Genoa in August - which killed 43 people - also raised safety questions about transport infrastructure in Italy.

Incidents on escalators have caused injuries, and even deaths, around the world. In 2015, a woman was killed after she plunged through flooring over an escalator in a Chinese department store. Security camera footage showed a panel in the floor giving way as the woman stepped off the escalator. As she fell half-way through she pushed her son forward, and a nearby shop assistant dragged him to safety. And in March 2017, around 20 people were injured at a Hong Kong shopping centre when an escalator suddenly changed direction, sending people hurtling towards its base. — AFP

Social media in the spotlight in Brazil's election

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil, like other countries, is facing a very electronic election. WhatsApp, Facebook and Twitter are the weapons of choice to sway the country's 147 million voters - and abuse of social media has been widespread. Facebook and its WhatsApp messenger service - hugely popular in the Latin American nation - have been thrust into the spotlight for being used to traffick in disinformation. The extreme-right frontrunner in the run-off election on Sunday, Jair Bolsonaro, has largely eschewed Brazil's established media, preferring to woo voters online in a manner very reminiscent of US President Donald Trump.

Bolsonaro's trailing rival, leftwing candidate Fernando Haddad, has raged against "fake news" and "lies" targeting him and his Workers Party, as Bolsonaro's support has grown into what looks to be an unassailable lead. Surveys suggest Bolsonaro could pick up 59 percent of the vote, to 41 percent for Haddad. If the race goes in that direction, Brazil - a country that threw off military dictatorship just three decades ago - will veer to the far right, under a president Bolsonaro vowing a relentless crackdown on crime and corruption.

This week, the 63-year-old former paratrooper, a pro-gun lawmaker backed by influential evangelical groups, warned the "red marginals" of the Workers Party "to get out or go to jail." The language online is just as blunt, mixing truth with lies, or presenting opinions as fact. Many shared posts amplify the Workers Party's past corruption. Some portray Haddad as trying to promote homosexuality in schoolchildren. Others, those backing Haddad, call Bolsonaro a "fascist" bent on destroying democracy.

Accusations of defamation and campaign dirty tricks are flying back and forth. The federal police have opened an investigation into online "fake news" against both candidates. The potential of social media to influence Brazil's election also evokes the revelations of meddling that came out in the wake of the US election and the Brexit referendum in Britain, both in 2016. — AFP

International

India FBI-style police agency hit by infighting amid probe

Ministers seek to tighten rules against sexual harassment

NEW DELHI: India's government yesterday ordered a probe at the country's top crime fighting bureau after its two senior officers accused each other of bribery and interference in police investigations. The weeks-long public spat between Alok Verma, director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and his second-in-command, Rakesh Asthana, has embarrassed an agency that serves a similar role as the US Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The CBI is leading several high profile investigations such as the \$2 billion fraud at Punjab National Bank involving fugitive diamond billionaire Nirav Modi, and loan defaults by liquor baron Vijay Mallya. The infighting intensified this week after CBI agents raided their own headquarters and arrested an officer accused of fabricating records to back Asthana's allegations against Verma. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said yesterday a special investigative team will probe the allegations leveled by Verma and Asthana against each other.

He did not detail the allegations. The government, faced with daily leaks and counter-leaks of wrongdoing

at the CBI, appointed an interim director yesterday and asked the two officers to go on temporary leave. "To maintain the institutional integrity, the officers under the cloud must stand out, as an interim measure," Jaitley told reporters. "It is important to maintain the institutional integrity of the CBI". Verma and Asthana, both veterans of the police service, could not be reached for comment.

The CBI, has come under public scrutiny in the past. India's Supreme Court described the bureau as a "caged parrot" in 2013, criticizing the then attorney general for interfering in a CBI inquiry into the allocation of government coalfield licenses. The latest problems are a new low for India's elite police force, media commentators said. The "infighting points to a deep rot in the organization," the Business Standard newspaper said. "Even by the CBI's

standards, this must count as a low point". The main opposition Congress party has attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not doing enough to ensure the CBI remained a credible, unbiased and independent police agency.

#MeToo movement

In another development, four Indian cabinet ministers will suggest steps to address sexual harassment at work, the government said yesterday, after a growing #MeToo movement sparked accusations against more than a dozen men and forced a minister to resign. The two men and two women will review existing provisions on women's safety and recommend further measures, the Ministry of Home Affairs said in a statement.

Women's groups say a requirement under current harassment laws that accusations have been made to a

workplace complaints committee within three months is unfair. They also say it is not clear who takes responsibility for ensuring compliance once a decision is taken on a complaint. "The government is committed to ensure the safety and dignity of women in the workforce," said the ministry, whose boss, Rajnath Singh, will lead the group. India's junior minister for foreign affairs, MJ Akbar, resigned this month to fight accusations of sexual harassment from more than a dozen women during his previous career as a journalist. He has denied wrongdoing and filed a defamation suit against one of his accusers.

The #MeToo movement, which began in the United States more than a year ago, gained traction in India last month after an actress accused a veteran actor of behaving inappropriately 10 years ago. Since then many women have accused men from the worlds of media, Bollywood, politics and art of offences ranging from harassment to rape. The government statement yesterday also said that the Ministry of Women and Child Development had launched an "electronic complaints box" for harassment cases. —Agencies



Weeks-long public spat embarrasses India's agency

Paradise lost: Tourist spots in danger of being loved to death

MANILA: The Philippines' most famous resort island Boracay re-opens Friday after a six-month clean-up intended to fix the damage done by unrestrained mass tourism. Here are some other global hotspots that authorities have moved to protect:

Bali, Indonesia

Officials on the holiday island, Indonesia's top tourist destination, declared a "garbage emergency" last year after the palm-fringed Kuta beach was swallowed up by mountains of trash. Indonesia, second only to China as the world's biggest contributor to marine debris, deployed 700 cleaners and 35 trucks to remove roughly 100 tons of debris each day from Kuta and two other popular beaches to a nearby landfill.

Easter Island, Chile

Known for its 900-odd human figures standing up to 10 meters tall, the isolated Pacific island severely curtailed visitor numbers in August this year due to concerns over the remote Chilean territory's environmental sustainability. Tourist stays on the island, believed to have been settled by the Rapa Nui people around the 12th century, were cut to 30 days from 90, after the population - along with the crime rate - doubled in a few decades. Those who wish to live on the island are now required to be a parent, partner or child of the Rapa Nui people.

Dubrovnik, Croatia

Dubrovnik, which boasts an old walled city, saw cruise ship arrivals shoot through the roof after it was used as a backdrop in the smash television drama series "Game of Thrones", causing congestion as tourists made a beeline for the shoot locales. Mayor Mato Frankovic told AFP the authorities plan to cut cruise ship numbers coming into the Adriatic port, while deploying cameras to count the number of people entering the old town.

BORACAY: Residents walk along a beach on the Philippine island of Boracay yesterday. —AFP



Venice and Florence, Italy

Venice authorities are trialling a system that forces visitors to make a reservation if they want to go to the popular Saint Mark's Square during peak hours. They are also fining tourists 500 euros (\$585) for bathing or having picnics in the city's famous canals. In Florence, officials have resorted to hosing down public spots such as church steps where many visitors congregate to eat picnics. This aims to prevent people from sitting on the wet pavement.

Machu Picchu, Peru

Peruvian authorities increased surveillance at the 15th-century Incan citadel high in the Andes moun-

tain range in 2014 as nude photos and streaking became increasingly common. Tourists have since at least 2013 been posting their naked selfies on social media, which the government described as a "disrespectful act" aimed solely at getting attention.

Maya Bay, Thailand

The glittering Thai bay immortalized in the movie "The Beach" was closed indefinitely on October 1 to allow it to recover from the impact of mass tourism, after a four-month respite failed to ease beach erosion and pollution. About 5,000 tourists had arrived by boat each day to the beach framed by limestone cliffs that was made famous by the 2000 film starring Leonardo DiCaprio. —AFP

Women demand compensation over Japan university discrimination

TOKYO: A group of women is demanding compensation from a Japanese medical university that admitted routinely altering the scores of female applicants to keep them out, lawyers said yesterday. More than 20 former applicants are demanding Tokyo Medical University make amends for the scandal, which led to the discovery of similar discrimination in other medical schools after prompting a government investigation.

Lawyers for the women, who were rejected by the school after taking entrance exams at the school from 2006 onwards, are expected to present a claim to the university next week. They acknowledge they cannot yet prove whether they were rejected because of discrimination or insufficient test scores, but are calling on the university to disclose their results.

They are also asking for 100,000 yen (\$890) each in compensation for "mental anguish" and for the university to reimburse money they paid to take the entrance exams, travel to the school and stay in the area during the application process. The women in the group include a doctor, students currently enrolled at other medical schools and women who have taken jobs in other fields. The university admitted the process of altering the test scores of female applicants began in 2006.

An independent probe said Tuesday that the school had disqualified about a quarter of female applicants who should have been offered places based on their original, unaltered test scores during 2017 and 2018. "I'm speechless over these numbers-how much weight each one of them carries," Sakura Uchikoshi, one of the lawyers representing the women, told reporters yesterday. The university reportedly sought to keep the percentage of female students low in part because of a belief that women would leave the profession soon after graduation when they married and had families. —AFP

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Analysis

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
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THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

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Editor-in-Chief
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EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
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German halt to arms sales could squeeze Eurofighter

Germany's hardline halt to arms sales to Saudi Arabia over the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi may jeopardize a big UK-led Eurofighter order from Riyadh and could hit jobs at a shipyard in struggling northeastern Germany. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has been more outspoken than fellow major arms exporters the United States, Britain and France about stopping sales to Saudi Arabia until Khashoggi's case is cleared up, a stance that a senior conservative ally said could also affect previously approved orders.

Berlin is now reviewing all Saudi sales, including contracts approved in September for more patrol boats built by privately-held Luerssen and four Cobra counter-battery radar systems built by a consortium that includes France's Thales, Airbus and the US defense company Lockheed Martin. German authorities approved more than €400 million worth of Saudi arms supply contracts in the first nine months of 2018, but have not specified the value of equipment not yet delivered.

Germany accounts for just under 2 percent of total Saudi arms imports, a small percentage internationally compared with the United States and Britain - but, crucially, also makes components for other countries' export contracts. The biggest impact may be on a £10-billion (\$12.99 billion) agreement by Saudi Arabia to buy 48 new Eurofighter Typhoon fighter jets from Britain, given that a third of their components would come from Germany, industry sources said.

The deal, nailed down in a memorandum of understanding in March, has not been finalized yet, and is not reflected in BAE Systems Plc's 2018 financial statements. BAE declined to comment on the issue, as did officials from the German-based Eurofighter consortium. Britain's Foreign Office had no immediate comment. Nearly four years in the making, the Saudi Eurofighter order would secure thousands of jobs at BAE, and help extend production of the European warplanes until a next-generation fighter jet to be designed in coming years goes into production. Saudi Arabia is also one of the few remaining export markets for the Eurofighter, given the warplane program's losses to the Lockheed F-35 fighter jet in other tenders, including a decision expected soon from Belgium.

Patrol boats under construction

Of more immediate concern are three patrol boats currently under construction at the Luerssen shipyard in Wolgast, in the financially strapped northeastern German state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. It employs 300 people, Stern magazine reported. Of 33 boats ordered in total, 16 must still be approved, it said. Luerssen declined to comment on the Saudi work, but said it would respect any political decision on the fate of the boats while underscoring the importance of the orders for the yard.

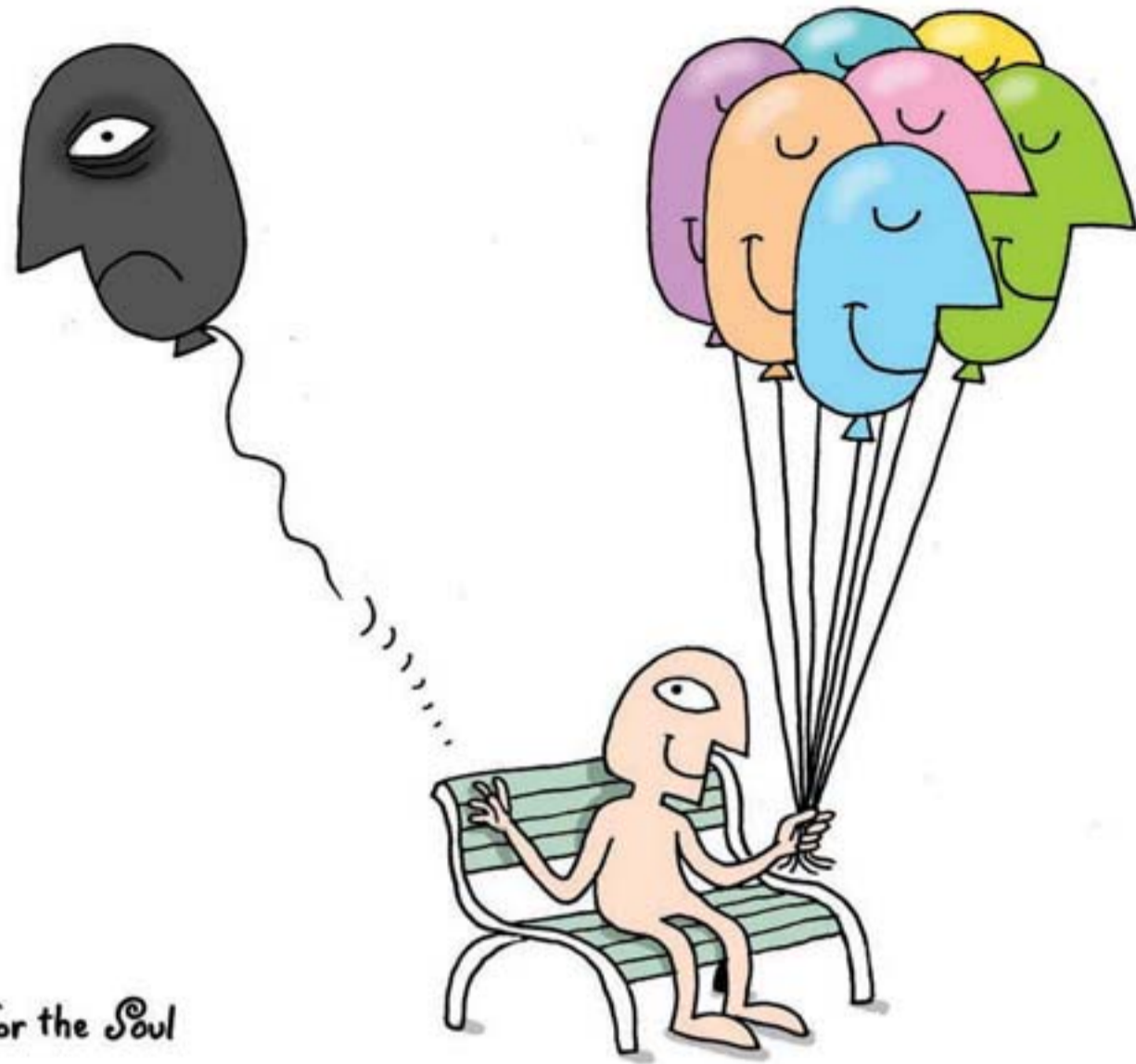
Germany has taken a far tougher approach on arms sales to Riyadh following Khashoggi's killing inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, which has stirred international outrage, than major allies such as the United States, France and Britain. US President Donald Trump has voiced concern that shelving arms sales to Riyadh could push Saudi Arabia, its key Arab ally against Iran, to place orders with Russia and China.

Tim Stuchtey, executive director of the Brandenburg Institute for Society and Security (BIGS), said Germany faced a tough dilemma - whether to follow its moral instincts or pursue a realpolitik-led agenda of arms sales out of economic interest. Merkel is guided in part by the March 2018 governing accord with her coalition partners, the left-leaning Social Democrats, who insisted on language that bans arms sales to any parties to the devastating war in Yemen - where Saudi-led Arab forces intervened in 2015 - except for certain previously approved items and those that will remain in the purchasing country.

Divergent views in Europe on the issue also underscore the challenges facing an ambitious Franco-German program to develop a future fighter jet, he said. "As long as we don't have unified European rules for arms exports, we will always have this problem. It will be difficult to square French and British attitudes about arms exports with German moral imperatives."

If Berlin does halt work on approved orders for the Saudi patrol boats, it may have to compensate the shipyard, which invested heavily to be able to execute the work, said Jan Techau, a senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund think-tank. "Ultimately, the question is, how much is a principled foreign policy worth," he said. "If the shipyard in Wolgast suffers damage due to a policy shift, it may cost money. That's the decision they'll have to make."

Arising in part from its Nazi past, Germany's cautious approach to weapons sales, and past moves to slow down approvals for exports, have raised eyebrows in other European countries. It has already prompted France to market certain weapons as "100 percent French" - not subject to disruption by suppliers in other countries, according to one executive. Norbert Roettgen, who chairs the German's parliament's foreign affairs committee, told broadcaster ZDF on Monday that Germany's credibility was at stake if it did not halt all arms deliveries to Saudi Arabia until the ultimate responsibility for Khashoggi's killing is established, or serious consequences were seen in Saudi Arabia. — Reuters



Could push to power Philippines turn greener?

In battling the timber poachers who roam the thick Sierra Madre forests near his home, Larry Garaes has found a new ally: solar panels. With solar chargers, the radios he and other forest rangers rely on no longer run out of power on multi-day operations in the mountains, he said. "Communication between rangers is a lot better. Now, we can catch the poachers while they are in the act because we can coordinate our moves quietly without resorting to shouting at the next ranger - unlike before," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Access to clean energy is bringing a range of unexpected benefits around the world. On the longest mountain range in the Philippines, those benefits include better forest protection - and power for tribal people who once lacked it. More than 2 million households - or about 10 percent of all households - in the Philippines lack electricity, according to a 2017 report by the country's Department of Energy. About three quarters are in remote rural locations, in a country spread over thousands of islands, according to the Small Power Utilities Group (SPUG), which is trying to get them connected.

Because bringing the national grid power to many of those people is not cost effective, the state National Power Corporation has charged SPUG with setting up and running small power plants in these areas. So far 327 such plants have been established, according to the National Power Corporation. Government plans call for 100 percent electrification of the country by 2022. "Government has to do its work to connect all those areas that are not yet connected to the grid," said Edmundo Veloso Jr., the head of the National Power Corporation's SPUG unit.

But all but one of the new generation plants use diesel fuel, he said - even though transport of fuel can be a big problem in remote areas. Diesel is "the fastest and the only technology available at the moment for off-grid areas. Diesel is still the cheapest in terms of capital outlay," he said.

Tapping the sun

In Garaes' community, however, in Bulacan province in

Saving the precious wood of Gabon's forests from logging

In Gabon the majestic kevazingo tree, its tropical hardwood highly valued in Asia for upmarket furniture, is also held to be sacred by generations of forest dwellers in equatorial Africa. Chopping down the kevazingo tree, which can grow to more than 500 years old, has been outlawed in Gabon since March, but that hasn't eased environmental fears. A loophole in the law allows the sale of the prized wood if felled trees were abandoned or seized from illegal loggers which environmentalists say only encourages further exploitation.

The ban on felling the trees is intended to "limit trafficking in this wood", explains Simplice Ntème, the national director general of waterways and forests, which cover 85 percent of the west African country. But for Martial, a 54-year-old resident of Oyem, capital of the northern Woleu-Ntem region, little has changed. "They tell us that kevazingo is no longer cut, but we see lorries loaded with kevazingo logs leaving the forest to go to the capital Libreville," he told AFP.

The government insists it is taking away kevazingo that is considered "abandoned" after lying on the ground for six months after being chopped down. "Who can cut down a kevazingo tree and then just leave it there?" asks Marc Ona, president of the Gabonese environmental NGO Brainforest. "We've noticed in long years of work that some companies or even villagers, sometimes with other accomplices, chop wood illegally, then recover it six months later as abandoned wood," adds Luc Mathot, president of Conservation Justice, a group combatting wood trafficking and poaching in Gabon. "So this is a way of laundering illegal wood," he claims.

Villagers blockade

The heavy, dense kevazingo wood ranges in color from pinkish red to ruddy brown. Chopping down an ancient giant is a major enterprise, from clearing the surrounding area to digging a ramp to hold the trunk when it falls. More than 150 forestry firms have been welcomed to

the northern Philippines, two solar micro-grids are providing the community's first power. They were put in place last December by the Forest Foundation Philippines, a non-governmental organisation that aims to improve forest protection, and the Centre for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technology (CREST), a Quezon City-based organisation focused on expanding use of clean power.

While the new grid was primarily set up to help members of the local Dumagat ethnic group police the forests, it also supplies power free of charge to common areas of the village of 36 families, including a study hall and communal kitchens. The forest rangers and other members of the community have been trained to troubleshoot and maintain the system, CREST officials said. "In the past we would need to walk almost two kilometres to the nearest village where there is electricity to charge our radios and cellphones for a fee," Garaes said. "That was a burden to us."

Such solar micro-grids could fill gaps in providing electricity to many remote areas of the Philippines as they are cheap to operate - and don't face the fuel transport issue of diesel-run plants, said Sara Ahmed, an energy analyst for the US-based Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis. "It's not economically viable to transfer power from one (place) to another if the demand is not high. That's why far-flung areas don't get power," Ahmed said. "This is where micro-grids come in. There is no need to build transmission lines and wires. You can have power right there and then. You save a lot of money."

In Garaes' village, each micro-grid produces 1 kilowatt of electricity - enough to provide lights in the communal kitchen, along village pathways, in the classroom and for a television set. Building the grid cost about \$3,000, according to CREST officials. Urbano Mendiola Jr, vice president for corporate affairs at the National Power Corporation, said his agency was considering installing hybrid power plants that combine diesel and solar power in some remote areas.

A hybrid plant to power about 1,250 households costs



Ethnic Dumagat forest rangers stand beside a solar micro-grid in Norzagaray, Bulacan, in the northern Philippines on June 26, 2018. — Reuters

about \$985,000, he said, while a diesel-only plant costs about \$425,000. But while hybrid plants are more expensive to set up at the moment, they bring cost savings in the long run because energy from the sun is free, he said. He said the company is not setting up solar-only plants in remote areas at the moment because of the cost of the batteries needed to store solar power and provide energy at night.

Rural off-grid power plants in the Philippines are funded by the government and by a small surcharge on the electrical bills of grid power users, aimed at bringing the cost of power for rural users closer in line with that in urban areas. Ahmed said that tapping the full potential of renewable energy would require a sea-change in the views of officials tasked with providing energy. Currently they say diesel is the most affordable option. But "diesel is not affordable... When they say it's cheaper, they only mean upfront," she said. "If you look at wind and solar, the prices have dramatically gone down," Ahmed said. "SPUG needs to update itself with the technology." — Reuters



A file photo taken on Sept 10, 2011 shows an aerial view of Nkok, a special economic site dedicated to the transformation of wood, some 30 km from Libreville. — AFP

Gabon, where the industry accounts for about five percent of the gross domestic product. Since 2014, timber companies have been legally obliged to give money to village committees to help pay for such services as schools and clinics. In practice, locals may well end up mounting roadblocks to remind some loggers of this responsibility. "It's unfortunate, but we are often forced to put up a show of strength in order to be heard," says Herve Allogo, a villager from Essong Medzome, near Oyem, manning a barricade of logs. Timber firms tend to lay the blame for shortfalls in community support on internal constraints or outside factors, and also claim villagers lack information. "Administration is slow, because projects must be approved at several levels," says Sylvain Ibouanga Mbouma, a director of Compagnie Dan Gabon, a Chinese firm active in the north.

The state is keen to promote the wood processing industry inside Gabon, rather than export raw timber for value-added treatment elsewhere. On a manufacturing estate near Libreville, massive kevazingo logs are taken in

charge by Asian firms to be carved into furniture for foreign markets, says Kumar Mohan, who runs logistics for the Gabon Special Economic Zone (GSEZ). The GSEZ - a partnership between the state and agri-business multinational Olam - earns 50,000 CFA francs (€76) for each cubic metre (35 cubic feet) of the timber and the state receives 25 percent of the value of a log, Ntème says.

The price soars astronomically when logs have sufficient girth to yield products entirely carved out of a single chunk of wood. One cubic metre can then fetch anywhere between 400,000 CFA francs (€610) and 1.2 million CFA francs (€1,800), according to business sources. Enterprising business people have moved in to claim a share of the earnings by being told to find and recover abandoned kevazingo wood and take it to a depot where it can be fetched by the GSEZ. These individuals, who are usually members of the General Confederation of Small and Medium Businesses and Industries (CGPMEI) or the Collective of Gabonese Foresters and Industrial Workers (Cofiga), say they receive 30 percent of the value of a cubic metre. — AFP

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Business

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UK traders 'out of time' to cope with no-deal

France urges businesses to prepare for no-deal Brexit

LONDON: UK businesses have run out of time to prepare for the consequences of Britain leaving the European Union in March without an exit deal, a government audit showed yesterday. The findings by the National Audit Office, the government's spending watchdog, were published with London and Brussels at loggerheads in Brexit talks. They threaten to deal a political blow to Prime Minister Theresa May, who has made the phrase that "no deal is better than a bad deal" her mantra.

The audit said uncertainty over the course of the negotiations has delayed preparations for a no-deal scenario, with organized crime gangs potentially stepping in to smuggle goods across the new EU-UK frontier. "Businesses do not have enough time to make the changes that will be needed if the UK leaves the EU without a 'deal'," it said.

Over the long-term, "organized criminals and others are likely to be quick to exploit any perceived weaknesses or gaps in the enforcement regime," it added. The audit estimated that between 145,000 and 250,000 traders will need to make customs declarations for the first time should Britain break away without coming to terms with the EU. "Government papers from July 2018 stated that it was already too late to ensure that all traders were properly prepared for 'no deal'," the report wrote.

The number of customs declarations as a whole will grow from 55 million to 260 million, putting existing government management systems under immense strain. The audit found that 11 out of 12 government projects replacing or upgrading existing border systems to prepare for more rigorous customs checks were-as of September-at risk of not being delivered on time to "acceptable quality".

No-deal flotilla

The Financial Times reported on Tuesday that realizing the potential chaos, the government was drawing up plans to charter ships to bring in food and medicine in case there was no deal. The newspaper said a meeting of May's cabinet on Tuesday was told that a heavily used trade route between the British port of Dover and the French one in Calais would quickly become blocked if no customs arrangements were made. Britain would then ferry in "critical supplies" and possibly also car parts. Robert Peston, the political editor of the private channel ITV, wrote on Facebook that Transport Minister Chris Grayling told ministers that freight coming into UK from Calais would be reduced by 85 percent.

National Audit Office chief Amyas Morse said the government openly admits that trade between Europe's second-largest economy and the rest of the 27-nation bloc would be "sub-optimal" in a no-deal scenario.

"It is not clear what sub-optimal means in practice, or how long this will last," Morse said. The report suggested that "it may take some time" for trade to return to normal. "Individuals and businesses will feel the impact of a sub-optimal border to varying degrees," it said.

France warned its business leaders Tuesday to prepare for all potential Brexit scenarios including Britain crashing out of the EU with no deal, as Paris scrambles to plan for a new era of trade with its neighbor. The meeting between junior finance minister Agnes Pannier-Runacher and members of trade federations comes after the French government unveiled draft legislation setting out preparations for a possible "no-deal" Brexit.

"It's about really explaining to them that they must prepare at the same time for the United Kingdom becoming a third-party country, and the risk of there being no transition period after March 2019," a ministry source said of the meeting.

Any transition period to smooth Britain's exit "depends on an exit deal having been reached with the United Kingdom," the source said-a deal that has eluded the EU and Britain so far, just months away from Britain's scheduled departure on March 29, 2019.

French companies are therefore being urged to prepare for "all options", the source said.

Some 30,000 French companies export goods to Britain, according to the finance ministry. The exports were worth some 31 billion euros (\$35.5 billion) in 2017.

"There are also all the companies which import goods from the United Kingdom and those that import services which are also affected," the source said. Credit insurer Euler Hermes estimated that a no-deal Brexit could cost French exporters up to three billion euros next year. Germany would however be the biggest EU country to lose out in trade terms, with its exporters losing some eight billion euros, followed by the Netherlands with four billion euros of losses.

Belgium, like France, would lose an estimated three billion euros under the credit insurer's model, which is based on import taxes of four to five percent being imposed as per default World Trade Organization rules. It is also based on estimates that the pound would crash from its current value of 1.13 euros to 0.88 euros by the end of 2019. — AFP

Boeing profits surge after tax settlement

NEW YORK: Boeing's profits surged in the third quarter after a favorable US tax settlement, and the company raised some key annual projections yesterday as its order book stayed robust.

The aerospace giant, which has benefited from a multi-year investment boom in global air travel, reported profits of \$2.4 billion for the quarter ending September 30, a 30.6 percent jump from the same period of the prior year. Revenues rose 3.8 percent to \$25.1 billion. Boeing lifted its full-year revenue forecast range by \$1 billion to \$98-100 billion. Chief Executive Dennis Muilenburg pointed to "strong underlying performance" as well as growth "across our businesses ... throughout the year" as factors in boosting 2018 revenue and earnings forecasts.

Commercial airplane deliveries actually fell compared with a year earlier, but profit margins in the business surged on higher production of key planes. The company booked 171 net orders, a decline from the second quarter, but well above the prior year's level. —AFP

Praise be to Allah



Financial Results up to the End of Third Quarter of 2018

	30/09/2018	30/09/2017	%
Net Profit for Shareholders "KD Million"	169.10	137.87	22.7
Earnings per Share "Fils"	27.04	22.06	22.6
Net Financing Income "KD Million"	404.82	322.93	25.4
Total Operating Income "KD Million"	589.61	525.05	12.3
Net Operating Income "KD Million"	367.47	311.75	17.9
	30/09/2018	31/12/2017	%
Total Assets "KD Billion" *	17.308	17.358	(0.3)
Financing Receivables "KD Billion" *	9.166	9.216	(0.5)
Depositors' Accounts "KD Billion" *	11.503	11.597	(0.8)

* Despite a real growth in the business, the decline in the Turkish currency rate against Kuwaiti Dinar during the third quarter for the current year has a negative impact on the consolidated balances as at the date of the interim condensed consolidated financial information. After excluding this effect, the total assets of the group increased by 4.3%. The financing portfolio increased by 6.8%, and depositors' accounts increased by 4.4% compared to the year ended 31 December 2017.

Business

Trump threats, demands spark 'existential crisis' at trade body

WTO scrambling to develop sweeping reform plan

GENEVA: The World Trade Organization is scrambling to develop a plan for the biggest reform in its 23-year history after US President Donald Trump brought the world's top trade court to the brink of collapse by blocking appointments of its judges and threatening to pull the United States out of the organization. Trump's administration has targeted the WTO, the watchdog of global commerce, as part of his wider campaign against trade arrangements he contends have cost hundreds of thousands of US jobs.

Proposals to shore up the organization include increasing the number of judges and rewriting trade rules for industrial subsidies, state-owned firms and technology transfer. Those ideas and others will be discussed when Canada hosts a dozen trade ministers in Ottawa on Wednesday and Thursday.

At stake is the effectiveness - even the survival - of a key stabilizing force in the global economy. Since its founding in 1995, the WTO has stopped governments from arbitrarily raising trade barriers and disrupting the flow of goods. Members can air grievances before clashes materialize, and the WTO's dispute settlement system allows them to seek binding rulings from judges.

Much of the US displeasure stems from how the WTO has tied its hands in dealing with China, which it accuses of "dumping" cheap goods on the United States to take market share and unfairly using government subsidies to lower Chinese companies' costs.

US officials have repeatedly complained that the WTO's seven-member Appellate Body has gone beyond its remit. In binding rulings, effectively acting as the supreme court of world trade, WTO judges have given Beijing the benefit of the doubt on subsidies and rejected Washington's treatment of dumping.

The WTO rules on dumping are ambiguous, the result of a political compromise at the WTO's creation in 1995. The US reading

is that, when in doubt, the judges should defer to the US interpretation of the law - a view that judges often have not shared. "The Trump administration has seized on what was a controversy in the WTO and turned it into an existential crisis," said James Bacchus, a one-time WTO chief judge and former Democratic congressman.

Dennis Shea - US ambassador to the WTO and deputy United States Trade Representative - has said the judges have "strayed" and taken liberties with their own rules of procedure, ignoring deadlines and staying on cases after their official departure dates. Shea says such breaches may invalidate their work.

"We've been making these points for not just 15 months but for 15 years. Our proposal is that the Appellate Body needs to abide by the rules we agreed to in 1994," he said.

The White House did not respond to requests for comment. The United States Trade Representative declined to comment and referred to previous administration statements on trade.

Appointments blocked

When Trump first suggested withdrawing from the WTO during his presidential campaign, the organization's diplomats, convinced the United States could not afford to operate outside global rules, neglected the complaint as just the latest gripe about its operations from one of 164 member nations.

Now they appear to grasp the seriousness of the threat - that the WTO would have little sway over global commerce without the world's largest economy as a member. The Trump administration has ramped up pressure by blocking any move to fill vacancies on the Appellate Body as judges left or finished their terms, taking the team down to three - the minimum required to make rulings.

The appeal system will cease to function altogether in December 2019 if Shea blocks

the appointment of two more judges who need to be replaced by that time. The tactic amounts to "asphyxiation" of the organization, departing judge Ricardo Ramirez-Hernandez said in May, after his replacement was blocked. The demise of the appeals system would paralyze dispute resolution and make negotiating new trade rules pointless. Appellate Body chief judge Ujal Singh Bhatia said in a speech in Geneva in May.

"The paralysis of the Appellate Body would cast a long and deep shadow on the continued operation of the multilateral trading system," he said. The WTO has no executive power, but its members have a shared interest in following its rules. Under US pressure, the WTO has begun discussing reform but found little agreement among members on the way forward.

Challenging China

In September, the European Union and Canada, which had separately drawn up reform proposals for the WTO, presented their ideas to a packed audience of diplomats from developing countries.

"The idea at this point is not to solve all the problems" but to open discussion about them, said a Latin American diplomat who attended the meeting at the WTO in Geneva. The United States has also teamed up with the European Union and Japan to push for tighter rules on government subsidies of exports, state-owned firms and the forced transfer of technology from foreign partners, issues often raised in US criticism of China's trade practices.

They also want to end the way two-thirds of WTO members, including China, declare themselves "developing" and thereby qualify for about 140 provisions in the rules that grant benefits and more lenient treatment to developing nations. Taiwan recently won US praise for voluntarily renouncing such benefits. The EU has trans-



GENEVA: US Ambassador to the WTO Dennis Shea (right) talks with Marc Vanheukelen, EU Ambassador to the WTO before the General Council meeting at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva in this July 26, 2018 file photo. — Reuters

lated some of those shared ideas into WTO reform proposals. Most of them have US approval, but U.S. and EU officials disagree on the Appellate Body. In early October, Shea criticized EU proposals during a tense public debate with EU Ambassador Marc Vanheukelen at the WTO.

The EU advocated increasing the number of judges to nine and giving them more resources and longer, single terms to make them more independent on the grounds they would no longer need to curry favor to get appointed for a second term.

"That means less accountability for the Appellate Body," Shea said. "We cannot support something that makes the Appellate Body less accountable."

'Crunch point'

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer has said the WTO does an enormous amount of good but that he wants

more focus on negotiating new rules and enforcing existing ones with less litigation. Lighthizer is widely seen as the brain behind Trump's trade strategy, drawing on his experience battling cheap Japanese imports as the deputy US Trade Representative from 1983 to 1985 under the administration of President Ronald Reagan. For more than 30 years after that, he was a partner at the law firm Skadden Arps, where he represented US steelmakers against China. Shea also briefly worked at Skadden, later spending a decade investigating the national security implications of US-China trade for the US Congress.

"We have a slew of steel dumping lawyers on the protectionist side in charge of US trade policy," said Bacchus, the former WTO judge and congressman. "They are bullying the world, and now they are bullying the members of the Appellate Body." — Reuters

Bitter taste for Cuba as it imports sugar for the first time

HAVANA: Sugar: it's so quintessentially Cuban that even a young, machete-wielding Fidel Castro used to hack away at the cane stalks vital to the Caribbean island's economy. Now, the long-time world leader in sugar production is importing the stuff for the first time, and in large amounts, from France after another bad harvest.

Sugar used to account for the vast majority of Cuba's exports. But the fall of its big brother, the Soviet Union - a key, hungry customer - changed everything, as did a lack of investment in seeds, fertilizer and pesticides. To wit: in the early 1990s, Cuba produced about eight million tons of sugar a year. A decade later, it stopped reaching two million a year.

Back then, sugar accounted for almost 75 percent of Cuban exports. In 2015, it was only 13 percent, with other products like nickel and tobacco making up some of the difference.

The 2017-2018 harvest suffered badly after Hurricane Irma ravaged the country, followed by a long rainy season. So Cuba is importing sugar from France.

Whiter sugar

On the island, residents quickly caught wind of the somewhat counter-intuitive development. Here, sugar from cane tends to be brownish. But the French version comes from



CUBA: A woman buys sugar produced in France at a grocery store in Havana. Cuba, which was for long time a world leader in the production of sugar, now imports the product from France after serious problems in its harvest. — AFP

beets so it is whiter, and the granules are finer. And that is what Cubans started receiving with their "libreta" - their ration book.

"The sugar we get now is very good. It is very sweet, not very different. The only difference is the color," said Felicia Navarro, a 40-year-old homemaker. The French government farm and seafood export agency FranceAgriMer said that from 2001 to 2017, Cuba had imported just three tons of sugar from France.

But in just three summer months this year - June, July and August - that number ballooned to 40,000 tons. "This is the first time in history that Cuba is importing significant amounts of sugar from France," FranceAgriMer said. Cuba imports most of the food it consumes. Yearly, it imports 400,000 tons of wheat.

on the bank's website.

Worse still, over the full year, Deutsche said it expected revenues "slightly lower" than in 2017 - a downgrade from its flat forecast issued at the end of the second quarter.

JP Morgan analysts said Deutsche "has done an excellent job under Sewing in respect to leverage and capital ratio and being on track for cost reduction." But they were less confident than the Deutsche boss about the outlook. "We remain concerned about DB's inability to turn-around... revenues" in some vital business areas, they warned.

Mindful of past years when it was described as a threat to European and global financial stability, the bank highlighted a so-called "CET1" capital ratio-measuring its buffer to absorb potential losses of 14 percent, slightly higher than the previous quarter.

Refocus on Europe

On taking office in April, Sewing heralded yet another round of restructuring, after years of Deutsche struggling to overcome the

legal and financial hangovers of its pre-2008 crisis attempt to compete with Wall Street investment banking giants.

Deutsche aims to slash a total of 7,000 jobs by the end of 2019. That burden and lower client fees for the bank weighed on the bottom line. The investment banking arm, still recovering from a dizzying sequence of legal entanglements and especially hit by staffing cuts, saw revenues fall 13 percent year-on-year.

Deutsche's international payments business, a historically reliable source of income where the firm is continuing to invest, booked revenues down 5.0 percent. Meanwhile revenues for the group's asset management division DWS fell 10 percent and the retail and commercial banking arm shed 3.0 percent.

Cost cutting

Sewing's efficiency drive has borne some fruit, as Deutsche's costs fell 1.0 percent year-on-year to 5.6 billion euros. The group reported restructuring and severance costs of 103 million euros between July and September, some linked to the departure of 1,450 employees. — AFP

Warba Bank's Al-Sunbula draw today

KUWAIT: Warba Bank, "the Best Investment Bank" and "Best Corporate Bank" in Kuwait, will be organizing its 39th weekly draw for Al-Sunbula Account today (Thursday) at 11 am in presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Bank officials.

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

getting KD 5,000 each.

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

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

Restructuring fails to halt revenue slide at Deutsche Bank

FRANKFURT: Germany's biggest lender Deutsche Bank reported tumbling profits and ebbing revenues in the third quarter yesterday, failing to meet analyst forecasts as its latest restructuring weighs on performance. Net profit at the Frankfurt-based group fell 65 percent year-on-year between July and September, to 229 million euros (\$263 million), short of analysts' forecasts for a 240-million-euro bottom line.

But a 9.0-percent slide in revenues, to 6.2 billion euros, was more concerning for executives and observers alike. "We have not yet achieved a turnaround in terms of revenues," chief executive Christian Sewing told employees in an open letter published

Nordea profits fall in 'challenging' third quarter

HELSINKI: The Nordic region's largest bank, Nordea, reported yesterday an 18 percent fall in third quarter net profit, which it put down to seasonal market conditions and low interest rates. Nordea chief executive Casper von Koskull said the lower-than-expected profits were partly explained by a "challenging" quarter with low levels of activity during the summer months.

"I'm not happy with the income development but I know there is nothing structural there, I know we can improve that," he said. Nordea announced a net profit of 684 million euros for the period, compared to 832 euros million one year

previously, and a total operating income of 2.0 billion euros.

Nordic banks, like many of their peers, have felt the pinch of historically low interest rates over recent years. The bank announced a fall of 14 percent in its income from fees and commission, while net interest income dropped 10 percent from the third quarter of 2017.

Antti Saari, analyst at OP bank, said the results were weaker than expected. "If you look at the last six or seven results there's only been one positive surprise. Investors are always expecting revenues to turn upwards, but so far we haven't seen that," he said.

However, the same period did see 3.0 percent fall in operating expenses, to 1.14 billion euros. At the end of last year Nordea announced it would cut 6,000 jobs over the coming years in order to ensure long-term profitability. Earlier this month Nordea relocated its headquarters to the Finnish capital, Helsinki, from neighboring Sweden, bringing it into the same supervisory mechanism as other eurozone banks. — AFP



KFH announces KD 169.1 million net profit until end of Q3 2018

Net financing income increased by 25.4% to KD 404.8 million: Al-Marzouq

KUWAIT: Chairman of Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq said that "KFH has, by the grace of Allah, reported a KD 169.10 million net profit to shareholders until end of Q3 2018 compared to KD 137.87 million for the same period last year i.e. an increase of 22.7 percent.

Net Financing income until end of Q3 2018 reached KD 404.82 million i.e. a growth of 25.4 percent compared to the same period last year. Total operating income until the end of Q3 2018 reached KD 589.61 million, i.e. a growth of 12.3 percent compared to the same period last year and net operating income reached KD 367.47 million, i.e. a growth of 17.9 percent compared to the same period last year.

Earnings per share reached 27.04 fils, compared to 22.06 fils for the same period last year i.e. an increase of 22.6 percent. Despite a real growth in the business, the decline in the Turkish currency rate against Kuwaiti Dinar during the third quarter of the current year has a negative impact on the consolidated balances as at the date of the interim condensed consolidated financial information. After excluding this effect, the total assets of the Group increased by 4.3 percent. The financing portfolio increased by 6.8 percent, and depositors' accounts increased by 4.4 percent compared to year ended 31 December 2017.

Al-Marzouq explained that the realized profits are attributed to the efficient execution of the Bank's strategy approved by the Board of Directors and the long-term plans implemented by the executive management by focusing on diversifying sources of strength, mitigating risk, rationalizing cost, increasing operating income resulting from core banking business and achieving harmony among Group banks to ensure sustainable profitability.

Positive indicators

He added in a press release, that the indicators of the balance sheet are all positive, which demonstrates the robust financial position of the Bank, not to mention reinforces the stable and sustainable growth in profits over four years of outstanding performance, and third consecutive quarters until the end of the third quarter of the current year. All key

- Net profit increases by 22.7%
- Earnings per share 27.04 fils, an increase of 22.6%
- Total operating income increased by 12.3% to KD 589.6 million
- Net operating income increased by 17.9% to KD 367.5 million
- Sustainable growth in profits over 4 years
- Comprehensive growth in Indicators over 3 consecutive quarters

indicators recorded growth. Return on average equity (ROAE), return on average assets (ROAA) compared to the end of year 2017, and the earning per share (EPS) all surged. Also, Net financing income increased, the operating income of banking business grew compared to the same period last year, as this represents a major source of the group income. Further, cost to income ratio (C/I) has decreased compared to the same period last year, which reflects the improvement in the Group's performance despite the difficulties in the operating environment. This confirms the sound performance of the Group as KFH continues its prudent investment policy, effective risk management while maintaining improved asset quality as per the best practices in this field.

Al-Marzouq illustrated that KFH has developed many scenarios to deal with the developments in the banking sector on the regional and global levels, and the prospects for the future of banks at all levels, most notably the increasing competition in the banking industry. He said that the emergence of several mergers and acquisition deals confirm that a new banking world is underway heading to establishing large banks that enhance the capacity of these entities to secure local and international funding sources at a competitive cost, while enhancing the credit limits of those banks, thus increasing profits.

Al-Marzouq pointed out that KFH's overseas operations are characterized by the geographical diversification that contributes in increasing liquidity, improving financing capability and asset quality, thus boosting profitability. KFH Group banks in Turkey, Malaysia, Bahrain and Germany have continued their successful performance in accordance with the set plans and strategies to benefit from the elements of strength in each market in which they operate. KFH Group Banks achieve further coordination and collaboration in different joint ventures.

Al-Marzouq expressed his confidence in the Bank's strong financial hedge and the resilient mechanisms to deal with the economic conditions and the regional developments in their markets in an efficient manner. This reduces the effects of market fluctuations in the long and medium terms.

He continued: "Despite the sharp fluctuations in the Turkish lira, the position of KFH-Turkey is strong. This is attributable to the credit facilities granted in Turkish lira, the credit facilities granted in hard currency as well as the good credit growth and the increased credit margin of financing which enabled the Bank to overcome the impact of these fluctuations and mitigate risk.

Technology

Moreover, He said that KFH pays great attention to the technological side of rolling out high-end services, indicating Fintech is in line with KFH strategy of offering round the clock high-quality, cost-effective, advanced and innovative services. During Q3, KFH uniquely provided several Artificial Intelligence AI services. KFH signed a partnership agreement with Ernst & Young (EY) to launch an ambitious Robotic Process Automation (RPA) program as the first Bank in Kuwait to integrate Artificial Intelligence into operation. This increases productivity and reduces operational costs, yet allows the Bank to keep abreast of the international trend of utilizing AI, the most influencing element in the modern technology. KFH launched chatbot built on Microsoft technologies, in a move that promises to drive digital transformation by improving customer

engagement. The chatbot is available to customers 24/7, on KFH's most popular engagement channels, including the website KFH.com and mobile app KFHonline. KFH launched a centralized SWIFT network system for global payments at the group level. The Bank rolled out new system on its ATMs that accelerates the process of customers' claims transactions, while minimizing error as it is an automated system. KFH offers "request Financing online" for its customers in efforts to save their time and efforts.

Al-Marzouq stressed KFH keenness on financing major and infrastructure projects in line with its strategy in supporting the national economy. This allows the banking sector to diversify its financing portfolio, indicating Kuwaiti banks enjoy high degree of liquidity and high solvency ratios. KFH succeeded in closing several credit facility deals in oil and gas, infrastructure, transportation, energy and real estate sectors within the framework of achieving the comprehensive development. The most recent deal was a contract of credit facility with Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC) where KFH participated in financing the company's \$2.3 billion Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) import. KFH was selected to lead the deal of the Islamic banks for their share in the \$500 million. KFH is currently studying different other projects to finance.

Expansion plans

KFH continues its efforts in financing Kuwaiti companies and supporting them in improving their businesses and expansion plans as per credit regulations. KFH pays great attention to the small and medium enterprises SMEs. The Bank enjoys great share in financing SMEs as they play a significant role in supporting the youth segment and improving the performance of the entrepreneurs. This contributes in diversifying income resources, creating new jobs while building national expertise in business.

KFH has strong retail activities thanks to its role as a leading provider of Shariah-compliant financial products and services, which is a fundamental pillar of the Bank's business. Efforts have been exerted to promote market share by establishing cooperation and partnership agreements with many local companies in various fields, and by organizing marketing and promotional programs to energize the market. KFH continues to provide the highest level of service

- KFH Group banks... strategic investment with strong financial hedge against volatility
- FinTech priority for rolling out innovative services
- Pioneering role in financing mega projects, SMEs
- KFH continues leading int'l development of Islamic financial services
- Positive Ratings, Global Awards Reiterate Confidence in KFH Future



Hamad Al-Marzouq

quality, while paying great attention to customers, and innovating new products and services.

At the level of deposits, KFH offers wide range of investment deposits with competitive yield. This contributes in attracting new segments of customers, while providing the best savings programs that help customers to financially plan for their lives and the future of their children. KFH uniquely offers a range of diversified banking cards, accompanied by a wide range of discounts and prizes. This differentiates the Bank's customers, and increases the usage volume of the cards locally and globally. This also contributes in achieving a secure payment system across the world.

Al-Marzouq reiterated that the positive ratings of KFH by international rating agencies, and the prestigious international awards from global institutions, most recently the Safest Islamic Bank award in the GCC- 2018 by Global Finance Magazine affirm KFH role in leading the international development of Islamic financial services. The ratings and the awards represent an impetus for maintaining growth, indicating KFH will continue its prudent policy to face any local and global challenges. KFH strengthens its precautionary provisions and its financial position by focusing on core banking business while improving its asset quality.

He stressed the significant role of the human resources at the Bank, indicating KFH works tirelessly on qualifying and honing the skills of its human capital; mainly the national youth. This paves the way for creating leaders who are able to deal with the future challenges, while coping with the growth of the Bank in the regional and international markets, which adds genuine value to the capacity of the national economy.

Social sustainability

He mentioned that KFH achieved great success in the social sustainability strategy in different initiatives including education, health, youth, and people with special needs to confirm the leadership of the Bank in social responsibility.

Al-Marzouq concluded by conveying his sincere thanks to all shareholders and customers for their continuous and valuable support and trust in KFH activities and business. He extended his appreciation to all regulatory authorities for their support. He appreciated the efforts of KFH staff and the executive management for their distinguished performance, emphasizing the importance of maintaining the pioneering position of KFH in all fields.

Business

EQUATE's subsidiary 'MEGlobal' crowned as 'Gold Level Winner'

Recognition at Canada's Safety Employers awards in Toronto

KUWAIT: MEGlobal, a wholly-owned subsidiary of EQUATE Petrochemical Company has been crowned as a "Gold Level Winner" at Canada's Safest Employers awards, during a ceremony that was held in Toronto.

This is just another successful achievement to be added to MEGlobal's records. The company history reflects a lot of achievements have been made within a short period of time. MEGlobal was established in July 2004, and is headquartered in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. A video describing the company's safety commitment was played at the awards ceremony.

It is fascinating to see MEGlobal achieving safety recognition at the same time its parent company is celebrating a significant achievement. Last month the EQUATE Group, a global producer of petrochemicals, also made a remarkable record regarding health and safety methods. "EQUATE achieved over 50 million continuous safe work hours without a day away from work case (DAWC) throughout its industrial complex in Kuwait," said the CEO of EQUATE Group, Ramesh Ramachandran back in September of the current year.

Launched in 2011, Canada's Safest Employers Awards is presented by the Canadian Occupational Safety magazine, a Thomson Reuters business. The Awards recognize companies from all across Canada with outstanding accomplishments in promoting the health and safety of their workers.

"This is a great honor for us but it is also something that MEGlobal employees and contractors have earned through their commitment to safety in everything they do," said Rocco Schurink, Vice President of Manufacturing at MEGlobal.



Trish and Cathy during the ceremony

The awards boast 10 industry-specific categories, ranging from hospitality to mining and natural resources. Companies are judged on a wide range of occupational health and safety elements, including employee training, OHS management systems, incident investigation, emergency preparedness and innovative health and safety initiatives.

"Safety is an intrinsic part of who we are and what



we do at MEGlobal," said Pravind Ramdial, MEGlobal North American Responsible Care Leader. He added: "We live the principles of Responsible Care and we empower everyone at our site to make safety becomes his/her priority in every task. Our leaders don't just expect safe behaviors from others; they model it each day, and while it is very exciting to receive such a prestigious award, the real reward is all about keeping

our people, communities and environment safe."

According to the company's recent report, employees of MEGlobal have not experienced any work injuries for 3,471 days. As for the process safety incident category, the records showed zero incidents occurred for 2,675 days. The report also reflected that the number of days without a government reportable incident reached 4,101.

Alghanim Eng leads the way in a new era of HVAC systems

KUWAIT: Alghanim Engineering joined in the HVAC Energy Efficiency EXPO from September 30th to October 1st at the Symphony Style Hotel to highlight the future of VRF and Climaver systems and the latest products available in the world of ventilation and AC.

Showing the new and latest developments in energy efficiency systems available, alongside KIMMCO, giving demonstrations of how these products could help reduce energy loss within residential and commercial buildings. According to a study conducted by GCC Energy System (KAPSARC) in 2016, 90 percent of energy consumed in Kuwait were that of residential and commercial establishments, 70 percent of that energy comes from air conditioning units. With the new and improved VRF systems, based on internal study, this will help reduce the energy loss by 30 percent.

A study done by McKinsey Climate Change Special Initiative, also highlighted the most efficient strategic option is an adequate building insulation solution. The Climaver ducting, the latest and best in the market in terms of quality, insulation and durability offered by KIMMCO, offers Grade A low air leakage which results in its 46 percent less energy and cooling power.

Alghanim Group said the company aspires to establish that both Kimmco and Alghanim Engineering are leading companies in the HVAC industry. Which is evident in their innovation in energy efficiency solutions per international standards, with the latest high quality products terms of performance and contribution to energy saving in addition to long-term use.

Flydubai inaugural flight lands in Helsinki

KUWAIT: Flydubai has inaugurated its new daily service to Helsinki becoming the first national carrier for the UAE to offer direct flights from Dubai. The inaugural flight departed yesterday from Terminal 2, Dubai International (DXB) and landed at Helsinki Airport (HEL) just before midnight.

On board the flight was a delegation led by Jeyhun Efendi, Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations and E-commerce at flydubai and was joined by Thierry Aucoc, Senior Vice President, Commercial (Europe and Russian Federation) at Emirates, Riitta Swan, Finnish Ambassador to the UAE together with representatives from regional media outlets. On arrival in Helsinki, the delegation was welcomed by senior officials from the airport.

Speaking at a press conference to mark the occasion, Jeyhun Efendi, Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations and E-commerce at flydubai said: "As the first carrier to operate a year-round direct flight from the UAE to Finland, we expect this route to be very popular for travellers from Dubai and the region as we make the market more accessible for adventure seekers, those who want to see the

NBK announces winners of Al-Jawhara weekly draw

KUWAIT: The National Bank of Kuwait continues to reward its customers with Al-Jawhara account through weekly, monthly and quarterly draws. The bank recently announced the winners of the weekly draw for the month of October, naming Ahmad Bader Al-Thaqeb, George Anis Neaimi, Thamer Saleh Al-Mutairi and Khalidoun Jawdat Almasri as the winners of the KD 5,000 prize each.

Automatically entering customers into the draws, Al-



Northern Lights, Lapland and those visiting family and friends alike. Passengers travelling on this route will be able to enjoy the added comfort offered by our latest innovations in cabin design as well as an exceptional travel experience on board our new Boeing MAX 8 aircraft."

Finland attracts more than 6 million tourists a year, but most flights to the market so far have been seasonal. The new scheduled direct flights from Dubai will give passengers easier access into Finland and help stimulate trade and tourism around the year.

"We have seen healthy demand especially for our Business Class since the route was announced in April this year. We expect this trend to continue from Dubai as well as see growing numbers of connecting passengers from both the Emirates and the flydubai networks. Passengers from Finland now have easier access to popular destinations on the flydubai network including Sri Lanka and Tanzania as well as further afield on the Emirates network to Far East destinations including Australia, Indonesia and Thailand," Efendi added.

Jawhara account gives customers a chance to win KD 5,000 weekly, KD 125,000 monthly and a KD 250,000 grand prize quarterly for every KD 50 deposited into their account. If no withdrawal or transfers occur on the account during the required period, customers will receive an additional chance to enter the draw for every KD 50 held in the account, doubling their chance to win.

Since 2012, the National Bank of Kuwait has rewarded loyal customers with a total worth of prizes up to KD 2,200,000 in the weekly, monthly, and quarterly Al-Jawhara draws. All the draws are conducted in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the name of all the winners are announced.

Customers can open an Al-Jawhara account by simply visiting any NBK branch. Also, NBK customers can conveniently open an Al-Jawhara account through the NBK Online and Mobile Banking services.

Focused on sustaining its relationship with customers, NBK commits to offer diversified and innova-



tive products and solutions, in addition to valuable rewards to customers.

Cityview project inaugurated, apartment handover begins

MANAMA: Cityview Real Estate Development Company (Cityview), a Bahrain-based real estate development company, announced on Tuesday the formal inauguration of the Company's Cityview building and said it had started handover apartments to their owners.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Cityview Chairman, Abdulhakeem Al-Mutawa, said he is pleased that, despite the many complex challenges, the project was successfully completed. The Cityview project, a residential tower in the Seef District near Dana Mall, was put on hold in 2011 due to circumstances beyond anyone's control. The Project's completion makes it the only project of its kind in Bahrain to be resolved internally, without external intervention after Ithmaar Bank, one of the shareholders, provided the necessary financing. Ithmaar Holding, an investment firm listed on the Bahrain Bourse, Boursa Kuwait and Dubai Financial Market, owns through its subsidiary 51 percent shareholding in Cityview.

Present at the inauguration ceremony were representatives of Ithmaar Bank and Cityview as well as Ithmaar Development Company (IDC), which represents Ithmaar



Cityview building

Group, Dheya Tawfiqi Engineering Consultancy Bureau W.L.L. (DTEB) as the Project Consultant, Poullades Construction Company (PCC) as the main contractor of the Project and Ithmaar Bank's Home Finance team.

When announcing the completion of the Cityview project in August, Al-Mutawa had said the achievement, which remains unique in Bahrain, was made possible by Ithmaar Bank's determination to see the project through, and a demonstration of the potential that can be realized when everyone pulls in the same direction.



MANAMA: (From right) Cityview Chairman, Abdulhakeem Al-Mutawa, Ithmaar Bank member of the Board of Directors, Mohammed A Rahman Bucheerei, Ithmaar Bank Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Abdul Rahim, IDC Chief Executive and Member of the Board, Mohammed Khalil Al-Sayed and other guests at the opening ceremony of Cityview building.

"The building is now fully operational with all utilities functional after having received all municipal and authority approvals," said Al-Mutawa. "In fact, with the de-snagging works completed, and the testing and commissioning successful, we are handing over the building to Olive V.F.M (a wholly owned subsidiary of Ithmaar Holding), the appointed facility management team who will be welcoming the first residents," he said.

The Cityview building comprises a total of 88 apartments offering amenities such as a gym, health club, and

swimming pool dedicated to the residents. Al-Mutawa thanked the buyers of the project's apartments for their support during the previous period, which ended with completing construction works of the building.

Al-Mutawa also thanked the Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Urbanization and Infrastructure, Sheikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al-Khalifa, for his continuous efforts and support for helping drive the Project towards its completion.

What's On

Canon partners with Al Sayer group and the Kuwait Teachers Society

Under its 'Education For Life' campaign, Canon Middle East partnered with Al Sayer group and the Kuwait Teachers Society to demonstrate its suite of solutions that address challenges brought about by the changing needs of key education sector stakeholders - students, teachers, and administration.

The technology leader showcased its commitment towards enabling the digital transformation of the education experience in Kuwait at an event held at the Kuwait Teachers Society in Kuwait City. The speakers at the event CEO and board member of Al Sayer Group Mubarak Al Sayer, founder of Kashcool Faisal Alghadhouri, Board Member of the Kuwait Teachers Society and First Advisor of Computer Curriculum at the Ministry of Education, Mr. Ali Ahmed Al Kandari, and Business Unit Director, B2B, Canon Middle East Shadi Bakhour.

The Kuwait Vision 2035 lays the framework to achieving sustainable development in the country and highlights the significant role played by education in enabling economic diversification, growth and social progress. As the student aged population continues to increase and with substantial investment from the government, the sector is poised for growth with Kuwait's private school market estimated to grow from \$1.3 billion in 2015 to \$2 billion in 2023, according to the Boston Consulting Group (BCG). As a key catalyst of the strategy, the government is promoting the use of technology in schools, supporting educational planning and management, with a view towards higher quality of education and future employability of the students.

Canon has identified the education sector as one that can benefit greatly from a technology-enabled transformation, benefiting stakeholders of today as well

as nations in future. Key areas of consideration that the education sector must consider in this transition phase are their strategies towards: student data management; the document-heavy admissions and enrolment process; differentiating the learning-teaching experience for students and teachers, and; ensuring competitive quality across all processes.

Ali Ahmed Al Kandari, Board Member of the Kuwait Teachers Society and First Advisor of Computer Curriculum at the Ministry of Education, said: "Kuwait is well known for a rich tradition of valuing education, hence the development of the knowledge and skills of Kuwaiti youth remains a top priority today. The Kuwait Teachers Society is committed to supporting the Kuwait Vision 2035 to drive excellence in the educational sector right from improving the learning experience to enhancing the effectiveness of the system as a whole. Recognizing that a key facilitator of improvement is knowledge transfer across the sector and between public and private institutions, it is our pleasure to host the Education for Life roadshow with Canon to present the opportunities available to educators in the country to effectively transform the learning experience in the classroom and solve the challenges they face with the integration of new technologies."

Shadi Bakhour, Business Unit Director, B2B, Canon Middle East, said: "With the prioritization of human development and social progress by the government in Kuwait, Canon aims to come alongside Kuwaiti leadership to drive the enhancement of the educational sector through the adoption of technology.

Education for Life aims to creatively demonstrate the role technology can play in enabling organizations to innovate across multiple areas of process optimization,



communication efficiency and educational personalization, ultimately unlocking higher efficiency and superior learning experiences. We are thrilled to bring this roadshow to this country in partnership with the Kuwait Teachers Society as we believe that our technology is uniquely placed to help students, teachers, and administrative staff, unlock the power of digital to better prepare tomorrow's workforce."

Canon's 'Education For Life' campaign comprises five key pillars, each of which impact multiple stake-

holders and allow school management to build competitive differentiation and preference as a digitally-enabled learning environment. Those five pillars are Cost control, Security, Productivity, Integration and Sustainability. The Canon 'Education For Life' roadshow was launched in Dubai and Abu Dhabi earlier this year, followed by Riyadh, Amman and today in Kuwait City. The roadshow will continue to be conducted in cities across the GCC and the broader Middle East region this year

Enjoy a remarkable 'staycation' at Hilton Kuwait resort's villas

Hilton Kuwait Resort invites guests to delight in its magnificent villas overlooking the Arabian Gulf. Guests who will book a two-night stay in either a Presidential or Royal Villa will be able to avail 50% off their second night, offering a longer staycation experience. Conveniently located in the south of the city, Kuwaitis and residents of Kuwait can expect to experience true luxury, including breakfast buffet at Teatro restaurant for up to 8 people, whilst basking in the serene views of the Arabian Gulf.

The spacious and elegant Presidential and Royal Villas are best for families to experience a special staycation with all of the comforts of home. Set over two storeys, the Presidential Villas boast four bedrooms and bathrooms - two bedrooms feature one queen bed and the other two bedrooms offer two twin beds. A fully equipped modern kitchen, a dining room, and a private terrace with calming views of the sea make it the perfect space to unwind and reconnect with



loved ones.

Set across two floors, the elegant Royal Villa comes complete with an exclusive plunge pool for guests to relax in with total privacy, also boasting magnificent views over the Arabian Gulf. Both villas also feature a private maid's room. Kids can enjoy afternoons at the Kids Paradise and Games

Corner, hosting a variety of activities for children under six, and a range of indoor games, including PlayStation, billiards and air hockey for children aged between 7 and 15 years. Hilton Kuwait offers a range of villas, with majestic seafront rooms. Book a Presidential Villa or a Royal Villa and get 50% off the second night from now until 17 November.

Kuwait's first international environmental photo gallery

"Our Environment, Our Humanity," an international environment photo gallery in collaboration with the Environment Public Authority and the Amiri Diwan, will be held from November 11 at Shaheed Park. The photo gallery is a modern take on art galleries and aims to educate the people of Kuwait on the myriad environmental issues facing the world today. With the support of several embassies from the southern part of Africa, and with the participation of both local and international artists from around the world, the three-day event will showcase many environmental phenomena from across the globe.

"The Kuwaiti citizen is the primary partner of the Environment Public Authority, and we are therefore constantly looking to increase their awareness of the environmental issues facing Kuwait and the world, through awareness campaigns and events. This photo gallery is a fine example of this type of awareness, and I would like to

extend my gratitude to everyone that has contributed to the success of this event," said EPA General Manager Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on the eve of the event.

Pixel art is a form of digital art, created through the use of software, where images are edited on the pixel level. The aesthetic for this kind of graphics comes from 8-bit and 16-bit computers and video game consoles, in addition to other limited systems such as graphing calculators. Included in the gallery are several activities for both children and adults. Video screens will display the artwork, and visitors will have the chance to interact with this innovative technology and create their own pixel art. The first day will include the opening ceremony, as well as activities and events for children and adults. On the second day, there will be a photography workshop alongside the continued events. The third and final day will include a closing ceremony and the second day of the workshop.

Alsarah and The Nubatones Band perform at Al-Shaheed Park



In collaboration with LOYAC Academy for Performance Arts (LAPA) and within the third cycle of the Peace Festival, Alsarah and The Nubatones Band had a wonderful performance on October 23, 2018

at Al-Shaheed Park's amphitheater. The band performed a number of traditional Nubian songs on East African pop music with its fast beat and dances before a wide audience mainly including members of the Sudanese



community in Kuwait. Speaking on the concert's sidelines, Alsarah expressed her joy for performing in Kuwait for the first time and thanked LAPA and Al-Shaheed Park. Alsarah added that she is scheduled to perform in

New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia soon and that she is currently preparing to launch her third album. Alsarah is a singer and lyric writer of Sudanese origin, she was born in Sudan and currently resides in New York.



Health & Science

'Holy plant': Cannabis legalisation delights South African pot users

'We were given this holy plant by the ancestors'

JOHANNESBURG: A bucket containing a soupy green mixture sits under a table in Nduna Ewong-Nxumalo's consultation room in downtown Johannesburg, South Africa's economic hub. The traditional healer, or sangoma, has trusted and prescribed the pungent mixture — cannabis tea — to his patients for years. "We were given this holy plant by the ancestors," Ewong-Nxumalo told AFP, scooping out a cupful. "Healers who came before us and trained us showed us how to restore people's health with it," said the healer, wearing a leopard-skin vest and khaki trousers. "It is a plant to be respected and protected, and I'm happy the law is finally doing that."

Last month, South Africa's top court decriminalized the private and personal use of cannabis in a landmark case that pitted law enforcement agencies against advocates of the plant, known in the country as dagga. The Constitutional Court ruling changed attitudes overnight while bringing interim legal relief to those who use cannabis for medicinal purposes by decriminalizing the possession and cultivation of dagga for private use. Parliament has 24 months to iron out legislative details such as permitted quantities. For Sipelele Luthuli, 47, who was diagnosed with asthma in 2010, the court ruling has been a saving grace after years of secretly buying cannabis from a merchant in a dangerous part of Durban, on South Africa's southeastern coast. "Obviously it was illegal so I had my secret merchant," she said. "For me it's really liberating to be able to have access to it."

'Holy plant from ancestors'

Luthuli, a tourism entrepreneur, turned to cannabis in her quest for a natural alternative to a heavy cocktail of steroids, which she said caused water retention and subsequent weight gain. In 2014, her doctor did not object when she suggested trying home-brewed cannabis tea — at a fraction of the cost of the Western treatment. "I would boil

it and Google a recipe, even though with my measurements it wasn't that accurate. But I found solace in knowing that you can never overdose on weed because it's natural," Luthuli said.

After taking the cannabis tea for almost a year she went back for a check-up and was declared asthma-free, she said. Dagga is sometimes seen as a gateway drug to harder substances. But Siphon Ntanz, 23, a goat shearer, has steadfastly used it as a basic painkiller for years. The powers of cannabis have been an open secret in his family for generations. "When I was growing up, my uncle used to brew cannabis tea for himself at home and there was no problem or stigma attached to it," he said, adding: "No one had a problem with it unless you smoked it — then you would get into trouble."

As an adult, he started taking a cupful of the tea daily in the morning and evening. "After drinking it I feel stronger and my system is refreshed," Ntanz told AFP while sipping the tea at the sangoma's offices. Criticizing Western medicine for despising traditional herbal remedies such as cannabis, Ntanz said he takes a dose whenever he feels "a bit sick — to stop illness in its tracks".

A generational open secret

A 2007 study commissioned by the country's trade and industry ministry suggested that more than 26 million South Africans — nearly half the population — use traditional medicine, mostly derived from wild plants including cannabis, and some animals. Legislation prohibiting the sale of dagga in South Africa dates back to 1908.

The battle over its legalization has been waged in South Africa's courts since 2010, led by a group of activists who faced arrest for personal use in the past. While the Constitutional Court did not decriminalize the use of the drug in public nor the offences of supplying or dealing, the legalization of personal cannabis use has been met with some



Johannesburg: Gogo Phephile Maseko, 44, traditional healer and national coordinator of the Traditional Healers Organization (THO) of South Africa attends to patients on Oct 1, 2018 using a blend of cannabis and other herbs in a consultation room at their offices. — AFP

backlash. The lobbying group Doctors for Life disputes the veracity of claims about cannabis's medicinal powers. The conservative African Christian Democratic Party has also strongly condemned the court decision. But the leader of the Traditional Healers Organisation of South Africa, Phephile Maseko, says the ruling is a victory for all. "Finally we are

told, particularly by the Constitutional Court, that we can use traditional medicines... that's a real, real victory, not just to us as service providers but a victory to the clients and the patients that we service." Patients use cannabis for a slew of ailments including cancers, as well as colic, anxiety, insomnia and as an antiseptic, Maseko said. — AFP

Women's birth canals in Kenya, Korea, Kansas not the same: Study

PARIS: The size and shape of women's birth canals vary depending on what part of the world they live in but most medical textbooks are based on a European body type, scientists said yesterday, warning of health risks. Differences in the depth and width of the pelvic canal determine a newborn's route into the world, and forcing births to conform to a single standard can be harmful to mother and child, they reported in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B.

"An obstetrician's training is based on a model of the pelvis that has been developed from European women," said lead author Lia Betti, a senior lecturer in evolutionary anthropology at the University of Roehampton in London. "But the typical pelvic shape and typical childbirth pattern can differ among populations," she told AFP. "An update seems necessary, especially in a multi-ethnic society."

Women from sub-Saharan Africa, for example, tend to have a deeper canal, while — at the other extreme — native American women generally have a wider one, she explained. European and Asian women fall somewhere in between. This matters because, during birth, a baby rotates while travelling through the canal, aligning the sides of the head and shoulders to the channel's contours. "If a woman's birth canal is substantially different from the model described in textbooks, the movement of the baby will also deviate from the expected pat-

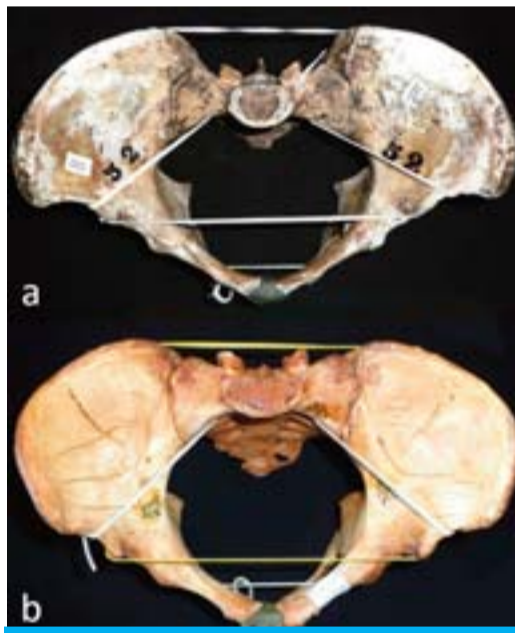
tern," Betti said. She cited examples from the early-to-mid 20th century of "horrendous consequences" when forceps were used to rotate babies during delivery, based on erroneous assumptions about the shape of the pelvis. X-raying pregnant women — standard practice well into the 1950s to determine the position of babies — helped provide the database highlighting differences in female anatomy. Some 300,000 women die during or shortly after childbirth each year, many due to "complications from delivery," according to the World Health Organization.

Far from Africa

One of those "complications" is the fact that humans have a big brain encased in bone. "Owing to the tight fit, the fetus needs to perform a series of rotations to successfully navigate the mother's birth canal," Betti explained. The shape of the female pelvis has also been described as an evolutionary compromise between a short, compact body suited for walking on two limbs, and a spacious pelvic canal for big-brained newborns. But none of this tells us why women in Namibia, Nanjing, and Norway have different internal architectures for giving birth. There are three possible explanations, none of them mutually exclusive, the authors said.

One is cold weather environments, which may have led to the emergence of wider hips — and, at the same time, a larger inlet to the birth canal — to reduce heat loss by increasing body mass for insulation. Some studies have suggested that natural selection may have helped to winnow out body types poorly suited to delivery. The evidence for both of these theories, however, is patchy at best. The most likely cause of variation, said Betti, has more to do with human migration.

Homo sapiens originated in Africa and dispersed rapidly into new continents 60,000 to 100,000 years ago — in the case of North American more recently. Each founding population was small, forming what is known as a genetic bottleneck. The fur-



The differences in pelvic canals, showing a more oval and wider pelvic canal (top) found to be more common in Europe and the Americas, while birth canals (down) that are more circular and deeper back-to-front are found more frequently in Africa and Asia. — AFP

ther from Africa, the less genetic diversity the migrant groups had. That means that whichever traits they shared — blond hair and fair skin in Scandinavia, for example — would dominate locally. Likewise for pelvic shapes and contours, which remain far more diverse in sub-Saharan Africa than elsewhere. "This is clear evidence that birth canal variation has been shaped by past population history," Betti said. "Distance from Africa explains a remarkable 43.5 percent of canal diversity within human populations." — AFP

Cancer risk in tall people down to number of cells

PARIS: Taller people have a higher risk of cancer "hard wired" into them partly because they have more cells for the disease to target, a study claimed yesterday. Researchers in the US examined populations across three continents and found that the risk of contracting cancer for both men and women increased 10 percent for every 10 centimeters in height. Cancer develops when the body's normal controls on cell growth stop working, leading to the runaway creation of abnormal cells that manifests as tumors.

A study published in the journal Proceedings of Royal Society B suggests that the risk of several types of cancer is likely higher in taller humans simply because they have more cells, and therefore more opportunities for those cells to become cancerous. "This means that this extra risk is 'hard wired' and cannot in any obvious way be reduced," lead study author Leonard Nunney of the University of California Riverside told AFP.

It is thought that some larger mammals such as elephants and giraffes — whose bodies have a far greater number of cells than smaller creatures — have evolved additional safeguards against cancer. But there is no evidence that this works the same in individuals within a single species, such as humans. Average height varies among regions but in the United States, men are on average 176 cm (five feet nine inches) tall, and women 162 cm.

While scientists have known for a while that taller people tend to be at higher cancer risk, Nunney's study into human populations in the US, Europe and South Korea found that this may be because they have more cells in which something can go wrong. In particular, taller people were shown to be at increased risk of melanoma because they have a higher rate of cell division — and, simply, more skin — than people of average height. However, the risk of stomach, mouth and cervical cancer in women didn't seem to be affected by height. While height is largely determined by an individual's genes, Nunney said that childhood environment also has an effect, and therefore likely impacts associated cancer risks. "Environmental and genetic factors acting during childhood both have a strong effect on adult height," he said. "There is no reason to believe that their effects on cancer risk would be different, since the driver is the number of cells, not why or how an individual ended up with a given number of cells." — AFP

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Consultant General Surgery, Laparoscopic & Colo - Rectal Surgeon

daralshifa
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Consultant of General Surgery
Laposcopic and Bariatric Surgery

Academic Certificates - Training

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

Scope of clinical Practice.

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

email: wbuhaimed@gmail.com Tel.: 965 22269411/ Mob.: 965 99212228 Jabriya, 4th Ring Road, Block 1A Floor 9 - Clover Center Mazaya Building

Stars

CROSSWORD 2043



ACROSS

1. Characteristic of a mob.
2. The act of slowing down or falling behind.
15. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
16. Wormlike larva of various elaterid beetles.
17. A hospital unit staffed and equipped to provide intensive care.
18. One of a family of granular intrusive rocks.
20. (Sumerian and Babylonian) A solar deity.
21. A pass between mountain peaks.
22. The content of cognition.
23. A son who has the same first name as his father.
25. Ancient Persian god of light and truth.
27. Infestation of the pubic hair by crab lice.
31. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
34. Large herbivorous tropical American arboreal lizards with a spiny crest along the back.
36. Having the leading position or higher score in a contest.
38. Alcoholic drink from fermented cider ('cider' and 'cyder' are European (especially British) usage for the fermented beverage).
42. Mythical bird of prey having enormous size and strength.
44. Escape, either physically or mentally.
45. Comprises tropical American species usually placed in genus *Masdevallia*.
48. Informal abbreviation of 'representative'.
49. A small island.
50. (Norse mythology) God of poetry and music.
53. A ductile gray metallic element of the lanthanide series.
55. English historian noted for his history of England (1800-1859).
59. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
60. A small cake leavened with yeast.
64. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
68. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
71. The 4th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
73. An affirmative.
74. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
76. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
77. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
78. Genus of tropical American timber trees.
79. A light touch or stroke.

DOWN

1. (New Testament) The sages who visited Jesus and Mary and Joseph shortly after Jesus was born.
2. Toward the mouth or oral region.
3. A very young child (birth to 1 year) who has not yet begun to walk or talk.
4. A nuclear reactor that uses water as a coolant and moderator.
5. Dry red table wine from the Rioja region of northern Spain.
6. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
7. A fractional monetary unit of Japan and Indonesia and Cambodia.
8. A large and hurried swallow.
9. An electrically charged particle.
10. A Ukrainian peninsula between the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.
11. A particular environment or surrounding influence.
12. Chinese fruit having a thin brittle shell enclosing a sweet jellylike pulp and a single seed.
13. Fruit of the oak tree.
14. A Russian prison camp for political prisoners.
19. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
24. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali metal group.
26. A track or mark left by something that has passed.
28. A unit of absorbed ionizing radiation equal to 100 ergs per gram of irradiated material.
29. Perennial of wet and marshy places in the northern hemisphere.
30. Any of several large turkey-like game birds of the family Cracidae.
32. Traveling on horseback.
33. Of or like a cecum.
35. United States evangelical preacher famous as a mass evangelist (born in 1918).
37. Jordan's port.
39. Of or relating to the dura mater.
40. Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
41. Pay back.
43. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
46. Tropical American trees with palmately compound leaves and showy bell-shaped flowers.
47. A region of northern France on the English Channel.
51. An amino acid that is found in the central nervous system.
52. Of or belonging to or suitable for a duke.
54. A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
56. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
57. Lower in esteem.
58. A small unit serving as the nucleus of a larger political movement.
61. Advanced in years.
62. The length of a straight line passing through the center of a circle and connecting two points on the circumference.
63. Having or demonstrating ability to recognize or draw fine distinctions.
65. Having been read.
66. An inactive volcano in Sicily.
67. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
69. The residue that remains when something is burned.
70. A secret agent hired by a state to obtain (military) information about its enemies or by a business to obtain industrial secrets from competitors.
72. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
75. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You have a desire to make a lasting first impression on everyone you meet. You take care of yourself and even tuning a year older doesn't seem to phase you. You have been paying extra attention to how others may see you. Your appearance and style are a focal point in your life now. You want to be a head turner. Romance becomes a focus for you and probably a driving factor behind the way you are taking care of yourself. It is a time you may find yourself indulging in the finer things life has to offer. You feel good about spoiling yourself.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Contrast is evident in your life today. That's doesn't have to mean conflict. There is a difference. Cultivate your fun-loving, romantic side. But, don't ignore your uncomfortable, needy feelings. Your insecurities make you more compassionate toward those who are looking for comfort. They will find you reassuring. You will bring peace into the lives of others today.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This may be a time to keep to yourself. A cool front seems to have moved in. Your usual warm caring personality seems to have been cooled off. Cold and hard have taken the place of the usual warm and loving side of you. This is not a good day to present yourself to others. First impressions last a lifetime and you would not make a good one today. This would be a day to skip any job interview or first date. Spend some time to yourself and find your happy place. The old you will emerge when you bring peace and happiness back into your world.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Let your creative juices flow. Use that nervous energy to be creative. That which is unique and special about you will have you in the limelight today. Those close to you will be very appreciative of these qualities. Place your focus on your problem-solving skills. Take some time for yourself today to reflect, regroup, and reorganize. Cancer, leave those big decisions on the back burner today and do not let anything dull your shine! You may find yourself deep in thought struggling with a big decision but for today, let it be.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You have friends of all ages, all walks of life, all cultures, and different races. You may find this to be a very healthy environment. It is always beneficial to try to see things from others perspectives. This evening could find you exchanging ideas and obtaining other's outlooks on life. This is a very enlightening time for you. Always keep an open mind. Knowledge is power and you can gain much seeing things through other's eyes. Enjoy your evening with friends, Leo. You may find this to be a great time and a wonderful learning experience for you.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You have friends of all ages, all walks of life, all cultures, and different races. You may find this to be a very healthy environment. It is always beneficial to try to see things from others perspectives. This evening could find you exchanging ideas and obtaining other's outlooks on life. This is a very enlightening time for you. Always keep an open mind. Knowledge is power and you can gain much seeing things through other's eyes. Enjoy your evening with friends, Leo. You may find this to be a great time and a wonderful learning experience for you.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Breaking away from the old and preparing for the new is strong on your mind today. You long for a fresh start. A surge of independence has come over you. You tend to be easily bored with life and always want to reach beyond the horizon. Today finds you ready to make the changes that will feed this desire. Others may notice a change in you today. From your outfit to your hairstyle. Today will be full of changes. An almost mischievous side of you will emerge.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Things may seem too good to be true. In an almost magical sense it seems that all of your dreams are coming true. Goals seem attainable now. Everything seems to be falling in your lap. You are being smiled upon and you have a new love for life. This is the result of your hard work and dedication. You may find that karma has a way of repaying your good deeds and there seems to be no other explanation for this vast array of good fortune. This is a great time to get all of your affairs in order and continue to dream big, Scorpio.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may be feeling drawn and even turned on by that which is taboo. Sex, power, and the pursuit of wealth are beginning to be a driving force behind your emotions. You are fascinated by people. What makes the do the things they do? What makes them tick? You desire a fresh start in your life and major changes. You know this may only be accomplished by turning your back on all you believed and starting over with an open mind and a new outlook on life in general, Sagittarius. Sometimes a fresh start is just what we all need to succeed.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may find yourself having emotional differences with someone. This could cause you to become frustrated. There may be someone or something that just doesn't feel right to you and your are unable to put your finger on it. Trust your gut on this one. You are usually a great judge of character and able to know who and who not to keep in your circle. This is one of those people that you do not need to allow to become a part of your life. You can save yourself some heartache by walking away.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

It seems you may find yourself in a power struggle. You may find someone challenging you concerning a very private matter. Your personal issues are just that, personal! You may find someone invades your space and this could lead to conflict. Respect is something that is a priority in your world. Not only to treat others with respect, you demand to be treated as such. You are ambitious and practical and may find this a time you are able to work well with others developing strong teams who will be able to accomplish big goals.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may find yourself having emotional differences with someone. This could cause you to become frustrated. There may be someone or something that just doesn't feel right to you and your are unable to put your finger on it. Trust your gut on this one. You are usually a great judge of character and able to know who and who not to keep in your circle. This is one of those people that you do not need to allow to become a part of your life. You can save yourself some heartache by walking away.

Wordsearch Puzzle

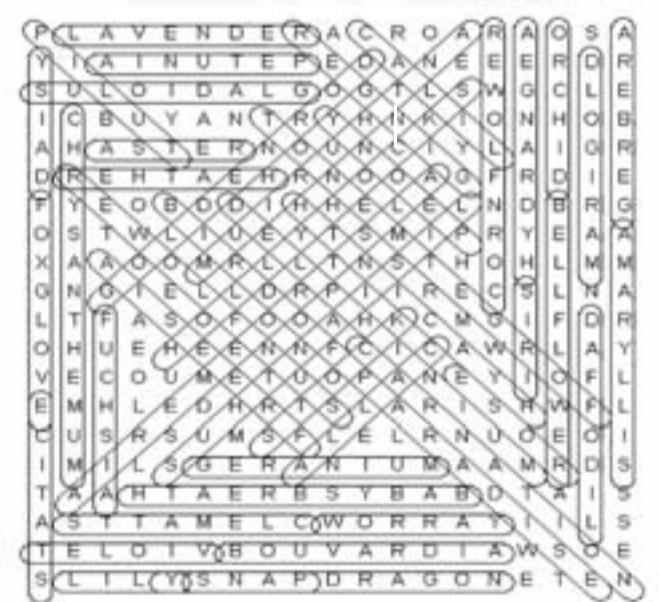
Fourth Of July

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an Abraham Lincoln quotation.



- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| BALD EAGLE | CONCERTS | HOLIDAY | PATRIOTIC |
| BALLOONS | DECORATIONS | HOT DOGS | PHILADELPHIA |
| BARBECUE | DEMOCRACY | INDEPENDENCE | PICNIC |
| BASEBALL | FIREWORKS | JOHN ADAMS | RED WHITE BLUE |
| BEN FRANKLIN | FLAG | LIBERTY | STARS AND STRIPES |
| BETSY ROSS | FLOATS | NATIONAL ANTHEM | STREAMERS |
| CAKE | FREEDOM | NATIONHOOD | THOMAS JEFFERSON |
| CARNIVAL | GREAT BRITAIN | PARADE | USA |
| CELEBRATION | HAMBURGERS | PARTY | WHITE HOUSE |
| COLONIES | HISTORY | | |

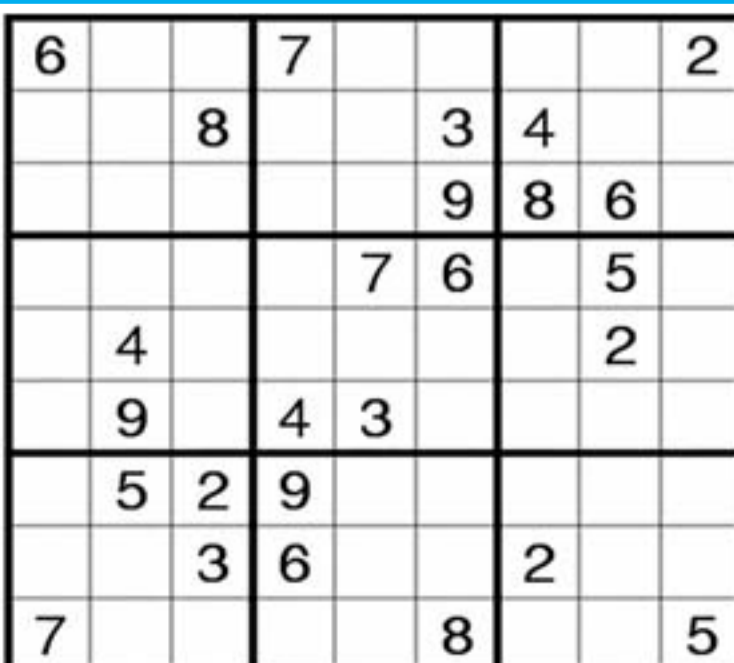
Flowers



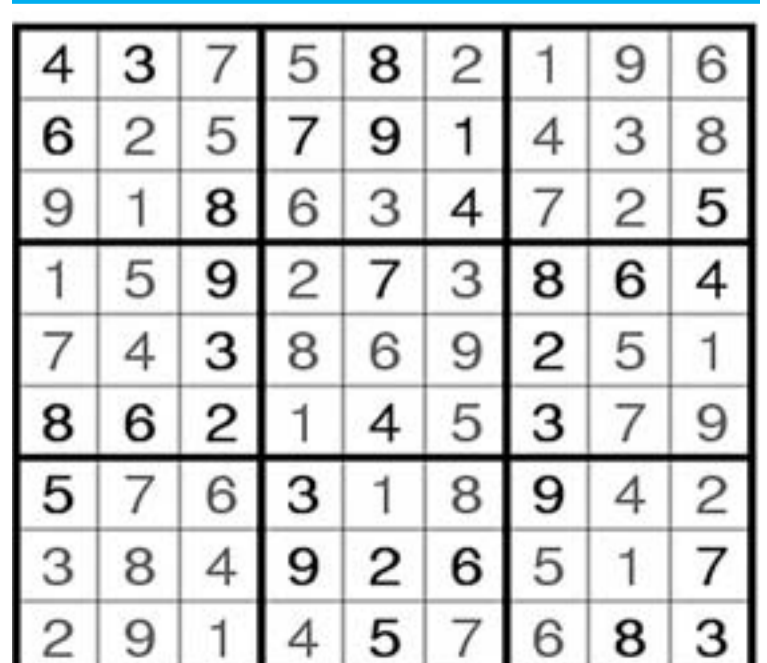
- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| ALSTROEMERIA | CORNFLOWER | GOLDEN ROO | PANSY |
| AMARYLLIS | DAFFODIL | HEATHER | PEONY |
| ANTHURUM | DAISY | HOLLYHOCKS | PETUNIA |
| ASTER | DELPHINIUM | HYACINTH | ROSE |
| BABY'S BREATH | FORGET-ME-NOT | HYDRANGEA | SNAPDRAGON |
| BELL FLOWER | FOXGLOVE | IRIS | STATICE |
| BIRD OF PARADISE | FREESIA | LAVENDER | STOCK |
| BOUVARDIA | FUCHSIA | LILAC | SUNFLOWER |
| CALLA | GERANIUM | LILY | TULIP |
| CARNATION | GERBERA | LISSANTHUS | VIOLET |
| CHRYSANTHEMUM | GINGER | MARGOLD | YARROW |
| CLEMATIS | GLADIOLUS | ORCHID | |

The hidden sentence is: A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME WOULD SMELL AS SWEET

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2018



Families visit a pumpkin patch in Irvine, California on the second-to-last weekend before Halloween. Spending in the US this year is expected to reach \$9 billion as more than 175 million Americans are expected to partake in Halloween festivities. — AFP

Decades of war shatter Afghanistan's glassblowing craft

Hunched and shriveled, Afghan glassblower Ghulam Sakhi deftly blows and twirls molten glass into delicate blue and green goblets and vases—a craft passed down for generations but now at risk of dying out. Sakhi is one of the last makers of Herati glassware in the eponymous western city where the once-thriving industry has been shattered by decades of war, poverty, and cheap imports. The brick and corrugated iron workshop where Sakhi toils only operates a few days a month owing to the lack of demand for the distinctive coloured glassware that is more expensive than Chinese-made products. “People don't value art,” says Sakhi, who is in his mid-40s but looks much older. He began working with his glassblower father when he was seven.

Sakhi sits on a low stool next to a wood-fired clay oven, occasionally wiping away sweat as the temperature inside the workshop soars above 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit). His eldest son Habibullah works alongside him, scraping shards of glass-mixed with copper or iron powder to create a blue or green tint—into a bubbling pot of molten liquid inside the furnace. Sakhi sticks an iron blow-pipe into the fiery mixture, gently spinning it like a honey twirler. After extracting the rod, he swings, blows and rolls the molten glass into shape before firing it in a kiln.

The tools and techniques used by Sakhi have barely changed in generations, although instead of making glass from quartz, glassblowers now recycle bottles and broken windows, which are “easier to find”. “It's not going to last another generation,” says Sakhi, whose family have been



Afghan man glassblower Ghulam Sakhi, mid-40s, crafts a glass object at his traditional glassblowing workshop in Herat province. — AFP photos

making Herati glass for “200 or 300 years”.

‘Already finished’

Decades of war have driven away foreign tourists who used to be drawn to Herat, a city steeped in history as a trading hub on the ancient Silk Road and the 15th century capital of the Timurid empire. Most Afghans also prefer cheaper Chinese-made imports over hand-made glassware that breaks easily, says Sakhi. “They think when they buy imports from China they are going to be better quality,” he explains. The only hints of modernity in the smoky workshop are Sakhi's blue Nokia mobile phone lying next to him and an electric fan whirring furiously in the searing heat.

Sultan Ahmad Hamidi, the white bearded owner of the workshop who spends his days lolling on a sofa in his store selling Herati glassware, trinkets and handicrafts, despairs for the



Afghan man Sultan Ahmad Hamidi, 78, looks on as he sells Herati glassware, at his handicrafts shop.

future of his business. “Thirty to 40 years ago people were lining up to buy glass here—as many as 100 tourists a day,” says Hamidi, 78. His store, which is across a busy street from the city's main mosque, is crammed with Herati glass goblets, vases and bowls that are gathering dust. With prices starting around \$6, it takes a month to sell 100 pieces, he complains.

As the craft declines, survival becomes a growing challenge for Sakhi and his family. Habibullah supplements their meagre income from glassblowing by ferrying passengers around the city in a three-wheeled motorbike taxi. But without government support or tourism, Sakhi fears he could be the last of Herat's glassblowers. “I'm very sad,” he says. “If it stays like this it's already finished.” — AFP

Paris auction house braces for Banksy sale after shredding

Paris auction house Artcurial held its breath yesterday ahead of the sale of four works by Banksy, unsure what to expect following the enigmatic artist's shredding of a painting just moments after it went under the hammer. Artcurial said security would be tight for Wednesday evening's sale and that this time, no hidden shredding devices appeared to be concealed in the frames—but with Banksy, you just never know. “We are going to be particularly vigilant. We've put security measures in place but we'll be looking to keep it discreet and as light as possible,” Arnaud Oliveux, the contemporary art specialist in charge of the sale, told AFP. “There won't be 10 heavies in every room,” he added.

Banksy, a British street artist whose identity is known to only a handful of friends, caused a sensation this month when one of his paintings began shredding itself, just after selling for \$1.4 million (1.2 million euros). Experts say “Girl with Balloon” is now probably worth even more because the stunt created such a massive media stir. Oliveux predicted that if anything out of the ordinary happens in Paris, “it won't be a repeat” of the stunt that flabbergasted a room of champagne-sipping auction-goers at Sotheby's in London. For one thing, the frames around the three paintings up for grabs are on the slender side, meaning it would be difficult to hide a shredding device of the kind used in London, which Banksy concealed under a thick wooden frame.

Background checks

Artcurial has nonetheless done background checks on attendees—not least after speculation that it may have been Banksy himself who triggered the shredding device inside the room at Sotheby's. “We've asked them to identify themselves, we've made a few enquiries,” Oliveux said. The sale, which also features other celebrated street artists such as France's JR and US duo FAILE, includes three silkscreens by Banksy as well as a plastic statuette of a rat holding a paintbrush. Oliveux acknowledged there was more interest in this sale than there would have been pre-shredding.

The Banksy works have been on show at Artcurial's elegant auction house on the Champs-Élysées roundabout, and many visitors have been pausing to take a look. As for the shredding of “Girl With Balloon”—now renamed “Love Is In

the Bin”—Banksy has admitted things didn't go according to plan. He posted a video on YouTube showing it was supposed to have been fully shredded, and that during test-runs it worked perfectly each time. But when the prank was finally carried out, only the bottom half of the painting shredded—because, he revealed, it got stuck. The woman who had just bought the work for £1,042,000 — a female European collector whose identity has not been revealed—said she was stunned when the device began whirring into motion. “I was at first shocked, but gradually I began to realize that I would end up with my own piece of art history,” Sotheby's quoted her as saying. Alex Branczik, head of Sotheby's Contemporary Art in Europe, has meanwhile hailed the self-destructing painting as “the first artwork in history to have been created live during an auction”. “Banksy didn't destroy an artwork in the auction, he created one,” Branczik added. — AFP



Afghan man glassblower Ghulam Sakhi, mid-40s, crafts a glass object at his traditional glassblowing workshop.



Ghulam Sakhi, mid-40s, crafts a glass object.



Steve Mac would love to write with Coldplay

Steve Mac admits Coldplay are top of his wish list of artists he wants to work with. The acclaimed songwriter has penned tracks for the likes of Ed Sheeran, Little Mix, Leona Lewis and Anne-Marie among many others and is very much in-demand in the studio but he is hoping for a call from Chris Martin to create a song for the 'Paradise' hitmakers. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz at the ASCAP London Music Awards on Tuesday, he said: "You know what? I've pretty much worked with everyone that I've wanted to. Listen, if Coldplay call up or Florence Welch calls up or somebody like that, I won't turn it down." Steve is also a fan of Liam Gallagher and would be interested in working with the former Oasis frontman on his second album - the follow-up to 2017's 'As You Were' - but he thinks it's unlikely to happen. He added: "I'm not sure I'm cool enough for Liam, I'm not sure I'm going to

get that call." Steve was on-hand to collect a slew of awards including ASCAP Song of the Year and ASCAP Top Digital Song for 'Shape of You', the global smash he penned with Ed and Johnny McDaid. The music maestro is beyond thrilled with the success of the 2017 single which has achieved over a billion streams on Spotify and topped the charts in countries all over the world and he admits it's a great feeling to have created such an iconic song. Speaking about the impact the song has had on his career, Steve said: "I've gone from Susan Boyle and the middle of the road stuff to the last year-and-a-half going back to doing pop music and it's just been extraordinary. Just absolutely loved it. Having the best time of my life."

Noel Gallagher: Liam doesn't need Oasis money

Noel Gallagher can't understand why his brother Liam wants to reform Oasis because he "must be loaded". The 51-year-old rocker was stunned to see so many of his fans dressed from head to toe in garments from his younger sibling's clothing label Pretty Green and thinks the popularity of the brand means the former Beady Eye frontman must be financially secure. He said: "Kids with their dads, all of them dressed in Pretty Green. I was saying to my mam, why does he want to get Oasis back together, he must be loaded." While Noel has been vocal about his desire not to get back with Oasis - who split due to tensions between the Gallagher brothers in 2009 - their songs still play an important part of his solo setlists. He quipped: "It's easy, you just do 'Wonderwall' and 'Don't Look Back in Anger' then work backwards from that, that's worth 50 quid of anybody's money, right? That's a fact. You've only got to justify the other £75 then." The 'Holy Mountain' singer also admitted he's not afraid to rework his own old material for new songs. Speaking at the launch of his book 'Any Road Will Get Us There (If We Don't Know Where We're Going)' at Kings Place in London, on Tuesday he said: "There's only so many times you can write a song about the rain and use the word shine and I've got away with it shedloads. I'll never stop trying to... I've used the chord for 'Wonderwall' six times now and it's not drying up yet."



StDon wins Vanguard Award at 2018 ASCAP London Music Awards

Stefflon Don was honored with the Vanguard Award at the ASCAP London Music Awards on Tuesday. The 26-year-old rapper received the prestigious gong - which recognizes the impact of outstanding ASCAP members that are helping to shape the future of music - during the awards evening held at One Marylebone by The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). Speaking as she accepted her award, Stefflon said: "I just want to thank ASCAP so much for giving me this award, it means a lot and for them to think that I'm going to be part of the musical future is beautiful. "I want to say thank you to everybody who has always believed in me I hope you are going to continue to shine and continue to do bigger and better things, I can't wait for next year for you guys to hear all the big releases I've got coming." And the 'Calypso' hitmaker - who also opened the ceremony with a performance of her hit single 'Hurtin' Me' - hopes the trophy will open doors for her, after "big sensation" Dua Lipa was handed the honor last year. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz on the red carpet, she said: "It feels good to be appreciated. Dua Lipa won here last year and she's a big thing now, a big sensation so this does mean a lot." Alongside Stefflon, Tom Walker - who performed his track 'Light On' - was also given a Vanguard Award. Elsewhere in the evening, Steve Mac was the biggest winner as he took home seven awards, including Song of the Year and Top Digital Song for Ed Sheeran's smash hit 'Shape of You', which peaked at number one in the singles charts of 34 countries. The musician and record producer also scored three awards in the Hot 100 Winning Songs category, for 'Strip That Down' by Liam Payne, 'What About Us' by Pink, and Clean Bandit track 'Rockabye'.

Andrea Bocelli praises Dua Lipa

Andrea Bocelli has praised Dua Lipa's talents and loved working with her in the studio. The Italian tenor collaborated with both Ed Sheeran and the 'New Rules' hitmaker on his new album 'Si', and he was delighted with the chance to team up with them both. He told The Sun newspaper's Bizarre column: "I loved Dua's voice - it's very recognizable and has a lot of tension. "With Ed, he has a great determination and lots to communicate, and he does that in a sincere way. He's a great guy." The 59-year-old singer - who received the Classic BRIT Icon Award this year - was keen to start a new chapter with his first LP in 14 and channel his youth, which led to collaborations with Josh Groban and even his own son Matteo. He previously said: "I wanted to go back to my memories of being a young man, playing at a piano bar. Obviously since then, I've produced lots of albums, sung lots of covers, performed many other things. "But at a certain point I said to myself: 'Maybe the time has come to put my effort into finding new songs.' "Like starting all over again, as it were, in my career." The record will be his 16th studio release since his debut 'Il Mare Calmo della Sera' in 1994, and he has now given the secret to his longevity. Explaining the need to avoid narcissism and alcohol, he added: "It's a mistake to fall in love too much with yourself and what you've done."



Cudi is working on a new album

Kid Cudi has started working on his next album. The 34-year-old star - whose most-recent solo album is 2016's 'Passion, Pain & Demon Slayin' - has given his fans a clue as to when they can expect his much-anticipated new record to arrive. In reply to one of his fans searching for new music, he wrote on Twitter: "I just started the new album! Taking my time w it tho but im thinkin next year sometime? Would that be cool? Huh? Tell me? Would that be ok. "Got some tasty features comin out soon in the meantime. (sic)" Cudi has recently been working with outspoken rap star Kanye West on their joint album 'Kids See Ghosts', which was released earlier this year. And Cudi has revealed that he made a conscious decision to adopt a more upbeat tone on the record. He shared: "I chose to write the light. "Me and Kanye both agreed that we wanted to create a spiritual album. I know kids are used to hearing me talk about darkness, but I'm living in the light now." In 2016, Cudi admitted to struggling with depression and checking himself into a rehab facility. The rapper can still vividly remember his own mindset as he was entering the facility. He shared: "I was thinking of ways to do it. It scared me straight. What scared me was that my mind was willing to go there. After all these years." But Cudi has insisted he's now in a much happier place in his life. He told GQ magazine: "I'm not battling any demons right now. Thank God."

Posthumous Avicii album being discussed by label and parents



A posthumous Avicii album may be released using unheard music from the late DJ. The star - who tragically passed away in April, aged 28 - is said to have had "several songs" which hadn't been unveiled before his death, and his friend Aloe Blacc has confirmed there are discussions about letting fans hear them. He told the Daily Star newspaper: "There are several songs left. I believe the record label is working with his parents and the estate to find a way to bring these unreleased songs to the public. "But for me there's no rush - I would leave that with his parents." While Nile Rodgers recently revealed he also has "at least" 10 unreleased songs he recorded with Avicii - whose real name is Tim Bergling - and praised the DJ's knack for creating a hit song. He previously said: "Between Avicii and me, there's at least ten, at least. We laughed all the time. I used to say, 'You put Tim and I in a room and we can do the entire Top 20 in, like, two or three weeks.' " Now, it appears Aloe was also in the studio at the time as he revealed he was working with them both on the sessions. He added: "I think I did a couple of songs in the session with Nile as well." Aloe - who will release his own festive album 'Christmas Funk' next month ahead of another LP in 2019 - took time to praise his friend's huge hit 'Wake Me Up!', which topped the charts in 22 countries. He said: "It's still a song of celebrations and nostalgia, and hope for the future. I think the hope for the future part is even stronger. "Avicii's death has been a call to a lot of young folks for people to take better care of themselves and surround themselves with people who are looking out for their best interests."

Nile Rodgers' therapeutic music



Nile Rodgers' music is "therapy" for his mother, who is battling Alzheimer's. The CHIC star has revealed that he and his mom Beverly like to discuss his music in a bid to help her and himself through the difficult time. He said: "My mom is dying right now from Alzheimer's. It's taken somewhat of a toll on me mentally ... So after starting to visit her more I realized that - and this was something I found really hard to come to terms with - her reality and the rest of the world's reality are so totally different to one another. And the most, or at least what feels like the most, kind way for me to help my mother live the rest of her life the best way it can be lived is to enter her reality, because I can always leave but she can't leave. So when she starts talking about the same thing over and over again I act like it's the first time we've said it. "I'll say, 'Hey mom, I've got a new record,' and it doesn't mean anything to her. I mean, it'll mean something to her in the moment. She'll say, 'Really, wow.' 'Yeah, it's the first time we've had a Top 10 since 1979.' 'Oh my God, darling that's fantastic, where did you do that?' 'Well, we did it in the UK.' 'So, what's going on now sweetheart?' 'Oh well, mom it's the first time we've had a Top 10 since...' so it's like that, you know?" And the 66-year-old musician doesn't know if it's "comfort" for his mother or not. He added: "I don't know if it's actually comfort. I don't wanna judge or even guess as to what it is. All I wanna do is let her be in it, just let her be there."



Lifestyle | Gossip

Pixar's co-founder Catmull announces his retirement



Pixar co-founder Ed Catmull has announced his retirement. The 73-year-old president of Walt Disney and Pixar Animation Studios - who pioneered animated movies with the likes of 'Toy Story' and 'The Incredibles' - has confirmed his plans to bring an end to an illustrious career. As explained by the Hollywood Reporter, it means 2019 will be the first year that none of the company's original co-founders will work for Pixar - although he still plans to remain an adviser for a while to ease the transition until a successor has been announced. He said in a statement: "I have the mixed emo-

tions that come with stepping away from a group of people I love, but also with the utmost pride and pleasure that we now have at both Pixar and Disney Animation the most dedicated and imaginative leaders I have worked with." The studio he helped create is currently looking ahead to 'Toy Story 4', and Tim Allen - who voices Buzz Lightyear in the franchise - recently revealed the film will have a very emotional ending. Asked whether he's been working hard on the movie, Tim previously explained: "Yes, I gotta resist getting emotional. I don't want to give it away, but this is an incredibly great story. "It is so emotional, it's so funny,

it's so big, the idea they've come up with, I'm startled. I couldn't even get through the last scene. I would love to be a Washington leaker." Despite this, Tim tried his best to not reveal too many of the film's secrets. He added: "I just can't do it. I can't give any more away. They've got great characters but a couple of scenes toward the end were really hard to get through."

Disney wants to reboot Pirates of the Caribbean

Disney is reportedly seeking a reboot of its popular 'Pirates of the Caribbean' franchise. The studio is exploring the possibility of launching a reboot of the Johnny Depp-fronted blockbuster after five films and grossing more than \$4 billion since it started with 2003's hugely successful first installment 'The Curse of the Black Pearl', which featured Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightly alongside Depp. Disney has reportedly met with 'Deadpool's' writing duo Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick to pen the script and are in "early talks" following their success with the superhero franchise and previous satirical comedies like 'Zombieland' and its sequel '6 Underground'. Reese and Wernick will take over from Ted Elliot and Terry Rossio after they wrote the first four films, including 'Dead Man's Chest', and Jeff Nathanson, who penned the fifth installment 'Dead Men Tell No Tales'. The latest film in the franchise - which starred Kaya Scodelario and Brenton Thwaites - proved to be a disappointment after it only grossed \$172 million in the US, as compared to the four previous films, which earned an average of \$320 million per film. Jerry Bruckheimer - one of the original producers of the money-spinning franchise - will stay on as a producer, assuming the ambition does become a reality. However, it is yet to be confirmed whether Depp will reprise his iconic role as the drunken pirate, Captain Jack Sparrow.



Hodge cast as Pennyworth in Joker

Douglas Hodge has been cast as Batman's future butler Alfred Pennyworth in 'Joker'. The 58-year-old actor - who previously starred in 'Penny Dreadful' - has been cast in the role of Batman's iconic butler in the Todd Phillips-directed project, which sees Joaquin Phoenix star as the Joker. Dante Pereira-Olson - who played a young version of Joaquin's character in 'You Were Never Really Here' - has also been cast in the movie, with the up-and-coming star set to play Bruce Wayne, ComicBook.com reports. However, it's unclear how big of a role Bruce will actually play in the upcoming movie. Other big-name stars set to appear in 'Joker' include Robert De Niro and Zazie Beetz. Meanwhile, Joaquin previously explained that the 'Joker' movie will be unlike many earlier comic-book films. The Hollywood star said that the eagerly awaited effort won't seamlessly fit into a particular genre. He revealed: "I wouldn't quite classify this as like any genre. "I wouldn't say it's a superhero movie, or a studio movie or a ... It feels unique, and I think more than anything, and probably the most important thing, is Todd seems very passionate about it and very giving, and so that's exciting. "I think, underneath the excitement of these films, and the size of them, there are these incredible characters that are dealing with real life struggles. "And sometimes that is uncovered and exposed, and sometimes it isn't, and so I always felt, like, there were characters in comics that were really interesting and deserve the opportunity to be kind of studied. And so I think that's what Todd sees appealing about this idea."

Boynton opens up on Malek's Bohemian Rhapsody transformation

Lucy Boynton says Rami Malek was "a stranger" on the set of 'Bohemian Rhapsody'. The 24-year-old actress plays Freddie Mercury's long-time friend and former fiancée Mary Austin in the biopic, and she admitted her co-star's transformation into the Queen frontman was remarkable. Speaking about the feeling Freddie was actually stood there with them, she told HeyUGuys: "Yeah, totally, until you see Rami Malek in the makeup trailer at the end of the day without everything and it's like there's a stranger on our set. "And then you come to work and it's Freddie, and it's like, well, that's a person I know." Boynton stunned in a pink gown as she was joined by fellow actors Malek, Ben Hardy and Gwilym Lee - and Queen legends Brian May and Roger Taylor - at the film's premiere on Tuesday at London's Wembley Arena. The 'Murder on the Orient Express' star - who has been romantically linked to Malek since April - admitted there was a feeling that his performance was "something very special". She added: "I think we could all see it on set. What you see in the film is what we saw on set, he just completely disappeared and was totally Freddie. "It was incredible, it was amazing to have that energy. But yeah, you were very much aware that something very special is happening." The movie wasn't without its difficulties, and just three months into shooting director Bryan Singer was replaced by Dexter Fletcher who completed the film. Asked about how it impacted the feeling on set, Boynton explained: "Rami set the tone and energy on set everyday. Because that was constant without the entire shoot, that was a really powerful constant to have."



Butler wants his movies to inspire



Gerard Butler wants his movies to inspire people. The 'Hunter Killer' star hopes that movie goes away from the cinema when they've seen his action heavy flicks wanting to be "more courageous" in their lives. He said: "In some ways they are inspiring in that kind of way that humans want to go and be entertained and come out and go, 'Yeah, I want to be more courageous', or, 'I want to stand up for myself', or, 'I want to find something that's worth sacrificing for.' That's ultimately one of the reasons why I like making these big movies." And the 48-year-old actor loves it when an action film just "works" because there's not better cinematic experience, in his opinion. He added to Uproxx: "We always try our best but sometimes you make a movie and you go, 'OK, that really didn't work'. But, when it works, honestly, there is nothing better. There is nothing better than walking into a room and feeling the excitement of somebody who has watched a 300 or a Hunter Killer. Because there are always high stakes and there are always big ideas. You make these movies with original content, original ideas - not some intellectual property - and you're therefore dangling a little more, you know? You could fall on your a**". So, therefore, when it works, it's so exciting because of those high stakes. When they work they are incredibly exciting, thrilling, fun."

Holmes to star in The Boy 2

Katie Holmes has signed on to star in the horror sequel 'The Boy 2'. The 39-year-old actress will replace Lauren Cohan in the lead role for the sequel to the 2016 movie, with William Brent Bell returning to direct the Stacey Menear-written film. Lakeshore Entertainment's Tom Rosenberg - who will serve as a producer of the movie - explained: "Following the success of 'The Boy', we are thrilled to be working on the next chapter of this chilling Brahms story with Stacey and William. We are also delighted to be continuing our relationship with STX, on this, our third partnership." Tom, Gary Lucchesi and Eric Reid will produce the project alongside Matt Berenson, Jim Wedaa and Roy Lee, and production is scheduled to begin in Victoria, Canada, on January 14. Meanwhile, Katie - who has a 12-year-old daughter called Suri with her ex-husband Tom Cruise - previously discussed the challenge of balancing her work life with her responsibilities as a parent. The Hollywood star explained that while she's committed to her career, her daughter remains her top priority. She said: "My child is the most important person to me, and her upbringing is paramount to my work right now. "It's very important that I'm present and she has a stable, innocent childhood. I feel so blessed to do what I do, but there's nothing in the world better than watching your child succeed."



May says Freddie Mercury 'would have loved' Bohemian Rhapsody

Brian May thinks Freddie Mercury "would have loved" 'Bohemian Rhapsody'. The Queen guitarist - who starred alongside the iconic musician in the band - has hailed the long-awaited biopic, but insisted it is "not a Queen movie, it's a Freddie movie". Speaking at the film's world premiere at Wembley Arena in London on Tuesday Brian explained: "The whole deal was to do Freddie justice in a way that he would enjoy and would be worthy of him. "It's all there, the humor is there, the talent is there, the heart-break is there. "There's a lot of tears and a lot of joy in this movie. So yes, it's always Freddie. Freddie, Freddie, Freddie. Because this is the one chance we got to make the film about Freddie." The movie has been a decade in the making and Brian - who was a driving force behind

the project - admitted that being able to attend the premiere was a special moment for himself. The 71-year-old musician - who was joined at the premiere by the likes of Rami Malek, who plays Freddie in the movie, and bandmate Roger Taylor - told Sky News: "I feel very over-excited. "We're like children ... because of course you expect it because we've been on this journey, we've seen the film a lot, but this moment is very special. "It's a one-off. Who would ever think this would happen in their lifetime?" Brian is played by Gwilym Lee in the film and he was impressed by the actor's performance. He said: "My kids saw the trailer and they said, 'Dad, you must have done the voice for him.' "I said no, he's an actor, he's a great actor. He really is." — BangShowbiz



Lifestyle | Features

Sleeping beauties: Artist revives Lebanon's abandoned historic buildings

Dotted with bullet holes and scarred by war, a once iconic hotel in Lebanon abandoned for more than 40 years is coming back to life through the paintings of an artist on a mission to revive the memories of its glorious past. British artist Tom Young studies the history of abandoned buildings in Lebanon, many of them a reminder of the country's civil war, and creates paintings based on old photographs, stories, architecture and their surrounding environment.

His exhibitions, held in the abandoned buildings, are free of charge and include community events to help stir public interest in their history. "These great places ... are just sleeping and in many ways with my art I am hoping to perhaps wake them up and make them relevant for the present day and the future," said Young, who has been living in Lebanon for the past nine years. Lebanon has no law to protect historic buildings and many have been demolished to make way for modern apartment buildings and offices.

In the capital Beirut the number of historic buildings has dropped to about 250, down from 4,200 in the 1990s, according to campaign group Save Beirut Heritage.

Young's latest project is the Grand Sofar, a 75-room hotel built in 1892 under Ottoman rule that was bustling with famous people from Egyptian actor Omar Sharif to diplomats and generals who shaped the history of the country and region. The hotel, about 30 kilometers (19 miles) away from Beirut, became a casualty of the country's 15-year-long civil war, which began in 1975, the year the hotel closed its doors.

One of the owners, Roderick Sursock Cochrane, whose family built the hotel, wanted to bring its history back to life through Young's "out of the ordinary" exhibition. "Every painting which you see here depicts an event which happened in the hotel. And that is very, very important I find, because people just don't come and see regular paintings but they also come and learn what has happened in this place," he said. One of Young's paintings is based on a photo he found of 80-year-old Samira Sayegh on her wedding day standing with her husband on one of two grand staircases at the entrance of the hotel. "It was so emotional because I went 52 years back (to) the day of my wedding," Sayegh said with a smile, remembering when she first saw Young's painting.



The Grand Sofar Hotel which closed its doors in 1975, the beginning of the Lebanese civil war, Sawfar, Lebanon.— Reuters

"The young generation, they don't know what is the Grand hotel. Since 1975 it (has been) hidden - now it's coming back." Cochrane plans to use the old hotel as a wedding venue and cultural center for local artists, and he hopes to encourage young people to appreciate historic buildings. "Old does not mean necessarily that it has to be destroyed for something new to come instead of it," said Cochrane, sitting outside the hotel.

next 15 years, and it is still not open to the public. "I hope that a transcendent public art event can help all those involved and transform a place of unresolved trauma into a site of culture and creativity," said Young. — Reuters



Exhibit visitors looking at Tom Young's painting inside the Grand Sofar Hotel, Sawfar.

Identity threat

Naji Raji, founder of Save Beirut Heritage, a local organization fighting to save architectural heritage in the capital, said buildings like the Grand Sofar are under threat. "There is no law protecting heritage buildings in Lebanon. The dangers of removing these historic buildings means losing identity and common memory," said Raji. In 2013, Young found an abandoned 19th century mansion in central Beirut that was left in ruins. He brought it back to life with his paintings and through partial renovation.

But what mattered most to the 45-year-old is that his exhibition led to the building to be used as a public cultural center for three years before becoming the residence of the head of the European Union delegation to Lebanon. "Really our memories, our history is what gives us our identity, and in Lebanon that identity is under threat because of this destruction of both architecture and human memory," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in the Grand Sofar hotel.

In several of his exhibitions, including in the Grand Sofar, he teaches art classes to refugee children and orphans to show how art can be used to revive memories and history in derelict buildings. Learning about history through art helps young people to connect to their identity, a different experience than through history books, said Young. He hopes his next exhibition will be in Beirut's Holiday Inn, a hotel that once exemplified the city's glamour and became an icon of the civil war only a few weeks after it opened. It was the military headquarters of whichever militant faction was winning the war over the



Photos shows Tom Young's painting inside the Grand Sofar Hotel, Sawfar.



Artist Tom Young inside the Grand Sofar Hotel.

Meghan takes spotlight amid royal fever in Fiji

British royal Meghan Markle sent adoring crowds into a frenzy in Fiji yesterday when she took center stage from husband Prince Harry to passionately promote women's rights. The American-born 37-year-old recounted her struggle to afford higher education in her maiden international speech, made to students at the University of the South Pacific. She also met female traders at the Suva markets, although so many enthusiastic fans were jammed into the venue that her security detail cut short the pregnant duchess's visit.

Meghan, who married into the royal family five months ago, made the case for open access to education, particularly for women. "For women and girls in developing countries this is vital," she said. "Providing them with access to education is the key to economic and social development. "When girls are given the right tools to succeed they can create incredible futures, not only for themselves, but for all of those around them." Meghan, 37, graduated with a communications degree from Northwestern University in Illinois before becoming an actress then marrying Harry earlier this year.

Announcing two grants to encourage female empowerment in Pacific academia, she said higher education for her was "incredible, impactful and pivotal", despite the challenge of paying for it. "It was through scholarships, financial aid programs and work-study-where my earnings from a job on campus went directly towards my tuition-that I was able to attend university," she said. "And, without question, it was worth every effort."

Meghan's visit to meet women participating in the UN project Markets for Change was curtailed, with Kensington Palace later citing "crowd management issues" She was calm as bodyguards escorted her out of the markets and into a waiting car without incident. Rosemerry Dautei, 35, said Fijians were keen to see the visiting royals. "It is just the excitement... this is an opportunity that has to be grabbed with both hands," she said. Meghan's message resonated with Shayaa Chand, 22, who said: "In today's era we should support women and we should make them leaders. We are very grateful that Mrs Meghan thinks that way."

Climate change

Harry, who attended the elite Eton school and Sandhurst military academy, watched his spouse's university address with admiration. "No way I can follow my wife after that," he said, to laughter from the assembled students. The prince acknowledged the Pacific's concerns about climate change, announcing four scholarships to study the issue. "All of you living here are confronted with this threat in your daily lives," he said. "You're actually experiencing changing weather patterns, ferocious cyclones and rising sea levels, particularly in Tuvalu and Kiribati. "You've been living with this for many years, way before the world started talking about it."

The royal couple, who arrived in Fiji on Tuesday after a week in Australia, appeared relaxed touring the campus, meeting students and pre-school children. Meghan wore a pink floral wrap dress with a pom-pom trim, and flowers in her hair, while Harry sported a blue Hawaiian shirt. The day started on a sombre note for Harry, who attended a ceremony at the Fiji war memorial in Suva.

"In grateful memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country," he wrote on a note attached to a wreath laid at the memorial. The royals will travel to Tonga today before returning briefly to Australia then wrapping up the tour with a visit to New Zealand. — AFP



This handout from the Fijian Government taken and released shows Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex (left) and his wife Meghan, Duchess of Sussex (center) touring the municipal market in Suva.



Britain's Prince Harry (left) and his wife Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex (center) arrive at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji. — AFP photos

Canadian rapper dies after falling from plane

Canadian rapper died after falling from the wing of a flying plane he was walking on during a music video shoot, his management team said. Jon James, 33, died instantly in the "wing-walking" accident in Vernon, British Columbia, on Saturday, according to a statement. "He had trained intensely for this stunt but as Jon got further out onto the wing of the plane, it caused the small Cessna to go into a downward spiral that the pilot couldn't correct," said the statement, published alongside an online fundraiser to raise money for funeral costs and to release James's new music.

"Jon held onto the wing until it was too late, and by the time he let go, he didn't have time to pull his chute," James had also enjoyed success as a competitive freeskier and was known for carrying out extreme stunts. The Royal



Jon James

Canadian Mounted Police confirmed they responded to "the sudden death of a parachuter" on Saturday evening. CTV reported the plane and its pilot landed safely. — AFP

Philippines to re-open 'cesspool' Boracay after clean up

The Philippines re-opens its crown jewel resort island Boracay to holidaymakers on Friday, after a six-month clean up aimed at repairing the damage inflicted by years of unrestrained mass tourism. Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte ordered the island shuttered in April for a major effort to fortify weak infrastructure and crack down on the rampant overdevelopment that had left it, what he termed, a "cesspool". When the government throws open the doors, Boracay will have fewer hotels and restaurants, a cap on the number of visitors and anti-beach boozing rules aimed at taming its party-hard reputation.

All of this is intended to protect the bruised beauty of the island's turquoise waters and expanses of white sand beaches which were being loved to death by two million tourists per year. Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said she hopes the new Boracay will be the start of a "culture of sustainable tourism" in the Philippines, adding other tourist destinations will be next. "It means taking account of the repercussions of our actions on current and future situations of the environment," she told reporters on Friday. Romulo-Puyat said she has sent a written "warning" to other top Philippine tourist draws including El Nido and Panglao islands, while others, such as the whale-shark-feeding site of Oslob have cut its tourist arrivals by half. Boracay, which major tourist magazines consistently rate as among the world's best beaches, is a mere 1,000 hectares (2,470 acres).

Industry 'sacrifice' during closure

Yet it was seeing up to 40,000 sun worshippers at



Residents walk along a beach on the Philippine island of Boracay. — AFP photos

peak times, who left behind \$1 billion a year but also mountains of garbage, an overflowing sewer system and a carnival-like atmosphere. Under the new rules, 19,200 tourists will be allowed on the island at any one time, with the government aiming to enforce that by controlling the number of available hotel rooms. Fire eaters, masseuses, vendors, stray dogs, bonfires and even the builders of its famous photo-op sandcastles have been chased from the beachfront, while buildings were torn down to create a 30-metre (98-foot) easement from the waterline.

All water sports save for swimming are also banned for the time being, while Boracay's three casinos have been permanently shut down in line with Duterte's wishes. Nearly 400 hotels and restaurants deemed to violate local environmental laws have already been ordered closed and airlines as well as ferries were told to restrict service to the area. Boozing and smoking are banned on the beach and the huge multi-day beach parties dubbed "LaBoracay" that drew tens of thousands of tourists during the May 1 Labour Day weekend will be a thing of the past. The Boracay Foundation, the main business industry group on the island, did not comment on the new rules but welcomed the return of tourists. — AFP

Classifieds

Thursday, October 25, 2018

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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY NIGHT: Fair with light to moderate variable wind to south westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

BY DAY: Partly cloudy with light south westerly wind changing to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 12 - 32 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.	SFC. CHART 24/10/2018 1200 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	32 °C	25 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	31 °C	22 °C			
ABDALY	32 °C	21 °C			
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C			
JAHRA	33 °C	23 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	31 °C	25 °C			
SALMIYAH	31 °C	26 °C			
AHMADI	30 °C	26 °C			
NUWASIB	32 °C	25 °C			
WAFRA	32 °C	21 °C			
SALMY	32 °C	19 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Thursday	10/25	Partly cloudy	34 °C	22 °C	SW-SE	12 - 32 km/h
Friday	10/26	Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thunders later on	37 °C	24 °C	S-SE	15 - 45 km/h
Saturday	10/27	A significant decrease in temperature and cloudy with a chance for rain that might be	32 °C	25 °C	NW-NE	15 - 45 km/h
Sunday	10/28	Cloudy to partly cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thunders at times	28 °C	23 °C	NE-VRB	10 - 42 km/h

TOMORROW PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:36
Sunrise	05:56
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:44
Sunset	17:08
Isha	18:27

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	31 °C
MIN. Temp.	23 °C
MAX. RH	98 %
MIN. RH	58 %
MAX. Wind	SE 43 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	1.96mm

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

LOST

SYED OSAMA SHAH a pass out of class 12th who studied under CBSE Boards lost his 12th original mark sheet over a month ago whose registration no. is 9105266. If found please return it back by contacting this number: 65664793 / 97777168 (C 5431)

block 1, near gulfmart. Available 25 of November, Contact 94418396 or 69972330
24-10-2018
 Sharing accommodation available for decent Christian bachelor / single lady in Salmiya, Block-10, Street-10 (near Garden). Contact: 51177342 (C 5430)
23-10-2018

ACCOMMODATION

Sharing accommodation For Filipino ONLY Farwaniya

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is

1889988

Airlines

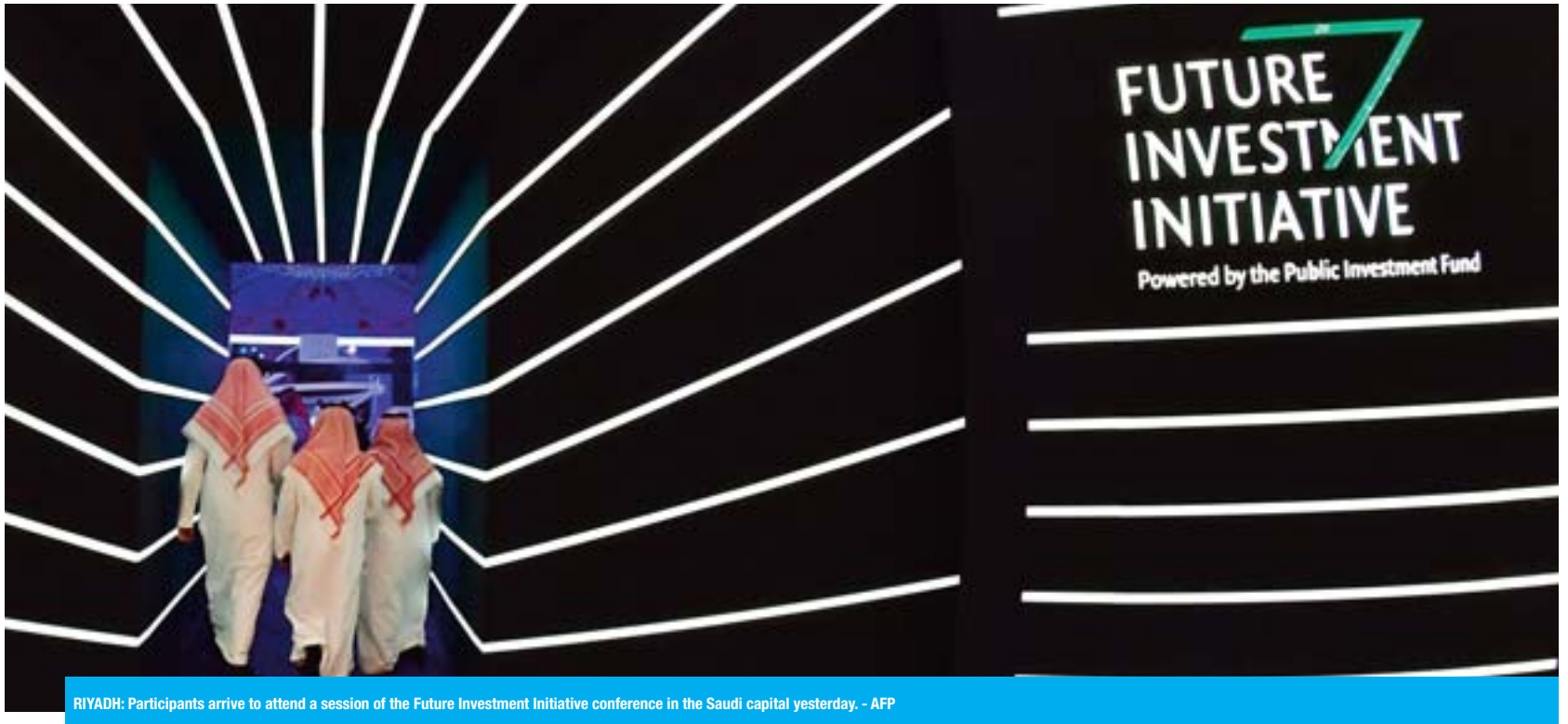
Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Wataniya Airways	22 066 536
Turkish Airlines	1884918
American Airlines	22087425
	22087426
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044



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DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Thursday 25/10/2018				Departure Flights on Thursday 25/10/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	405	Sohag	00:05	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	MSC	502	Alexandria	00:10
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
KAC	102	London	00:50	MSR	2615	Doha	00:30
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	KAC	610	Asyut	01:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	MSC	406	Sohag	01:05
JZR	267	Beirut	01:25	THY	773	Istanbul	01:45
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	JZR	502	Luxor	01:55
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	KAC	417	Manila	02:00
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	677	Dubai	02:00
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:45
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:55
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55
QT	R1086	Doha	02:30	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
JZR5	53D	Alexandria	02:50	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:10
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	JZR	142	Doha	03:45
RBG	215	Sohag	03:05	RBG	216	Sohag	03:45
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	MSR	607	Luxor	04:05
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	QTR	1087	Doha	04:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	JAI	571	Mumbai	05:00
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	QTR	1077	Doha	05:15
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	KAC	303	Doha	05:35
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	FDB	070	Dubai	06:00
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	THY	771	Istanbul	06:30
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	RJA	643	Amman	07:00
KAC	544	Cairo	05:20	JZR	356	Mashhad	07:15
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	JZR	283	Dubai	07:15
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	KAC	167	Paris	07:30
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	RBG	550	Alexandria	07:30
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	KAC	173	Munich	07:35
KAC	362	Colombo	06:00	KAC	413	Bangkok	07:40
BAW	157	London	06:10	JZR	238	Amman	07:50
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	JZR	778	Jeddah	08:00
QTR	8511	Doha	06:35	KAC	201	Beirut	08:00
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	QTR	8512	Beirut/Doha	08:05
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	BAW	156	London	08:20
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	FDB	054	Dubai	08:35
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	KAC	791	Madinah	09:00
JZR	605	Ahmedabad	07:05	KAC	613	Bahrain	09:00
JZR	143	Doha	07:20	KAC	117	Shannon/New York	09:05
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:05
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	561	Amman	09:40
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
KAC	358	Kochi	08:00	JZR	534	Cairo	09:45
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	KAC	773	Riyadh	09:45
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:55
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	101	London	10:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	515	Tehran	10:00
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
SYR	341	Damascus	10:00	KAC	797	Taif	10:05
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	617	Doha	10:20
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	KAC	056	Dubai	10:40
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:20	SYR	342	Damascus	11:00
MSC	411	Asyut	12:30	IAW	158	Al Najaf	11:00
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	JZR	788	Riyadh	11:20
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
ABY	121	Sharjah	12:55	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05
JZR	239	Amman	13:00	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
JZR	357	Mashhad	13:05	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	MSC	412	Asyut	13:30
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:30	ABY	122	Sharjah	13:35
KAC	792	Madinah	13:40	JZR	144	Doha	13:55
JZR	779	Jeddah	13:45				
IAW	157A	Al Najaf	13:55				



RIYADH: Participants arrive to attend a session of the Future Investment Initiative conference in the Saudi capital yesterday. - AFP

Facebook unveils systems for catching child nudity, grooming

Social network simplifies Messenger app

SAN FRANCISCO: Facebook Inc said yesterday that company moderators during the last quarter removed 8.7 million user images of child nudity with the help of previously undisclosed software that automatically flags such photos. The machine learning tool rolled out over the last year identifies images that contain both nudity and a child, allowing increased enforcement of Facebook's ban on photos that show minors in a sexualized context. A similar system also disclosed yesterday catches users engaged in "grooming," or befriending minors for sexual exploitation.

Facebook's global head of safety Antigone Davis told Reuters in an interview that the "machine helps us prioritize" and "more efficiently queue" problematic content for the company's trained team of reviewers. The company is exploring applying the same technology to its Instagram app.

Under pressure from regulators and lawmakers, Facebook has vowed to speed up removal of extremist and illicit material. Machine learning programs that sift through the billions of pieces of content users post each day are essential to its plan. Machine learning is imperfect, and news agencies and advertisers are among those that have complained this year about Facebook's automated systems wrongly blocking their posts. Davis said the child safety systems would make mistakes but users could appeal. "We'd rather err on the side of caution with children," she said.

Facebook's rules for years have banned even family photos of lightly clothed children uploaded with "good

intentions", concerned about how others might abuse such images. Before the new software, Facebook relied on users or its adult nudity filters to catch child images. A separate system blocks child pornography that has previously been reported to authorities. Facebook has not previously disclosed data on child nudity removals, though some would have been counted among the 21 million posts and comments it removed in the first quarter for sexual activity and adult nudity.

Facebook said the program, which learned from its collection of nude adult photos and clothed children photos, has led to more removals. It makes exceptions for art and history, such as the Pulitzer Prize-winning photo of a naked girl fleeing a Vietnam War napalm attack. The child grooming system evaluates factors such as how many people have blocked a particular user and whether that user quickly attempts to contact many children, Davis said.

Michelle DeLaune, chief operating officer at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), said the organization expects to receive about 16 million child porn tips worldwide this year from Facebook and other tech companies, up from 10 million last year. With the increase, NCMEC said it is working with Facebook to develop software to decide which tips to assess first.

Still, DeLaune acknowledged that a crucial blind spot is encrypted chat apps and secretive "dark web" sites where much of new child pornography originates. Encryption of messages on Facebook-owned

unknown.

The Future Investment Initiative conference in Riyadh was overshadowed by Khashoggi's killing, with more than two dozen high-level participants withdrawing. But Saudi Arabia showed it could still do business despite the furor, signing deals worth \$50 billion at the conference on Tuesday. The event was attended by hundreds of bankers and company executives.

Prince Mohammed, 33, architect of Saudi Arabia's reform drive, was upbeat on the economy, predicting growth of 2.5 percent this year. He seemed relaxed on the panel he shared with Bahrain's Prince Salman and Hariri. He joked about Hariri's detention in the kingdom last year, saying the Lebanese prime minister was free to leave after attending the conference. "Prime Minister Saad is staying in the kingdom for two days so I hope you don't spread rumors that he was kidnapped," Prince Mohammed, who is also known as MBS, said. Hariri, who has Saudi citizenship, was summoned to Riyadh a year ago, briefly detained and compelled to resign as prime minister in a speech read out on television from Saudi until France intervened to free him.

The Saudi central bank governor sought to reassure foreign banks that withdrew from the conference that they would not be penalized and may apply for licenses to operate in the country, the Middle East's largest economy. So far there have been no mega announcements at the conference, in stark contrast to last year's event that announced plans to build a \$500 billion mega-city.

During the panel MBS touted Saudi Arabia's success in its efforts to transform its oil-dependent economy and make the deeply conservative kingdom a more tolerant society. "All our projects are going ahead, reform is going ahead, our war on extremism is going ahead, our war on terrorism is going ahead...our efforts won't stop no matter how they try to constrain us," he said.

Despite the boycott of the investment conference by big hitters, including in Wall Street, some senior international bankers including from HSBC and Japan's biggest lender MUFG attended. Lucid Motors chief technology officer Peter Rawlinson was also present and the US company had a dedicated stand at the venue. In September Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund agreed to invest more than \$1 billion in Lucid as part of Saudi efforts to diversify the oil-dependent economy. — Agencies

WhatsApp, for example, prevents machine learning from analyzing them. DeLaune said NCMEC would educate tech companies and "hope they use creativity" to address the issue.

Meanwhile, Facebook on Tuesday announced an overhaul of its Messenger smartphone app in an effort to simplify the service for its 1.3 billion monthly global users. The social network began rolling out a redesigned version featuring three tabs instead of nine, saying it was "going back to its roots" seven years after the standalone app's launch. "We build one feature after another; they're piling up," Messenger chief Stan Chudnovsky said of the service, which has grown from a simple messaging app to one that lets users make video

calls, send money and more.

The updated tabs allow users to navigate between their conversations under "Chats", stories and contacts at "People," and "Discovery," which is devoted to games and exchanges with businesses. Facebook has positioned Messenger as a tool for businesses to efficiently handle customer questions or concerns. Talking to customers via the app is free - but businesses can also pay for Facebook ads that let customers start a conversation or visit their page with one click. Messenger is part of Facebook's effort to expand outside the social network - particularly when it comes to staying relevant to mobile lifestyles and younger people, who have been moving away from the service. — Agencies

First Starbucks sign language...

Continued from Page 1

"It gives deaf people space off-campus, a place to come to and socialize, eat food with other deaf people and meet other deaf people as well, and the deaf employees," she told AFP. "When I go to a normal Starbucks, I either talk and hope they can hear me and understand, or I show them my order on my phone," she explained. "Here, your name appears on a screen, which I really, really like, because when they call my order I don't have to try to hear it - it's right on the screen."

The store has other specific features designed to embrace and celebrate deaf culture - one is the "sign of

the week". Right now, it's for coffee: two closed fists, one on top of the other, rotating in a move that brings to mind a coffee grinder. There are also special mugs for sale with designs by a deaf artist, and a transcription of how to sign the logo of the store. Starbucks says the initiative is aimed at bringing diverse communities together. It comes six months after the arrest of two black men in a Philadelphia store that sparked accusations of racism.

The opening got a boost from the presence of Oscar-winning deaf actress Marlee Matlin. Seated on an outside patio with their coffees, retired couple Albert and Peggy Hlibok said they had come to the store to "intermingle with the hearing world". "I think it's a wonderful opportunity for all of us," said Peggy, with the help of an interpreter. "It will teach people not to be afraid to communicate with deaf people. They can see it's just part of who we are, part of our lives, part of the diversity of life." — AFP

Prince Mohammed: Vision 2030...

Continued from Page 1

Mohammed bin Salman in Saudi Arabia, and a president in Turkey named Erdogan." His comments came hours after US President Donald Trump was quoted by the Wall Street Journal as saying that the crown prince bore ultimate responsibility for the operation that led to Khashoggi's death. Trump said he wanted to believe Prince Mohammed when he said lower level officials were to blame for Khashoggi's death. But the US president suggested responsibility lay higher up. "Well, the prince is running things over there more so at this stage. He's running things and so if anybody were going to be, it would be him," Trump said. Trump also said the Saudis had a "very bad original concept" in killing the 59-year-old Saudi insider-turned-critic. "It was carried out poorly and the cover-up was one of the worst in the history of cover-ups," Trump said.

Faced with mounting calls for tough measures by US lawmakers across the political spectrum, the US State Department said it had identified 21 Saudis whose visas would either be revoked or who would be ineligible for future visas. "We are making very clear that the United States does not tolerate this kind of action to silence Mr Khashoggi, a journalist, through violence," US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said. British Prime Minister Theresa May said Britain was "taking action against all suspects to prevent them entering the UK. If these individuals currently have visas, those visas will be revoked today". France also weighed in, saying it would take "punitive measures" if Saudi Arabia was "proven" to be behind the murder.

Turkish pro-government media reported yesterday that Turkish intelligence had shared "all the evidence" with the CIA gathered from its investigation into the killing of the Washington Post columnist. The evidence included video and audio recordings from the consulate and the consul's residence and were shared with visiting CIA chief Gina Haspel, Sabah newspaper reported. The whereabouts of Khashoggi's corpse is still

Pipe bombs sent to Trump...

Continued from Page 1

the offices of rising Democratic star, US Senator Kamala Harris.

The White House swiftly condemned the attempted attacks. "These terrorizing acts are despicable, and anyone responsible will be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law," said Press Secretary Sarah Sanders, adding that Trump and his administration were "monitoring closely". Trump himself confined his remarks to retweeting a condemnation from Vice President Mike Pence against the "cowardly" acts, adding: "I agree wholeheartedly!"

CNN evacuated its New York bureau yesterday after the pipe bomb together with an envelope containing white powder was found in the mailroom. A bomb squad secured the device and removed it for investigation, police said. The packaging was addressed care of CNN to former CIA director John Brennan, who has worked as a television analyst but not for the channel.

The Secret Service recovered the package addressed to Clinton at the home she shares with her husband, former president Bill Clinton, in Chappaqua, north of Manhattan on Tuesday, as well as a second package addressed to the Obama residence in Washington yesterday. Clinton, speaking in Miami, thanked the Secret Service for intercepting the package and raised concerns about what she called a "troubling time" in America. "It's a time of deep divisions, and we have to do everything we can to bring our country together," she said.

In New York, Mayor Bill de Blasio condemned "an effort to terrorize" as he and fellow Democrat Cuomo appealed to all elected officials, including a veiled reference to the US president, to tone down rhetoric.

"Don't encourage violence, don't encourage hatred, don't encourage attacks on media," said the mayor. The Republican president came under a torrent of criticism for recently endorsing the body slamming of a reporter. "Unfortunately this atmosphere of hatred is contributing to the choices people are making," said de Blasio. "The way to stop that is turn back the other way, to bring down the temperature, to end any messages of violence against people we disagree with and this has to start at the top."

There has been no claim of responsibility and no one was yet thought to have been arrested. The Secret Service said the packages were "immediately identified during routine mail screening procedures" and that neither Clinton or Obama were ever at risk of receiving them. Republican lawmakers quickly followed the White House in issuing condemnations, just over a year after a shooter angry about Trump shot four people at a congressional baseball practice near Washington.

"Violence and terror have no place in our politics or anywhere else," tweeted senior Republican lawmaker Steve Scalise, who was shot and seriously injured at the baseball practice in June 2017. The top Republican lawmaker, Mitch McConnell, condemned what he called "attempted acts of domestic terrorism". Soros, the target of the first device, has long been a hate figure for rightwing groups and lives in Bedford, New York, not far from the Clintons.

The 88-year-old hedge fund tycoon is one of the world's richest men with an estimated net worth of \$8.3 billion and a prominent philanthropist. Soros supported Clinton, Trump's election rival in 2016, and has been accused by nationalists the world over of sponsoring protests and seeking to push a liberal, multicultural agenda. Earlier this month, Trump accused Soros of paying demonstrators to protest against the nomination of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who was accused of attempted rape in high school. Soros has also been falsely accused of funding the caravan of migrants moving north from Honduras through Mexico en route to the US border. — AFP

Sports

Sidney Crosby, Penguins edge Edmonton Oilers in overtime

Klingberg, Spezza push Stars past reeling Kings

EDMONTON: Sidney Crosby scored a highlight goal at 2:12 of overtime Tuesday to give the visiting Pittsburgh Penguins a 6-5 win over the Edmonton Oilers in a back-and-forth game. Crosby stickhandled all over the Oilers zone before backhanding the puck over the left pad of goaltender Cam Talbot for his second goal of the game. Patric Hornqvist and Jamie Oleksiak also scored twice for Pittsburgh. Leon Draisaitl and Alex Chiasson each scored twice and Connor McDavid added a goal for Edmonton. Matt Murray made 41 saves for the Penguins, and Talbot made 25.

STARS 4, KINGS 2

John Klingberg scored the deciding goal and had an assist on an insurance tally as Dallas outworked visiting Los Angeles to snap a three-game losing streak. Jason Spezza also had a goal and an assist for the Stars, and Devin Shore added two assists in the victory. Ben Bishop stopped 31 shots to snap his own three-game losing streak. Anze Kopitar and Tyler Toffoli scored for Los Angeles, which got 19 saves from Jonathan Quick.

SHARKS 5, PREDATORS 4

Brent Burns scored the game-winning, power-play goal with 2:52 remaining to cap a three-goal, third-period rally as San Jose won at Nashville. Burns beat Juse Saros with a slap shot from the left faceoff circle for his second goal of the season off assists from Erik Karlsson and Evander Kane. Timo Meier, Tomas Hertl, Brenden Dillon and Joe Pavelski recorded the other goals for San Jose, which won its third game in a row. Viktor Arvidsson registered two goals, and Filip Forsberg and Craig Smith added goals for the Predators, who had a five-game winning streak snapped.

BRUINS 4, SENATORS 1

David Pastrnak scored two goals and had two assists, and Patrice Bergeron added a goal and two assists to help visiting Boston defeat Ottawa. David

Krejci had a goal and an assist for the Bruins, who have won six games in a row against the Senators, including four last season. Pastrnak tied the Toronto Maple Leafs' Auston Matthews for the NHL lead with 10 goals. Thomas Chabot scored for the Senators. Boston goalie Tuukka Rask made 38 saves while Ottawa goaltender Craig Anderson stopped 28 shots.

CANADIENS 3, FLAMES 2

Jeff Petry and Jonathan Drouin each had a goal and an assist in Montreal's three-goal second period as the host Canadiens beat Calgary on a historic night for goaltender Carey Price. The 31-year-old Price stopped 21 shots in earning his 289th career win, tying him with Patrick Roy for second place in Montreal history. Jacques Plante tops the club with 314. Petry and Brendan Gallagher had power-play goals and Drouin scored at even strength as the Canadiens produced all three of their goals in a span of 3:21. Michael Frolik and Elias Lindholm scored for Calgary.

BLACKHAWKS 3, DUCKS 1

Brandon Saad scored twice for his 14th career multi-goal performance, and Chicago held on for a win over visiting Anaheim. Patrick Kane also scored for the Blackhawks, who earned at least one point for the seventh time in nine games this season. Chicago's Corey Crawford made 24 saves. He has stopped 61 of 63 shots in his past two starts. Rickard Rakell scored the lone goal for Anaheim, which has lost three contests in a row. Ducks goaltender John Gibson turned aside 35 shots.

COYOTES 4, BLUE JACKETS 1

Christian Fischer recorded his first career hat trick, Derek Stepan had three assists, and Darcy Kuemper made 35 saves in his second start of the season as a late replacement, leading Arizona to a win at Columbus. Dylan Strome scored his second goal of the season on a power play for the Coyotes. Fischer scored in each period, putting the game away with a



MONTREAL: Mikael Backlund #11 of the Calgary Flames attempts to get the puck past goaltender Carey Price #31 of the Montreal Canadiens during the NHL game at the Bell Centre in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The Montreal Canadiens defeated the Calgary Flames 3-2. — AFP

wrist shot from between the circles after a pass from Stepan at 4:44 of the third. Pierre-Luc Dubois scored the Blue Jackets' only goal, which came in the opening shift of the game.

RANGERS 5, PANTHERS 2

Mika Zibanejad collected two goals and tied a career high with four points while Mats Zuccarello

scored his first two goals of the season as New York overcame a slow start to defeat visiting Florida. Zibanejad recorded three of his points in the second period-all on special teams when the Rangers turned a one-goal deficit into a two-goal lead. Zibanejad became the first Ranger to get a short-handed goal and a power-play goal in the same period since Brandon Dubinsky on April 12, 2009, at Philadelphia. — Reuters

Ooredoo's ambassador Al Jeraiwi participates in 2018 Aqaba Triathlon in Jordan

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait's brand ambassador, triathlete Najla Al-Jeraiwi, is competing in the 2018 Aqaba ASTC Sprint Triathlon Asian Cup and West Asian Championship, which includes running, swimming, and cycling. The event is scheduled to take place on Friday 27th October in Aqaba City, Jordan, and includes three categories: Men's individual race, women's individual race, and mixed relay. This is Kuwait's first official participation in an Olympic event after lifting the ban, which was put in place nearly three years ago.

In a press statement, Ooredoo Kuwait lauded the achievement, noting that her participation brings pride to all the youth of Kuwait. The sponsorship of athlete Al-Jeraiwi comes in alignment with the company's core values of caring, connecting, and challenging. It further underscores the company's commitment to empowering women.

Al-Jeraiwi has a long track record of key achievements. She won the gold medal in the Sierra Nevada Triathlon, in the Spanish district of Granada last June. She won the bronze medal in the African Triathlon Union Cup - the Pan Arab Competition, held in Sharm Al Shaikh last March. She was the first Arab female



triathlete representative in the 17th Asian Games, South Korea and the first GCC representative in UCI Road World Championships 2016. She was also the runner-up in the ATU African Triathlon & Pan Arab championship and the GCC cycling champion in both Time Trial and Road race. Al-Jeraiwi is currently the national champion of Kuwait in both triathlon and cycling. She has come in the top 3 in multiple regional

triathlons. Supporting youth and empowering women is among Ooredoo's top priorities through its CSR strategy. The company signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs in 2017 to support youth projects and initiatives. Ooredoo is continuously working with the different entities in both private and public sectors to enrich youth experience in a variety of fields.

ive Kerry Perry resigned because of her handling of the scandal. And just this month, interim CEO Mary Bono resigned after just five error-strewn days in charge after posting a critical tweet alluding to Nike and its support for NFL star Colin Kaepernick, who triggered a political firestorm after kneeling during the US national anthem to protest racial injustice.

Biles was hugely critical of Bono, taking to Twitter to say "it's not like we needed a smarter usa gymnastics president or any sponsors or anything". Doha presents the US with a chance to draw a line under the chaos which has engulfed the team in recent years.

DOUBTS AS UCHIMARA RETURNS

Another notable return is that of Japan's Kohei Uchimura, a six-time all around world champion. The 29-year-old came back to competition earlier this year after suffering an injury at last year's championships in Montreal.

His preparations though were put in doubt after it was announced earlier this week he had pulled out of the individual all-around competition because of ongoing problems with his right ankle. His injury in Canada last year, led to China's Xiao Ruoteng taking the title.

Another returnee is Russia's Aliya Mustafina, a double Olympic champion on the uneven bars, who missed the 2017 season after giving birth to a daughter. Another mother, Uzbekistan's Oksana Chusovitana, will compete at her 16th world championships.

The 43-year-old has the chance of a medal on the vault, the apparatus on which she won a silver medal back in 1991. Others who are likely to be competing for medals include Sanne Wevers of the Netherlands and Japan's Mai Murakami in the women's events.

Gold medal winners at the Rio Olympics, Kenzo Shirai of Japan and Britain's Max Whitlock are also expected to feature prominently in the men's disciplines. As well as medals, Doha will be the first opportunity for competitors to qualify for the 2020 Olympics. The event, which takes place at the Aspire Dome,

All eyes on Biles at World Gymnastics Championship in Qatar

DOHA: More than 500 gymnasts descend on Qatar this week for the Artistic Gymnastics World Championships, but most eyes will be on the sport's biggest star, the USA's Simone Biles. The quadruple Olympic gold medallist will make her return to frontline international competition after taking a year off following her triumphant showing in Rio in 2016.

Her self-enforced absence from the sport-she returned to competition in July-has only served to increase expectation for the 10-day championships, the first ever to be held in the Middle East.

Biles, 21, will become the first woman in history to win four world all-around titles if she takes gold in that discipline in Doha. Her main competition is likely to come from teenage compatriot Morgan Hurd, the 2017 champion.

Biles could also take gold in the vault, floor exercise and beam competitions. She is a member of an exceptionally strong US team looking for its fourth consecutive straight world title, but their preparations have been anything but smooth.

Since Biles performed in the 2016 Olympics, it has been a tumultuous time for US gymnastics. In July 2017, former team doctor Larry Nassar was sentenced to up to 175 years in prison on charges of sexual assault.

In January this year, Biles revealed herself to be one of his victims. In the fallout, US gymnastics chief execu-



Simone Biles

next door to the Khalifa Stadium which will host the 2019 World Athletics Championships, begins on October 25.—AFP

Hamilton heading for another Mexican coronation

MEXICAN CITY: Lewis Hamilton won his fourth Formula One world championship in Mexico last year and it will come as a shock if he does not also wrap up his fifth at the capital's Hermanos Rodriguez circuit this weekend.

The Mercedes driver will want to do it with rather more determination and style this time, however, even if he is still publicly taking nothing for granted and warning against complacency.

Last time, the Briton - now 70 points clear of Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel with three rounds remaining - finished ninth and was lapped in a high-altitude race won by Red Bull's young Dutchman Max Verstappen.

If Verstappen were to repeat the feat, and that cannot be ruled out, Hamilton would be champion anyway. That is because Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel can only take the title by winning all of the remaining races and hoping his British rival fails to score the five points needed to put the championship to bed.

Seventh on Sunday would do the trick for Hamilton but the 33-year-old, who admitted to thinking strategically in the previous race in Texas when trying to pass Verstappen for second, is going for the win. "I know the guys will do great analysis from today in the next couple of days and we'll come strong in the next race," he told reporters after finishing third in Austin last Sunday with Vettel fourth.

"The sole goal was to win these four races, that's what my mind was set on," he said of his approach going into last weekend. Hamilton's Finnish team mate Valtteri Bottas may also feel he has more of a chance of standing on top of the podium, for the first time this year, since a win for him also hands Hamilton the title.

The focus for both Mercedes drivers will remain on securing the constructors' crown for a fifth year in a row, however. Mercedes are 66 points ahead of Ferrari, who closed the gap in Texas, with a maximum 86 still to be won after Mexico.

"We have a battle on our hands and we will have to keep pushing to win both titles," commented Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff. The thinner air should mean Ferrari and Mercedes have less of an engine advantage, opening up a window of opportunity for Red Bull.

"That's what helped us last year and we're hopeful it will do the same again," said Red Bull team boss Christian Horner. "Realistically it's our last shot at winning a race between now and the end of the year."

Further back there are still some big battles going on for championship position that decides how the share of the revenues and prize money is divided.

Fourth-placed Renault have a good but not safe margin to Haas while the Racing Point Force India team - with Mexico's sole driver Sergio Perez - are closing in on sixth-placed McLaren. —Reuters

Sports

West Indies' Hope dampens Kohli's day in thrilling tie

Kohli becomes fastest batsman to reach 10,000 ODI runs

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play of 2nd ODI between India and Windies yesterday at Visakhapatnam, India.

India 1st innings	
R Sharma c Hetmyer b K Roach	4
S Dhawan lbw Ashley Nurse	29
V Kohli Not Out	157
A Rayudu b Ashley Nurse	73
MS Dhoni b Obed McCoy	20
R Pant lbw M Samuels	17
R Jadeja c Powell b McCoy	13
M Shami Not Out	0
Extras (b 3lb 0nb Open 5w)	8
Total (50.0 overs)	321-6
Fall of Wickets: 1-15 Sharma, 2-40 Dhawan, 3-179 Rayudu, 4-222 Dhoni, 5-248 Pant, 6-307 Jadeja.	
Did Not Bat: Chahal, Yadav, Yadav	
Bowling: J Holder 6-0-50-0-8.33 (1w); K Roach 10-0-67-1-6.70; Ashley Nurse 10-0-46-2-4.60 (2w); Devendra Bishoo 10-0-48-0-4.80; Obed McCoy 9-0-71-2-7.89 (2w); Marlon Samuels 5-0-36-1-7.20.	
Windies 1st innings	
K Powell c R Pant b M Shami	18
C Hemraj b Kuldeep Yadav	32
Shai Hope Not Out	123
M Samuels b Kuldeep Yadav	13
S Hetmyer c Kohli b Chahal	94
R Powell c Rohit Sharma b Kuldeep Yadav	18
Jason Holder Run Out A Rayudu	12
Ashley Nurse c A Rayudu b U Yadav	5
Extras (b 4lb 0nb Open 1w)	6
Total (50.0 overs)	321-7
Fall of Wickets: 1-36 Powell, 2-64 Hemraj, 3-78 Samuels, 4-221 Hetmyer, 5-253 Powell, 6-300 Holder, 7-315 Nurse.	
Did Not Bat: Roach, Bishoo, McCoy	
Bowling: Mohammed Shami 10-0-59-1-5.90 (1w); Umesh Yadav 10-0-78-1-7.80; Kuldeep Yadav 10-0-67-3-6.70; Ravindra Jadeja 10-0-49-0-4.90; Yuzvendra Chahal 10-0-63-1-6.30.	
Results: Match Tied	

MUMBAI: Shai Hope scored an inspired unbeaten century and struck the final ball for a four to earn West Indies a nail-biting tie with India in the second one-day international yesterday, souring the day for milestone man Virat Kohli.

India captain Kohli became the fastest batsman to reach 10,000 runs in ODIs as he scored a second consecutive century against the touring side earlier in the day at Visakhapatnam. Following up on his 140 in the opening match in Guwahati, Kohli remained unbeaten on 157 for his 37th ODI hundred and took his side to 321-6 in their 50 overs, after the hosts won the toss and opted to bat.

But Hope's unbeaten 123 and a 94 off 64 balls from Shimron Hetmyer put the Caribbean side in reach of the target before India pulled it back with some tight overs from their spinners. The duo added 143 after their side had been reduced to 78-3.

West Indies required 66 from the last 12 overs and appeared comfortably placed to tie the series at 1-1 but ended up needing 14 off fast bowler Umesh Yadav's final over and then five with the final delivery.

Hope managed to hit his 10th four just beyond the reach of the fielder patrolling the deep third man boundary to take his side to 321-7 and leave the match tied. The right-hander also hit three sixes in his 134-ball knock.

Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav was the most successful bowler for India with 3-67. Kohli broke the record of compatriot and batting great Sachin Tendulkar, who had reached the milestone in 259 innings. Indian captain Kohli took only 205, becoming the 13th cricketer to reach 10,000 runs.

Kohli and Ambati Rayudu, who made 73, added 139 for the third wicket after the hosts had lost openers Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan early. Kohli, who



VISAKHAPATNAM: West Indies cricketer Shimron Hetmyer plays a shot during the second one day international (ODI) cricket match between India and West Indies at the Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium in Visakhapatnam yesterday. — AFP

will turn 30 next month, was dropped on 44 by West Indies captain Jason Holder off debutant seamer Obed McCoy and made the touring side pay by hitting 13 fours and four sixes in his 129-ball knock.

India added 54 in the last four over as Kohli tore into the West Indies bowlers, belting 48 runs off the last 17 balls he faced. The third ODI will be played at Pune on Saturday. — Reuters

KSSC recognizes Zain for its partnership with Kuwait National Jet Ski team for 8th consecutive year

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced its participation in the sponsors recognition ceremony organized by the Kuwait Sea Sport Club. The company's participation in the event came as part of its strategic partnership with the Kuwait National Jet Ski team for the eighth consecutive year. The team participated at the recent World Jet Ski Championship 2018 that was held in October in Arizona, United States.

The ceremony was attended by the Kuwait Sea Sport

Club Chairman Retired Major General Fahad Al Fahad and Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Communications and Relations Officer Waleed Al Khashti and a number of the team's sponsors. The strategic partnership with the National Jet Ski team falls under the company's solid Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy towards supporting the youth and sports sectors as well as supporting outstanding Kuwaiti athletes.

The National Jet Ski team is authorized by the Kuwait Sea Sport Club to officially represent Kuwait in regional

and international Jet Ski championships, where the team champions have won a number of prominent titles during their past participations including achieving 300 points among 30 countries in the last World Championship held in Arizona, USA, as well as many previous accolades, including the category titles in the UAE Jet Ski Championship and the Jet Ski King's Cup in Thailand.

Zain expressed its pride in all National teams that raise the Kuwaiti flag high by achieving top international titles, and it further confirms its commitment towards

Kuwaiti champions, which resembles the company's endless confidence of the competencies of these young athletes and their capabilities in excelling in different fields.

As a leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, Zain is constantly looking to identify and support excellence across the sports sector. The company will continue to put Kuwaiti National teams and individual athletes at the forefront of its priorities and pledges to continue motivating them to achieve all the recognition they deserve.



Al Fahad recognizing Zain represented by Al Khashti.



Al Fahad and Al Khashti with Kuwait's National Jet Ski team during the ceremony.

Bangladesh seal series over Zimbabwe with big victory

CHITTAGONG: Opener Imrul Kayes and Liton Das hit big half-centuries as Bangladesh crushed Zimbabwe by seven wickets in the second one-day international to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series in Chittagong yesterday.

Imrul missed out on his second century in the series when he was dismissed for 90, but this was enough to help Bangladesh cruise to 250-3 in 44.1 overs after they restricted Zimbabwe to 246-6 at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium.

Imrul, who played a match-winning knock of 144 runs in Sunday's series opener, shared 148 runs with Liton Das in the opening stand. Bangladesh's best ODI start in 2018. Liton chipped in with 83 off 77 balls after being reprieved on naught by the third umpire, who overturned a leg-before decision in the very first over of the innings following a television replay. Off-break bowler Sikandar Raza dismissed Liton to break the stand and then also had number three Fazle Mahmud in his next over, but Imrul stood firm to deny Zimbabwe further momentum. Raza also removed Imrul, who hit only seven fours in his 111-ball innings, before finishing with 3-43.

Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Mortaza acknowledged dew in the field made their job easier. "I think winning the toss was crucial. We knew about the dew, but it was not as much as we expected," Mortaza said.

Mushfiqur Rahim and Mohammad Mithun were unbeaten on 40 and 24 runs respectively. Mithun clinched Bangladesh's 12th successive win over Zimbabwe in style, hitting left-arm spinner Cephas Zhuwao for a six over



CHITTAGONG: Bangladeshi cricketer Imrul Kayes (r) plays a shot as Zimbabwe's cricketer Brendan Taylor (L) looks on during the second one day international (ODI) cricket match between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. — AFP

deep square leg. Sent into bat first, Zimbabwe earlier lost skipper Hamilton Masakadza (14) quickly but Brendan Taylor hit 75 off 73 balls while Raza (49) and Sean Williams (47) played two useful knocks to give them a competitive score.

Taylor added 52 and 77 runs for the second and third wicket respectively with Zhuwao (20) and Williams before Bangladesh stalled Zimbabwe's progress. Taylor, who hit nine fours and a six in his eighth fifty against Bangladesh, the highest by any cricketer, also benefited from a televi-

sion replay as he was reprieved on 42 after being given out leg before wicket initially.

Zimbabwe's Masakadza lamented their inability to capitalise on a good start. "We didn't manage to kick on after the kind of start. Credit to Bangladeshi bowlers for starving us at the death," he said. Rookie all-rounder Mohammad Saifuddin finished with the most impressive figures of 3-45 for the home side and was named man of the match. The third and final match of the series will also be held at the same ground on Friday. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

Chittagong, Bangladesh: Scoreboard of the second one-day international between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday:

Zimbabwe innings	
H. Masakadza c Mushfiqur b Saifuddin	14
C. Zhuwao c Fazle b Mehidy	20
B. Taylor lbw b Mahmudullah	75
S. Williams c Mushfiqur b Saifuddin	47
S. Raza c Mushfiqur b Mortaza	49
P. Moor c Mehidy b Mustafizur	17
E. Chigumbura c Nazmul b Saifuddin	3
B. Mavuta not out	9
D. Tiripano not out	3
Extras (b5, lb3, w1)	9
Total (seven wickets: 50 overs)	246
Did not bat: K. Jarvis, T. Chatara	
Fall of wickets: 1-18 (Masakadza), 2-70 (Zhuwao), 3-147 (Taylor), 4-188 (Williams), 5-229 (Raza), 6-229-(Moor), 7-234 (Chigumbura)	
Bowling: Mortaza 10-0-49-1, Mustafizur 10-0-35-1, Saifuddin 10-1-45-3, Mehidy 7-0-45-1 (w1), Nazmul 10-0-43-0, Mahmudullah 3-0-21-1.	

Bangladesh innings	
Liton Das c Tiripano b Raza	83
Imrul Kayes c Chigumbura b Raza	90
Fazle Mahmud St Taylor b Raza	0
Mushfiqur Rahim not out	40
Mohammad Mithun not out	24
Extras (lb1, w1, nb1)	13
Total (three wickets: 44.1 overs)	250
Did not bat: Mahmudullah Riyad, Mehidy Hasan, Mohammad Saifuddin, Mashrafe Mortaza, Mustafizur Rahman, Nazmul Islam	
Fall of wickets: 1-148 (Liton), 2-152 (Fazle), 3-211 (Imrul)	
Bowling: Jarvis 9-0-31-0 (w2), Chatara 7-0-48-0(w1), Tiripano 5-0-22-0, Mavuta 7-0-56-0 (w7), Williams 6-0-43-0 (nb1), Raza 10-1-43-3 (w1), Zhuwao 0.1-0-6-0.	
Result: Bangladesh won by seven wickets	

Sports

Rampant Arsenal face Lisbon test, Chelsea sweat on Hazard

We are beginning to play with heart: Emery

PARIS: Amid a packed schedule Arsenal take a 10-match winning streak to Sporting Lisbon as their quest to win the Europa League continues today, when city rivals Chelsea, possibly without the influential Eden Hazard, host BATE Borisov of Belarus.

After sealing an impressive 10th straight victory at home to Leicester in the Premier League on Monday, Unai Emery's outfit are the team to watch in Group E. Arsenal and Sporting sit on six points apiece after two games, with Azerbaijan's Qarabag and fellow strugglers Vorskla of Ukraine still pointless.

Sporting are fifth in Portugal's top flight, four points off the top with former Manchester United star Nani having scored three goals from seven league outings.

If Arsenal needed more reason to believe in their chances of going all the way, they need not look far. As coach of Sevilla in 2013-2016, Emery led the Spaniards to three consecutive Europa League titles.

"We are beginning to play with heart," Emery said after Monday's come-from-behind 3-1 win, in which Mesut Ozil scored and provided an assist in a man-of-the-match performance. "I think we played some sexy football," said the 30-year-old German. Sporting, who won 2-1 away to Loures in the Portuguese Cup with Nani and Bruno Fernandes both on target, should be fresher having played on Saturday.

Arsenal played on Monday and Emery, already set to make changes due to a packed schedule, is set to tinker further after both Nacho Monreal and Sead Kolasinac were ruled out. "Yesterday was a very bad day for injuries," Emery conceded on Tuesday.

Having won both their opening Group L matches, 2013 champions Chelsea can take a major step to the next round with a home win today, although they may have to do without Hazard. The Belgian playmaker says he was kicked so much during Chelsea's 2-2 weekend draw with Manchester United that he will miss the Stamford Bridge game against BATE with a bad back.

"When I woke up on Monday I was stiff. Even during the second half I couldn't accelerate properly," he said. With Spanish centre-forward Alvaro Morata struggling on just three goals this season, Hazard's absence could rob Chelsea of their main attacking threat after a blistering seven-goal start to the Premier League campaign.

Yet Brazilian winger Willian remains upbeat about their chances, claiming the entire club has been given a lift by the arrival of new coach Maurizio Sarri.

"The way we are playing this season, we can go all the way," the in-form winger said of their Europa League campaign. As Marseille prepare to face Lazio, the French side will be hoping the past experience of coach Rudi Garcia pays dividends as they bid for their first win of the group stage following a 2-2 draw at Apollon Limassol. He joined them from Roma, where he faced Lazio five times in the capital-city derby and never lost. "Three wins and two draws in five games, I hope we can get a result like I used to in those Rome derbies," Garcia told AFP. He added: "I'll always have a little bit of Roma in my heart so that gives us added inspiration, but what counts here is winning, not punchlines." — AFP



LONDON: File photo shows Arsenal's German midfielder Mesut Ozil celebrates after scoring their first goal during the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Leicester City at the Emirates Stadium in London on October 22, 2018. — AFP

Juventus too good for Man Utd on Ronaldo's return

MANCHESTER: Jose Mourinho bemoaned the chasm between his Manchester United side and Juventus as the Italian champions won 1-0 on Cristiano Ronaldo's return to Old Trafford in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Ronaldo did not get on the scoresheet, but played a supporting role by helping set up Paulo Dybala's winner on 17 minutes as Juventus opened up a five-point lead over United at the top of Group H.

Only a series of excellent saves from David de Gea prevented the margin of defeat being far greater for the hosts as any momentum United gained from fightbacks against Newcastle and Chelsea in recent weeks in the Premier League faded away against one of the favourites to win the Champions League.

Jose Mourinho's men were handed a break before kick-off as Valencia's 1-1 draw away to Young Boys means United still hold a two-point lead over the Spaniards, but a fourth defeat of the season will see speculation over Mourinho's future increase once more.

And in keeping with his complaints all season, Mourinho suggested United need to invest more in the transfer market to get to Juventus' level. Juventus spent 112 million euros (\$129 million) for a 33-year-old Ronaldo in July and also brought Leonardo Bonucci back just a year after selling the Italian international to AC Milan.

"Mr. Bonucci, Mr. (Giorgio) Chiellini, they could go to Harvard to give some classes about how to be a central defender," said Mourinho, whose attempts to add a centre-back in the summer were thwarted.

"Juventus is champions for seven years in a row, two Champions League finals in the last four or five years and they are not happy with what they have, they want more. They had (Gonzalo) Higuain, (Mario) Manduzkic and Dybala, but they want more, they want Ronaldo," he added. "They go for the best players in the world. A big club with a big past but also a big desire to have a big future." Ronaldo was given a hero's welcome on his previous visit to Old Trafford with Real Madrid in 2013 after scoring 118 goals for United in six seasons between 2003



MANCHESTER: Manchester United's French striker Anthony Martial (L) runs past Juventus' Bosnian midfielder Miralem Pjanic (L) and Juventus' Italian defender Andrea Barzagli (R) during the Champions League group H football match between Manchester United and Juventus at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England, on Tuesday. — AFP

and 2009 to help the Red Devils win three Premier League titles and the first of his five Champions League titles.

The Portuguese's early days as Juventus player since making the move to Italy from Madrid this summer have been overshadowed by a rape allegation made against him in the United States, which he strongly denies.

And the reception he received from the United faithful this time was far more muted, although he was applauded off the field at the end of the game after taking a selfie with a pitch invader, who was hauled away by security staff. Ronaldo scored the winner in a contentious Champions League last-16 tie for Madrid five years ago, but this time played the role of provider for Dybala to be the match-winner.

His cross intended for Juan Cuadrado ricocheted kindly off Chris Smalling into the path of Dybala to sweep the ball past De Gea for his fourth goal in two Champions League

games.

"The forwards moved a lot and caused their defence a few problems, but we missed the final pass too many times, especially in the second half," said Juventus boss Massimiliano Allegri.

"However I'm satisfied mostly because we are continuing to grow, especially in terms of confidence, and that allowed us to impose our own game in this difficult stadium." De Gea made fine saves from Joao Cancelo and Blaise Matuidi before the break, but saved his best stop to prevent Ronaldo scoring his first Champions League goal for Juventus seven minutes into the second-half.

Going behind brought out the best in Mourinho's side against Newcastle and Chelsea to help ease the pressure on the manager. But the hosts failed to threaten until Paul Pogba's curling shot from outside the box hit the post 15 minutes from time. — AFP

Man City flex muscles with win at Shakhtar

KHARKIV: Manchester City began to show their credentials like proper Champions League heavyweights when they became the first English team to win at Shakhtar Donetsk in European competition with a handsome 3-0 success in their Group F match on Tuesday.

City, who false-started in the campaign with their only loss of the season at home to Olympique Lyonnais, were a wholly different proposition, waltzing to victory with goals from David Silva, Aymeric Laporte and substitute Bernardo Silva.

What looked a potentially difficult 1,700-mile visit to the Ukrainian champions, who had beaten Pep Guardiola's men in the group stages last year, was made to look effortlessly routine as the dazzling David Silva orchestrated their dominance.

City could easily have scored more goals but the win put the English champions top of the group on six points, a point clear of Lyon, who drew 3-3 at a Hoffenheim team who have two points along with bottom-placed Shakhtar.

City manager Pep Guardiola suggested on the eve of the match that the club may still lack the special passion for the competition that could drive them to European glory but his team of all talents demonstrated they certainly have the quality.

Shakhtar had never been beaten by

English visitors in seven home matches, leaving Guardiola to appreciate the magnitude of the win. "Zero-three here," he said. "It's an amazing result."

"We've recovered with these two results in Germany (a win at Hoffenheim) and here. After the defeat against Lyon, it's in our hands again and winning our games at home will be the next stage."

The English Premier League leaders, with Kevin De Bruyne back for his first full start of the season after an injury layoff, continued their recent dazzling form by taking control from the opening whistle.

In the first half hour, Riyad Mahrez could and maybe should have scored twice, once after City had broken with breathtaking pace from their own half before he then also set up David Silva to flick the ball impudently against Shakhtar's post.

Yet the Spanish maestro made no mistake with a left foot volley just after the half-hour to reward City's mastery. Five minutes later, De Bruyne's corner fell to Laporte, who found himself unmarked as he stooped to head home.

Though the home side attacked intermittently, City could have scored three more goals in the space of the first 12 minutes of the second half as they continued to pour forward. Bernardo Silva had been on the pitch for 90 seconds after the excellent De Bruyne's withdrawal when another devastating City counter saw the Portuguese midfielder race through and slot his 71st minute left-foot shot in off the far post.

It sealed Shakhtar's first defeat in 12 matches in all competitions, leaving their chances of qualifying for the knockout stages looking bleak. — Reuters

Real end winless run against Plzen but doubts remain

MADRID: Real Madrid snapped a run of five games without victory by earning a 2-1 win at home to Viktoria Plzen in the Champions League on Tuesday yet were still booed off the pitch by their own supporters after an unconvincing performance.

Karim Benzema headed the stuttering triple European champions ahead early in the first half but they were fortunate not to concede an equaliser before the break as the Czechs somehow failed to capitalise on three clear opportunities.

Brazilian left back Marcelo got Real's second goal with a coolly-taken dinked finish in the 55th minute and they then missed a glut of chances to extend the lead, which was cut by an ice-cool finish from Plzen's Patrik Hrosovsky in the 78th.

Real held on for a far-from convincing win which keeps them level with Group G leaders AS Roma on six points after three games but failed to answer serious questions about their form ahead of Sunday's 'Clasico' away to arch rivals Barcelona.

"We all needed to get a victory today which we deserved to get before," said under-pressure Real coach Julen Lopetegui.

"I can't say whether the crisis is over or not. All I can say is we had gone a lot

of games without winning and it was vital we won. Points give you tranquility and we have broken a spell of not winning. Now we have to kick on."

A run of five games without a win culminating in Saturday's shock 2-1 home defeat by Levante had left Lopetegui against the ropes and he faced repeated questions about his precarious position in the build-up to the game.

The former Spain manager had insisted he felt able to continue at the helm in Madrid yet could still not give any guarantees that he would remain in charge by the weekend. Benzema's headed goal from a superb cross by Lucas Vazquez brought a sense of calm to a nervy Santiago Bernabeu crowd although there were howling whistles at halftime after Real had given up a third chance to the Czechs but got away with it.

The visitors had missed an early opportunity when Milan Petrzela was denied at the near post by goalkeeper Keylor Navas and then managed to send the rebound wide. David Limbersky failed to hit the target after getting past Lucas Vazquez and Hrosovsky then missed an even easier opening before the break when Navas flapped but the midfielder lacked composure and sent the ball over the bar. — Reuters

Live		
Matches on TV		
(Local Timings)		
UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE		
Zurich v Bayer 04 Leverkusen	beIN SPORTS HD 4	19:55
AEK Larnaca v Ludogorets Razgrad	beIN SPORTS	19:55
Red Bull Salzburg v Rosenborg	beIN SPORTS HD 3	19:55
RB Leipzig v Celtic	beIN SPORTS HD 5	19:55
Zenit St. Petersburg v FC Girondins de Bordeaux	beIN SPORTS HD 6	19:55
FC K?benhavn v SK Slavia Prague	beIN SPORTS HD 12 EN	19:55
RSC Anderlecht v Fenerbah?e	beIN SPORTS HD 7	19:55
Spartak Trnava v GNK Dinamo Zagreb	beIN SPORTS HD 9	19:55
Qarabag Agdam FK v Vorskla Poltava	beIN SPORTS	19:55
Sporting CP v Arsenal FC	beIN SPORTS HD 1	19:55
AC Milan v Real Betis	beIN SPORTS HD 2	19:55
F91 Dudelange v Olympiacos CFP	beIN SPORTS HD 8	19:55
Sarpsborg 08 v Malm? FF	beIN SPORTS HD 13 EN	22:00
Besiktas v KRC Genk	beIN SPORTS	22:00
Standard de Liege v FK Krasnodar	beIN SPORTS HD 7	22:00
Sevilla FC v Akhiser Belediyespor	beIN SPORTS HD 3	22:00
Eintracht Frankfurt v Apollon Limassol	beIN SPORTS HD 5	22:00
Olympique Marseille v SS Lazio	beIN SPORTS HD 1	22:00
Glasgow Rangers v Spartak Moscow	beIN SPORTS HD 8	22:00
Villarreal CF v SK Rapid Wien	beIN SPORTS	22:00
Chelsea FC v FK Bate Borisov	beIN SPORTS HD 2	22:00
PAOK FC v MOL Vidi FC	beIN SPORTS	22:00
Jablonec v FC Astana	beIN SPORTS	22:00
Stade Rennais v Dynamo Kyiv	beIN SPORTS HD 6	22:00

Qatar World Cup 2022 will be carbon-free

DOHA: Qatar's football World Cup 2022 will be a "carbon-neutral" tournament with zero harmful emissions, the country's environment minister told a sustainability conference yesterday. Mohammed bin Abdullah al-Rumaihi said strict standards in design and construction would offset the tournament's carbon footprint, despite the huge number of infrastructure projects underway in the Gulf emirate.

"The Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy has been working on planning and organising a carbon-neutral 2022 FIFA World Cup tournament," Rumaihi said. Carbon neutrality is achieved by offsetting the amount of harmful carbon dioxide released to the atmosphere.

Hydrocarbon-rich Qatar, which is spending \$500 million a week on capital projects for the World Cup, is undergoing a huge transformation for football's biggest tournament. Among major projects, Doha is building or refurbishing eight stadiums, overseeing massive roadworks and the country's first Metro system.

Qatar is also building the \$45 billion Lusail city, projected to be home for 250,000 people, which will host the World Cup's opening and final games. Rumaihi said organisers were working in accordance with the world's football body FIFA environmental standards.

Earlier this week, FIFA president Gianni Infantino made an unannounced stop in Qatar where he inspected some of the stadiums and the metro project. He said the 2022 tournament would have "to be even better" than the hugely successful Russia World Cup held earlier this year. — AFP

25 Sidney Crosby, Penguins edge
Edmonton Oilers in overtime



26 West Indies' Hope dampens
Kohli's day in thrilling tie



27 Juventus too good for Man
Utd on Ronaldo's return



Tottenham held to a draw by PSV

Spurs keeper Hugo Lloris sent off in the 79th minute



EINDHOVEN: Tottenham Hotspur's Brazilian midfielder Lucas Moura (C/#27) scores during the UEFA Champions League Group B football match between PSV Eindhoven and Tottenham Hotspur at Philips Stadium in Eindhoven yesterday. — AFP

EINDHOVEN: Captain Luuk De Jong struck a late equaliser for PSV Eindhoven as they drew 2-2 with Tottenham Hotspur yesterday, a result that did little for either side's Champions League ambitions.

Hirving Lozano's deflected effort gave PSV the lead after 30 minutes of the Group B clash but Lucas Moura equalised before halftime, and when Harry Kane headed Tottenham in front after 54 minutes the visitors looked in complete control.

A moment of madness saw Tottenham keeper Hugo Lloris sent off in the 79th minute, though, and a rejuvenated PSV grabbed a point with De Jong's close-range flick. The result left PSV and Tottenham on one point

from three games with Barcelona and Inter Milan already both on six before their meeting later yesterday in the Nou Camp. With both sides having lost to Barcelona and Inter Milan in their first two matches there was precious little margin for error for either in a rocking Philips Stadion.

Tottenham, with playmaker Christian Eriksen restored to the starting lineup after recovering from an abdominal injury, settled quickly and Kane had a flurry of early chances, sending one header against the woodwork and firing another effort over.

PSV went ahead though, with a goal Spurs defender Toby Alderweireld will not enjoy watching again. His

careless pass gifted possession to Mexican Lozano and although Alderweireld did superbly to make a recovery tackle, Lozano's shot deflected up and over Lloris.

Tottenham responded with Davinson Sanchez having a goal ruled out but the north London side went in at the break deservedly level thanks to Moura's deflected finish after good approach play by Eriksen and right back Kieran Trippier.

Gaston Pereiro hit the woodwork for PSV just before halftime but after the interval Tottenham looked the more likely to kickstart their campaign. Eriksen was again the spark as Tottenham went ahead, this time linking with Son Heung-min down the left before curl-

ing a cross invitingly for Kane to head home from close range. Erik Lamela skimmed the crossbar with a shot as Tottenham continued to assert themselves, but with victory looking in the bag they allowed PSV off the hook.

Lloris came charging out of his goal and took out Lozano—the French World Cup winning captain giving referee Slavko Vincic little choice but to brandish the red card.

Worse was to follow for Mauricio Pochettino's side as they conceded a soft late goal, failing to clear the ball before De Jong flicked the ball past substitute keeper Michel Vorm. — Reuters

Henry still waiting for first win as Monaco held at Brugge

BRUGES: An injury-hit Monaco failed to give Thierry Henry his first win as a head coach with a 1-1 Champions League draw at Club Brugge yesterday. Moussa Sylla raised hopes of Monaco ending an 11-match winless streak by opening the scoring just after the half-hour mark at the Jan Breydel Stadium, but Wesley struck for the Belgian champions to secure a point.

The principality club have now also gone 11 Champions League games without a victory since their thrilling 6-3 aggregate triumph over Borussia Dortmund in the 2016-17 quarter-finals.

Henry, who took over from the sacked Leonardo Jardim earlier this month, saw his young side put in a spirited display despite

being depleted by a raft of injuries, although the result leaves both sides facing elimination from Group A.

Borussia Dortmund and Atletico Madrid lead the way, five points clear of Monaco and Brugge, ahead of their meeting at Signal Iduna Park later. Monaco will now hope it is a case of third time lucky under Henry when they host Dijon on Saturday, looking to drag themselves out of the Ligue 1 relegation zone. Henry was forced to hand a full debut to 20-year-old fourth-choice goalkeeper Loic Badiashile in West Flanders, with Danijel Subasic and Diego Benaglio out injured and Seydou Sy, who made a dreadful error in Monaco's loss to Strasbourg at the weekend, not registered to play in the Champions League.

Nothing was going right for Monaco's new coach, as after Radamel Falcao had hobbled off injured on Saturday, Henry was left without a senior striker when Stevan Jovetic had to be replaced by teenager Sofiane Diop in only the 12th minute.

But his fellow 18-year-old Sylla put the visitors ahead in the 32nd minute, darting onto Aleksandr Golovin's through ball and sliding home his maiden Champions League goal. Sylla should have doubled the lead

before half-time as he raced clear of home goalkeeper Karlo Leticica, only to roll the ball wide of an empty net.

He was made to pay just seconds later, as Brazilian forward Wesley saw his header take a big deflection off Monaco centre-back Kamil Glik and spin past the despairing dive of Badiashile.

Ivan Leko's Brugge continued to create chances in the second half, but after a flowing move which sliced Monaco open, captain Ruud Vormer hacked his strike well over the crossbar. After a nervous moment when Badiashile lost possession outside his own area, Monaco went straight up the other end and nearly retook the lead when Golovin's drive was beaten away by Leticica.

Henry, who was assistant coach to Roberto Martinez for Belgium during their run to the World Cup semi-finals, replaced substitute Diop with midfielder Jean-Eudes Aholou in an attempt to seal a point, but they needed a massive slice of luck to escape with a draw.

With Martinez watching on in the stands, 18-year-old Belgian Lois Openda wasted a glorious opportunity deep into added time, heading wide from barely two yards out with an open goal to aim at. — AFP



BRUGES: Club Brugge's Croatian goalkeeper Karlo Leticica jumps for the ball during the UEFA Champions League Group A football match between Club Brugge KV and AS Monaco FC at the Jan Breydel Stadium in Bruges yesterday. — AFP