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Muscat says time to accept Israel after Bibi visits Oman

Saudi Arabia beacon of 'light' • Gulf 'pillar' of stability • 'Russia cannot replace US'

MANAMA: Oman described Israel as an accepted Middle East state yesterday, a day after hosting a surprise visit by its prime minister that Washington said could help regional peace efforts. Oman is offering ideas to help Israel and the Palestinians to come together but is not acting as mediator. Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, the sultanate's minister responsible for foreign affairs, told a security summit in Bahrain. "Israel is a state present in the region, and we all understand this," bin Alawi said. "The world is also aware of this fact. Maybe it is time for Israel to be treated the same [as others states] and also bear the same obligations."

His comments followed a rare visit to Oman by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin 'Bibi' Netanyahu, which came days after Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas paid a three-day visit to the Gulf country. Both leaders met with Oman's Sultan Qaboos. "We are not saying that the road is now easy and paved with flowers, but our priority is to put an end to the conflict and move to a new world," bin Alawi told the summit. Oman is

relying on the United States and efforts by President Donald Trump in working towards the "deal of the century" (Middle East peace), he added.

Bahrain's foreign minister Khalid bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa voiced support for Oman over the sultanate's role in trying to secure Israeli-Palestinian peace, while Saudi Arabia's foreign minister Adel Al-Jubeir said the kingdom believes the key to normalizing relations with Israel was the peace process. The three-day summit was attended by Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, and his counterparts in Italy and Germany also participated, but Jordan's King Abdullah cancelled his appearance after a flood that hit the Dead Sea region killed 21 people.

Trump's Middle East envoy Jason Greenblatt welcomed the "warming ties & growing cooperation between our regional friends" in a tweet late on Friday. "This is a helpful step for our peace efforts & essential to create an atmosphere of stability, security & prosperity between Israelis, Palestinians &

their neighbors. Looking forward to seeing more meetings like this!" Greenblatt said.

Israel and some Gulf states share an interest in curbing Iran's influence in the region. Oman has long been to the Middle East what neutral Switzerland is to global diplomacy. The country helped to mediate secret US-Iran talks in 2013 that led to the historic nuclear deal signed in Geneva two years later. Earlier this year, bin Alawi visited Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque and Netanyahu has on several occasions hinted at warmer ties with Gulf states. He told Israel's parliament last week that due to fears of a nuclear threat from Iran, "Israel and other Arab countries are closer than they ever were before."

Though uncommon, Israeli leaders have previously visited the Gulf state. In 1996, the late Shimon Peres went to Oman and Qatar when he was prime minister and opened Israel trade representative offices in both Gulf countries. His predecessor, the late Yitzhak Rabin, made the first trip to Oman in 1994. On his visit on Friday, Netanyahu was

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MUSCAT: Oman's Sultan Qaboos meets Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during the latter's unannounced visit to the Gulf country on Friday. — AFP

Pence attends US Kuwait Embassy's annual gala dinner

WASHINGTON: US Vice President Mike Pence and top US administration officials gathered at the Kuwait Embassy in Washington for an evening honoring Second Lady Karen Pence, the recipient of the Humanitarian Award for her commitment in raising awareness about the mental health profession of art therapy in the US and around the world. The Gala Dinner for UNHCR, hosted by Kuwait's Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah and his wife Sheikha Rima Al-Sabah honoring Karen Pence, is an event that celebrates the enduring and important friendship and strong partnership between the US and Kuwait that goes back to many decades.

Sheikh Salem shed light on Kuwait's commitment "to supporting refugees and advocating for peace, stability and dignity for all people," saying "it is a commitment that is part of our national culture". "Our leader, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, is a bridge-builder who has sought to create a broad, multilateral response to the humanitarian crises stemming from conflicts in the region and beyond," he noted.

Mike Pence delivered greetings of President Donald Trump and gratitude "for last year's honor and tonight's honor and wanted all you to know that he so appreciates the generosity and spirit represented through the event". US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said "on behalf of the US, we thank the good work of Kuwait" for its assistance and the enormous humanitarian work and the efforts it has done for the refugees around the world. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres expressed appreciation for the "solidarity and generosity" of HH the Amir, the Kuwaiti government and people of Kuwait. — KUNA (See Page 5)



WASHINGTON: US Vice President Mike Pence, Second Lady Karen Pence, Kuwait's Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah and his wife Sheikha Rima Al-Sabah attend a gala dinner on Friday. — KUNA

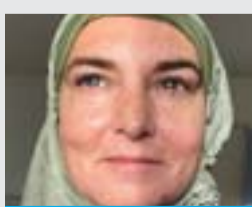
News in brief

Data thieves nabbed

KUWAIT: Criminal detectives arrested three Egyptians for selling data of about 1.8 million citizens and expats. Security sources said the suspects sold the information for KD 250, including names, addresses, places of work and mobile phone, ID and passport numbers. The sources explained that a citizen reported he viewed an ad by an Egyptian offering to sell such data, and on calling him and getting a copy, he realized how dangerous such practices can be and immediately informed the police. The suspect was ambushed and arrested red-handed. He led police to his accomplices, including one who was arrested while about to leave the country. — By A Saleh

O'Connor converts to Islam

LONDON: Outspoken Irish singer Sinead O'Connor announced on Friday she has converted to Islam and changed her name to Shuhada. Having adopted the name Magda Davitt last year, the 51-year-old is now called Shuhada Davitt. She also changed her Twitter avatar to a black-and-white image of the Nike Swoosh logo and the slogan: "Wear a hijab. Just do it." "This is to announce that I am proud to have become a Muslim. This is the natural conclusion of any intelligent theologian's journey," she tweeted. "All scripture study leads to Islam. Which makes all other scriptures redundant. I will be given (another) new name. It will be Shuhada." Her Twitter account says the singer now lives in "Direland". O'Connor's 1990 hit "Nothing Compares 2 U" became a global hit, with her haunting voice, shaved head and single-tone outfits turning her into both an enigmatic and captivating figure. — AFP



Sinead O'Connor

Turkey hosts Syria summit with leaders

ISTANBUL: The leaders of Turkey, Russia, France and Germany met yesterday to try to find a political solution to Syria's devastating civil war, provide access to humanitarian aid and salvage a fragile ceasefire in the country's last major rebel-held bastion. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan welcomed Russia's Vladimir Putin, France's Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel to the gathering on the Syrian conflict, in which more than 360,000 people have been killed

since 2011.

"The eyes of the world are on us today... I hope we will act with a sincere and constructive understanding and will not fail to meet their expectations," Erdogan said as he opened the summit in Istanbul. The talks come a day after seven civilians were killed by Syrian regime artillery fire in the northwestern province of Idlib, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, the highest death toll since a ceasefire was reached there last month.

Russia, which supports the regime of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, and Turkey, which backs the rebels, agreed to create a buffer zone around Idlib, but violence has escalated dramatically leading up to the summit. Turkey and Russia have held talks with Iran on the Syrian

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ISTANBUL: (From left) Russian President Vladimir Putin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and French President Emmanuel Macron take part in the "Four-way Istanbul summit on Syria" at the Vahdettin Mansion yesterday. — AFP

Several dead as gunman attacks US synagogue

WASHINGTON: A gunman opened fire on Jewish worshippers at a synagogue in the US city of Pittsburgh yesterday, reportedly killing at least four people and injuring half a dozen others before being taken into custody. Local media reported the shooter yelled anti-Jewish slurs during the attack at the Tree of Life synagogue, where dozens were understood to be gathered during Sabbath services, and which comes with the United States witnessing a sharp spike in anti-Semitic incidents.

As reports indicated as many as eight could be dead, President Donald Trump

hit out at what he called a climate of "hate" - while his daughter Ivanka, a convert to Judaism, denounced a "depraved" attack. "It's a terrible, terrible thing what's going on with hate in our country frankly, and all over the world," Trump told reporters. "Something has to be done," he continued, saying the perpetrators of such attacks "should get the death penalty".

Multiple US media identified the shooter as a 46-year-old man from Pittsburgh, Rob Bowers, whose online posts were reportedly rife with anti-Semitic comments. Wendell Hissrich, Pittsburgh's public safety director, confirmed there were "multiple fatalities" at the scene and at least six people injured including four police officers whose condition was not immediately clear. "The scene is very bad inside," Hissrich said. US television networks said at least four

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PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania: Police rapid response team members respond to the site of a mass shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood yesterday. — AFP

Local

Man claims he killed brother while under the influence of drugs

Multiple arrests in crackdowns around Kuwait in weekend



KUWAIT: Vehicles lined up at a check point held over the weekend.

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A Syrian man who killed his brother in Saad Al-Abdullah turned himself in to police, while investigations revealed that he was under the influence of drugs when he committed his crime. Police responded earlier to a call about a murder, and found a 27-year-old Syrian man dead. His father told police that his other son killed his brother following a fight, then escaped. Two knives were found at the scene. The body was recovered by the coroner. Detectives working on the case found the suspect had turned himself in to the criminal sentences implementation department in Sulaibiya. He said he was not aware of what he was doing at the time because he was under the influence of drugs. He will be sent to concerned authorities.

Crackdowns

The general security department carried out several campaigns in all governorates on Oct 25 and 26, resulting in the arrest of 29 wanted and absconding persons, in addition to 95 residency law violators. Six drugs and three liquor cases were busted, 250 traffic citations were issued, 23 vehicles were impounded and 277 assistance



Drugs confiscated with a passengers who tried to smuggle them into Kuwait through the airport.

and 142 traffic accidents were dealt with, in addition to 10 citations issued for parking in the disabled spots.

Meanwhile, the traffic department launched a campaign in various areas of Kuwait resulting in issuing 2,237 traffic citations, impounding 144 vehicles and detaining 46 juveniles and 23 adults, while nine were sent



This photo released by the Interior Ministry shows a bus impounded during a recent crackdown by the traffic department.

for deportation for committing grave violations. The traffic department carried out a campaign against buses and vehicles used for other purposes other than what they are licensed for, resulting in issuing 20 citations and impounding 19 buses.

Smuggling foiled

An Arab woman was caught attempting to smuggle 107 grams of hashish on arrival at Kuwait International Airport. The drug was found in her purse. The arrest was the result of cooperation between customs and drugs fighting authorities.

No injuries

Hawally, Salmiya and technical rescue responded to a call about a fire in the kitchen of a fourth-floor apartment in a nine-storey building in Hawally. The building was evacuated, and no injuries were reported.

announced that the Chinese contractor executing the second phase of Mutlaa residential city project has started doubling its labor capacity by adding 1,000 new workers from the local market. Informed sources said the contractor's decision was made in response to the authority's demands to increase manpower and cover any shortage, which will be done shortly by bringing more workers from China.

Sewage project

The Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) is scheduled to sign a contract today with the investor who won the tender of expanding the Umm Al-Haيمان sewage project, said informed sources, noting that the ceremony will be attended by Minister of Public Works and Municipal Affairs Hosam Al-Roumi and a number of officials at both the public works and finance ministries. Separately, Roumi held a lengthy meeting to discuss the consequences of the recent rains in Riqqa and Hadiya, during which he stressed the need to prevent the same from happening again and urged everyone to exert utmost efforts to do so.

Smart meters

Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) Undersecretary Mohammad Bushehri stressed that using smart meters will facilitate collecting fees and end the problem of accumulating unpaid bills. Bushehri added 5,000 such meters have been installed so far and that using them will help both the ministry and consumers.

rain. Muwaizri urged these bodies to be cautious to avoid possible disasters that might claim lives.

Online form

Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan issued a decision on using an online form to issue licenses to commercial stores, individual establishments and companies by the beginning of the new year. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) said resolution number 601/2018 added a new clause to article no 1 of ministerial resolution number 411/2013 ordering the use of the new form and cancellation of all previous ones effective Jan 2, 2019.



NEW YORK: Kuwaiti diplomat and part of the Kuwaiti delegation to UN Advisor Tahani Al-Nasser delivers a speech at a UN meeting on child abuse. — KUNA

leads them to social marginalization," she added.

Nasser also welcomed the role of the United Nations in supporting Member States to address the challenges related to sexual violence during conflicts, including joint action to enable survivors and their children to return to normal life. She also welcomed the decision by the Special Representative to launch a new research on the issue following her visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina to participate in the launch of the national initiative to combat social stigmatization. Nasser also expressed support to UN independent investigation team and their efforts to ensure accountability from the so-called Islamic State (IS) in Iraq, which was formed in accordance with Security Council resolution 2379. — KUNA

Panel debates citizenships, MPs' memberships

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The parliamentary legislative affairs committee is scheduled today to discuss granting citizenship to Kuwaiti women's children, cancelling the memberships of MPs Waleed Al-Tabtabae and Jamaan Al-Harbash and a number of housing welfare issues. In other news, MP Safa Al-Hashem said that she prefers being nominated for the membership of the parliamentary financial and budget affairs committees, considering them a top priority for her in view of what she described as "many unsolved issues." Hashem added that lawmakers will demand extending the tenure of the parliamentary 'replacement' committee (concerned with replacing expatriate labor with Kuwaiti employees), because its tasks are not complete and the government has been stalling in disclosing the true number of expat employees even as unemployment among Kuwaitis increased by six percent.

Labor capacity doubled

The Public Authority for Housing Welfare

Municipal Council member warns of 'possible flooding'

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Municipal Council member and head of Ahmadi committee Fahd Fahhad Al-Muwaizri warned all relevant bodies of possible flooding resulting from

Kuwait underlines importance of confronting child abuse

NEW YORK: Kuwait underlined the importance of cooperation and exchange of experience in confronting child abuse and neglected orphans, including their integration into society. The remarks were made by Kuwaiti diplomat and part of the Kuwaiti delegation to UN Advisor Tahani Al-Nasser during her speech at a UN meeting late on Friday, under the slogan 'Protecting children born as a result of sexual violence in conflict zones.'

"Sexual violence has long-term detrimental effects on the physical, psychological, economic and social lives of victims, particularly to children and their family, environment, including victims of social stigmatization even after the end of conflict and during peace, which undermines their enrollment into society," she said.

Nasser stressed that the consequences of these crimes are unfair and cruel to victims, since in most cases these children pay the price instead of the perpetrators, including their families who may suffer social humiliation. "This social stigma against children deprives them from most basic rights, such as their right to grow in a healthy family, where some victims are forced to abandon their children forcibly, which

local spotlight

Is development disabled?



By Muna Al-Fuzal

Muna@kuwaittimes.net

This is really an important question among Kuwaitis. Is development really disabled and why? We hear about future projects but do not see anything concrete on the ground. Everything is drowned in politics, crime and social media, but what about the future and outstanding issues? I believe sustainable development is when a society has a plan to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all without exception. Is this not what the United Nations and Western countries call for? Where are we from this plan? Why does development in Kuwait falter?

I think there are unlimited obstacles to the existence of real development in Kuwait, and these obstacles are exacerbated over time and the risk is increasing. We have already begun to address the effects of these problems and neglecting of the real issues that stand in the way of Kuwait's development to restore its leading role in economic fields.

We complain of corruption, but what is the corruption that we really suffer from? Who is the culprit and who stands with it, and how to stop them? Is wasting water and electricity corruption?

We need reform, but how? Because reform requires change of wrong behaviors that may have spread over the years and become a societal tradition that people believe is indispensable. We need more than good wishes because it will not generate economic benefit or produce real economic development that can be felt by citizens and expats.

We complain from routine, bureaucracy and paperwork at a time when there is rarely a human who is free from a mobile phone and electronic communication. But paperwork is still present and required to complete a request at any government body.

We are a hot country, but our neighbors are touristic countries, so why didn't the weather stop them? What do we lack? I think that until now we have not identified the exact obstacles of economic development in Kuwait with a plan to change things. I believe education is the basis of a society's development. The budget of the ministry of education takes up a large part of the state budget. But salaries of employees occupy a large portion of it. How much goes to technology and curriculum change? There is a need to see a change in individual behaviors, inventions and academics. We need to change the curriculum of thinking and studying from kindergarten to university.

Former Education Undersecretary Dr Haitham Al-Athari had formed several committees to develop the curriculum for the next two academic years. They stressed they are trying to put efforts into the development process according to a scientific vision, taking into account many changes, both local and international. I hope the process does not stop in the absence of Athari.

I believe that one of the obstacles to development is that politics has dominated the local scene in Kuwait for a long time. The situation is still without tangible change for ordinary citizens, especially in light of the imbalanced composition of the population, reliance on oil as the sole source of income and the spread of waste. I believe that it is necessary to pave the way for citizens to contribute to financial portfolios or companies that are established by the state to acquire and manage the assets under clear criteria and conditions.

Former CEO of Zain Dr Saad Al-Barrak recently emphasized the need to restructure economic activity in Kuwait to move mostly to the private sector. He explained that Kuwait's economy is based on the largest product in the state, considering it a problem as the state dominates major economic production sectors, noting that this does not create a culture of small projects.

I think that we in Kuwait have the fundamentals of development in financial and human resources, but we still lack a real desire for change for the better and the belief in sustainable development for all and not for some.

News in brief

Amir laments Jordan's flood victims

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Thursday sent a cable of condolences to Jordan's King Abdullah II over the victims of flash floods that hit the kingdom. In the cable, His Highness the Amir expressed his sincere condolences over people who were killed and wounded by the floods caused by heavy torrential rains. His Highness the Amir wished a speedy recovery to those injured and safety for those missing. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. —KUNA

Kuwait, France's DMs hold talks

KUWAIT: Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and French Minister of Armed Forces Florence Parly discussed, on Friday through a telephone call, some topics of common concern. During the call, the two sides exchanged friendly talks and focused on the most important topics of common concern. Kuwait's Defense Ministry said in a press remark. It added that Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad commended the depth of relations between the two friendly countries. Parly, meanwhile, wished further success and progress for Kuwait as well as increasing cooperation between the two countries, according to the statement. — KUNA

Bahraini PM praises Amir

MANAMA: Bahraini Prime Minister Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa praised yesterday His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's efforts in achieving Kuwait's vision and his efforts towards Arab unity. The Bahraini premier affirmed both countries' keenness on strengthening bilateral cooperation, while giving a speech during the reception of Kuwait Ministry of Interior's Assistant Undersecretary for Citizenship and Passports, Major-General Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Sabah, who is currently visiting Bahrain to participate in Manama Dialogue. "What Bahraini-Kuwaiti relations witness from development and prosperity in various fields demonstrates the depth of the brotherly ties between the two countries," the Bahraini prime minister said. —KUNA

MP stresses dialogue's significance

MANAMA: Member of the Kuwaiti National Assembly Ali Al-Deqbasi yesterday affirmed significance of the Manama Dialogue conference for exchanging views about political and security issues among the conferees. MP Al-Deqbasi, in a statement on the convention sidelines, called for rallying "all international efforts for facing terrorism that threatens the region's security and stability." He expressed gratitude to the Kingdom of Bahrain for hosting the conference, which kicked off late on Friday. It comprises dozens of government officials, businessmen, international figures, economists and political and strategic thinkers from Asia, Africa, North America, Latin America and Europe. The agenda tackles a host of issues, namely regional security challenges. —KUNA

Local

Kuwait, India to sign Memorandum of Understanding on labor this week: Sabeeh

Indian external affairs minister to visit Kuwait, meet HH the Amir

NEW DELHI: The visiting Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh met on Friday Indian Minister of State for External Affairs VK Singh. During the meeting, both ministers discussed ways of deepening cooperation between the two nations. Sabeeh arrived New Delhi Thursday evening heading a delegation as part of her multi-state visit to discuss bilateral issues of cooperation especially the labor issues of migrant workers.

"We have a successful meeting with Indian Minister of State for External Affairs VK Singh during which we discussed several important matters including the finalization of a Memorandum of Understanding that would be signed (this) week in Kuwait," the visiting minister, who was accompanied by Kuwaiti Ambassador Jassem Al-Najem, said.

Indian engineers

On the issue of Indian engineers in Kuwait, Sabeeh said that it would be helpful for the Indian engineers to get their qualifications certified since it will help them during their future work in Kuwait and more support would be provided for the early completion of verification of the certificates by the Kuwait Society of Engineers. "We also discussed the Kuwaiti governmental company named al Durra which would open application for the Indian maids and New Delhi welcomed the move, further deliberation on the same would be held when the Indian minister would visit Kuwait," she said.

Sabeeh added that both countries would work through a joint working group to build up a linking platform to provide transparency to the recruitment of Indian workers in Kuwait. The proposed platform would help streamline the recruitment



Sushma Swaraj



NEW DELHI: The visiting Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh meets with Indian Minister of State for External Affairs VK Singh. — KUNA

process and take necessary steps to avoid misuse and the public and recruitment, and employing companies in both countries will get information about the openings and job opportunities, she noted.

The Kuwaiti minister also hailed the proposed plan to digitalize data related to the recruitment saying that all the information about the Kuwaiti companies and the Indian job seekers would be available.

minister further said that few minor problems of the Indian citizens in Kuwait and Kuwaiti citizens in India have been nearly solved by both sides. Sabeeh also underlined that during the talks both sides discussed all other outstanding issues and came to the conclusion that the proposed signing of the MoU next week would resolve any pending issue between the two friendly nations.

Swaraj visits Kuwait

Meanwhile, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs announced that India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will arrive in Kuwait on Tuesday on a two-day official visit. She will reach Kuwait after paying a two-day visit to Qatar. Swaraj is visiting the two Gulf countries for the first time as External Affairs Minister and the visit is in pursuit of India's objective of enhanced engagement with the region, according to a statement by India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Swaraj is scheduled to address a meet-

ing of Indian community members at the Indian Embassy auditorium, Kuwait on Tuesday evening. On the second day of her visit to Kuwait, the minister is also scheduled to meet Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and discuss a wide range of topics of mutual concerns. Swaraj will also call on His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Wednesday, the statement added.

During her visit to Qatar today, the minister will interact with her counterpart Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, who is also the Deputy Prime Minister. She will also call on Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani. She will interact with the Indian community in Doha, the MEA statement said.

The visit to the Gulf region, which is India's extended neighborhood, will provide an opportunity to hold in-depth discussions with the political leadership on a wide range of global, regional and bilateral issues, the MEA added.



Kuwait's labor minister visits India

The proposed joint project would help Indian job seekers find suitable jobs in Kuwait, she said, noting that the Kuwaiti Public Authority for Manpower and the Indian Ministry of Labor and Employment officials would sit together to finalize the matter which would create a win-win situation for both sides. The

WFEO honors Kuwaiti Engineer

LONDON: The World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) honored Friday the Vice President and Chairman of Youth Engineers' Committee, Zainab Al-Qarashi, as well as members of the Executive Council for their efforts and contributions. This came at the conclusion of the General Assembly of WFEO, which coincided with the International Conference of Engineers, which ends on Friday after the experts discussed over five days the role of engineers in achieving the goals of the UN sustainable development 2030.

Qarashi expressed, in a statement to the press, that the honoring by the members of the Executive Council was very much appreciated, especially to Kuwaiti engineers and to their efforts in the work with the committees, which would help strengthen the role of Kuwaiti engineers in regional and international arenas. Qarashi pointed out that the projects of young Kuwaiti engineers received wide attention from the participants, especially the projects for the establishment of housing units in the largest refugee camps in Africa. The Kuwaiti participation will contribute to the increase of vocational and engineering qualification and activate the role of local engineers in the implementation of the country's development plans in the forefront 'Vision 2035', she added.

On the other hand, she praised the support and patronage of the President of the Kuwaiti Engineers Society Engineer Faisal Al-Attal and members of the Board of Directors for printing the book, which was handed over to WFEO. During the conference, Qarashi chaired a special workshop on the role of engineers in achieving the UN Development Goals. — KUNA

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Answers to Respondent Questions
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Respondent Submissions Due
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Local

Zain participates in celebration of 55th anniversary of UN-Kuwait partnership

Under patronage of Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, participated in a special ceremony that was held on the occasion of the United Nations Day, which is held on the 24th of October of every year. This year, the event coincided with the 55th anniversary of the partnership between the UN and the State of Kuwait, and was held under the patronage and attendance of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Zain's participation came as part of its strategic partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The ceremony, held at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Building (UN House) in Mubarak Al-Abdullah Area, witnessed the attendance of Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Chief Executive Officer of Zain Kuwait Eaman Al-Roudhan, United Nations Resident Coordinator Dr Tarek El-Sheikh, as well as a number of the UN's partners from the civil community, private sector, international organizations, as well as a number of public figures.

Zain's participation came as an extension of the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the company and the UNHCR during April of 2016. The agreement considered the best ways in which to contribute to the improvement of the living and social conditions of refugees and any other individuals who the UNHCR provides assistance to, and is considered an embodiment of the spirit of cooperation between private and global humanitarian sectors. During the past two years, Zain's contributions in humanitarian fields included its #ZainWithRefugees campaign, field trips to refugee camps, online donation campaigns, strategic partnerships with local and global humanitarian entities, and more.

The event mainly aimed at celebrating the 55th anniversary of the partnership between the UN and the State of Kuwait, which sees the country's contributions and efforts into achieving the 2030 sustainable goals, including Kuwait's leading role in humanitarian aid, crisis and emergency aid, global developmental efforts, and more.



Eaman Al-Roudhan and Waleed Al-Khashti at the event.



Held at
UN House

Earlier last year, Zain launched its humanitarian campaign #ZainWithRefugees in collaboration with the UNHCR. The campaign aimed at improving the living conditions of thousands of refugees in the region who suffer from the lack of essential supplies during the harsh winter season. Donations were utilized to provide families with financial support, winter clothing, thermal blankets, heaters, and more. Zain prides itself in its long list of joint



KUWAIT: Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Dr Tarek El-Sheikh at the event.

collaborations with the UNHCR, including the extension of mobile telecommunications coverage to reconnect displaced families in the Middle East, offering telecom services in deprived areas, as well as awareness campaigns through SMS services and social media channels.

The agreement between Zain and the UNHCR also focuses on the importance of raising awareness of the plight of refugees, and shedding light on the humanitarian initiatives in place to alleviate the suffering of this community of people around the world, as well as highlight the efforts of the State of Kuwait in creating a hub

for humanitarian work. In relevance to the international refugee situation, Zain partnered with Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) to organize a humanitarian trip that saw 12 of its volunteered employees visiting and supporting Syrian refugees in Lebanon to distribute food, clothes, blankets and cater to a number of KRCS-supported projects. Zain also continued its annual Clothes Donation Campaign and extended it this year to Kuwait University, where over 10.5 tons of clothes were donated and sent by Kuwait Society for Relief to displaced Syrian families.

Exclusive offer for AUB customers on breast cancer early detection tests

KUWAIT: Coinciding with the World Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which takes place in October each year, Ahli United Bank (AUB) has announced the launch of an exclusive offer in cooperation with Royale Hayat Hospital during the period from the 1st of October to 30th of November 2018. The offer, valid to all AUB female debit and credit cardholders, includes substantial discounts on breast cancer early detection tests that include mammogram and ultrasound tests.

On this occasion, AUB said in a press release: "This initiative is in line with the Bank's keenness to provide banking services that cater to the various needs of its customers while being in line with AUB's social role. This is our commitment to promote awareness among all members of society of the vital importance of early detection of breast cancer in view of the positive effect of such tests in ensuring protection from this disease and increasing the rate of its successful treatment if detected early."

AUB affirmed that this initiative, launched by the Bank in cooperation with the prestigious Royale Hayat Hospital, is part of AUB's numerous health awareness activities and on the importance of the early detection and treatment of diseases. This fact has positively reflected on the success of the initiative and its attraction to many of the Bank's female customers.

ABK silver sponsor of breast cancer awareness event

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently announced the conclusion of its successful silver sponsorship of the 'Fight Like A Girl' breast cancer awareness event, which was organized by the American Women's League - Kuwait (AWL). The event was held at the Jumeirah Hotel, on October 17, 2018.

Organized for the second consecutive year, the 'Fight Like A Girl' event was held under the patronage of the US Ambassador, and was attended by the Deputy Chief of Mission of the US embassy, acting Ambassador of Lebanon and the wives of the Ambassadors of the United States, Mexico, Jordan, Kenya, Honduras and Canada, in addition to the President of the American Women League, Mrs. Marlene Aristy Hasawi and many other invitees.

ABK has taken the initiative to sponsor this event in support of women who are fighting the battle against breast cancer. 'Fight Like A Girl' demonstrates the power and strength females reflect when going through this life challenging experience. ABK is keen to raise maximum awareness of this life threatening disease and play a role in saving lives by promoting early detection and highlighting available treatments.



KUWAIT: The President of the American Women League honors Fajer Al-Kandari from ABK.

Burgan Bank sponsors first 'Awaken Festival'

KUWAIT: As a positive contributor to Kuwait's society, Burgan Bank has forged an eighteen month partnership ending March 2020 with en.v, an organization dedicated to fostering social development and civic engagement in



Loulwa Al-Ayoubi

the Middle East. The new strategic collaboration aims to ameliorate the spread of knowledge through innovative platforms and initiatives, and drive the sustainability of local communities. To kick-start the partnership, Burgan Bank is sponsoring the first event, titled 'Awaken Festival' to enhance the civil society's capacity and capabilities in Kuwait. The festival will be held during the period of 15-17 November 2018 at Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah in Yarmouk Cultural Centre.

The three-day Festival intends to support civil society organizations become more effective in addressing societal challenges, unite diverse community members to unleash the potential of everyone in Kuwait, ultimately contributing to a better future. Through its various workshops, activities, and events, the Festival will bring together people from different backgrounds to think creatively about pressing social issues in Kuwait. Using mediums like music, poetry, spoken word, acting and more, the AWAKEN Festival will feature forward-thinking collaborations, encourage meaningful discussions and explore new ways for people to understand their role within society.

The civil society sector in Kuwait has been expanding in recent years through higher participation of youth through various creative initiatives. To further develop this crucial sector, AWAKEN completed an initial mapping and



needs assessment, to be followed by a three-year strategic process that centers around society collaboration, community and private sector engagement.

Loulwa Al-Ayoubi, Acting Group Head of Investor Relations and Corporate Communications at Burgan Bank said: "As one of the key pillars of our CSR strategy, we aim to promote the spread of knowledge through innovative platforms and initiatives whilst striving to drive the sustainability of our communities. Today, it gives us great pleasure to partner with an established game changer like en.v through sponsoring the 'Awaken Festival'; a collaborative platform that enhances social structure and networks, drives levels of output higher, and works on enhancing the standards of social responsibility. We share the same ideals and vision and we hope that, through this long-term dynamic exercise, we will help contribute to aiding civil society organizations to become more effective in addressing societal challenges, and to unite diverse community members that share different ideas, knowledge and

insights to realize the new potential in a thriving and emerging market like Kuwait."

en.v has developed and implemented a number of programs over the past eight years, empowering individuals and enabling civil society organizations, educators, and youth to address local and regional challenges in innovative ways through the provision of training, funding and networking opportunities. The long term partnership of Burgan Bank with en.v will enable a results-oriented program that will further enhance the role and impact of the civil society sector in Kuwait. Falling in line with its community program, 'ENGAGE' - Together to be the change, Burgan Bank sheds light on important aspects affecting every segment of the society by promoting social welfare through educational, cultural, social and health initiatives. Burgan Bank's approach to 'ENGAGE' begins with a vital principle that as a Kuwaiti financial institution, its conduct and policies should be aligned with the needs and interests of the Kuwaiti society.

KAC launches new air dispatch section

KUWAIT: Within its strategic expansion plan, Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) recently launched the air dispatch section at its new control center at the airline's headquarters. A special ceremony was held with the attendance of KAC board chairman Yousif Abdul Hameed Al-Jassim, CEO Abdullah Al-Sharhan, and top company officials.

Notably, the dispatch section, which was moved from Terminal 1 (T1) to Terminal 4 (T4), is responsible for preparing all needed flight documents, plans and details prior to take off, during flying and on arrival. It is also responsible for making the needed permits in collaboration with the engineering department with the aim of checking plane readiness for flight, its fuel needs, weather conditions and prepare flight crew.

Speaking on the occasion, deputy operations manager Essa Al-Haddad said that the section was moved to T4 after all KAC flights were moved to the new terminal. "It is a great step to achieve direct contact with pilots and avoid mistakes," he underlined. Meanwhile, head of the control section Abdul-Wahab Al-Shatti said that moving the section should make operations easier and more accurate.



Local

Top US officials attend Kuwait Embassy's annual gala dinner

Celebrating enduring friendship, strong partnership between US, Kuwait



WASHINGTON: Secretary of State Mike Pompeo with Kuwait's Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah and his wife. —KUNA



Senior Advisor to the President Jared Kushner, Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump with Kuwait's Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah and his wife.

WASHINGTON: US Vice President Mike Pence and top US administration officials gathered at the Kuwait Embassy in Washington for an evening honoring Second Lady Karen Pence, the recipient of the Humanitarian Award for her commitment in raising awareness about the mental health profession of art therapy in the US and around the world. The Gala Dinner for UNHCR, hosted by Kuwait's Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah and his wife Sheikh Rima Al-Sabah honoring Karen Pence, is an event that celebrates the enduring and important friendship and strong partnership between the US and Kuwait that goes back to many decades. In his speech, Kuwait's Ambassador to the US, Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah shed light on Kuwait's commitment "to supporting refugees and advocating for peace, stability and dignity for all people," saying "it is a commitment that is part of our national culture."

"Our leader, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, is a bridge-builder who has sought to create a broad, multilateral response to the humanitarian crises stemming from conflicts in the region and beyond," he noted. He added that "Our leader, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, is a bridge-builder who has sought to create a broad, multilateral response to the humanitarian crises stemming from conflicts in the region and beyond."

"His Highness the Amir was recognized in 2014 by the United Nations for his exemplary humanitarian leadership," he remarked. "His Highness the Amir is passionate about Kuwait's role in addressing a range of humanitarian causes, and believes deeply that the world must always be able to count on the generosity of the Kuwaiti people."

Sheikh Salem stressed that "in that spirit, let us continue this noble work, let us strengthen the bonds of friendship through shared action. Because the destiny of all humanity is rooted in friendship, in peace, in security and in service."

Meanwhile, the Ambassador's wife, Sheikh Rima Al-Sabah, indicated that "this year alone we have raised over \$1 million for UNHCR programs that support refugee and displaced women and children" saying "together, we are changing lives."

She shed light on the refugee challenge the world is currently witnessing, saying "68 million men, women and children around the world have been driven from their homes by violence, war and persecution," where over half of those "are displaced children."

"Every day, another 44,000 people become refugees. This is a terrible humanitarian crisis. And it's only growing," she stressed. She noted, "and yet there is hope. Every day, men and women with the UN Refugee Agency are working to keep these refugees safe, help them find homes and medical care, place them in jobs and in schools and whenever possible, return them to their homes."

Relentless advocacy

Introducing Second Lady Karen Pence, the 2018 Kuwait-America Foundation Humanitarian Award recipient, Rima Al-Sabah shed light on her "relentless" advocacy for the healing power of art therapy. She noted that last year, Karen Pence launched "Healing with the Heart," an initiative "to elevate the standing of art therapy as a powerful, positive treatment for various conditions, illnesses and struggles."

In a speech as she accepted her award, the Second Lady Karen Pence expressed her honor to receive the Award, saying she is "very grateful for the recognition." She added that it is "such a privilege to be able to shine a spotlight on the issues that are close to my heart." "Thank you for allowing me to have a platform to share" what the honor and work of the Second Lady is about, she remarked.

In the meantime, Vice President Mike Pence thanked Ambassador and his wife "for their hospitality,"

expressing his honor "to be a part of such a worthy cause." He delivered the greetings of President Donald Trump and gratitude "for last year's honor and tonight's honor and wanted all you to know that he so appreciates the generosity and spirit represented through the event."

Furthermore, he praised Kuwait for being "one of the largest donors to the UNHCR from the Middle East and North Africa providing billions in humanitarian aid to its neighbors to help shelter refugees," expressed appreciation and gratefulness on behalf of the US administration. He also took the opportunity to announce that the US has provided nearly \$1.6 billion to the UNHCR over the past year and noted that this is the largest contribution from the US in history, an "unprecedented level of support in a single year," he noted.

'Good work of Kuwait'

Furthermore, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in his remarks "on behalf of the US, we thank the

good work of Kuwait" for its assistance and the enormous humanitarian work and the efforts it has done for the refugees around the world. He thanked His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the Kuwait leadership "for being such great citizens of the world," and praised Kuwait's noble and vital support, "that I know it will continue."

He shed light on the time he was a private citizen and in his previous posts, member of Congress and CIA Director, saying he watched the neighborhood in the region closely and "watched Kuwait be a good citizen" for its neighboring states, giving generously to the people of Iraq and during the Syria crisis. He indicated that Kuwait has donated billions of dollars to Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt "to help them host millions of refugees," saying "without this assistance they would be in even worse conditions." Pompeo stressed the importance of the event and the work that is being done for refugees and encouraged others to join in this important cause as well.

'Global leadership'

UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres expressed his remarks appreciation for the "solidarity and generosity" of His Highness the Amir, the Kuwaiti government and people of Kuwait. He noted that it was His Highness the Amir that was the first to respond and assumed a "global leadership" during moments of the Syria crisis to respond to the "dramatic suffering" of the refugees' flow. He also praised Sheikh Salem and Rima Al-Sabah for bringing people together "for a noble cause of the world." The gala dinner was attended by Pompeo, Guterres, Secretary of Labor Alex Acosta, Secretary of Homeland Security Kristjen Nielsen, Senior Advisor to the President Jared Kushner, Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump, Executive Director of The Trump Organization Donald Trump Jr., Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway, Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats and Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Christine Lagarde. — KUNA



Second Lady Karen Pence honored

Kuwait, US discuss fight against money laundering

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Minister of Finance Nayef Al-Hajraf and visiting US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin addressed the fight against money laundering and terrorism. During the meeting, held on Thursday evening, they also discussed the need to work together as part of international efforts to realize the goals of both countries, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance said in a press release on Friday. The meeting targeted the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between Kuwait and the US to serve the common interests of both sides, according to the release. It also highlighted Kuwait's efforts in the fight against terrorism and its finance, given that this Gulf country had played host to two previous meetings on counter-terror efforts, it added.

The Kuwaiti minister was quot-



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Minister of Finance Nayef Al-Hajraf meets with the visiting US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. —KUNA

ed as saying that Kuwait always works with the international community to carry out international resolutions bearing on the fight against terrorism. Kuwait also looks forward to coordinating with all friendly countries to exert concerted efforts to fight the scourge

of terrorism, according to the release. The meeting was attended by Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Governor Mohammad Al-Hashel, Managing Director of the Kuwait Investment Authority Farouk Bastaki and several other Kuwaiti officials. — KUNA

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US suspect charged over 13 mail bombs

Syria parents spurn Kurd schools over university fears

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VERDUN: In this file photo taken in 1916, French soldiers move into attack from their trench during the Verdun battle, eastern France, during the first World War. Germany's far right is trying to rehabilitate the German Empire and its role in World War I, resuming a decades-old debate ahead of the centenary of the armistice. —AFP

Europe, Mideast map redrawn by WWI

World War I overhauled the global balance of power

PARIS: Empires would fall, regions reconfigure, new countries form: the end of World War I overhauled the global balance of power and redrew the maps of Europe and the Middle East. Here is an overview.

Revolution in Russia

The war rang the death knell for a Russian empire already in bad shape. Repeated defeats, crippling military spending, famines, popular anger at the World War I bloodbath: all came together in the Marxist Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. In March that year a first revolution led to the abdication of Nicholas II, Russia's last tsar, and the formation of a new government that proved unable to assert control.

In November the Bolsheviks seized power in a second revolution. They immediately sought an exit from the devastating war, in which Russia had sided with the Allies against the Central Powers coalition of Germany, Austria-Hungary and others. By December Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin had agreed an armistice to end combat; in March he agreed to a peace treaty with Germany and its allies that saw Russia give up large swathes of territory at the cost of 30 percent of its population. Four states were created from territory once held by Russia: Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Lithuania.

Demise of old Austria-Hungary

At the outbreak of war in 1914, the Habsburg dynasty's Austro-Hungarian empire - which had dominated central Europe for five centuries - stretched from Switzerland to

Ukraine, grouping within it a dozen nationalities and more than 52 million people. By the end of the conflict, the empire had exploded into several new countries, amid a nationalist fervor for autonomy.

Czechoslovakia was the first to be created, proclaimed in October 1918, and followed immediately by Yugoslavia, made up of Slavs in the southernmost parts of the empire. Austria-Hungary's break-up was sealed in November with its signing of an armistice with the victorious Allied powers led by Britain, France and the United States. The Paris Conference of 1919, where the final post-war peace treaty was reached, recognized the new countries and also resulted in the birth of Poland, previously divided between Austria and Russia. Hungary lost two-thirds of its land, with Italy getting a section of the Alps region of Tyrol. And "the rest is Austria", as the French prime minister, Georges Clemenceau, famously put it. The separated Austria and Hungary that remained were reduced to small, landlocked countries.

Ottoman fallout

When Ottoman sultan Mehmed V proclaimed the "holy war" against France, Britain and Russia in November 1914, siding with the Central Powers, his empire had already lost most of its European possessions. The setbacks it went on to suffer on the Russian front from 1915 served as a pretext to turn on its Armenian minority, labeled as traitors and suspected of harboring nationalist sentiment. Armenians say up to 1.5 million of their people were killed during the war, and almost 30 countries have recognized the killings as genocide.

Turkey refuses the term but accepts that massacres took place that, along with a famine, resulted in the deaths of 300,000-500,000 Armenians and as many Turks.

The Ottoman defeat in World War I led to the final break-up of the once-mighty empire. A first treaty signed with the victors in Sevres, France, in 1920 chopped off enormous parts of its territory, including Arab lands, and provided for an independent Armenia and autonomous Kurdistan and ceding other areas to Greece. It was rejected by Turkish nationalists, led by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, who went on to topple the sultan and establish a Turkish republic. They imposed a new treaty that was signed in Lausanne in 1923 and in which the republic retained Anatolia and areas around the Bosphorus Strait.

Arab raw deal

The British were able to triumph over the Ottoman empire thanks to the revolt of the Arab tribes in Mesopotamia and Palestine, for whom they held out the promise of independence. But Britain was also in secret talks with France to share out the Middle East between them, as set out in the Sykes-Picot Agreement signed in May 1916. They decided that Lebanon and Syria were to go to France, and Jordan and Iraq to Britain. The partition would feed Arab frustration. This mounted with the 1917 Balfour Declaration that led to the establishment within Palestine of "a national home for the Jewish people". The state of Israel was created 30 years later, its troubled foundations causing a conflict that continues to disrupt the region today. —AFP

Catalan ex-leader launches a new political party

BARCELONA: A year after threatening the unity of Spain with an attempt to declare independence, the former Catalan President Carles Puigdemont launched a new party yesterday, as he tries to rally separatists from his base in Belgium. The new group, named "The Call", held a founding congress yesterday evening, marking the one year anniversary of the secession push, but it has struggled to attract a groundswell of support, with some allies languishing in Spanish jails and others choosing a more moderate political path.

"The year that separates us from this historic date did not unfold as we wished," said new Catalan leader Quim Torra, in a sombre televised address to mark the October 27, 2017 declaration of independence. "But turning back is not an option." The independence declaration threw Spain into political turmoil, with the central government ousting Puigdemont, who then fled to Belgium, dissolving parliament and imposing direct control over the wealthy northeastern region. Snap polls in December saw separatist parties once again win an absolute majority in the regional parliament.

But Torra, who regularly seeks counsel from Puigdemont, presides over a Catalan government divided between those who back disobedience to advance the cause of independence and those who favor dialogue with new Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez. The trial of 18 former Catalan leaders over their role in the separatist push, expected to start in early 2019, helps to keep the separatist camp mobilized. The meeting of Puigdemont's party yesterday is due to be held in the pro-independence town of Manresa, in the centre of Catalonia, near to the prison where the independence leaders are being held.

'Bittersweet'

Several dozen activists from the powerful grassroots separatist organisation ANC, which has previously staged massive pro-independence street protests in Barcelona, gathered at the city's regional administration offices yesterday to demand the official publication of the independence declaration. "This anniversary is quite bittersweet, a day of great hope that did not materialize," said ANC president Elisenda Paluzie. Madrid continues to refuse to allow any referendum on self-determination in Catalonia, despite Sanchez's reliance on Catalan separatist parties to pass legislation.

This has helped further fracture the independence movement. While Puigdemont's supporters are due to listen to his speech on the big screen, a more radical separatist group plan to hold a protest in front of the regional government headquarters to reproach Torra. Their slogan: "One year of relinquishment, one year of submission, that is enough!" Puigdemont is due to present a "Council of the Republic" - a sort of Catalan government in exile in Belgium - in the coming days aiming to rally support for a continued independence push. "We are not talking about a dream, we are talking about a reality, we are talking about the Catalan Republic," says a TV clip for the new party. —AFP

Radicals attack Hindu retreat as protests mount

NEW DELHI: Suspected Hindu radicals yesterday attacked a spiritual retreat founded by a preacher who backed letting women enter a renowned Indian temple, police said. The incident heightened tensions in southern India where police have rounded up more than 2,000 people suspected of taking part in protests to stop women from worshipping at the Sabarimala shrine. Attackers set ablaze two cars and a scooter outside the ashram in the early morning attack in the southern city of Thiruvananthapuram, police said.

They also placed a wreath outside the retreat condemning Swami Sandeepananda Giri, its founder, who had backed a Supreme Court order ending a long-standing ban on women of childbearing age entering the temple complex. "We are investigating the matter. No arrests have been made so far," a Thiruvananthapuram police spokesman said. Kerala state Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan condemned the attack on the ashram.

He said in social media posts that such disputes had to be "dealt with at an ideological level". "We will not let anyone take law and order into their hands," Vijayan added. Police have launched a major search operation across Kerala state this week and said more arrests are likely as they sift through video footage of attacks on women devotees and police near the Sabarimala temple. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's president Amit Shah slammed the state government for the arrests and use of "brute force" against its party workers and rightwing allies, who were among the thousands arrested.



BANGALORE: Devotees of Hindu deity Ayyappa and traditional 'chanda' drummers take part in a rally in Bangalore yesterday, urging a reversal of a Supreme Court decision to allow women of 'menstruating age' into the Sabarimala Temple in Kerala. —AFP

Shah told a public gathering in Kerala that his party would stand by its arrested followers. "It's a well-planned conspiracy to destroy the sanctity of temples in Kerala by the communists," he said. The protests erupted as the temple opened for the first time since the Supreme Court last month ended the ban on women

of menstruating age from worshipping there. The court is to hear new petitions challenging its ruling from November 13, just before the temple is due to open again. Sabarimala devotees believe letting the women in goes against the wishes of the temple's celibate deity. —AFP

International

Israel accuses Syria and Iran of ordering Gaza rocket fire

Barrage of rockets trigger extensive retaliatory strikes

GAZA: The Israeli army accused the Syrian government and Iran yesterday of ordering Palestinian militants in Gaza to fire dozens of rockets into southern Israel, and threatened to retaliate wherever it chose. The barrage of rockets, which began late Friday and continued into yesterday morning, triggered extensive retaliatory strikes by Israeli aircraft against Gaza that risked escalating into a wider conflict.

Islamic Jihad, the Palestinian militant group that launched the rockets, said yesterday lunchtime it had agreed to an Egyptian-brokered truce with Israel to cease hostilities. The new flare-up came hours after six Palestinians died in renewed clashes on the Gaza-Israel border even as the territory's Islamist rulers Hamas said Egypt was seeking to negotiate a return to calm.

"The rockets that were launched against Israel... we know that the orders, incentives were given from Damascus with the clear involvement of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force," Israeli army spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Conricus told journalists, referring to the Guards' foreign operations unit. At least 39 rockets have been fired at southern Israel by the Islamic Jihad group since late Friday, with 17 of them intercepted by air defences and the rest hitting open ground, the army said. Israeli aircraft carried out extensive retaliatory strikes, targeting approximately 90 sites belonging to the territory's Islamist rulers Hamas. It also struck eight Islamic Jihad targets, the army said.

Retaliation against Syria, Iran

Conricus said that Israel held Hamas responsible for the fire, even though it was carried out by Islamic Jihad at the behest of Syria and its ally Iran. "We hold Hamas responsible for everything coming from Gaza," he said. Conricus said Israel would also retaliate against the Syrian government and Iran's Quds Force, and would choose where. "Part of the address by which we will deal with this fire is also in Damascus and the Quds Force," he said. "Our response is not limited geographically."

The armed wing of Islamic Jihad, the second largest militant group in Gaza, initially threatened to continue and expand its rocket fire. But yesterday afternoon, the group's spokesman announced an immediate ceasefire, saying Egypt had negotiated a truce with Israel. "A comprehensive ceasefire agreement was reached which came into force immediately in exchange for a halt to the Israeli aggression,"

Islamic Jihad spokesman Dawoud Shihab said. Israeli security officials refused to comment on any truce, but confirmed there had been no fire from either side since the Islamic Jihad announcement.

Truce deal progress

The biggest rocket barrage from Gaza in months came despite talk of progress towards an Egyptian-brokered deal to end months of often violent protests along the border in return for an easing of Israel's crippling 11-year blockade. On Sunday, Israel reopened the people and goods border crossings with Gaza and on Wednesday renewed the flow of Qatar-funded fuel to the Palestinian enclave, in an indication of its confidence that Hamas would rein in violence.

The Friday border marches however drew 16,000 protesters, some of them clashing with Israeli soldiers. Five Palestinians were shot dead by Israeli fire in separate incidents along the border fence, the Gaza health ministry said. A sixth died when a hand grenade he was holding exploded accidentally, witnesses said. There were no reports of deaths in Gaza as a result of the Israeli air strikes, which continued until late yesterday. In Gaza City, a four-storey building was completely destroyed, AFP correspondents reported. The Israeli army said it was a major headquarters of Hamas.

'Embarrasses Hamas'

Israel has fought three wars since 2008 with Hamas and its allies, including Islamic Jihad, and Egypt and the United Nations have been leading diplomatic efforts to avert a fourth. Saleh an-Nami, a political analyst in Gaza, said the rocket fire would weaken Hamas's efforts to reach a long-term truce and showed it was unable to impose its position on other factions. "It embarrasses Hamas in front of regional and global mediators that are intervening to achieve a truce," he told AFP.

Palestinians have gathered for protests along the border at least weekly since March 30. At least 213 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire in Gaza since the protests began, according to figures collated by AFP. The majority have died during protests, while smaller numbers have been killed by air strikes or tank fire. One Israeli soldier was shot dead by a Palestinian sniper over the same period. The protesters are calling to be allowed to return to lands their families fled or were expelled from in the 1948 war that accompanied Israel's creation. They are also protesting against the Israeli blockade. — AFP



GAZA: Mourners carry the body of 19-year-old Palestinian Nassar Abu Taim, who was killed the day before amid clashes following a protest at the Israel-Gaza border fence, during his funeral in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. — AFP

Europe support against US 'rare victory' for Iran

TEHRAN: President Hassan Rouhani said yesterday that the divisions between the US and Europe over renewed sanctions on Iran were a "rare historical victory" for the Islamic republic. "If this time last year, we had stated that America would stand against the great nation of Iran... and Europe would stand with Iran and against America, the overwhelming majority of us... would have said that this was pure optimism," Rouhani told lawmakers in a televised address.

"The political victory of the great nation of Iran over the past months is a rare victory in history." EU countries have fiercely opposed the decision by US President Donald

Trump to abandon their landmark 2015 nuclear deal with Iran and reimpose sanctions—the last of which will return on November 5. Rouhani was addressing parliament for a special session to approve four new ministers covering the portfolios of economy, transport, labor and industry.

He acknowledged Iranians were feeling the economic strain, saying: "All of us understand people are suffering and under pressure. People's lives, in particular those on a fixed income, are very difficult." But he insisted there were sufficient reserves of basic commodities and foreign currency to weather the storm, even after a record-breaking plunge in the rial over the summer and imminent sanctions on its crucial oil industry. "We cannot tell our people that because of America's pressure, we cannot do anything. This answer is not acceptable. We cannot tell people that because there are problems with selling our oil, we are unable to manage the country," he said. He criticized foreign media reports that costs were soaring, despite Iran's own central bank showing food and drink prices had risen 46.5 percent in the year to September. — AFP

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International

Florida suspect charged over 13 mail bombs to Trump opponents

Sayoc, 56, a registered Republican with criminal history

NEW YORK: A Florida fan of Donald Trump was arrested and charged Friday with mailing 13 bombs to opponents of the US president in a brazen, week-long spree that inflamed the country ahead of key elections. Cesar Sayoc, 56, a registered Republican with a criminal history and reported past as a stripper, was born in New York and lived in a van covered in pro-Trump and anti-liberal stickers. He was arrested outside a Florida mall.

The van was impounded and Sayoc charged with five federal crimes, including mailing of explosives and threats against former presidents, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced. If put on trial and convicted, he faces up to 48 years in prison in what politicians on both sides of the aisle have condemned as domestic terrorism. "We do believe that we've caught the right guy but... there's a lot of work still to be done, which means there are still plenty of unanswered questions," FBI director Christopher Wray told a news conference.

The 13 bombs were sent through the mail, many of them through a US Postal Service processing center in Florida, and Sayoc was tracked down based on fingerprint and possible DNA evidence, agents said. The Republican president congratulated law enforcement for what he called a "fantastic job." Speaking before his supporters at a North Carolina campaign rally later Friday, Trump called the attempted attacks "terrorist actions" that must be punished "to the fullest extent of the law." "Political violence must never be allowed in America and I will do everything in my power to stop it."

In southern Florida, FBI agents and police swarmed the strip mall in Plantation, where an AFP photographer saw a van covered in blue tarpaulin loaded onto a truck by authorities and driven away. Sayoc is accused of mailing explosives to 11 prominent Democrats or liberal critics of the president, including former president Barack Obama and Trump's opponent in the 2016 presidential election, Hillary Clinton. The other targets were ex-vice president Joe Biden, Hollywood star Robert De Niro, billionaire donor George Soros, former CIA director John Brennan, former intelligence chief James Clapper, former attorney general Eric Holder, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, and

Senators Cory Booker and Kamala Harris.

Trump denies blame

Waters and Biden were each sent two packages. All the targets are loathed by Trump supporters for their public opposition to the US president. The president acknowledged the suspect's political allegiance, but denied any



Sayoc charged with five federal crimes

responsibility that his incendiary rhetoric could have played a role in motivating the spree. "I heard he was a person that preferred me over others," he told reporters. "There is no blame," he insisted, despite being hounded by political opponents for his response to the crisis in which he lashed out at the media. "The media has been unbelievably unfair to Republicans, conservatives, and certainly to me," he said Friday. "But with all of that being said, we're winning. So I like that."

Asked about the role that rhetoric could have played, the FBI demurred. "It's too early at this stage for us to be discussing motivation in this particular case," Wray told reporters in Washington. A lawyer for the suspect's family, Ron Lowy, told CNN that Sayoc prior "had no interest in politics," and that he was more into "bodybuilding, nightclub events." US media reported Sayoc had once danced as a male stripper, and The New York Daily News quoted an event promoter as saying the suspect would dance at strip clubs and ran a show called "Girls Night Out."



BISCAYNE COVE: Police guard the entrance to the Clipper Apartment Building at Biscayne Cove, Florida. The building reportedly has been identified as the home of the mother of Cesar Sayoc's, who was arrested in connection with the explosive device mailings. — AFP

"It's my opinion that he was attracted to the Trump formula of reaching out," lawyer Lowy said. "Trump reaching out to these types of outsiders, people who don't fit in, people who are angry at America, telling them that they have a place at the table, telling them that it's OK to get angry." "I believe that that was a motivating factor. Do I blame the president solely? No. This is a sick individual." Each of the homemade bombs included six inches of PVC pipe, a small clock, a battery, wiring and energetic material, defined by Wray as potentially explosive. The first package was intercepted Monday at Soros's Bedford, New York

home. The most recent ones on Friday in California, Florida and New York. The Clapper and Brennan packages were marked care of CNN, a television network often critical of the administration and long provoking Trump's ire. Trump has come under fire for his response to the spree, which politicians on all sides have branded domestic terrorism, stretching from New York, Maryland, Florida, Delaware and Los Angeles. On Friday, shortly before news of the arrest broke, he complained that the packages were slowing momentum for his Republican Party ahead of the November 6 elections, remarks that enraged his opponents. — AFP

US mail bombing suspect an ardent Trump supporter

PLANTATION: Cesar Altieri Sayoc, the Florida man accused of sending pipe bombs to critics of Donald Trump, had plastered his social media accounts and the van where he was living with signs of his devotion to the Republican president and his hatred for Democrats. Sayoc, 56, of Aventura, Florida, was arrested on Friday for allegedly mailing at least 13 explosive devices to leading Democratic figures, former high-ranking officials and others, FBI Director Christopher Wray said.

Sayoc, a registered Republican with a criminal history and reported past as a stripper, currently faces up to 48 years in prison, although further charges are expected to be filed against him for the mail-bombing campaign, which heightened political tensions and put the country on edge. Television footage of Sayoc in custody showed a muscular man in a sleeveless black shirt with close-cropped black hair.

Sayoc has been arrested several times previously, including in Miami-Dade County in 2002 for making a bomb threat against a power company, according to court records available online. He was sentenced to a year on probation. He has also been arrested for theft and domestic violence. Sayoc, who sometimes goes by the name Cesar Altieri, also has a history of financial problems and filed for bankruptcy in 2012, according to county records. Sayoc's political leanings are on full display on his Facebook page - which CNN reported has been removed by the social network - as well as his now-suspended Twitter accounts and his impounded white van, which was covered with pro-Trump decals and anti-Democrat stickers.

A picture on Sayoc's Facebook page shows him wearing a red Trump "Make America Great Again" hat and photos have since surfaced of him attending Trump rallies in Florida. One of the windows of his van, which was seized by the FBI, features pictures of former president Barack Obama and 2016 Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton with red bulls-eyes on their faces. There's also a "CNN Sucks" sticker with a target over the face of one of the network's frequent commentators, Van Jones. Obama, Clinton and CNN were intended recipients of the pipe bombs sent through the mail with a return address in Florida. Debra Gureghian, the general manager of a pizza restaurant in Fort Lauderdale where Sayoc worked as a delivery truck driver for several months, described him to The Washington Post as "crazed." "That's the best word for him," Gureghian said. "There was something really off with him." "He was very angry and angry at the world, at blacks, Jews, gays," she said. "He never said he would kill them or murder them or bomb them he just said 'If I had complete autonomy the gays, the black and Jews would not survive,'" she said. "He was very, very strange."

Sayoc appears to have had at least two Twitter accounts - @hardrock2016 and @hardrockintlent - where he posted as Cesar Altieri and "Julius Cesar Milan." Political commentator Rochelle Ritchie said she reported a threat made by Sayoc's @hardrock2016 account on October 11, but was told by Twitter that it did not violate the site's rules. Twitter subsequently apologized, saying it made a "mistake," and both of Sayoc's accounts have now been suspended. The last post on Sayoc's @hardrock2016 account dates from Wednesday. It is a retweet of a composite image claiming that Andrew Gillum, the Democratic candidate for governor of Florida, "admitted" taking money from billionaire George Soros. — AFP

Syria parents spurn Kurd schools over university fears

QAMISHLI: After carefully packing her schoolbag, seven-year-old Rasha scrambles into the van that shuttles her daily from her home in a Kurdish-held neighborhood of Syria's Qamishli to school in the government-held enclave. Many parents in northeastern Syria, most of which is controlled by Kurdish authorities, are opting to enrol their children in overcrowded state-run schools despite the complex commute.

The defections reflect the broader fissures in the northeast between those supporting formal state institutions and those defending parallel bodies developed by the Kurds. Parents say they prefer their children to study the government curriculum than enrol in the independent system rolled out in recent years by Kurdish authorities. Rasha is one of those pupils. "It's a huge responsibility and an added expense," says her father, a retired school teacher, of the longer daily journey across the divided city. She used to attend class closer to home, but since Kurdish authorities introduced their own curriculum, Rasha transferred to a school in a government-held district of Qamishli.

With many parents making similar decisions, government-operated schools have introduced two shifts per day to accommodate the influx. "Many of the recreational activities like music, drawing and recess were cancelled because of the huge number of pupils," says Rasha's father. "The two sides should reach a solution and not leave our children to this uncertain future." Kurds hold most of Syria's northeast, including territory they captured from the Islamic State group as well as areas from which government forces withdrew early in the seven-year war. Over the years, they have painstakingly developed their own autonomous administration to run public services and the police.

In 2016, Kurdish authorities began introducing a new curriculum in areas under their control, offering schooling in Kurdish and other minority languages, and teaching Kurdish history. They cracked down on schools that resis-



QAMISHLI, Syria: Syrian students walk near a Syrian-government-controlled security zone on their way to attend classes at regime-run schools in the centre of the northeastern Syrian-Kurdish city of Qamishli. — AFP

ted the new syllabus, briefly closing more than a dozen this year that stuck to the state one. So far, the Kurdish curriculum has been rolled out for some 210,000 pupils in around 2,200 schools, education commission official Samira Haj Ali told AFP. But since those schools are not state-accredited, their diplomas are recognized only at the Kurdish-run Rojava University and Kobane University, founded two years ago.

That, for parents and students, is the sticking point. "We're not against learning in Kurdish, we want it for our kids," says Ezzedine Amin, a 39-year-old taxi driver in Qamishli whose children attend government schools. "But the diplomas offered by the autonomous administration aren't recognized elsewhere. If my kids graduate with that degree, where could they go?" As he speaks, class finishes. Girls dressed in shades of pink and boys in blue stream

into the car park to head home. Fatima Khalil Asaad, a 45-year-old teacher at the government-run Saleh Abdi school, says classrooms are overcrowded.

"There are no more desks for students to sit at," says Asaad, her hair wrapped in a bright pink headscarf.

"Pupils come from other towns, like Amuda, Derbasiyeh, and Ras al-Ain, because the state curriculum is only taught in Qamishli and Hasakeh," says Asaad. Both cities have enclaves still held by government troops and allied militia where the state institutions run from Damascus continue to function. The school run from surrounding towns can be as much as 115 kilometers in each direction. Out of some 2,500 schools across the northeast, slightly more than 400 are still teaching the state curriculum, according to 2017 figures from the government-run education directorate. — AFP

Moms hit the trail to preach US gun control

STERLING: With a stack of pamphlets under her arm, Dawnee Giammittorio - who has been a gun control activist since her sister-in-law was shot dead - goes door-to-door in northern Virginia, hoping to help flip control of Congress back to the Democrats. Giammittorio is canvassing in a state that is traditionally conservative but gradually turning to purple, and even blue, as urbanization brings a more diverse population, especially in the areas outside Washington. "If we want the Congress to do something, we are going to have to change the people," Giammittorio said in the runup to the November 6 midterm elections.

'Ineffective gun laws'

In this part of Virginia, gun issues are particularly sensitive, as America's powerful gun rights lobby, the National Rifle Association, is based here. Giammittorio belongs to Moms Demand Action, which gathers each weekend to campaign in pairs, meeting voters to discuss their work for candidates that support tougher gun controls. The right to bear arms is enshrined in the Second Amendment of the

US Constitution, but the issue of gun violence is a constant political football in America. Mass shootings - sadly commonplace in the US - are often followed by calls for political action, which then fade into the background. And the cycle then repeats.

Every day in America, firearms kill more than 90 people. Two-thirds of those are suicides. Like thousands of other moms, who wear red shirts for their cause, the 56-year-old Giammittorio is hoping for change at the ballot box. She is campaigning for Jennifer Wexton, a Democrat running for a seat in the House of Representatives against Republican incumbent Barbara Comstock, who has an "A" rating from the NRA for her voting record. "Jennifer Wexton would definitely help change the balance in the House," said Giammittorio, who is unabashed about her work for Moms Demand Action, which is backing 3,000 "gun sense candidates" on the federal, state and local levels.

Millions of dollars

Giammittorio, who lives closer to Washington in Alexandria, got up on a day off to canvass in Sterling, located in Loudoun County, the scene of the Wexton-Comstock race. Wexton wants to ban assault-style weapons and bolster background checks for gun buyers, specifically to look at their criminal record and mental health history. The contest is a high-profile one, and money is being poured into both campaigns. Comstock has been dubbed



STERLING: Dawnee Giammittorio, 56, and Karen Vaught, 52, who both belong to "Moms Demand Action" prepare to canvass for the Jennifer Wexton, a Democrat running for a seat in the House of Representatives, in Sterling, Virginia. — AFP

"Trumpstock" in some ads, and is also the target of a spot featuring Gabby Giffords, the former congresswoman who was nearly killed in a shooting attack in 2011.

"Shooting after shooting, Barbara Comstock has failed. She's taken thousands from the NRA. We must do better," Giffords said in the ad, which is running on local television networks. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, the NRA has spent \$140,000 on Comstock's cam-

paigns since she was elected to Congress in 2014. Wexton is meanwhile backed by Everytown for Gun Safety, an organization with ties to Moms Demand Action and which is largely financed by billionaire former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg. Everytown plans to spend \$20 million nationwide before Election Day on candidates in key districts who favor gun curbs. The NRA did not respond to a request for comment. — AFP

International

Indonesia's earthquake-tsunami battered city faces health crisis

Torrential rains threaten to spread malaria, dengue fever

JAKARTA: Indonesia's quake-tsunami battered city of Palu is facing a public health crisis as torrential rains threaten to spread malaria and dengue fever to the devastated region a month after the disaster, aid agencies have warned. On September 28, a magnitude 7.5 quake and a subsequent tsunami razed swathes of Palu on Sulawesi island, killing some 2,200 people and displacing more than 220,000.

Thousands more are missing, presumed dead, after entire neighborhoods were swallowed up by liquefaction - a process where a strong quake makes the ground start behaving like a liquid, turning it into a kind of quicksand. Desperate to stave off disease, authorities last week dropped disinfectant from helicopters on the worst-hit parts of Palu, where some 5,000 rotting corpses are feared buried beneath the ruins. Indonesia's disaster mitigation agency said the move was crucial to preventing the proliferation of disease-laden flies, cockroaches and rats.

But aid groups say there has been an increase in cases of diarrhoea and respiratory infection, while there are also suspected cases of mosquito-borne illnesses, including malaria and dengue fever. Heavy monsoon rains predicted for the months ahead threaten to make a bad situation worse. "It is likely we're going to see more and more people getting sick... given how hard it is to maintain hygiene standards, with the rains providing the perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes, and with hundreds, if not thousands of bodies, believed to be decomposing in the ground," said Selina Sumbung, chairperson of Save the Children's partner in Indonesia, Yayasan Sayangi Tunas Cilik.



Deadly quake killed 2,200

'Difficult to keep clean'

Safe play spaces and temporary schools have provided some solace for kids - including many left orphans or still separated from surviving parents - but children are at particular risk from any illness outbreak. Local and international relief efforts have accelerated over the past month after initial delays sparked looting as food and water ran out. Telephone reception and electricity have been restored to many areas with shops, restaurants and markets open.

Disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said Friday that things were "getting better" for people in the worst-affected areas. But numerous challenges remain. The hundreds of thousands left homeless by the disaster are scattered across Palu and beyond. Many squat outside their ruined homes or are bunkered down in makeshift camps and entirely dependent on hand-outs to survive. Safe drinking water has to be trucked into encampments, while tarpaulins, blankets and tools are still in short supply in some areas.

"We know when people are living in temporary conditions - in tents or under tarpaulins - that always poses a problem for hygiene," said Andreas Weissenberg, team leader of the Red Cross field assessment team in Palu. "People stay closer together. It's difficult to keep clean. They may not have access to water and latrines." Elsewhere, monsoon rains have already turned roads to mud and primed slopes for landslides in some remote areas - hampering access for relief teams. Indonesian authorities lifted a state of emergency on Friday, after which a "transition period" is to continue before



PALU, Indonesia: Indonesian workers work on a damaged bridge hit by quake-tsunami in Palu. Indonesia's deadly quake-tsunami has left scores of children orphaned while others are still separated from surviving parents a month after the disasters, as torrential monsoon rain threaten to spark a public health crisis, aid group warn. —AFP

that ends on December 25.

Indonesia has said that damage to the devastated area has topped \$900 million while the World Bank has offered the country up to \$1 billion in loans to get Palu back on its feet. Seventy percent of Palu has been cleaned up and water supply will return to normal by December, Central Sulawesi governor Longki

Djanggola said Thursday. More than 1,400 tents have been erected for classes and 1,200 semi-permanent shelters - each with a dozen rooms - are expected to be finished in two months' time. For many, however, life is still far from returning to normal. "I just hope I can get a decent place, permanent housing and a job," said 65-year-old Abdurrahim Laadu. —AFP

Afghans risk their lives to vote in delayed election

KANDAHAR: Afghans risked their lives to vote in legislative elections in southern Afghanistan yesterday, after the Taliban-claimed killing of a powerful police chief delayed the ballot by a week. Turbanned men and burqa-clad women stood in long, segregated queues outside polling centres in the deeply conservative Kandahar provincial capital, which was blanketed with heavy security in anticipation of militant attacks.

More than half a million people—the vast majority of them men—are registered to vote in Kandahar province where more than 100 candidates are competing for 11 lower-house seats. Organizers are under pressure to avoid last weekend's debacle that forced the Independent Election Commission (IEC) to extend the nationwide ballot by a day. Problems with untested biometric verification devices, missing or incomplete voter rolls and absent election workers following Taliban threats to attack the ballot forced Afghans to wait hours outside polling stations, many of which opened late or not at all. —AFP

Sri Lanka's former strongman makes a dramatic comeback

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's former strongman leader Mahinda Rajapakse, who was controversially sworn in as the new prime minister, is a charismatic leader whose human rights record had attracted widespread international censure. Since failing to win a third term as president and being defeated by his erstwhile party secretary Maithripala Sirisena in January 2015, Rajapakse 72, has attempted to stage a comeback.

His appointment on Friday night as the new premier was as controversial as his decade in power. Rajapakse crushed Tamil rebels in a no-holds-barred military campaign to end the country's long-running civil war in May 2009. His decisive military action sparked allegations that at least 40,000 minority Tamil civilians were killed by government forces while putting down the 37-year conflict that had claimed at least 100,000 lives.

Despite being cold shouldered by the West, he is a charismatic leader hugely popular among the majority Sinhalese community for crushing the Tamil Tiger rebels who were known for their trade mark suicide bombings. Rajapakse's success in overseeing an end to

the war propelled him to a huge election victory and a second term in office in 2010. Soon after his 2015 defeat, he blamed it on the minority Tamil community which voted overwhelmingly for Maithripala Sirisena who pledged accountability for alleged war-time atrocities by the military.

Ironically, it was Sirisena who made Rajapakse his prime minister after his surprise sacking of Ranil Wickremesinghe whose United National Party (UNP) helped Sirisena win the 2015 election. Rajapakse, a lawyer by profession, also accused India's external intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing, of being behind his stunning defeat. Traditional ally India was angry over Rajapakse allowing Chinese submarines to dock at Colombo during his last year in office as president. But recently, he appeared to have mended fences with India and met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi last month.

Street-fighter politician

Political commentator Kusal Perera said Rajapakse remained the most popular Sinhala-Buddhist leader in the country and his dramatic return to power was historic. "Rajapakse, as the most charismatic Sinhala Buddhist leader... has made a formidable comeback never known in Sri Lankan electoral history," Perera said. Critics say Rajapakse lost elections in January and August 2015 because of nepotism and fail-



COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's former president and new Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse arrives at a temple after having been sworn in as prime minister in Colombo. —AFP

ure to deal with huge corruption under his rule. He oversaw a period of growing prosperity with average growth rates of 7.5 percent, built Sri Lanka's first expressway and rolled out new highways and railroads.

But his ambitious infrastructure projects ended up as white elephants and left the country facing a mountain of debt, including commercial loans from China. Unable to service the

debt, the government last year leased a Chinese-built deep sea port in the south of the island to a Beijing company for \$1.12 billion. Another loss-making airport built with more than \$300 million in Chinese loans is up for privatization. The new government launched several investigations into charges Rajapakse and his family siphoned off billions of dollars, but prosecutions were extremely slow. —AFP

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Washington Watch

Our election agenda in the Trump Era

By Dr James J Zogby

The "Trump Era" has posed special challenges for Arab Americans not only in foreign and domestic policy, but also in confronting the hostile political culture which the president has nurtured. As a result, we've been busy, especially in this election season - forced to work on many fronts, all at the same time.

Not since the 1980s have we seen so many Republican campaigns using anti-Arab or anti-Muslim bigotry against Democratic opponents - with most instances tied to charges that the Democrat has received financial support from questionable sources (from the Arab sounding names on their donors lists); is supported by individuals who are opponents of Israel or supporters of the BDS movement; are themselves linked by family ties to Palestinian terrorism; or are just not sufficiently supportive of Israel or Trump's moving the Embassy to Jerusalem.

In addition, there has been an uptick in anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant (or more recently, Trump's "unknown Middle Easterners") scare tactics that have contributed to making this a challenging and important election. What follows is a snapshot of the many issues and areas that define our agenda as we approach critical mid-term elections.

First and foremost is our basic commitment to preparing Arab Americans for the election through voter registration, voter education, and voter mobilization. This is the "bread and butter" of our work. As we have seen in the past, the best antidote to attacks is to become stronger. And so this year, "Yalla Vote" organizers were hired to register new voters in their communities, build networks of volunteers, and strengthen relationships with community organizations. With the support of this volunteer network, more than 50 "Yalla Vote" registration events were organized across the country. The effort now shifts to preparing to get out the Arab American vote on Nov 6.

We are especially proud of the fact that this year, a record number of Arab Americans filed for US House, US Senate, or gubernatorial seats, with dozens more running in local races. Because they won't face any opposition in November, two exciting and historic candidates have won: Rashida Tlaib in Michigan and Ilhan Omar in Minnesota. Both Rashida, a Palestinian American, and Ilhan, a Somali/Yemeni American, will be the first Muslim women to serve in Congress.

The campaign still to watch is that of Ammar Campa-Najjar, a Palestinian/Mexican American running in California. Ammar, a Democrat, is running an extraordinary race and polling well within the margin of error in what is considered a heavily Republican district. Most likely owing to the closeness of the contest, his Republican opponent has launched a vicious campaign of the worst anti-Arab and anti-Muslim bigotry we have seen in a congressional race in some time.

In addition to these newcomers, Arab American incumbents expected to easily win reelection in November are four Republican Congressmen, Representatives: Darin LaHood of Illinois, Ralph Abraham and Garret Graves of Louisiana, and Justin Amash of Michigan. So if all goes well, come January, there may be seven Arab Americans in Congress.

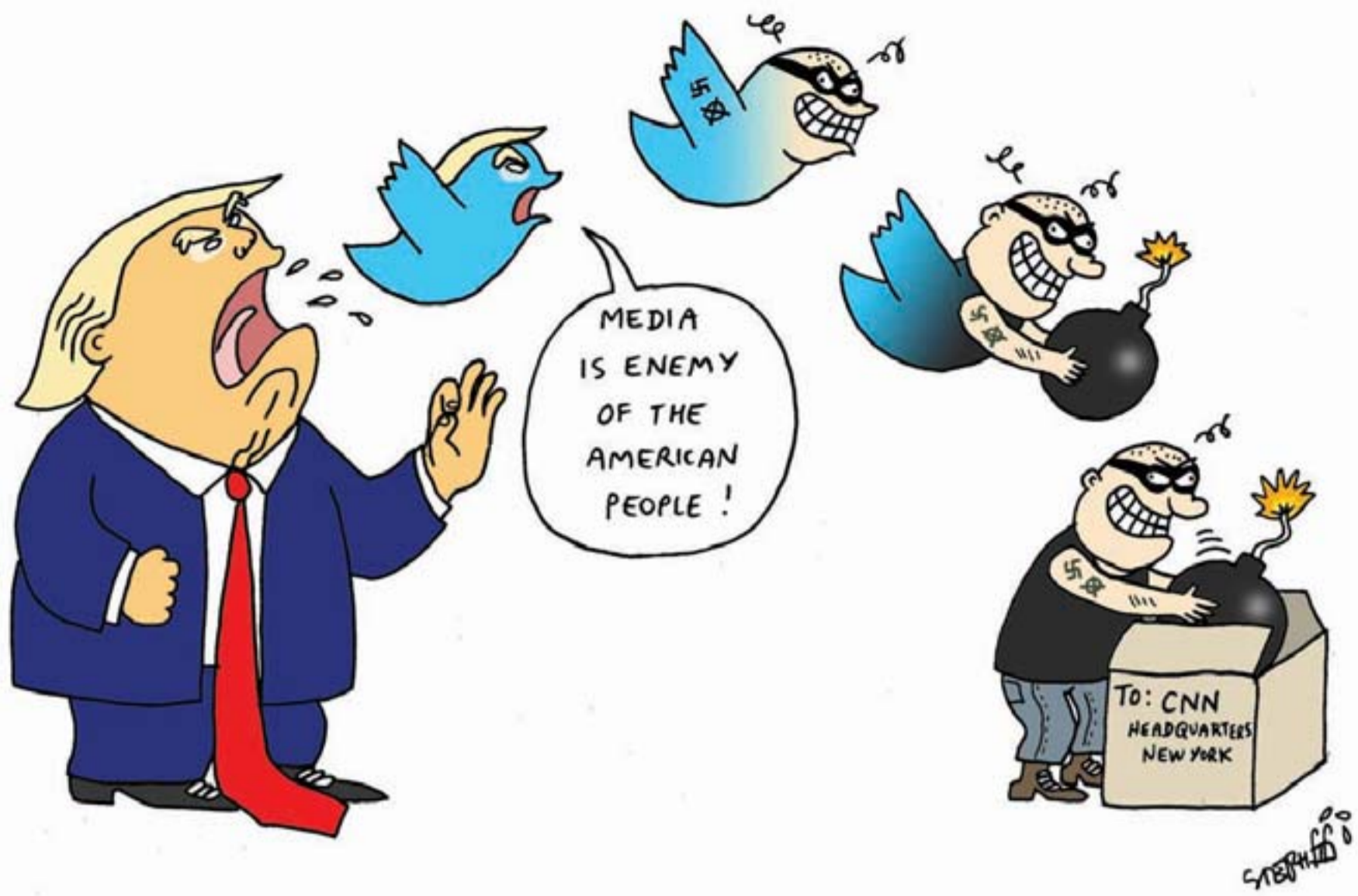
Hate crime

Now to the issues we are addressing. In July we published "Underreported, Under Threat: Hate Crime in the United States and the Targeting of Arab Americans." Our report provides a long overdue analysis of targeted violence against Arab Americans and exposes multiple issues that affect hate crime reporting and data collection across the country. We are now working with Members of Congress to address these issues and identify bipartisan action on the problem of underreporting as a 2019 priority for our hate crime work.

Two years ago, we began legislative work on combating the rampant decades-old problem of discrimination against Arab Americans during air travel. Last week, that work bore fruit. President Trump signed the new FAA reauthorization bill which includes, a section we worked on requiring training policy for its employees and contractors regarding racial, ethnic, and religious non-discrimination.

In the next year we will face a number of challenges to free speech in the form of state and federal government efforts to place penalties on individuals or groups that support BDS against Israel and other efforts to broaden the definition of anti-Semitism to include criticism of Israel. These initiatives seek to silence pro-Palestinian human rights activism on college campuses and ongoing work in a number of mainstream Christian denominations to divest their church funds from Israeli enterprises. Additionally, we continue to address a range of other concerns that affect not only our community but all Americans - issues like: opposition to the Muslim and Refugee Ban, immigration reform that protects diversity and family unification, opposition to government surveillance programs that infringe on civil liberties, and support for a compassionate policy on the admission of refugees. It is, to be sure, a full agenda. But it is one we are ready to take on because we know we must - in order to insure the future of our community and our country.

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



Is populism a disease? Or a cure?

Populist nationalism is here to stay. Many still believe it a phase which, like surliness in adolescence, will pass and be succeeded by orderly, thoughtful maturity. But they will find that the political world, already changed, will disappoint them. Liberalism, however defined, is not politics' default position: mainstream politicians are in a fight ring facing young contenders buoyed by a string of victories.

So predicts a book published this week, "National Populism" by Roger Eatwell and Matthew Goodwin, two British academics who - in contrast to their cheerful surnames - go to some pains to warn that anti-liberal politics is likely to grow. Unlike other authors - such as Yascha Mounk in his "The People vs. Democracy" - they do not write to warn and condemn, but to understand, even sympathize with, a movement which seeks to restore "the primacy of the nation over distant and unaccountable international organizations" and to reassert "the importance of stability and conformity over the never-ending and disruptive instability that flows from globalization."

These goals - as Thomas Frank, one of the first authors to explore rising populism in "What's the Matter with Kansas?" writes - are not to be despised, being a lower-class response to decades of social marginalization and economic stagnation - "populism isn't the name for this disease; it's the cure."

Disease or cure, its present successes in the United States and in Europe prompt the question: what if it succeeds in at least some of its aims, and embeds itself as a governing rather than a disruptive force? And more urgent, what if it fails, and the tens of millions who support one or other national form of populism find themselves deprived of Frank's "cure"?

Success would mean that policies - which include much reduced immigration, repatriation of illegal immigrants and more determined integration of ethnic minorities who remain, together with trade barriers and efforts to reduce the effects of globalization - would be successful and popular. Failure, on the other hand, could see debt rising to unsustainable levels, trade barriers and disinvestment by foreign companies causing unemployment, and national businesses suffering from the loss of both unskilled and highly-skilled immigrants.

Success for populist parties would mean that they

would displace the left - or would come from the left, since populism is not confined to the right. Their "cure" borrows heavily from the left - indeed, controls on trade and foreign investment, preferential treatment for national workers and heavy, and state-led investment in national infrastructure feature in the policy lists of the populist parties, and have all recently been programs of the left. In some cases - in France where the leading left group, "La France Insoumise" ("France Unbound") favors a 100 billion euro (\$114 billion) economic stimulus and selective nationalization, and in the United Kingdom, where Labour has rediscovered its radical socialism and plans nationalizations of



Failure by populists could be catastrophic

rail, mail and water together with higher taxes on the rich - they still are.

It's easy to see populism, whether of right or left, becoming a dominant strain, fighting it out with pro-globalist parties, including left-center parties like the US Democrats, the German Christian Democrats and French President Emmanuel Macron's Republique en Marche. The latter have on their side the fact of a world in constant, disruptive change. But it's an option which has increasingly been felt as senseless by the millions who see themselves as its victims.

The political issue in a world in which populist governments will have been seen, at least partly, to succeed (and no government ever can succeed more than in part) would be to ensure that these policies become part of a reasonably stable political society and not, as now, a center of constant contention. This is possible; something like it already exists, in the adoption by mainstream parties of

policies, particularly on immigration and integration, which had been regarded as outside of a right-left consensus.

Failure by the populists could be catastrophic. In Italy presently, the Lega-5 Star coalition government has been high in the polls for months - and now faces a direct confrontation with the European Union, on a budget which the Union insists contains a far higher figure for the deficit, 2.4 percent, than that agreed. Matteo Salvini, who heads the Lega and is the effective leader of Italy, seems to relish the confrontation. A tough stance defending a budget aimed to increase growth and jobs against an austerity-obsessed EU would play well in the European Parliament elections in May.

But almost every economist, in and out of Italy, sees disaster ahead - and thus the government dropping its plans, or losing a fight with the EU. The majority of Italians who voted for one or other of the coalition parties and who have been told to expect shorter working lives, a minimum income for those under a certain income level and a flat tax, would be shorn of their hopes. The collapse of the government, and its substitution by a more "mainstream" administration, would leave millions of embittered Italians looking for someone to blame - and would be directed, by the formerly governing populists, to international institutions with the EU in first place, as well as national "traitors."

Something of this kind would happen wherever populists took and lost power. In the United States, Democrats could win control of the House of Representatives in the Nov. 6 midterm elections with a net gain of 23 seats out of the 435 up for election. Less likely, but not impossible, they could take over the 100-seat Senate with a net gain of two more places. Were the Republicans thus to lose control of Congress then the Trump motor would be slowed.

Populism thus remains, win or lose - and is certain to be more disruptive if governments who rule in its name are expelled from office. The US Democrats are presently driven, significantly, by Trump hatred. Not only may that not be enough to take back Congress, but it is certainly not enough to produce a civilized polity. Populist leaders are confrontational, mendacious and ruthless - but those who follow them need to have their fears, resentments and beliefs addressed, if politics is not to descend further. — Reuters

Austria, Hungary stand apart on 'lost grandeur' of past

A century after their dismemberment in the aftermath of World War I, Austria and Hungary take two very different approaches to their Habsburg past - one choosing Imperial kitsch, the other a return to strident nationalism. Both countries were carved out of the Austro-Hungarian empire after its defeat alongside Germany in the First World War. And both were stripped of swathes of territory and millions of inhabitants under the 1919 Treaty of St Germain, concluded with Austria, and the Treaty of Trianon signed with Hungary the next year.

But a hundred years on, that upheaval resonates in very different ways in Vienna and Budapest, according to Oliver Rathkolb, director of Vienna University's Institute of Contemporary History. "In a study a few years ago we asked people in the two countries if Saint Germain and Trianon still meant anything to them. We got two totally different results: In Austria, it had no importance, in contrast to Hungary," Rathkolb told AFP. "The myth of Trianon and the dismemberment of Greater Hungary has been promoted for internal political ends even in the communist era, and even more so after 1989," he says.

Nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orban has even risked the ire of neighboring governments by cultivating Hungarian minorities on his country's borders and offering them Hungarian citizenship. Even if many ethnic Hungarians in other countries "don't quite identify with Orban's strongman version of democracy, he is able to spin a national fairytale that resonates", says Nandor Bardi, a historian of ethnic minorities at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. According to Bardi, "it is no coincidence that he makes keynote speeches - for example the famed speech about molding Hungary into an 'illiberal state' - in Tusnad

in Transylvania," a region of modern-day Romania that belonged to Hungary under the empire.

'Doctrines of victimhood'

Austria, though, has put its imperial past behind it and "has benefited from its status as a small, neutral country", having joined the European Union but not NATO, Rathkolb says. The key to understanding these two different approaches to history, according to Rathkolb, is grasping the distinct "doctrines of victimhood" the two countries developed during their very different experiences over the past century. In Austria, "the myth of Saint-Germain become obsolete after 1945" when the country again faced defeat, this time as part of Nazi Germany.

After the war the country tried to distance itself from Germany by reinventing itself as the "Nazi's first victim" and trying to minimize Austrians' role in the atrocities of the Third Reich. The Habsburg past also proved useful in marking out a distinctly Austrian identity, as well as being "a skillfully exploited tourist attraction," with Emperor Franz Josef and his wife Elisabeth - also known under the moniker Sissi - turned into kitsch icons. Meanwhile Austria made the most of its neutral status during the Cold War, attracting the UN and several other major international organizations to open headquarters in Vienna.

However in Hungary, the myth of Trianon remains very much alive in the national subconscious and has been "skillfully revived by Orban" after his return to power in 2010. He can now "easily mobilize the electorate" with a narrative which paints Hungary as having constantly been the victim of history: first under Trianon, then communism, then liberalism, and today because of allegedly EU-backed immigration, says Rathkolb. Indeed, during this year's election campaign Orban claimed Brussels wanted to rob Hungarians of their country, "not with the stroke of a pen, as happened one hundred years ago at Trianon; now they want us to voluntarily hand our country over to others."

By contrast, "Austria doesn't labor under its past role as a big power and the nostalgia for Franz-Josef and Sissi is superficial. But in Hungary the belief persists that it was the country most wronged by the events of 1919-20," says



Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban waves on the podium after delivering a speech during an event to commemorate the 62nd anniversary of Hungarian uprising against Soviet occupation in front of Terror Haza (Museum of Terror) in Budapest on Oct 23, 2018. — AFP

Austrian political scientist Anton Pelinka. Pan-German nationalism is still one strain of thought within the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ), currently in coalition with the center-right.

Even though in recent years the party has had to distance itself from that ideology, it has recently taken a leaf from Orban's book in floating the idea of Austrian citizenship for the German- and Ladin-speaking minorities in the Italian province of South Tyrol, which was also part of the Habsburg empire. But Rathkolb thinks that even "this suggestion lacks support and will probably end up quietly disappearing from the agenda". — AFP

Business

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iPhone XR launch event organized by Zain at MAYAR complex

Zain launches the all-new iPhone XR

Company celebrates launch with exclusive offer for youth customers

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, launched the all-new iPhone XR during the special event it organized at MAYAR Complex. The event, held on Friday (26 October) from 5-10 pm, witnessed great numbers of crowds from Zain customers.

The special event aimed at celebrating the official launch of the latest smartphone from Apple in Kuwait, where Zain was keen on sharing this occasion with its customers who represent the largest family of subscribers in Kuwait, and who are passionate about getting the latest and most advanced smart devices.

During the event, Zain offered the new iPhone XR with an exclusive offer that was specially designed to meet its customers' needs and aspirations, whether on the personal or professional levels. Zain trusts that the new device will offer its customers an unmatched telecommunications experience on its largest network in Kuwait.

The new exclusive offer, dedicated to Zain's youth customers, offers the new iPhone XR with 500 local minutes, 50 GBs of Internet, unlimited social media usage (for

Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook), as well as a FREE Anghami Plus subscription throughout the commitment period.

The event witnessed many fun activities for the attending crowds, including a live performance by DJ Jack-Z from Anghami (the app that offers the biggest digital entertainment library in the Middle East), a live music performance by Arabiska Band in the fresh air, delicious coffee from Toby's Estate, and much more.

Zain always aspires to new levels of excellence in all services it offers to its customers. Through the launch of this new device, Zain affirms its continuous efforts in meeting its customers' needs and aspirations, and deliver its promise to offering the best services and latest technologies.

The introduction of iPhone XR highlights Zain's eagerness in keeping pace with the ongoing changes of needs and wants of its customers. With this latest announcement, Zain strengthens its leading position in providing special services and offerings designed for technology enthusiasts.



S&P downgrades debt outlook for Italy's debt

MILAN: Ratings agency S&P has downgraded its outlook for Italy's sovereign debt but left its credit rating untouched, upping the pressure on Rome amid a stand-off with Brussels over its budget. Friday's announcement, which warned Rome's fiscal policy was jeopardizing banks' ability to fund the Italian economy, followed last week's decision by Moody's to cut Italy's credit rating to a notch above junk status. "The negative outlook reflects the risk that the government's decision to further increase public borrowing—besides exacerbating Italy's already weak budgetary position—will stifle

the incipient recovery of the private sector," S&P said.

The decision indicates the debt grade could be cut in the coming months. The far-right League and anti-establishment Five Star Movement, ruling in coalition, have refused to curb their big-spending program which forecasts a public deficit of 2.4 percent of GDP in 2019.

The former center-left government had pledged to keep next year's deficit to 0.8 percent of GDP in a bid to ease Italy's vast public debt, which amounts to a phenomenal 2.3 trillion euros. Brussels on Tuesday rejected the new plan outright, accusing Rome of "openly and consciously going against commitments made" and requesting a revision.

But the ratings decision was met with a renewed refusal to budge by League head Matteo Salvini and Five Star chief Luigi Di Maio. "Are ratings agencies unaware of the global financial crisis?" Salvini said on

Friday, while Di Maio said such organizations "do not measure the wellbeing of a country's citizens". "We will continue! Change is underway," added Di Maio.

'No confidence'

The Moody's downgrade, cutting Italy's debt grade to Baa3 from Baa2 — while setting the outlook at "stable"—came as international financial watchdogs sounded the alarm over Italy's economic choices. "By proposing a budget heavy on debt-fuelled spending, the country started clashes both with the European Commission and with the market," said Fidelity International analysts Andrea Iannelli and Alberto Chiandetti.

"Neither has confidence in Italy's projection that its economy will grow at a rate of 1.5 percent or that its current debt path is politically and financially sustainable."

S&P said it could change its outlook to

stable if the recovery takes hold and the debt burden stabilizes.

Since mid-May, when negotiations to form the coalition in Rome began, Milan's stock exchange has lost more than 20 percent. The FTSE MIB closed down another 0.7 percent on Friday. The closely watched "spread"—or difference between yields on 10-year Italian government debt compared to those in fiscally conservative Germany—has more than doubled, widening from 150 points to 309 points.

The Italian banking sector, which holds 372 billion euros worth of the country's sovereign debt according to the central bank, has been the hardest hit, losing 36 percent on the Milan stock exchange.

'A shared solution'

Rome has until November 13 to present a revised budget to Brussels and faces a heavy fine if it fails to do so. European

Central Bank chief Mario Draghi said Thursday he was confident an agreement could be reached. In the meantime, the commission insists it wants to avoid all-out war with the populists.

"It's very important for the channels of communication to remain open... and I'm not going to be the one to close them," Economic Affairs Commissioner Pierre Moscovici said on Wednesday.

"We need to find a shared solution because Italy is a country at the heart of the eurozone" and "I can't see an Italy without Europe", he said. But Salvini insisted this week that the Italian economy is healthy and the new budget "will make it even stronger and will create jobs".

"We open the little letters from Brussels because we have been brought up well. We read them, we reply to them but we won't change a comma of the finance law," he said. —AFP

Business

Arqaam forecasts double-digit earnings growth for Gulf Bank

Positive margin expansion, operating ratio key drivers

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank's combined operating ratio (CoR) and non-performing loans (NPL) have improved as the bank resolves one of its corporate legacy issues, according to a report by Arqaam Capital, a specialist emerging markets investment bank. This has resulted in driving earnings growth and an improving return on equity (RoE).

Arqaam forecast strong double-digit earnings growth of 18 percent y/y in Q3/9M on margin expansion of 33 basis points and decline in CoR of 25bps. It said the NPL ratio improved to 1.5 percent from 2.1 percent in Q2 18, "probably driven by write-offs as recoveries only amounted to 6bps of net loans vs 2bps in Q2 and 47bps in Q1". "However, credit growth momentum slowed down during Q3, bringing YTD net loan growth (after provisions) to 0.3 percent," it said. The report added Gulf Bank remains best play on CoR normalization in Kuwait - trading at 1.1x 18e book - signaling a higher growth appetite as vintage CoR improves and delivering on RoE expansion should help the stock.

According to Arqaam, margin expansion is another driver of growth. Growth momentum has slowed down, while FY 18e loan growth is likely to be in line with sector. Non-funded income is weak across the board, with positive JAWs on margin expansion. Key drivers include an improving RoE, normalization of CoR and management changes (Kevin Smith was appointed as the new CFO), while legacy loan stock offers scope for recoveries.

Capital adequacy ratio improved to 16.8 percent in Q3 from 16.7 percent in Q2 and 17.8 percent in 2017 (interim earnings are not included), driven by soft growth and better RoE, according to the report. "Annualized CoR improved to 152bps in 9M 18 from 177bps in 9M 17 as GBK benefits from legacy stock. NPL ratio improved to 1.5 percent in Q3 from 2.1 percent in Q2 18 and 1.7 percent in 2017, while coverage remains very robust at 478 percent. The improvement could have been driven by resolution of the corporate loan collateralized by listed shares. GBK was expecting significant improvement in NPL

ratio as two legacy loans (a corporate and the land sale) are resolved before end of this year," Arqaam said.

Q3

Revenues: KWD 48.6m (-0.5 percent q/q, +9.7 percent y/y and +1.6 percent vs. AC)
Pre-provision profit: KWD 32.4m (-0.2 percent q/q, +10.6 percent y/y and +2.6 percent vs. AC)
Net profit: KWD 15.9m (-0.9 percent q/q, +18.6 percent y/y and -2.6 percent vs. AC)
Net loans: KWD 3,949.5m (-1.8 percent q/q, +7.1 percent y/y and -3.3 percent vs. AC)
Deposits: KWD 3,697.3m (-0.4 percent q/q, +5.4 percent y/y and -3.2 percent vs. AC)

9M

Revenues: KWD 145.7m (+8.3 percent y/y and +0.5 percent vs. AC)
Pre-provision profit: KWD 97.4m (+8.6 percent y/y and +0.9 percent vs. AC)
Net profit: KWD 42.7m (+18.1 percent y/y and -1.0 percent vs. AC)

BUY

KWD 0.37

Banks / Kuwait

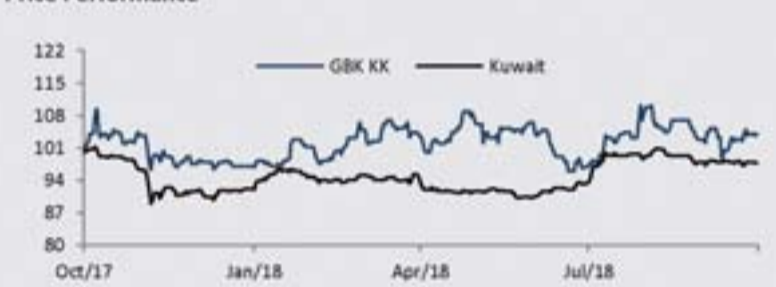
Bloomberg code	GBK KK
Market index	Kuwait
Target Price	0.37
Upside (%)	42.2

Market data 24-Oct-18

Last closing price	0.26
52 Week range	0.2-0.3
Market cap (KWD m)	745
Market cap (USD m)	2,453
Average Daily Traded Value (KWD m)	782.0
Average Daily Traded Value (USD m)	2,575.6
Free float (%)	64%

Year-end (local m)	2016	2017	2018e	2019e
Revenues	169	181	194	214
Pre-provisioning profit	105	117	126	142
EPS	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.03
P/E (x) (mkt price)	17.3	15.5	12.6	9.6
BVPS	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Tangible BVPS	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
P/B (x) (mkt price)	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0
P/TBVPS (x) (mkt price)	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0
DPS	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Div. yield (%)	2.7	3.5	4.1	4.5
EPPS	-	-	-	-
RoAA (%)	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.3
RoRWA (%)	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.7
RoATE (%)	7.7	8.2	9.4	11.3
RoEcc (%)	8.5	9.1	10.7	13.5
RAROC (%)	9.4	13.0	13.6	15.1
Net LtD ratio (%)	105.5	112.8	105.6	104.1
Risk Weighted Assets (bn)	3.9	4.2	4.3	4.6
Core Equity T1 ratio (%)	14.7	14.2	14.5	14.8
Tier 1 capital ratio (%)	14.7	14.2	14.5	14.8
Total capital ratio (%)	18.5	17.8	18.3	18.4
NPL ratio (%)	2.4	1.7	2.5	2.5
Coverage ratio (%)	332.9	345.7	225.5	235.1
Number of shares	2,910	2,910	2,910	2,910

Price Performance



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Bayt.com weekly report

Five hacks to make your CV stronger

Imagine yourself in an interview for your dream job, and the employer asks you to introduce yourself. Easy, right? Wait, you haven't heard the catch, yet. You only have seven seconds to do so. You're put on the spot. You're nervous. You're sweating. What do you say? What do you focus on? Should you start with your work experience...DING DING DING, time's up!

What if employers would actually put you through that? What a nightmare, right? Well...They already kind of do, to a certain extent. Studies have concluded that employers spend an average of seven seconds reading through a CV before making a decision on whether or not the candidate is qualified for the job.

First impressions definitely do count when you're trying to impress employers and get hired. And you probably only have a few seconds to make a good one, so make it count. That's why you should write and structure your CV in a certain way to make it stand out. It may seem like a difficult task to do. But, when you think about it, it's not that hard, as a large number of CVs out there are considered predominantly bland and standard. Boring. You need to market yourself. It's a game.

If you want to make a good first impression to employers, you'll have to put your best foot forward. As they say, "the first step is half the journey." And that's where your CV comes in. So, experts at Bayt.com have written this article to give you some tips on how to strengthen your CV and ultimately make a good first expression to employers.

Here are some hacks on how to have a killer CV:

* Keep your CV clear and concise

So, you've finally gotten the chance to brag about yourself without feeling arrogant or pretentious. It can certainly be tempting to shove as much information as you can in your CV, with lots of business terms, in order to seem more sophisticated. But, this method can backfire, big time, and just make your CV more complex to read. Keep it short and simple, it's not an extended essay.

Don't get the wrong idea. You should definitely aim to come across as polished and

professional. But don't overdo it, because that's when your CV loses your personal essence and character and becomes just like all the other old plain CVs out there. Your spirit should shine through your CV.

Keep your CV organized and easy to read, as not to discourage employers from properly going through it. Remember, you've got 7 seconds so you should aim to have a sense of flow in your CV. And you avoid repeating anything in your CV. There is just no need for redundancy.

Also, you should keep in mind that including a bunch of irrelevant information in your CV will just make you look like you don't get what the job responsibilities are. Avoid it. You don't want to seem as uninformed, do you?

* Focus on yourself

It's never too late to start focusing on enhancing your abilities and developing yourself. You can always learn something new. Your CV will thank you.

If you already have strong qualifications and a solid skill set, then you probably already have them listed on your CV. Don't you? But why leave them as is? Why not make them shine even brighter? And if you don't really have that much experience and believe that your skill set might be lacking, then now is the time to change that and step up your game.

You'll need to focus on building and enhancing the skills and qualifications that are relevant for the job that you're seeking. Let's say, for example, that you're looking to get a job in the accounting industry, you should try to get as involved as possible with anything significant in the industry. This can include volunteering to do your family's and friends' book keeping, joining an accounting society, or even going to accounting events where you can learn valuable insights on industry developments - something that you might be asked about during the recruitment process.

Remember, employers will want to know when, where and how you have used your skills to create value. So, you should try to put your skills to practice whenever possible. This is also why you should never lie on your CV. Keep it real. Don't expect to have "Capacity Building" as a primary skill on your CV and not be asked about it.

You can also develop your skills by using Bayt.com's learning tools such as online courses and training courses.

* Tailor your CV to it

You might have already picked up on the memo of this article but tailoring your CV for each job you apply for is considered the gold-

en rule of CV writing. Employers already have set skills and qualifications that they're looking for, so you should include the ones you have that mirror the job description.

Begin your CV with a solid personal summary (also known as career objective) that can brand you as right for the job, as well as grab the attention of the recruiter. At the end of the day, it does occupy the most important part of your CV, the top center.

Your CV should reflect that you're fit for the job. This means you should only include information that is related to the job and can be appreciated by the employer. Don't put that you're an expert in animal behavior when applying to a corporate job. They don't need to know that, and probably don't want to know.

* Keep your CV fresh

When was the last time you updated your CV? A month ago? Two months ago? You can't remember?

It's extremely important to keep updating your CV, at least once every few months, as employers always prefer and sometimes prioritize freshly updated CVs over old rusty ones. You never know when a job opportunity might appear, and it's always best to apply within the first 48 hours of a job posting. You don't want to delay applying because of an outdated CV, do you?

If you already have an updated CV on Bayt.com but want to make it fresh to employers, you can easily do that by pressing the "Refresh Last Update" on your profile.

* Focus on your achievements

Okay, everyone gets it, you had like a million responsibilities at your former job. But the question is were you good at your job? Did you deliver?

Don't just include a long list of your job tasks you performed. Tasks are self-explanatory, for the most part, and any other person could have done them. You should illustrate how you added value to the company. And use numbers, employers love their numbers.

For example, "I was able to develop and incorporate a project management strategy that aided in cutting costs by 30 percent, as well as making the whole procedure considerably simpler and shorter."

Lastly, if you've gone through your CV multiple times and feel like it still needs some work and you're a bit stuck, then you can always consider seeking professional help. Thankfully, Bayt.com offers various CV writing services that job seekers like you can take advantage of such as CV Writing Service, and

EXCHANGE RATES

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.383299	0.397199
Czech Korune	0.005437	0.014737
Danish Krone	0.042491	0.047491
Euro	0.340281	0.353981
Georgian Lari	0.134978	0.134978
Hungarian 0.001147	0.001337	
Norwegian Krone	0.032482	0.037682
Romanian Leu	0.065231	0.082081
Russian ruble	0.004658	0.004658
Slovakia	0.009099	0.019099
Swedish Krona	0.029350	0.034350
Swiss Franc	0.299226	0.310226
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.208234	0.220234
New Zealand Dollar	0.192468	0.201968
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.227187	0.236187
US Dollars	0.300300	0.305600
US Dollars Mint	0.300800	0.305600
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.002977	0.003778
Chinese Yuan	0.042358	0.045856
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037036	0.039786
Indian Rupee	0.003599	0.004371
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000016	0.000022
Japanese Yen	0.002647	0.002827
Korean Won	0.000258	0.000273
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069535	0.075535
Nepalese Rupee	0.002579	0.002979
Pakistan Rupee	0.001750	0.002520
Philippine Peso	0.005502	0.005802
Singapore Dollar	0.215248	0.225248
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001447	0.002027
Taiwan	0.010445	0.010625
Thai Baht	0.008916	0.009466
Vietnamese Dong	0.000013	0.000013
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.792857	0.809357
Egyptian Pound	0.014308	0.020026
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000213	0.000273
Jordanian Dinar	0.425039	0.434039
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000157	0.000257
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022511	0.048511
Omani Riyal	0.784331	0.790011
Qatar Riyal	0.079321	0.084261
Saudi Riyal	0.080087	0.081387
Syrian Pound	0.001290	0.001510
Tunisian Dinar	0.102125	0.110125
Turkish Lira	0.048420	0.059920
UAE Dirhams	0.008152	0.083152
Yemeni Riyal	0.000989	0.001069

Open rift between Indian CB, govt as official warns of catastrophe

MUMBAI: In a sign of a mounting policy struggle between India's central bank and the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a top bank official warned on Friday that undermining a central bank's independence could be "potentially catastrophic". The comments by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor Viral Acharya showed that the central bank is pushing back hard against government pressure to relax its policies and reduce its powers ahead of a general election due by next May, and as Indian financial markets have been dropping in recent weeks.

In a speech to top industrialists he cited the Argentine government's meddling in its central bank's affairs in 2010 as an example of what can go wrong. That led to an investor revolt and a surge in bond yields, badly hurting the South American nation's economy.

"Governments that do not respect central bank independence will sooner or later incur the wrath of financial markets, ignite economic fire, and come to rue the day they undermined an important regulatory institution," Acharya said.



Viral Acharya

He had three of his fellow deputy governors in the audience and also thanked RBI Governor Urjit Patel for his "suggestion to explore this theme for a speech", in a show of unity from an institution typically known for its restraint. Government officials have recently called for the RBI to relax its lending restrictions on some banks, and New Delhi has also been trying to trim the RBI's regulatory powers by setting up a new regulator for the country's payments system.

Acharya said more needed to be done to ensure effective independence for the central bank in its regulatory and supervisory powers. "The risks of undermining the central bank's independence are potentially catastrophic," said Acharya, adding that rash moves could trigger a "crisis of confidence in capital markets that are tapped by governments and others in the economy." —Reuters

Iraq to halt Kirkuk oil exports to Iran

BAGHDAD: Iraq will stop trucking crude from its northern Kirkuk oilfield to Iran in November to comply with sanctions imposed on its neighbor by the United States, five sources familiar with Iraqi oil export operations said on Friday. Kirkuk is one of the biggest and oldest oilfields in the Middle East. Last year Iraq began to ship crude from Kirkuk to Iran for use in its refineries, and Iran agreed to deliver the same amount of oil to Iraq's southern ports. Currently, Iraq is exporting less than 30,000

barrels per day (bpd) to Iran via truck, the sources told Reuters. "Kirkuk oil trucking to Iran will be halted in November in line with the American sanctions against Iran. (State oil marketer) SOMO plans to sell 30,000 bpd from a small oilfield near Mosul as of November as an alternative. SOMO issued the tender on Thursday," one source said.

President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from a 2015 international nuclear accord with Tehran in May and reimpose sanctions has put Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi's incoming government in a difficult position as the country's economy is closely intertwined with neighboring Iran. —Reuters

Business

Ooredoo reports revenue of KD 502m for nine months ended 30 Sept 2018

Customer base up by 2% to reach almost 27 million

KUWAIT: National Mobile Telecommunications Company K.S.C.P "Ooredoo" announced yesterday its financial results for the nine months ended 30 September 2018:

Financial highlights:

- Consolidated customer base increased by 2 percent to reach 26.6 million for the nine months ended 30 September 2018, compared to 26.1 million for the same period in 2017.
- Revenue decreased by 4 percent to KD 502.4 million for the nine months ended 30 September 2018, compared to KD 522.6 million for the same period in 2017.
- EBITDA was KD 162.1 million for the nine months ended 30 September 2018, compared to KWD 197.6 million for the same period in 2017.
- Net profit attributable to NMTC was KD 16.2 million for the nine months ended 30 September 2018, compared to KD 34.8 million for the same period in 2017. The decrease was mainly caused by a lower Algerian contribution due to a weak economic environment, currency devaluation and price competition.
- The consolidated earnings per share was 32 fils for the nine months ended 30 September 2018, compared to 69 fils per share earned for the same period last year.

Sheikh Saud Bin Nasser Al-Thani, Chairman of the Board of Directors commented:

"Despite challenging market conditions, we continue to see strong demand for our cutting edge products and services, with customer numbers up 2 percent to 27 million for the nine-month period ended 30 September



Sheikh Saud Bin Nasser Al-Thani

increased to KD 6 million for the same period. Maldives performed well, with a 6 percent increase in revenue and a stable customer base of 430,000."

Review of Operations

The Group's operational performance can be summarized as follows:

Ooredoo - Kuwait

Ooredoo's customer base in Kuwait increased 2 percent to 2.3 million for the nine months period ended 30 September 2018, compared to the same period in 2017. Revenues for the nine month period were KD 181.7 million, an increase of 13 percent compared to KD 160.7 million for the same period in 2017. Higher handset sales led to an increase in revenue, while at the same time negatively impacting margins. EBITDA was KD 36.8 million for the nine months ended 30 September 2018, lower than KD 39.6 million for the same period in 2017.

Ooredoo - Tunisia

Ooredoo's customer base in Tunisia increased 5 percent to reach 8.8 million for the nine months ended 30 September 2018, compared to the same period in 2017. Revenues slightly decreased to KD 95.4 million for the nine months ended 30 September 2018, compared to KD 96.2 million for the same period in 2017. However, in local currency terms revenues were up by 6 percent. EBITDA was KD 39.5 million compared to KD 38.0 million for the same period in 2017.

Ooredoo - Algeria

Business in Algeria was negatively impacted by the devaluation of the Algerian Dinar, intense price competition and a weak economic environment. Customer numbers of Ooredoo Algeria declined by 3 percent to 13.8 million for the nine months ended 30 September 2018, compared with the same period in 2017. Revenues also decreased to KD 173.6 million for the nine months ended 30 September 2018, compared to KD 219.4 million for the same period in 2017. EBITDA was KD 66.3 million for the nine months ended 30 September 2018, down from KD 99.9 million for the same period in 2017.



Financial Highlights:

	Quarterly Analysis			Nine Months Analysis		
	Q3 2018	Q3 2017	% change	9M 2018	9M 2017	% change
Consolidated Revenue (KWD m)	161.0	178.8	-10%	502.4	522.6	-4%
EBITDA (KWD m)	54.5	68.8	-21%	162.1	197.6	-18%
EBITDA margin (%)	34%	38%	-	32%	38%	-
Net Profit attributable to NMTC (KWD m)	4.0	11.5	-65%	16.2	34.8	-53%
Consolidated Customers (m)	26.6	26.1	2%	26.6	26.1	2%

Wataniya - Palestine

Wataniya Mobile made good progress in the first nine months of the year, with the launch of the 3G network in the West Bank in January 2018. Customer numbers increased by 57 percent to 1.3 million, benefiting from the Gaza launch in October 2017. Revenue increased to KD 23.0 million, up by 19 percent compared to KD 19.3 million for the same period in 2017. EBITDA increased to KD 5.8 million compared to KD 5.1 million for the same period in 2017.

Ooredoo - Maldives

Ooredoo Maldives reported a 6 percent increase in revenue for the nine months ended 30 September 2018 to KD 28.7 million, compared to KD 27.0 million for the same period in 2017. EBITDA was KD 14.4 million for the nine months ended 30 September 2018, compared to KD 15.1 million for the same period in 2017. Ooredoo Maldives now serves a total of 430k customers, representing a 1 percent decrease compared to the same period in 2017.



2018. We are progressing further with our digital transformation strategy to enrich people's digital lives.

Financially, our results at a Group level were negatively impacted by margin compression in Kuwait and challenging economic conditions in Algeria. All our other operations showed healthy EBITDA levels.

Kuwait recorded a significant increase in revenue for the first nine-months of 2018 to KD 182 million, up 13 percent compared to the same period last year. Revenue growth was driven by customer additions and an increase in handset sales.

In Algeria, market conditions remain depressed with the devaluation of the Algerian Dinar and intense price competition putting pressure on revenue and EBITDA. However, in line with our data first strategy, we maintained our mobile data leadership in Algeria.

We made good progress in Tunisia, where we increased our customer base by 5 percent, while our continued focus on cost optimization helped deliver EBITDA improvement for the nine-month period.

In Palestine we are benefiting from the launch of our network in Gaza. Since the beginning of 2018, we have increased our customer base by 57 percent to 1.3 million. Consequently, revenue was up 19 percent, while EBITDA

Brussels Airport hit as baggage handlers strike

BRUSSELS: A strike by baggage handlers at Brussels airport has caused many flight cancellations, affecting thousands of passengers during a major school holiday, an official said Friday. The travel chaos is set to continue, with Brussels Airport air traffic affected until at least today morning.

"As a result of a work stoppage at baggage handler Aviapartner, no flights are being handled by Aviapartner until Sunday 28 October 6 am (0400 GMT)," Brussels Airport said in an online message.

Some 300 travellers spent Thursday night at Brussels-Zaventem airport after handlers at Belgian firm Aviapartner went on strike, airport spokeswoman Nathalie Pierard told AFP, with more set to do so overnight Friday. Around 200 flights in or out of the airport were cancelled, according to public broadcaster RTBF, due to the strike over demands for higher staffing levels.

Pierard said most of those affected were Ryanair flights.

The Brussels Airport website said 30 carriers had been hit, also including British Airways, EasyJet and Air Maroc. "Friday is one of the busiest days of the autumn,



A total of 47,000 passengers are due to leave today," Pierard said.

Passengers were advised to contact their airline. Some flights were shifted to Charleroi, Brussels' other international airport, or to Lille in northern France, according to media reports.

The strike comes at the end of a school holiday in neighboring Netherlands and the start of one in Belgium that coincides with All Saints Day. A meeting between union delegates and at Aviapartner on Friday ended without any agreement, according to the Belga news agency, but was due to resume Saturday. Brussels airport is the largest in Belgium, with nearly 25 million passengers passing through it last year, compared to seven million at Charleroi airport in the south, the country's second biggest. —AFP

percent growth in the prior quarter but still overshooting analyst expectations.

The result made for the strongest six-month period since mid-2014 and puts growth above the prevailing trend for most of the recovery since the Great Recession, although it is based on preliminary data subject to revision.

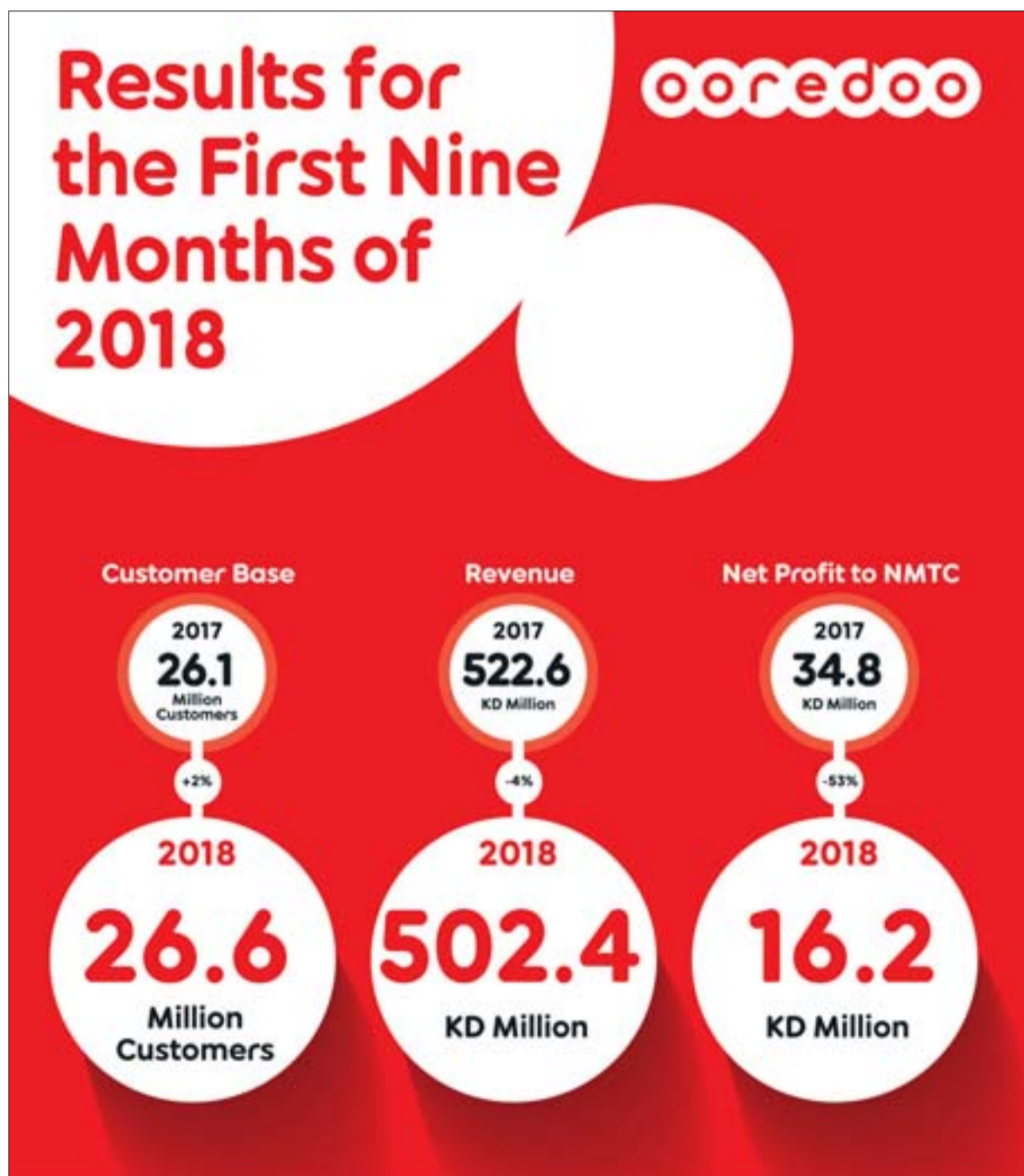
President Donald Trump is banking on faster growth to pay for the December tax cuts and increased government spending, which nevertheless drove the US budget deficit to a six-year high in the most recent fiscal year. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said the economic growth had defied "conventional wisdom" and credited the Trump administration's economic policies.

"The president's actions from deregulation to tax reform have supercharged the American economy, driving it to new heights," he said in a statement. But economists say growth should slow in the coming quarters as tax cuts and fiscal stimulus recede into the past while inflation mounts, interest rates rise, protectionist trade measures continue to bite and growth slows in the world's other major economies. —AFP

US trade conflicts weigh on robust growth in Q3

WASHINGTON: Robust US GDP growth continued in the third quarter but at a slower pace just ahead of key congressional elections, while the economy faces mounting headwinds from trade wars, the Commerce Department reported Friday.

Coming just 11 days before a nail-biting midterm vote that could shift the balance of power in Washington, the new figures show the world's largest economy still has a big head of steam after tax cuts and fiscal stimulus enacted over the last year. However, economists say the underlying numbers offer grounds for concern. GDP grew at a brisk annual rate of 3.5 percent for the July-September period, according to the government's initial estimate, down sharply from 4.2



The Board of Directors of National Mobile Telecommunication Company K.S.C.P (Ooredoo) is pleased to announce to its shareholders that the company achieved a consolidated Net Profit attributable to shareholders of **KD 16.2 million**, translating to an earnings per share of **32.3 fils** for the nine months of 2018. The revenue for the nine months of 2018 reached to **KD 502.4 million**, compared with **KD 522.6 million** in the same period of 2017.

The Board of Directors takes this opportunity to express their gratitude and appreciation to NMTC (Ooredoo) shareholders, customers and to all our employees for their continuous efforts.

Business

ASAR - Al-Ruwayeh & Partners bags IFLR Award for Kuwait for 10th year in a row

Recognized for innovation across country's noteworthy deals

KUWAIT: Al-Ruwayeh & Partners (ASAR), Kuwait's leading and most prominent corporate law firm, and one of the region's top tier firms, is pleased to announce that it has for a record 10th consecutive year received a national award presented by the International Financial Law Review (IFLR), the world's leading market guide for corporate and financial law firms worldwide. The 2018 IFLR national award presented to ASAR was for the "Most Innovative Law Firm of the Year" in Kuwait. The awards ceremony that was held on 17 October 2018 at the Burj Al-Arab hotel, Dubai, saw the attendance of partners and representatives from other leading GCC and international law firms.

Sam Habbas - Senior Partner at ASAR noted that: "This was an exceptional year for ASAR at the IFLR Awards Ceremony. Having received an IFLR national award for Kuwait for the 10th consecutive year is indeed a significant milestone. In addition, we were also fortunate enough to be nominated and recognized for our work in the IFLR M&A, Project Finance and Restructuring, deals of the year. Being the recipient of all these IFLR awards over the last decade is a testament to the caliber and quality of our clients, the absolute level of trust that they have in our firm in handling their commercial transactions, and of course, because of the high level of skill, commitment and quality of service which our lawyers in both Kuwait and Bahrain consistently deliver to our clients. As always, putting our clients first is a cornerstone principle of

ASAR; their success is our success, and we intend to keep it that way."

Ahmed Barakat - Managing Partner at ASAR noted that: "It is such a great achievement for our firm to have been awarded an IFLR national award for Kuwait for a record 10th consecutive year. The winning of these awards is a testament to the strength and depth of our practice, and the caliber and expertise of our lawyers in Kuwait and Bahrain. It also reflects our firm's commitment to provide our clients with service of the highest order so that we may cross the finishing line with them in successfully closing ground-breaking and innovative transactions. As always, we remain committed to provide cutting-edge legal counsel to our clients across all sectors in Kuwait and Bahrain."

With dedicated offices in Kuwait and Bahrain coupled with its associated offices and relationships, ASAR provides clients across an extensive range of industry sectors with comprehensive legal advice and support for their business activities in Kuwait, Bahrain, across the GCC and beyond.

The firm has been consistently rated as the leading corporate and commercial law firm in Kuwait by reputable legal guides such as the International Financial Law Review (IFLR), the Chambers Global Guide, and the Legal 500. In 2017, ASAR won the "IFLR M&A Deal of the Year Award" in relation to ASAR's role as Kuwait law counsel to Adeptio AD Investments SPC Limited who acquired a 93.4 percent stake in Kuwait Food Company (Americana), and the "IFLR



ASAR's role in acting as Kuwait law counsel to the various

creditors in respect to the restructuring of the debt of Adeem Investment and Wealth Management.

How ratings agencies work and why they are feared

ROME: Depending on whom you ask, ratings agencies are either would-be guardians of financial probity or an indispensable valuation tool for investors.

Their reputation was badly tarnished by the 2008 financial crisis when critics said they failed to notice the warning signs in over-extended banks.

But since then, they have tightened up, promising new rigour in their analysis of government and corporate finances to ensure investors make the best-informed decisions possible.

Their actions-like S&P which on Friday upped pressure on Rome by downgrading its outlook for Italy's sovereign debt, while leaving its credit rating untouched-accordingly have great influence over markets, investment decisions and governments needing to raise money.

Who they are and what they do

The world's top three rating agencies are American: Moody's, Fitch Ratings and S&P Global, formerly known as Standard & Poor's.

Their job is to judge the creditworthiness of countries and companies. Governments and corporations pay them in return for a critical review of their debt.

The agencies' ratings, designed to be fully impartial and credible, are a requirement for many investment funds before they make a decision to buy a given security, be it a share in a company or a government bond.

The investment return or yield demanded by creditors will vary according to the agencies' reports. A weak notation will push borrowing rates higher, while a strong one may bring them down.

Good books, bad books

Ratings range from top grade AAA all the way down to D, which signals a default.

Only 11 countries have a "triple A" rating. They are Germany, Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Canada, Australia and Singapore.

At the other end of the spectrum, Venezuela and Mozambique are believed to be incapable of paying back their debts.

Agencies regularly revise their ratings but can also, in a less drastic step, change the outlook for their current note from negative to positive via neutral, a move that often leads to a later change in the rating. Political developments, major social and economic events or a large company acquisition can all trigger notation updates.

Fearful by governments

An agency ratings downgrade can quickly become a thorn in the side of spendthrift governments which suddenly find themselves with greater debt-servicing costs.

Since their creation early in the 20th century, ratings agencies have often been the target of bitter complaints. EU governments, for example, protested against the simultaneous downgrade of nine eurozone countries in February 2012, at the height of the financial crisis.

The pressure that governments feel when agency notations turn against them is considerable. If the agencies declare that governments are having trouble servicing their debt, investors will sometimes demand drastic measures before returning to the market, usually deep cuts in government spending or much higher rates of return. "The greatest capacity to force the hands of a government lies with the markets today," says Christopher Dembik, an analyst at Saxo Bank.

Infalible?

Rating agencies came under severe criticism after the 2008 collapse of US investment bank Lehman Brothers, for having given strong ratings to derivative products-which included very risky subprime assets-that were sold to banks and investment funds across the world. When the US real estate bubble burst, hundreds of thousands of homeowners were unable to meet their mortgage payments, in turn inflicting heavy losses on the banks and funds holding the toxic loan derivatives. —AFP

ASDA'A BCW wins Gold Stevies for work on GEMS, Ford, Arab Youth Survey

KUWAIT: ASDA'A BCW continues its winning streak at the International Business Awards 2018 - known as 'the Stevies'. The agency collected a total of 28 awards, with five Gold, 10 Silver and 12 Bronze medals in the PR Category, including a Gold for PR Agency of the Year for the Middle East region, and a special 'Grand Stevie' for being the 'Most Honored Public Relations Agency' globally.

'We See Genius in Every Child', an initiative for GEMS Education, clinched two Golds, for 'Marketing: Consumer Services' and for 'Reputation/Brand Management', along with two Silver awards for Corporate Communications and Community Relations.

Ford Middle East's 'Women in the Driving Seat' campaign, which focused on the recently-lifted ban on women driving in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, won the Gold in the 'Communications or PR Campaign of the Year - Global Issues' category.

The 10th Annual Arab Youth Survey was awarded a Gold Stevie for 'Best White Paper or Research Report' for the 2018 edition 'A Decade of Hopes and Fears', which chronicles the findings of the survey on the region's largest demographic, Arab youth. The Agency's pioneering thought leadership initiative also took home three Bronze awards for 'Communications Research', 'Global Issues', and 'Public Service'.

Projects by ASDA'A BCW that earned Silver and Bronze Stevie wins include the launch of Jebel Jails Flight: The World's Longest Zipline for Ras Al-Khaimah Tourism and Development Authority (RAKTDA); Dubai Fitness Challenge; Zabeel House MINI by JumeirahTM; work on the Global Education & Skills Forum and Global Teacher Prize 2018 for Varkey Foundation, and

Britain to give small retailers 900m stg tax cut

LONDON: British finance minister Philip Hammond is likely to give a 900 million pound (\$1.15 billion) tax cut to small high-street retailers in his annual budget tomorrow to help them compete against online competition, the government said late on Friday. High-street shops have long complained that Britain's tax system unfairly favors online retailers and out-of-town stores, which face lower business property taxes than firms operating from expensive town center locations.

Britain's finance ministry said that starting from next year, almost half a million small retailers would enjoy a cut of a third to their property taxes, known as business



ASDA'A BCW Chief Strategy Officer Margaret Flanagan and Senior Director, Regional Operations Nathan Wilson collecting the awards in London

the Emaar New Year's Eve event, Light Up 2018 Downtown Dubai at Burj Khalifa.

The International Business Awards are the world's premier business awards program, with the 2018 edition receiving 3,900 entries from 74 nations. Sunil John, Founder & President of ASDA'A BCW, said: "This year has been one of change and growth for us as an agency, both regionally and globally. What remains consistent throughout is our endeavor to raise the bar of excellence within our industry. Our focus has always been on delivering the highest quality for our clients, and we're delighted to have our team's fantastic work

and dedication recognized at such an esteemed international platform."

The Grand Stevies are awarded on the basis of a points system, with a Gold Stevie win counting for three points, a Silver Stevie win for two points, and a Bronze Stevie win for 1.5 points. ASDA'A BCW was declared the 'Most Honored Public Relations Agency' with an impressive total of 53 award points.

This year's International Business Awards ceremony and gala dinner took place at the InterContinental London Park Lane Hotel in London on Saturday, October 20th.

rates. A further 650 million pounds will be available over the next four years to improve infrastructure, under-used property and transport links in town-center shopping areas. "This package will provide short-term relief for struggling retailers and a long-term vision for town centers, helping them to meet the new challenges brought about by our changing shopping habits," the finance ministry said.

Economists expect Hammond to announce rosier figures on the public finances tomorrow, but refrain from big spending or tax announcements at a time of economic uncertainty and political fragility before Britain leaves the European Union next year. Business rates raised 27.4 billion pounds last year, just under 4 percent of total government revenue. The finance ministry declined to comment before tomorrow's full announcement on whether the tax break would be permanent, or if 900 million pounds was the cost for 2019/20 alone.

The British Chambers of Commerce said the move

was very welcome, but that in the longer term the business rates system needed fundamental reform. More than 80 percent of British adults shopped online last year, the highest proportion in Europe. But there is widespread public and political concern about the extent to which online giants such as Amazon are legally able to avoid paying British taxes due to their multinational structure.

At the start of this month, Hammond said Britain would unilaterally implement a digital services tax if there is no international agreement soon on how to tax big internet companies.

Hammond has appointed Jason Furman, who served as chief economist to former US President Barack Obama, to lead a review of Britain's competition regime, to ensure it is fit for the digital era. Separately, the finance ministry said Hammond was also expected to recommend a review of restrictions in England and Wales on businesses hosting lucrative civil marriage ceremonies. —Reuters

Warba Bank announces 5 winners of Al-Sunbula weekly draw

KUWAIT: Warba Bank, "the Best investment Bank" and "Best Corporate Bank" in Kuwait, held its week 39th draw for Al-Sunbula Account. The draw announced the 5 lucky winners in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Bank officials.

The bank proudly announces the lucky five winners who received KD 1000 each are: Marshad Oudah Ali Al-Saeedi, Khaled Heraimees Barrak Al-Azmi, Khaled Awadh Kharsan Al-Ajmi, Hessaah Hamad Abdulwahab Al-Ghanim and Shebeeb Hajjaj

Mohammed Al-Ajmi.

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 five 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 cus-

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

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

Technology

Ooredoo's iPhone XR 24-Hour offer attracts vast number of customers to select branches

Continuous success in launching Apple products since 2014



Meshari Al-Thaferi, Mohammed Habib, Nasser Sho'aibi, Tapan Tripathis and Shyma' Al-Najd.



Nathem Al-Ghabra and Mijbel Al-Ayyoub with customers at KIA branch.

KUWAIT: Continuing its annual Apple launch event since 2014, Ooredoo Kuwait took the lead in launching Apple's latest iPhone XR device; for 24 hours which started on Friday 8am morning amidst a vast number of customers who came to a number of select branches in order to get the device which was paired with an exclusive unprecedented offer that caters to the needs of all the customers.

6 colors in 7 branches

The 6 different colors of the iPhone XR were available in 7 different branches. These branches included Avenues Phase 4, Marina Mall, Kuwait International Airport, Al Jahra, Salmiya, 360 Mall and Al Manshar Mall. The iPhone XR is also available on Ooredoo's online shop.

Starting from KD22 per month only

Ooredoo's select welcomed thousands of customers who went above and beyond to ensure that they gain from this exclusive offer which was available for 24 hours only. The offer consisted of the Shamel 20 Mobile package which started at KD22 inclusive of unlimited local calls, unlimited internet, unlimited SMS, transfer of unused internet to the next month, and the ability to freeze the contract which is also transferable.

Customers who purchased the offer from our eShop received an additional internet SM with 200GB monthly for free. Customers also received subscriptions to Ooredoo's Digital Entertainment partners, StarzPlay and WAVO for 24 months. In addition, customers enjoyed a KD50 referral voucher that enables them to receive further discounts on the iPhone XR model.

The iPhone XR

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

to iPhone through the use of digital eSIM.

Social media

In addition to the heavy attendance of customers; a number of social media influencers participated in the launch including Asmaa Al-Mulla (Vintage Baza), Hessa Al-Loghani, Slorks, Sager Al-Yaseen, Falooy, Al Suwaid, Jacky, Al Ziady, Frankom, and Nora Al-Ameri. They ensured to convey a vivid picture of the event with details before and after the launch.

5 consecutive years of success

Corporate Communications Senior Director Mijbil Al-Ayoub in by stating "we are pleased to be providing our customers with the best offers for the fifth year in a row the launch of the new iPhone. This year we ensured that we continue to give customers the best and latest packages with competitive advantages and products; this comes from our values of caring and connecting.

Al-Ayoub further added that "the success of the Apple launches are a reflection of the strong and strategic relationship between us and Apple. We are keen on cooperating continuously with Apple in order to provide our customers with the best experience in the world of telecommunications in tandem with the most exclusive offers that best suits their needs".



Mijbil Al-Ayoub and Hani Khajah



Mijbil Al-Ayoub with the working team



Group photo of the team with iPhone XR devices.



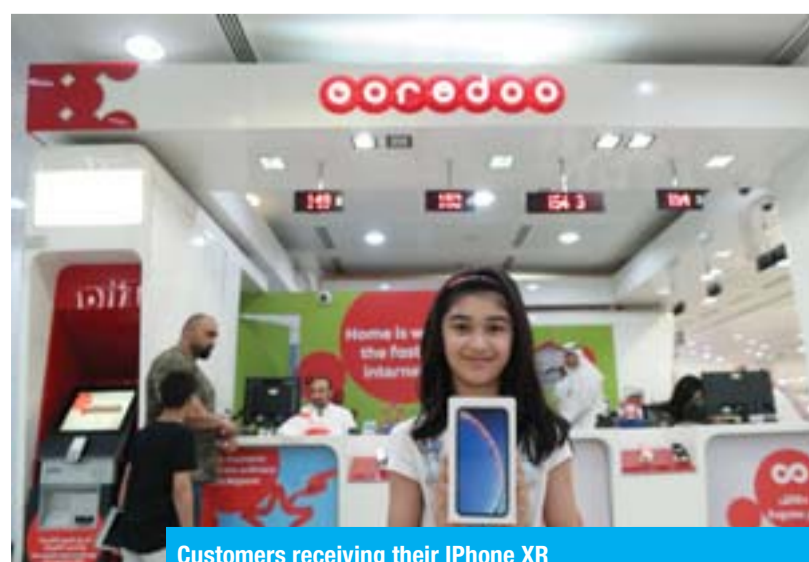
Group photo of the Marina Mall team



Group photo of the Airport team



Tour of the Ooredoo Hawally branch



Customers receiving their iPhone XR



Health & Science

New hope: Battles begin to turn in long war on TB

'TB has been killing millions of people for thousands of years'

THE HAGUE: It kills millions of people and is carried by a quarter of humans, yet there has been just a handful of new drugs in decades and the only vaccine is a century old. Tuberculosis, a curable and preventable lung infection, killed more than 1.6 million people last year — almost as many as HIV/AIDS and malaria combined — and is the world's deadliest infectious disease. But despite possessing the knowhow to treat it, and even how much it would cost to eradicate, global efforts to rid humankind of one of its oldest illnesses lag behind other public health drives.

"TB has been killing millions of people for thousands of years and it's a slow-moving disease. You can get infected and never get sick, or not get sick for decades," said Ann Ginsberg, senior technical adviser at IAVI, a non-profit that works on tuberculosis. "You don't see it. Even when you get it, you get cough, fever, some night sweats. It's not spectacular." The World Health Organization says 10 million people developed tuberculosis in 2017 and global infection rates, while declining, remain stubbornly high.

But this year has seen several breakthroughs, including trials of a new vaccine and a pill that shows astonishing success against drug-resistant forms of the bug, which experts say are cause for optimism. More than 3000 scientists, activists and disease survivors gathered this week in The Hague for an annual conference on lung health that was dominated by advances in the battle against tuberculosis.

Several countries, including South Africa and Belarus showed that a new drug, bedaquiline, was consistently successful in patients with drug-resistant tuberculosis — in some cases curing 80 percent. Adrian Thomas, vice president of global public health at Johnson & Johnson, which holds the patent on bedaquiline, said the drug could revolutionize how some TB is treated. "It means you don't have the cost of the injectables, you don't have the administration, which has to be by a healthcare professional, and you don't have the toxicity, but you get the advantages in terms of mortality," he told AFP.

Vaccine hope

Previously, those suffering from multidrug-resistant TB would have to undergo an eight-month course of excruciating injections, often several times a day and with severe side effects, including hearing loss in around half of patients. "At the end of that process they would often say that dying would be easier than actually taking the drugs," said Thomas. Ahead of a recommendation by the WHO that more multidrug-resistant patients should receive bedaquiline, this year Johnson & Johnson dropped its price to \$400 (350 euros) per course of treatment.

For Sharonann Lynch, HIV and TB policy advisor at Doctors Without Borders, that's still too high. Her organization wants bedaquiline to cost \$1 a day, half the current price. "They say they are losing money but one third of the cost goes on funding to health system strengthening," she said. "Why in the world would sick people need to pay for health system strengthening? That should be the responsibility of governments." Thomas said that due to how it is funded and distributed, most people with access to bedaquiline who need it don't pay for the treatment themselves.

Despite its deadline, there has been just a single widely used vaccine against TB for nearly 100 years. But this too may be changing. Last month drugs giant GlaxoSmithKline unveiled a study of a new vaccine that was effective in 54 percent of trial participants. It comes with caveats — the trial was only on people in three African countries who already had tuberculosis but weren't yet sick from it — and is in its early stage, but Ginsberg described it as a "turning point".

Marie-Ange Demoitte, who leads the vaccine development for GSK, said the eventual aim would be to give it to everyone of a certain age in areas where TB is prevalent. "There are several candidate vaccines at the moment but this is the first time we see a positive signal in a population of adult subjects," she told AFP. "It's really a breakthrough and is bringing a lot of hope to the TB vaccine field."



A digitally colored scanning electron microscopic image depicts a grouping of blue-colored, rod-shaped Mycobacterium tuberculosis bacteria which cause tuberculosis in human beings.

'TB isn't sexy'

Last month UN member states held their first ever summit on tuberculosis and pledged billions of dollars towards tackling the disease. They aim to eradicate it within 15 years. The WHO estimates TB costs the global economy more than \$20 billion annually, nearly half of that going to treating patients. Ginsberg questioned why more wasn't being spent on preventing the disease in the first place. "Developing a vaccine costs roughly \$1 billion

over 20 years. So the investment that's needed is a small fraction of what we spend on an annual basis," she said.

For Kitty van Weezenbeek, executive director of The Hague-based KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation, TB has been wrongly overlooked in favor of higher profile diseases. "TB's on nobody's mind. There's nothing sexy about it," she said. "Ten times the research funding is going to HIV. I'm not saying it shouldn't go there, the point is it should also come to TB." — AFP

Poor Ivory Coast pupils' ray of hope: Solar backpacks

ALLEPILLA: The equatorial sun has been up for about an hour as a gaggle of children set off from the Ivorian village of Allepilla on their hour-long trek to school. Back home in the evening, eight-year-old Marie-France Amoandji Ngbessoo does her homework by the light of her backpack's LED — captured by solar panels on her way to and from school. The light can run for three hours.

With insects flitting overhead, Marie-France points to the pictures in her textbook, identifying them: "Orange, plane..." Allepilla, some 100 kilometers north of the West African country's economic capital Abidjan, is a rural community centered on cocoa and coffee production. A single pump supplies water to the village of around 400 inhabitants including 150 children, and, as is the case for thousands of villages and hamlets across the country — there is no electricity.

Instead, oil-burning storm lanterns and battery-powered torches are the only sources of light. An Ivorian charity that promotes education for rural girls, Yiwo Zone, has raised funds to provide the backpacks — which cost 13,000 CFA francs (20 euros, \$23) apiece — to schoolchildren across Africa. Computer salesman Evariste Akoumian had the idea for the solar backpack in 2015 when his car broke down as night was falling near Soubre, in the southwest of the country.

"At the same time, children were returning home

from school," he recalls. "I said to myself, 'We must give them light so they can study. It's not normal for rural children to be unable to do so.'" The Ivorian government has set a target of ensuring electricity to 80 percent of the country. "These rural children are poor. They use rice sacks or plastic bags to take their things to school," Akoumian said. "The idea was to kill two birds with one stone: give them a backpack with a light to go with it."

The entrepreneur stressed that the solar backpacks belong to the children: "So Dad or Mum can't come and take the light from them... to use while they are cooking or doing housework." Sales are brisk and have reached 55,000. Akoumian's company Solarpak already sells the backpacks in Gabon, Madagascar and Burkina Faso, as well as to charities in France and Germany. Striving to keep up with demand, Akoumian is seeking aid or loans so that he can set up an assembly plant in Abidjan and boost production.

'Better marks'

"It may seem cheap, but these are large sums that the villagers don't have," said Anna Corinne Menet Ezinlin, head of Yiwo Zone. "Here in this village some people can't afford the school fees or even notebooks. Usually school is free, but there are always registration fees or (other) payments." Last year, Marie-France's 13-year-old sister Lucienne could not attend school at all because their mother was off work with an illness.

"It's hard for the children," said village chief Jean-Baptiste Kotchi Okoma, whose seven-year-old daughter Nethania received a solar backpack. "There's not enough money here." He added: "I hope their marks will be better. Children are disadvantaged here. With the backpack, I hope they will all progress." Lucienne, flipping through a book, said: "I am happy. Before it was more difficult. It's easier now, with the backpack." — AFP

37% of VSBs have been infected with ransomware

DUBAI: Small companies with under 50 employees have to deal with cyber threats like everyone else, but unlike larger firms, they might not be able to prioritize IT security, with their focus being primarily on business growth. To help these companies, the next generation of Kaspersky Small Office Security provides out-of-the-box protection from cybercrime that doesn't require hands-on administration or technical expertise. While keeping businesses safe from malware, financial fraud, phishing and other threats, the updated version provides extended server protection, and helps to keep applications updated, so that unpatched vulnerabilities do not let threats infiltrate business networks.

Nearly a third (32%) of VSBs entrust the task of cybersecurity to employees that don't have expertise in the area. Therefore, it's crucial for these firms to implement an easy-to-use solution that can be deployed and managed by virtually anyone in the company. The new Kaspersky Small Office Security can now be installed in a few minutes. If businesses need more control, the web console gives them all the information they need about how the product is being used (including information about licenses, users and their devices, product versions installed, etc.).

The product allows employees to concentrate on their business tasks without having to think about cybersecurity — after being installed on all devices, the solution doesn't

require any special attention. In addition, Kaspersky Small Office Security notifications have been updated and won't appear if the event is not crucial, allowing users to concentrate on their daily tasks — such as on office applications, on programs running in full-screen mode, or on performing video calls — without interruption. This causes less disturbance to the working day.

Ransomware continues to target small organizations, with 37% of VSBs having experienced two or three incidents of ransomware infection in the past 12 months. Ransomware directly results in data loss and/or compromise, so to protect businesses from this threat, the System Watcher component in the new version of Kaspersky Small Office Security is now available for Windows file servers as well as computers. In addition to other security layers, the solution detects threats and helps businesses to protect company data — preventing malicious attempts against the system, backing up critical data, and rolling back the system if required, to undo any damage.

In addition to the threat of ransomware, in 2017-2018, 2.7M users have been affected by crypto-miners, which use power from PCs, mobiles and servers to mine cryptocurrency. When targeted by this threat, businesses end up paying higher electricity bills, whilst their PCs and systems run at a lower performance rate. Kaspersky Small Office Security now provides businesses with protection from crypto-miners to help them deal with this threat.

By running a scheduled search for application updates, the solution now helps to decrease the risk of cybercriminals exploiting unpatched application vulnerabilities. It also supports safe web surfing, with private browsing, anti-phishing, anti-spam and anti-banner components. Meanwhile, the Safe Money feature protects financial transactions by opening payment sites in a protected browser.

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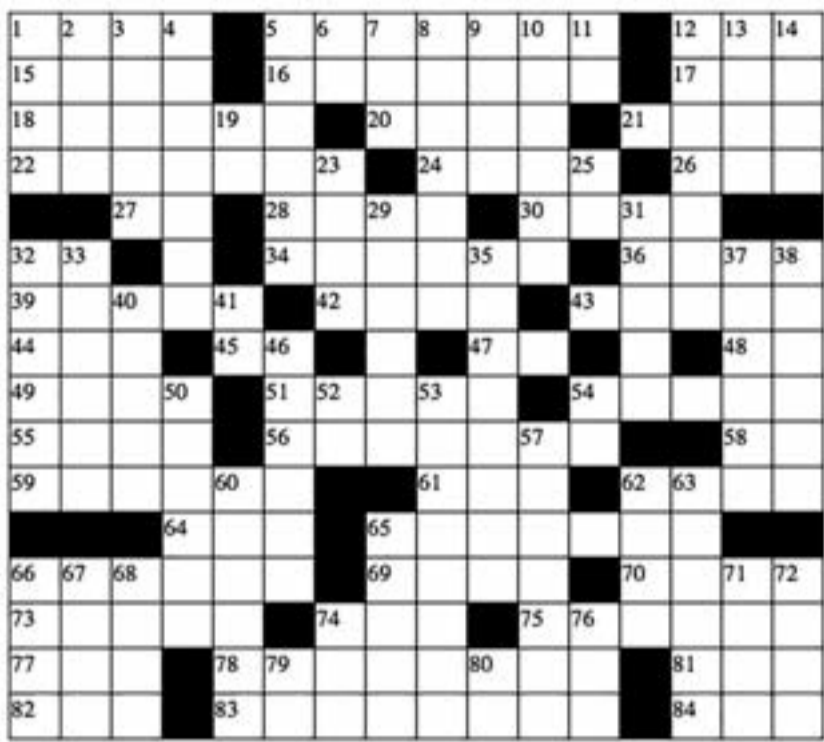
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Stars

CROSSWORD 2045



ACROSS

1. Burrowing marine mollusk living on sand or mud.
5. The fleshy part of the human body that you sit on.
12. A tight-fitting headdress.
15. A Polynesian rain dance performed by a woman.
16. A city on the Loire river in north central France.
17. A legal document codifying the result of deliberations of a committee or society or legislative body.
18. In the same place (used when citing a reference).
20. A shade of blue tinged with green.
21. A software system that facilitates the creation and maintenance and use of an electronic database.
22. Alternatively, a member of the family Nymphaeaceae.
24. The inner and longer of the two bones of the human forearm.
26. A piece of furniture that provides a place to sleep.
27. Not out.
28. Formerly a large constellation in the southern hemisphere between Canis Major and the Southern Cross.
30. (Babylonian) A goddess of the watery deep and daughter of Ea.
32. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
34. Type genus of the Caricaceae.
36. By bad luck.
39. The seventh month of the civil year.
42. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
43. An iconic mental representation.
44. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
45. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
47. A Russian river.
48. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
49. A high tight collar.
51. American Revolutionary patriot.
55. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
56. Extensive landed property (especially in the country) retained by the owner for his own use.
58. A state in midwestern United States.
59. A percussion instrument consisting of a pair of hollow pieces of wood or bone (usually held between the thumb and fingers) that are made to click together (as by Spanish dancers) in rhythm with the dance.
61. The compass point that is one point east (clockwise) of due north.
64. A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.
66. A mountain peak in the Andes in Bolivia (21,391 feet high).
69. Any physical damage to the body caused by violence or accident or fracture etc.
70. The United Nations agency concerned with civil aviation.
73. Squash bugs.
75. A city in western Germany near the Dutch and Belgian borders.
77. An interest followed with exaggerated zeal.
78. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
81. Mythical bird of prey having enormous size and strength.
82. The compass point midway between east and southeast.
83. A mountain peak in south central Sri Lanka (7,360 feet high).
84. The compass point midway between northeast and east.

DOWN

1. Elegant and stylish.
2. A Bantu language spoken in southern Zaire.
3. (law) A defense by an accused person purporting to show that he or she could not have committed the crime in question.
4. The mother of Jesus.
5. An alloy of copper and zinc (and sometimes arsenic) used to imitate gold in cheap jewelry and for gilding.
6. A state in northwestern United States on the Pacific.
7. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
8. Either of two huge coniferous California trees that reach a height of 300 feet.
9. The act of drawing or hauling something.
10. (Sumerian) Consort of Dumuzi (Tammuz).
11. A radioactive transuranic element produced by bombarding plutonium with neutrons.
12. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
13. The highest level or degree attainable.
14. An anxiety disorder associated with serious traumatic events and characterized by such symptoms as guilt about surviving or reliving the trauma in dreams or numbness and lack of involvement with reality or recurrent thoughts and images.
19. The square of a body of any size of type.
23. The biblical name for ancient Syria.
25. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
29. United States evangelical preacher famous as a mass evangelist (born in 1918).
31. A town in southwestern Idaho.
33. Small genus of perennial herbs having deadly poisonous tuberous roots.
35. A horizontal bar that goes across something.
37. (Greek mythology) One of the three Graces.
38. The upper house of the parliament of the Republic of Ireland.
40. The second month of the Moslem calendar.
41. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
46. A member of an agricultural people in southeastern India.
50. Noisy quarrel.
52. A Mid-Atlantic state.
53. Shad-like North American marine fish used for fish meal and oil and fertilizer.
54. A ductile gray metallic element of the lanthanide series.
57. Communicate electronically on the computer.
60. Any of several plants of the genus Camassia.
62. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
63. A card game similar to ecarte.
65. Green algae common in freshwater lakes of limestone districts.
67. Type genus of the Anatiidae.
68. Similar to the color of jade.
71. (in Gnosticism) A divine power or nature emanating from the Supreme Being and playing various roles in the operation of the universe.
72. Belonging to some prior time.
74. A rotating disk shaped to convert circular into linear motion.
76. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
79. An informal term for a father.
80. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.

Friday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You have a reputation for not offering information unless you know it to be true. If you argue, which is rare, you are sure of your premise. You present your case as facts, leaving little room for disagreement. Most people trust you because they know what you say is true. Some may see this as arrogance. But, in most cases you are able to make your point without offending. You have a knack for telling people what they don't want to hear, but in most cases making them like it.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may be facing a very emotional issue in your life today. It may seem your desire to be respected by others is very strong. You may find yourself even demanding this from others today. You may find yourself becoming very organized and structured. A strong will takes hold. You may discover you may not only have a knack for organizing things, but you have one for organizing people as well. This makes you a great leader and this quality could be acknowledged in the workplace today. Taurus, your ability to work with haste and little emotion makes you a natural in a position of leadership or management.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are a natural at managing and directing others. When people try to get things accomplished, you are the one that may have to take the first steps. You should enjoy a great deal of support from those around you. You may be pleased to find co-workers volunteering to help you with a project. It should not be hard for you to enjoy and value your own position in life or to feel especially kind toward a friend or loved one. You and your friends pull together to make something special happen for a mutual friend. Being among friends and working together should be a very pleasant experience for you at this time.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Eternity is a measure of time you can not even begin to understand. Your thoughts are drawn to an imaginative and dreamy state. Your mind is a million miles away. The future is where you are focused. You want to know what tomorrow brings. You actually want to know you have total control of what tomorrow brings. To ensure a stable future you also know you need to make amends with your past. Your focus may drift to mending fences and repairing relationships. This is a very spiritual time in your life.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Emotional satisfaction is found in the form of your relationships. These provide security and stability in your world. You long for the security of knowing the relationship you are in will stand the test of time. You want to trust and be trusted. You want to know you will grow old with your partner and the foundation on which your relationship is built is indestructible. Much work, time, and attention needs to be put into this and you are just dedicated enough to make this happen.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Some days you feel as if you really feel the love. Today is one of them. Others seem to admire you for your work ethic. You are quick to take on any new challenge. Your decisions are made quickly. You are able to act and get things done. This is a productive day for you. You will be able to end your day with pride. You may find you will spend some special time in deep discussion with someone dear to you tonight.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

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



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You are a natural at managing and directing others. When people try to get things accomplished, you are the one that may have to take the first steps. You should enjoy a great deal of support from those around you. You may be pleased to find co-workers volunteering to help you with a project. It should not be hard for you to enjoy and value your own position in life or to feel especially kind toward a friend or loved one. You and your friends pull together to make something special happen for a mutual friend. Being among friends and working together should be a very pleasant experience for you at this time.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

A day of laughter and fun is on the menu today. This will be served with love and admiration from your family. All is well in your world. You are most comfortable and pleased when all lines of communication are open. The days you feel like everyone around you really gets you and understands you with ease are the days you enjoy the most. Your mind may be in overdrive as your analytical abilities are at their peak. Not only are the ideas flowing, everyone you encounter is extremely receptive to what you have to say. You may be sought out for advice today and will be greatly admired for your intelligence. When it comes to management choosing the right person for a new project, don't be surprised if all eyes are on you.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Get ready to turn those stumbling blocks into stepping stones. No obstacle is too great for you. You are full of positive energy and refuse to be defeated. Your positive outlook on life has been a driving force for you. You have accomplished so much in this life. You are a fighter and a winner. Your high energy is to be envied. Know that nothing will stand in your way today. You will be able to truly laugh in the face of adversity.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

This may be a great day to enjoy a good book or catch a movie. An escape from reality may be just what you need. This could clear your mind and leave you feeling refreshed and rejuvenated. You feel your most secure when surrounded by friends. You may be feeling a real need for a change in your life. You may feel as if you want to throw out the old and bring in the new. You have had this on your mind for a while and today seems the day you really begin to act on it. It seems a change in the right direction may bring great reward into your life. You will send enjoy world you have no desire to escape from.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Pisces, today may not be an easy one for you. You may feel as your emotions do not align with the way things truly are in your world today. You need to take a step back and relax. You may find if you push too hard you may break something that can not be repaired. Patience is needed and you need to wait this one out and let it blow over. You may find these circumstances aggravate and anger you. Do not let yourself become over emotional and fly off the handle. Nothing good can come from a negative reaction.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Fruit

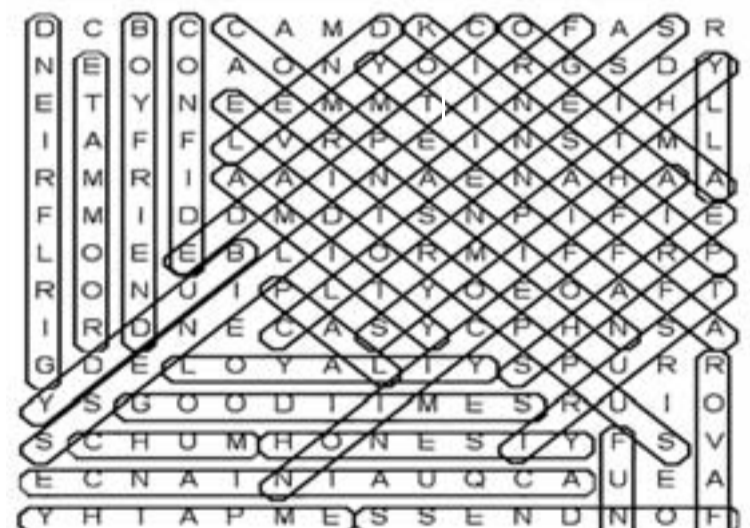
Find and circle all of the fruit that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional fruit.



- | | | |
|--------------|------------|-------------|
| APPLES | DATE | ORANGE |
| APRICOT | FIG | PAPAYA |
| AVOCADO | GRAPEFRUIT | PEACH |
| BANANA | GRAPES | PEAR |
| BLACKBERRY | KIWIFRUIT | PERSIMMON |
| BLUEBERRY | KUMQUAT | PINEAPPLE |
| CANTALOUPE | LEMON | PLUM |
| CHERRIES | LIME | POMEGRANATE |
| CHOCHECHERRY | LYCHEE | RASPBERRY |
| COCONUT | MANGO | RHUBARB |
| CRABAPPLE | MULBERRY | STRAWBERRY |
| CRANBERRY | NECTARINE | WATERMELON |

Friday's Solution

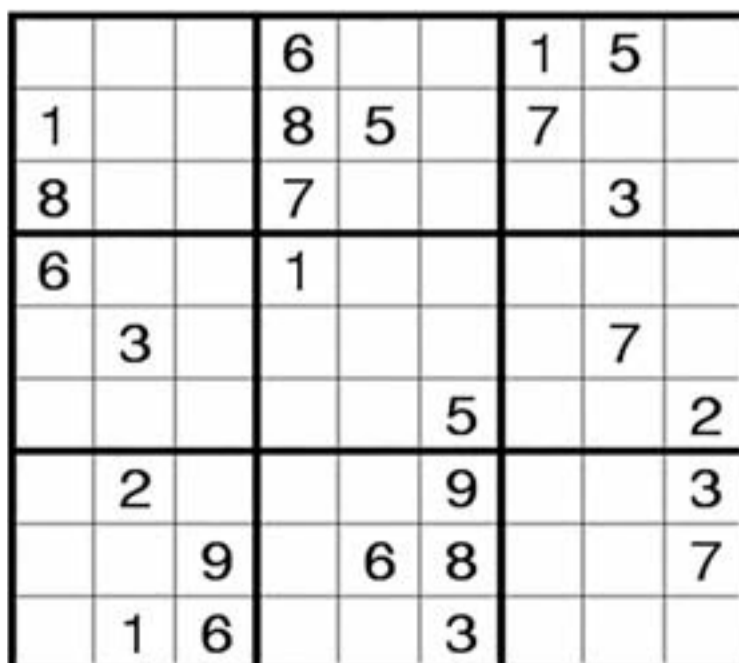
Friendship



- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| ACQUAINTANCE | COMPANION | HONESTY |
| AFFECTION | COMRADE | KINSHIP |
| AFFINITY | CONFIDE | LEND |
| ALLY | EMPATHY | LOYALTY |
| AMIGO | FAVOR | PAL |
| AMITY | FONDNESS | ROOMMATE |
| BOYFRIEND | FRIENDLINESS | SHARE |
| BUDDY | FUN | SUPPORTIVE |
| CHUM | GIRLFRIEND | SYMPATHY |
| CLOSENESS | GOOD TIMES | TRUST |

The hidden message is: CAMARADERIE

Daily SuDoku



Friday's Solution



Lifestyle

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2018



A boy wearing a costume poses for a photo during Halloween carnival at a shopping mall in Kuala Lumpur. — AFP photos (for more Halloween photos see page 22)

US icon RuPaul brings drag queens out of the closet

Long kept within the confines of gay bars, drag queen culture is spreading like wildfire in the United States, propelled by the most famous of them all, RuPaul and his cult television show. Nearly 50,000 people flocked to New York in late September for DragCon, a convention dedicated to all things drag, just four

months after a similar event in Los Angeles. "I wouldn't have predicted this even five years ago," says Raymond Alvarez, one of those attending the New York gathering. "It's kind of surreal in a way. It's such a very specific thing."



Drag Queens attend the RuPaul's DragCon at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York. — AFP photos

months after a similar event in Los Angeles. "I wouldn't have predicted this even five years ago," says Raymond Alvarez, one of those attending the New York gathering. "It's kind of surreal in a way. It's such a very specific thing."

The history of drag queens—people, usually men, who dress in women's clothing and embrace exaggerated female stereotypes, often in stage performances—dates back more than a century. The origins of the culture are uncertain. Until recently, drag queens were almost exclusively associated to gay men and underground culture, with a few pop-ups in the mainstream, like the musical "La Cage aux Folles," which inspired the film "The Birdcage." But "RuPaul's Drag Race"—the reality competition TV show

launched in 2009 — set the culture on a new trajectory. Each episode of its 10th season, broadcast last spring, was watched by an average of 723,000 viewers—a record. It also enjoyed Emmys glory this year with a clutch of awards including best reality competition show and best host for

RuPaul. "When 'Drag Race' first came out, the audience was cisgender gay men or LGBT folks," says drag queen Lady Quesa'Dilla, also known as Alejandro Rodriguez, the host of the annual Bushwig festival organized in Brooklyn for the last seven years. "And now it has become so mainstream. Its main audience is like middle school girls. And I think that's the beauty of it."

Anyone who saw Aquaria, the season 10 champion, elicit screams of approval from teens at DragCon in New York would have to agree. "I like the makeup, the hair. These are things we can do," said one teenager, who gave her first name as Sarah. "It's a little bit to the extreme but I like the creativity there."

'More exposure'

While most drag queens are still men, and RuPaul's show is only open to male contestants, there are now cisgender women and transgender women taking part. "It's a celebration of individuality, of the freak in us all," says Randy Barbato, the co-creator of "RuPaul's Drag Race" and DragCon. Barbato, his business partner Fenton Bailey and RuPaul have created a veritable drag empire under the umbrella of World of Wonder Productions that even extends overseas. "We have to give RuPaul and 'Drag Race' credit for...making drag mainstream," says Lae D Boi, a Brooklyn drag queen who attended the Bushwig festival. "It's wonderful because it allows us to be able to make it a full-time job—because there's more exposure."

At 57 years old, RuPaul—birth name, RuPaul Andre Charles—is seemingly at the top of the world. A mainstay on the drag scene for three decades, RuPaul is seeing major success thanks to charisma, vibrant personality and a sharp sense of humor. Streaming giant Netflix just offered "Mama Ru" a fictional series, "AJ and the Queen," which will debut in 2019. She will play a "down-on-her-luck drag queen" traveling across America with an 11-year-old kid, Netflix says.

Versions of "RuPaul's Drag Race" now exist in Thailand and Chile, but the trio behind the phenomenon don't want to stop there. They now operate the WOW Presents Plus online video platform, dedicated to "Drag Race" and LGBT culture. It is available in numerous countries. "It's become a little bit superficial," Alvarez says of the culture's evolution. "I think a lot of people are doing it just for the attention. Because now you can make money where I think initially, a lot of drag people weren't doing it for money but because a lot of them wanted to express themselves."

So, will going mainstream mean that drag queens tamp down their usual pleas for gay rights, or relegate it to the past? Barbato says no way. "Drag is the resistance," he said. "It's just the resistance with pretty color and positive attitude. In America right now, it's more important than ever." — AFP



Canadian doctors to start prescribing museum visits

A group of Canadian doctors are to begin prescribing trips to an art gallery to help patients suffering a range of ailments become a picture of health. A partnership between the Francophone Association of Doctors in Canada (MFdC) and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) will allow patients suffering from a number of physical and mental health issues, along with their loved ones, to take in the benefits of art on health with free visits. The pilot project is unprecedented globally, according to its organizer.

The project will see participating physicians prescribe up to 50 visits to the MMFA during treatment, each pass valid for up to two adults and two minors. So far 100 doctors have enrolled to take part over the course of a year, Nicole Parent, head of the MFdC, told AFP Thursday. The numbers offer proof that doctors have "a sensitivity and openness to alternative approaches if you want" Parent said, citing scientifically proven benefits of art on health. The benefits are similar to those patients can get from physical activity, prompting the secretion of a similar level of feel-good hormones, and can help with everything from chronic pain to depression, stress and anxiety.

The pilot program will allow organizers to gather data and analyze results, allowing for the development of protocol for identifying patients. Parent said she hopes other museums in Canada will follow the lead of the MMFA, which since 2016 has cultivated expertise in art therapy for people with a variety of health ailments. "I am convinced that in the 21st century, culture will be what physical activity was for health in the 20th century," said MMFA director Nathalie Bondil in a statement. "Cultural experiences will benefit health and wellness, just as engaging in sports contributes to fitness," she said. — AFP



Nana Mouskouri wants Glastonbury legends slot

Nana Mouskouri wants to play the legends slot at Glastonbury. The 83-year-old Greek pop legend has released over 200 albums over the course of her career in multiple languages and she thinks she has the back catalogue to follow in the footsteps of the likes of Lionel Richie, Barry Gibb and Dolly Parton by playing the world famous festival's Sunday afternoon spot for icons when it returns to Worthy Farm in Somerset, South West England, next year. Speaking to BANG Showbiz, she said: "Of course I'm interested in playing Glastonbury, absolutely! I hope they get in touch and talk about it. I would love to come back to the UK and do it, I hope I do it. If it is offered I will be there." The 'White Rose of Athens' singer stopped performing back in 2008 after five decades in the music business, however, her self-imposed retirement didn't last because not singing on stage made her depressed. Since she started performing again, Nana has nev-

er been happier. She said: "I tried to get away from singing one time but I couldn't do it, I've been singing since I was very young and I when I stopped I realized that one makes their road in life and, for me, this is it. Singing is my happiness, and helps me forget about all about the problems in life. I was very involved in singing all my life and I was going from one place to the other and sometimes you forget who you are and why you are there ... It wasn't a nervous breakdown but it was a sadness in my life. I was lonesome, I didn't think life was worth living, I didn't go out, I lost my feeling for anything. I realized when I sing I feel good about my soul, I was happy and I had a balance in my life and I felt more optimistic."

Kravitz's five-minute record deal

Virgin Records offered Lenny Kravitz his first record deal within five minutes. The 54-year-old rocker was only granted a five-minute meeting with record executives but they were so blown away by his music that he was quickly offered a deal. He told Variety: "I didn't make 'Let Love Rule' on a label. I borrowed money, went to the cheapest studios I could find. I was into a very psychedelic phase. 'Let Love Rule' had an old-school quality while having a new-school quality. So I recorded the record, and then I began to take it around. At one point everyone except Virgin had heard it. I had five minutes on a Friday afternoon before people were going home [there]. When I left the building, I had a record deal. They did not know how to market it - they admitted it. But we believed in the music, and that's why it happened." However, Lenny experienced disappointment before his big break as he was turned away from record labels who claimed his music wasn't "black enough". Lenny - who is known for his brand of psychedelic funk rock - said: "I just knew that I was singing and performing my truth. This was a time right after everybody in the music industry was telling me that I couldn't do this sort of thing. I would take my music around to the labels, and I would get the whole 'It's not black enough' [response]. "So people were not into the music that I was making or didn't know how to sell it or how to market it. I was offered deals if I would simply change my music. I never took the deal. I wanted to do my thing. I was living in my car. I had no money. I'm young and in my late teens and who wouldn't take the money, but there was just something inside of me that wouldn't let me do it."



Backstreet Boys' Littrell wants his son to go solo

Backstreet Boys' Brian Littrell would tell his son to go solo. The 43-year-old singer's son Baylee - whom he has with wife Leighanne Wallace - has appeared on Broadway in musical 'Disaster!', but his father doesn't think he should follow his boyband footsteps. Appearing on ITV's 'Loose Women', Brian joked: "I told my son to go solo! I'm just saying, my son's name is Baylee, he's going to turn 16 in November, and he was already on Broadway in New York! "So he's got it in his blood, but I would encourage him to go solo, just saying." Brian and the rest of the group - completed by AJ McLean, Howie Dorough, Nick Carter and Kevin Richardson - have all settled down and raised families since first bursting onto the scene with their self-titled debut album in 1996. Explaining why they've been gone so long - their last album 'In A World Like This' came out in 2013 - Kevin said: "We're busy at home with our families, our kids, and also we have a Las Vegas residency that we've been doing as well. And making an album!" It means now that the group move at a different pace, and make sure that they all get time to be with their families. AJ added: "You have to plan accordingly. We all try to be respectful of each other, our private time. "We try to map tours around solo endeavors, birthdays, our kids' birthday, or if we just need a nice little break." He also explained that the key to their longevity and continued success is "communication". He said: "We just have a really good sense of communication. We all try to have each other's back, as well as we have really, really amazing wives that keep us grounded back home."



New Michael song for Last Christmas movie

Unreleased George Michael music is set to feature in new movie 'Last Christmas'. While George's classic festive single 'Last Christmas' will appear in the movie, it will also premiere brand new unreleased material by the artist, who died Christmas Day in 2016 at the age of 53. Variety reports. Emilia Clarke and Henry Golding have been cast in the lead roles in the Paul Feig-directed romance. The upcoming screenplay has been penned by Emma Thompson and Bryony Kimmings, but details about the plot remain scarce. Paul will also produce the film through his Feigco Entertainment company, with Emma and David Livingstone also serving as producers. Meanwhile, along with having new music featured in the film, a dance album from the late star is reportedly set for release. The late singer/songwriter started working on the album in 2011 and it is being prepared for a posthumous release. George's friend and creative partner David Austin, has said that it will "definitely see the light of day". He added: "There are dance tracks he recorded and there are some finished products. There are some beautiful finished masters there." Speaking about the dance album in 2011, George said: "For this album I'm going to be working with either gay or gay-friendly artists, and it'll be a mixture of tracks sung by me and others by young gay artists - possibly unknown ones. "And I've lined up some really great dance producers to work on it too, so it'll be a pretty stunning record. I have to say that gay men's relationship with dance music probably doesn't end at the same time as straight people's does!" Last year, the CEO of Sony Music Entertainment, Rob Stringer, revealed that new music from George could be released, but only if his family agreed. A release date for the new dance album has not yet been decided.



Busted back to their roots for new album

Busted will go back to the band's roots for new album 'Half Way There'. The 'Year 3000' hit-makers - made up of Charlie Simpson, Matt Willis and James Bourne - announced on Friday that they will be bringing out their fourth LP in February next year, and James' brother Chris has given fans a hit of what to expect. He wrote on Facebook after big reveal: "Stoked is an understatement !!!!! Thanks @busted for channeling the OG vibes on this one (sic)" The trio confirmed the follow-up to 2016's 'Night Rider' this week along with details of a UK tour, and it comes after Matt revealed it won't go in the same direction as their more mature and serious third studio LP. Speaking just before the official announcement, he told Digital Spy: "I don't really know what I'm allowed to say. I'm really bad at this. "We made an album that we love. We got to the studio and thought what a Busted album would sound like if it was made now, then we made it. "It's got really fun songs that make us smile and we really hope our fans enjoy it for what it is. I don't know if it fits in to today's requirement, I don't really care. We made something we love and we hope our fan base will love." Following the announcement, James added: "If I was a Busted fan, I'd listen to this record and feel like I got my band back." The tour in March 2019 will take the boys on a run of dates with shows in Glasgow, Cardiff, Manchester, Birmingham and London.

Jon Bon Jovi holding fan cruises

Jon Bon Jovi is to perform on two special fan cruises. The 'Livin' On A Prayer' hit-maker will be holding two excursions called 'Runaway To Paradise' to the Caribbean and the Mediterranean and ports of call will include Miami to Nassau in the Bahamas and Barcelona to Palma, Majorca. Collective Soul and Grace Potter have been added to the line-up which also includes Beth Thornton and Bon Jovi tribute band Slippery When Wet - who get their name from the rock band's hit of the same name. Both cruises will also feature talks with guest speakers to offer an in-depth look behind the 'It's My Life' singer's illustrious career and there will also be a Jon Bon Jovi Gallery to visit, a clothing shop and an at-sea annex of charity JBJ Soul Kitchen. In a statement, Jon, 56, said: "Ever since we started Runaway Tours, it's given me such joy to entertain the fans and tell them the stories of where my songs came from. What I've realized after all these years is that they've found not only my stories but their own. Hundreds of people have gotten together every time we take off for a destination, and long-lasting friendships are born. We want to continue that tradition in Runaway's fully-immersive vacation trips. Get ready, we'll see you out there!" Runaway Tours creator and Jon's brother Matt Bongiovi added: "We couldn't be more excited to curate the biggest and most immersive Jon Bon Jovi experience to date. Whether you're celebrating the love of the music, a special milestone or planning the ultimate girls getaway you've put off for way too long, the Runaway to Paradise cruises will create memories that last a lifetime. We are doing a deep dive into everything Jon Bon Jovi like never seen before!"

GEORGE IS GRATEFUL FOR PASSIONATE FANS

Boy George is humbled to still have such a passionate fan base. The Culture Club singer just released 'Life' - his sixth album with the band - on Friday and the 57-year-old star has opened up about the way his perspective has changed as he's got older. Speaking to Chris Evans on BBC Radio 2's 'Breakfast Show', he said: "I would never describe myself as a grumpy person but I suppose as you get older hopefully you get more perspective and you get to know yourself, I think you get to go back to who you really are. "You go back to that person. And also you realize how lucky you are to do what you do. "People are still listening?" You go out to all these massive crowds and you think - wow, after all this time..." Boy George admitted while his fan base has changed over the years when it comes to live crowd, his audience is still predominantly women - and he joked he doesn't know why he deserves such adoration. He added: "When you go on stage you go out and see people who have now got kids... You see more husbands now. "My algorithms say that I am 70% more popular with women of a certain age so that's never changed. Now I can look on the internet and see who likes me - still women. What did I ever do to deserve their love?" After a recent US tour, the 'Karma Chameleon' star is delighted to be performing live at a point in his career where the audience already knows who the band are, even if they don't know what they're going to get from the live show. He said: "It was a beautiful experience, yeah, because at this point of the game



we are walking out to massive affection. So nobody is there with hostility - everyone knows us. They're not sure what to expect which is great. "These days, I'm much more chatty on stage. Years ago, in my early career - if I was in a bad mood everyone got it. I considered it part of my artistic integrity to make everyone feel as bad as I did ... I'm never in a bad mood these days, anyway."

Lifestyle | Gossip



Gerard Butler's submarine prep

Gerard Butler spent three days on a submarine to prepare for his role in 'Hunter Killer'. The 48-year-old actor and the movie's director Donovan Marsh decided to experience life on a submarine to prepare for the film, which follows the story of submarine Captain Joe Glass, who is looking for a US submarine in distress in the Arctic Ocean. Marsh said: "Gerry and I were actually able to re-enact scenes from the film in the sub with a real Naval crew. That was so invaluable for both of us. When we were back on dry land and on set, we were able to bring all that intense realism we experienced to the execution ... You realize when you

are on a submarine ... everything starts leaning and everything that isn't nailed down just goes flying. It was quite a thrilling feeling to experience and I wanted the actors to be able to have that as much as you possibly can on dry land ... It's traditionally been done by tilting the camera but that just wasn't real enough. Mounting the set on a gimbal wasn't easy but everyone loved it. It created a very spontaneous tension and gave everyone the feeling of being at sea." Meanwhile, Gerard previously revealed he loves it when an action film just "works". He shared: "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**.



John Carpenter unhappy with Big Trouble In Little China sequel



John Carpenter isn't happy about the planned 'Big Trouble In Little China' sequel. The forthcoming film was announced in 2015 with Dwayne Johnson starring as the lead character and is intended to be a follow-on from the 70-year-old director's original 1986 movie, which starred Kurt Russell and went on to become a cult classic despite initially disappointing at the box office. Carpenter believes that little respect will be paid to his story and instead the title has been selected so to be a well-known vehicle for Johnson. In an interview with Collider, he said: "They want a movie with Dwayne Johnson. That's what they want. So, they just picked that title. They don't give a s**t about me and my movie. That movie wasn't a success. Barry Diller crapped

on it." Carpenter recently worked with Jason Blum on the new 'Halloween' sequel and was brought back to the franchise he created in 1978 to score the slasher flick. Carpenter is so pleased with what Blum achieved with the movie that he would not hesitate to work with the 'Paranormal Activity' producer again. He said: "I would partner with Jason anytime. I mean that. I think he's really good and smart." The new 'Halloween' movie follows Jamie Lee Curtis as Laurie Strode battling psychopath killer Michael Myers, 40 years after the first installment of the franchise.

Chloe Grace Moretz: 'Therapy has helped my career'

Chloe Grace Moretz says therapy helps her acting career. The 21-year-old actress is a firm believer in therapy and says it has been beneficial to her work as an actress. She said: "I think mental health, it's important to me as a human, but especially I think as an actor, it really helps. But I think there should always be someone that you talk to, whether it's an actual therapist or not. I like an actual therapist because you gain a breadth of emotional vocabulary, and it gives you a way to deal with everyday struggles, and also to see that your problems aren't singular. When you see that your problems are honestly kind of general, it's cathartic. And you see that you are not that special, which I thought was really great. I'm like, 'Oh my god, I have all these issues it's only me!' She was like, 'It's not only you, everyone deals with these and they are actually very common, and it's OK and you are going to be fine.' That's the best." Chloe also revealed that her last two movies have "reignited" her desire to act. The actress stars in 'The Miseducation of Cameron Post', directed by Desiree Akhavan and Luca Guadagnino's 'Suspiria' remake and Chloe says both movies have been hugely important to her. She told The Hollywood Reporter: "Well, Luca is someone I've known for years. We've tried to work together since I was 15, but I was a little young for all of his female characters and the sexuality that comes with them. I had just finished Cameron Post right before I started filming this one, and I got both scripts at the same time. And these were the two scripts that I think reignited who I was as an actor."

Kim says backlash over Fantastic Beasts casting was 'unexpected'

Claudia Kim admits the backlash over her casting in 'Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald' was "unexpected". The South Korean actress has been cast as Nagini - a cursed woman who is transformed into a snake - in the upcoming movie, but the announcement was criticized by some fans, who felt uneasy about an Asian woman playing the pet of a white man. She said, according to Allkpop: "It was unexpected. When I found out that I'm playing Nagini, I thought it was meaningful because it's an important character in the 'Harry Potter' series. 'Harry Potter' is a franchise film with many caucasian actors, so I thought many Korean viewers would be happy." Claudia, 33, has urged fans of the franchise to wait to watch the film before making their judgment. She



said: "I'm looking forward to viewers being satisfied and the controversy fading away once the film premieres. "I don't perceive such controversy solely in a negative way. I believe changes can be made by giving attention to an Asian's promotions (like this) and through the people that look into such issues. "I think Nagini should've been played by an Asian. J.K. Rowling probably searched for an Asian actress because she researched the origin of Nagini. I'm not sure if it's just my pride, but I think I was able to bring out a different vibe as a Korean in Hollywood where there are many Korean Americans. "The scriptwriter is good at giving a twist to a story. She's able to bring out a new side through an unexpected character. "Also, this film was directed by director David Yates who has taken charge of the 'Harry Potter' series multiple times. He's knowledgeable about the original series as much as the writer so I followed him with trust." -Bang Showbiz



Rogen and Keaton to star in King of the Jungle

Seth Rogen and Michael Keaton are set to star in 'King of the Jungle'. The two actors have been confirmed to appear in the dark comedy, which will be based on an article titled 'John McAfee's Last Stand' published in Wired magazine, according to Deadline. The production is based on the true story of John McAfee the technology expert - who created the McAfee Antivirus software - and relocated to the jungle in Belize in Central America after he earned his fortune. 'King of the Jungle' will continue to explore how McAfee coped in the unusual location where he is believed to have founded a compound of "guns, sex, and madness", and how he slips into a life of crime and debauchery after US expatriate Gregory Viant Faull is found dead, which is a crime McAfee was believed to have committed, although he was not charged. McAfee's story continues to capture his next move to Guatemala where he pleaded for asylum, feigned suffering from a heart attack and was deported back to America in 2012. Johnny Depp was previously attached to star in the movie, directed and produced by Glenn Ficarra and John Requa. The script has been penned by Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski. Conde Nast's Jeremy Steckler is on hand to produce the movie alongside Charlie Gogolak, Glenn Ficarra and John Requa.

Rami Malek: I felt terrified playing Freddie Mercury

Rami Malek felt "terrified" playing Freddie Mercury in 'Bohemian Rhapsody'. The 37-year-old actor stars as the iconic musician in the new movie, and Rami has admitted to initially feeling anxious about the challenge of playing Freddie. He confessed: "Every part of me was terrified. But then, what are you going to do? It's an opportunity of a lifetime. I couldn't pass it up." Despite the pressure, Rami was determined to ensure that his on-screen performance was as natural as possible. In fact, the actor made a conscious decision not to imitate the Queen star, who died in 1991 from bronchial pneumonia resulting from AIDS. He told the Belfast Telegraph newspaper: "I was very cognisant of not wanting to imitate him or impersonate him at all. "I started to think about how everything he did was spontaneous, in the moment. He is someone who lived every moment as if it was his last. I feel. "I think

that's what makes him so gorgeous. He's so authentic, and I wanted to be that authentic on stage, so I tried never to just copy his moves. I wanted them to spring from me as if they were happening to him." Although he was aware of Queen and Freddie's success prior to shooting 'Bohemian Rhapsody', Rami still took a crash-course on the cultural icon before the cameras started rolling. He shared: "I knew the music, I knew Freddie's iconic look, but I did not know the glam-rock era. "I didn't know the early songs, which now I'm fascinated by. It was like going to school just to study, to get a degree in Queen and Freddie Mercury. "I think most people identify Freddie as this crop-haired, moustachioed, tank-top wearing muscular man who had a ton of bravado and machismo, so it was astonishing to get to know the many versions and the very sweet side of him as well."



Mulligan 'trusted her gut' with Wildlife



Carey Mulligan trusted "her gut" when she agreed to star in 'Wildlife'. The 33-year-old actress plays a woman stuck in an unhappy marriage in the adaptation of the Richard Ford novel of the same name, and director Paul Dano revealed she only accepted the part after they had afternoon tea in New York. The filmmaker told the Daily Mail newspaper: "She called back the next morning, probably not 12 hours later. She trusts her instincts and her gut." The drama film is Dano's directorial debut, and it tells the story of a couple whose marriage falls apart. Recalling his meeting with the actress, Dano said: "Carey has such a great facility for language - probably comes from doing theatre - and as she's talking, I realise

the words sound so good in her mouth. "I stood there thinking: 'Yes, I have a movie!'" Carey has been performing since the age of six and has always considered acting to be her "thing". The acclaimed star said: "I never did any professional acting while I was at school, but acting was just my thing and I tried to do every extracurricular version of it. "I was s**t at sport. I mean, I was enthusiastic, but I was useless." Carey also insisted she's not interested in roles that don't challenge her. She said: "If I read a role and think: 'I could probably do it quite easily' then I don't bother. Because unless it's really hard and quite scary, there's no point in doing it."

Halloween carnival



Children wearing costumes pose for a photo during Halloween carnival at a shopping mall in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — AFP

Thai rappers cause stir with anti-junta lyrics

A group of Thai rappers has touched a nerve with an impassioned and now-viral music video lobbing fiery rhymes at the ruling junta, as police mull filing charges against the lyricists. The generals that toppled Thailand's democratic government in 2014 have kept a tight lid on dissent but creative criticism through music and arts has been harder to control, even if its impact on political life has so far been minimal. The song "Prathet Ku Mee" (Which is My Country), uploaded to YouTube on October 22, has racked up more than 6.4 million views and tens of thousands of comments since it went live on the platform, prompting authorities to take notice. "It's under consideration by investigators, and it will take a few days because it's a sensitive issue," Siriwat Deephor, the police spokesman for the Technology Crime Suppression Division, told AFP when asked whether they would file charges.

He also said the probe could decide whether those who share the video could be targeted. "If this song violates the Computer Crime Act by uploading false information, those who share would be prosecuted and face the same punishment with those who uploaded it," he said. The act, which rights groups say has been used to crack down on online dissent, carries up to five years in prison.

Shot in black and white, the video features rappers from the Rap Against Dictatorship collective dishing out barbs about the military and blasting corruption, censorship and the lack of elections, which are tentatively scheduled for February after many delays. "The country where you must choose to suck truth or a bullet," one rapper says, wearing sunglasses with a bandana wrapped around his mouth. Several lyrics appear to go after junta leader Prayut Chan-O-Cha. "The country where the people do not read books, particularly the leader," one verse says, a thinly veiled allusion to Prayut, who has boasted about being widely read.

Straying into historically sensitive areas, a dummy made to look as if it has been lynched and strung up comes in and out of shot, a reference to the massacre of dozens of student protesters and civilians by security forces on a Bangkok campus in 1976. The only color appears on a guitar whose body is painted to resemble the Thai flag. Journalists and an academic have joined the debate, with one person comparing it to the rapper Childish Gambino's macabre "This is America" video about racism and violence earlier this year. But not all are fans. "Get out of this country if you don't like it," a Facebook user wrote.

Jacoboi, one of the group's founders, told AFP this week that those who appear in the video are artists who want to talk about politics. "They are the things we heard people say on social media and in real life," he said. "I'm not afraid of the authorities because I believe that nothing in this song has breached the law." — AFP

Japan releases American DJ David Morales after drug arrest

American DJ David Morales was released from Japanese custody without charge Friday, his representative said, following the Grammy Award winner's arrest earlier this month on suspicion of drug smuggling. Morales, 56, was detained at Fukuoka airport after a customs officer found him in possession of a tiny portion of the drug MDMA, better known as ecstasy. "We're delighted to confirm that David Morales has been released without charge," a representative for the DJ in London said in a statement sent to AFP.

"David is well and has asked that we pass on his love and gratitude to all those who have shown their support," the said, without giving details on why he was released or how many days he had been detained. Local police declined to confirm the release. Authorities allegedly found five granules of MDMA-weighing 0.3 grams-in Morales' carry-on suitcase but he denied the allegations, according to local media. He was scheduled to perform at events in Fukuoka and Tokyo. Morales was an influential figure in the New York dance scene during the 1980s and 1990s. He has remixed and produced releases for artists including Aretha Franklin, Michael Jackson and Janet Jackson, according to his website.

Morales was nominated for his first Grammy in 1995 as a producer for Mariah Carey's album "Daydream". Three years later, he won the Grammy for "Remixer of the Year." Japan has strict anti-drug laws where even possession of minute quantities can lead to jail sentences. Possession of ecstasy for personal use, however small the quantity, carries a maximum jail sentence of seven years and a three million yen (\$26,000) fine. In arguably Japan's most infamous music drug bust, Paul McCartney spent nine days in a Tokyo jail in 1980 after being caught at the airport with a bag of marijuana in his suitcase. — AFP



Lulu Hypermarket launches 'New Colors of Winter' promotion

Lulu Hypermarket, the premier lifestyle shopping destination, is giving shoppers a chance to bundle up for the winter season during its latest promotion, the 'New Colours of Winter'. The promotion was launched at the hypermarket's Egaila outlet on 25 October in the presence of top Lulu management in Kuwait and a large gathering of shoppers and well-wishers.

A special 'Kids Winter Fashion Show' was held on the occasion to lend added excitement and enjoyment to the event.

Similar Winter Collection Fashion Shows are slated to be held on various dates at other Lulu hypermarket outlets. In addition, a 'Bloggers Meet' was arranged at the Egaila outlet so that Kuwait's online opinion-formers could review and comment on the event, while also allowing shoppers to meet and interact with their favorite bloggers.

The 'New Colors of Winter' promotion, available at all Lulu Hypermarket outlets, includes a diverse and exciting range of winter clothing and accessories at very

special prices. Everything from fashionable winter garments to comfy footwear, and designed to provide warmth and style during the cold winter months, are on offer during the promotion period.

Discover quality winter-wear at unbeatable prices from popular brands such as Arezzo, Cortigiani, Debacker, Eten and John Louis during the promotion period. Among the hot-selling items on offer are a number of stylish jackets, sweaters and winter clothing accessories that combine affordability with style. Also, the wide range of winter-wear choices for children, including collections that are fun and casual, allow kids to make a fashion statement at very special prices. Lulu Hypermarket has a loyal and passionate customer base that continues to grow year after year. The secret to this strong brand adherence lies in the hypermarket's steadfast commitment to offer shoppers the widest range of high-quality products, from around the world, at very competitive prices, and in an ambience that provides for an enjoyable shopping experience.



Classifieds

Sunday, October 28, 2018

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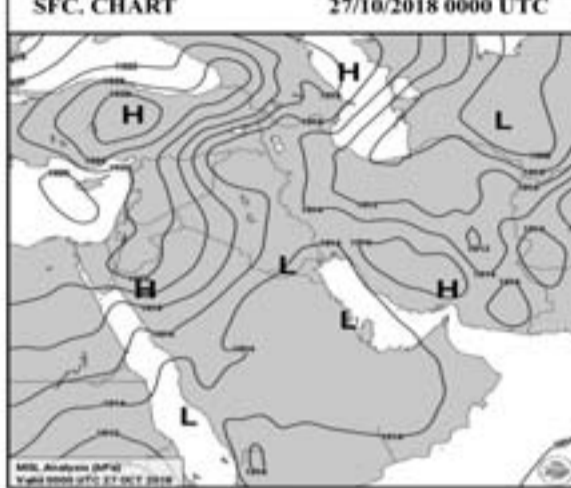
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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate freshening gradually north easterly wind to north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 50 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times with a chance for

BY NIGHT: Partly cloudy and weather will improve gradually with moderate to fresh over coastal areas north westerly wind, with speed of 20 - 55 km/h causing rising dust with a chance for rain that might be thundery at

WEATHER WARNING			Thunder Rain	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 27/10/2018 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	31 °C	25 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	30 °C	25 °C		
ABDALY	31 °C	22 °C		
BUBYAN	--- °C	--- °C		
JAHRA	31 °C	24 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	30 °C	25 °C		
SALMIYAH	29 °C	26 °C		
AHMADI	28 °C	26 °C		
NUWAISIB	31 °C	25 °C		
WAFRA	30 °C	26 °C		
SALMY	31 °C	20 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST

DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Sunday	10/28	Relatively hot and Clouds will decrease gradually with a slight chance for rain over	29 °C	20 °C	NW-N	12 - 38 km/h
Monday	10/29	Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for scattered light rain	29 °C	19 °C	NW	06 - 30 km/h
Tuesday	10/30	Partly cloudy	30 °C	17 °C	NW-VRB	06 - 28 km/h
Wednesday	10/31	Mostly Sunny	30 °C	17 °C	NW-VRB	06 - 28 km/h

PRAYER TIMES

Fajr	04:37
Sunrise	05:57
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:42
Sunset	17:07
Isha	18:24

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT

MAX. Temp.	32 °C
MIN. Temp.	26 °C
MAX. RH	85 %
MIN. RH	52 %
MAX. Wind	SE 50 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	2 mm

ACCOMMODATION

Sharing accommodation available for decent Christian bachelor / single lady in Salmiya, Block-10, Street-10 (near Garden). Contact: 51177342 (C 5430) 23-10-2018

Sharing accommodation available for decent Christian bachelor / single lady in Salmiya, Block-10, Street-10 (near Garden). Contact: 51177342 (C 5430) 23-10-2018

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Dasuru Sumithra (Old name), Holder of Indian Passport No: N1869555 R/o D.No: 2/329-B, Thyagarajanagar, Mangalimitta, Rajampet Town & Mandal, YSR Kadapa District, AP - 516115, have changed my name as DAARURU ARAUNA (new name) W/o Daaruru Nagarjuna. 28-10-2018

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

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Flight Schedule

Airlines	Arrival Flights on Sunday 28/10/2018	Time
JZR	513 Sharm el-Sheikh	00:10
THY	772 Istanbul	00:15
JAI	572 Mumbai	00:15
KAC	504 Beirut	00:45
DLH	625 Dammam	00:50
KAC	102 London	00:50
JZR	539 Cairo	01:00
PGT	858 Istanbul	01:15
UAE	853 Dubai	01:40
KLM	446 Bahrain	01:45
THY	764 Istanbul	01:50
IGO	1757 Kochi	01:55
KKK	1268 Istanbul	02:00
JZR	267 Beirut	02:10
ETH	620 Addis Ababa	02:15
QTR	1086 Doha	02:30
GFA	211 Bahrain	02:30
KAC	414 Bangkok	02:40
OMA	643 Muscat	02:55
RJA	648 Amman	03:05
ETD	305 Abu Dhabi	03:05
KAC	418 Manila	03:05
PGT	860 Istanbul	03:10
KAC	382 Delhi	03:10
MSR	612 Cairo	03:15
QTR	1076 Doha	04:00
LMU	510 Cairo	04:00
JZR	551 Alexandria	04:05
IGO	1751 Chennai	04:10
KAC	784 Jeddah	04:30
JZR	404 Hyderabad	04:30
FDB	069 Dubai	05:00
THY	770 Istanbul	05:15
DHX	170 Bahrain	05:20
KAC	1544 Cairo	05:20
JZR	402 Mumbai	05:25
JZR	112 Doha	05:25
KAC	344 Chennai	05:30
KAC	332 Trivandrum	05:40
JZR	561 Sohag	05:55
BAW	157 London	06:10
KAC	284 Dhaka	06:25
QTR	8511 Doha	06:25
KAC	204 Lahore	06:30
KAC	678 Dubai	06:55
KAC	302 Mumbai	07:00
JZR	708 Luxor	07:15
KAC	358 Kochi	07:35
KAC	354 Bengaluru	07:45
FDB	053 Dubai	07:50
KAC	384 Delhi	08:00
UAE	855 Dubai	08:35
JZR	408 Ahmedabad	08:45
ETD	301 Abu Dhabi	09:05
ABY	125 Sharjah	09:05
IRA	665 Shiraz	09:40
IGO	1753 Ahmedabad	09:40
FDB	055 Dubai	09:40
QTR	1070 Doha	09:45
SVA	512 Riyadh	10:00
GFA	213 Bahrain	10:40
JZR	702 Asyut	11:05
JZR	122 Dubai	11:10
QTR	1074 Doha	11:35
MEA	404 Beirut	11:55
KAC	614 Bahrain	12:25
SAW	701 Damascus	12:30
JZR	714 Sohag	12:35
KAC	742 Dammam	12:50
MSR	610 Cairo	13:10

Airlines	Departure Flights on Sunday 28/10/2018	Time
JZR	707 Luxor	00:01
AIC	988 Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
JZR	407 Ahmedabad	00:05
BBC	044 Dhaka	00:10
MSC	502 Alexandria	00:15
JAI	573 Mumbai	00:30
FDB	072 Dubai	00:30
JAI	571 Mumbai	01:15
KAC	677 Dubai	01:30
THY	773 Istanbul	01:45
JZR	111 Doha	01:45
KAC	363 Colombo	01:50
DLH	625 Frankfurt	01:50
KAC	417 Manila	02:00
PGT	859 Istanbul	02:15
THY	765 Istanbul	02:50
IGO	1758 Kochi	02:55
ETH	621 Addis Ababa	03:05
KLM	446 Amsterdam	03:10
UAE	854 Dubai	03:30
OMA	644 Muscat	03:55
KKK	1269 Istanbul	03:55
THY	765 Istanbul	04:00
QTR	1087 Doha	04:00
ETD	306 Abu Dhabi	04:05
MSR	613 Cairo	04:15
JZR	701 Asyut	04:30
PGT	861 Istanbul	04:45
LMU	511 Cairo	05:00
KAC	103 London	05:10
IGO	1752 Chennai	05:10
QTR	1077 Doha	05:30
FDB	070 Dubai	05:50
KAC	303 Mumbai	06:05
JZR	713 Sohag	06:15
THY	771 Istanbul	06:30
JZR	121 Dubai	06:30
GFA	212 Bahrain	07:15
RJA	649 Amman	07:15
QTR	8512 Doha	07:55
KAC	171 Frankfurt	08:10
BAW	156 London	08:20
KAC	165 Rome	08:20
FDB	054 Dubai	08:50
KAC	501 Beirut	09:00
KAC	787 Jeddah	09:05
KAC	791 Madinah	09:10
JZR	731 Cairo	09:10
KAC	117 Shannon/New York	09:15
KAC	691 Muscat	09:20
KAC	541 Cairo	09:30
KAC	561 Amman	09:40
KAC	101 London	09:45
KAC	741 Dammam	09:45
KAC	671 Dubai	09:45
ABY	126 Sharjah	09:45
UAE	856 Dubai	10:00
JZR	301 Istanbul	10:05
KAC	773 Riyadh	10:10
ETD	302 Abu Dhabi	10:10
JZR	1330 Al Najaf	10:25
FDB	056 Dubai	10:35
IGO	1754 Ahmedabad	10:40
IRA	664 Shiraz	10:40
JZR	211 Jeddah	10:40
KAC	155 Istanbul	10:45
KAC	617 Doha	10:45
QTR	1071 Doha	11:00
SVA	513 Riyadh	11:00
GFA	214 Bahrain	11:25

Israel farmers fear for future as Jordan claims back lands

TSOFAR: Every morning with the first rays of sunlight, Eitan Guedj leaves his house in Israel, passes through two checkpoints and heads for his pepper plantation in Ghumar, a leased Jordanian territory the neighboring kingdom now wants back. He is joined by around 30 fellow Israeli farmers and some 150 Thai workers who make a living from the 1,500 dunum desert enclave just beyond a hill dominating the skyline of Tsoufar village in southern Israel. Each worker has a permit to pass through the Israeli and Jordanian checkpoints, the 36-year-old said. "The crossings are open 365 days a year, from sunrise to sunset."

For the quarter of a century since a historic peace deal, Israel has leased from Jordan the border territories of Ghumar, in its southern province of Aqaba, and Baqura in the northern province of Irbid. But last Sunday, Jordan's King Abdullah II said his country had notified Israel that it wants to take back the two areas. Israel seized Baqura when its forces infiltrated the kingdom in 1950. It occupied Jordanian territories including Ghumar in the Six-Day War of 1967. Under their 1994 peace treaty, Jordan retained sovereignty over the areas but agreed to lease them to Israel for a renewable 25 years, with a one-year notice period for either party.

King Abdullah's announcement on Sunday came days before the end of that notice period. The move risks sparking a crisis between the Israel and Jordan, the only Arab country apart from Egypt to have a peace deal with the Jewish state. Relations with the Jordanians have hitherto been "excellent", according to Eitan Lipszyc, 60, the village's leader for the past

13 years. "We felt at home and we were surprised to be no longer welcome at the house," he sighs. He said around a third of the village's fewer than 100 residents make a living from farming. Without access to Ghumar, Tsoufar's very survival is in doubt.

If Jordan takes back the territories, "all the facilities will be lost", said Guedj, who earns 80 percent of his income from selling peppers grown on the Jordanian land - most of them for export. Planted in greenhouses tinted yellow by ochre dust from the surrounding desert, peppers grow better in Ghumar than elsewhere in the area, he said, as the soil there is rich in minerals. He estimated it would take him five to six years to relaunch his business inside Israel, and said he would probably never achieve such good returns.

King Abdullah's decision was seen as a response to growing public anger over high unemployment, inflation and poverty, exacerbated by the presence of hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the war in neighboring Syria. The announcement came after a series of demonstrations calling for the return of Baqura and Ghumar organized by lawmakers, political parties, trade unions and activists. Jordan's peace treaty with Israel is overwhelmingly opposed by Jordanians, more than half of whom are of Palestinian origin.

Following the king's announcement, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sought to calm the crisis, proposing negotiations with Jordan to keep the current arrangement in place. Possibly in an attempt to show goodwill, Israel sent helicopters and search and rescue teams to its neighbor this week after a flash flood in the Dead Sea region that killed 21 people, most of them



Israeli farmer Eitan Guedj and a Thai worker check pepper crops near the Moshav Tsoufar Israeli-Jordanian border crossing point (Ghumar on the Jordanian side) on Oct 23, 2018. — AFP

schoolchildren. The Hashemite kingdom has said it is willing to engage in talks but insists on its right to reclaim the land.

Under the treaty, the two sides have a year to agree on the future of the enclaves. Oded Eran, Israeli ambassador to Jordan from 1997 to 2002 and a researcher at Tel Aviv's Institute for National Security Studies, said Israel must "offer something

attractive to the Jordanians" or compensate the farmers for their losses. In Tsoufar, residents are hoping for a negotiated solution. "For the time being, we're looking at our options," Lipszyc said, adding that he does not want to organize protests but rather to support the government in its efforts. Israeli farmers tilling Jordanian soil is "good for peace," he said.

Some residents speculate that Jordanian farmers will struggle to grow anything on the land, surrounded by barren desert. The prospect of being cut off from the enclave places "enormous pressure" on the village, said Guedj, who has three children to feed. "If I lose this land, I'll probably leave," he said. "There's is nothing else in the area - neither tourism nor high-tech industry." — AFP

Several dead as gunman attacks...

Continued from Page 1

people had died, while the local CBS affiliate reported that eight people were dead. A woman at the scene, in the historically Jewish Pittsburgh neighborhood of Squirrel Hill, told CNN her daughter was with others who ran down the stairs and barricaded themselves in the basement of the synagogue after hearing shots. "They're safe, but they kept hearing them firing and everything else," she told the television network. Police cordoned off the building, which was surrounded by police cars, ambulances and a police SWAT team.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu voiced his grief and solidarity with the United States, saying he was "heartbroken and appalled by the murderous attack". "The entire people of Israel grieve with the families of the dead" Netanyahu said in a video message. "We stand together with the Jewish community of Pittsburgh. We stand together with the American people in the face of this horrendous antisemitic brutality."

"We are devastated," tweeted Jonathan Greenblatt, the head of the Anti-Defamation League. "Jews targeted on Shabbat morning at synagogue, a holy place of worship, is unconscionable. Our hearts break for the victims, their families, and the entire Jewish community." Trump's daughter Ivanka, in a tweet, vowed that "America is stronger than the acts of a depraved bigot and anti-Semite". "All good Americans stand with the Jewish peo-

ple to oppose acts of terror & share the horror, disgust & outrage over the massacre in Pittsburgh. We must unite against hatred & evil. God bless those affected."

The New York Police Department said it was deploying heavy weapons teams to houses of worship across the city in response to the Pittsburgh attack. It is the latest shooting incident in the United States, where gunmen regularly cause mass casualties and firearms are linked to more than 30,000 deaths annually. The Tree of Life Synagogue is in a residential neighborhood about eight kilometers east of downtown Pittsburgh.

Michael Eisenberg, past president of the synagogue, told local television the door would typically have been open on Saturdays with religious services going on. He said police are normally deployed only on High Holy Days - the holiest annual Jewish religious holidays. He said security was a "major concern" during his stint as president, and active shooting situations and active shooter trainings were conducted, "if something horrific like this happened."

Anti-Semitism and hate crimes have been on a rise in the United States in recent years - with anti-Semitic incidents surging 57 percent from 2016 to 2017, to 1,986 from 1,267, according to the ADL. Squirrel Hill has historically been the center of Jewish life in the greater Pittsburgh and is home to 26 percent of all Pittsburgh-area Jewish households, according to a study from Brandeis University. More than 80 percent of the neighborhood's residents said they had some concern or were very concerned about rising anti-Semitism, found the 2017 study. The Tree of Life congregation was founded more than 150 years ago and in 2010 merged with the five-year-old Or L'Simcha congregation. — AFP

how it can get off the ground given a protracted dispute between Qatar and four Arab states led by Saudi Arabia who launched a boycott of Doha in 2017.

Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt cut off travel and trade ties with Qatar in June 2017, accusing it of backing their archrival, Iran, and supporting terrorism. Qatar denies the charges and says the boycott impinges on its sovereignty. Mattis said that it was important to end the 16-month-old Arab dispute with Qatar that analysts say has weakened regional coordination against Iran.

Jubeir said recent discussions in Saudi Arabia about a framework for MESA included Qatari officials and that the proposed alliance would not be affected by the diplomatic row. "It (MESA) is an alliance for security and prosperity for the region and will be open to those who accept its principles," Sheikh Khalid said, adding that the alliance would also cooperate on economic issues.

Mattis told the regional security conference that Russia is no replacement for the US in the Middle East following Moscow's military intervention in Syria. "Russia's presence in the region cannot replace the long-standing, enduring, and transparent US commitment to the Middle East," Mattis said. Russia supports the regime of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, while Turkey backs some rebel groups seeking to oust the Syrian leader.

Mattis told the Manama Dialogue that Moscow's "opportunism and willingness to overlook Assad's criminal activities against his own people evidences its lack of sincere commitment to essential moral principles". Iran's support for the Syrian regime "coupled with Russia's repeated vetoes of UN Security Council Resolutions, is the leading reason Assad remains in power," he said. "We are deeply aware of the sacrifices many of our partners have made, and continue to make, in dealing with the effects of Assad's violence against his own people," Mattis said. He vowed the US-led coalition in Syria would "continue to root out" militant groups "and expand space for our diplomats to negotiate for long-term peace in that war-torn country". "We stand with our partners who favour stability over chaos, and we support unity of effort among our nations' militaries in response to shared threats and challenges," Mattis added. — Agencies

Riyadh rejects call to extradite Khashoggi killers, US 'concerned'

MANAMA: Riyadh yesterday dismissed Ankara's call to extradite 18 Saudis being held over the murder of critic Jamal Khashoggi, as Washington warned the crisis risked destabilizing the Middle East. "The individuals are Saudi nationals. They're detained in Saudi Arabia, and the investigation is in Saudi Arabia," Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir told a regional defense forum in Bahrain. He was responding to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan who on Friday renewed his call for the 18 men to be extradited for trial in Turkey.

Saudi journalist Khashoggi, 59, who had lived in self-imposed exile in the United States since 2017, was murdered after entering his country's Istanbul consulate on Oct 2 to obtain paperwork to marry his Turkish fiancée. After weeks of denials, Riyadh has sought to draw a line under the crisis with an investigation. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, heir to the oil-rich nation's throne, publicly denounced the murder as "repulsive", while the Saudi prosecutor acknowledged for the first time last week that based on the evidence of a Turkish investigation the killing had been "premeditated".

But US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who was also addressing the Manama forum, warned that "the murder of Jamal Khashoggi in a diplomatic facility must concern us all greatly". "Failure of any nation to adhere to international norms and the rule of law undermines regional stability at a time when it is needed most," he stressed. The journalist's murder has generated international outrage and undermined Riyadh's relations with the United States and other Western governments.

France and Germany's leaders said yesterday they want a "coordinated" European position for sanctions on arms sales to Saudi Arabia. This came after French President Emmanuel Macron had on Friday implied German Chancellor Angela Merkel's government was engaging in "pure demagoguery" by halting arms sales to Riyadh. On the sidelines of a Syria summit in Istanbul, the two leaders had a "peaceful exchange", the Elysee palace said, and agreed not to announce their next positions on the issue without first coordinating "at the European level".

The Saudi foreign minister vowed yesterday that the kingdom would "overcome" the crisis over Khashoggi's killing. "The issue, as I said, is being investigated. We will know the truth. We will hold those responsible accountable. And we will put in place mechanisms to ensure it doesn't happen again," Jubeir told the defense forum. Beyond the detention of the 18 suspects, five Saudi intelligence chiefs have been sacked, including two who were part of the crown prince's inner circle.

On Thursday, CIA Director Gina Haspel briefed US President Donald Trump on the latest developments in the investigation after a fact-finding mission to Turkey. Pro-government Turkish media said intelligence officers showed Haspel video images and audio tapes of Khashoggi's killing gathered from the consulate. But the body of Khashoggi, who was once an insider in Saudi royal circles, remains missing.

"You need to show this body," Erdogan insisted on Friday, indicating that his country had more evidence about the killing to reveal. The Turkish president, who has stopped short of directly blaming the Saudi government, added the 18 suspects must know who killed Khashoggi and repeated his call for the men to be tried in Turkey. "The culprit is among them. If that is not the case, then who is the local conspirator? You have to tell," he said. "Unless you tell, Saudi Arabia will not be free from this suspicion."

Khashoggi's fiancée Hatice Cengiz said in a TV interview on Friday that she never would have let him enter the consulate if she had thought that "Saudi Arabia authorities would hatch a plot" to kill him. — AFP

Muscat says time to accept Israel after...

Continued from Page 1

accompanied by his wife Sara and his delegation included Mossad intelligence chief Yossi Cohen and National Security Advisor Meir Ben-Shabbat. The visit came at the invitation of Sultan Qaboos and followed "lengthy contacts between the two countries", an Israeli statement said. Oman's state broadcaster showed Netanyahu and his delegation walking alongside Sultan Qaboos - who has rarely been seen in recent pictures - and other Omani officials in traditional garb.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia and key ally Bahrain said yesterday that Gulf states are playing a critical role in maintaining stability in the Middle East by combating Iran's "vision of darkness", as Riyadh faces its worst political crisis in decades. Saudi Arabia is the lynchpin of a US-backed regional bloc against growing Iranian influence in the Middle East but the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi at its consulate in Istanbul on Oct 2 has prompted a global outcry and strained Riyadh's ties with the West.

"We are now dealing with two visions in the Middle East. One is a (Saudi) vision of light ... One is a (Iranian) vision of darkness which seeks to spread sectarianism throughout the region," Jubeir told the security summit in Bahrain. "History tells us that light always wins out against the dark ... The question is how do we defeat them." Jubeir said ties between Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, and the United States are "ironclad" and praised what he described as the "rational, realistic" foreign policy of the current US administration.

Sheikh Khalid Al-Khalifa told the conference the Gulf bloc would remain a "pillar" of regional security and that a proposed security alliance grouping the United States, Gulf states, Jordan and Egypt would be activated next year. The Middle East Strategic Alliance (MESA) is meant to serve as a bulwark against Iran and extremism, Washington says. But there has been uncertainty about

Turkey hosts Syria summit...

Continued from Page 1

conflict in efforts that have often been greeted with suspicion in the West, but Saturday's summit will be the first to include the European Union's two most significant national leaders. Erdogan met briefly with Merkel, Putin and Macron before the summit began, and the four leaders issued a joint statement ahead of individual press conferences.

After arriving in Istanbul, Macron tweeted that what was at stake was averting a "new humanitarian disaster". Turkish presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said on Friday that the primary goal would be to "clarify the steps to be taken for a political solution and to determine a roadmap". Forming a commission to create Syria's post-war constitution, seen as a stepping stone to elections in the war-torn country, would be a particular point of emphasis, Kalin told the state-run news agency Anadolu.

A rival United Nations plan for a committee to draft a new constitution ran aground this week after Damascus blocked the proposal. UN special envoy Staffan de Mistura, who is also attending the Istanbul summit, said the Syrian government would not accept a role for the United Nations in selecting a list for the committee. The Istanbul talks also discussed extending the ceasefire around Idlib, where aid groups have warned that a military offensive could spark one of the

worst humanitarian disasters of the seven-year war.

With an assault by government troops seeming imminent, Moscow and Ankara agreed on Sept 17 to create a 15-20 kilometre-wide demilitarised zone ringing Idlib as Turkey sought to avoid an attack leading to a further influx of people across its border. However shelling in the area continued intermittently and has ramped up in recent days. On Friday, Syria's UN envoy Bashar Jaafari maintained that the buffer zone is temporary and that Idlib would eventually revert to government control.

However France hopes to extend the ceasefire to enable aid convoys to get through to Idlib, home to three million people. During a phone call with Putin before the summit yesterday, Macron reiterated his objectives to "extend the ceasefire in Idlib, prohibit chemical weapons, ensure access to humanitarian aid and find a timetable for the political process," the French presidency said. The participants talked down hopes of a long-term solution ahead of the summit, with the Elysee palace speaking of "modest expectations" and Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov urging all sides to be "realistic". Peskov said that while all sides want a political settlement, "certain disagreements may exist regarding the instruments and tactics", and the day was to "synchronize our watches" and "attempt to identify common topics".

Syria's opposition, which has previously described Russia's military intervention in 2015 as an occupation, on Friday said it welcomed dialogue with Moscow, signaling readiness for more concessions following the Assad regime's battlefield successes. Turkish media reported that Erdogan will discuss the crisis in one-on-one talks with leaders on the summit's sidelines. — AFP

Sports

All Blacks batter Aussies 37-20 to complete Bledisloe sweep

'It's going to be exciting to come here again next year'

YOKOHAMA: World champions New Zealand crushed old foes Australia 37-20 in Japan yesterday to complete a 3-0 Bledisloe Cup series whitewash. Fly-half Beauden Barrett scored 17 points and was five-from-six with the boot in Yokohama as the All Blacks piled more pressure on the struggling Wallabies and under-fire coach Michael Cheika.

Barrett dived over for the pick of New Zealand's five tries just before the hour mark to cap a dazzling individual performance. The Wallabies, meanwhile, slumped to a ninth defeat in their last 12 Tests after being dominated in all departments.

Liam Squire, Kieran Read, Ben Smith and Rieko Ioane also touched down for the rampant All Blacks, who came into the Japan Test having won nine of the last 10 matches against their trans-Tasman rivals.

"It's going to be exciting to come to here again next year," said New Zealand skipper Read, whose side will be chasing a World Cup hat-trick at the 2019 competition in Japan. "It's a massive tournament and we have to come prepared but hopefully we can produce the same as we got tonight."

Sonny Bill Williams set up New Zealand's opener on his 50th Test appearance with a clever pass for Squire to crash over after sustained All Blacks pressure. A long Kurtley Beale penalty cut the deficit before Read rolled off a scrum to score easily, helped by some matador Wallabies defending. Australia hit back just before half-time with some direct build-up play that allowed Sefanaia Naivalu to bulldoze over in the corner to cut New Zealand's lead to 17-10.

AWED GASPS

Barrett and Bernard Foley traded penalties early in the second half before Barrett exchanged slick passes with Ioane to race clear for a brilliant third try for New Zealand that triggered awed gasps from a crowd of 46,000.

Barrett's conversion put the All Blacks up by 12 points, and when Silatolu Latu was sin-binned for a retaliatory slap to Codie Taylor's face it was effectively game over for the Wallabies. Smith added insult to injury moments later when he found space to dive over and make it 32-13, although Australia grabbed a late consolation try through Israel Folau, who impressed in his first Wallabies start at centre.

However, there was still time for the prolific Ioane to complete a man of the match display by chalking up his 22nd try in 21 Tests, collecting an outrageous through-the-legs pass from Barrett to score in the corner.

"That certainly wasn't the outcome we were going for," said Australia captain Michael Hooper.

"There were positives and negatives, but yet again we've given too many opportunities to New Zealand and they're so clinical in those areas." New Zealand face Japan in Tokyo next weekend before flying to Europe to complete their five-match tour against England, Ireland and Italy. The Wallabies, who lost six of eight games before a stunning 45-34 comeback win over Argentina earlier this month eased some of the pressure on Cheika, play November Tests away to Wales, Italy and England. — AFP



YOKOHAMA: Australia's fullback Dane Haylett-Petty (3rd R) is tackled during the Bledisloe Cup rugby union Test match between the New Zealand All Blacks and Australia at Yokohama International Stadium in Yokohama yesterday. — AFP

Discover America Week kick starts with fun run, walk

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Discover America 2018 Fun Run/Walk was held on Friday at the Boulevard, Salmiya. It was attended by several people from all walks of life including US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman. The event was a prelude to kick-start the 6th Annual Discover America Week, which this year will take place over two weeks. During the next fourteen days the US Embassy will organize 25 programs promoting different aspects of the United States.

"We will highlight American culture, food, restaurants, fashion, music, film, education, tourism, business, automobiles, and healthy lifestyles. More than two dozen US restaurants and retail stores will also be offering special promotions during the two weeks. I encourage you all to participate where you can. I would like to highlight the 10-kilometer bicycle ride we are organizing on Saturday morning at Kuwait University," he said. The ambassador pointed out that events are a great opportunity to put a spotlight on the



—Photos by Joseph Shagra

strong US-Kuwaiti friendship, and explore areas to broaden and deepen this relationship," he added.

Silverman also thank the Al-Mutawa pharmacies where they provided tests for blood pressure and also testing blood sugar levels for anyone interested. "Testing for blood sugar can help show if you are at risk for diabetes so I encourage everyone to see what their blood sugar levels are," he said. He also thanked Nike and the Ali Abdulwahab Company for sponsoring Fun Run and to Pro-

Vision for coordinating all of the event's logistics.

Winners (Male)

1. Eduardo Valcarce Merayo
2. Mohammad Salman
3. Ahmad Qanbar

Winners (Female)

1. Amal Al-Roumi
2. Taiba Al-Nouri
3. Anna Wrzeszcz.



GAZOO Racing increases lead with another double podium in FIA World Rally Championship

TOKYO: The GAZOO Racing (GR) World Rally team has increased its advantage at the top of the manufacturers' championship standings after a double-podium finish at Wales Rally GB in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC). Making it the fourth event in a row where two of the Toyota Yaris WRCs have finished inside the top three, Jari-Matti Latvala engaged in a thrilling final-day fight for the rally win, ultimately finishing in second place with Esapekka Lappi in third.

Commenting on the GR team's performance, Yugo Miyamoto, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative office, Toyota Motor Corporation, said: "The outstanding achievements of our team and vehicles in claiming a fourth consecutive double-podium finish in the season at Wales Rally GB are a source of great pride for all of us at Toyota. Challenging events such as WRC push our drivers and vehicles to their limits and represent the perfect proving ground for future technologies. Everything we learn through our participation in racing events inspires our engineers as they strive to develop 'ever-better' cars. I would like to extend my gratitude to our fans for their unwavering support, which is a source of constant motivation in our quest to create vehicles that bring satisfaction and put a smile on our customers' faces."

The last day of the rally consisted of five stages, including three in the forests of North Wales and two all-asphalt stages finishing in Llandudno. Beginning the day 4.4 seconds away from the lead, Latvala in the No. 7 Toyota Yaris WRC made an excellent start to the morning, with a stage win on SS20 moving him into first

position. He continued to fight until the end and finished up just 10.6seconds shy of victory, as he took his third podium finish from the last four events.

On the other hand, Lappi, in the No. 9 Toyota Yaris WRC, began the day with a margin of just 1.7 seconds over the driver in fourth place, but immediately increased his advantage by winning SS19. He ended the rally more than half a minute clear as he made his third podium visit in the space of five rounds. With the results for Latvala and Lappi, GR World Rally team extends its manufacturers' championship lead to 20 points. Jari-Matti Latvala said: "It was a great battle, and I really enjoyed the fight. The first two stages were great for me, but it went away in the final loop. It was maybe down to the tire choice as I had one used soft tire, and it was not giving a firm grip on the gravel. This is a very important result for the team, the manufacturers' championship, and also for me."

Esapekka Lappi added: "I am pleased with this result. These are important points, especially for the team. In the morning loop, the performance was really strong as we defended our third place and managed to do the fastest time. We got a big gap, and after that, it was just about bringing the car safely to the finish, which we did."

Over the years, Toyota has been participating in many different forms of motorsports, including Formula One, the World Endurance Championship (WEC), and the 24-hour endurance race. Toyota's participation in these events was overseen by separate entities within the company until April 2015, when



Toyota established GAZOO Racing (GR), to consolidate all of its motorsports activities under one in-house brand. Representing Toyota's belief that 'the roads build the people, and the people build the cars,' GR highlights the role of motorsports as a fundamental pillar of

Toyota's commitment to making 'ever-better' cars. Harnessing years of experience gained under the extreme conditions of various motorsports events, GR aims to forge new technologies and solutions that bring the freedom, adventure, and joy of driving to everyone.

Verstappen tops Mexico practice, Hamilton struggles

MEXICO CITY: Max Verstappen completed an impressive Friday 'double top' as he and Daniel Ricciardo finished one-two for Red Bull in second practice for this weekend's Mexican Grand Prix. The young Dutchman, aiming to repeat his 2017 victory in the Mexican capital, clocked a best lap in one minute and 16.720 seconds to outpace his Australian team-mate by 0.153 seconds, before being halted by a late hydraulics failure.

A similar showing in qualifying on Saturday could make him the youngest pole-sitter in Formula One history, beating a record currently held by Sebastian Vettel. "We have a good car with good downforce and good mechanical grip, which you could see also in Monaco - and it worked really well," said Verstappen, who turned 21 last month.

"I hope we are in a fight for pole, but we will find out tomorrow... Today has been good, but we have to keep working." Vettel, fighting to keep his ultra-slim title hopes alive, was fourth fastest for Ferrari while championship leader Lewis Hamilton was seventh for Mercedes.

Hamilton needs to outscore Vettel by five points to take his fifth drivers' title if the German wins. If Vettel fails to win, he will be champion wherever he finishes. Carlos Sainz was third for Renault with team-mate Nico Hulkenberg fifth, ahead of Brendon Hartley, who is fighting to keep his seat with Toro Rosso next year.

This meant that the top three cars, and five of the top six, were powered by Renault engines at the 2,200-metres altitude Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez - only Vettel breaking the French manufacturer's domination in his Ferrari.

"This is the track with the least sensitivity to power," said Vettel. "But we expected that Red Bull would be strong.

"We didn't have a tidy lap so we should have been ahead of the Renaults. I think everyone is on the limit with the tyres, trying to get them to work - with the exception of the Red Bulls..."

But it was not a perfect day for Verstappen and Red Bull because the Dutch tyro's session ended with his car parked by the track after a suspected hydraulics failure. Kimi Raikkonen, victorious in Texas last weekend, wound up eighth in the second Ferrari ahead of fellow-Finn Valtteri Bottas in the second Mercedes and home hero Sergio Perez of Force India.

After dominating the opening session in the morning, the Red Bull duo were soon back in command as the air temperature rose to 25 degrees Celsius and the track to 49. The very warm conditions exacerbated the performance problems of the Ferrari and Mercedes teams as they struggled with tyres, a loss of power and car balance in the rarefied atmosphere.

This gave the Renault-engined cars, led by Red Bull, a chance to shine, notably Verstappen who can become the sport's youngest pole-sitter if he is fastest in qualifying today. He can beat the current record held by Vettel, who was 21 years and 72 days when he took his first pole at the 2008 Italian Grand Prix.

The keen Mexican crowd loved the action and the variety of names running at the top of the charts including both Ferrari men initially, Hamilton, Hulkenberg and, unexpectedly, Brendon Hartley before the Red Bulls took over.

Verstappen delivered his best lap midway through leaving both of the title protagonists panting in pursuit. "There's something not right with the car," complained Hamilton while Vettel merely told Ferrari: "That's all I've got..." — AFP

Sports

Kohli's third straight ton in vain as West Indies level series

Fourth ODI will be played in Mumbai tomorrow

MUMBAI: India captain Virat Kohli struck his third consecutive hundred but it was not enough as West Indies defeated the hosts by 43 runs in the third one-day international yesterday to square the five-match series at 1-1.

Milestone man Kohli, who became the fastest batsman to reach 10,000 ODI runs during Wednesday's tied match at Visakhapatnam, compiled 107 to bring up his 38th century in the format but his dismissal ended India's hopes of chasing down 284 for victory.

Part-time off-spinner Marlon Samuels emerged as wrecker-in-chief for the Caribbean side, picking up his best ODI bowling figures of three for 12 as India were all out for 240 in the 48th over.

West Indies batsman Shai Hope, who, like Kohli, also bats at number three, continued his rich vein of form, following up his unbeaten 123 in the last match with 95 to anchor the innings and help his side to 283 for nine after being asked to bat first.

With Kohli in irrepressible form, India appeared to be comfortably placed at 172 for three after 31 overs but lost their way with the quick wickets of Rishabh Pant, who made 24 off 18 balls, and Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Kohli still looked like a man on a mission-evident from his muted celebration after reaching his hundred-but once he got castled in Samuels' first over, the fate of the match was sealed. The right-handed batsman, who will turn 30 next month, hit 10 fours and one six in his 119-ball knock.

Earlier, Jasprit Bumrah - one of the three fast bowlers the hosts drafted in for the match - was the pick of the Indian attack with four for 35, and his early strikes threw the West Indies' innings into disarray.

Opener Chandrapaul Hemraj fell to a sensational catch by India's 37-year-old wicketkeeper Dhoni, who ran towards the fine-leg boundary and completed a full-length diving catch after the batsman had miscued a pull shot off Bumrah.

Rohit Sharma then took a sharp catch at first slip to send back the other opener, Kieran Powell, and once fast bowler Khaleel Ahmed dismissed Samuels cheaply, West Indies were reduced to 55 for three.

Hope, who hit six fours and three sixes in his 113-ball knock, and the swashbuckling Shimron Hetmyer (37) then added a quickfire 56 before Dhoni completed a smart stumping to dismiss the latter off-spinner Kuldeep Yadav.

Hetmyer hit two fours and three sixes in his 21-ball knock after scores of 106 and 94 in the two previous ODIs. Bumrah produced a superb inswinging yorker to dismiss Hope, reducing West Indies to 227-8 and boosting India's hopes of restricting their opponents to a modest total.

But the West Indies were boosted by tailenders Ashley Nurse and Kemar Roach, who added another 56 runs off 36 balls to take their side past 280. Nurse hit four boundaries and two sixes in his 22-ball 40 before becoming Bumrah's fourth victim. The penultimate ODI will be played in Mumbai tomorrow. —Reuters



PUNE: West Indies cricketer Shai Hope (R) plays a shot as India wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni watch during the third one day international (ODI) cricket match between India and West Indies at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Pune yesterday. — AFP

Durant leads Warriors' rally past Knicks

NEW YORK: Kevin Durant scored 25 of his game-high 41 points in the fourth quarter Friday night as the Golden State Warriors ended the game on a 42-9 run to complete a furious rally to beat the host New York Knicks, 128-100. The two-time defending NBA champion Warriors have won five of six to open the season. Stephen Curry scored 29 points for Golden State while Draymond Green (18 points) and Klay Thompson (12 points) also scored in double digits. The Knicks have lost five straight since a season-opening win, though they have fallen to contenders such as Golden State, the Boston Celtics and Milwaukee Bucks. Tim Hardaway Jr. led New York with 24 points while Frank Ntilikina had 17 points, Trey Burke added 15 points, and Dmyean Dotson finished with 12 points.



NEW YORK: Dmyean Dotson #21 of the New York Knicks shoots the ball against the Golden State Warriors on Friday at Madison Square Garden in New York City, New York. — AFP

points on 2-of-11 shooting for Minnesota, which was booed off the court at halftime after its poor play over the first 24 minutes.

RAPTORS 116, MAVERICKS 107

Kyle Lowry had 20 points and 12 assists to record his fourth straight double-double as Toronto defeated visiting Dallas on Friday night. Kawhi Leonard scored 21 points and grabbed nine rebounds for the Raptors, who have won their first six games of the season for the first time in franchise history. They won their first five to open the 2015-16 season. The Raptors also have won their first five home games of the season to match the club record previously accomplished in 2014-15 and 2003-04.

CLIPPERS 133, ROCKETS 113

Montrezl Harrell scored a career-high 30 points. Lou Williams chipped in 23 and visiting Los Angeles rolled to a lopsided win over Houston. The Clippers, whose lackluster start offensively was covered by their stellar defense, thrived on offense against the injury-depleted Rockets, who were without starters James Harden and James Ennis and remained winless at home. Houston welcomed back guard Chris Paul from suspension, but he shot 3 for 13 and had five turnovers while scoring

Roberts said. Red Sox manager Alex Cora said the game was "probably one of the best, if not the best game I've ever been a part of." "It was a great baseball game, seven hours whatever it is. People back home are probably waking up to the end," Cora said. Both exhausted teams emptied their benches as they attempted to get over the line, combining to use 46 players, a record for a World Series game.

Boston decimated their pitching resources as they sought to claim a win that would have given them a formidable 3-0 series lead.

The Red Sox' Nathan Eovaldi, who had been due to start on the mound in game four at Dodger Stadium yesterday, was pressed into action in the 12th inning and ended up having to hurl for six innings and 97 pitches. "What Nate did tonight, that was amazing," Cora said.

The extra-inning drama was the final act of an epic contest which saw the Dodgers claw their way into a winning position after a magnificent pitching performance by rookie right-hander Walker Buehler. Needing a win to have any chance of battling back into the series, the 24-year-old Buehler gave his team a platform for victory through seven scoreless innings, which included seven strikeouts.

When Buehler left the game, the Dodgers led 1-0 through Joe Pederson's towering home run that soared into the right field stands in the bottom of the third inning.

12 points in 34 minutes.

HORNETS 135, BULLS 106

Kemba Walker scored 30 points, all in the first three quarters, and Charlotte salvaged a split of a home-and-home set against visiting Chicago. The Hornets had eight players score in double figures. Michael Kidd-Gilchrist scored 15 with eight rebounds; Miles Bridges scored 15; Cody Zeller scored 14; and Nic Batum, Jeremy Lamb and Malik Monk scored 10 each. Zach LaVine led the Bulls with 20 points. The Bulls also got 19 points from Jabari Parker, 15 from Cameron Payne and 13 from Antonio Blakeney.

KINGS 116, WIZARDS 112

Buddy Hield scored seven of his 22 points in the final 6:18, and host Sacramento took advantage of three late Washington turnovers to hold on for a second straight victory. Hield made three of four free throws in the final 19.6 seconds, De'Aaron Fox one of two with 2.4 seconds left and Nemanja Bjelica a pair with 1.8 seconds to go. Bjelica led the Kings with 26 points and added 12 rebounds. John Wall, whose 3-pointer with 3.2 seconds remaining gave Washington a chance, led the Wizards with 26 points. Washington lost its fourth of five games. — Reuters

But the Red Sox hit back when Jackie Bradley Jr homered off Dodgers closer Kenley Jansen at the top of the eighth inning to level at 1-1. The Red Sox were denied a 2-1 lead in the 10th inning by a stunning double play from Cody Bellinger, the Dodgers outfielder launching a bomb from long-range that found catcher Austin Barnes at home plate who tagged out Ian Kinsler. The Red Sox then took the lead in the 13th inning when a fielding blunder involving Dodgers reliever Scott Alexander and Kike Hernandez allowed Brock Holt to scamper home for a 2-1 lead.

The Dodgers appeared to be sliding to defeat but were then gifted a tying run in the bottom of the 13th with another fielding gaffe. Down to their final out, Cuban slugger Yasiel Puig hit a simple ground ball to Red Sox veteran Kinsler, but the second baseman chucked wildly past first base allowing Muncy to race over for the tying run at 2-2. From that point on it became a question of who would blink first. Eovaldi did brilliantly to shut down the Dodgers in the late innings, while the Dodgers Kenta Maeda survived a jam in the 15th when the Red Sox got two men on base but were unable to score.

The stadium erupted in the 15th when Muncy missed a home run by just a few feet in far right field as it drifted into foul territory. As the clock turned midnight, the crowd cheered wildly as the game neared the 20-inning mark.—AFP

NBK sponsors battle of the East Fitness Festival

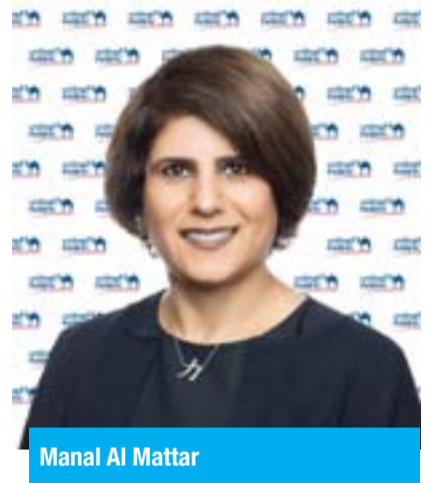
KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) is the golden sponsor of Battle of the East Fitness Festival. The festival takes place on the 2nd and 3rd of November at the Green Island-Gulf road.

The sponsorship comes in line with NBK's commitment to support youths' health. This sponsorship aims to spread physical awareness and attract youth to participate in sporting events.

NBK Public Relations Assistant General Manager, Manal Al Mattar, said: "NBK's sponsorship to this sports event comes in line with the bank's customary and ongoing spirit of corporate citizenship as well as the vital role it plays in supporting youth and their health. NBK always strives to empower youth to realize their potentials, providing different supportive opportunities".

"NBK's booth will host games and various sports challenges and will reward winners with valuable prizes", she added. "The purpose of this event is to increase fitness awareness for all Kuwait citizens. This event sheds light on the potential of youth in regards to fitness and sport awareness".

The Battle of the East Fitness Festival will include sports challenges that will attract more than 1500 spectators and more than 600 pro-



Manal Al Mattar

fessional athletes. The competitions in this festival comprised a range of physical challenges that depend on the strength, flexibility and endurance. All of which contribute to raise the spirit of positive competition among student circles.

NBK has always considered supporting youth an essential part of its social and philanthropic outreach which comes in line with the bank's commitment to encourage a merit-based system in health, education and environment that promotes the best and the brightest the country has to offer.

Paine axed, Finch named Australia's ODI skipper

SYDNEY: Aaron Finch was named Australia's new one-day captain yesterday ahead of their upcoming series against South Africa, with Test skipper Tim Paine and his deputy Mitch Marsh axed. The explosive batsman is already in charge of the Twenty20 team and takes over from Paine who averaged just 7.2 in Australia's 5-0 ODI series rout by England in June.

Spin veteran Nathan Lyon was another notable omission, although Shaun Marsh kept his place despite a dire recent Test series against Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates. Alex Carey and Josh Hazlewood were appointed joint vice-captains in a 14-man squad that sees the return of fast bowlers Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins.

"It's very exciting. I'm very humbled, very honoured to lead the side and lead Australia," Finch said, welcoming having a bowler as his deputy. "I think it's really important to have the voice of the bowlers there as well... a lot of the time batters are in leadership roles and bowlers are neglected in terms of that and it's almost an 'us versus them' at times."

National selector Trevor Hohns said the leadership decisions were based on presentations the players made, their vision for Australian cricket and their actions on and off the field. "We expect

Aaron, Josh and Alex to lead the side through a big Australian summer... they'll also be driving our standards and values as we prepare our defence of the World Cup, which is only seven months away," he said. "We believe the squad we have selected will give us a great opportunity to not only be competitive at home this summer, but it also allows us to start to build continuity leading into next year's tournament."

Finch, Marsh, Travis Head and Glenn Maxwell spearhead the batting while big-hitting Chris Lynn has been recalled, with Carey taking over the wicketkeeping duties from Paine. "Alex Carey will pull on the gloves full-time to allow Tim Paine to focus purely on captaining the Test team, which includes preparing for next year's Ashes," said Hohns in explaining why Paine was dropped.

"Alex provides us with another strong batting option, as he displayed in last year's Big Bash, and he's a wonderful young leader to have around the group and out in the field." Two spin bowlers were included in the absence of Lyon-Ashton Agar and Adam Zampa.

Despite Lyon and Mitch Marsh being dropped, Hohns suggested the door was not shut for their return leading into the World Cup next year. "We have made the decision to manage Mitch Marsh and Nathan Lyon carefully to ensure they are in the best condition possible to put their hand up for selection either later in the summer or for the World Cup next year," he said. "No doubt with a big summer program ahead opportunities may well present themselves for Andrew (Tye), Mitch and Nathan, as well as others not included in this squad." Australia play three one-dayers against South Africa starting in Perth on November 4.—AFP

Muncy homer as Dodgers down Red Sox in marathon

LOS ANGELES: Max Muncy blasted an 18th inning walkoff home run as the Los Angeles Dodgers snatched a 3-2 victory over the Boston Red Sox in the longest game in World Series history. A record-shattering game three that began on Friday afternoon at 5:09pm local time finished 7hrs 20 minutes later in the early hours of yesterday morning with the Dodgers claiming a victory that cut Boston's lead in the best-of-seven series to 2-1.

The game was the longest in the 115-year history of the World Series, comfortably surpassing the 14-inning, 5hr 41min battle between the Houston Astros and Chicago White Sox in 2005. The marathon duel was also the longest postseason game in Major League Baseball history. "Had our backs against the wall many times, and for us to persevere, it wasn't how we scripted it but it was a big win for us," Dodgers manager Dave

Sports

Bayern Munich win at Mainz to trim Dortmund's lead

Wolfsburg ends a seven-game winless run with a 3-0 romp

BERLIN: Bayern Munich cut Borussia Dortmund's lead at the top of the Bundesliga table to just two points yesterday with a 2-1 away win at Mainz, thanks to Thiago Alcantara's winning goal. While goals by Leon Goretzka and Thiago sealed the three points for Bayern, Dortmund have only themselves to blame for conceding a 91st-minute penalty which Salomon Kalou converted in their 2-2 draw at home to Hertha Berlin.

Dortmund's England international Jadon Sancho, 18, scored twice and could have finished with four goals in an outstanding display, only for Kalou to snatch a point by converting the late penalty after his first-half goal. Dortmund's next home match—against Bayern in a fortnight—is shaping up to be a top of the table clash.

Bayern have climbed from sixth to fourth and now to second over the last seven days. It was all one-way traffic in the first-half in Mainz as Bayern dominated with Joshua Kimmich hitting the woodwork on 27 minutes, Thiago had a goal disallowed for an offside.

The Mainz defence finally yielded when Kimmich sent the ball into the box and Goretzka volleyed home six minutes before half-time as it stayed 1-0 at the break. Just as it looked like Bayern were going to pull away, Mainz drew level thanks to sloppy defending.

Bayern's goalkeeper and captain Manuel Neuer was furious after Serge Gnabry failed to close down a cross by Daniel Brosinski and Jean-Paul Boëtius stole a yard on Kimmich to tap home with a first-time shot on 48 minutes.

Having been denied a first-half goal, Thiago hit the winner 28 minutes from time with a superb strike, sliding in to tap home Robert Lewandowski's low cross after burly midfielder Renato Sanches won possession. The win lifts Bayern to second, but Werder Bremen can

move above them if they beat Bayer Leverkusen today.

In Dortmund, Sancho provided the hosts' goals as Paco Alcacer, who has scored seven times in four league games, was again sidelined by a thigh injury.

The English teenager caught the eye with two well-taken goals after having had a third, scored with an audacious backheel chip, ruled out for offside and his early shot was cleared off the line. Sancho finally got on the scoresheet by firing from a tight angle after a great pass from Mario Goetze on 27 minutes.

However, Hertha, who beat Bayern 2-0 four weeks ago, proved how dangerous they are on the counter-attack by equalising four minutes before the break when defender Maximilian Mittelstaedt, 21, sent Kalou away to bundle the ball past Dortmund goalkeeper Roman Buerki.

Sancho claimed his second goal on 61 minutes after Dortmund captain Marco Reus did the work. Left-back Achraf Hakimi, 19, on loan from Real Madrid, threaded a pass into Reus, who flicked it past a defender to Sancho, unmarked at the back post, to tap home.

Dortmund were punished for living dangerously in the dying stages with Kalou again going close before converting the spot kick after Davie Selke was brought down in the box. Elsewhere, Wolfsburg ended a seven-game winless run with a 3-0 romp at bottom side Fortuna Duesseldorf with Wout Weghorst converting a first-half penalty before Josip Brekalo and Daniel Ginczek added second-half goals.

Augsburg stay in mid-table after their 2-1 win at Hanover while Borussia Moenchengladbach sit third after losing 3-1 at Freiburg on Friday night thanks to a Nils Petersen penalty and goals by Luca Waldsnieth and Luca Hoeler. — AFP



MAINZ: Mainz' Cameroonian midfielder Kunde Malong and Bayern Munich's Spanish midfielder Javier Martinez (L) vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match FSV Mainz 05 vs FC Bayern Munich in Mainz, western Germany, yesterday. — AFP

Eriksson takes Philippines job

MANILA: Former England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson has been hired to lead the Philippines' football team following the surprise departure of Three Lions football great Terry Butcher earlier this year. Philippine team manager Dan Palami said the Swede would coach the Azkals in next month's AFF Suzuki Cup and the Asian Cup in January.

"One of the legendary coaches of all time, coach Sven-Goran Eriksson will be coaching the Azkals for the Suzuki Cup and the Asian Cup," Palami said in a

video posted on the team's Twitter page. "He will be a great addition to the team and I'm sure the players will learn a lot from him."

The contract terms of Eriksson, 70, have not been disclosed. He fills a void left by the abrupt departure of Butcher, who resigned as head coach in August without ever taking charge of a single Azkals match. Butcher, a veteran of three World Cups who had managed in England, Scotland, Wales and Australia, lasted less than 50 days in the job after deciding he could not carry out his plans for the team. Eriksson in 2001 became the first foreigner to head England's football team, and has since also coached Mexico and the Ivory Coast as well as league clubs in Sweden, Portugal, Italy and China.

He takes charge as the Philippine team enjoys unprecedented success, having jumped as high as 111 in the FIFA rankings in May 2018. — AFP



Sven-Goran Eriksson

Svitolina, Stephens grind out three-set wins to reach Singapore final

SINGAPORE: Sloane Stephens and Elina Svitolina enjoyed contrasting three-set victories yesterday to set up a fascinating WTA Finals title showdown between the only undefeated women at the eight-player season-ending tournament.

Stephens remarkably lost the first eight games of her semi-final against a relentless Karolina Pliskova before the athletic American turned the contest on its head in the second set to emerge with a 0-6 6-4 6-1 triumph over the Czech.

"I came out a little nervous and wasn't quite feeling the ball and she was absolutely working me in the beginning," Stephens said in a post-match interview. "I just tried to stay in it, get as many balls back as I could and am really proud of my fight today."

In the early match, Ukraine's Svitolina put on a defensive masterclass to stifle the power of Kiki Bertens with a 7-5 6-7(5) 6-4 victory over the Dutchwoman in a gripping encounter that could have gone either way.

Few could have predicted what was to come when Pliskova started her match full of controlled aggression against an erratic Stephens as the Czech rattled through the opening set in 31 minutes.

Pliskova was equally relentless at the start of the second set, breaking again to register an eighth game in a row before Stephens finally got on the scoreboard, roaring as if she had won the match when she broke back.

Buoyed by the avoidance of total humiliation, Stephens appeared reborn and reeled off five of the next seven games to tie up the match as Pliskova struggled to maintain the pace. The final set started as a baseline slugfest with both players struggling to hold, until Stephens showed the kind of scintillating form that carried her to the 2017 US Open title to ease away for a memorable come-from-behind victory.

Svitolina arrived in Singapore out of form yet determined to "silence the haters", who she said believed she did not deserve to be in the tournament, and the Ukrainian has played brilliantly to win all three pool matches and her semi-final.

"In the end, it was just about running and chasing every ball... the level was very tough, we were both playing such good tennis, I was just happy to close it out," Svitolina said. A pumped-up Svitolina made the better start, chasing down every ball to earn an early break but the aggressive Bertens broke back as she began to find her range with a blistering forehand loaded with heavy topspin.

Svitolina had been a virtual spectator during the fightback but shook off her passive play and concen-



SINGAPORE: Ukraine's Elina Svitolina hits a return against Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands during their singles match at the WTA Finals tennis tournament in Singapore yesterday. — AFP

trated on depth as opposed to direction, taking advantage of mental lapses from Bertens to claim the opener when her opponent double-faulted.

A pep talk from coach Raemon Sluiter seemed to

help Bertens iron out her unforced errors but the world number nine collapsed completely with the second set at her mercy, failing to convert four opportunities to level the match. — Reuters

Former England manager Hoddle 'seriously ill'

LONDON: Former England manager Glenn Hoddle has been hospitalised after being taken ill on his 61st birthday yesterday. Hoddle fell ill shortly after he began his punditry duties on BT Sport—the show was cancelled as a result.

BT presenter Jake Humphrey said Hoddle was "taken seriously ill at the BT Sport studio this morning". He added on social media: "Everyone of us is right with you Glenn, sending love and strength." Chelsea—who Hoddle managed—tweeted a message of support.

"Our thoughts are with former Blues boss Glenn Hoddle who has been taken seriously ill on

his 61st birthday. We're right with you Glenn." Hoddle, capped 53 times for England and was a star midfielder for Tottenham Hotspur, was considered to be one of the best players of his generation. He won the FA Cup and UEFA Cup with Spurs and also played for Monaco, Swindon and Chelsea. Hoddle went on to manage England after spells in charge of Swindon and Chelsea and took them to the 1998 World Cup finals where they reached the second round bowing out on penalties to Argentina.

He lost his job the following year after controversial remarks he made suggesting disabled people were paying the price for sins in past lives in an interview with The Times—the remarks all the stranger as he was an ardent fundraiser for disabled peoples charities.

He went on to manage Southampton, his beloved Spurs and then finally Wolverhampton Wanderers but since he left them in 2006 he has steadily built up a reputation as a respected pundit. — AFP



Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE	
Crystal Palace FC v Arsenal FC	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Burnley FC v Chelsea FC	16:30
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
Manchester United v Everton FC	19:00
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
SPANISH LEAGUE PRIMERA	
Getafe CF v Real Betis	14:00
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
FC Barcelona v Real Madrid CF	18:15
beIN SPORTS HD 1	
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Deportivo Alaves v Villarreal CF	20:30
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Sevilla FC v Huesca	22:45
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE	
US Sassuolo Calcio v Bologna FC	14:30
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
Genoa CFC v Udinese Calcio	17:00
beIN SPORTS	
Cagliari Calcio v AC Chievo Verona	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
spal v Frosinone Calcio	17:00
beIN SPORTS	
AC Milan v UC Sampdoria	20:00
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
SSC Napoli v AS Roma	22:30
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
GERMAN BUNDESLIGA	
FC Nuremberg v Eintracht Frankfurt	15:30
beIN SPORTS HD 5	
RB Leipzig v Schalke 04	17:30
beIN SPORTS HD 5	
SV Werder Bremen v Bayer 04 Leverkusen	20:00
beIN SPORTS HD 5	
FRENCH LEAGUE	
Stade Rennais v Stade Reims	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6	
FC Girondins de Bordeaux v OGC Nice	19:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6	
Olympique Marseille v Paris Saint-Germain	23:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6	

AI urges Juventus, AC Milan to shun Italian Super Cup in Saudi

DUBAI: Amnesty International (AI) yesterday urged football clubs AC Milan and Juventus to shun the Italian Super Cup—a game Saudi Arabia is set to host in January—over the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

"Big clubs like Juventus and AC Milan need to understand that their participation in sporting events in the country could be used as a form of 'sportswashing'," Hogarth said.

Khashoggi, a Saudi journalist critical of his government, was killed after entering his country's Istanbul consulate on October 2 to obtain paperwork to marry his Turkish fiancée.

"We'd urge these Italian clubs to think twice about the signal this sends out to sports fans across the world and the brave activists who stand up for human rights in Saudi Arabia," Hogarth said.

The murder has dealt a serious blow to Saudi Arabia's image, which Prince Mohammed has sought to improve since his appointment as heir to the throne last year. He has ended a ban on women driving and loosened other restrictions in the kingdom.

The 2018/2019 Italian Super Cup is scheduled for January 2019 in the Saudi capital Riyadh, and pits last year's Italian Cup winner—Juventus—against the runner up, AC Milan. — AFP

25 All Blacks batter Aussies 37-20 to complete Bledisloe sweep



26 Kohli's third straight ton in vain as West Indies level series



27 Svitolina, Stephens grind out three-set wins to reach Singapore final



Mane sends Liverpool to the top

Bournemouth, Watford continue their fine starts to the season



LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's Senegalese striker Sadio Mane (L) scores their fourth goal during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Cardiff City at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England yesterday. — AFP

LIVERPOOL: Sadio Mane scored twice as Liverpool took advantage of their title rivals' inactivity to go three points clear at the top of the Premier League with a 4-1 win at home to Cardiff yesterday as Bournemouth and Watford both continued their fine starts to the season. Liverpool were the only club who started the weekend among the top five in action yesterday, with reigning champions Manchester City not facing Tottenham Hotspur until tomorrow.

Meanwhile midweek European commitments also meant that Chelsea, like City and Liverpool yet to lose in the Premier League this season, were playing Burnley on Sunday, when in-form Arsenal travel to Crystal Palace and Manchester United welcome Everton to Old Trafford.

Mohamed Salah, now putting a stuttering start to the season behind him, fired Liverpool into a 10th-minute

lead. From a cross into the Cardiff box, Mane's shot was blocked by Sean Morrison but Egypt forward Salah pounced on the rebound for his 33rd goal in 35 games at Anfield.

But as long as the lead was just 1-0, Cardiff were still in the game. Mane, however, doubled Liverpool's lead in the 66th minute when, running on to an Alberto Moreno pass, he smashed a shot into the top corner.

But Liverpool's hopes of a club record 10th successive home clean sheet were dashed in the 77th minute when Callum Paterson turned in a cross deflected by Reds defender Virgil van Dijk. However, two goals inside the final 10 minutes from substitute Xherdan Shaqiri and Mane put the result beyond doubt.

Bournemouth closed on fifth-placed Tottenham with a 3-0 win away to Fulham. Callum Wilson won and then scored a 14th-minute penalty after he was brought

down by Timothy Fosu-Mensah. David Brooks then scored his third goal in four games to double the Cherries' lead in the 72nd minute.

Minutes later, Fulham's day went from bad to worse when captain Kevin McDonald was sent off for a second bookable offence following a late challenge on Brooks.

Wilson rounded out Bournemouth's victory when he scored his second goal five minutes from time at Craven Cottage. Watford were far too strong for Huddersfield in a 3-0 win at Vicarage Road.

They were 2-0 up inside 19 minutes thanks to two well-struck goals. Roberto Pereyra broke the deadlock in the 10th minute with a superb solo effort, collecting the ball out wide on the left and beating six Huddersfield defenders as he cut inside before shooting from the edge of the area.

The Hornets doubled their lead nine minutes later when more dire defending by the visitors allowed Gerard Deulofeu to dribble past Chris Lowe, beat another attempted challenge and then score from a tight angle 15 yards out.

The aptly-named Isaac Success sealed Watford's win 10 minutes from time. Defeat dropped Huddersfield to the bottom of the table after Newcastle, previously propping up the division, managed a point in a goalless draw at home to Southampton.

Elsewhere, Brighton striker Glenn Murray, fresh from being taken off after suffering concussion against Newcastle last week, returned to score his 100th goal for the Seagulls in a 1-0 win at home to Wolves. Bruno fired the ball across goal and Murray side-footed in from close range in the 48th minute. Leicester face West Ham in a late kick-off. —AFP

Ronaldo scores twice as Juve overcome fright to win at Empoli

EMPOLI: Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice, the first a penalty and the second a booming long-range shot, to give Juventus a 2-1 win at Empoli in Serie A yesterday after their lowly opponents took a shock first-half lead.

Promoted Empoli, with one win all season and 18th in the 20-team table, stunned the visitors with a Francesco Caputo goal—the first time Juve had trailed at halftime this season. But the champions turned the match around after the break as Ronaldo took his league tally to seven and left his side top with 28 points out of a possible 30, seven points clear of second-placed Napoli who play today.

Juventus defender Giorgio Chiellini, who was named in the starting lineup, suffered a problem in the warm-up and was replaced by Daniele Rugani.

Empoli played some enterprising football which belied their lowly position and took a shock lead in the 28th minute. Afriyie Acquah

ran half the length of the pitch and his pass was deflected by Juve's Rodrigo Bentancur into the path of Caputo, who curled his shot past Wojciech Szczesny.

Miralem Pjanic fired against the post as Juventus came roaring back in the second half and it was no surprise when they equalised in the 54th minute.

Empoli's Ismael Bennacer lost possession in the box to Paulo Dybala, both players went to ground, the referee awarded a penalty amid Empoli protests and Ronaldo fired a low spot kick past Ivan Provedel.

Sixteen minutes later, the Portuguese forward collected a pass outside the area and fired a dipping, swerving shot past Provedel from 25 metres. — Reuters



EMPOLI: Juventus' Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo jumps for the ball during the Italian Serie A football match Empoli vs Juventus yesterday at the 'Carlo Castellani Stadium' in Empoli. — AFP