



5 Newborn baby found in a small cardboard box



11 Zain Group selected by Huawei to offer Huawei Cloud services in Kuwait, MENA



28 Barcelona thrash Real Madrid 5-1 in Clasico



In first, Israeli anthem plays in Abu Dhabi after judo gold

Israeli minister makes history in United Arab Emirates

JERUSALEM: Israel's national anthem was played at a judo tournament in Abu Dhabi yesterday after one of its athletes won gold in what was thought to be a first in the Gulf emirate. The playing of the national anthem and Israeli Sports Minister Miri Regev's attendance at the tournament were the latest milestones in the country's bid for rapprochement with Arab states.

Regev cried and sang along as the anthem played, according to footage broadcast on Israeli television. Her presence in the United Arab Emirates capital also marked the first time a minister from Israel attended a sports event in the Gulf, Israeli officials said. It was the first time an Israeli delegation participated there under its national flag, after the International Judo Federation

warned UAE organizers they would cancel the competition unless all athletes were allowed to participate on an equal footing.

Last year, tournament organizers in Abu Dhabi banned the flag and national anthem of Israel, which has no diplomatic relations with Gulf states. Sagi Mukri won gold yesterday at the Abu Dhabi Grand Slam and sang along to his national anthem as he stood on the podium. He called it in remarks to Israeli television "one of the greatest moments of my career". Last year, Israeli judoka Tal Flicker sang Israel's anthem himself after winning gold since its playing was banned.

Before Mukri won gold, Regev wrote on her Facebook page: "I'm very proud to be here in Abu Dhabi repre-

senting Israel along with the judo team and our flag." "I hope we win a gold medal and experience the thrilling moment of playing Hatikvah in the Abu Dhabi arena," she said, referring to Israel's national anthem. Three Israeli judokas won bronze medals on Saturday, the first day of the Grand Slam, with Regev given the honor of awarding the medals for one of the categories. Regev's trip to the UAE, which began on Thursday, coincided with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to neighboring Oman, the first for an Israeli leader since 1996.

On the same day, an Israeli gymnastics delegation was in Qatar for the beginning of the world championships being held in Doha. On Monday, Communications Minister Ayoub Kara was to travel

to Dubai to represent Israel at an international internet security conference, his office said.

Israeli Transportation Minister Yisrael Katz will also travel to Oman next week for a transportation conference, according to his office. Israel currently has full diplomatic relations with only two Arab states, Egypt and Jordan. Netanyahu has long sought a rapprochement with other Arab states, citing in part concerns over their common enemy Iran. Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory, however, remains a major obstacle to official recognition from Arab countries. Speaking of his Oman visit at a cabinet meeting yesterday, Netanyahu said it was thanks to his "diplomatic efforts" in the Arab world, adding: "There will be more." — AFP

Leicester City boss feared dead after helicopter crash

LEICESTER: Leicester City's charismatic Thai boss was feared dead yesterday after a helicopter belonging to the billionaire crashed and burst into flames in the football stadium car park moments after taking off from the club's pitch. Neither the police nor the club would confirm or deny whether Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, a regular at matches who flies to and from home games by helicopter, was on board the aircraft when it appeared to develop a mechanical problem in its rear propeller.

The BBC, Sky News and several British papers quoted sources saying the 60-year-old and a group of others boarded the blue helicopter from the middle of the pitch once the stadium emptied after Saturday's 1-1 draw with West Ham. Leicester City said only that it was assisting police with a "major incident" and Vichai's King Power duty-free shopping empire was not commenting. Local police thanked fans for their "patience" in a tweet issued nearly 18 hours after the crash. "We are working with a number of other agencies to get an update out to the public and press," the Leicestershire police force said in a tweet.

Images showed orange balls of flame engulfing the



Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha

wreckage in the car park at King Power Stadium. "Literally the engine stopped and I turned around, and it made a bit of a whirring noise. It turned silent, blades started spinning and then there was a big bang," freelance photographer Ryan Brown told BBC Radio 5 Live. Prayers and words of warm praise poured in from across Britain and beyond for the Thai boss who many credit with spurring Leicester's against-all-odds Premier League title victory in 2016.

A steady stream of grieving fans laid down football scarves and shirts outside the home fans' entrance as aviation experts picked through the helicopter's charred remains.

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LEICESTER: A woman adds flowers to a growing pile of tributes outside Leicester City Football Club's King Power Stadium in Leicester, eastern England yesterday after a helicopter belonging to the club's Thai chairman Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha crashed outside the stadium the night before. — AFP photos

MP urges govt to tax expats for the 'air they breathe'

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Just back from an International Parliamentary Conference where she was elected as a deputy committee chairman, MP Safa Al-Hashem didn't waste much time in calling again for taxing expatriates for the air they breathe in the country. Hashem, the only female member in the 50-seat Assembly, said that "expatriates must be charged for everything, for medical services, infrastructure and again I say for the air they breathe here".

The lawmaker was objecting to a proposal by the government to study a taxation law as part of the government development plan. "It will be applied on Kuwaitis only on my dead body" screamed Hashem at a

press conference in the National Assembly after attending a meeting for the committee entrusted to find jobs for Kuwaitis by replacing expatriate jobs.

She insisted that no taxation or charges will be imposed on Kuwaitis before the government amends the highly demographic structure which is highly in favor of expatriates, saying there are just under 1.4 million Kuwaitis for as many as 3.2 million expatriates. She said that the government must first find jobs for the 14,000 unemployed Kuwaitis and tackle the problem of over 110,000 illiterate expatriates in the country, asking "why are they here in the first place".

In the meantime, the National Assembly Legal and Legislative Committee voted yesterday to maintain the membership of two lawmakers despite receiving final jail sentences triggering a constitutional and political controversy. The Cassation Court in July sentenced MPs Waleed Al-Tabtabai and Jamaan Al-Harbash to jail along with 13 former MPs and opposition activists for entering the National Assembly building during a protest in November 2011.

MP Mohammad Al-Dallal said the committee's decision, taken by five votes against two, was based on arti-



MP Safa Al-Hashem

cles in the constitution, the election law and the internal charter of the National Assembly. He said these articles clearly give the National Assembly the right to debate whether to revoke the membership of lawmakers or not, adding that the Assembly used the same articles to keep the membership of MP Khalaf Dumaiter after he was convicted in a final court order.

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Qatar abolishes exit visa system

DOHA: Long-awaited reform of Qatar's controversial exit visa system, which requires foreign workers to obtain their bosses' permission to leave the country, came into force yesterday, the government said. "Law No 13 of 2018... regulating the entry, exit and residency of expatriates is being implemented starting today," the interior ministry announced on Twitter.

Qatar announced in September it had approved legislation to scrap the visa system - a lynchpin of the country's "kafala", or sponsorship, system which many liken to modern-day slavery. Under the new law, all but five percent of a company's workforce - reportedly those in the most senior positions - can leave without prior permission from employers.

Those not allowed to leave Qatar "for any reason" can file a complaint to the Expatriate Exit Grievance Committee that will "take a decision within three working days", the ministry said. Some anxious workers took to government social media websites yesterday, to ask how they could find out if they were among the five per cent. Qatar's labor minister, Issa Al-Nuaimi, said he was "exceptionally pleased" with the implementation of the new law.

"We are proud that the state of Qatar has become an example and a model for labor reform in the region," he said. Nuaimi added that Qatar wanted to give workers in the country, the "best standards possible". Scrapping the exit permit is the biggest announcement made so far since Qatar agreed last November to enter into a three-year agreement with the UN's International Labor Organization (ILO) to oversee reform. The ILO's Houtan Homayounpour, head of the labor agency's project office in Doha, said on Twitter that the reform "will have a direct and positive impact on the lives of migrant workers".

The football World Cup 2022 host has come under intense pressure to reform its labor laws, which have been repeatedly denounced by human rights groups. Critics have long argued for abolition of the exit visa system. Research published last year by rights group

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Almost 2 million Iranian pilgrims head for Arbaeen

MEHRAN: At the border town of Mehran between Iran and Iraq, a sea of pilgrims surges forwards, en route to one of the biggest religious pilgrimages on the planet. Iranian organizers say more than 1.8 million Iraqi visas have been issued for Iranians this year for the Arbaeen pilgrimage which culminates tomorrow as the devout head, many by foot, to Karbala and one of the holiest sites of Shiite Islam, the shrine of Imam Hussein.

Men and women, young and old, toddlers in prams and elderly pushed in wheelchairs - they converge from all over the Islamic republic. "I go because my heart demands it of me, I go because of my love for Imam Hussein," said Morteza Taghikhani, a 39-year-old auto worker, who had already been on the pilgrimage five times before.

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MEHRAN: Iranian Shiite Muslim pilgrims walk at the Iranian-Iraqi Mehran border as they head towards the central Iraqi shrine city of Karbala, ahead of the Arbaeen religious festival which marks the 40th day after Ashura. — AFP

Local

Stacked agenda ahead as Kuwaiti parliament reconvenes tomorrow

Two grilling motions to be debated in opening session

KUWAIT: Kuwait's National Assembly will start its regular session of the 15th legislative term tomorrow, with a pair of ministers set to be questioned by lawmakers. The agenda will proceed after speeches by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and chief lawmaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem.

The session is expected to open with the grilling of the Kuwaiti prime minister, as requested by legislators Mohammad Al-Mutair and Shuaib Al-Muwaizri, on grounds of grave violations including "undermining national institutions and human rights violations." The lawmakers also accuse the prime minister of misconduct related to "constitutional infractions

and adopting a double standard policy." Similarly, Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Adel Al-Kharafi will be



Report on verdict against two MPs discussed

grilled as well, as per a motion filed by MP Riyadh Al-Adsani. Other issues on the agenda include a report by a legislative and legal

committee over verdicts handed by the Court of Cassation against MPs Dr Walid Al-Tabtabai and Dr Jamaan Al-Harbish.

Lawmakers also face other tasks, including assembling a committee to respond to the Amiri speech, as well as electing other 11 permanent committees in the National Assembly. These include committees on petitions and complaints, internal affairs and defense, finance and economics, legislative and legal affairs, in addition to education, culture and extensions. They will also elect members of the Health, Social and Labor Committee, the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Public Utilities Committee, the Budget and Final Account Committee, the Public Funds Protection Committee and the Priorities Committee. — KUNA



The National Assembly

PACI's new branch in Fahaheel to serve one million people



KUWAIT: Officials pose for a group photo during the opening ceremony of PACI's new branch in Fahaheel Cooperative Society.— KUNA

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) announced yesterday that it opened a new branch in Fahaheel Cooperative Society to serve over one million citizens and residents in Al-Ahmadi governorate. The new branch would lessen the pressure on the main headquarters in Hawalli governorate, which serves

49 areas, Director General of Kuwait's PACI Musaed Al-Asousi said in a statement. The new branch came after the successful opening of a similar one in Al-Jahra governorate, noted Asousi, adding that the Ministry of Public Works would supervise the construction of the new facility. — KUNA

All Kuwait Airways' flights to London depart from T4: DGCA

KUWAIT: Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) announced yesterday that all Kuwait Airways' flights to Heathrow Airport, London would start departing from T4 building. DGCA General Director Yousef Al-Fouzan said in a statement that the first flight of Kuwait Airways to London has departed in the presence of the British Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Davenport. All Kuwait Airways flights will commence their departure to the remaining destinations at the end of November.

The General Director expressed his gratitude towards the government for its support in operating the new T4 building. Fouzan also noted that the first operations of the T4 building was in departing flights to Dubai and other GCC cities, and the next phase would witness all destination of Kuwait Airways. Kuwait Airways was established in 1953 by a group of businessmen. Initially, the government took 50 percent of the airway's shares and in 1962, the government possessed full shares in the corporation. — KUNA



KUWAIT: DGCA General Director Yousef Al-Fouzan (center right) and the British Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Davenport (center left) tour the T4 building.— KUNA

Ooredoo supported entrepreneurs in Souq Murouj



Mijbil Alayoub



KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait is proudly partnered with Souq Murouj for the third consecutive year. The first market was held last Friday, October 26, 2018, in which Ooredoo supported local entrepreneurs and businesses. The market, which was held at Murouj Complex, included an Ooredoo dedicated booth, local farm produce, artisanal food products and crafts, with a 'street food' section aimed at highlighting the culinary diversity of Kuwait's local food community. The market also offered a section dedicated for children's activities. It will be held once a month on weekends, until March 2019.

Commenting on this sponsorship, Ooredoo Kuwait Senior Director of Corporate Communications Mijbil Alayoub said: "We are happy to be supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs through this engaging project. This sponsorship comes in tandem with our social responsibility strategy, which in turn is based on our core values of caring, connecting and challenging. We look forward to meeting those young enthusiastic small business owners as well as our valued customers at the next market."



Kuwaiti visitors to Germany on the rise: Diplomat

KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti official has said that the increasing number of Kuwaiti visitors to Germany was a testament of the development of relations between the two countries. Osama Al-Shaheen, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Consular Affairs, said Germany was a favorite destinations for tourism, medical treatment or trade.

Kuwait and Germany are keen on addressing any obstacles facing citizens from both sides, said Shaheen. He was speaking at a news conference following the inauguration of Germany's visa office in Arraya Tower in downtown Kuwait City managed by VFS Global, a move he described as 'positive'.

German Ambassador to Kuwait Karl Bergner said his country issued around 60,000 visas for Kuwaiti nationals last year. "This number is really high compared with European countries that grant the Schengen visas, which actually shows how solid ties are between

Germany and Kuwait," he added.

Bergner, who commended VFS for its expertise in handling visa services in the Arabian Gulf and Middle East countries, urged people wishing to spend summer holiday in Germany to apply for the visa before start of season, like in March and April, so they avoid crowded days. The Ambassador said it would take three days to issue the Schengen visa.

Marisa Kollenberg, Consul General at the German Embassy, said there might be a delay beyond the three-day period because of additional checks about the applicant or some technical difficulties. She said the Embassy was keen on rapid issuance of visas for critical cases. A visa application may be declined, added Kollenberg, because the application was incomplete. She said it was difficult to grant visas for housemaids because "the German labor law has different requirements when compared to other countries." — KUNA



KUWAIT: German Ambassador to Kuwait Karl Bergner (second from right) and other officials inaugurate Germany's visa office in Arraya Tower yesterday.— KUNA

Local

Amir receives Sultan ul-Bohra; Kuwait Airways' new CEO

Kuwait flag carrier chief thankful for leadership's support



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Sultan ul-Bohra Dr Mufaddal Saifuddin and his accompanying delegation. — KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Sultan ul-Bohra Dr Mufaddal Saifuddin.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Minister of Finance Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf, as well as Kuwait Airways Board Chairman Youssef Al-Jassem and CEO Kamel Al-Awadhi.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Minister of Finance Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf, as well as Kuwait Airways Board Chairman Youssef Al-Jassem and CEO Kamel Al-Awadhi.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Kuwait Airways Board Chairman Youssef Al-Jassem and CEO Kamel Al-Awadhi.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Seif Palace the visiting Sultan ul-Bohra Dr Mufaddal Saifuddin and his accompanying delegation. The receptions were attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir also receives Minister of Finance Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf and Kuwait Airways Board Chairman Youssef Al-Jassem as they presented to His Highness Kuwait Airways new CEO Kamel Al-Awadhi.

Hajraf and Jassem later presented Awadhi to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Jassem and Awadhi later yesterday.

Jassem said after the meeting that Kuwait Airways is 'proud' of efforts on the part of the country's leaders to propel the airline to new levels. "I am honored to have been given the opportunity to meet His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince," Jassem told

the press after the meeting. He thanked the Kuwaiti leaders for their support, saying it would prove valuable to the Kuwait Airways' quest for prominence.

Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir received His Highness the Crown Prince, His Highness the Prime Minister, and National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy

Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.

In other news, His Highness the Amir sent yesterday a cable of congratulations to President of Ireland Michael Higgins on his re-election for another term. His Highness the Amir wished Higgins the best and good health, as well as further progress and development to the Kuwaiti-Irish relationship. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister sent similar cables to President Higgins. — KUNA

Road projects in Kuwait practical application of Vision 2035

KUWAIT: Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Engineer Hussam Al-Roumi said yesterday that the current road projects in the country were a practical application of Kuwait Vision 2035. During an inspection tour of the new Al-Wafra road project, Minister Al-Roumi said in a statement to the press that these projects aimed to facilitate traffic on the short and long terms and will contribute to the security and safety of roads.

Meanwhile, Director of the General Authority for Roads and Land Transport, Engineer Ahmad Al-Hossan, who accompanied the minister during his tour, said the completion percentage of the current road projects was high and ahead of the timetable, referring to Al-Wafra road project, which reached 60 Percent of completion. "The project includes nine traffic intersections most of them are upper bridges along the road which extends to 41 kilometers," he added.

The value of the project contract amounted to KD 84.65 million (\$278 million) and will be completed in late 2019. Relatedly, constructions of the road connecting Al-Zour and Al-Wafra reached 44 percent. The total length of roads in this project is 130 km, with 17 traffic intersections mostly upper bridges, with a contract value of about KD 64.9 million (\$213 million), Hossan noted. The General Authority for Roads and Land Transport has developed an integrated plan to implement 74 projects to develop roads and infrastructure to facilitate traffic in the country with a budget of KD 500 million (\$1.65 billion) allocated for these projects. — KUNA

Speaker receives Kuwait-British Friendship Society members



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem received at his office yesterday general coordinator of Kuwait-British Friendship Society Abdullah Bishara. Society member Bader Al-Kharafi attended the reception. — KUNA

NSA chief, UK envoy discuss ties

KUWAIT: The chief of the National Security Apparatus (NSA) Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah met with United Kingdom Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Davenport yesterday. According to a press release, both sides discussed bolstering cooperation, bilateral relations and issues of common interest on regional and international levels. — KUNA



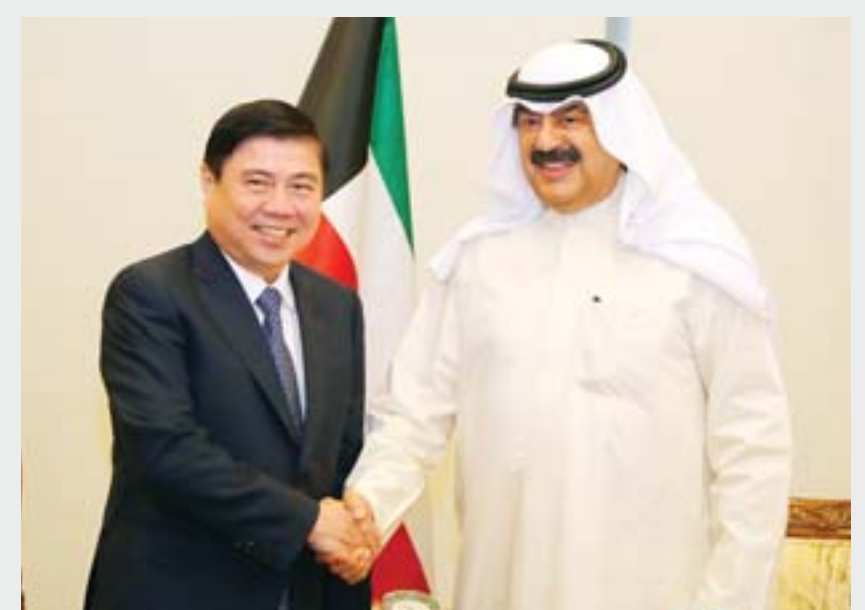
KUWAIT: The chief of the National Security Apparatus (NSA) Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah meets with United Kingdom Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Davenport. — KUNA

Deputy FM receives Ho Chi Minh official

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met yesterday with the visiting Ho Chi Minh City Mayor and Chairman of People's Committee in Vietnam Nguyen Thanh Phong. During the reception, bilateral relation and means to enhance them, in addition to latest international and regional updates, were discussed. The reception was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for Asia Affairs Ambassador Ali Al-Saeed, Assistant Foreign Minister for the

Deputy Foreign Minister's Office Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar, and Kuwait's Consul General at Ho Chi Minh Khaled Al-Mutairi.

In other news, Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday congratulated his newly-appointed Iraqi counterpart Mohammad Ali Al-Hakim, wishing him well in his new position. The Kuwaiti top diplomat expressed his well wishes in a phone conversation he had with the Iraqi official, where both looked forward to more progress in bilateral relations, a statement by the ministry of foreign affairs said. The Iraqi foreign minister was thankful for the goodwill gesture, wishing the Gulf neighbor continued prosperity and development. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with Ho Chi Minh City Mayor and Chairman of People's Committee in Vietnam Nguyen Thanh Phong. — KUNA

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Sunrise at Al-Egaila beach. — Photo by Nasser Al-Fodari (KUNA)

Kuwaiti leadership eager to offer all support to youth: Official

Ministry announces 4th Youth Excellence, Creativity Award

LONDON: Kuwait's Information Minister and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri affirmed Saturday the Kuwaiti leadership's keenness, headed by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, to support youth's education and development. Jabri's remarks, made on his behalf by the ministry's Assistant Undersecretary Mohammad bin Naji, addressed participants of the 54th Conference of National Union of Kuwaiti Students - United Kingdom and Ireland.

The political leadership has provided thousands of educational scholarships for Kuwaiti male and female students to study abroad, bin Naji said. The government realizes the importance in investing in youth potentials as a foundation

for launching Kuwait's new future, he noted, expressing his pride in NUKS-UK's role and efforts since its establishment in 1950. "Our precious country expects your efforts to earn your educational degrees as it firmly believes in the significance of your role in building Kuwait's future," said bin Naji. He also reiterated the political leadership's support of all activities by Kuwaiti students in Britain and other countries around the world, stressing the importance of such activities in introducing Kuwait and highlighting its humanitarian and development role.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Ambassador to the UK Khaled Al-Duwaisan said the number of Kuwaiti students in the Kingdom is constantly on the rise, adding such a develop-

ment is a source of pride since knowledge is the cornerstone of societies' development. The students' number has doubled over the past five years, surpassing 5,500 males and females, Duwaisan, also Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in London, indicated. He expressed pride in his country's students for their renowned positive attitude and good behavior, adding such qualities have made them the top-ranking representatives of their country abroad.

Excellence and Creativity Award

In other news, the Fourth Youth Excellence and Creativity Award was announced by the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs yesterday. Undersecretary at the Ministry

Safeeq Omar said in a press conference that the award was part of the country's sustainable development plans for the youth. The award allocates KD 100,000 (\$300,000) for winners of the competition, said Omar who affirmed that the state would always encourage creativity and excellence among the youth of Kuwait. Assistant Undersecretary at the Ministry of Youth Meshal Al-Subai'ee said meanwhile that youth were encouraged to submit entries within various categories including sports, culture, arts, and others. Participants, whether individuals or groups, should be between the ages of 14 and 35, indicated the official, adding that projects submissions would be through the Ministry's website on December 31, 2018. — KUNA

Gulf Bank tests employees for diabetes

DUBAI: Gulf Bank's head office played host to the Dasman Diabetes Institute, on Thursday, October 25th, providing employees with free diabetes checks. Raising awareness of the dangers of diabetes, as well as the importance of early detection.

With the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon approaching on November 17th, Gulf Bank continues to support employees by offering free blood tests to check for blood glucose and cholesterol levels. The check-up also included blood pressure, height and weight measurements. The test's aim was to raise awareness on the growing diabetes issue in Kuwait and stress the importance of regular checks. Speaking on the event, Ahmad Al-Amir, Assistant General Manager for External Communications, Gulf Bank, said: "The health and wellbeing of our Gulf Bank family is essential to us, especially as they prepare for the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon. Encouraging the community to live a healthy and active lifestyle is also an important pillar of our corporate social responsibility strategy.

Through our partnership with Dasman Diabetes Institute, we also raised awareness of the larger issue of diabetes. We, at Gulf Bank, thank the institute for taking the time to educate our employees in the importance of regular screenings, as well as the role fitness and exercise play in combatting this issue."

Tarek Aleryan, Senior Public Relations and Media Manager at Dasman Diabetes Institute, which was founded by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences said of the event: "It is the Institute's mission to promote health awareness in general and address the diabetes epidemic in Kuwait. We are delighted to be working with Gulf Bank to raise awareness of diabetes, through education, prevention and self-care."

In addition to taking part in this event, Dasman Diabetes Institute are also supporters of next month's Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, taking place 17 November 2018. They will be providing healthcare staff during the event. For event registration and more information, please visit www.gulf-bank642marathon.com or access the Instagram account @GulfBank642. Registration closes on the 16th of November 2018. Donate now to help raise much-needed funds for those suffering from chronic illness or disabilities through the official website of the Red Crescent Society <https://donation.krcs.org/kw/en-US/Campaign>.

Dasman Diabetes Institute signs MoU with Sanofi

KUWAIT: Dasman Diabetes Institute which was established by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Sanofi to enter into two collaborative projects. One collaborative project named 'Kids and Diabetes in School Project (KiDS)' and the second project named 'Good Clinical Practices Training'.

The 'KiDS' program goals are to raise awareness of diabetes and the benefits of healthy diets and physical activities among school-age children, and also to foster a safe and supportive school environment for children with diabetes to manage their diabetes and avoid discrimination. The 'Good Clinical Practices Training' program's goal is to improve the local clinical research capabilities through training, clinical trials and research, thereby improving the quality of life of people with diabetes.

On this occasion, Dr Ebaa Al-Ozairi, Chief Medical Officer at Dasman Diabetes Institute commented by saying: "Dasman Diabetes Institute is known for its outstanding research institution, in addition to its national and leading role in preventing, controlling, and mitigating the impact of diabetes and related conditions in Kuwait."

She added: "Kuwait ranks as one of the top countries in the world as to the number of diabetes diagnosis every year, hence it has become crucial to act to reduce the risk of this disease with increasing awareness."

This MoU was signed in the presence of Marie Masdupuy, the French Ambassador to Kuwait, who commented by saying: "Medical and scientific cooperation have been an important agenda in our valued relations with Kuwait. Building on the expertise of Sanofi as a leading healthcare company, France renews its strong support to the community here in its efforts to address key healthcare topics such as diabetes.

The partnership between Dasman Diabetes Institute and Sanofi represents an opportunity to further a shared mission that benefits the

people, especially the youth, of this country." Finally, Jean-Paul Scheuer, Country Chair and General Manager for Sanofi in Gulf Countries, said: "With a shared goal of improving the lives of children and adults with diabetes in Kuwait, at Sanofi, we are delighted to be part of a strategic partnership with Dasman Diabetes Institute." He added: "Through the implementation of kids program and Good Clinical Practices Training in the country, we further our long standing commitment to improving patient lives and contributing to the growth of healthy societies."



Local

Lawmakers to defy govt attempts to impose taxes on citizens

Fees on services provided to expats could be increased

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: A government-Assembly debate about imposing taxes is back, despite the government's denial that taxes will be imposed in the coming few years and remarks that value-added tax, which has been imposed by Saudi Arabia, UAE and Bahrain, might be put into practice. The parliament's budget committee had stated in May that Kuwait will not implement value-added tax before 2021. In this regard, informed sources said the government's reform plan includes rationalizing financial subsidies such as subsidized food supplies, subsidized construction materials and national labor support, and limiting them to those who really deserve them to stop squandering public funds.

On the other hand, lawmakers have promised that imposing taxes on citizens will never be approved, no matter whether the government files a bill in this regard or not. "The government should instead stop wasting funds in various government sectors and collect over KD 3 billion in debts," the sources quoted some lawmakers as saying.

The sources expected that the fees on services provided to expats should be increased instead and suggested



Govt urged to stop wasting funds

imposing health insurance fees on visitors, increasing residency visa fees and having expats seek medical services in private sector hospitals, leaving the public ones only for citizens.



Delayed projects

The State Audit Bureau issued its report concerning the performance of the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP), which focused on shortages in manpower, namely in legal affairs and strategic planning. The report stressed that since its inception, the KAPP has only executed one project - the first phase of Al-Zour North

Plan with a total cost of KD 2,157 million, adding other projects were delayed pending more studies.

KD 60,000 embezzlement

An Egyptian man working for a private company was arrested in Hawally for embezzling KD 60,000 he had withdrawn from the company's bank account, then claimed that a gang in SUVs attacked him on leaving the bank and stole the money. Security sources said that on checking the bank's surveillance cameras, detectives found that the suspect's allegations were untrue and that he immediately took a taxi to Khaitan after withdrawing the money.

After confronting him with the videos, the suspect confessed to taking the money, but defiantly told detectives that the sum had been transferred to Egypt and that he would never give it back even if they 'cut him to pieces'. Security sources stressed that the money is still in Kuwait, especially since it is hard to smuggle or transfer such a large amount. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Health minister grants grace period for bedoons with expired ID cards

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Health Minister Sheikh Dr Bassel Al-Sabah ordered giving a grace period to bedoons with expired security ID cards of six months starting from Nov 2018 until they can renew the cards. They are also exempt from all medical fees during the grace period. The minister also issued a ministerial decision forming a special committee to study a bill on amending medicine, dentistry and supporting professions' practice law to keep abreast with related scientific developments.



Employees' rights

Chairman of the employees' syndicate at Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (KGOC) Faleh Hindi Al-Ajmi held the company's deputy CEO for financial and administrative affairs responsible for losing employees' rights. He added that the company's legal and administrative affairs staff have been unfair and lack the simplest principles of institutional work. Ajmi added that the syndicate had previously warned the deputy CEO of the bad performance of the legal and administrative affairs department, with which the syndicate tried to cooperate, but failed due to the department's inflexibility.

10,000 Lyrica packets leaked into black market

KUWAIT: Nearly 10,000 packets of Lyrica drug, used for nerve pain, have been leaked into the black market, Al-Qabas reported yesterday quoting 'informed sources'. The incident is being dealt with between an importing company and a logistics company - both listed on the stock market - as efforts are being made to cover up the issue because it has economic, health and social ramifications, the sources said.

They added that the importing company is carrying out internal investigations and is exchanging charges with the logistics company on how the medicine was leaked. The total estimated value of the drug is KD 4 mil-

lion, bearing in mind the price of a 20-tablet pack is KD 40, while the price of one tablet in the black market is KD 20 for users and addicts. It is expected the issue will go beyond the two companies to reach the health and interior ministries to determine exactly what happened.

Newborn found

An Asian building janitor called police and told them that he found a newborn baby in a small cardboard box in front of the building, Al-Rai reported. Police went along with paramedics and took the two-week-old baby, in poor health, to Farwaniya Hospital.

Policeman insulted

A police officer lodged a complaint against a citizen for insulting him after he accused him of taking advantage of his authority at a checkpoint, reported Al-Rai. When officers questioned the man at a checkpoint in Hawally, he objected and started shouting. The citizen was detained for questioning.

Bayt.com launches AfterHire platform

DUBAI: Bayt.com, the leading online jobsite in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), has just announced the launch of its all-new employee onboarding platform 'AfterHire'. This configurable platform is specifically built and designed using cutting edge technology with the intention of revolutionizing the painstaking process of talent onboarding, and ensuring that newly hired talent are efficiently assimilated to the company and fully productive in their new job roles.

AfterHire can be used by employers as a tool to reduce effort, time and cost spent on manual and decentralized employee onboarding efforts. An effective onboarding program is also proven to dramatically reduce employee churn and get higher employee productivity at a faster rate.

The onboarding process requires companies to go through a wide range of steps such as paperwork and legalities, team introductions, equipment provisioning, learning activities, goal setting and KPIs, and granting access to systems. How these activities are structured and carried can have a huge impact on talent productivity and retention.

Poor and ineffective onboarding programs can cause various setbacks that a large number of companies are susceptible to, such as increasing turnover rates and reducing employee productivity. "AfterHire is a great example of how Bayt.com strives to find new innovative ways to align technology and software with practicality and efficiency for the talent management challenge. With AfterHire, employers wouldn't need to stress over the long and complex process of onboard-

ing and engaging with talent. They can just use this easy to use configurable platform, which includes various effective features that can pave the way to a more efficient and organized employee onboarding process," said Muhammad Younas, Business Product Director, Bayt.com.

AfterHire encompasses a wide-range of features that employers can take advantage of; it allows employers to design their own onboarding process using a Workflow Editor, as well as keep their new hires engaged by assigning them onboarding tasks with the ability to give them clarifications on a task through the comments feed. Most importantly, AfterHire helps automate paperwork through online forms, it quickly assigns tasks to appropriate personnel to streamline mundane activities like equipment provisioning and financial formalities. Moreover, employees can be assigned learning and training tasks to build up their job knowledge. With AfterHire, HR gets a high-level overview of each employee's onboarding process.

Younas adds: "The fact that Nine in ten Middle East employers plan to hire in the next year, according to the latest Bayt.com Middle East Job Index, emphasizes that companies are always in need of talent, and that there's always going to be a company that is looking to hire. But, are all employers well equipped to deal with onboarding and retaining their new talent in an effective way? And are all new hires able to adapt to their new role without a well-structured onboarding program? Not always. That's what makes AfterHire so needed! It can act as the backbone of talent retention goals."

AfterHire is compatible with Talentera (Branded Career Channels) as well as external HRMS systems, allowing companies to integrate their various talent acquisition and management systems and streamline their activities. Learn more about AfterHire here.

Diapers could be added to subsidized supplies

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is considering restructuring the subsidized supplies system for citizens by introducing several adjustments and improvements. The latest survey by the ministry on subsidized supplies showed 40 percent of recipients want diapers to be added to the system, sources said, adding the ministry is studying results of the survey and its ability to meet citizens' demands by adding new items and canceling others. Minister Khaled Al-Roudhan issued a ministerial decree to include dates to the ration card, provided they are produced by Kuwaiti farms and packed by Kuwaiti factories. As for construction material, the sources said one of the options is to pay citizens the subsidy value of KD 30,000 in cash, but a decision has not been taken yet. — Al-Qabas

Legalese

Children of Kuwaiti mothers

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

In Kuwait, we have been blessed as women have many rights and freedoms that other women in the region have been denied. One thing though that we are yet to achieve is being able to pass on our rights to our children and spouses.

One campaign that caught my attention is @grayarea_kw, that is trying to create awareness on legal and social issues that pertain to Kuwaiti mothers with non-Kuwaiti children. I am always keen on speaking on equality and how the law plays a part in this, and I have always spoken about expats and their rights. But one thing that I haven't touched on before is expats with Kuwaiti mothers and how they are treated in their mothers' country. I hope you find today's article useful and you get the chance to check out @grayarea_kw.

Understanding the situation

Question: I am marrying a non-Kuwaiti man - I understand there will be consequences in the future with my kids, but is there anything I should be aware of and keep in mind?

Fajer: There's so much to think of in such a situation from a legal point of view. Keep in mind too that laws keep changing, and there's no lawyer or advisor that can predict that far ahead in the future. One thing is for sure though - it is good to research and understand the situation. Your situation will also depend highly on the nationality of your husband and it's good to know what are the laws and regulations in that country too.

Keep in mind that your children will not be treated as expats, but also not as Kuwaitis. They will need a visa to be in Kuwait - this would be under you - if they aren't working. They will receive a free education, but that's about it. There will also be issues if you own a house or property in Kuwait that you want to pass on to your children. These are all aspects that should be discussed with your lawyers, and much more.

I really do hope that change comes through and that Kuwaiti women are able to pass on their rights to those whom they love and call immediate family.

For questions or queries, please email us at info@tl-legal.com.



KUWAIT: Jahra cleanliness and road occupancy department continued its field campaigns. Director Fahd Al-Quraifa said inspectors had a plan to determine locations of hawkers and unlicensed grocery stores, while nine mobile groceries were impounded for being unlicensed. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun



Sri Lanka political crisis begins to escalate

The German killer nurse who took himself for God



JERUSALEM: An Ultra-Orthodox Jewish man walks in a street littered with election campaign posters for the upcoming Jerusalem municipal elections. —AFP

Palestinians debate value of vote boycott

Palestinian voter turnout was less than 1% in the last vote

JERUSALEM: As Jerusalem voters go to the polls tomorrow for municipal elections, Palestinians are debating not which candidate to back — but whether to cast their ballots at all. The vast majority of the disputed city's roughly 300,000 Palestinians are expected to boycott the polls again, despite calls by a minority to use the elections to seize influence in a city under full Israeli control for decades.

Rami Nasrallah, director general of East Jerusalem's International Peace and Cooperation Center think-tank, sees little to gain from voting. "I'm not willing to recognize the political rules of the game and to recognize or legitimize the Israeli occupation," he said. Israel captured the city's east and the surrounding West Bank in the 1967 Six Day War, later annexing East Jerusalem in a move never recognized by the international community.

Palestinians claim it as the capital of their future state. Palestinian voter turnout was less than one percent in the last local vote in 2013, according to the Palestinian Academic Society for International Affairs. Municipalities and local councils across Israel will hold polls tomorrow. In Jerusalem a small number of Palestinian candidates are running for the council, but others have dropped out after criticism, intimidation and legal issues.

One of those who withdrew was Aziz Abu Sarah, who had even announced his intention to run for mayor. He said it was time for Palestinians to "rethink" their boycott, pointing out that over 50 years Israel had moved around 200,000 settlers into east Jerusalem. "We are losing Jerusalem every day," he said during his campaign.

While he received support from both Palestinians

and Israelis, he also faced a series of attacks and at one event was egged. Like most Palestinian Jerusalemites, Abu Sarah has residency — not Israeli citizenship. He was later told by Israeli authorities that his status as a Jerusalem resident was "being checked" due to his travel and work abroad, meaning he could be stripped of the right to stay in the city, he wrote on Facebook. "Entrenched political interest groups on both sides hope to maintain the status quo, and will stop at nothing to prevent forward progress,"

“
We are losing Jerusalem every day
 ”

Abu Sarah said as he dropped out of the race.

Public services

Among the few Palestinians still in the race is Ramadan Dabash, who heads a list of six Arab candidates running for seats on the city council. He has rare Israeli citizenship and is a former member of the right-wing Likud party run by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. A lot of his votes could actually come from Jewish voters, rather than fellow Palestinians.

part of their fightback. The SDF commander told AFP that his forces had faced a "strong dust storm" and lacked local knowledge of the terrain. Unlike IS, "our forces don't know the area and can't move around in conditions of zero visibility," he said. "Military reinforcements and heavy weapons have been sent to the front and some units will be replaced by more experienced ones," the commander said. "We will launch a new military campaign as soon as those reinforcements have arrived," he said.

More than 300 SDF fighters and around 500 IS jihadists have been killed in the past seven weeks of fighting, the Observatory says. The coalition estimates that 2,000 IS fighters remain in the Hajin area. IS overran large swathes of Syria and neighboring Iraq in 2014, proclaiming a "caliphate" across land it controlled. But the jihadist group has since lost most of that territory to various offensives in both countries. In Syria, its presence has been reduced to parts of the vast Badia desert also in the east and the Hajin pocket. A total of more than 360,000 people have been killed since Syria's war erupted in 2011 with the brutal repression of anti-government protests.

Turkey shells Kurdish militia

In other news, Turkey's military yesterday fired artillery shells at a Kurdish militia in Syria that is backed by the United States but deemed a terrorist group by Ankara, the state-run Anadolu news agency reported. The shells targeted "shelters" of the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) east of the Euphrates River in

Dabash said he wanted to be on the council in order to protect Palestinians, and denied it amounted to recognising Israel's control of the city — which Israel considers its undivided capital. Palestinians who have residency status rather than full Israeli citizenship can't vote in general elections but can for the municipality, which is responsible for most Jerusalem schools as well as rubbish collection and other services.

"Palestinians pay more than 400 million shekels (\$110 million) tax to the municipality," Dabash told AFP. "They receive less than 10 percent of the services." Dabash said his mediation had helped prevent the demolition of dozens of homes in his neighborhood of Sur Baher in east Jerusalem. But Palestinian involvement in the elections has been rejected by the Palestinian Authority, which has limited self-rule in the occupied West Bank.

"Any Palestinian should refuse to be a part of them. We will not accept Jerusalem as the capital of Israel," senior Palestinian official Saeb Erekat told AFP. "What did the PA do for Jerusalemites?" Dabash shot back. "Did they build their hospitals?" But in the streets of east Jerusalem there has been no sign of any election campaigning.

The four leading mayoral candidates all hold conservative views on issues regarding the area's Palestinian residents. Trader Abu Yasser, from Jerusalem's Old City, summed up the views of many Palestinians, saying he wouldn't vote as the elections wouldn't change much. "If the Palestinians in Jerusalem knew they would achieve something from these elections they would have gone against the PA's wishes and voted to get municipal services," he said. — AFP

the Kobane region of northern Syria, Anadolu said.

The strikes come a day after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan hosted a summit in Istanbul on the Syrian conflict with the leaders of Russia, France and Germany, in which they adopted a joint statement committing to work "together in order to create conditions for peace and stability in Syria". It also follows numerous threats by Erdogan to launch a new offensive in Syria east of the Euphrates. On Friday he said he was giving the YPG a "final warning".

Anadolu reported that the strikes targeted YPG positions and trenches on a hill near the eastern bank of the Euphrates, across the river from the city of Jarablus. The YPG is an ally of the US in the fight against the Islamic State group and holds swathes of northern and northeastern Syria. However Ankara is bitterly opposed to the YPG, regarding it as an extension of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has waged a deadly insurgency in Turkey since 1984. The PKK is designated as a terror group by Turkey and its Western allies.

Washington's support of the YPG remains a major point of contention between the US and Turkey, NATO allies who have seen relations deteriorate over the last two years. Both oppose the regime of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, but Turkey's military incursions have recently focused more on Kurdish militias near its border. Turkey has launched two offensives west of the Euphrates since 2016 to repel jihadists from its border and prevent zones under YPG control from joining. — AFP

Iran backlash after top cleric meets reformists

TEHRAN: A hardline member of Iran's powerful Guardian Council was facing a backlash yesterday after criticizing one of the country's top religious figures for meeting with reformist politicians. The dispute reflects the diversity of views within Iran's religious elite and the fact that, well after the 1979 Islamic revolution, some senior Shiite clerics fiercely defend their independence.

The controversy started a fortnight ago when 90-year-old Grand Ayatollah Musa Shobairi Zanjani — considered one of the highest religious authorities and a "marja" (or "source of emulation") for huge numbers of Shiite Muslims — met with ex-president Mohammad Khatami and other members of the reformist camp.

Khatami was president from 1997 to 2005 but has since fallen foul of the system, especially after supporting mass protests in 2009, and is banned from leaving the country or appearing in official media. That meeting drew a shocked response from another leading ayatollah, Mohammad Yazdi, who leads an influential conservative clerical association in Qom, regarded as Iran's religious capital. Yazdi is one of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's appointees to the Guardian Council, a supervisory body that has a veto over all parliamentary laws.

"Following the publication of pictures on social media of you alongside some problematic individuals who have no respect for the system of the Islamic republic and the supreme leader, I hereby state that this issue has caused concern and upset among followers and in the seminaries," Yazdi wrote in an open letter published by the Jamaran news site.

"I would like to remind you that your status and respect are tied to your respect for the ruling Islamic system, the leadership and the status of marjas... and take steps to ensure such matters are not repeated again," he added. To criticize a grand ayatollah in this way was considered beyond the pale for many observers. Abbas Salehi, minister of Islamic culture and guidance, tweeted late Saturday: "We must be careful not to weaken the pure marjas under the banner of preserving the system, and not spoil Shiite historical heritage."

At least one ayatollah resigned from Yazdi's religious association in protest, while another, Ayatollah Hadavi Tehrani, said the "impolite" letter to Zanjani had caused "sadness and sorrow". Responses continued to come from many senior officials and commentators yesterday. "We Shiites are proud that our noble marjas have never gotten permission from any power but glorious God and have not been bound by the constraints of any political and economic bodies," tweeted Elisa Hazrati, a member of parliament and managing director of the reformist Etemad newspaper. — AFP

IS repels US-backed forces from Syria holdout: Monitor

BEIRUT: The Islamic State group has ousted a US-backed coalition of Kurdish and Arab forces from its holdout in eastern Syria, killing dozens of fighters, a monitoring group said yesterday. A Syrian Democratic Forces commander, asking not to be named, confirmed the SDF retreat from the Hajin pocket near the Iraqi border seven weeks into an offensive.

The SDF, who are backed by air strikes of the US-led coalition, launched its campaign to retake the IS holdout on September 10. But they have faced a fierce fightback from the jihadists, including under the cover of sandstorms, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says. "In counterattacks since Friday to Sunday dawn, IS has taken back all positions to which the SDF had advanced inside the Hajin pocket," the monitoring group's chief Rami Abdel Rahman said.

The Observatory reported 72 SDF fighters killed, as IS took advantage of the storm that hampered coalition air cover and dispatched suicide bombers as

International

Synagogue gunman spoke of 'genocide and desire to kill Jews'

A harrowing process of identifying the victims and notifying their families

PITTSBURGH: The Pittsburgh synagogue gunman spoke of "genocide and his desire to kill Jewish people" during his attack, authorities said yesterday, as they identified his 11 victims and worked to console the living. Forty-six-year old suspect Robert Bowers, who was taken into custody after a firefight with police, could face the death penalty after being charged with multiple counts of murder and hate crimes over Saturday's attack.

"During the course of his deadly assault on the people of the synagogue, Bowers made statements regarding genocide and his desire to kill Jewish people," Scott Brady, US Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania, told a news conference. After what they described as a harrowing process of identifying the victims and notifying their families, officials yesterday released the names of all 11 victims of the synagogue shooting.

"After difficult work by the medical examiner's office, all 11 victims were positively identified and next of kin notifications took place," Robert Jones, the FBI agent in charge of the investigation, said at an early-morning press briefing. They victims — three women and eight men, all from Pittsburgh and the city's suburbs — ranged in age from 54 to 97, and included two brothers and one married couple. Their names are: — Joyce Fienberg, 75 — Richard Gottfried, 65 — Rose Mallinger, 97 — Jerry Rabinowitz, 66 — Cecil Rosenthal, 59 and his brother David Rosenthal, 54 — Bernice Simon, 84, and her husband Sylvan Simon, 86 — Daniel Stein, 71 — Melvin Wax, 88 — Irving Younger, 69.



Flood of international condemnation

Unchecked hatred

The Pittsburgh synagogue attack is the deadliest anti-Semitic attack in recent US history, and has sparked a flood of international condemnation and warnings about the rise of hate speech. Pope Francis, at the end of the Angelus prayer in Saint Peter's Square, expressed his sadness at the violence.

President Donald Trump addressed the shooting at length on Saturday, denouncing it as "a wicked act of mass murder," saying: "We must stand with our Jewish brothers and sisters to defeat anti-Semitism and vanquish the forces of hate." The US leader has ordered all flags to be flown at half-staff through October 31 as a mark of "solemn respect" for the victims and will soon to travel to Pittsburgh, where hundreds held a candlelight vigil Saturday night and another vigil was planned for later. The mayor of Pittsburgh appealed, meanwhile, for guns to be taken away from potential hate criminals.

"I think the approach that we need to be looking at is how we take the guns, which is the common denominator of every mass shooting in America, out of the hands of those that are looking to express hatred through murder," Mayor Bill Peduto told a news conference. The Tree of Life Synagogue, whose congregation was founded more than 150 years ago, is located in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood that is historically the heart of Jewish life in greater Pittsburgh. But the shockwave was felt much further, throughout America's Jewish



PITTSBURGH: A woman tries to light a candle across from the Tree of Life Synagogue after a shooting there left 11 people dead in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood. —AFP

community, the largest outside Israel.

In a statement, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum said it "reminds all Americans of the dangers of unchecked hatred." The United States is witnessing a sharp spike in anti-Semitic incidents, surging 57 percent from 2016 to 2017, to 1,986 from 1,267, according to the Anti-Defamation League, a

civil rights group which has tracked anti-Semitism in the United States since the 1970s. Saturday's attack also comes at a time of heightened political tensions — a day after a Trump supporter from Florida was arrested for mailing explosive devices to Democrats and liberals, setting the country on edge ahead of close-fought elections on November 6. —AFP

Mexico honors migrants at Day of the Dead as caravan treks north

MEXICO CITY: Mexico City dedicated its Day of the Dead parade on Saturday to migrants, just as thousands of Central Americans were trekking from the country's southern border towards the United States under pressure from US President Donald Trump to disband. In an twist on the traditional dancing skeletons and marigold-adorned altars making their way down the capital's main thoroughfare, the parade also referenced Mexicans who emigrated as well as foreigners who settled in the capital.

"The parade... is dedicated to migrants, who in their transit to other countries have lost their lives, and who in their passing through the country have contributed to a true 'Refuge City,'" the Mexico City government said on Twitter. In one segment, grey metallic panels representing the Mexico side of the US border wall were stenciled with the phrase, "There are also dreams on this side." Other presentations honored exiled Spaniards, Argentines and Jews, Mexico City's culture ministry said. The event ahead of Nov 1 and 2, when Mexicans observe Day of the Dead in town squares, homes and cemeteries, coincided by chance with the journey of a migrant caravan traveling into Mexico, many fleeing violence and poverty in Honduras and Guatemala. Some plan to seek asylum in Mexico. Others intend to reach the United States, angering Trump who has threatened to close the border and cut aid to Central American nations.

The caravan arrived in the southern state of Oaxaca



ARRIAGA: Honduran migrants taking part in a caravan heading to the US, leave Arriaga on their way to San Pedro Tapanatepec, southern Mexico on October 27, 2018. —AFP

on Saturday and may reach Mexico City as soon as next Friday. City officials will make four shelters available to house the group, according to local media. Their arrival may prompt tension, said Johan Rivera, 36, a parade spectator. "It's delicate... There are lots of things to think through and analyze," he said. The parade, which included dancers portraying monarch butterflies, famous for their long migratory routes, ended at a massive altar decorated with skeleton figures that local officials dedicated to migrants who have died. "Mexico has always, traditionally, been a country of crossings," said Mariana Villalobos, 33, at the parade. "It has a long tradition in accommodating migrants as well as refugees. And the current political situation... shows this is something very much alive." —Reuters

Mattis looks to calm EU allies nervous about INF treaty

PRAGUE: US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said yesterday that the United States was in consultation with its European allies on an arms control treaty, as NATO members urge Washington to try to bring Russia back into compliance with the pact rather than quit it. President Donald Trump said on Oct 20 that Washington planned to quit the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty which Mikhail Gorbachev, the last Soviet leader, and Ronald Reagan had signed in 1987.

Washington has cited Russia's alleged violation of the treaty as its reason for leaving it, a charge Moscow denies. Russia in turn accuses Washington of breaking the pact and says it is working to answer US questions about the pact. "We are in consultations with our European counterparts, I was speaking about it the day before with the German defence minister, and so as I said the consultations continue," Mattis told reporters travelling with him to Prague.

He will be meeting his Czech counterpart and Prime Minister Andrej Babis during a short trip to Prague. Mattis said ministers from NATO would be meeting in Brussels in December and at that point he would have some kind of "culminating point". European members of NATO urged the United States on Thursday to try to bring Russia back into compliance with a nuclear arms control treaty rather than quitting it itself, diplomats said, seeking to avoid a split in the alliance that Moscow could exploit.

European allies see the INF treaty as a pillar of arms control and, while accepting that Moscow is violating it by developing new weapons, they are concerned its collapse could lead to a new arms race with possibly a new generation of U.S. nuclear missiles stationed on the continent.



IISS Manama Dialogue

MANAMA: US Defence Secretary James Mattis addresses the 14th International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Manama Dialogue in the Bahraini capital Manama on October 27, 2018. —AFP

Questions linger

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Sunday that Moscow has started preparing answers to the questions related to the arms control pact delivered by US officials, RIA news agency quoted him as saying. "Just a week ago, a couple of days ahead of the announcement of the (US) aim to leave the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty, Americans via their embassy in Moscow sent the Russian Foreign Ministry an extensive list of questions which are a concern to them," Lavrov said. Interfax news agency quoted Lavrov as saying that his ministry has sent the list to the Defence Ministry and other governmental bodies but the fact that the notice given was short "does not contribute to the sustainable dialogue and predictability (in the US behavior)".

Earlier this week, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Trump's plans to develop new ballistic missiles after the United States quits a landmark arms control pact were "extremely dangerous". Mattis said he had asked his NATO counterparts after the last summit if they had any ideas on how to bring Russia back into compliance of INF treaty, but so far none had come back to him. —Reuters

Ireland votes to lift blasphemy ban

DUBLIN: Ireland has voted to lift a rarely enforced constitutional ban on blasphemy in the latest secular reform for the once staunchly Catholic country, referendum results showed on Saturday. The ban was overturned with 65 percent of voters in favour, following recent votes to allow abortion and same-sex marriage.

"It has always been my view that there is no room for a provision such as this in our constitution. Ireland is rightly proud of our reputation as a modern, liberal society," Justice Minister Charlie Flanagan said. The referendum coincided with a presidential election which saw incumbent Michael D Higgins win a landslide second term — securing a 56-percent vote share in a race of six candidates. The 1937 blasphemy provision makes "matter that is grossly abusive or insulting in relation to matters held sacred by any religion" punishable by up to 25,000 euros (\$28,500). —AFP

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International

Brazil votes with the far-right candidate Bolsonaro favorite

‘God willing, it will be our new independence day’

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil began voting yesterday in a divisive presidential run-off election whose front-runner, far-right former army captain Jair Bolsonaro, is vowing to rescue the country from crisis with a firm grip. Bolsonaro — who has tapped deep anti-establishment anger, but repulsed part of the electorate with his denigrating remarks about women, gays and blacks — faces leftist Fernando Haddad, a former Sao Paulo mayor.

Bolsonaro had an eight- to 10-point lead going in, according to two final opinion polls released Saturday, which gave him about 55 percent of the vote. And while Haddad has made up ground — he trailed by as much as 18 points two weeks ago — it would take a dramatic surge for him to win. “This thing is going to turn around,” Haddad, 55, buoyantly told thousands of supporters at his final campaign rally Saturday. Bolsonaro, 63, made his own final pitch on social media, the only place he has campaigned since an attacker stabbed him in the stomach at a rally last month, sending him to the hospital for three weeks. “God willing, (it) will be our new independence day,” he tweeted.



Divisive, anti establishment times

Rejection vote

Bolsonaro is unabashedly nostalgic for Brazil’s brutal military dictatorship (1964-1985), and has been accused of authoritarian tendencies. He once said the dictatorship’s “mistake” was that it tortured, instead of killing,

leftist dissidents and suspected sympathizers. But in an anti-establishment climate, his law-and-order message has resonated. The election looks set to be decided as much by Brazilians voting against something as for it.

“I’m not very enthusiastic, because I don’t really like either candidate,” Elias Chaim, 23, an engineering student and music producer, told AFP at a polling station facing the legendary beach of Copacabana in Rio de Janeiro. “But I want to vote Haddad, because Bolsonaro’s discourse of hate and intolerance is a risk for our country.” In Sao Paulo, the economic capital, Marcos Kotait, 40, a publicist, said he had “never seen



RIO DE JANEIRO: A Brazilian woman with her baby, votes at a polling station during the second round of the presidential elections. —AFP

such a polarized election. It used to be people would actually vote for what they wanted, and not just against something,” he said.

Country in crisis

Running for the formerly minor Social Liberal Party, Bolsonaro is, according to many political analysts, a symptom of the crises ailing Brazil since the Workers’ Party’s 13 years in power came crashing to an end with the impeachment of Dilma Rousseff in 2016.

Among those crises: Brazil’s economy shrank nearly

seven percent during its worst-ever recession, from 2015 to 2016; the multi-billion-dollar Petrobras scandal has left voters disgusted with the seemingly bottomless corruption of politicians and business executives; and there is widespread outrage over violent crime, in a country that registered a record 63,880 murders last year. Outgoing President Michel Temer, himself implicated in corruption, is set to leave office on January 1 as the most unpopular president in Brazil’s modern democracy. Brazil’s 147 million voters can cast their ballots until 2200 GMT. —AFP

Another nail-biter for Merkel as Hessians go to polls

FRANKFURT AM MAIN: Shifting tectonic plates in German politics are set to mark a second regional election in as many weeks yesterday, threatening fresh aftershocks for Chancellor Angela Merkel’s battered Berlin coalition. The capital’s government quarter has held its breath since Bavarians punished Merkel’s allies — the conservative Christian Social Union (CSU) and centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) — in a state poll earlier this month.

Aiming to damp down infighting that has driven voters from the traditional big parties, leaders urged discipline and no heads rolled before polls opened at 8:00 am (0700 GMT) for 4.4 million voters in Hesse state — just seven percent of the national electorate. “Will Hesse explode the grand coalition?” in Berlin between Merkel’s Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the SPD, top-selling newspaper Bild asked. “Hessen votes, Berlin trembles,” agreed daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung. “The chancellor has never been under so much pressure.”

A bad outcome for either CDU or SPD will uncock a fresh round of finger-pointing and calls to abandon the veteran chancellor’s third loveless “grand coalition”. Most in Hesse are relatively content with their regional government, meaning “there would be no mood pointing towards change among Hessian voters without the intent to send a signal to Berlin,” weekly Welt am Sonntag commented. The first signs of the fallout for Merkel will come at 6:00 pm (1700 GMT) as ballot boxes are closed and the first exit polls published.

Heavy losses

Surveys point to both CDU state premier and loyal Merkel follower Volker Bouffier and his SPD challenger Thorsten Schafer-Guembel suffering heavy losses compared with 2013. Both parties stand to shed around 10 points, for results in the high 20s for the CDU and around 20 percent for the SPD. Depending how other parties perform, the coalition arithmetic could still allow either to lead a new state government — handing Merkel or SPD leader Andrea Nahles a symbolic victory.

Electoral momentum is on the side of newer parties, the far-right, anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany and the left-leaning ecologist Greens. The AfD has entered 15 of Germany’s 16 state parliaments as well as the federal Bundestag, propelled by a backlash to Merkel’s migration policy. The protest party is expected to eat into both the CDU and SPD’s vote to enter the Hessian legislature with a low double-digit share.

Meanwhile, the Greens — already the junior government partner in Hesse — look poised to almost double their 2013 vote share to around 20 percent, topping the 17.5 percent they scored in conservative Bavaria. The party attracts voters who favour welcoming refugees, worry about climate change or are fed up with big party indulgence towards the car companies during a years-long scandal over harmful emissions from diesel vehicles. Hessian Greens leader Tarek al-Wazir predicted his party would also benefit from disappointment over quarrels that have rocked Merkel’s coalition in recent months, mostly over the AfD’s core issue of immigration. While the CDU/CSU have been “wrapped up in themselves,” al-Wazir said, “we have never allowed ourselves to be driven crazy by the AfD’s attacks”.

‘Expect a rebellion’

With tensions high in the Berlin coalition, “no-one can say with 100 percent certainty how stable things will stay, what kind of dynamics will emerge” after the election, CDU general secretary Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer said Thursday. Kramp-Karrenbauer — seen by many as Merkel’s anointed successor — also cautioned that “if the government falls apart now, it will result in new elections,” a barely concealed warning to would-be coalition breakers in both the CDU and SPD. —AFP

The German killer nurse who took himself for God

BERLIN: The man accused of being post-war Germany’s most prolific serial killer was known to colleagues as a “nice guy” who did little to raise suspicion until well into his murder spree. Prosecutors say Niels Hoegel, 41, a heavy-set, second-generation caregiver, was drunk on power over his ailing patients, whom he picked off at random out of “boredom”.

Hoegel has admitted to injecting patients with drugs that cause heart failure or circulatory collapse so he could then try to revive them and, when successful, shine as a savior before his medical peers and superiors. The dangerous game left more than 100 patients dead. The trial beginning tomorrow is Hoegel’s third since 2015 related to the deaths at clinics where he worked. He was found guilty in two earlier trials and sentenced to 15 years in prison, but investigators have pressed on with toxicology tests on dozens more exhumed bodies. Hoegel has admitted to around another 30 murders and 60 attempts but investigators insist the toll is higher still. Hoegel has expressed no remorse.

‘Pretty normal’

Local daily Nordwest Zeitung plunged into a character study of the defendant

Ex-Catalan leader forms new party a year after independence bid

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 on Saturday, as he tries to rally separatists from his base in Belgium. The new group, named “The Call”, held a founding congress Saturday 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 meeting of Puigdemont’s new party was held in the pro-independence town of Manresa, in the centre of Catalonia, near to the prison where independence leaders are being held. “A year ago we decided that we would continue the fight, whatever the conditions and circumstances, and that we would commit ourselves to building a better country, a republic,” said Puigdemont said in Brussels of the new party.

In a speech relayed on a giant screen to his supporters, he alluded to divisions with-

whose crimes stunned the country. Talking to his former teachers and classmates, “friendly”, “helpful” and “fun” were words that came up again and again to describe him. “In no way someone from the fringes”, the paper quoted another person who had known him since adolescence as saying.

A teacher called him “a pretty normal student” who was more interested in football than in his classes. Born on December 30, 1972 in the coastal town of Wilhelmshaven, Hoegel grew up in a Catholic family he described as “warm and stable”. At 16, he began training at the main hospital in his hometown as a nurse, his father’s vocation.

He failed to make a strong impression, but colleagues and superiors remember him as “nice” during the few years he spent at the clinic. The image jars with what would become an alleged frenzy of killing in the years between 2000 and 2005 when he deliberately caused heart failure in several dozen patients before trying to save them, in most cases without success. He asked two female trainee nurses he was trying to impress to watch him during one such rescue attempt, according to depositions. Prosecutors say he was motivated by professional vanity but also, often enough, sheer “boredom”.

‘Resuscitation Rambo’

Hoegel “acted out of pride”, the presiding judge who convicted him in 2015 said, adding that he “used people as pawns”. “A sad guy who gave himself God’s powers,” said Christian Marbach, whose grandfather was killed by Hoegel. In a 200-page personality assessment,

in the separatist camp, insisting on “moving forward united” rather than apportioning blame. However many of his former allies who have adopted more moderate and pragmatic positions have refused to join the new party. The current Catalan leader Quim Torra, in a sombre televised address to mark the October 27, 2017 declaration of independence said “the year that separates us from this historic date did not unfold as we wished” but added that “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 mobilised.

‘Bittersweet’

Several dozen activists from the powerful grassroots separatist organisation ANC,



OLDENBURG: In this file photo taken on February 26, 2015 German former male nurse Niels Hoegel hides his face behind a folder as he waits next to his lawyer Ulrike Baumann (R) for the opening of another session of his trial at a court. —AFP

psychiatrist Konstantin Karyofilis said that he failed to see his patients as “individuals”. Another report identified a “severe narcissistic disorder”.

The “nice guy” facade shattered at a hospital in the northern city of Oldenburg, where he started working in 1999. The clinic had a good reputation but Hoegel felt overwhelmed by the job and started drinking heavily as he sank deeper into a depression spiked with a panicky fear of his own death. The emergency resuscitations, and the deaths, began to soar on his watch at the hospital.

Hoegel gained a reputation as something of a jinx and colleagues sought to avoid working with him. He was encour-

aged to move on in 2002, with a positive recommendation with management to ensure his quick departure. Despite the curious number of patient deaths under his care, no internal investigation was ever opened against him.

Hoegel, who eventually married and had a daughter, was allowed to continue the carnage in the neighboring town of Delmenhorst, where colleagues nicknamed him “Resuscitation Rambo”. That is until he was caught in the act in June 2005. Killing in itself was never his aim, according to one psychologist who evaluated him. When he managed to revive a patient, he was sated but only for a few days, the expert said: “For him, it was like a drug.” —AFP



MANRESA: Former Catalan regional president Carles Puigdemont appears on a screen during the founding convention of the new Catalan separatist party ‘Crida Nacional’ (National Call). —AFP

which has previously staged massive pro-independence street protests in Barcelona, gathered at the city’s regional administration offices in the rain on Saturday to demand the official publication of the independence declaration. “This anniversary is quite bitter-sweet, a day of great hope that did not materialise,” said ANC president Elisenda Paluzie.

Later, more radical elements rallied in front of the regional government building, berating Torra for his cautious approach. But their numbers never swelled beyond 200. Their slogan: “One year of relinquishment, one year of submission, that is

enough!” 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. 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

International

One dead in Sri Lanka shooting as political crisis begins to escalate

New prime minister triggering political chaos

COLOMBO: A constitutional crisis gripping Sri Lanka since the president's shock dismissal of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe erupted into violence yesterday, with a man shot dead and two others injured in Colombo. Police said bodyguards for a Sri Lankan cabinet minister allied to Wickremesinghe fired live rounds inside a government ministry as a mob loyal to President Maithripala Sirisena besieged the minister's office.

Three people were injured but a 34-year-old man died shortly after. It was the first fatality since Sirisena sacked Wickremesinghe on Friday and installed a former strongman as prime minister, triggering political chaos in the Indian Ocean nation.

Over 1,000 supporters and loyalists, including chanting Buddhist monks, massed outside the colonial-era residence in Colombo where a defiant Wickremesinghe has been holding crisis talks with allies. Elsewhere his successor Mahinda Rajapakse, a former president, sought blessings at a temple ahead of naming a new cabinet, as he jostles to consolidate his claim to the prime ministership.

Officials loyal to Rajapakse said police will now seek a court order to evict Wickremesinghe from the residence, threatening to escalate the standoff. Regional neighbours and Western nations have urged all sides to exercise restraint and respect the constitution. Soldiers had been stationed near the prime minister's residence — although his security and official cars were withdrawn Saturday — but the shooting at the petroleum ministry was the first reported instance of violence breaking out.

Embattled Wickremesinghe received a boost yesterday as Sri Lanka's parliamentary speaker Karu Jayasuriya refused to endorse his sacking. The speaker backed the ousted prime minister's request to retain his privileges and security until another candidate could prove a majority, saying it was "democratic and fair." Wickremesinghe

called for a vote in parliament to prove his right to hold office — but instead Sirisena shut parliament for nearly three weeks to forestall any challenge against Rajapakse's appointment.

'Serious consequences'

Speaker Jayasuriya warned the president that shuttering parliament risked "serious and undesirable consequences for the country". Others feared the crisis could degenerate into street violence if the president did not immediately summon parliament to end the impasse. "Don't try to create a civil war in this country," party legislator Karunaratna Paranawithana told reporters at the prime minister's residence. "If the president has the numbers he should immediately call parliament and prove his majority."

President Sirisena is due to address the nation, his office said. Loyalists to Rajapakse — whose controversial decade-long rule was marked by grave allegations of rights abuses, the crushing of the Tamil Tiger uprising, and growing authoritarianism — still control the headquarters of two state-run television channels. The controversial new prime minister travelled to a highly venerated Buddhist temple yesterday in the central district of Kandy to seek blessings from monks. Rajapakse's aides said he was likely to name a few cabinet ministers before the end of the day and begin work today — he is yet to make a formal statement since being elevated to the new post.

The strongman is seen as being closer to China than Wickremesinghe, who had sought to re-establish stronger ties with traditional ally and regional power India. The crisis has again put the Indian Ocean in the international spotlight following turmoil in neighboring Maldives over its presidential election. India said it was "closely following" events in Colombo. "As a democracy and a close friendly neighbour, we hope that democratic values and



COLOMBO: Sri Lankan soldiers walk outside the prime minister's official residence. — AFP

the constitutional process will be respected," India's foreign ministry spokesman Raveesh Kumar said yesterday.

The United States and European Union ambassadors in Colombo have called on the Sri Lankan rivals to follow the constitution and avoid violence. China's ambassador to Colombo met separately with Rajapakse and Wickremesinghe on Saturday, officials said, while

Colombo-based Western diplomats met with Wickremesinghe. Privately-run newspapers yesterday described Sirisena's move as a "constitutional coup". However, Rajapakse loyalist and former foreign minister G. L. Peiris said there was nothing illegal about sacking Wickremesinghe and challenged him to prove his majority when parliament returns on November 16. — AFP

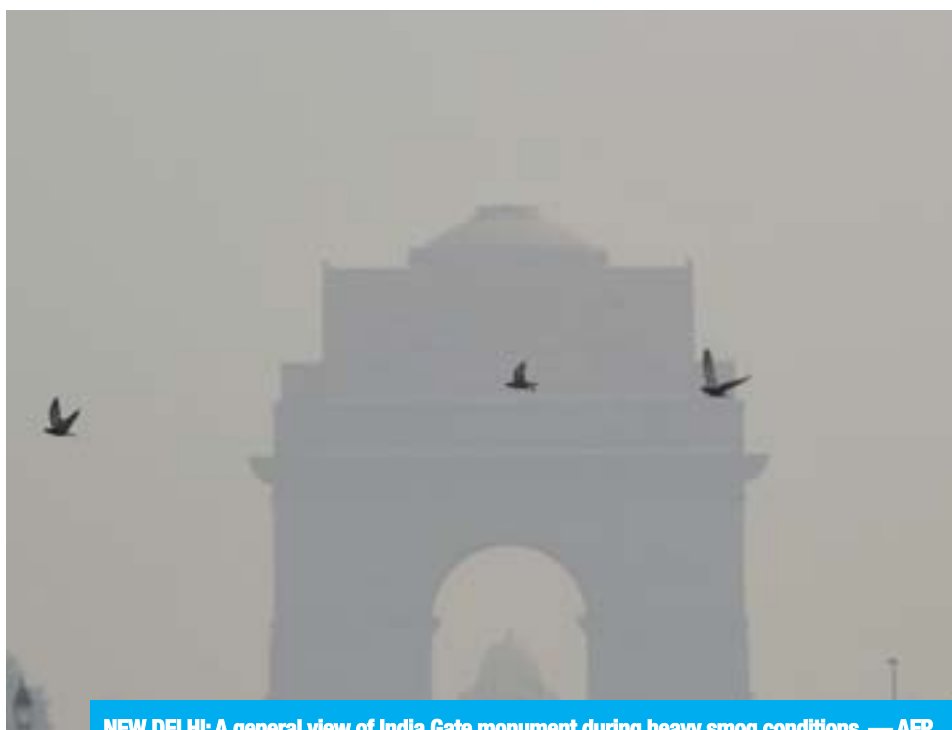
Haze hovers over Delhi as pollution season arrives

NEW DELHI: India's capital was covered in a blanket of choking grey air and pollution on Saturday, with government data showing air quality slumping to "severe" or "very poor" levels in almost all parts of Delhi. Authorities have already advised residents to keep outdoor activity to a minimum from the beginning of next month until at least the end of the Hindu festival of Diwali on Nov 7, when firecrackers typically further taint air already hit by the burning of crop stubble in neighboring states.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), 25 out of 31 monitoring stations in various localities of Delhi showed that the air quality in those areas could "seriously impact" the health of sick people and affect even those without any respiratory illness. The rest of the five monitoring stations showed "poor" air quality, which the CPCB says can cause breathing discomfort to most people on prolonged exposure.

"We have been stripped of our #RightToBreathe." #DelhiPollution, an online forum to engage people on pollution in Delhi, said on Twitter. Like last winter, many parents in Delhi plan to send their children out of the city. Some doctors in the capital said they had already begun to witness a surge in patients with respiratory problems.

Prashant Saxena, head pulmonologist at the Max Smart Super Specialty Hospital in



NEW DELHI: A general view of India Gate monument during heavy smog conditions. — AFP

New Delhi, said the number of patients coming to him with breathing problems, asthma, chest and related ailments has increased 15-20 percent in the past two weeks. "I am expecting it to rise further, because the air quality is worsening and pollution is an ever increasing problem here," he said. "I am getting a lot of people who are not getting relief easily. They require medication for longer."

Despite pressure from health experts, the government this year held off on a wholesale ban on fireworks and has faced criticism for

failing to prevent farmers in states neighboring Delhi from burning stubble. To curb pollution levels around Diwali, the country's top court this month only allowed the use of "green" firecrackers, but it was unclear how the rule would be enforced or whether there was such a thing as an environmentally safe firework. Environmentalists have also questioned the credibility of the federal government's target to reduce stubble burning by 70 percent in neighboring Punjab and Haryana states this year. — AFP

Georgia ruling party faces test in presidential vote

TBILISI: Georgians yesterday went to the polls to elect a figurehead president in a vote seen as a crucial test for the increasingly unpopular ruling party. The hotly-contested race pits ex-French ambassador and Georgia's former foreign minister Salome Zurbishvili, supported by the ruling Georgian Dream party, against opposition leader Grigol Vashadze, also a former foreign minister.

The two have an almost equal chance of being elected, but neither is expected to get the necessary 50 percent plus one vote to win in the first round, according to opinion polls conducted in the run-up. Turnout stood at nearly 16 percent by noon (0800 GMT), central election commission said. "I want a woman to become Georgia's president," Liza Mikeladze, a 59-year-old voter, told AFP at a polling station in central Tbilisi after casting a ballot for Zurbishvili.

Another voter, 28-year old IT specialist Niko Shelia, said that he "voted for Vashadze because a chance must be given to the opposition, because Georgian Dream's rule proved a nightmare." Vashadze — backed by exiled ex-president Mikheil Saakashvili's United National Movement (UNM) and 10 other opposition groups — has been boosted by growing popular dis-

content over the government's failure to tackle poverty. Over a fraught campaign Vashadze criticized the "informal oligarch rule" of Bidzina Ivanishvili, the billionaire leader of the Georgian Dream party. Georgia's richest man, Ivanishvili stepped down as premier in 2013 after just a year in office, but is still widely believed to rule the country of 4.5 million people from behind the scenes. On the campaign trail, Zurbishvili and Georgian Dream have slammed the UNM for alleged human rights abuses during its previous stretch in power.

The presidential campaign saw the ruling party and the opposition cross arms in a prelude to their decisive stand-off during parliamentary polls scheduled for 2020, analysts said. "The camp that wins the presidential vote gets an upper hand in the parliamentary election," said analyst Ghia Nodia. If elected, Vashadze has promised to mount a campaign demanding snap parliamentary polls.

Zurbishvili, a stylish 66-year-old independent MP, is the daughter of refugees who fled Georgia in 1921 for Paris after the country's annexation by the Red Army. Her career in France's foreign ministry culminated in her posting to Tbilisi. From that position Saakashvili appointed her foreign minister — after approving the move with then French leader Jacques Chirac. But she quickly made enemies in the ranks of the parliamentary majority, with MPs and a number of senior diplomats publicly accused her of arrogance and impulsivity.

She was sacked after a year on the job, though thousands took to the streets of the capital to protest her dismissal. — AFP

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Calls for Saudi arms embargo pit EU values against interests

Pressure is growing for the European Union to consider an arms embargo on Saudi Arabia after Germany, Austria and the European Parliament called for an end to weapons sales over the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. In the space of a few hours that highlighted tensions over the matter, Germany's Angela Merkel on Friday reaffirmed that her country would not deliver any arms to Saudi Arabia until Khashoggi's death was explained, while French President Emmanuel Macron said such moves smacked of populist "demagoguery". EU ambassadors may formally discuss the issue after a rare request to do so by governments, two diplomats said on Friday, and the Netherlands is lobbying for a new EU regime to sanction human rights abuses, regardless of where they happen.

But the debate in Brussels and in EU capitals is also reviving familiar splits in the bloc's foreign policy, with Europe's main powers following their own economic and political interests that tend to undermine any forceful EU foreign policy that aims to be guided by democracy and human rights. The murder of Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist, inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on Oct. 2 has sparked global outrage, become a crisis for the world's top oil exporting state and underscored how Western powers are allied to an Arab kingdom that enforces floggings and the death penalty for dissent.

The Belgian region of Wallonia, which owns firearms manufacturer FN Herstal, has said it will examine future requests for arms export licenses to its top weapons client with "the greatest circumspection" following Khashoggi's murder. While Austria, which holds the EU's six-month presidency, wants a halt to arms sales and Germany will stop approving weapons exports until Khashoggi's murder is cleared up, France had ignored such calls. Macron went further on Friday, saying there was no link between arms sales and the killing of Khashoggi, a prominent critic of de facto Saudi ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

"That's pure demagoguery to say 'we must stop arms sales'. It's got nothing to do with Mr Khashoggi," he told reporters during a trip in Slovakia, while not ruling out other coordinated sanctions against those held responsible. British Prime Minister Theresa May said on Wednesday that Britain's weapons exports to Saudi Arabia met national and EU arms export licensing rules. Spain, meanwhile, is trying to go ahead with the sale of 400 bombs in order to protect a Saudi contract with a shipyard in the Andalusia region that would create 5,000 jobs. "If Austria is proposing this ban, then ask how many weapons Austria sells to Saudi Arabia," said a senior EU diplomat.

Billions at stake

Though Austria has a substantial arms industry, it sold a meagre 1.4 million euros (\$1.59 million) of arms and ammunition to Saudi Arabia in 2017, according to EU data. Germany approved around 400 million euros worth of arms supplies to Saudi Arabia in the first nine months of 2018. Last year, Germany sold 351 million euros worth of aircraft, including helicopters and planes, to Saudi Arabia, though EU data does not specify how much of that is military. German weapons account for under 2 percent of Saudi Arabia's arms purchases. Britain exported military goods to Saudi Arabia worth 1.1 billion pounds (\$1.41 billion) in 2017, according to UK parliamentary papers, while tiny Belgium and Luxembourg combined for 184 million euros in arms sales to the Saudis last year.

France sold Saudi Arabia 1.8 billion euros in planes, helicopters and other aerospace equipment in 2017, an amount that has climbed over the past decade, EU data shows, though again it does not say what part of that is military. "The sale of weapons is something very political and part of a long-term vision," said Camille Lons, a researcher at the European Council on Foreign Relations think-tank. Lons cited Libya, Syria and even the Sahel region, where France, which has thousands of troops on the ground, has sought Saudi help to finance local African forces.

At the heart of Macron's strategy is Mohammed bin Salman, often referred to as MbS, the 33-year-old Saudi de facto leader who has painted himself as a reformer but is under scrutiny over his potential involvement in Khashoggi's seizure and death. "It's easy for (German Chancellor Angela) Merkel to come out with this when she sells weapons everywhere except Saudi Arabia," a senior French diplomat told Reuters. "When you see global weapons sales, Germany is one of the largest in the world over the last couple of years, but Saudi isn't much."

A German government spokeswoman on Friday welcomed Austria's initiative, but declined to comment when asked if German and Austria were isolated on their position within the EU. Merkel vowed again on Friday to halt all German arms exports to Saudi Arabia until Khashoggi's killing was explained. One face-saving move for the European Union could be to sanction Saudi individuals accused of the Khashoggi murder and separate the issue from its close ties with the Saudi state. EU governments recently agreed a mechanism to punish chemical weapons attacks by targeting people regardless of their nationality. — Reuters



Florida mulls letting felons vote again

Yraida Guanipa did time for drug-related offenses and was released more than 10 years ago, but she still is not eligible to vote in the US midterm elections on November 6. She is not alone: in Florida, there are 1.5 million people who cannot vote—more than 10 percent of its adult population—because the Sunshine State strips felons of their voting rights. "It makes us feel like we are not citizens. Like we are another class of people, an inferior group that cannot speak," said Guanipa, who is 56. Technically, the restriction dates back to the post-Civil War period. Thwarted by the US Congress, which forced states to grant full civic rights to former slaves, Florida lawmakers opted to bar felons from voting—a disproportionate number of whom were freed blacks.

At that time, "lawmakers—especially in the South—implemented a slew of criminal laws designed to target black citizens," according to Erin Kelley, a voting rights and elections expert at the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law. The controversial clause in Florida's state constitution, which today affects blacks and Latinos in particular, is on the ballot in November. Amendment 4 would automatically restore voting rights to felons who have completed their sentences, paid restitution and fulfilled their parole or probation—except those convicted of murder or sex crimes.

Slow process

Guanipa got out of prison in 2007 after serving nearly 12 years for her drug conviction. "I started to see what this country is really all about and the things that we have

to change," said Guanipa, who was born in Venezuela and is a naturalized US citizen. She spoke with AFP at the YG Institute in Miami, an organization she founded to help other ex-cons transition to life outside prison.

Currently, felons must wait a minimum of five years after completing their sentences to apply for restoration of their voting rights. Defenders of the status quo like Richard Harrison, of the Florida Rights Coalition, says the new amendment fails to take into consideration the harm done to victims, the felon's post-release conduct and other factors. But critics say the current process—and a review by a clemency board—is slow and arbitrary. Some ex-cons say the process can take decades. "In my case, I could be dead before I could vote again," said Guanipa.

Why it matters

Nationwide, six million people cannot vote because of their criminal records. Florida, a swing state that also plays a key role in national elections, has the largest number of those. If Amendment 4 is passed, which polls suggest is likely, 1.5 million more Floridians will be granted the right to vote in 2020 — date of the next presidential election. But which party would benefit the most? "The common assumption is that a large portion of these disenfranchised felons would lean Democratic," said Susan MacManus, a political analyst at the University of Southern Florida. But Gregory Koger, a professor of political science at the University of Miami, told AFP the implications were less clear-cut—noting that those with a high school degree or less tend to vote Republican. "They would have to regis-

ter to vote and then actually turn out to vote. It is not clear how many would do so," Koger told AFP.

'Un-American'

Earlier this year, a federal judge said the clemency board's system of restoring voting rights was unconstitutional, as its decisions were arbitrary, and ordered the board to set specific criteria. That case is now under appeal. Guanipa is one of the plaintiffs. "It remains the worst voting rights crisis in America," said Jon Sherman, an attorney with the Fair Elections Legal Network, which is representing the plaintiffs. "There is no level of disenfranchisement or voter suppression anywhere close to the level at which Florida disenfranchises people with felony convictions for years and decades of their life, even after they've done everything that the criminal justice system requires of them," he said. "And it's completely unfair and un-American and unconstitutional."

Critics say the current Florida system is purposefully racist. Today, more than one in every five African Americans in Florida (21 percent) cannot vote, according to the Sentencing Project. Experts say no such studies have been carried out for Latinos. But they cite a 2003 investigation carried out in 10 states by Latino legal defense group MALDEF that concluded that Hispanics are disenfranchised at a higher rate than the general population. "The law was passed to deny blacks the right to vote. We Latinos were not here," said Guanipa. "But when we got here, they said, 'OK, let's take it away from them, too.'" — AFP

'Have you news of my boy?': Kipling's vain search for son

The British poet and writer Rudyard Kipling, an ardent supporter of his country's entry into World War I, did everything he could to make sure his only son would join the fight. Yet just a few weeks after John Kipling touched French soil on the day of his 18th birthday, he was reported missing during the devastating Battle of Loos on September 27, 1915.

His father and mother Carrie would spend the next several years desperately searching for him, hoping against all odds that he might have survived. It was not until 1919 that Kipling publicly acknowledged his son was probably dead, one of the 1.1 million soldiers lost by the British Empire in the war. The author of "The Jungle Book", the first Briton to be awarded the Nobel Prize for literature, fiercely defended the war as a patriotic duty for all able-bodied men.

He threw himself into the government's propaganda efforts, and is believed to have popularized the slur "Hun" in reference to the German foe. But John, who hoped to enlist in the Royal Navy, was rejected because of poor eyesight. "As his wife said: How could their son not go to war when all the other sons were?" said David A. Richards, who has published a bibliography of the author's work and letters. It was only thanks to his father's connections as one of the country's most popular writers that he finally got a commission in the Irish Guards, and shipped out to France in August 1915.

War Office telegram

Shortly afterwards came the Battle of Loos, which proved a disaster for

Britain as waves of soldiers were cut down by German machine guns or choked on their own poison gas being blown back into their lines. An estimated 15,000 British soldiers were killed and 35,000 wounded in a matter of days. It was John's first combat experience, and he disappeared after "going over the top", leaving the trenches to attack enemy lines.

"A telegram from the War Office to say John is 'missing'", reads an entry in Carrie's diary from October 2, 1915. From that day on, Kipling moved heaven and earth to find out what happened to his son. Hoping he might just be wounded or captured, Kipling spent months tracking down members of his regiment to try to learn where John was last seen.

He even managed to have leaflets dropped over enemy lines asking for news of his son. "He begged the War Office not to declare the boy dead, only missing, to spare his wife's feelings," Richards said. Kipling would return repeatedly to the French battlefields hoping to learn his son's fate until his death in 1936.

But it was only in 1992 that John's grave was finally identified thanks to archival research, at St Mary's cemetery in Haisnes, near the battlefield where he disappeared. His name has since replaced the inscription "Known unto God", a phrase suggested by Kipling himself to the Imperial War Graves Commission, which he joined after his son's disappearance.

"After the war, Kipling's writing took on a generally more serious tone, including several stories about soldiers suffering from what we would now call post-traumatic stress disorder," according to Mike Kipling, one of the author's descendants and chairman of the Kipling Society. In 1916 he would write the haunting lines of "My Boy Jack": "Have you news of my boy... What comfort can I find?" Whether a sign of his own regrets or criticism of those responsible for the carnage, Kipling would later write in his "Epitaphs of the War": "If any question why we died, Tell them, because our fathers lied." — AFP

Some of the world's worst serial killers

German nurse Niels Hoegel is on trial for at least 99 murders, having already been jailed for six, which would make him among the worst serial killers in recent history. Here are seven others:

'The Chessboard Killer'

Russia's Alexander Pichushkin, then aged 33, was sentenced in 2007 to life in prison for 48 murders, most between 2002 and 2006. His victims were mainly elderly alcoholic men whom he met in a park outside Moscow. He threw them into a sewer where they drowned, later strangling or bludgeoning them with a hammer first after some managed to climb out. He threw one from a 16th floor. Pichushkin said he wanted to kill one person for each of the 64 squares on a chessboard, and crossed out a square for every kill, earning him his nickname.

Chinese drifter

Yang Xinhai was executed in China in 2004, aged 35, after murdering 67 people in a three-year rampage that ended with his capture in 2003. Characterized as an introverted drifter, he bicycled from one murder scene to the next, entering homes in rural areas and often slaughtering entire families using an axe, hammer or spade. Police listed robbery and rape as motives but Yang was also described as a deranged killer who simply enjoyed what he was doing.

America's worst

Gary Ridgway, a former truck painter, was handed 48 life sentences in 2003 after admitting to killing 48 prostitutes and run-aways between 1982 and 1984, a murder spree that terrified Seattle. He was 54 years old at his conviction. Nicknamed the "Green River Killer" after the waterway where his first five victims were found, he is the most prolific serial killer in US history.

'Doctor Death'

A family doctor in northern England, Harold Shipman was sentenced to life in prison in 2000 after being convicted of killing 15 of his elderly patients by giving them fatal doses of morphine. He hanged himself in prison in 2004, aged 57. An inquiry the following year found that Shipman, nicknamed "Doctor Death", had killed around 250 patients between 1971 and 1998, which made him the country's worst-ever serial killer.

Travelling salesman

Luis Alfredo Garavito, a travelling salesman, was jailed for 835 years in 2000 aged 42 for murdering 189 boys aged between eight and 16 over a five-year span until 1996. Known as "The Monster of Genova" after his birthplace in Colombia, Garavito met his victims by posing as a charity worker, salesman, monk or disabled person, among other disguises. He lured them with food and drink and usually slit the children's throats after raping and mutilating them. Some were beheaded. Four of the murders took place in Ecuador.

Russian butcher

In 1992 Russian Andrei Chikatilo, 56, was sentenced to death for 52 sexually motivated killings of women, children and young people between 1978 and 1990. The former teacher, known as the "Butcher of Rostov" after the far-eastern area where he was particularly active, was executed in 1994.

'Monster of the Andes'

In 1980 Colombian Pedro Lopez Monsalve was arrested at a market in Ecuador after attempting to abduct a young girl. He later confessed to having strangled at least 310 children from poor backgrounds in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. Initially accused of rape and murder of four children, the "Monster of the Andes" led police to a field where the bodies of 53 young girls were buried. He was sentenced to 16 years in prison, the maximum term in Ecuador, and extradited in 1994 to Colombia where he was interned in a psychiatric hospital. Freed several years later, he disappeared and would today be aged around 70. — AFP

Business

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2018

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Zain Group selected by Huawei to offer Huawei Cloud services in Kuwait, MENA

Al-Kharafi: Agreement bolsters Zain's efforts in playing a key role in 'New Kuwait 2035' plan

SHANGHAI/KUWAIT: Zain Group, the leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, has been selected by Huawei, a leading global provider of information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and smart devices, to become a strategic partner in the offering of HUAWEI CLOUD services in Kuwait and across the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA).

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two companies was signed during a two-day strategy summit held in Shanghai, China where Zain Group executive management met counterparts from Huawei to discuss a range of topics related to establishing additional areas of potential cooperation. The public cloud agreement is in line with the New Kuwait Vision 2035 and the strategic relationship established between Kuwait and China to drive improvements in the areas of Public Administration, Economy, Infrastructure, Living Environment, Healthcare, Human Capital, and Global Position.

The agreement will see HUAWEI CLOUD services initially launched in Kuwait and across Middle East, with a wide range of new offerings being made available to businesses and consumers alike. The market in MENA is estimated to be growing by more than 20 per cent year-on-year according to industry analyst Gartner, with platform as a service (PaaS) and software as a service (SaaS) being among the fastest growing areas with public cloud service delivery.

Commenting on the entering the public cloud MoU with Huawei, Zain Group Vice-Chairman and CEO Bader Al-Kharafi said, "This agreement bolsters Zain's efforts in playing a key role in the 'New Kuwait 2035' national development plan as the deployment of public cloud services unlocks many opportunities for driving business growth and efficiency, as well as stimulating competition and innovation. It also enhances our ambitions of becoming the operator of choice for governments and enterprises of all sizes across our footprint."

Al-Kharafi continued, "In the implementation of our digital transformation strategy, Zain has consistently looked to bring cutting-edge solutions to the region for the benefit of its customers. In recent years we have intensified our focus on the delivery of business-to-business (B2B) solutions, and this agreement adds to the comprehensive range of business-critical offerings we'll be able to deliver."

"Public cloud is the cornerstone of digital transformation, I look forward to promoting HUAWEI CLOUD across the MENA with Zain", said Charles Yang, President of Huawei Middle East, "As a global leading ICT player, Huawei



SHANGHAI: Zain Group Vice-Chairman and CEO Bader Al-Kharafi and President of Huawei Middle East Charles Yang during the signing of the MoU.

- Zain's digital strategy focuses on unlocking the tremendous growth opportunities in B2B, aiming to become the operator of choice for governments and enterprises
- Demand for cloud services increasing exponentially in emerging markets due to growing needs for digital security and data backup
- MoU signed during two-day strategy summit held in Shanghai between Zain and Huawei

will continuously focus on digital transformation, supporting our strategic decision to foster the growth of public cloud services. Zain is one of our most important partners in the region and this partnership will support the realization of Kuwait 2035 vision and other MENA nations' plans alike, bringing digital to every person, home and organization for a fully connected and intelligent MENA."

Zain and Huawei discussed other topics during their summit in Shanghai, including each company's respective technology roadmap given the introduction of 5G in the MENA region as early as next year. The companies assessed the expected business cases for 5G in the region, including its impact on IoT, mobility, connectivity, healthcare, government; and other essential sectors. Zain is on track to have its operations in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia be the first to launch 5G commercially.

Furthermore, Zain and Huawei discussed the

opportunities of innovative B2B services that offer greater flexibility, connectivity, scalability, security, and processing power, as well as an ability to be accessed from locations around the world. Given Zain's expertise and synergies between its operations, Zain aptly offers B2B solutions helping governments and organizations of all sizes with specialized products and services aimed at meeting their unique needs.

Enterprises typically require solutions that offer greater flexibility, connectivity, scalability, security, and processing power, as well as an ability to be accessed from locations around the world. Given Zain's expertise and synergies between its operations, Zain aptly offers B2B solutions helping governments and organizations of all sizes with specialized products and services aimed at meeting their unique needs.

UK preparing 'buffers' for no-deal Brexit, says Hammond

LONDON: Britain's finance minister pledged yesterday that "fiscal buffers" would be in place to deal with the potential chaos of the country crashing out of the European Union without a deal in March. Philip Hammond was speaking ahead of his speech in parliament today in which he is to lay out Britain's last budget before Europe's second largest economy breaks up with the other 27 nations in the bloc. The chancellor of the exchequer voiced optimism that the two sides could still reach an agreement despite the current impasse in negotiations.

But he told the BBC that he "can't give an absolute guarantee because there have to be two parties—it takes two to tango". And he stressed that he was keeping financial firepower in reserve in case Britain crashes out without a deal and a period of financial mayhem ensues.

"What I will continue to do is maintain fiscal buffers, a reserve of borrowing power against my fiscal rules so that if the economy as a result of a no-deal Brexit—or indeed because of something else we haven't anticipated—needs support for the coming months and years, I have the capacity to provide that support," he said.

"That depends on what the markets are doing, it depends at the circumstances at the moment." Officials in Brussels say they are prepared to hold another summit as soon as they see substantial progress on the outstanding issue of the Irish border.

A new UK-EU frontier will emerge between Ireland and Britain's Northern Ireland on March 29. But the sides still cannot agree how to maintain frictionless trade that accounts for the different customs and regulatory rules that exist between Britain and the EU.

Hammond said that getting a deal "will minimize any negative effects" of the divorce but refused to be drawn on how much damage Brexit as a whole was causing. And he admitted that Britain would need to come up with a brand new budget in a no-deal scenario.

"If we were to find ourselves in that situation, then we would need to take a

different approach to the future of Britain's economy," he told Sky News. "We would need to look at a different strategy and frankly we'd need to have a new budget that set out a different strategy for the future."

High debt levels

Britain has cut its budget deficit sharply since the financial crisis 10 years ago but its debt levels remain high. Most economists say Britain would suffer an economic shock if it leaves the EU with no deal. Hammond said he was very confident that Britain would negotiate a Brexit deal that would minimize trade friction with the bloc but the government, and the Bank of England, would have to look at the situation and take action if there is no deal.

Hammond will announce a 44 percent jump in roads and highways investment in his budget today, the finance ministry said, offering a glimpse of higher public spending promised by the government.

The 25.5 billion-pound (\$37 billion) fund for the 2020-2025 period will be invested in projects in England such as motorway improvements and major new roads, the ministry said.

A further 3.5 billion pounds would be earmarked for local routes. The ministry said the investment would reduce congestion and help to improve Britain's weak productivity growth.

Revenues raised by Britain's Vehicle Excise Duty would be entirely earmarked for spending on roads for the first time. Hammond is under pressure to show he can honor Prime Minister Theresa May's promise to end nearly a decade of austerity while sticking to his plan to clean up high levels of public debt. Although he has some room for manoeuvre after a fall in the budget deficit, uncertainty about Britain's exit from the European Union in March, and its impact on the economy, is likely to restrict Hammond's options today. On Friday, the government said Hammond was likely to give a 900 million-pound tax cut to small retailers to help them compete against online competition. — Agencies



SHANGHAI: A group photo taken during the two-day strategy summit held in Shanghai.

Business

NBK Money Markets Report

Dollar gains as Trump sees Fed as 'biggest risk' to US economy

Global stocks suffer after Wall Street selloff

KUWAIT: Donald Trump attacked the Fed once again as the US dollar continued to gain momentum for the last two weeks. It seems to be a habit of the President to comment on the Fed in a negative manner in an attempt to influence the monetary policy. In a comment to the Wall Street Journal the President said he "maybe" regrets appointing Jerome Powell as the Fed's chairman. He added that the Fed is the "biggest risk" to the US economy.

Global stock markets suffered last week after a vast Wall Street sell-off. Weak US earnings combined with geopolitical uncertainty has rattled investors' confidence as evident by the drop in stocks globally. In the US, the S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average both ended in negative territory for the year, while European stocks fell sharply and Asian bourses experienced their worst month since the financial crisis. However, towards the end of the week minor corrections in US equities put the YTD performance into positive territory. As a result to the meltdown in equities, 10-year US treasuries yield fell to a 3-week low of 3.08 percent on Friday.

The US trade deficit has widened to the highest level ever recorded at \$76.04bn in September from \$75.46 billion in August according to data released on Thursday by the US Census Bureau. Exports jumped 1.8 percent, and imports rose 1.5 percent, sharpening questions about Trump's effectiveness in dealing with what he refers to as unfair trade practices. The Census Bureau released data on Thursday revealing orders placed with US factories for business equipment declined in September for the second month, while shipments of core capital goods were unchanged. Orders for non-defense capital goods dipped 0.1 percent last month, disappointing expectations of a 0.5 percent gain. Overall orders for durable goods rose 0.8 percent for September following a 4.6 percent jump in August. Uncertainty over trade has cut into companies' profits and expansion plans, risking overall economic growth.

Looking at the FX market, the greenback has strengthened on the backdrop of a weakening euro and sterling. The slowing eurozone growth figures coupled with political uncertainty in Britain are continuing to weigh heavily on the single currency. The US dollar reached a 2-month high of 96.732 before closing the week at 96.679.

ECB confident

The European Central Bank stated on Thursday that the benchmark interest rate will remain unchanged at 0 percent. Despite market turmoil and political concern,

it has also confirmed plans to halt its quantitative easing program before the end of this year. The council announced that the bank is buying 15bn euros of mostly government bonds a month, and "anticipates" that the 2.5tn euros program will be over by December. During the press conference, ECB president Mario Draghi listed his concerns towards inflation, trade tensions, and risk of a disorderly Brexit, however remained hawkish overall. Draghi spoke confidently of the Italian government's ability to reach an agreement with the European commission, while Italy pushed for a budget plan that defies the EU's spending rules. Though the ECB views the escalation of the global trade war between the US and China as the biggest threat to the eurozone economy, it maintains that it has favorable stimulus to soften the impact of a possible slowdown in growth.

On the FX side, the euro started the week at 1.1508 and kept losing ground on the dollar amid uncertainty in the Italian budget, softer PMI figures and setbacks in Brexit negotiations. The single currency lost as much as 1.56 percent hitting a 2-month low of 1.1332.

Brexit talks

Prime Minister Theresa May reportedly gave a "heartfelt" plea on Wednesday for members to back her Brexit plan as she claimed that "the end is in sight". There were overwhelming expectations of the prime minister facing a no-confidence vote before her address to the Tory backbench 1922 Committee. However, May was met with astounding applause as she calmly criticized those who did not stand up for the "national interest" as she has - poking aim at those who have previously defied her such as Boris Johnson. Exceeding the low expectations placed upon her for this speech, the prime minister delivered one of her best speeches to date, managing to calm nerves regarding her leadership.

However, as Brexit nears its final stage, it is unclear what deal, if any, will be made before the March 29, 2019 scheduled exit. Last week, May announced at the House of Commons the possibility of Britain staying tied with the EU in an extended transition until 2021 as she revealed her offer for a 4-point plan to unblock Brexit talks. May also promised to never divide Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK, a key issue delaying Brexit talks as no agreement has been met on this point. Her four-point plan also includes details of a "backstop" solution to avoid a hard border, which will temporarily commit the UK and EU to a joint customs territory if no trade deal is agreed on.



The sterling continued its bearish momentum this week and fell to a 7-week low of 1.2777 against the US dollar. The uncertainty of the Brexit developments has weighed massively on the cable depreciating by 2 percent and breaking key technical level of 1.2900. The currency closed the week at 1.2831.

BOC hikes rate

The Bank of Canada announced on Wednesday that it has raised its overnight interest rate for the third time this year by 0.25 percent to 1.75 percent - the highest level seen since 2008. The move was widely expected and in line with the central bank's tightening cycle plan which began last year. In response to solid economic growth and the resolution of the trade dispute with the US, the bank released a hawkish statement claiming that "the global economic outlook remains solid". A robust US economy and a new US-Mexico-Canada agreement have settled trade policy uncertainty in North America. However, the ongoing conflict between the US and China will continue to weigh heavy on global growth and commodity prices while emerging markets remain under stress. CPI inflation dropped to 2.2 percent in September, largely driven by a summer

spike in airfares and other temporary factors. The BOC claims that the strength of the economy calls for rates to "rise to a neutral stance to achieve the inflation target." Looking forward, the next scheduled announcement for the overnight rate target is on December 5th of 2018. The Canadian dollar rose 0.7 percent following the release, and closed the week at 1.3105.

Japan inflation steady

Tokyo's core consumer price inflation was unchanged in October from the previous month, government data showed on Friday at 1 percent, offering little encouragement for Japan's central bank as it struggles to reach its ambitious 2 percent inflation target. The data comes ahead of the Bank of Japan's rate review next week, where it is expected to set monetary policy steady and maintain its optimistic view on the economy even as global trade frictions and volatile markets cloud the growth outlook.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30355
The USDKWD opened at 0.30355 yesterday morning.

A year after failed independence bid, Catalan economy solid

MADRID: Catalonia has enjoyed solid growth since the region's failed bid to break away from Spain last year despite predictions the uncertainty sparked by the separatist push would take a heavy toll. Businesses feared the worst when the Catalan parliament declared independence last October, triggering Spain's worst political crisis in four decades.

But the region's economy, which accounts for around a fifth of Spain's economic output, grew by 3.1 percent in the second quarter of 2018, outperforming Spain as a whole which expanded 2.5 percent.

It has been buoyed by the allure of its capital Barcelona, although some clouds remain on the horizon.

Last year's secession attempt caused "shock in confidence" and a fall in consumption in October, Josep Oliver Alonso, an economist at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, told AFP.

Some 3,700 companies moved their legal headquarters out of Catalonia to other parts of Spain between October 2017 and July 2018, including heavyweights such as Catalan lender CaixaBank, according to Catalan government figures. —AFP

Airbus to name outsider after board hastened CFO's exit

PARIS: Airbus is close to naming an outsider to replace finance chief Harald Wilhelm after board moves to overhaul top management in response to a corruption probe hastened his surprise resignation in May, people close to the matter said.

British and French authorities are investigating the use of middlemen in jetliner sales and the European planemaker says it is also supplying information to US authorities. Wilhelm, 52, who is not due to leave Airbus until next year, has not been accused of wrongdoing, two people familiar with the investigation said.

Indeed, he initiated the planemaker's decision in 2014 to rip up a decades-old system of middlemen supporting jet sales, opening the door to British and French investigators. Wilhelm's departure is the most striking evidence yet of a board-driven clearout designed to help Airbus win more lenient judicial settlements by presenting a completely fresh face to anti-fraud agencies, four people familiar with the matter said.

Airbus declined to comment on management changes, while Wilhelm also declined to comment. Airbus has said it reported its own concerns over the past use of intermediaries to British authorities in 2016 and that it is co-operating with all pending investigations. Although Airbus abolished a system of political



This aerial photo shows people working on a full-size replica of an Airbus A320 passenger aircraft in Kalyuan, China's northeastern Liaoning province. —AFP

balance between its host states among its top management some years ago, the board will nominate a new German finance chief from outside the group in coming weeks, reflecting a desire to still balance French and German executives, two of the people added.

Wilhelm said in May he would leave Airbus in 2019, dashing plans for a staggered succession after CEO Tom Enders steps down in April. Airbus said at the time he had decided to leave "in agreement with the board of directors", without giving a reason. —Reuters

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	0.042356	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	0.00013	0.00013	
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 Ryal	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	0.081452	0.083152	
Yemeni Riyal	0.000989	0.001069	

Mixed US inflation signals leave investors adrift

NEW YORK: US quarterly earnings reports this month were supposed to give investors clarity about the health of Wall Street's rally this year. Instead, profit reports and forecasts following the most recent three months are giving investors indulgence as companies send unclear messages about the rising cost of goods and labor.

"I don't understand why people are so hesitant to admit that we're in an upturn in inflation," said Richard Bernstein, chief executive of Richard Bernstein Advisors LLC. Companies, he said, are "scared that they're not going to get rewarded for pricing growth." The unexplained absence of inflation during the last decade's US equity price boom is now being replaced in investor psychology by fears that inflation is finally pushing up costs and squeezing margins and may be one of the culprits in this month's selloff of US stocks. US consumer price inflation was 2.3 percent in the year to September, according to the Labor Department, and even "core" inflation, which strips out volatile food and energy prices, is running at 2.2 percent for the year, above the Federal Reserve's target.

With unemployment at 3.7 percent, the lowest in nearly 40 years, annual wage growth was 2.9 percent in September, a nine-year high. The question is whether the cost increases companies say they are now absorbing are fleeting or here to stay.

At stake is a market rally built on the premise that stock valuations are justified by earnings that go on growing. While earnings growth is still high at 22 percent so far this quarter, the amount by which S&P 500 index companies are beating analyst estimates is nearly half of what it was during the first quarter, according to Refinitiv data. Unless companies can raise prices fast enough to keep up with the rising costs of hiring and materials, stocks may struggle to maintain current valuations. Borrowing costs are also rising as the Federal Reserve is expected to keep raising interest rates into 2019 to ward off the inflationary threat, with US economy growing at 4.2 percent in the second quarter this year, helped by last year's \$1.5 trillion worth of tax cuts.

And now US businesses are also warning of input costs rising as a result of President Trump's imposition of import tariffs. Steel and aluminum tariffs have cost Ford Motor Co about \$1 billion in profits, its chief executive officer said last month. "Market participants are really concerned that maybe finally we have seen peak earnings and that people are talking much more about costs rising and, looking ahead, corporate profit margins could certainly come under pressure," said Fritz Folts, chief investment strategist at 3EDGE Asset Management LP.

Corporate leaders sit on the frontline of inflation, but they are not offering consistent guidance about where they expect the trend to go from here. The divergence in guidance and outlooks is costing investors' money. On October 8, paint-maker PPG Industries Inc told investors to expect lower profits, saying that it expected the prices for the raw materials it uses to keep rising, and its stock fell 10 percent during the following trading session. Economist Ed Yardeni said the forecast help set the stage for the broader market selloff later that week. —Reuters

Business

Washington embraces cash-free system - but at what cost?

Cost and security remain key factors

WASHINGTON: As the US capital traded stifling summer heat for cool autumn breezes, signs began appearing at bus stops, asking Washington commuters: what do you think about buses going cash-free? Salad lunch spot Sweetgreen doesn't take greenbacks. Neither do certain vendors at Nationals Park like Ben's Chili Bowl, a local eatery popular with baseball fans.

Slowly, DC businesses are ditching paper money for plastic, embracing a trend gaining traction nationwide. "I'm all for the cash-free system" on buses, Rogers Ferguson, a 52-year-old Washington native and Navy veteran, said. "I do a lot of traveling abroad so I'm very acclimated to not carrying cash." The 2018 World Payments Report, released this month by consultancy Capgemini and banking giant BNP Paribas, indicates a global cash-free boom.

In 2015-2016, 483 billion transactions were cashless. That number is expected to rise at a 13 percent compound annual rate through 2021, according to the report. Though the United States has often been a laggard in terms of payments innovations, businesses in Washington are adopting the cash-free model. Bus operator WMATA told AFP it is exploring the concept for efficiency reasons: accepting cash can waste lots of time when customers are boarding.

But cost and security are also key factors, says James Angel, a professor at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business. Cash is "expensive to transport, you've got to count it, you've got to worry about it disappearing and you also have to worry about the safety of your employees," he explained.

'Kind of wrong'

There is no federal law forcing businesses to accept cash. Some states such as Massachusetts have statutes on the books, but they do not appear to be widely enforced. But while businesses can reap the benefits of ditching real dollars, is there a hidden cost for consumers? "There's no free lunch here," Angel says. Of course, consumers absorb the literal expenses, such as processing fees and technology infrastructure. Angel also warns of ethical considerations about leaving people behind in a cash-free world. Tony Boomer, a 33-year-old laborer in the capital, says he is wary of cash-free businesses due to security concerns, and argues that some people just like paying in cash. "It's kind of wrong," Boomer told AFP. "It's like you're separating the people that don't have credit cards."

The 'underbanked'

In a country of more than 325 million people, 13 million Americans don't have a bank account, according to Federal Reserve figures. Another 18 percent are what is known as "underbanked"—meaning they have an account, but still use alternative financial services such as check cashers and money orders. In Washington, that translates to 37,000 unbanked and 72,000 underbanked households, officials say—meaning a whole segment of the population could be cut out of the new retail economy.

"Unfortunately a lot of the unbanked are primarily poor people, or people of color," says Stephen Taylor, commissioner of Washington's city Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking.

A lack of education, distrust of institutions and high banking fees all play a role, explains Taylor, who manages Bank on DC, a program connecting financial institutions and underserved communities.

Ferguson says a cash-free Washington could leave behind longtime residents who are senior citizens, as well as young teens and people who struggle to set budgets. "Folks don't really know how to manage money," argued Ferguson, the father of a 13-year-old son. "The businesses who don't accept cash really hinder their lifestyle because they can't manage it unless they physically see it."

Bumps in the road

Joseph Leitmann-Santa Cruz, an associate director at financial education nonprofit Capital Area Asset Builders, said he doubts cash-free businesses deliberately exclude certain consumers. But he notes: "Those policies are pretty much saying, 'If you are low-income and don't have a bank account or credit card, then we don't want your business.'" For Land of Kush, a vegan soul food restaurant in nearby Baltimore, going cash-free proved a mistake for that exact reason. Earlier this year, owners Najha Wright-Brown and her husband Gregory Brown won \$10,000 in a "Cashless Challenge" set by VISA. They were motivated to enter and pledge to go cash-free after an armed robbery last Thanksgiving.

But the experiment barely lasted a week. "We're a black business, so we serve a diverse customer base... including people who just don't have bank accounts," Wright-Brown explained. "So there was a



WASHINGTON, DC: A Metrobus operator drives in Washington, DC. As the US capital traded stifling summer heat for cool autumn breezes, signs began appearing on lamp posts, asking Washington commuters: what do you think about buses going cash-free? — AFP

population that was very upset with this and we couldn't really afford to lose that third of transactions that we get."

Getting people into banks

In Washington, several city council members in June introduced a bill seeking to require retail food establishments to accept cash. But for Taylor, the solution is not putting a stop to cash-free. "Say you force them to take cash—that doesn't solve the problem of the unbanked," he said. "The best thing

that we can actually do is really work hard to redouble our efforts ... and actually get people into bank accounts." Angel suggests extending cashless payment options, such as mobile transfer systems, to the unbanked could work—if the US, where chip-and-pin card payments only recently became the norm, can get up to speed. "Other countries have managed to do it—places like China, places like Sweden. Other places have figured it out," Angel said. "But our country is really backwards in payments." — AFP

In Kenya, free cash is the latest solution to poverty

BONDO, Kenya: Until recently, Molly struggled to imagine life beyond the end of each repetitive day: work in someone else's fields and earn enough to eat, rinse, repeat.

"It was a vicious circle I could not escape," says the 25-year-old villager in the Bondo region of western Kenya. Her hardscrabble, rural existence is the same for many in Siaya County where people eke out a living farming maize, millet and cotton in the ochre soil.

But that was before the introduction in her village of a cash handout known as "universal basic income". It's part of a large, intensive, multi-year study aimed at discovering a new way to end poverty in Africa.

Molly began receiving a no-strings, fixed monthly donation of 2,250 shillings (\$22, 19 euros) two years ago, and since then "everything has changed", she says. "I was able to save to study to be a nursery school teacher," she says proudly inside her tin-roofed cement home as chickens pecked outside.

"It was the little bit of help that turned my situation around." With a paid internship at the village school Molly has built on the foundation of universal basic income to see her monthly income more than double to \$50, broadening her horizons.

"Before, I barely had enough money to survive but now I have plans... I even go to the hairdresser once every two months," she says with a smile.

Same cash, different dreams

According to the World Bank, over a third of Kenya's nearly 50 million citizens live below the international poverty line of \$1.90 a day. Molly's village—which is not

being identified in order not to stir envy or skew the study—is one of scores in the area chosen by the US charity Give Directly to test the universal basic income theory. The region was selected because of its poverty, but also its stability and, crucially, the effectiveness of Kenya's mobile money transfer system, M-Pesa, that allows the easy distribution of payments.

Founded in 2010 and working in six African countries, Give Directly sends money straight to the poor allowing them to choose their own priorities, rather than outsiders "deciding instead of them", explains the non-profit's spokeswoman Caroline Teti. Previously, recipients were given a single lump sum, but now monthly payments are being trialed.

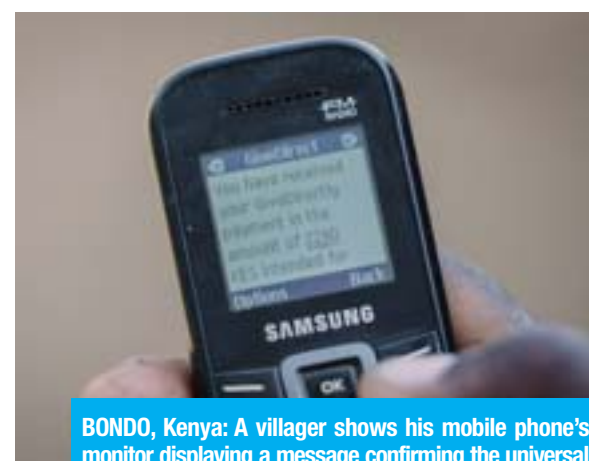
"When you give people money monthly, will they stop working? Will they take risks in the way they invest knowing they will have an income whatever happens? How does that affect their aspirations?" says Teti of some of the questions their program is testing.

"There is a global debate about universal income and we want evidence to move forward," she says. The study is the biggest in the world and will involve a total of 20,000 people in western Kenya.

Residents of 40 villages will receive \$22 a month for 12 years, a further 80 villages will receive the same amount for just two years, while another 76 villages will receive two lump sum payments of \$507 spaced two months apart. Molly's neighbor, 29-year-old Edwin, hopes to replace his mud hut with a cement home, while Monica and her husband have invested in small-scale chicken farming. "We have a new enclosure and a few chickens," says Monica, 30, wearing an elegant black dress, mended in several places. She hopes to be able to send her three children to school so that they won't "live in poverty, like us". Without patronizing prescriptions from donors, "everyone in the village is using the money differently," she adds.

'Not the sole solution'

Give Directly believes universal basic income is useful, but not a panacea. "When you are in a conflict situation,



BONDO, Kenya: A villager shows his mobile phone's monitor displaying a message confirming the universal basic income transaction, 2,250 shillings per month (19.5 euros), in Bondo region, western Kenya. — AFP

you may have been affected beyond basic (needs), you may not have a place to sleep, you're more vulnerable to disease," says Teti.

"In that context, basic income can be a part of a solution, but it cannot be the sole solution."

Nor, she adds, is it a substitute for the state's obligations to provide life's basics such as schools and healthcare. For villagers involved in the basic income experiment, the money is an assist not a solution, and also an opportunity, to be seized or squandered.

"2,250 shillings is not enough to buy useless things," says Judge Samson, 72, explaining why villagers are not wasting their cash handouts. "It's just enough to feed you and get out of poverty."

Monica has invested her money to benefit her family, but worries that if the basic income trial is a success, others might prove less thrifty. "Maybe in the future some will forget what we went through and start buying stupid things," she warns, but then adds: "I don't think that will be the case." — AFP

the country's modern history is the popular but divisive Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who in 2003 became Brazil's first president elected from the left-wing Workers' Party (PT). He was re-elected in 2006.

Under his social programs, 29 million Brazilians emerged from poverty.

His handpicked successor, Dilma Rousseff, became the first woman president in 2010. She was impeached in 2016, accused of financial wrongdoing in office. The current president, the unpopular Michel Temer, was also implicated in graft but escaped impeachment and is not standing in the polls.

The series of corruption scandals, essentially linked to contracts with state oil giant Petrobras, has spared no political party and drawn comparisons with Brazil's highly popular "novelas," or soap operas.

The saga saw Lula jailed in April 2018, barring him from running for elections despite being a longtime favorite. Instead, the runoff pits Lula's protege and former education minister Fernando Haddad against far-right ex-army captain Jair Bolsonaro, the favorite.

Economic giant

Latin America's biggest economy, Brazil relies on abundant natural resources and a dynamic industrial sector, including automobile construction, civil aviation, household goods and textiles. It is among the world's leading producers and exporters of coffee, sugar, orange juice, beef, poultry, ethanol fuel, soybeans and iron. But it suffered a recession in 2015 and 2016, when its economy contracted nearly seven percent, recovering to one-percent growth in 2017.

Despite some success in reducing poverty, inequality remains high. The country has several thousand impoverished "favelas," or shantytowns. A quarter of the population of Rio de Janeiro lives in such areas. It is also one of the most violent countries in the world, with 30.8 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants in 2017, according to the Brazilian NGO Forum of Public Safety.—AFP

Brazil: A giant in crisis rocked by corruption

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil, which is holding a presidential runoff election yesterday, is a giant in size and economy, but has been struck by a string of corruption scandals that have rocked its political core.

Here are some key facts about the country:

Amazon: 'Lungs of the Earth'

Brazil is Latin America's biggest country, spanning 8.5 million square kilometers (3.2 million square miles) to cover nearly half the continent. It includes about 60 percent of the Amazon rainforest, the largest in the world and essential in the exchange of CO2 for oxygen.

The only Portuguese-speaking country in Latin America, 47 percent of its population of 208 million is of mixed race, according to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE).

Forty-three percent are white and nearly nine percent black. The world's largest Roman Catholic nation, it has taken in tens of thousands of Venezuelans fleeing the crisis in their country, an influx which has stoked tensions.

Soap opera scandals

After 300 years of Portuguese colonial rule, Brazil gained independence in 1822 and became a monarchy. A major importer of African slaves, it abolished slavery in 1888, the last country in the Americas to do so.

A republic was established in 1889 and the military took over in 1964, imposing a dictatorship until 1985, when civilian rule was restored. The towering political figure of

Namibia throws out black ownership mining norm

WINDHOEK: Namibia has scrapped a rule allowing only companies partly owned by black Namibians to apply for mining licenses, mines minister Tom Alweendo said. The southern African country produces diamonds, uranium and other mineral resources, but a three-year recession has pushed the government into relaxing the rules in the hope of attracting more investors. Alweendo said the government made the decision last week.

"Our objective is to grow the mining sector where it can continue to meaningfully contribute to our socio-economic development. This can only happen when more minerals are discovered and it is important that we make the progress of mineral discovery as effective as possible," he said.

This, he said, required more investment in the sector. The Namibian government started giving preferential treatment to black-owned companies in 2006, but eventually that was not deemed enough. The government then announced in 2015 that it had introduced additional conditions on mineral licenses holders to reserve a minimum of 5 percent participation in all licenses to Namibians and 20 percent of previously disadvantaged Namibians to be part of management structures of mines.

The Namibia Statistics Agency said the mining sector contributed 12 percent to Namibia's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2017. — AFP

Nigeria and Benin make a new break for the border

BADAGRY, Nigeria: Nigeria's southwestern border with Benin is notoriously chaotic. Travellers and traders battle corrupt officials, hawkers and buzzing moto-taxis just to get to the other side.

But a new crossing point has sprung up near the well-worn dirt tracks and roadside markets that the West African bloc ECOWAS hopes will make the movement of people and trade a lot easier.

President Muhammadu Buhari flew in by helicopter to cut the ribbon at the Seme-Krake Joint Border Post this week with his Beninese counterpart Patrice Talon. The well-guarded 17-hectare (42-acre) site conforms to international standards and has been built for an estimated 18.3 million euros (\$21 million).

State-of-the-art scanners to detect illicit goods and a weighbridge have been installed. Customs, immigration and other officials will no longer have to work out of makeshift offices in battered shipping containers and huts. The president of the ECOWAS Commission, Jean-Claude Kassi-Brou, said as well as boosting trade and helping travellers, the border post will help cut smuggling, fraud and corruption.

Plugging gaps?

The European Union is providing ECOWAS with nearly 64 million euros to create seven similar facilities from Nigeria to Ivory Coast, between Ghana and Burkina Faso, and Guinea and Mali.

Ketil Karlsen, the EU ambassador to Nigeria and ECOWAS, told AFP: "A better flow of people, goods and services... translates into job creation, opportunities and development possibilities."

On the face of it, developing economies through more formalized trade seems common sense, particularly at Seme-Krake, which is one of Africa's busiest border crossings.

Some 70 percent of regional trade is estimated to be conducted in the corridor stretching 900 kilometers (550 miles) along the Atlantic coast from Lagos to Abidjan. Economic growth is also needed in Nigeria, where about 87 million of its more than 190 million people are classed as living in extreme poverty, and in low-income Benin. Nonso Obikili, a Nigerian economist, said the new border post could spur the creation of others if it shows that trade across a land border can be as smooth and efficient as via seaports.

ECOWAS and the EU both say Seme-Krake is a starting point, as questions are asked whether such a facility is really needed and will even be used.

People from the 15 ECOWAS countries already have the right to free movement and residency in other member states. Not everyone uses formal crossings. A 2011 study by the National Institute of Statistics (INSAE) in Benin recorded some 171 border crossing points with Nigeria and its other neighbors Burkina Faso and Niger. Trade-wise, it's a similar picture, with used cars and fuel, food and agricultural products smuggled through the bush to get round import bans and high tariffs in protectionist Nigeria.

Motorcycles carrying sacks of banned foreign rice and cars with suspiciously high rear suspensions are commonplace on Nigerian roads near the border. "In terms of smuggling, I don't think it will make a difference," said Obikili. "Smugglers don't really use the Seme border anyway, as it has always been heavily policed." — AFP

Business

Eurozone not prepared to face new economic crisis: French FM

No risk of contagion from Italy's budget crisis

PARIS: There is no risk of contagion from Italy's budget crisis in the European Union but the eurozone is not prepared enough to face a new economic crisis, French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire told daily Le Parisien yesterday.

The European Commission rejected Italy's draft 2019 budget earlier this week for breaking EU rules on public spending, and asked Rome to submit a new one within three weeks or face disciplinary action.

"We do not see any contagion in Europe. The European Commission has reached out to Italy, I hope Italy will seize this hand," he said in an interview. "But is the eurozone sufficiently armed to face a new economic or financial

crisis? My answer is no. It is urgent to do what we have proposed to our partners in order to have a solid banking union and a euro zone investment budget."

Euro zone officials have said that Rome's unprecedented standoff with Brussels seems certain to delay the reform process and probably dilute it for good.

Le Maire also said French banks with branches in Italy had issued corporate and household loans totalling 280 billion euros (\$319 billion).

A majority of eurozone countries favor the single currency area adopting a fiscal capacity, or common budget, French Finance Minister

Bruno Le Maire said on Friday.

After meeting German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz in Berlin, Le Maire said they had also made progress towards achieving a compromise position on plans for a digital services tax. "I think a compromise in the coming weeks is possible and we will be able to send the clear message that we agree on a fair taxation of the internet giants," he told reporters.

President Emmanuel Macron's French government has led a push for firms with significant digital revenues in the European Union to pay more tax at source. Germany has long been cool to the idea, while smaller member-states with low corporate tax rates such as

Luxembourg and Ireland firmly oppose the proposal. Le Maire sought to soothe German concerns that such a levy could tax data exchanged or sold between a car manufacturer and a supplier of car equipment.

"The DST will tax data of a personal nature collected through a web search engine or platform and then sold on and exploited for commercial purposes," he said.

On the eurozone budget, Le Maire said the idea had been seen as impossible to achieve only a few months ago. "A clear majority now support such a capacity," he said. "Call it a fiscal capacity or a budget, it is the same in the end." —Reuters



Bruno Le Maire

Kareena Kapoor Khan launches jewelry collection of Malabar Gold & Diamonds

KUWAIT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one among the largest jewelry retailers globally has revealed its latest collection of jewelry. Bollywood Star Kareena Kapoor Khan, who is the brand ambassador of Malabar Gold & Diamonds unveiled the versatile and sparkling jewelry collection exclusively designed for the celebration of lights. Customers can browse from over 200 designs which were specially introduced in this festive season. Malabar Gold & Diamonds is also celebrating its 25th anniversary during this joyous season. The retail network of Malabar Gold & Diamonds has now reached to 250 stores across 10 countries and they are rejoicing this achievement with the customers with grand offers.

The latest jewelry collection is specially designed in gold (18K & 22K), diamonds and precious gems to celebrate this festive season keeping in mind the tastes of their multicultural and multinational customers. A true shopper's pleasure, Malabar Gold & Diamonds will enthrall the customers by exhibiting eye catchy designs in gold, diamonds and precious gems from different parts of the world to flaunt at any occasion or event. Malabar Gold & Diamonds has incorporated these designs as a part of various brands presented at

Malabar Gold & Diamonds' namely Ethnix - Handcrafted Designer Jewelry, Era - Uncut Diamond Jewelry, Mine - Diamonds Unlimited, Divine- Indian Heritage Jewelry, Precia - Gem Jewelry and Starlet - Kids jewelry.

Apart from the flagship brands, this Diwali, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has introduced three new jewelry collections namely Fiore, Desire and Chica. Fiore 18K gold jewelry collection represents the pendant sets, bangles, necklace sets in flower inspired designs. Desire jewelry collection is an exquisite set of mesmerizing designs weaved into magnificent bangles and bracelets to adorn your wrists. Chica 18K collection offers trendy single anklets with floral pendants and diamond cuts to add to the grace and charm of today's woman. The new collection is set to mesmerize the customers for its beauty and unique charm.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds is also offering Bespoke jewelry solutions - a fully custom-made jewelry service catering to all budgets. Our expert designers and craftsmen will guide to create the perfect piece of jewelry from your own design. With Bespoke jewelry solutions, your jewelry dreams become a reality. Malabar Gold & Diamonds has announced some amazing offers combining the festive joy and its 25th anniversary celebrations and customers can win up to 250,000 free gold coins. This campaign will run until 10th November 2018 at all outlets in Kuwait. With every purchase of gold jewelry worth KD 200, customers get a 'Scratch and Win' coupon with one guaranteed gold coin or up to 100 gold coins. Customers also get two gram gold coin free on diamond jewelry purchase of KD 400 and a one gram gold coin free on purchase of diamond jewelry worth KD 250.



Furthermore, customers can protect the gold rate at Malabar Gold & Diamonds by paying 10 percent of the entire amount on the selected gold jewelry until 10th November 2018. Above offers are valid at their outlets in Kuwait until 10th Nov 2018.

Skyline team in Kuwait with best projects from Kerala

KUWAIT: As part of their Middle East tour, Skyline team is currently visiting Kuwait. The touring team will be available to provide expert advice on market trends and financing options in real estate at the Kuwait Continental Hotel, Farwaniya from 23rd of October to 5th of November. This will be a good opportunity as Keralites can take advantage of an appreciating Kuwaiti dinar to invest in the best luxury apartments and villas across Kerala.

Renowned for delivering world-class homes on time, Skyline Builders will be showcasing the widest range of ready to occupy homes, nearing completion and new launches across Kerala. The range consists of Sky Mansions - The Legend, Garden Bungalows, Garden Suits, Luxury Apartments and Skyline Oasis, an award winning Garden Villa project that has won the best group housing villa project from the Indian Institute of Architects. Located at just 1 km from MC Road, Kottayam, these perfect homes are designed for the ones who love to live a luxury Serene lifestyle and also proudly house a first-of-its-kind underground club house.

Skyline Builders provides a host of post sales services collectively known as SKYCARE that offers professional, hassle free upkeep and maintenance of your Luxury Apartments and Villas when you are away. The home care division takes care of rental and resale, house-keeping, bill payments etc. The after sales division undertakes repairs and maintenance of homes. The interior design division offers professional interior designing services. Not to mention, Skysuites; the fully furnished air conditioned Transit homes, across Kerala, that can be used by every Skyline customer and his family for two nights, absolutely free of cost, year after year.

The company is also the first builder in India to get the ISO 9001:2015 certification and is the first and highest rated builder in Kerala to be accredited with CRISIL DA2+. Facts that allow Skyline Builders to deliver its promises with utmost trust, quality and assurance to more than 7000 families across 53 countries.



Pakistan's 'penniless billionaires' expose money laundering frenzy

KARACHI: It took rickshaw driver Mohammad Rasheed a year to save 300 rupees to buy his daughter a bike, so when he found three billion rupees (\$22.5 million) had passed through an unused bank account in his name, he was stunned ... and scared.

"I started sweating and shivering," said the 43-year-old — just the latest victim of a money laundering scheme that Pakistan's new prime minister, Imran Khan, has vowed to crush.

When he got a call from the Federal Investigation Agency, Rasheed's first inclination was to go into hiding, but friends and family members finally convinced him to cooperate with officials. His case mirrors dozens of similar stories in recent weeks that have filled newspapers in Pakistan and riled a populace long accustomed to extravagant tales of corruption and theft.

The incidents follow a similar arc—bank accounts in poor residents' names are flooded with cash, then suddenly emptied in a laundering scheme that has likely seen hundreds of millions of dollars moved out of the country.

Rasheed's name was eventually cleared, but his anxiety remained. "I stopped driving my rented rickshaw on the roads because of the fear that some other investigating agencies might pick me up," he said. "My wife fell sick because of the tension."

Only weeks before the fiasco he had finally been able to buy a 300-rupee bike with worn tires for his daughter—the fruit of a year's careful saving.

'Stolen money'

The revelation of the laundering frenzy comes as the newly elected Khan has vowed to squash rampant corruption and recover billions siphoned from the country as his government scrambles to shore up Pakistan's deteriorating finances.

"This is your stolen money," said the former cricketer during a televised address to the nation Wednesday. "It was stolen on public contracts... and transferred into these accounts, then laundered abroad. I will spare no corrupt man in this country," he promised.



KARACHI: In this picture, Pakistani auto-rickshaw driver Mohammad Rasheed drives his rickshaw in Korangi, a slum area in the eastern district of Karachi. —AFP

But for victims like Mohammad Qadir the damage has already been done. "I have never even seen a bank from the inside," said the 52-year-old ice cream vendor. Transactions were nevertheless made in his name for 2.25 billion rupees. Since news of the incident spread Qadir says he is regularly mocked by his neighbors and also fears being kidnapped by criminal elements who believe he has billions of rupees to spare for hefty ransoms.

"He is a penniless billionaire," one of Qadir's acquaintances laughed while driving past his ice cream cart in the Karachi slum of Orangi town.

"People make fun of me, but I ended up with nothing at all from this situation," said Qadir. "It is such a tragedy." Sarwat Zehra, a 56-year-old official, says she has suffered from high-blood pressure after being handed a bill for 13 million rupees in back taxes.

"I was told that a company had illegally passed 14 or 15 billion rupees through my account," she said.

Pakistan's poor have long been used as fronts for the elite to dodge taxes and hide assets. But the scale of the bank account scheme is unprecedented, with

authorities pointing the finger at some of Karachi's wealthiest power brokers including figures with links to former president Asif Zardari.

'Blacklist'

In September, Pakistan's Supreme Court established a commission to investigate the scourge, finding that at least 400 million dollars had passed through "thousands of false accounts", using the names of impoverished people. Some 600 companies and individuals "are associated with the scandal", the commission concluded. It is all the more embarrassing for Khan as his administration scrambles to secure billions of dollars in foreign financial assistance, while also entering talks with the International Monetary Fund for a potential bailout amid a widening balance of payment crisis.

The brazen laundering schemes come as Pakistan was again placed on a watchlist this year by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) — an anti-money-laundering monitor based in Paris—for failing to do enough to combat terror financing. —AFP

France will ask automakers to fund new car trade

PARIS: France will ask carmakers today to help fund an expanded trade-in program to get older, polluting cars off the road with incentives for

new ones, the French finance minister told daily Le Parisien yesterday.

The existing government-funded scrappage scheme, which mainly targets old diesel cars, is already oversubscribed. The widening of the incentive is partly funded by a hardening of the tax on polluting vehicles adopted on Tuesday, which should raise 40 million euros (\$45.6 million) to reach a total of 610 million next year to finance contributions for the purchase of more environment-friendly cars.

The minister's agenda says he will hold meetings with Environment Minister Francois de Rugy and carmakers, such as Renault and

PSA, to "discuss measures aimed at speeding up the vehicle fleet's ecological transition."

"With Francois de Rugy we will ask carmakers tomorrow to contribute to the conversion premium," Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire told Le Parisien in an interview, adding that the incentive should be more efficient and reach more French people. The level of carmakers' contribution to the wider scheme would have to be discussed with them, he said.

Newspaper Les Echos earlier this week said French carmakers were already discussing between them the implementation at their expense of a bonus for the conversion of old

vehicles. The precise outlines remained under discussion. There has been a global backlash against diesel-engine cars since leading German carmaker Volkswagen admitted in 2015 to cheating US exhaust tests. The scandal has boosted investment in electric vehicles and incentives for green cars.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and her coalition partners agreed earlier this month on plans to cut pollution from diesel vehicles by asking carmakers to offer owners trade-in incentives and hardware fixes. But carmakers had said the focus should instead be on encouraging car owners to trade in their older diesel

models for cleaner vehicles - which would bring a boost in sales, albeit at discounted prices.

Volkswagen on Thursday said it will offer trade-in incentives and a bonus for scrapping older diesel vehicles in Germany. Separately, Le Maire dismissed calls to reduced taxes on fuel prices which have surged at French petrol stations after a spike in crude oil, saying this would contribute to climate change. France's 2019 budget includes an increase in diesel taxes of more than 6 cents per liter and those on gasoline by almost 3 cents, an increase that the government has tried to downplay, comparing it to soaring oil prices. —Reuters

What's On

LAPA hosts 'Cairo Steps' at Al-Shaheed Park



Within the activities of its Peace Festival, LOYAC's Academy for Performance Arts (LAPA) recently organized an outstanding concert at Al-Shaheed Park for the German-Egyptian band 'Cairo Steps' which brilliantly mixed western jazz music with oriental tunes. The concert was held on October 25, 2018 with the attendance of LOYAC chairperson Fare'a Al-Saqqaf, Egyptian ambassador to Kuwait Tareq Al-Qouni and German ambassador to Kuwait Karlfried Bergner.

In this regard, band founder Basem Darweesh, said that Cairo Steps merges and combines traditional Egyptian and oriental grooves with modern jazz improvisation, classical music and contemporary sounds. The music is influenced by spiritual ethnic music as well as European music traditions and alternates between strong unison rhythms, virtuoso solos and meditative soundscapes. The result is a unique music style and an exciting blend of various cultures. Darweesh expressed gratitude for LAPA and Al-Shaheed Park for hosting the band on its first performance in Kuwait and stressed that the music mixture highly appealed to the Kuwaiti audience.



BEC opens doors to 47th Branch in Egaila

Bahrain Exchange Company WLL (BEC), one of Kuwait's leading worldwide money transfer and foreign exchange companies, has announced yesterday the opening of its 47th retail outlet in Egaila. Situated in Sama Mall, BEC has opened its 47th branch in the most populated residential area in Kuwait. Open from Saturday to Friday, 9 am - 9 pm the branch will cater to many locals and expatriates in the area who require money transfer and currency exchange services. Customers can expect to receive BEC's highly competitive rates on currency exchange and BEC's full suite of money transfer services, including Cash Pick-up and Credit to Account through EzRemit, Xpress Money, Transfast and MoneyGram.

To celebrate the opening and to thank our new customers to the branch, BEC gave



away 500 gifts to the first 500 customers who undertook a money transfer or currency exchange transaction. Commenting on the new branch, Mathews Varughese, General Manager of BEC said, "With this new branch, we are now pleased to have a presence in Egaila and introduce the BEC brand and our competitive products and services to the residents and business owners of the community. We aim to be where our customers need us by offering conveniently situated BEC branches to ease money transfers back home to family and loved ones."

BEC currently has 47 branches conveniently located across Kuwait and specialises in sending money around the globe safely and quickly to over 46,000 locations in 30 countries through its own money transfer product - EzRemit. Its global reach is extended to over 200 countries through its partnership with MoneyGram an international remittance company. BEC also has its own online money transfer service, BEC Online, allowing customer to send money fast, safe and securely from the comfort off their own home or office or on the go.

Ray Chocola opens new showroom

Ray Food and Catering Company opened its showroom on October 17, 2018, in Al-Qibla area. The General Manager of Food and Beverage Jaber Abdulrahman Al Jaber was the company's representa-

tive at the event. The opening ceremony included the explanation of the stages of chocolate manufacturing, highlighting the quality of the Swiss and Belgian chocolate used in their product. A large group of media professionals and journalists, bloggers and influencers on social media were amongst the attendees and everyone was impressed with the taste and quality of the chocolate and cakes. Jaber addressed the guests and explained the services provided by the company, which include catering for weddings and special events.



ICAI Kuwait holds seminar



The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) Kuwait chapter conducted yet another continuing professional education program - 'Unlocking the potential of ERP for business' for the benefit of its members. The event was well attended by both members and guests. The program began with CA Noel Cherian, the Chairman of Kuwait Chapter giving his welcome address and introducing the speakers Mohammad el Khalouki from SAP and Shankar Mahadevan from Indus Novateur. The sessions evoked keen interest from the audience as the speakers delved into the benefits of ERP.

Mohamed talked about the power of ERP focusing on IoT, machine learning and digital transformation and how the same shall be integrated with ERP. Shankar of Indus Novateur provided an in-depth into the areas of ERP especially the next generation ERP like the analytics and cash flow forecast and as to how the ERP can do the job of controls and check points and why is it important for the financial user community to spend more time on analysis rather than doing data entry.

This was followed by a presentation by Vice Chairman CA Sai Devata on the upcoming trip to Georgia organized by the Chapter

exclusively for the members and their families. A raffle was conducted by CA Aditya Danuka and the winner was awarded a dinner voucher. This was followed by the vote of thanks by the Executive Committee Member CA Rabindranth Gonsalves and dinner.

ICAI Kuwait Chapter has a membership of around 450 Chartered Accountants. It is a registered association with the Indian Embassy in Kuwait. It provides a platform for networking and knowledge sharing and regularly conducts CPE programs inviting eminent speakers from Kuwait and India. Membership is open for all Indian chartered accountants.

NOTICE

TIES invites to their Tafseer class (Divine Wisdom from the Last Testament) on October 29, 2018 (today) at 7:00 pm. The class will focus on Surat At-Munafiqoun (The Hypocrites), verses 8 and 9 and learn about the event that charged the emotions of some Makkkan emigrants and their Medinite hosts and see how Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) calmed the situ-

ation. The class will also discuss how Allah himself responded to a dangerous and consequential statement from the head hypocrite in Medina. The class will examine Umar's historical statement to Abu Ubaida en route to Jerusalem and how he was received by the authorities there. The class will also discuss Allah's conversation with hellfire and paradise and examine what Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said about a person so pre-occupied with worldly pleasures that he neglects worshipping Allah (SWT).

Health & Science

Zika outbreak spreading in India, detected in new state

First confirmed case outside Rajasthan this year

NEW DELHI: India's Zika outbreak is spreading, with officials saying yesterday that the mosquito-borne virus has been detected in the western state of Gujarat after nearly 150 cases were reported this year in neighboring Rajasthan. Health authorities in Gujarat said a woman tested positive for Zika and was treated at a state hospital in the capital Ahmedabad, the first confirmed case outside Rajasthan this year. "Only one case has been found so far. We are taking all precautions," Gujarat Commissioner of Health, Jayanti Ravi, told AFP on Sunday.

The state health department has rallied hundreds of doctors and medical personnel to perform emergency screenings for Zika, including more than 250 pregnant women with fevers. Gujarat, which borders Rajasthan to the south, has been fumigating public areas in an effort to kill the mosquitos that carry the diseases. Health authorities in Rajasthan have detected 147 cases of Zika since September, officials say. Almost 440,000 people were under surveillance in Rajasthan's capital Jaipur last month.

The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which carries Zika and other viruses like dengue fever, is widely prevalent in India. The country of 1.25 billion reported its first Zika cases in January 2017 in Gujarat but the latest case is the first in the state this year. Since Zika erupted on a large scale in 2015, more than 1.5 million people in more than 70 countries have been infected, with most in South America.

In rare cases, if pregnant women contract the virus their babies can develop brain defects. Zika was also detected in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu in July 2017. The World Health Organization has said no vaccine is likely to be available until 2020. — AFP



AHMEDABAD, India: An Indian attendant places a mosquito net over a bed at an isolation ward for Zika virus patients at the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation-run Vadilal Sarabhai Hospital on Saturday. — AFP

Dell secures HCI certification for SAP HANA environments

ROUND ROCK, Texas: Dell Technologies has announced that its Dell EMC VxRail hyper-converged infrastructure appliances, powered by VMware vSphere and VMware vSAN software, are certified by SAP for SAP HANA(r) production environments. The certifications, for both VxRail and VMware software, reflect VMware and Dell EMC's continued leadership in the rapidly growing HCI industry.

According to the latest research from IDC, Dell Inc is once again No. 1 in the hyper-converged systems segment with 28.8 percent share, for the second quarter of 2018, based on year-to-year growth



of 95.2 percent. Led by the success of Dell EMC VxRail, Dell's growth outpaces the industry, which grew 78.1 percent to \$1.5 billion in system sales for the quarter. For the same period, VMware was tied for No. 1 in hyper-converged systems based on ownership of HCI software with 34.1 percent revenue share, demonstrating the largest year-to-year growth of any named vendor at 96.7 percent.

Dell EMC VxRail is the industry's only jointly engineered, turnkey, fully integrated HCI appliance with VMware, powered by VMware vSphere and VMware vSAN and pre-tested and pre-configured with the latest Dell EMC PowerEdge servers. These appliances are the easiest and fastest way to simplify a VMware environment for HCI with seamless integration with existing VMware tools. VxRail offers simplicity of lifecycle management and scalability with a cost-effective HCI solution that delivers multiple compute, memory, storage, network and graphics options to match any use case and cover a wide variety of applications and workloads.

"Customers can now get the operational benefits of a fully integrated stack from leading vendors of hyper-converged infrastructure, Dell EMC and VMware, to support their mission-critical, performance-sensitive SAP HANA environments," said Sanjay Poonen, chief operating officer, Customer Operations, VMware. "VMware is proud to be working with the leading applications company in the world, SAP, to provide a more secure and flexible digital foundation, to help customers drive a sustainable competitive advantage."

"Dell EMC VxRail makes IT transformation with HCI as simple as possible for customers to adopt and grow," said Gil Shneerson, senior vice president and general manager, Dell EMC VxRail. "As customers increasingly use VxRail for core data center workloads, this certification makes VxRail, already architected for in-memory database applications, an excellent HCI solution for SAP HANA customers."

"SAP has shared a long-time partnership with VMware and Dell EMC, and together, we've enabled customers to transform their businesses," said Martin Heisig, SAP HANA Technology Innovation Network. "Today's news highlights the depth and breadth of technologies Dell Technologies and SAP are offering to enable companies to optimise their SAP solutions with greater agility, high availability, lower costs and easy provisioning."

Robots to make robots at ABB's \$150m factory

ZURICH: Robots will make robots at a new ABB factory in China, which the Swiss engineering group said on Saturday it plans to build for \$150 million in Shanghai as it defends its place as the country's largest maker of industrial robots. The factory, located near ABB's China robotics campus, is due to be operating by the end of 2020 and will produce robots for China as well as for export elsewhere in Asia. China is ABB's No. 2 market after the United States. "Shanghai has become a vital center for advanced technology leadership - for ABB and the world," ABB Chief Executive Ulrich Spiesshofer said in a statement announcing the project.

With the expansion, ABB is banking on Chinese robots sales defying concerns over trade tensions with the United States that some fear could dent demand for electronics, auto parts and other items that require automated manufacturing and robots. China is expanding its robot workforce, as wages for human workers there rise and the country seeks to compete with lower-cost countries via greater automation. In 2017, one of every three robots sold in the world went to China, which purchased nearly 138,000 units, ABB said.

ABB's new 75,000-square-foot factory will use software meant to allow people and robots to work safely in close proximity, the company said, adding its YuMi robots - designed to work side-by-side with people - will also be deployed on many of the small parts assembly tasks needed to manufacture an ABB robot. Rival Kuka, taken over in 2016 by China's Midea two years ago, has also been expanding in the country, including by building a robot park in Shunde near Hong Kong. ABB, whose industrial robots are used, among other things, to build automobiles as well as to assemble electronic devices, will build robots for numerous industries at the Shanghai factory, a spokesman said. — Reuters

Kaico service team triumphs in MazTech annual competition

KUWAIT: Kuwait Automotive Imports Company, Al Shaya & Al Sagar, the exclusive dealers of Mazda, Peugeot & Geely in Kuwait adds a new entry in its achievements record by winning first place at one of the biggest automotive service competitions in the region. Organized by Mazda Corporation, the competition rated the skills and proficiency of over 20 authorized auto technicians from 10 countries in the GCC & South Africa region, where Kaico technician team came in first place.

The technician team at Kaico is considered to be certifiably competent to not only diagnose any fault, but also fix it as well on the first time, thereby increasing the customer's trust in their premium Japanese brand. More than 20 top auto technician from various Mazda dealers competed in Dubai to be named the best in the region.

The victory of Kaico service team is a result of continuous training opportunities that technicians participate in all year long.

"Our main aim at Kaico is to be customer centric, so naturally making sure customer vehicles are fixed to the highest standards possible is a critical part of this" said Ashish Tandon, General Manager of Kaico. Mohammad Abouelaun, Sr Executive Manager-After-sales, added: "The commitment to our customers is part of culture at Kaico. This competition is one of many ways we encourage our technicians to develop their skills in order to provide our customers with the best after sales experience possible."

Mazda Technicians across the world will compete in Hiroshima, Japan at the 2019 MazTech Competition held on May 22, 2019. Kaico team received an all-expenses-paid trip to Mazda's head office where they will showcase their talents in a skills competition solving challenging bugs on 2018 model cars. Points will be awarded for each bug resolved and tallied to determine next year's overall champion. Kaico is the authorized dealer of Mazda, Peugeot & Geely vehicles, Eicher busses & Iveco trucks, as well as Michelin & Apollo tires, Mobil lubricant oils & Royal Enfield Motorcycles.



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Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:

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- ◆ Fellow of American College of Surgery
- ◆ Canadian Board of General Surgery
- ◆ Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada
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Surgery Department
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Consultant Pediatrician-Canadian & American Board in Pediatrics-Canadian Board in Pediatric Emergency

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Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St.1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B

DR. WALEED S BUHAIMED
Consultant of General Surgery
Laprosopic and Bariatric Surgery

Academic Certificates - Training

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

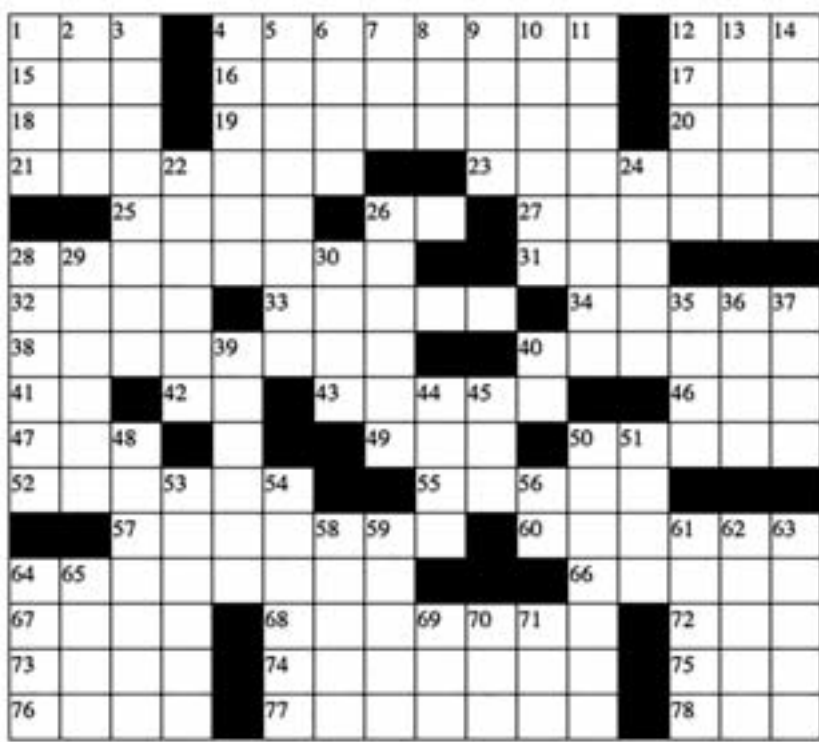
Scope of clinical Practice.

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

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

Stars

CROSSWORD 2046



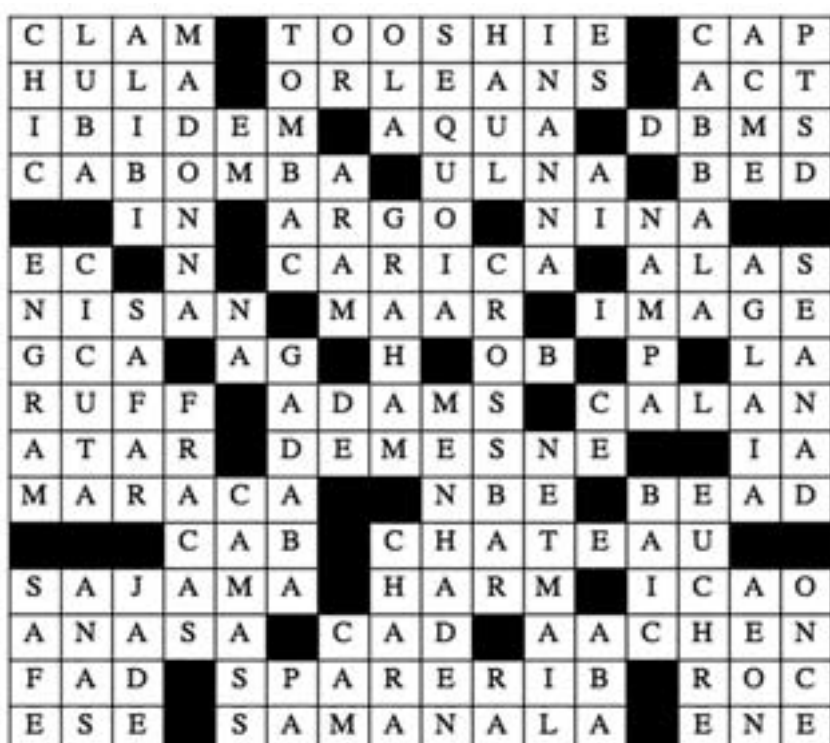
ACROSS

1. Not reflecting light.
4. Any of a series of radioactive elements with atomic numbers 89 through 103.
12. Any high mountain.
15. A chronic skin disease occurring primarily in women between the ages of 20 and 40.
16. Cracks or fissures in the skin (especially around the mouth or anus).
17. A member of the Dravidian people living in southeastern India.
18. Not in good physical or mental health.
19. The properties characteristic of the male sex.
20. (informal) Of the highest quality.
21. The rate at which energy is drawn from a source that produces a flow of electricity in a circuit.
23. Pertaining to or resembling amoebae.
25. A member of a pastoral people living in the Nilgiri hills of southern India.
27. March aggressively into another's territory by military force for the purposes of conquest and occupation.
28. A small volcanic island in Indonesia between Java and Sumatra.
31. Small cubes with 1 to 6 spots on the faces.
32. An interior passage or corridor onto which rooms open.
33. A unit of dry measure used in Egypt.
34. A large detectable amount.
38. A large group of islands in the south Pacific including Melanesia and Micronesia and Polynesia (and sometimes Australasia and the Malay Archipelago).
41. A midwestern state in north central United States.
42. A toxic nonmetallic element related to sulfur and tellurium.
43. Lower in esteem.
46. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
47. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
49. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
52. (British) A member of the military police.
55. A communist state in Indochina on the South China Sea.
57. A nihilistic art movement (especially in painting) that flourished in Europe early in the 20th century.
60. Small genus of aquatic or semiaquatic plants.
64. Generalized edema with accumulation of serum in subcutaneous connective tissue.
66. A member of the Mongolian people of central Asia who invaded Russia in the 13th century.
67. The state of owing money.
68. A cross with diagonal bars of equal length.
72. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
73. (usually followed by 'to') Having the necessary means or skill or know-how or authority to do something.
74. (Greek mythology) God of the stream that flowed around the earth in ancient mythology.
75. Infectious disease caused by a species of chlamydia bacterium.
76. Distinguished from Bovidae by the male's having solid deciduous antlers.
77. A politician who is running for public office.
78. Large brownish-green New Zealand parrot.

DOWN

1. A master's degree in religion.
2. (prefix) Indicating difference or variation.
3. Disclosing unintentionally.
4. A large fleet.
5. A literary language of Chinese Turkestan (named for one of the sons of Genghis Khan).
6. An account describing incidents or events.
7. One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
8. (British) Your grandmother.
9. The content of cognition.
10. Freshwater green algae.
11. A garnet ranging in color from yellow to brown.
12. Jordan's port.
13. (of language) Transparently clear.
14. A separate part of a whole.
22. United States writer remembered as the secretary and companion of Gertrude Stein (1877-1967).
24. American civil rights worker in Mississippi.
26. A member of an agricultural people in southeastern India.
29. French tragedian who based his works on Greek and Roman themes (1639-1699).
30. Predatory black-and-white toothed whale with large dorsal fin.
35. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
36. City in southwestern Colombia in a rich agricultural area.
37. English essayist (1775-1834).
39. A state in the western United States.
40. A heavy ductile magnetic metallic element.
44. (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
45. A fractional monetary unit of Japan and Indonesia and Cambodia.
48. Capable of being added or added to.
50. Of or relating to the island or republic of Malta or its inhabitants.
51. Type genus of the Amidae.
53. A worker who casts molten metal into finished products.
54. A person authorized to conduct religious worship.
56. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
58. Small tropical American tree bearing edible plumlike fruit.
59. Capital of the state of Oregon in the northwestern part of the state on the Willamette River.
61. Material consisting of seed coverings and small pieces of stem or leaves that have been separated from the seeds.
62. A spread made chiefly from vegetable oils and used as a substitute for butter.
63. An anti-TNF compound (trade name Arava) that is given orally.
65. The compass point that is one point east of northeast.
69. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
70. A hotel providing overnight lodging for travelers.
71. European strong-scented perennial herb with gray-green bitter-tasting leaves.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today finds you talkative and ideas are flowing freely. What a great time to let your creative juices flow! You may find yourself feeling overloaded with ideas and others may not be able to keep up or totally understand what you have to say to them. Don't forget to step back and take a breath. You may find yourself easily excitable and over emotional as these ideas run through your head. Even though your communication skills may not be on point today and you may find yourself at odds with those close to you, your day will be very productive and self-satisfying. Virgo. Today would be great for writing or journaling.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

It is ok to be different. Others seem to find you witty and eccentric. It seems many answers to problems you have been facing may come to you easily today. You grow to appreciate your responsibilities. You know you have been assigned duties because you are trusted. Your hard work is paying off. You may find the harder you work the more responsibility is placed on you. This may be a blessing and a curse in a way. Is your reward for hard work, more hard work? This will pay off in the end. You will be admired for your dedication and may be offered a new position.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You could find yourself interrupted when you try to communicate your thoughts. You look into a certain situation as though dissecting each aspect of it. A disagreement stays on your mind more than it should; sometimes when we step back we allow others to learn their own lessons. Someone treasures your input regarding a personal issue that has grown volatile. An opportunity to volunteer in an important capacity is possible; this could indicate a gardening project or perhaps pet or house sitting is on the horizon. Creating fresh energy in the home could be accomplished by adding new furnishings, paint or plants. The purchase of a new diffuser for essential oils could happen.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

It seems a desire for peace is a driving force in your world. What do you desire in a significant other? You are craving romance and social interaction. You are passionate but desire peace. Can these two qualities go hand and hand. When you find passion it seems to come at price. When you find peace you encounter another set of problems. You desire a passionate and peaceful relationship. Do not settle. Cancer. You can find the best of both worlds. The ideal partnership is what you desire.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

If you have to sneak to do it you have no use for it. You are quite disgusted by someone who seems to be hiding things from you. You are honest and live your life in a transparent manner. What you see is what you get. Right or wrong, you won't hesitate to admit if you have made a mistake. You are who you are and offer no apologies to anyone that doesn't like it. Sneaky co-workers, sneaky children, and sneaky partners in a relationship are a "no-go" for you. You have zero tolerance for these types of people. An encounter today may leave you with a bad taste in your mouth.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Happiness is the theme for today. This is one of those days you will be in love with your life. A great day will be spent with co-workers. Your skills are being noticed and you may find someone in authority shows you some type of recognition. This is a time you may find you focus on making the best out of what you have to work with. Lessons have been learned from past mistakes. You have your goals set and will be on your way to exactly where you want to be.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may feel a desire to organize your world today. Sometimes decluttering doesn't always refer to material things or just your belongings. You believe everything has a place and there is a place for everything. This includes the people in your life also. You may find someone, or something is working your last nerve. Today is a great day to leave it behind. You are at your best when the trivial and meaningless clutter is eliminated from your world. The need to declutter your world may find you not as social as normal.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Stay put and sit tight. This could be a time you could make some bad choices concerning your living situation. You may not feel the usual level of support from your friends. Decision making is not your strong point today. You may feel as if a night on the town will make things better. Choose your company carefully. A great time could go south quickly. Remember, not everyone has your best interest at heart. Keep your friends close and your enemies closer tonight.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may not find much excitement in this day. You may feel as though you are just going through the motions and find yourself to be quite content with getting lost in a good book or it may be a great time to sit back and relax while watching a movie. We all need an escape from reality from time to time and today seems just the day for this. You will feel much love and support from those closest to you today. You will know your efforts have not gone unnoticed and you are special to those close to you. Relax and clear your mind today.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may find yourself feeling a bit left out. For a short period, you may find yourself feeling a sense of isolation. Your standards are high, and you may not approve of all that goes on within your social circle and may find that rather than face that disapproval your friends may recently be excluding you. This feeling won't last long, however, you may want to surround yourself with a group you fit in with. You may find that tension is high at this time and could easily find yourself surrounded by conflict. Isolation may be a positive thing in your world for now, Capricorn. This is a good time to silence the noise and clear your head.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

This is a great time to surround yourself with friends. You may find much encouragement and the support you are needing to move forward towards your goals. Others may begin to show much admiration toward you. You are noticed for your ambition and drive. You may find that others begin to come to you for advice. This is very flattering to you. They say imitation is the most sincere form of flattery and you are flattered that your peers seek your advice to become more like you. You may find yourself having a great appreciation of your thoughts and ideas. This is a great time to put some of this down on paper. Whether keeping notes or beginning a blog, keep a record of the thoughts that are running through your mind now. This may be very profitable for you in the future.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are a dreamer. Currently the set of dreams that have had your focus are far from your norm. This is a strange feeling as these dreams are far from what normally motivates you. Do not let outside influences lead you in the wrong direction. If it does not feel right, do not do it. You could find yourself pouring energy and effort into something that has a negative effect on your life in the long run. Gather your thoughts, avoid acting in haste, and discuss this situation with someone whose opinion you value. You had much rather be safe than sorry.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Gardening

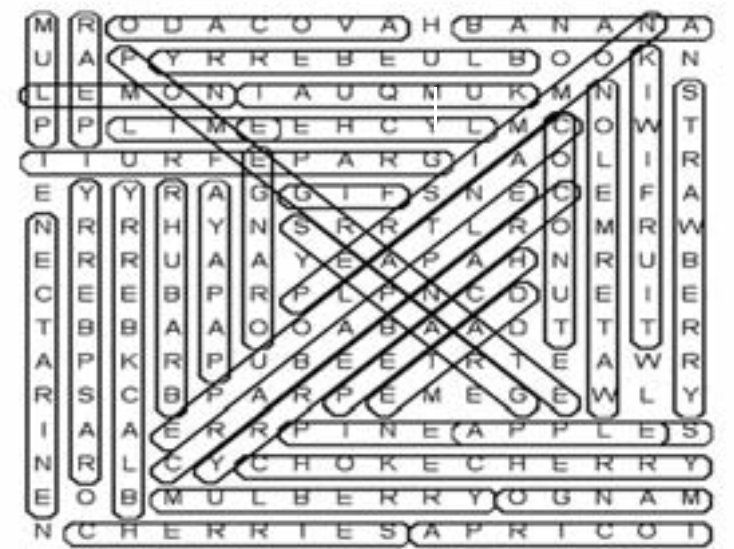
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 27 letters spell a Lady Bird Johnson quote.



- | | | | |
|------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| ANNUALS | GARDEN | ORGANIC | SEEDS |
| BEANS | GERANIUMS | PEAS | SHOVEL |
| BEETS | GLOVES | PERENNIAL | SOIL |
| BIENNIAL | GNOME | PETUNIAS | SPADE |
| BROCCOLI | GREENHOUSE | PINWHEEL | SUNSHINE |
| CARROTS | GROW | PITCH FORK | TOMATOES |
| COMPOST | HOES | PLANTING | TROWEL |
| CULTIVATE | HORTICULTURE | RAIN | TULIPS |
| DAISIES | HOSE | RAKE | VEGETABLES |
| DIGGING | HYDRANGEA | RELAXING | WATER |
| FERTILIZER | LILACS | ROSES | WEEDS |
| FLOWERS | LILIES | ROWS | WHEELBARROW |
| FUCHSIA | MARIGOLDS | | |

Yesterday's Solution

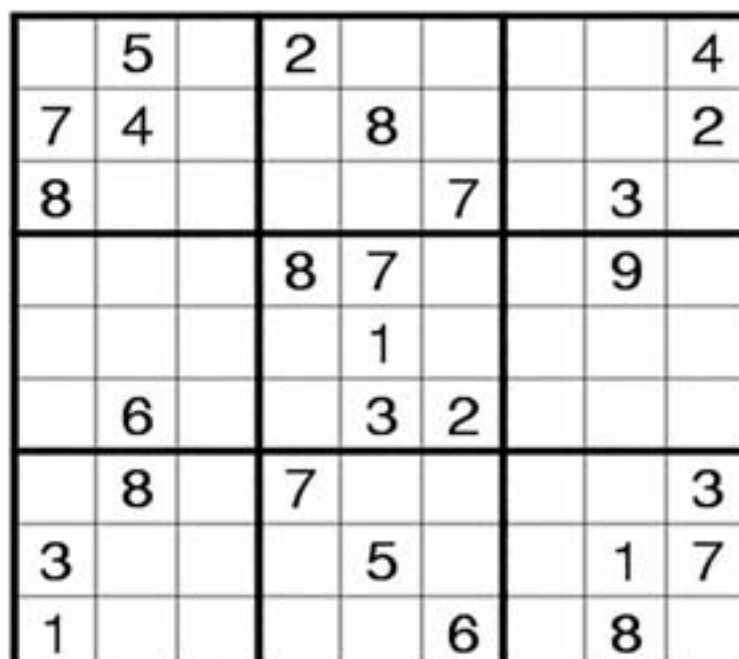
Fruit



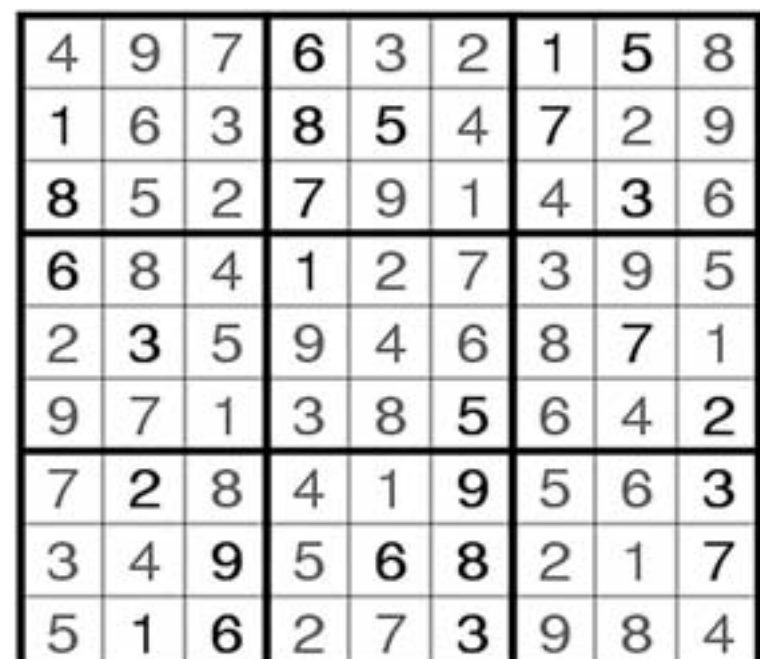
- | | | |
|-------------|------------|-------------|
| APPLES | DATE | ORANGE |
| APRICOT | FIG | PAPAYA |
| AVOCADO | GRAPEFRUIT | PEACH |
| BANANA | GRAPES | PEAR |
| BLACKBERRY | KIWI FRUIT | PERSIMMON |
| BLUEBERRY | KUMQUAT | PINEAPPLE |
| CANTALOUPE | LEMON | PLUM |
| CHEERIES | LIME | POMEGRANATE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

The hidden message is: HONEYDEW MELON

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2018



A person takes part in the Day of the Dead parade in Mexico City.— AFP



A female motorcycle-taxi driver riding with a passenger in Bangkok.



A female motorcycle-taxi driver riding with a passenger.



A female motorcycle-taxi driver, locally known as 'motsasai', picking up a passenger.



This photo shows three female motorcycle-taxi drivers waiting at a motorcycle-taxi stand in Bangkok. — AFP photos

In the fast lane: Female motortaxi drivers on the rise in Bangkok

Hair pulled back tightly as she lounges on her red scooter, Ar is a rare sight among the male-dominated ranks of Bangkok's motortaxi riders plying their trade on the Thai capital's treacherous roads. A veteran of seven years who works in the bustling On Nut district, Ar is among the thousands of women drawn to the work as gender roles in Thailand evolve, attracted by the flexible hours, decent wages, and a sense of autonomy. She welcomes the changes as offering a chance for women to gain more independence. "I am glad there are more opportunities for women to become 'motsasai'," she said, referring to the road warriors whose distinctive orange jackets line the streets of Bangkok. "A new generation of women now have to be tough and brave."

Although no official figures are available, observers say more women are choosing to brave the risky traffic-lagged roads and discrimination for the flexible work schedule, which allows them ownership over their lives. Chaloom Changtongmadun, president of Thailand's Motorcycle Taxi Association, said that working as a motsasai offered women a level of freedom not available in offices, shops or factories. "Women don't find the work convenient when they become pregnant, take maternity leave or visit their hometown," he told AFP. "They feel a closer connection with their families than when they worked in companies."

He believes that women today make up roughly 30 percent of Bangkok's 98,000 registered drivers although others say the numbers are probably lower. In many parts of the Thai workforce gender expectations are still at play, with women typically filling service industry jobs and clerical positions. "Thailand still has very blatant gender discrimination," said Kyoko Kusakabe, a professor at Bangkok's Asian Institute of Technology where she studies women's employment in the informal economy. That is in spite of women shouldering many of the family responsibilities, especially in times of crisis, Kusakabe

said. Women are more likely to take up low-paid work in the informal economy while men "stay unemployed to look for a better job", she explained.

'Now things have changed'

Chaloom also attributes the increase in recent years to the struggling economy, which has been under pressure since a military junta took over in 2014. Thailand's ever-shifting political landscape—where courts and coups have undercut civilian rule since 2006 — has hampered growth in what has been dubbed a "lost decade". "Many people lost their jobs or couldn't make enough money to take care of themselves and their family," Chaloom told AFP. Thailand also has one of the highest numbers of road deaths in the world, and Bangkok's motortaxi drivers embrace a life on the edge to provide a transport lifeline, weaving skillfully between long lines of cars.

As the industry has become more regulated, the drivers are now less vulnerable to abuse from shadowy mafias demanding monthly payments. Mototaxi queues — known as "wins" — also function in a more democratic fashion, like holding elections of leaders and allowing members of a queue to vote on certain decisions. However, most of the women still require the support of a male relative in order to join a line, where there is usually a lot of competition. Waiting for her turn on a shady Bangkok street in the Ari neighbourhood, Paveena—who goes by the nickname Yaya—says she could only secure her position because her brother vouched for her.

"My brother asked the win owner if I could borrow one of their (orange vests) so I could make more money," 36-year-old Yaya told AFP, explaining the second job was needed to support her family after the death of her mother four years ago. Today, she earns about 1,200 baht (US\$37) for a full day's work—a relatively high income compared to Thailand's daily minimum wage of 330 baht. Being able to make her own schedule also gave her the freedom to juggle her other job of selling school stationery.

Yaya said leaving a life of routine to buzz through the streets even helped her deal with her grief. "Driving helped me get through the loss of my mother because I didn't have to think so much... I just drove," Yaya said. Buayloy Suphasorn, 53, started 17 years ago and is considered a pioneer as one of the first female drivers on her win. "Some men didn't want to sit on my bike because I'm a woman," she recalled, adding that they thought she would be a bad driver. "But now things have changed." — AFP

Bolivia's 'oldest woman' celebrates 118th birthday

The oldest woman in Bolivia, and perhaps the world, turned 118 on Friday, remaining lucid and in good health, authorities in the South American country said. Julia Flores was born in 1900 in a Quechua family in the mining region of Potosi in the country's south. Known as "Mama Julia," Flores celebrated her birthday amongst family, friends and local authorities from Sacaba, where she now lives in the center of Bolivia. In a country where the average life expectancy is 71, Flores is an exception to the rule.



If her age was officially recognized, she would be the oldest living person and third oldest of all time, but she hasn't been confirmed by the Guinness Book of Records. "It's a day of recognition for us, to celebrate the oldest woman in our country," Juan Carvajal, a public employee in Sacaba told the Los Tiempos de Cochabamba newspaper. Dressed in traditional Quechua clothes, complete with white sombrero, Flores played the charango—a type of Andean lute—at her party and tucked into a birthday cake.

She lives in a small mudbrick house with a tight garden where she keeps dogs, cats and chickens that her 65-year-old niece, Augustina Verna looks after. The Bolivian Andes is no stranger to longevity as the region produced Carmelo Flores—no relation to Mama Julia—from the Aymara people who allegedly lived until 123, which if recognized would have made him the oldest person ever. The oldest ever person, as recorded by Guinness, was Frenchwoman Jeanne Calment, who was 122 years, 164 days when she died in 1997. — AFP



Bolivian Julia Flores Colque, known as "Mama Julia", plays the charango - Andean stringed instrument - as she celebrates her 118th birthday, in Sacaba, Cochabamba department, Bolivia. — AFP photos



Robyn likes contrast with being a celebrity and songwriter

Robyn thinks being a famous musician provides a "really exciting" contrast. The 'Dancing On My Own' hitmaker has bared her soul on her emotional new single 'Missing U' - which deals with both a breakup and the death of a close friend - and she finds it special to be able to put those feelings out there. She explained to NME: "There's something really interesting about the intensity of being a celebrity or whatever, someone that people know. "There's something really exciting about the contrast in between that and the super intimate relationship you have through the music with your fans, or the artists that you love..." It leaves a lot of space to talk about things in a way that doesn't become private. It becomes personal, which is nice - it doesn't become private or weird. I always really enjoy that, and you know what? I think it's almost a challenge for me." Robyn recently released her new album 'Honey' - her first in eight years - and the 39-year-old star admitted the title track was a vital piece of the puzzle. She added: "Honey" was such an important part of the album, for me, because it was the song that helped me

discover self-care. "Love, and that sensual quality I felt throughout the whole album was so important. I've been obsessed with this word for a long time, it's such a weird substance, it's both disgusting and amazing at the same time. "That's what self-love is, it's not all good; it's self-indulgent and also requires you to be deep and look at things that aren't so comfortable."

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APLIN BACKS EZRA FOR LEWIS ADVERT

Gabrielle Aplin is backing George Ezra to record the song for the 2019 John Lewis advert. Gabrielle Aplin wants George Ezra to record the song for next year's John Lewis Christmas advert. The 'Here' singer shot to fame in 2012 when she covered Frankie Goes to Hollywood's 'Power of Love' for the UK department store's annual festive commercial and she is backing 'Shotgun' chart topper Ezra to rework an Elvis Presley classic for their 2019 campaign. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, Gabrielle said: "I was going to say Tom Odell. I would have said Lily Allen - but they've both done it! Probably George Ezra, I actually saw him live a few weeks ago and he's great, and he's great live but maybe to be able to see him do an old Elvis cover that would be quite cool. I really love Sigrid at the moment as well too, she's really cool." Gabrielle - who attended the

Mobvoi #LookUpLondon event in Shoreditch this week, which aims to get people to reduce their screen time - is very proud of her association with John Lewis and admits that ad, which featured a snowman brave the elements to get his 'snowwife' a Christmas gift, changed her life. The 26-year-old musician added: "It was my own thing which was really cool. Yeah, with things like that you don't really kind of gauge how it is gonna go. I was so happy to do the advert - I thought they were really beautiful. It was really nice to be involved in one that was bit more of an animation as opposed to a posh family sat around a table having a big turkey. It was nice for it to be a bit more fantasy - bit more magical. I just loved it! "I really enjoyed being a part of it and I do feel it opened the door for me in lots of ways and I don't feel like it hindered me at all either, so I was really lucky that people stuck around to see what I was going to put out next. It allowed me to tour lots of countries. But in the UK, it will always be associated with Christmas." George previously revealed that he had an audition for this year's John Lewis Christmas advert after meeting with producer Giles Martin - the son of late Beatle producer George Martin - and bosses. However, Sir Elton John was ultimately selected to soundtrack the 2018 advert and he will also star in the campaign, for which he was paid a reputed \$5 million.



Elba and Swinton to lead Three Thousand Years of Longing

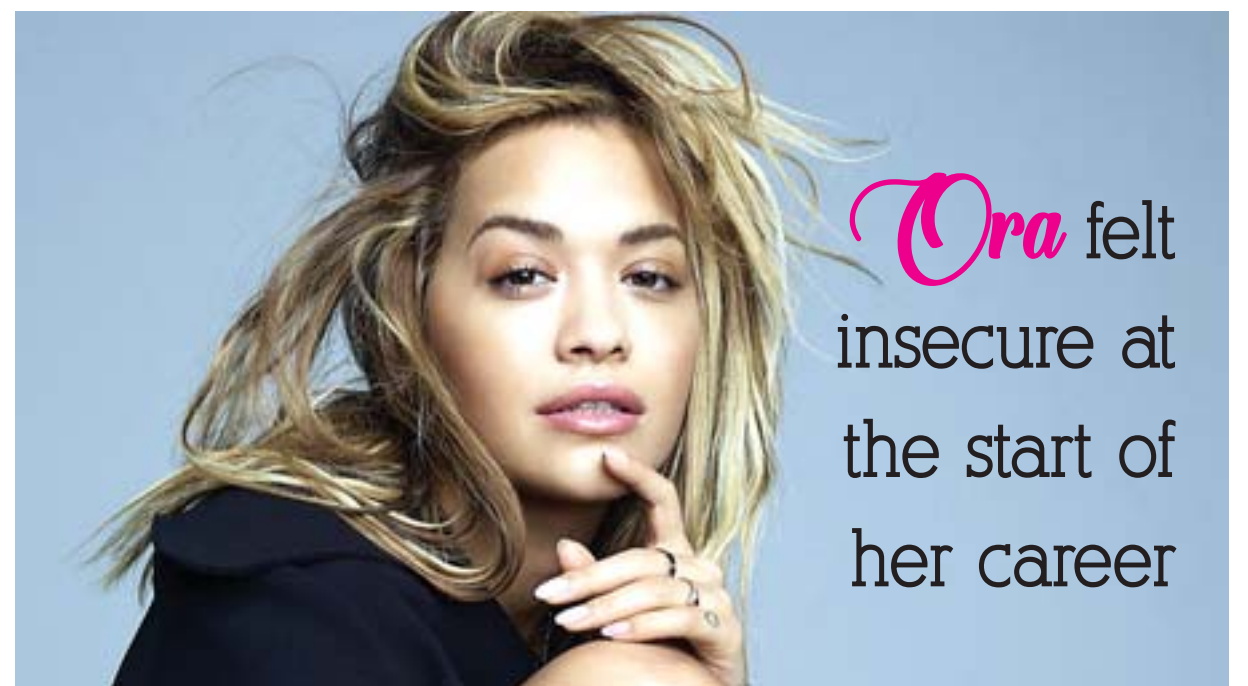
Idris Elba and Tilda Swinton are to lead the cast of 'Three Thousand Years of Longing'. The 'Dark Tower' actor and the 'Suspiria' actress are provisionally attached to director George Miller's next project - which has also been going by the title 'Djinn' - but won't sign on and commit to the movie until a studio and financing have been put in place by producers. Plot details of the film are being kept under wraps but the movie is believed to be a love story involving a genie. The 'Mad Max: Fury Road' filmmaker also wrote the script and is hoping to start filming next year, with rights going on sale next week at the American Film Market. This is the second new project Idris has been attached to this month as it was recently revealed he is to appear in Tom Hooper's adaptation of 'Cats'. The 46-year-old actor will



star alongside the likes of Sir Ian McKellen, Jennifer Hudson, James Corden, and Taylor Swift in the much-anticipated adaptation of Andrew Lloyd Webber's money-spinning musical. Idris has already played a feline role in his career, starring as Shere Khan in 2016's 'The Jungle Book'. The 'Cats' movie is to be produced by Tom, Tim Bevan, Eric Fellner and Debra Hayward, while Steven Spielberg will be one of the executive producers of the project. The adaptation has been in the works for years, with Tom - who directed 'Les Misérables' - previously teasing the ambition back in 2016. Meanwhile, after recently making his directorial debut with 'Yardie', Idris' own behaviour as an actor has changed. He said recently: "I've always been sympathetic when directors have actors who are difficult to work with. "Guys, I've got a million things to deal with, I don't need your issues right now." Actors are a really important part of the film engine but after working with actors that are super-dedicated - dedicated to the point where you couldn't ask any more and young and eager to impress and who just went for it - it made me look at my own dedication. "How much time am I giving the director to work to rehearse? How many times am I prepared to do it again differently if they ask me? Do I know my lines? I've always been an actor that wants to contribute to a happy crew. Now I'm going to work even harder to get there." — Bang Showbiz

Atkinson says he's not a 'proper actor'

Rowan Atkinson doesn't consider himself to be a "proper actor". The 63-year-old star appears in 'Johnny English Strikes Again' alongside award-winning actress Emma Thompson - who plays the role of the UK Prime Minister - and Rowan thinks his co-star is "weirdly convincing" in the role. He explained: "She brought a lot to the movie. I think she's great. Actually, she's a weirdly convincing Prime Minister. "You can absolutely see her in the job. Maybe she should be in the job. Who's to say? "What's good about Emma is that she's what I call a proper actor, unlike me. I just fart about for a living, but she's the real deal. She's proper Oscar-winning performer." Rowan has known Emma, 59, for decades and he's claimed that in spite of her reputation as a serious performer, she also has "comic genes". He told Collider: "I first knew her as a comic performer. That's when I first saw her, when she was still a student at Cambridge University. "Since then, she's done more varied roles, but she's got a real comic sensibility, which makes her great to perform within a movie like 'Johnny English'. She can bring the credibility and play the part of the Prime Minister well, but at the same time, she can make the jokes work. "She can say the line in a funny way, and she can make the scenes work and make Johnny English look funny, but that requires comic genes, and she's definitely got them."



Rita Ora felt insecure at the start of her career

Rita Ora had "an insecure moment" at the start of her music career. The 27-year-old singer is now established as one of the world's best-known pop stars, but Rita has admitted to feeling uncertain of herself around the time she released her debut album in 2012. She shared: "I had a bit of an insecure moment when I was starting out and I felt like I couldn't be myself, and that has now put a burden on me for the future, because if I was myself then I probably would have been different now. But I'm very grateful for the experience that I had." Rita admitted that some up-and-coming stars feel a pressure to make an immediate impression on people within the music industry. But the chart-topping singer - who has also starred in the 'Fifty Shades' movie franchise - has insisted that making a good

first impression isn't actually as important as people seem to believe. She told Harper's Bazaar magazine: "First impressions for me are not as important as other people may think they are. "I like to meet someone and give them time to warm up. Sometimes it's hard in our industry when you have a one-second window to meet someone and leave an impression." Rita also revealed how she uses fashion and make-up as a form of self-expression. The fashion-conscious star said: "I use fashion and make-up as something to express myself with, but also something to hide with. That's what makes it interesting for me."

Amandla Stenberg: On screen diversity is crucial

Amandla Stenberg thinks on screen diversity is "paramount to equity". The 'Hate U Give' star believes it is crucial for movies to feature stories about people from all different backgrounds as it is "one step towards humanizing them in your own life". She told Vogue magazine: "I think on screen diversity is paramount to equity, because entertainment and media is such a large part of what shapes how we look at the world. If you are able to have empathy instilled in you for other people who walk different paths in life and have different experiences than you by seeing a movie, I think that is one step towards humanizing them in your own life." Meanwhile, the 21-year-old actress previously confessed she feels a "responsibility" to only take on roles that serve a purpose so she can be a positive role model. She said: "I feel a responsibility, but these are also the only sorts of roles I'm interested in. It's probably something my mom instilled in me. When I was younger, the only roles I would have received would be like, 'Daughter of a drug user' or 'overly sexualized young black girl'. But she always said, 'No, we don't have to touch the roles you don't want to play. I don't really have interest in stereotypes of myself. Or putting myself in a light that robs me of the ability to do more activism ... I think it should be everyone's moral responsibility and not necessarily postulate it as really radical, because it's what we should all be doing. I have friends who exist within marginalized intersections of identity who have no interest in speaking out. Because they just want the ability to exist. And in many ways, I think that's enough."



Cara Delevingne: I feel inspired by other women

Cara Delevingne feels inspired by other women. The 26-year-old actress has revealed she takes inspiration from women who are from different walks of life and she's delighted that the collective female voice is becoming increasingly prominent in society. Cara said: "Generally, women inspire me no matter what. The more you get to know every woman, their story, strength and inspiration. "Now more and more women are finding a voice to stand up for what they believe in - the more vulnerability that is spoken about, the better." The 'Suicide Squad' star has admitted that in spite of her outgoing nature, she's actually "super insecure". Cara has therefore urged people not to judge others based on their outward appearance. The British actress - who first found fame as a model - told Harper's Bazaar magazine: "For me, confidence is a daily thing. It's not about being a confident person or an insecure person - I'm quite extrovert but I'm super insecure. "People deal with insecurity and shyness differently. So don't ever judge anyone for the way they are, because it doesn't necessarily match how they are inside." Cara also thinks social media has created even more pressure for young people. She said: "It's definitely given kids a lot more in terms of connection but those things come with massive amounts of danger. "I think kids now are a lot quicker to grow up and have a lot more to deal with. The pressure is really hard. "I think while everyone's adapting to it, it's about listening to each other, understanding how sensitive people are and knowing what's acceptable."



Rita Ora 'wins Halloween' with Post Malone costume

On Halloween, celebrities like everyone else, have the opportunity to dress up as someone or something else entirely, shunning their famous personas for just one night. While Heidi Klum is widely regarded as being the Queen of Halloween, donning extraordinary costumes year upon year, she may now have to defend her crown from a possible usurper. Rita Ora attended the Kiss Haunted House Party at Wembley's SSE Arena dressed as Post Malone, with many expressing their astonishment over the singer's uncanny portrayal of the rapper. Ora paid

extremely close attention to detail with her costume, which included Malone's recognizable facial tattoos, his grilled teeth, his brown curly locks and a denim jacket embossed with his name.

She even impersonated the rapper on stage at the London arena, with many people in the crowd none the wiser as to her true identity. "@PostMalone I LOVE you bro," Ora tweeted. "Surprised Wembley as you tonight at my show my fans didn't even recognise me LOL." Social media has been flooded with praise for Ora's costume, with

some even saying that she "wins Halloween." "Sorry I'm not much of a fan but OMG @RitaOra wins best costume! LMAO this is pure class," one person wrote on Twitter. "I can't go to sleep because I'm afraid Rita Ora dressed as Post Malone will haunt my dreams," another person commented. — www.independent.co.uk

Rita Ora as Post Malone for Halloween 2018.— Getty Images



Scout Willis (left) and Rumer Willis attend Just Jared's 7th Annual Halloween Party at Goya Studios in Los Angeles, California. — AFP photos



Daniel Nguyen (left) and Jeannie Mai.



A guest poses for a picture during the event.



Sarah Hyland (left) and Wells Adams



Taissa Farmiga



Kelly Osbourne



Adam Lambert

Just Jared's
7th Annual
Halloween Party



Jamie King



Renee Olstead



Frankie Grande and guests



Models present creations by Cynthia Abila during the Lagos Fashion Week. — AFP photos



Lagos designers champion 'unapologetically African' fashion

You have to struggle so hard to make your voice heard, that's why Lagos will always stand out," model Larry Hector told AFP about Nigeria's gritty yet unquestionably glamorous megacity Lagos. The statuesque 20-year-old dressed in all-white was standing backstage at the Lagos Fashion Week on Friday evening surrounded by a dizzying array of lush fabrics and gazelle-legged models. A generator

throbbed in the background—the answer to Nigeria's erratic power supply network and a symbol of perseverance in the face of adversity. "We're always pushing for something we haven't seen before, something that's out of this world," Hector said. "Now we have international people, starlets, celebrities from Paris, Milan, New York, everyone is coming to see what Lagos is about."

Fashion designers in Lagos are being courted by international tastemakers looking for talent and inspiration at a time when Afrobeat and African fashion are taking the United States by storm. The success of Lagos Fashion Week, which runs until Saturday, shows the growing appetite for African fashion and its invigorating colors, elaborate prints and standout street style. On Friday, Moofa's show gave the audience flowing silk dresses and layered looks embellished with lace and accessorized with jaunty white fedoras channeling 70's funk.

Ugo Monye's menswear had the audience roaring in delight. It was set to a remixed song from the soundtrack of 'Black Panther' and was accompanied by live drummers. Nigeria has had a bumper fashion year with A-list model appearances in Lagos and a flamboyant World Cup team that enamored fans from all over the world. Industry veteran Naomi Campbell came to Lagos in April to walk the runway. She fell in love with the megacity of some 20 million people, whose "hustle" defines an adapt-or-die creativity. "I didn't want to leave," said Campbell about her Nigeria trip. "I feel like Africa, as a continent, is on the tip of explosion. It's the next destination," she said.

style off the pitch. "It's only just gotten better, I think people are starting to see what we have," said Amaka Osakwe, the designer behind Maki Oh, one of West Africa's most celebrated brands. One of Oh's shirts, a black blouse with polka-dot ruffled sleeves and lined with the name 'Oh' in yellow, made headlines this year after being worn by Lady Gaga on the set of her blockbuster movie, A Star is Born. "We've shown that we have it and we are worldwide contenders," said Osakwe.

The appeal is undeniable. "The elegance of intricate African patterns on silk," gushed Vogue writer Suzy Menkes in an Instagram post about an indigo blue Tiffany Amber cape by designer Folake Coker. Afrobeats star WizKid, whose gilded street style exemplifies Lagos, has recently done a campaign with Moschino and walked the Dolce and Gabbana runway.

'Unapologetically African'

Now the city is emerging as the destination for African designers to show their work. "Lagos has this vibrancy and energy that is unapologetically African," said Iona McCreath, a 22-year-old designer from Nairobi, who came to show KikoRomeo. "If you can make it in Nigeria, you can make it in Africa." For some, it feels like finally African fashion is being given its due after years of determination and entrepreneurial vision. "Of course we built this, the world has changed," said Abriima Erwiah, the co-founder behind Studio One Eighty Nine, a creative collective split between Ghana and New York. "I think we're exporting culture," she said, "it's very empowering." — AFP

Gilded street style

Not long after, Nigeria was once again in the spotlight for its sold-out football jersey, a neon green and white zigzag creation worn by the Super Eagles for the 2018 FIFA World Cup. Nigeria, the youngest team of the tournament, not only had the coolest kit but also made headlines for their flamboyant



Models present creations by Nack on the runway during the Lagos Fashion Week.



Models present creations by The Dew Collection during the Lagos Fashion Week.

Meghan and Harry royal wedding outfits go on show in Windsor

Meghan Markle's couture wedding dress goes on display at Windsor Castle on Friday in a new exhibition about her May nuptials to Britain's Prince Harry. The white, sleek long-sleeved gown with a boat neck was designed by Clare Waight Keller, the British artistic director of French fashion house Givenchy for the May 19 wedding in Windsor, an event watched by millions around the world. Markle, now known as the Duchess of Sussex, also wore a five-meter (16 ft) veil decorated with hand-embroidered flowers which paid tribute to the 53 countries of the Commonwealth, as well as a diamond tiara borrowed from Queen Elizabeth for her big day.

The full outfit, including Meghan's shoes, has been put on display in a large glass box alongside an identical version of Prince Harry's wedding attire, a frockcoat uniform of the Household Cavalry, inside Windsor Castle's Grand Reception Room — one of the rooms used for the wedding celebrations. "This is a unique opportunity to see these outfits...worn on such a special day and actually in the surroundings where they were worn here at

Windsor Castle," Caroline de Guitaut, senior curator of decorative arts at the Royal Collection Trust, said.

Visitors can see the veil's intricate embroidery up close as well as listen to the couple talk about preparing for their wedding day through an audio device, which also has a recording of Waight Keller describing her work on the bride's dress. "Their Royal Highnesses have been very involved in the preparation for this exhibition," de Guitaut said. "They...wanted to be interviewed...so that they could tell the visitors all about the planning that went into their day."

Also on display are the bridesmaid and pageboy outfits worn by Harry's niece and nephew, Princess Charlotte and Prince George. Charlotte's dress was also designed by Waight Keller while George's outfit is a miniature replica of Harry's uniform. "A Royal Wedding: The Duke and Duchess of Sussex" opens on Friday and runs at Windsor Castle until January. — Reuters



Michael Jackson's 'Bad' tour jacket up for auction

Michael Jackson's black "Bad" jacket that the singer wore on his first solo tour is going up for auction in November and could fetch up to \$100,000. Julien's Auctions said on Friday that the jacket, which Jackson signed on the back with a silver permanent marker, was worn throughout the singer's "Bad" world concert tour from 1987-89. The jacket, with multiple zippers, straps and buckles, is one of the late singer's most iconic costume pieces alongside his red and black leather "Thriller" music video jacket that sold for \$1.8 million at auction in 2011.

Jackson has become one of the most collectible celebrities since his sudden death in 2009 in Los Angeles at age 50 from an accidental overdose of an anesthetic he was using as a sleep aid. The "Bad" jacket is being sold by Texas businessman and philanthropist Milton Verret along with almost 100 other items from his large rock 'n roll memorabilia collection. Verret also owns the "Thriller" jacket,

which he takes around children's hospitals, but is not putting that item up for auction. The Nov 10 auction at the Hard Rock Cafe in Times Square, New York, will also feature electric guitars played by Bob Dylan, Paul McCartney, Eric Clapton, and U2 band members The Edge and Bono. The various guitars are expected to fetch between \$20,000 - \$50,000 apiece.

Part of the auction proceeds will go to the MusicCares charity arm of Grammy Award organizers the Recording Academy that provides health and other services to musicians. "It's tough for musicians and artists today and this auction presents another opportunity to give back to the music community," Verret said in a statement. — Reuters



Classifieds

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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Mostly Sunny with light to moderate freshening at times especially over coastal areas north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 42 km/h.

BY NIGHT: Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 32 km/h.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 28/10/2018 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	28 °C	20 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	27 °C	19 °C			
ABDALY	27 °C	14 °C			
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C			
JAHRA	29 °C	19 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	28 °C	19 °C			
SALMIYAH	28 °C	21 °C			
AHMADI	29 °C	22 °C			
NUWAISIB	29 °C	20 °C			
WAFRA	29 °C	19 °C			
SALMY	26 °C	16 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Monday	10/29	Sunny	28 °C	17 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 28 km/h
Tuesday	10/30	Mostly Sunny	28 °C	17 °C	VRB-NW	08 - 28 km/h
Wednesday	10/31	Clouds will increase gradually	29 °C	18 °C	NW	06 - 30 km/h
Thursday	11/01	Partly cloudy	30 °C	18 °C	NW-VRB	06 - 30 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:38
Sunrise	05:58
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:42
Sunset	17:06
Isha	18:23

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	29 °C
MIN. Temp.	21 °C
MAX. RH	83 %
MIN. RH	42 %
MAX. Wind	N 60 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	1.02mm

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Airlines	
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American Airlines	22087425
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
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PIA	22421044
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Required HR Manager

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

- Along with a minimum of 3 years HR management experience they must hold a MBA.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills are a must along with excellent computer skills.

The successful applicant will have the ability to work at a fast pace, meeting set deadlines, unsupervised.

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Flight Schedule

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Monday 29/10/2018				Departure Flights on Monday 29/10/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JZR	406	Kochi	00:10	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:15	RBG	554	Alexandria	14:45
JZR	254	Amman	00:40	QTR	1079	Doha	15:00
KAC	503	Beirut	00:45	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
JZR	734	Cairo	00:50	IRA	666	Esfahan	15:10
THY	772	Istanbul	00:50	FDB	060	Dubai	15:10
KAC	102	London	00:50	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55	KAC	673	Dubai	15:40
JZR	722	Alexandria	00:55	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
DLH	625	Dammam	01:25	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:50
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	KAC	743	Dammam	15:55
UAE	853	Dubai	01:45	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:05
IGO	1757	Kochi	01:55	KAC	619	Doha	16:10
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	OMA	646	Muscat	16:35
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:55	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:40
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:45
MSR	612	Cairo	03:05	SAW	706	Damascus	17:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
JZR	502	Lahore	03:35	FDB	052	Dubai	17:40
QTR	1076	Doha	04:00	KAC	283	Dhaka	17:45
JZR	112	Doha	04:05	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	JZR	721	Alexandria	18:00
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	KAC	331	Trivandrum	18:00
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	QTR	1073	Doha	18:00
FDB	069	Dubai	05:00	JZR	733	Cairo	18:10
KAC	382	Delhi	05:05	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
THY	770	Istanbul	05:10	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:10	KAC	621	Doha	18:25
JZR	404	Hyderabad	05:10	JZR	127	Dubai	18:35
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	JZR	403	Hyderabad	18:40
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	05:30	JZR	253	Amman	18:40
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	KAC	381	Delhi	18:55
KAC	344	Chennai	05:50	FDB	064	Dubai	19:20
JZR	402	Mumbai	06:00	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:10	QTR	1081	Doha	19:55
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:10	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:05
KAC	678	Dubai	06:55	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
KAC	204	Lahore	07:10	KAC	357	Kochi	20:30
BAW	157	London	07:10	FDB	058	Dubai	20:35
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	20:40
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KNE	232	Riyadh	20:50
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	JZR	401	Mumbai	20:50
KAC	358	Kochi	08:05	KAC	301	Mumbai	20:55
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	KAC	353	Bengaluru	20:55
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	OMA	648	Muscat	21:20
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	DLH	624	Dammam	21:30
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
QTR	1070	Doha	09:45	QTR	1089	Doha	22:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:10
AXB	395	Kozhikode	10:50	KAC	203	Lahore	22:15
JZR	702	Asyut	11:05	KAC	1543	Cairo	22:15
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:10	MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
JZR	122	Dubai	11:10	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
MSC	415	Sohag	11:15	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
QTR	1074	Doha	11:35	KAC	383	Delhi	22:30
JZR	216	Jeddah	11:45	KLM	445	Amsterdam	22:50
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:55
JZR	714	Sohag	12:35	UAE	860	Dubai	23:00
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	JAI	573	Mumbai	23:00
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
QTR	1078	Doha	13:35	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
KAC	774	Riyadh	14:00	SVA	515	Riyadh	23:30
RBG	553	Alexandria	14:05	SVA	503	Jeddah	23:45
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10				



AL HAJJAH: Displaced Yemeni students attend a class in an open field under a tree in the northern district of Abs in Yemen's northwestern Hajjah province yesterday. Around two million children across the country now have no access to schooling, according to the United Nations children's fund (UNICEF), and the war that has pushed Yemen to the brink of famine shows no sign of waning. — AFP

MP urges govt to tax expats for the...

Continued from Page 1

Chairman of the committee MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subaie said the panel discussed two opinions: one saying the Assembly can discuss the issue and take decision while the other stressed the membership of the two lawmakers has been lost automatically after they were handed the jail term.

He said the panel however supported the first opinion and its report will be sent to the National Assembly for a vote tomorrow when the Assembly opens its new term. The two lawmakers who opposed the decision

Almost 2 million Iranian pilgrims...

Continued from Page 1

His wife and young children were accompanying him for the first time: "They insisted on coming. Though it is a difficult trip, they've enjoyed it so much." The pilgrims stream past tents, called "mokebs", which hand out free food ranging from scrambled eggs to boiled turnips. Full meals are served at midday and in the evenings.

The crossing stays open around the clock, but blankets and tents are provided for anyone needing a rest. Every few meters there is a free shoeshine, and when the pilgrims take off their shoes the attendant kisses their feet as a sign of respect: for Shiites the Arbaeen march is so holy that just serving the pilgrims is thought to bring divine reward. The pilgrimage marks the martyrdom in 680 of Imam Hussein, grandson of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), who refused to accept the leadership of the "usurper" Caliph Yazid and was massacred along with his followers at Karbala.

Shiite Muslims have honored his death with elaborate mourning ceremonies ever since and Hussein's last stand has come to serve as a powerful symbol of resolve and sacrifice in the face of oppression. That imagery remains a key part of Iran's religious and political self-image, and even as modernity has transformed much of the country, the huge scale of the Arbaeen pilgrimage is a reminder of how significant the symbolism remains.

Leicester City boss feared dead after...

Continued from Page 1

Among the tributes was an image of Ganesh—a Hindu god also seen in Thai Buddhist temples. A minute of silence was observed before the whistle of yesterday's two early Premier League matches. "He's put Leicester on the map," club supporter Cathy Dann, 55 said. "He's made us big."

England legend Gary Lineker, a former Leicester player and host of the BBC's Match of the Day, tweeted: "That was the most difficult @BBCMOTD I've ever hosted... A terrible tragedy. Heartbreaking." Leicester stars Jamie Vardy and Harry Maguire both tweeted emojis of hands held up in prayer. Sven-Goran Eriksson, who was manager of the team under Vichai, called his former boss a "very, very generous man" who "saw every game during my time". And ordinary fans in central Bangkok said Vichai helped develop Thailand's football as well, bringing the Southeast Asian country greater recognition in the sports world.

"He is an important person who has raised the bar of Thai football further," Apichart Jitratkavee, a Leicester fan in the Thai capital said. Vichai bought Leicester City in 2010 and moved to chairman the following February, pouring millions into the team and becoming a beloved

Ahmad Al-Fadhl and Khaled Al-Shatti cried foul insisting that it is a clear breach of the constitution and Kuwaiti laws. MP Shatti even claimed that the government has instructed "its lawmakers" to vote in favor of the decision. The final decision will be taken by all MPs including the cabinet ministers and to survive Tabtabai and Harbhash need a simple majority of the house.

In the meantime, opposition MP Abdulwahab Al-Babtain said yesterday that 12 MPs met yesterday and decided to form a bloc to support the two lawmakers to maintain their seats in the Assembly. Tabtabai and Harbhash, who have been living in Turkey since the verdict was issued, thanked the committee for its decision on their respective Twitter accounts. If the Assembly agrees to keep their membership, they will enjoy parliamentary immunity and can return to Kuwait and participate in the works of the Assembly.

"This march shows world imperialism that the Muslim nation cannot be defeated, whether by economic or military or political means," said Sajjad Entezar, a 23-year-old cleric from the Iranian holy centre of Qom. Arbaeen marks the 40th day after Imam Hussein's martyrdom, with the devout marching on foot for all or part of the way to Karbala.

Khadijeh Mehrjoo, a 36-year-old city council member from a small town in central Iran, said she was not concerned by the long days and nights - or even Iraq's security issues. "There is no need to worry, Imam Hussein himself looks after us," she said. State institutions offer free services and food to pilgrims alongside those of the public, while the national broadcaster gives wall-to-wall coverage for a fortnight before Arbaeen, which falls on October 30 this year. The march was forbidden for many years, under former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, who fought a devastating war with Iran in the 1980s. Restrictions were only lifted after his downfall in 2003.

With the formation of a new Iraqi state, where the post of prime minister is held by a Shiite, the march quickly became one of the most popular religious pilgrimages in the world. Even the Islamic State group's emergence and its ruthless campaign against Shiites, which it considers infidels, did not deter the pilgrims. If anything, the Sunni extremists' seizure of vast swathes of Iraqi territory in 2014 - reaching within 70 kilometers of Karbala - only invigorated the faithful, pushing the number of pilgrims into the millions. For Mehrjoo the pilgrimage is itself a means to defeat the threats against it. "The march creates unity, solidarity," she said. "If we join hands we can overcome. We can defeat the enemies of Islam. — AFP

figure in the club and the city—a feat not always achieved by the Premier League's foreign owners.

Miracle season

It was under Vichai's ownership that Leicester crafted one of the biggest fairy-tales in English football history by winning the 2015/16 Premier League, having started the season as 5,000-1 outsiders for the title. Vichai's major investments in the club helped return them to England's Premier League from the second-tier Championship in 2014. They initially seemed outclassed by richer and more established clubs from London, Liverpool and Manchester, languishing at the very bottom of the table for most of the 2014/15 season. The Foxes, as the team are nicknamed, then engineered what fans now fondly refer to as the "Great Escape", winning seven of their last nine matches.

They ended up finishing 14th, securing another season in Europe's richest league in 2015/16. But not even their most devout fans could have imagined what happened next. Vardy, signed from non-league Fleetwood Town, scored in 11 consecutive matches, propelling the men in blue to a title without parallel in Premier League history. The success also qualified them for the first time for the lucrative Champions League, the pinnacle of European football played by the continent's most successful sides, including Barcelona and Real Madrid. There, Leicester City defied the odds yet again, winning their group before eventually losing their quarter-final 2-1 over two legs to Atletico Madrid. — AFP

Catholic church split over abuse scandal gravity

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis has vowed to end clerical sexual abuse, but bishops from Asia and Africa have shown a mixed response to a scandal some have termed a "Western problem". Church leaders from around the world attended the closing mass yesterday of a month-long meeting, or synod, which many had hoped would take the global struggle against paedophile priests up a notch. As the talks began, Francis warned again that abuse and cover ups would not be tolerated.

But as US Cardinal Blase Joseph Cupich told the press, priestly sexual abuse was "not on the front burner of all countries". "The resistance of some bishops" to discuss a crisis which has hit countries from Germany to America and Chile limited talk time at the synod, US Archbishop of Philadelphia Charles Chaput told the Catholic News Service agency. "Some say that (sex abuse) really is an issue of the Western world," he said, adding that he wished that "we had spent more time not only talking about (the crisis), but apologizing to people for it".

Eamon Martin, the President of the Irish Episcopal Conference, said some churches were "in denial" and had not given the anti-paedophilia campaign "its proper place". He said hopes now lay in an exceptional meeting convened in late February by the pope at

which the heads of bishop conferences from around the world are to discuss the protection of minors. Martin said he prayed the meeting "will help to ensure that more countries will take this issue seriously".

The Vatican has already warned that in some countries the church is dragging its feet because of cultural difference over what constitutes child abuse. The problem was particularly serious in Asia, Archbishop Charles Scicluna—a former top prosecutor on paedophile priest cases—said in 2012 on the sidelines of an international conference on the crisis at the religious Gregorian University. Scicluna, who recently carried out an abuse probe in Chile, said earlier this month that church leaders must realize this is not "a problem linked to any culture or geographic part of the world."

"That is a myth that has to be dispelled," he said. Cardinal Reinhard Marx, head of the German bishops' conference, agreed that "the subject is present all over the whole world". "It's an urgent situation. It's a matter of survival for the church, at least in its current form," he warned. Germany's Catholic Church apologized last month to thousands of victims of sexual assault by clergy, with Marx insisting that perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Apologies, he said on the sidelines of the synod, were not enough: the Roman Catholic Church must also "fundamentally change the system" with the help of new prevention mechanisms. He called for "a new canon law in all aspects", given that the current version dates back to 1983. Marx said there were too few staff in the Vatican—around 10 people—to examine reports of cleric abuse from all around the world. Hans Zollner, head of the Vatican's Child Protection Centre, said meanwhile that the definition of child abuse was too vague. — AFP



VATICAN CITY: This general view shows Bishops looking on as Pope Francis celebrates a closing mass at the end of the Synod of Bishops in St Peter's Basilica at The Vatican yesterday. — AFP

Qatar abolishes exit visa system...

Continued from Page 1

Migrant-Rights.org found around a quarter of all exit visa requests were denied by the government. Vani Saraswathi, associate editor and director of projects with Migrant-Rights.org, said the reform was "long overdue and welcome", but added a warning. "We have to be cautious

about celebrating it as a huge development," she said. "Passport confiscation is still rampant and the law also allows for employers to hold passports with the workers' permission." She also noted that the law does not cover domestic workers, often seen as the most vulnerable. Rights groups have argued that without the proper safeguards, relaxation of the visa system could lead to unscrupulous employers holding workers' passports. A study earlier this year by Qatar University's Social and Economic Survey Research found that 53 per cent of migrant workers said their bosses held their passports. There are some two million foreign workers in Qatar. — AFP

Sports

Spurs score second win over Lakers in less than week

Jazz hand the short-handed Pelicans their first loss of the season

LOS ANGELES: DeMar DeRozan finished with 30 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists to help the San Antonio Spurs post a 110-106 victory over the visiting Los Angeles Lakers on Saturday night. Rudy Gay had 16 points and 10 rebounds, Bryn Forbes also scored 16 points and LaMarcus Aldridge added 15 as San Antonio defeated Los Angeles for the second time in less than a week. LeBron James registered 35 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers. His 17-foot jumper with 7:51 left in the third quarter moved him into sixth place on the NBA's all-time scoring list with 31,202 career points, 14 more than Dirk Nowitzki of the Dallas Mavericks. In fifth place on the list is Wilt Chamberlain with 31,419 points.

CELTICS 109, PISTONS 89

Jaylen Brown scored 19 points, and Marcus Morris led a strong bench effort with 18 points as Boston handed host Detroit its first loss. Boston controlled the game virtually from the opening tip and led by 22 at halftime. Daniel Theis had 17 points and eight rebounds, Gordon Hayward supplied 15 points and Terry Rozier added 14. Pistons forward Blake Griffin, who entered the game averaging 33.8 points, was held to seven points on 2-of-13 shooting from the field. Andre Drummond led Detroit with 18 points and eight rebounds, while Stanley Johnson contributed a season-high 16 points.

JAZZ 132, PELICANS 111

Ricky Rubio scored 28 points as Utah took advantage of the absence of All-NBA forward Anthony Davis to hand host New Orleans its first defeat of the season. Davis, who averaged 27.3 points and 13.3 rebounds during the Pelicans' 4-0 start, did not play because of a right elbow strain sustained a night earlier in a victory against Brooklyn. Rubio added 12 assists and six rebounds, and Rudy Gobert had 25 points and 14 rebounds. Nikola Mirotic led the Pelicans with 25 points and eight rebounds, and Jrue Holiday scored 18 points.

BUCKS 113, MAGIC 91

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 21 points and grabbed seven rebounds in just 19 minutes as host

Milwaukee remained undefeated by routing Orlando. Milwaukee's 6-0 start is the team's best since the 1971-72 squad led by future Hall of Famers Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Oscar Robertson opened with seven straight wins. The Bucks host the NBA's only other undefeated team, the Toronto Raptors (6-0), on Monday night. Khris Middleton had 18 points and seven rebounds, Malcolm Brogdon scored 16 points and Donte DiVincenzo added 15 points off the bench for the Bucks. Nikola Vucevic led Orlando with 16 points and nine rebounds.

HEAT 120, TRAIL BLAZERS 111

Goran Dragic scored 28 points, and Hassan Whiteside provided 16 rebounds and six blocks in host Miami's defeat of Portland. Damian Lillard posted a season-high 42 points and added seven rebounds and six assists. He had 41 points in his previous game Thursday night at Orlando. Miami blew a 19-point second-quarter lead but put together a 10-0 run late. Dwyane Wade, the Heat's 36-year-old 12-time All-Star who is a reserve in his final NBA season, scored 18 of his 19 points in the first half.

GRIZZLIES 117, SUNS 96

Wayne Selden and Shelvin Mack came off the bench to spark a 19-3 run to start the second quarter, and host Memphis went on to defeat Phoenix. Selden scored eight points, and Mack added six as the Grizzlies opened up a 45-21 lead in the first four minutes of the period. A Jamal Crawford 3-pointer accounted for the only points scored by the Suns during the Grizzlies' run. Marc Gasol led five Grizzlies in double figures with 19 points. Rookie Deandre Ayton led the Suns with 24 points, eight rebounds and five assists as Phoenix has lost four straight, all by at least 18 points.

76ERS 105, HORNETS 103

Joel Embiid had 27 points and 14 rebounds, and host Philadelphia turned to defense down the stretch to finish off Charlotte. Embiid was listed as questionable going into the game because of a sprained ankle, but he played through the pain and was dominant at times. The Sixers snapped a two-game losing streak while the



SAN ANTONIO: Bryn Forbes #11 of the San Antonio Spurs shoots the ball against the Los Angeles Lakers on Saturday at AT&T Center in San Antonio, Texas. —AFP

Hornets have lost three of their last four. Robert Covington finished with 18 points, and JJ Redick scored 15. Kemba Walker finished with 37 points to lead the Hornets, but he was 11 of 31 from the field and 3 of 15 from 3-point range, on a night when the Hornets shot just 38.9 percent collectively.

PACERS 119, CAVALIERS 107

Victor Oladipo scored six of his 24 points in the final 7:50 as Indiana handed host Cleveland its sixth straight loss to open the season. Bojan Bogdanovic had 25 points and combined with Oladipo to hit 20 of their 29 shots, helping Indiana win a second straight game for the first time this season. The Cavaliers have lost all six of their games by at least seven points in their slowest start since opening 0-7 in 1995. Rodney Hood had 17 points, Larry

Nance Jr. 15 and George Hill 14 for the Cavaliers, who were without Kevin Love, out with a sore foot.

BULLS 97, HAWKS 85

Zach LaVine scored 27 points, and Jabari Parker came off the bench to score 18 to help Chicago beat host Atlanta. LaVine was 9 for 19 from the floor, and his step-back jumper with 1:35 remaining was the final nail in Atlanta's comeback hopes. LaVine then sealed the outcome with a rebound of a missed shot on Atlanta's next possession. Chicago also got a season-high 13 points from Ryan Arcidiacono and 12 from former Hawk Justin Holiday. Taurean Prince led Atlanta with 16 points and added five rebounds, three assists and two steals. Trae Young scored 13 points but was 0-for-6 on 3-pointers. —Reuters

Japan's Uno captures Skate Canada crown

LAVAL: Japan's Shoma Uno, second at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics and a two-time world runner-up, captured the Skate Canada International men's crown Saturday by winning the free skate final.

The 20-year-old from Nagoya landed four quadruple jumps to more than offset two falls in taking the overall title with 277.25 points at the International Skating Union Grand Prix event in suburban Montreal. Canada's Keegan Messing, the surprise short program winner Friday, was second on 265.17 with South Korea's Cha Jun-hwan third on 254.77.

In the free skate, Uno finished on top with 188.38 points, 18.26 ahead of Messing with Cha third on 165.91. Russia's Elizaveta Tuktamysheva edged out Mako Yamashita of Japan to capture the women's title.

The 2015 world champion Tuktamysheva finished with 203.32 total points while Yamashita was right behind her with 203.06. Evgenia Medvedeva finished third with 197.91.

Medvedeva won the free skate with 137.08 points. France's Vanessa James and Morgan Cipres, who won a bronze medal at this year's world championships, captured the pairs crown by taking the free skate.



LAVAL: Shoma Uno of Japan performs his free skate at the 2018 Skate Canada International ISU Grand Prix event in Laval, Quebec, on Saturday. —AFP

The French duo, who opened by winning Friday's short program, were runaway winners in the free skate with 147.30 points to finish with the overall crown on 221.81. China's Peng Cheng and Jin Yang, last year's Asian Winter Games runners-up, were second overall on 201.08, .15 ahead of Canadian third-place finishers Kirsten Moore-Towers and Michael Marinaro.

Reigning US champions and 2018 world runners-up Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue, last week's winners at Skate

America, took the ice dance title with 200.76 points despite finishing second in the free dance.

Russian duo Victoria Sinitsina and Nikita Katsalov won the free skate final with 120.51 points to 120.27 points for the US duo, which won Friday's short program. Canada's Piper Gilles and Paul Poirier were third, another .25 of a point back.

Sinitsina and Katsalov were second in the overall competition on 195.17 with Gilles and Poirier third on 186.97. —AFP

Joshi clinches maiden Asian Tour title in Delhi

NEW DELHI: India's Khalin Joshi fired a decisive birdie on the 18th hole to clinch his maiden Asian Tour title at the Panasonic Open India tournament in New Delhi yesterday. The 26-year-old Joshi hit four-under 68 in the fourth round to edge out Siddikur Rahman of Bangladesh by one shot in a dramatic finish at the Delhi Golf Course.

Joshi, who was the overnight leader along with Rahman, started with two bogeys in the first three holes but soon gained momentum to hit six birdies. Rahman, who won the Indian Open at the Delhi course in 2013, carded an even-par at the final hole and Joshi hit the winning putt to a loud roar.

"It's been a great feeling. I have been knocking on the door for quite a while, since the day I turned pro (in 2013)," Joshi said after the win. "I knew I had to make a birdie over here...It didn't matter what Siddikur was doing. I wanted to be my best and hopefully that would be good enough," he told reporters.

Joshi underlined India's domination at the \$400,000 Asian Tour event, becoming the seventh Indian winner in eight editions. Australia's Wade Ormsby remains the only foreign winner, in 2013.

Joshi now has his eyes set on getting a European Tour card just like his Indian counterpart Shubhankar Sharma, who won the 2017 Joburg Open to earn full membership on the European Tour.

"I have three co-sanctioned events with Europe like Hong Kong, Mauritius and Joburg," said Joshi. "Hopefully I can do what my friend Shubhankar did last year and get my card secure up there (in Europe)."

Meanwhile the 33-year-old Rahman—who topped the leaderboard for two rounds before slipping out at the final moment—was not disap-



NEW DELHI: Khalin Joshi of India poses with a trophy after winning the Panasonic Open India golf tournament on the Asian Tour at the Delhi Golf Club in New Delhi yesterday. —AFP

pointed with the result. Needing to finish inside the top-60 on the final merit rankings to keep his card for next year, the Bangladesh pro jumped to 53rd from 97th before the Delhi event.

"I am very happy with my result and I am proud of myself that I am able to put up a good fight for the title," said Rahman, who scored a total of 16-under 272. "I have been trying to get the win to get my card for next year. It's been on the back of my mind. Although I didn't win, I put in a better position to finish inside top-60 on the Habitat for Humanity Standings now."

India's Ajeetesh Sandhu managed a two-under in the final round to end tied third alongside Suradit Yongcharoenchai of Thailand. —AFP

Biles leads world championships qualifying despite kidney stone

DOHA: Olympic champion Simone Biles soared to the top of all-around qualifying at the world gymnastics championships on Saturday just hours after visiting a Doha emergency room for kidney stone problems. Aiming for her fourth world all-around title, Biles piled up 60.965 points and even had a vault, 'The Biles', named after her, USA Gymnastics said. As she had insisted in a tweet on Friday, the kidney stone problem, which kept her in the emergency room for several hours less than 24 hours before she competed, was no showstopper.

The American was not only first in the all-around but also vault, beam and floor qualifying and second in uneven bars through five of the qual-

ifying groups. "This kidney stone can wait... doing it for my team! ...I'll be gucci girls!" she said on Twitter on Friday, adding pictures of herself in ER. She was later released from the hospital, still bearing the kidney stone which she has named the "Doha pearl." "I heard roller-coasters may help kidney stones and I am basically my own little roller-coaster out there," Biles said after competing on Saturday. The winner of four gold medals and a bronze at the 2016 Rio Olympics, Biles had taken 2017 off before successfully returning to competition earlier this year. Her performance and that of team mate Morgan Hurd put the United States in first place in qualifying, well ahead of Japan. — Reuters

Vinales wins Aussie MotoGP as Marquez jinx strikes again

PHILLIP ISLAND: Maverick Vinales powered to a dominant victory at the Australian MotoGP yesterday as newly crowned world champion Marc Marquez was dramatically forced out after a frightening high-speed collision.

The Spanish rider, who started second and took the lead after Marquez retired, scored his first win of the year to break Yamaha's 25-race win drought, taking the chequered flag ahead of Andrea Iannone on a Suzuki.

Ducati rider Andrea Dovizioso was third, strengthening his bid to finish runner-up in the world championship as his nearest rival, Valentino Rossi, could only manage sixth.

"It feels amazing," said Vinales. "I didn't think I could win, but the bike was perfect. It means a lot to me, particularly in Australia because it's a place I love to be." "This track suits me really well and maybe that's why I could give a little bit more."

"The season has been difficult, I needed that win, Yamaha need that win to give us the motivation to start again

next year," he added. While he celebrated, there was disappointment for Honda hotshot Marquez, who sealed his fifth world title in motorcycling's premier class in Japan a week ago.

While he won at Phillip Island in 2015 and 2017, he also has the bizarre record now of failing to finish on three occasions after clinching the world title in Japan (2014, 2016 and 2018).

He was lucky to escape injury after Yamaha's Johann Zarco shunted him on lap six as they were screaming down the track at 250 kph. The Frenchman skidded off through the gravel, but gave a thumbs up to show he was unhurt.

Marquez managed to stay on his bike but his back seat was mangled and his suspension appeared damaged, forcing him to call it a day. It was his first non-finish of the season, having won the last three races, but he refused to blame Zarco.

"I feel very lucky. I will not complain because it was a racing incident," he said in the pits. "The most important thing is that we are both okay. Luckily I won the championship last week, but unfortunately another non-finish for me at Phillip Island." Marquez started from pole, and in dry conditions on the demanding and picturesque circuit he was super-aggressive from the word go. Dovizioso, who was fourth on the grid, quickly stormed into second behind the Spaniard, with hometown hero Jack Miller third. — AFP

Sports

Elina Svitolina defeats Sloane to win WTA Finals in Singapore

Svitolina rise three spots to world number four on the rankings

SINGAPORE: An unwavering Elina Svitolina claimed the biggest title of her career with a gritty comeback victory against Sloane Stephens at the season-ending WTA Finals in Singapore.

The Ukrainian once again dug deep to triumph 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 in two hours and 23 minutes on Sunday. She is the first player to go through the WTA Finals undefeated since Serena Williams in 2013.

Svitolina has been in brilliant, aggressive form in Singapore, beating defending champion Caroline Wozniacki, Czech players Petra Kvitová and Karolína Plíšková at the group stage, and Kiki Bertens in the semi-finals.

"It's a very special moment for me, I played great tennis this week," Svitolina said after the match. "This is going to bring a lot of confidence, as I have finished the season on a high note."

Stephens said she was satisfied with her debut WTA Finals. "Not the way I wanted to finish but I worked really hard to get here and I can be really proud of my results," she said.

Having started slowly in the semi-finals, it was Stephens who made the running early and she broke Svitolina to love in the second game.

It was a matchup of similar styles between the athletic counterpunchers and lengthy rallies punctuated the contest.

Svitolina looked sluggish after playing the two long matches in the tournament against Wozniacki and Bertens. She saved three break points in the sixth

game but was unable to convert two chances of her own in Stephens' next service game.

Stephens' blistering forehand dictated proceedings, as she ran away with the first set. A more aggressive Svitolina went for her shots and clawed back into the contest. Even though she still struggled on serve, Svitolina attacked on return and broke twice to wear down a suddenly passive Stephens.

Svitolina fittingly forced a decider in a tournament which has had a record-setting amount of three-set matches. The 24-year-old's momentum continued as she produced an astounding run down winner to break Stephens in the second game.

But Stephens wouldn't roll over as she attacked Svitolina's serve and broke in the fifth game. The twists continued as Svitolina hit back immediately and stormed home as a wayward backhand from Stephens sparked jubilation from the number six seed. Svitolina could rise three spots to world number four on the rankings after her triumph and she has now won nine straight finals.

It ended the tournament's five-year run in Singapore with the season-finale moving to Shenzhen.

Earlier, Timea Babos and Kristina Mladenovic played a masterclass to upset world number one Barbora Krejčíková and Katerina Siniakova in the doubles decider.

The world number three held the edge throughout to triumph 6-4, 7-5 in 84 minutes. —AFP



SINGAPORE: Ukraine's Elina Svitolina celebrates with her winning trophy after defeating Sloane Stephens of the US in their singles final match at the WTA Finals tennis tournament in Singapore yesterday. — AFP

Red Sox rally to stun Dodgers, reach brink of World Series

LOS ANGELES: The Boston Red Sox, fueled by homers from Steve Pearce and Mitch Moreland, erased a four-run deficit to beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 9-6 and move to the brink of a ninth World Series crown. Moreland smashed a three-run pinch-hit homer in the seventh inning and first baseman Pearce belted a game-tying solo shot in the eighth and a three-run double in the ninth as Boston seized a 3-1 lead in Major League Baseball's best-of-seven championship final.

The Red Sox, who boast an imposing 6-1 road record this post-season, can wrap up a ninth World Series title, and a first since 2013, with a victory in game five at Dodger Stadium yesterday. After outlasting Boston 3-2 in an 18-inning game three marathon on Friday, the Dodgers looked poised to build on that victory when Yasiel Puig clubbed a three-run home run off Red Sox starting pitcher Eduardo Rodriguez to cap a four-run sixth inning for Los Angeles.

Rodriguez, who made a brief appearance out of the bullpen in game three and became the first pitcher since 1924 to start a World Series game on zero days' rest, was up to the task through five innings.

But he hit David Freese to lead off the sixth before Justin Turner smacked a one-out double just inside the third base line. Pinch runner Enrique Hernandez reached third and the Red Sox intentionally walked Manny Machado to load the bases with one out.

Cody Bellinger hit a ground ball to Pearce and the throw home caught Machado at the plate. But catcher Christian Vazquez's throw back to first for an attempted double play was off target, allowing Turner to score the game's first run.

That brought up Puig, who raised his arms as he rounded the bases while Rodriguez, who had scattered just two hits over five scoreless innings, threw his glove on the ground in disgust as the ball sailed into the left field bleachers.

It was Puig's second home run of the post-season after his three-run blast in the Dodgers' game-seven victory over the Milwaukee Brewers in the National League Championship Series. It ignited the Dodger Stadium crowd, but their euphoria was short-lived.

'BIG SWING'

The cushion was all but gone an inning later thanks to Moreland's 437-foot pinch-hit blast off Dodgers



LOS ANGELES: Andrew Benintendi #16 of the Boston Red Sox hits the ball against Rich Hill #44 of the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game Four of the 2018 World Series at Dodger Stadium on Saturday in Los Angeles, California. —AFP

relief pitcher Ryan Madson. Madson was the third pitcher of the inning, brought in after Dodgers starter Rich Hill walked Xander Bogaerts and struck out Eduardo Nunez and reliever Scott Alexander walked Brock Holt. Moreland drilled the first pitch he saw from Madson over the wall in right field.

"Anytime you come up with a situation like that, you want to make something happen," Moreland said. "We kept grinding and kept grinding, and finally gave ourselves an opportunity by putting some guys on base and (I was) able to capitalize and get a good pitch in and put a swing on it." Until then, Red Sox manager Alex Cora admitted, Boston had been flat, partly, perhaps, a hangover from the 7-hour, 20-minute game three but mostly because Hill had given them no opening, allowing just one hit over 6 1/3 innings.

TOUGH LOSS

"We felt that we had no energy, actually none whatsoever," Cora said, adding that Puig's shot had a further depressing effect. "But one thing about our team, we keep playing," Cora said. "It's been like that the whole time. We know that in the last third of the game we've been really good throughout the season, in the playoffs,

and Mitch with a big swing and that got us going."

With the lead down to one, Roberts turned to Kenley Jansen to pitch the eighth and the Dodgers closer gave up a game-tying solo homer to Pearce, the second batter he faced. The Dodgers threatened in the bottom of the eighth but pinch hitter Yasmani Grandal struck out to end the inning stranding runners on first and third.

Boston took the lead for the first time in the ninth inning, when Rafael Devers' singled in the go-ahead run off reliever Dylan Floro. Pearce added a three-run double and scored on Bogaerts' single to stretch the lead to 9-4 as the Red Sox battered the Dodgers bullpen.

Dodgers pinch hitter Enrique Hernandez raised hopes of an improbable comeback with a two-run homer in the ninth, but Red Sox closer Craig Kimbrel held on for the final three outs. "It is a tough loss," said Roberts, whose Dodgers were the only team this season not to lose a game when leading by four runs.

"Any loss in a World Series is difficult, obviously," Roberts said. "But now we're in a situation where we're do or die." To their credit, they fought back and won a baseball game. So now we've just got to bow our necks and try to win a baseball game and it's one day at a time." —AFP

Warner walk-off after 'hurtful sledge by Phil Hughes' brother'

SYDNEY: David Warner walked off mid-innings in a Sydney grade game after "hurtful" comments from the brother of ex-Test teammate Phillip Hughes, who died in 2014 after being hit by a ball, his wife claimed yesterday.

The former Australia vice-captain, who is serving a 12-month ban from international and state cricket for his role in a ball-tampering scandal, was batting for his club Randwick-Petersham at the time on Saturday.

He left the field on 35 but returned shortly afterwards following the intervention of teammates, and went on to score a majestic 157. Candice Warner said Jason Hughes—the brother of Phillip, whose tragic death rocked the sporting world—was the culprit.

"Look, I'm not going to go into the details. However, David was taken aback by the comments and thought they went a little bit too far so he decided to remove himself from the game," she told Channel Nine. Cricket Australia's website claimed that what started as goading from Hughes soon turned personal and Warner—who has a fierce on-field reputation—decided to leave before it escalated.

Sydney's Daily Telegraph alleged that Hughes called Warner "a disgrace" and "weak" and claimed one witness heard a direct reference to Phillip Hughes's death. But Hughes' club Western Suburbs denied any abuse was hurled and defended him. "There was no barrage of sledges aimed at David Warner by any WSDCC player," it said in a statement.

"There was a brief exchange between Jason Hughes and David Warner. This exchange had nothing to do with Phil Hughes. This exchange was not vicious or abusive as alleged in some sections of the media."

The umpire's lodged no report about player behaviour, but Warner's wife insisted the comments were in the abuse category. "He removed himself firstly because he didn't like what he was hearing and where that could've been taken. It was hurtful, very hurtful," she said.

Randwick-Petersham first-grade manager Bill Anderson told The Telegraph Warner felt the comments were "very offensive to him". "But he realised that he had to play. He turned around and back out he went," he said.

"He wasn't teary. But you could tell he had been quite affected by that. It wasn't a heated exchange. It was something said in close range." Warner was fielding on November 25, 2014, when Phillip Hughes was struck by a bouncer bowled by Sean Abbott during a Sheffield Shield match at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Hughes, 25, later died from bleeding on the brain, sparking an outpouring of grief. At the inquest, Warner said Hughes had been one of his "closest mates" and he missed him every day. Warner, along with Steve Smith, was sent home in disgrace and banned over the tampering scandal during the third Test in South Africa in March.

He was blamed as the instigator of the incident in which Cameron Bancroft attempted to alter the ball with a piece of yellow sandpaper. Two reviews prompted by the scandal-one focusing on the culture within Cricket Australia and the other into the team—are due to be released today. —AFP

Jacobs grabs IBF middleweight title with split decision win

NEW YORK: Daniel Jacobs claimed the vacant IBF middleweight title as he traded in his sparring gloves for the real thing on Saturday to take a split-decision victory over Sergiy Derevyanchenko.

The two former training partners have sparred over 300 rounds together early in their careers but Saturday's clash at Madison Square Garden was the real thing. Jacobs earned a hard fought split decision victory with two judges scoring it 115-112 and the other having Derevyanchenko the winner at 114-113.

"I felt like I dug deep," said Jacobs. "I felt like I used my range and tried to use my boxing ability on the outside as much as I can because those are my best attributes." Jacobs is hoping this win lands him a shot at middleweight kingpin Canelo Alvarez. Jacobs said he has been having

trouble getting good fights but now that he has the IBF belt he has more clout. "We absolutely want Canelo," he said. "Now I have this strap there will be more in the pudding for everybody."

Jacobs knocked down Derevyanchenko in the first round with a stinging overhand right. He landed 181 punches compared to 160 for his opponent. "From sparring him I know he gets a little tired in rounds. Seeing his fights and studying him, I knew that if I let him load up and miss the shots I could come back and hopefully get another knockdown," Jacobs said.

Derevyanchenko tagged Jacobs with a hook in the second round. "I saw the light. I saw stars but it didn't really hurt me. This is as tough as it gets," Jacobs said. Jacobs said he is ready to raise his level another notch and fight the best in the middleweight division.

"I feel like I am in my prime," he said. "I showed true grit and I know I have got another tank inside me if plan A doesn't work." Elsewhere, hard-hitting Ivan Baranchyk stopped Sweden's Anthony Yigit after seven rounds to claim the vacant IBF junior welterweight crown and advance to the semi-finals of the World Boxing Super Series. —AFP

England are not fooled in T20 win over S Lanka

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka used ambidextrous bowler Kamindu Mendis in a bid to bamboozle but brutal batting by Jason Roy saw England to victory in their one-off T20 international on Saturday.

Roy hit 69 off 36 balls and Joe Denly, returning to the England side after eight years, opened the bowling with his leg spin and took four wickets as the tourists won by 30 runs. Captain Eoin Morgan hailed Denly's "outstanding" comeback.

England made 187 for seven off their 20 overs. Sri Lanka, who won the toss, lost their final wicket off the last ball as they reached 157 in an increasingly desperate chase. The 20-year-old Mendis switched his left arm orthodox spin and right arm off-spin for three overs against England's big

hitters but gave away 27 runs before he was withdrawn. His 24 off 14 balls batting showed more promise.

Roy and his partners clattered England to 50 runs off 29 balls before Sri Lanka's veterans started to limit the damage. With rain showers predicted, England knew they had to score fast to put pressure on the home side. Roy showed his intent smashing the second ball off Lasith Malinga for six.

He had one run out mixup that cost the wicket of captain Eoin Morgan and was dropped four times by Sri Lankan fielders. But his innings—with six sixes and four fours—was decisive, along with Moeen Ali's 27 off 11 balls and Ben Stokes' 26. Denly also contributed 20 and earned the man-of-the-match award. He opened the bowling and took a wicket in each of his first two overs. He also claimed the final two Sri Lankan scalps, including Perera.

"I am delighted to be back," said Denly who has had a stellar year with county side Kent. "There were a few nerves, but more excitement." Denly said he still had hopes of getting a place in the side to play three Tests in Sri Lanka in November. "Hopefully I can put my name in the hat." —AFP

Sports

Milivojevic strikes late as Palace halt Arsenal's 11-match winning run

Emery's side fall short of the club's record of 14 victories in a row

LONDON: Arsenal's 11-match winning run came to a dramatic end as Luka Milivojevic's late penalty rescued Crystal Palace in a contentious 2-2 draw yesterday. Unai Emery's side failed to win a 12th successive match in all competitions as they fell short of the club's record of 14 victories in a row.

Arsenal fell behind to the first of two Milivojevic penalties just before half-time at Selhurst Park. Granit Xhaka equalised with a sublime free-kick before Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang poked in his ninth goal of the season in controversial circumstances.

Arsenal striker Alexandre Lacazette flicked the ball to Aubameyang with his hand, but officials failed to spot the offence. Angered by that blow, Palace felt justice was done when Wilfried Zaha won a second penalty with seven minutes left and Milivojevic slotted home again. It was a frustrating afternoon for Emery, whose captain Mesut Ozil reacted angrily when he was substituted in the 68th minute, the German throwing his gloves to the floor after stomping past the Arsenal manager. It was the latest flare-up between the pair after Ozil was reportedly angered by Emery's demand that he work harder in matches earlier this season. Arsenal remain fourth in the Premier League, but missed the chance to keep pace with leaders Liverpool, who are four points clear of the north Londoners.

Emery's team had made a habit of getting off to slow starts this season before flourishing in the second half and another sluggish opening left them creaking under intense Palace pressure.

Zaha was a constant menace and the Palace winger almost opened the scoring with a low shot that hit a post with Arsenal goalkeeper Bernd Leno rooted to the spot. Palace should have gone ahead moments later when Andros Townsend failed to convert from close-

range. Arsenal finally emerged from their slumber when Lacazette pounced on Milivojevic's careless pass on the edge of the Palace area and fired just wide. But Roy Hodgson's men appealed for a penalty after Jordan Ayew's run was halted by Shkodran Mustafi.

PANICKED

On that occasion, Palace's claims were turned down by referee Martin Atkinson, but on the stroke of half-time they were given a spot-kick. Leno made a hash of punching clear from a corner and a panicked Mustafi needlessly lunged into Cheikhou Kouyate.

Palace captain Milivojevic missed a penalty in their defeat at Everton last weekend. Unfazed, Milivojevic kept his nerve this time to send Leno the wrong way from the spot. Having finally scored their first home league goal this season at the fifth attempt—a futile streak that lasted 417 minutes—Palace needed to keep Arsenal at bay after the break.

However, it took only six minutes for Xhaka to equalise as the Gunners yet again turned on the style in the second half. The Swiss midfielder smashed a superb curling free-kick into the far corner of Wayne Hennessey's net from way out on the right flank.

Arsenal had seized the momentum and they snatched the lead in controversial circumstances in the 56th minute. When Lacazette rose to meet a cross, the French striker's raised hand clearly made contact with the ball, diverting it to the unmarked Aubameyang.

Lacazette's offence was missed by Atkinson and Aubameyang stabbed home at the far post, with goaline technology confirming his effort had just crossed over before Hennessey pushed it out.

Max Meyer hit the outside of a post as Palace pushed for a leveller and the hosts felt justice was done



LONDON: Arsenal's English striker Danny Welbeck (L), Crystal Palace's English midfielder Aaron Wan-Bissaka (C) and Crystal Palace's English defender James Tomkins (R) go up for a header during the English Premier League football match between Crystal Palace and Arsenal at Selhurst Park in south London yesterday. — AFP

when they won another penalty in the 83rd minute.

Zaha tricked his way past Xhaka and tumbled to the turf, his fall convincing Atkinson, if not the Arsenal

players, that it was worthy of a spot-kick. For the second time, Milivojevic was coolness personified as he drilled past Leno to end Arsenal's winning run. — AFP

Chelsea hit Burnley for four

BURNLEY: Chelsea proved their Premier League title credentials even without the injured Eden Hazard as goals from Alvaro Morata, Ross Barkley, Willian and Ruben Loftus-Cheek sealed a comfortable 4-0 victory at struggling Burnley to climb into second, two points behind leaders Liverpool.

Hazard, who was ruled out by a back problem sustained in a 2-2 draw with Manchester United last weekend, has been Chelsea's main source of goals in an unbeaten start to the season under Maurizio Sarri.

However, the visitors were stronger than their relegation-threatened hosts in every department and perhaps the only disappointment for Sarri was that they failed to underline their dominance with further goals.

After a sombre start with a minute's silence to mark a helicopter crash that is feared to have taken the life of Leicester City owner Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha on Saturday, Chelsea soon got to grips with the business at hand.

There should have been more to show for their first-half efforts than just Morata's 22nd-minute opener, expertly guided past an exposed Joe Hart after the Spaniard was put through by a lovely slide-rule pass from midfielder Barkley in a move instigated by the ever-impressive N'Golo Kante.

After conceding five goals against his former club Manchester City last time out, Hart excelled with a fine early save from Morata's deft glancing header, while also denying the Chelsea forward from close range.

When Sarri's side eventually found a way past the former England goalkeeper, the woodwork came to their rescue as a low curled effort from Willian struck the upright. Burnley, who are struggling to mount a campaign capable of mirroring last season's impressive seventh-place finish, threatened only sporadically, and a second successive defeat left Sean Dyche's side an



BURNLEY: Chelsea's English midfielder Ruben Loftus-Cheek (r) shoots past Burnley's English defender Matthew Lowton (l) to score their fourth goal during the English Premier League football match between Burnley and Chelsea at Turf Moor in Burnley, north west England yesterday. — AFP

uncomfortably slender three points above the relegation zone. The hosts were largely forced onto the back foot in their attempts to keep at bay a Chelsea side for who again there was no starting place in the Premier League for Loftus-Cheek.

Scorer of midweek Europa League hat-trick, Loftus-Cheek was introduced after just half an hour due to an injury to Pedro Rodriguez. Morata wasted a good chance to double Chelsea's advantage after the restart when heading over at the near post from Willian's cross,

but the visitors didn't have long to wait before Barkley put the game to bed by surging forward from Kante's pass to find the bottom corner past Hart from 20 yards. That soon became three when Willian was rewarded for his efforts by cutting in from the left to find the bottom corner. France international Olivier Giroud remains without a goal this season as he blazed a good late chance narrowly wide. But Loftus-Cheek showed him the route to goal with a composed finish deep into injury time. — AFP

Srivaddhanaprabha: Author of unlikely football fairytale

LONDON: Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, the Thai billionaire owner of Leicester City whose helicopter crashed Saturday outside the Premier League club's stadium, is the author of one of football's greatest fairytales.

Polo-loving Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, 61, endeared himself forever to Leicester fans by bringing the tiny club a league title in 2016, their first since the club was created in 1884. It was a Premier League championship won against all the odds, one that put the central England city on the global sporting map and brought glory to generations of long-suffering fans.

Leicester City have been unable to reach quite the same meteoric heights since, finishing 12th in the subsequent season and ninth in 2017-18. But it developed a sense of camaraderie among players and fans alike and a happy family atmosphere.

Jamie Vardy, the championship season's talismanic goal scorer, on Saturday tweeted a message that simply showed eight hands held together in prayer. The bespectacled Thai tycoon is known for his an unerring common touch, dishing out free beer and doughnuts at Leicester's King Power Stadium, where he often lands his helicopter in the centre circle.

It was from there that his helicopter took off after Saturday's 1-1 draw with West Ham before crashing in the car park directly outside the stadium grounds. Despite his popularity, Srivaddhanaprabha remains an enigmatic figure and rarely gives interviews, preferring to let his son, Aiyawatt, known as "Top", act as the fam-



LEICESTER: A man poses for a photograph against a mural showing Leicester City Football Club's Thai chairman Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha near De Montfort University in Leicester, eastern England, yesterday after a helicopter belonging to Srivaddhanaprabha crashed outside Leicester City Football Club's King Power Stadium yesterday. — AFP

ily frontman.

He also rubs shoulders with celebrities and his surname, meaning "light of progressive glory," was bestowed by Thailand's late king Bhumibol Adulyadej. "He (Vichai) is a successful businessman and he tried to

challenge himself to get something done," Top, Leicester's vice-chairman, told AFP in Bangkok in 2016.

"He said, I think two or three years before, that he wants the team to be a success in the Premier League, and now we are." — AFP



Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE	
Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester City	23:00
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE	
SS Lazio v Internazionale Milano	22:30
beIN SPORTS HD 4	

Atletico win to top La Liga ahead of Clasico

MADRID: Defenders Diego Godin and Filipe Luis scored as Atletico Madrid bounced back from their midweek thrashing by Borussia Dortmund with a 2-0 victory over Real Sociedad to move top of La Liga on Saturday ahead of the season's first Clasico.

Despite a stuttering start to the campaign, the poor form of both Barcelona and Real Madrid have allowed Diego Simeone's side to drag themselves to the summit after a seven-game unbeaten run in the league.

Wednesday's 4-0 thumping at Signal Iduna Park was the heaviest defeat of Simeone's seven years in charge, but Atletico put in a commanding display at the Wanda Metropolitano.

"I was convinced that they would respond in the best way," Simeone told Movistar. "Today was 90 minutes that showed good togetherness and creates enthusiasm and calmness." The 2014 Spanish champions lead second-placed Barcelona by one point, with Real four further adrift, with the two giants to face off at the Camp Nou on Sunday. After a frustrating first 44 minutes which saw Ruben Pardo twice go close for the visitors, Godin struck on the stroke of half-time, latching onto a loose ball to sweep home his first league goal since March 2017.

Atletico dominated after the restart and left-back Luis put the game to bed on the hour mark with a brilliant curling effort after cutting inside onto his less-favoured right foot. Elsewhere, Valencia were held to their 10th draw of the season and fifth in a row with a goalless stalemate at Athletic Bilbao.

Marcelino's men, who finished fourth last term to qualify for the Champions League, are now just three points above the relegation zone despite having only lost one of their 10 top-flight matches so far.

Spain striker Iago Aspas scored a hat-trick as Celta Vigo thrashed Eibar 4-0 to move into the top half of the table, while Levante clinched a fourth successive league victory by beating Leganes 2-0.

Earlier on Saturday, Real Madrid coach Julen Lopetegui evaded questions regarding his future at the club after the European champions' woeful recent spell. An unconvincing 2-1 midweek win over Viktoria Plzen in the Champions League did little to lift the pressure on his shoulders after a run of five games without a win, and he is widely believed to be on borrowed time just four months after taking over from Zinedine Zidane.

"I hope to still be breathing. I don't think I am going to die," the 52-year-old Lopetegui replied at a press conference on Saturday to a question about what the future holds for him after Sunday's match at the Camp Nou. "Everyone is 100 percent full of energy and my energies are 100 percent focused on helping the team." It will be the first Clasico since 2007 to feature neither Lionel Messi, who is injured, or Cristiano Ronaldo, with Sergio Ramos the only survivor 11 years on in either side from that game. "The Clasico existed before that. The Clasico has always been the Clasico, and there were even flying piglets," said Barca boss Ernesto Valverde, with a reference to a meeting of the sides in 2002, when Barcelona fans threw a pig's head at Luis Figo, their former idol who had crossed the divide to join Real in 2000. "There has always been tension." — AFP

25 Japan's Uno captures Skate Canada crown



26 Elina Svitolina wins WTA Finals in Singapore



27 Milivojevic strikes late as Palace halt Arsenal's 11-match winning run



Barca thrash Real 5-1 in Clasico

Suarez hat-trick piles more pressure on Lopetegui



BARCELONA: Barcelona's Brazilian midfielder Arthur (L) vies with Real Madrid's German midfielder Toni Kroos during the Spanish league football match between FC Barcelona and Real Madrid CF at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona yesterday. —AFP

BARCELONA: Barcelona ran riot in the Clasico yesterday as Luis Suarez scored the hat-trick that will surely spell the end of Julen Lopetegui's spell as Real Madrid coach. Barcelona were 5-1 winners at the Camp Nou, dominant for all-but a 15-minute spell after half-time when the otherwise hapless Madrid briefly threatened a comeback.

All the failures that have underlined their recent problems under Lopetegui were on show here, poor finishing, dreadful defending and key players performing well below par, let alone their best.

Philippe Coutinho scored the first and Arturo Vidal the last but in between the game belonged to Suarez, who terrorised Madrid from start to finish and made light of Lionel Messi's injury-enforced absence.

For Lopetegui, it is now one win in six games, as Madrid fall seven points behind Barcelona, who return to the top of the table. This defeat was reminiscent of the 4-

0 thrashing that spelt the end of Rafael Benitez's time in charge two years ago but while Benitez survived two more months, Lopetegui may not last the week.

Much was made of this being the first Clasico without either Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo in 11 years but Suarez's masterclass will mean this contest lives long in the memory. Madrid looked dazed in possession and dizzy out of it as Barca repeatedly opened them up down the left early on. Sergio Busquets was allowed time to wait for Jordi Alba's zooming run past both Gareth Bale and Nacho, with the full-back's touch on the run perfectly pushed into the area. Suarez rushed past but Coutinho held his ground by the penalty spot, where Alba found him with the cut-back. It was the move's 30th pass, the most for a goal in a La Liga Clasico in 13 seasons.

On the touchline, Lopetegui stood motionless. Varane clapped but his team-mates looked shell-shocked. Sergio

Ramos thrashed a pass across his own box to Nacho, who hacked it to the feet of Arthur, his shot parried away by Courtois. Still, Barca needed the help of VAR for the second. Suarez was too quick to the ball at the near post and Varane bundled him over. It was a clear penalty, which Suarez converted for his seventh goal in 11 games against these opponents. His eighth and ninth were still to come.

Gerard Pique should have headed in while a promising Madrid free-kick somehow ended with another Barca sprawl on the counter-attack. The visitors were fortunate to be only two down at half-time but the game was a mirror image after the restart.

Varane had gone off, with a muscle problem the club said, for Lucas Vazquez, with Nacho moving to centre-back. Vazquez was key to Madrid's goal, his disguised pass allowing Isco to pick out Marcelo, who finished for his third in three games. Suddenly, it was Barca making the

mistakes. Sergio Ramos headed over, Luka Modric hit the inside of the post and Isco's finish was blocked after Rafinha ran into trouble. Madrid were less transformed at the back, where Suarez acrobatically volleyed onto the post before Alba fired just wide. As Madrid's momentum faded, Suarez landed the knock-out blow.

Sergi Roberto chipped a cross into the box but the ball had neither the pace nor the angle to be headed in easily. Suarez, however, generated both himself to leave Courtois stranded. If that was a masterclass in adaptation, his third was a demonstration of finesse. Ramos was pushed off the ball by Sergi Roberto, who freed Suarez. Suarez feathered the ball over Courtois for his hat-trick.

Madrid were finished but the humiliation was not over yet as Ousmane Dembele crossed for Vidal to head home a fifth. Suarez could even have had a fourth in injury-time but Courtois saved. Five was more than enough. —AFP

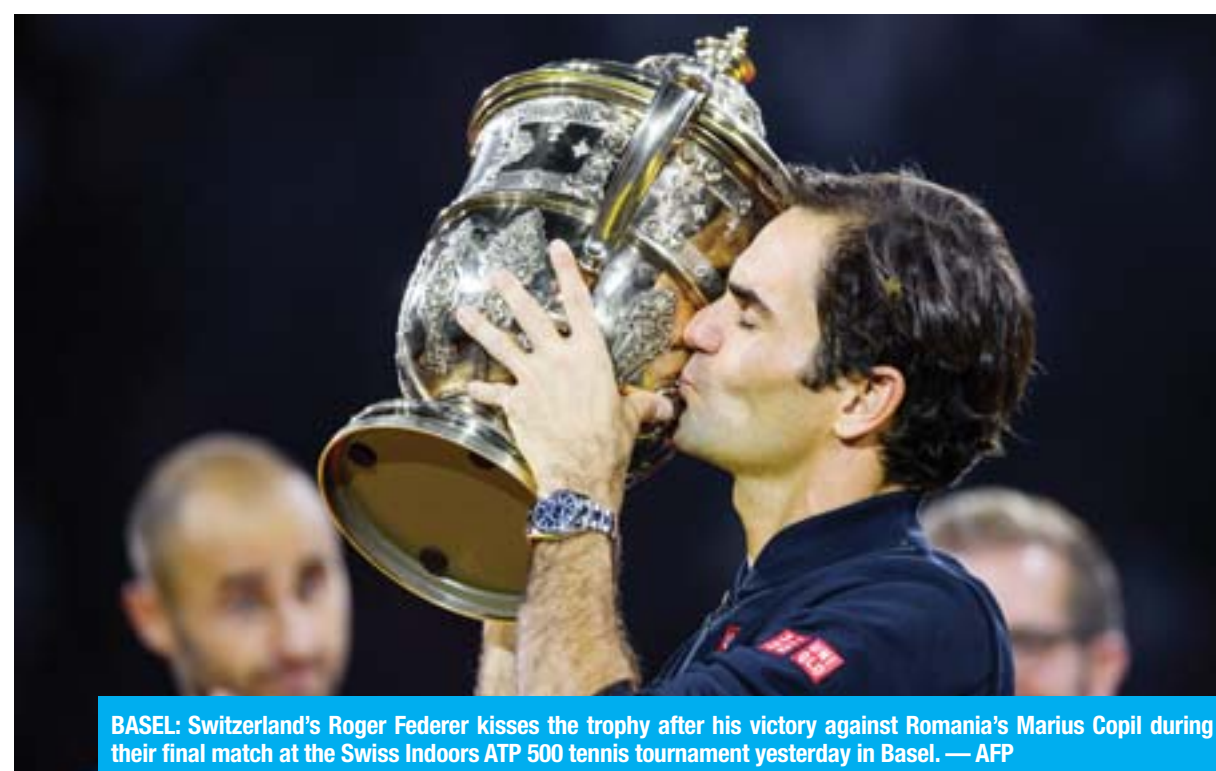
Federer claims 99th ATP title with Basel triumph

BASEL: Roger Federer battled to claim his 99th career ATP Tour title yesterday, rallying to defeat Romanian qualifier Marius Copil 7-6 (7/5), 6-4 in the Swiss Indoors final at Basel. The top seed claimed his ninth trophy at his home event as he overcame an inspired opponent who took the lead early in each set but was pegged back by the 20-time Grand Slam champion.

Federer will now aim to win number 100 by the end of the season. "It's been a magical week for me, a dream run for me," Federer said, prior to moving onto his traditional post-final pizza party with ballkids-of which he was one here two decades ago.

Federer won his 20th straight match at the tournament and has played in 12 straight Basel finals. The 93rd-ranked Copil was competing in the biggest match of his life after emerging from qualifying. But after knocking out sixth seed Marin Cilic and backing it up by defeating third seed Alexander Zverev in the last four, the Romanian found himself facing the king of the court in the final.

Victory was the 37-year-old Federer's 71st at the event. He will be aiming to complete his century at the ATP Finals in London, which starts in a fortnight's time, but has yet to announce if he will travel to Paris for next week's final Masters event of the season, where he last played in 2015. Copil began the match with a break in the third game but



BASEL: Switzerland's Roger Federer kisses the trophy after his victory against Romania's Marius Copil during their final match at the Swiss Indoors ATP 500 tennis tournament yesterday in Basel. — AFP

lost it in the sixth as Federer levelled the opening set.

As the first set went to a tie-break, Federer needed three set points to take the lead as his opponent returned long. Copil again showed his steel with an early break in the second set before Federer made another fightback

with an overhead winner to break back in the seventh game. The top seed grabbed a second break, with the Swiss serving out victory a game later on his first match point. The title was the fourth this season for Federer, after the Australian Open, Rotterdam and Stuttgart. — AFP

Man United win over Everton 2-1

MANCHESTER: Goals in each half from Frenchmen Paul Pogba and Anthony Martial gave Manchester United a 2-1 home victory over Everton in the Premier League yesterday. The win, a welcome boost after United's midweek Champions League loss to Juventus, moved Jose Mourinho's side above Everton into eighth place although they are still nine points behind leaders Liverpool.

United grabbed the lead in the 27th minute when referee Jonathan Moss ruled that Idrissa Gueye had brought down Martial in the box, although replays showed the Senegalese midfielder had fairly played the ball.

Pogba took his trademark slow run-up and his spot-kick was superbly saved by Jordan Pickford but the ball fell kindly to the Frenchman who slotted home the rebound. Four minutes after halftime United doubled their advantage when Pogba resisted the temptation to shoot from the edge of the box and rolled the ball to the left for Martial who beat Pickford with a superb low curling shot into the far corner. However Pogba was then at fault, giving the ball away in midfield as Everton got back in the game with a Gylfi Sigurdsson penalty in the 77th. Richarlison was brought down in the box by Chris Smalling after Sigurdsson's through ball from Pogba's error. — Reuters