



3 Kuwaiti sentenced to 17 years for deadly assault



9 No ICBMs, North Korea military parade features floats, flowers



24 Iran's forces hit Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq



27 Salah scores twice, misses 2 penalties in Egypt romp



MP Ashour threatens to grill Social Affairs Minister Sabeeh

Assembly panel forms team on cadet death

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: MP Saleh Ashour warned yesterday that he will file to grill Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh if she does not answer questions on dissolving a Shiite charity society earlier this year. Ashour said in a statement that he had grilled the minister in May this year for dissolving the society over alleged financial irregularities and claimed during the debate of the grilling that three ministries: the Foreign, Interior and Awqaf in addition to the central bank had made complaints against the society called Al-Theqalain which Ashour chaired.

He added that he asked the ministries about the complaints and they said they had already sent it to the Social Affairs Ministry. The lawmaker said that he had asked Sabeeh to provide him with details of those complaints and she refused because the issue was under legal investigation. The lawmaker said that Sabeeh is obliged under the law and the constitution to answer his questions but she has declined.

Ashour said that he is not interested in grillings but if he does not get the answers he had demanded he plans to either grill all the four ministers separately or grill Sabeeh for being directly responsible. He gave the minister an ultimatum to provide the information he had demanded or face a fresh grilling which is expected to be submitted at the start of the new term next month.

Continued on Page 24

'I am not a cheat', Serena accuses tennis of sexism

NEW YORK: Serena Williams insisted she was not cheating in the US Open final on Saturday before accusing the sport which has made her a global icon and multi-millionaire of sexism. Naomi Osaka won the final 6-2, 6-4 to become Japan's first ever Grand Slam singles champion and delay Williams's bid for a record-equating 24th major title.

However, the final was overshadowed by the American's angry and tear-filled tirade in the second set. It has already been dubbed 'The Mother of all Meltdowns' by the New York Daily Post. The 36-year-old was handed a code violation for coaching, a penalty point for racket abuse and a game penalty for calling umpire Carlos Ramos a "liar and a thief" and insisting "you owe me an apology". "He alleged that I was cheating, and I wasn't cheating," Williams told reporters later. "I don't use on-court coaching (where it's allowed at WTA tour events).

Continued on Page 24



NEW YORK: Serena Williams of the US argues with chair umpire Carlos Ramos while playing against Naomi Osaka of Japan during their 2018 US Open women's singles final match on September 8, 2018 in New York. — AFP (See Page 28)

Hijri New Year

KUWAIT: The Civil Service Commission announced yesterday that tomorrow (11-9-2018) will be a holiday in all government departments on the occasion of the Hijri New Year. The crescent of Muharram was not seen yesterday evening - so today will be the 30th of Thulhijja and tomorrow will be Muharram 1st. Hijri is calculated according to the Islamic lunar calendar and not the Julian or Gregorian solar one. It thus does not begin on January 1, but on the first day of the month of Muharram.

Khamenei urges Iran's military to 'scare off' enemy

DUBAI: Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged Iran's armed forces yesterday to increase their power to "scare off" the enemy, as the country faces increased tension with the United States. His statement came just before Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards said it fired seven missiles in an attack on Iraq-based Iranian Kurdish dissidents that killed at least 11 people on Saturday. "Increase your power as much as you can, because your power scares off the enemy and forces it to retreat," Khamenei's official website quoted him as saying at a graduation ceremony for cadets of Iran's regular armed forces.

US President Donald Trump in May withdrew from Iran's nuclear agreement with world powers - a deal aimed at stalling Tehran's nuclear capabilities in return for lifting some sanctions - and ordered the reimposition of US sanctions that had been suspended under the deal. "Iran and the Iranian nation have resisted America and proven that, if a nation is not afraid of threats by bullies and relies on its own capabilities, it can force the superpowers to retreat and defeat them," Khamenei said during a visit to Iran's Caspian port city of Nowshahr.

State television also showed Khamenei praising



TEHRAN: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei (right) meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin (left) in the capital Tehran, on the sidelines of a summit hosted there on the Syrian conflict. — AFP

Iranian naval forces in the Gulf of Aden, off the coast of Yemen, while speaking to their commander via videolink. Shiite power Iran rejects accusations from Saudi Arabia that it is giving financial and military support to Yemen's Houthis, who are fighting a government backed by a Saudi-led military coalition of Sunni Arab countries. Meanwhile, a senior military official said Iran had capability to export the know-how to produce solid rocket fuel, the state news agency IRNA reported. Solid fuel rockets can be fired on short notice.

Continued on Page 24

Kuwait ranks 'worst for expats'; Bahrain remains the best

By Aakash Bakaya

KUWAIT: According to a recent poll by Expat Insider, Kuwait is the worst country to work in for an expat. The poll takes into consideration factors such as quality of life, ease of settling in and overall general satisfaction. Kuwait was placed 68th, a position it held from 2014-2016, and came second last in 2017. Kuwait is also in the bottom five of the Working Abroad and Family Life Indices, with a slightly better, albeit below-average, result for personal finance (50th).

Two factors that both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia had difficulty with were in the Friendliness and Finding Friends Indices coming dead last in both. Almost two-thirds of respondents in Kuwait said that making friends was difficult, while 44% are not satisfied with the opportunities to make new friends in general. Respondents in Saudi Arabia faced similar such issues but fared slightly better in comparison.

Continued on Page 24

Trump axes \$25 million in aid for Palestinians

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump has ordered that \$25 million earmarked for the care of Palestinians in East Jerusalem hospitals be directed elsewhere as part of a review of American aid, a US State Department official said yesterday. Trump called for a review of US assistance to the Palestinians earlier this year to ensure the funds were being spent in accordance with American national interests and were providing value to taxpayers.

"As a result of that review, at the direction of the President, we will be redirecting approximately \$25 million originally planned for the East Jerusalem Hospital Network," the State Department official said. "Those funds will go to high-priority projects elsewhere." The aid cut is the latest in a number of actions by the Trump administration that have alienated the Palestinians, including the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moving the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Continued on Page 24



RAFAH: A Palestinian relative mourns over the death of 17-year-old Palestinian boy Belal Khafaja, killed by Israeli forces during a protest at the Israel-Gaza border, during his funeral in Rafah. — AFP

Syrian and Russian forces pound Idlib

BEIRUT: Regime and Russian air raids pounded Syria's last major rebel bastion of Idlib yesterday after an overnight lull, killing at least one child, a monitor said. It was the second day of bombardment on the jihadist and rebel-held province and adjacent areas, after key powerbrokers in Tehran failed to reach a deal to avert a government assault.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitoring group, said heavy attacks resumed on the northwestern region near the Turkish border around midday yesterday. "Regime helicopters dropped more than 60 barrel bombs on the village of Hobait in Idlib's southern countryside, killing at least one young girl" and wounding six other people, Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman said.

In the neighboring province of Hama, Russian jets carried out more than ten strikes on rebel positions in the village of Al-Latamneh, he said. The raids wounded five rebels and knocked the village's underground hospital out of action, just a day after strikes damaged a similar health facility in Idlib's southern town of Hass. Some of the heaviest bombardment in weeks hit Idlib and nearby areas on Saturday, killing at least nine civilians before coming to a halt by the evening, the Observatory said.

More than half of Idlib is held by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), an alliance led by Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate, while most of the rest is held by rival rebels. The regime controls a southeastern chunk. HTS and rebels are also present in adjacent areas of the neigh-



AL HABIT: This picture shows the destructions after government forces' bombings in the town of Al Habit on the southern edges of the rebel-held Idlib province yesterday. — AFP

boring provinces of Aleppo, Hama and Latakia. Hundreds of families have fled Idlib's southeastern areas since Saturday, when Russian and regime strikes on the region were the most violent in a month, the Observatory said. Idlib's health chief Munzer Al-Khalil said Saturday he feared "the most catastrophic crisis" in Syria's seven-year war. He said he had travelled to

Geneva to urge diplomats and UN officials to help prevent a "catastrophe". The United Nations has warned that any military campaign in Idlib could push up to 800,000 people to flee their homes. The leaders of regime allies Russia and Iran met with the president of rebel backer Turkey in Tehran on Friday, but failed to reach an agreement to avoid a military assault. — AFP

Local

Crown Prince congratulates Amir on 4th humanitarian title anniversary

Amir's efforts to lead charity, humanitarian work made Kuwait proud: Minister

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received a congratulatory letter from His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the UN honoring of His Highness as 'Humanitarian Leader' and the State of Kuwait as 'International Humanitarian Center'.

In his cable, His Highness the Crown Prince expressed pride in the UN accolade to His Highness the Amir saying that it was a result of the noble initiatives of His Highness the Amir, a matter which has placed Kuwait on the world's humanitarian map and uplifted its status on the international arena. His Highness the Crown Prince wished His Highness the best of health and more prosperity for Kuwait and its people. His Highness Sheikh Nawaf said the Kuwaiti people were proud of this unique achievement, which crowned His Highness the Amir's great efforts, contributions and initiatives in the humanitarian field.

In return, His Highness the Amir sent His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince a reply letter, voicing sincere thanks and appreciating His Highness noble sentiments. His Highness the Amir affirmed that this exceptional UN honoring reflected Kuwait's international status and pioneering role in the adoption of humanitarian initiatives to help people affected by conflicts, wars and natural disasters. Meanwhile, Chief of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah sent a

cable to His Highness the Amir, congratulating him on the fourth anniversary of the UN humanitarian honoring. In his cable, His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali congratulated His Highness the Amir, on behalf of the Deputy Chairman of the National Guard Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and all National Guard officers, on the anniversary. He added that the moniker was something that all Kuwaitis should be proud of since it cements Kuwait's position as a bastion of humanity. The National Guard chief wished His Highness the Amir good health and wellbeing. His Highness the Amir sent a reply cable to Chief of the KNG His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah. In the cable, His Highness the Amir said Kuwait has been active in humanitarian action and initiatives, which aimed at helping

the needy affected by conflicts and disasters. His Highness the Amir also wished His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali good health and wellbeing.

Altruistic endeavors

Also yesterday, His Highness the Amir received a letter from Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, who expressed his elation over the accolade, wishing His Highness the Kuwaiti leader continued success as his altruistic endeavors continue to have an impact on the lives of people all over the world. He went on to emphasize that the UN moniker bestowed upon His Highness the Amir was well-deserved given his immense contributions towards humanitarian service.

In his reply, His Highness the Amir thanked Ghanem and



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

ruling period, which witnessed great humanitarian feats locally and internationally. In return, His Highness the Amir sent His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad a reply cable, voicing his sincere thanks and appreciation. His Highness the Amir affirmed that this exceptional UN honoring reflected Kuwait's international status and pioneering role in the adoption of humanitarian initiatives to help people affected by conflicts, wars and natural disasters.

His Highness the Amir also received a cable from His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, who expressed his congratulations on his behalf and on behalf of his fellow Cabinet members on the occasion. His Highness the Amir replied to him with a cable, thanking him and his fellow ministers for their sentiments.

Furthermore, Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan said that the efforts of His Highness the Amir to lead charity and humanitarian work made Kuwait proud. The honoring of the UN reflected Kuwait's long history of humanitarian and relief aid work which officially began in the 1960s and was present prior to that, the minister said. Back then and even now, His Highness maintained his humanitarian ethos through numerous posts he assumed and Sheikh Sabah made it a cornerstone of Kuwait's foreign policy during his current rule, he pointed out.

Kuwait, under the leadership of His Highness the Amir, led campaigns of organized humanitarian intervention to stop the deteriorating situations in several countries that has been subjected to wars and disasters. His policy is an embodiment of balance, wisdom, unconditional assistance and non-interference in the affairs of other countries, he stressed. Roudhan said that he was proud of the honorable roles of His Highness the Amir in leading the renaissance of the country as well as the humanitarian action of Kuwait worldwide. — KUNA



Speaker, top officials congratulate Amir

Crown Prince receives Prime Minister, officials



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at Seif Palace yesterday. Meanwhile, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad received Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister and acting Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince also received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh and Acting National Assembly Speaker Essa Ahmad Al-Kandari. — KUNA



FM receives new Qatari, Hungarian envoys

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday the credentials of Qatar's new

Ambassador to Kuwait Bandar bin Mohammed Al-Attiyah. Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled also received the credentials of the newly appointed Hungarian Ambassador to Kuwait. During the meetings, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled wished the new ambassadors the best of luck in their new duties.

In other news, Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah received yesterday the Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Tareq Al-Qooni, where both men discussed ways of bolstering bilateral ties. The two sides also discussed the latest regional and international developments. — KUNA



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Qatar's new Ambassador to Kuwait Bandar bin Mohammed Al-Attiyah.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with the newly appointed Hungarian Ambassador to Kuwait.



KUWAIT: Head of the Mission of Democratic People's Republic of Korea Ju Myong Chol hosted a reception on the occasion of the 70th National Day at the Crowne Plaza Hotel over the weekend. Higher officials, diplomats, members of the Korean community and media persons attended the event.

Local

Medical Association calls for giving minister chance to meet demands

Proposal to use solar energy at state departments' buildings

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

KUWAIT: Kuwait Medical Association (KMA) said it supports the demands of nurses and their society, and rejected involving doctors in 'attacks' made against the Minister of Health Dr Bassel Al-Sabah. The society said that doctors still have important demands that were not met yet, adding that it is working hard with the ministry to fulfill them. "It is normal to give the health minister time to meet the demands, since they are tied to other state departments including the Civil Service Commission, Fatwa and Legislation Department and others," Head of KMA Dr Ahmad Al-Enezi said. He pointed to the pressures the ministry is under due to the sensitive nature of health services, especially following the opening of new hospitals and centers such as the Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital.

Solar panels

Head of the technical committee at the Municipal Council Abdul-Aziz Al-Maal

demanded amendments to the system by which buildings of state departments are constructed, saying that the current system results in 'major expenses' that the state ends up paying for electricity, while natural energy resources are available yet remain unutilized. Maal proposed to commit ministries and other state departments to install solar panels to produce electric power and reduce consumption of traditional means of energy sources.

Electronic project

Kuwait Food Bank said it joined the electronic platform that was launched by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor which in order to follow the performance, reports, expenses and donations of nongovernment organizations (NGOs) in and outside Kuwait. Director General of Kuwait Food Bank Salem Al-Hamar said the bank is one of the first charity entities that signed into the new electronic platform. He said the new system comes as part of the ministry's efforts towards developing the charity and humanitarian projects in Kuwait, while

maintaining secrecy and security in transferring information. Hamar thanked the Social Affairs Ministry in person the Assistant Undersecretary for Planning and Administrative Sector Affairs Hassan Kazim, and the working teams at the ministry which exerted great efforts to come out with such a project.

Cleaning companies

Deputy Director General of Kuwait Municipality for Municipal Services Khalaf Al-Mutairi said the committee responsible for qualifying and categorizing cleaning companies completed the documents of 17 public cleanliness tenders as published in 'Kuwait Al-Youm'. Mutairi said that cleaning contracts were developed to improve the service's level, as a new garbage collection truck was brought, provided with a hydraulic emptying system to collect garbage from narrow streets in addition to an automated sweeper to clean inner streets. He said that a crane was brought in to tow vehicles to remove abandoned and scrap cars,

in addition to a small sweeper to clean pavements, while the number of boats was increased to two to clean islands periodically.

Road projects

Director General of Public Authority for Roads and Transportation Eng Ahmad Al-Hossan inspected the first and second stages of the development of Al-Ghous street, to follow the progress there. Hossan urged those working on the projects to speed up the process of work so that they can enter service as soon as possible and improve the roads' network around the country. Director of the first stage project, which seeks to develop the road from Fifth Ring Road to the Sixth Ring Road, Eng Khalid Al-Miraj, spoke about the implementation stand and completion percentages. He said that the project is one of the most important projects the authority is implementing at the cost of KD 77.3 million to serve the traffic from adjacent residential areas. Meanwhile, director of the second stage, which starts from Sabah Al-Salem



Dr Bassel Al-Sabah

area to the Seventh Ring Road, Eng Anwar Al-Beloushi, said the project is going on as planned. He said the project is one of the major development projects, carried out at a cost of KD 70.9 million to develop Al-Ghous street and increase the flow of traffic.

Shuwaikh shop worker attacker sentenced to 17 years in jail

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and Agencies

KUWAIT: The Criminal Court yesterday sentenced a Kuwaiti citizen to 17 years in jail on charges of severely assaulting a shop worker in Shuwaikh and leaving him in a critical condition. Meanwhile, the court exonerated the Egyptian worker from physical assault charges that the citizen had pressed. The suspect was charged with using excessive force against the shop worker following a dispute over spare parts for his motorcycle. The incident had sparked outrage in the local community, and prompted Egyptian officials to intervene and demand justice for their compatriot.

Fishermen protest

A large number of trolling fishermen gathered at Al-

Shamlan marina in Sharq yesterday, saying that all trolling boats stopped working because of the ban on shrimping in territorial waters, which caused them severe losses, adding that their helpers plan to leave the country. Head of the Kuwait Fishermen Union Dhaher Al-Suwayan demanded that the government compensates them after the heavy losses they incurred due to the shrimping ban decision that was made by the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources.

Fatal crash

Three brothers were killed in a car accident on Sixth Ring Road, which also left two other citizens critically injured. A police source said the three brothers were heading to Salmi desert when their car was involved in a collision with another vehicle. Police and paramedics rushed to the scene as firemen removed the men from their wrecked vehicles. The deceased's bodies were taken to the coroner.

Traffic dispute turns violent

A woman accused a man of physical assault, but the man told police that his actions were in self-defense and countered with filing a murder attempt case against the woman. Al-Rai reported yesterday. According to the police report, the incident started when the two were involved in a traffic dispute, after which the

woman went in pursuit of the man who drove away from the scene. When the man arrived at this home, he was shocked to see the woman getting out of her car with a knife in hand, which she tried to attack him with. He was able to overpower the woman and take the knife out of her hand. After that, the woman headed to the police station and accused the man of physically assaulting her. The man was summoned, and he told police that the woman harassed him on the road and put his life in danger. Investigations are ongoing.

Thieves caught

Detectives arrested three Syrian brothers, who were mugging expats at knifepoint, and wounded some of them to scare them and take their belongings. The three formed a gang that carried out armed robberies and specifically targeted expats of various nationalities. They used to stalk victims in public places and dark alleys, then stop and mug them. Detectives were

able to identify the men and when they were together in a cafe, detectives moved in and arrested them after fierce resistance. The men were taken to the criminal detectives department. The three denied charges at the start, then following a line-up victims identified them, and they confessed to committing the crimes.

Fight

Two citizens exchanged blows after one of them mocked the other on social media. The incident started when one of the men made some offensive comments against the other, which made him angry and he responded in kind. The two agreed to meet and as soon as they saw each other, a fight broke out. Both filed charges as police are investigating. Separately, Ahmadi police broke up a fight between two Egyptian women in Fintas, which started after one of them hit the other's car while parked. Both were charged with exchanging blows.

Official stresses importance of involving community into 2035 vision



KUWAIT: The Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development Dr Khaled Mahdi (center) speaks during a press conference yesterday. —KUNA

KUWAIT: The Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development Dr Khaled Mahdi stressed yesterday the importance of involving the community in the 'New Kuwait 2035' vision to achieve His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's desire to turn Kuwait into a financial and commercial center attractive to investment.

The current phase of media support project for the development plan and the vision of 'New Kuwait 2035' will see launch of many messages, the most important of which is that Kuwait is an economic base and an international corridor for trade, finance and services, Mahdi said. These messages serve to achieve the vision of His Highness the Amir, especially in light of the global economic changes, which must be aligned to accomplish strategic directions and make Kuwait a global economic corridor, he added. He noted that the stage of engaging the community in the vision of 'New Kuwait 2035' comes after defining the vision in general. "Now is the time to involve them to learn more about the vision through this unprecedented program and pilot launch which is developed after the end of the trial period."

Meanwhile, Chairman of Policy and Information Committee in the Supreme Planning Council, Dr Fahad Al-Rashed, assured the need to combine efforts and translate them into actions to support and realize the vision of 'New Kuwait 2035'. Rashed stressed the need to involve young people to identify the promising competencies "as it is our duty to all work hard to achieve this vision."

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information for Press and Publication Affairs, and Chairman of the Media Support Committee for Development Plan Mohammed Al-Awash said, the Ministry of Information is working hard to simplify the goals and requirements of the vision for every citizen and resident. Awash stressed the readiness of the Ministry to provide the necessary media support through innovative ways to involve the community in achieving the vision of 'New Kuwait 2035'. In the meantime, the KAFO Project Manager Dr Fatima Al-Mousawi said, the project aims at identifying and highlighting the competencies, stressing that the project seeks to identify the talented and accomplished young people with the vision of 'New Kuwait 2035'. —KUNA

Kuwait Times
THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Summer is waiting...

Subscribe now
or renew your subscription for 1 year
only K.D 30 & get K.D 39

4 Cards FREE 4750 K.D each
4 Coupons FREE 5000 K.D each

Enjoy

P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait | Tel: 24833199 - 24833358 - 24835616/7
Fax: 24835620 - 24835621 | E: info@kuwaittimes.net

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A worm's-eye view of Kuwait Towers. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Floral design: A booming, wide spreading business in Kuwait

Designers speak about challenges faced running their own businesses

KUWAIT: Floral design is an exquisite art form with a precise discipline based on arranging flowers of various colors in a way that evokes awe, beauty and admiration. In Kuwait, various florists came to the spotlight and floral design shops began to sprout, offering people a wide assortment of products that fit every season and occasion.

In an interview focusing on the floral design boom, Lulwa Al-Refaei, a flower specialist and owner of 'Zaina Flowers' home business, founded her project in October 2012 with the aim of providing unique boutiques for every occasion. Before starting her business, Refaei noticed her massive interest in floral design, harmonizing colors and flowers care. As result of this passion, she joined a variety of courses and classes specializing in flowers arrangement and floral design. "In the beginning, I used to prepare all the orders by myself without help from others, which made me feel knackered; however, loving my business and serving my customers was worth it," Refaei said. Refaei talked about the characteristics that distinguish florists from each other. She believed that florists should be precise, because floral design needed accuracy and a talent for mixing just the right colors.

Moreover, florists should always be creative and acquire a special taste by using new and unique ideas and techniques. On the specifics of the business, Refaei said that the orders of flowers grew in Ramadan, Eid, and in the

Hajj pilgrimage period. In any given event, she mostly imports flowers, but there were some types of flowers not easy to obtain like the peonies, cherry blossom, and fresh lavender. To expand the lifespan of flowers, Refaei suggested keeping flowers in a cold place, changing the water every two days, and cutting the edge of the stem in a diagonal shape. Refaei called on all florists to avoid copying ideas and forge new innovative paths to follow, affirming that copying kills the spirit of creativity.

Obstacles and challenges

Meanwhile, Mey Al-Shehoumi — a florist, events planner, and owner of 'My Event' planning outfit — said that she always liked organizing for occasions especially for receptions, a popular activity in Kuwaiti society. A college of sharia and Islamic studies graduate, Shehoumi said that she began to plan for people in her milieu, despite the fact that she did not study the art formally. Afterwards, Shehoumi documented her work on social media platforms, which helped her to stand out and officially launch her business in February 2016.

One of the biggest obstacles in the beginning was preparing for low-priced events, which might affect her own personnel budget if the demands were high. Another issue was that customs inspections in Kuwait might cause delay in the flowers delivery, despite the best intentions on part of the planner and exporting companies, she added.

On the 'nitty-gritty' aspects of flowers arrangement, the Kuwaiti florist said that picking the colors of the flowers mostly depended on clients' preferences. For example,



if the client chose flowers of white color, then the search for plants of the same color scheme will commence, and the selection process follows afterwards, she said.

If the customer ordered a specific type of an off-season flower, the price will definitely be higher, Shehoumi explained. Meanwhile, Shehoumi said that preparing for occasions such as weddings differed from say receptions, which usually takes around 24 hours. Reservations generally increase in some periods such as graduation

season and after the Hajj pilgrimage, but in contrast, there were also times of recession in summer especially in June, July, and August, Shehoumi said. On the other hand, both natural and artificial flowers were highly demanded and have the same price tag, though the natural ones — which her shop usually sells — tend to fade in few days. On the long-run, the beginnings might be hard, but passion for floral design makes the struggle all worthwhile, she advised. —KUNA

PAAET announces start of academic year

KUWAIT: The Higher Institute of Energy at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) held a training session on the occasion of starting the first term for the academic year 2018-2019. The session was held under the patronage and presence of Deputy Director General of PAAET for Training Affairs Tariq Al-Ameeri, and representative from public, private and oil sectors that are closely linked to the authority.

Ameeri said that the institute is keen on holding the ceremony annually at the start of the new training year, and he lauded the institute's role in preparing qualified Kuwaiti workers to work in all three sectors.

The institute's director Eng Usama Al-Duaij welcomed the guests and congratulated the trainees on the start of the training season and wished them well. Duaij also thanked PAAET Director General Dr Ali Al-Mudhaf for his continued support of the higher institute. He also thanked Deputy Director General for Training Eng Tariq Al-Ameeri, and Deputy Director General for Administrative and Financial Affairs Eng Hajraf Al-Hajraf. Meanwhile, Ameeri honored representatives of the market-place and some workers in the institute.



Director of Media and Public Relations at PAAET Fatima Al-Azmi is honored.



KUWAIT: Officials pose for a group photo during the ceremony.

KRCS affirms commitment to society development

KUWAIT: Deputy Chairman of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Anwar Al-Hasawi affirmed yesterday KRCS' commitment to the society development and sup-

porting efforts to help needy families to continue their education. The campaign aims to bring 5,000 students back to school after dropping out of the educational process for economic reasons and for lack of tuition fees, Hasawi said on the sidelines of the donation campaign 'Donate to Teach Them' in Al-Kout Mall. "Every donation means a chance for a child to return to his school seat," Hasawi added.

The educational campaign comes within the framework of the humanitarian role of KRCS to achieve its main goal in educating children in need, stressing the importance of the educational case like other relief and medical issues in

terms of its contribution to the construction of the human, he noted. The Deputy Chairman assured the initiative of Al-Kout Mall to embrace this campaign strengthens the partnership between KRCS and private sector institutions and all donors of citizens and residents in Kuwait to contribute to humanitarian work. Finally, he called on the private sector, foundations, donors and individual shareholders to play their social role in donating to the society by going to Al-Kout Mall, KRCS website or at its headquarters to cover the educational costs of the needy families inside Kuwait. —KUNA

Local

Agreement signed to provide ACK students with training on renewable energy technology

Australian College of Kuwait, National Technology Enterprises Company sign agreement

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The National Technology Enterprises Company (NTEC), owned by the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), signed a strategic cooperation agreement with the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) yesterday. The joint cooperation is in the academic field, and through which training will be provided for ACK students to meet the needs of the local and international markets in the fields of renewable energy technology, energy efficiency, environment and sustainable development.

The agreement was signed by Engineer Abdullah A Al-Mutairi, CEO of EnerTech Holding Company and Professor Dr Essam Zaabalawi, President of ACK. The agreement will help ACK graduates to work in the energy and development market through a range of programs. The signing ceremony was held at ACK headquarters. The cooperation agreement comes as part of NTEC's operational plan to contribute to the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to diversify energy sources and use alternative energy to generate 15 percent of the country's total energy in 2030, in addition to achieving the goals of the 'New Kuwait 2035' vision.

The agreement is intended to reflect the present understanding resulting from the discussions the parties have had in their negotiations about the terms and conditions of the proposed cooperation as to study and develop joint training curriculums, to exchange or assign personnel for collaborative training, projects or sharing experience, and to develop joint projects and trainings aimed at providing



KUWAIT: Engineer Abdullah A Al-Mutairi, CEO of EnerTech Holding Company (left) and Professor Dr Essam Zaabalawi, President of ACK shake hands after signing the agreement. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



A general view of officials attending the signing ceremony.

advanced technical support and services to local and regional industries.

The agreement is also intended to transfer and exchange science and technology-related information, to exchange or share facilities and equipment for collaborative or independent research and trainings based on the policies of both parties, to organize or co-sponsor symposia, conferences, forums, seminars, workshops and train-

ing courses upon mutual interests, to extend invitations for attending scholarly and technical meetings as well as national and international conferences, and to provide

opportunities for ACK students to obtain field training and internship at NTEC's or its subsidiaries' premises as part of their graduation requirements.

AC issues completed, work normal in schools: Minister

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Hamid Al-Azmi said yesterday that following the measures taken by the ministry during the past few days to deal with the failure of the air conditioners in some schools, most of the major problems have been completed and work in all schools is back to normal.

On the sidelines of an inspection tour between a number of public education schools in the Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Hawali educational zones, the minister told reporters that 900 air conditioning units would be distributed to educational districts. Two hundred units were distributed to Ahmadi educational schools, 200 to Hawali educational area, 200 to Mubarak Al-Kabeer educational area, 100 to Al-Jahra educational area, 100 to the Capital educational area and 100 to Farwaniya educational area, he explained.

Minister Azmi stressed that the ministry is keen to provide more air conditioning units to the educational areas if necessary, indicating simultaneously that work is underway in full swing to solve all the problems that faced the start of the academic year as soon as possible. The minister stressed his keenness to preserve the safety of students, members of the educational body and the administrative body and to use all available means to ensure their comfort and provide the appro-



KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Hamid Al-Azmi and ministry officials are seen while touring a number of public education schools yesterday. — KUNA photos

appropriate atmosphere during the school day. In his congratulations to the members of the educational and administrative bodies and parents on start of the new school year and regular school attendance in all grades with the start of the secondary school students, he praised the efforts of the members of the educational and administrative staff in schools as well as educational areas. Minister Azmi started inspection tour of several schools since early morning hours, accompanied by Assistant Undersecretary of Educational and Planning Facilities Yasin Al-Yasin and a number of ministry officials. — KUNA

Zain joins students in welcoming new school year

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, organized a number of awareness visits to various schools from different governorates to join students in welcoming the new school year. The visits came as part of the company's strategic partnership of the Ministry of Interior's (MOI) latest traffic awareness campaign organized by the General Department of Relations and Security Media.

Zain organized the awareness visits as part of its corporate sustainability and social responsibility strategy that aims at serving the community. The company will always be keen on shouldering initiatives that work towards enhancing the society's welfare in partnership with the various ministries and public authorities,

including the Ministry of Interior.

The visits, organized by Zain in partnership with MOI, targeted many age groups, starting from kindergarten children to middle and high school students. Zain's team participated in distributing gifts to children and cold beverages to students to ease the hot weather conditions and encourage the students to welcome the new school year with eagerness and enthusiasm.

Zain's support to this campaign extends throughout the new school year of 2018-2019. The campaign aims at spreading positive awareness about traffic safety among students of all age groups, ranging from kindergarten to college, with the goal of enriching traffic safety values within them from an early age.

The campaign recently witnessed the organization of an awareness exhibition held at the Avenues Mall, which mainly aimed at spreading positive awareness among visitors, especially young people, about traffic safety through a number of activities that contribute to delivering a positive message in a creative way. The activities included a coloring section for children to introduce traffic signs, a

mini-village with streets and roads where children can simulate driving and learn basic traffic laws such as wearing seatbelts, following road lines, respecting special needs parking, and more.

As part of its partnership with the Ministry of Interior, Zain sponsored the National Drug Abuse Prevention Campaign during June 2018. The campaign mainly aimed at spreading awareness among young people about the various types of illegal drugs, their dangers, and how to prevent them.

Zain will continue to find ways to serve the community as to foster a better world and be a productive member of the society, being a leader in the Kuwaiti private sector. The company is proud to be one of the first organizations to partner with the Ministry of Interior to make this campaign a success and contribute to saving lives. Zain's solid Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy primarily focuses on the wellbeing of the entire nation. For this reason, the company has maintained its support of numerous initiatives that spread awareness and help make a difference in people's everyday lives.



KUWAIT: Zain's team and Ministry of Interior officials pose for a group picture with children during one of the visits.



IndiGo to Chennai

Introducing daily non-stop flights to Chennai.

| Sector* | Departure ¹ | Arrival ¹ | Fare ² |
|------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Kuwait - Chennai | 05:10 | 12:25 | KWD 47.250 |
| Chennai - Kuwait | 01:05 | 04:10 | KWD 45.150 |

Also flying to Ahmedabad.

| Sector ³ | Departure ¹ | Arrival ¹ | Fare ² |
|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Kuwait - Ahmedabad | 10:40 | 16:50 | KWD 46.400 |
| Ahmedabad - Kuwait | 08:30 | 09:40 | KWD 36.150 |

*W.E.F. 15th October, 2018. ¹W.E.F. 2nd November, 2018. ²Local time. ³Lowest all-inclusive one-way fare on limited seats. Schedule/timings are subject to regulatory approvals.

IndiGo
+965 22970246
golndiGo.in

Choose Flexible Fares to make unlimited changes to your booking without incurring a change fee. Fare differences may apply.



No ICBMs, North Korea military parade features floats, flowers

Far-right tipped to win big as Swedes head to the polls

Page 8

Page 9



DAMASCUS: Syrian railroad workers and technicians work on the restoration of the railway in the Syrian capital. — AFP

Syria's ravaged railways see new hope

Locomotives have chugged across Syria for over a century

DAMASCUS: Abu Abdo eases himself into the driver's seat, itching to try out freshly laid train tracks between two suburbs of Syria's capital, Damascus. "I've been waiting for this day for six years," the 42-year-old says, drumming excitedly on the train's control board. He prepares for a test drive on a stretch of tracks leading from Qadam station-until May a pocket of Islamic State group resistance-to grounds hosting the annual Damascus International Fair.

After seven years of war, the government is now back in control of nearly two thirds of Syria's territory, after seizing large swathes back from myriad rebel and jihadist groups. The regime views reviving the railways as crucial to its reconstruction policy. And the week-long fair, which started on Thursday, is being serviced by 28 trains each day, according to state media. Abu Abdo begins the trial run.

"When I drive a train, I feel like I'm flying," he says, happy to be back behind the

wheel after six years stuck behind a desk and largely idle at the Public Transport Authority. Before the war, he had driven trains for 20 years. Locomotives had chugged across Syria for over a century, carrying passengers, construction materials, oil and gas over hundreds of kilometers. The trains linked Damascus to the second city, Aleppo, and other urban centers in Homs, Latakia on the western coast, Deir Ezzor in the east, and elsewhere. But train traffic came shuddering to a halt in 2012, a year into the civil war.

Next step: reconstruction

Of the 2,450 kilometers of train tracks that cross Syria, some 1,800 kilometers will be repaired, according to the transport ministry. Stretches of track survive intact in the coastal provinces of Latakia and Tartus, areas relatively insulated from the violence. Routes that will be revived include those running north-south

between Damascus, Homs and Aleppo, as well as lines between the coast and the country's east, bordering Iraq. Many lines even lack tracks.

"Some tracks were stolen and others



Railways crucial to reconstruction policy

were damaged because of the war," says Radwan Tikriti, the railway chief for the Damascus region. He has worked with locomotives for 30 years and once lived near Qadam station, where he grew accus-

tomed to waking each morning to the sound of train whistles. That changed in early 2013, when rebels overran the district and Tikriti fled, ahead of Qadam then falling into IS' clutches.

"We're working now to link the cities (back) together," Tikriti tells AFP. Seven years of war have destroyed towns and cities, including infrastructure, from water pipes to power stations. The United Nations estimated last month that the conflict has cost Syria close to \$400 billion (350 billion euros). "We're in a race against time to rehabilitate the railway. We all really want to hear the sounds of trains" again, says Tikriti.

Tight timetable

In July, President Bashar Al-Assad earmarked rebuilding Syria as his "top priority", and reviving the railways is a big part of that task. The authorities aim to have most lines back up and running by the end of the

year, says Transport Minister Ali Hammud. "The railways will play an essential role in reconstruction," Hammud said.

Cargo trains carry construction materials "faster and cheaper" than lorries, he says. Repairing the railways could also revitalize land trade and jump-start Syria's collapsed economy, Hammud says. "We're the gateway to the Mediterranean for the Gulf, Jordan, and Iraq," he says, pointing to a map of Syria. "The objective is to link Syrian ports to neighboring countries," he adds, referring to the maritime posts at Tartus and Latakia. "We're going to reconnect all the borders."

For driver Abu Abdo, the railway's revival is personal. The lifelong driver comes from Idlib in the northwest, the only province still in rebel hands and the next military target for regime forces. "I hope the day will come when I can go back to my hometown," he says. "Only then can we say that Syria has become what it was before the war." — AFP

Failure of Yemen peace talks opens way to escalation

DUBAI: The collapse of UN efforts to organize peace talks between the Yemeni government and rebels is likely to lead to an escalation in the country's war, analysts say. Long-awaited talks between the Saudi-backed government and Houthi rebels linked to Iran were set to start Thursday but failed to take place.

The Houthis, armed tribesmen from northern Yemen, refused to leave Sanaa to attend the talks, saying the UN had failed to guarantee the return of their delegation from Geneva to the Yemeni capital and to secure the evacuation of wounded rebels to Oman. With hopes of political conciliation dashed, experts fear both the rebels and Saudi-backed troops will turn to more violence.

"We will almost certainly see a military escalation, as the initial failure of Geneva will deepen the Saudi-led coalition's conviction that only further losses on the battlefield will cause the Houthis to compromise," said Graham Griffith, senior analyst at the UAE-based consultancy Control Risks. "However, the military campaign is likely to be hampered by the additional scrutiny the coalition is facing over its conduct in the war," he added.

The Saudi-led coalition has drawn heavy international criticism for the high civilian death toll from its more than three-year-old bombing campaign in Yemen. Coalition commanders have admitted a small number of mistakes but accuse the rebels of routinely using civilians as human shields. The head of the Houthi rebels, for his part, on Saturday issued a message of defiance. "Our choice is steadfastness and resistance to aggression," said Abdulmalik Al-Houthi. "We must move on all fronts to recruit for our defense."

The Geneva talks were abandoned on Saturday as fresh fighting broke out on the ground. Analysts say the failure to bring Yemeni representatives to the summit, which would have been the first since lengthy talks in Kuwait collapsed in 2016, will only raise mistrust between the government and rebels. "The peace talks did not begin, and because there is no peace process to be considered that means there are fewer constraints in place for the behavior of both sides on the ground," said security and defense analyst Aleksandar Mitreski.

"While there is mistrust between the actors, as much as there is in any conflict of this kind, I believe the failure of the peace process is due to the imbalance of power between the two sides," said Mitreski, researcher at the University of Sydney. Yemen's government on Saturday accused UN envoy Martin Griffiths of defending the rebels. Foreign Minister Khaled al-Yamani criticized Griffiths for "appeasing" the Houthis by refusing to lay blame for the failure of the talks squarely on their shoulders. "The UN, unfortunately, does not have the capability to be the equalizer," said Mitreski.

Hodeida

Nearly 10,000 people have been killed since Saudi Arabia and its allies intervened on behalf of the government in 2015, triggering what the UN calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Griffiths is UN's third Yemen envoy since 2014, when Houthis overran the capital and drove Hadi's government into exile. All previous attempts to resolve the conflict have failed.

The envoy said Saturday he would travel to Muscat and Sanaa in the coming days to lay the groundwork for future talks, but hinted he might initially engage in separate discussions with the two sides. He said it was "too early to say when the next round of consultations will take place". Complicating things further, fighting has flared again around the vital rebel-held Red Sea port of Hodeida, the entry point for some 70 percent of Yemen's imports including food and aid, after a temporary ceasefire was declared by the Saudi-led coalition in June. — AFP

Pakistan's new president Alvi sworn in

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's new President Arif Alvi was sworn in at a ceremony in Islamabad yesterday, concluding the country's peaceful transfer of power to its new government after a turbulent election campaign. His appointment further cements the ruling party's power after controversial polls in July—which were tainted by claims of military meddling and ballot rigging—saw former cricket champion Imran Khan elected prime minister.

Arif Alvi, a close ally of Khan and one of the founders of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, becomes Pakistan's 13th president, replacing Mamnoon Hussain. A vote this week saw him elected by more than a thousand lawmakers from both houses of parliament and the four provincial assemblies. Khan and his cabinet attended the ceremony led by Chief Justice Saqib Nisar, along with armed forces chiefs and senior Islamabad-based diplomats. Alvi swore to "bear true faith and allegiance to Pakistan" and to carry out his duties "in the interest of the sovereignty, integrity, solidarity, well-being and prosperity of Pakistan."

A former dentist, Alvi has been a key confidante of Imran Khan on both party and national issues. He served as the PTI's secretary general for eight years from 2006, and was elected an MP in the southern megacity of Karachi in 2013, winning re-election in the July vote. A father of four and enthusiastic Twitter



ISLAMABAD: In this handout photograph released by the Press Information Department (PID) yesterday, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan (R) witnesses while Chief Justice of Pakistan Mian Saqib Nisar (C) takes oath from newly President Arif Alvi (L) at the Awwan-e-Sadr. — AFP

user, Alvi was shot and wounded during a protest against military dictator Ayub Khan in Lahore in 1969. He still has a bullet embedded in his right arm.

The election of the PTI marks the end of decades of rotating leadership between the ousted Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), punctuated by periods of army rule. But Khan and his cabinet face a myriad of challenges including a faltering economy, militant extremism, water shortages, and a rapidly growing population negating growth in the developing country. Pakistani presidents wielded greater power before 2008, when President Asif Ali Zardari, the husband of assassinated premier Benazir Bhutto, took office and devolved most of his powers to prime minister Yousaf Raza Gilani. — AFP

International

Trump not on midterms ballot but his presence looms large

Results will set the tone for the remaining two years of presidency

WASHINGTON: His name will not be on the ballot, but President Donald Trump will be there in spirit when Americans vote in midterm elections in November. And the results will set the tone for the remaining two years of the presidency of the man who will be on everybody's mind. Americans will vote nationwide on November 6 for the first time since the New York real estate tycoon pulled off one of the most stunning upsets in US political history.

Former president Barack Obama put Trump front and center in the opening salvo in a series of campaign stops Friday, accusing him of "capitalizing" on "fear and anger". "What happened to the Republican Party?" Obama asked, taking off the gloves after nearly two years of avoiding direct criticism of his successor.

All 435 seats in the House of Representatives are up for grabs along with 35 seats in the 100-member Senate and the posts of governor in around 30 states. Republicans currently hold majorities in both the House and the Senate. Democrats are hoping that a "blue wave" will propel them to victory in the House and the latest polls give them a good chance of doing so. Seizing control for the Senate looks less likely.

In a Washington Post/ABC News poll of registered voters, 52 percent said they favored the Democratic candidate over the Republican candidate in their district. Thirty-eight percent said they favored the Republican. As for the economy — often a harbinger for the ruling party's fortunes —

58 percent said it was "excellent" or "good" with 38 percent saying it was "not so good." Unemployment is currently at an 18-year low at 3.9 percent while gross domestic product grew 4.2 percent in the second quarter.

'Soft favorites'
Despite the bright economic numbers, the "Grand Old Party" is struggling in large

“**What happened to the Republican Party?**”

part because of the unpopularity of Trump himself. The president — whose time in office has been marked by frequent turmoil — has been hit by an especially bruising week, with an anonymous op-ed alleging that members of his administration were seeking to frustrate his "worst inclinations" and head off disaster for the country.

That account was corroborated by investigative journalist Bob Woodward's new book, which describes a coalition of like-minded aides plotting to prevent the president from destroying the world trade

system, undermining national security and sparking wars. Larry Sabato, director of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia, said that while Democrats are "soft favorites" to take the House, fortunes could change.

"Unforeseen events could wipe out their prospects before Election Day," Sabato said. "I don't expect that to happen, but the Trump era is tumultuous." Midterm elections are traditionally difficult for the party in the White House as the president tries to respond quickly to the often unrealistic demands of the electorate. Two years after Obama's election, Democrats suffered a bruising midterms defeat amid a bitter debate over health care reform. Only once since Harry Truman was president has the party in the White House picked up seats in the House during a first term — in 2002, in a United States which was still suffering the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington.

'Trump, Trump and Trump'
For many, the midterm vote is being seen as a referendum on Trump, whose style and personality sharply divides Americans. "The top three issues are Trump, Trump, and Trump," said Sabato. "Since Trump is at 40 percent or so in the polls, this can't be good news for Republicans." Trump in recent weeks has been trying to galvanize his base, holding high-energy campaign rallies



CHARLOTTE: In this file photo taken on August 31, 2018 US President Donald Trump speaks during a fundraiser at the Carmel Country Club. — AFP

in a bid to create a "red wave" of his own. The president plans to step up campaigning in the next few weeks including a visit to Texas to support Senator Ted Cruz, once his bitter rival for the Republican presidential nomination. Trump is well aware that a hostile Congress could severely limit his ability to get anything done during his remaining two years in office.

If Democrats take over the House, they could seize upon the various scandals surrounding his presidency and tie up his administration with myriad committee investigations. Whatever the result in the congressional midterms, on November 7,

Americans will begin looking to the next big election — the November 3, 2020 presidential vote.

Trump, who will be 74-years-old by that time, has already rolled out his campaign slogan: "Keep America Great." His Democratic challenger has not yet emerged and a fierce battle is expected to see who will carry the banner. Trump, for his part, is feeling confident. "It looks like they're going to have a lot of people lining up," he told the Daily Caller. "But so far, and I'm an honest guy, I'll let you know if there's anybody I see that could be trouble. "But so far, I'm not seeing it." —AFP

Fresh Brexit row over Johnson 'suicide vest' jibe

LONDON: Britain's ruling Conservative party was locked in a new row over Brexit yesterday after Boris Johnson said the government's strategy put the country in a "suicide vest", with Brussels holding the detonator. The former foreign minister's remarks ramp up his criticism of Prime Minister Theresa May's approach to leaving the European Union, amid speculation he is positioning to replace her.

Writing in the Mail on Sunday newspaper, Johnson repeated that May's plan to follow EU rules on trade in goods after Brexit — a plan over which he quit his job in protest in July — were a "humiliation". And he condemned her vow to do whatever it takes to avoid border checks in Ireland, saying it was "insanity" and left Britain open to "perpetual political blackmail". "We have wrapped a suicide vest around the British constitution — and handed the detonator to (EU Brexit negotiator) Michel Barnier," he wrote.

"We have given him a jemmy (crowbar) with which Brussels can choose — at any time — to crack apart the union between Great Britain and Northern Ireland." The EU has suggested that if no other way was found to avoid physical border checks between Ireland and the British province of Northern Ireland, then the latter should stay aligned with the bloc's trade rules.



LONDON: Pro and anti Brexit demonstrators face off outside the Houses of Parliament in central London. — AFP

May has rejected this as unacceptable, but the two sides are deadlocked as time runs out to agree a divorce deal before Brexit in March next year. Johnson's inflammatory language drew outrage from colleagues, with junior foreign minister Alan Duncan saying it was "disgusting" to compare May's view to that of a suicide bomber.

"I'm sorry, but this is the political end of Boris Johnson. If it isn't now, I will make sure it is later. #neverfitto govern," he tweeted.

Johnson's successor, Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt, wrote in a rival article in the Mail that "nobody else has a detailed plan"

for Brexit, adding: "This is the moment to back the prime minister." Some commentators suggested Johnson's remarks were intended as a diversion from speculation over his private life, after he announced this week that he was divorcing his wife of 25 years. Yesterday's newspapers were filled with lurid details about Johnson's alleged infidelity in the past. They were said to be from a dossier compiled by May's office in 2016, when she was competing with Johnson for the Conservative leadership. Downing Street denied re-releasing the details to discredit him now. — AFP

Protestors block route of Serbian leader on Kosovo trip

MITROVICA: Hundreds of Kosovar Albanians blocked access to a village due to be visited by Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic Sunday, an AFP journalist said, as a festering row over Kosovo independence clouds hopes that the war foes can normalize relations. Demonstrators used vehicles and tree trunks to create a barricade on the main road between Mitrovica, in the north of Kosovo, and the village of Banje, a Serbian enclave some 60 kilometers away.

"Vucic does not pass" and "Those who committed genocide against innocent civilians cannot pass" read messages on placards at the blockade, which according to Serbian state television RTS was one of five set up by protesters to cut off all road access to Banje. Serbia refuses to recognize Kosovo, an Albanian-majority former southern province that broke away from the then Yugoslav republic in a bloody war in 1998-1999 and declared independence a decade later.

According to RTS, Vucic's route was blocked by former members of the Kosovo Liberation Army, the pro-independence guerrilla movement that fought Serb armed forces in the conflict. The Serbian president is making a two-day visit to Kosovo, just days after



MITROVICA: A sign that reads in Cyrillic, "Welcome President" is displayed as Kosovo Serbs attend a rally during the visit by the Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic in the northern, Serb-dominated part of Mitrovica. — AFP

planned talks with Kosovo president Hashim Thaci in Brussels under EU auspices fell apart at the last minute.

The talks have been stalled for months but started generating attention in recent months after Thaci and Vucic signalled an openness to the idea of border changes to resolve their longstanding differences over Kosovo's independence. The presidents have not laid out any detailed plans but the talk has alarmed critics, who say redrawing the map of the Balkans could wreak havoc in a

fragile region scarred by war. Vucic is due to speak at a public event later Sunday in Serb-majority Mitrovica. Serbia needs a deal with Pristina to move forward in EU accession talks, while Kosovo is hoping that recognition from Belgrade that would unlock its path into the United Nations. Kosovo is recognised by more than 110 countries, but outliers include Russia, China and five EU countries, including Spain, which does not want to set an independence precedent for its own regions. — AFP

US officials met Venezuela officers to discuss coup bid

WASHINGTON: Officials from President Donald Trump's administration met secretly with Venezuelan military officers to discuss plans to oust President Nicolas Maduro but eventually decided not to help, The New York Times reported Saturday. Trump has been harshly critical of Maduro's leftist regime, as Venezuela has spiraled downward into a grave economic and humanitarian crisis that has sparked violent protests and prompted a wave of emigration into nearby countries.

A National Security Council spokesman in remarks to AFP, said that: "US policy preference for a peaceful, orderly return to democracy in Venezuela remains unchanged." "The United States government hears daily the concerns of Venezuelans from all walks of life... They share one goal: the rebuilding of democracy in their homeland," added spokesman Garrett Marquis.

"A lasting solution to Venezuela's worsening crisis can only arise following restoration of governance by democratic practices, the rule of law

and respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms." The Times, citing unnamed American officials and a former Venezuelan military commander who took part in the secret talks, said the coup plans stalled.

On Twitter, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza denounced "US government intervention plans and support for military plotting against Venezuela." "Right there in US media, new and disgusting evidence is there to see," he said. After explosives-laden drones allegedly blew up near Maduro at an August 4 event in Caracas — he blamed the US, Colombia and his domestic enemies — the State Department condemned the "political violence" but also denounced what it said were the arbitrary detentions and forced confessions of suspects. US National Security Advisor John Bolton insisted there was "no US government involvement" in the incident. In August 2017, media reports said Trump asked top advisors about the potential for a US invasion of Venezuela. — AFP

Hariri suspects absent as tribunal nears climax

THE HAGUE: The Hezbollah defendants are still on the run and have never even spoken to their lawyers, but the special UN tribunal into the 2005 assassination of Lebanese ex-prime minister Rafiq Hariri starts its final phase this week. Thirteen years after billionaire Hariri was killed by a huge suicide bomb in Beirut, the court in a suburb of The Hague will hear closing prosecution and defense arguments in the long-running case.

Four suspected members of the Shiite militant group Hezbollah are on trial at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) over the shock attack, which also killed 21 other people and injured 226. Hezbollah has refused to turn over the four indicted men — Salim Ayyash, Hussein Oneissi, Assad Sabra and Hassan Habib Merhi — for the trial which began in January 2014.

But the tribunal is unique in international justice as it can try suspects in absentia, as well as for its ability to try accused perpetrators of an individual terrorist attack. It is the first time a trial has happened without the suspects in the dock since 1945, when an international

criminal jurisdiction was created for the Nuremberg trials after World War II. Closing arguments are due to run from Tuesday until September 21.

'Always bitter'

"It's problematic, because for the general public it is always bitter when you can't put a face to violence," said Thijs Bouwknegt, a lawyer specializing in international criminal law. "A court without defendants risks being a joke." The assassination of Hariri, who was Lebanon's Sunni Muslim prime minister until his resignation in October 2004, was a pivotal moment in the country's history.

Fingers quickly pointed at Syria after the bomber detonated a van packed with tons of explosives next to his armored convoy on the Beirut seafont on Valentine's Day in 2005. The bombing triggered a wave of mass demonstrations that ended with the departure of Syrian forces from Lebanon after a 30-year presence, after which Hariri's son Saad became premier. But when the tribunal, which was set up in 2009, eventually handed down indictments it named four alleged members of Hezbollah, which although backed by Iran and Syria, is Lebanon-based. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah has previously dismissed the tribunal as a US-Israeli plot and vowed none of the defendants will ever be caught. None of them has ever had contact with their court-appointed defense lawyers. Dov Jacobs, a professor of international law, said the tribunal risked being "exclusively symbolic". — AFP

International

Far-right tipped to win big as Swedes head to the polls

A 'referendum on the future of the welfare state'

STOCKHOLM: Swedes voted in legislative elections yesterday with a far-right surge expected if voters punish traditional parties over their failure to address immigration concerns. Social Democratic Prime Minister Stefan Lofven has called the election a "referendum on the future of the welfare state" but the far-right Sweden Democrats (SD) have presented it as vote on immigrants and their integration, after Sweden took in almost 400,000 asylum seekers since 2012.

Opinion polls suggest SD could garner between 16 and 25 percent of the vote, making it one of the biggest parties and rendering it almost impossible to predict the make-up of the next government. The party, with roots in the neo-Nazi movement, has said the arrival of asylum seekers is a threat to Swedish culture and claimed they put a strain on the country's generous welfare state. As he cast his ballot in Stockholm yesterday, Lofven urged Swedes not to vote for the "racist party".

"It's ... about decency, about a decent democracy. And the Social Democrats and a Social Democratic-led government is a guarantee for not letting the Sweden Democrats extremist party, racist party, get any influence in the government." The Social Democrats, traditionally the biggest party and who have led a minority government with the Greens, have lost support on both the left and the right and are tipped to post their lowest score since 1911.

'Hostile to foreigners'

Anna Berglund, a 28-year-old lawyer who voted for the small Centre Party at a polling station in Stockholm's upscale Ostermalm neighbourhood, said SD's mounting support was "bad news". "I'm afraid we're becoming a society that is more hostile to foreigners. I don't like it."

In Rinkeby, a disadvantaged suburb north of Stockholm home to a strong immigrant population, locals were also concerned.

"I don't want SD. So I go see people and ask them if they have Swedish citizenship and if they do I tell them that it's important to go vote." Sofie, a Turkish woman in her 50s told AFP. Up to 20 percent of the 7.5 million eligible voters were undecided in the final days before the vote, according to pollsters. In Strangnas, an hour west of Stockholm, Lofven's main challenger, Moderates leader Ulf Kristersson, handed out campaign leaflets in his hometown on voting day. He told AFP he was worried about SD.

"I have tried to prove to voters during the election campaign that if you really want a change, you have to vote ... for our four parties. We are the guarantee to oust the current government from power," he said. Well aware that his Alliance has no chance of winning a majority, he has said Sweden needs "a strong cross-block cooperation to isolate the forces... pushing for Sweden to withdraw from international cooperation".

In southern Sweden, an SD stronghold, party leader Jimmie Akesson campaigned among throngs of supporters late Saturday as detractors booed him and shouted "No racists on our streets!" "We're now competing against the Social Democrats and Moderates to become the biggest party in the country," he said, dismissing the protesters as "communists".

Deal with 'the devil'

Neither Lofven's "red-green" bloc nor Kristersson's opposition centre-right four-party Alliance (Moderates, Centre, Liberals and Christian Democrats) were expected to win a majority in parliament. Lengthy negotiations will



MALMO: Women stand in a voting booth at a polling station before voting in the general elections. — AFP

be needed to build a majority, or at least a minority that won't be toppled by the opposite side.

The opposition is intent on ousting Lofven, with some Moderates willing to go so far as to put an end to SD's pariah status and open negotiations with them. That could prove fatal for the Alliance, with the Liberal and Centre parties repeatedly ruling out a deal with "the devil", as Akesson occasionally calls himself. None of the

seven other parties have been willing to negotiate with SD. "They should be taken seriously, they have raised serious issues, not just immigration but health care too," said 46-year-old Stockholm voter Henrik, a doctor who refused to give his last name. "It's a problem for democracy if the other party leaders refuse to talk to a party that represents the views of so many people," his wife Josefine added. — AFP



Roots in the neo-Nazi movement

ning a majority, he has said Sweden needs "a strong cross-block cooperation to isolate the forces... pushing for Sweden to withdraw from international cooperation".

In southern Sweden, an SD stronghold, party leader Jimmie Akesson campaigned among throngs of supporters late Saturday as detractors booed him and shouted "No racists on our streets!" "We're now competing against the Social Democrats and Moderates to become the biggest party in the country," he said, dismissing the protesters as "communists".

Deal with 'the devil'

Neither Lofven's "red-green" bloc nor Kristersson's opposition centre-right four-party Alliance (Moderates, Centre, Liberals and Christian Democrats) were expected to win a majority in parliament. Lengthy negotiations will

'Good people' back Brazil pro-gun stab victim candidate

RIO DE JANEIRO: Armando Piccinini's father was gunned down outside a bank 16 years ago, but now the 53-year-old is a gun-ownership advocate who says weapons are self-defense necessities in crime-ridden Brazil. "Rio is on the brink of civil war, and it will soon be declared," said businessman Piccinini at the Calibre 12 shooting range in Niteroi, near Rio. He was with his father the day he died.

"Good people will arm themselves to defend their families, their property, and this war will be declared if the authorities don't do something." Legalizing gun ownership has been one of front-running presidential candidate Jair Bolsonaro's campaign pledges. And it has gained momentum since the right-wing former army captain was stabbed during a rally in the southeast on Thursday.

"If it wasn't tragic, it would be ironic," said Rildo Anjos, 52, one of the Calibre 12 instructors. "A pro-gun candidate suffering a kitchen knife attack; it just proves that it is man, not guns, that is guilty of violence." Brazil suffered a record 30.3 murders per 100,000 inhabitants in 2016. That was 62,517 murders, 44,475 of those using guns.

'Guns increase violence'

"I don't think the way to solve the dramatic problem of a country with more than 60,000 murders a year is to distribute guns," says Marina Silva, the environmentalist presidential candidate currently running second alongside centrist nominee Ciro Gomes in polls, behind Bolsonaro. "On the contrary, this would increase violence." Silva and Bolsonaro could finish in the first two places in the October 7 election,

after which they would go to a run-off three weeks later. Polls predict Silva would win that hands down. But Bolsonaro's campaign seems to have been boosted by his stabbing. He's been all over television and the internet, giving him a huge profile lift. "We're all behind Bolsonaro," said Paulo Alberto, 55, one of 210 Calibre 12 members. "Today, the criminals are more numerous and better armed than security forces," he added, gun in hand and wearing protective glasses. "I live close to a favela and I've been woken up by gunshots. When you leave the house, you don't know if you'll come home. We good citizens demand the right to defend our families and our possessions."

At Calibre 12, where there is a smell of gunpowder and camaraderie, people go to learn sport shooting or to take a competence course that would earn them the right to carry a weapon. A 2003 law in Brazil tightened the regulations over gun ownership, something Bolsonaro wants to revoke. His position has caused a number of scandals, such as in July when he appeared in a viral video seemingly showing a young girl how to imitate a gun with her hands.

"Kids in Brazil need to view weapons as something linked to responsibility and the protection of life," he told O Globo newspaper in justifying his actions. Such statements turned Bolsonaro into a target for many of his rival candidates, but those at Calibre 12 agree with him.

'Family atmosphere'

"My son is here," said Anderson Lessa, a 46-year-old shopkeeper, pointing to a teenager. "I've taught my three children to drive, swim and shoot. For me, that's a basic right." Piccinini says: "There's a family atmosphere here." It's the "only tourist business in Brazil that promotes excursions in which you can have your first contact with a gun." To buy a weapon in Brazil, you must be at least 25, present proof of psychological and technical aptitude, and a "statement of necessity," explaining why you need one. "The statement of necessity is the biggest lie in the world,"



RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazilian businessman Armando Piccinini prepares to shoot at the 'Calibre 12' (Caliber 12) shooting club in Sao Goncalo. — AFP

said Anjos. "Do I need a statement of necessity to buy a car?" As for guns, it's "because I want to protect my biggest asset, which is my life!" Anjos agrees that people need training to learn how to use a gun but claims the 2003 law has done nothing to reduce violent crime. That's not the opinion of the "2018 Atlas of Violence" prepared by the Institute of Economic Investigation and Brazilian Forum of Public Security, though.

It claims that but for the 2003 law, the murder figures would be worse. Alberto says the 2003 law prevents "good citizens from the right to legitimate self-defense, as guaranteed in the constitution." "They've taken away our main form of defense. It's ended up favoring criminals," he insists. When asked if anyone has ever needed to use their gun in the streets, the Calibre 12 members laugh uncomfortably. Then one voice answers: "No one likes to talk about that." — AFP

Prominent Ugandan policeman assassinated

KAMPALA: An outspoken and critical Ugandan policeman has been assassinated, a police spokesman said yesterday, in the latest in a series of murders of senior officers and politicians. Muhammad Kirumira was gunned down at the gate of his home along with a female companion in the Kampala suburb of Bulenga on Saturday night, said police spokesman Emilian Kayima.

"The Uganda Police Force is greatly concerned with the assassination of assistant superintendent of police Muhammad Kirumira at Bulenga last night," the spokesman said. "He was with a lady whom we have been informed is not his wife but someone he knew and she too succumbed to bullet wounds in the hospital where she was rushed for treatment," said Kayima.

He said the attackers were reportedly travelling on a motorcycle, a tactic used in the killings of assistant inspector general of police Andrew Kaweesi in March, as well as a senior public prosecutor in 2015 and others. Kirumira had repeatedly told the media and other police officers that he was a target of assassination. He was suspended from his role as district commander in January after accusing his colleagues in a Facebook post of corruption and working with criminal gangs.

Shortly after he was arrested when heavily armed police forced their way into his house as he holed up resisting detention in an operation that took over five hours. Kirumira was awaiting trial on charges of criminal misconduct and abuse of authority at the time of his death. In March President Yoweri Museveni fired the chief of police as well as the country's security minister in what was seen as a reaction to growing insecurity in the country.

In June this year ruling party lawmaker Ibrahim Abiriga was gunned down, alongside his brother, also by attackers on motorcycles. No one has been brought to book for any of the killings. In June Museveni ordered that MPs should receive armoured escorts and snipers to protect them, a decision that divided lawmakers and raised concerns about the cost of such an operation. The president visited the scene of the murder yesterday, and said the police force was busy installing cameras around Kampala and other major towns in a bid to crackdown on insecurity.

"We are to stop these pigs by not just relying on old police methods," Museveni said in a statement. He said the government was going to re-activate so-called Luweero methods to deal with criminals, referring to a local community led administrative system used when he was a rebel leader in the eighties. Ugandan popstar turned politician Robert Kyagulanyi — better known as Bobi Wine — reacted to the news of Kirumira's killing from the United States, where he is seeking treatment after allegedly being tortured by Ugandan police after his own arrest. "Very sadly, that is the country we are living in. No one is safe. Our country is bleeding. This is very painful," he wrote on Facebook. — AFP

Getting high in Laos' opium mountains

LAOS: In a hut on the top of a fog-licked mountain in northern Laos, Vo Pali is getting high. His poison is opium, a sap extracted from poppies grown illegally by the poor hill tribes in the Communist state's rugged, inaccessible uplands. "I smoke three times a day," the 60-year-old ethnic Hmong villager says in a barely audible rasp of his 30-year habit. "It has damaged my life. I have no income. But I get sick without it."

The talk tails off as he loads up his first hit of the day. He burns a thumb-sized ball of black resin over the stub of a candle and carefully pokes it into his bamboo chillum. The flame rolls over the softened mush as Vo Pali takes four, five deep drags. Smoke squirts from his nose, he wheezes and the drug takes him. The Hmong have grown and smoked opium as a medicine — and as recreation — for generations. But no full drug addiction survey has ever been taken in Laos and there is virtually no rehab provision.

Wedged between five countries, Laos has for decades played a starring role in the "Golden Triangle" drug trade. Its opium became a treasured export in the 1960s and 70s as heroin hit the streets of America and drug money became entwined in the United States' doomed anti-communist fight. Laos was meant to go opium-free after a 2006 edict by its Communist leadership outlawed the growing of the cash crop. While the campaign made a big dent, hill tribes kept up cultivation in secret for themselves — and for export, also becoming drug runners for organized crime gangs. "People who live in these remote borders are very poor," Onphiuw Khongviengthong, permanent secretary of the LCDC — the Laos drug control authority — told AFP in a rare interview with foreign media. "They don't have much education or knowledge about our laws, so it's easy to trick them and use them for trafficking."

Opium to arabica

In 2015 around 5,700 hectares of Laos were estimated

to be under opium cultivation — more than triple the amount in 2007. Several major seizures of raw opium and heroin this year in Vietnam courtered by Hmong villagers has renewed scrutiny on the relationship between opium and Laos' most marginalized people.

"These farmers come from some of the poorest areas of the country, they only have access to low-value crops and very limited access to markets and technology," says Erlend Falch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). "They have no real path out of poverty." To change the game, the UNODC is leading a coffee cultivation program across 10 former opium growing villages in Houaphan province, which borders Vietnam. The fertile upland soil and cool climate that helps opium flourish is also good for coffee shrubs.

The aim is to establish a "luxury" arabica coffee brand that can reach wealthy markets from the US to Korea and Japan. "Before we had no other option to growing opium," says Mer Su Vua, a Hmong farmer, knee-high coffee shrubs studding the hillsides around him. "But we would only make a small amount of money each year... so we have changed to coffee." The first small commercial crop at his village of Houayyarm is expected at the tail end of this year. Incomes should rise each year as farmers grow, process and sell their crop to the market, cutting out the middlemen who have historically controlled the prices of their produce. "We are trying to build a real commercial cooperative, owned by the farmers," says Falch.

While opium cultivation could eventually make little economic sense, Laos' more urgent drug problem is with methamphetamine. With ungovernable land borders to Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, China and Cambodia, Laos is effectively a free run for the meth barons of Myanmar who are sending record amounts of "yaba" and "ice" through its unguarded frontiers. Of Laos' many border entry points, just two have scanners and X-ray machines. And the resources of the drug gangs dwarf those of the police trying to stop them, says Onphiuw Khongviengthong of the LCDC. "They use fast, modern vehicles and communications that our police do not have." Laos is working with its neighbors to boost crossborder intelligence to fight the drug gangs and there have been successes, including the high-profile takedown of Laos national Xaysana Keophimpa — dubbed "Mr X" — jailed for life this year in Thailand. But the "big fish" remain out of reach. — AFP

Plane crash kills 19 in South Sudan: Regional official

JUBA: Nineteen people were killed yesterday when a small plane crashed into a lake in the centre of South Sudan, while four survived, a regional official told AFP. Regional information minister for the Eastern Lakes state Taban Abel Aguek said a plane, carrying 23 people, had crashed in the central town of Yirol as it came into land.

"The number of people we have confirmed dead is 19 people and four people survived," said Abel, adding that two children were among the survivors as was an Italian citizen. He said the Anglican Bishop of Yirol, Simon Adut, was confirmed among the dead. The pilot and co-pilot, a staff member with the International Committee of the Red Cross, a Ugandan who runs a private clinic in Yirol, a government official and two army officers were also confirmed dead.

"The whole town is in shock, the shops are closed, some people have taken their relatives for burial. It is a commercial plane that crashed," Abel told AFP. "When the plane was landing the weather was foggy and this was not a good situation for plane landing." The UN broadcaster Radio Miraya posted a picture on its Twitter account of the twisted wreckage of the plane submerged in water. Overloading of planes is common in South Sudan, and this was believed to have contributed to the crash of a Soviet-era Antonov plane upon takeoff in Juba in 2015 which left 36 people dead. In 2017, 37 people had a miraculous escape after their plane hit a fire truck on a runway in northwestern Wau before bursting into flames. South Sudan was plunged into civil war in December 2013, when President Salva Kiir accused his former deputy Riek Machar of planning a coup, leaving tens of thousands dead and millions displaced. — AFP

International

No ICBMs, North Korea military parade features floats, flowers

70th anniversary parade without long-range missiles

PYONGYANG: Thousands of North Korean troops followed by artillery and tanks paraded through Pyongyang yesterday as the nuclear-armed country celebrated its 70th birthday, but it refrained from displaying the intercontinental ballistic missiles that have seen it hit with sanctions. Instead leader Kim Jong Un showed off his friendship with China, raising the hand of President Xi Jinping's envoy as they saluted the crowd together afterwards.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), as the North is officially known, was proclaimed on September 9, 1948, three years after Moscow and Washington divided the peninsula between them in the closing days of the Second World War. Such set-piece dates are a mainstay of the North's political calendar, and have for years been opportunities to demonstrate progress in its quest for a missile capable of delivering a nuclear warhead to the United States.

But too militaristic a display this time might have risked upsetting the recent diplomatic dalliance on the peninsula, after Kim's Singapore meeting with US President Donald Trump in June and his third summit with the South's President Moon Jae-in due in Pyongyang later this month. After a 21-gun salute, dozens of infantry units marched through Kim Il Sung Square, some in night-vision goggles or wielding rocket-propelled grenade launchers, as the current leader — the founder's grandson — looked on from a rostrum.

Li Zhanhu, one of the seven members of the Chinese Communist party's Politburo Standing Committee, the country's most powerful body, sat next to him, the two of them occasionally exchanging comments. Armored personnel carriers, multiple rocket launchers and tanks followed, with biplanes flying overhead in a '70' formation.

At one point jets trailing red, white and blue smoke — the colours of the North Korean flag — roared above the

Juche Tower, the stone monument to Kim Il Sung's political philosophy. Finally came the missiles, the traditional climax of the parades. But the only ones on show were short-range battlefield devices, the Kumsong-3 anti-ship cruise missile, and the Pongae-5 surface-to-air weapon. There was no sign of the Hwasong-14 and -15 rockets that can reach the mainland United States and changed the strategic balance when they were first tested last year.

"It looks like the North Koreans really tried to tone down the military nature of this," said Chad O'Carroll, managing director of Korea Risk Group. Any display of longer-range missiles would have cast doubt on North Korea's commitment to denuclearisation, he added.

'Long live!'

Pyongyang has not publicly stated a willingness to give up the weapons it has spent decades developing at huge political and financial cost, but it has been on a diplomatic charm offensive for months. In April, Kim declared that the North's nuclear program had been successfully completed and "socialist economic construction" was the new strategic priority.

In a speech yesterday, ceremonial president Kim Yong Nam lauded the country and its army as "the strongest in the world", but did not mention nuclear weapons. And immediately after the parade thousands of citizens rallied through the square, alongside floats displaying economic themes and calls for Korean reunification — the peninsula has remained split since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armistice rather than a peace treaty. Thousands of accompanying citizens waved bouquets and flags, chanting "Long live!" to the leader.

Honored guest

Diplomatic invitations for the anniversary went around the world, but the only head of state who attended was Mauritanian president Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz — although AFP spotted French actor Gerard Depardieu



PYONGYANG: Korean People's Army (KPA) soldiers salute as they ride tanks during a military parade and mass rally on Kim Il Sung square. — AFP

seated in a section below the main tribune. Afterwards Kim and Li saluted the cheering crowd, the North Korean raising his guest's hand into the air.

Beijing is its neighbor's key diplomatic protector and trade partner, and after years in the deep freeze over the North's weapons ambitions ties have warmed rapidly this year, with Kim visiting China three times to meet President Xi Jinping. Speculation that Xi might reciprocate for the anniversary did not come to pass — Hu Jintao remains the last Chinese president to visit in 2005 — but O'Carroll said Pyongyang appeared to want to promote its friendship with Beijing. "China is still a very important player and its presence here with such a high level delegation is intend-

ed in some way to remind the US of that," he said. Washington is seeking the "final, fully verified denuclearisation of North Korea", while Pyongyang has only publicly affirmed its commitment to working towards the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, a euphemism open to interpretation on both sides.

The process has become bogged down in recent weeks, with the North demanding a formal declaration that the Korean War is over, and the South's Moon caught between his neighbor and his ally. "Apparently Kim Jong Un thought that now was not time to unnecessarily provoke Trump," said Kim Yong-hyun, professor of North Korean studies at Dongguk University in Seoul. — AFP

Three killed in attack on Kabul commemorations

KABUL: A suicide bomber on a motorbike blew himself up near a convoy of gunmen commemorating the death anniversary of a famed resistance leader in Kabul yesterday, killing at least three people, officials said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the latest deadly attack in the Afghan capital that comes days after a double bombing at a wrestling club killed at least 26 people.

Kabul police spokesman Hashmat Stanikzai said at least three people were killed and 14 wounded in the explosion that shattered windows and shook nearby buildings in the Afghan capital. Among the dead was the driver of a car taking part in the commemorations. He veered off the road and into the front of a shop when the blast happened, witnesses told AFP. Two of his passengers were wounded, they said.

Health ministry spokesman Waheed Majroh said two people had been killed and 10 wounded in the blast. Afghan

officials often give conflicting figures for the number of casualties in the immediate aftermath of an attack. Afghan security forces said earlier they had shot dead a man who had been planning to blow himself up near supporters of Ahmad Shah Massoud. The Tajik commander led resistance to the Soviet occupation in the 1980s and to the 1996-2001 Taliban regime.

The attack came as convoys of gun-wielding men terrorized Kabul as they commemorated the 17th anniversary of Massoud's death. Massoud was killed two days before the 9/11 attacks in New York and Washington that precipitated the US-led invasion of Afghanistan. Dozens of cars and pickups carrying men armed with heavy weapons and waving flags drove around the city, blaring loud sirens. AFP journalists could hear frequent bursts of gunfire.

At least 13 people were wounded by falling bullets, Majroh told journalists. On the other side of the country, Taliban fighters attacked a checkpoint in Obe district in Herat province, killing nine members of the security forces, provincial governor spokesman Jailani Farhad said. Five others were wounded in the overnight attack that ended when government-backed reinforcements were sent to the scene, Farhad said, adding that 15 insurgents were killed. — AFP

Japan PM visits quake-hit Hokkaido as toll rises to 42

TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited the quake-hit northern region of Hokkaido yesterday as officials confirmed more deaths, bringing the toll to 42. Abe toured the city and commercial hub of Sapporo, where Thursday's 6.6-magnitude jolt has left houses tilted and roads cracked. He also visited hard-hit Atsuma, a small rural town which has seen most of the deaths caused by the quake.

A cluster of dwellings in the town were wrecked when a hillside collapsed from the force of the quake, creating deep brown scars in the landscape. After visiting local political leaders and residents at shelters, Abe quickly returned to Tokyo to hold a cabinet meeting where he said the government will release 540 million yen (\$4.9 million) from a reserve fund for the disaster.

"We must create a framework in which the affected municipalities can... take emergency measures and rebuild themselves," Abe said during the cabinet meeting. Abe also reported that the death toll rose to 42,



ATSUMA: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (2nd L) visits the devastated city of Atsuma yesterday, after a 6.6-magnitude earthquake hit the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido. — AFP

according to local media including national broadcaster NHK and Jiji Press. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga separately told local media that one person remained missing, Jiji Press said.

The Hokkaido government however said the death toll stood at 39 as of Sunday

evening, with one person unaccounted for. Abe visited the area as search-and-rescue operations continue around the clock to pull more bodies. "There is on-and-off rain at Atsuma. The work is continuing to look for the missing persons," a regional disaster management official told AFP. — AFP

Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call:
+965 248 35 616 / 617
 E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
ads@kuwaittimes.net
 Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

GRAND SALE

SHARP
AH-A18SEM
18000 BTU/hr

1.5 طون

149
189

Midea
MST1MB1-12CRN11
12000 BTU/hr

1 طون

112
149

AC120-S
Multifunction Fan

4 IN 1

22
32

© 2018 / 09 / 03 - 10 / 02

بست
AL-YOUSIFI

Credit: Start from SKD • Up to 48 month • Instant approval

Shop Online www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809

Analysis

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian Gulf

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

Editor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24835619
COMMERCIAL : 24835618

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

Both sides dig in as next round of China US and tariffs looms

With US President Donald Trump gearing up to impose tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods and Beijing certain to retaliate against any measures, the world's two biggest economies are locked in an escalating trade war, with no resolution in sight. The United States is negotiating with Canada this week to try and finalize a deal to modernize the North American Free Trade Agreement, an outcome some in the White House say will allow Washington to turn up the heat on Beijing.

"The hope is that this (NAFTA) puts a lot of pressure on the Chinas of the world to help us negotiate better reciprocal trade deals," Kevin Hassett, chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, told Reuters. The world's two largest economies have already applied tariffs to \$50 billion of each other's goods. Talks aimed at easing tensions ended last month without major breakthroughs, and Washington appears emboldened by a sell-off in Chinese markets and a weakening economy.

China is planning two choreographed celebrations of free trade - a major import fair in November and the 40th anniversary in late December of its move toward market reforms. However, Chinese government advisors are tamping down expectations either occasion will yield measures that could defuse tensions. "China seems unable or unwilling to announce major liberalizations that could be termed 'confidence building measures' or 'down payments' on expected near-term reforms," Craig Allen, president of the Washington-based US-China Business Council, said in a letter to members over the weekend.

"We know that the President has received reports that the Chinese economy is struggling - reports that we believe are overstated - and thus he may believe that additional pressure might be effective in the short-term," Allen said. Washington is demanding Beijing improve market access and intellectual property protections for US companies, cut industrial subsidies and slash a \$375 billion trade gap. The Trump administration is ready to move ahead with a next round of tariffs after a public comment period ends at midnight in Washington on Thursday, but the timing is uncertain, people familiar with the administration's plans told Reuters.

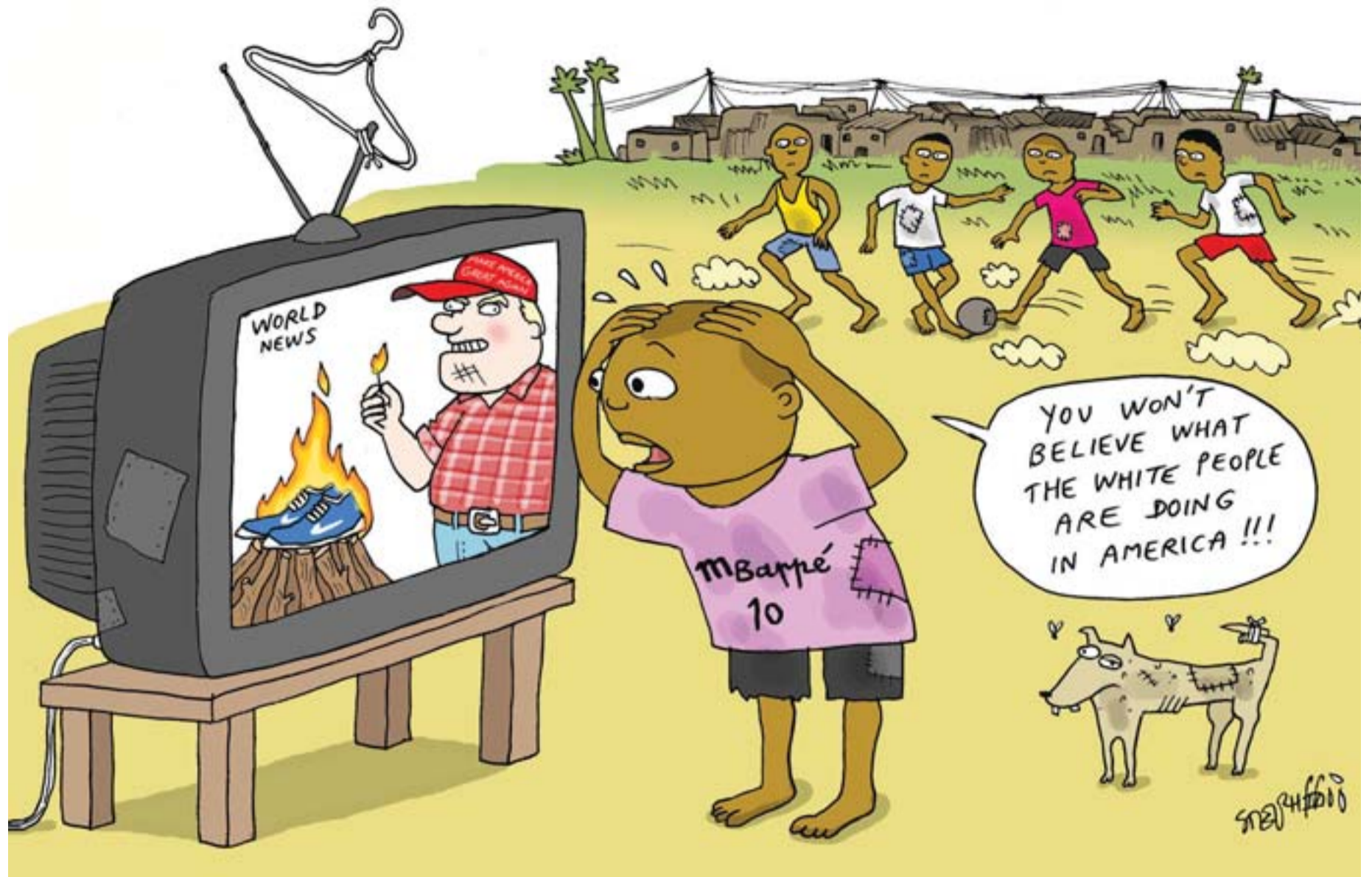
The new duties will start to hit consumer products directly, including furniture, lighting products, tires, bicycles and car seats for babies. Trump said he was not prepared to make a deal with China "that they'd like to make." "We'll continue to talk to China," he said at the White House on Wednesday. "But right now we just can't make that deal. In the meantime, we're taking in billions of dollars of taxes coming in from China, with the potential of billions and billions of dollars more taxes coming in."

Given the smaller amount of goods China imports from the United States on which it could slap duties, Beijing has vowed to hit back with unspecified "qualitative" and "quantitative" measures, actions perceived within the US business community as likely to be increased customs and regulatory scrutiny. Beijing appears to be bracing for a long fight. Official Chinese media is asserting that Trump's trade war is aimed at containing China's rise, a perception solidifying Beijing's resolve not to buckle under US demands.

In light of such a US agenda, China should "maintain strategic determination" and "take care of our own matters", Long Guoqiang, vice president of the State Council's Development Research Center, wrote in the People's Daily. "The Soviet Union was pulled into an arms race in the Cold War. Japan's economy became a bubble in a trade war. These profound lessons are close at hand," Long said. While US businesses in China do not yet appear to face widespread retaliation, some company officials have told Reuters they are bracing for blowback. Some are shifting supply chains to avoid tariffs.

Waiting game?

Wu Baiyi, Director of the Institute of American Studies at the state-run China Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), downplayed any impact of a new NAFTA deal on US-China negotiations, saying Trump wants to push structural reform on China, not simply divert the flow of goods in bilateral trade. "We have the patience to wait and we also have the flexibility to open talks any time," He said. November's import fair, one of President Xi Jinping's key diplomatic events of the year, had long been planned to coincide with his "Belt and Road" global infrastructure plan, and to help transition China's economy more toward domestic consumption. Instead of any grand gestures that would placate Washington but present domestic challenges for quick implementation, Wu said he expects Xi to reaffirm "that he has no intention to reverse" on China's path of reform and opening. — Reuters



Sweat, friends, bagels: The making of Osaka

In an age of robotic press conferences where players are staying focused and taking it one match at a time, Naomi Osaka breezes in, confesses to being fond of sweating, eating 500 bagels a day and having only one friend. It's all peppered with liberal doses of 'likes', 'you know's' and 'stuff'. And it made her the breakout star of the 2018 US Open where on Saturday she became first Japanese to win a Grand Slam title with a 6-2, 6-4 win over childhood idol Serena Williams in a controversial final.

"It was always my dream to play Serena in the US Open finals," she said before turning to the American on the trophy podium. "I'm really grateful I was able to play with you, thank you." Osaka wasn't even two years old when Williams won the first of her six US Opens in 1999. Born on October 16, 1997 in-appropriately-Osaka, Japan, she was still a year away from moving to the United States on a permanent basis.

Her Haitian father Leonard met and married her mother Tamaki having decamped to Japan from New

York where he had studied. Now based in Boca Raton, Florida, Osaka has dual Japanese-American citizenship. It's a status that could help explain what her coach Sascha Bajin describes as her innocence. When Osaka performs media duties with her own national press, she takes questions in Japanese but replies in English, apologizing for not knowing the appropriate word when she does resort to her mother tongue. Despite that she is careful not to be seen as disrespectful.

'Super-awesome' Japan

"When you go to Japan, everything is totally awesome and you're having the time of your life," she says. "Every day you go out and you eat good food and stuff. "When I go to Japan, I don't feel like I'm at home. I feel like it's a super-awesome extended vacation that I don't want to leave." Despite being a relative rookie on tour, Osaka has developed into a big-stage player. Standing an impressive 1.80m (5ft 11in), she made her Grand Slam debut at the 2016 Australian Open, coming through qualifying to make the third round where it took former champion Victoria Azarenka to stop her.

Current number one Simona Halep halted her progress at the French Open in the third round that year while at the US Open, she gave up a 5-1 lead in the final set to lose to Madison Keys, the player she beat to make Saturday's final. Before this year's trip to

New York, she registered her best Slam run at the Australian Open in January where she made the last 16 and where Halep again proved her downfall. So, it wasn't a surprise when her first WTA title came at one of the non-Slam's grandest stages, the prestigious Indian Wells event.

Out in the southern Californian desert, she knocked out Maria Sharapova in the first round, Halep in the semi-finals before lifting the title with victory over Daria Kasatkina. In seven matches, she dropped only one set. The following week, she defeated Williams in her opening match in Miami. Like Williams, Osaka has enjoyed a sibling rivalry although nowhere near as intense and barrier-breaking as Serena and her sister Venus. Big sister Mari Osaka is also a professional who this week was playing on the second-tier circuit in Switzerland, losing in the quarter-finals of a \$60,000 event.

Victory on Saturday earned Naomi \$3,800,000 but she remembers the days when her older sister was the best player in the Osaka household. "When I was practicing with my dad, if my sister wasn't there, I don't think I would have made it," she said. "She beat me 6-0 until I was 15, and then I don't know what happened but one day I beat her 6-2. I'm not sure if you call that a rivalry if someone beats you every day 6-0 for 15 years." After Saturday, there will be no more arguments in the Osaka household as a new star was born on the WTA circuit. — AFP

Libya uneasy truce may not last long

Residents of Tripoli emerging from their homes to take advantage of a ceasefire between armed groups noticed one thing straight away. The militias had not withdrawn their heavy weapons from strategic locations in the Libyan capital. A truce brokered by the United Nations on Tuesday after a week of violence between local fighters has largely been observed. The clashes, which left dozens dead, pitted four big armed groups in Tripoli against rivals from other towns. The fighters had joined forces in 2011 to topple Muammar Gaddafi but since then they have refused to disarm, using their guns to compete for access to public funds.

But even as the ceasefire began, residents and diplomats braced themselves for more violence. The factions withdrew their pickup trucks mounted with anti-aircraft guns and dismantled checkpoints. But they kept their heavy weapons at key positions such as Matiga airport, government ministries and some of the city's main streets. "It's good that there is no fighting now but the two sides are still in their positions," said a frightened resident who gave his name only as Mohamed. "I am afraid clashes will erupt any time."

The armed groups have vowed to resume hostilities if talks to be hosted by UN Special Envoy Ghassan Salame do not result in a lasting settlement. "We are committed to the ceasefire as long as it has not been breached by the other side," said Ahmad Ben Salim, spokesman for the Special Deterrence Force, one of the biggest Tripoli units. "Our force is still in its position ... and we are waiting for what will emerge with the ceasefire." The force's main opponent, known as the 7th Brigade, also confirmed to Reuters it would stay in its positions.

Speech

In a blunt speech at the UN Security Council on Wednesday, Salame said groups that violate the ceasefire must be held to account and the time for impunity was over. Salame has been trying for a year to pave the way for national elections. But he gave no details of what he planned to do if the truce was broken. "It was encouraging that he overtly states that impunity must end," said Tarek Megerisi, a visiting fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations.

"However, as always the implementation details are absent," Megerisi said. "How will the monitoring and punitive measures he mentions work in practice?" A Western diplomat added: "Salame needs to do something bold now but it's not clear what he could do. If nothing happens it will be a break for the militias to



AYN ZARAH, Libya: Photo shows a hole in the ceiling of a house that was hit by a rocket in the southern suburb of Ayn Zarah on the outskirts of the Libyan capital Tripoli. — AFP

recharge their batteries." With no national army or foreign peacekeepers in place, the only short-term fix would be to allow some of the groups from outside Tripoli to pay their fighters from public funds.

Turning young men with guns into civil servants has been the main policy goal since 2011, but it has not succeeded. As the armed groups became greedier, and emptying state coffers to pay them off left little money to fix dilapidated hospitals and other infrastructure, frustrated youths were driven to join the militias. Militias have meanwhile been looking for new sources of funds. Diplomats said fighters providing security for ministries are forcing officials to provide letters of credit intended for imports. These are used to obtain foreign currency which can be changed on the black market at a favorable rate.

Power

After the fall of Gaddafi, Western powers tried to train a Libyan army. But that plan ended in 2014 when the country split into rival administrations in west and east. The powers have since switched tactics, allowing the UN-backed administration in Tripoli to legitimate "super militias", giving them state funds and titles for the sake of stability. Salame is now expected to negotiate a broader power sharing agreement under which

more fighters will be brought in with the aim of securing Tripoli.

However, diplomats fear that General Khalifa Haftar, who has conquered much of the east with his Libyan National Army faction and is said to be planning to run for president, may intervene in Tripoli. "The liberation of Tripoli in accordance with a military plan is an inevitable choice," Haftar said on Thursday. "The crisis in Tripoli must end as soon as possible and we cannot be silent in the current situation." Haftar has long contemplated extending his influence in the west of Libya by linking up with local groups there. Since the outbreak of fighting in Tripoli, pro-Haftar TV channels have supported the 7th Brigade, which comes from Tarhouna, south of Tripoli. But the Tarhouna forces cooperate with an Islamist commander, Salah Badi, an opponent of the general. Haftar meanwhile has built a reputation for fighting people he calls "Islamist terrorists". Such fragile alliances show how difficult it will be for Salame, the sixth UN Libya envoy since 2011, to build on the ceasefire. Those who have met him recently say he has been frustrated by lack of progress since unveiling a peace plan a year ago that would entail a new constitution and a national government. If Salame succeeds it will be a "coup" for him, a diplomat said, but if not, his standing in Libya will be damaged. — Reuters

Business

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2018

12 Dollar rebounds on employment report, but tariff worries persist

13 Jack Ma to unveil succession plans today; no retirement

15 Al-Sayer & Toyota unveils all-new Avalon 2019



THESSALONIKI: Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras (center) arrives to give a press conference at the Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF) in Thessaloniki, northern Greece yesterday. —AFP

Tsipras vows post-bailout rebirth for Greece

Greek PM offers growth handouts after eight years of cuts

THESSALONIKI: Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras vowed to lead his country to a post-bailout "rebirth" after eight years of cuts, offering millions of euros in handouts and promising to cut taxes and raise the minimum wage to bolster economic recovery.

"We know we have the strength and the knowledge to envisage, plan and accomplish our country's rebirth," Tsipras said in a broad speech at the Thessaloniki International Fair, where economic policy for the coming year is traditionally announced.

"Higher wages, labor market regulation and respect for labor rights...are a prerequisite for growth," the leftist leader said. "The Greek economy is stabilized...we are a normal country now," he said.

With "at least" 3.5 billion euros (\$4.1 billion) in fiscal room, Tsipras pledged to cut property and sales tax, boost the income of hundreds of thousands of farmers and middle-class Greeks and reconsider a planned 2019 pension cut agreed with Greece's creditors earlier this year.

Greece is committed to a primary budget surplus-not counting debt repayments-of 3.5 percent of GDP through 2022, and 2.2 percent through 2060, with average economic growth of three percent a year. Tsipras on Saturday said his administration was "absolutely certain" that the 2019 target can be achieved without the unpopular pension cut.

Once the data is verified for the October budget "we will explain to our European peers...that this measure is not only fiscally unnecessary. It is not structural and impairs growth," the PM said.

Business tax will also gradually be scaled back from 29 percent to 25 percent by 2022, he said. "It is the least we can do to mend wounds, reduce great burdens and create a growth dynamic in the Greek economy," Tsipras said, stressing that the handouts were "within the framework" agreed with creditors.

The 44-year-old is trying to bounce back from his lowest ratings since coming to power which have been exacerbated by Greece's worst fire tragedy in July in which

nearly 100 people died near Athens.

Elections are not scheduled for another year but there is speculation a snap ballot could be held by May. Ahead of Tsipras' speech, more than 16,000 people demonstrated against the government's economic policies and in opposition to a controversial planned name deal with neighboring Macedonia. Riot police fired tear gas at around 100 flare and stone throwing demonstrators.

'Austerity is not over'

The protesters, many of whom were waving Greek flags, were shouting "Greece, Greece, Macedonia" and "traitors". They also hurled insults at Tsipras and demanded he resign.

Opposition parties and unions dispute that the end of Greece's third bailout last month leaves much cause for celebration. "(Greeks) believe that austerity is not over. All that has ended is the obligation of creditors to give the country money... and a tough tutelage remains," said Yiannis Panagopoulos, head of Greece's leading union GSEE.

Unemployment has fallen below 20 percent for the first time since 2011, but most Greeks continue to struggle under heavy taxation and drastically reduced income.

The preliminary agreement with Macedonia in June, to be confirmed by a referendum by Skopje later this month and a Greek parliamentary vote early in 2019, will see the Balkan state renamed North Macedonia. The tiny landlocked country had joined the United Nations in 1993 as the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Greece also has a northern province named Macedonia, the heart of Alexander the Great's ancient kingdom, and many Greeks fear the deal will officially enable Skopje to lay claim to their cultural heritage. Tsipras on Saturday insisted that Thessaloniki should act as a "cultural bridge, not a fence."

"Thessaloniki does not deserve misery, intolerance, fear, hatred and discord," he said as he promised to donate state land for a new stadium for PAOK, the city's most popular sports club. —AFP

New iPhones aim for momentum in sputtering smartphone market

SAN FRANCISCO: Apple is set to unveil new iPhones, aiming to gain fresh momentum in the premium segment of a global smartphone market showing signs of fatigue.

In its usual secretive style, Apple has remained mum about revelations planned for Wednesday's event at its spaceship campus in Silicon Valley, but the timing fits its pattern of annually introducing new iPhone models. Speculation includes talk that Apple will introduce three new iPhone models, infusing some with features from a premium iPhone X that debuted last year with a \$1,000 price tag.

While the iPhone has made Apple the world's most valuable company worth more than \$1 trillion, it has slipped to third place among smartphone makers as Chinese-based Huawei has grabbed the number two spot. Still, analysts say Apple has a formula that works with a loyal customer base and steady sales.

"There is nothing in their product line-up that isn't working

for them in the premium segment of the market, so there is no imperative for them to break that mold," NPD analyst Stephen Baker said of Apple likely sticking with modest improvements in new iPhones this year.

"They gobble up most of the profits. I don't think they are under any pressure at all."

Technalysis Research chief analyst Bob O'Donnell agreed that Apple is fine with holding its niche in the market. "Apple doesn't have to prove anything, other than that they are willing to segment the market more," he said, while pointing out that the company will likely be "offering a wider array of choices."

Premium competition

Samsung, the world's biggest smartphone maker, last month unveiled its latest flagship handset, the Galaxy Note 9, and next month Apple rival Google will hold an event at which it is likely to showcase new Android-powered top-end Pixel phones.

Google took to making its own smartphones to showcase the capabilities of the Android operating system that it makes available free of charge to handset makers. Android smartphones have come to dominate the market. Apple's event comes with the global smartphone market largely saturated, without a major catalyst for sales ahead of a likely rollout of 5G, or fifth generation wireless networks, expected in 2019. Research firm IDC expects worldwide smartphone shipments to decline 0.7 percent in 2018 to 1.455 billion units, with growth likely to resume as 5G devices become available.

"We still believe the smartphone market has some healthy growth in the years to come, although finding and competing in those markets and segments is increasingly more challenging," said IDC analyst Ryan Reith.

Watching the watch

Apple has sold more than a billion iPhones since the first model was unveiled by late co-founder Steve Jobs in 2007. The company is in the unique situation of controlling the hardware and software in its mobile devices, with content for users required to go through its App Store that takes a percentage of revenue.

Leaks and rumors have it that Apple plans to unveil three new iPhone models, including an improved version of the flagship X model released a year ago with a \$1,000 price tag. Apple is also expected to introduce a lower priced iPhone with some X features but a less expensive LCD screen. The event may also include Apple Watch internet-connected wrist wear getting its first significant redesign since it debuted three years ago.

"I think that in the long run the watch will be a much larger business than people give it credit for: where Apple can iterate and grow," Baker said.

"Clearly products on your body have whole different business opportunity than products you carry around, like smartphones." Apple chief executive Tim Cook has touted fitness and health features of the company's smartwatch, which dominates that market.

The culture-changing company behind the iPod, iPhone and



iPad hit a historic milestone last month, becoming the first private-sector company to surpass \$1 trillion in market value.

The landmark was the latest victory for Tim Cook, who faced skepticism when he took over as chief executive in 2011 from Jobs just before his death. While Apple watchers wait for the company to wow the world with a surprise such as augmented reality glasses or an Apple car that drives itself, the company has ramped up the amount of money it makes selling online services and digital content to the vast sea of iPhone users. —AFP

Business

NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

Dollar rebounds on employment report, but tariff worries persist

British economy still under effects of Brexit

KUWAIT: The US dollar was pressured earlier in the week as markets awaited the details of Donald Trump's new tariff threat on China. The Trump administration previously announced they were looking to impose another tax on China. This time worth \$200 billion of Chinese goods. The US government has sought public comment on the proposed list of goods that would be affected by the tariffs. The public comment period closed on September 6. China responded by saying they would be forced to retaliate in kind. "If the United States, regardless of opposition, adopts any new tariff measures, China will be forced to roll out necessary retaliatory measures," commerce ministry spokesman Gao Feng said.

The two nations have already placed tariffs on \$50 billion on each other's goods, spooking financial markets as investors and policy makers worried the bitter trade war could derail global growth.

The US dollar did manage to rebound at the end of the week however, after impressive labor data was released. The US economy added 201,000 jobs in August beating expectations while the unemployment rate remained steady at 3.9 percent. Average hourly wages rose 10 cents or 0.4 percent over last month taking the year-on-year increase to 2.9 percent. The increase in wages marks the highest growth since April 2009.

Treasury yields jumped after the numbers were released and stock futures fell on expectations the data justified more rate hikes from the Federal Reserve. While market consensus has widely agreed upon a hike in September at 96 percent, the latest figures make the case for a fourth hike in December more likely. The benchmark 10-year yield rose to 2.930 percent, up from 2.877 percent on Thursday.

New York Federal Reserve bank President John Williams said that current economic conditions are "as good as it gets" for the US central bank. Inflation is near the Fed's 2 percent target, the labor market is at or near full employment, and there is no sense that financial risks, whether domestic or abroad, are particularly serious. He also specifically dismissed concerns that the narrowing gap between long and short-term interest rates could risk an "inversion" of the yield curve if the Fed keeps hiking rates. An inverted yield curve is when short-term rates rise higher than those for long-term securities. They are usual-

ly taken as a sign of market pessimism and typically precede recessions.

Brexit impact

In the UK, the British pound had some volatile movement last week due to continuing uncertainties with Brexit. The pound started off with a steep sell-off but recovered quickly mid-week after a report saying that Germany and UK made concessions on the Brexit negotiations. However, a German government spokesman cleared the air and said the position on Brexit is unchanged. The pound returned to the previous week's level at around 1.2930.

In other news, British manufacturers had their weakest month in over two years and export orders suffered a rare decline in August, a warning that a world economic slowdown, as well as the approach of Brexit, is weighing on the country's factories. The IHS Markit/CIPS UK Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell to 52.8, its lowest level since July 2016, immediately after the Brexit vote, and a lot weaker than a forecast of 53.8.

Foreign demand decreased for the first time since April 2016, despite the continued relative weakness of the sterling exchange rate. Some firms linked lower inflows of new work from abroad to the recent weaker pace of expansion of the world economy. IHS Markit director Rob Dobson said, the latest PMI report suggested the sector will likely fail to provide any support to the UK economy in the third quarter.

With regards to services however, service providers experienced a stronger increase in business activity and incoming new work during August. Improving business conditions helped to underpin a rebound in employment growth to its fastest for six months. At 54.3 in August, up from 53.5 in July, the seasonally adjusted index reached its second highest level since February. Growth of incoming new work picked up only slightly since July, but was still softer than the trend since the current phase of expansion began in August 2016.

Economists have said that the prospect of leaving the European Union in March next year without any trade agreement have continued to weigh on sentiment. Business expectations for the year ahead sank noticeably lower, down across all sectors to one of the lowest levels seen since the EU referendum, largely reflecting increased anxiety over Brexit negotiations.



Finally, Bank of England Governor Mark Carney told MPs last week that he was willing to stay on as governor beyond his planned departure date June 2019 in order to "smooth" the Brexit process. "Even though I have already agreed to extend my time to support a smooth Brexit, I am willing to do whatever else I can in order to promote both a smooth Brexit and effective transition at the Bank of England," he said. Carney had already extended his time as governor once after the British referendum to support the transition.

However, Carney warned that a no-deal scenario would lead to rising prices and falling real incomes. He reiterated that Britain's economy would suffer a shock if the country leaves the EU without reaching a deal, saying households would feel a renewed squeeze on their incomes for a few years. He also concluded that there were limits to what the Bank could do to mitigate those effects. The British government has yet to confirm if they would keep Governor Carney for the extended term.

Trump turns eye on Japan

In Japan, the yen had been slowly appreciating against the US dollar the past few weeks as markets turned to its safe haven status. The move might be fueled further if reports that US President Trump is targeting Japan next for unfair trade practices turn out to be true. James Freeman from the Wall Street Journal, said he took a personal phone call from the President and has reported that Trump referred to the good relationship with Japan but then added "but of course that will end as soon as I tell them how much they have to pay." With the Brexit negotiations, global trade war, and ongoing emerging markets crisis dilemma, Trump turning his attention to trade in Japan would only unnerv market participants further and potentially increase risk aversion.

Kuwait
Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30290

The USDKWD opened at 0.30290 yesterday morning.

The Iceland families bearing cost of crash

REYKJAVIK, Iceland: It's been 10 years since Iceland's economy crashed, but Asthildur Thorsdottir and her husband Hafthor Olafsson are still struggling with crippling debt and an uphill legal battle to save their family home. After taking out what would end up being a toxic loan, the parents of two now adult sons have lived under the threat of eviction since 2012. The couple has spent countless hours and huge sums fighting to keep their house.

"I don't know whether I would have started all this if I'd known it would take so much from our lives," says Asthildur, a 51-year-old grammar teacher.

She and her husband bought their home 11 years ago, shortly before Iceland's inflated banking system crashed. They wanted more space than what their two-bedroom apartment on the outskirts of Reykjavik offered them and their children, who were then in primary school.

With prices rising, the couple bit the bullet in mid-2007 and bought a 165-square-metre (1,775-foot) house in a residential area of Reykjavik for 55.4 million kronur (443,000 euros, \$512,000 at today's exchange rates).

They paid part up front, and for the remaining 30.4 million kronur they took out a 40-year mortgage indexed against the stable Swiss franc and Japanese yen.

"This kind of loan was recommended by everybody. The banks, the realtors, etc.," explains Hafthor, a 54-year-old audio and video equipment salesman.

"We did look at the currency rate some 15 years back and we estimated that we could easily manage up to a 30-percent fluctuation," says Asthildur.

But in October 2008, Iceland's banks were declared insolvent, sending the entire economy crashing down.

Illegal loans

According to a 2011 report from the Icelandic Financial Services Association, around 70,000 Icelanders-out of a population of 320,000 — had signed these kinds of loans, with attractive interest rates, to splurge on a new 4x4, a bigger house or even a holiday.

But between August and November 2008, the value of the krona tumbled by more than 50 percent, sending inflation soaring to 18 percent. Households, whose mortgages were either indexed against inflation or foreign currencies, saw their monthly payments skyrocket.

"Our mortgage more than doubled and the amount we borrowed went up to 74 million kronur," Hafthor recalls-

more than the cost of the home. In June 2010, the Supreme Court ruled that loans indexed against foreign currencies were illegal and that households were not required to pay back the share of their mortgage that corresponded to forex losses. But this was just the beginning of some home buyers' woes, with banks launching lawsuits against families for defaulting on payments.

For the large majority of indebted homeowners, the authorities found a solution. "Most of the loans were revised downwards, enabling this enormous weight to be lifted from Icelandic households," said Katrin Juliusdottir, the head of the Icelandic Financial Services Association. In order to make this work, banks had to cough up around 200 billion kronur, or about 10 to 15 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) at the time, and the state around 100 billion kronur. Household debt, which exceeded 120 percent of GDP in 2009, fell to less than 80 percent in 2017, a government report showed earlier this year.

A lost decade

But more than 6,000 homeowners in Iceland lost their homes in foreclosure sales in 2008-2015, according to statistics published by parliament.

That doesn't include those who had to sell their homes in order to pay their debts, and for whom there are no official statistics. For Asthildur and Hafthor, the eviction threat hanging over their heads since 2012 for unpaid mortgage payments remains.

As part of their fight, they are withholding payment until their monthly payments are recalculated.

"We will pay what we owe when it's legally calculated," says Hafthor.

But for 10 years, the family has been living in uncertainty. "This is one-fifth of my life that has gone into this ... This is time that we have not been able to make any progress in our lives, to plan for the future, to go on vacations, to make financial plans," said Asthildur, her eyes welling up with tears.

"The biggest sacrifice is the things we could have done with our sons which we haven't done."

Before the crisis, the family used to go on holiday abroad every two years. The couple acknowledges things could have been even worse. "There are so many other stories that are so horrifying to read," says Hafthor, referring to divorcees and even suicides triggered by the crash.

"We still have our family, we're still husband and wife, we have relatively good health, we have our kids and more or less, we are okay." But they feel very bitter. "Obviously, we are fighting the bank. But basically, we are fighting the government," Hafthor says. "Because the government at the time passed this law that (allowed) the bank to behave in this illegal manner." — AFP

Post-crisis bank rules survive attacks; consumer protections at risk

WASHINGTON: Tougher US bank regulations designed to prevent another crippling financial meltdown have survived threats to undermine and weaken them—but the consumer protections that were a key feature remain at risk.

One of the architects of the post-crisis regulations says President Donald Trump's regulators have been "wrecking" the agency designed to shield consumers from some of the deceptive practices that helped precipitate the 2008 financial crisis. Those practices included offering products such as interest-only home loans that forced monthly payments to explode in the later years, which the borrower could not afford.

Trump has repeatedly pledged to make cutting regulations a central goal of his presidency and he has support from Republicans in Congress who had been working to dilute the tougher rules on banks.

However, retired Massachusetts legislator Barney Frank, one of the driving forces behind the Dodd-Frank banking reform bill, told AFP he was satisfied his namesake legislation had survived and would continue to flash warning lights if banks get into risky situations. That will ensure the government is not again forced to use taxpayer funds to bail out a financial institution.

Rolling back regulation

Still he remains concerned about what Trump's regulators are doing to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), created by Dodd-Frank, because "the right wing hates this notion that the government has to protect people from the private sector."

"It is very clear that well over 95 percent of that bill in terms of its importance is now rock solid," Frank said in an interview, referring to the reform Congress passed this summer. The only area where there has been serious damage has



ADELANTO: In this file photo taken on June 15, 2009 for sale signs line a residential street in Adelanto, California, in the Mojave Desert, about 85 miles (137 km) from Los Angeles, the first day of a state-wide 90-day moratorium on housing foreclosures. — AFP

been Mick Mulvaney, Trump's interim choice to lead the CFPB, a frequent critic of the agency's very existence, let alone its aggressive enforcement, he said. Mulvaney has said the bureau "is far too powerful," and has taken steps to curb that power: he imposed a hiring freeze and a review of litigation.

New cases have come to a halt since he took over, according to reports, and officials have reversed or weakened scrutiny of auto loans—one of the fastest growing types of debt nationwide—payday lenders, and data to track racial discrimination in home mortgage lending.

"I regret that but that's not a stability issue," Frank said. And the agency has not been changed through legislation and could be restored by a future administration.

Aaron Klein, an expert on regulations at the Brookings Institution, said, "The biggest change to Dodd-Frank has been the change from Obama-era regulators to Trump-era regulators."

"That change dwarfs any legal changes that have occurred to the act, by orders of magnitude," he told AFP, noting that Mulvaney, a White House budget official, had "deeply politicized" the agency, weakening its role as "an active police force" that guards against misconduct by financial services providers. And while

he agreed a global crisis was unlikely to result from lax consumer protections, "I'm not comfortable with the idea of millions of Americans getting ripped off in basic financial services because a regulator in Washington doesn't want to do his job."

Banking rules eased

Despite some changes, the main pillars of the law requiring increased scrutiny of banks, especially large banks, survived and should ensure the financial system will not be as vulnerable to a crisis, certainly not a crisis created by an explosion of opaque financial products at the heart of the one a decade ago.

And the legislation ensures regulators have the flexibility to take steps to curb new potential threats when they arise. They already have used that new authority against some cryptocurrency investment schemes. "It's true the Trump people are talking about being less rigorous with the regulations," Frank said. But "every one of those rules is going to remain in place," and if their optimism that the private sector has learned its lessons proves to be wrong "all the levers are there to stop it long before it reaches crisis."

"I feel gratified that our work has helped," politically and economically, he said. — AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

| BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|-------------------|----------|-----------|------------------|----------|----------|--|
| CURRENCY | BUY | SELL | America | | Thai Baht | Arab | | | |
| British Pound | 0.386253 | 0.400153 | Canadian Dollar | 0.225807 | 0.234807 | Bahraini Dinar | 0.790707 | 0.807207 | |
| Czech Korune | 0.005755 | 0.015055 | US Dollars | 0.299650 | 0.304950 | Egyptian Pound | 0.014344 | 0.020062 | |
| Danish Krone | 0.043351 | 0.048351 | US Dollars Mint | 0.300150 | 0.304950 | Iranian Riyal | 0.000084 | 0.000085 | |
| Euro | 0.344083 | 0.357783 | Bangladesh Taka | 0.002992 | 0.003793 | Iraqi Dinar | 0.000200 | 0.000260 | |
| Georgian Lari | 0.134689 | 0.136899 | Chinese Yuan | 0.042935 | 0.046435 | Jordanian Dinar | 0.424119 | 0.433119 | |
| Hungarian | 0.001145 | 0.001335 | Hong Kong Dollar | 0.036952 | 0.039702 | Kuwaiti Dinar | 1.000000 | 1.000000 | |
| Norwegian Krone | 0.032074 | 0.037274 | Indian Rupee | 0.003772 | 0.004544 | Lebanese Pound | 0.000156 | 0.000256 | |
| Romanian Leu | 0.065055 | 0.081906 | Indonesian Rupiah | 0.000016 | 0.000022 | Moroccan Dirhams | 0.022438 | 0.046438 | |
| Russian ruble | 0.004424 | 0.004424 | Japanese Yen | 0.002666 | 0.002846 | Omani Riyal | 0.782643 | 0.788323 | |
| Slovakia | 0.009069 | 0.019069 | Korean Won | 0.000260 | 0.000275 | Qatar Riyal | 0.079143 | 0.084083 | |
| Swedish Krona | 0.029533 | 0.034553 | Malaysian Ringgit | 0.070095 | 0.076095 | Saudi Riyal | 0.079913 | 0.081213 | |
| Swiss Franc | 0.307392 | 0.318392 | Nepalese Rupee | 0.002626 | 0.002966 | Syrian Pound | 0.001288 | 0.001508 | |
| | | | Pakistan Rupee | 0.001957 | 0.002727 | Tunisian Dinar | 0.105200 | 0.113200 | |
| | | | Philippine Peso | 0.005550 | 0.005850 | Turkish Lira | 0.041566 | 0.053066 | |
| | | | Singapore Dollar | 0.215657 | 0.225657 | UAE Dirhams | 0.081275 | 0.082975 | |
| | | | Sri Lankan Rupee | 0.001520 | 0.002100 | Yemeni Riyal | 0.000987 | 0.001067 | |
| | | | Taiwan | 0.010423 | 0.010603 | | | | |
| Australasian | | | | | | | | | |
| Australian Dollar | 0.208075 | 0.220076 | | | | | | | |
| New Zealand Dollar | 0.192801 | 0.202301 | | | | | | | |

Business

Jack Ma to unveil succession plans today; no retirement

New York Times' story 'was taken out of context, and factually wrong'

BEIJING: Alibaba co-founder and chairman Jack Ma will unveil a succession plan today, the South China Morning Post reported yesterday, with a company spokesman denying a New York Times report that he would retire that day.

The SCMP, which is owned by Alibaba, said China's most famous tech billionaire will "unveil a succession strategy" today—his 54th birthday—but remain the company's executive chairman for the foreseeable future.

The New York Times ran an article on Friday, based on an interview with Ma, saying the former teacher turned billionaire planned to use his birthday to announce his retirement as chairman of Alibaba to focus on philanthropy.

The paper quoted Ma as saying the decision was "the beginning of an era". But an Alibaba spokesman told the SCMP that the New York Times' story "was taken out of context, and factually wrong". "An Alibaba spokesman said Ma remains the company's executive chairman and will provide transition plans over a significant period of time," the SCMP wrote.

The paper added that the Monday succession strategy was part of a plan "for grooming a generation of younger executives to take over the reins" of the company. Eileen Murphy, a spokesperson for the New York Times, said the newspaper stood by its story. Ma was an English teacher before starting Alibaba in 1999 and built it into a multibillion-dollar internet colossus, becoming one of the world's richest men and a revered figure in his homeland.

His own worth has soared along with that of the company, which has added cloud computing, films and e-payments to its growing portfolio and was valued at \$420.8 billion when the stock market closed on Friday. The New York Times' report surprised many in the global business community because of Ma's comparative youth, especially in China where it is not unusual for tycoons to remain in place into their eighties.

Alibaba did not return requests for comment on Saturday after the story ran. Ma gave up the title of Alibaba CEO in 2013 but remains a pivotal figure within the company as well as its most recognizable face.

In an interview with Bloomberg TV released on Friday, Ma hinted at his retirement plans, saying he wanted to follow in the footsteps of Microsoft founder Bill Gates, one of the world's most prolific philanthropists. "There's a lot of things I can learn from Bill Gates. I can never be as rich, but one thing I can do better is to retire earlier," he said.

The SCMP report ran quotes from Ma himself, but they did not address when exactly he would retire. Ma said he met with company executives 10 years ago to work out "what Alibaba would do without me".

"Anybody who knows me knows I embrace the future. This is not about retiring, stepping away, or backing off. This is a systematic plan," the paper quoted Ma as saying. The SCMP said Ma would be in Russia next week for Alibaba business meetings as well as an upcoming trip to South Africa and a planned speech at the company's investor day in mid-September. — AFP



HANGZHOU: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa (Center left) tours the Alibaba corporate headquarters with Alibaba chairman Jack Ma (Center right) in Hangzhou in China's eastern Zhejiang province on September 5, 2018, a day after the conclusion of the Forum On China-Africa Cooperation. — AFP

Divided America of Trump era challenges ad industry

NEW YORK: Nike's unexpected move this week to feature Colin Kaepernick in a major ad campaign met instant condemnation in some circles, with critics destroying their Nike garb in protest.

The reaction was hardly surprising following boycotts of Dick's Sporting Goods by NRA supporters due to its gun control stance and of Macy's and other stores over carrying Ivanka Trump's now-defunct clothing line. There is even precedent within Nike's sector for customer blowback, with some consumers burning their New Balance shoes after a company executive lauded US President Donald Trump's trade policies and Under Armour garnering criticism when its chief executive praised Trump.

Despite the backlash, Nike's embrace of civil rights activist Kaepernick was seen as deepening the brand's appeal to millennials and non-white consumers. Many marketing experts saw it as a shrewd cost-benefit calculation in a politically divided, Trump-era United States.

Companies are increasingly "willing to lose a few to gain a lot," said Scott Farrell, leader of the brand reputation group at Golin, a public relations firm.

Brands have long tailored images and phrases to appeal to core consumer groups, implicitly ranking some parts of the population higher than others.

But companies also have a tradition of seeking the broadest possible audience, a practice that still governs many brands, even as others—like Nike—speak out in ways that are almost certain to alienate some customers. "Whereas in the past, marketers would always look for win-win situations, that



Despite the backlash, Nike's embrace of civil rights activist Colin Kaepernick was seen as deepening the brand's appeal. — AFP

is practically an impossibility today," Farrell told AFP.

"That is just a needle that is too difficult to thread," he added. "You are going to be dealing almost all of the time in some degree of a win-lose situation and the lose part of it has to be part of your strategy as well."

Hit to sales?

Corporations were becoming more socially focused prior to Trump, with campaigns geared to consumers who care about gay rights, climate change policies and some other causes. But the trend has accelerated since the November 2016 election of a US president who has unapologetically eschewed the traditional role of national unifier and instead courted his political base full time.

Technology behemoths like Apple and Microsoft have been outspoken critics especially of Trump's immigration policies, fighting measures that would see "Dreamers"—immigrants who were brought illegally to the United States as children—deported.

Much rockier has been the reception facing Dick's Sporting Goods, which announced in

February after the school shooting in Parkland, Florida that it would remove assault-style rifles from stores and end all gun sales to consumers under 21. Dick's cited "negative reactions from our customers and vendors" following the announcement as a reason for a "continuing decline in our hunt business," according to a quarterly securities filing.

But Dick's executives have also said the stance on guns attracted new customers who may benefit company sales in the long-term. Delta Air Lines also found itself under fire from gun rights supporters after it ended a travel discount program for NRA members following Parkland. Politicians in the Georgia legislature yanked a tax break that could have saved Delta about \$40 million a year.

However, in a victory for Delta, Georgia Governor Nathan Deal announced in July he would halt collection of the tax. The company's chief executive, Ed Bastian, was also hailed by Fortune magazine among the "world's greatest leaders" for the Parkland response, in which he said, "Our decision was not made for economic gain, and our values are not for sale." — AFP

Euromoney Kuwait celebrates 10th annual conference on Sept 25, 2018

KUWAIT: Euromoney is celebrating its 10th annual Kuwait conference on 25 September 2018, in Kuwait City. The conference is officially co-hosted by the Ministry of Finance, who have supported Euromoney Conference's work in Kuwait for the past decade.

Kuwait's national development plan 'New Kuwait' sets out the government's economic vision to 2035. Euromoney will be joined by a cross section of speakers from government, business, economics and finance, to analyze the financial sector's response to the plan and its impact on the economy.

This special anniversary event will begin with a keynote opening address from Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf, Minister of Finance, followed by Sheikh Dr Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Director General of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA). Shaikha Al-Bahar, Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer of the National Bank of Kuwait and Adel Abdul Wahab Al-Majed, Vice-Chairman of the Kuwait Banking Association will also take part in one-on-one interviews in the opening morning.

"The Kuwait National Development Plan sets out an ambitious vision to transform Kuwait into a leading financial, commercial and cultural hub by 2035", says Victoria

Behn, Director, Middle East and Africa at Euromoney Conferences. "I look forward to discussing the opportunities this plan presents and the role of the financial sector in its delivery. Euromoney are honored to have worked with the Ministry of Finance for the last 10 years on our annual event and I believe this will be our best yet!"

In the past decade, the Euromoney Kuwait Conference has attracted thousands of delegates, hundreds of speakers and provided an unrivalled platform for thought leadership, networking, and comprehensive global and local coverage.

Since the late 1970s Euromoney has been the world's leading organizer of high-level financial and investment conferences. The highest profile delegates meet the highest profile speakers at Euromoney events and offer business leaders and decision-makers the opportunity to exchange ideas, develop new contacts and participate in informed, impartial and leading-edge discussions. The conference business grew out of Euromoney, the strategic magazine of international finance, money and capital markets that has long been regarded by the banking and investment community as the leading publication in its field. Euromoney had held conferences in over 65 countries worldwide.

Venezuela eases currency controls, economists skeptical

CARACAS: Venezuela on Saturday eased 15-year-old currency controls, decreeing that private banks and exchange houses are allowed to sell dollars, but economists are skeptical the measure will improve the dysfunctional and crisis-stricken economy.

The currency controls, which require businesses and individuals to buy dollars via the state, are frequently identified as one of the main drivers of the crisis that includes hyper-inflation and product shortages. Economists noted that the central bank remains in charge of determining the exchange rate. Before Saturday's measure, the government had only sold greenbacks through the central bank although many transactions routinely took place on the black market.

"The exchange controls are being maintained, though they are a bit more flexible," said economist Asdrubal Oliveros of local consultancy Econanalitica, responding to social media commentary suggesting that the controls had been lifted.



Legislator and economist Jose Guerra said the measure was the furthest the government has gone in easing the controls, but that it would depend entirely on how it was implemented.

President Nicolas Maduro during five years in office has repeatedly promised to create market-based systems to improve access to hard currency. Each attempt has fallen apart because the systems were unable to provide steady access to

dollars. The government currently sells dollars for around 62 bolivars, while the black market rate is around 90.

That disparity has in the past made foreign exchange systems unworkable because it creates incentives to buy dollars at the preferential rate and quickly resell them at a profit on the black market, meaning the preferential dollars quickly dry up. — Reuters

Trump calls on Apple to move production from China to US

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump called yesterday for Apple to make its products in the US instead of China to avoid suffering the consequences of his trade war with Beijing.

Trump has repeatedly called for companies to move production to the United States, or to keep it there, while pushing aggressive trade actions aimed at narrowing the US trade deficit, which he equates with theft from Americans. "Apple prices may increase because of the massive Tariffs we may be imposing on China - but there is an easy solution where there would be ZERO tax, and indeed a tax incentive," Trump tweeted.

"Make your products in the United States instead of China. Start building new plants now. Exciting!"

But the higher cost of wages in the United States could offset the benefits Apple might gain by avoiding tariffs affecting its products manufactured in China. The Trump administration has placed punitive tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese goods and threatened to tax all Chinese imports to the United States.

US businesses have become increasingly concerned about the tariffs, which are raising prices for manufacturers and could hurt the economy. But Trump has been unapologetic, insisting that his tough tactics will work. — AFP

Business

World unprepared for next financial crisis: Ex-IMF chief

Rising populism across the world a direct result of the crisis

PARIS: The world is less well equipped to manage a major financial crisis today than it was a decade ago, according to Dominique Strauss-Kahn, a former chief of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In an interview with AFP, the now-disgraced Strauss-Kahn—who ran the fund at the height of the 2008 financial meltdown—also said rising populism across the world is a direct result of the crisis.

Strauss-Kahn resigned as head of the IMF in 2011 after being accused of attempted rape in New York, although the charges were later dropped. He settled a subsequent civil suit, reportedly with more than \$1.5 million.

Q: When did you become aware that a big crisis was brewing?

A: When I joined the IMF on Nov 1, 2007, it became clear quite quickly that things were not going well. That is why in January 2008, in Davos, I made a statement that made a bit of noise, asking for a global stimulus package worth two percent of each country's GDP. In April 2008, during the IMF's spring meetings, we released the figure of \$1.000 billion that banks needed for their recapitalization.

Q: Did the Bush administration grasp the danger of Lehman Brothers going bankrupt?

A: No, and that is why Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson decided not to save Lehman, because he wanted

to make an example of it in the name of moral hazard. Like everybody else, he considerably underestimated the consequences. Allowing Lehman to go under was a serious mistake. Especially because only a week later they were forced to save the insurer AIG, which was much bigger.

Q: Ten years on, are we better equipped to deal with a crisis of such a magnitude?

A: No. We have made some progress, particularly in the area of banks' capital adequacy ratios. But that is not nearly enough. Imagine Deutsche Bank suddenly finding itself in difficulty. The eight percent of capital it has at its disposal are not going to be enough to solve the problem. The truth is that we are less well prepared now. Regulations are insufficient.

Q: How so?

A: After 2012-2013 we stopped talking about the need to regulate the economy, for example concerning the size of banks, or concerning rating agencies. We backtracked, which is why I am pessimistic about our preparedness. We have a non-thinking attitude towards globalization and that does not yield positive results.

Q: Do we still have international coordination?

A: Coordination is mostly gone. Nobody plays that role anymore. Not the IMF and not the EU, and the United States president's policies are not help-



PARIS: Former French Economy Minister and former managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Dominique Strauss-Kahn, poses during a photo session in Paris. — AFP

ing. As a result, the mechanism that was created at the G20, which was very helpful because it involved emerging countries, has fallen apart. Ten years ago, governments accepted leaving that role to the IMF.

I'm not sure it is able to play it today, but the future will tell.

Q: Do you believe that Donald Trump's election is a consequence of the crisis?

A: I believe so. I'm not saying that there was a single reason for Trump's election, but today's political situation is not unconnected to the crisis we lived through, both in the US with Trump and in Europe.

Q: Connected how?

A: One of the consequences of the crisis has been completely underestimated, in my opinion: the populism that is appearing everywhere is the direct outcome of the crisis and of the way that it was handled after 2011/2012, by favoring solutions that were going to increase inequalities. Quantitative easing (by which central banks inject liquidity into the banking system) was useful and welcome. But it is a policy that is basically designed to bail out the financial system, and therefore serves the richest people on the planet.

When there's a fire, firemen intervene and there is water everywhere. But then you need to mop up, which we didn't do. And because this water flowed into the pockets of some, and not of everyone, there was a surge in inequality. — AFP

Al-Tijari announces winner of Al-Najma new prize program

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced the winner of the weekly draw as follows:-

Weekly draw prize KD 5,000 - Romany Girgis Nagy Mikhael

The draw was conducted in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative Abdulaziz Ashkanani.

The bank stated that the account prizes this year is featured by the highest cash prize and diversity of prizes throughout the year clarifying that Al-Najma Account will offer weekly prize of KD 5,000 and monthly prize of KD 20,000 and a semi-annual prize of KD 500,000 in addition to the grand prize (the biggest prize in the world) of KD 1,500,000 for which the draw will be held in January 2019. Al-Najma Account can be opened by depositing KD 100, and customer should maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 to be eligible to enter all draws on Al-Najma Account prizes. As for the chances of winning, the more balance a customer maintains in Al-Najma Account, the more chances the account holder will get to win, where each KD 25 will give the customer one chance to win, the account also offers additional benefits like the ATM card, a credit card against customer's account and all CBK banking services that customer can enjoy.

Now CBK existing customers can open Al-Najma Account through Al-Tijari Online and enter all draws without visiting the Bank's branch. However, CBK non-customers can submit an account opening application via the Bank's website where the Bank's Sales Unit will call them to arrange a visit to the customers to complete the account opening formalities.

KFH launches a leasing product of Al-Mulla Acura Cars

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced a partnership with Al-Mulla Group concerning a new and distinct offer for leasing Al-Mulla ACURA cars. This is within an operating lease program offered by KFH as one

of its unique financing options available for customers with their different capabilities. This will contribute to enhancing the relationships and the partnership with one of the biggest auto agents in the local market and supporting the cooperation to the interest of KFH customers.

Ahed Al-Eesa, the Executive Manager Cars and Leasing Products, said that when Al-Mulla ACURA Cars joins the operating leasing program, it constitutes an important addition due to the fact that the car is considered one of the most important Japanese prestigious cars with view to the very high features and potentials it has. Further, he stated that, through the offer, customers can lease ACURA "RDX MDX" for one or two years at a monthly price starting from 189 dinars.

This is in addition to several advantages including a

golden blanket insurance, a comprehensive maintenance during the contractual period, a Roadside Assistance Service on 24 hours basis and an alternative car service.

Further, Al-Eesa pointed out that customers can enjoy this offer upon visiting KFH New Showroom in Shuwaikh or Al-Mulla ACURA Co in Al-Rai and that KFH is the only one that provides such type of cars with the entirely new shape and design on an operating leasing basis to its customers for the first time and achieving, by doing so, an unprecedented event in the leasing field and keeping pace with the latest developments in cars market. Moreover, it reflects that KFH cares for providing its customers with most brands and models that are suitable for the different segments of customers.



Al-Eesa with officials from KFH and Al-Mulla

VIVA offers Boubyan Bank customers 4 months free with postpaid plans

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, launches an exclusive special offer for Boubyan Bank customers, on VIVA Postpaid Voice Plans.

This offer allows Boubyan Bank customers to enjoy 4 months free with postpaid plan of 24 months commitment. Customers will also enjoy different unique services and promotions including roaming bundles during this period with VIVA. Commenting on this offer, Abdulrazzaq Bader Al-Essa, VIVA's Corporate Communications Director,

said: "We are glad to invest in our strategic partnership with Boubyan Bank by offering its customers new innovative products and solutions to meet their aspirations and needs."

Hamad Haji, Senior Manager at the Marketing Department in Boubyan Bank, commented: "Our collaboration with VIVA is a continuation of the excellent relations between the two parties. We aim to provide Boubyan Bank customers with technologically advanced services and products offered by VIVA that make their lives easier."

Warba Bank announces 9 winners of Al-Sunbula draws

KUWAIT: Warba Bank, "the Best Investment Bank" and "Best Corporate Bank" in Kuwait, held its monthly draws which includes: Al-Sunbula Account monthly draw and the 32nd weekly draw for Al-Sunbula Account. The draw announced the 9 lucky winners in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Bank officials.

The bank proudly announces the lucky 4 winners of its monthly draw for the month of July, Bushra Jassim Khazaal Al-Ameeri and Abdullah Sulaiman Al-Zaid Al-Naser won KD 5,000. Mohammad Mansour Hamad Al-Hajri and Khaled Saleh Ebrahim Al-Shaban won KD 10,000 which is the grand prize. However, the

lucky 5 winners who received KD 1000 each are: Islam Desouqi Abdulmaqsoud Dar, Hala Mohammad Saeed, Rawyah Abdullah Ahmad Al-Fouzan, Rober Armanak Qadharian and Dekheel Ali Mohammad Dekheel.

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

Thus, the new development of Al-Sunbula account has increased the total number of winners to 24, and the total amount of prizes to KD

50,000 instead of KD 30,000. As for the chances for winning, each customer is eligible to enter the draw against each KD 10. It is noteworthy, that Warba Bank has recently launched the Al-Sunbula Fixed Deposit, which provides depositors with high returns of up to 3 percent, as well as getting monthly chances to win in Al-Sunbula Account draws.

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

WALL STREET WEEK AHEAD

Strong US sales could ease profit worries into 2019

NEW YORK: A healthy outlook for US revenue growth stands to soothe stock investors worried about the effect on corporate profits from tax cuts wearing off next year. S&P 500 revenue growth, which hit 9.5 percent in the second quarter, its fastest pace since 2011, is estimated at 8.2 percent for 2018, according to Thomson Reuters data.

While that growth is expected to slow to 5 percent next year, it is still at the high end of the historical average. The falloff is not as steep as what is expected for earnings growth, which received a big boost this year from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that slashed the corporate income tax rate. That could ease some investors' concerns about profit growth, which is hitting its peak for the cycle this year, while risks are increasing from costs

related to tariffs, rising interest rates and a strengthening US dollar. "The revenue growth more than offsets any of the concerns we have on the earnings side," said Sameer Samana, global equity and technical strategist at Wells Fargo Investment Institute in St. Louis. "Of course there's peak earnings growth. We had tax cuts," he said. "What we want to see is sustainable earnings growth driven by the top line, which is exactly what we're seeing right now."

The revenue gains are being driven by strong demand from economic growth, with gross domestic product rising at a 4.2 percent annualized rate in the second quarter, the fastest in nearly four years.

At least part of the boost to revenue is coming from the robust US labor market, while capital spending is also helping, said Bucky Hellwig, senior vice president at BB&T Wealth Management in Birmingham, Alabama. Data on Friday showed US wages in August notched their largest annual increase in nine years, suggesting consumer spending will remain strong.

Rising wages are likely to become a bigger risk to earnings at some point, but that might not happen until 2020, said Patrick Palfrey, vice president and equity strategist at Credit Suisse Securities in New York.

"Right now the earnings story is a revenue story. It is

really allowing companies to continue to drive that bottom line growth, and it will be able to make up for any bump in the road from higher costs," Palfrey said. Most economists polled by Reuters in late August expected economic growth to edge off the recent four-year high in the coming quarters but still saw little chance of a recession over the next two years.

The tax cut package, the biggest overhaul of the US tax code in more than 30 years, resulted in a surge in profit growth, creating a peak later in the earnings cycle than typically, strategists said. Analysts have forecast S&P 500 earnings growth of 23.3 percent for 2018 - the highest annual growth since 2010 - and 10.2 percent for 2019, based on Thomson Reuters data. Earnings grew an estimated 24.9 percent in the second quarter from a year ago, and analysts expect growth of 22.3 percent for the third quarter, based on Thomson Reuters data. Results can continue to increase even after growth peaks, strategists said. For example, S&P 500 earnings growth peaked in the fourth quarter of 2003, yet remained in the double-digit range for at least three years after that, while revenue stayed well above trend in that period, said Nick Raich, CEO of The Earnings Scout, an independent research firm. — Reuters

Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi draw

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, the second largest in terms of assets, announced today the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners are:
1. Aziza Reyad Hussein Kankrolwala
2. Hassan Mahmoud Abdulhosein Gholoum
3. Tamam Abdullatif Chaar
4. Dhari Subhi Hameed Ismaeil
5. Saleh Ahmed Abass Almazien

In addition to the daily draw,

Burgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months.

The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, wherein the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.

Business

Al-Sayer & Toyota unveils all-new Avalon 2019

Toyota's flagship sedan raises a pulse even when standing still

KUWAIT: Delivering on its promise to introduce class-leading vehicles that meet and exceed customer expectations, Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons and Toyota have unveiled the all-new 2019 Avalon midsize premium sedan in the Middle East. Delivering an authentic driving experience that harmonizes with its stunning design and elegant luxury, the fifth generation of the brand's flagship vehicle is set to redefine its class.

The launch press conference which was held at Al-Sayer Ardiya Ballroom was attended by Faisal Bader Al-Sayer Chairman, Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer Board Member, Johan Heislitz Senior Business Director, Scott McNicol General Manager Toyota Sales, Delegation from Toyota Motor Corporation including Randy Stephens Chief Engineer of All New Avalon, Kei Fujita Group Manager MECAD, Yugo Miyamoto Chief Representative and Toko Okochi from Middle East and North Africa Representative Office in Dubai along with distinguished members of the press and media.

According to Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer "Since its introduction 25 years ago, Avalon has earned remarkable reputation as trademark in large sedans. Thanks to our loyal customers, Toyota continues to set the trend with the introduction of a diverse range of new and exciting models tailored to customers interest, to continue strong market shares". Underpinned by a Toyota New Global Architecture (TNGA) platform and powered and enhanced by a new fuel-efficient 3.5-liter V6 engine and a host of comfort and safety features that are complimented by Toyota Safety Sense, the 2019 Toyota Avalon embodies consumers' overarching desire for high-caliber, design-centric, and technologically-savvy modes of attainable and premium transportation.

"Toyota is focused to make ever better cars: earlier this year we unveiled iconic new generation Camry, the all new Avalon is the latest in the line-up. Our research is saying that Avalon has the highest preferential score among customers. They appreciate its durability, exceptional comfort, attractive design etc" commented Scott McNicol.

"Throughout development, we focused on the all-new Avalon being authentic and exhilarating," said Randy Stephens, chief engineer of the 2019 Toyota Avalon. "One of the key components in getting there was the new platform and suspension. These underpinnings allow us to provide an unequalled foundation to deliver the performance that matches the styling and the technology while offering a fine blend of luxury and sportiness in the premium mid-size sedan segment."

Innovation

"We really focused on bringing as much innovation to Avalon as possible. On many different fronts - from ride, to handling, to technology, to safety and more - this new generation really does take the brand to the next level. It offers luxury. Now, more than ever, it has sporty performance. But mostly, it delivers an authentic driving experience. We cannot wait to put it in the hands of our customers," added Stephens, Yugo Miyamoto, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, said: "We are excited to launch the all-new Avalon in the region, presenting our customers with an attainable premium mid-size sedan that features a daring design paired with a highly spacious, comfortable interior experience with an abundance of outstanding advanced features."

Miyamoto added: "The vehicle tops its segment with its dynamic performance, comprehensive safety features and engineering excellence - reflecting the aspirations of consumers in the region. We would like to extend our gratitude to our valued customers for their continued support and inspiration, which continue to motivate us to develop ever-better cars that exceed their expectations."

Since its debut in 1994 and subsequent evolution over four generations, the Avalon has come to be embraced by

people around the world for its ride quality, comfortable and roomy interior space, as well as its high level of Quality, Durability, and Reliability (QDR). The car has established a strong presence in the premium mid-size sedan segment - both in the Middle East and globally - with total sales surpassing 1.5 million units.

A host of progressive design elements cocoons Avalon's long, low-slung TNGA musculature. Its expressive looks diligently reflect the mixture of all-encompassing, performance-focused personality, the invigorating driver experience, and a premium, spacious image. A design philosophy of 'Technical Beauty' permeates through the Avalon's body lines and cabin landscapes. 'Technical,' which aligns with Authenticity, represents purpose and performance - the tangible elements of the sedan's style. 'Beauty,' which aligns with Exhilaration, represents onlookers' emotional reaction to Avalon's stretched lines and sleek silhouette.

'Under Priority'

Donning a cutting-edge design, the all-new Avalon expresses its distinguishable personality, while embodying Toyota's next-generation 'Under Priority' brand identity - a direction that prioritizes aerodynamic efficiency, cooling, and pedestrian protection. Stunning all-LED slim projector headlights speak to its sportiness and elegance. They complement the front end's design, highlighting the aluminum hood's longitudinal lines and lightweight build; the wide, modern grilles built for air-slicing sleekness; tangential vents at its lower portion crafted for the effective direction of passing air across the front tires and along the Avalon's muscular sides and the door handles that coincide with its

Ensuring inspired performance and admired confidence



profile's bold character line. Simple horizontal character lines slice across the backside, at the top, center, and lower portions. The all-new Avalon's width, in effect, is highlighted substantially by this distinct sectioning. Connected LED tail lamps shaped in a three-dimensional, 'aero fin' style differentiate the landscape from the current iteration. They integrate backup, stop, and turn lights into a single harmonious, fluid form.



Adding to its many class-leading features, the 2019 Avalon draws upon Toyota's New Global Architecture (TNGA) platform, which represents an entirely new strategy to the way the company designs, engineers, and packages its vehicles, providing a comfortable and stable ride with superior handling characteristics. While retaining Toyota's traditional values of superlative build quality and safety, the unique platform injects a fun driving experience that plays on all the senses. In addition, the new multi-link rear suspension allows for the enhancement of many performance attributes, such as a wider rear track, lower center of gravity, and an aggressive stance. Drivers can also adjust Avalon's ride feel with the simple depression of a button - Normal mode prioritizes comfort, while Sport



emphasizes handling with tauter, highly responsive footing without diminishing Avalon's celebrated ride suppleness.

Complementing the all-new Avalon's daring looks is a thrilling drive personality imbued by a new 3.5-liter V6 engine, which produces a maximum output of 298 hp and 356 Nm of torque and is equipped with the latest Direct Injection 4-Stroke Gasoline Engine Superior Version (D-4S) and Variable Valve Timing-intelligent Wide (VVT-iW) systems to achieve top-notch power performance, environmental performance, and fuel efficiency. The VVT-iW system helps the car to ensure high torque in all engine speed

ADMIRE CONFIDENCE

Luxurious and dynamic all-new 2019 Toyota Avalon heralds a new, refined driving experience

- Stylish exterior makes a powerful statement on the fifth generation Avalon's distinguishable personality
- Emotional and sensual performance of the mid-size premium sedan
- 8-speed automatic transmission
- Advanced 14-speaker JBL surround sound system
- Innovative features and systems to enhance passenger safety

ranges and enable the Atkinson cycle to be used. The engine is also mated to an all-new eight-speed automatic transmission that merges smooth, precise gear selection throughout the RPM range with an alacrity for fuel efficiency and on-demand power. Its revised logic control better matches with vehicle speed, engine speed, and torque engagement, and facilitates poised downshifts.

Stylish design

Striking a smooth connection between a stylish design, exquisite luxury, and greater convenience and comfort, the all-new Avalon's cabin is accentuated with a range of advanced features, including an enhanced in-vehicle 9-inch multimedia display, a 10-inch colored and adjustable head-up display (HUD), wireless charging system for smartphones, ambient illumination, dual-zone automatic air conditioning system, 14-speaker JBL surround sound system, multi-adjustable power and ventilated front seats, as well as 60:40 split folding rear seats.

As with any other Toyota model, safety remains a top priority for the 2019 Avalon. The all-new vehicle's foolproof safety system is complemented with Toyota Safety Sense,

an advanced safety technology package that includes Pre-Collision System (PCS), Dynamic Radar Cruise Control (DRCC), Lane Departure Alert (LDA), and Automatic High Beam (AHB). In addition, the car features a comprehensive array of safety features to protect its occupants, such as 10 SRS airbags, Vehicle Stability Control (VSC), Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD), Brake Assist (BA), Electric Parking Brake (EPB) with Brake Hold function, Blind Spot Monitor (BSM), Rear Cross-Traffic Alert (RCTA), and Hill-start Assist Control (HAC), among many others.

Available in eight distinctive exterior colors, the all-new Avalon allows customers to express their individuality. Two newly-developed colors, Slate Gray and Blackish Brown, further express a premium feel with a sporty atmosphere. On the other hand, the interior comes in a total of three color schemes and with the choice of wood or hydrographic ornamental depending on the grade. Furthermore, the 2019 Avalon has been rearmend with a newly-developed 17-inch alloy wheel. An 18-inch alloy wheel, finished in bright super chrome paint pursuing both a large impression and a high-class feeling, has also been made available.



CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199

DR. MOHAMMAD AL HAJRY
Canadian Board of Otolaryngology
Head & Neck Surgery and Facial Plastics.
Fellow of Royal College of Surgeons-Canada
A rare Subspecialty in Microscopic Ear Surgery, Cochlear implant & Ear diseases

- ◆ Diagnosis/ Treatment of General Ears, Nose, and Throat conditions in adults & pediatrics
- ◆ Minimally invasive Endoscopic sinus surgery including Balloon sinuplasty
- ◆ Minimally invasive Microscopic & Endoscopic Ear surgery
- ◆ Diagnosis & treatment of Otolology and Audiology (Hearing loss, Tinnitus & balance disorders)
- ◆ Facial Plastic and reconstructive surgeries (Rhinoplasty, Otoplasty, Fillers & Botox injections)
- ◆ Diagnosis & treatment of snoring & obstructive sleep apnea in clinic without surgery
- ◆ Diagnosis & Treatment of voice and swallowing disorders
- ◆ Diagnosis & Treatment of Head and Neck benign & malignant tumors.

Salmiya, Belajat Street, Tel: 1881122

DR. FAHAD S BUHAIMED
Consultant Cosmetic Dermatologist & Hair Transplant, NY

ACADAMIC CERTIFICATES:

- o Dermatology board certified.
- o Fellowship training program in cosmetic dermatology and hair transplant, New York, USA.
- o Member of American cosmetic dermatology society.
- o Referee reviewer of International Journal of Dermatology.

SPECIALIZED IN:

- o Dermatology & Cosmetic Treatments.
- o Laser Treatments.
- o Hair Transplant & Restoration.
- o Body & Face Contouring.
- o Injectable Fillers & Botox.

SHARQ, Ahmad Aljaber st., Building 54, Floor 13.
Tel: (+965) 22060777
@DrFahadS, @FahadSabb, @decdonabb
Email: drfahadmed@beautybeyond.com.kw

Global Medical Center Welcomes
Dr. Marzouq Al-Bader
Consultant vascular and general surgery

All general and specialized surgeries such as:

- All critical and non-critical arteries and veins surgeries
- All methods of treating varicose
- Special department for care of injured diabetic foot
- Carrying out delicate procedures such as removing the extra rib
- Treating excess perspiration
- AV connection for dialysis

Global Medical Center, Bneid Al-Qar Bour Saeed Street, Block-1, Building-128.
Telephone: 1871111 @globalmedcenter www.globalmed-center.com

Dr. Ahmad Alaeddine
Head of Cardiology departmenta at Dar Al Shifa hospital

- Consultant Interventional and conventional cardiologist.
- Specialised in the Diagnosis and treatment of all adult cardiac diseases, including those cases that need urgent intervention in Cath lab (primary angioplasty).

مستشفى دار الشفاء Dar Al Shifa Hospital
Tele:1802 555 @daralshifa

DR KHALED ALMERRI
Consultant interventional Cardiology
Department: Heart & Vascular Center

Specialized in:

- 1-Diagnostic and therapeutic cardiac catheterization (Angiography and Angioplasty). Aortic valve implantation.
- 2- Diagnosis and treatment of coronary artery diseases
- 3- Diagnosis and treatment of heart failure, cardiomyopathies and valvular diseases.
- 4-Diagnosis and treatment of high blood pressure and high cholesterol.
- 5- Diagnosis and treatment of syncope, palpitations and cardiac arrhythmias.
- 6- Non-invasive diagnostic procedures echocardiography, exercise stress test, and 24 hour blood pressure and Holter monitoring

alsalam.int.hospital

Know your Doctor
Otorhinolaryngology (E.N.T)
Dr Hamoud Abdullah Alarouj
ENT Specialist

- ◆ Laryngology Fellowship - Canada
- ◆ Fellow of the European Board Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery
- ◆ Member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
- ◆ Member of the British Laryngological Association
- ◆ Member of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
- ◆ Member of the Eurpean Laryngological Society

Specialized in:

- ◆ Management of benign and malignant vocal cord lesions.
- ◆ Vocal cord augmentation.
- ◆ Treatment of spasmodic dysphonia.
- ◆ Adenotonsillectomy using latest techniques.
- ◆ Thyroid surgery.
- ◆ Surgery for the deviated nasal septum.
- ◆ Endoscopic sinus surgery.
- ◆ Treatment of allergic rhinitis.
- ◆ Treatment of snoring.
- ◆ Treatment of vertigo.

alsalam.int.hospital

IC INTERNATIONAL CLINIC
American Board Certified in General Surgery
Member of the Society of American Gastrointestinal & Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)
Higher specialization in Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary surgery & Organ Transplantation
Member of many prestigious surgical societies.

- ◆ Day case surgeries
- ◆ Minor surgeries (lipoma, sebaceous cyst, ingrowing nail)
- ◆ Diagnosis, treatment and follow up of all surgical emergencies
- ◆ Hemorrhoids, fistula & anal fissure surgeries
- ◆ Surgery for morbid obesity (sleeve, gastric bypass)
- ◆ Breast surgeries
- ◆ Hernia repair
- ◆ Thyroid & adrenal surgeries
- ◆ Surgery for reflux disease
- ◆ Cholecystectomy & laparoscopic appendicectomy
- ◆ Liver, pancreas & bile ducts surgeries

Dr. Hani Haider
General Surgery Consultant
http://www.international-clinic.com Tel: 1886677 ic_kwt

Scope of Clinical Practice:

- ◆ General & Laparoscopic Surgery
- ◆ Single Port Surgery
- ◆ Treatment of Colo-Rectal Diseases, Including Colorectal Cancer
- ◆ Surgical Treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Abscess
- ◆ Treatment of Perianal Fistula & Complex Perianal Fistula (complications)
- ◆ VAAFT Procedure (Treatment of Fistula through Fistuloscope)
- ◆ Treatment of Irritable Bowel Symptoms
- ◆ Colonoscopy & Gastroscopy
- ◆ Stomach Balloon Insertion & removal
- ◆ Bariatric Surgery - Lap Sleeve Gastrectomy
- ◆ Gallstones & Abdominal Hernias Surgery
- ◆ Colonic Hydrotherapy & Fecal Incontinence Treatment
- ◆ Laparoscopic mini bypass
- ◆ Transanal minimally invasive surgery

Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:

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

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

مستشفى دار الشفاء Dar Al Shifa Hospital
Tele:1802 555 @daralshifa
Email: aalhaddad@daralshifa.com

DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM
Consultant Pediatrician

Consultant Pediatrician-Canadian & American Board in Pediatrics-Canadian Board in Pediatric Emergency

Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368
Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St.1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B

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

Academic Certificates - Training

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

Scope of clinical Practice.

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

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

What's On

CBK visits Administration of Special Education of the Education Ministry



Institutional Communications Sector at Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) visited the Administration of Special Education of the Education Ministry, as well as the faculty in the Intellectual Rehab Education School, Al-Amal School, Al-Noor School, Al-Atta Nursery to congratulate them on the start of the new year. Deputy Director General Amani Al-Waraa said that the bank believes in the important role that teachers play by educating and giving the students all the help that they need.

Loyac concludes its summer activities



Loyac held a closing ceremony to mark the conclusion of its summer activities and graduated 400 students who participated in the third occupational training program at the Kuwait National Library theater. Deputy Chairman of the Board of Loyac Fadiya Al-Marzouq spoke about the positive change that starts from within and benefits the youth, country and society, and asked students to each have a clear goal in their lives.

She said that Loyac's program did not come about overnight, rather through planning, and those handling the program are a group of "unknown soldiers" who are workers, volunteers, trainers and supervisors at Loyac, as work began in January with a clear goal they were seeking. She added that behind all this is a group of youth who believe in Loyac and cooperated with sponsors namely Kuwait Sheraton, NBK, Tamdeen investment, Tamdeen Group, National Council, Ahliya insurance company, British Industries, Zain, Amco, Financial center, Kout Nutrition and Al-Ahly United Bank and the participants. We also thank the National Library for opening its doors for this ceremony.

She pointed out how we can bring a positive change in youth so that they can be a source of inspiration for those around them and share what they have learned with others. Al-Marzouq said, "Loyac celebrates the graduation of 400 students in the third occupational training program, adding that that the program began in the summer of 2002 and it was being held once a year, but now it is being held all year around."

Out of the 400 students, 15 got permanent jobs following the program and this considered one of the program's success stories. Loyac Board member Futooh Al-Dalaly said this is the 16th closing ceremony for Loyac program, and it is usually an opportunity to thank students and companies that trained students and also an opportunity to have students get acquainted with companies repre-



sentatives. She said that Loyac organizes some competitions that are announced during the ceremony.

Meanwhile, Ilyas Ashkanani said that he supervised a large group of students, adding that the training program that was held dur-

ing the summer included segments that received appreciation from those in attendance. He concluded by saying that the idea behind the program was to prepare students to work in private sectors and recognize the sublime goals in those sectors.

KCST holds orientation meeting for new students

Kuwait College of Science and Technology (KCST) held an orientation meeting for new students on the first day of the first semester of the new academic year 2018/2019; under the direction of the university's president Prof. Khalid Al-Begain; coordinated by the Department of Public Relations and Marketing. The Department of Admissions and Registration at the university are here to guide students throughout their studies at the University.

The university also hosted the presenter Ali Najem Arifa for the Orientation, addressing his students to some useful tips on university life from the beginning of the students' entry as undergraduates up to their graduation. The President of the University, Professor Khalid Al-Begain welcomed the new students, and addressed them to express their happiness at their admission to the university. He called on them to exert efforts and focus on all subjects as they are the new generation of engineers who will one day be part of the practical life that will work hand in hand to develop Kuwait.

He added that all students deserve to be present at the university, and that they are the next generation of young people, by explaining to them the uniqueness of Kuwait College of Science and Technology in the engineering disciplines, which gives the administrative and academic staff responsibility for the development of the university, and the use of methods to give high educational quality that is required in Kuwait, and that the administration is fully prepared to listen to all students, and solve their



problems and provide the best educational path.

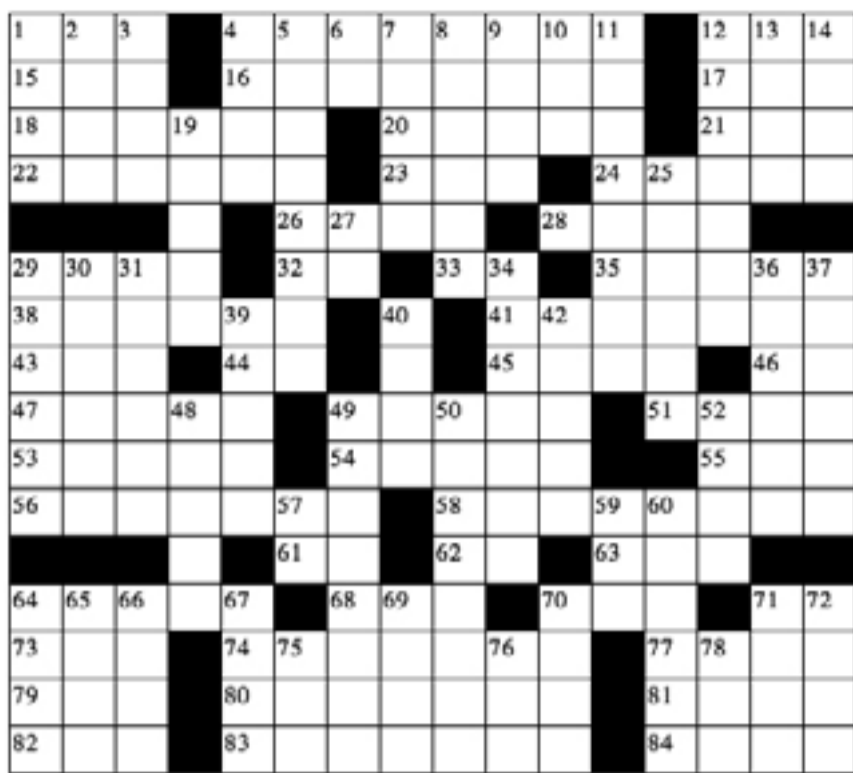
Taiba Al-Zamil, Head of Admissions and Internal Scholarships Department, explained to the students what rules and policies the student should follow, and how the registration department communicates with all students regarding matters related to their studies and registration of materials. The University has previously decided to respond to the wishes of previous students so as not to disrupt their graduation process. She pointed out that all efforts of students, administrators and academic staff are here to serve the interest of students.

Professor Fares Al-Shammari, English lecturer at the Department of Languages and Social Sciences at the University, spoke about the transformation in the student's life between the school and the university, what the student should follow, how to communicate with the academic staff, and that the university stage is essential for enhancing the characters, and identifying themselves to determine their goals of their wishes; Noting that the academic staff understand the sensitive age range experienced by all students, and are always seeking to take their hands, and expand their perceptions, and provide valuable experiences.



Stars

CROSSWORD 2005



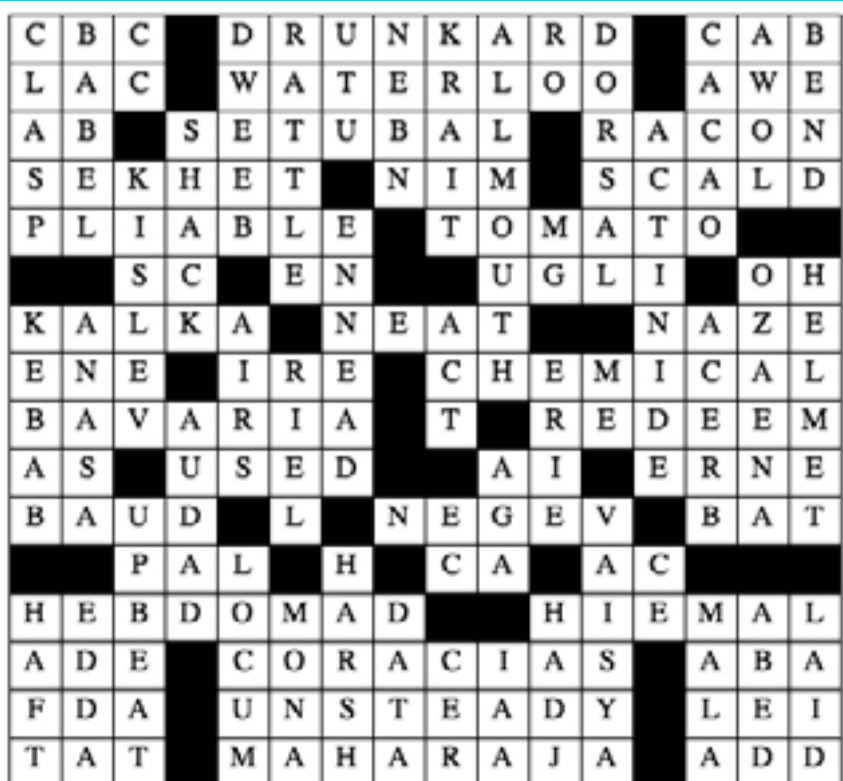
ACROSS

1. A caustic detergent useful for removing grease.
4. Having existed from the beginning.
12. The state of matter distinguished from the solid and liquid states by.
15. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
16. Italian violinist (1782-1840).
17. (used especially of commodities) In the natural unprocessed condition.
18. The capital and largest city of Rwanda.
20. A Russian prison camp for political prisoners.
21. Someone who engages in arbitrage (who purchases securities in one market for immediate resale in another in the hope of profiting from the price differential).
22. French writer who generalized surrealism to literature (1897-1982).
23. A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement.
24. English poet (1880-1958).
26. Small European freshwater fish with a slender bluish-green body.
28. Highly offensive.
29. A island in the Netherlands Antilles that is the top of an extinct volcano.
32. A state in New England.
33. A person forced to flee from home or country.
35. Spherical gram-positive parasitic bacteria that tend to form irregular colonies.
38. Inflammation of the hands and feet caused by exposure to cold and moisture.
41. An ache localized in the middle or inner ear.
43. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
44. A radioactive transuranic metallic element.
45. Fertility goddess in ancient Greek mythology.
46. A Mid-Atlantic state.
47. Gymnastic apparatus consisting of a pair of heavy metal circles (usually covered with leather) suspended by ropes.
51. A low dam built across a stream to raise its level or divert its flow.
53. (of pop groups) Not affiliated with a major recording company n.
54. State in northeastern India.
55. Hawaiian dish of taro root pounded to a paste and often allowed to ferment.
56. A planet (usually Venus) seen just before sunrise in the eastern sky.
58. Not openly expressed.
61. A bachelor's degree in religion.
62. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
63. The last (12th) month of the year.
64. An early form of modern jazz (originating around 1940).
68. The waging of armed conflict against an enemy.
73. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
74. An ardent early supporter of a cause or reform.
77. Great in vertical dimension.
79. Brief episode in which the brain gets insufficient blood supply.
80. Provide physical relief, as from pain.
81. A slender double-reed instrument.
82. An associate degree in applied science.
83. An antibacterial drug (trade names Rifadin and Rimactane) used to treat tuberculosis.

DOWN

1. Small deer of Japan with slightly forked antlers.
2. The habitation of wild animals.
3. An narrative telling the adventures of a hero or a family.
4. Antibiotic-resistant mycoplasma causing a kind of pneumonia in humans.
5. A drop of rain.
6. A class of proteins produced in lymph tissue in vertebrates and that function as antibodies in the immune response.
7. Possessing or using or characteristic of or appropriate to supernatural powers.
8. Made tough by habitual exposure.
9. Capital of Vanuatu.
10. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
11. A category in some early taxonomies.
12. Common gray wild goose of Europe.
13. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
14. The compass point that is one point south of southwest.
19. The ninth month of the Hindu calendar.
25. Contrary to or forbidden by law.
27. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
30. An island in the Aegean Sea in the Saronic Gulf.
31. Distilled from wine or fermented fruit juice.
34. Spotted crakes.
36. A gear with a small number of teeth designed to mesh with a larger wheel or rack.
37. A frame attached to a wagon to increase the amount of hay it can carry.
39. A small picture inserted within the bounds or a larger one.
40. A software system that facilitates the creation and maintenance and use of an electronic database.
42. The subject matter of a conversation or discussion.
48. Something whose name is either forgotten or not known.
49. Striped hyena of southeast Africa that feeds chiefly on insects.
50. Confidently declared to be so.
52. Surpassing the ordinary especially in size or scale.
57. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
59. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
60. United States comedian and actor in silent films noted for his acrobatic skills and deadpan face (1895-1966).
65. English essayist (1775-1834).
66. South African term for 'boss'.
67. Queen of England as the 6th wife of Henry VIII (1512-1548).
69. The largest continent with 60% of the earth's population.
70. Having or demonstrating ability to recognize or draw fine distinctions.
71. An indistinct shapeless form.
72. Cheese containing a blue mold.
75. United States architect (born in China in 1917).
76. Being six more than fifty.
78. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Love would not begin to describe the feelings you are experiencing now. This is more like an obsession. You crave something that makes you feel alive. Feelings such as passion, jealousy and possession may come into play in your world. It seems as if you know exactly what/who you want and you will not let anything nor anyone stand in your way. You HAVE TO HAVE IT! Keep your focus and your determination will lead to you having exactly what your heart desires.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

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



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You have heard the old saying about wanting something so bad you could taste it. That seems to be just how you feel about your wants. You are beyond want. You have made it to full blown obsession. Feeling this way about something or someone may bring feelings of extreme passion and even jealousy into your life. This seems to be the driving force behind all of your actions. You have your mind made up and refuse to settle on anything less the prize. Keep pushing forward. You may reap great reward from your determination.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Today finds you at your mental best. You seem to be paying close attention to detail and are extremely disciplined. Things you may have viewed as problems in the past present clear solutions today. You feel a need to be respected and are not only working to organize your surroundings, but you are able to organize the people around you. You're extremely ambitious and devoted to your job today. This is a great day for working with others and you may be called upon to lead the team. You may have to work to fund balance between your home and work life as you try hard to keep everyone around you happy. Cancer. This is an easy task for you as you are as devoted to your family as you are to your job.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Take time today for yourself. Put you first for a change. Just as your body needs food, your mind needs rest. Step outside for a breath of fresh air. Make an appointment for a massage. Take a nap. Whatever you choose, make sure you take the time to clear your mind. Appreciate the beauty that surrounds you and be thankful for the life you live. Stress is something we allow into our world. Focus on controlling your reaction to anything negative that comes your way today. Leo. You will thank yourself in the future.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Today may find you a bit unsatisfied with your surroundings. It may be someone or the physical place you are in that is just not sitting right with you. You may feel as if someone or something is holding you back or may just feel frustrated by your life in general. The situation you find yourself in leads you to do some soul searching and reevaluate some of what you believe. You may find you have a difficult time trying to convince someone close to you why you believe you are doing the right thing. Communication is difficult on this one and you may find you are unable to explain yourself. You may find yourself frustrated as you run into problems at home and in the workplace when dealing with this subject. You may find today is just not the day to make decisions and it would be best to let things rest for now.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

If you have been debating on a new business approach, today is the day to make it happen. Much success will come your way. Make the pitch, present the proposal. Today is a day you will get the results you have been dreaming of. You are convincing and have a way with your words today. You will be able to make others see things your way. By the time you are through, those involved will see things your way and have the exact desires you do. Stay on top of news about money matters. This is a very profitable time for you.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This is your time to shine. You are full of pride and proud of your accomplishments. You are being noticed in the workplace and have been excelling at your job. You are very observant of the feelings of those around you and are able to make them feel good about themselves. You feel much support from your peers and family. Everything in your world is beginning to feel healthy and come natural. You begin to feel as if something doesn't come from the heart it is irrelevant in your world. You surround yourself with people you feel are real and true friends. This is a great time for you and others begin to admire you not only for your accomplishments that the way you make them feel about themselves.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You know who and what are the priorities in your life. Your sense of appreciation is heightened. This is a time you are able to beam with pride when you look at your life situation. You are highly respected and others admire you for what a success you have become. Be sure to appreciate the fact that others seem to always look to you for advice and guidance. Remember to take time for you. You may tend to take the problems of those you love to personally. You can not carry the weight of the world on your shoulders alone. Spend time this evening to unwind. This could prevent you from becoming overwhelmed.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Leave the major decisions for later. Frustration and other obstacles may seem to be in your way today. You seem to find yourself wanting to be more social. A desire to hit the town. You find pleasure in surrounding yourself with friends. Choose your company wisely as you could find yourself in conflict with someone close to you. You seem to know what to say and when to say it. Others are seeking your company, and this would be a great time to spend time with your siblings or neighbors. Today is a great day for an escape. Take in a movie or curl up with a book. This may just what you need to rest your mind and start tomorrow with a new outlook on life.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may feel a need for change is long overdue. You may want to break old habits and set out on a new path. You may find yourself drawn to a different lifestyle and find yourself going against the grain. You desire to be a part of a new and different crowd and feel as if something is pulling you in a direction beyond any comfort zone you have known. Today may find you lacking direction and this may lead to conflict in the work place as you appear lost with no focus. This is an internal conflict and there is no need to try to explain this to others close to you as it may cause frustration when your ideas are not met with acceptance by others.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You know what you want and you will not let anything stand in your way. You have your eye on the prize. This has gone way beyond a want. You are actually obsessed.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Beatles Songs 2

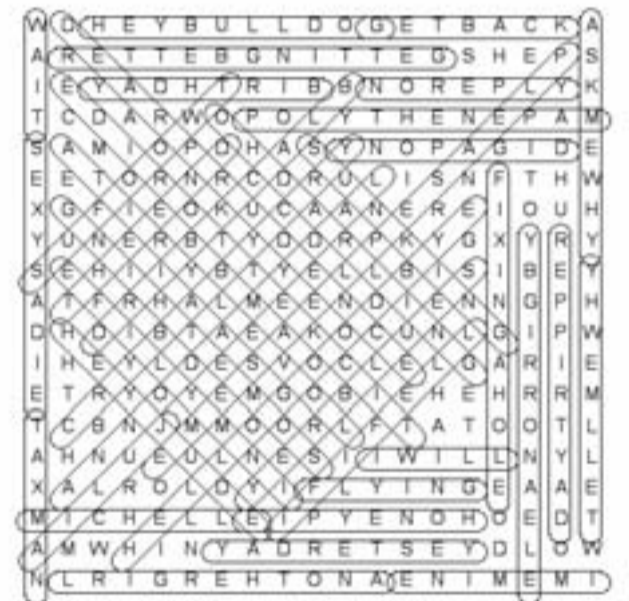
Find and circle all of the songs by The Beatles that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of an additional Beatles song.



- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| ALL MY LOVING | GERL | I'M SO TIRED | PIGGIES |
| AND I LOVE HER | GLASS ONION | LET IT BE | RAIN |
| BECAUSE | GOLDEN SLUMBERS | LOVE ME DO | REVOLUTION |
| BLUE JAY WAY | GOOD NIGHT | LOVE YOU TO | ROCKY RACCOON |
| COME TOGETHER | HELP | MAGGIE MAE | SAVOY TRUFFLE |
| DIG IT | HELTER SKELTER | MARTHA MY DEAR | SHE LOVES YOU |
| DOCTOR ROBERT | HER MAJESTY | NOWHERE MAN | THE WORD |
| DRIVE MY CAR | I FEEL FINE | OLD BROWN SHOE | THIS BOY |
| FOR NO ONE | I NEED YOU | PAPERBACK WRITER | WHAT GOES ON |
| FOR YOU BLUE | I'M A LOSER | PENNY LANE | WILD HONEY PIE |

Yesterday's Solution

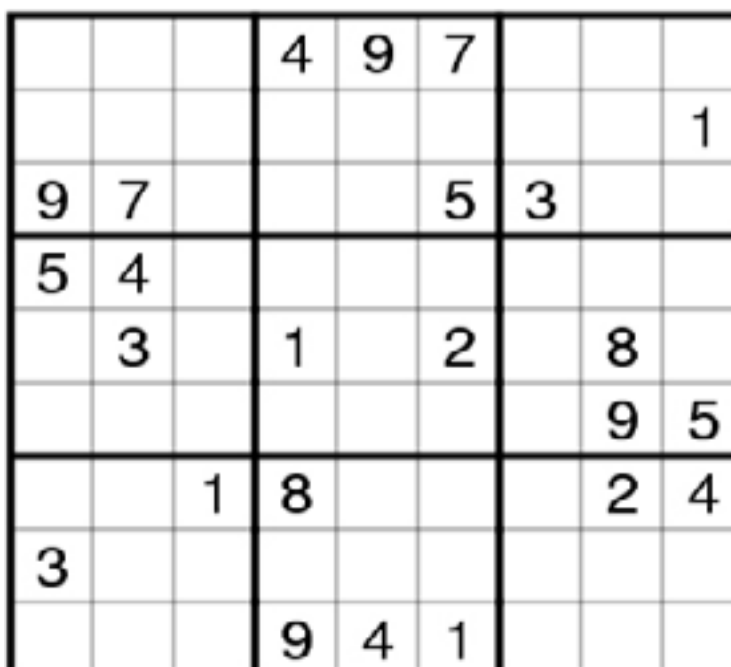
Beatles Songs 1



- | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| ANOTHER GIRL | FLYING | IN MY LIFE | SOMETHING |
| ASK ME WHY | GET BACK | JULIA | SUN KING |
| BIRTHDAY | GETTING BETTER | LADY MADONNA | TAXMAN |
| BLACKBIRD | HELLO GOOBYE | LOVELY RITA | TELL ME WHY |
| CRY BABY CRY | HEY BULLDOG | MICHELLE | THE END |
| DAY TRIPPER | HEY JUDE | NO REPLY | TICKET TO RIDE |
| DEAR PRUDENCE | HONEY PIE | OH DARLING | TWO OF US |
| DIG A PONY | I ME MINE | PLEASE PLEASE ME | WAIT |
| ELEANOR RIGBY | I WILL | POLYTHENE PAM | YER BLUES |
| FIXING A HOLE | IF I FELL | SEXY SADIE | YESTERDAY |

The hidden song is: SHE CAME IN THROUGH THE BATHROOM WINDOW

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2018



A woman dressed as a tree with the group The Forgotten Solution, poses for a picture at Civic Center Plaza after marching at the 'Rise For Climate' global action in downtown San Francisco, California. "Rise For Climate" is a global day of action demanding real climate solutions from local leaders. — AFP

Kremlin sparkle: Russian museum showcases celebrity jewels



A general view shows the Kremlin, the History Museum and the Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow. — AFP

Once worn by global celebrities ranging from Sofia Loren to Naomi Campbell, hundreds of priceless emerald, diamond and pearl pieces of jewelry go on show at the Kremlin starting Friday. The collection spans 130 years of the Bulgari luxury brand, now part of France's LVMH group, and contains 511 creations shown at the Moscow Kremlin Museums in an exhibit named "Tribute to Femininity". It includes pieces from the 1870s—the first created by company founder Sotirio Bulgari—and jewelry incorporating gems and even ancient Greek and Roman coins. About 100 of the items come from private collectors.

Bulgari has bought famous jewelry worn by actresses and will present Elizabeth Taylor's glittering collection as well as another recently purchased from the family of Italian actress Anna Magnani, the muse of directors Roberto Rossellini and Pier Paolo Pasolini. The exhibit is "the richest of all time" for the brand, Bulgari head Jean-Christophe Babin told AFP, adding that the Kremlin "houses one of the biggest collections of jewels in the world". "Russians have a great culture of art, architecture, and jewelry," Babin said, adding that the Byzantine influence in Russia is also found in Bulgari, created in 1884. Moscow Kremlin Museums house more than 13,000 Russian jewelry pieces dating from the 12th to the 20th century, some of which—like the Monomakh's Cap and the Imperial Crown of Russia—are exhibited in the Kremlin Armoury. — AFP



This combination of file pictures created shows rapper Cardi B (left) at the 2018 MTV Video Awards at Radio City Music Hall in New York; and rapper Nicki Minaj at the 2018 MTV Video Music Awards at Radio City Music Hall in New York. — AFP

Brief, angry confrontation in New York pits Nicki Minaj against Cardi B

Two of America's most prominent rap and hip-hop artists, Nicki Minaj and Cardi B, nearly came to blows in a brief but explosive confrontation during New York's Fashion Week. Videos on Twitter and YouTube showed the two women, who were on a second-floor balcony above a red carpet event late Friday, being separated by their security guards as Cardi B curses her rival before throwing a shoe at her. Minaj was reportedly not hurt. But a photo taken immediately afterward shows Cardi B with a large bump just above her left eye. The Variety website said one of Minaj's guards elbowed her during the melee.

It was not immediately known what touched off the dispute, but gossip site TMZ said Cardi B, the first female rapper to have had multiple No. 1 songs on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, had accused the older Minaj, one of the best-selling musical artists now performing, of spreading "lies" about her. In a subsequent Instagram post, the 25-year-old Cardi B complained—without naming names—that her rival had gone too far when she criticized Cardi B's qualities as a mother. Cardi B had a child in July with fellow rapper Offset. Cardi B gained enormous notoriety in the US musical world last year with the release of her song "Bodak Yellow," with its references to her past as a strip-tease dancer trying to make ends meet. Minaj, 35, has sold more than five million albums worldwide and won 10 Grammy nominations. — AFP

The beat goes on for Palestinian drum craftsman

Ayoub Al-Zaatari combines tradition and artistry in the handmade drums he crafts in his workshop in the ancient town of Hebron. The 55-year-old Palestinian learned his trade from his father, and sells his clay drums in the occupied West Bank and in Israel. It takes Zaatari about 40 minutes to paint the body of the instruments, available in four sizes, and then stretch and attach their animal hide drumheads. "The leather is from our country and the clay is made from the soil of our country, so we manufacture it all here," he said.

Some of his customers, Zaatari said, buy the drums for wedding celebrations, while others purchase the instruments as art pieces for their homes. But sales have not been good for many years. "We had a drop down in our business when imported (products) arrived in the market and when people started to use DJs in the weddings instead of the handmade drums," he said. "Despite that drop, I continued in this business although it is shrinking - and in the last ten years, it has been dying." The drums cost between 7 and 35 shekels (\$2-\$10), depending on their size and painted designs. — Reuters



A man jumps on 'Jump Trump' photo-installation in the Spanish Basque city of Getxo. French multimedia artist and photographer Thomas Mailaender and Dutch art-director, artist, curator and the co-founder of advertising agency KesselsKramer Erik Kessels have created a photo-installation where people jump from a trampoline on a mat with giant portrait of US president Donald Trump. — AFP

Longchamp makes New York debut to celebrate 70 years



Longchamp decamped across the Atlantic on Saturday to make their New York Fashion Week debut and celebrate their 70th anniversary by looking to the future, fronted by new brand ambassador Kendall Jenner. Guests were invited to the World Trade Center, where the Manhattan skyline provided a dazzling backdrop to a collection summed up as 1970s glamor, California spirit and Parisian elegance. The French staple, best known by millions around the world for the iconic Pliage bag, is building on its leather goods heritage by highlighting its ready-to-wear, sunglasses and footwear lines.

Their first fashion-week runway show comes hot on the heels of opening a new boutique on New York's legendary Fifth Avenue in May, and the selection of supermodel Jenner as their new ambassador. They are poised to open a new boutique in Beverly Hills—hence the California spirit, which Jenner herself evokes, as does model-of-the-moment Kaia Gerber, 17, who walked the runway. Jenner sat front row, sporting the Longchamp Gladiators on her slender pins, next to Kate Moss, who was the face of Longchamp for eight years and in turn sat next to Indian actress Priyanka Chopra. "It's a way of expressing the international development of the brand," Longchamp CEO Jean Cassegrain, 53, told AFP by telephone of the family firm's decision to show in New York, on the third day of fashion week. Cassegrain is the grandson of the founder. Sister Sophie Delafontaine is creative director, brother Olivier heads up operations in the United States and their 81-year-old father is still company president.

'Vote Cynthia!'

There were lots of fringed tops, shorts and mini-skirts in suede, gladiator sandals, and ikat-style prints on long skirts and dresses. "Twenty-five years ago, fashion and leather goods were separate sectors," Cassegrain said. "The bag is now a fashion item, and labels also have to be fashion labels." Otherwise Saturday saw a return to politics at New York Fashion Week after having taken something of a backseat after the early days of liberal outrage over the Donald Trump presidency. Christian Siriano used his runway show to endorse Cynthia Nixon, the left-leaning former "Sex and the City" actress campaigning to become New York's first woman governor.

Nixon, whose effort to oust two-term incumbent Andrew Cuomo will do or die in Thursday's Democratic primary, sat in the front row. Each guest was given a Vote for Cynthia leaflet, there were special thanks to her in the notes for "all you are doing for New York" and Siriano came out for a bow at the end in a Nixon T-shirt. Schleppling out to deepest Brooklyn and sitting on soggy benches in a downpour might not have been the fashion pack's idea of fun.

'Black is beautiful'

But those who made the journey were wowed by the burgeoning talent of up and coming label Pyer Moss, their all-black models, band and gospel choir in an historic black setting for his latest show. "I wanted to show what African American leisure looks like," designer Kerby Jean-Raymond told reporters backstage. "We just wanted to make that modernized, simple and young." In addition to his collaboration with Reebok, the silhouette for the Pyer Moss woman was sophisticated, flowing gowns, waterfall hemlines and kaftan-inspired eveningwear in white, pale pink and yellow.

Stunning prints made out of portraits by painter Derrick Adams were blown up onto organza, jacquard and pleats, and a cocktail dress studded with 200,000 Swarovski crystals "It's people that look like my friends and people who are constantly overlooked in normal bookings," Jean-Raymond told reporters when asked about his all-black casting. "I want to show that black can be beautiful and not just always sensationalized, not always tragic, not always just like for your entertainment. It can exist on the sole purpose of us being us." The show was held at the Weeksville Heritage Center, which preserves one of the first 19th century free African American communities. The choir, dressed in white robes, belted out a stirring soundtrack to rapturous applause, deliberately chosen and opening with "Be Real Black For Me". —AFP



Models walk the runway at the Longchamp Spring/Summer 2019 runway show at Four World Trade Center in New York City. —AFP photos



Models Kate Moss (left) and Kendall Jenner pose backstage at the Longchamp Fashion Show during New York Fashion Week at World Trade Center in New York City.



Actress Priyanka Chopra poses backstage at the Longchamp Fashion Show.



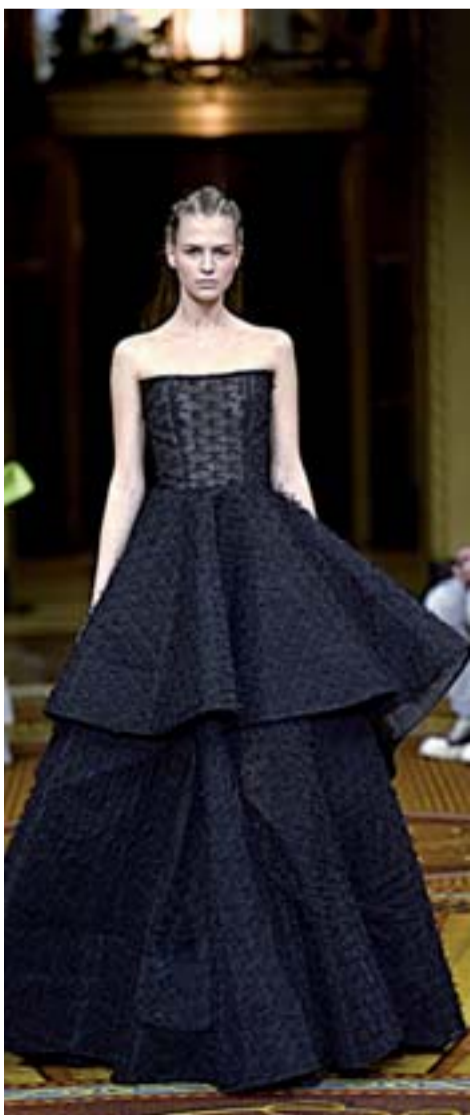
New York Fashion Week



Models walk the runway at the Christian Siriano Spring/Summer 2019 runway show at Gotham Hall.



Models walk the runway for the Pyer Moss Spring/Summer 2019 show at Weeksville Heritage Center in Brooklyn, New York.



Cuaron's Mexican 'masterpiece' wins Venice film festival



Director Alfonso Cuaron (center) acknowledges receiving from President of the Venice Biennale, Paolo Baratta (right) the Golden Lion award for Best Film for the movie "Roma". — AFP photos



Director Alfonso Cuaron (right) poses after he received the Golden Lion award for Best Film for the movie 'Roma', as (from left) member of the Venezia 75 competition jury, English actress Naomi Watts, member of the Venezia 75 competition jury, Austrian-German actor Christoph Waltz and member of the Venezia 75 competition jury, Danish actress Trine Dyrholm applaud, during the awards ceremony of the 75th Venice Film Festival.



Director Alfonso Cuaron poses after he received the Golden Lion award for Best Film for the movie 'Roma' during the awards ceremony of the 75th Venice Film Festival.

Mexican director Alfonso Cuaron won the Golden Lion top prize at the Venice film festival Saturday for "Roma", which critics called not merely a movie but "a vision". With its highly emotional story centered on an indigenous maid working for a middle-class family in Mexico City in 1971, it has been hailed as Cuaron's most personal film—and also his best. Cuaron told reporters that in an incredible coincidence "today is the birthday of Libo, the woman the movie is based on. What a present!" The film industry bible Variety said "Roma" is likely to go down as a "masterpiece". "It is no mere movie—it's a vision... where every image and every emotion is perfectly set in place," said critic Owen Gleiberman. Cuaron "dunks us, moment by moment, image by luminously composed image, into a panorama of the hurly-burly of Mexico City." The Italian press declared it "sublime" while for The Guardian's Peter Bradshaw it was a "complete triumph". Venice has become the launchpad for the Oscars race with Hollywood heavyweights jostling for attention in a line-up director Alberto Barbera called "the best in 30 years".

Vintage year

Cuaron, 56, reconstructed his childhood home for the Netflix-backed film, borrowing furniture back from relatives to recreate how it was when he was 10. But the heart of the film is the "luminous" performance of first-time actor Yalitza Aparicio, who plays Cleo, a young live-in maid of Mixteco heritage who looked after the director as a boy. "Cleo is based on my babysitter when I was young. We were a family together," Cuaron told AFP. "But when you grow up with someone you love you don't discuss their

identity. So for this film I was forced to see myself as this woman, a member of the lower classes, from the indigenous population. This is a point of view I had never had before."

The second prize Silver Lion went to France's Jacques Audiard for his hugely enjoyable Western "The Sisters Brothers" starring Joaquin Phoenix and John C Reilly. Another Wild West tale, "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs" by the Coen brothers, won best script. Having missed out on an Oscar last year, Willem Dafoe took best actor for his acclaimed portrait of the painter Vincent Van Gogh in "At Eternity's Gate".

Powerful women

Britain's Olivia Colman took best actress for playing the needy and weak-minded Queen Anne in "The Favourite", a viciously funny and apparently accurate historical drama about two powerful women competing for her favor. Colman, 44, who is playing Britain's present monarch in the television series "The Crown", said she "loved every second" of playing her 18th-century predecessor, "even if none of us knows what it is like to be a queen". The film's Greek director Yorgos Lanthimos of "The Lobster" fame won the Grand Jury Prize.

It was one of several movies with strong female stories vying for the Golden Lion—with all three of its leading actresses tipped as Oscar contenders. Even so the organizers were lambasted for choosing only one female director among the 21 competing for the top prize for the second year in a row. Australian director Jennifer Kent did however win the special jury prize for "The Nightingale", her stirring story of revenge and friendship involving an Irish convict

woman and an Aboriginal tracker in colonial Tasmania.

Aboriginal victory

Baykali Ganambarr, making his movie debut playing the tracker, won the best newcomer award. He praised Kent for the unflinching ways she portrayed the genocide of his people, and said he saw his prize as a victory for them. An Aboriginal from East Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory, he made an impassioned plea for Australia to face up to the crimes of its past. "Ours is the oldest living culture on the planet. This story is one of many in our history. The brutality depicted in it is only just scratching the surface. History in Australia has been whitewashed."

"But it is only through confronting and addressing it that we can get over the hurt," Ganambarr added. The film, which is shot in English, Irish Gaelic and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Palawa Kani language, portrays the extreme violence and racism of the island in the 1820s when it was known as Van Diemen's Land. Kent called for more women to make the leap into directing. "We need you," she declared. "The feminine force is the most powerful and most healing on the planet."

Venice was far from short of female talent this year. Pop superstar Lady Gaga made a highly praised big screen debut playing a bally young waitress who dreams of being a singer in "A Star is Born". And the three main characters in the winning film "Roma" were also women. Cuaron made his name at Venice in 2001 with his sensual Spanish coming-of-age movie, "Y Tu Mama Tambien", before going onto to Oscar glory with "Gravity", which also premiered at the festival. A similar path is predicted for "Roma". —AFP



Actor Baykali Ganambarr receives from member of the Venezia 75 competition jury, English actress Naomi Watts, the Marcello Mastroianni Award for Best Young Actor in the movie "The Nightingale".



Actress Olivia Colman receives the Coppa Volpi for Best Actress in the movie "The Favourite".



Actor Willem Dafoe poses during a photocall with the Coppa Volpi he received for Best Actor in the movie "At Eternity's Gate".



Director Phuttipong Aroonpheng poses after he received the Orizzonti award for Best Film for the movie "Krabben Rahu" (Manta Ray).



Director Jennifer Kent reacts after she received from member of the Venezia 75 competition jury, New Zealand actor and director Taika Waititi, the Special Jury Prize for the film "The Nightingale".



Director Yorgos Lanthimos poses after he received the Silver Lion award - Grand Jury Prize for the film "The Favourite".



Lila Nerli Taviani, wife of director Paolo Taviani, receives from President of the Venice Classics jury, director Salvatore Mereu, on behalf of her husband the Venice Classics Restored Films award for iLa Notte di San Lorenzo (The Night of the Shooting Stars).



Director Chuck Chae (right) poses with President of the Venice Virtual Reality jury, writer and director Susanne Bier, after he received the Best Virtual Reality Experience award for the film "Buddy VR".



Director Mahmut Fazil Coskun poses after he received the Special Orizzonti Jury Prize for the film "Anons" (The Announcement).



Director Aditya Ahmad (left) reacts after he received from member of the Orizzonti jury, French film critic and Director of the Cinematheque francaise Frederic Bonnaud (right) the Orizzonti award for Best Short Film for "Kado".



Director and screenwriter Pema Tsenden poses after he received the Orizzonti award for Best Screenplay for the film "Jinpa".



Director Soudade Kaadan poses after she received the Lion of the Future "Luigi De Laurentiis" Venice Award for a Debut Film, for the movie "Yom Adaatou Zouli" (The Day I Lost my Shadow).

Classifieds

Monday, September 10, 2018

Kuwait Times
 Now you can browse
www.kuwaittimes.net
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

STATE OF KUWAIT
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
 METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 6817
 Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Very hot with light variable wind to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 06 - 28 km/h .

BY NIGHT: Relatively hot with light to moderate variable wind to north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 30 km/h .

| WEATHER WARNING | | | No Current Warnings | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------|--|
| STATION | MAX. EXP. | MIN. REC. | SFC. CHART 09/09/2018 0000 UTC | |
| KUWAIT CITY | 47 °C | 34 °C | | |
| KUWAIT AIRPORT | 47 °C | 28 °C | | |
| ABDALY | 46 °C | 28 °C | | |
| BUBYAN | --- °C | --- °C | | |
| JAHRA | 48 °C | 31 °C | | |
| FAILAKA ISLAND | 45 °C | 30 °C | | |
| SALMIYAH | 42 °C | 35 °C | | |
| AHMADI | 41 °C | 35 °C | | |
| NUWAISIB | 44 °C | 30 °C | | |
| WAFRA | 47 °C | 29 °C | | |
| SALMY | 47 °C | 30 °C | | |

| 4 DAYS FORECAST | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------|--|--------------|-------|----------------|--------------|
| DAY | DATE | WEATHER | Temperatures | | Wind Direction | Wind Speed |
| | | | MAX. | MIN. | | |
| Monday | 09/10 | Hot | 46 °C | 30 °C | NW | 08 - 30 km/h |
| Tuesday | 09/11 | Hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas and some high clouds will appear | 46 °C | 27 °C | NE-VRB | 06 - 28 km/h |
| Wednesday | 09/12 | Very hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas | 47 °C | 27 °C | VRB-NE | 08 - 35 km/h |
| Thursday | 09/13 | Hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas | 46 °C | 28 °C | NW-VRB | 10 - 35 km/h |

| PRAYER TIMES | |
|--------------|-------|
| Fajr | 04:08 |
| Sunrise | 05:29 |
| Zuhr | 11:46 |
| Asr | 15:18 |
| Sunset | 18:02 |
| Isha | 19:21 |

| RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| MAX. Temp. | 45 °C |
| MIN. Temp. | 28 °C |
| MAX. RH | 31 % |
| MIN. RH | 09 % |
| MAX. Wind | N 39 km/h |
| TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR. | 0 mm |

MATRIMONIAL

An R.C Goan Man divorced well settled in Kuwait. With own business looking for a god fearing lady as a life partner. Email: cl8kwi@yahoo.com (C 5419) 7-9-2018

LOST

Original document policy No. 633003907 - 5 to Mr. Fayyaz Ahmed Fayyazi, DV the State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan. Gulf Zone is reported to have been lost. Anyone finding the same or claiming any interest in it should communicate with the Manager Kuwait State Life Office - Ph: 22452208. (C 5416)

FOR SALE

Expat moving, household items, antiques, glassware, dishes, misc. Fri - Sat 9 to 4. Salmiya, block 2, Masoud St., #85, behind Holiday Inn & Gold's Gym. Contact: 51345662 (C 5418) 6-9-2018

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAJA, holder of Indian Passport No. M7063824, issued at Kuwait on 04/08/2015 resident of Rampur and presently residing at Apt #2, 1st floor, street 3, block 12, Salmiya, Kuwait, do hereby change my name from Raja to Rameez Raja Mirza with immediate effect.

Original document policy No. 633004440 - 4 Raja Ghulam Qamar, DV the State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan. Gulf Zone is reported to have been lost. Anyone finding the same or claiming any interest in it should communicate with the Manager Kuwait State Life Office - Ph: 22452208. (C 5417) 3-9-2018

It is notified for the information that my original qualifying examination certificate of main secondary examination of year 2014 and Roll No. 8105633 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Name of the candidate BADER MAHMOUD CHAMMOU, address: Hawally, Phone 66844674. (C 5415)

EMERGENCY
 ☎ 112

For labor-related inquiries and complaints: Call MSAL
HOTLINE 128

STORES & OFFICES FOR RENT
SAHARA AIR-CONDITIONING CO.
ANNOUNCES TO RENT CLOSED STORES & OFFICES OF AREA 100, 150, 250, 400 & 500 SQ METERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR RENT IN EAST AHMADI, INTERESTED PARTIES CAN CONTACT MR. NADEEM ON MOBILE NO. 97861063 / 23981915 EXT. 105

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Kuwait Airways | 171 |
| Jazeera Airways | 177 |
| Wataniya Airways | 22 066 536 |
| Turkish Airlines | 1884918 |
| American Airlines | 22087425 |
| Jet Airways | 22087426 |
| FlyDubai | 22924455 |
| Qatar Airways | 22414400 |
| KLM | 22423888 |
| Royal Jordanian | 22425747 |
| British Airways | 22418064/5/6 |
| Air France | 22425635 |
| Emirates | 22430224 |
| Air India | 22921555 |
| Sri Lanka Airlines | 22438184 |
| Egypt Air | 22424444 |
| Swiss Air | 22421578 |
| Saudia | 22421516 |
| Middle East Airlines | 22426306 |
| Lufthansa | 22423073 |
| PIA | 22422493 |
| Bangladesh Airlines | 22421044 |
| Indian Airlines | 22452977/8 |
| Oman Air | 22456700 |
| Turkish Airlines | 22958787 |
| Aeroflot | 22453820/1 |
| | 22404838/9 |



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

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

| Arrival Flights on Monday 10/9/2018 | | | | Departure Flights on Monday 10/9/2018 | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|-------------|-------|---------------------------------------|------|------------|-------|
| Airlines | Flt | Route | Time | Airlines | Flt | Route | Time |
| KAC | 774 | Riyadh | 13:30 | SYR | 342 | Damascus | 12:00 |
| FEQ | 341 | Sohag | 13:50 | QTR | 1075 | Doha | 12:10 |
| KAC | 672 | Dubai | 13:55 | RBG | 554 | Alexandria | 13:10 |
| QTR | 1078 | Doha | 14:10 | JAW | 176 | Dubai | 13:10 |
| GFA | 221 | Bahrain | 14:15 | SAW | 702 | Damascus | 13:30 |
| KAC | 618 | Doha | 14:20 | THY | 767 | Istanbul | 13:40 |
| KAC | 364 | Colombo | 14:20 | JZR | 144 | Doha | 13:55 |
| FDB | 059 | Dubai | 14:20 | MSR | 611 | Cairo | 14:00 |
| KAC | 286 | Dhaka | 14:25 | IRA | 666 | Esfahan | 14:15 |
| KAC | 692 | Muscat | 14:25 | UAE | 872 | Dubai | 14:15 |
| JZR | 789 | Riyadh | 14:45 | RJA | 645 | Amman | 14:15 |
| SVA | 500 | Jeddah | 14:45 | FEG | 342 | Sohag | 14:50 |
| KAC | 788 | Jeddah | 14:50 | KAC | 673 | Dubai | 15:00 |
| KAC | 194 | TZX | 14:55 | GFA | 222 | Bahrain | 15:00 |
| KAC | 304 | Mumbai | 15:05 | FDB | 060 | Dubai | 15:05 |
| ETD | 303 | Abu Dhabi | 15:05 | QTR | 1079 | Doha | 15:15 |
| KAC | 412 | Bangkok | 15:10 | JZR | 124 | Bahrain | 15:40 |
| KAC | 562 | Amman | 15:20 | SVA | 501 | Jeddah | 15:45 |
| OMA | 645 | Muscat | 15:20 | KAC | 775 | Riyadh | 15:55 |
| ABY | 127 | Sharjah | 15:35 | KAC | 785 | Jeddah | 16:00 |
| KAC | 502 | Beirut | 15:35 | JZR | 606 | Kochi | 16:00 |
| UAE | 857 | Dubai | 15:45 | KAC | 743 | Dammam | 16:05 |
| KAC | 118 | New York | 16:00 | KAC | 563 | Amman | 16:10 |
| SAW | 705 | Damascus | 16:00 | KAC | 619 | Doha | 16:15 |
| JZR | 535 | Cairo | 16:10 | ABY | 128 | Sharjah | 16:15 |
| QTR | 1072 | Doha | 16:15 | ETD | 304 | Abu Dhabi | 16:20 |
| FDB | 051 | Dubai | 16:20 | OMA | 646 | Muscat | 16:20 |
| NIA | 361 | Alexandria | 16:50 | QTR | 1087 | Doha | 16:20 |
| KAC | 542 | Cairo | 17:00 | MSR | 613 | Cairo | 16:20 |
| SVA | 510 | Riyadh | 17:15 | PGT | 861 | Istanbul | 16:40 |
| GFA | 215 | Bahrain | 17:30 | KAC | 1538 | Cairo | 16:45 |
| JZR | 145 | Doha | 17:35 | JZR | 191 | Tbilisi | 16:45 |
| JZR | 177 | Dubai | 17:40 | KAC | 547 | Alexandria | 16:55 |
| QTR | 1080 | Doha | 18:10 | SAW | 706 | Damascus | 17:00 |
| JZR | 483 | Istanbul | 18:20 | FDB | 052 | Dubai | 17:20 |
| MSR | 620 | Cairo | 18:30 | QTR | 1073 | Doha | 17:25 |
| JZR | 125 | Bahrain | 18:35 | KAC | 361 | Colombo | 17:35 |
| RJA | 640 | Amman | 19:00 | UAE | 858 | Dubai | 17:40 |
| GFA | 217 | Bahrain | 19:05 | KAC | 381 | Delhi | 17:45 |
| UAE | 875 | Dubai | 19:05 | NIA | 362 | Alexandria | 17:50 |
| FDB | 063 | Dubai | 19:10 | KAC | 331 | Trivandrum | 17:55 |
| KAC | 744 | Dammam | 19:10 | KAC | 283 | Dhaka | 18:00 |
| ABY | 123 | Sharjah | 19:20 | SVA | 511 | Riyadh | 18:15 |
| KAC | 156 | Istanbul | 19:25 | JZR | 184 | Dubai | 18:20 |
| KAC | 776 | Riyadh | 19:35 | GFA | 216 | Bahrain | 18:20 |
| KAC | 674 | Dubai | 19:40 | JZR | 608 | Hyderabad | 18:25 |
| FDB | 057 | Dubai | 19:50 | JZR | 240 | Amman | 18:30 |
| KAC | 174 | Munich | 19:55 | JZR | 538 | Cairo | 18:35 |
| KAC | 616 | Bahrain | 20:00 | JZR | 266 | Beirut | 19:15 |
| DLH | 624 | Frankfurt | 20:05 | KAC | 345 | Ahmedabad | 19:20 |
| OMA | 647 | Muscat | 20:05 | QTR | 1081 | Doha | 19:20 |
| KNE | 231 | Riyadh | 20:10 | KAC | 151 | Istanbul | 19:25 |
| MEA | 402 | Beirut | 20:15 | MSR | 621 | Cairo | 19:30 |
| KAC | 620 | Doha | 20:15 | GFA | 218 | Bahrain | 19:50 |
| QTR | 1088 | Doha | 20:40 | FDB | 064 | Dubai | 19:50 |
| KLM | 445 | Amsterdam | 21:00 | RJA | 641 | Amman | 20:00 |
| UAE | 859 | Dubai | 21:15 | ABY | 124 | Sharjah | 20:00 |
| ALK | 229 | Colombo | 21:15 | JZR | 552D | Alexandria | 20:05 |
| ETD | 307 | Abu Dhabi | 21:15 | KAC | 357 | Kochi | 20:30 |
| KAC | 168 | Paris | 21:20 | JZR | 602 | Mumbai | 20:30 |
| THY | 764 | Istanbul | 21:30 | FDB | 058 | Dubai | 20:30 |
| GFA | 219 | Bahrain | 21:50 | UAE | 876 | Dubai | 20:35 |
| KAC | 564 | Amman | 21:50 | DLH | 624 | Dammam | 20:50 |
| AZQ | 4565 | Baku | 22:00 | KAC | 353 | Bengaluru | 21:00 |
| QTR | 1082 | Doha | 22:05 | KNE | 232 | Riyadh | 21:00 |
| ETD | 309 | Dhabi | 22:10 | OMA | 648 | Muscat | 21:05 |
| KAC | 162 | Geneva | 22:10 | MEA | 403 | Beirut | 21:15 |
| KAC | 786 | Jeddah | 22:15 | KAC | 301 | Mumbai | 21:35 |
| AIC | 975 | Chennai/Goa | 22:25 | DHX | 171 | Bahrain | 21:50 |
| SVA | 514 | Jeddah | 22:30 | QTR | 1089 | Doha | 21:50 |
| SVA | 502 | Jeddah | 22:45 | KAC | 203 | Lahore | 22:00 |
| KAC | 192 | Tbilisi | 22:45 | ETD | 308 | Abu Dhabi | 22:05 |
| JZR | 185 | Dubai | 22:50 | KLM | 445 | Bahrain | 22:10 |
| JAI | 574 | Mumbai | 23:00 | KAC | 1543 | Cairo | 22:15 |
| RBG | 211 | Luxor | 23:30 | ALK | 230 | Colombo | 22:20 |
| MSR | 2614 | Cairo | 23:30 | KAC | 383 | Delhi | 22:25 |
| FDB | 071 | Dubai | 23:35 | | | | |
| JZR | 241 | Amman | 23:40 | | | | |



AT SEA: A boat carrying migrants is stranded in the Strait of Gibraltar before being rescued by the Spanish Guardia Civil and the Salvamento Marítimo sea search and rescue agency yesterday. While the overall number of migrants reaching Europe by sea is down from a peak in 2015, Spain has seen a steady increase in arrivals this year and has overtaken Italy as the preferred destination for people desperate to reach the continent. Over 33,000 migrants have arrived in Spain by sea and land so far this year, and 329 have died in the attempt, according to the International Organization for Migration. — AFP

Iran confirms deadly strikes in north Iraq

TEHRAN: Iran's Revolutionary Guards confirmed yesterday they had launched deadly missile strikes against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq the previous day. "The terrorists' headquarters... was successfully struck by seven surface-to-surface rockets on Saturday by the missile department of the Guards' aerospace force," it said on its Sepah News website. The statement added that their drone division was also involved.

At least 11 members of the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI), which is blacklisted as a "terrorist" group by Tehran, were killed in the rare cross-border attack, a medical official told AFP on Saturday. Iranian state television showed images of the missiles being launched and drone footage of the impact. "The punishment of transgressors was planned following the recent months' wicked acts by terrorists from the Kurdistan

realm against the Islamic republic's borders," the Guards' statement said. It cited incursions by numerous "terrorist teams" into Iran's West Azarbaijan, Kurdistan and Kermanshah provinces bordering Iraq. The KDPI had recently clashed with Revolutionary Guards forces in the towns of Marivan and Kanyaran in Iran's own Kurdistan region, the statement added. The Kurdish group was holding a meeting at the time of the missile strikes, and the party's secretary general and his predecessor were injured, according to one of its officials. The headquarters is in Koysinjaq, around 60 kilometers (35 miles) east of Arbil, capital of Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region.

Iraq's foreign ministry denounced the Iranian missile strike. "Iraq protects the security of its neighbors and does not allow its territory to be used to threaten these countries," spokesman Ahmed Mahjoub said in a statement. "But it categorically refuses the violation of its territorial sovereignty by strikes against certain targets on its territory with previous coordination," he added. Eleven KDPI members were killed and 30 wounded, according to Kamran Abbas, director of Koysinjaq's hospital. The KDPI is Iran's oldest Kurdish movement and has seen several of its leaders assassinated by Tehran in the past. — AFP

MP Ashour threatens to grill ...

Continued from Page 1

In the meantime, the National Assembly Human Rights Panel formed a two-member team comprising MP's Mohammad Hayef and Thamer Al-Suwait to follow up with the death of two cadets at the military academy. A member of the panel MP Adel Al-Damkhi said the com-

mittee discussed during its meeting a complaint filed by the father of one of the deceased cadets and the issue will be investigated from a humanitarian point of view.

Opposition MP Abdullah Fahhad yesterday strongly criticized Minister of Public Works Hussam Al-Roumi for allegedly trying to cancel major contracts illegally thus opening the way for contractors to demand massive compensations. The lawmaker claimed that if the minister is allowed to cancel the contracts, it will cost state coffers around KD 100 million, adding that the cancellation will delay a number of vital projects in various parts of the country.

deteriorating relationship with the Palestinian leadership.

And at the end of August, the Trump administration halted all funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), a decision that further heightened tensions with the Palestinian leadership. Palestinian refugees have reacted with dismay to the funding halts, warning that it would lead to more poverty, anger and instability in the Middle East.

A statement from the Palestinian Foreign Ministry said the latest aid cut was part of a US attempt "to liquidate the Palestinian cause" and said it would threaten the lives of thousands of Palestinians and the livelihoods of thousands of hospital employees. — Reuters

er taken a game from a man because they said 'thief'. For me it blows my mind. But I'm going to continue to fight for women." Williams made reference to the incident last week when French player Alize Cornet was warned for removing her shirt on court during a heatwave. Cornet was accused of "unsportsmanlike behavior" before tournament chiefs apologized, admitting the umpire made the wrong decision.

A strong woman

"Cornet should be able to take off her shirt without getting a fine. This is outrageous," said Williams warning to her theme. "I just feel like the fact that I have to go through this is just an example for the next person that has emotions, and that want to express themselves, and want to be a strong woman. "They're going to be allowed to do that because of today. Maybe it didn't work out for me, but it's going to work out for the next person." Williams left the media interview room to applause. Meanwhile, Mouratoglou took to Twitter to also take aim at Ramos. "The star of the show has been once again the chair umpire," he wrote. "Should they be allowed have an influence on the result of a match? When do we decide that this should never happen again?" — AFP

Their eyes on 2020, 3 Democrats make a mark in US Senate

WASHINGTON: The much-anticipated and nationally televised Senate confirmation hearing for Donald Trump's latest Supreme Court nominee provided a golden opportunity for three Democrats touted as 2020 presidential prospects to make their mark. All three made the most of it. The confirmation hearing for Judge Brett Kavanaugh had scarcely begun when Senator Kamala Harris jumped in with a point of order.

The daughter of a cancer researcher from India and a Jamaican economics professor, Harris coolly interrupted the Senate Judiciary Committee's Republican chairman—a man 31 years her senior—to complain that thousands of pages of Kavanaugh's record had been provided to Democrats only hours before the hearing.

Her Democratic colleagues then quickly joined in, turning what normally might have been a sedate and rel-

atively civil hearing into a running and at times fiery partisan skirmish. And that was only the first of three days of high-voltage hearings that allowed Harris and ambitious fellow senators Cory Booker and Amy Klobuchar to position themselves as fervent defenders of American and Democratic Party-values. Whether their outpouring of energy changed anything is less clear.

The Senate's Republican majority is thought to offer a clear path for Kavanaugh's confirmation to the high court, where he is expected to provide a decisive conservative vote on explosive issues like abortion and same-sex marriage. "It is all about the 2020 Democrat presidential primary," John Cornyn, the No. 2 Republican in the Senate, groused on Twitter. The three senators have yet to express official interest in running for the presidency. But their words and actions during the hearing were revealing.

There are only three African Americans in the 100-seat US Senate, but two of them—Booker, 49, of New Jersey, and Harris, 53, of California—managed to place themselves squarely in the spotlight during the Kavanaugh hearings. As junior members of the Judiciary Committee, they had to wait hours before being able to question Kavanaugh on Wednesday. — AFP

Khamenei urges Iran's military to...

Continued from Page 1

"In the scientific field, today we have reached a stage where we can export the technology to produce solid rocket fuel," said Brigadier General Majid Bokaei, director-general of Iran's main defense university, quoted by IRNA. Iran said earlier this month it planned to boost its ballistic and cruise missile capacity and acquire modern fighter planes and submarines to boost its defense capabilities. On Saturday Iran dismissed a French call for negotiations on Tehran's future nuclear plans, its ballistic missile arsenal and its role in wars in Syria and Yemen, following the US pullout from Iran's 2015 nuclear agreement.

Iran executes three

In another development, Iran executed three Iranian Kurdish men accused of belonging to a militant group and taking part in attacks against civilians and security forces in the Kurdish region of western Iran, the judiciary's news

service reported on Saturday. The executions took place despite a call on Friday for them to be halted by two UN human rights special rapporteurs, Javaid Rehman and Agnes Callamard, who said in a statement that the men had not been given a fair trial.

Amnesty International said the accused men had been denied access to their lawyers after being arrested and had said they were tortured into making confessions. "We are horrified by the news that the Iranian authorities have executed these men, despite widespread condemnation of their death sentences and calls from UN human rights experts and other bodies to halt their executions," Philip Luther, Amnesty International's research and advocacy director for the Middle East and North Africa, said in a statement on Saturday. The judiciary's Mizan news service said Loqman Moradi and Zanyar Moradi were accused of carrying out an attack in the western town of Marivan in July 2009 that killed three people, including the son of a prominent cleric. Ramin Hossein Panahi was accused of participating in an assault targeting security forces in the town of Sanandaj in June 2017. Iran has one of the world's highest execution rates. According to Amnesty International, 51 percent of all recorded executions in 2017 were carried out in Iran. — Agencies

Trump axes \$25 million in aid for...

Continued from Page 1

That move was a reversal of longtime US policy and led Palestinian leadership to boycott the Washington peace efforts led by Jared Kushner, Trump's senior adviser and son-in-law. Last month, the Trump administration said it would redirect \$200 million in Palestinian economic support funds for programs in the West Bank and Gaza amid a

'I am not a cheat', Serena accuses...

Continued from Page 1

"One thing I love about tennis is being out there. It's the one time I don't want to hear anyone tell me anything. You have to figure out. You have to problem-solve." Williams said that her coach Patrick Mouratoglou had not been coaching her even though the Frenchman told ESPN that he had and that all coaches do it. "I just texted Patrick, like, 'What is he talking about? Because we don't have signals. We have never discussed signals,'" said Williams. Williams said the incident strengthened her belief that women players are treated differently to their male counterparts in the sport.

"I've seen other men call other umpires several things. I'm here fighting for women's rights and for women's equality," she claimed. "For me to say 'thief' and for him to take a game, it made me feel like it was a sexist remark. "He's nev-

category and the results among the Gulf countries vary even further here. Qatar and UAE are the most digitally connected countries in the region with Kuwait faring poorly for availability of administrative/government services online. Kuwait has the lowest availability of such services out of the GCC States, with 48% negative ratings.

Bahrain was ranked among the top countries for the second year running. Many respondents of the tiny Gulf nation gave their working hours, job security and overall job satisfaction the best possible rating. Bahrain has also maintained or improved its ranking across all other subcategories.

Safety & Security is undoubtedly the Gulf States' strongest subcategory. The UAE (9th) and Oman (10th) both rank in the top 10 with an impressive 61% of expats in Oman give the political stability the best possible rating, while an almost unrivaled 94% of respondents attest to the peacefulness of the country. These results stand out against the respective global averages of 30% and 78%. Similarly to Oman, expats in the UAE rate the political stability very highly (10th), but the UAE stands out particularly for personal safety, with 97% of expats feeling safe.

Kuwait ranks 'worst for expats'; Bahrain...

Continued from Page 1

In all the Gulf States, finances were among the most important factors to move there. Kuwait performed better under these categories (coming in 50th). UAE ranked worst in the Gulf in the Personal Finance Index with many claiming their basic salary insufficient to sustain daily living. The gap between the better performing countries and the region's poorest performers remains large.

There is clear dissatisfaction among expats in the Gulf States regarding their working life, though. Qatar (35th), Oman (39th), and the UAE (46th) all perform below average, with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia once more at the back of the pack in 64th and 66th place, respectively. Over a third of respondents in Saudi Arabia (35%) are dissatisfied with their jobs while Kuwait (46%) also falls below the global average of 65%.

This year's poll introduced a new Digital Life sub-

Sports

Royals' Lopez falls three outs short of 24th perfect game in MLB history

Inciarte, Braves edge D-backs in wild 10th innings

MINNEAPOLIS: Kansas City right-hander Jorge Lopez pitched eight perfect innings before allowing a baserunner Saturday night, and the Royals defeated the Minnesota Twins 4-1 at Target Field in Minneapolis. Lopez, in only his seventh career start, flirted with history, retiring the first 24 Twins he faced. Max Kepler led off the ninth and induced a walk on a 3-1 count to break up the perfect game bid. Robbie Grossman, the next batter, broke up Lopez's no-hit bid, lacing a single to center. That ended Lopez's night. The former top-100 prospect left the game having thrown 110 pitches while striking out four. There have only been 23 perfect games recorded in major league history—the last one by Seattle's Felix Hernandez on Aug. 15, 2012, against Tampa Bay.

ROCKIES 4, DODGERS 2

Charlie Blackmon and Chris Iannetta homered, Kyle Freeland pitched six effective innings and Colorado beat Los Angeles in Denver. DJ LeMahieu had two hits, and Wade Davis pitched the ninth for his 39th save for the Rockies, who stayed in first place with the win. Colorado (78-63) increased its National League West lead over the Dodgers (77-65) to 1 1/2 games. Chris Taylor homered and Max Muncy had an RBI double in the ninth, when the Dodgers made it interesting against Davis. Cody Bellinger hit a two-out triple ahead of Muncy's double, but Davis struck out Yasmani Grandal on a full-count pitch to end the game.

BRAVES 5, DIAMONDBACKS 4 (10 INNINGS)

Ender Inciarte hit an RBI triple to cap a two-run 10th inning, and Atlanta took advantage of a season-high four Arizona errors in a road win. Ronald Acuna Jr. had two hits and two intentional walks, and Inciarte and Freddie Freeman had two hits apiece for the National League East-leading Braves (78-64), who took a 3 1/2-game lead over Philadelphia. The teams play seven times in the final 11 days of the regular season. Arizona (76-66) was out-hit 11-5 and fell 2 1/2 games behind Colorado in the NL West. The teams begin a four-game series in Colorado on Monday and play again in Arizona the following week.

METS 10, PHILLIES 5

Tomas Nido laced a three-run double in the second inning, and Todd Frazier hit a three-run homer in the third inning as host New York routed Philadelphia. The Mets' 12th win in their last 20 games was overshadowed by a pair of injuries. Starting pitcher Noah Syndergaard exited after taking a comebacker off his left rib cage in the seventh inning, two innings after left fielder Dominic Smith left due to a left groin strain. Syndergaard began walking off the mound after getting hit before a team trainer and Mets manager Mickey Callaway arrived there to check on him. He handed the ball to Callaway before disappearing into the Mets' dugout.

BREWERS 4, GIANTS 3

Left-hander Gio Gonzalez pitched effectively for 5 2/3 innings in his Milwaukee debut, leading the team to victory over visiting San Francisco. Travis Shaw and Christian Yelich homered for the Brewers (81-62), who pushed one game farther ahead of the St. Louis

Cardinals (78-64) in their duel for the first wild card in the National League. Milwaukee is now 2 1/2 games up. Gonzalez (8-11), acquired Aug. 31 from the Washington Nationals, limited the Giants to one unearned run and three hits in his 5 2/3 innings. He walked one and struck out seven.

TIGERS 4, CARDINALS 3

Victor Reyes scored on a wild pitch with one out in the ninth, giving Detroit its second consecutive walk-off victory over visiting St. Louis. Marcell Ozuna tied the game with two outs in the ninth on his third homer in two nights, but Bud Norris (3-5) gave it back in the bottom of the inning. Reyes reached on a two-base error by first baseman Matt Carpenter. Jeimer Candelario walked, and Jim Adduci sacrificed to move up both runners. Nicholas Castellanos was intentionally walked to load the bases, and Norris bounced the first pitch he threw to Victor Martinez.

NATIONALS 10, CUBS 3 (GAME 1)

Max Scherzer went the distance, scored a run and drove in another as Washington routed visiting Chicago in the first game of a doubleheader. Scherzer allowed nine hits in his nine innings, striking out 11 without a walk. Four of the hits came in the ninth when Chicago scored twice. The doubleheader was played because Friday night's game was washed out following two long rain delays.

NATIONALS 6, CUBS 5 (GAME 2)

Bryce Harper hit a two-run home run in the bottom of the seventh inning that capped Washington's comeback from an early four-run deficit to sweep its doubleheader with Chicago. Greg Holland worked around a leadoff hit by pitch in the ninth to earn his second save with the Nationals after a 1-hour, 29-minute rain delay in the bottom of the eighth inning. The Nationals needed to come back from a 4-0 deficit thanks to Victor Caratini's grand slam in the top of the fourth off starter Jeffry Rodriguez. Caratini crushed a 1-0 pitch into the seats for that early lead.

ASTROS 5, RED SOX 3

Alex Bregman and Martin Maldonado slugged solo home runs, and Charlie Morton worked five innings in his first start off the disabled list as Houston extended its winning streak to seven games with a win at Boston. Morton (14-3) skipped a turn in the rotation with right shoulder discomfort and, while he labored a bit, limited the Red Sox to two runs on seven hits and two walks with three strikeouts. Astros rookie right-hander Josh James, making his first career relief appearance and second overall, recorded eight crucial outs in relief of Morton. Closer Roberto Osuna recorded his sixth save with Houston (15th overall) despite allowing an RBI single to Andrew Benintendi.

ATHLETICS 8, RANGERS 6

Matt Olson hit Chris Martin's second pitch of the eighth inning for a tiebreaking home run, lifting Oakland past visiting Texas. The win allowed the A's (86-57) to keep pace with Houston (89-53) atop the American League West, 3 1/2 games back. After Adrian Beltre's second home run of the day for the Rangers, a



MINNEAPOLIS: Ryan O'Hearn #66 of the Kansas City Royals makes the out on Jorge Polanco #11 of the Minnesota Twins in the eighth inning at Target Field on Saturday in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Kansas City Royals defeated the Minnesota Twins 4-1. — AFP

two-run shot, tied the score at 6-6 in the top of the eighth, Olson wasted no time putting Oakland back on top for good with his 25th homer of the season.

YANKEES 4, MARINERS 2

Austin Romine hit a tiebreaking home run in the seventh inning as New York defeated host Seattle. Andrew McCutchen also homered for New York, which is 5-0 against the Mariners this year and will go for the season sweep Sunday afternoon. The Mariners threatened in the bottom of the ninth against Dellin Betances. Mitch Haniger led off with a double. An out later, Robinson Cano was hit in the left foot by a pitch, forcing him from the game. Betances then walked Nelson Cruz to load the bases. But Betances struck out Denard Span and Kyle Seager to earn his third save of the season.

INDIANS 9, BLUE JAYS 8

Roberto Perez homered, doubled and had four RBIs in a seven-run fifth inning as visiting Cleveland held on to defeat Toronto. Michael Brantley hit a two-run homer for the Indians. Randal Grichuk hit two solo homers for the Blue Jays. Rowdy Tellez added his first career homer, giving him seven extra-base hits in his first four major league games, and also singled.

ANGELS 12, WHITE SOX 3

Mike Trout hit two home runs and had five RBIs in his second career five-hit game, and Los Angeles won in a rout at Chicago. Trout hit a two-run homer in the first inning and hit a three-run shot in the third to start his 5-for-5 game. Shohei Ohtani added a three-run triple for the Angels, who have won three in a row. The

White Sox have dropped four straight.

RAYS 10, ORIOLES 5

Matt Duffy had two hits and two RBIs to lead Tampa Bay in a rout of visiting Baltimore. The Rays (77-64) stayed eight games behind Oakland for the second wild-card spot, also trailing Seattle. Meanwhile, the Orioles fell to 60 games under .500 at 41-101. The Rays jumped on the Orioles early, scoring four runs in the first and another in the second.

PIRATES 5, MARLINS 1

Ivan Nova pitched six scoreless innings, and Josh Bell homered for the second straight day to help Pittsburgh win its fifth straight game at visiting Miami's expense. Nova (8-9) had not pitched since Aug. 28 as he was granted a leave to attend to a personal matter in his native Dominican Republic. He showed no rust, allowing three hits, walking one and tying a season high with nine strikeouts. Marlins starter Wei-Yin Chen (6-10) gave up three runs and five hits in four innings, with six strikeouts and two walks.

REDS 7, PADRES 2 (7 INNINGS)

Joey Votto capped a seven-run second inning with Cincinnati's second grand slam in as many games, leading the hosts to a rain-shortened victory over San Diego. The umpiring crew halted the game with one out in the top of the seventh due to unplayable conditions after an infield single by the Padres' Jose Pirela. Right-hander Matt Harvey (7-8) gave up two runs—on a fourth-inning homer by Eric Hosmer—on four hits and three walks with 10 strikeouts over six innings to get the win. — Reuters

Fenati gets two-race ban for grabbing rival's brake

MILAN: Moto2 rider Romano Fenati has been banned for two races for grabbing Italian rival Stefano Manzi's brake during the San Marino motorcycling Grand Prix yesterday. Both were competing at high-speed around the Misano track when 22-year-old Kalex rider Fenati leaned over and pressed Manzi's brake lever. Manzi briefly lost his balance before regaining control of his Suter bike.

Fenati's actions followed Manzi's attempt to overtake his compatriot a few laps earlier. The pair had made contact as Manzi overtook on the inside, with both riders running off the track, losing several positions and dropping out of the points.

Fenati—a Moto2 rookie this year aboard a Marinelli Snipers-run Kalex bike—was black-flagged and disqualified after 23 laps for “irresponsible riding”. The FIM MotoGP stewards panel later announced that Fenati would miss the next two races in Aragon, Spain on September 23 and Thailand on October 7 for having “deliberately attempted to cause danger to another rider”.

“Riders must ride in a responsible manner which does not cause danger to other competitors or participants, either on the track or in the pit lane,” the FIM said in a statement. It is not the first time the Italian rider has been embroiled in controversy. He was forced to apologise for kicking out at Finnish rider Niklas Ajo during the Moto3 warm-up at the 2015 Argentinian Grand Prix.

He was dropped for disciplinary reasons during the 2016 season by the Sky Racing Team VR46, owned by Italian motorcycling star Valentino Rossi. “We had a contact two turns before, but nothing to justify such a reaction, his gesture speaks for itself,” said Manzi.—AFP

Mobil 1 high performance helps Verstappen take podium

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS: Powered by a new specification of Esso Synergy race fuel, Max Verstappen produced a spectacular drive to clinch a brilliant podium at Spa. Fresh from a summer break, the Formula One fraternity went back to work at the stunning Spa-Francorchamps circuit, nestled in the Ardennes Forest, for the iconic Belgian Grand Prix.

Verstappen started the weekend strongly, ending the opening practice session second fastest over all. As the weekend progressed, Aston Martin Red Bull Racing emerged as the third strongest team.

Both Verstappen and Ricciardo were on course to lock-out the third row in qualifying, but their track timing didn't quite work out when the rain came in the final part of qualifying and ended up seventh and eighth respectively.

Verstappen bolted away at the start, passing both Kimi Raikkonen and Romain Grosjean to run fifth. He then pulled off a brilliant move on Esteban Ocon before picking off Sergio Perez to take third.

From there he showed supreme pace, in front of thousands of Dutch fans dressed in orange who made the trip over to Belgium to support their leading driver, to comfortably hold on to the final podium spot, as Sebastian Vettel won.

It was a more frustrating weekend for Ricciardo, with the ‘Honey Badger’ involved in a collision at the start that damaged his front wing. Though the team got him back out, he was ultimately forced to retire.

Verstappen's third was his first podium since Austria, where he clinched his only win of the season so far, and helped him move above Ricciardo in the drivers' standings. Ahead of the race weekend, ExxonMobil Global Motorsports Technology Manager, David Tsurusaki, spoke to global media outlets about the latest Esso Synergy race fuel update, working with Renault and the upcoming Red Bull-Honda partnership.

Meanwhile, ExxonMobil Motorsport Technical Advisor Dario Izzo carried out a series of interviews and Esso Synergy race fuel and Mobil 1 oil sample tests in the Trackside Lab across the weekend with top-tier Dutch and Belgian media. Formula One now heads to Italy.



Max Verstappen celebrates victory in Austria



Sports

Rose leads McIlroy, Schauffele by one shot at BMW Championship

Rose not totally satisfied with his performance on the course

PENNSYLVANIA: Justin Rose carded six-under-par 64 for a one-stroke lead over Rory McIlroy and Xander Schauffele after the third round of the BMW Championship in Pennsylvania on Saturday. Englishman Rose notched six birdies on the front nine before running off nine successive pars in perfect scoring conditions on the rain-soaked Aronimink course outside Philadelphia.

He recorded a 17-under 193 total, while Northern Irishman McIlroy (63) vaulted into equal second place with American Schauffele (67) on 16-under. McIlroy sank a 40-foot birdie putt at the last, while Schauffele bogeyed the same hole, missing a 10-footer.

Englishman Tommy Fleetwood (62) and American Rickie Fowler (65) were two behind the leader. Tiger Woods did not capitalise on a birdie, birdie start, plodding to a 66 that left him five shots adrift. Preferred lies were allowed after heavy overnight rain left puddles on the waterlogged fairways. With marshmallow-soft greens and little wind, the course was at the mercy of the field.

Despite his lead, Rose was not totally satisfied with his performance on the course where he won the 2010 AT&T National on the PGA Tour. "Today was a struggle

at times," he told Golf Channel. "Not every shot felt in complete control.

"I didn't drive it as well as yesterday, especially on the back nine, wasn't able to make a birdie but more importantly was able to make a couple of good par saves, especially 17, and kept my nose ahead of the field. "I'm doing a lot of things well. All aspects of my game are turning up for me most days. It can never be perfect every day." Rose also won the 2013 in suburban Philadelphia at nearby Merion. McIlroy bounced back from a double-bogey at the par-three eighth with an eight-foot eagle at the par-five ninth.

"Weird day," he said. "They put a lot of the tees up. It was very wet but if you didn't shoot 65 you were losing ground. It was one of those days you had to stay aggressive." His birdie at the last brought a smile to his face. "It was going a little bit firm. It was nice to see it go in." Halfway leader Schauffele battled his driver but the rest of his game was solid. "I guess I hung in there," he said. "I'm just happy to have a shot tomorrow."

The event is the third of four playoff events on the PGA Tour. The top 30 players on a season-long points list after Sunday's final round will advance to the Tour Championship. — Reuters



NEWTOWN SQUARE: Justin Rose of England plays his shot from the fifth tee during the third round of the BMW Championship at Aronimink Golf Club on Saturday in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania. — AFP

More changes for All Blacks as Retallick, Laumape ruled out

WELLINGTON: All Blacks coach Steve Hansen will be forced to reshuffle his side again for next week's Rugby Championship clash with South Africa after lock Brodie Retallick and midfield back Ngani Laumape were ruled out with injury.

Both were replaced in the 10th minute of the All Blacks' 46-24 victory over Argentina in Nelson on Saturday. Retallick injuring his right shoulder after falling awkwardly in a tackle and Laumape suffering a knee ligament injury.

Auckland Blues lock Patrick Tuipulotu has been called into the squad as cover for Retallick, Hansen said yesterday. "Patrick will come in and Brodie will get scanned today and then we'll have a better idea how long he'll be, but it could be a maximum six weeks," Hansen said. "Hopefully that will be all. Minimum maybe three, so he'll be out for a wee while. Ngani's got grade-one ligament damage so he'll be two to three weeks." Hansen, with one eye on next year's Rugby World Cup in Japan, gave several less-experienced players an opportunity against Argentina to see if they could make the step up.

And against arguably the best Pumas side since the team that finished third at the 2007 World Cup, players like loose forward Shannon Frizell and prop Karl Tu'inukuafe did not disappoint. Frizell made one or two decision-making errors but lasted the full 80 minutes, producing several barnstorming runs and earning the praise of his coach.

"You couldn't be anything other than extremely happy with him," Hansen said. "He can be really satisfied ... with how well he's gone and I think he's got a big future." Tu'inukuafe, who started the year without a Super Rugby contract and was a surprise call-up as an injury replacement against France in June, did his prospects no harm either with another impressive performance, dominating 47-test veteran Nahuel Tetaz Chaparro.

It was not only the rookies who enhanced their reputations on Saturday, with scrumhalf TJ Perenara and flanker Ardie Savea playing some of their best rugby for the national side. Perenara distributed well, scored two tries and produced a try-saving tackle, while Savea, who has struggled to impose himself at test level, was combative at the breakdown, led both sides with 21 tackles and provided some of the explosive attacking momentum that has made him a crowd favourite. Such was the impact of the duo that few would now bat an eyelid if they were picked to start a knockout game at the World Cup. —Reuters

England's Anderson fined for dissent in India Test

LONDON: England fast bowler James Anderson has been fined 15 percent of his match fee for showing dissent to the umpire in Saturday's play in the fifth Test against India at the Oval. Anderson is just two shy of Australia great Glenn McGrath's record of 563 Test wickets—the most taken by any fast bowler.

Chasing that record on the second day of the Test, Anderson was angry at an unsuccessful lbw review against star batsman Virat Kohli in the 29th over of India's innings. He snatched his cap and jumper from umpire Kumar Dharmasena and "spoke to him in an aggressive manner", the ICC said in a statement issued on Sunday.

Anderson has admitted the offence and accepted the sanction, the ICC said. In addition to the fine, one demerit point has been added to his disciplinary record. England are on top in the Test with India set to resume on 174 for six—a deficit of 158 runs—after Kohli eventually fell to Ben Stokes for 49. England have an unassailable 3-1 lead in the five-match series. —AFP

Porter overpowers Garcia to claim WBC world title

NEW YORK: Former champion Shawn Porter defeated Danny Garcia by a unanimous decision late Saturday to win the vacant World Boxing Council welterweight title. The 30-year-old American won on all three judges scorecards as he threw more punches overall, but Garcia made it razor close by landing a higher percentage of punches at the Barclays Center arena in New York. It turned out to be a terrific 12-round, 147-pound slugfest as two judges had it 115-113 while the other scored it 116-112. The judges agreed on only four rounds. Porter solidified his position as being one of the best welterweights in boxing's deepest division.

"This title means a lot to me," said Porter. "It means a lot to the history and I wanted to be part of that." He is hoping this victory lands him a chance to avenge a loss to unbeaten Keith Thurman, or a unification fight with Errol Spence.

Porter bulled his way through the fight, coming straight ahead and smothering Garcia with jabs and body shots to improve his record to 35-1 with 20 KOs

in front of the crowd of 13,000.

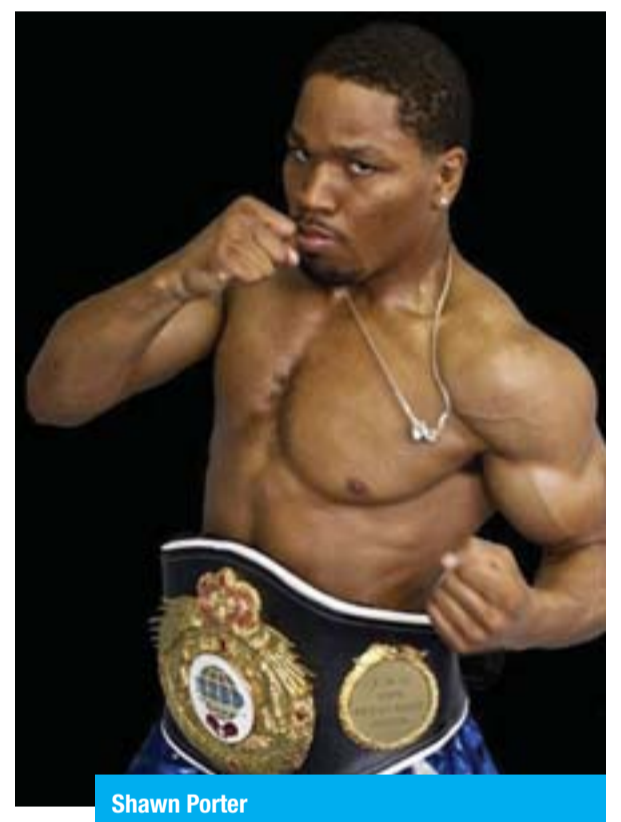
"He tried to out hustle me mostly at the end of the rounds. His hustle game was up tonight. I did my best to fight from the outside and the inside," said Porter. Garcia made his mark in the division with brilliant counterpunching skills, but he also had his left hook working well against the fellow American as the two traded rounds throughout most of the fight.

Garcia suffered just the third loss of his career to go with 28 victories. "I thought I won this fight," said Garcia. Porter beat Devon Alexander in 2013 for the International Boxing Federation welterweight title and defended that crown twice before losing it by majority decision to Britain's Kell Brook in 2014.

Garcia beat Mexico's Erik Morales for the WBC super-lightweight crown in March 2012 and took the World Boxing Association version of the crown from Britain's Amir Khan four months later. He spent two years ruling the division before moving up in weight.

In 2016, he beat Robert Guerrero for the WBC welterweight crown but lost it last year to Thurman in a split decision at Barclays Center. Garcia last fought in February, stopping Brandon Rios.

Thurman needed right elbow surgery after beating Garcia, and suffered a bruised left hand last March in training for his next fight. He vacated the WBC crown in April, setting the stage for Garcia to face Porter with the winner a possible next foe for Thurman, 28-0 with 22 knockouts. —AFP



Shawn Porter

European clubs' finances healthier than ever: UEFA study

LAUSANNE: Europe's leading clubs are in ruder financial health than ever before, according to a study published yesterday by UEFA, which indicates that top-division football on the continent has become profitable for the first time on record.

In 2017, European clubs reported a combined total of 600 million euros (\$693.4 million) in profits after

transfers were taken into account, said the study, seen by AFP, into the impact of financial fair play (FFP) rules. The figure compares to losses of 1.7 billion euros in 2011, the year in which European football's governing body introduced FFP. Even in 2016, European clubs lost a combined 300 million euros. The figures are taken from a compilation of the financial results of some 718 top-division clubs across 54 leagues in Europe. "This clearly demonstrates that financial fair play works," insisted UEFA's Slovenian president Aleksander Ceferin.

FFP was brought in to ensure that clubs competing in European competitions do not spend more than they earn, or post losses of more than 30 million euros over three seasons. Any club violating these rules can face sanctions from UEFA, with punishments including bans

from European competitions or bans from signing players. Among the clubs to have come under scrutiny from UEFA for possible breaches of FFP are French champions Paris Saint-Germain and seven-time European Cup winners AC Milan. But clubs have also been helped by the fact that incomes are greater than ever before—total top-flight club revenue in 2017 reached a record 20.1 billion euros, up 1.6 billion euros on the previous year.

These revenues have multiplied by seven since 1996, largely thanks to huge increases in television deals.

Accordingly, the study shows that spending on transfers has risen enormously among European clubs, with 95 percent more being committed last year compared with 2014. However, the study also shows that, for the fourth time in five years, revenues increased at a faster rate than wages. —AFP

Improving Pumas show World Cup credentials in Nelson defeat

WELLINGTON: Argentina's impressive performance against the All Blacks in the Rugby Championship highlighted how much of a threat they are likely to pose at next year's Rugby World Cup, especially if they can iron out problems with their scrum.

The Pumas pushed the All Blacks for much of the game in Nelson on Saturday, before late Shannon Frizell and Jack Goodhue tries ballooned the score to a 46-24 advantage for the world champions. It was their attacking prowess, however, that was most evident at Trafalgar Park, with outside backs Emiliano Boffelli, Bautista Delguy and Ramiro Moyano carving out a combined 236 metres and beating 17 defenders. The trio popped up all over the field, able to exploit gaps prised open by their forwards and fly-half Nicolas Sanchez's deft distribution. Such was their performance, New Zealand Herald rugby writer Gregor Paul said they were a far different side than the one that entered the championship in 2012.

"They have been willing but not so able," Paul wrote. "They have been physical without the finesse to manipulate the last vestiges of the defence. "They have been a 65-minute team, tough, frustrating and rugged: hard to break down until the last quarter when they make a few mistakes and are punished.

"But the old Argentina may be just that. In Nelson, the new Pumas were unveiled." The major concern for their World Cup Pool C opponents in Japan, a group which includes England and France, is that the Pumas have made massive strides under Mario Ledesma, who replaced Daniel Hourcade after he resigned in June. It would not



NELSON: New Zealand's TJ Perenara (R) scores a try with Argentina's Guido Petti Pagadizaval during the Rugby match between New Zealand and Argentina at Trafalgar Park in Nelson, New Zealand on Saturday. —

have hurt that Ledesma spent the previous eight months in charge of Super Rugby's Jaguares, who are ostensibly the national side, as he guided them to the playoffs of the southern hemisphere tournament for the first time.

While they lost his first test in charge against the Springboks in Durban, they bounced back to beat Rassie Erasmus's side in Mendoza two weeks ago—a defeat the South African coach said had thrown his own World Cup planning into disarray.

Despite their obvious improvements, Ledesma

acknowledged they were still struggling in the set piece, particularly in the scrum with their pack shunted back several times on Saturday and heavily penalised.

"We really need to improve there. We got torn apart," said Ledesma, who is widely acknowledged as having turned around the Wallabies scrum when he worked with Australia coach Michael Cheika from 2015-17. "That has been going on for the last couple of years. "Unfortunately the other teams really go hard at us there and it does not make it easy for us." — Reuters

Sports

Optimism for 'new Spain' as Luis Enrique opens with win at Wembley

Kane receives Golden Boot award

MADRID: "This is the new Spain", hailed the country's top sports daily Marca, after Luis Enrique's new dawn began with an affirming 2-1 win over England at Wembley on Saturday. Spain dropped to ninth in the FIFA rankings, three places below England, after their World Cup defeat to Russia but there was little doubting the more dominant team in London.

The excellent Saul Niguez, who cancelled out Marcus Rashford's opener, was the stand-out performer while Rodrigo Moreno's winner brought a rush of Spanish optimism for the future under their new coach. "Luis Enrique has started big, with a victory at Wembley," wrote Madrid daily, Diario AS. "A triumph that opens the Nations League and closes the nightmare of the World Cup."

His promise was for evolution not revolution and Spain delivered, combining possession with spontaneity and precision, the type of which was so lacking during their stilted performances in Russia. "Spain has not lost the touch (and it should not) but aims to be much more versatile," wrote Marca. "The team was more vertical and much more aggressive without the ball. They used high pressure and England suffered."

Luis Enrique's task is not only to tweak but convince the players, and fans, that adjustment is the best way forward. Victories will bring belief. "It is a game that reinforces us in a special way," Spain's new coach said. "Because not every day do you win in a stadium like this."

Barcelona daily, Mundo Deportivo, noted Luis Enrique's dynamism on the touchline: "The Spaniard put his stamp on the team from the first minute. He spent the game standing, giving instructions, correcting, screaming, suffering and applauding from the bench."

El Pais attached a wider significance to the contest, circling it as a fork in the road for La Roja. "Few decisions in the recent history of Spanish football have had as much weight as the first game of Luis Enrique," it wrote. "After five years of progressive deterioration of the style that put the team at the top of the world, the hope of a return to

greatness had dissipated."

Among the innovations was Saul, who "personified the change after being wasted in Russia", according to Marca, with the Atletico Madrid midfielder drawing praise from all corners of the Spanish press.

"Saul showed the injustice of his World Cup ostracism because he was the best," crowed AS. "He was the leader of the team." Luis Enrique agreed. "Saul has a beast of a physique, he's smart, he's a very complete player," he said.

This was also an examination for the old as well as the new, in particular David de Gea, who endured a disappointing World Cup, with the suggestion that Chelsea's Kepa Arrizabalaga could take his place in goal.

Luis Enrique branded the criticism "ridiculous" and his show of faith was arguably more important than either the instinctive, early save from Rashford or the fumbled catch under pressure from Danny Welbeck late on.

"You have to smile for De Gea," wrote Marca. "The United goalkeeper has always had good hands but the problem was in his head. He has the coach's confidence and now he has to recover his own." It was not the perfect performance and there is work to do. Spain's high pressing left them vulnerable on the counter-attack, which England exploited brilliantly for the opening goal.

"It is the risk that our game carries," Sergio Ramos said. "When you open up the pitch, any missed passes will leave you disorganised." "The strategy is clearly offensive," AS reflected. "But almost nobody looks back."

There was also disappointment with Isco, who is expected to become a talisman for this new era but failed to make his mark. "He did not participate as he likes, nor did he lead the team and he was somewhat lost in the left wing," AS wrote. "Until the second half he hardly participated," added Mundo Deportivo. "It was a small blot on an otherwise rejuvenating night for Spain."

Earlier, England captain Harry Kane was finally acquainted with the Golden Boot he won at the World Cup ahead of the Three Lions' Nations League opener against



LONDON: England's striker Harry Kane is presented with his Golden Boot award for being the top goal-scorer at the 2018 World Cup in Russia ahead of the UEFA Nations League football match between England and Spain at Wembley Stadium in London on Saturday. —AFP

Spain on Saturday. A near capacity 90,000 crowd at Wembley came to show their appreciation of England's run to the semi-finals in Russia for the first time in 28 years. Kane, who scored six goals in seven games, was

presented with the award by England manager Gareth Southgate before kick-off. To mark the occasion, the Spurs striker wore a special pair of gold boots for the clash with the 2010 world champions. —AFP

Salah scores twice, misses two penalties in Egypt romp

JOHANNESBURG: Liverpool ace Mohamed Salah scored twice and missed two penalties as Egypt made a dream debut under Mexican coach Javier Aguirre by crushing Niger 6-0 Saturday in Africa Cup of Nations qualifying.

Salah had clashed with Egyptian football officials ahead of the matchday 2 qualifier in Alexandria for the 2019 finals over image-rights violations and personal security. But once on the pitch, the Egypt superstar was quickly in the thick of the action, winning a first-minute penalty which was blocked.

After Marwan Mohsen and Ayman Ashraf goals gave the 2018 World Cup flops a two-goal edge, Salah had another penalty saved, but scored from the rebound for a 3-0 half-time advantage.

The Liverpool sharpshooter, who scored 32 English Premier League goals last season in his first campaign at Anfield, created the fourth goal for rising star Salah Mohsen. Salah netted the fifth and Mohamed Eleny from Arsenal completed the rout with a goal two minutes into stoppage time. It was a wonderful start for former Mexico and Japan manager Aguirre, who recently signed a four-year contract as boss of the record seven-time African champions. He succeeded Argentine Hector Cuper, whose contract was not renewed after Egypt lost all three group matches, to Uruguay, hosts Russia and Saudi Arabia, at the 2018 World Cup.

Despite the huge victory margin, Egypt trail Tunisia in Group J on the head-to-head rule having lost 1-0 away to the north Africans in the first round 15 months ago. Nigeria were another team who rebounded from failing to make the World Cup last-16 in Russia by winning convincingly — 3-0 away to traditional minnows the Seychelles in Group E.

Captain Ahmed Musa, Chidozie Awaziem and Odion



ALEXANDRIA: Egypt's Mohamed Salah (C) scores a goal against Niger's goalkeeper Kassaly Daouda (L) during the Africa Cup of Nations qualifier match between Egypt and Niger on Saturday in Borg el-Arab stadium near the Mediterranean city of Alexandria. — AFP

Ighalo, from a penalty, scored for the Super Eagles, but it was home goalkeeper Dave Mussard who became the centre of attention. Pictures of the clearly overweight 31-year-old, a part-time footballer who also works as a hotel pastry chef, went viral.

Former Dutch star Clarence Seedorf survived a scare in his debut as coach of Cameroon, who fought back to draw 1-1 with lowly-ranked Comoros in the southeastern Africa island state. El Fardou Ben Mohamed from Red Star Belgrade gave a nation ranked 102 places below the Cup of Nations title-holders an early lead on an artificial pitch in steamy conditions.

It took the Indomitable Lions a further 65 minutes to level through French top-tier player Stephane Bahoken, and spare former Real Madrid midfielder Seedorf's blushes. Seedorf, whose assistant is another former Dutch star, Patrick Kluijvert, survived less than six months in three oth-

er managerial posts, including AC Milan and Deportivo la Coruna.

Cameroon qualify automatically for the 2019 tournament as hosts, but are competing in Group B to gain match practice instead of having to rely on meaningless friendlies. There was plenty of Group K drama with Zambia and shock 2017 Cup of Nations qualifiers Guinea-Bissau snatching away draws in stoppage time.

Mozambique went ahead in additional time against Guinea-Bissau only to concede in the 97th minute and had to settle for a 2-2 draw in the top-of-the-table Maputo showdown. Belgian Sven Vandenbroeck, an assistant coach of the 2017 Cameroon Cup of Nations-winning team, debuted as Zambia boss with a fortunate 1-1 draw against Namibia. Justin Shonga levelled for Zambia in stoppage time when his free-kick was deflected into the corner of the net in Windhoek. —AFP

homeland, garnered a paltry combined three wins from 23 matches, after which he resumed his playing career, albeit briefly.

Nonetheless, he was still hired to lead Argentina in 2008 and took them to the World Cup quarter-finals two years later, where they were humbled 4-0 by Germany. Fans, whose team has yet to win a match this season, seem little concerned by Maradona's coaching credentials: his last job was for Al Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates second division.

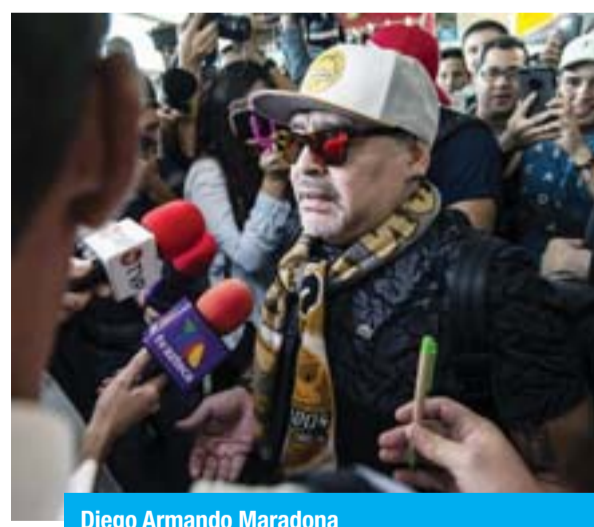
"His other coaching experiences weren't good but that's the same for other coaches when they started," Bryan Felix, a 19-year-old who said he struggled to believe it was true when Maradona's signing was announced, told AFP. "More than anything, I feel a lot of hope," added an emotional Sergio Garcia, who had waited two hours to see Maradona.

Maradona has been making all the right noises. "Happy for this new work opportunity. Happy to return to the land where I was world champion and where I retain very happy memories," he wrote on Instagram.

"I want to tell you that I'm approaching this new stage with humility." He also sent a message of support to Mexico's new left-wing president Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador. Maradona has expressed in the past support for two of Latin America's most famous socialist leaders: Cuba's Fidel Castro and Hugo Chaves of Venezuela, both now deceased.

He also sports a tattoo of revolutionary icon Che Guevara. "Latin America needs to stay united, and in peace, against imperialism, which every day deploys its weapons to take everything at the expense of the people's hunger," he added on Instagram, in a clear reference to Mexico's northern neighbor, the United States.

Maradona's signing, as replacement for Mexican Francisco Ramirez, was announced on Thursday. He



Diego Armando Maradona

will be officially presented today as technical director but won't take control of a match until September 17.

Dorados, previously best known as the club where Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola ended his career, are 13th out of 15 teams in the second division. Despite his new coaching role, Maradona will remain honorary president of Belarusian club Dinamo Brest, a post he's held since July, his lawyer said.

His arrival at a club in the state made notorious by the Sinaloa drug cartel of jailed kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, has sparked a series of jokes on social media. Maradona has admitted to struggling with drug addiction in the past and once served a ban during his playing days for taking cocaine. "Maradona is headed to a place full of narcotics. What could possibly go wrong?" cracked one Twitter user. —AFP

Scotland desperate to end tournament pain

GLASGOW: Scotland face Albania in their first Nations League match today with long-suffering fans hoping they can take the first step on the road to ending a 20-year absence from major tournaments.

The new competition is designed to replace international friendlies with more competitive matches and also provides a second route to qualification for the European Championship. And with Glasgow's Hampden Park one of the host venues for the tournament in 2020, it gives Alex McLeish's team, thumped 4-0 by Belgium in a friendly on Friday, added incentive to qualify.

The Scots reached five successive World Cups between 1974 and 1990 thanks to top-quality players such as Kenny Dalglish, Graeme Souness, Denis Law, Billy Bremner and Archie Gemmill. But two decades and 10 major international tournaments have passed since Scotland faced Brazil in the opening game of France 98.

A generation of Scots has been forced to look on enviously as other, smaller, nations such as Iceland, Croatia and neighbours Wales and Northern Ireland have qualified for major tournaments. Managerial mistakes, lack of facilities, poor youth development and even genetics have been suggested as possible reasons for Scotland's qualification woes. Former Rangers, Brighton and Manchester City forward Gordon Smith—who was chief executive of the Scottish Football Association (SFA) from 2007 to 2010 — says everyone from the government down should shoulder some of the blame. "There are a lot more nations aiming to qualify now and the standard has improved greatly but I think the biggest disappointment for Scotland is looking at nations the size of Iceland qualifying," Smith told AFP.

"They put a lot of work into changing things and I would give them a lot of credit for that. They changed their game in order to make sure they were producing better players. "Why has Iceland's football improved so much? Because they've spent a lot of money on facilities." Smith said Scotland lacks facilities, including indoor pitches, but that the government does not see building infrastructure as their duty with all the money washing around in the game. "But I think the government has to get involved in order to get these facilities built because they are crucial to the standards we need to reach," he said.

SFA performance director Malky Mackay, who has responsibility for Project Brave, set up to develop young players, agrees that Scotland lacks sporting facilities. "You look at Iceland," he told BBC Scotland. "They built 10 indoor domes for them in a country that for six months of the year it was dark. All of a sudden kids were able to play all year round and their touch got better."

"Lo and behold, their under-17s and under-19s and full squad have started improving. We have got to get kids the facilities." Smith believes Scotland are slowly starting to reap the rewards for an increasing focus on youth development.

"One of the problems we had for a number of years was this pathway to bring through young players wasn't there and we had very few players playing at the highest level," he said.

"Rangers and Celtic had a lot of foreign players in their teams and there weren't as many Scottish players at the highest level in England as there were in the past. "But I think we are getting there. We are bringing through a lot more good young players and there's quite a few now playing down in England, which is good as the standards there are high."

"We now need to make sure that the people who are taking the professional players, when they get to that level, are coaching them in the right way and the right manner in order that we can compete." —AFP

Dozens of fans laud Maradona's arrival in Mexico

CULIACAN: Diego Maradona arrived to a hero's welcome in Mexico on Saturday as the new technical director of second division Dorados landed in the relative footballing outpost of Culiacan. "Welcome Golden God! Thank you God, thank you Maradona!" read one of the placards held by fans greeting him at the Culiacan airport.

Dressed all in black but wearing a gold, white and black Dorados scarf, Maradona didn't speak to any of the dozens of fans welcoming him. Accompanied by club officials and his lawyer, Maradona wasted little time negotiating the sea of fans and journalists and being whisked off to meet his new players.

The 57-year-old may have been one of the greatest ever players to lace up a pair of boots, leading Argentina to World Cup success in Mexico in 1986, but his new and humble surroundings are more in keeping with an inglorious record as a coach.

"When someone like Diego comes here it's more due to his interest than for economic offers," said Jose Antonio Nunez, president of a club whose owners, the Hank family, have been accused of links to Mexico's lucrative and violent drug-trafficking industry. "He knows what it's like to start from the bottom, he knows the value of a lower league."

Maradona's first two coaching experiences at the modest Mandiyu and popular Racing Club, both in his

25 Royals' Lopez falls three outs short of 24th perfect game in MLB history

26 Rose leads McIlroy, Schauffele by one shot at BMW Championship

27 Optimism for 'new Spain' as Luis Enrique opens with win at Wembley



Japan's Osaka claims US Open title

Serena accuses umpire of being a thief, sanctions possible for Williams



NEW YORK: Naomi Osaka of Japan poses with the championship trophy after winning the Women's Singles finals match against Serena Williams of the United States on Day Thirteen of the 2018 US Open at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center on Saturday. — AFP

NEW YORK: Naomi Osaka became Japan's first Grand Slam singles champion after she thumped Serena Williams 6-2 6-4 in a controversial US Open final on Saturday, with the American suffering a mesmerizing meltdown after being handed a code violation.

It was drama-filled conclusion to a final that was rich with storylines but will now go down as one of the most controversial Grand Slam finals of all time. There was much riding on the match for both women, with Osaka bidding to become the first man or woman from Japan to lift a Grand Slam singles title and Williams poised to equal Margaret Court's record of 24 major titles.

In the end it was Osaka making history but on a day of bizarre events her victory will only be a footnote to what is sure to go down as one of the most infamous matches ever played at Flushing Meadows.

The chaotic finish filled with screaming, tears and jeers cast a cloud over what should have been Osaka's shining moment. Standing on the podium waiting to be handed her trophy and a winner's cheque for \$3.8 million, Osaka heard only boos as an angry crowd took

out their frustration on Portuguese chair umpire Carlos Ramos, who stood to the side. "I know everyone was cheering for her and I'm sorry it had to end like this," said Osaka. "It was always my dream to play Serena in the U.S. Open finals ... I'm really grateful I was able to play with you."

With Osaka in control of the match after taking the first set, Ramos sent Williams into a rage when he handed the 23-time Grand Slam champion a code violation in the second game of the second set after he spotted the American's coach Patrick Mouratoglou making some hand signals from the player's box.

A string of bad behaviour followed from Williams and she went on to incur a point penalty for smashing her racket before being slapped with a game penalty at 4-3 down after she launched into a verbal attack against Ramos, accusing him of being "a liar" and "a thief for stealing a point from me".

The game penalty put Osaka 5-3 up and the 20-year-old Japanese kept her cool to pull off the win. Mouratoglou later admitted he had been coaching but

in another strange twist an unrepentant Williams continued to deny she had received any advice and was instead a victim of sexism.

"He (Ramos) alleged that I was cheating, and I wasn't cheating," said Williams. "I've seen other men call other umpires several things. 'I'm here fighting for women's rights and for women's equality and for all kinds of stuff."

"For me to say 'thief' and for him to take a game, it made me feel like it was a sexist remark." Almost lost in the chaos was a fearless and cool display from Osaka. Before Williams's meltdown, Osaka had already put the 36-year-old under rarely seen pressure. Osaka had given Williams plenty of respect but no other concessions as she grabbed the early break on a double fault by her idol for a 2-1 first set lead that she would not let go.

Playing on tennis's biggest stage in her first Grand Slam final, the enormity of the moment did not faze Osaka while Williams, contesting her 31st major final, looked unsteady. Williams's implosion was not a totally unfamiliar sight for tennis fans, who watched a similar

meltdown nine years earlier on Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Playing the semi-finals against Kim Clijsters, Williams flew into a rage after a line judge called her for a foot-fault on a second serve, leaving her match point down to the Belgian. Williams launched into an expletive-laced rant at the official. She waved her racket in the lineswoman's direction and then shook a ball in her clenched fist as she threatened to "shove it down" her throat.

She was initially fined \$10,500 for unsportsmanlike behaviour, the maximum allowed on site at a tournament, and was then slapped with an additional \$164,500 fine and put on probation for two years by the Grand Slam Committee.

Williams could face further sanctions for her actions on Saturday against Osaka, the WTA issuing a statement that they will be looking into the incident. "There are matters that need to be looked into that took place during the match," said the WTA. "For tonight, it is time to celebrate these two amazing players, both of whom have great integrity." — Reuters

NFL kneeling protests resume as Trump warns of ratings

MIAMI: NFL players resumed kneeling protests during the pre-game playing of the US national anthem at yesterday's 2018 season openers as US President Donald Trump warned dimming TV ratings will plunge.

Miami Dolphins receivers Kenny Stills and Albert Wilson kneeled during "The Star-Spangled Banner" and defensive end Robert Quinn raised a fist during the song ahead of the team's season opener against visiting Tennessee.

The protests for social justice and against racial

inequality, started by former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick in 2016, continued for a third consecutive season. Just hours before yesterday's game, Trump tweeted about the dip in NFL ratings for Thursday's season-opening game compared to past seasons, hinting that players standing for the anthem could restore lost viewership.

"Wow, NFL first game ratings are way down over an already really bad last year comparison," Trump tweeted yesterday morning. "Viewership declined 13%, the lowest in over a decade. If the players stood proudly for our Flag and Anthem, and it is all shown on broadcast, maybe ratings could come back? Otherwise worse!"

Trump jumped on the issue a year ago at a rally in Alabama, calling any player who didn't stand for the anthem a "son of a b..." who was insulting the nation and its military. Players have steadfastly maintained their protest is aimed at social and racial issues while Trump has pushed that players should be fired for disrespecting the flag.

NFL owners, who did not have a policy on the matter, in May passed a policy forcing players to stand for

the anthem on the sidelines or stay off the field. But the NFL Players Association filed a grievance over the policy, saying it denied members freedom of expression, and talks could not resolve the issue before the season began. ESPN reported yesterday, citing unnamed sources, that there would be no new policy regarding anthem protests this season. Kaepernick has sued the NFL on charges of collusion, saying owners have conspired to keep him from having a job since he became a free agent last year. This is his second season without an NFL job after his protest-launching moves with San Francisco in 2016.

Kaepernick was the focus of a new advertisement campaign by sportswear manufacturer Nike that made its national debut on Thursday's opening NFL telecast. Commemorating the 30th anniversary of Nike's "Just Do It" campaign, the message of the Kaepernick commercials is: "Believe in something. Even if it costs you everything."

Nike reported a 31% sales boost during the Labor Day holiday weekend this year over last year after the advertisement debuted online. — AFP



FOXBOROUGH: Tom Brady #12 of the New England Patriots reacts as he runs onto the field before the game against the Houston Texans at Gillette Stadium yesterday. — AFP