



In observance of the Hijri New Year, Kuwait Times will resume publication on Thursday, September 13, 2018.

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Kuwait stresses joint action as GCC military chiefs meet

Khudher calls for cooperation to face current and future threats

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Chief of Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lt Gen Mohammed Al-Khudher yesterday said the GCC joint defense agreement reflects strong ties between the Gulf countries. "Our region is currently facing many regional and international challenges, which obliges us to preserve our strong ties through joint efforts to protect our unity and improve it," he said during the 15th meeting of the Supreme Military Committee of GCC chiefs of staff that was held yesterday and attended by all members.

The meeting aimed to achieve more coordination between the armed forces of the GCC states. "The most important topic of this meeting is joint military action, which aims to strengthen joint cooperation in order to face present and future challenges threatening the GCC countries. We also look forward to exchanging experiences through intensive joint training between the armed forces in the GCC, which will increase their abilities. Exchanging knowledge and academic experience

between member states has resulted in plans to establish the GCC Academy for Strategic and Security Studies," stressed Khudher.

Assistant Secretary General for Military Affairs Lt Gen Ahmad Al-Ali spoke about the agenda of the committee, including several topics set by both the operations and training committee and the financial committee. "These topics include joint military leadership, a study on the GCC Academy for Strategic and Security Studies and some projects on secure communications," he pointed out. "These subjects are related to continuous joint military work, and we look forward to come up with recommendations and resolutions that will support and strengthen our joint system," stated Ali.

The Gulf commanders will meet representatives of the US Central Command and those of the Egyptian and Jordanian armies tomorrow, a Kuwaiti defense ministry official said on Sunday on condition of anonymity. The meetings will come just over a week after Pentagon chief James Mattis and Centcom head General Joseph Votel held talks in the Gulf.



KUWAIT: Gulf Cooperation Council's armed forces' chiefs of staff pose for photographs ahead of a meeting in Kuwait City yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

News in brief

Arrest over breakfast video

RIYADH: Saudi authorities have arrested an Egyptian hotel worker who appeared in an "offensive" video eating breakfast with a female Saudi colleague, the labor ministry said Sunday, adding that the hotel owner was summoned for questioning. The footage, which sparked outrage on social media in the kingdom, showed the pair sharing a meal at a desk. The woman, dressed in a full-length abaya and niqab, is seen waving to the camera and feeding the man - who was filming - with her hand. The public prosecution later urged residents in the kingdom to respect "values and traditions of the Saudi society". — Agencies

Jewels stolen at Paris Ritz

PARIS: A member of the Saudi royal family has reported the theft of hundreds of thousands of euros' worth of jewelry from her hotel room at the Ritz hotel in Paris, police sources said yesterday. The person, who was not identified by name, said the theft - which would be the second reported jewel heist at the five-star hotel on Place Vendôme this year - took place on Friday afternoon. The jewels, worth an estimated €800,000 (\$930,000), were not in a safe when they were taken and there was no sign of forced entry, the source said, confirming a report on France Info radio. France Info said the victim was a Saudi princess staying in one of the hotel's suites. — AFP

Iran arrests theatre duo

TEHRAN: Two leading theatre figures in Iran have been arrested over a trailer for Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" featuring men and women dancing together. Prominent director Maryam Kazemi and venue manager Saeed Asadi were detained on Sunday on the orders of the judiciary, said Shahram Karami of the ministry of culture and Islamic guidance. Karami said the "type of music played" and the actors' "movements" were the main problem with the trailer. The play had already been showing for seven nights at City Theatre and only had one night left to run when the pair was arrested. — AFP

Imam dismissed from post

TASHKENT: An Uzbek imam has been sacked after urging President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to lift a ban on personal religious symbols such as women's hijabs and beards for men. Mirziyoyev has relaxed restrictions on religious freedoms as part of his campaign of liberal economic and political reforms in the former Soviet republic. But his government stopped short of lifting a decades-long ban on religious clothes and attributes, and specifically barred female students from wearing hijabs in schools by a decree issued last month. The move prompted criticism on social networks led by Fazliddin Parpiyev, then imam of the Omina mosque in Tashkent, who was dismissed from his post on Sunday. — Reuters



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets Philippine Presidential Adviser on Overseas Filipino Workers Abdullah Mamao yesterday. — KUNA

Manila assisting maid involved in stabbing incident

By Ben Garcia

MANILA: The Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has announced that it will extend all possible assistance to a Filipina domestic helper held by Kuwaiti authorities for allegedly stabbing her employer. In a statement, the DFA said the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait is assisting the distressed household service worker from Maguindanao and is in touch with Kuwaiti authorities investigating her case.

Continued on Page 24

US ups pressure on Palestinians, closes mission in Washington

WASHINGTON: The United States announced yesterday it will shutter the Palestinians' mission in Washington, adding further pressure on them to enter peace talks with Israel. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert accused the Palestine Liberation Organization of refusing to support negotiations while a Palestinian official called the move a "dangerous escalation" of tensions in the region.

"We have permitted the PLO office to conduct operations that support the objective of achieving a lasting, comprehensive peace between Israelis and the Palestinians since the expiration of a previous waiver in November 2017," said Nauert. "However, the PLO has not taken steps to advance the start of direct and meaningful negotiations with Israel," Nauert said. "To the contrary, PLO leadership has condemned a US peace plan they have not yet seen and refused to engage with the US government with respect to peace efforts and otherwise," she said.

The announced closure was the latest move by President Donald Trump to push the Palestinians into peace talks, toward what the US president has termed the "ultimate deal." But the Palestinians have accused the Trump administration of being one-sided in its approach. "This is yet another affirmation of the Trump administration's policy to collectively punish the Palestinian people, including by cutting financial support for humanitarian services including health and education," PLO secretary-general Saeb Erekat said in a statement. The move to not



GAZA: Israeli soldiers keep watch as a Palestinian protestor runs with his national flag on the beach near the maritime border with Israel in Beit Lahia during a demonstration calling for the lifting of the Israeli blockade on the enclave yesterday. — AFP

grant the mission its normal six-month renewal came after Palestinian leaders allegedly breached the arrangement by calling for Israeli officials to be prosecuted at the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

Continued on Page 24

Indian opposition leads protests over high fuel prices

NEW DELHI: Indians set tyres on fire, vandalized petrol stations and blocked roads and railways yesterday as opposition parties led nationwide demonstrations against rising fuel prices. The protests were called by the opposition Congress party led by Rahul Gandhi, who is looking to challenge Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in general elections expected in early 2019.

"Ever since the BJP came to power (in 2014) fuel prices have been going up. Prime Minister Modi has failed to deliver on his promises to the people," Gandhi, 48, told a crowd in Delhi. "Your money is being looted... Hatred is being spread. Wherever you see, Indians are fighting one another," said the scion of the long-powerful Gandhi-Nehru dynasty. Police and demonstrators scuffled in the central state of Madhya Pradesh - currently held by the BJP, but which goes to the polls

Continued on Page 24



AGARTALA, India: A supporter of Indian National Congress lifts a burning tyre during a nationwide general strike against the petrol price hike in the capital of the northeastern state of Tripura yesterday. — AFP

Local

Amir returns to Kuwait today after US visit

Crown Prince, Prime Minister meet outgoing ambassadors



KUWAIT: His Highness Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the Russian Ambassador to Kuwait Alexi Solomatn. — KUNA photos



His Highness Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Kuwait Mohammad Halilovic.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Ambassador of Russia to Kuwait Alexi Solomatn.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Kuwait Mohammad Halilovic.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah returns to Kuwait today after visiting the United States and meeting with US President Donald Trump in Washington, DC.

Separately, His Highness Deputy Amir and Crown

Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at his office in Seif Palace the Russian Ambassador to Kuwait Alexi Solomatn on the end of his tenure. His Highness Deputy Amir also received the Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Kuwait

Mohammad Halilovic on the end of his tenure. Both meetings were attended by the head of protocol at His Highness the Crown Prince Diwan, Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Imoud Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-

Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also received the outgoing Russian and Bosnian ambassadors at Seif Palace yesterday. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received the National Security Bureau's (NSA) Chief Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. — KUNA

Author Buwair celebrates Amir's UN honoring anniversary

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: On the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the honoring of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah by the United Nations as the 'Humanitarian Leader' and Kuwait as a 'Humanitarian Center', author Abdullah Buwair held an awards ceremony for the families of martyrs on Sunday at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Buwair also commemorated Sheikhha Fareeha Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who passed away last month. "She was the President of the Kuwait Society for the Ideal Family, President of the Girls' Sports Club and was named a goodwill ambassador. She always attended all the activities and celebrations that I held. This year she didn't attend and people were wondering why, and this was because she was sick. And on August 12, 2018, we were shocked by her death," he said.

"Sheikha Fareeha was the daughter of the tenth Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and was born in Dasma Palace. She was the mother of four children. She was known for her passion and caring for humanitarian work, especially the family and the mother, as she believed it's the base of the community. She received many awards for her social work," added Buwair.

He also spoke about HH the Amir, saying he is the first Arab leader to be awarded this title by the United Nations. "This is an honor for all Kuwaitis and for Kuwait as well, as it was named a 'Humanitarian Center'. This is considered the golden era for Kuwait in the field of humanitarian work. On January 29, 2006, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad became the Amir of Kuwait, taking the country to new heights," stressed Buwair.

"HH the Amir is a man of forgiveness. This is clear from the present Kuwaiti-Iraqi relations, which have strongly developed since the Iraqi invasion. Bilateral ties have improved, including investments, border demarcation, and the issue of martyrs and the missing. He is also systematically supporting Arab countries in need, and has helped countries suffering from disasters and crises. Also, Kuwait is helping charity organizations to fight poverty and improve health, education, economy and infrastructure all over the world. HH the Amir is standing behind all these charity projects," he concluded.

Dr Ameera Al-Hassan, head of the visiting mission of the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat), noted that the title of 'Humanitarian Leader' is not unusual for HH the Amir. "After he came to power in 2006, we noticed an increase in humanitarian aid and donations provided by Kuwait to countries in need. Also, Kuwait hosted many international donor conferences to support the people of Syria and neighboring countries," she said. A documentary was shown about the humanitarian works of HH the Amir and about the late Sheikhha Fareeha. Buwair then awarded some personalities and the families of martyrs.



Abdullah Buwair



KUWAIT: Officials and guests pose for a group photo during the event. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh



A group photo of officials in attendance.



Author Abdullah Buwair honors veteran meteorologist and astronomer Dr Saleh Al-Ujalri.



Author Abdullah Buwair honors an official at the event.



Author Abdullah Buwair honors a participant.



A guest is honored during the event.

Local

Minister terminates over 30 expat staff at PAHW as part of 'Kuwaitization'

100 mailmen protest unpaid salaries

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of State for Services Affairs Jenan Bushehri is preparing a ministerial decision on the rules of employing non-Kuwaitis at the Public Authority Housing Welfare (PAHW) after receiving the approval of the authority's board of directors. Bushehri began the replacement policy at PAHW by terminating contracts of more than 30 expat employees.

About the new regulations for the appointment of non-Kuwaitis, sources said the first item says the applicant must be a holder of a university degree, diploma or training courses of not less than two years following secondary school from a

recognized university or an educational entity in Kuwait. The applicant must also have five years of experience in the field of the job after receiving the degree.

Unpaid salaries

Nearly 100 mailmen went on strike in a company that has a contract with the Ministry of Service in protest for not receiving their salaries for more than three months. The workers attempted to

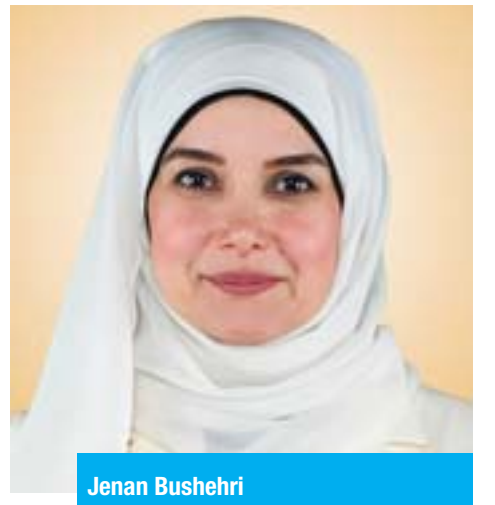
resolve the problem with company officials but failed, which led them to stage a sit-in. An agreement was then reached between the postmen, the ministry and the company, and they were promised to get their dues.

Rent allowance

The education ministry referred the issue of not paying rent allowance to Kuwaiti teachers married to non-Kuwaitis, widows and

divorcees to the Civil Service Commission (CSC). The ministry said expat teachers receive a KD 60 rent allowance a month based on CSC decision 38/2016.

According to a recent global cost of living indicator for 2018, which measures the cost of living in 117 countries according to residential rent values, grocery prices, restaurant prices and the local purchase value, Switzerland topped with a total of 119.98 points, while Pakistan was at the bottom with 22.17. The indicator included 13 Arab countries led by Qatar as the most expensive in the Arab world and 28th worldwide, while Kuwait was fifth in the Arab world. Tunisia is ranked the cheapest in the Arab world and 115th in the world, while Egypt is ranked 114.



Jenan Bushehri



Kuwait fifth most expensive in Arab world

Legalese

Happy Islamic New Year

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

I hope my readers have a year ahead filled with blessings, love, joy and laughter. May this New Year be a blissful one to everyone. The state of Kuwait is celebrating the Islamic New Year today and it is a public holiday. I have received a few questions on this holiday in particular, and therefore I thought I would write a short article that hopefully would be useful to everyone.

Holiday delay

Question: My boss said we can have the holiday on Thursday instead of Tuesday. I wanted to celebrate with my family on Tuesday. Does she have the right to change the date to Thursday? Someone at the office said it is very common that the this holiday in particular is moved to a Thursday.

Fajer: Generally speaking, your day off should be on the official day, which for this year is Tuesday, September 11th. Now if your boss requires you to work on Tuesday, she would need to pay you an overtime for Tuesday in addition to another day off, which is chosen to be on Thursday. Previously, the Islamic New holiday would be on a Sunday or Thursday and not in the middle of the week, but new regulations were implemented were the holiday needs to be on the exact date of the Islamic New Year and the same for the Gregorian New Year. The date cannot be moved to another date.

Overtime pay

Question: We have had discussions at the office and we have agreed that Thursday should be the day off and we have all agreed to have Thursday off instead because we want to travel. Can I still ask for overtime even though I am the one that requested Thursday off?

Fajer: According to Kuwait's labor law, all articles of the law should be implemented to the benefit of the employee and not the employer, and so there is some leeway when it comes to decisions that are requested by the employee him or herself. If this is what you have requested, then your boss should not be obliged to pay overtime.

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

Auto theft gang members arrested

KUWAIT: A security source said criminal detectives who worked on cases of car thefts identified a gang lead by a Kuwaiti ex-convict and three bedoons. They used a farm in Kabd to hide the stolen cars before selling their parts or changing their features and sending them to certain countries. Detectives obtained a warrant to raid the farm, and the gang members were found there along with six cars. The three bedoons said their role was to steal cars whose engines were left running and drive them to the farm, where they were dismantled.

Suicide

An Indian man's body was recovered by the coroner after he allegedly committed suicide in his room in Ishbelia. Police received a call from an Indian man saying that he found his friend dead in their residence. Police found the body hanging from the ceiling.

Environmental violation

A cement truck driver was seen by a citizen in Shamiya dumping excess cement before leaving, so he called the police. The driver was arrested and the truck was impounded. He faces legal action and a fine of up to KD 10,000, for violation of the environmental law. In a separate case, police are looking for a driver accused by a citizen of chasing her and colliding with her car before escaping. The woman gave police the number of his car's license plates.

—Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai

MP Adasani warns government of 'scores of grillings'

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Opposition lawmaker Riyadh Al-Adasani yesterday warned of "scores of grillings" against ministers if the government takes unilateral decisions that could affect the cost of living and wages. The warning comes as several MPs have accused the government of attempting to reduce the assistance paid to Kuwaitis accepting private sector jobs prompting a lawmaker to propose raising that assistance.

Adasani said that the government must coordinate with the national assembly especially its budgets committee regarding issues could impact the cost of living, wages and the work environment, warning that any decisions on such issues could open the door for many grillings.

He claimed that recent decisions by

the council of ministers have negatively impacted the idea of encouraging Kuwaitis to seek employment in the private sector to reduce pressure on government employment.

He said that encouraging Kuwaitis to work in the private sector will reduce the financial burden on state coffers and accordingly the government should not undermine the mechanism of supporting nationals employed in the private sector.

The government has been paying monthly assistance to Kuwaitis who decide to work in the private sector during the past several years but recently several lawmakers have claimed that the government policy on this issue has changed. But Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh stressed yesterday that nothing has changed concerning the monthly aid given to national employees in the private sector.

The reported reduction of the assistance yesterday promoted MP Khaled Al-Otaibi to submit a draft law proposing that the amount of the assistance is increased to all categories and such help cannot be changed without a law by the national assembly. He proposed that aid given to doctors, engineers and pharmacists should be increased to KD 500 per month in addition to social and cost of living allowances.

In the meantime, MP Saleh Ashour reiterated yesterday that he will file to grill the minister of social affairs and labor at the start of the new session starting next month if she does not answer his questions.

Ashour had asked the minister to provide him with complaints submitted by four ministries against Al-Thaqalain charity society that made Sabeeh dissolve the society for alleged wrongdoing.



MP Riyadh Al-Adasani

The lawmaker, who headed the society, had repeatedly claimed that the society committed no offences in its work and challenged the minister to provide evidence for its allegations.

Co-ops not banned from giving public services

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Social Affairs Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Cooperation Affairs Abdelaziz Shuaib wondered about reports on social media about banning co-ops in residential areas from extending aid to schools in the area such as providing air conditioners, water coolers and other services. He added that the ministry has not issued any decision in this regard and no instructions were given to co-ops to not extend any services to shareholders within the areas of the co-op's activities. Shuaib also condemned an attack on a ministry employee while organizing elections in a co-op. He said the ministry took legal action that will safeguard the rights of its workers.

Money laundering

The Commerce and Industry Ministry said the money laundering and terrorism financing fighting department deployed 87 precautionary measures against violating companies that are under law 106/2013. The ministry said the measures include a written warning to two real estate companies and ordering 49 real estate, seven exchange, four insurance and 23 jewelry companies to follow certain measures to conform with the law, in addition to issuing a warning to submit reports to two real estate companies.

Kuwait joins initiative to rebuild Mosul

PARIS: A broad strategy has been put in place to ensure an effective reconstruction process in the war-battered Iraqi city of Mosul, said a Kuwaiti official yesterday. Such a daunting task requires a collective effort on the part of the international community, Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister for International Affairs Nasser Al-Heyn told an international conference as part of an initiative called 'Revive the Spirit of Mosul.'

The talks have been arranged by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in conjunction with the Iraqi government, Heyn said. He said that Kuwait's participation in this conference is a testament to its commitment to restore stability and development to a city that lies in tatters after years of war.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's permanent delegate to UNESCO Adam Al-Mulla said that the Gulf state's involvement in this initiative reflects its concern for the welfare of its larger neighbor. He added that the destructive war has affected sectors across Iraq, leaving the country in dire need of reconstruction and development. The UNESCO initiative is part of the UN's response program designed to expedite the reconstruction process in the northern Iraqi city. —KUNA

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Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A colorful sunset over Shuwaikh Beach. —Photo by Yousef Al-Batashi (KUNA)

‘Darb Ez Zalaq,’ Kuwait’s immortal television series

41 years since release of Kuwait’s most popular TV show

KUWAIT: Literally meaning ‘Slippery Road’, but the artistic and historic connotation is timeless. This is the essence of ‘Darb Ez Zalaq’, definitely Kuwait’s, and arguably the Arab world’s most popular television series for the last 41 years. The 1977 landmark of a TV show is of the likes, and ranks, of the American war dramedy series M*A*S*H (1972 to 1983) and Britain’s sketch comedy show Monty Python (1969 to 1983); all cemented their reputation as ‘immortal’ in terms of viewership loyalty and diversity, standing the tests of time and tenor.

“I, along with Abdulhussein Abdulredha and Abdulameer Al-Turki were called and asked by then minister of information, the late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ali



Masterpiece standing the tests of time

Al-Sabah, to produce an ‘illustrious’ work,” said Saad Al-Faraj, the prominent Kuwaiti actor. “Sheikh Jaber Al-Ali promised unlimited financial support for the series, which would also go on the records as the first to be executively produced,” Faraj told a roundtable on 41 years since the series aired.

The trio teamed up and workshoped a plot in the seminal 1970s of Kuwait’s history. It tells the story of Hussein, a teaboy/janitor who comes into wealth after the government buys his house during the housing appraisal period of the 1950s following the discovery and nationalization of oil. Eventually,



Kuwaiti actor Saad Al-Faraj



Drama and theater professor Dr Nader Al-Qannah



The poster for ‘Darb Ez Zalaq.’

Hussein’s get-rich-quick schemes and personality leads him to a nervous breakdown and returning to square one financially. “This series could easily last for another 50 years,” said Dr Nader Al-Qannah, drama and theater professor. He explained that most substandard productions nowadays are by private companies, calling on Kuwait TV to reclaim devising dramatic productions, just as it did in the case of Darb Ez Zalaq: which gathered ‘creme du la creme’ of seasoned actors (in addition to Abdulredha and Al-Faraj, there was Khaled Al-Nafisi, Abdulaziz Al-Nimash and Ali Al-Mufidi among other).

“Darb Ez Zalaq turned into a comedic competition of some sort, which ultimately contributed in manufacturing situational comedy at its best; rich and side-splitting,” he added. The Hamdy Farid-directed series also succeeded in converging character-based and stereotype-founded dramas, Qannah noted, adding that the series moreover had

raised a number of social and moral red flags. “Nostalgia also played, and still is playing a major role, in the lasting success of Darb Ez Zalaq. It is a crucial factor, along with the cast’s collective artistic caliber and spontaneity,” he said.

Darb Ez Zalaq was, is and will always be a turning point, within the Arabic drama scene in general, and in Kuwaiti drama in particular, as it paved the way for other productions, either in the Gulf area, or on a regional level. —KUNA



The late Abdulhussein Abdulredha with Saad Al-Faraj in a scene from the popular show.



(From left) The late Abdulaziz Al-Nimash, Saad Al-Faraj and the late Abdulhussein Abdulredha in one of the scenes from the show.



KUWAIT: The cleanliness department at the Jahra municipality branch carried out several campaigns in Salmi, Naayem and Erhalya, which resulted in hauling 3,013 cubic meters of animal feed and removing 53 abandoned cars.

Local

Cabinet reviews recommendations on obstacles facing tourism projects

Ministers hail results of Amir's visit to the US

KUWAIT: The cabinet reviewed the recommendations of the Committee on Economic Affairs on the obstacles facing the tourism projects in implementing its plans to decide on instructing the Ministry of Finance to take necessary measures in ensuring that government entities' and companies' development projects go into effect in the appropriate time.

The cabinet also reviewed the committee's recommendation on the first report of the technical team for development of technology and its services to decide on entrusting the Central Agency for Information Technology in coordinating with all ministers and government agencies to quickly complete the electronic link between them. The services will be made available monthly through the State Portal to the Council of Ministers, including the identification of obstacles and non-cooperative parties.

Following its weekly meeting at Seif Palace on Sunday under the chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy

Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh extended to His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince and the Kuwaiti people the most sincere congratulations and blessings on the occasion of the coming of the new Hijri year 1440, along with wishes of a blessed year for the Arab and Islamic nations and peace and security for all humanity.

Ministers also reviewed Highness the Amir's recent visit to Washington, DC and the positive talks held with US President Donald Trump, which aimed at discussing ways to strengthen the historical and strategic relations between the two countries. Regional and international situations and ways to support stability and peace in the region were also discussed. The Deputy

Prime Minister expressed satisfaction at the fruitful results of the visit, which resulted in the signing of a number of memorandums of understanding aimed at enhancing cooperation between Kuwait and the US mainly by the Ministry of Interior, the General Authority for Communications and Information Technology, and the General Administration of



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah (center) chairs the cabinet's meeting on Sunday. — KUNA

Customs. The cabinet reviewed discussions on political affairs in the light of current developments in the political arena at the Arab and international levels. The Council expressed sincere congratulations to the newly elected President Arif Abdulrahman on the occasion of his victory in the presidential elections of the Republic of Pakistan, wishing him further progress and prosperity. Profound condemnations were expressed by the Council on the

Houthi militia's boats targeting international shipping navigation in the Red Sea and praised the efforts of the Arab Coalition in thwarting this criminal operation. The Council also condemned the dual terrorist attacks that targeted a sports club west of the Afghan capital of Kabul, which resulted in many deaths and injuries, confirming Kuwait's position in rejecting such acts that are contrary to all religious values and humanitarian norms. — KUNA



Cabinet greet public on new Hijri year

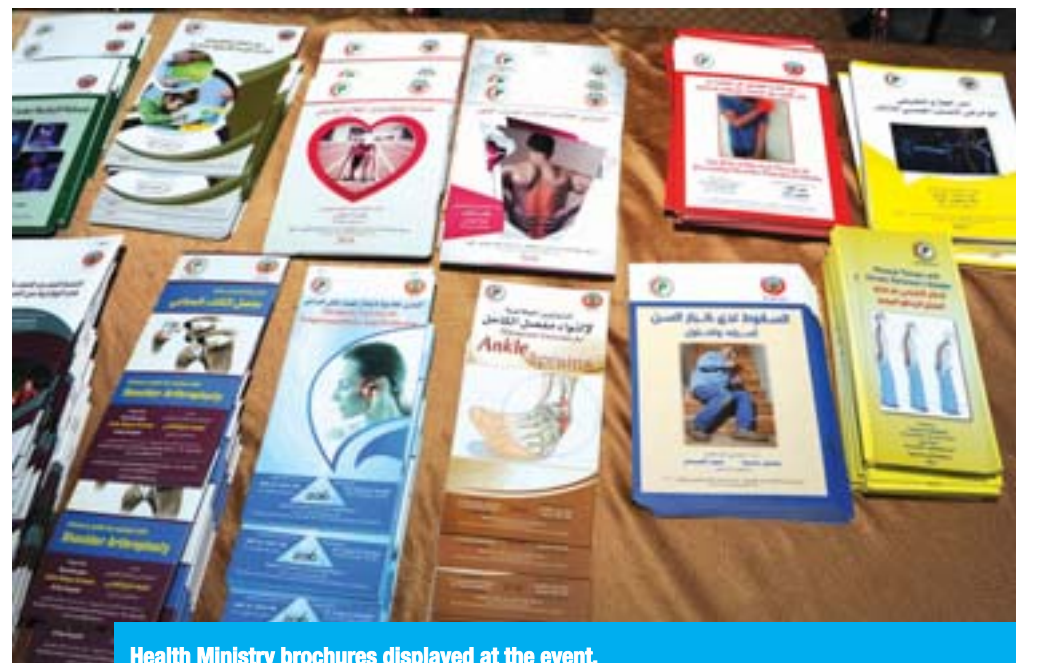
Kuwait takes precautionary measures amid Iraq cholera outbreak fears

KUWAIT: Recent media reports over a cholera epidemic in Iraq are based on 'factual journalism,' Kuwait's health ministry said yesterday, highlighting that precautionary measures have been put in place. The World Health Organization has not released any information pertaining to a cholera outbreak in Iraq, the ministry's assistant undersecretary for public health services Dr Majda Al-Qattan said in a statement. She explained that the ministry has all the necessary tools at its disposal to diagnose any suspected cases of the waterborne illness, while it is also keeping abreast of all the latest information on the disease. Meanwhile, the ministry advised against traveling to Iraq at this time in light of the dismal health conditions, citing a number of cholera prevention steps, including adequate sanitation, to keep the disease at bay.

Motion activity
In other news, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for supporting medical services Dr Fawaz Al-Rifai yesterday stressed the Ministry's keenness to promote the concepts of motion activity for all age groups in society. Rifai said in a press statement on the occasion of the celebration of the International Day of Physiotherapy under the slogan 'Physical Therapy and Mental Health' that the celebration comes to clarify the importance of motion activity in reducing diseases and how to prevent them by early intervention. "Today is an opportunity for physiotherapists around the world to highlight the importance of their role in improving and enhancing health of individuals," he said. In the meantime, Director of the Department of Physiotherapy Services in the Ministry of Health, Abdullah Zaman said in a similar statement that the objective of the gathering is to shed some light on the importance of motion activity in reducing the psychological diseases and stress associated with chronic diseases such as heart, atherosclerosis, diabetes and others. He added that the event is held in the ministry and at all physiotherapy departments in various



KUWAIT: Assistant Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Health for supporting medical services Dr Fawaz Al-Rifai and Director of the Department of Physiotherapy Services in the Ministry of Health Abdullah Zaman attend an activity held yesterday on the occasion of the celebration of the International Day of Physiotherapy. — KUNA



Health Ministry brochures displayed at the event.

public, specialized hospitals and primary health care centers. He said that there are many health benefits associated with regular physical activity, which include raising the performance of vital functions of the body such as digestion, breathing, glands and mental health. — KUNA

No allowance cuts for citizens in private sector: Minister

KUWAIT: There are neither studies nor intentions to reduce allowances for citizens serving in the private sector, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh said yesterday. However, the minister has confirmed that regulations will be imposed to organize work and protect the national laborers' interest through compelling employers to register the personnel in the Public Institution For Social Security (PIFSS).

Turning to the issue of charities, the minister disclosed that number of philanthropic associations has exceeded 150 in the country. These societies regularly hold hundreds of charitable activities for people in need worldwide. Kuwait's philanthropy noticeably improved in past years due to the ministry regulations, supervision and follow up on donations and their disbursement. Minister Sabeeh confirmed in a statement during inaugu-

ration of a seminar promoting Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd Prize for the Service of Charity Works.

This sector, as a result of coordination between the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor and other departments has become wider and much more organized, free of "any suspicions concerning charitable activities and donated funds," she added. The parliamentary committee of health affairs has received a draft of the new regulatory law for charities. Continuous meetings have been held grouping the ministry, charities and the parliamentary commission to discuss amendments, she said, indicating that the bill would be endorsed by the National Assembly (the Parliament) during the coming legislative term.

Meanwhile, Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd International Foundation (PMIF) Secretary General Dr Issa Al-Ansari noted that the foundation had proclaimed the award for sake of promoting charitable work in Saudi Arabia and Arab countries. Dr Nasser Al-Hattal Al-Qahtani, General Director of the Arab Administrative Development Organization (ARADO), said the foundation seeks to boost charities for sake of attaining sustainable development in the Arab countries. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh (center) is honored by PMIF Secretary General Dr Issa Al-Ansari (left) and ARADO General Director Dr Nasser Al-Qahtani. — KUNA

Ashura security plan discussed

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt Gen Essam Al-Naham met yesterday with Husseinias' represen-

tatives in presence of other ministry officials, in order to discuss the security plan for this year's marking of Ashura day. The undersecretary urged worshippers to follow police's instruction and comply with the laws within the Husseinias' premises, further stressing the need of cooperating with policemen. Meanwhile, Lt Gen Naham listened to comments and proposals made by the Husseinias' representatives in attendance.



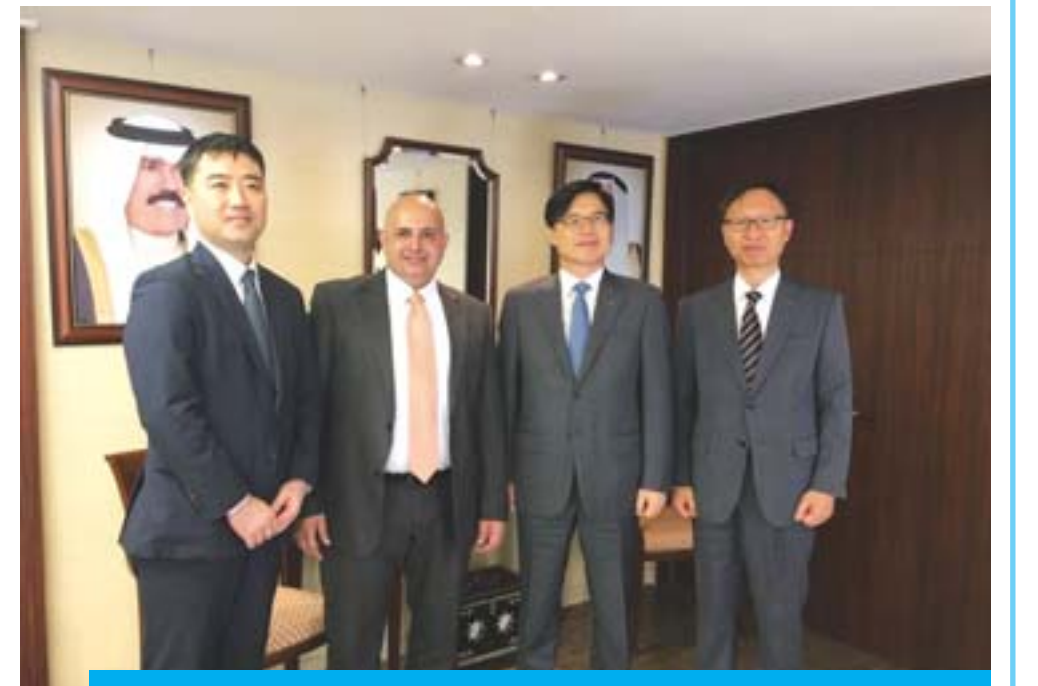
KUWAIT: Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt Gen Essam Al-Naham (center) speaks during the meeting.

Kuwait's envoy discusses cooperation during Seoul meeting

SEOUL: Kuwaiti Ambassador to the Republic of Korea Bader Al-Awadhi met yesterday with President and CEO of Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) Pyung-oh Kwon, discussing ways to enhance joint cooperation between the two countries.

Ambassador Awadhi and Kwon also tackled the economic cooperation and important projects carried out by the Korean companies in Kuwait as part of their contribution in the development plans in Kuwait in various fields, Kuwait Embassy in Seoul said in a press statement.

Awadhi praised the Korean companies' success in the implementation of important projects in the field of oil and infrastructure and partaking in the development plans in Kuwait, which its cost exceeded \$30 billion this year. Commercial exchange between the two countries in 2017 reached about \$11 billion. They also discussed suggestions to hold important economic events next year marking



SEOUL: Kuwaiti Ambassador to the Republic of Korea Bader Al-Awadhi meets with President and CEO of Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) Pyung-oh Kwon, and other officials. — KUNA

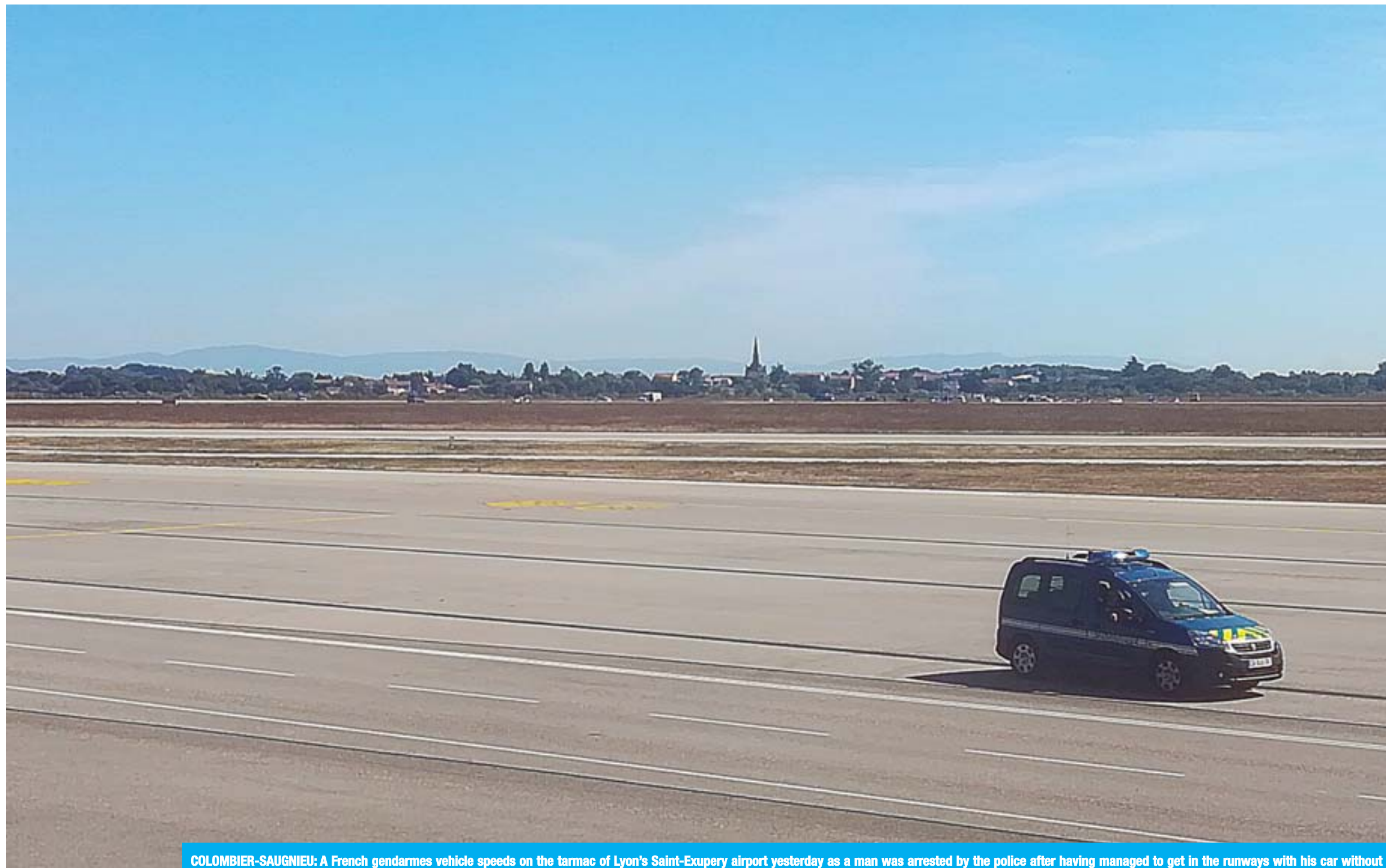
the 40th anniversary of the two countries relations and establishment of diplomatic relations and cooperation with the direct Direct-Investment Authority and private sectors in Kuwait. Meanwhile, Ambassador Awadhi also

met with the International Trade of South Korea CEO, Kim Young-J, as they discussed overall economic cooperation relations between the two countries and means of enhancing them in the future. — KUNA



Husband 'kills wife, 3 toddlers, mother-in-law'

Gunmen attack headquarters of Libya National Oil Company



COLOMBIER-SAUGNIEU: A French gendarmes vehicle speeds on the tarmac of Lyon's Saint-Exupery airport yesterday as a man was arrested by the police after having managed to get in the runways with his car without doing any injury. —AFP

7 wounded in Paris knife attack

Driver rams French airport terminal before runway chase

PARIS: A man wielding a knife and an iron bar injured seven people, including three tourists, in Paris, in an attack that bystanders tried to stop by throwing petanque balls at the assailant. Four of the victims were in a critical condition, police said, after the man, believed to be an Afghan national, went on the rampage next to a canal in the northeast of the capital on Sunday evening.

Two British tourists, an Egyptian tourist and a local man were among the injured, police added. The suspect, believed to be in his thirties, had been overpowered by bystanders and was unconscious when officers arrived on the scene and took him to hospital, police said. A source close to the inquiry added that though he had targeted foreigners, "nothing at this stage suggests a terrorist attack".

Chaos erupted on the banks of the Bassin de la Villette, an area popular with locals and visitors who frequent the cafes, cinemas and other cultural venues along its banks, just after 11pm. Eyewitness Youssef Najah, 28, said he was walking beside the canal when he saw a man running and holding a knife about 25-30 cm long. "There were around 20 people chasing him. They started throwing petanque balls at him," Najah said, referring to the sport popular in France also known as boules. "Around four or five balls hit him in the head, but they weren't able to stop him," he added.

According to the same witness, the attacker then dived into an alleyway, where the man "tried to hide behind two British tourists. We said to them: 'Watch out, he has a knife'. But they didn't react". The pair, said by police to be in their fifties, were then attacked, he said. A security guard at one of two cinemas on either side of the water said he had seen the

attacker running away from two men who were trying to stop him. "He had an iron bar in his hand which he threw at the men chasing him, then he took out a knife," he told AFP.

An Algerian man identified as Smain told Le Parisien newspaper he was part of a group that apprehended the attacker. "I managed to jump on him and throw him to the ground and get his weapon off him," he said, adding that the attacker sustained "several blows from petanque balls, iron bars and sticks" and "looked drugged". The UK foreign office said it was aware of reports of the attack and was "urgently investigating this incident" in cooperation with French authorities, British media reported. Interior Minister Gerard Collomb in a statement praised those who intervened to stop the attack for their "responsiveness and courage".

High alert

A police investigation has been launched for attempted murder, according to a judicial source. It is the latest of several knife attacks France has seen in recent weeks. On August 23, a man stabbed his mother and sister to death and seriously injured another person in a town near Paris before being shot dead by police. The motive for the violence remained unclear despite a claim by the Islamic State group that it was an attack by one of its fighters responding to the terror organization's propaganda. Authorities said the 36-year-old had serious mental health problems and had been on a terror watch list since 2016. That attack came days after an Afghan asylum-seeker was arrested in the southwestern town of Perigueux for a drunken rampage with a knife in which four people were wounded, one seriously.

and Indonesia, have been targeted by the authorities and are often held for several months, without any formal procedure, the group said. Punishments for refusing to follow instructions in the camp could mean being denied food, being forced to stand for 24 hours or even solitary confinement, it said.

China foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang declined to give a detailed response to the report and said that Human Rights Watch was a group "full of prejudice" against China that distorts facts. Measures in Xinjiang aim to "promote stability, development, unity and livelihoods", while also cracking down on "ethnic separatism and violent terrorist criminal activities", he told a regular briefing. Security conditions in Xinjiang outside the camps had also intensified markedly and now bear "a striking resemblance to those inside", Hong Kong-based Human Rights Watch researcher Maya Wang said, based on interviews with 58 former Xinjiang residents now living abroad.

Wang and her team only spoke with people who had left Xinjiang due to a lack of access to the region and to avoid endangering those still living there. New security measures described by interviewees include proliferating checkpoints that make use of facial recognition technology and sophisticated police monitoring systems, such as each house having a QR code that, when scanned, shows the authorities who the approved occupants are. Monitoring of Islamic religious practices, such as asking people how often they pray and the closure of mosques, as well as regular visits by party officials to rural parts of Xinjiang, mean that practicing Islam "has effectively been outlawed," Wang said. —Reuters

Police said investigators had "very quickly" dismissed a terrorist motive after the August 13 incident. And on June 17, two people were hurt in another southern town when a woman shouting "Allahu akbar" (God is greatest) attacked them in a supermarket with a boxcutter knife. France has been on high alert following a string of jihadist attacks in recent years, often by people who have become radicalized or claim to have acted in the name of the IS group. More than 240 people have been killed by Islamist extremists since a massacre at the Charlie Hebdo satirical magazine in Paris in January 2015.

High-speed chase

French police arrested a man yesterday following a high-speed chase on the runway at Lyon airport after the driver ramed his car into the terminal and drove through the building. Police said they began pursuing the white Mercedes when it was spotted speeding the wrong way down a nearby highway. The driver first smashed through a security barrier at the Lyon-Bron business airport before changing direction and heading to Lyon's main Saint-Exupery airport about 20 kilometers away.

There he ramed into automatic glass doors near the main entrance to Terminal 1 and drove through the building, smashing through another set of doors before emerging onto the runway, chased by about a dozen police vehicles as well as a helicopter. A video posted online showed the car smashing into the building with a bang and showed the view afterwards of the smashed doors on either side. The dramatic chase, witnessed by an AFP journalist waiting on a plane at the airport,



PARIS: French police is on the scene where a man attacked and injured people with a knife in the streets of Paris yesterday. —AFP

was captured in an amateur video posted on social media. It showed the car hitting a bump at one point, being lifted off the ground by the impact and then landing in a cloud of dust. After continuing for a few meters the driver then abandons the car while it is still moving and attempts to flee on foot. He dodges several police vehicles before being wrestled to the ground by officers. It was not clear whether he was armed. Nobody was injured in the incident, which led to the suspension of all flights in and out of Lyon Saint-Exupery airport, France's third largest. —Agencies

Muslim minority in China face 'political indoctrination'

BEIJING: The Turkic mostly Muslim Uighur minority in China's Xinjiang region face arbitrary detentions, daily restrictions on religious practice and "forced political indoctrination" in a mass security crackdown, Human Rights Watch said yesterday. The United Nations human rights panel said in August that China is believed to be holding up to 1 million ethnic Uighurs in a secretive system of "internment camps" in Xinjiang, in China's far west, where they undergo political education.

Beijing has denied that such camps are for "political education" and says they are instead vocational training centers, part of government initiatives to bolster economic growth and social mobility in the region. China has said that Xinjiang faces a serious threat from Islamist militants and separatists who plot attacks and stir up tensions between Uighurs who call the region home and the ethnic Han Chinese majority.

Uighurs and other Muslims held in the camps are forbidden from using Islamic greetings, must learn Mandarin Chinese and sing propaganda songs, according to a report by Human Rights Watch based on interviews with five former camp detainees. People in Xinjiang with relatives living abroad in one of 26 "sensitive countries", including Kazakhstan, Turkey

DNA tools reopen old 9/11 wounds

NEW YORK: A breakthrough in DNA analysis is helping identify more victims of the Sept 11, 2001, attacks in New York, but the scientific advance is of little consolation for families of those whose remains may have been buried in a Staten Island landfill. The official death toll in the attacks on lower Manhattan's World Trade Center is 2,753, including the missing and presumed dead. Only 1,642 of them, or about 60 percent, have been positively identified. The New York City Medical Examiner's Office has worked for 17 years to identify the remaining 1,100 victims.

Using advances in DNA extraction techniques over the past five years, it has made five more identifications. The advances have been bittersweet for 9/11 families who unsuccessfully fought to stop the city from making a park out of Staten Island's enormous Fresh Kills landfill, where 1.8 million tons of Twin Towers debris was dumped and buried. "We are grateful that the identification continues, but there is more material that could have been part of that had the city not been so cavalier

with us," said Diane Horning, who led a failed court battle by a group called World Trade Center Families for Proper Burial that hoped block the park project.

Horning led the group, although her son Matthew was one of those identified early on. Matthew, 26, a database administrator for an insurance company, was working the 95th floor of the North Tower when the planes hit. New York's Second Circuit Court of Appeals found in 2009 that accusations that the city had mishandled the remains at Fresh Kills amounted to "lack of due care," which was not sufficient to successfully sue the city. New York officials said at the time that the city did not intend to be insensitive or offend victims' families.

To create the park, Fresh Kills Landfill was covered with layers of soil and other materials to prevent the release of toxic gas from decomposing trash into the atmosphere, according to the Freshkills Park Alliance, New York City's nonprofit partner in developing the park. Charles Wolf lost his wife Katherine on September 11 and her remains have not been identified. If they are in the sealed landfill, he considers it "God's will" and he is "at peace" with it. "What's the remedy? Dig everything up and risk exposing all those toxins again to the environment?," Wolf said. "No, that's not the answer, because all of a sudden now the cure is worse than the disease." —Reuters

International

Gunmen attack headquarters of Libya National Oil Company

US to launch drone strikes in Niger against IS, Qaeda

TRIPOLI: Armed men yesterday stormed the headquarters of Libya's National Oil Company in Tripoli killing at least two people, officials said, as witnesses spoke of hearing a blast and gunfire. The attack targeted the country's vital oil sector, repeatedly disrupted by violence since a 2011 uprising against toppled late dictator Muammar Gaddafi. Witnesses said the building near the city centre had caught fire and was rapidly surrounded by security services, who evacuated its staff, including the NOC chairman Mustafa Sanallah.

Two people were killed and 10 wounded, the health ministry said. Sanallah confirmed to the Libya 218 news channel that staff members had been killed and others wounded, some of whom were in a "serious condition". "The security services are looking for gunmen in the building, but our priority is to evacuate the civilians stuck inside," said Ahmed Ben Salem, a spokesman for the Deterrence Force, a militia that operates as Tripoli's police force.

"The situation is under control," he added. He was not able to provide details on the identity of the attackers. The Deterrence Force labeled the incident a "terrorist" attack and posted on its Facebook page photos it said showed the remains of suicide bombers. An oil company official, who asked not to be named, said masked gunmen had exchanged fire with guards and attacked the firm's headquarters. "I jumped out of the window with other colleagues, and then we heard an explosion," the official said.

No group has so far claimed the attack. Early this month, days of clashes between rival armed groups in Tripoli left at least 63 people dead before a fragile UN-backed ceasefire took hold. The attack on the NOC headquarters comes four months after suicide bombers struck the headquarters of Libya's electoral commission, killing 14 in an attack claimed by the Islamic State (IS) group. The group overran Sirte, Gaddafi's hometown, 600 kilometers east of Tripoli, in 2015. IS was ousted by government forces and allied militias in December 2016, but has continued to carry out attacks.

Repeated disruptions

Libya's vital oil sector has been repeatedly disrupted by violence since the 2011 NATO-backed rebellion that toppled Gaddafi, as two rival governments and a range of armed groups struggle for control of the country's resources. The NOC was forced to suspend exports from all four of the country's key eastern terminals

Armed men kill at least 2 in Tripoli

after military strongman Khalifa Haftar's self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA) regained full control of the region from a rival militia in June.

The NOC declared force majeure on oil loadings at the ports, a legal measure that frees parties to a contract from their obligations due to circumstances beyond their control. The move added to supply worries on world markets at a time of rising crude oil prices. But in July the NOC announced that production would resume at the Al-Hariga, Zwaitina, Ras Lanuf and Al-Sidra ports, which are conduits for much of the



TRIPOLI: Firefighters and onlookers gather in front of the headquarters of Libya's National Oil Company in the capital Tripoli yesterday. — AFP

country's crude and gas sales.

Petrochemical exports had accounted for some 95 percent of state revenues under Gaddafi's rule, with production at 1.6 million barrels per day. But after his ouster, output fell to about 20 percent of that level, before recovering to more than one million barrels per day by the end of 2017. Last week, the NOC announced plans to boost oil revenues by 80 percent to \$23 billion, compared to from \$13 billion in 2017. Despite disruptions this year, its revenues from the start of the year to the end of July reached \$13.6 billion,

exceeding the total figure for 2017. Oil producers' cartel OPEC has estimated Libya's oil reserves at 48 billion barrels, the biggest in Africa.

In another development, US CIA is set to launch drone strikes against suspected Libya-based jihadists with Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group from a base in northeastern Niger, the New York Times reported. Nigerian and US officials told the newspaper that Central Intelligence Agency operatives have been flying surveillance drones from a small airport in the town of Dirkou. — Agencies

Oslo's bid for Mideast peace fades 25 years on

JERUSALEM: A handshake on the White House lawn sealing the first of the landmark Oslo accords inspired hope that Israeli-Palestinian peace could finally be achieved, but 25 years later, those dreams have faded. The September 13 anniversary of the 1993 accord, symbolized by the handshake between Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat, will not be celebrated by most Israelis or Palestinians, many of whom see unfulfilled promises or a process that was flawed from the start.

But for those who regard an Israeli and Palestinian state existing side-by-side as the only viable solution, salvaging the peace process and the achievements of the Oslo accords—a second followed in 1995—is more urgent than ever. "It was a defining moment for many of us," said Ghaith al-Omari, a Palestinian student in Jordan at the time and now a senior fellow at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy think-tank.

"There was a lot of hope—maybe naive hope, but certainly a lot of hope," Omari, who served as an adviser to Palestinian negotiators in later talks, has no illusions about the current state of the peace process. "On the long-term, there is no solution except the two-state solution," he told AFP. "In the short-term, there is absolutely no chance that it's going to happen." His view is widely shared, with Omari and others pointing to what they see as Israel's drift to the political right, a

weakened Palestinian leadership and US President Donald Trump's moves.

'Ultimate deal'

Trump has pledged to reach the "ultimate deal"—Israeli-Palestinian peace—but has declined to commit to a two-state solution, for years the focus of international diplomacy. He has also sided with Israel on core issues in the conflict, such as recognizing the disputed city of Jerusalem as its capital, without publicly asking for any concessions in return. Yesterday, Palestinian officials said they had been informed that the White House was closing their mission in Washington over a bid to have Israel prosecuted for war crimes at the International Criminal Court.

Such moves have delighted Israeli right-wing politicians, who oppose a Palestinian state and argue that the Oslo accords only led to another Palestinian intifada and more violence. But the Palestinians, who have cut off contact with Trump's White House, say Israel failed to abide by the accords—notably by allowing hundreds of thousands more settlers in the West Bank, which it has occupied since 1967. The Palestinian leadership, however, remains deeply divided between 83-year-old president Mahmud Abbas's Fatah party and the Islamist movement Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip and refuses to recognize Israel.

Benny Morris, a renowned Israeli historian whose books include "Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-2001", faults Israel's drift to the right, but believes the Palestinians are not prepared to fully accept a two-state solution. "I think something has to happen in the leaderships of the two people," he said. "Israelis have to get rid of this leadership, which is unable to move towards



WASHINGTON: In this file photo, US President Bill Clinton (center) stands between PLO leader Yasser Arafat (right) and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as they shake hands for the first time, at the White House in Washington DC, after signing the historic Israel-PLO Oslo Accords on Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories. — AFP

peace, unable to adopt a two-state formula as a basis for peace." But the Palestinians "have to get rid of the Hamas leadership, and the Fatah leadership pretends to want peace, but doesn't actually want it".

'Not very optimistic'

The Oslo accord of 1993 stated that "it is time to put an end to decades of confrontation and conflict" and "strive to live in peaceful coexistence". While it did not specifically mention the creation of a Palestinian state, it led to mechanisms for self-governance, including the Palestinian Authority, which has endured. As part of the agreements, the Palestine Liberation Organisation recognized Israel, while Israel recognized the PLO as the Palestinians' legitimate representative. That in itself was

a major achievement at the time, following decades of enmity. In 1994, then Israeli prime minister Rabin, PLO chairman Arafat and Israeli foreign minister Shimon Peres shared the Nobel Peace Prize.

But since, Israelis and Palestinians have been scarred by further tragedy. Rabin was assassinated by an Israeli right-wing extremist in 1995 and the five-year transitional period under Oslo that was supposed to lead to a permanent settlement expired with no deal in place. A second Palestinian intifada erupted in 2000, and since Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip in 2007, it has fought three wars with Israel. Israeli settlement building has multiplied in the West Bank—on land the Palestinians see as part of their future state. — AFP

Pakistan's new president Alvi sworn in

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's new President Arif Alvi was sworn in at a ceremony in Islamabad on Sunday, 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 user, Alvi was shot and wounded during a protest against military dictator



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

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 falter-

ing 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

News in brief

'Twitter killer' charged

TOKYO: Japan's "Twitter killer", suspected of murdering and chopping up people he lured on social media, and storing their body parts in coolboxes, was charged yesterday with nine counts of murder. Takahiro Shiraishi, 27, has admitted to killing and butchering all nine of his victims—all but one of whom were women aged between 15 and 26. On the morning of Halloween last year, police uncovered a grisly house of horrors behind Shiraishi's front door: nine dismembered bodies with as many as 240 bone parts stashed in coolers and tool boxes, sprinkled with cat litter in a bid to hide the evidence. He is suspected of luring people with suicidal tendencies via Twitter by telling them he could help them in their plans or even die alongside them. — AFP

Japan death toll hits 44

TOKYO: The death toll from a powerful earthquake that triggered massive landslides in northern Japan rose to 44 yesterday with tens of thousands of police and troops still on the ground to support survivors. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said no one was left on a missing list, which suggested the figure could be the final death toll. Around 40,000 police, fire fighters, troops and maritime safety officials were providing assistance, with more than 2,700 people still forced to stay in shelters after the killer quake struck the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido last week. The majority of the dead are from the small rural town of Atsuma, where a cluster of dwellings were wrecked when a hillside collapsed from the force of the 6.6-magnitude quake, causing deep brown scars in the landscape. — AFP

Bangladeshis protest

DHAKA: Thousands of opposition supporters staged protests across Bangladesh yesterday demanding immediate release of their leader and three-time former premier Khaleda Zia, jailed early this year for graft. Zia, 73, is currently on trial on more corruption charges in a makeshift courtroom inside a 19th-century British-built prison where she is the only inmate and in failing health, her lawyers say. A police official told AFP that some 4,000 activists of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) joined protests outside the National Press Club at the heart of capital Dhaka. Thousands more joined similar demonstrations in cities and towns across the country. But opposition spokesman Fakhru Islam Alamgir has said some 20,000 protesters, many shouting slogans calling Zia's jailing illegal and a sham, turned up at the Dhaka rally. — AFP

11 jihadists killed

CAIRO: Egyptian security forces have killed 11 suspected jihadists in the Sinai Peninsula as they press a campaign against Islamist militants in the area, a security source said yesterday. The military launched a sweeping operation in February focused on the Sinai in eastern Egypt aimed at wiping out jihadists, including from the Islamic State group, who have been waging a bloody insurgency. "Eleven terrorist elements were killed in an exchange of fire" with security forces in El-Arish, the capital of North Sinai province, the security source said. The jihadists were in an abandoned petrol station "preparing terrorist acts" against security forces, the source added. Jihadists launched an insurgency in Egypt after the 2013 ouster of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi, forced out by the military in the face of mass protests against his rule. — AFP

International

Putin ally overwhelmingly re-elected Moscow mayor

Poll overshadowed by pension protests and mass arrests

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin's ally has been overwhelmingly re-elected Moscow's mayor, officials said yesterday, following a poll overshadowed by pension protests and mass arrests. However, the ruling party received a major blow in several regions as Russians voted to elect governors and local lawmakers in a nationwide day of polls on Sunday.

The United Russia party recorded its worst performance in regional elections in more than a decade as voters registered their anger over a controversial reform set to raise the state pension age and worsening economic conditions under Western sanctions. Election day was marred by the arrests during nationwide protests against the hugely unpopular pension reform, with more than 1,000 detained, according to an independent monitor.

Putin sought to put on a brave face, saying the election results underscored Russians' trust in the authorities. "On the whole the election campaign was conducted decently, with a pretty high voter turnout," Putin told officials in the far eastern city of Vladivostok. Sergei Sobyanin, mayor of the Russian capital since 2010, won a predictable victory with 70.02 percent of the vote. Turnout stood at 30.8 percent. In 2013, Sobyanin barely escaped a second-round run-off after a strong challenge from Putin's top critic Alexei Navalny, who unexpectedly picked up over a quarter of the ballots.

This time round serious opposition candidates were kept off the ballot paper in favor of the incumbent. Ahead

of the vote a Moscow court jailed Navalny for 30 days after he announced plans to stage a rally against pension reform on election day. The ruling party suffered several major upsets. In the far eastern city of Khabarovsk and in the Primorye, Khakasia and Vladimir regions, gubernatorial elections will go to a second round after United Russia candidates failed to win 50 percent of the vote. Communists beat candidates of the ruling party in elections to the regional parliaments of Khakasia, Irkutsk and Ulyanovsk regions.

'Punishing crisis'

Alexei Makarkin, an analyst at the Center for Political Technologies, said Russians are tired of "the long, punishing crisis whose end is nowhere in sight" and have stopped voting for the ruling party by default. "This is a path towards political competition," Makarkin said. Putin appeared to dismiss the ruling party's poor results in several

regions, calling second round run-offs an "absolutely normal phenomenon".

Heeding a call from opposition leader Navalny, thousands took to the streets of dozens of cities against the deeply controversial pension reform. Police arrested 1,018 people, mainly in Russia's second largest city Saint Petersburg and the Urals city of Yekaterinburg, independent monitor OVD-info said. Police violently broke up unsanctioned rallies, including in Saint Petersburg where more than 450 people were detained. In Moscow, police opened two criminal probes over violence against officials,



MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) speaks with Moscow's Mayor Sergei Sobyanin during a visit to Zaryadye Park in Moscow. — AFP

the monitor said. Observers noted fewer people turned up to protest against the reform than in May after Putin softened the plans. Government plans to raise the state pension age to 60 for women and 65 for men, from the current 55 and 60, have also seen Putin's approval ratings take a major hit. Sobyanin's supporters say he has transformed

Moscow with billion-dollar renovation projects that include a showpiece central park and new pedestrian areas along with a string of new metro stations. But critics have argued these were a sop to a new urban middle class which has in the past protested against Putin's rule, as the Kremlin tightens the screws against dissenters. — AFP

News in brief

Woman jihadist charged

BRUSSELS: A Belgian woman with alleged jihadist ambitions has been charged with trying to incite an attack on World Cup football fans, prosecutors said yesterday. On July 15, some 40,000 supporters gathered in Brussels' spectacular Grand Place square to welcome home the third-placed Red Devils squad. According to reports, 25-year-old "Yousra BS" had earlier posted a message on the Telegram app urging extremists to attack the crowd. No attack took place but the young woman, who was already under surveillance in Belgium after having been detained in Syria in 2015, was arrested. According to Eric Van Der Sypt, spokesman for federal prosecutors, she was charged in August with "incitement to commit a terrorist crime." She has denied the charge, he added. — AFP

Sudan saves 85 minors

LYON: Police in Sudan have rescued nearly 100 people, 85 of them minors, after breaking up a human trafficking network in the northeast African country last month, Interpol said yesterday. Two men and twelve women were arrested and around \$20,000 of suspected ransom money was seized in the operation at several locations in Khartoum as well as at gold mines east of the city, the international policing agency said. The victims, some of whom were as young as 10, were from several African countries including Chad, DR Congo, Eritrea and Niger. "The diversity of nationalities amongst those rescued shows how human trafficking and people smuggling is a truly transnational problem which requires a coordinated international response," said Tim Morris, director of police services for Interpol, which is based in Lyon, France. — AFP

Car bombing kills six

MOGADISHU: Six people were killed and another 16 injured when a car bomb exploded outside a local government office in Mogadishu yesterday, Somali police and rescue workers said. "Our ambulance teams have collected the dead bodies of six people," said Abdiqadir Abdurrahman, director of the city's Aamin Ambulance service. He said 16 others were wounded in the blast. Police officer Ibrahim Mohamed said a vehicle had rammed a security checkpoint outside the Hodan district headquarters then exploded. "The blast was huge," he said. The explosion leveled buildings and left a thick plume of smoke which could be seen across the city. "It caused a huge blast and there was dust everywhere," said Osman Ali, who was in the area at the time. Images from the scene showed collapsed buildings-including a mosque-with rescue workers and civilians picking through the debris. — AFP

Algeria envoy summoned

BAGHDAD: Iraq's foreign ministry said yesterday that it had summoned Algeria's ambassador after the North African nation's football supporters sang slogans glorifying former dictator Saddam Hussein during a game in Algiers. In a statement, ministry spokesman Ahmed Mahjub voiced "the indignation of the government and the Iraqi people (at) the horrible glorification of the regime of murderous dictator Saddam Hussein". Saddam was deposed in 2003 by a US-led military intervention. Spectators shouted the chants at an Arab Club Champions Cup game on Sunday between USM Alger and Iraq's Air Force Athletic Club. Videos filmed inside the stadium and posted online show Algerian supporters chanting "Allahu akbar (God is greatest)! Saddam Hussein!" After 75 minutes of play, the Iraqi team left the pitch in protest. — AFP

Michelle Bachelet: From torture victim to rights bulwark

UNITED NATIONS: As a young woman, Michelle Bachelet was tortured by a dictatorial regime she opposed. Now, the two-time Chilean president spearheads the UN body tasked with protecting others from such rights abuses. Ranked among the world's most powerful women, the 66-year-old has replaced Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein of Jordan as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The daughter of a general who opposed Augusto Pinochet's overthrow of Chilean president Salvador Allende in 1973, she became involved in human rights activism in the 1970s.

She and her parents were political prisoners, and her father, an air force general, died in detention. Arrested in 1975 under Pinochet's military regime, Bachelet was held for several weeks at the infamous Villa Grimaldi interrogation and torture centre in Santiago. "I was mainly tortured psychologically, and some beating, but they didn't 'grill' me," she said in a 2014 interview, using prisoner slang for electric shocks administered to detainees. "I was lucky compared to so many others. Many of them died," Bachelet said in a rare opening-up over the ordeal.

Most difficult job

Kenneth Roth of Human Rights Watch, a non-governmental advocacy group, said Bachelet's experience makes her the perfect human rights commissioner. She

Merkel 'outraged' by Nazi chants in far-right rally

BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel voiced anger yesterday against Nazi chants by far-right demonstrators marching over the death of a German man following a fight with two Afghans. Local police and prosecutors said the 22-year-old deceased had suffered acute heart failure after coming to blows with the suspects on a playground in the eastern town of Koethen late Saturday. The far-right swiftly mobilized a demonstration on Sunday evening that drew 2,500 participants including 400 to 500 known extremists, authorities from Saxony-Anhalt state said.

The rally was billed as a mourning march, but groups of mostly white men were filmed chanting "national socialism, now, now now"-a reference to the Nazis' declared ideology-according to footage circulating on social media. "At the end of the day in Koethen, a video shows open Nazi chants that must affect us and outrage us," said Steffen Seibert, Merkel's spokesman. Saxony-Anhalt state's interior minister Holger Stahlknecht said several investigations have been launched over incitement to hatred over speeches given during the rally. Investigators are also examining chants shouted during the demonstration. The far-right party AfD has announced a new rally for

Monday night, although it said in its call for assembly that political speeches would not be made. In a video posted online by BuzzFeed, a man the website identified as a member of the far-right scene, David Koeckert, was seen telling the crowd to loud applause that "we must defend ourselves in the race war against the German people, which is what happened here."

"Do you want to continue to be bleating sheep or do you want to become wolves and shred them to pieces?" asked the man to cheers. Authorities have said the death of the man was "not directly" linked to the injuries he suffered in the fight. But fears were growing that the latest case could further inflame anti-migrant tensions, as it comes two weeks after the fatal stabbing of a 35-year-old man in the eastern city of Chemnitz that sparked xenophobic protests. Two suspects-an Iraqi and a Syrian-have been arrested over the stabbing and a third man, also an Iraqi, is sought.

The Chemnitz protests have also led to a clash between Merkel and the head of Germany's domestic intelligence agency, who raised doubts on a video purportedly showing a "hunt on foreigners" by neo-Nazi mobs. Merkel's spokesman and the chancellor herself have repeatedly used the description in condemning the violent protests. But spy chief Hans-Georg Maassen told the Bild daily that he had "no proof" that the video circulating online, which appeared to show immigrants being accosted and chased, was authentic. Maassen, under pressure to show proof to back his claim, has submitted to the government a report, which is being "examined", said both Seibert and the interior ministry. — AFP



SKOPJE: Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel speaks during a joint press conference with the Macedonian Prime Minister, following their meeting in Skopje. — AFP

"will be taking on one of the world's most difficult jobs at a moment when human rights are under widespread attack", he said after her nomination. As a former victim herself, "she brings a unique perspective to the role on the importance of a vigorous defense of human rights. People worldwide will depend on her to be a public and forceful champion, especially where offenders are powerful". After their release from prison, Bachelet and her mother spent years in exile, in Australia and the former East Germany. She returned to Chile in 1979 to finish her medical studies, but was prevented from working as a doctor for political reasons.

A paediatrician and public health expert by training, Bachelet boasts a long list of firsts over a varied career. After democracy was restored to Chile in 1990, she worked for the health ministry. She was appointed Chile's health minister in 2000 and defense minister two years later-both firsts for a woman. She then became Chile's first female president, holding the top post twice, from 2006 to 2010, and again from 2014 to March this year. As president, she avowed socialist reformed Chile's pension system and improved health and social services, focusing on the working poor.

Not the silence business

She served in 2010 as the first director of UN Women, the United Nations agency promoting gender equality worldwide. Bachelet's UN predecessor, Zeid, opted not to seek a second term after losing support from powerful UN member countries, including the United States, Russia and China. Seen as combative, Zeid last year compared Trump to a bus driver "careening down a mountain path".



GENEVA: New High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet reads a document on the opening day of the 39th UN Council of Human Rights in Geneva yesterday. — AFP

engaged in "reckless driving" for his attacks on the media. The American ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley subsequently urged Bachelet "to avoid the failures of the past."

With Zeid under fire, rights groups were concerned that UN chief Antonio Guterres would opt for a less vocal human rights boss to replace him. Zeid himself has praised Bachelet's appointment, and urged her not to waver in condemning serious abuses. "We are not in the silence business here," he cautioned. Guterres has described Bachelet as a "long-time champion of women's rights" with a "history of dynamic global leadership, highly-honed political skills and a recognized ability to create consensus." Bachelet attended her first session as commissioner of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva yesterday. — AFP

States are flouting right to encrypted messaging: Expert

GENEVA: Many governments are neglecting or ignoring their duty to protect online encryption that helps ensure freedom of expression and privacy, the UN expert on digital privacy rights said yesterday. In many states including Russia, China, Iran, Turkey, Pakistan and Britain, citizens cannot count on keeping their online conversations private, according to a report prepared for the UN Human Rights Council by special rapporteur Joseph Cannataci. There had been a surge in state restrictions on encryption in the past three years, Cannataci wrote in a report submitted to a three-week session of the Council that began yesterday.

"Since 2015, states have intensified their efforts to weaken encryption used in widely available communications products and services," the report said. It said pressure has been mounting for companies to install "backdoors" in software to give law enforcement officials access to encrypted messages or secured devices, thereby giving hackers a potential vulnerability to exploit, even though governments already have many other investigative tools they could use.

"A state's obligations to respect and ensure the rights to freedom of opinion and expression and to privacy include the responsibility to protect encryption," the report said. It said other measures that systematically weaken encryption and digital security, such as key escrows and data localization requirements, also interfere with users' rights. Limits to encryption must be necessary, legal, legitimate and proportional, the report said. Blanket bans plainly did not meet those conditions.

But many states had criminalized the use of encryption, the report said, citing Iran's 2010 ban, Pakistan's "vague criminal prohibitions" which could be interpreted to crack down on encryption tools, and Turkey's detention of thousands of citizens for using an encrypted messaging app. Other countries, including Russia, Vietnam and Malawi, required government approval of encryption tools. Russia and Iran had both banned the Telegram messaging app, after the company refused to give up the encryption keys. China's 2016 Cybersecurity Law requires network operators to "provide technical support and assistance" to state and public security for national security and law enforcement, while Uganda and Mexico use malware to monitor government critics, according to the report.

Britain's 2016 Investigatory Powers Act, known by critics as the "Snoopers' Charter", gave the government vaguely formulated powers that could oblige network operators to include backdoors, remove end-to-end encryption and cooperate with a wide range of government hacking measures, the report said. It recommended that states pass laws spelling out permissible restrictions on encryption and anonymity. — Reuters

International

China officials shut down largest 'underground' Protestant church

Latest move to ramp up control over religious worship

BEIJING: Beijing officials have shut down one of China's largest "underground" Protestant churches for operating without a license, the Communist government's latest move to ramp up control over religious worship. Around 70 officials stormed into the Zion Church - housed on the third floor of a nondescript office building in the north of the capital - after its Sunday afternoon service, said church pastor Jin Mingri. "They chased everyone out and sealed off the place, even tearing down our signage on the wall," Jin told AFP yesterday. "All our things have been confiscated and we have not been allowed to re-enter the building."

Local authorities said the church and its affiliates have been banned. "After investigation, (we found) the 'Zion Church in Beijing' was not registered and carried out activities in the name of social organizations without authorization," the Chaoyang district civil affairs bureau said in a statement. Yesterday, at least a dozen marked police vehicles and scores of officers both in uniform and plainclothes guarded the building where the congregation held its services. AFP journalists were barred from entering the building. The officers said the third floor was sealed off.

organized movements outside its own control, including religious ones, and analysts say oversight of such groups has tightened under President Xi Jinping. The country's Christians are split between those who attend unofficial "house" or "underground" churches and those who go to



70 officials stormed into Zion Church

government-sanctioned places of worship.

"Under Xi, the government has shifted its approach from allowing churches like Zion to operate as long as they don't get political to now seeking to actively control them or shut them down," said Brent Fulton, founder of the ChinaSource website and author of "China's Urban Christians". Fulton

said Jin was probably targeted after he rejected a request by authorities in April to install CCTVs in the sanctuary. He was among some 200 pastors from underground churches who put their name to a petition complaining of "assault and obstruction" by the government - including the tearing down of crosses - since new religious regulations came into effect in February.

Zion was one of the largest "house" churches in Beijing, with up to 1,500 people attending its five weekly services. "I believe the government will continue to go after high profile unregistered churches... particularly those whose pastors signed the open letter, in order to send a strong signal to other churches," Fulton said, adding that many churches might stop large services and instead have smaller group meetings in homes.

The state-linked China Christian Council estimates the country has around 20 million Christians - excluding Catholics - in official churches supervised by the authorities. But the true number of worshippers could be higher, at least 40 million to 60 million, according to some estimates. China's roughly 12 million Catholics are divided between a government-run association, whose clergy are chosen by the atheist Communist Party, and an unofficial underground church loyal to the Vatican.

'Sinicization' of religion

China's top leaders have recently called for the "Sinicization" of religious practice - bringing it in line with "traditional" Chinese values and culture - sparking concern among rights groups. The measures increased state supervision of religion in a bid to "block extremism", and in areas with significant Muslim populations, authorities have removed Islamic symbols, such as crescents, from public spaces. In the far western region of Xinjiang, Uighurs and other Turkic Muslim minorities are harshly punished for violating regulations banning beards and burqas, and even for the possession of unauthorized Korans.

Up to a million minorities are believed to be held in extrajudicial re-education camps in Xinjiang, rights groups say. "These efforts... have effectively outlawed Islam in the region," said Maya Wang, senior China researcher for Human Rights Watch. She added that Christians in Zhejiang and Henan have been suppressed, while Hui Muslims in northern Ningxia region have also been put under increased scrutiny. Asked what he would do going forward, Jin said they would return to the church's location this weekend. "Longbaochen is our home... even if we can't enter we will go there," he said. "They can stop us from holding services, but they cannot stop us from praying." - AFP

Cambodian opposition leader released on bail

PHNOM PENH: Cambodia's opposition leader Kem Sokha was released from jail yesterday a year after he was detained on treason charges, as the country's strongman ruler loosens his grip on opponents after sweeping one-sided elections. Over a 33-year rule, the wily Hun Sen has tightened and relaxed his chokehold on opponents at will, most recently launching a broad crackdown in the run-up to July elections that gifted his ruling party an uncontested victory.

As part of that action Kem Sokha, the head of the only serious opposition to the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), was arrested on September 3, 2017, and accused of treason. The move took out one of the kingdom's few outspoken political figures who can still pull a crowd. The case against the 65-year-old was widely seen as politically motivated. Just two months later the CNRP was dissolved by a court.

That paved the way for the ruling Cambodia People's Party to win all 125 parliamentary seats in the election, turning the country into a one-party state and extending Hun Sen's stay in office. Dozens of supporters and media gathered outside Kem Sokha's house in Phnom Penh, where he returned in the early hours of yesterday after a year in a remote border prison. He was bailed from pre-trial detention on condition that he does not flee "proceedings" against him, a court in Cambodia's capital said in a statement. The opposition figure still faces up to 30 years if convicted of trea-

son. His bail conditions state he must be "confined to a block radius of his residence," his daughter Monovithya Kem told AFP.

A court-issued warrant seen by AFP showed a small triangle in downtown Phnom Penh that Sokha is not permitted to leave, and also barred the opposition leader from meeting with CNRP members and anyone else related to the case. He also is not permitted to meet with any foreigners or host any rallies or political activities, the document said. But the end to his prison ordeal-for now-was welcomed by supporters whose political views were muffled during the election period by Hun Sen's repression. "We hope that from now Cambodians will have freedom to talk on all topics," supporter Sun Socheat said.

Closer to China

The CNRP made major gains during a 2013 election, propelled by significant dissatisfaction among Cambodia's large youth population, in a surprise showing that rattled Hun Sen. But the party was then picked apart by Hun Sen, with many of its leading figures fleeing abroad. Kem Sokha's predecessor Sam Rainsy lives in self-exile in Paris to escape a slew of charges that he says are politically motivated. Western countries-who have long been major aid donors to Cambodia-criticized the most recent election, refusing to send monitors once the opposition was effectively neutered.

The US government has said the election was neither free nor fair and it "failed to represent the will of the Cambodian people". Last week, as he was sworn in for another term, Hun Sen insisted that the poll was "free, just, fair and transparent". Since the polls Hun Sen has begun to release critics from jail, a common easing of his grip on power that has followed election wins throughout his time in office. Fourteen Cambodia opposition supporters jailed for insurrection were released last month. - AFP

Husband 'kills wife, 3 toddlers, mother-in-law'

PERTH: A 24-year-old man killed his wife, three toddlers and mother-in-law at their suburban family home, where he remained for several days before turning himself in, Australian police said yesterday. The alleged murders are the third such family tragedy to rock Western Australia state in recent months. Police charged Anthony Robert Harvey with the murders of his two-year-old twins Alice and Beatrix, his three-year-old daughter Charlotte and his 41-year-old wife Mara in the southwestern city of Perth.

Harvey, who lived in the home, is also alleged to have killed his mother-in-law Beverly Quinn, 73, after she arrived at the same address the next day. Western Australia Police Commissioner Chris Dawson told reporters no firearms were used in the attacks which police believe were carried out with several weapons including "a blunt instrument and knives". "We're alleging that the murders took place over two days," he said. "The mother Mara and her three children were all murdered over a period of time on the third (of September), and that Mrs Quinn was murdered the following morning."

Dawson said the two women were allegedly attacked in the kitchen while the children were killed "in other rooms of the house". "We are alleging that Mr Harvey remained at the... house for some days" before heading north, he added. Police found the bodies of the five victims at the unassuming detached family home after Harvey walked into a police station in a remote mining area some 1,500 kilometers north of the city on Sunday-a week after their deaths. A Facebook profile believed to be Mara's showed her cradling a newborn in her arms, with a man reported to be Harvey beside her, and stated that she was engaged in August 2014. A real estate listing showed a modest three-bedroom house and a standalone garage.



PERTH: Forensic police (left) and other officials remove a dead body from the crime site in the suburb of Australia's western city of Perth yesterday. - AFP

'Her girls were her world'

Mara Harvey's sister Taryn, also Quinn's daughter and the children's aunt, wrote about her heartbreak at the killings. "There are no words to explain the emptiness and loss that we are feeling," she wrote in a statement released by police late Monday, adding that Mara's young children "were her world" and she was "so proud of each of them". "This world is a sadder place with the loss of these five beautiful people but Heaven has gained five new angels."

Earlier a friend of Mara's told Fairfax Media she was "pretty unlucky in love before she met him... so (when they got together) it was like 'yay, now she gets to start a family'". A neighbor told

national broadcaster ABC he had returned from a holiday to "silence in the street". "We noticed that the house next door was pretty quiet, which was unusual," said Richard Fairbrother, who lives next door to the family's house.

"We could hear and see the kids playing in the backyard quite often." Other neighbors spoke of a shocked community that had been close, calm and peaceful. Dawson said it was the third tragedy involving multiple deaths in a family home in his state since May. In July a man allegedly killed his mother and two siblings. A grandfather shot dead his wife, daughter and her four children in a murder-suicide in May. Harvey is expected to return to court on September 19. - AFP

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Slingshots in hand, Kenyans replant vanishing forests

Early every morning on school holidays and weekends, Eric Ndung'u heads off to herd his family's goats in the plains of Kisaju, south of Nairobi. While herding, Ndung'u hunts birds using a slingshot. But he's found a new use for his slingshot too: Planting trees. Before he leaves with the goats, the 11-year-old runs to Nicholas Waweru's house to get a packet of seed balls, made of charcoal dust, cassava starch and tree seeds. The balls work as ammunition to bring down birds - and, left behind on the ground, they gradually break down, releasing tree seeds to take root.

In an effort to combat deforestation and rebuild the nation's depleted forests, Kenyans are trying some novel approaches, among them recruiting herder boys - as well as hot air balloonists and paragliders - to the cause. Waweru works with Teddy Kinyanjui, a conservationist living in Nairobi's Kabete estate, who makes the slingshots and seed balls. Using seed provided by the Kenya Forest Research Institute, Kinyanjui researches what trees grow best in each area, then manufactures seed balls designed for that area.

The conservationist said he inherited his love of trees from his late father, Maxwell Kinyanjui, a professor at the University of Nairobi who was well known for his conservation efforts - including the invention of an environmentally friendly charcoal stove. As part of reforestation efforts, he also planted a forest near Kisaji - one his son now takes care of. The pair's efforts are part of a broader push in Kenya to combat forest loss. The United Nations recommends that countries maintain at least 10 percent of their land in forest - but Kenya has only 7 percent forest.

Not so tasty

Packing tree seeds in charcoal dust - provided by a charcoal briquette-making firm - gives them a better chance of sprouting, Kinyanjui said. "After research, we found out that 95 percent of tree seeds are eaten up by insects or animals such as goats or birds," he said. "You can imagine if you just took a handful of seeds and threw them down on the ground, and waited for three more months until the rains come - it's just going to get eaten by something," he said.

But the charcoal dust deters animals, he said - and when the rains arrive, they wash the coating away, allowing the seeds to sprout. Kinyanjui has helped distribute about 2 million tree seeds across the country, focusing in areas where charcoal making has led to deforestation. To encourage herder boys to use the seed balls, Kinyanjui organizes shooting competitions, with those able to hurl the balls furthest winning certificates.

He's also persuaded aeroplane companies, hot air balloon owners, and paragliders to fling the balls, and sells some to corporations, who distribute them to customers and staff as part of corporate social responsibility campaigns. He recognizes not all the trees will sprout and survive, particularly with hungry goats foraging in many areas. But "this is better than nothing", he said. Protecting and expanding forests is one of the cheapest and surest ways to curb climate change, experts say. "Trees and forests play an essential role in mitigating the impact of climate change. Planting trees is one of the most important things we can do to contribute to the health of the planet," said UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, at a forum on forests in March.

Kenya has made a particular effort to plant trees since late 2017 and early 2018, when a particularly severe drought hit the country. Scientists say forests can help regulate rainfall. The forest protection push has included efforts to evict people who encroach on forest land and a logging ban issued by the country's deputy president earlier this year. But plenty of obstacles remain to regrowing Kenya's forests. "In Kenya, the biggest challenge is corruption that leads to the poor management of forests," said Psamson Nzioki, of the Climate Governance Integrity Programme at Transparency International-Kenya. "You find the forest guards are the ones burning charcoal instead of protecting the trees," Nzioki said.

Not everyone has been happy about Waweru's tree planting push. Community members in Kisaju at first demanded he and the boys pick up and remove all the seed balls spread in the area, something he called "a very tiresome experience". "They knew we were planting trees but said that they did not want them since thieves would hide in them and steal their cattle", Waweru said. But in time people have come around. Douglas Ole Lenku, a cattle herder, said he now understands that more trees means more rain - and that's good for his animals. "We will be happy as Maasai (people) if the trees bring rain because the drought is almost killing us and our animals," he said. Ole Lenku, in fact, now has a slingshot of his own. "Whenever I am herding here, I just shoot and enjoy. One cannot get bored with a packet of almost 700 tree seedlings and a catapult," he said. — Reuters

Cartoon for the Soul



Maradona: Playing genius but coaching misfit

As much as he was a genius with the ball at his feet, Diego Maradona's coaching career has been far from distinguished and took a curious turn when he joined Mexican second-division outfit Dorados. The man who led Argentina to just their second World Cup crown - according to many almost single-handedly - and whose brilliance inspired Napoli to the only two Serie A titles in their history, has ploughed a less successful coaching furrow.

With a cultured left foot and mesmerizing dribbles he was twice signed for a world record fee, first by Barcelona and then Napoli. He played for some of Argentina's biggest and most prestigious clubs: Boca Juniors, Newell's Old Boys and Argentinos Juniors, while also representing his country 91 times and scoring 34 goals. "If I die, I want to be born again and play football to give the people joy," he once said.

Father time has long caught up with the 57-year-old, though, as he wryly notes: "I have shorter legs than a picture frame, if I want to train I get torn all the way up to the shoulders." After the glittering playing highs, his coaching career, barring a two-year stint in charge of the Argentine national team, has been largely spent far away from the glitz and glamour.

Unmitigated failures

This is not the first time he's taken charge of a second-division side - he left Al Fujairah of the United Arab Emirates in May after failing to guide them to promo-

tion despite seven wins in 11 matches. Other spells at Deportivo Mandiyu and Racing Club in Argentina and UAE's Al Wasl were unmitigated failures. During the first two, from 1994-95, he won a combined three out of 23 matches and subsequently resumed his playing career, albeit briefly.

In this latest quest he can only improve the team's performances given they have yet to win a game this season. The club's fans seem unperturbed by his poor coaching record, with one holding up a placard proclaiming: "Welcome Golden God!" as Maradona arrived at the Culiacan airport on Saturday. One teenage fan, Bryan Felix, has faith that even at 57, Maradona can still improve. "His other coaching experiences weren't good but that's the same for other coaches when they started," he said.

Maradona's first coaching experience was five years before Felix was even born. Dorados president Jose Antonio Nunez is another beating the same drum, attempting to find a positive twist on his high-profile signing's record. "He knows what it's like to start from the bottom, he knows the value of a lower league," he said.

'Happy memories'

Maradona has a special affinity for Mexico as it was there that he enjoyed his finest hour, leading Argentina to a 3-2 victory over West Germany in the 1986 World Cup final. At the weekend he wrote on Instagram that he was "happy to return to the land where I was world



Argentine football star Diego Maradona waves inside a car upon his arrival at the international airport in Culiacan on Sept 8, 2018. —AFP

champion and where I retain very happy memories". He will do so while retaining his other official position, as honorary president of Belarusian outfit Dinamo Brest, a post he only took up in July, but to great fanfare as he was paraded around town to cheering crowds and given a diamond ring.

That would have come in handy for someone who has suffered financial difficulties in recent times, not least with a multi-million euro unpaid Italian tax bill hanging over his head. It might explain his need to take up a coaching position in such a relative backwater. It's also an ideological fit for a man who was friends

with two of Latin America's most famous socialist leaders: Cuba's Fidel Castro and Hugo Chaves of Venezuela, and sports a tattoo of revolutionary icon Che Guevara.

Maradona sent a welcome message to new Mexico President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador while hitting out at "imperialism" in a clear reference to the United States. He has changed little over the years but, if his coaching fortunes don't experience a dramatic upsurge, this could be another brief footnote in a career that will always be remembered more for his on-field skills than any off-field antics. —AFP

Regulating the urban anarchy of war-torn Kabul

In the alley winding between the earthen walls of Old Kabul, Wakil Mohammad Sadeq insists on honoring his visitors with a cup of tea. "You are the first to offer us help without asking for money!" he says. Wakil's home is one of thousands of unregulated houses stuffed into the Afghan capital, whose boundaries have long overflowed as refugees fleeing war are added to a surging young population.

Now Kabul authorities are trying to bring order to the snarl of informal housing, as President Ashraf Ghani seeks to equip the city with a cadaster, or land registry, for the first time in its history. "Here, urbanization has been guided by conflicts and humanitarian crises," says Koussay Boulaich, head of communication at UN-Habitat, which is running the project in partnership with the Kabul government. "The only attempt at urban planning dates from the Soviets" in the late 1970s, he notes.

Today, Kabul has more than four million inhabitants. Nearly 40 years of conflict have driven hundreds of thousands of people from rural areas into the shelter of the capital, creating entire new neighborhoods without plans or records. The majority of their inhabitants live with no safety net, at the mercy of an overnight eviction.

And the influx shows no sign of slow-

ing down. Since early 2015, cities across Afghanistan including Kabul have received a total of more than 2.5 million people displaced by war. "Of the 255,000 properties already assessed in Kabul by UN-Habitat, only 15 percent have a valid title deed, 41 percent have documents without legal value and 44 percent have no documents at all," says Boulaich.

Neighborhood watch

Most of the fragile houses that tumble up the dusty foothills surrounding Kabul are unregulated. Many are built of mud and lack electricity and running water. But informal housing also encompasses ancient houses such as Wakil's, and the opulent, expensive villas on clean, paved streets in Kabul's wealthy areas. In the absence of any owner, residents who can prove they have been in a property for at least 15 years are granted a certificate of occupation.

To find owners, the UN-Habitat team first checks with the municipality and its archives, then with neighbors, explains Sayed Sadullah Wahab, coordinator for the "City for All" program. If no owner is found, they post a certificate of occupancy that is valid for five years at the local mosque. "After five years, if nobody claims it the tenant will get the full property," he said. Once the neighbors are questioned, any existing owner usually pops up within days, even if he is as far away as the United States or Germany, he adds. "The neighbors call him," he explains with a smile.

Where the streets have no name

AFP accompanied Wahab's team of investigators to another house. Salim Ahmad, the owner, was killed last year by the Taliban, so it is his father-in-law who comes to justify the family's right to the



In this photo taken on June 12, 2018 Afghan surveyors from the UN-Habitat team measure a wall during the registration of unregulated houses in Kabul. — AFP

land. But their acquisition has never been validated, and titles laminated with care have no legal value. The UN-Habitat team records the documents, the electricity bills, the identity of the occupants, and takes measurements of the land and the house. This data will be used to establish the occupancy certificate and the amount of house tax, or safai.

President Ghani has already distributed the first certificates in Kabul, as well as in the western city of Herat and the eastern city of Jalalabad. For the first time in Afghanistan's history they are being awarded to women as well as men. Currently, the UN says, women account for just five percent of the recognized landowners in the country. UN-Habitat has 1,200 employees on the project and a budget of \$63 million until 2020, funded by the European Union and the US devel-

opment agency, USAID.

After so many years of conflict and lawlessness, the project is encountering challenges from residents who do not trust that paying safai will benefit them, says Helay Ishaqzai, 25, one of the team's investigators. However, an awareness campaign to illustrate how the funds are being used in each neighborhood is paying off. Through it, women, the elderly, even children can vote for the money to be used in different ways, such as maintaining roads or schools.

The program will also see the confusing mass of thoroughfares clearly named, an innovation set to revolutionize navigation in a city where most directions are given by way of landmarks: behind the supermarket, second right after the mosque, left of the blue door, and so on. —AFP

Business

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2018

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FALLUJAH: Iraqi passengers disembark from a train coming from Baghdad as it arrives in the city of Fallujah in Anbar province, about 70 kilometers west of the capital. —AFP

A ray of hope as Iraq reopens railway

Revitalized rail line a vital link to Baghdad

FALLUJAH: The newly-revived railway between Baghdad and Fallujah snakes across the western Iraqi desert, through a landscape of burned-out tanks, abandoned cars and collapsed buildings.

For the last month, Captain Imed Hassun has taken pride in once again driving the route between the capital and the former Islamic State group stronghold.

"I didn't think that a train would come back here again," says Hassun, who has been a driver for 30 years but had until recently been redeployed elsewhere. While government forces expelled IS from Fallujah in 2016, the line still bears the scars of the group's two-year occupation of the city and its environs, including mines it planted along the tracks.

Before the jihadists' rise, Hassun and his co-driver steered the Baghdad-Fallujah route during some of the most turbulent times in Iraq's history. They had even kept trains running during much of the combat between American forces and Sunni militia in the mid-2000s, and the sectarian clashes that preceded the rise of IS.

But while happy to be back on this line, Hassun-clad in the marine blue and white uniform of Iraq's railways—proceeds with caution.

So far, he has successfully pushed his new Chinese-built diesel train to 100 kilometers (60 miles) per hour. But he dare not go faster, as the rails have only just been brought back into basic working service by a team of dedicated employees.

Zimbabwe seeks return to dollar as new govt sworn in

HARARE: Zimbabwe's newly sworn-in finance minister yesterday said he planned to reintroduce the Zimbabwe dollar and accelerate plans to repay the country's debt, in a bid to revive the battered economy. The southern African nation abandoned its currency after it spiralled out of control between 2008 and 2009 during the rule of Robert Mugabe.

The country adopted the US greenback and other foreign currencies including the South African rand. But a few years later, with the economy in tatters, US bank notes started to run short.

In 2016, Mugabe's government tried to tackle the chronic shortage of US banknotes by introducing a parallel token currency called "bond notes", theoretically worth the same as a US dollar.

But the bond notes are in reality worth far less than the US dollar. "Ultimately, I want to be very

"When we started the work, people mocked us," says Youssef Thabet, the chief railroad engineer in Fallujah. "But as soon as the first convoy entered the station, people were forced to believe it—and now they demand more trains," he adds.

There remains much work to do. Fallujah's old station is still in ruins, replaced for now by a pre-fabricated structure and plastic chairs. But for passengers, the revitalized line is a vital link to the capital and the only alternative to polluted and gridlocked roads.

Road travel is frequently made even less appealing by security personnel forcing traffic into unexplained detours. For years, medical student Ali Ahmad took the minibus every week to a university campus in Baghdad. Now in his final year, he finds taking the train aids his study.

"I revise in an air-conditioned carriage for an hour and a half, without being plagued by cigarette smoke," he says.

In the cafe car, a screen displays the outside temperature at 43 degrees Celsius (109 degrees Fahrenheit), and the train's speed at 91 kilometers per hour. On the journey

'People laughed'



Fallujah's old station is still in ruins

back from Baghdad, 28-year-old Sinan Majid has his hands full of boxes. He has bought clothes to stock his shop in Fallujah.

"With the train, we know the time of travel. And there is no delay," Majid tells AFP, sitting at a table with friends.

For Lamia Ahmed too, the train is a godsend. The 39-year-old primary school teacher can rely on it to get her to Baghdad for administrative tasks, without worrying that offices will close before she arrives.

And above all, enthuses Omar Khalil, a 38-year-old hairdresser who has come to Baghdad to buy parts for his car, a ticket costs 2,000 dinars (less than two dollars, or 1.5 euros).

"A minibus ticket costs 3,500 dinars and a (shared) taxi up to 10,000," he adds, lounging in one of the train's red seats.

'90 percent damaged'

The train leaves Fallujah every day at 6:45 am to travel the 65 kilometers to the capital, before returning at 3:00 pm, a time judged to best suit civil servants and students.

"An average of 250 travellers make the return journey

each day," says Abdel Mutallem Saleh, transport manager for Anbar province. Iraq has 2,000 kilometers of railways and its network was connected to Istanbul in 1940. The country plans a major revival of its network.

For now, the line between Baghdad and Akashat on the Syrian border only works as far as Fallujah, says Taleb Jawad Kazem, deputy director general of Iraq's railways.

But the lines to Basra at the southern tip of the country, and to the holy city of Karbala in central Iraq, never stopped operating. And work is under way to reopen the links to Baiji, Tikrit and Samarra to the north of Baghdad, adds Kazem.

In 2016, Iraq spent \$137 million (118 million euros) on 12 new trains from China.

But there is a long way to go before the network can host the 72 daily train journeys that were made in the heyday of Iraq's railways, before the UN slapped sanctions on the country in the 1990s.

Enormous work will be required to ensure trains once again reach Syria or even Mosul, Iraq's second city and another former IS stronghold. "The rails, stations, equipment, bridges and tunnels have sustained damage of more than 90 percent" in areas where the jihadists operated, Kazem said.

And on the rehabilitated routes, another danger lurks—demoralized children from slums built close to the tracks. As each train passes, small groups of boys throw stones, chipping the windows. —AFP



HARARE: Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Professor Mthuli Ncube, speaks to the press after the swearing in ceremony for Zimbabwe's new cabinet ministers at State House, Harare yesterday. —AFP

Business

Turkish economic growth dips, lira crisis darkens outlook

Growth just below a poll forecast of 5.3%

ISTANBUL: Turkish economic growth slowed to 5.2 percent year-on-year in the second quarter, data showed yesterday, in what officials described as an "economic rebalancing" before an expected second-half slowdown as Turkey grapples with a currency crisis.

President Tayyip Erdogan has overseen strong growth during his 15 years in power but the economy is now facing challenges after a sharp decline in the lira, triggered partly by concerns about his influence over monetary policy. In a Reuters poll, the economy had been expected to grow 5.3 percent in the first quarter. The lira firmed to 6.4581 against the dollar after the data from 6.4850 beforehand.

Second quarter gross domestic product (GDP) expanded a seasonally and calendar adjusted 0.9 percent from the previous quarter, data from the Turkish Statistical Institute showed. Last year the economy grew 7.4 percent.

Growth was driven by domestic demand despite a moderate slowdown in consumption and investments in the second quarter but the slowdown will become more visible from the third quarter, said Finance Minister Berat Albayrak.

Rabobank emerging markets forex strategist Piotr Matys said that, given concerns over the economy overheating, the slowdown from 7.3 percent in the first quarter could be seen as encouraging. "The Turkish economy is widely expected to lose even more momentum in the coming quarters as a result of significant lira depreciation," he said, adding that attention was focused on the central bank's rate-setting meeting on Thursday.

Rate hike?

Investors expect the central bank to raise interest rates, but the size of the hike will be crucial, Matys added. The bank left rates on hold at its last meeting in July, defying expectations of a hike.

Data last week showed inflation surged to 17.9 percent year-on-year in August, its highest level since late 2003, prompting the central bank to signal it would take action against "significant risks" to price stability. In the second quarter, the agricultural sector shrank 1.5 percent year-on-year while the industry sector grew 4.3 percent, the construction sector grew 0.8 percent and services expanded 8 percent.

A central bank survey yesterday showed 2018 GDP growth was expected to be 3.4 percent, down from a previous forecast of 3.9 percent. It also showed end-2018 inflation was seen at 19.61 percent, up from a previous 16.45 percent. According to a Reuters poll, the economy is expected to grow 3.3 percent in the year as a whole.

The government has been working on stimulus measures to stave off the expected slowdown in the coming quarters. Erdogan, a self-described "enemy of interest rates", has pushed banks to lend more to boost private spending.

His demands for lower interest rates have fuelled concerns that the central bank lacks independence. The lira has tumbled 41 percent against the dollar this year in a slide exacerbated by a bitter diplomatic row with the United States. Officials have said they expect a contraction of the economy in the third quarter and full-year growth of around four percent - below a 5.5 percent government target. — Reuters



KYRENIA: A view of the harbor of the coastal city of Kyrenia in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), which is only recognized by Turkey. Hit by the tanking Turkish lira, breakaway northern Cyprus is struggling to fend off a crisis largely outside the control of the isolated enclave that relies on Ankara for its economic survival. — AFP

Pakistan official's criticism of China's 'Silk Road' projects raises worries

KARACHI/ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani official's critical comments about projects funded by China to the tune of billions of dollars rattled investors and sparked worries yesterday of a souring in ties, a day after Beijing's top government diplomat concluded a visit.

Abdul Razak Dawood, the Pakistani cabinet member for commerce, industry and investment, suggested that all projects in the \$57-billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor program could be eligible for suspension in a review to be conducted this week under the orders of new Prime Minister Imran Khan.

"I think we should put everything on hold for a year, so we can get our act together," Dawood told the Financial Times in an interview. "Perhaps we can stretch CPEC out over another five years or so."

He added that he thought China had been granted too-favorable terms in many projects by the former government of Nawaz Sharif. "Chinese companies received tax breaks, many breaks and have an undue advantage in Pakistan: this is one of the things we're looking at because it's not fair that Pakistan companies should be disadvantaged," Dawood said.

Pakistani markets fell in early trading yesterday, with the benchmark KSE 100 index down 477.38 just after midday at 40,374 points, before recovering to close at 40,684, still down 0.4 percent. Dawood's comments were "mind-boggling" and rare public criticism of

China, said Mohammad Zubair, privatization minister in the previous government. "This is probably the harshest statement about the Chinese in the last 50 years or so," Zubair told Reuters. "Even if there are issues with the Chinese, those issues should be dealt with in private rather than being made public."

Later yesterday, Dawood told domestic broadcaster Geo TV that his statements had been misconstrued and he would clarify them later. The critical comments were published just after the Chinese government's top diplomat, State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, visited Pakistan and the two sides reaffirmed the mutual benefits of the Beijing-funded projects.

While Khan, a former cricket star, has made no secret he plans to review all government projects and expenditure, the finance ministry last month said Pakistan was "fully committed to undertake and complete CPEC projects in their totality".

Pakistan is struggling to avert a foreign currency crisis that could force it to seek a bailout from the International Monetary Fund. Its foreign currency reserves have dwindled to \$9.9 billion last month from around \$16 billion in mid-2017. The rupee has been devalued four times since late last year, falling by more than 20 percent. In June, Beijing gave Pakistan \$1 billion in loans to boost foreign reserves ahead of the July 25 election. — Reuters

China producer inflation eases, points to more pressure on economy

BEIJING: China's producer inflation cooled in August amid softening domestic demand, pointing to a steady slowing in growth in the world's second biggest economy as it confronts heightened risks to the outlook from a heated trade dispute with the United States.

Consumer inflation, on the other hand, picked up more than expected in August, though policy makers are likely to stay focused on growth rather than pricing pressures as US President Donald Trump raises the stakes in the tariff war. The producer price index (PPI), a gauge of industrial profitability, rose 4.1 percent in August from a year earlier, compared with a 4.6 percent increase in July, according to data released by the National Statistics Bureau yesterday.

Analysts polled by Reuters had expected August PPI would rise to 4.0 percent. On a monthly basis, PPP picked up from 0.1 percent in July to 0.4 percent in August. Raw material prices rose 7.8 percent in August from a year earlier, compared with a 9.0 percent increase in July. "Despite soft industrial output in the third quarter, domestic policies such as boosting infrastructure spending could provide some support to prices of related industrial goods in the fourth quarter," said Betty Wang, Hong Kong-based senior China economist at ANZ, noting that month-on-month PPI growth has been picking up.

China's economic growth cooled slightly to 6.7 percent in the second quarter, though worries about a sharper slowdown have increased



SHANGQIU, China: An employee monitoring a circular weaving machine at a textile factory in Shangqiu in China's central Henan province. — AFP

in recent months amid rocky trade relations with the United States. The two countries have already slapped tit-for-tat tariffs on \$50 billion of each other's goods, and US President Donald Trump has warned that he was ready to slap tariffs on virtually all Chinese imports into the United States. With domestic and foreign demand slowing, and export orders in both official and private factory surveys extending their declines in August, investors have cause to be nervous about China's outlook.

Policy support

China's policy makers are trying to keep the economy on an even keel as the dispute with the United States threatens to dent output. The government has responded by loosening its liquidity tap in money markets and speeding up infrastructure projects as it eyes expansionary fiscal policy to support growth. Beijing has approved new railways in six cities in August.

On a year-on-year basis, the consumer price index (CPI) rose 2.3 percent in August, fastest

pace since February this year and above expectations of 2.2 percent. It also accelerated from July's 2.1 percent.

The food price index climbed 1.7 percent from a year earlier as vegetable prices rose and pork prices rebounded, while non-food prices grew 2.5 percent in August.

On a month-on-month basis, the CPI increased 0.7 percent. Since August, China has reported multiple African swine fever (ASF) outbreaks that have pushed up pork prices in the country's south as demand grows ahead of a week-long holiday in October and also raised the prospect of more imports.

However, analysts say that while ASF has increased the upside risk to the inflation outlook, the impact would most likely be small. "Improvements in China's disease management and pork's lower CPI weighting these days suggest that any pick-up in inflation this time around would be more moderate," said Chang Liu, a London-based China Economist at Capital Economics, in a note last week. — Reuters

South Africa may miss tax target over recession

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's tax take could well be lower than forecast this financial year, with a recession compounding problems at the tax revenue service, Finance Minister Nhlamhla Nene said yesterday.

Nene said tax avoidance and evasion would rise in any economy that was growing slowly and where taxes have been increased, and the fall in GDP would only worsen matters.

The country entered recession in the second quarter for the first time since 2009, data showed last week, weakening the rand and government bonds. "There is now additional downside risk to the tax revenue projected at the beginning of the year because of the contraction in the economy," Nene told a tax conference, referring to the financial year ending next March.

"Fixing our economy to ensure that it grows faster and in a more sustainable manner is therefore critical," Nene also cited problems at the South African revenue service (SARS).

President Cyril Ramaphosa, who has staked his leadership on reviving an economy that lost momentum under his

predecessor Jacob Zuma, suspended SARS commissioner Tom Moyane in March over alleged misconduct.

Two months later he established an inquiry into the allegations, which cover events during Zuma's scandal-plagued administration. Moyane has denied wrongdoing.

In its February budget the Treasury said it faced a 48.2 billion rand revenue gap in the 2017/18 fiscal year, partly due to SARS missing its collection targets. It also increased value added tax (VAT) for the first time since 1993.

Tax shortfalls in the past two years had been partly due to slower than projected economic growth, while tax evasion was also a factor, Nene said.

"Some taxpayers are taking it upon themselves to pay as little tax as possible. Such behavior not only negatively affects collection ... (but) creates more social discontent," Nene said. Ratings agency Moody's said South Africa's slide into recession in the second quarter - which Ramaphosa said would be temporary, - would complicate its fiscal and monetary challenges.

Analysts say Africa's most developed economy needs faster economic growth if it is to reduce high unemployment - currently at 27 percent - and alleviate poverty and the inequality that stokes instability. Unemployment is a hot-button issue ahead of national elections in 2019, and the governing African National Congress (ANC) has made repeated pledges that things will improve. — Reuters

Hedge funds turn bullish again on oil

LONDON: Hedge fund managers have turned bullish again towards crude and fuels, adding a significant number of new long positions in the last two weeks, after spending much of the previous four months liquidating positions. Hedge funds and other money managers raised their combined net long position in the six most important petroleum futures and options

contracts by 47 million barrels in the week to Sept. 4. Fund managers have boosted their net long position by 172 million barrels in the last two weeks, after cutting it by 508 million barrels since April 17, according to regulatory and exchange records.

The most recent week saw portfolio managers add to net long positions in Brent (+28 million barrels), NYMEX and ICE WTI (+17 million), US heating oil (+4 million) and European gasoil (+3 million).

Only US gasoline futures and options saw a small reduction in fund managers' net long positions last week (-4 million barrels).

Net long positions in Brent have jumped by 92 million barrels since Aug. 21 while net positions in WTI are up by 45 million barrels over

the same period (<https://tmsnr.rs/2CF2Wia>).

Fund managers' combined net long in Brent and WTI has risen to 803 million barrels, from a low of 666 million barrels just two weeks ago, and the highest since early July. During the four months from late April to late August, position changes were led by the liquidation of old long positions rather than the creation of fresh shorts. The last two weeks has seen that reversed, however, with the creation of new long positions leading the market higher.

With many stale long positions now liquidated, the US economy still growing strongly, signs of US drilling hitting a peak, and the imminent re-imposition of Iran sanctions, the hedge fund community is becoming bullish again. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL			
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL	
	Europe		
British Pound	0.384889	0.398789	
Czech Korune	0.005624	0.014924	
Danish Krone	0.042925	0.047925	
Euro	0.342902	0.356602	
Georgian Lari	0.115668	0.011177	
Hungarian	0.000987	0.037080	
Norwegian Krone	0.031880	0.075538	
Romanian Leu	0.058688	0.004332	
Russian ruble	0.004332	0.019069	
Slovakia	0.009069	0.034459	
Swedish Krona	0.029459	0.317487	
Swiss Franc	0.306487		
	Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.207469	0.219469	
New Zealand Dollar	0.191543	0.201043	
			America
Canadian Dollar	0.224853	0.233853	
US Dollars	0.299650	0.304950	
US Dollars Mint	0.300150	0.304950	
			Asia
Bangladesh Taka	0.002992	0.003793	
Chinese Yuan	0.042903	0.046403	
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036606	0.039356	
Indian Rupee	0.003741	0.004523	
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000016	0.000022	
Japanese Yen	0.002652	0.002832	
Malaysian Ringgit	0.000258	0.000273	
Korean Won	0.070095	0.076095	
Nepalese Rupee	0.002626	0.002966	
Pakistan Rupee	0.001957	0.002727	
Philippine Peso	0.005550	0.005850	
Singapore Dollar	0.214474	0.224474	
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001520	0.002100	
Taiwan	0.009723	0.009903	
			Arab
Thai Baht	0.008926	0.009476	
Bahraini Dinar	0.790707	0.807207	
Egyptian Pound	0.014344	0.020062	
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085	
Iraqi Dinar	0.000200	0.000260	
Jordanian Dinar	0.424119	0.433119	
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000	
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250	
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022438	0.046438	
Omani Riyal	0.782643	0.788323	
Qatar Riyal	0.079143	0.084083	
Saudi Riyal	0.079913	0.081213	
Syrian Pound	0.001288	0.001508	
Tunisian Dinar	0.105000	0.113000	
Turkish Lira	0.041566	0.053066	
UAE Dirhams	0.081275	0.082975	
Yemeni Riyal	0.000987	0.001067	

Business

Alibaba's Zhang prepares to step from Jack Ma's shadow

New chairman could herald a new era for e-commerce giant

SHANGHAI: Both in personality and skillset, Alibaba's Daniel Zhang will herald a new era for the Chinese e-commerce giant when he takes over full leadership from charismatic founder Jack Ma.

Ma announced yesterday that in exactly one year he will hand the executive chairmanship of Alibaba's board to Zhang, CEO since 2015. Outwardly at least, their differences could not be more stark.

Former English teacher Ma, 54, has become a globally recognized figure through his constant travel and playful antics such as impersonating Michael Jackson at a company event last year. Zhang, 46, on the other hand, is a mild-mannered accountant with a calm, collected demeanor. But Zhang is routinely referred to by Chinese media as the man who transformed Ma's sturdy little "tractor" into a "Boeing 747", and analysts say he is more than up to the task.

Hailing from the commercial hub of Shanghai, Zhang studied finance at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics. He was a senior manager at global auditor Price Waterhouse Coopers and chief financial officer of a Chinese online games company before joining Alibaba in 2007 as CFO of its main online marketplace Taobao.

Zhang is credited with building Alibaba's Tmall business-to-consumer platform into one of the group's most successful arms, and creating the annual November 11 "Singles' Day" online shopping bonanza, China's biggest retail day of the year.

Launched in 2009 as China's answer to the US "Black Friday", "Singles' Day" last year saw more than \$25 billion worth of goods snapped up on Alibaba platforms, up nearly 40 percent year-on-year. Billions of dollars more were bought via Alibaba's e-commerce rivals, who have joined in.

'Wicked smart'

In many ways Zhang has been in charge since becoming chief operating officer in 2013 and CEO in 2015, with Ma stepping back and acting as more of a figurehead. Under Zhang's tenure Alibaba has moved from PC-based transactions to mobile-based, which now account for nearly 80 percent of total gross merchandise volume. With revenues surging, Alibaba's stock has soared nearly 90 percent. It is now one of the world's most valuable companies with a market capitalization of about \$420 billion.

Within Alibaba's tight-knit culture, staff each take on nicknames based on Chinese martial arts figures thought to represent

their skills and methods. Zhang's is a character known for staying out of battles, but training unbeatable proteges.

"Jack Ma is incredibly charismatic. Daniel Zhang is not. He's super smart, but when he gives a press conference-it's not really his thing," said Jeffrey Towson, author, investor and business professor at Peking University. "But they (the management team) are all wicked smart. This is a top-tier management team."

Zhang is a professed fan of basketball and football. Chinese media say he is a devoted follower of English club Arsenal.

Under Zhang, Alibaba has poured investment into various new initiatives including bricks-and-mortar retail, cloud computing, digital media, the grocery sector, meal delivery and advertising.

In August, it teamed with Starbucks to capitalize on China's growing coffee addiction and in April completed the acquisition of Chinese food-delivery leader Ele.me, among other deals. "In the world of business, the excitement never ends, the competition never ends," Zhang said in an interview earlier this year. "You must keep awake every minute; you need to keep your eyes open in your sleep. You must keep learning and innovating." — AFP



SHANGHAI: In this file picture, Alibaba CEO Daniel Zhang speaking shortly after the end of the 11.11, or Singles Day shopping festival, at a gala event in Shanghai. — AFP

EU and US trade reps meet but trans-Atlantic rift remains wide

BRUSSELS: Top trade officials from the US and EU met yesterday to begin efforts to turn a much heralded deal to avert a trade war into a concrete long-term agreement.

After the meeting, EU trade commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom said she would meet US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer again by the end of the month. But neither side announced any immediate breakthrough. "We discussed how to move forward and identify priorities on both sides," Malmstrom wrote on Twitter, "and how to achieve concrete results in the short to medium term."

Lighthizer's office called it a "constructive meeting". The negotiators' cautious response to this first chance to "operationalize" plans for a limited trans-Atlantic trade pact came in stark contrast to the enthusiasm surrounding its birth. In July, US President Donald Trump and European Commission head Jean-Claude Juncker pledged to hold off from further tit-for-tat tariffs and to work towards scrapping customs duties on all goods. Both sides hailed the deal as a major breakthrough, but subsequent statements showed that disputes persist, especially over agriculture, which Washington insists will be a key part of any agreement.

"Lots of work remains this autumn, our services will be in close contact in the coming weeks," Malmstrom said, promising that technical teams will meet in October. Under pressure from France, Europe refuses to allow farm goods be included in trade negotiations, creating a sticking point that Malmstrom and Lighthizer must get past.

"The idea is that the commission and the United States agree on a framework document, perhaps by the end of the year," a



TULARE: Farm workers harvest a corn crop in the central valley town of Tulare. The Trump administration recently said it would use a depression-era farm support fund to make direct payments to producers of soybeans, sorghum, corn, wheat, cotton and dairy. — AFP

European source said. "Trump and Juncker have an agreement, but in reality, we didn't completely agree on the scope of the discussions," she added.

French Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire told AFP that agriculture remains a "red line" and that there is no question that it be included in the talks-despite US insistence.

"The meeting between presidents Juncker and Trump allowed a return to dialogue, and that's positive," he said. "Beyond that, we have no illusions. We're a long way from a lasting solution."

The US delegation did not explicitly mention the farm dispute. But its statement appeared to nod towards the agricultural issue by saying: "Specifically, we hope for an early harvest in the area of technical barriers to trade." Officials had set very low expectations for the meeting, which is the first of several anticipated sit-downs to map out sectors in which common ground might be found.

'Bad as China'

The summer's mending of fences was already fragile. Last week, Trump harangued

the EU and raised the spectre of slapping tariffs on Europe's auto industry.

Auto tariffs would be seen as a blow by Germany and would add to existing levies on steel and aluminum that Trump imposed on Europe in June. The EU imposed a raft of counter-duties in return.

Last month, Malmstrom said a trade deal could include scrapping transatlantic tariffs on autos, but Trump swiftly excluded the possibility, arguing that Europe was virtually closed to US cars.

"It's not good enough," Trump said, speaking of the Brussels offer. Trump also worryingly compared the EU to China, which on Friday received a threat of tariffs on all goods exported to the United States.

"The European Union is almost as bad as China, just smaller," Trump told Bloomberg on August 31. But the Europeans, led by jittery Germany, want the US at the negotiating table and seem ready to hand Trump small victories in exchange for a truce. Since July, the EU commission has announced a series of commitments to the US, but observers note that these are largely done deals. — AFP

Tokyo's Nikkei snaps six-day losing streak

TOKYO: Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei index rose yesterday, snapping a six-day losing streak, although investors remained vigilant about a possible escalation in the US-China trade war.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index gained 0.30 percent or 66.03 points to close at 22,373.09, while the broader Topix index was up 0.20 percent or 3.30 points at 1,687.61. Tokyo shares initially opened fractionally lower, extending falls on Wall Street last week.

But they ended in positive territory "as bargain-hunting emerged following the recent loss," said Toshikazu Horiuchi, a broker at IwaiCosmo Securities. "But buying sentiment is not strong as concerns over the US-China trade war are weighing on the market," Horiuchi said.

"Nervous trading is expected to continue for now," he added.

The dollar fetched 110.95 yen in Asian afternoon trade, down from 111.02 yen in



TOKYO: This file picture shows people crossing a scramble intersection in Tokyo's shopping district Shibuya. Japan's economy grew faster than initially thought in the April-June quarter thanks to strong corporate investment, official figures showed yesterday. — AFP

New York late Friday, when world equities stumbled on worries over the US-China trade war after a threat of fresh tariffs by President Donald Trump.

Sony rose 0.24 percent to 6,245 yen and Nintendo gained 0.28 percent to 38,640 yen.

Fast Retailing, the Uniqlo casual wear operator and market heavyweight, was up 0.16 percent at 53,990 yen. But electronic parts maker Rohm was down 1.15 percent at 9,390 yen and chip testing devices maker Advantest slumped 2.41 percent to 2,387 yen. — AFP

China vows to respond if US takes new steps on trade

BEIJING: China will respond if the United States takes any new steps on trade, the foreign ministry said yesterday, after President Donald Trump warned he was ready to slap tariffs on virtually all Chinese imports into the United States.

On Friday, Trump said he was ready to levy additional taxes on practically all Chinese imports, threatening duties on \$267 billion of goods over and above planned tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese products.

"If the US side obstinately clings to its course and takes any new tariff measures against China, then the Chinese side will inevitably take countermeasures to resolutely protect our legitimate rights," Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a regular briefing, when asked about Trump's warning.

He did not elaborate. The United States and China have activated additional tariffs on \$50 billion of each other's goods since July, as trade friction between the world's two biggest economies worsened, despite several rounds of negotiations.

Trump has criticized China's record trade surplus with the United

States, and has demanded that Beijing cut it immediately. Tension has also persisted over limits on US firms' access to Chinese markets, intellectual property protection, technology transfers and investment.

In August, China unveiled a proposed list of retaliatory tariffs on \$60 billion of US goods ranging from liquefied natural gas to some types of aircraft, should Washington activate the tariffs on its \$200 billion list. The tariffs, ranging from 5 percent to 25 percent, would apply to 5,207 products, and US actions will determine whether China adopts the additional duties, Beijing said at the time.

China has either imposed or proposed tariffs on \$110 billion of US goods, representing most of its American imports, though crude oil and large aircraft are still not targeted for penalties.

The \$200 billion of Chinese goods on the US list includes some consumer products such as cameras and recording devices, luggage, handbags, tires and vacuum cleaners, with additional tariffs ranging from 10 to 25 percent. Spared until now, mobile telephones, the biggest US import from China, would be engulfed if Trump activates the \$267 billion tariff list.

Trump's threatened tariffs cover a total of \$517 billion in Chinese goods, which would exceed last year's goods imports of \$505 billion from China. China's official export data has been surprisingly resilient, with growth exceeding analysts' expectations for five months in a row. — Reuters

Barnier sends sterling to a 5-week high on Brexit deal hopes

LONDON: Sterling surged against the dollar and euro yesterday after the European Union's chief negotiator said a Brexit deal was "realistic in six to eight weeks".

For the second time in less than a week, Michel Barnier has signalled his desire to move ahead on the Brexit negotiations, less than seven months before the United Kingdom is slated to leave the European Union on March 29, 2019. Barnier, the EU's chief negotiator, told a forum in Slovenia that it was "realistic" to expect a divorce deal with Britain, the British embassy to Slovenia said on Twitter.

For a market broadly short the pound because of worries that Britain will crash out of the trading bloc next year without any sort of formal trading arrangement, that signalled the UK can avoid a disorderly no-deal Brexit.

The British currency rallied across the board, rising more than one percent to \$1.3052, its highest level in five weeks. The pound also rose to a one-month high against the euro at 88.96 pence while versus the Swiss franc it was headed for its biggest one-day rise in more than 18 months.

"It just shows that's the key thing that people want to see-Brexit progress. You have a market that's heavily short on sterling due to Brexit. It needs that tail risk to be taken off before sterling can rally," said Viraj Patel, a currency strategist at ING in London.

Before Barnier's comments, the pound had traded modestly higher against the dollar and euro as data showed the British economy posting its fastest growth in almost a year.

Data showed British gross domestic product in the three months to July was 0.6 percent higher than in the previous three-month period, gathering pace from 0.4 percent growth in the three months to June, and at the top end of forecasts.

Sterling has rallied in recent weeks off lows below \$1.27, lifted by earlier seemingly favorable comments from Barnier. On Friday he was quoted as saying the EU was open to discussing other "backstops" on Brexit, especially the Irish border issue, a key hurdle to agreeing a deal. — Reuters

Business

Argentina faces key week for IMF loan negotiations

Macri govt efforts to stave off economic crisis multiply

BUENOS AIRES: Argentine President Mauricio Macri's government will continue discussions with the International Monetary Fund this week as efforts to stave off an economic crisis multiply.

It will be a crucial week for Macri and his government after a turbulent few months in which the currency has been badly hit by a crisis of confidence, while public protests have increased in regularity and fervor. "Argentina will start again, but there is a transition to navigate," Macri admitted on Friday.

The peso was starting to recover at the end of last week after a dramatic two days of crashes the week before. Having lost 20 percent against the dollar over two days a week earlier, it regained 5.35 percent from Wednesday to Friday to close at 37.77.

But that still represents a loss of around half its value since the start of 2018. Panicking Argentines, who view the dollar as a safety net for their savings, have withdrawn \$500 million from the banking sector since April.

According to official estimates, they are holding \$300 billion outside of their country's financial circuit, either in cash or abroad, mostly in Uruguay and the US. The micro-recovery has been helped by positive noises coming out of Washington, where Finance Minister Nicolas Dujovne met with IMF head Christine Lagarde last week.

'Things not resolved'

But Macri says the public is right to remain worried. "All the structural issues have not been resolved because we had three days of calm," said the president.

"Hopefully the calm will continue, because we don't know if another storm is coming."

Argentina's currency troubles led the government to approach the IMF and secure a \$50 billion loan, with an initial \$15 billion tranche of that handed over in June, in large part to prop up the peso. Although it briefly calmed

the storm, market confidence waned again, in part due to the impact of the crisis in Turkey on the currencies of emerging countries.

Argentina went back to the IMF and asked for an advance on loan payments due in 2020 and 2021, but the announcement it was doing so hurt the peso again. In a desperate bid to steady turbulent waters, Argentina's Central Bank hiked interest rates to a world-high 60 percent until at least the end of the year.

But with inflation expected to reach 40 percent for 2018 and Argentines feeling the pinch from rising prices their meagre salaries are ill-equipped to cope with, fear and discontent are on the rise.

Daily protests

Macri introduced austerity measures, but those proved unpopular with citizens—protests have become a daily occurrence—while also failing to appease nervous investors. Some protesters have been chanting for the government to stop paying its debt, while Macri's popularity has been falling. In return for accelerated IMF funding, Argentina has pledged to eliminate its primary budget deficit in 2019. It was 3.9 percent of GDP in 2017.

Any advance of loans would have to be approved by the IMF Executive Board, which doesn't meet until the second half of September. Argentina has had to admit that the economy is in a worse state than previously hoped. Before returning to Buenos Aires, Dujovne admitted that the country was "going through a recession" and that recovery would be "slow."

Having hoped the economy would grow between 0.4 and 1.4 percent this year, Dujovne said it would actually shrink by 1.0 percent, but some sources have spoken of a fall of 2.4 percent. The government is also unlikely to meet the original loan agreement's target of 27 percent inflation this year, with 40 percent now expected. One of Macri's



BUENOS AIRES: Public employees demonstrate against the government of Argentinian President Mauricio Macri outside the former Labor Ministry in Buenos Aires. — AFP

austerity measures was to increase export taxes on corn and soy oil. "They took the decision to consolidate tax, which is positive for the credit, but has a political and eco-

nomical cost," Gabriel Torres, a sovereign risk analyst at ratings agency Moody's, told The Economist. He says the recession will last into 2019. — AFP

AUB announces draw winners

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank announced the names of the winners of the third and last draw of the 'Win and redeem the value of your purchases' campaign, which took place on Sunday at the Bank's main branch in the presence of the Ministry of Trade and Industry's representative.

The lucky winners: Adel Abdulmohsen Alwais, Suliman Abdulfatah Maarafi, Khaled Jasem Alzayed, Ahmad Fanekh Munawer and Mohamed Manei Alajmi. All redeemed 100 percent cash back of the value of their purchases using their AUB Credit Cards with a maximum cash-back of KD 1,000.

The campaign was designed to reward the Bank's customers with 100 percent cash-back on their purchases made using their AUB Credit Cards, with a maximum cash-back of KD 1,000 for each winner. To be eligible, the AUB Credit Cardholder had to spend KD 100 or above during the three months campaign period which ran from June until the end of August 2018.

The campaign offered 15 prizes throughout three draws, each with five prizes. The first draw took place on 9 July 2018, the second draw took place Sunday whereby the third and final draw took place also on Sunday.

In a press statement, the Bank said "We are very pleased with the success of this campaign which reflects our success in introducing innovative offers that add to our customers' banking experience. This campaign reflects AUB's ongoing commitment towards our customers, and our underlying efforts to reward them." Entry into the draw was calculated based on the total value of purchases made during the period of the campaign. Customers received one chance in the draw for every KD 10 they spent locally in Kuwait, and received three chances in the draw for every KD 10 they spent abroad.

In addition to the exciting cash-back campaign benefits, customers who spent using AUB credit cards automatically benefited from the Pearls reward program as well as AUB's instant discount program. These offers provided customers a real added value that rewards the AUB Credit Card and ATM card holders through unique discounts at major well-known companies and retail outlets in Kuwait, as well as points to be redeemed for air tickets on Kuwait Airways, Gulf Air and Qatar Airways."

AUB provides services for customers during Hijri New Year holiday

KUWAIT: On the occasion of the blessed Hijri New Year, Ahli United Bank (AUB) congratulates and extends warm wishes to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the government, the citizens of Kuwait and all residents across the country. May Allah Almighty bless the nation with prosperity and joy at this Holy time.

The bank has announced in a press release: "All our branches in Kuwait will be closed today (11 September 2018) and will resume work tomorrow (12 September 2018)."

AUB has reconfirmed that during this period customers will be able to conduct their banking services through the Bank's electronic channels, including mobile and internet banking (at www.ahliunited.com.kw).

New construction boom threatens Spanish coastline

BEGUS, Spain: Sandwiched between the crystalline blue sea and green pine trees lies Aiguafreda, one of Spain's last largely unspoiled Mediterranean coves, which is threatened by a new building frenzy.

From Catalonia to the Balearic Islands numerous building projects which came to a halt during Spain's 2008 economic crisis have been restarted as growth returns, raising fears among green groups of a new "construction fever" along the country's already heavily built-up coastline.

On the Costa Brava, a nearly 100-mile (160-kilometre) stretch of rugged coastline in northeastern Catalonia, some 20 projects are in the works, according to environmental group SOS Costa Brava.

Among them is a 260-home residential development at Aiguafreda which had been stalled for 15 years due to bureaucratic hold-ups, divisions among investors and then the economic crisis, which was sparked by the collapse of a decade-long property bubble. The project was relaunched by new owners recently. Only a few houses nestled among pine trees currently surround the tiny cove of crystal clear waters, in the municipality of Begur.

"There are very few places left like this, that are so green and with so few houses. The idea of losing it terrifies us," Estel Rumbau of lobby group Save Aiguafreda told AFP.

The municipality says it is impossible to stop the project since the land where it will be built has already been zoned as residential. Expropriating it would cost 50-70 million euros (\$60-81 million) — money the municipality does not have.

"I would like to build zero homes, but our hands are tied. We will try to ensure that they are as little as possible," Begur mayor Joan Manel Loureiro told AFP, vowing that no more than 100 homes will be built.

'No more capacity'

It is not the only project in Begur. On the other side of a hill overlooking the Aiguafreda cove six excavators are preparing land to build 26 luxury apartments with sweeping views of the Medes Islands, a protected area. About 60 apartments are also planned for the neighboring Sa Riera cove. And in the adjoining municipality of Pals the mayor is poised to give the green light for the construction of a thousand homes in a centuries-old

Australian inquiry to peer into darkest corners of insurance business

SYDNEY: When Australia's deadliest cyclone in a quarter century ripped through the country's northeast, it blew out the windows of power technician Luke Read's house and flooded it, damaging walls and making his family sick from mold exposure.

But his insurer, part of Commonwealth Bank of Australia, sent a "claim adjuster" who declared most of the damage from Cyclone Debbie's 195 km/h winds and heavy rains non-existent or minor, leaving him with most of a hefty repair bill. "She walked into my home and said, 'oh no, I've seen worse than this,'" said Read, 34, adding the assessor told him she had no building qualifications. "My daughter, her eyes are constantly puffed up. My wife has been as sick as I've ever seen her. It's devastating."

Eighteen months later, ComInsure's assessment was overturned this week after Read went to the financial ombudsman.

His experience reflects concerns of consumer advocates about secrecy in the way the AS\$46 billion (\$33 bil-



Earthmovers clear a construction site in S'Antiga overlooking the beach of Pals and the Montgri Massif in Begur in Costa Brava. — AFP

pine forest. In the picturesque fishing port of Cadaques further up the Costa Brava where surrealist Spanish painter Salvador Dali once lived, a hotel and about 100 homes will be built near a nature park.

Local residents in Begur complain the area is already saturated in summer, with cars jamming the small road leading to its tiny coves. The municipality, which is home to 4,000 people, sees its population swell to over 20,000 during the peak holiday months.

"People will buy a house and they won't be able to go to the beach because there is no room, they will want a boat but they won't have a place to dock it, they won't be able to have a beer in town because there is no parking. There is no more capacity here," said Begur resident Miquel Collado.

'Same trap'

Similar projects are springing up everywhere along the coast of Spain, which surpassed the United States last year to become the world's second most visited

country after France. Greenpeace has sounded the alarm over the construction of a hotel at a protected beach at El Palmar near the southwestern city of Cadiz and two 30-storey towers in Roquetas de Mar near Almeria in the southeast.

"There is a renaissance in construction," said Pilar Marcos, one of the authors of a Greenpeace report on the building frenzy on the Spanish coast published in July. The amount of coastal land that has been built on in Spain has more than doubled since 1988, with some areas already 90 percent built-up, according to the report.

A symbol of this building excess—the 21-storey complex on the Algarrobo beach in the Cabo de Gata natural park in Almeria which never opened to the public—remains standing despite a ruling from Spain's Supreme Court that it be torn down. "We are falling into the same trap," said Marcos, who called on Spain's new Socialist government to adopt a stricter law against building on the coast. — AFP

lion) insurance industry assesses claims, an issue set to come under intense scrutiny this month at a public inquiry into financial system wrongdoing.

The powerful quasi-judicial inquiry, known as a Royal Commission, has already rocked the banking, wealth management and superannuation industries with revelations of systemic malpractice, leading to expectations of tighter regulation. Now it's the insurance industry's turn to face the heat as the commission holds hearings over the next two weeks which could lift the lid on some of the sector's best-kept secrets.

Spike in complaints

Australians lodged 4 million insurance claims in 2017, up 7 percent, thanks to more natural disasters like Debbie, but denied claim numbers rose 11 percent, industry data show. That brought a spike in complaints: breaches of an industry-monitored code of conduct jumped nearly three quarters to 6,613 that year, most in relation to claims, the data shows.

That has fuelled demands for a change to laws which let insurers hide how they determine what to pay policyholders. "It's almost a black box, and it's all self-regulated and obviously that's failed," said Susan Quinn, a senior policy officer at the Consumer Action Law Centre, a non-profit.

"Without (the Australian Securities and Investments Commission) having any oversight, there's no improvement and people continue to see delays or bad treatment."

An ASIC spokeswoman said the regulator wants "more significant penalties for misconduct in relation to insurance

claims handling". A ComInsure spokesman declined to comment on Cyclone survivor Read's case. The insurer had paid AS\$50 million for 4,500 claims from Debbie, he said.

Incentives

Consumer advocates said they want the inquiry to reveal the financial arrangements between indemnifiers and the experts they hire to determine the merit of claims. The inquiry has heard banks pay salespeople incentives to market their financial planning, mortgage and retirement products regardless of whether such arrangements are in customers' best interests. Advocates want to know if insurers are doing the same thing with assessors.

"We have always suspected that there have been ... misaligned incentives built into agreements with investigators and external claim assessors," said Drew MacRae, a policy officer at the Financial Rights Legal Centre. David Keane, a former assessor who represents policyholders like Read, said he had no evidence of insurers paying bonuses to limit claims but there was insufficient separation.

"It's not an incentive as such, but the incentive is 'if I word things in the way the insurance company wants me to, I'm going to get more work'," he said.

The ComInsure spokesman said the company paid no incentives to consultants or staff for reducing claim payouts. Storm survivor Read was relieved the ombudsman made ComInsure pay for the repairs and for alternative accommodation. "We never actually thought the cyclone would be the easy bit," he said. — Reuters

Technology & Science

‘Hunger stones’ displays Elbe’s centuries-old tale of drought

‘Many people earned their living on the Elbe as rafters’

DECIN: Once an ominous harbinger of hard times and even famine due to critically low water levels, a massive “hunger stone” embedded deep in the Elbe River has reappeared in the Czech Republic after Europe’s long, dry summer. The boulder in the town of Decin, north of the capital, Prague, is roughly the size of a van and bears the foreboding inscription, “If you can see me, then weep”.

Boatman and riverside innkeeper Franz Mayer etched the words in German — “Wenn du mich siehst, dann weine” — during a period of low water in 1904 in the days when the country was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. “Over the centuries, many people earned their living on the Elbe as rafters, and when there wasn’t enough water to float their rafts, they lost their livelihoods,” Vlastimil Pazourek, head of the museum in Decin said.

“The rafters engraved the dates of those bad years on the soft sandstone boulders typical for this region, hence the name ‘hunger stone,’” Pazourek said. About 20 such boulders, engraved with markers and dates going back centuries, can still be found on the banks of the Elbe, a major central European waterway running from the Czech Republic through Germany to the North Sea. Marked “1616”, the hunger stone on the river’s left bank in Decin, which lies 20 kilometers from the German border, bears one of the oldest dates.

A lot of water has since flowed under the bridges on the Elbe, which is no longer the same river that Franz Mayer knew when he left his etched lament. The riverbed has been deepened to ease navigation and its flow has also been altered by nine dams built during the 20th century on the Vltava, its main tributary. At three meters, its average water level in Decin today is about 1.5 metres lower than in 1904, according to Pazourek. Parts of the hunger stone are usually visible for more than 100 days a year

when the water level on the Elbe drops to 160 centimetres, he said.

‘More than historical curiosity’

“The hunger stone is certainly more than just a historical curiosity,” said Jiri Petr, head of dispatching at Povodi Labe, the state-owned company managing river traffic on the Czech stretch of the Elbe. The water level plunged to just 90 cm at the end of August after the long, hot and very dry summer, making large-scale river transport impossible. Prague experienced its hottest summer since records started in 1775, the weather institute said last week.

“Complications arise when the level of the Elbe in Decin is down to around 250 cm, and if it drops below 115 cm, river transport is no longer viable,” Petr said. “A similar situation occurred in 2015 and 2016, but this year, the water level has fallen more rapidly in a way that hasn’t been seen in the last two decades,” he said.

Experts predict ebbing river levels will become the norm in coming years. “Due to climate change, low river levels will be even more frequent,” the Prague-based Arnika environmental NGO quoted a hydrology specialist in Germany, Tobias Conradt, as saying in a statement. “What we consider extreme today, will become an everyday reality in the decades to come,” he added.

This year’s drought has affected around 94 percent of the Czech Republic, causing crop damage estimated at nine to 11 billion koruna (350-427 million euros, \$408-500 million), according to the Agrarian Chamber. Farmers across Europe, including those in usually wetter northern regions like Sweden and the Baltic states, have also suffered from record drought, with many forced to slaughter livestock due to severe shortages of fodder.



DECIN: In this file photo taken on August 29, 2018 the so-called “Hunger Stone” is pictured in Decin, Czech Republic on August 29, 2018, by the low water level of the Elbe river. —AFP

“If you can see me, then weep”

Ebbing transport

Up until the 1990s, around five million tons of goods were transported on the Elbe each year, but the figure has dramatically fallen to under one million in recent years due to low water. Controversy surrounds plans to build a new weir on the Elbe in Decin, designed to raise its water level and thus improve navigation.

While it has government support, environmentalists question its viability and fear an irreversible envi-

ronmental impact. “Since 2013, transporting goods has been paralyzed by low water levels on the Elbe in Germany for up to seven months of the year,” argued Nikol Krejcová, of Arnika.

“Reliable transport on the Elbe up to Hamburg is an unrealistic idea,” he insisted. If the project goes ahead, the hunger stone will vanish under water, but Decin has no plans to move it to higher ground. “Certainly not, we won’t lose it. It’ll still be there, just beneath the surface,” said a smiling Pazourek. —AFP

Facial recognition touted as ‘user friendly’ system for airports

DULLES: As facial recognition technology use generates intense scrutiny, a new system unveiled at Washington’s Dulles airport is being touted as a “user friendly” way to help ease congestion for air travelers. Officials at Dulles unveiled two new face recognition systems Thursday, one to meet legal requirements for biometric entry-exit records, and a second to help speed processing of travelers arriving on international flights by matching their real-time images with stored photos. The growing use of facial recognition has ignited debate over surveillance and privacy around the world, but officials told media this system was a way to help reducing annoying lines and wait times without compromising security.

“The technology works,” US Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan told reporters at an airport unveiling. “It’s fast, it’s user-friendly, it’s flexible and it’s cost-effective. And we believe it will change the face of international travel.”

Over time, officials say the biometric recognition system will allow a traveler’s face to eliminate the need for a boarding pass.

“No more fumbling with your boarding pass when you have two carry-ons, maybe a kid, no more trying to find a QR code or trying the refresh your screen,” McAleenan said.

In one test for the system, McAleenan said the boarding 350 passengers for an Airbus A380 aircraft was completed in 20 minutes, or half the normal time. At Dulles, officials showed how the new systems, operated with iPads mounted on poles, identified and matched the image of travelers during the boarding process.

Aiming for speed, security

The system is designed to boost security by ensuring that travelers are using their real passports and not forged documents, matching to existing photos from passports or images collected from foreign nationals when they enter. The Dulles system began operations in mid-August, ahead of the media event, and within three days was credited with the arrest of a man attempting to use a fake passport to enter the United States.

The 26-year-old man traveling from Sao Paulo, Brazil sought to enter with a French passport but the facial comparison biometric system determined he was not a match to the passport he presented.

A search revealed the man’s authentic Republic of Congo identification card concealed in his shoe.

Officials claim the new systems are being developed only for the boarding and entry process and not being tied to other databases for law enforcement surveillance.

“We are not collecting or retaining any new data,” McAleenan said. “We need to confirm that the party travelers are who they say they are.” Dulles is one of 14 “early adopter airports” using facial recognition technology for the entry process.

McAleenan said that because the new system uses only its own images and passport photos, its accuracy rate is “99 percent.” “We are not seeing significant difference across gender or race,” he added. The CPB system was developed within the agency, part of the Department of Homeland Security, with unspecified technology partners, according to McAleenan. —AFP

Nations round on US as climate talks wrap up

BANGKOK: Developing countries rounded on the United States and its allies at emergency climate talks Sunday, accusing the world’s richest nations of stalling on a deal aimed at preventing runaway global warming. Experts from around the world wrapped up discussions in Bangkok geared towards creating a comprehensive rulebook for countries to implement the landmark Paris Accord on climate change. But talks floundered over the key issue of how efforts to limit climate change are funded and how contributions are reported.

Delegates representing some of Earth’s poorest and smallest nations said on the final day of the summit that the US and other Western economies had failed to live up to their green spending commitments. “Developed countries are responsible for the vast majority of historic emissions, and many became remarkably wealthy burning fossil fuels,” said Amjad Abdulla, the head of a negotiating bloc of small island states. “Yet, we face devastating climate impacts and some of us could be lost forever to rising seas” without progress on the Paris deal by the end of the year, he added.

The Paris deal, struck in 2015, aims to limit global temperature rises to less than two degrees Celsius and to below 1.5 degrees if possible by the end of the century. To do this, countries agreed to a set of promises, including to establish an annual \$100-billion fund to help developing nations react to our heating planet. But the details of the final rulebook

are subject to intense debate.

The US and other developed economies want less oversight on how their funding is gathered and more flexibility over how future finance is structured. But developing nations insist they need predictable and open funding in order to effectively plan their fight against the fallout from climate change.

A senior climate negotiator, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told AFP Sunday that the US and other rich nations were asking poorer ones to trust them to self-regulate climate financing. “We want to do our bit, but how can we trust them? Show us the money,” the negotiator said.

Delegates ended talks Sunday with an agreement to hand over technical discussions to a panel of experts, who will continue to meet before the COP 24 kicks off in Katowice, Poland, at the start of December. Patricia Espinosa, the UN’s climate change secretary, told reporters progress had been made in Bangkok “on most issues” but that “no issues have been fully resolved yet”. The issue of climate finance was “very difficult and politically sensitive”, she added. “For Katowice to be successful, work needs to speed up and political will needs to be intensified.”

Paris deal ‘on brink’

The Bangkok talks were organized as an emergency negotiating session after little progress was made at previous rounds towards a final rulebook. Under the timeframe set in Paris, the guidelines must be finalized by the end of 2018. While delegates made some headway on areas such as new technology and carbon markets, activists said the US — with Western acquiescence — had

Ocean Cleanup to sweep out Pacific plastic

SAN FRANCISCO: A supply ship towing a long floating boom designed to corral ocean plastic has set sail from San Francisco for a test run ahead of a trip to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. The ambitious project by The Ocean Cleanup, a Dutch non-profit group, hopes to clean up half of the infamous garbage patch within five years when all systems are deployed.

After five years of preparation and scale model tests, “this is what it’s all about, this is the culmination of all the efforts,” said an excited Boyan Slat, the 24-year-old Dutch CEO and founder of The Ocean Cleanup. Under a cloudless sky the Maersk Launcher ship sailed on Saturday past the Golden Gate Bridge out into the Pacific sea accompanied by

a flotilla of sailboats and kayaks. The supply vessel was towing a 600 meter-long boom device dubbed System 001, designed to contain floating ocean plastic so it can be scooped up and recycled. The system includes a tapered three-meter skirt to catch plastic floating just below the surface.

The ship was heading to a spot 240 nautical miles off the California coastline for a two-week trial before sailing to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a floating trash pile twice the size of France that swirls in the ocean halfway between California and Hawaii. “The main mission is to show that it works, and hopefully then in a few months from now, the first plastics will arrive back into port, which means that it becomes proven technology,” Slat told AFP as he witnessed the launch.

“That means that we can then start scaling up to a whole fleet of maybe 60 of these cleanup systems,” he said. Laurent Lebreton, the project’s lead oceanographer, said they believe the Pacific garbage patch contains some



BANGKOK: An environmental activist wearing a face-mask depicting US President Donald Trump takes part in a demonstration in front of the United Nations building, where experts from across the planet locked in key talks aimed at breathing life into the Paris Agreement on climate change. —AFP

stonewalled momentum on the key funding issue.

Harjeet Singh, global lead on climate change for NGO ActionAid, said Sunday the Paris deal was “on the brink”. “Developed countries are going back on their word and refusing to agree clear rules governing climate finance,” he told reporters. “If they remain stuck in their positions and fail to loosen their purses, this treaty may collapse.”

‘Unimpressed by politicians’

The US under President Donald Trump will leave the Paris process in 2020, but multiple delegates in Bangkok told AFP it was still actively hindering progress in talks. One senior negotiator said the US was “poisoning” the atmosphere of trust that led to the Paris accord.

Activists also called out the European Union, Britain and Australia for falling into line with Washington’s position.

A State Department official told AFP US negotiators would “continue to actively participate in ongoing climate negotiations — including negotiations to develop guidance for implementation of the Paris Agreement — to protect and advance US interests”. Alden Meyer, director of strategy and policy at the Union of Concerned Scientists, said the rate of climate change was rapidly outstripping the political effort to curb it. “As this summer’s devastating wave of heatwaves, wildfires, floods, and other extreme weather events across the world makes abundantly clear, the Earth’s climate system is unimpressed by politicians’ rhetoric.” —AFP



SAN FRANCISCO: Ocean Cleanup’s System 001 is towed out of the San Francisco Bay in San Francisco. —AFP

80,000 metric tons of plastic waste. “Plastic has started to accumulate in the ocean since... the 1950s,” Lebreton said. He said that scientists first learned about the plastic concentrating in the

Pacific garbage patch in the 1970s. Land-based plastic comes mainly from rivers, Lebreton said. “But we also find a lot of fishing ropes, fishing nets,” he said. —AFP

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- ◆ 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

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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 b8, Floor 13.
 Tel.: (+965) 22060777.
 @Drbuhaimed, @Renovabb, @dardonabb
 Email: drbuhaimed@beautybeyond.com.kw
 www.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

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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 European 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.

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IC INTERNATIONAL CLINIC
 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 appendectomy
- ◆ Liver, pancreas & bile ducts surgeries

Dr. Hani Haider 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
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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
 Laproscopic 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

Gartner company holds 'customer experience' event at KCCI

By Faten Omar

Gartner company held an event entitled "Create the customer experience of the future" yesterday at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The keynote speakers were Adrian Lee and Jim Davis both research directors from Gartner.

During the event, Lee spoke about the customer experience (CX) strategy called "An IT Leader's 5 Steps to a CX" which is to set up and get a seat on a cross-enterprise CX council, provide a CX project portfolio, help source a VoC (Voice of the Customer) solution, build a CX metrics dashboard, and highlight the opportunity for innovation but get the basics right first.

Lee added a well-planned, strategic VoC program drives change across organizations where it will enable businesses to resolve some customer issues and ensure that the business itself can define what success looks like. "The most successful VoC programs are owned by the CEO, who plays an instrumental part in communicating the importance of customer feedback to both employees and customers alike."

Lee focused on providing advice and market guidance to the overall personal technology environment. This encompasses devices, services, apps, and ecosystems. Adrian brings a focus on B2C and B2B2C mobile applications in personal technologies and service provider markets. He advises brand, product marketing, sales leaders and other stakeholders on how to deploy



Adrian Lee (left), Research Director at Gartner



digital advertising, branded content and e-commerce platforms to drive profitable revenue growth. At the end of the event, Zain Telecommunications, Kuwait College of Science and Technology, the Public Authority for Civil Information, One global, Boubyan Bank and Mejbil Al-Qattan the Data Scientist, shared

their own experiences with the audience.

Gartner company provides independent research and advice on the business of IT. It is the world's leading information technology research and advisory company where it delivers the technology-related insight necessary for our clients to make the right decisions,

every day. From CIOs and senior IT leaders in corporations and government agencies to business leaders in high-tech and telecom enterprises and professional services firms to technology investors, we are the valuable partner to clients in over 9,100 distinct enterprises worldwide.

'Super Season' of exclusive entertainment straight on OSN

It's the end of summer and the start of the TV "Super Season". This is when OSN, the region's leading entertainment network, brings all the highly anticipated brand new shows straight from the Hollywood production houses direct to TV fans in the Middle East, within just days of the US premiere.

No other network in the region delivers as much premium entertainment, and Super Season sees OSN's content offering expand even more in September and October, packing the schedules full of fresh, new and returning entertainment series, thought-provoking documentaries and Arabic dramas. Here are just some of the top shows to watch out for:

General Entertainment

- New Amsterdam, NBC's new medical drama, is anticipated to be a breakout hit. Premiering on OSN Series HD First on Monday 1 October at 8pm (KSA), the fast-paced series is inspired by Bellevue, America's oldest public hospital. Starring Ryan Eggold (The Blacklist), the show follows Dr Max Goodwin, the institution's newest medical director, who's caring yet uncompromising style sets to shake up the status quo at the ailing hospital. Fans that love pulse-stopping emergency room dramas get a double dose as the second season of The Good Doctor also premieres on the Monday 1 October at 7pm (KSA).

- For high stakes family drama, power struggles and some serious sibling rivalry, Succession, a brand new HBO drama has it all, and more. The 10-episode series follows a wealthy yet dysfunctional American global media family, headed by a Rupert Murdoch-esque media mogul, Logan Roy (Brian Cox). Premiering on OSN First HD Home of HBO on Monday 10 September at 9pm (KSA), Succession features a stellar cast that includes Jeremy Strong (The Big Short), Kieran Culkin (Fargo), Alan Ruck (The Exorcist) and Sarah Snook (Steve Jobs and Winchester).

- Magnum P.I. may ring a bell with some viewers that remember the original 1980's series starring Tom Selleck. This action-packed reboot brings the show right up-to-date, with Jay Hernandez (Suicide Squad) stepping into Selleck's bright floral shirts as the eponymous Thomas Magnum. Here, Magnum the ex-Navy SEAL, returns home from service in Afghanistan and uses his military skills to become a private investigator in Hawaii. Magnum P.I. premieres on Thursday 4 October at 7pm (KSA).

- HBO's Sharp Objects, will be looking to make a piercing incision into the hearts of TV viewers in the Middle East. From the director of Big Little Lies, this slickly produced crime mini-series stars Amy Adams (Nocturnal Animals), as a reporter who confronts her psychological demons when she returns to her hometown to cover a violent murder. Premiering on OSN Play, Sharp Objects will be available as a complete box set from Sunday 9 September.

- If period drama hits your TV sweet spot, you'll love Vanity Fair. Adapted from Thackeray's literary classic, this tale is set against the backdrop of the Napoleonic Wars, and follows Becky Sharp (Olivia Cooke) as she attempts to claw her way out of poverty and scale the heights of English society. Vanity Fair premieres on ITV Choice on Monday 3 September, at 9pm (KSA).

The Emmy Awards

- Honoring the biggest and brightest stars



New Amsterdam

in today's TV universe, OSN brings live and exclusive coverage of the 70th Emmy Awards on OSN Series HD First on Tuesday 18 September at 3am (KSA), with a prime-time repeat at 7pm. To see who's leading the style stakes this year, watch E!'S Live from the Red Carpet: The 2018 Primetime Emmy Awards on E! Entertainment Tuesday 18 September at 1am (KSA).

Factual

- On OSN First HD - Home of HBO, OSN presents 'Reality Check', a brand new block of topical documentaries, every Friday and Saturday from 12pm to 12am from 14 September with a premiere every Saturday evening at 8pm (KSA).

The block will launch on 14 September with the premiere of John McCain: For whom The Bell Tolls and other Saturday premieres to look forward to are: Swiped: Hooking up in The Digital Age which sheds a light on how social networking apps affect modern relationships, and premieres on Saturday 15 September, at 8pm (KSA). It Will Be Chaos follows the stories of individuals fleeing their native countries in Africa and the Middle East seeking a better life in Europe, despite the dangers. Saturday 22 September, at 8pm (KSA).

- On Discovery Channel everyone's favorite survivalist, Bear Grylls, plucks celebrities out of the lap of luxury and puts them into the unforgiving wilderness in Running Wild with Bear Grylls from Tuesday 18 September, at 9.50pm (KSA). On National Geographic, The Science of Stupid returns for a sixth season from Monday 17 September at 3pm (KSA). Watch as Dallas Campbell investigates a host of new mishaps featuring fearless, if foolhardy, individuals from around the world.

Arabic

- Super Season ushers in brand new content for Arabic viewers too, and for the first time ever OSN will be exclusively debuting three new Russian series exclusively on OSN

Yahala Al Oula HD.

- Ta'ehat, follows the life of Katia as her life suddenly falls apart when her husband unexpectedly dies while away on a business trip, and the investigation into his death unearths his double life.

- Al Oumala', gives viewers a touch of James Bond-style espionage but with a twist - the two lead characters are teachers. When they're not taking down terrorists and smugglers, they're in the classroom teaching maths and science.

- Asrar w Akattheeb is a chilling murder mystery, which kicks off when a jogger finds the body of missing child while out on his daily run. As the town reels from the discovery, suspicion and secrets arise.

- Watch dramas straight out of Russia on Sunday 2 September, Sunday 16 September and Wednesday 26 September respectively, all at 7pm (KSA).

- Original stories from across the Arab world also form a strong part of OSN's Super Season package, and three new series premiere on 9 September, in a back-to-back trio of new and exclusive Arabic dramas starting on the same day.

- Starting with Akher Shita'a. This brand new Gulf-region drama series depicts the action and excitement that ensues when a father builds an orphanage in order to raise his five children. Premiering at 8pm (KSA).

- Following that comes season two of popular Turkish drama Fadila Khanum wa Banat'ha. The new season returns with more family feuds, and the ambitious matriarch, Fadila Khanum, still seeking wealth for her family by any means necessary. Premiering at 9pm (KSA).

- Last, but by no means least, is brand new series Coma, a heartwarming drama following the lives of a group of Syrian war victims and their daily struggles living in Damascus and the UAE. Coma premieres at 11pm (KSA), on OSN Yahala Al Oula HD. With so much to watch in the coming months, be sure not to miss further updates on all that Super Season has to offer exclusively on OSN.

KIB sponsors honoring ceremony for KU students

KIB sponsored the honoring ceremony for the Faculty of Social Sciences at Kuwait University, which was recently held at the Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa. The ceremony was attended by a number of distinguished faculty members, as well as parents. KIB's sponsorship of the ceremony came as part of its leading social responsibility program, which reflects its key commitment to the local community. Stemming from its unwavering belief

in the importance of recognizing students' efforts and academic perseverance, the Bank continues to encourage them to excel as they are the future of the nation.

The honoring ceremony is a special celebration dedicated to recognizing outstanding students and their achievements. The joy of academic success is unlike any other-as it not only celebrates the fruits of academic excellence, but the dedication and years of hard work that lead to this excellence and success. KIB is committed to its role as a financial institution that supports youth and students by engaging directly with them through various events and adopting their ideas and innovations whenever possible. Additionally, the Bank organizes visits to spread financial education through its first-of-its-kind financial literacy program which was designed with this segment in mind.



Lighthouse Church annual ministry fair

The Lighthouse Church welcomes all newcomers to Kuwait for our Annual Ministry Fair and celebration of all English Worship Services. Visit our 30+ exhibits and children's program. Located at Divvan Hall in Kuwait City

07.30 - 08.45 Breakfast
08.00 - 08.45 Ministry Exhibits
09.00 - 11.00 Worship Service
11.00 - 12.00 Ministry Exhibits
Parking is available on site. We are excited to see you at this blessed event.



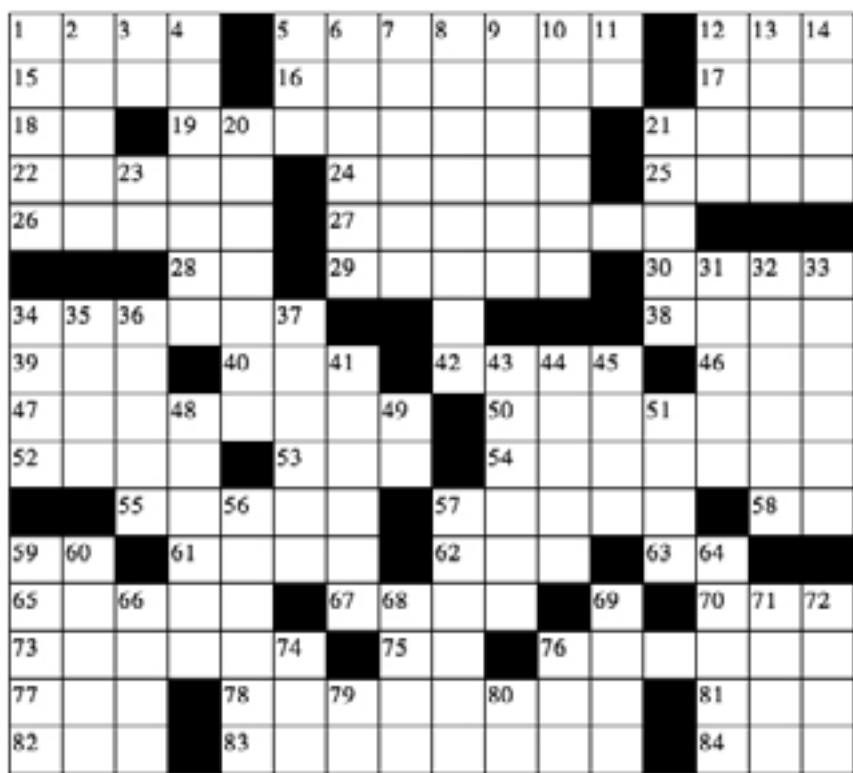
Happy Birthday!

M Ali Imran is celebrating his 10th Birthday today! God Bless you and may you have a prosperous future ahead. Best wishes and love from Papa, Mama, Grand Parents, Aunties, Uncles & Cousin Brothers Abdullah, Osama, Umar, Hassan, Mohsin, Talha, & Sisters Fatima, Ayesha, Meeqat, Aamina.



Stars

CROSSWORD 2006



ACROSS

1. An artificial source of visible illumination.
5. Absence of the mammary glands (either through surgery or developmental defect).
12. An insecticide that is also toxic to animals and humans.
15. Being two more than forty.
16. Unrestrained and violent.
17. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
18. Being one more than ten.
19. A shard of pottery.
22. A republic in the Asian subcontinent in southern Asia.
24. A list of dishes available at a restaurant.
25. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
26. Elevated open grassland in southern Africa.
27. A fabric made of silk or a silklike fabric that resembles organdy.
28. Before noon.
29. Aggravation by deriding or mocking or criticizing.
30. A federally sponsored corporation that insures accounts in national banks and other qualified institutions.
34. In a state of sleep.
38. A member of the North American Indian people of Arizona and adjacent Mexico and California.
39. A youthful male person.
40. Thickening of tissue in the motor tracts of the lateral columns and anterior horns of the spinal cord.
42. A platform raised above the surrounding level to give prominence to the person on it.
46. A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.
47. A long lace for fastening boots.
50. A member of the Caddo people who formerly lived in the Dakotas west of the Missouri river.
52. An inactive volcano in Sicily.
53. Psychoactive substance present in marijuana.
54. A vasodilator (trade name Loniten) used to treat severe hypertension.
55. East Indian silk cotton tree yielding fibers inferior to kapok.
58. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
59. A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.
61. Cornbread often made without milk or eggs and baked or fried (Southern).
62. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
63. A hard brittle blue-white multivalent metallic element.
65. A unit of dry measure used in Egypt.
67. Antibiotic-resistant mycoplasma causing a kind of pneumonia in humans.
70. Electronic warfare undertaken under direct control of an operational commander to locate sources of radiated electromagnetic energy for the purpose of immediate threat recognition.
73. The wood of the sabcicu which resembles mahogany.
75. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
77. Electronic warfare undertaken to prevent or reduce an enemy's effective use of the electromagnetic spectrum.
78. The bone in the ankle that articulates with the leg bones to form the ankle joint.
81. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
82. A potent estrogen used in medicine and in feed for livestock and poultry.
83. Low stinging nettle of Central and South America having velvety brownish-green toothed leaves and clusters of small green flowers.
84. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. Being four more than seventy.
2. Place in a line or arrange so as to be parallel.
3. Destruction of heart tissue resulting from obstruction of the blood supply to the heart muscle.
4. Tongueless frogs.
5. The products of human creativity.
6. A person or animal that is adopted by a team or other group as a symbolic figure.
7. A member of the Semitic speaking people of northern Ethiopia.
8. Small genus of Old World annual herbs.
9. A cloth having a crisscross design.
10. (British) An order for goods to be exported or imported.
11. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
12. No longer having or seeming to have or expecting to have life.
13. Fallow deer.
14. A conveyance that transports passengers or freight in carriers suspended from cables and supported by a series of towers.
20. Porridge made of rolled oats.
21. Having or covered with leaves.
23. A metric unit of volume equal to one tenth of a liter.
31. Formerly a gold coin of various European countries.
32. A hostel for pilgrims in Turkey.
33. A small tent used as a dressing room beside the sea or a swimming pool.
35. A black colloidal substance consisting wholly or principally of amorphous carbon and used to make pigments and ink.
36. A city in east-central France on the Rhone River.
37. Any of several trees of the genus Platanus having thin pale bark that scales off in small plates and lobed leaves and ball-shaped heads of fruits.
41. Pull along heavily, like a heavy load against a resistance.
43. The capital and largest city of Equatorial Guinea on the island of Bioko in the Gulf of Guinea.
44. An unbroken or imperfectly broken Mustang.
45. Utter a high-pitched cry, characteristic of pigs.
48. The capital of Nationalist China.
49. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
51. (computer science) A kind of computer architecture that has a large number of instructions hard coded into the cpu chip.
56. Large high frilly cap with a full crown.
57. Any seed plant yielding balsam.
60. A support that steadies or strengthens something else.
64. A long noosed rope used to catch animals.
66. A software system that facilitates the creation and maintenance and use of an electronic database.
68. (obstetrics) The number of live-born children a woman has delivered.
69. Offering fun and gaiety.
71. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
72. Type genus of the Majidae.
74. North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
76. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
79. A state in east central United States.
80. Of or relating to the stomach and intestines.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Romance is in the air and what your heart desires today. An emotional release is on the horizon. This is one of those days your heart is full. There is no more room inside and these emotions have to be shared with someone who is very special to you. A candlelit meal, a long talk, or cuddling on the couch with that special someone is in order. You may find you develop and even stronger bond this evening with someone close to you. Focus on the future and the one you want to spend it with Aries. It is a time of nurturing and love for you.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are full of wit. A very eccentric side of you shines through. You may have insights and breakthroughs. This is a very enlightening time in your life. New beginnings are on the horizon. You may experience a breakthrough concerning your living situation. This is a great time to follow your gut feeling and take action. Your independence and unique qualities seem to draw others in. You may find yourself surrounded by those who admire you today.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This is the beginning of a new cycle for you. It's the ideal time to tap into your creative energy. Look around for a need that is not being met. The answer could be a simple invention with a big impact. Your combination of creative and technical talents could result in a product that will benefit others. This could bring great financial reward your way. Gemini, you hold the key to success in your hand.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Out with the old and in with the new. You are ready for a change and now is the time for just that! This is a time you are high energy and feel as if you have the world in the palm of your hand. Ambition is overflowing. You seek freedom from all habits and challenges that have been present in your past. You are ready to pave new roads and find your way to all that is new. This excites you. You are ready to take on the world.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You make a good impression on someone that matters. You make it across the finish line of a long project with success. You inspire a number of people when you explain how you accomplished something. Do something special for yourself today when the opportunity presents itself. You catch yourself daydreaming off and on throughout the day about something that may seem impossible; be careful what you wish for! You seek to escape through literature or film or, perhaps, you take in a good play, it's your choice. When you make a difficult decision, you're able to stand by it no matter what; you're beginning to trust your choices now that you understand how to make better ones. New circumstances open that perfectly utilize many of your natural talents and move you forward.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You have the ability to find beauty in everything and everyone surrounding you. In a way you may find this as a weakness because this can cause you to over indulge. This may include material things or involve your investing too much of yourself into others. Resist that urge at this time. You may find a child or someone younger who is close to you as a disappointment and find yourself at odds with them. This is temporary, and you should resist the urge to make permanent decisions that affect your living situation or theirs at this time. You may feel as if your level of authority is being challenged today and find it difficult to react. Virgo, see this as a positive and know that now is just not the time.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Plan a special outing with someone near and dear to your heart. Special time with someone you love will be very emotionally satisfying to you today. You are in a loving mood. You are focused on building a stronger relationship and you will find this very satisfying. This is the ideal time to tap into your creative energy. Look around for a need that is not being met. The answer could be a simple invention with a huge impact. Your mindset is perfect for this. You will be able to not only use your talent to benefit your needs, but also help others. This could be a win-win situation for you.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

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



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

A little soul-searching seems to be going on in your world. You seem to be getting back to who you are and who you need to be to accomplish your goals. Your performance in the workplace is outstanding and your mind is becoming clear. You have your focus and drive back and are able to think quick on your feet. This could be just the time to make the changes in your environment you have been debating. You may find as if you or falling back into the role of the go to person in the workplace. Your peers tend to lean on you for much more than just advice about work. Sagittarius, remember do not take on problems of others as if they are your own. You have to give advice and simply step away. Not your circus, not your monkeys!



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may find that you are putting much more focus on family at this time rather than other areas of your life. Keep it there! The seeds you sow today will last a lifetime. It is all about love and support from your love ones for you. You may be feeling a strong need to be needed and appreciated. This need will be satisfied by keeping your focus on your home life and love ones. You have a strong desire for stability in your home life and as long as you continue to feed it, it will grow.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Today may find you feeling as you encounter a road block at every turn. Perhaps, today is not the day for big decisions. You may find yourself a bit frustrated and preferring a bit of isolation. You are simply not in the mood for people. You may feel as if you are not able to get your point across to anyone and may feel greatly misunderstood. You could find yourself at odds with those close to you and should remember to try and remain calm as conflict and confrontation seem to be seeking your company today. Today would be a great day for reorganizing and reflection to get yourself back where you want to be.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

What a day! It seems as everything is happening all at once. It is all good news. Things just don't get any better than this. Today is a day you will find easy solutions to old problems. A day of happiness. You may find you have a special bond with someone older or in authority. You may feel as if you are living in a fairytale. Enjoy your time to shine.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Birds

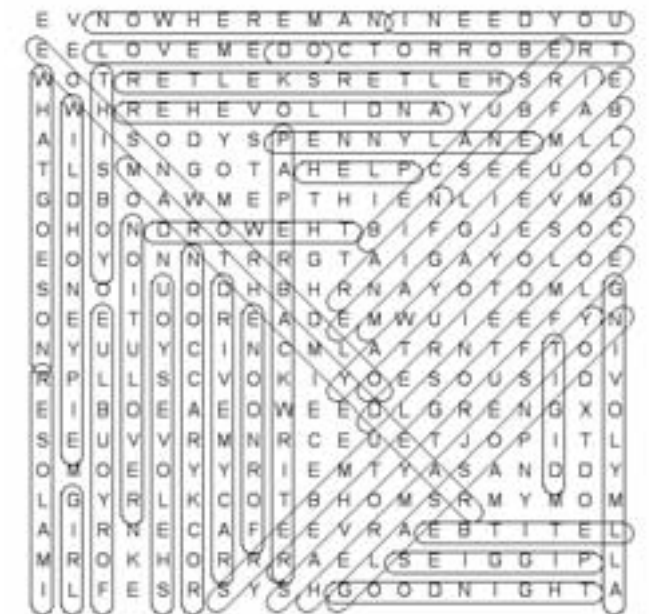
Find and circle all of the birds that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional bird.



- | | | | |
|-----------|----------|-------------|------------|
| BLACKBIRD | EAGLE | MARTIN | ROBIN |
| BUDGIE | EMU | MOCKINGBIRD | SEAGULL |
| CANARY | FALCON | MYNA | SPARROW |
| CARDINAL | FINCH | OSTRICH | SWAN |
| CHICKEN | FLAMINGO | OWL | TURKEY |
| CRANE | GOOSE | PARAKEET | VULTURE |
| CROW | HAWK | PARROT | WOODPECKER |
| DODD | HERON | PELICAN | WREN |
| DOVE | JAY | PIGEON | |
| DUCK | MAGPIE | RAVEN | |

Yesterday's Solution

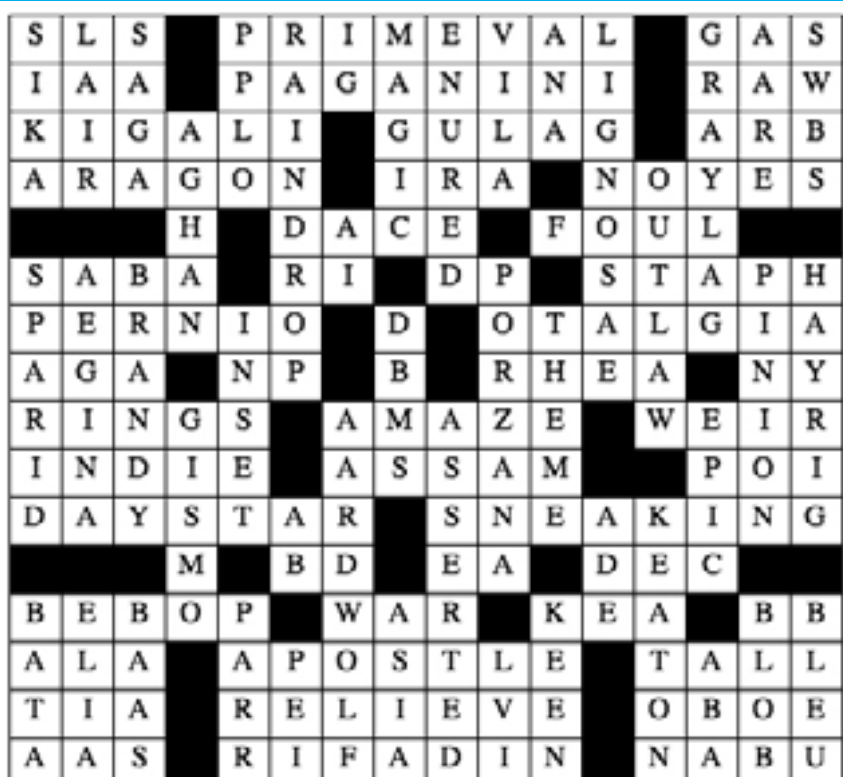
Beatles Songs 2



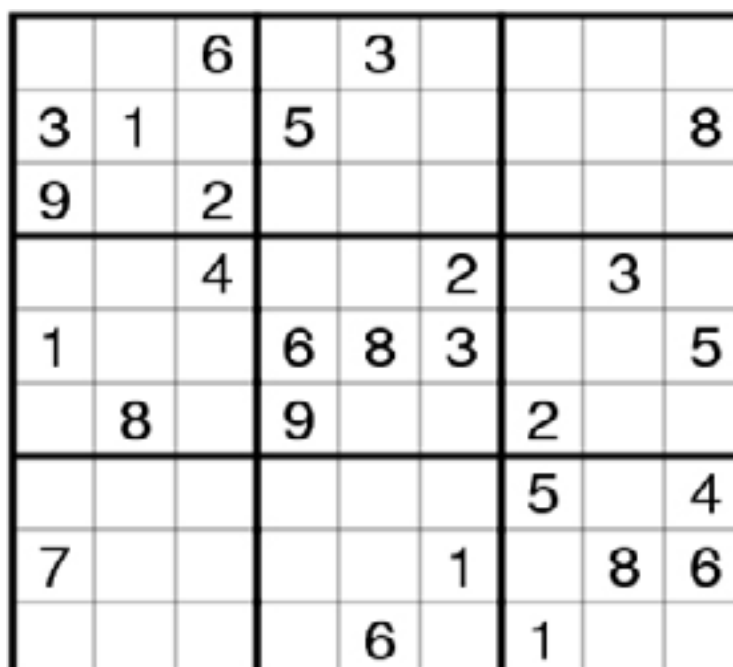
- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| ALL MY LOVING | GIRL | I'M SO TIRED | PIGGIES |
| AND I LOVE HER | GLASS ONION | LET IT BE | RAIN |
| BECAUSE | GOLDEN SLUMBERS | LOVE ME DO | REVOLUTION |
| BLUE JAY WAY | GOOD NIGHT | LOVE YOU TO | ROCKY RACCOON |
| 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 |

Hidden song: EVERYBODY'S GOT SOMETHING TO HIDE EXCEPT ME AND MY MONKEY

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2018



People fly kites during the 20th edition of the International Dieppe Kite Festival in Dieppe, northwestern France. The event, held until September 16, gathers thousands of people from 34 different countries. — AFP

South Africa's Soweto township celebrates iconic street snack

South Africa's kota is a tasty, inexpensive and uniquely homegrown street sandwich created out of the bitterness of apartheid and which still has a special place in the hearts of many. Its name is pidgin for quarter-this case, a quarter of a loaf of bread, which forms the base of the sandwich that can be found along most streets in Johannesburg's township of Soweto. The quarter loaf is hollowed out and then filled

with layers of all sorts—potato fries, fried egg, baloney, Frankfurter, and spicy pickles. Under the warm spring sun, hundreds of people thronged a Soweto township square at the weekend to pay homage to the celebrated snack.

"We are here to celebrate township food," said festival organizer Sidwell Tshingilane, standing by dozens of stalls where chefs stood behind piles of fillings as patient customers queued up for the snack. "Kota is born in the township. We grew up eating kota. It's one of the street foods that is popular like a burger in America. We normally call it our local burger," Tshingilane said. "Some people say it's popular like the brand Madiba," he said, referring to the country's much-loved anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela. "It's affordable, people in townships sometimes don't afford those fancy foods. So instead of going to McDonald's, they go to a kota outlet."

Affordable and delicious

The two-day kota festival was held in the same Soweto square where the Freedom Charter—a document demanding equal rights to education, work, wealth and a decent living—was adopted by anti-apartheid groups in 1955. The second annual festival came just days after the country was cleared of a listeria outbreak which claimed 216 lives and sickened more than 1,000 since early 2017. The listeriosis bacteria contaminated a popular range of meats including the sausages often used in the kota filling.

Kota vendors recorded a drop in sales of up to 40 percent during the outbreak, which the United Nations believed was the largest ever worldwide. But for some, the outbreak made little difference. "Listeriosis did not exist in our world, we continued eating," said Nthabiseng Mathhare, a 30-year-old tour consultant. "This is our tradition, we grew up with

this vibe," she said, tucking into a kota filled with chicken strips, chips, spinach and topped with stewed chicken feet.

A few steps away chef Mogau Tabane of Rocktown Deli explains the evolution of the kota, with new and uncommon ingredients such as mushroom and strawberry now finding their way into the mix. "It's one of our heritage products. It's South Africa's favorite. From children to adults, everybody eats kota," he said.

'Unique solution to a unique issue'

The kota actually comes in various names and fillings depending on location but is believed to have originated in the 1960s as non-white South Africans tried to get around the rigours of apartheid. Food anthropologist Anna Trapido believes its origin is steeped in the history of the country where non-whites were not allowed in restaurants or were forbidden from using plates or forks and knives. "There was need to find a vehicle in which to take away food," said Trapido, emerging as a "uniquely South African solution to a uniquely South African issue".

Traditionally high in carbohydrates and with most of the filling prepared in oil, the snack has doctors worrying over obesity and related illnesses. "We're seeing more children with Type 2 diabetes... more children with high blood pressure. And when they go untreated then they end up with kidney diseases," said dietician Mpho Tshukudu. Health concerns aside, the kota is seen as a worthy entrant to the list of South African cuisine. Deputy Tourism Minister Elizabeth Thabete suggested the "typical township" food could help promote tourism because it offers "a peculiar taste". "Fine dining, they (tourists) can experience in their own countries, but this (kota) they cannot get in their own countries," she told AFP after trying the fare on offer at the festival. —AFP

Celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain wins posthumous Emmys for 'Parts Unknown'



Chef Anthony Bourdain poses at the 2015 Creative Arts Emmy Awards in Los Angeles, California September 12, 2015. — Reuters

US celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain, who committed suicide in June at age 61, posthumously earned a pair of Emmy Awards on Sunday for his work on the popular CNN food-and-travel show he hosted, "Parts Unknown." Bourdain was awarded one of the Emmys, the US television industry's highest honor, for outstanding writing of a nonfiction program for an episode of the series set in southern Italy that aired last November during its 10th season. He also shared a second Emmy prize for best informational series or special in his role as host and executive producer of "Parts Unknown." Three more Emmys went to various other people for their behind-the-camera work on the series - in the categories for best picture editing, sound editing and best short-form nonfiction or reality series.

The awards were announced on the second night of the Creative Arts Emmys, which cover mostly secondary and technical categories and are given out in advance of the higher-profile Primetime Emmys, which will be presented on Sept 17. Bourdain previously won Emmys four years in a row, from 2013 through 2016, as producer and host of "Parts Unknown" in the category of outstanding informational series or special. The series, which typically featured Bourdain sampling the local cuisine and culture of far-flung or lesser-traveled destinations around the world, earned him the prestigious Peabody Award in 2014. Bourdain also earned several Emmy nominations as host of a cooking-themed reality competition show on ABC, "The Taste," and won a Creative Arts Emmy for outstanding cinematography in nonfiction programming for another travel-food show of his, "No Reservations." — Reuters



Street vendors await for patrons and client during the Kota Festival.



People gather to order and purchase a 'Kota' sandwich during the Kota Festival.



A South African woman purchases a 'Kota' sandwich during the Kota Festival.



Hundreds of people attend the Kota Sandwich Festival at Kliptown in Soweto, South Africa. — AFP photos

Escada celebrates 40 years in New York

Escada celebrated its 40th anniversary Sunday by making a New York Fashion Week debut with soft power dressing for the working woman—an upbeat and colorful collection that paid tribute to the 1980s. Models strode down a serpentine grass runway for the Munich-based luxury brand's first runway show since 2015 and the second full collection of young Irish designer Niall Sloan, who joined Escada last year and who earlier in his career spent a decade at Burberry.

There were power suits with big gold buttons and gold chain belts, in bright colors with boxy jackets cut loose and comfortable, paired with tennis shoes that evoked joyfulness and ease of movement. Sloan explained that the concept was “very, very soft power dressing” for the modern working woman. If shoulder pads were the 1980s way of muscling into a man’s world, in the 2010s it’s about being effortless. “You’re still the mother, the carer, the sister, the diplomat, the person who holds things together,” he told AFP.

“I want you to put something in the morning and feel effortless and go throughout the day and kind of not think about it anymore because you have enough to do.” Escada has a strong working women’s identity. It was founded in 1978 by Margaretha Ley and her husband, and is today owned by Megha Mittal, who acquired the brand in 2009 after it filed for bankruptcy.

Lightness counters difficult times

Escada’s spring/summer 2019 was a riot of bright color from yellow jackets to fuchsia skirts, oversized silk shirts to red, orange and colorful jackets covered in colorful ESCADA letters. There were black dresses covered in bright florals, and contrast in the form of beige and cream, with plenty of stripes and dots—an homage to Julia Roberts in “Pretty Woman” with a reinvention of the brown dress with white polka dots she wore to the races in the movie. Equestrian prints and jockey motifs harked back to the brand’s origins. The name Escada came from a racehorse that Margaretha and Wolfgang Ley spotted at a racetrack.

As befits the best of any anniversary, it looked back as well as forward. Sloan said Ley was a constant inspiration and that her collections were “always done with a touch of lightness.” “Especially today, when things are heavy and dark and difficult and we don’t know the way through, it’s good to deal with that with a light touch,” he said. “I think it’s a very female strength.”

Mother of all models

Three of the models in a show by critics’ favorite Sander Lak were older than customary, and one of them was his mother. Otherwise, there were bright colors and white, crinkled paper and plastic materials. “To have a moment when I can celebrate what I am doing, with the people I love is really great,” said Dutch creative director Lak, who created his label Sies Marjan in New York in 2016. “It’s all these different people in my life—my mom was in it, my childhood friends, my new friends,” he said.

California Dreamin’

German house Hugo Boss, which parted ways with New York designer Jason Wu last season, summed up its collection as “California Breeze,” but if so, it was a Teutonic interpretation of life in the Golden State. There were soft blush suits for men, surfboard-style stripes running down the sides of pants and draw-string waists.

Architectural-style prints on smart work dresses for women were another key look, as were wide-brimmed intrepid hats with accents in maroon, black and blue. When it came to footwear, it was ankle-high gladiators for women, but for men, Hugo Boss decided to bring back socks and sandals. —AFP



Models walk the runway for the ESCADA Spring/Summer 2019 show at Park Avenue Armory in Brooklyn, New York. —AFP photos



Lifestyle | Fashion

New York Fashion Week



Models walk the runway at the Prabal Gurung Spring/Summer 2019 show during New York Fashion Week at Spring Studios in Brooklyn, New York.



Models walk the runway during the Laquan Smith Fashion Show during New York Fashion Week: The Shows at Pier 59.

'Star is Born' actress Lady Gaga recalls time she 'couldn't get an audition'



Singer/songwriter Lady Gaga attends the premiere of *A Star is Born* during the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. — AFP photos



Director/actor Bradley Cooper (left) and singer/songwriter/actress Lady Gaga attend the premiere of *A Star is Born*.

Lady Gaga, making her debut as a movie actress in *A Star is Born*, said on Sunday she was humbled by the role, calling herself "just a girl from New York who couldn't get an audition." Gaga, the "Born This Way" singer best known for her flamboyant stunts on stage, plays an aspiring singer in the third remake of the romance between an aging star and a newcomer. "I've always wanted to be an actress and this is more than I ever imagined," she told reporters on the red carpet at the Toronto Film Festival on Sunday. "I am just so honored and grateful and humbled." Gaga insisted that

all the songs in *A Star is Born* were performed live, including those by her co-star Bradley Cooper, a novice musician. "Singing live, there really was no question," Cooper, who also directed the film, told a news conference earlier on Sunday.

"When we first met, Stefani was very adamant about it," said Cooper, referring to Lady Gaga by her real name, Stefani Germanotta. *A Star is Born* tells the story of country music singer Jackson Maine (Cooper), who meets, nurtures and falls in love with aspiring musician Ally (Lady Gaga). As Jackson deals with addiction

and tinnitus and his own star wanes, Ally's career takes off. As well as marking Cooper's directorial debut, the film is also the first to showcase his voice, songwriting and musical abilities. The "Silver Linings Playbook" actor has said he took singing and music lessons for six months. "Preparation was the hardest thing," he said. "Starting to sing and realizing that I really couldn't; starting to learn guitar and piano and realizing I couldn't."

Gaga made her television acting debut in "American Horror Story: Hotel" winning a Golden Globe in 2016.

But taking the lead role in *A Star is Born* was a big leap. "At the beginning of making this film, we shook hands literally, and he said to me, 'You're an actress,'" Gaga said. "And I said to him, 'You're a musician.'" The movie's concert scenes were shot on the stages of some of the world's biggest music festivals, including Coachella in California and Glastonbury in England. *A Star is Born* is the third remake of the original 1937 film. It was remade in 1954 with Judy Garland, and in 1976 with Barbra Streisand. — Reuters

Star-studded human trafficking film scripts message for rural India



Freida Pinto

A new Indian movie about human trafficking starring Freida Pinto and Demi Moore is to be screened in towns and villages around the country to raise awareness of a crime that affects millions. "Love Sonia", which traces the journey of a young girl trafficked from rural India in to the global sex trade, hits cinemas in the country this week after screenings on the international festival circuit. Director Tabrez Noorani said he wanted to champion "hope and courage" and raise awareness of trafficking around the world. "I want to show that the crime of trafficking is not restricted to, say, India or China. It's a global problem," Noorani told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone. "Everyone has to be aware ... that it's happening in their backyard," he said.

India is home to at least 8 million slaves, according to the latest figures from the Australian-based Walk Free Foundation. Government figures show the country recorded more than 8,000 human trafficking cases in 2016, 20 percent higher than the previous year, although rights activists say many cases go unreported. Many victims are from rural areas and are often lured with promises of jobs in cities. Instead they are forced to work in brick kilns or farms, enslaved in homes as domestic workers, or sold to brothels. The founder of anti-trafficking charity Shakti Vahini said movies were an effective way to raise awareness in rural areas - particularly if they featured major stars. "We go out and do a lot of lectures. But when they see it in a movie, they see the danger as more real," said Ravi Kant.

Other films to have been used in this way include "Mardaani", a 2014 film in which a woman police officer takes on a child trafficker. "Mardaani" director Pradeep Sarkar said it was important to show traffickers were "regular, normal people living next door". "Love Sonia" is the directorial debut of Noorani, a veteran producer whose credits include "Slumdog Millionaire" and "Life of Pi", and stars the acclaimed Indian actor Rajkumar Rao alongside Moore and Pinto.

Noorani said he wanted to make an "authentic film" on an issue he has worked on for many years as a board member of the Los Angeles-based Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking. "The film heroes hope and courage," Noorani said. "Education is the best way to fight human trafficking. People will hopefully walk out of theatres eyes wide open." — Reuters

MOONVES LEAVES CBS OVER SEXUAL MISCONDUCT CLAIMS

US television giant CBS announced Sunday the immediate departure of powerful CEO Leslie Moonves, one of the biggest scalps in the #MeToo era, following a slew of escalating sexual misconduct allegations. Moonves, who transformed the corporation into the most watched television network in the country, was one of the most respected executives in Hollywood until he was first publicly accused. Two articles published by The New Yorker on July 27 and on the day that his departure was announced-detailed allegations against the 68-year-old television titan from 12 different women. CBS subsequently declared that he would depart as chairman, president and CEO "effective immediately," and that he and the network would donate \$20 million to supporting the #MeToo movement and equality for women in the workplace.

"The donation, which will be made immediately, has been deducted from any severance benefits that may be due Moonves," CBS said. The disgraced CEO will not receive any compensation, pending the results of an investigation into the allegations against him being conducted by two blue-chip law firms, the corporation announced. "Any payments to be made in the future will depend upon the results of the independent investigation and subsequent board evaluation," CBS announced in a statement. Moonves's departure had been widely expected, with US media reporting that the terms of his exit had been under negotiation for weeks, and a deal had been anticipated before markets open Monday.

Police report

At least one report had suggested that he could get a golden handshake of \$100 million in stock. One of his accusers, Jessica Pallingston, told the Pulitzer-winning journalist Ronan Farrow, who broke the allegations against Moonves in The New Yorker, that such a payoff would be "completely disgusting." CBS announced that chief operating officer Joseph Ianniello will be president and acting CEO, overseeing all operations of the company, while the board searches for a permanent successor. Along with Moonves's departure, CBS said it had agreed to settle a lawsuit with National Amusements pending in Delaware that would appoint six new independent directors to the board.

The deal upheld the control of the Redstone family, whose members control an 80 percent voting stake in CBS, who agreed to drop-for at least two years-a proposed merger with the Viacom group. In July, Farrow's first bombshell report detailed sexual harassment allegations from six women and complaints from dozens of others about a culture within the company tolerating sexual misconduct. While CBS appointed a team of lawyers to investigate, there was outrage from some advocates that Moonves was kept on the job.

On Sunday, The New Yorker published allegations from another six women, who said that Moonves sexually harassed or assaulted them between 1980 and the early 2000s. They included claims that Moonves forced them to perform oral sex, exposed himself to them without



In this file photo Leslie Moonves, chief executive officer of CBS Corporation, attends the annual Allen & Company Sun Valley Conference in Sun Valley, Idaho. — AFP

their consent, and that he used physical violence and intimidation against them. Some of them also said Moonves retaliated after being rebuffed, damaging their careers. One of the women, television executive Phyllis Golden-Gottlieb, filed a criminal complaint last year with Los Angeles police. The New Yorker said that while police found her allegations "credible" the alleged incidents happened too long ago to prosecute. — AFP

Warner's 'Nun' proves part of a winning habit in N America theaters



In this file photo Demian Bichir attends the premiere of Warner Bros Pictures' 'The Nun' at TCL Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, California. — AFP

Horror movie "The Nun" was the top draw in North American movie theaters this weekend, extending a remarkable string of recent successes by Warner Bros, industry watchers said. "The Nun," the latest scary feature in the popular "Conjuring" series, took in an estimated \$53.5 million for the three-day weekend, box office tracker Exhibitor Relations said. British director Corin Hardy had made his name with 2015 horror film "The Hallow." "Nun" stars Demian Bichir, Taissa Farniga and Jonas Bloquet in a story about a young nun, an exorcist and a guide stumbling onto a dark secret deep in Dracula country: the Romania of 1952 — Transylvania, no less.

"Nun" bumped another Warner product, "Crazy Rich Asians," to second place after three strong weekends at the top. The glitzy rom-com, with its nearly all-Asian cast led by Henry Golding and Constance Wu, took in \$13.6 million. Taken together with another Warner film, "The Meg," the studio has now claimed the top two

spots on the North American box office for four consecutive weekends, a feat no movie studio had accomplished in 25 years, according to the Hollywood Reporter. "The Meg," starring Jason Statham as a rescue diver confronting a huge, prehistoric shark, placed fourth this weekend, taking in \$6 million, behind new vigilante action film "Peppermint," which grossed \$13.3 million.

"Peppermint," from STX Films, stars Jennifer Garner as a mother seeking revenge against the drug cartel she blames for killing her husband and daughter. And in fifth spot was Sony thriller "Searching," starring John Cho as a man desperate to find his missing teenage daughter. It took in \$4.5 million.

Rounding out this weekend's top 5 were: "Mission Impossible-Fallout" (\$3.8 million) "Christopher Robin" (\$3.2 million) "Operation Finale" (\$3 million) "Alpha" (\$2.5 million) "BlackkKlansman" (\$1.6 million) — AFP

Search after German pop star goes missing at sea

Search and rescue workers were actively seeking Sunday a German pop star who went missing while on a cruise off Canada's coast, the Royal Canadian Navy said. The 33-year-old pop singer, Daniel Kueblboeck, was believed to have jumped off the AIDAAluna cruise ship about 200 kilometers (124 miles) north of St Johns, Newfoundland and Labrador, according to the cruise line. A passenger was seen throwing himself into the sea, and the search of the boat then established that the singer was missing, the cruise line said. He was traveling on his own, and was not on tour, according to the same source.

An alert was sounded early Sunday. A military helicopter and a surveillance aircraft were sent to the area, as well as two ships. "They were dispatched to the area and arrived mid-afternoon," military spokesman Mark Gough told AFP. "The search is still going on." After dark, the air and sea units had to be reduced due to no visibility. But a smaller Coast Guard craft is continuing the mission overnight into Monday, a Navy spokesman said. Kueblboeck gained fame in Germany after he took part in 2002 and in early 2003 in a popular national reality show. — AFP



A file picture shows German pop singer Daniel Kueblboeck in Cologne. — AFP

Classifieds

Tuesday, September 11, 2018

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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 30 km/h.

BY NIGHT: Relatively hot with light to moderate north westerly wind to variable wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 10/09/2018 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	46 °C	34 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	45 °C	34 °C			
ABDALY	46 °C	28 °C			
BUBYAN	00 °C	00 °C			
JAHRA	46 °C	33 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	44 °C	32 °C			
SALMIYAH	42 °C	34 °C			
AHMADI	41 °C	34 °C			
NUWAISIB	42 °C	31 °C			
WAFRA	45 °C	32 °C			
SALMY	45 °C	28 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	09/11	Hot	46 °C	28 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 26 km/h
Wednesday	09/12	Very hot and Humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for mist forming at night	48 °C	30 °C	NW-SE	08 - 30 km/h
Thursday	09/13	Very hot and Humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for mist forming at night	47 °C	28 °C	NW-SE	12 - 35 km/h
Friday	09/14	Hot and Humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for fog forming at night	46 °C	27 °C	VRB-SE	10 - 30 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:09
Sunrise	05:29
Zuhr	11:45
Asr	15:17
Sunset	18:02
Isha	19:19

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	48 °C
MIN. Temp.	28 °C
MAX. RH	25 %
MIN. RH	08 %
MAX. Wind	NW 39 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

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Turkish Airlines	1884918
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Jet Airways	22087426
FlyDubai	22924455
Qatar Airways	22414400
KLM	22423888
Royal Jordanian	22425747
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Emirates	22430224
Air India	22921555
Sri Lanka Airlines	22438184
Egypt Air	22424444
Swiss Air	22421578
Saudia	22421516
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Lufthansa	22423073
PIA	22422493
Bangladesh Airlines	22421044
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Arrival Flights on Tuesday 11/9/2018				Departure Flights on Tuesday 11/9/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	THY	767	Istanbul	13:40
KAC	102	London	00:50	JZR	144	Doha	13:55
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
JZR	539	Cairo	01:00	JZR	124	Bahrain	14:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	JZR	562	Sohag	14:05
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	JZR	552	Alexandria	14:05
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
KLM	446	Bahrain	01:45	FDB	872	Dubai	14:15
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	342	Sohag	14:50
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	KNE	234	Riyadh	15:00
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	GFA	224	Bahrain	15:00
JZR	267	Beirut	02:10	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	THY	501	Jeddah	15:45
KAC	414	Bangkok	02:40	AXB	396	Riyadh	15:55
THY	768	Istanbul	02:40	KKK	1269	Jeddah	16:00
JZR	553D	Alexandria	02:50	ETH	621	Dammam	16:05
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	KLM	446	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	UAE	854	Doha	16:15
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	THY	769	Abu Dhabi	16:20
MSR	606	Luxor	03:05	JZR	142	Muscat	16:20
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	JZR	530	Bahrain	16:40
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	MSR	607	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:55
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	OMA	644	Damascus	17:00
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	ETD	306	Dubai	17:20
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	QTR	1087	Dubai	17:25
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	MSR	613	Dubai	17:40
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	PGT	861	Doha	17:45
KAC	152	Istanbul	04:20	JZR	540	Doha	17:45
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	LMU	5511	Alexandria	17:45
MSC	403	Asyut	05:00	JAI	571	Alexandria	17:55
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	QTR	1077	Alexandria	17:50
THY	1414	TZC	05:05	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	362	Dhaka	18:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	KAC	331	Chennai	18:00
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:20	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
JZR	603	Mumbai	05:25	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	KAC	283	Riyadh	18:15
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	KAC	343	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	362	Colombo	06:00	KAC	511	Hyderabad	18:20
BAW	157	London	06:10	KAC	216	Dubai	18:20
RUN	6376	Istanbul	06:10	JZR	184	Amman	18:30
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	JZR	608	Sharm el-Sheikh	18:30
KAC	204	Lahore	06:30	JZR	240	Lahore	18:35
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	JZR	512	Cairo	18:35
RBG	559	Alexandria	06:50	JZR	650	Cairo	18:35
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	JZR	538	Doha	18:35
JZR	605	Ahmedabad	07:05	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
JZR	143	Doha	07:20	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	358	Kochi	07:35	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	122	AGP	07:35	RJA	641	Amman	20:00
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	RBG	556	Alexandria	20:20
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	NIA	0162	Cairo	20:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	JZR	602	Mumbai	20:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	KAC	154	Istanbul	20:45
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	DLH	624	Dammam	20:50
SYR	341	Damascus	10:00	KAC	357	Kochi	21:00
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
SAW	703	Damascus	10:30	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
JZR	531	Asyut	10:40	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:35
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
JZR	541	Cairo	11:05	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:05
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:10
JZR	325	Al Najaf	12:20	JZR	1540	Cairo	22:10
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:20	KAC	543	Cairo	22:15
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
MSC	411	Asyut	12:30	THY	1403	AYT	22:25
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	KAC	383	Delhi	22:25
THY	766	Istanbul	12:45	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:50
JZR	239	Amman	13:00	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:50
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
				KAC	411	Bangkok	23:15
				QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
				PIA	240	Sialkot	23:35
				JZR	560	Sohag	23:45



Trails of smoke from tear gas canisters fired by Israeli forces are seen as Palestinians protest on the beach near the maritime border with Israel in the northern Gaza Strip, calling for the lifting of the Israeli blockade on the coastal Palestinian enclave yesterday. — AFP

New UN rights chief decries abuses of minorities, migrants

GENEVA: The new UN rights chief decried yesterday crackdowns on minorities in countries like Myanmar and China and urged Western countries to respect migrant rights, warning that erecting walls only caused chaos and suffering. In her first address, Michelle Bachelet opened the UN Human Rights Council's 39th session stressing her "commitment to bridging the differences between communities and promoting respect, well-being and freedom".

Diplomats and activists from around the world gathered in Geneva to hear her maiden speech, seeking clues as to whether she will mimic the abrasive style of predecessor Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein. Bachelet, a former Chilean president, hailed Zeid but seemed to stake out a softer approach, only briefly mentioning a few concrete rights situations and refraining from full-blown criticism. "I am convinced that this council must strive for consensus," she said.

Bachelet did however voice particular concern about the situation in Myanmar, where UN investigators say there is enough evidence to prosecute the country's army chief and five other top military commanders for crimes against humanity and genocide against the Rohingya minority. Some 700,000 Rohingya Muslims fled northern Rakhine state to Bangladesh after Myanmar launched a brutal crackdown on insurgents in August 2017 amid accounts of arson, murder and rape.

Myanmar has vehemently denied allegations of ethnic cleansing, insisting it was responding to attacks by Rohingya rebels. Bachelet called on the rights council to create a new "independent international mechanism" tasked with preparing criminal indictments over atrocities

committed in Myanmar. She said that if created, the panel would also "complement and support" the International Criminal Court's planned probe of certain aspects of the crisis, insisting on "the imperative of justice for Myanmar."

'Deeply disturbing'

In the written version of her speech, Bachelet also took issue with China's treatment of its Uighur Muslim minority. She pointed to a review of China by independent UN rights experts last month which "brought to light deeply disturbing allegations of large-scale arbitrary detentions of Uighurs and other Muslim communities in so-called re-education camps across Xinjiang." Pointing to reports that documented patterns of rights violations in other regions as well, Bachelet said: "We would request the government to permit access for the (UN rights) office to all regions of China, and trust we will embark on discussion of the issues."

The new High Commissioner for Human Rights voiced dismay at the approach many developed countries have taken to migration, meanwhile. "Erecting walls, deliberately projecting fear and anger on migrant communities, ... separating and detaining families, and cutting integration programs: such policies offer no long-term solutions to anyone, only more hostility, misery, suffering and chaos," she said. "It is in the interest of every state to adopt migration policies that are grounded in reality, not in panic," she insisted. In her oral address, Bachelet did not criticize the migration policies of specific countries, but in her written statement she described the EU's handling of migrants crossing the Mediterranean as "disturbing".

protested outside offices of oil marketing companies. Protesters also burnt tyres and blocked traffic in the north eastern state of Assam. Several people were arrested in Assam and West Bengal, officials said. Television footage showed protesters breaking car and bus windows in Patna, the capital of the northern state of Bihar.

India's rupee hit a new record low of 72 to the dollar last week as emerging market currencies suffered losses. This has made India's massive imports of oil, priced in dollars, more expensive. Further strain on the economy has come from the government's surprise removal of vast quantities of cash from the system in 2016, and from a drive to simplify the tax code launched in 2017.

who had allegedly threatened to have her visa revoked and move her to another house.

Charge d'Affaires Charleson C Hermosura said Singgayan had visible bruises on her face, chest and arms. An x-ray conducted in the hospital also showed internal bleeding in her abdomen. Hermosura said it is not immediately clear if Singgayan had been maltreated by her employer prior to the stabbing incident. He said Singgayan was deployed to Kuwait as a household service worker in Feb 2017. He added Singgayan is facing felony charges and is currently under hospital arrest. Philippine Embassy officials were tightlipped when contacted by Kuwait Times yesterday to obtain more information on the case.

Meanwhile, Deputy Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met yesterday with Philippine Presidential Adviser on Overseas Filipino Workers Abdullah Mamo and accompanying officials. Discussions dealt with bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and means of promoting these ties. The presidential advisor, accompanied by officials, is currently visiting the country.



GENEVA: New High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet is seen on a TV screen delivering her speech during the opening day of the 39th UN Council of Human Rights yesterday. — AFP

She highlighted Italy's decision to repeatedly close its ports to arriving migrants, insisting such "political posturing" was having "devastating consequences for many already vulnerable people". She also slammed harsh tactics in Hungary and "shocking reports" that "food has been withheld from migrants held in transit zones on the Hungarian-Serbian border". The three-week rights council session that opened yesterday marks the first full session since the United States withdrew in June, accusing the body of "hypocrisy" and anti-Israel bias.

BJP accused its opponents of "unnecessarily politicizing" high fuel prices and the weakening currency, which it blamed on external factors such as Turkey's economic crisis which affected emerging markets. Ravi Shankar Prasad, the country's law minister, condemned the incidents of violence. "The BJP strongly believes that despite some momentary difficulties, the people of India do not support this protest," he said in a televised address.

Taxes on petrol and diesel, which account for more than a third of retail fuel prices, are one of the biggest sources of income for the government, and an emotive issue for voters. Past governments have usually lowered taxes when international oil prices shot up, but Modi's

Bachelet did not mention the US absence in her address, but in her written speech she did criticize the country for its harsh anti-migration policies. While the country has "halted the unconscionable practice of separating immigrant children from their families," she pointed out that "over 500 migrant children taken away from their parents ... have still not been returned to their families". Bachelet also voiced concern at the announcement from Washington last week that it would no longer limit the detention of migrant children to 20 days. - AFP

administration has made little concession so far. A Mood of the Nation survey of 15,000 respondents in April and May showed Modi's popularity rating dipping two percentage points from 2014 to 34 percent while Gandhi's rose eight points to 24 percent. In a speech late on Sunday, Modi was in bullish mood nonetheless. "We have started our journey (towards general elections) with confidence.

"We enjoy the confidence of 1.25 billion people of India," he said in the capital. "We do not see any challenge (from the opposition). Their allegations are based on falsehoods and web of lies... When they were in power they were a failure, and they are a failure even when they are in opposition." — Agencies

Washington, told journalists in Ramallah that the closure was "to protect Israel from war crimes, crimes against humanity that Israel is committing in the occupied Palestinian territories". Both Erekat and Zomlot pledged to push forward with Palestinian efforts at the ICC, where the chief prosecutor has already opened a preliminary probe into the allegations.

In recent weeks, the United States has cut more than \$200 million in bilateral aid to the Palestinians as well as cancelled its support for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees. In making such moves, Trump has sided with Israel on core issues in the conflict without publicly asking for any concessions in return. Palestinian leaders see his White House as blatantly biased in favor of Israel. "Part of it is bullying," Zomlot said in response to a question about the US strategy. "But the main part of it is just going ahead and implementing the grocery list that was submitted to them by (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu."

The Palestinians have asked the ICC to investigate Israel on issues ranging from settlement building in the occupied West Bank to civilian casualties in the 2014 Gaza war, among others. Palestinian foreign minister Riyad Al-Malki visited the ICC in May and called on it to open an immediate investigation. Despite having opened a preliminary probe in 2015, the tribunal has yet to move to the next stage and open a full-blown investigation which could lead to charges being brought. — AFP

Indian opposition leads protests over...

Continued from Page 1

this year - as protesters attacked a petrol station, television pictures showed. Similar incidents were reported in the financial hub of Mumbai and in Modi's home state of Gujarat. Congress party activists marched, blocked roads and disrupted trains in the eastern state of Odisha, while other opposition parties

Manila assisting maid involved in...

Continued from Page 1

"Our embassy in Kuwait continues to look after our kababayan Ulambai Singgayan and is coordinating with authorities to ensure that her rights are protected," Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Sarah Lou Arriola said. "Ulambai and her family here in the Philippines have our assurance that the DFA will provide her with legal and other assistance that she may require," Arriola said.

The undersecretary said that as soon as the embassy learned about the incident, it dispatched a team to the hospital where Ulambai is being treated for injuries allegedly inflicted on her by members of her employer's family. According to the initial information gathered by the embassy, Singgayan was allegedly beaten up after she allegedly stabbed her employer,

US ups pressure on Palestinians...

Continued from Page 1

Nauert cited that bid as one reason for shuttering the PLO mission. But she stressed the need for the Palestinians to join US-backed peace negotiations. "The United States continues to believe that direct negotiations between the two parties are the only way forward. This action should not be exploited by those who seek to act as spoilers to distract from the imperative of reaching a peace agreement," she said.

The Palestinian leadership cut off contact with the Trump administration after the US president recognized the disputed city of Jerusalem as Israel's capital in December. Trump has since pledged to withhold aid from the Palestinians until they return to the negotiating table. The decision on the PLO mission comes just ahead of the 25th anniversary of the first Oslo accord on Sept 13, which was famously sealed with a handshake on the White House lawn and raised hopes of a lasting Israeli-Palestinian peace. Husam Zomlot, head of the PLO mission in

Sports

Boston Red Sox stop Houston Astros' streak on walk-off hit

Inciarte, Braves bury Diamondbacks with 6-run 9th inning

HOUSTON: Mitch Moreland hit a walk-off single with two outs in the ninth inning, and the Boston Red Sox averted a series sweep with a 6-5 victory over the Houston Astros on Sunday at Fenway Park. Moreland finished 2-for-2 after entering as a pinch hitter. His single to left field scored pinch runner Tzu-Wei Lin and came against right-hander Hector Rondon (2-3). Lin was in scoring position thanks to Xander Bogaerts, who capped a 4-for-4 night with a single that placed a runner in scoring position against Rondon. The Astros had their seven-game winning streak snapped and their lead in the American League West shaved to three games in the loss column over the Oakland Athletics. Red Sox closer Craig Kimbrel (5-1) recorded the win by working a perfect top of the ninth inning. J.D. Martinez struck the initial big blow for Boston in the fifth, his three-run homer off Astros starter Dallas Keuchel turning a one-run advantage into a 5-1 lead. It was Martinez's 40th homer of the season.

MARINERS 3, YANKEES 2

Seattle's bullpen combined for four scoreless innings of one-hit relief, and Mitch Haniger scored the go-ahead run in eighth inning as the Mariners defeated visiting New York to avoid a season sweep. The Yankees had won the first two games of the three-game weekend series after sweeping the Mariners in three straight games in June in New York. Alex Colome (6-5) got the victory after delivering a scoreless eighth, and Edwin Diaz pitched the ninth for his major-league-leading 54th save of the season.

RAYS 8, ORIOLES 3

Brandon Lowe hit a three-run home run to cap a five-run first inning as Tampa Bay continued its surge with a 8-3 victory over visiting Baltimore. Lowe made it 5-0 when he hammered an 0-1 slider by Josh Rogers (1-2) into the right field seats. The rookie second baseman's fourth homer helped Tampa Bay move 14 games over .500 for the first time since the end of the 2013 season. The Rays also matched the 2008 team record by recording their 11th straight home win. Lowe's homer also helped the Rays win for the 16th time in their past 19 games. During that stretch, Tampa Bay has outscored foes 111-57.

A'S 7, RANGERS 3

Oakland scored two runs on Nick Martini's infield single in a five-run fourth inning, creating a lead the A's turned into an easy victory over visiting Texas and a sweep of the three-game series. The Oakland bullpen shut out the Rangers on two hits over the final 6 1/3 innings, helping the A's rally from a 3-0 deficit to a win that cut their deficit in the American League

West to 2 1/2 games behind the Astros. A's starter Trevor Cahill was pulled after walking six in 2 2/3 innings. He was charged with three runs on two hits. Seven A's relievers combined to bail out Cahill, with Shawn Kelley (2-0) getting credit with the win after retiring all four batters he faced in the third and fourth innings.

BRAVES 9, DIAMONDBACKS 5

Ender Inciarte hit a go-ahead three-run homer in the ninth inning, and Lucas Duda and Johan Camargo also homered in the six-run frame as visiting Atlanta rallied to defeat Arizona. Tyler Flowers and Ozzie Albies singled to open the ninth inning off closer Brad Boxberger (2-7) before Inciarte, who squared to bunt on the first four pitches, hit a 3-2 pitch for his 10th homer of the season and a 6-4 lead. Duda had a pinch-hit homer and Camargo added a two-run homer in the ninth, both off right-hander Yoan Lopez in his major league debut. The Braves took their third victory in the four-game series, all coming in their final at-bat. Camargo had three homers in the series.

METS 6, PHILLIES 4

Michael Conforto hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the fifth inning for host New York, which scratched National League Cy Young Award contender Jacob deGrom but still managed to beat visiting Philadelphia. The Mets won two of three from the Phillies, who haven't won a series in their past 10 tries (nine losses, one split). Philadelphia dropped 4 1/2 games behind Atlanta in the NL East. DeGrom, who leads the majors with a 1.68 ERA, was scheduled to start Sunday, but with constant rain in the forecast, the Mets decided to start rookie Corey Oswalt instead. DeGrom is expected to start Monday, when New York opens a four-game series against the visiting Miami Marlins.

CARDINALS 5, TIGERS 2

John Gant pitched 6 2/3 innings and the St. Louis offense erupted for five seventh-inning runs in salvaging the finale of a three-game series over host Detroit. Gant (7-5) allowed two runs on five hits and struck out six. Carlos Martinez got the last three outs for his second save. Carson Kelly had two hits and an RBI, and Paul DeJong added two hits and scored a run. St. Louis lost the first two games of the series in walk-off fashion. Detroit starter Michael Fulmer (3-11) was perfect through five but was charged with five runs, three earned, on five hits in 6 1/3 innings. Nicholas Castellanos had two hits for the Tigers.

DODGERS 9, ROCKIES 6

Justin Turner homered among his four hits, Enrique Hernandez also homered, and Los Angeles beat Colorado in Denver. Rich Hill (8-5) struck out seven in five innings, and Scott Alexander earned his third save for Los



BOSTON: Mitch Moreland #18 of the Boston Red Sox hits the game-winning walk off in the ninth inning to defeat the Houston Astros at Fenway Park on Sunday in Boston, Massachusetts. — AFP

Angeles, which moved within a half-game of the National League West-leading Rockies. Charlie Blackmon homered twice, and Nolan Arenado also hit a home run for the Rockies.

BREWERS 6, GIANTS 3

Jonathan Schoop belted a grand slam off San Francisco ace Madison Bumgarner to rally host Milwaukee from a sixth-inning deficit. The Brewers completed a three-game sweep. Zach Davies pitched effectively for the second straight time since returning from a shoulder injury that cost him three months, helping the Brewers pull within two games of the Chicago Cubs in the NL Central. The Giants took their eighth loss in a row, equaling their longest losing streak since April 2015, and they completed an 0-6 trip.

BLUE JAYS 6, INDIANS 2

Justin Smoak hit a two-run homer and had three RBIs, Teoscar Hernandez hit a three-run homer, and Toronto defeated visiting Cleveland. Thomas Pannone (2-1), acquired from Cleveland in a trade last season, allowed two runs and four hits in 6 1/3 innings in his third career major league start to help Toronto gain a split in the four-game

series and win the season series 4-3. Blue Jays right fielder Randal Grichuk left the game in the fourth after his head hit a security guard's chair while he tried to catch a foul ball. The team later announced that initial concussion tests and a CT scan of his head and face were negative and that Grichuk would be re-evaluated Monday morning.

ANGELS 1, WHITE SOX 0

Andrew Heaney pitched seven scoreless innings with a career-high 12 strikeouts, and visiting Los Angeles held on for a win over Chicago to complete a three-game sweep. Heaney (9-9) allowed only three hits and walked none to earn his second win in the past three starts. The fifth-year southpaw struck out at least one batter in six of the seven innings he worked. Los Angeles climbed one game within .500 after wrapping up its 10-game road trip with a 7-3 record. Chicago lost its fifth game in a row. The White Sox were shut out for the 11th time this season.

PADRES 7, REDS 6

Eric Hosmer broke a tie by opening the ninth inning with his third homer in as many

games, giving visiting San Diego a one-run victory in Cincinnati and a split of the teams' weather-impacted four-game series. Hosmer's 16th homer of the season came off Raisel Iglesias (2-4), the sixth Reds pitcher. It marked the first time in his career that Hosmer homered in three straight games. Craig Stammen (7-2) got the win, and Kirby Yates picked up his seventh save. The start of the game was pushed back three hours due to forecasted rain in Cincinnati. There was also a 1-hour, 32-minute rain delay in the middle of the eighth inning, bringing to 5 hours, 22 minutes the total time lost to rain in the four-game series.

TWINS 3, ROYALS 1

Willians Astudillo hit a two-run walk-off homer with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning to give Minnesota a victory over visiting Kansas City. It was just the 11th hit and third homer of the major league career for the 26-year-old Astudillo, who clobbered a 1-0 hanging slider off Jason Hammel (2-13) deep into the bleachers in left-center field. Adalberto Mondesi homered for the Royals, who finished with just three hits off four Twins pitchers. — Reuters

Stand-in Reynolds scores 22 points as Lions maul Cheetahs

JOHANNESBURG: Golden Lions' Shaun Reynolds matched the most points scored by an individual in the 2018 South African Currie Cup with 22 in a 47-14 drubbing of the Free State Cheetahs this weekend. While the Johannesburg-based Lions celebrated a seven-try victory that put them top of the standings after four rounds, the Cheetahs once again rued having to split their resources.

While the second-stringers were being mauled by the Lions at Ellis Park in Johannesburg, the first-choices fared equally badly, crashing 46-14 to the Ospreys in a Pro14 match in Wales. Reynolds, standing in at fly-half while Elton Jantjies is touring Australasia with South Africa, scored two tries and slotted six conversions. His 22-point haul came after he scored 17 and 18 in two previous matches this season, making him the leading Currie Cup scorer with 57. Reynolds also equalled the most individual points in a Currie Cup match this year, sharing the feat with two other backs, Chris Smith of the Pumas and SP Marais of Western Province.

After building a 33-0 half-time advantage, the Lions conceded two tries to Lloyd Greff and discarded Springboks scrum-half Rudy Paige. But the hosts had the final say, scoring two converted tries in the final five minutes through Howard Mnisi and Hacjivah Dayimani. Although a forward, number eight Dayimani has twice scored two tries this season and his five overall

makes him the leading try scorer. He is another player getting a chance to star because of Springbok call-ups with first-choice number eight and skipper Warren Whiteley on national team duty.

Blue Bulls got back on the winning trail after successive losses by pipping the Griquas 45-40 after a 13-try fest in northern Cape capital Kimberley. In a game of distinct phases, the Pretoria-based Bulls built a 28-7 lead, which was whittled to just seven points by half-time. Yellow cards for winger Duncan Matthews and hooker Jaco Visagie contributed to the Bulls falling behind in the second half before recovering to achieve a bonus-point victory.

Ill discipline also caught up with the Griquas and lock Pieter Jansen van Vuren was sin-binned for cynical play at a crucial stage.

After scoring first, the Sharks trailed by seven points at half-time against the visiting Pumas in Indian Ocean port city Durban before storming back for a 28-12 victory.

Jeremy Ward, Johan Deysel, Apehele Fassi and Curwin Bosch scored tries and all were converted by Robert du Preez, a son of the Sharks coach. Lions and Sharks have 15 points each from three matches, the Bulls 12 from four and titleholders and record 34-time champions Western Province 10 from two.

They are expected to occupy the top four positions in the final standings after a single-round mini-league and secure semi-finals places. — AFP

Boks coach says job on the line against All Blacks

WELLINGTON: South Africa coach Johan "Rassie" Erasmus admitted yesterday his job may be on the line against the All Blacks this weekend after two straight defeats in the Rugby Championship left his six-month tenure in serious jeopardy.

South Africa head into Saturday's match on the back of losses to Australia and Argentina, with memories of a 57-0 drubbing the last time they played in New Zealand still raw. Erasmus said a similar result in Wellington this weekend would probably spell the end of his tenure, even though he only took over in March.

"Probably just for me to survive it's fairly important, but that's beside the point," he told reporters in Wellington. "If we can beat the All Blacks here, everybody will think we have a realistic chance of winning the World Cup next year. People will say there's growth."

The former Test flanker said the recent losses—and the Springboks slipping to seventh in the world rankings—meant he was facing pressure from South Africa's "ruthless" fans, but his main aim was to ensure the Springboks were in better shape than when he took over.

He has also vowed to speed up the integration of black players into the national side to reflect demographic realities in South Africa, and in June named flanker Siya Kolisi to the captaincy—the first time a black South African had ever led the Springboks.

"If I'm here or not, I want the next coach who goes to the World Cup to have a squad who's representative of South Africa, who's got enough experience, who's gone through



Johan Rassie Erasmus

tough times in New Zealand and Australia," he said. Erasmus conceded facing the All Blacks was daunting but said it was a chance for his young players "to show what we have". "This is the ultimate test to see where we are. Did we actually improve in the last six matches or are we getting worse?"

After ringing the changes against Argentina and Australia, Erasmus said he did

not want to tinker too much with the side that will play New Zealand. However, he said South Africa would be without wing Makazole Mapimpi, who limped off against Australia.

"He's flying back today to get scans and stuff. We're not going to get a replacement in for him," he said. "He's definitely out for this weekend." — AFP

Sports

Packers' Rodgers overcomes leg injury in comeback win

Chiefs defeat Chargers for ninth straight time

GREEN BAY: Green Bay overcame a franchise-record, 17-point fourth-quarter deficit after quarterback Aaron Rodgers revived the offense and guided his team to a 24-23 comeback win over visiting Chicago in both teams' season opener. Rodgers, who briefly left the game due to a left knee injury, finished 20 of 30 for 286 yards (273 in the second half) and three touchdowns (all in the fourth quarter) with no interceptions. Trailing 20-0 early in the second half, the Packers pumped the life back into Lambeau Field on a 75-yard touchdown from Rodgers to Randall Cobb with 2:13 left to complete the rally. Rodgers left the game in the second quarter after he was sacked and was eventually carted to the locker room and was replaced by DeShone Kizer. The Packers backup QB turned the ball over twice to Bears linebacker Khalil Mack on a strip-sack fumble and a 27-yard interception return for touchdown, giving Chicago a 17-0 lead halftime lead. Green Bay's defense tightened in the second half and closed out the Bears' final drive when Nick Perry drilled quarterback Mitchell Trubisky with 58 ticks left.

CHIEFS 38, CHARGERS 28

Quarterback Patrick Mahomes made his debut as Kansas City's starting quarterback and passed for 256 yards and four touchdowns as the visitors topped Los Angeles. Mahomes went 15-for-27 passing as the two-time AFC West champions won their ninth straight game over the Chargers. Kansas City moved up 17 spots to draft Mahomes 10th overall in 2017. He then sat a year ago behind Alex Smith, traded to Washington in the offseason. Mahomes immediately showed off chemistry developed with speedy wide receiver Tyreek Hill, who had seven catches for 169 yards, while scoring three touchdowns (two receiving and a 91-yard punt return). The Chargers lost despite 541 total yards and 33 first downs on offense.

BROWN 21, STEELERS 21 (OT)

Cleveland erased a two-touchdown deficit and neither it nor visiting Pittsburgh scored in overtime, leaving the bitter rivals in a tie in a soggy season opener. Chris Boswell missed a 42-yard field-goal attempt with 1:44 left in overtime for Pittsburgh, the defending AFC North champion, and the Browns' Zane Gonzalez missed a 43-yard attempt with nine seconds left. The Browns, 0-16 last season, have not won since Dec. 24, 2016, against the then-San Diego Chargers. Josh Gordon's 17-yard touchdown catch from Cleveland's Tyrod Taylor with 1:58 left in regulation created the 21-21 tie after Pittsburgh had built a 21-7 lead.

PATRIOTS 27, TEXANS 20

Tom Brady passed for three first-half touchdowns and host New England forced two turnovers prior to the intermission in their victory over Houston. Brady finished 26 for 39 for 277 yards, providing the Patriots enough of a cushion to fend off a superior second half from the Texans and second-year quarterback Deshaun Watson. Brady engineered touchdown drives of 75 and 78 yards in the second quarter. The Texans, meanwhile, were ragged in the early going. Watson fumbled on the first offensive snap of the season and closed the first half 5 for 13 with 61 yards, an interception and a fumble. Watson passed for 176 yards and tossed a 5-yard

touchdown to Bruce Ellington with 2:08 left.

JAGUARS 20, GIANTS 15

Myles Jack returned an interception 32 yards for a touchdown, and visiting Jacksonville held on for win over New York. T.J. Yeldon added a receiving touchdown out of the backfield for the Jaguars, who won despite the absence of starting running back Leonard Fournette for most of the game because of a hamstring injury. Fournette, who left in the second quarter, finished with nine carries for 41 yards. Giants running back Saquon Barkley ran for a 68-yard touchdown in his NFL debut. The big play punctuated an otherwise quiet day for the No. 2 overall pick out of Penn State, who finished with 18 carries for 106 yards.

VIKINGS 24, 49ERS 16

Kirk Cousins completed 20 of 36 passes for 244 yards and two touchdowns in his debut with Minnesota, which held on for a win over visiting San Francisco. Stefon Diggs and Kyle Rudolph each hauled in touchdown passes from Cousins, who signed a three-year, \$84 million contract with the Vikings over the offseason. Rookie cornerback Mike Hughes, the Vikings' first-round pick out of UCF, added an interception return for a touchdown in his NFL debut. San Francisco's Jimmy Garoppolo, who entered the game with five career interceptions, was picked off three times in the loss. Garoppolo completed 15 of 33 passes for 261 yards and one touchdown to go along with the costly turnovers.

BENGALS 34, COLTS 23

Clayton Fejedelem picked up a fumble and returned it 83 yards for a touchdown in the final minute as visiting Cincinnati held off Indianapolis. The play came at the end of Colts quarterback Andrew Luck's third-down pass to tight end Jack Doyle, who was crunched on a hit from multiple players. Fejedelem scooped the ball and scored with 24 seconds left. Doyle would have converted a third-and-15 had he not fumbled. Luck, in his first game after missing the entire 2017 season, was trying to direct a fourth-quarter comeback. He finished 39 for 53 for 319 yards and two touchdowns with one interception.

BUCCANEERS 48, SAINTS 40

Subbing for suspended starting quarterback Jameis Winston, veteran backup Ryan Fitzpatrick threw for 417 yards and four touchdowns, including scoring passes of 58 and 36 yards to DeSean Jackson, and visiting Tampa Bay hung on to beat New Orleans. Fitzpatrick completed 21 of 28 passes and led the Bucs to scores on seven of their first nine possessions. His crucial 12-yard scramble on third-and-11 with 2 minutes left blunted a furious fourth-quarter rally by the Saints from a 24-point deficit with 8:54 left. The Bucs did not punt until midway through the third quarter. Jackson had five catches for 146 yards before leaving with a concussion, and Mike Evans had seven catches for 147 yards and one touchdown. Saints quarterback Drew Brees finished with 37-of-45 passing for 439 yards and three scores in defeat.

PANTHERS 16, COWBOYS 8

Carolina's defense created a rough outing for visiting Dallas quarterback Dak Prescott in a season-open-



GREEN BAY: Randall Cobb #18 of the Green Bay Packers runs in for a touchdown past Khalil Mack #52 of the Chicago Bears during the fourth quarter of a game at Lambeau Field on Sunday in Green Bay, Wisconsin. — AFP

ing victory. The Cowboys rarely got going offensively as the Panthers defeated Dallas for only the third time in 12 regular-season meetings. Prescott was 19 of 29 for 170 passing yards but directed only one scoring drive. Panthers quarterback Cam Newton completed 17 of 26 passes for 161 yards. Newton also gained 58 yards on 13 carries and a touchdown for the Panthers, who lost tight end Greg Olsen (foot) and offensive tackle Darryl Williams (knee) during the game. Dallas lost defensive end Randy Gregory to a concussion.

BRONCOS 27, SEAHAWKS 24

Quarterback Case Keenum overcame three interceptions in his Denver debut to throw for 329 yards and three touchdowns. Von Miller had three sacks, two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery and the home team beat Seattle. Emmanuel Sanders had 10 catches for 135 yards and a score for the Broncos, who sacked Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson six times. Wilson passed for 298 yards and three touchdowns but was intercepted twice for the Seahawks, who lost wide receiver Doug Baldwin to a right knee injury in the first half. The Broncos trailed 24-20 in the fourth quarter but Keenum led them on a seven-play, 75-yard drive. He found Demaryius Thomas just inside the pylon for a 4-yard touchdown that put the Broncos ahead for good.

DOLPHINS 27, TITANS 20

In the longest game since the AFC-NFC merger that featured two lengthy lightning delays, wide receivers Jakeem Grant and Kenny Stills scored on long touchdowns as host Miami defeated Tennessee. Titans quarterback Marcus Mariota left the game in the third quarter due to an elbow injury. He was replaced by Blaine Gabbert. Tennessee also lost standout left tackle

Taylor Lewan (concussion) and tight end Delanie Walker (lower leg). Dolphins quarterback Ryan Tannehill, who made his comeback after missing the previous 20 games due to knee surgery, completed 20 of 28 passes for 230 yards with two interceptions and two touchdowns. Both TDs were to Stills, who caught four passes for 106 yards.

REDSKINS 24, CARDINALS 6

Alex Smith passed for 255 yards and Adrian Peterson ran for 96 in their Washington debuts, and the visitors drubbed Arizona. Washington's offensive acquisitions paid quick dividends. Quarterback Smith completed 21 of 30 passes for two touchdowns without an interception, and Peterson carried 26 times and scored a touchdown. He caught two passes for 70 yards and lost a fumble in fifth-year head coach Jay Gruden's first opening-week win. Quarterback Sam Bradford's debut with the Cardinals was less inspired. He finished 20 of 34 for 153 yards and one interception. Larry Fitzgerald had seven catches for 76 yards.

RAVENS 47, BILLS 3

Joe Flacco passed for 236 yards and three touchdowns and host Baltimore routed Buffalo, which yanked its starting quarterback shortly after halftime. Bills quarterback Nathan Peterman was inaccurate and under pressure until being replaced by rookie first-round draft pick Josh Allen with 11:22 remaining in the third quarter. Peterman completed 5 of 18 passes for 24 yards and two interceptions while being sacked three times. Allen was 6 of 15 for 74 yards. The Ravens outgained the Bills 369 to 153, and Buffalo didn't make a first down until the third quarter as Baltimore's defense dominated on a rainy afternoon. — Reuters

Osaka tipped as Japan's first world number one

TOKYO: After going from goofball to Grand Slam champion, Naomi Osaka can follow her historic US Open triumph by becoming Japan's first world number one, predicts Japanese tennis great Kimiko Date.

Though Osaka's moment of glory was overshadowed by Serena Williams' meltdown during her stunning 6-2, 6-4 upset of her idol at the weekend, the 20-year-old demonstrated she has the game, and the grit, to be a serial winner, according to Date.

"To play like that in her first Grand Slam final was just amazing," Date told AFP. "To keep your cool like that, from the moment you step onto court to the last point, isn't easy," added the former world number four, who reached the Wimbledon semi-finals in 1996.

"If she continues to develop the way she has over the past two weeks and stays motivated, she can go on to be Japan's first world number one." Osaka, a self-confessed Pokemon nerd whose playful nature has made her a favourite on the women's tour, is expected to climb from 19 to seven in the rankings after becoming an unlikely hero in Japan, still reeling after a summer of deadly typhoons and earthquakes.

The first Japanese player, man or woman, to capture a Grand Slam singles title, Osaka won her first WTA tournament at Indian Wells in March when her trophy presentation went viral—"This is probably going to be the worst acceptance speech of all time," she blushed.

Osaka, who is of Haitian-Japanese descent and was raised in the United States, replies to questions from Japan's media in English with a subtle Caribbean lilt, frequently apologising for her rudimentary Japanese.

But she has put Japanese tennis firmly on the map with her shock victory over Williams,



NEW YORK: Women's singles Champion Naomi Osaka of Japan poses for a portrait inside the Rockefeller Center on day fourteen of the 2018 US Open at the Rockefeller Center in New York City. — AFP

who was chasing a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles crown. Fighting fire with fire, Osaka's game mirrors that of the American: big serve, murderous shots off both flanks, particularly the forehand—and a steely determination. Date likened Osaka to China's Li Na, who retired in 2014 after winning the French and Australian Opens and reaching number two in the world.

"Osaka is taking on the power tennis of the women's game with power of her own—an Asian player, a Japanese player," said Date, who retired last year at the age of 46. "Until now only Li Na had the physique to be able to tackle that kind of power."

"You could tell Serena was wary of Osaka's power," added Date. "And she's still developing. The top players will be studying her now and she will have to go from being the challenger to a position where she has to produce." Messages of congratulations flooded in for Osaka, including tweets from Kei Nishikori, who became the first Japanese men's player to reach a Grand Slam singles final at the 2014 US Open. After scooping \$3.8 million in prize

money, Osaka's off-court earnings are set to increase 10-fold over the next couple of years from \$1.5 million to more than \$15 million, according to Forbes. The test will be how she reacts to her sudden fame, starting with the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo later this month.

But her remarkable poise in Saturday's final bodes well. Even when Williams threw a tantrum, calling umpire Carlos Ramos a "thief" after a code violation over coaching quickly escalated to her being docked a point for a smashed racquet, and then a game for repeated insults, Osaka kept her cool.

After serving out the match, Osaka showed her softer side, bursting into tears as boos rang out from fans still outraged over her opponent's bust-up with Ramos. Date gave a withering assessment of the crowd's reaction after Osaka was clearly unable to savour her achievement.

"For the atmosphere to turn like that after Osaka's first (major) final was a pity," she said. "To think how she must have felt not to be able to properly enjoy her victory and to see her crying made my heart ache." — AFP

China appoint Hiddink to lead Olympic 2020 charge

SHANGHAI: Highly respected Dutchman Guus Hiddink was named yesterday as the new coach of China's under-21 football team, tasked with leading the country at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. The 71-year-old joins another well-known veteran coach, the Italian World Cup winner Marcello Lippi, in taking a major role in China's aggressive push to finally become a force in international football. The 70-year-old Lippi has been in charge of the senior side since 2016 and has overseen marginal improvement, although China still failed to reach the World Cup in Russia and languish at 75th in the FIFA rankings.

Announcing Hiddink as the under-21s boss, the Chinese Football Association (CFA) said: "The main task is to go for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics." In the days

to come, under the leadership of Hiddink and his coaching team, the under-21 boys will pursue their Olympic dreams."

The Dutchman, whose last job was a caretaker spell at Chelsea in 2015-2016, will be paid a little less than four million euros (\$4.7 million) a year after tax, Chinese media say. Like Lippi, Hiddink comes with a wealth of experience at club and international level. In addition to his two interim stints at Chelsea, he also coached Real Madrid, PSV Eindhoven and Valencia, among others. Hiddink is perhaps best known for inspiring co-hosts South Korea to a shock semi-final spot at the 2002 World Cup. China's under-21s will be expected to make up the bulk of their squad for the Olympics, where the age group is under-23. — AFP

Moto2 rider Fenati dropped by team after brake grab

LONDON: Italian rider Romano Fenati was dumped by his Moto2 team yesterday, and was also set to lose a 2019 MV Agusta deal, after he grabbed a rival's brake lever while racing in Sunday's San Marino Grand Prix.

The Marinelli Snipers team announced they had terminated the 22-year-old's contract on account of "his unsporting, dangerous and damaging conduct for the image of all." "With extreme regret, we have to note that his irresponsible act endangered the life of another rider and can't be apologised for in any way," the

team added.

The boss of Italian bike maker MV Agusta also vowed to scrap a contract for 2019. Fenati was disqualified on the spot and barred from the next two races after the incident at Misano on Italy's Adriatic coast that made waves around the world.

"This has been the worse and saddest thing I ever seen in a bike race. True sportsmen would never act this way," MV Agusta president Giovanni Castiglioni told his 565,000 followers on Instagram. "If I would be (MotoGP promoters) Doma I would ban him from world racing." — Reuters

Sports

Giroud gets winner as France celebrate World Cup homecoming

France in control in the three-team Group 1 of League A

PARIS: France finally celebrated winning the World Cup with their home fans on Sunday after Kylian Mbappe and Olivier Giroud both scored in a 2-1 win over the Netherlands in Paris. Giroud swept in the winner from a Benjamin Mendy cross in the 75th minute for his first goal in 11 games in a France shirt, after the Chelsea striker went through the entirety of his country's triumphant campaign in Russia without scoring.

On their first appearance on home soil since the World Cup, Mbappe had earlier put France ahead in an explosive performance from the 19-year-old, before Ryan Babel briefly restored parity in the second half.

The Stade de France exploded in celebration at Giroud's winner in a game that had a competitive edge as part of UEFA's new Nations League. However, this match on a balmy evening was really just a prelude to World Cup victory celebrations on the pitch in front of almost 80,000 fans at the national stadium after the final whistle.

"The victory was the most important thing, so we can have a great party," coach Didier Deschamps told television station M6. "I am really pleased for Olivier. Strikers can have periods like that where they are not as efficient, but he is useful in our build-up play, he scored a lovely goal, and on top of that it gave us the victory."

The French team and their supporters saw this occasion as the opportunity to make up for the lack of a memorable public celebration in the immediate aftermath of the World Cup triumph in Russia.

The day after beating Croatia 4-2 in the final, Les Bleus paraded hurriedly down the Champs-Élysées Avenue in Paris en route to a reception hosted by President Emmanuel Macron. The rushed nature of

those celebrations disappointed the estimated 300,000 fans who took to the streets, and so this time the victorious squad were presented one by one to supporters after the final whistle.

The World Cup trophy was shown off as well, and the squad undertook a lap of honour, singing with supporters, at the stadium where France first won it in 1998. "Now is the time to have a party," Paul Pogba told M6. "When we came back to France it was very short. There was all the security around the bus and we couldn't really celebrate with the public."

"This time we are at the Stade de France, it's full, it's beautiful." The France starting line-up was the same as that in Thursday's 0-0 draw with Germany in Munich, meaning the only change from the World Cup final was in goal, with Alphonse Areola replacing the injured Hugo Lloris.

The teams were greeted by an enormous banner that read 'world champions' and covered the pitch, before a spine-tingling version of the French national anthem. Mbappe forced a good save from Netherlands goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen inside 50 seconds, and his performance here showed why he is tipped as a future Ballon d'Or winner.

He got the breakthrough in the 14th minute as he turned in a ball driven across the box by Blaise Matuidi for his eighth international goal in 2018. The hosts looked in complete control against a Dutch side rebuilding under Ronald Koeman after failing to qualify for Euro 2016 or the World Cup.

It took the visitors 66 minutes to seriously threaten, as Georginio Wijnaldum found himself in behind the defence only to drag his shot wide. But the Dutch were level just a minute later, Kenny Tete delivering a cross from the right for Babel-unmissable with his hair dyed red - to convert.



PARIS: France's team players celebrate as they do a lap of honour during a ceremony to celebrate the victory of the 2018 World Cup at the end of the UEFA Nations League football match between France and Netherlands at the Stade de France stadium, in Saint-Denis, northern of Paris, on Sunday. — AFP

Giroud got the winner though, his 32nd for his country seeing him move one clear of Zinedine Zidane's tally for France. After drawing in Germany, France are in control in the three-team Group 1 of

League A in the Nations League, with the group winners going through to the four-team finals next June. But for them the evening was always about the post-game festivities first and foremost. — AFP

Schulz strikes on debut to grab Germany win over Peru

SINSHEIM: Nico Schulz enjoyed a dream international debut on Sunday, as the Hoffenheim defender scored a late winner in front of his home crowd to give Germany a hard-fought 2-1 friendly win over Peru in Sinsheim.

Given his first cap for Germany in the stadium where he plays his club football, the 25-year-old Schulz put in a solid performance at left-back as the hosts came from behind to pick up their first win since crashing out of the World Cup in June.

"I am very happy for Nico, he put in a very engaged performance today," coach Joachim Loew told RTL. "He made a very good impression on me in training." Germany had prioritised defensive stability in their 0-0 draw with France three days earlier, but they were out to score goals in Sinsheim, and forced several chances in the opening 20 minutes.

Marco Reus twice came close, while Matthias Ginter's header forced a smart save from Peru goalkeeper Pedro Gallese. "We had more chances and were more ambitious going forward today than we were against France," Reus said. "With a bit more luck and bit more concentration I would have converted one of those chances."

Yet it was Peru who struck first, brutally exposing Loew's side on the counter-attack in the 22nd minute. In a moment reminiscent of Germany's World Cup woes, Luis Advinula burst down the right wing and beat Marc Andre ter Stegen at the near post.

The lead lasted all of three minutes, as Julian Brandt levelled the scores with a delicate chip over Gallese.



SINSHEIM: (R-L) Germany's defender Thilo Kehrer, Peru's midfielder Pedro Aquino and goalkeeper Pedro Gallese vie for the ball during the international friendly football match Germany vs Peru at the Rhein-Neckar-Arena in Sinsheim, southwestern Germany, on Sunday. — AFP

Timo Werner appeared to fire Germany in front ten minutes later, but was correctly called back for offside.

Both Werner and Ilkay Gundogan forced further saves from Gallese before half-time, while tested ter Stegen at the other end. Peru looked the more dangerous side in the second half, and ter Stegen was called into action again before the hour mark, scrambling across goal to keep out Pedro Aquino's header.

Both sides continued to look vulnerable at the back, as chances fell to both Werner and Jefferson Farfan on

the counter-attack. Nils Petersen could have won it for Germany 15 minutes from time, skewing a volley wide of the post, and Julian Draxler sent the ball flying over the bar several minutes later. The home side finally forced the issue in the 85th minute, as Schulz pounced on a loose ball in the final third and squeezed his shot underneath Gallese.

"I haven't watched the goal back yet, but it was lucky," Schulz told RTL. "I don't think it would have gone in any other stadium." — AFP

Former champions fight for Africa Cup of Nations survival

JOHANNESBURG: Fears that expanding the Africa Cup of Nations from 16 teams to 24 could trigger easy passages to the 2019 finals in Cameroon have proved unfounded. Former champions Congo Brazzaville, South Africa and Zambia are among teams facing serious challenges as they seek top-two group finishes, which secure tournament places.

Only four of the 47 contenders-Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Tunisia-boast 100 percent records after the second matchday at the weekend. AFP Sport suggests which countries are likely to join Cameroon, automatic qualifiers as hosts.

Group A

French coach Nicolas Dupuis has transformed Madagascar from whipping boys to a competitive team and they are on course for a first Cup of Nations appearance. They appear stronger than second-place rivals Equatorial Guinea, who they face twice next month, and should join Senegal in Cameroon next June.

Group B

Defending champions Cameroon, who have hired former Dutch star Clarence Seedorf as coach, are competing to gain match practice despite being guaranteed a place. That leaves Morocco, Malawi and the Comoros contesting one place and it would be a sensation if the Herve Renard-coached north Africans failed to claim it.

Group C

It is surprising that Burundi, who have never reached a Cup of Nations, are lying second, three points ahead of 2017 hosts Gabon. Sadio Berahino of English second-tier club Stoke has opted to play for Burundi, increasing their qualification hopes at the expense of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang-inspired Gabon.

Group D

Algeria are on course to justify being favourites to top the table, but more was expected of Togo, led by former Manchester City and Real Madrid striker Emmanuel Adebayor. Togo have been overshadowed by Benin, whose point from a draw in Lome was an unexpected bonus that could prove crucial come the end of qualifying next March.

Group E

South Africa have qualified for only one of the last five Cup of Nations and being held at home by Libya has endangered hopes of improving that dismal record. Nigeria are growing in strength and confidence and should make it, leaving the South Africans and Libyans to contest for second spot and the Seychelles seek damage limitation.

Group F

The tightest group so far with Ghana, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Ethiopia all on three points having won at home and lost away. Ghana possess sufficient talent to take a top-two place and Kenya, whose last Cup of Nations appearance was 14 years ago, could join them with Victor Wanyama an inspirational captain. —AFP

Eriksen punishes Wales as Danish stars return from boycott

AARHUS: Christian Eriksen scored twice in a 2-0 victory over Wales in the Nations League on Sunday as Denmark's first-team players returned after boycotting a midweek friendly over a contract dispute. The Tottenham midfielder put the Danes ahead with just over half an hour gone in Aarhus. Eriksen then added a second on 63 minutes from the penalty spot after Ethan Ampadu handled. Age Hareide's Denmark go top of a group that also includes the Republic of Ireland, who were routed 4-1 by Wales in their opening game on Thursday. Danish preparations were hit by a standoff between their players' union and the country's football association (DBU) over commercial rights. The issue led to Denmark fielding a side comprised of lower-league and futsal players in Wednesday's 3-0 loss to Slovakia, but both parties reached a one-match truce to ensure a full-strength squad would face Wales.

"I think no matter how the week developed I think this is what we wanted," said Eriksen, with both the players and DBU hoping to reach a new agreement ahead of next month's game with Ireland. "We wanted to play some football, to win and get a good start in this competition. It was a very good start and a very good feeling to finish a weird week." Ryan Giggs' men suffered a hitch of their own when a technical problem with their plane severely delayed their arrival in Denmark, and forced the cancellation of a pre-match press conference. — AFP

Kuwait, Iraq draw 2-2 in friendly



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti national team player Sami Al-Sanea (center) fights for the ball against Iraqi national team player Humam Faraj (left) during a friendly match at Al-Nasr Sports Club in Kuwait City yesterday. The match ended in a 2-2 draw. Iraq's Alaa Ali Mhawaj scored an own goal in the 48th minute, while Bader Al-Motawaa missed a penalty in the 52nd minute. Fahd Al-Hajeri scored Kuwait's second goal in the 77th minute. Mohanad Ali opened the scoring in the 5th minute for Iraq, while Ali Faez Atiyah scored in the 64th minute. Iraq led 1-0 at halftime. The match was held in celebration of FIFA Day. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

25 Boston Red Sox stop Houston Astros' streak on walk-off hit



26 Packers' Rodgers overcomes leg injury in comeback win



27 Giroud gets winner as France celebrate World Cup homecoming



Djokovic wins third US Open title

Equals Pete Sampras on 14 Grand Slams



NEW YORK: Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates his victory over Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina (L) after their 2018 US Open men's singles final match on Sunday in New York. — AFP

NEW YORK: Novak Djokovic clinched his third US Open title on Sunday with a 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 triumph over Juan Martin del Potro, taking him level with Pete Sampras's mark of 14 Grand Slams. Djokovic, playing in his eighth final in New York and already the champion in 2011 and 2015, is now just three Slams behind Rafael Nadal and six back from the all-time record 20 held by Roger Federer. It was also the third time the 31-year-old Serb—who missed last year's tournament with an elbow injury which sent his career into a mini-crisis—completed the Wimbledon-US Open double.

"I want to say Pete, I love you, you're my idol," said Djokovic of Sampras. "To the support of the loved ones, my kids, my wife, my small team of people that has been there with me through difficult times as well," added the Serb who underwent elbow surgery after the Australian Open in January.

For world number three Del Potro, it was a heart-

breaking experience coming in just his second Slam final, nine years after he was crowned US Open champion before a long battle with wrist injuries pushed him into depression and to the brink of retirement.

"When I had my surgery I could truly understand what Juan Martin was going through when he had surgeries that kept him away from the tour for two or three years," added Djokovic. It was Djokovic's 15th win over the Del Potro and fifth in five at the Slams. It came in a final which was business-like rather than thrilling, a relief for a tournament still reeling from the controversial women's final on Saturday.

The result also means that 50 of the last 55 majors have been won by the 'Big Four' of Federer, Nadal, Djokovic and Andy Murray. Del Potro backed Djokovic to surpass Federer's mark of 20 Slams. "Of course he can. Novak has everything to make records in this sport," said the Argentine. "I was so happy to be play-

ing the final against this magnificent idol," added Del Potro of his close friend Djokovic. "He knows that he's one of my friends on tour and he knows he's one player I want to watch win on tour. Of course I'm sad to lose but I'm happy for Novak as well. You deserve to win."

With the Arthur Ashe Stadium roof closed as heavy rain swept New York, conditions were slow and sluggish. After taking just two points off Del Potro's first three service games, Djokovic, in his 23rd final at the majors, pounced to break for 5-3.

The key was his success with a lung-busting 22-shot rally and he pocketed the set when the 29-year-old del Potro netted a forehand. It was only the second set dropped by the Argentine at the tournament.

For Djokovic, it was an illustration of him growing into the championships as he took his run of consecutive sets won to 14, stretching back to the second round against Tennys Sandgren.

Djokovic was soon 3-1 up in the second set before Del Potro carved out his first break point of the match to level at 3-3. He had three more chances in the eighth, all saved by Djokovic in a marathon 20-minute game which left even Hollywood superstar Meryl Streep clasping her head in astonishment.

The effort took its toll on a suddenly weary-looking Del Potro as a 95-minute set was claimed by Djokovic in the tiebreak. Del Potro was looking at having to become the first man since Pancho Gonzales in 1949 to win the US title from two sets down.

Djokovic sprinted into a 3-1 lead in the third set before a battling Del Potro clung on, hitting back for 3-3. But off the back of a 24-shot rally, Djokovic broke again for 5-3 and he was within tantalising touching distance of his 14th Grand Slam title, just three months after he had left Roland Garros in despair after a shattering quarter-final exit. — AFP

India 58-3 against England in fifth Test, need 406 more to win

LONDON: India were 58 for three in their second innings, needing a further 406 runs to reach their victory target of 464, at stumps on the fourth day of the fifth Test against England at the Oval yesterday.

KL Rahul was 46 not out and Ajinkya Rahane 10 not out. The most any side have made to win a Test is the West Indies' 418 for seven against Australia at St John's,

Antigua, in 2002/03.

Earlier, England declared their second innings on 423 for eight. Alastair Cook made 147 in his final Test innings before international retirement and England captain Joe Root hit 125, with the pair putting on 259 for the third wicket.

Cook's innings meant he became just the fifth player in history, after Australia's Reggie Duff, Bil Ponsford and Greg Chappell and India's Mohammad Azharuddin to score hundreds in both their first and last Tests.

The 33-year-old opener, England's all-time leading Test run-scorer, reached his hundred in unusual fashion when an over-throw from Jasprit Bumrah that went to the boundary gave him a five after he had already completed a single on the fourth day of the fifth Test.

Together with Joe Root, his successor

as England captain, Cook shared a third wicket stand of 259. But a ball after Root was dismissed for 125, Cook was caught behind off part-time spinner Hanuma Vihari to leave England strongly placed at 321 for four in their second innings—a lead of 361.

Cook batted for nearly six-and-a-half hours, facing 286 balls and hitting 14 fours. The Essex left-handed opener, who is retiring from international cricket after his match, was the first batsman since India's Mohammad Azharuddin in 2000 to score hundreds in both their first and last Test matches.

James Anderson then struck twice to reduce India to one for two as he equalled Australia great Glenn McGrath's record of 563 for the most Test wickets taken by a fast bowler. England lead this five-match series 3-1. — AFP



LONDON: England's James Anderson celebrates after taking the wicket of India's Shikhar Dhawan during play on the fourth day of the fifth Test cricket match between England and India at The Oval in London on Sunday.— AFP