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Lebanese president calls Amir as Beirut rejects derogatory remarks

MPs slam Al-Manar TV for criticizing Sheikh Sabah

By B Izzak and Agencies

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday a phone call from Lebanese President Michel Aoun, who expressed rejection of all recent allegations and remarks by a certain Lebanese media outlet against Kuwait and its Amir. During the phone call, Aoun expressed appreciation and respect to the people and government of Kuwait and to HH the Amir for his stances towards Lebanon in the past.

The Lebanese president praised the brotherly and historical ties that bring together the two countries, wishing the Amir good health and continuous progress and development of Kuwait under the wise leadership of HH the Amir. Sheikh Sabah expressed his sincere appreciation to the president for these noble feelings that reflect the strong relations between the two countries and wished him a long healthy life and further development to his country.

The Lebanese foreign ministry yesterday said it strongly rejects any derogatory remarks directed at Kuwait and HH the Amir, calling them unacceptable. A statement by the ministry said "we should not be directing such harmful



Lebanese President Michel Aoun



HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad

remarks at such a close friend", "saluting Kuwait and its Amir who has been a sincere and loyal friend of Lebanon and holds Lebanon in his heart and conscience and did not abandon Lebanon in its darkest circumstances, and the Kuwaiti people who consider Lebanon as their second home."

On behalf of all the Lebanese people, the ministry expressed "noninterference in the affairs of countries that stood up and supported Lebanon during its crisis, putting the interest of their country and Lebanon in mind". Kuwait's National

Assembly Speaker Marzuouq Al-Ghanem and head of the foreign relations committee MP Hamad Al-Harashani also strongly lashed out at the Lebanese Al-Manar television station, the mouthpiece of Hezbollah, for criticizing HH the Amir. During a program aired by the station last week, a political analyst criticized the Amir's visit to the United States at the start of the month.

Ghanem said what the analyst said on Al-Manar TV was not an opinion to be respected but mere lies and cheap fabrications, adding that attacking HH the Amir is a "red line" for Kuwaitis. Harashani described those who run the television station as "gangs" that plot evil against Gulf states. The comments by the analyst were also slammed by a large number of Kuwaitis on social media.

Lebanese Speaker Nabih Berri and Prime Minister Saad Al-Hariri, as well as a wide range of political, popular, religious and financial bodies have issued statements condemning the remarks slandering Kuwait and HH the Amir during an interview on Al-Manar TV. Lebanese State General Prosecutor Judge Samir Hammoud has asked judicial authorities to follow up on the interview in preparation for legal proceedings.

Kuwait to build competitive market: Watchdog

KUWAIT: Kuwait's competition protection authority has introduced a carefully mapped out plan in an effort to increase competitiveness in the local market. The strategy aims to



meet precise objectives, including building an effective and highly competitive market, the competition watchdog's head Rashid Al-Ajmi said in a statement yesterday. "The national economy is the ultimate beneficiary if an intensely competitive market is built," Ajmi

said, pointing out that the watchdog has the capabilities needed to root out any practices seen as injurious to the local market.

The plan will be carried out over three different phases in the next few years, focusing on training programs for employees across the government sector, in addition to broad reforms that support a more robust economy. Meanwhile, the competition watchdog has also embraced a new slogan in line with the substantial changes to Kuwait's economic policies. — KUNA

Ethiopia, Eritrea seek to bolster truce in Jeddah

JEDDAH: Ethiopia and Eritrea signed an agreement yesterday at a summit in Saudi Arabia, bolstering a historic peace accord between the two former Horn of Africa enemies, officials said. Authorities did not reveal exact details of the new deal signed in Jeddah, but sources close to the Saudi government said it would further help strengthen relations between the two countries. Saudi King Salman hosted the signing ceremony which was also attended by his son, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

"The peace agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea signed today in Jeddah is a historic event that will contribute to strengthening security and stability in the region," Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir said on Twitter. Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Eritrea's President Isaias Afwerki signed a peace pact

in July ending two decades of enmity sparked by a two-year border conflict which broke out in 1998. Two land border crossings between Ethiopia and Eritrea were reopened last Tuesday for the first time in 20 years, crowning a rapid reconciliation between the former bitter enemies.

The warming of ties in the Horn of Africa has also seen Ethiopia and Eritrea re-open air links, embassies and trade routes. Eritrea gained its independence from Ethiopia in the early 1990s, and war broke out later that decade over a border dispute. A 2002 UN-backed boundary demarcation was meant to settle the dispute for good, but Ethiopia refused to abide by it.

A turnaround began in June when Abiy announced that Ethiopia would hand back to Eritrea the disputed areas including the flashpoint town of Badme where the first shots of the border war were fired. Saudi Arabia, along with Gulf ally the United Arab Emirates, helped broker the historic rapprochement that ended decades of enmity. In recent years Eritrea has strengthened ties with Saudi Arabia and the UAE, which has reportedly built a military base at the strategic southern port of Assab used in its operation in Yemen. The two Gulf countries also maintain close ties with Ethiopia, part of what analysts call a strategic push into Africa. — AFP



JEDDAH: Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz (center) attends a meeting between Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (center right) and Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki (center left), in the presence of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (right) and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres (left) ahead of the signing of the Jeddah peace agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea yesterday. — AFP

Syrians vote in first local polls since 2011

DAMASCUS: Syrians in government-controlled areas cast their ballots yesterday in the first local elections there since 2011, when the country's ill-fated uprising erupted against President Bashar Al-Assad's rule. Seven years since the last vote, the conflict has killed more than 360,000 people, forced millions more to flee, and left the economy in tatters. Now, Syrian troops are back in control of around two-thirds of the country after a string of victories, most recently around Damascus and in southern Syria.

More than 6,550 voting centers opened at 7:00 am (0400 GMT) across government-held parts of the country, state media reported. Sunday is a regular working day in Syria but voting was extended by five hours until midnight (2100 GMT) because of "high participation", state news agency SANA said, without giving turnout figures. It said more than 40,000 candidates were competing for 18,478 seats on local administrative councils.

In Damascus, election posters mostly featuring incumbents were plastered across public squares,



JISREEN, Syria: A man and a woman show their ink-stained index fingers after voting in Syria's first local elections since 2011 yesterday in Eastern Ghouta. — AFP

including in the Old City. Mohammad Kabbadi, a 42-year-old government employee, cast his ballot in the Bab Sharqi district of the capital for a candidate from his neighborhood. "I know exactly who I am going to vote for - he's young, active and his victory will bring good things to residents of this area," said Kabbadi.

State television broadcast footage of voters around Damascus and in the coastal government bastions of Tartous and Latakia dropping their ballots into plastic boxes as election officials looked on.

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Return of military service divides Moroccan youth

RABAT: Some view it as gainful employment for youths with too much free time, others as a tool to blunt protest movements - Moroccans are divided over the looming return of military service. Twelve years after conscription was scrapped, the royal palace announced in mid-August that compulsory military service is to be restored. Millions of Moroccans aged 19 to 25, male and female, would have to serve for a year. I'm "ready to join the army if needed," said 19-year-old Hassan, who works in a central Rabat restaurant. It's "normal to defend your country." Fellow 19-year-old Kenza said that like many Moroccans she was "very surprised" by the palace's announcement. But "for delinquent youth, it's a good thing," she said.

The draft bill grants exemptions for students, the physically unfit and those who are raising children. If passed by parliament in its present form, prison sentences of between one month and a year face those who refuse to answer the call of duty. The bill has whipped up controversy, as people question how it would apply to Morocco's large number of dual nationals and the rele-



RABAT: Moroccan youth and a soldier walk in a street in the capital on Sept 12, 2018. — AFP

vance of military service to young people's needs. Opponents have created a Facebook group urging the government to reverse its decision. So far, 4,000 people have joined. The bill was unveiled "without the slightest debate", said 24-year-old group moderator Abdellah. Eighteen-year-old student Bassma also opposes conscription. It's a "backwards measure ... (and) extremely costly for the government," she said. "As a developing country, I think that we should devote the money to other areas, including education and health," she added.

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Local

Amir meets Bahraini Deputy Prime Minister, receives Bahraini King's letter

Amir, Crown Prince meet state officials



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Bahraini Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa and his accompanying delegation. — KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Bahrain's Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



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

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Al-Seif Palace yesterday Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, along with Bahraini Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa and his accompanying delegation. Sheikh Mohammad bin Mubarak handed to His Highness the Amir a letter from the King of Bahrain Hamad bin Issa Al-Khalifa regarding bilateral ties.

The letter also included issues of common interest, and the latest developments in the regional and international arenas. Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah attended the

meeting. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also received Sheikh Mohammad bin Mubarak and his accompanying delegation. Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir received His Highness the Crown Prince, Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, as well as His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh. — KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh.



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

Yemen's Deputy Speaker arrives in Kuwait

KUWAIT: Deputy Speaker of Yemen's Parliament Mohammad Al-Shaddadi arrived to Kuwait yesterday, accompanied by an official delegation, on a four-day official visit.

Deputy Speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly

Essa Al-Kandari headed the delegation welcoming Shaddadi, which also included Acting Secretary of the National Assembly Adel Al-Loughani and Yemen's Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Ali Safaa, Al-Dustoor news network reported. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly Essa Al-Kandari welcomes Deputy Speaker of Yemen's Parliament Mohammad Al-Shaddadi and his accompanying delegation. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The higher institute of administrative services at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) organized an orientation meeting for its new trainees yesterday. Top institute officials, including Director Dr Ahmad Al-Azmi and his assistant Mohammad Al-Shemmar, attended the meeting.

Local

Two dead, seven injured in bus, truck accident on Mutlaa Road

No injuries in workers' residence fire



The workers' residence from outside.



First responders inspect the damaged bus following the accident.



The inside of a company workers' residence near Doha Port, pictured after a fire reported there was extinguished.

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

KUWAIT: Two people were killed and seven injured in an accident that took place between a bus carrying workers and a truck on Mutlaa Road early yesterday morning. Jahra fire station responded and freed the injured workers from the bus, while the bodies of those who succumbed to their injuries were taken to the coroner. A case was filed for investigations to reveal the circumstances behind the accident.

In another case, Doha port and Sulaibkhat fire stations responded to a call about a fire in a company workers' residence near Doha Port. The building was evacuated before the blaze was extinguished, and no injuries were reported. An investigation was opened to reveal the cause of the fire.

Intruder caught

Ahmadi police authorities are looking for two persons who broke into a female citizen's chalet located in south of the country and had a good time until the owner

arrived. The intruders then escaped from a window. The chalet's owner told Nuwaiseeb police she wanted to spend the weekend at her chalet, but was surprised and terrified by the two gatecrashers inside. She said nothing was stolen. Charges of damage and unauthorized entry await the suspects.

Fight

A fight broke out between two women after one of them called the other "old" following a traffic dispute. An argument ensued between the two and things got heated, while motorists prevented a fight. Both women were taken to the police station, where charges were dropped as apologies were made.

Environmental law violation

A sewage truck's driver was arrested for dumping his truck's load in the desert, which is a violation to the environmental law. He is facing deportation, while his company faces punishment. A motorist filmed the offence in Mina Abdullah desert and handed the clip to police, who were able to

identify the driver, an Indian, who confessed to committing the crime.

Property damage

Hawally prosecution ordered the arrest of a person who damaged a female citizen's car by deliberately colliding with her car after she refused his advances. The citizen, in her thirties, told Nugra police a man she does not know followed her and stopped next to her at every traffic light in an attempt to speak to her, but she ignored him. He then rammed her car before escaping.

Domestic violence

A female citizen in her forties told Ali Sabah Al-Salem police that her estranged husband broke into her house and beat her before escaping. She submitted a medical report to back her claims.

Immoral acts

A Syrian woman told Sabah Al-Salem police that a man urged her to commit immoral acts by sending her WhatsApp messages.



KUWAIT: Firefighters and paramedics inspect a damaged bus following an accident reported on Mutlaa Road early yesterday morning.



KUWAIT: Health Minister Dr Basel Al-Sabah and other ministers listen to a demonstration during a tour of the Jaber Al-Ahmad hospital yesterday. — KUNA

No delays over new hospital in Kuwait: Health minister

KUWAIT: The construction of a new sprawling medical facility in Kuwait is running on schedule, Kuwait's

Health Minister Dr Basel Al-Sabah said yesterday, allaying concerns over alleged delays impeding the project. The minister's remarks came as he toured the Jaber Al-Ahmad hospital, where he was joined by a number of senior officials.

As they closely inspected the hospital, the officials said they were 'highly impressed' with the medical facility and how much progress has been made in construction. Amid his tour, in response to a question by the press, the Kuwaiti health minister said it was 'plainly obvious' that the project would be completed in a timely and efficient manner. — KUNA

Arabs facing significant threats: Kuwaiti MP

CAIRO: Secretary of Kuwait's National Assembly MP Ouda Al-Ruwaiee affirmed yesterday the importance of facing threats against Arab countries. "There are internal challenges and external, political, economic and social challenges that threaten unity of the Arab countries," said Ruwaiee in a press statement at closing of a parliamentary seminar, held by the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Ruwaiee affirmed importance of achieving Arab countries' economic integration as part of efforts for tackling unemployment and poverty, indicating that sound economies have proven much more powerful than



CAIRO: Secretary of Kuwait's National Assembly MP Ouda Al-Ruwaiee attends a parliamentary seminar held by the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union. — KUNA

military alliances. Such seminars are important in finding right solutions and brainstorming about cases and challenges that face the Middle East, he said. —KUNA

Euromoney conference to address 2035 vision

KUWAIT: Kuwait Banking Association said yesterday that the 10th edition of the Euromoney Kuwait Conference would be held in the country on September 25. The planned conference will address the Kuwaiti Government economic vision until 2035, with aim of analyzing response of the financial sector to the strategy and its impact on the domestic economy. Adel Abdul Wahab

Al-Majed, Vice-Chairman of Kuwait Banking Association, affirmed in a statement yesterday significance of holding the conference for tackling pivotal issues concerning the national economy. Up to 500 elite economic and financial figures will partake in the scheduled economic event. The local and foreign participants will include chairs and chief executives of local banks. — KUNA

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Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A cheetah resting inside its cage in Kuwait Zoo. Located in Omariya, just around 12 kilometers south of Kuwait City, Kuwait's only zoo remains one of the Gulf state's most popular attractions for locals and tourists alike. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Message for US citizens: Reminder for voting in 2018 US elections

KUWAIT: The US Embassy in Kuwait sent the following reminder to US citizens residing in the country, regarding the US mid-term elections:

There are only 51 days remaining before the US mid-term elections on November 6. Your vote counts, so register and vote absentee soon! Did you know that many US elections for House and Senate seats have been decided by a margin smaller than the number of ballots cast by absentee voters? All states are required to count every absentee ballot as long as it is valid and reaches local election officials by the absentee ballot receipt deadline.

Drop off Your Completed Ballot at the Embassy: If you would like assistance in mailing your ballot to your state, the US Embassy in Kuwait is hosting a Voting Open House for US citizens to drop off their ballots on October 11, from 12:00pm - 4:00pm. Come to the Embassy with your completed ballot and US passport as ID, no appointment necessary. If you cannot come on October 11, you can always book an appointment to drop off your ballot, but all ballots must be given to the Embassy no later than October 15 if you would like us to help you mail your ballot to your state or local elections official.

Follow a few simple steps to make sure that you can vote in the 2018 US elections:

1. Request Your Ballot: Complete a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). You must complete a new

FPCA after January 1, 2018 to ensure you receive your ballot for the 2018 elections. The completion of the FPCA allows you to request absentee ballots for all elections for Federal offices (President, US Senate, and US House of Representatives) including primaries and special elections during the calendar year in which it is submitted. The FPCA is accepted by all local election officials in all US states and territories.

You can complete the FPCA online at www.FVAP.gov. The online voting assistant will ask you questions specific to your state. We encourage you to ask your local election officials to deliver your blank ballots to you electronically (by email, internet download, or fax, depending on your state). Include your email address on your FPCA to take advantage of the electronic ballot delivery option. Return the FPCA per the instructions on the website. FVAP.gov will tell you if your state allows the FPCA to be returned electronically or if you must submit a paper copy with original signature.

2. Receive and Complete Your Ballot: States are required to send out ballots 45 days before a regular election for Federal office and states generally send out ballots at least 30 days before primary elections. For most states, you can confirm your registration and ballot delivery online.

3. Return Your Completed Ballot: Some states allow you to return your completed ballot by email or fax. If

your state requires you to return paper voting forms or ballots to local election officials, you can use international mail, a courier service such as FedEx or DHL, or you may also drop off completed voting materials during our October 11 Voting Open House or during regular business hours at the US Embassy in Kuwait by appointment. Place your materials in an unsealed postage paid return envelope (available under "Downloadable Election Materials" on the FVAP homepage) or in an unsealed envelope bearing sufficient domestic US postage, and address it to the relevant local election officials. The ballot must be in an unsealed envelop, for security reasons we cannot accept sealed envelopes, but you will seal the envelope in front of a Consular Officer. You can drop off your ballots at Embassy Kuwait on Sunday or Tuesday from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. by appointment. Please sign up for a "notary service" appointment.

4. New this year - email to fax service by FVAP! - The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) will provide an email-to-fax conversion service for voters who have difficulty sending election materials to states that do not accept emailed documents.

Researching the Candidates and Issues: Online Resources. Check out the FVAP links page for helpful resources that will aid your research of candidates and issues. Non-partisan information about candidates, their voting records, and their positions on issues are

widely available and easy to obtain online. You can also read national and hometown newspapers online, or search the internet to locate articles and information. For information about election dates and deadlines, subscribe to FVAP's Voting Alerts (vote@fvap.gov). FVAP also shares Voting Alerts via Facebook and Twitter.

Learn more at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) website, FVAP.gov. If you have any questions about registering to vote overseas, please contact Embassy Kuwait's Voting Assistance Officer at VoteKuwait@state.gov. Remember, your vote counts! Be absent but accounted for!

For further information:

- Visit the State Department's travel website for Worldwide Caution, Travel Alerts, and Kuwait's Country Specific Information.
- Enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the US Embassy in Kuwait at 00-(965) 2259-1001 or 00-(965) 2538-6562 or by fax: 00-(965) 2538-0282.
- Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except US federal holidays).
- Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

KRCS' humanitarian efforts extolled

KUWAIT: South Africa's Ambassador to Kuwait Mosleisa Bona yesterday hailed humanitarian efforts of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) in providing aid to the world's victims, especially in Africa. Bona said in a statement to the press after meeting with KRCS Chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer that the KRCS has become a milestone in the humanitarian fields thanks to its rapid field activities in all regions of the world, which reflect the official position of the Kuwaiti leadership and people.

He also expressed his sincere congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the UN honoring of His Highness with the title as a Humanitarian Leader and Kuwait as a Humanitarian Center. He added that the Kuwait Red Crescent Society has a wide presence around the world, pointing to the large-scale humanitarian aid it has provided to the affected countries all over the globe.

Bona invited the KRCS to participate in the activities of the national week of the member states of the African Union, due in Kuwait from September 28 until October 4. Meanwhile, Sayer said that the KRCS would continue to stand by countries that are vulnerable to all kinds of disasters, adding that KRCS has a long experience in the distribution of food, medical aid, equipment and medicines to the needy peoples. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Chairman of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society Dr Hilal Al-Sayer meets with South Africa's Ambassador to Kuwait Mosleisa Bona. —KUNA

KNPC honors engineer for ranking among world's top 6

KUWAIT: Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) honored yesterday one of its finest employees Ahmad Al-Oun after being awarded best promising engineer in 2018 by Hydrocarbon Processing magazine, ranking among the six top engineers worldwide. In a press statement, KNPC's CEO Mohammad Al-Mutairi expressed his pride in his country's men who represent Kuwait locally, regionally and internationally through their outstanding professional efforts. "Oun, who works as a senior engineer at the company, was nominated for fulfilling the magazine's standards: work experience, personal assessment and participation in international conferences," said Mutairi. Since 1922, management and technical professionals from petroleum refining, gas processing, petrochemical/chemical and engineer/constructor companies throughout the world have turned to hydrocarbon processing for high quality technical and operating information. —KUNA



Local

Subsidized supplies suspended for bedoons with expired ration cards

Authority provides residence for citizens who sold their houses

By A Saleh and Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry's (MoCI) subsidized supplies department suspended the provision of supplies to bedoons (stateless residents) with expired ration cards. It said having valid cards issued by the Central System for the Remedy of Situations of Illegal Residents (CARIRS) is mandatory to resume the supplies, said informed sources, noting that some bedoons renewed their cards lately after updating their information. However, the sources remarked that the majority of bedoons still refuse to renew their cards out of protest that CARIRS has been registering their names under citizenships they do not belong to on renewal.

The sources expected Minister Khaled Al-Roudhan to find a way out of this dilemma and decide to temporarily provide them with the supplies until the problem is resolved. Notably, around 100,000 bedoons or stateless people get subsidized supplies after paying the same prices paid by citizens and GCC nationals.

Housing welfare

In implementation of law number 2/2015 and its amendments of law number 47/1993 pertaining to housing welfare for citizens who had sold their houses, Director of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) Bader Al-Weqayyan stressed that the authority is committed to provide citizens who had sold their houses and fully paid off their loans to the credit bank with suitable alternative

housing. Weqayyan yesterday explained that the housing authority had signed a contract in March to build, execute and maintain 509 government-provided houses and the needed infrastructure including roads, parking spaces, public facilities and power stations in East Taima with a total value of KD 46 million. He added that construction in



Kuwait 56th in Human Development Index

the project - located over a total area of 372,945 sq m - is due to commence on June 10, 2018 and end on Dec 8, 2020 and include 300-sq-m two-storey houses. Weqayyan added that a similar project is due to be executed over 1,200,000 sq m in east Sabah Al-Ahmad including 1,180 houses.

Minimum GPA

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh said that the Civil Service

Commission (CSC) decided during a meeting held on March 15, 2018 to mandate having a minimum 'very good' GPA for non-Kuwaiti doctors, pharmacists, assistant medical staff and nurses. Saleh added that in a following meeting held on April 23, 2018 and upon a request made by the Ministry of Health (MoH) to provide enough medical staff for new medical projects including Jahra, Amiri and Salwa Al-Sabah stem cell hospitals, CSC decided reducing the minimum GPA to 'Good' only for assistant medical staff and nurses.

Human Development Index

Kuwait was ranked 56th out of 189 countries in the United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) Human Development Index (HDI), which places Kuwait amongst the top 58 countries worldwide with very high HDI rates. The report ranked UAE on top of Arab countries at 34th worldwide, followed by Qatar in the 37th position, Saudi Arabia 39th, Bahrain 43rd and Oman 48th.

In addition, the report showed that Lebanon is ranked sixth amongst Arab countries and 80th worldwide, followed by Algeria which was ranked seventh and 85th, Jordan 8 and 98, Tunisia 9 and 95 and Libya 10 and 108. The report also showed that the list of countries with medium HDI levels include Egypt, which came in 11th and 115th, followed by Palestine which was ranked 12 and 119, Iraq 13 and 120 and Morocco 14 and 123. Countries with low HDI include Syria, which came in at 15th and 155th, followed by Mauritania at 16 and 159, Sudan 17 and 167 and

Yemen at 18 and 178. On the other hand, the index included Norway, Switzerland, Australia, Ireland and Germany on the top of the list and Niger, Central African Republic and South Sudan at the bottom.

Ministries' budgets

Finance Minister Nayef Al-Hajraf said that his ministry will soon arrange separate meetings with various ministers and their concerned undersecretaries to discuss their assessment of their ministries' 2019-2010 budgets.



Commerce Minister Khaled Al-Roudhan

'Create a Smile'

Kuwait Food Bank launched a new initiative under the title of 'Create a Smile' designed to help needy families and help orphans pay their school fees for the new school year. Manager Salem Al-Hamar stressed that the bank prioritizes helping students and fully cooperates with benevolent people to support needy families and help them cover their children's needs including tuition and other monthly expenses. He added that the bank also provides these families with monthly food supplies.

Kuwait and digitization



By Muna Al-Fuzal

Muna@kuwaittimes.net

A recent IMF report titled "Financial Technology, Inclusive Growth and Cyber Risk: Focus on the Middle East" had some interesting points about Kuwait and the increase in digital spending among residents. According to the study, Kuwaitis are the best in the Gulf region in financial culture, with about 44 percent of adults in Kuwait having financial knowledge. Financial knowledge is the ability to use knowledge and skills to effectively manage financial resources and make sound financial decisions for the sake of well-being.

On the other hand, the report pointed out that the presence of ATM machines is important in financial coverage. According to the data, Kuwait occupies the first place in the region in the number of ATMs per 100,000 adults. I think it's great to have ATMs in nearly every corner because people do not have to carry a lot of cash and avoid theft.

Indeed, digitization can facilitate efficiency and transparency in government processes, and support humanitarian efforts and initiatives to tackle corruption, the report said. Digital payments make government transactions transparent and subject to review and scrutiny, which can help reduce corruption and fraud. The study confirms that in terms of subsidies and social transfers such as aid and grants, Kuwait ranked first in the region. I believe that this report confirms general observations of all residents of Kuwait, both citizens and expatriates.

In June 2018, a report was issued by the Joint Automated Banking Company (KNET) on spending by Kuwaitis and residents in 10 days of over \$1.6 billion, where spending varied between cash withdrawals and purchases through point-of-sale machines in various shops across Kuwait and via KNET. The total amount withdrawn from ATMs in 10 days amounted to KD 190 million through 1.8 million transactions.

With regards to traveling, official statistics showed that Kuwaitis' expenditure on travel in 2015 reached KD 3.7 billion, including items such as expenditure on university scholarships and treatment abroad, which made up 18 percent of the total. VISA released results in April relating to GCC countries as part of its comprehensive study of global trends in tourism and travel. It found travelers from the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait rely on cards and electronic devices at every stage of their travel, and connect to the Internet when they are abroad.

I agree that this huge spending is justified when traveling to distant places, especially for travelers from Kuwait, for example, who prefer cold European destinations in summer, with expensive flight tickets and accommodation. Also, members of Gulf families are relatively larger, and thus the withdrawals of money and the use of ATM cards will be greater, along with the use of the phone and Internet. Technology helps GCC travelers to use mobile devices to connect to the Internet during their journeys.

In terms of passenger spending, including booking and expenses, the study said the top five passengers are from Saudi Arabia, China, Australia, the United States and Kuwait. I trust this confirms that digital transactions and technology are better and safer. Some studies have shown that spending in Kuwait's IT sector grew rapidly from a record \$939 million in 2012 to \$1.87 billion in 2017. I believe that technology is not a luxury, but the basis of human development with safer and faster transactions.

16,000+ new job seekers join Bayt.com every day

KUWAIT: Bayt.com, the Middle East's largest job site, reported that a new spike in website traffic and job seeker online activity has been reached. Bayt.com is currently receiving 16,000 new members every single day - that's upwards of six million registrations per year. With more than 33.5 million registered members, Bayt.com has been constantly experiencing an exponential growth in its database since its inception, less than two decades ago.

Not only that, but those who are registered on Bayt.com are also extremely active. Nowadays, nearly half a million

website visits are made to the job site every day. At the same time, over 53,000 job applications are submitted on Bayt.com daily. Over 40,000 companies, organizations, and governments have chosen to post their jobs and to search for CVs from Bayt.com.

"The region is relying on Bayt.com primarily and heavily for hiring and job seeking," said Omar Tahboub, General Manager, Bayt.com. "We have worked for over 18 years through outreach, university partnerships, and various means to ensure that professionals from a young age are well-prepared for the job market and are connected to many opportunities via Bayt.com. Our mission is to empower those 33.5 million job seekers and the thousands who join every day to ensure they are in a position to start and grow their career."

Bayt.com offers job seekers the ability to quickly build their CVs, either uploading documents and auto-populating or filling their profiles manually. Then, registrants can access over 15,000 jobs that are available on the site daily.

Simultaneously, job seekers are regularly contacted by employers and recruiters who use Bayt.com's CV Search technology to search for and hire candidates without necessarily announcing vacancies.

Tahboub adds: "We are honored that the majority of the region's labor force trust us with their career journey. We are looking forward to working closely with many more job seekers and employers across the Middle East." Earlier this month, Bayt.com released its bi-annual Job Index survey. The report revealed that nearly nine in 10 companies are planning to hire (87 percent), which suggests that traffic and activity on the job site is very likely to continue growing.



Omar Tahboub

SAB announces nomination for ASOSAI membership

KUWAIT: Kuwait's State Audit Bureau announced yesterday its nomination for a membership in the Governing Board of Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions for the period of 2018-2021. The elections of Governing Board members will be held at the 14th ASOSAI Assembly in Hanoi, Vietnam, between 19 and 22 September 2018. Issam Al-Mutairi, SAB's assistant undersecretary for financial, administrative affairs, and information technology, said in a statement.

At the forthcoming event, SAB will submit a blueprint on environmental auditing and observation. Mutairi said, adding the Bureau will also discuss its auditing procedures in accordance with the Civil Service Commission's certified general auditing guidelines. SAB will also address the impact and achievements of its environmental auditing operations, as well as CSC's sustainable development efforts, he added.

Furthermore, SAB's delegation at the 14th ASOSAI Assembly, headed by Acting President Adel Abdul Aziz Al-Sarawi, will also hold bilateral meetings with a number of participating supreme audit institutions from Turkey, Pakistan, Thailand, Japan, China, India, and Mongolia. SAB has been an ASOSAI member since 1984. It was also a member in ASOSAI's governing board and training committee during the periods of 1997-2003 and 2006-2012. — KUNA

KJA stresses education forum's importance

KUWAIT: Kuwait Journalists Association's (KJA) Chairperson Fatima Hussein yesterday said that His Highness the Prime Minister's keenness on the success of the education forum, which is due by the beginning of next year, truly embodies HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah's belief in the significance of nongovernmental organizations' (NGO) role in achieving comprehensive development.

In a statement KJA made available to the press yesterday, Hussein urged all NGOs to cooperate with various state departments through suggesting ideas that would help them set plans according to local market needs. She added that HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak's patronage of the forum reflects his belief in the significance of education in building Kuwait and achieving its prosperity as well as the Kuwait 2035 vision.

Meanwhile, Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD) Dr Khaled Al-Mahdi stressed that the forum would emphasize the need to match the outcome of education with community needs. KJA is set to organize the forum in collaboration with the SCPD.

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Mangkhut rips through Hong Kong as toll rises

Killer storm leaves 13 people dead in US



DAMASCUS: Photo shows Syrian air defense batteries responding to what the Syrian state media said were Israeli missiles targeting Damascus international airport. —AFP

Israeli missiles ‘target Syria airport’

Israel working to keep weapons from its foes

JERUSALEM: Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday his country is taking action to stop its foes from acquiring sophisticated arms, hours after Damascus said Israeli missiles targeted its airport. Israel has not officially confirmed or denied a report by Syrian state news agency SANA of an attack late Saturday on Damascus international airport. "Israel is constantly working to prevent our enemies from arming themselves with advanced weaponry," Netanyahu's office quoted him as saying at the start of his cabinet's weekly meeting. "Our red lines are as sharp as ever and our determi-

nation to enforce them is stronger than ever."

SANA quoted a Syrian military source as saying that air defenses "shot down a number of hostile missiles" during the attack. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, said the strikes hit a weapons depot outside the airport. Israel has vowed to prevent its arch-foe Iran, which is a main backer of the Damascus government, from gaining a military foothold in neighboring war-torn Syria. Earlier this month, Israel acknowledged having carried out more than 200 strikes in Syria over the past 18 months, mainly against Iranian targets.

It has also admitted to striking Syria to prevent what it says are deliveries of advanced weaponry to Lebanon's Hezbollah, an armed movement backed by Iran and which fights alongside Syrian troops. The last reported Israeli strikes on Syria took place on September 4, when Syrian state media said the military's air defenses downed several missiles in the coastal province of Tartus and in central Hama. Netanyahu was speaking two days before the start of Yom Kippur, the Jewish day of atonement, and the anniversary of the outbreak of the Yom Kippur war.

The 1973 conflict started with a surprise attack

by Egypt and Syria that Israel was only able to defeat after setbacks that caused severe losses. "Forty-five years ago, intelligence erred by holding to a mistaken assessment regarding the war intentions of Egypt and Syria," he said. "When these intentions became clear beyond all doubt, and when the danger was on our very doorstep, the political leadership made a grievous mistake by not allowing a pre-emptive strike. We will never repeat this mistake." Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty in 1979, but the Jewish state and Syria are still official-ly in a state of war. — AFP

Unholy row over Seoul church inheritance

SEOUL: One of the world's largest presbyterian churches has been engulfed by an unholy row after its pastor sought to pass the super-rich South Korean institution into the control of his son. Religion remains a powerful social force in the South, and the country's biggest spiritual organizations are wealthy and influential. More than a dozen Seoul megachurches boast luxurious, sprawling buildings, congregations in the tens of thousands, and millions of dollars in annual revenues from worshippers - some donate as much as 10 percent of their income — and commercial activities. Their leaders enjoy status and perks, lucrative posts at church-affiliated foundations, and political heft. And the biggest of all the presbyterian churches is Myungsung.

Founded by pastor Kim Sam-whan 40 years ago in a then-marginal neighborhood in the east of the capital, it now has a large main building with dark twin spires reaching up to the heavens, and 100,000 members. It operates an evangelical television channel, two hospitals in South Korea and a medical centre in Ethiopia, two schools and a kindergarten, a six-storey conference and wedding venue, and welfare and educational facilities across the country. But when Kim, 73, sought to pass that worldly empire on to his 45-year-old son Kim Ha-na with his ascension to chief pastor, it set off fire and brimstone.

Lost Seoul

Protestantism is South Korea's largest faith, accounting for some 22 percent of the population, followed by Buddhism with 21 percent and Catholicism with seven percent, according to a 2014 survey. About half of the population are non-believers. The first South Korean megachurch to be inherited by its founder's son was the Chunghyun Presbyterian Church in 1997, and several more followed suit in subsequent years, triggering mounting public criticism. Comparisons were drawn with the generational successions at the chaebols, the family-controlled conglomerates that dominate the South Korean economy.

In the end the umbrella Presbyterian Church of



SEOUL: Photo shows the exterior of Myungsung Church in eastern Seoul. One of the world's largest presbyterian churches has been engulfed by an unholy row after its pastor sought to pass the super-rich South Korean institution into the control of his son. — AFP

Korea (PCK) amended its constitution to ban such hereditary successions in 2013. Critics of the Myungsung move took the Kims to a church court, but it ruled 8-7 in their favour, finding that as the father had officially retired two years earlier, it was not a direct succession and therefore legitimate. The move has echoes of how Vladimir Putin served two terms as Russian prime minister before returning to the country's presidency, avoiding restrictions on term limits.

But the decision only fuelled the dispute, with 900 pastors holding a protest meeting, theology students boycotting classes, and news portals flooded with critical comments. "He considers the church his own asset and he is unable to hand it over to anyone but his own son," read one. The Kims were trying to "privatize" a church, Kim Ji-chul of Somang, another megachurch, told the protest, calling on them both to resign. "A pastor is needed for a church but a church is not needed for a pastor," he said. "If this principle is reversed, the church will be corrupted."

The devil inside

In response, a PCK general meeting overturned

the church court ruling, sacked all 15 judges involved, and decided to review the case from scratch. Pastor Yu Kyung-jae at Andong Church expects a new PCK court to rule the Myungsung transfer invalid, but said there was "little possibility" the church would cancel the succession, leaving the situation deadlocked. The elder Kim, Yu said, "does not want to lose his grip on the church and give up influence and material gains". "We will continue seeing discord and friction around megachurches in this country which have been focusing on material expansion," he predicted.

"You cannot serve both God and Mammon." Myungsung insists that the son's appointment was appropriate. "The appointment was made in the most democratic and legitimate manner... and most congregants approved," spokesman Kim Jae-hoon said. And the founder remains defiant. "This is not like bequeathing a business but passing on a burden of sacrifice and pain," Kim Sam-whan told followers at a prayer session last week. Adopting Biblical imagery, he accused his critics and opponents of "trying to kill us by possible means, to stone us to death". "Devils are attacking us." — AFP

UN envoy in Sanaa as 32 rebels killed

ADEN: Fresh clashes and air strikes have killed 32 rebels around Yemen's Red Sea city of Hodeida, hospital sources said yesterday, as the UN envoy kept up peace efforts in Sanaa. A military source told AFP the Saudi-led coalition fighting alongside the Yemeni government against Shiite Houthi rebels carried out an air raid on a radio station tower in the port city of Hodeida.

Three people died in yesterday's raid, he said, while Houthi-run Al-Masirah television said four people were killed, three security guards and a station employee. According to medical sources in Hodeida province, which is controlled by the Houthis, a total of 32 insurgents were killed and 14 others wounded in clashes and air strikes since Saturday. The coalition accuses the Tehran-aligned Houthis of smuggling arms from Iran through Hodeida and has imposed a partial blockade on the port, which the rebels seized in 2014.

In June, pro-government forces launched a major operation to retake both the city and its port, the entry point of most of the impoverished country's imports and aid. The troops, backed by coalition air strikes, have retaken a number of towns across Hodeida province but have not yet breached the city. The coalition in July announced a temporary ceasefire in Hodeida to give a chance to UN-brokered peace talks. The UN's Yemen envoy, Martin Griffiths, arrived yesterday in the rebel-held capital Sanaa, without making any statement to the media.

Griffiths is pushing for new peace talks after a failed attempt to bring the two sides together in Geneva earlier this month. The rebels kept away from the talks, accusing the UN of failing to guarantee the return of their delegation from Switzerland to Sanaa and to secure the evacuation of wounded rebels to Oman. Saudi Arabia and its allies intervened in 2015 in the conflict between embattled Yemeni President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi, whose government is recognized by the United Nations, and the Houthis. Nearly 10,000 people have since been killed and the country now stands on the brink of famine. — AFP

Israeli fatally stabbed by Palestinian in West Bank

Palestinian teen dies from wounds in Gaza unrest

JERUSALEM: A Palestinian fatally stabbed an Israeli man near the entrance to a mall in the occupied West Bank yesterday before being shot by a civilian, officials said. No details were immediately provided on the identity of the Israeli, whose death was confirmed in a statement from Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek medical centre. Israeli media reported that he was 40.

Official Palestinian news agency WAFA described the attacker as a "young man" from the West Bank village of Yatta. It said he was not severely wounded. The incident took place at the Gush Etzion Junction south of Jerusalem and Bethlehem, according to Israel's military, which provided the details of the stabbing. Video footage shared on social media purportedly showed the assailant approaching an older man near the mall entrance and stabbing him. He is then pursued by civilians and shot nearby.

There is regular friction between Israelis and Palestinians at the junction, which lies near a major Israeli settlement bloc and has been the site of numerous attacks. A wave of Palestinian knife attacks against Israelis broke out in 2015, but they have since become sporadic. On September 3, a Palestinian wielding a knife approached an Israeli military checkpoint near the headline Kiryat Arba settlement in the Hebron area and was shot dead by soldiers, according to the army. There are concerns that tensions between Israelis and Palestinians will increase this month as Jews celebrate their high holidays and pay more visits to holy sites.



PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES: Israeli forensic policemen inspect the place where an Israeli man was stabbed by a Palestinian near the entrance to a mall at the Gush Etzion junction, a settlement bloc next to the Palestinian town of Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank. — AFP

during protests and clashes on Friday.

The health ministry said on Friday that Shadi Abdel Aal was killed by Israeli fire east of Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip. On Saturday, a friend who was with him at the time said they were throwing stones at the

Avichay Adraee said on Twitter that, according to "indications" and unnamed "witnesses," the boy was killed after being hit by stones that had been thrown. The army did not respond to a request for further details.



A wave of knife attacks against Israelis

border fence when Abdel Aal was hit by a tear gas grenade fired by Israeli soldiers and collapsed instantly. Israeli military spokesman

Ashraf Al-Qudra, spokesman for the Gaza health ministry, said yesterday that the ministry stood by its statement that the boy was killed by Israeli fire and that an autopsy would confirm further details. At least 179 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed since protests and clashes erupted along the border on March 30. One Israeli soldier has been killed since then. Israel accuses Hamas, the Islamist movement that runs the Gaza Strip, of seeking to use the protests to carry out attacks or infiltrations. It says its actions are necessary to defend the border. Palestinians and rights groups say protesters have been shot while posing little threat. Israel and Hamas have fought three wars since 2008. — Agencies

Mideast peace and The Camp David Accords

PARIS: Four decades ago the leaders of Israel and Egypt reached a deal at an epic summit that led to the first peace treaty between the Jewish state and an Arab nation. The Camp David Accords, thrashed out over days of talks hosted by then US president Jimmy Carter, were signed on September 17, 1978. Here is a look back at that key moment in history.

Series of wars

In 1973, Egypt and Syria launch a surprise attack on Israel with the aim of forcing it to return territory seized from them in 1967. Egypt makes a significant advance, even though it is eventually repelled. Empowered, it agrees to attend a peace conference called in December in Geneva under the auspices of the United States and Soviet Union. It brings Israelis and Arabs together for direct negotiations for the first time. Syrians and Palestinians do not attend, however, and the meeting adjourns.

First Arab leader in Israel

On November 9, 1977 Egypt's president Anwar Sadat announces-to the general surprise of all-that he is prepared to visit Israel in a bid for peace. "I am ready to go to the end of the world if this would prevent the wounding, let alone the killing, of a soldier or an officer," he says. After receiving a formal invitation from

Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin, Sadat arrives in Jerusalem on November 19, making the first visit by an Arab head of state to the Jewish nation. Sadat shakes hands with his foes in the Israeli leadership and calls for a "just and permanent peace" in the entire region. But it takes 10 more months of tough diplomatic exchange before further negotiations can take place.

Agreement at Camp David

In August 1978, Carter invites Sadat and Begin to meet in the United States. Their summit gets underway on September 5 at Camp David, the presidential weekend retreat 100 kilometers from Washington, in a forested area with about 20 chalets. For 13 days the three talk, surrounded by their diplomatic and military advisors, cut off from the rest of the world. They sketch out and discuss 23 versions of an eventual peace accord, making countless revisions. The negotiations continue into the night and at times the summit teeters on the edge of breakdown. Carter is in a constant back-and-forth between Sadat and Begin. Eventually, it all comes together.

Warm embrace

Sadat and Begin sign the Camp David Accords on September 17, a determined Carter pushing negotiations until the very last minute. The two foes embrace, stunning the world. There are two documents: the "Framework for Peace in the Middle East", which outlines the basis of a peace settlement between Israel and its Arab neighbors, and "Framework for the Conclusion of a Peace Treaty between Egypt and Israel". — AFP

Police arrest protesters at new Istanbul airport site

ISTANBUL: Turkish police yesterday arrested at least 20 people as they broke up a protest against work-related deaths and poor conditions at the construction site of Istanbul's third airport, touted to be the world's largest airport when completed. The security forces moved in to break up the protest by dozens of people following a wave of arrests on Friday. Among those held by police on Saturday was AFP photographer Bulent Kilic who was covering the event. He was released after two hours in custody.

In total some 500 people have been arrested during protests at the site of what is one of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's mega development projects, according to Turkey's Revolutionary Unions Confederation (DISK). Security forces had on Friday dispersed a demonstration by hundreds of workers outside the new airport, which was due to be completed in October, the private DHA news agency reported. The protesters complained of work-related deaths and accidents as well as poor on-site living and labor conditions.



ISTANBUL: Turkish police officers arrest protesters, gathered in support of workers that were arrested earlier for protesting over labor conditions at Istanbul's new airport. —AFP

The opposition daily Cumhuriyet quoted live-in workers complaining about fleas and bed bugs. The airport construction and operating company, Istanbul Grand Airport, issued a statement saying management had met the workers and pledged to take measures to resolve the issues quickly. A spokesman for IGA refused further comment on Saturday. The hashtag supporting the workers, "we are not slaves" (#k?ledegiliz) was trending strongly in Turkey on Saturday. Dozens of security forces, backed by armored vehicles, controlled access to the site on Saturday, AFP journalists said.

When the first plane landed at

IGA in June, Erdogan said the new airport will be the biggest in the world with a first phase capacity of 90 million passengers a year going up to 150 million in 2023. Some 35,000 people are employed on the project including, 3,000 engineers and administrative staff. Twenty-seven workers have died at the construction site - 13 in work-related accidents, the transport minister said during a press visit to the airport last April. However, several workers, asking not to be named, told AFP on Saturday that the ministry figures were far too low and that accidents were very common at the site. — AFP

Since then, people have posted on social media photos of other strawberries with small metal pins stuck into them.

Several brands grown in Queensland have been withdrawn from supermarkets, and there have been multiple reports of other cases in the states of New South Wales and Victoria. "Whoever is behind this is not just putting families at risk across Queensland and the rest of Australia - they are putting an entire industry at risk," Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk said Saturday. Her government is offering a Aus\$100,000 (US\$71,500) reward for any information that leads to the capture and conviction of those responsible. "I would urge anyone with information that may be relevant to this incident in any way to contact police as soon as possible," she added.

Queensland Police told national broadcaster ABC the contamination of the strawberries - usually sold in small plastic boxes called punnets - was done "obviously to injure somebody". They have yet to reveal possible motives but the Queensland Strawberry Growers Association said a disgruntled former worker might be responsible. Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt said Sunday he had ordered the national food safety watchdog to assess the handling of the cases, calling the sabotage a "very vicious crime".

The Queensland strawberry industry is valued at about Aus\$160 million (US\$114 million). The ABC said Saturday wholesale prices had fallen by half to 50 Australian cents per punnet, below the cost of production. Consumers have been urged to cut up their strawberries before eating. — AFP

Australia offers reward amid mystery strawberry needle scare

SYDNEY: An Australian state has offered a large reward for information after sewing needles were found in strawberries sold in supermarkets, in what the federal health minister described as a "vicious crime". The issue came to light last week when a man was taken to hospital with stomach pains after eating the fresh produce bought at a supermarket in Queensland state.

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Florence weakens; devastation far from over, authorities warn

Killer storm leaves 13 people dead

NEW BERN: A killer storm that left up to 13 people dead weakened to a tropical depression yesterday, but US authorities warned the devastation it caused – including catastrophic flooding – is far from over. Most of the fatalities from Florence, which made landfall Friday as a Category 1 hurricane, have occurred in North Carolina, where officials confirmed eight victims. They included three who died “due to flash flooding and swift water on roadways,” the Duplin County Sheriff’s Office reported. A woman and her baby were among the first casualties when a tree fell on their house, contributing to a death toll that US media said had reached 13 – 10 in North Carolina and three in South Carolina, according to CNN.

The National Hurricane Center (NHC) downgraded Florence to a tropical depression yesterday morning, adding that “flash flooding and major river flooding will continue over a significant portion of the Carolinas.” As of 5:00 am yesterday, maximum sustained winds had weakened to near 35 miles (56 kilometers) per hour, the NHC said. On Saturday, some residents tried to return home, driving through flooded highways and armed with chainsaws to clear fallen pine trees that covered the road. North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper warned against such behavior as roads became increasingly dangerous.



Roads are becoming increasingly dangerous

beloved fiber-glass bear statues, which are sponsored by local businesses, were floating down streets. However, authorities said 16 wild ponies on hurricane-struck Ocracoke Island, located off the North Carolina coast, were safe.

Risk of tornados

South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster on Saturday announced that a 61-year-old woman had died when her car hit a downed tree. CNN also reported a man and a woman died in South Carolina’s Horry County due to carbon monoxide poisoning. President Donald Trump tweeted late Saturday that “five deaths have been recorded thus far,” and expressed sympathy to the victims’ families. The White House said Trump would visit hurricane-hit areas next week “once it is determined his travel will not disrupt any rescue or recovery efforts.” More than 800,000 cus-



LUMBERTON: Flooding is seen near Interstate Highway 95 in Lumberton, North Carolina yesterday. A killer storm that left up to 13 people dead weakened to a tropical depression yesterday, but US authorities warned the devastation it caused—including catastrophic flooding—is far from over. — AFP

tomers in North Carolina were without power and 21,000 people were being housed in 157 shelters across the state.

The military announced Saturday it was deploying nearly 200 soldiers to assist in storm response and recovery efforts, along with 100 trucks and equipment. Besides federal and state emergency crews, rescuers were being helped by volunteers from the “Cajun Navy” – civilians

equipped with light boats, canoes and air mattresses – who also turned up in Houston during Hurricane Harvey to carry out water rescues. Hurricane Florence made landfall Friday in Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina, after stalking the coastline for days. Tornadoes remain a threat, with the NHC saying that “a few tornadoes remain possible across North Carolina and eastern South Carolina.” — AFP

Italy’s Di Maio eyes curbs on newspapers ad revenues

ROME: Luigi Di Maio, a key figure in Italy’s populist government, has taken aim at the country’s newspapers, accusing them of “polluting the debate” and threatening to pull advertising by state-owned companies. “The newspapers... are now polluting the public debate every day and the worst is that they are doing it with public money,” the deputy prime minister wrote on his Facebook page this week.

And he warned that in its next budget, the government was planning “a reduction of indirect state contributions” to the press. “We are preparing a letter to state-owned companies to ask them to stop paying for newspapers” by purchasing advertising space, wrote Di Maio who heads the populist Five Star Movement (M5S). Like its founder Beppe Grillo, the anti-establishment M5S is convinced the traditional press is trying to undermine its governing alliance with the far-right League of Interior Minister Matteo Salvini, who also serves as deputy prime minister.

Both Di Maio and his party, as well as Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte and several League ministers who predominantly communicate through Twitter and Facebook, have unleashed a barrage of attacks on the traditional press in the name of defending “the people” against the establishment. “This is not journalism, it’s just propaganda seeking to defend the interests of a small elite who think they can continue to control when it rains and when the sun shines,” wrote Di Maio, 32, who serves as labor and economic development minister. “I don’t read the Italian newspapers to be informed... but only to understand how they want to attack us.”

Direct line to supporters

Speaking to AFP, Raffaele Lorusso, secretary general of the FNSI, the Italian National Press Federation, said Di Maio—who only served as an opposition lawmaker before entering government—was “not used to pressure from the press nor to the idea of a free press”. Both Di Maio and Salvini have used social media to great effect, constantly posting videos on Facebook and messages on Twitter all day long. “They prefer social media because that way, they can speak directly to their supporters and say whatever they like,” Lorusso said.

In a recent interview, Salvini admitted that one of his Facebook videos had been watched by more than eight million people—“a figure which is much higher than I would have got with traditional media.” But this latest attack by the head of a party which favors direct democracy via the internet and which likes to regularly denounce the press for “fake news”, has rung alarm bells, with Italian President Sergio Mattarella rushing to its defense. “The unconditional freedom of the press is a cornerstone and fundamental element of democracy,” he said in remarks to Sicilian journalists on Saturday.

In an editorial in La Repubblica, veteran journalist Ezio Mauro also said Di Maio’s remarks revealed fear. “In the western world in which we currently live, the vibrancy of newspapers is considered as an indicator of the health of democracy and civic engagement,” he wrote. “In Di Maio’s world, newspapers are enemies, intruders, stowaways, parasites,” he said, describing the minister’s threats as “revealing his fear of a free, independent, pluralist and autonomous public opinion.”

Di Maio also took aim at the reform of a controversial EU copyright law that hands more power to news and record companies against internet giants like Google and Facebook. Backed this week by European lawmakers, Di Maio described it as a “disgrace”, accusing the parliament of the “de facto legalization of preventative censorship.” — AFP

‘Mariachi’ gunmen kill five in Mexico City tourist plaza

MEXICO CITY: Gunmen dressed as mariachi musicians opened fire in Mexico City’s famed Plaza Garibaldi, killing five people and wounding eight others including a foreigner, law enforcement officials said yesterday. The five assailants opened fire with rifles and handguns shortly before 10:00 pm Friday (0300 GMT Saturday) as the downtown plaza was filled with partiers enjoying the September 16 Independence Day weekend celebrations. Investigators later found 60 empty bullet casings on the ground.

“There are five people who have died in the Plaza Garibaldi incident. Three men died at the scene and two women while in hospital,” a prosecutors’ statement said, further revising a death toll initially given as three, and then four. The shooters fled aboard three motorcycles, the Mexico City prosecutor’s office said. Music and partying continued until after the city’s chief of public security, Raymundo Collins, showed up at the crime scene, video footage broadcast on TV showed. Collins described the attack as a targeted hit. No details were released on the identity of the foreign victim.

Investigators have not given a motive for the shooting, but did say that two of the slain men, ages 36 and 46, had been previously convicted for robbery. The shooting eventually emptied the plaza – one of Mexico City’s most popular attractions – and the restaurants and bars in the nearby streets. Police patrol vehicles on Saturday were parked outside venues usually bursting with customers seeking to pay mariachi musicians to perform. Until recently Mexico’s capital had been safe



MEXICO CITY: View of the Plaza Garibaldi square in downtown Mexico City a day after gunmen dressed as mariachi musicians killed four people and wounded seven others. — AFP

from the organized crime-related violence wracking other parts of the country.

Most targeted reprisals have taken place on the city outskirts or in areas where criminal gangs operate. Plaza Garibaldi is located near the notorious Tepito neighborhood, where a local gang that distributes drugs in the sprawling capital of 21 million is based.

Where’s the name?

Zaev and his Social Democrats party must tread lightly to avoid inflaming nationalists who feel they are being robbed of their identity. He has avoided uttering the new name during townhall-style debates around the country. “North” is also nowhere to be seen on government billboards that encourage the public to “Go vote for a European Macedonia”. The referendum question itself asks: “Are you for EU and NATO membership by accepting the agreement between the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Greece?” Zaev is trying to reach the majority of Macedonians – 80 percent, he says—who want to join those Western institutions. But critics have chafed at what they perceive to be a misleading question.

And while NATO membership is all but assured, the road to the EU will be longer for a country still mired in corruption. The appetite for EU enlargement is also shrinking among some members of the bloc, who voted to push Macedonia’s accession talks back to June 2019 despite the hard-won deal. EU officials and leaders like Angela Merkel have nevertheless been passing through Skopje almost daily to whip up support. The Russians, meanwhile, “told me that they have nothing against Macedonia’s accession to the EU but that they are opposed to NATO integration”, said Zaev.

A July survey conducted by the US-funded Center for Insights in Survey Research found 57 percent supported the accord. “I am so strongly convinced that the referendum will succeed that I’m not even looking into other options,” Zaev said. The right-wing opposition, VMRO-DPMNE, has stopped short of advocating a boycott, urging the public instead to act “according to their conscience”. Civic groups have taken up the torch however, with the hashtag #boycott rippling across social media. Zaev said detractors are using “disinformation as a tool” to defeat the proposal. The biggest challenge may be generating sufficient turnout in a country where even supporters are only grudgingly in favor of the deal. “I don’t think it’s a fair deal, but I will vote for it,” said Sasho Ilioski, 45, because he wanted a chance to join the EU. “There is a certain amount of disappointment here, that people will lose a part of their identity, their national pride.” — AFP

Massive exodus in Cameroon’s anglophone area

YAOUNDE: Cameroonian authorities yesterday banned the “massive exodus” from the country’s restive anglophone regions, where violence has mounted ahead of next month’s presidential election. A humanitarian source in Buea, the capital of the South West Region, told AFP that “hundreds of families are in the process of fleeing for ‘safer’ regions,” adding: “There is an atmosphere of fear.” South West governor of Bernard Okalia Bilal Saturday was quoted as saying by the national television and radio network that “journeys were authorized (but) relocations and a massive exodus are forbidden.”

The governor on Saturday visited a busy bus terminus in Buea, where people have been leaving en masse — often with mattresses and beds — for the southern commercial capital of Douala or cities and towns in central Cameroon. “Rumors... are circulating that the armed forces are about to launch an assault. They are not launching an assault,” he told state media. “Rather it’s the terrorists (anglophone separatists) who want to attack and the security forces are there to stop that.” “Parents and children are fleeing although many children are enrolled in schools,” the governor said.

Cameroon’s two minority English-speaking regions – the North-West and South-West – have been hit by almost daily acts of violence that have left more than a hundred people dead and about 200,000 displaced since late 2016. Years of resentment at perceived discrimination at the hands of the Cameroon’s francophone majority have led to almost daily acts of violence and retribution. — AFP

International

Youth and journalists demonstrate against jailing of Reuters reporters

Dozens of inmates escape in Myanmar jail break

YANGON: At least 100 Myanmar youth activists and journalists called for the release of two jailed Reuters journalists yesterday, warning that the seven-year prison terms handed to the pair this month threaten the public's right to information. Demonstrators including high-school students gathered peacefully in the heart of Myanmar's largest city, Yangon, held signs and chanted slogans denouncing the guilty verdict against the two journalists. A small contingent of police looked on as the protesters released black balloons printed with the words "Free Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo".

Reporters Wa Lone, 32, and Kyaw Soe Oo, 28, were convicted on Sept 3 under the colonial-era Official Secrets Act in a case that was seen as a test of democratic freedoms in Myanmar. Thar Lun Zaung Htet, a journalist involved in organizing the protest, said the verdict against reporters who were "just doing their job" would stifle reporting in Myanmar. "Losing press freedom means our democratic transition is going backwards," he said. The verdict drew calls from senior United Nations officials, political figures including US Vice President Mike Pence and human rights advocates around the world for their immediate release.

Government spokesman Zaw Htay could not be reached for comment yesterday. The country's leader Aung San Suu Kyi said at a forum in Hanoi last week the case had nothing to do with freedom of expression. The reporters had been sentenced for handling official secrets and "were not jailed because they were journalists", the Nobel laureate said. On Friday six Myanmar journalist organizations published a rare statement from groups within the country criticizing the country's leader, saying they were "disappointed" with her comments.

The reporters, who plead not guilty, said they were handed rolled papers by police shortly before they were detained last December, and a police witness testified in court that they had been set up. The reporters had been investigating the killing of 10 Rohingya Muslim men and boys by security forces and local Buddhists amid a military response to insurgent attacks last August. Some 700,000 Rohingya crossed from Myanmar into Bangladesh fleeing

the crackdown, which UN-mandated investigators said last month was launched by senior Myanmar generals with "genocidal intent". Signs held by the protesters yesterday included the messages "Murder is not a state secret" and "revealing the truth is not a crime".

One organizer, Maung Saung Kha, performed a short play where he put on a military jacket over the orange tra-



Prison terms threaten right to information

ditional Burmese jacket worn by lawmakers of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy. He then rolled up a copy of the state-run daily The Mirror and began hitting members of the press with it. Activist Htet Khine Soe said the "injustice" of the case against the reporters had led him to design a T-shirt with an illustration of Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo's faces. The design was worn by some demonstrators and was also used on stickers placed around Yangon. "We need to know what's happening in the world. We need journalists for that," he said. "Without that, we will be stupid people without ears and eyes."

Myanmar jail break

In another development, Myanmar police are hunting dozens of escaped inmates who hijacked a delivery truck and smashed through the gates of their jail in a daring prison break yesterday, officials said. The escape occurred yesterday morning as prisoners seized a truck that had entered Hpa-An prison in eastern Karen state. "They attacked a prison officer, wounding him, and drove



YANGON: A group of Myanmar protesters rally in Yangon yesterday in support of two Myanmar journalists who were sentenced to jail for seven years under the Official Secrets Act. — AFP

the truck out off the prison," local official Khin Thet Mar said. Citing conflicting reports from police and prison officers, she said the truck had either gone in to drop off sand and stone for construction, or to take out garbage from the facility.

The inmates drove through the prison gates, she said. Khin Thet Mar warned locals to contact authorities if strangers appeared in their villages. Photos showed one

side of a large prison gate wrenched off its hinges by the force of the truck crashing through it.

Forty-one prisoners escaped, according to state police chief Aung Myat Moe, but three have been recaptured while the hunt intensifies for the rest. Archive photographs of the prison, which holds around 2,000 prisoners, shows a large sign in English on the outside reading "Kind but Firm". — Agencies

Moon seeks to break nuclear deadlock at Pyongyang summit

SEOUL: South Korean President Moon Jae-in travels to Pyongyang this week for his third summit with Kim Jong Un, looking to break the deadlock in nuclear talks between North Korea and the United States. Moon - whose own parents fled the North during the 1950-53 Korean War - flies north tomorrow for a three-day trip, following in the footsteps of his predecessors Kim Dae-jung in 2000 and mentor Roh Moo-hyun in 2007.

No details of the program have been announced but Pyongyang is likely to pull out all the stops to create a good impression, with tens of thousands of people lining the streets to welcome him. The visit comes after the North staged its "Mass Games" propaganda display for the first time in five years. The new show featured imagery of Kim and Moon at their first summit in April in the Demilitarized Zone that divides the peninsula - prompting the unusual sight of tens of thousands of North Koreans in the May Day Stadium applauding pictures of Seoul's leader. One diplomatic source predicted the visit would see "Kim and Moon together receiving the same sort of applause". But while the summit at the Panmunjom border truce village was high on headline-grabbing symbolism, with Moon stepping briefly into the North and the two sharing an extended one-to-one woodland chat, pressure is mounting for substantive progress. — AFP

Typhoon makes landfall in China after killing 59

HONG KONG: Typhoon Mangkhut slammed into mainland China yesterday after leaving a trail of destruction in Hong Kong and Macau and killing at least 59 people in the northern Philippines. The world's biggest storm this year felled trees and sent skyscrapers swaying in high-rise Hong Kong, injuring more than 200 people there before making landfall on the coast of Jiangmen city, in southern China's Guangdong province.

Provincial authorities said they evacuated a total of 2.37 million people and ordered tens of thousands of fishing boats back to port before the arrival of what Chinese media has dubbed the "King of Storms". Mangkhut left large expanses in the north of the main Philippine island of Luzon underwater as fierce winds tore trees from the ground and rain unleashed dozens of landslides. Hong Kong weather authorities issued their maximum alert for the storm, which hit the city with gusts of more than 230 kilometers per hour (142 mph) and left 213 people injured, according to government figures.

As the storm passed south of Hong

Kong, trees were snapped in half and roads blocked, while some windows in tower blocks were smashed and skyscrapers swayed, as they are designed to do in intense gales. The Philippines was just beginning to count the cost of the typhoon which hit northern Luzon on Saturday. The death toll jumped to 59 yesterday evening, police said, as more landslide victims were discovered. Authorities said they would continue efforts in the morning to dig out a group of roughly two dozen miners who are feared dead after their bunkhouse was hit by a landslide near the northern city of Baguio.

In the town of Baggao the typhoon demolished houses, tore off roofs and downed power lines. Some roads were cut off by landslides and many remained submerged. Farms across northern Luzon, which produces much of the nation's rice and corn, were swamped by muddy floodwater, their crops ruined just a month before harvest.

"We're already poor and then this happened to us. We have lost hope," 40-year-old Mary Anne Baril, whose corn and rice crops were spoiled, told AFP. "We have no other means to survive," she said tearfully.

Flooding in HK, Macau

An average of 20 typhoons and storms lash the Philippines each year, killing hundreds of people. The latest victims were mostly people who died in landslides, including a family of four. In addition to those killed in the Philippines, a woman was



ALCALA, Philippines: A woman dries belongings amongst the ruins of their house in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Mangkhut in Alcala, Cagayan province yesterday. — AFP

swept out to sea in Taiwan. In Hong Kong, waters surged in the famous Victoria Harbor and coastal fishing villages, from which hundreds of residents were evacuated to storm shelters. Some roads were waist-deep in water with parts of the city cut off by floods and fallen trees. In the fishing village of Tai O, where many people live in stilt houses built over the sea, some desperately tried to bail out their inundated homes.

"Floodwater is rushing into my home but I'm continuously shoveling the water out. It's a race against time," resident Lau

King-cheung told AFP by phone. The government warned people to stay indoors but some ventured out, heading to the coast to take photos. A couple with a child were seen by an AFP reporter taking pictures on a pier known as a popular Instagram spot as waves surged and almost submerged it. Others stayed at home but were terrified by smashing windows in their apartments. "The entire floor and bed are covered in glass," one resident told local broadcaster TVB after her bedroom window shattered. "The wind is so strong." — AFP

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African tourism alarmed by rhino, elephant losses

Animal conservation in Africa has suffered several setbacks in recent months prompting experts at an African tourism conference this week in Cape Town to warn about the cost to the travel industry. “Obviously it’s negative,” said the African Tourism Association’s (ATA) managing director Naledi Khabo, who spoke at the inaugural event organized by Airbnb. “Whether it’s people or animals, you see them being killed or slaughtered in such a terrible manner – it has a negative impact.”

Kenya was thrust into the conservation spotlight when an effort to move endangered black rhinos between national parks, launched with great fanfare in June, left 11 of the animals dead. “It’s very clear it was not managed well by my officers – and we took action on that,” said Kenya’s Tourism Minister Najib Balala, who was the public face of the project. Balala insisted that tourists considering visiting would not be deterred by the incident but industry experts have warned that such setbacks could hurt the continent’s appeal.

“It does impact the overall pan-African perception as well, which in turn has a negative impact on tourism,” added Khabo. The cost of environmental crime to developing countries is estimated to be more than \$70 billion a year. Africa is at the epicentre of global poaching and trafficking of many species, with elephants coveted for their ivory tusks and rhinos sought for their horns which are used in traditional Asian medicine.

‘A very aggressive approach’

Botswana, which has Africa’s largest elephant population, is on the frontline of the battle against the illicit ivory trade. But it was recently rocked by a report from Elephants Without Borders that a poaching spree had wiped out as many as 90 of the animals. While the government and some scientists strongly disputed the findings and insisted they were overstated, the damage had already been done. “What is sad, particularly about the Botswana incident, is that the headlines came out about what happened – but what we don’t understand is why and what next,” said travel author Anita Mendiatta.

In South Africa, rangers have been forced to take ever more extreme steps to protect the country’s safari endowment alongside an effort to prosecute the criminal bigwigs profiting from the lucrative trade. Khabo, who speaks for the African tourism industry, praised South Africa’s anti-poaching successes which have included three high-profile arrests of kingpins linked to poaching. “It’s critical that, on a policy level, the government and the tourism boards take a very aggressive approach and to have truly severe consequences to individuals who are found guilty,” she told AFP.

Balala, the Kenyan tourism minister, said his country’s anti-poaching efforts were also proving effective. “The numbers of rhinos in terms of protection has gone up – over 1,200 rhinos we have in Kenya from almost 300 30 years ago. We have 35,000 elephants, 30 years ago we had only 16,000.”

‘Traveller activism’

Mendiatta said that effective anti-poaching was increasingly being demanded by tourists. “When it comes to poaching, when it comes to elephant riding even, travellers are saying ‘it’s not right,’” she said. “Traveller activism has become an important part of our industry.” Loserian Laizer, who spent nine years as a ranger in Tanzania before joining the Safarisource service which connects travellers directly to safari organisers, said poaching can make wildlife tourism difficult.

In South Africa’s Kruger National Park for example, visitors have complained about the noise made by the increasing number of airborne anti-poaching patrols. “But I can say we are winning the fight against poaching,” said Laizer. “There’s a big upturn in people understanding we need to protect the wildlife.” Tanzania was working to educate visitors about the perils of poaching and the risks of purchasing ivory and rhino horn products, he said. Laizer said the threat to wildlife and the impact on the tourism industry did not just come from poaching or conservation blunders. “A problem is people trying to build many facilities to accommodate the tourists and the impact is we are destroying the environment so we need to control that,” he said. — AFP



Insider Trump resisters are not heroes

By Peter Van Buren

The unnamed insiders who claim to be working clandestinely to resist Donald Trump are not heroes. As a State Department whistleblower who lost his career to tell the truth about the Iraq war, I am burdened by how the interviewees in Bob Woodward’s new book, “Fear,” and the anonymous writer of that New York Times “resistance” Op-Ed are hailed as patriots holding back the US president’s worst impulses through fibs and bureaucratic tricks. Having faced similar choices, I know their approach is neither honorable, nor effective.

No one should join the government to do only things they think are personally right: one serves the United States, and takes an oath to a Constitution. There is no addendum saying, “but if you REALLY disagree with the president it’s OK to do what you want”. This is not to support robotic bureaucrats. But ideas, no matter how vigorously opposed, at some point change from being Trump’s or Barack Obama’s policies to those of the United States. Implementing them on a global scale, whether on a battlefield or across a negotiating table, is a team sport. Any other way is to bring on the chaos Anonymous claims to be pushing back against.

I served 24 years in such a system, joining the State Department under Ronald Reagan and leaving during the Obama era. That splay of political ideologies had plenty of things in it to disagree with or even believe dangerous. Same for people in the military and the intelligence agencies, who, for example, were sent to train Afghan mujahideen under one president and then kill them under another.

In the run-up to the invasion of Iraq in 2003, some inside government were privy to information about the non-presence of weapons of mass destruction, and understood President George W Bush was exaggerating or lying about the case for war. Three senior officials resigned from the State Department in response. Another State Department official, a former Marine, resigned in protest over the war in Afghanistan. He stated in the New York Times (a signed letter, not an anonymous Op-Ed) “have tried and failed to reconcile my conscience with my ability to represent the current US administration.” More than a decade earlier, four State Department officials quit over the Bosnian conflict, also via public letters of resignation.

Others who believed a president’s decisions were harmful to the United States blew the whistle, making

public specific evidence at the cost of their jobs and/or freedom to build an evidence-based case. Chelsea Manning spent seven years in prison for leaking classified data, Edward Snowden ended up in exile after informing the public of NSA policies threatening Constitutional freedoms. For me, I chose to write “We Meant Well” to expose the failed reconstruction efforts in Iraq I once helped lead, and had to end my work as a diplomat in return.

Disagreements

Disagreements over policy are not unique to the Trump administration. Nor are questions of competence. Reagan was thought to be senile, George W Bush a dolt. But challenges to conscience should be answered by good people who believe enough in the United States to place their lives, fortunes, and honor as collateral toward being listened to, not by working from inside government to surreptitiously ruin policy.

Anonymous claims insiders are disrupting Trump’s excesses without giving any details: we’re to assume whatever they are doing must be better than anything Trump wants. Woodward reports that Defense Secretary Jim Mattis put a Resistance-like stop to Trump’s demand to assassinate Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, though Mattis denies it. Of course, the order to kill, if it occurred at all, would have been illegal and thus require anyone in government to refuse it.

About the only actual act of “resistance” to examine comes from Woodward’s book. Gary Cohn, Trump’s former economic adviser, supposedly walked into the Oval Office and snatched a letter off Trump’s desk saying the United States was pulling out of a trade agreement with South Korea. Cohn thus stopped Trump from signing the document.

The story defies credulity. “Decision papers” needing the president’s signature are tracked assiduously by White House staffers. Stuff doesn’t just go missing from the Oval Office, and if it does, someone looks for it: I know, I held just such a job working for the American ambassador in London. It’s like tearing up a credit card bill thinking the debt will go away.

But even accepting Cohn pulled off his heist, is protecting a trade agreement the act of resistance America demands? Reading the actual letter, Trump’s intent was to make a threat of withdrawal, taking advantage of an 180-day delay in implementation to force new negotiations. Cohn didn’t agree with his boss (or the results of an elec-

tion). That’s not patriotic, it’s a disgruntled employee.

As to the claims Trump is uniquely too stupid to be president, White House Chief of Staff John Kelly, like Mattis, denies he said anything of that to Woodward. Nor is there any evidence that Trump is so incapacitated by either insanity or lack of intellect that he should be removed from office under the 25th Amendment – an option raised in the Anonymous Op-Ed as well as Michael Wolff’s “Fire and Fury” earlier this year. It’s all circular reinforcement, unnamed voices repeating things heard before, backed by psychiatrists who never met the president and enhanced by shock jock pundits reading tweets like a fortuneteller reads goat entrails.

Until now, the people working for presidents as different as Reagan was from Obama understood, as I did, the only way for America to function credibly was for insiders to work on the nation’s behalf until we couldn’t. That meant following the Constitution, remembering we weren’t the ones elected, that we ultimately worked for those who did the electing, that there is no “But Reagan/Bush/Clinton/Bush/Obama/Trump is different...” clause in the Constitution. We understood acting as a wrench inside the gears of government is what foreign intelligence officers recruit American officials to do. Instead, we dissented via internal channels, and sometimes, resigned to credibly force the issue into the public eye.

So let the people inside government who believe America is at mortal risk do something more than gossip to a celebrated journalist. They need to resign, testify, and bring out the documents as proof to separate themselves from partisan operatives. Persons of conscience need not be cabinet secretaries. Manning was a private. Snowden a contractor, not even an NSA employee. “We never should have heard of them,” said a 1993 story in the Washington Post about those mid-level State Department Bosnia dissenters. “But they’ve gone and done something extraordinary in Washington: They quit their jobs on moral grounds.”

Until any of that happens, we shouldn’t waste another moment on anonymous resisters and unnamed/uncredible sources. The nation is more important than a job in the West Wing. Stand up if the threat is real, shut up if it’s not.

NOTE: Peter Van Buren, a 24-year State Department veteran, is the author of “We Meant Well: How I Helped Lose the Battle for the Hearts and Minds of the Iraqi People”

Spanish farmers go nuts for almonds as demand booms

Surging worldwide demand for almonds is pushing Spanish farmers to replace traditional wheat and sunflower fields with almond orchards, transforming the landscape in the south of the country. Almonds, thanks to their well-advertised health benefits, are enjoying global demand as snacks or in derivative forms like almond milk and almond flour, used as dairy or wheat alternatives. In the Guadalquivir valley in the parched southern region of Andalusia “the landscape has changed so much in recent years that wild boar now come down from the hills to eat almonds”, said agronomist Curro Lopez, 50, an expert on almond farming with Spanish agriculture machinery firm Agrosan.

During the harvest, which in Santa Cruz near Cordoba began at the end of August, large nets are laid on the ground to collect almonds which are then shaken off the wispy branches of the trees by a machine in just a few seconds. Spain is on track to harvest over 61,000 tonnes of almonds during the 2018-19 season, a record amount and a 15-percent rise over the previous season, according to

estimates from a national producers’ association.

Spain is the world’s third biggest almond producer behind Australia, and the United States which is the world’s top producer by a huge margin. California alone accounts for 80 percent of the world’s supply of almonds, according to its powerful almond board, which tirelessly promotes the benefits of the nut as a source of protein and healthy fats. Spain, which uses almonds in many traditional desserts such as nougats, continues to import huge quantities of almonds from California despite being a major producer of the nut itself.

Rising prices

“When we think that it was Spanish missionaries who brought almonds to the United States” in the 18th century, said Jose Millan, as he supervised the harvesting of almonds from his family’s land in Santa Cruz. The 61-year-old was one of the first to introduce intensive almond farming to Andalusia a decade ago. Today, 62 hectares (150 acres) out of the family’s 650 hectares of land are dedicated to the



Workers shake trees using a vibrating machine to harvest almonds in Cordoba on Aug 29, 2018. —AFP

crop. His neighbors have followed his example. While almond trees were largely absent from the Andalusian countryside, today irrigated almond orchards can be found everywhere in the region.

Forsaking sunflowers or wheat, farmers are betting on almond trees which can easily complement olive tree harvesting since the same tree “shaker” machines can be used on both crops. “World almond production doubled in the last 10-12 years, going from 600,000

tonnes to 1.2 million tonnes, and consumption has increased at the same rhythm,” said Cristobal Perez, who runs a factory that opened recently near Cordoba which transforms almonds into by-products. Farmers have been encouraged to grow almonds due to rising prices which went from three euros (\$3.5) per kilo to nine euros per kilo four to five years ago, he said. Farmers are currently getting about five euros per kilo of almonds, he added. — AFP

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12 Risk appetite resurfaces as dollar falls on rising market sentiment



13 Maduro says Venezuela won oil finance commitments from China

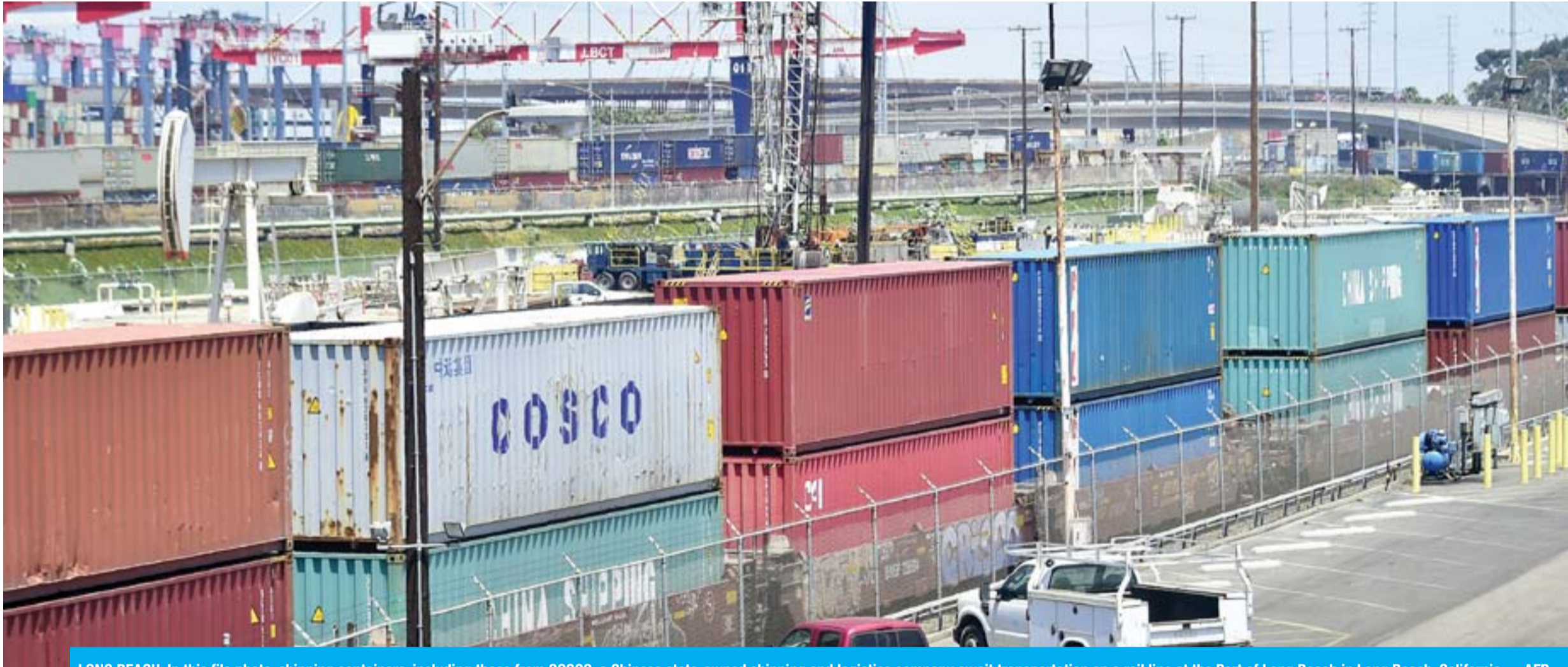


14 Turkish Airlines brings a new elegant style to the skies



Resilient China is firewall in currency crisis

US to impose tariffs on \$200bn in Chinese goods



LONG BEACH: In this file photo, shipping containers, including those from COSCO, a Chinese state-owned shipping and logistics company await transportation on a rail line at the Port of Long Beach in Long Beach, California. —AFP

PARIS: China is the last bulwark against a deep crisis in emerging economies going fully global, analysts say, although a prolonged trade war could sap Beijing's defenses.

Emerging countries-loosely defined as having fast growing but volatile economies-have seen their currencies battered in recent weeks, plunging their finances into turmoil, and raising fears of global contagion. But China, the world's second-biggest economy and itself categorized as an emerging market, doesn't share a key downside of the worst-hit countries: their rampant current account deficits.

"The possibility of a currency crisis in China is unlikely," said Guan Qingyou, chief economist at China's Ruschi Advanced Institute of Finance. "China's ability to resist risk is relatively strong."

'Nail in coffin'

Current account deficits must be financed with foreign currencies, and as central banks across the world enter a cycle of tighter monetary conditions, especially the powerful US Federal Reserve, cheap money will become scarce. Higher US interest rates are "another

nail in the coffin" for emerging countries needing external financing, said Lukman Otunuga, a research analyst at FXTM.

A meltdown of the Turkish lira-somewhat stemmed by a recent massive interest rate rise-and the Argentinian peso are cases in point, as both countries have "exceptionally large current account deficits", said Oliver Jones, markets economist at Capital Economics.

South Africa, Colombia and, to a lesser extent, India and Indonesia are in similar danger of being trapped in Fed rate rise pain, he said. But the currencies of Korea, Thailand and Malaysia have done much better because of their close trade ties with Beijing and their healthier current account positions.

Strong reserves

China itself still boasts a strong foreign reserve position and has taken steps to cut debt, both useful shields against global turmoil. "Our foreign exchange reserves are still relatively high," said Guan at the Reality Institute. "In addition, China has already started the process of deleveraging after the end of 2016."

But even if fundamentals are still holding up, only the

very brave dare predict how damaging ongoing trade tensions with the United States will be to China's position. Recent tentative signs of improving relations between Washington and Beijing have lifted investor spirits, but the threat of the US imposing fresh tariffs on Chinese imports worth \$200 billion still looms large.

Trade 'shock'

Christine Lagarde, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, warned recently that higher US-China tariffs would have a "measurable impact on growth in China" and "trigger vulnerabilities" among its Asian neighbors. While her staff did not yet see contagion spreading beyond the countries currently fighting investor flight, the escalating US-China trade spat could deliver a "shock" to emerging markets, she told the Financial Times

But in the meantime, said Joydeep Mukherji, an analyst with S&P Global, said "we are not forecasting a major crisis in emerging markets".

Perhaps inspired by the 10th anniversary of the global financial crisis, economists have started to wonder whether there could be another worldwide melt-

down, this time triggered by highly-indebted emerging countries.

For now, the answer appears to be no. "China can still cope with its debt due to its high savings rate," said Holger Schmieding, an analyst with Berenberg.

New tariffs

US President Donald Trump has decided to impose tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese imports and could make the announcement in the coming days, US media reported. Citing anonymous sources, The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal reported that the tariffs would be set at 10 percent.

Trump has already imposed 25 percent tariffs on steel imports and 10 percent on aluminum, as well as 25 percent on \$50 billion in goods from China. The prospect of new tariffs undercuts hopes of an imminent reduction in trade tensions between Washington and Beijing.

On Thursday, China had welcomed a US offer to hold fresh trade talks, providing some hope the world's top two economies could step back from the brink of an all-out trade war. —Agencies

Big Three oil states can offset fall in Iran supplies: Perry

MOSCOW: Saudi Arabia, the United States and Russia can between them raise global output in the next 18 months to compensate for falling oil supplies from Iran and elsewhere, US Energy Secretary Rick Perry said on a visit to Moscow.

US sanctions on Iran's oil exports, which come into force in November, have already cut supply back to two-year lows, while falling Venezuelan output and unplanned outages elsewhere could push up crude prices, hurting consumers. But Perry, in an interview with Reuters, said he felt comfortable about the outlook for global crude output, and for oil prices.

"I don't foresee spikes," Perry said, although he added there was always the potential for unforeseen events. Some analysts have expressed concerns about Saudi Arabia's long-term ability to significantly boost output. But Perry said: "There's a number of things going on in the kingdom that continue to give me a very positive feeling about their ability to maintain their level and even increase their level" of crude production.

On US production, which has already been growing over the past few years, Perry said: "You look out 18 months, and I think you'll see even a more substantial increase in the United States because of pipeline capacity being built out." Russia,

meanwhile, was "working diligently" to deliver its oil output to the world market, Perry said.

Good citizen

Perry was in Moscow for talks with his Russian counterpart, Energy Minister Alexander Novak. Visits by senior US officials are a rarity after relations between Moscow and Washington nosedived, first over the Ukraine crisis and later over allegations of Russian meddling in the US presidential election. The administration of US President Donald Trump has imposed sanctions on Russia, and Perry said that, while he would rather not see any more, that was a real prospect. "You avoid that by being a good citizen. You avoid that by obviously tending to this issue with Ukraine, you do this by not meddling in our elections, you do this by not engaging in activities that are considered to be uncivilized, for instance, the poisoning of the people in the UK," Perry said.

"Russia has the opportunity to send a message that they are going to be good neighbors, they are going to be civilized in the way they deal with their neighbors. That has yet to be seen, from our perspective, in dealing with Ukraine."

Russia's conduct towards other countries would influence whether the United States was compelled to impose sanctions on the Russian-led Nord Stream 2 pipeline project.

The project will expand the capacity for pumping Russian gas to northern Europe. Trump has criticized it, saying it will increase European dependence on Russian energy. Referring to an internationally-brokered roadmap for resolving a conflict in eastern Ukraine between Kiev and Russian-backed separatists, Perry said: "If Russia deals with the Minsk agreement in an appropriate way, there are some signals being sent to the rest of the European Union." —Reuters

Macron walks back on pledge to end 'exit tax' on high earners

PARIS: France will keep a less restrictive version of its "exit tax" on wealthy people who take assets out of the country, and not completely scrap it as President Emmanuel Macron pledged earlier this year. The 30 percent levy was introduced by former president Nicolas Sarkozy to keep top earnings from leaving France for countries with lower tax rates.

But Macron said in May he would abolish the tax as part of a push to make the country more attractive to investors, which critics say has led to fiscal relief for the wealthiest along with other policies that make him the "president of the rich". "People are free to invest where they want. If you want to get married, you should not explain to your partner, 'If you mar-

ry me, you will not be free to divorce,'" Macron told Forbes magazine.

A finance ministry spokesman confirmed to AFP on Saturday that the tax would be kept as part of the 2019 budget plan to be presented later this month, following a report by French financial daily Les Echos. However the tax will now be levied only if assets are sold within two years of a person's leaving France, instead of 15 years currently. It applies to people who have been in the country at least six years and have stocks or bonds worth more than 800,000 euros (\$930,000), or who own at least 50 percent of a company that moved out of France. The tax is "a bureaucratic headache for taxpayers" because they have to provide guarantees and file annual declarations for years after leaving the country, the ministry spokesman said.

Macron, a former investment banker, has pledged a series of reforms aimed at bolstering economic growth and investment, including making it easier to dismiss workers. He has also made no secret of his desire to see more people looking for work, at one point calling reform opponents "slackers" and criticising union protesters for "stirring up trouble" instead of finding new jobs. — AFP

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

Risk appetite resurfaces as dollar falls on rising market sentiment

New trade talks offer prods risk-taking in markets

KUWAIT: An invitation for trade negotiations by the White House was extended to China for renewed dialogues, which has paved the way for risk taking in the market. The news comes as US inflation (CPI and PPI) disappointed expectations, pressuring the Buck into a downward movement, while supporting US equity indices.

Emerging market currencies also performed well like the South African rand and the Mexican peso. The MSCI Emerging Market Currency Index rose 0.65 percent over the past week. Further risk taking usually suggests a move out of safe haven assets like the yen, dollar and gold.

As for Turkey, the lira has appreciated by more than 4 percent in the last five trading days and broke the 6.00 support level versus the US dollar. The last time USDTRY moved below the 6.00 level was in August 27. The upward movement in the Turkish currency was after the central bank of Turkey raised the one-week repo rate by 625 points to 24 percent. Equities in Istanbul also rallied, with the BIST 100 index up 1.1 percent and banking shares rose 4.2 percent after the decision to increase the cost of funding. The CBoT also calmed market sentiment by stating it would continue to use all available instruments in pursuit of price stability and that a tight monetary policy would be retained until inflation exhibited significant improvement.

Last week's monetary action by the CBoT was clearly an encouraging development. The central bank has acted in a more orthodox manner that could assist investors' confidence in the Turkish market. The perception of the CBoT's policy independence has also been strengthened as policy action followed further criticism from President Erdogan just before today's policy meeting. Nevertheless, Erdogan's constant disapproval is likely to remain a concern and questions the sustainability of the CBoT's tighter policy stance especially if it fails to have the desired effect. Renewed trade negotiations between the two largest economies and the greenback's recent depreciation may have opened a short-term window for high beta emerging and commodity currencies to stage a rally after being hit hard by a heavy sell off in recent months. Market risks in Turkey are still high and the previous aggressive tightening of monetary policy in Q2 brought only a momentary period of stability for the lira. Price momentum in Turkey increased sharply to 17.9 percent in August and markets perception is for a further rise beyond 20 percent before year end.

US inflation disappoints

US consumer inflation in August inflated at a slower pace than predicted by markets, dragged down by healthcare and apparel expenses. The annual headline CPI shrank from 2.9 percent towards 2.7 percent and the core figure also shifted lower to 2.2 percent from 2.4 percent. Producers' price growth also disappointed markets as the figure entered into negative territory for the first time in 18 months. The PPI dropped to -0.1 percent m/m, pinning down the annual rate to 2.8 percent from 3.3 percent

In spite of last week's softer readings, inflationary forces are steadily building up, driven by a tightening labor market and robust economic growth. For example, the FED's preferred indicator, the core PCE in July reached the target set by the central bank. Wage growth as well is

moving in the right direction, which is currently at nine years high. Combine that with rising oil prices and the number of US citizens filing for unemployment benefits dropped to a near 49-year low. Money markets are currently pricing an 80 percent probability of two further interest rate increases this year by the FED; a month ago the number was hovering around 60 percent. The overall picture portrays an optimistic view on the American economy, while other developed nations struggle to achieve their inflation target.

On the currency front, the US dollar index lost its momentum of appreciation last week and the index sunk to the lowest level since July 31. The DXY fell around 0.5 percent last week, and is currently trading below its 100-day moving average for the first time since the end of April. Risk appetite is gaining ground due to a restart of China-US negotiations. It seems that the current administration is under heavy pressure from businesses to prevent any further escalations in trade disputes as the midterm election is around the corner. Economic indicators out of the US also did not favor a stronger USD.

ECB in autopilot mode

The EU's central bank preserved its monetary direction last week to end the purchases of government bonds and other assets by year end, but left the door open to change its mind if necessary. The ECB pledged to shrink the EUR 30 billion purchases of monetary stimulus assets to 15 billion in October as markets expected. Draghi's tone on inflation and wage growth was optimistic. The price growth forecasts remained unchanged for 2018 till 2020 at 1.7 percent, while stating that uncertainty on inflation is receding. Draghi also concentrated on healthy domestic fundamentals, encompassing strong growth in employment and salaries, which are anticipated to elevate inflation higher, even if only slowly. Since 2013, the European bloc created 9.2 million jobs.

On the negative side, the ECB believes that the single economy will expand at a pace of 2.0 percent this year and 1.8 percent in 2019, a touch lower than its previous forecast of 2.1 percent and 1.9 percent respectively. The ECB's head also acknowledged that risks from emerging markets in China, Turkey and Argentina were intensifying and said trade tensions were also concerning. It seems policy setters consider the recent turbulence in emerging markets, Brexit and the trade war theme will not be enough to derail an economic expansion now in its sixth year. The monetary meeting indicated that the ECB remains in autopilot mode and a rise in interest rate is not expected till the end of summer 2019. The single currency took advantage of the dollar's weakness and rose to 1.1721 on Friday, the highest level since August 28. The euro also found further support on Draghi's optimistic tone towards inflation. EUR/USD began the week at 1.1553, ended the weekly session at 1.1628.

BoE maintains Rate

Policy setters at the BoE unanimously decided to retain the GBP 435 billion quantitative easing program and maintained its interest rate at the current level of 0.75 percent as markets have predicated. The central



bank cited that greater uncertainty has risen on the Brexit front due to rising prospect of a no deal with the EU. The statement was backed by surveys, which suggested 40 percent of individuals expect leaving the EU to reduce exports. On the other hand, only 14 percent were planning for higher exports.

The survey also showed corporate heads have underestimated a slowdown in sales and that this weakening was likely to persist. The Bank's regional staff also informed that companies were tightening cost control and holding off on investment ahead of UK's March 2019 withdrawal from the EU. Even so, the BoE elevated their estimate for Q3 growth to 0.5 percent from 0.4 percent, thanks to higher consumer spending over an unusually warm summer.

In the next two months, intensive talks are on the way between Britain and the EU to tackle out details of the divorce deal, while some of Theresa May's own lawmakers intensely attack her preferred compromise deal. The BoE's MPC promised to remain with the ongoing tightening of monetary strategy at a gentle pace so long as there was a smooth Brexit. The majority of economists polled by Reuters do not anticipate the Bank to hike again until after Britain has left the EU. Hence, the reaction of households and business towards Brexit are important factors in determining the path of monetary policy.

UK wages improve

Employees in the British economy experienced an uphill surprise on the salaries front as wages excluding bonuses rose from 2.7 percent to 2.9 percent 3m/yr in July. In the

same time, salaries including bonuses were elevated to 2.6 percent from 2.4 percent 3m/yr. The decent figures propose that there is still life in the British economy in the face of negative market sentiment and pressures faced by the household sector. Looking at the employment numbers, the unemployment rate remained at 4.0 percent after having declined from 4.2 percent in the three months to June. That represents a 43-year low. However, employment growth slowed from 42k to 3k in the three months to July, the slowest rate since last October.

The rise in wages could be interpreted as the normal rules of economics are kicking in. The unemployment rate is at a 43-year low, suggesting organizations are raising wages in order to retain new employees from the labor market. In economic terms, the Phillips curve could be affirming itself and that domestically generated inflation will build from here. The slowdown in employment growth might be consistent with this view. On the other hand, markets have previously witnessed those levels before, earlier this year and back in 2015, only to ease back again. The mode of uncertainty due to Brexit still persists over the economy combined with the recent slowdown in growth across Europe. It may be doubtful whether wage growth will start to make noteworthy gains towards its pre-crisis average rate of around 4 percent per year.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30280

The USDKWD closed at 0.30280 yesterday.

KAMCO Oil Market Monthly Report

Oil prices rise on possible supply crunch, dwindling spare capacity

KUWAIT: Brent crude futures reached five-month high to breach the \$80/b level for the first time since May-18 backed by a number of factors that included a higher-than-expected drop in crude inventories in the US, onslaught of Hurricane Florence and tropical storm Gordon in the US during the first half of September-18, the looming US sanctions on Iran and production disruptions in some key oil producing nations.

On the other hand, the ongoing trade tensions between the US and China continues to rattle emerging markets across the globe, including oil prices. Talks of import duty on additional Chinese goods and its reciprocal reaction has put downward pressure on oil prices along with a broader weakness in the other emerging market benchmarks.

Supply side concerns also included the level of spare capacity with global oil producers in the face of Iran sanctions coupled with production disruptions elsewhere. According to recent data, OPEC production has increased at a lower-than-expected pace recently while producers like Venezuela and Libya continue to face production issues. According to the latest monthly report from the IEA, production in Venezuela could fall to 1 mb/d by the end of the year. Markets would now be looking at the indications from the upcoming Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee between OPEC producers and their allies later this month that would set the course for future production agreement between OPEC+ members.

Oil traders also kept a close eye on Hurricane Florence that made a landfall on the US East Coast during the second week of September-18. Unlike the tropical storm Gordon that hit the US Gulf Coast during the first week of September-18 temporarily affecting oil production in the Gulf of Mexico, Hurricane Florence was not expected to affect oil production or sup-

plies. However, the hurricane, even with its strength lowered from category 4 to category 2, is expected to result in a temporary increase in fuel purchases and its impact is only expected to be limited to gas pipelines in the affected region.

Oil prices

Oil prices witnessed an upward trend since the second half of August-18 offsetting the decline during the first half of the month backed by fear of a global oil supply constraint related to the implementation of US sanctions on Iran further supported by production disruptions in Iraq, Venezuela, Angola and Libya. The trend continued during September-18, supported by tropical storm Gordon and Hurricane Florence in the US only to ease temporarily after the first two trading sessions.

Recent reports on the decline in US oil inventory levels and the revision in demand/supply forecast by the EIA also affected oil prices. Moreover, a strengthening USD which was up almost 6 percent since mid-April had little impact on oil prices during the month. Meanwhile, in its monthly report, the IEA said that oil prices could breach the \$80/b mark if output from Iran and Venezuela continue to decline and other producers fail to replace the existing and expected loss of supply from these producers casting doubts on OPEC's ability to raise output to the required level to offset decline. In addition, the agency said that Q4-18 is expected to see higher global refinery runs that would further lower crude stocks, which stood at 50 million barrels below the five-year average level for the OECD countries at the end of July-18.

In the latest weekly rig count update, Baker Hughes reported an increase of seven oil rigs in the US to reach 867 rigs. US oil rig count has remained in a tight range over the past five month after increasing at phenomenal rate prior to May-18. The oil rig count has remained in the range of 859 rigs and 870 rigs since May-18 and guidance from some drillers suggest year-end count to remain in the current average range. Recent reports suggests that the Permian basin has reached its pipeline capacity that is limiting the drillers from going ahead with additional rigs. This could also result in a delayed spending by oil and gas companies as new capacity comes online amid higher costs associated with oilfield services.

AUB wins ‘Best Corporate Digital Bank of Distinction’

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced that it has won the prestigious ‘Best Corporate Digital Bank’ award 2018 for the second consecutive year in the Corporate Banking Services sector within the State of Kuwait, along with the ‘Best On-Line Cash Management’ award 2018 across the same sector. These awards are presented by the world-renowned Global Finance Magazine, which provides such awards to banks that offer advanced local, regional, and international banking solutions coupled with the latest innovative technologies aimed at providing state-of-the-art products and services that meet customers' needs and expectations.

Both awards will be presented to the Bank in a dedicated ceremony which will be held at Jumeirah Hotel in Dubai on the 25th of September 2018 as part of the Global Finance Magazine's



official announcement of winners across multiple categories around the world.

AUB's latest accolades are based on a host of specific criteria including the Bank's adopted strategy to attract corporate clients - users of digital channels - and continued success in attracting clients through new information technology offerings year after year, in addition to AUB's broad banking product and services mix that promotes operational efficiency and enhanced security features alongside the quality and efficacy of the Bank's website. Ali Al-Naqi, AUB's Senior Unit Head Cash Management and B2B,

stated, “We are proud to have been selected as the “Best On-Line Cash Management Bank” and the “Best Corporate Digital Bank of Distinction” in Kuwait by the distinguished Global Finance Magazine. The award reflects the uniqueness of our services offerings to corporate customers. We will continue to develop and expand these services to meet the expectations of our existing and potential customers.”

On this occasion, Hisham Zaghloul, AUB's Deputy CEO Corporate Banking further stated, “As a pioneering bank that continuously strives to provide advanced banking solutions through innovative offerings to its growing clientele, we consider these latest accolades as a testament to the Banks' continued efforts to achieve excellence in Digital Banking Services whilst we recognize the distinguished efforts of the Bank's qualified personnel. I take this opportunity to thank Global Finance Magazine for recognizing AUB's accomplishments in this sector and to extend my gratitude to our valued clients for their continued loyalty to the Bank.”

Zaghloul further confirmed that AUB will continue to contribute to the Kuwaiti market in its various sectors to ensure an effective participation in the State of Kuwait's national development goals.

EXCHANGE RATES

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL								
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL						
Europe								
British Pound	0.390516	0.404416	Chinese Yuan	0.042823	0.046323	Turkish Lira	0.043745	0.055245
Czech Korune	0.005937	0.015237	Hong Kong Dollar	0.036940	0.039690	UAE Dirhams	0.081248	0.082948
Danish Krone	0.043613	0.048613	Indian Rupee	0.003695	0.004467	Yemeni Riyal	0.000987	0.001067
Euro	0.346391	0.360091	Indonesian Rupiah	0.000016	0.000022			
Georgian Lari	0.134644	0.134644	Japanese Yen	0.002631	0.002811			
Hungarian 0.001144	0.001334		Korean Won	0.000261	0.000276			
Norwegian Krone	0.032911	0.038111	Malaysian Ringgit	0.069980	0.0795980			
Romanian Leu	0.065028	0.081878	Nepalese Rupee	0.002625	0.002965	US Dollar	303.290	
Russian ruble	0.004491	0.004491	Pakistan Rupee	0.001911	0.002681	Canadian Dollar	233.430	
Slovakia	0.009065	0.019065	Philippine Peso	0.005518	0.005818	Sterling Pound	397.890	
Swedish Krona	0.029873	0.034873	Singapore Dollar	0.216617	0.226617	Euro	354.285	
Swiss Franc	0.307775	0.3188775	Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001520	0.002100	Swiss Frank	296.215	
			Taiwan	0.010419	0.010599	Bahrain Dinar	806.560	
			Thai Baht	0.008954	0.009504	UAE Dirhams	82.975	
						Qatari Riyals	84.215	
						Saudi Riyals	81.775	
						Jordanian Dinar	429.055	
						Egyptian Pound	16.960	
						Sri Lankan Rupees	1.864	
						Indian Rupees	4.228	
						Pakistani Rupees	2.440	
						Bangladesh Taka	3.628	
						Philippines Peso	5.619	
						Cyprus pound	18.045	
						Japanese Yen	3.705	
						Syrian Pound	1.590	
						Nepalese Rupees	2.644	
						Malaysian Ringgit	74.165	
						Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.590	
						Thai Bhat	10.275	
						Turkish Lira	49.595	
						Singapore dollars	221.088	

Business

Turkish Airlines brings a new elegant style to the skies

Airlines unveils new cabin crew uniforms



KUWAIT: In celebration of 85 successful years, Turkish Airlines has unveiled a fresh look with a new uniform specially designed for its cabin crew. The new uniforms will begin to be used following the opening of the Istanbul New Airport, the "new home" of the flag carrier airline.

Inspired by many classic elements of Turkish design and culture, the new uniforms incorporate traditional patterns found in artisanal glassware, ceramics and calligraphy with contemporary textures and details. The collection combines shapes and colors found in Istanbul Bosphorus with a new 'flow detail', created to symbolize the effortless and dynamic energy flowing through Turkey's most dynamic city as an intersection between East and West.

The global airline, which flies to more countries than any other, paired up with Milan-based Haute Couturier Ettore Bilotta to create the dynamic new uniform design heralding a new era and brand identity for the national flag-carrier. Unique and recognizable with a deep red and anthracite grey palette, the collection includes hats, gloves, dresses, bags and accessories. Another key aspect of the project is that the uniforms of cabin, cockpit, flying chefs, and ground services will be streamlined under a single design approach to offer the passengers to live a holistic brand experience. Bilotta's designs bring together the form and function, an essential consideration for an airline that flies to most international destinations in the world. New designs were not only

conceptualized in consultation with fashion leaders and Turkish Airlines' own team of cabin crew, but tested rigorously on long-haul trial flights in different climates.

M. Ilker Ayçi, Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee commented: "Turkish Airlines is always thrilled to collaborate with such creative and distinctive talents which blend elegant and practical design. While maintaining traditional elements of Turkish design and culture, our new uniforms are professional and stay true to a culture of hospitality, just like our airline."

Ettore Bilotta, the fashion designer behind the uniforms said, "When I started to design for Turkish Airlines, the first thing that inspired me was Istanbul. This city has been a melting pot for art and civilization for centuries and has a rare richness as a common heritage of many cultures. I wanted to bring elements from traditional calligraphy and mosaics together with the new interpretations of Turkish motifs, which emphasize modern lines, into foulards and ties to reflect a contrast and duality."

To launch the new look, the national carrier teamed up with globally renowned British photographer and artist, Miles Aldridge to shoot the new Turkish Airlines cabin uniform collection in Istanbul's unique spots.

Rich in culture and history, and vibrant in color and texture, Istanbul, spanning two continents, provided a stunning backdrop to the uniforms. Drawing on his ability to combine a meticulous approach and rare flair



for drama and narrative, Miles Aldridge shot the collection using the city to create a selection of bright and distinct images, ready for the launch of the uniforms. A moment that just happens to coincide with the airlines 85th Anniversary. "I was really inspired

when I saw the uniforms as they hark back to a golden age of couture fashion from the 1950's, but with a very contemporary twist. Again, it's very much like my own work which is always referencing the past but very much being in today."

Exclusively for Al-Shabab customers, triple your allowance with NBK

KUWAIT: Continuously rewarding its Al-Shabab customers with exclusive offers and unbeatable rewards, the National Bank of Kuwait returns with "Triple your Allowance" campaign giving Al-Shabab customers a chance to win KD 400 and triple their monthly allowance.

Running until 31st of December 2018, new or existing customers who transfer their student allowance to NBK are eligible to enter the draw. 22 winners in total will be announced in December.

Speaking of the campaign, Amal Al-Duwaisan, Senior Manager Consumer Banking Group, National Bank of Kuwait, said: "We are excited to bring back our previous successful campaign to allow our young customers to enjoy great rewards with the start of the new academic year. This is a great opportunity to be one of the winners, while benefiting as well of the many features of Al-Shabab account. At NBK, we continue to be committed to supporting the young generation in their financial journey in our capacity as Kuwait's leading bank."

Al-Shabab customers can look out for new exclusive offers planned throughout the year. These offers are announced on the NBK Instagram page to enable customers to take advantage of them. Al-Duwaisan added: "NBK Al-Shabab account delivers leading

solutions and services to cater to this specific segment, making every transaction easier, secure and faster. Our aim is to always provide a seamless banking experience to our customers while adopting a long-term relationship through innovative products and benefits to cater to the changing needs of our customers." Al-Shabab account is designed to the lifestyle and needs of the youth, introducing advanced services and features that help customers develop strong financial skills including developing their personal budgets, savings and future plans.

Al-Shabab account offers as well a wide range of services and rewards that suit the young generation's needs and lifestyle. The account offers advanced and easy-to-use services that are available even when travelling and do not require a visit to the branch. These services include the 'Quick Pay' that is available through the NBK Mobile Banking app. 'Quick Pay' is an easy and immediate way to receive money, pay bills or transfer amount owed to friends at any time and even during weekends or public holidays. Al-Shabab account holders have full access to the NBK Mobile Banking App which also allows them to pay their mobile bills.

Al-Shabab account holders also receive a free Al-Shabab Visa Prepaid Card when they transfer their student allowance, offering them numerous benefits and rewards designed specifically to meet the needs of Kuwait's young banking clientele. The Al-Shabab Visa Prepaid Card includes a range of exciting features, as well as the ability to transfer money from the card to the customer's account. Customers may also use the prepaid Visa Card to withdraw cash, without fees, from any NBK ATM. Other benefits include 50 percent discounts on Talabat.com on selected days and exclusive 50 percent discounts on weekend tickets at Cinescape. NBK's Al-Shabab account is available to students and customers aged between 15 and 23 years old. To open an Al-Shabab account, customers can visit NBK.com or one of NBK's local branches.

KIB awarded 'Best Islamic Bank in Kuwait' by World Finance

KUWAIT: For the fifth consecutive year, KIB receives the 'Best Islamic Bank in Kuwait' for the year 2018. The Bank was awarded by the World Finance Editorial Board, the global banking and finance journal, focusing on financial and investment companies in Kuwait and the GCC.

This latest award was based on nominations by World Finance readers, as well as the final result of the Editorial Board, which includes a select group of renowned editors. Based on the Board's criteria, KIB was recognized for its sharia-compliant financial products and services, adherence to Islamic finance guidelines, forward-looking approach to Islamic finance, sustainable growth and pursuit of innovation, its presence in the market, transparency and corporate governance, and robust social



Sheikh Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah

responsibility program. On this occasion, Chairman of KIB, Sheikh Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah, said: "We are proud to have received this award for the fifth consecutive year, reaffirming KIB's strong track record in implementing its new strategy. KIB is in the process of implementing its new strategic transformation: a comprehensive and

long-term program which is aimed at transforming the way KIB engages with customers across every touch point, whether through e-communication or face-to-face. This new strategy focuses on offering a next-level customer experience that delivers much more than just "banking" in the traditional sense - but rather establishes KIB as a partner in every aspect of its customers' lives; a true 'Bank for Life'."

Al-Jarrah added that KIB has successfully managed to strengthen its financial standing over the last few years through its growing performance in the Islamic banking sector. Today, KIB is a

leader in the Islamic banking world, both locally and regionally.

KIB received a series of awards during the first half of 2018, including the 'Best Customer Acquisition in GCC award for the year 2017 by World Finance. The Bank also received two gold awards from the 2018 Cybersecurity Excellence Awards, namely: the "Cybersecurity Professional of the Year - Middle East" and the "Cybersecurity Team of the Year - Middle East" award. Additionally, KIB once again received the ISO 27001:2013 certificate for information security management systems for three years from GMS Intercert Services. Most recently, the Bank was awarded 'Best Customer Acquisition in Kuwait' for the year 2018 by CPI Financial. KIB was also recognized by the Bahrain Society for Social Responsibility for its active role in driving positive change and supporting sustainable development programs and social responsibility projects in 2017.

Based in London, World Finance is a premier quarterly global financial magazine, published by World News Media. Since 2007, World Finance has identified and honored leaders in the financial industry, as well as teams and institutions that represent the benchmark for success and best practices in the business world.

KIPCO appoints Joe Kawkabani as Group Chief Strategic Initiatives Officer

KUWAIT: KIPCO - the Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - announced the appointment of Mr Joe Kawkabani as Group Chief Strategic Initiatives Officer. Kawkabani has 20 years of experience in identifying, structuring and managing investments and ventures in the MENA region and other emerging markets. Prior to joining KIPCO, he helped set up and served as the CEO of CPC Africa, and before that he held several positions in leading regional and international organizations, including Chief Investment Officer- MENA equities at Franklin Templeton, Co-Founder and Managing Director at Algebra Capital, and Head of Equity Asset Management at SHUAA Capital.

Kawkabani will be leading strategic initiatives, special projects and transformation programs across KIPCO Group. Commenting on the appointment, Faisal Al-Ayyar, KIPCO's Vice Chairman (Executive), said: "We are delighted that



Joe Kawkabani

Joe has joined the company. As we continue to implement our long-term strategy of business diversification, Joe's expertise in the regional and international investment markets will be valuable in helping identify strategic opportunities across the sectors in which we operate, and new businesses."

Kawkabani said: "KIPCO is one of the region's premier investment companies, and I am excited by the opportunity to contribute across the Group. I look forward to supporting the company's strategy, and creating greater value for our shareholders."

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

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

Weekly Draw prize KD 5,000 - Mahmoud Fathallah Mahmoud Qasem
The draw was conducted in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative Abdulaziz Ashkanani.

The bank stated that the account prizes this year is featured by the highest cash prize and diversity of prizes throughout the year clarifying that Al-Najma Account will offer weekly prize of KD 5,000 and monthly prize of KD 20,000 and a semi-annual prize of KD 500,000 in addition to the grand prize (the biggest prize in the world) of KD 1,500,000 for which the draw will be held in January 2019. Al-Najma Account can be opened by depositing KD 100, and customer should maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 to be eligible to enter all draws on Al-Najma Account prizes.

As for the chances of winning, the more balance a customer maintains in Al Najma Account, the more chances the account holder will get to win, where each KD 25 will give the customer one chance to win, the account also offers additional benefits like the ATM card, a credit card against customer's account and all CBK banking services that customer can enjoy.

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

Technology

Digital assistants hone skills to deliver the news

Smart speakers are a potentially rich terrain for news organizations

WASHINGTON: “What’s the news?” has become a familiar refrain for consumers with smart speakers, opening up a new channel for publishers but also raising concerns about the growing influence of tech platforms in media. Devices such as Amazon’s Alexa-powered speakers, Google Home and Apple HomePod are increasingly delivering news flashes and summaries, and giving users the option to get more in-depth news, just by asking.

For beleaguered news organizations, voice could be a new channel to connect with consumers seeking updates or specific information on demand. News organizations such as the BBC, Washington Post and National Public Radio are among those having developed “skills” for digital assistants that enable consumers to listen to updates or other reports.

“Smart speakers are a potentially rich terrain” for news organizations, said Damian Radcliffe, a journalism professor at the University of Oregon. For consumers, the speakers are being used instead of radio or television for on-demand news. For struggling news organizations “these technologies create fresh ways to reach news audiences,” Radcliffe said.

An Adobe Analytics survey found 32 percent of US households use a smart speaker, with most of them using them daily. According to an Edison Research report for NPR, 77 percent of consumers said news was an important reason for owning a smart speaker, and that one in three listened to news briefings. A separate study by Oxford University’s Reuters Institute of consumers in the US, Britain, Germany and South Korea found 43 percent used smart speakers to “access the latest news.”

Editorial role?

Greg Sterling, a technology analyst and contributing editor to the Search Engine Land blog, said consumers are become more comfortable with voice search as the underlying technology improves, and are comfortable with “on demand” services like

Netflix or podcasts. Many news organizations that lost readers in the shift to digital see this as an opportunity, Sterling said. “A lot of newspapers watched and waited as people took away their audiences, and now they want to get out in front,” he said.

The Washington Post — owned by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos — offers updates on Alexa-powered devices so users may ask, “Alexa, what are my notifications?” or “Alexa, what did I miss?” to hear breaking news. Rick Edmonds, a media analyst at the Poynter Institute, said there may not be quick payoff though voice-delivered news but that “news organizations see this as a way to build a bigger audience.”

Ethical questions

But giving tech platforms a bigger role in delivering news raises a number of ethical and legal questions, says Tim Hwang, head of the Harvard-MIT sponsored Ethics and Governance of Artificial Intelligence Initiative. “It really puts the platform in the role of curator in a very clear way,” Hwang said. Amid growing concerns on misinformation, Hwang said that device makers may be

in a more difficult position in signaling credibility of certain news sources of reports.

“It’s an interesting question about where this news comes from,” he said. “We’re just getting started with this and we don’t have a lot of standards.” The media rights group Reporters Without Borders questions what it will mean to give tech firms’ proprietary algorithms more power to choose the news being delivered.

Elodie Vialle, who heads the journalism and technology desk for the organization, said that voice assistants “are liable to reinforce the opaque and often pay-based methods of media content distribution that exist already.” Radcliffe said that “tech companies like Google, Amazon and Apple have already been digital gatekeepers to news for some time,” and this is likely to increase with technologies such as smart



SAN FRANCISCO: In this file photo taken on October 4, 2017 Google's new Home and Pixel products are seen at a product launch event at the SFJAZZ Center. —AFP

speakers. He said the firms need to be more transparent about how they choose news and sources.

“It’s not enough to say ‘we are not a media company’ if you’re distributing content, and making decisions about how to distribute it,” he added. Most of the updates are radio-style reports read by humans. But relationships with the news could be transformed if synthetic voices such as those from Alexa and Google are involved. “A lot of these voices are modeled as being a trusted companion” which is different from the role of

a news announcer, says Judith Donath, a researcher and advisor at Harvard’s Berkman Klein Center who is writing a book about technology, trust and deception.

Donath said it is conceivable that computer-generated voices can offer some of the same emotion and tonality people expect, but this is raises delicate questions. “Are we comfortable having news delivered in a voice that conveys an emotional response to a tragedy or happy event, when the emotion was programmed in?” she asked. —AFP

Eyes in the sky aim to protect Earth’s rainforests, resources

SAN FRANCISCO: In the Brazilian state of Para, every week, authorities receive alerts showing them which parts of the Amazon forest have been chopped down, with photos to back it up. The pictures are taken every day at 10:30 in the morning by American satellites, offering a detailed view of every three to five meters on the ground.

An algorithm helps reveal automatically where logging has taken place. The authorities send agents to investigate and potentially apprehend the suspects before they do any more damage. “It used to take six days, sometimes two or three months without images,” said Iara Musse Felix, CEO of SCCON, the company which distributes the alerts. “Now we have daily images.”

This revolution in forest surveillance, and the Earth in general, comes from a constellation of satellites run by a company called Planet. Founded in San Francisco in 2010 by three former NASA scientists, Planet is a leader in small satellites, which are easier to produce and replace, and tend to have mission lives of between three and five years. This economic model is vastly at odds with the traditional aerospace industry, which builds large, sophisticated satellites that are far more powerful but take hundreds of millions of dollars to build. Planet has placed 298 satellites in orbit since 2013, and half of those were launched last year. Some 150 are active today, 130 of which are nano-satellites. The rest have fallen back to Earth and burned up on re-entry to the atmosphere.

‘Doves’

These so-called “Dove” satellites are made in San Francisco, at a new building presented this week during the Global Climate Action Summit here. “One technician can build three Dove spacecrafts in a day,” said Chester Gillmore, 33, vice president of manufacturing at Planet. “You need about 10 tools to build one of our satellites.”

There is no “clean room” here. Visitors walk in and out freely. Electronic components are brought in on one side of the room, then tested, then assembled. Doves are a format known as “Cubesat 3u,” including a 30-cm cylinder, equipped with an internal camera and two solar panels which unfold in orbit. Six completed Doves wait on a cart to be sent to India, where they will be loaded onto a rocket and sent into orbit, some 300 miles (500 kilometers) above Earth. We “just keep updating it,” said co-founder Robbie Schingler, a former employee of NASA.

“And that’s what we mastered, the ability to take the latest chips, and technologies, from other industries like automotive and consumer devices, take the 50 chips that are inside here... and then make them work in aerospace.” The result is a daily image of every square kilometer of the Earth’s surface, accessible on the Internet. The company still doesn’t turn a profit. But future opportunities abound for companies that want to track humanity’s actions on a global scale or to understand the prevalence of drought.

Another project financed by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen involves surveilling coral reefs. Cameras on board the small Planet satellites allow researchers to see whether they are bleaching, dying, or growing. When it comes to the Amazon rainforest, illegal loggers know that every day at 10:30 am, the “doves” are watching. —AFP

A closer look at the space tourism race

WASHINGTON: SpaceX is among a handful of companies racing to propel tourists into space. Here are the top projects in the works, and what they involve.

Moon orbit: SpaceX

The California-based company headed by tycoon Elon Musk announced plans Thursday to send a passenger into lunar orbit aboard a monster rocket, called the Big Falcon Rocket (BFR), still in development. The cost of the latest trip, its timing, and the identity of the passenger are unknown, for now. Details are to be revealed today.

SpaceX has touted Moon tourist plans before — with an announcement in 2017 that two people would launch in 2018 — but the company has remained mum about those plans in recent months. The trip would mark humanity’s first journey to the Moon since the last Apollo astronauts went there in 1972. Only 24 people have ever left Earth’s orbit and journeyed close to the Moon.

Virgin Galactic

Virgin Galactic, founded by British billionaire Richard Branson, is working to carry tourists on a brief journey to space, dozens of miles above the Earth’s surface. Tourists will spend several minutes floating in zero gravity, aboard a spaceship that approaches or passes through the Karman line, the boundary of Earth’s atmosphere and space, some 62 miles high.

Blue Origin

Blue Origin, the rocket company created by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, also plans to send up to six passengers on a short journey to space aboard the New Shepard, a capsule affixed to the top of a 60-foot (18-meter) rocket. After launching, it detaches and continues several miles toward the sky. During an April 29 test, the capsule made it 66 miles. After a few minutes of weightlessness, the capsule gradually falls back to Earth with three large parachutes and retrorockets used to slow the spacecraft. From take-off to landing, the trip takes about 10 minutes. The timing of the first flights, and cost per ticket, have not been announced.

China

The China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology is working toward sending its first tourists on a suborbital journey some 60 miles high. The first flight could take place by 2028, on a re-usable spacecraft that can fit up to 20 people. Total mission duration would be about 30 minutes, with 10 minutes in the darkness of space, experiencing weightlessness and seeing the curvature of

‘Hardcore’ fish species discovered on Pacific floor

PARIS: Scientists have discovered three new species of “hardcore” fish living in one of the deepest parts of the ocean, the see-through, scale-free creatures perfectly adapted to conditions that would instantly kill most life on Earth. An international team of researchers used state-of-the-art underwater cameras to find the new fish at the bottom of the Atacama Trench in the eastern Pacific Ocean at a depth of 7,500 meters — and were surprised at their abundance in such an inhospitable environment. “These things are right on the limit of what all fish can take so you might expect at that depth you’d maybe be lucky to see one or two eking out an existence,” Alan Jamieson, senior lecturer in marine ecology at Newcastle University told AFP on Friday. “But there’s a whole heap of them sitting there.”

Temporarily named the pink, blue and purple Atacama snailfish, the previously unknown creatures are 20-25 centimeters long, translucent and have no scales. They appear to be uniquely adapted to

conditions four-and-a-half miles beneath the ocean surface, where the days are permanently pitch black and water temperatures barely top two degrees Celsius. At such depths, the pressure is so great that larger animals would be crushed under their own mass. “It’s the equivalent of having an 800-kilogramme weight placed on your little finger,” Jamieson said.

Gel-like

Researchers believe the fish may have evolved to live on the sea floor to avoid larger prey. “The hardest structures in their bodies are the bones in their inner ear, which give them balance, and their teeth,” said Thomas Linley, a Newcastle research associate who went on the expedition. In fact, being made almost entirely of a gel-like substance, the fish would die without the crushing pressure holding them together. “Their bodies are extremely fragile and melt rapidly when brought to the surface,” Linley said.

Crushing pressure, little food

The Atacama Trench runs almost 6,000 kilometers along the west coast of South America and bottoms out at 8,000 meters. Jamieson said the team’s discovery should give hope to researchers working to uncover new species in some of the least-explored corners of our planet. “The finding of new species is not limited to small stuff in the mud or tiny jellyfish, here there are three species of



In this file photo taken on December 3, 2014 shows Japan's H-IIA rocket lifting off from the launch pad of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Tanegashima Space Center at Takegashima Island in Kagaoshima prefecture, on Japan's southern island of Kyushu. —AFP

the Earth through the windows. Price: about \$200,000.

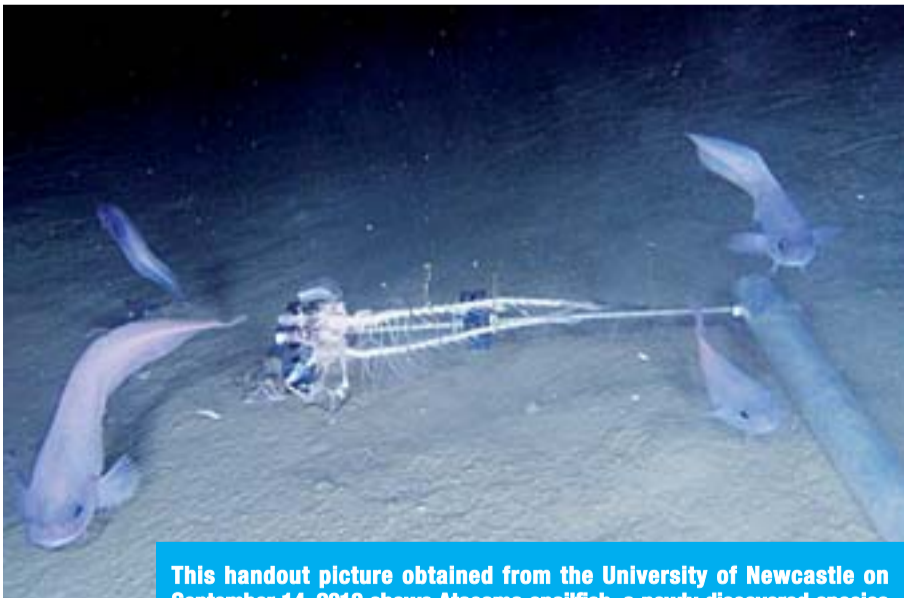
Russia

Seven people have already paid big bucks for a trip to space, organized by the Virginia-based company Space Adventures, and riding aboard Russian rockets and spacecraft. The first space tourist was US businessman Dennis Tito, a multimillionaire who reportedly paid \$20 million to ride a Soyuz and visit the International Space Station in 2001. The Russian space company Energia is reported to be working on a new spacecraft called NEM-2 to carry tourists to the International Space Station (ISS). Four to six people may ride at a

time, and the first flights could come as early as 2019. Paying space tourists might even be able to float out into the vacuum of space on brief spacewalks. A firm price tag has not been fixed, but it is expected to cost around \$100 million.

Why travel to space?

The journey would be thrilling, to be sure, but also risky. Rockets can and do sometimes explode, after all. Barring any technical failures by the machinery, the tourists’ own health could be a factor, and it remains to be seen if people with heart ailments or circulatory problems would be permitted to fly. Beyond that, astronauts often report feeling severe motion sickness during the ascent to space, and tourists are expected to be no different. —AFP



This handout picture obtained from the University of Newcastle on September 14, 2018 shows Atacama snailfish, a newly discovered species of fish discovered at 7000m below sea level. —AFP

fish about 20-25 cm long,” he said.

“The Atacama Trench is the same size as the Andes mountain range. If we can put a camera down and pick out three new species within a matter of days... these things are not rare — they are just out of reach.” With over 300 known varieties of snailfish, Jamieson said it has adapted to a wide variety of conditions, some extremely tough to survive in. “Most of them live at shallow levels — we even get them up the Tyne River in

Newcastle. They’re an amazing family that has sort of evolved to fit every niche, every corner of the planet,” he said.

He nevertheless admitted to being impressed with the newly discovered varieties and their ability to thrive in some of the harshest environments on Earth. “The water temperatures in these trenches are always less than 2C — that in itself is pretty hardcore, let alone slamming 800-bar pressure on it and hardly any food,” he said. —AFP

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What's On

Johnson's Kids hosts their first masterclass in Kuwait



Johnson's Kids hosted their first exclusive masterclass in Kuwait to educate millennial mothers on the added benefits of using kids-specific products on their toddlers. The event brought together a specialist pediatrician, a Johnson's Kids expert, regional influencers and mothers to share common concerns about the skin and hair care of their toddlers and the best choices for their wellbeing.

As babies grow into toddlers and young adults they undergo several lifestyle and physical changes that demand the right care with suitable products for their age. With an overload of information and products available to young parents today, picking a skin and hair care routine best fit for children is vastly overlooked. Parents tend to use the same products on their children that they used on their newborn babies. However, as the baby grows, the baby products aren't effective enough and new products need to be introduced into their care routines.

"We have found that many moms believe that baby products are sufficient to cater to their toddler's needs. Yet not all baby products have the right ingredients to cater to the lifestyle changes that babies go through from ages 1 to 3," said Sarah Salem, Senior Brand Manager, AMET at Johnson's Baby & Kids. "At Johnson's Kids we care about the healthy development of children and we encourage parents to learn more about what each development stage requires. Through

our masterclasses we aim to educate parents on relevant topics for babies to receive the best care possible," she added.

The Kuwait masterclass aimed to educate the mothers about how the skin and hair of a child changes as they grow and how to adapt to these changes. As kids grow their physical activities increase and as a result, they are exposed to the heat, dust and all the bacteria and germs that come with it. From playing football to swimming, these germs are everywhere and moms need to make sure their child is protected.

"A child's skin and hair is still very fragile and in development stages, therefore it is crucial that the products used to care for them are suitable for their age and cater to the special needs of each child, said Dr Shatha Al-Qattan, Paediatric Specialist at Al Seef Hospital. "We encourage parents to include kids-specific products into their kids' bath time routine to ensure that they receive the care needed for a healthy development," she added.

Attendees to the masterclass also had the chance to discuss and debate solutions to infant skincare issues during an interactive and insightful Q&A session with the expert panel, addressing the need to make smart choices for the wellbeing of their little ones. The masterclass was concluded with two fun styling sessions on how to style your toddler's hair using Johnson's No More Tangles and Shiny Drops ranges.



Back to School at BSK

This week saw the roads around Salwa 1 waking up to the arrival of students returning to The British School of Kuwait (BSK) for the academic year 2018/2019. Doors opened at 07.00 where returning and new students alike from Reception to Year 13, dressed in pristine uniforms, were accompanied by parents, grandparents and siblings.

Re-kindling old friendships, students met one-another again after a summer of travelling, keen to share their stories and looking forward to seeing their teachers once more. Excitement wasn't just limited to the students; parents are always so happy to see their children off on a new academic year and to catch up with other friends that they always meet in and around school. The first day is a very special day for

everyone involved.

Director Madam Vera Al-Mutawa and Principal Mr Paul Shropshire, alongside a team of nearly 300 teaching staff and assistants have been busily preparing for the arrival of the students. Anybody walking around the BSK campus would not fail to recognize the major developments, with upgraded and reconfigured classrooms, state of the art Science labs and an overall feel of the school looking like a new pin.

Head Teachers Emma Bowie, Nicholas Smith, Mark Brisbane and Scott Bryant and the teaching staff welcomed the students to their classrooms and the first day was spent familiarizing everyone with their new timetables and procedures. After the initial greetings and registration procedures were completed, the students were taking their first classes and celebrating the joy of being back with their friends in the familiar environment of their school. It is often said that school is a second home and for students at BSK it was without doubt a very happy homecoming.



Ties announcement

You are cordially invited to our Tafseer class (Divine Wisdom from the Last Testament) today Monday, September 17th at 7:00 pm. In this class, we will focus on Surat Al-Taghabun (Mutual Loss and Gain), verses 11 - 13. We will also discuss the circumstance behind which Allah

(SWT) revealed verse 11, that no calamity strikes except by Allah's command, and the true believer's attitude during both prosperity and adversity. We will also learn some of the causes of catastrophes and how to behave when they strike. We will learn what it means to really rely upon Allah (SWT), and examine Prophet Muhammad's advice to Ibn Abbas that no one can be harmed or helped without Allah's preordainment. Finally, we will discuss why Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was instructed not to force Islam upon anyone.

Saudi hero of Gulf War honored by Imam of Al-Bakheet mosque

On commemorating the anniversary of the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait, Imam Dr Mohammed Yousif Al-Shatti; the imam of Al-Bakheet mosque in Abdullah Al-Mubarak honored the Saudi courageous hero, Khalaf Zahi Al-Shalahi Al-Mutairi recently in a token of appreciation of his heroic deeds during the invasion. Notably, Al-Mutairi had risked his life several times during the invasion by driving a vehicle through the desert to help and rescue Kuwaiti families. Al-Mutairi managed to drive 26 Kuwaitis out of Kuwait to save them. Al-Mutairi is the former

Jazeera Bank manager, KSA, was one of the first volunteers in Jubail city during the invasion, was decorated several times, written several articles in economic magazines, nominated as municipal council member in Jubail and is the author of a book titled "The Poor and ATM Machines" in 2004.



Khalaf Zahi Al-Shalahi Al-Mutairi

Lifestyle

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018



This combination of pictures shows people dressed as zombies take part in the Zombie Walk event on September 15, 2018 in the eastern French city of Strasbourg, within the framework of the 11th edition of the European Fantastic Film festival, which runs from September 14 to 23. — AFP

Ancient altar reveals Mayan ‘Game of Thrones’ dynasty

A 1,500 year old Mayan altar discovered in a small archeological site in northern Guatemala is drawing comparisons to popular fantasy drama television series “Game of Thrones” for its descriptions of the Kaanul dynasty’s political strategies aimed at bringing entire cities under its control. The altar, carved out of limestone and weighing around one ton was found at the La Corona archeological site in the jungle region close to the borders with Mexico and Belize, Tomas Barrientos, co-director of excavations and investigations at the site told journalists. Barrientos said the altar was found in a temple and showed King Chak

Took Ich’aak, La Corona’s ruler, “sitting and holding a scepter from which emerge two patron gods of the city.” According to studies, the 1.46-meter by 1.2-meter slab contains a hieroglyphic Mayan inscription corresponding to May 12, 544. Other discoveries have allowed researchers to determine that King Chak Took Ich’aak also governed the nearby city of El Peru-Waka some 20 years later. Barrientos says these pieces of evidence show that the Kaanul dynasty, or Serpent Kingdom, developed a political movement in La Corona that allowed them to defeat their Tikal “arch rivals” in 562 and thereafter rule

the Mayan lowlands in southeast Mesoamerica for two centuries.

‘Mayan Game of Thrones’

That political movement was based around alliances with small cities surrounding Tikal ahead of the final victory push. Alongside those revelations, researchers also found details of a wedding between a princess from the Serpent Kingdom and a King of La Corona, Barrientos said. “This altar shows us a part of Guatemala’s history and in this case, around 1,500 years ago, I would call this the historical Mayan version of Game of Thrones,” he added, comparing the Kaanul kingdom’s maneuvering to that in Game of Thrones of noble families competing over control of the seven kingdoms.

Barrientos said the altar “fills in the gaps” and “pieces together the puzzle” of the Mayan culture’s political relationships. “It’s a high quality work of art that shows us they were rulers entering into a period of great power and who were allying themselves with others to compete, in this case, with Tikal.” La Corona “was the place where the most important historical Mayan political movement began to take shape.” The Serpent Kingdom expanded from its capital Dzibanche to present day north Guatemala, Belize and the Mexican state of Campeche but was finally defeated by Tikal.

Dangerous excavations

“Having information about what happened next, how they were plotting a political strategy here, teaches us a lot about politics in those times and the fight for territory,” said Barrientos. Excavating and investigating in the remote Mayan Biosphere Reserve where La Corona lies can be hazardous, though. The region is constantly at threat from looting, invasions and incursions by criminal gangs, drug-traffickers and illegal ranchers, accused by environmentalists and authorities of starting forest fires that damage pre-Columbian monuments.

Culture deputy minister, Gladys Palala, told AFP that authorities are trying to counter encroachment by criminal groups besieging Peten, an area ripe with “archeological remains.” “Wherever you go and excavate, you find (something). It’s an eminently archeological area,” she said. The Mayan culture reached its apogee during the classical period from 250-900 before going into decline over the next 300 years. — AFP



Detail of a Mayan altar exhibited at the National Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.



A man takes a picture of a Mayan altar exhibited at the National Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology in Guatemala City. — AFP photos

Chinese emperor’s apartments go on display in Athens



Visitors look at the Bronze statuette of Vajradhara, Qing Dynasty, Qianlong Reign (1735 — 1796).

The private apartments of 18th-century Emperor Qianlong, one of the most renowned rulers in Chinese history, go on display in Athens Friday in a rare exhibition, organizers said. The exhibition at the Acropolis Museum will showcase over 150 works of art, ceremonial robes and furniture from the Qing emperor’s private apartments in the Palace of Many Splendors at Beijing’s Forbidden City, where he spent his youth as a prince, and wrote poetry.

These include Qianlong’s heated bed, his study, ritual dress, poetic texts, thrones, and theatrical costumes from private performances at the

palace. “It is the largest Chinese exhibition ever hosted in Greece,” Acropolis museum director Dimitris Pantermalis said this week, adding that Qianlong’s rooms have never been displayed outside China. Qianlong’s reign from 1735 to 1796 is by many considered the peak of the Manchu-led Qing dynasty, marked by territorial expansion and artistic and cultural development.

The exhibition runs to February. Greece and China have cultivated close relations for over a decade, with Chinese shipping giant Cosco acquiring a majority stake in Greece’s main port Piraeus, a key gateway into the Balkans and Eastern Europe. — AFP



A visitor looks at a ceremonial robe of China’s 18th-century Emperor Qianlong during the official opening of the Acropolis Museum’s rare temporary exhibition “from the forbidden city: imperial apartments of Qianlong” in Athens. — AFP photos



Gareth Pugh has dystopian designs on London Fashion Week



Designer Gareth Pugh brought dystopia and decadence to London Fashion Week with a vision of the city populated by masked women in blood-red superhero-style jumpsuits. The 37-year-old British designer's presentations can swing between classic fashion shows and militant occasions, and on Saturday, he stuck by his reputation. In Pugh's world, London is a sordid concrete jungle, covered with asphalt and choking in thick, toxic fumes. In this urban nightmare, the revolt of an "outsider society" is born, driven by a "flat out rejection of conservatism", according to the fashion label, and stalked by warlike and provocative women.



Shod in paramilitary boots, they slip into tight-fitting combinations decorated with geometric patterns, and conceal their faces behind masks sometimes reminiscent of Spiderman. For weapons, they carry large red or black fans that they wave insolently while marching up the podium. Rebellious and bellicose, they sport leather kimonos, super-short black dresses, or waterproof plastic revealing dominatrix-style bustiers and garters. The show was also a tribute to the British creator Judy Blame, a punk culture icon who died this year aged 58. "Judy was uncompromising, ungovernable and fiercely anti-establishment. He was a creative extremist," said Pugh, who could legitimately claim the same qualities.



Chung's first collection
In one of Saturday's earlier shows, Jonathan Anderson displayed a much less dark and tortured world view. The artistic director of the luxury British leather goods firm Loewe, considered one of the most talented designers of his generation, presented the new line of his own brand, J. W. Anderson. The key word is "fluidity", he told reporters. His bohemian designs are loose and airy, covered with mesh and lace. The colours are earthy and organic: cream, ochre and cobalt blue.



Models present creations from designer Gareth Pugh during a catwalk show for the Spring/Summer 2019 collection on the second day of London Fashion Week in London. —AFP photos



Models present creations from designer Alexa Chung during a catwalk show for the Spring/Summer 2019 collection on the second day of London Fashion Week.

Lifestyle | Fashion



Models present creations from designer JW Anderson.

Victoria Beckham debuts at home to celebrate decade in fashion

Untested in the fashion world, Victoria Beckham launched her VB label in 2008 in New York, across the Atlantic from her native Britain. A decade on, she will exhibit at London Fashion Week for the first time on Sunday, in a triumphant homecoming of sorts for a now widely-respected designer and entrepreneur. The ex-Spice Girls singer oversees an empire comprising four clothing lines, more than 400 retail outlets in over 50 countries and offices in London and New York. At the outset Beckham, a longtime fashionista, faced a daunting challenge: convincing a competitive and demanding industry that she could make a lasting impression on fickle fashion fans.

Seizing the opportunity to surpass her status as a pop star and the original footballer's WAG—meaning wives and girlfriends—she has gradually earned widespread recognition, even from fashion luminaries such as Karl Lagerfeld, the creative genius behind Chanel. “Many saw her as just another example of a celebrity wanting to have a fashion range with no formal fashion training,” Andrew Groves, a professor of fashion design at the University of Westminster, told AFP. “Through hard work and determination, she has proved those early critics wrong.”

Evolution

In the space of a decade, Beckham, 44, has ventured into accessories, expanded sales internationally and online and multiplied collaborations with the likes of Reebok, Target and Estee Lauder. Her style has also evolved, from the chic classicism that marked her first steps into haute couture to the

more daring cuts and vibrant colors—neon orange, mint green, lilac—of more recent offerings. “It’s been an incredible journey, even when things can be challenging. I’ve had to learn incredibly quickly,” she told The Daily Telegraph newspaper recently.

She claims the secret of her success is a tireless work ethic and the support of her family—football superstar husband David and their four children. Beckham was blunt about the ambition for her brand “to get bigger and bigger”, in a 2013 interview with The New York Times Magazine.

That came a step closer in 2017 with the formation of her Victoria Beckham Limited (VBL) company thanks to a £30 million (\$39 million, 34 million euros) injection from private equity firm NEO Investment Partners. It valued the brand at £100 million, according to Business of Fashion magazine.

‘Empire’

However, VBL will look to reduce its losses, which reached £8.5 million at the end of 2016 — nearly double the previous year, according to its most recent financial results. “Running deficits of that volume is not unique in this industry and not necessarily a sign that she is any the less credible,” Naomi Braithwaite, a fashion marketing and branding lecturer at Nottingham Trent University, told AFP. “It takes a time to build a brand and she is competing with labels that have a very long established history.”

Groves added that Beckham has “all the right elements to last for many years as a medium-sized designer brand”. He noted her stated desire to



Victoria Beckham

build “an empire” hints at the overriding desire to continue to defy the early doubters. As for the Spice Girls, the most famous girlband in history has reformed for a 13-date tour in 2019 but without “Posh Spice”, who has drawn a line under her

first life as a pop star, according to British media. British Vogue magazine featured Beckham surrounded by her children on its October cover under the headline “fashion gets real”. “That’s what I’m doing now,” she told the magazine. —AFP

INSTAGRAM HOLIDAYS GET NIGERIANS TRAVELLING

Tourism in Nigeria is nothing if not earned. It takes eight hours by bus to travel the 250 kilometers (155 miles) from Lagos to Idanre on a road strewn with potholes and other obstacles. Then there's the negotiations with unscrupulous police officers and a climb of 620 steps in the sticky, tropical heat. But those who've made the trip say it's worth it just for a selfie in front of the sumptuous Yorubaland hills with Chiamaka Obuekwe, Nigeria's self-styled "Queen of Tours". "I always wanted to have a picture with her! We've seen so many on her page," said one traveller on the organized weekend, as Chiamaka poses with the 15-strong group of 20 to 35 year-olds, all of them in bright "Social Prefect Tours" T-shirts.

Behind them, the hills stretch out as far as the eye can see, trees rising upwards from the rocks below through a light mist in a scene worthy of "Jurassic Park". Chiamaka, as everyone calls her, never intended to found a travel agency but the followers of her blog and Instagram account persuaded her to, asking if they could come along. Since its creation in 2015, Social Prefect Tours has become an institution for well-connected young professionals in Nigeria's commercial capital, Lagos.

Chiamaka's Instagram page currently has more than 40,000 followers, whose goal is to post a precious hashtag from across Nigeria in the same way pins were once put on a map. "This is the Instagram age," she told AFP. "If you didn't take a picture, it's like it never happened. So, it's better you didn't even go there."

Likes and emojis

Beyond collecting "likes" and heart emojis, the internet has also helped Nigerians to discover and better understand their own country. With Nigeria's economy almost exclusively based on oil and gas, tourism development is lacking, even at local level. There are few wild animals left for safaris and a lack of quality hotels, while inadequate roads make many places hard to reach and entire regions have been devastated by conflict. Few people are equally going to be enticed by the oil slicks that have polluted beaches in the southern Niger delta region.

Yet Africa's most populous nation has real hidden treasures. "Obudu Mountains, at the Cameroonian border, are just breathtaking," said Lola Daniyan, the 28-year-old head of Unravelling Nigeria. Her online travel agency, where participants post their photos from trips, is one of those that has lit up social media, making up for a lack of official tourism promotion in the last 30 years.

Daniyan decided to set up her business on a family holiday in London, when she saw hundreds of people flocking to Queen Elizabeth II's official residence, Buckingham Palace. "I thought, 'Why don't people come to see our royal palaces? We have so many but people don't know about them,'" she said. "Actually, we don't know each other. If you have been in Lagos all your life and you go to Kano (in the north)... it's like, 'wow!'. We don't know about the north, we don't know how they live. 'Travelling makes you humble and empathetic,'" she added.

Nigeria as a single entity dates back to 1914, when British colonialists brought together their northern and southern protectorates purely for commercial reasons. The West African nation is home to more than 500 ethnic groups and is almost evenly split between a Muslim majority north, and a largely Christian, more prosperous south. Religious tensions are rarely far from the surface and each side regards the other with suspicion or, in the best case scenario, disdain and indifference.

'Thirst for discovery'

Georgina Duke and Emeka Okocha weren't any of either. They decided to discover their country after spending a large part of their childhood studying abroad. They took to the road, trusting their own instincts-and dismissing stereotypes and those who said it couldn't be done-by founding Nothing To Do in Lagos, an internet platform which lists organized trips and gives tips to solo adventurers. "We are Nigerians. Nigeria is our country. We can't live in Nigeria and not see it ourselves," said Okocha. "We want to be part of it, owning our space and fighting social restrictions."

Best friends before being associates, they started from scratch in Lagos in 2014. Duke described it as "a bit like exploring our backyard". From 2015, they gradually ventured farther afield-north to Kaduna, west towards Lome in Togo and east to Enugu-driven by curiosity and a "thirst for discovery". But there were sometimes disappointments. "Once, we flew to Anambra State for a wedding, and saw that the Ohum caves were just two hours away by road. It looked great so we decided to extend our trip," recalled Okocha. But he added: "When we got there, people (in the area) said that we should have told them 24 hours in advance that we were coming. "On which phone number? Well... I don't know!" —AFP

“ Travelling makes you humble and empathetic ”



A general view of vegetation at Idanre hills in Idanre, Nigeria. —AFP photos



A young couple stands on the stairs climbing to Idanre hills in Nigeria.



This picture shows Idanre hills in Nigeria.



A group of Nigerians takes pictures at Idanre hills.



A group of young Nigerians takes pictures at Idanre hills.



A group of young Nigerians takes pictures at Idanre hills.



A general view of Idanre hills.

Hockney poised to set auction record for Living artist

An iconic oil painting by British artist David Hockney estimated to be worth \$80 million is going on sale in New York, poised to set an auction record for the most expensive work by a living artist. "Portrait of an Artist (Pool with two figures)" will go under the hammer in November, expected to break the record held by American Jeff Koons's \$58.4 million "Balloon Dog (Orange)," set in 2013, Christie's said. Alex Rotter, co-chairman of post-war and contemporary art at the auction house, called the Hockney "one of the great masterpieces of the modern era."

The painting represents the "apex" of the British pop artist's two most celebrated motifs, Rotter explained, the glistening water of a swimming pool and the double portrait with two people interacting. In the picture, a smartly dressed man, standing on the edge of the pool, looks pensively at another figure swimming toward him, with an idyllic mountain view in the background. The first man depicts Hockney's former lover and muse, Peter Schlesinger, who was one of his students at the University of California, Los Angeles.

The picture dates back to 1972, the year that their great love affair ended, and the swimmer could be Peter's new lover,



Rotter said. One of Hockney's most celebrated works, it has featured on the cover of a number of monographs about the artist and was part of an international retrospective devoted to Hockney to celebrate his 80th birthday in 2017.

"From the Tate (in London) to the Centre Pompidou (in Paris) to the Metropolitan Museum (in New York), this painting was always a stand-out, a painting that everybody gravitated to," said Rotter. While Christie's declined to reveal the identity of the seller, Bloomberg and the Artnet website reported that it was owned by British billionaire Joe Lewis, who owns the Tavistock Group, London Premier League soccer

team Tottenham Hotspur, and whom Forbes estimates to be worth \$5 billion.

Christie's, which in 2017 set the record for the most expensive work of art known to have been sold with Leonardo de Vinci's "Salvator Mundi" at \$450 million, said there had been a battle to secure the right to sell the picture. "We have been for years dreaming about having this and pursuing it. Obviously it was competitive ... The Salvator Mundi certainly did not hurt," Rotter said. Even if the painting is already well known, Christie's is taking it on tour to drive up potential buyer interest, in Hong Kong, London and Los Angeles. —AFP

OSN scores 226 nominations across 55 shows for 70th Primetime Emmy Awards

OSN, the region's leading entertainment network, has seen an impressive 226 nominations for 55 of its shows at this year's star-studded 70th Primetime Emmy Awards and OSN has full live and exclusive coverage from the red carpet through to the golden statuettes. OSN's shows dominate the 2018 Emmy shortlist across the board including the hotly contested Lead Actress in Drama Series, Supporting Actor and Actress in Drama Series, Drama Series amongst others.

Top OSN shows vying for awards on the night include Game of Thrones, Westworld, Saturday Night Live, The Handmaid's Tale, The Daily Show with Trevor Noah and Lip

Synch Battle. Not just this, factual series like Jane and Genius: Picasso too have marked their place in this year's nominations. With the full nominations of this year's awards announced in July, the wait is nearly over. There's plenty of pre-ceremony excitement and viewers can catch all the red carpet glamour and gossip with E!'s Live from The Red Carpet: The 2018 Primetime Emmy Awards hosted by Giuliana Rancic. Tune in from 1am (KSA) tomorrow to watch it as it happens, or catch one of the prime time repeats on the same day, at 3.15pm, 5.15pm, and 9pm (KSA).

For our Arabic entertainment fans, OSN's magazine show 'The Road to the Emmys' with

presenter Habiba Basony, will also be in the throng of the red carpet press pit, bringing live interviews and commentary from LA to a studio panel back in Dubai, getting Arabic audiences geared up for the glittering event. Join Habiba and the team from 2.10am (KSA) tomorrow on OSN Ya Hala Al Oula HD.

TV's biggest awards ceremony itself, live from Los Angeles, gets underway exclusively on OSN Series HD First, tomorrow at 3am (KSA), with a prime-time repeat at 7pm (KSA). Attached is the full list of OSN series nominated at the 70th Primetime Emmy Awards this year. Catch up on your favorite shows and watch live TV anytime, anywhere with OSN Play and OSN On Demand.



Classifieds

Monday, September 17, 2018



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DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Very hot and with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 38 km/h .

BY NIGHT: Relatively hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 38 km/h .

WEATHER WARNING	No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART
KUWAIT CITY	45 °C	33 °C	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	47 °C	31 °C	
ABDALY	48 °C	29 °C	
BUBYAN	-- °C	-- °C	
JAHRA	48 °C	32 °C	
FAILAKA ISLAND	41 °C	28 °C	
SALMIYAH	38 °C	33 °C	
AHMADI	37 °C	33 °C	
NUWAISIB	40 °C	29 °C	
WAFRA	45 °C	30 °C	
SALMY	46 °C	28 °C	

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Monday	09/17	Very hot and rising dust over open areas	47 °C	29 °C	NW	15 - 45 km/h
Tuesday	09/18	Hot and Relatively humid with a chance for light fog forming at night	45 °C	27 °C	NW-SE	10 - 32 km/h
Wednesday	09/19	Hot and Humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for fog forming at night	45 °C	29 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 30 km/h
Thursday	09/20	Hot and Humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for fog forming at night	43 °C	27 °C	E-VRB	06 - 28 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:13
Sunrise	05:33
Zuhr	11:43
Asr	15:13
Sunset	17:53
Isha	19:10

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	47 °C
MIN. Temp.	25 °C
MAX. RH	55 %
MIN. RH	07 %
MAX. Wind	S 28 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

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**Career Opportunities
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2018-19 Academic Year**

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- Social Studies Teacher
- female PE Teacher

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, BURLAKUNTA SUBBARAJU, S/o BURLAKUNTA BALARAJU, R/o D.No: 3/105 Pulapathur Village, Rajampet (M.D) Kadapa (Dt.) A.P, India, Passport No. R7701669, have changed my name to SINGARAJU SUBBARAJU, S/o SINGARAJU BALARAJU, hereinafter in all my dealings and documents.
17-9-2018



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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Monday 17/9/2018

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	FEG	341	Sohag	13:50
FEG	441	Asyut	00:05	IAW	157A	Al Najaf	13:55
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	KAC	672	Dubai	13:55
THY	1516	TXZ	00:40	QTR	1078	Doha	14:10
DLH	625	Dammam	00:50	GFA	221	Riyadh	14:10
KAC	504	Beirut	00:50	KAC	364	Bahrain	14:15
KAC	102	London	00:50	KAC	618	Colombo	14:20
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	FDB	059	Doha	14:20
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	KAC	286	Dubai	14:20
JZR	539	Cairo	01:35	KAC	692	Dhaka	14:25
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	SVA	500	Muscat	14:25
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	JZR	789	Jeddah	14:45
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:00	KAC	788	Riyadh	14:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	ETD	303	Jeddah	14:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	304	Abu Dhabi	15:05
QTR	1086	Doha	02:30	KNE	529	Mumbai	15:05
JZR	651	Lahore	02:55	KAC	412	Jeddah	15:10
JZR	607	Kochi	02:55	OMA	645	Bangkok	15:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	562	Muscat	15:20
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	ABY	127	Amman	15:20
KAC	418	Manila	03:05	KAC	502	Sharjah	15:35
MSC	415	Sohag	03:10	UAE	857	Beirut	15:35
KAC	382	Delhi	03:10	SAW	705	Dubai	15:45
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	118	Damascus	16:00
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	JZR	535	New York	16:00
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	QTR	1072	Cairo	16:10
JAI	572	Mumbai	04:00	FDB	051	Doha	16:15
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	NIA	361	Dubai	16:20
JZR	609	Hyderabad	04:30	KAC	542	Alexandria	16:50
JZR	1541	Cairo	04:35	SVA	510	Cairo	17:00
FDB	069	Dubai	05:05	GFA	215	Riyadh	17:15
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR	145	Bahrain	17:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	JZR	177	Doha	17:35
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:20	QTR	1080	Dubai	17:40
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	JZR	483	Doha	18:10
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	MSR	620	Istanbul	18:20
JZR	561	Sohag	05:55	RJA	640	Cairo	18:30
BAW	157	London	06:10	GFA	217	Amman	19:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:25	UAE	875	Bahrain	19:05
JZR	603	Mumbai	06:30	KAC	744	Dubai	19:05
KAC	678	Dubai	06:45	FDB	063	Dammam	19:10
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:00	ABY	123	Dubai	19:10
KAC	204	Lahore	07:10	KAC	156	Sharjah	19:20
JZR	143	Doha	07:20	KAC	776	Istanbul	19:25
JZR	529	Asyut	07:30	KAC	674	Riyadh	19:35
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:45	FDB	057	Dubai	19:40
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	174	Munich	19:50
JZR	503	Luxor	07:50	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:55
KAC	358	Kochi	08:00	OMA	647	Muscat	20:00
KAC	384	Delhi	08:05	DLH	624	Frankfurt	20:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KNE	381	Taif	20:05
IAW	157	Al Najaf	08:30	MEA	402	Beirut	20:10
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC	620	Doha	20:15
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	QTR	1088	Doha	20:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	UAE	859	Dubai	21:00
IAW	157	Al Najaf	10:00	ALK	229	Colombo	21:15
MSC	405	Sohag	10:15	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:15
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:20	KAC	168	Paris	21:20
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	564	Amman	21:50
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	KAC	162	Geneva	21:50
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50
JZR	1539	Cairo	11:05	QTR	1082	Doha	22:05
JZR	165	Dubai	11:45	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	KAC	786	Jeddah	22:15
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:30	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	SVA	502	Jeddah	22:45
JZR	125	Bahrain	12:55	JZR	185	Dubai	22:50
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:00
IRA	667	Esfahan	13:15	MSR	2614	Cairo	23:30
RJA	644	Amman	13:20	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:30	JZR	241	Amman	23:40
JZR	779	Jeddah	13:45	KAC	548	Alexandria	23:50

Departure Flights on Monday 17/9/2018

Departure Flights on Monday 17/9/2018				JZR	144	Doha	13:55
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
KAC	417	Manila	00:25	RJA	645	Amman	14:15
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30	IRA	666	Esfahan	14:15
FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	FEF	342	Sohag	14:50
MSR	2615	Cairo	00:30	IAW	158A	Al Najaf	14:55
PIA	206	Lahore	01:00	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
FEF	344	Sohag	01:05	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
JZR	528	Asyut	01:05	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
KAC	677	Dubai	01:30	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
THY	1415	TXZ	01:40	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
THY	773	Istanbul	01:45	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
DLH	625	Frankfurt	01:50	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:55
KAC	363	Colombo	01:50	KNE	530	Jeddah	16:00
KAC	285	Dhaka	01:50	KAC	785	Jeddah	16:00
JZR	502	Luxor	01:55	JZR	606	Kochi	16:00
PGT	859	Istanbul	02:15	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
THY	765	Istanbul	02:50	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
KKK	1269	Istanbul	02:55	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	KAC	619	Doha	16:15
UAE	854	Dubai	03:30	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
JZR	142	Doha	03:45	OMA	646	Muscat	16:20
OMA	644	Muscat	04:05	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:40
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05	KAC	547	Alexandria	16:55
MSC	416	Sohag	04:10	SAW	706	Damascus	17:00
QTR	1087	Doha	04:15	FDB	052	Dubai	17:20
MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
PGT	861	Istanbul	04:25	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
JZR	1538	Cairo	04:40	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
JAI	571	Mumbai	05:00	KAC	381	Delhi	17:45
QTR	1077	Doha	05:15	NIA	362	Alexandria	17:50
KAC	303	Mumbai	05:35	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
FDB	070	Dubai	06:00	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
THY	771	Istanbul	06:30	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
RJA	643	Amman	07:00	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	164	Dubai	07:15	JZR	608	Hyderabad	18:25
KAC	167	Paris	07:30	JZR	240	Amman	18:30
KAC	173	Munich	07:35	JZR	538	Cairo	18:35
KAC	413	Bangkok	07:40	KAC	151	Istanbul	19:10
KAC	501	Beirut	07:40	JZR	266	Beirut	19:15
JZR	778	Jeddah	08:00	QTR	1081	Doha	19:20
BAW	156	London	08:20	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
FDB	054	Dubai	08:35	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	691	Muscat	09:00	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	161	Geneva	09:05	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	117	New York	09:05	RJA	641	Amman	20:00
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:05	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
KAC	671	Dubai	09:15	JZR	552D	Alexandria	20:05
IAW	158	Al Najaf	09:30	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40	KAC	357	Kochi	20:30
KAC	561	Amman	09:40	JZR	602	Mumbai	20:30
KAC	773	Riyadh	09:45	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
JZR	534	Cairo	09:45	DLH	624	Dammam	20:50
UAE	856	Dubai	09:50	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:00
JZR	482	Istanbul	09:55	KAC	353	Bengaluru	21:00
KAC	101	London	10:00	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
KAC	541	Cairo	10:00	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:35
JZR	124	Bahrain	10:00	QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
KAC	617	Doha	10:20	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
KAC	155	Istanbul	10:25	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:05
QTR	1071	Doha	10:40	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:10
FDB	056	Dubai	10:40	KAC	1543	Cairo	22:15
IAW	158	Al Najaf	11:00	KAC	203	Lahore	22:15
MSC	406	Sohag	11:15	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
AXB	890	Mangalore	11:20	THY	1413	TXZ	22:25
JZR	788	Riyadh	11:20	KAC	383	Delhi	22:25
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
MEA	405	Beirut	11:55	JZR	620	Ahmedabad	22:40
SYR	342	Damascus	12:00	GFA	204	Bahrain	22:50
QTR	1075	Doha	12:10	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
RB	G554	Alexandria	13:10	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
JZR	176	Dubai	13:10	SVA	503	Jeddah	23:45
SAW	702	Damascus	13:30	JZR	560	Sohag	23:45



Birds hover at sunset above a refugee camp east of Nablus in the occupied West Bank yesterday. — AFP

Israel, Egypt in enduring ‘cold peace’ for decades

CAIRO: Forty years after signing the Camp David Accords, Egypt and Israel live in uneasy peace, as cool diplomatic ties have failed to unfreeze other relations. “There is still a psychological barrier between us and the Israeli people,” said Egyptian ex-law-maker Mohammed Anwar Sadat, nephew of former president Anwar Sadat. Mohammed Sadat proudly keeps a photo of his late uncle in his Cairo office.

Egypt’s then head of state risked everything in making peace with Israel at the US presidential retreat Camp David on Sept 17, 1978. The Accords, cemented by a peace treaty in 1979, saw regional powerhouse Egypt temporarily shunned by the rest of the Arab World. Sadat himself was assassinated on Oct 6, 1981. The late president “had great courage and a vision for the future”, his nephew said. But the peace, he said, “has always been cold”.

While many Egyptians welcome the absence of war, they remain hostile to Israel. “Egypt’s acceptance of full diplomatic and political normalization” has not translated into “a cultural or popular normalization”, said Mustafa Kamal Sayed, professor of political sciences at Cairo

University. This uneasy but stable status quo is reflected on Cairo’s streets, where many put their antipathy towards Israel down to their neighbor’s policies towards the Palestinians.

“The normalization failed to gain popular support because of events linked to Palestinians,” said bank worker Mohammed Oussam. He said he could not forget Israel’s bombing of “schools and refugee camps” during Lebanon’s 1975 to 1990 civil war. “The Israelis have not adhered to the principles of peace with the Palestinians or the Arabs,” said another Mohammed. It’s a sentiment also shared by Islam Emam. “We speak of peace, of normalization - then they kill our brothers and take their land”, he said, referring to the Palestinians. He blames Israel’s government, rather than its citizens. “In the end, nobody truly chooses his government,” he said.

Enmity towards Israel often crystallizes over sporting events. Egyptian and Liverpool football maestro Mohamed Salah has been criticized at home for appearing in a Champions League match in Israel in 2013, when he played for Switzerland’s FC Basel. Salah said he did not make political

decisions. Three years later, Egyptian judo Olympian Islam El-Shehaby refused to shake hands with Israeli rival Or Sasson at the Rio games - a gesture that embarrassed Egyptian authorities.

Writer and Hebrew translator Nael El-Toukhy said any Egyptian who reaches out to Israelis faces intense pressure. Israel is a hot topic for Egyptian talk shows, guaranteed to stoke the kind of high feelings seen in debates on gay rights. More than 65 percent of Egyptians alive today were not yet born when the Camp David Summit took place, according to official figures. But Egyptian public rejection of Israel is a constant.

National politics is also affected, despite decades of formal diplomatic ties. In March 2016, Egyptian lawmaker Tawfiq Okasha paid a high price for inviting Israel’s ambassador to dinner at his home. Accused of discussing issues linked to national security, he was ousted from parliament in a two-thirds majority vote. Even the country’s all-important tourism industry is a victim of “cold peace” - of the 3.9 million tourists who visited Israel in 2017, only 7,200 were from neighboring Egypt. — AFP



JERUSALEM: Israeli Premier Menachem Begin (right) and Egyptian President Anwar Al-Sadat shake hands and joke in this Nov 20, 1977 file photo during Sadat’s historic visit to Israel. — AFP

Return of military service divides...

Continued from Page 1

Some suspect the growth of protest movements in Morocco explains the government’s enthusiasm for military service. The under-developed northern Rif region was rocked by demonstrations in 2016 and 2017. In June, a court jailed over 50 of the protesters for terms ranging from one to 20 years. People have also demonstrated against unemployment in Jerada in the northeast and over water shortages in the south.

Conscription is a “tool to tame young people who have been the driving force of protest movements,” said political analyst Mohammed Shakir. There is a historical precedent. Morocco first brought in compulsory military service in 1966, a year after bloody riots. Back then, student leaders - considered instigators - were

among the first draftees. An official report has pointed to a gulf in Moroccan society between the 15 to 34 age group and the rest of the population. Unemployment, unfinished schooling, poverty, social isolation and frustration leave young people open to delinquency, extremism and migration, the report said.

Military service would improve their “integration into professional and social life” and boost their sense of citizenship, according to the kingdom’s royal cabinet. Mohammed, a 24-year-old photographer, buys into this message. Military service “offers young people training that can help them achieve and integrate into the job market,” he said, seated in a busy Rabat park.

Others are less convinced. The government’s reliance on national service to generate employment indicates a “lack of confidence in its ability to create jobs over the short term,” said analyst Shakir. Many believe it would be wiser to invest in the education system, which is often lampooned over shortcomings. The bill is to be debated in parliament this week and the first conscripts could be drafted by the end of 2018. — AFP

hoping for an improvement in the city’s ravaged infrastructure. “I’m optimistic that the incoming council will rebuild and recover the city after the huge destruction suffered by years of fighting,” he told AFP by telephone from Deir Ezzor.

East of the capital, people trickled into a school being used as a voting center in the town of Jisreen. Jisreen was overrun by government troops this past spring as they seized the broader area of Eastern Ghouta from rebels in a blistering two-month assault that left the suburb in ruins. “These are the first elections... in Jisreen since the problems began,” said Abu Haytham, a 64-year-old voter. “We hope these elec-

US confirms further Palestinian aid cut

JERUSALEM: The United States has cut additional aid to the Palestinians for programs supporting conflict resolution with Israelis, an official said yesterday, adding to more than \$500 million in other cuts. The latest cuts come from \$10 million in programs on reconciliation involving Palestinians as well as Jewish and Arab Israelis. The portion of the money involving Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was being redirected to programs between Jewish and Arab Israelis, a US embassy official said. It was not clear how much of the \$10 million was being redirected.

US officials also could not confirm whether the latest cut meant all non-security related aid to the Palestinians had now been eliminated. “As announced in August, the administration redirected more than \$200 million that

was originally planned for programs in the West Bank and Gaza,” a US embassy official said. “At the same time we redirected a portion of the \$10 million which was planned for conflict management and mitigation.”

The official said the portion involving Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza would be used “to enhance” programs in Israel instead. US President Donald Trump has said he will withhold aid from the Palestinians to force them to negotiate as the White House prepares a plan for Middle East peace - what he has called the “ultimate deal”. The Palestinian leadership cut off contact with the White House after Trump recognized the disputed city of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital in December. They accuse Trump of blatant bias in favor of Israel and say he is blackmailing them to force them to accept the White House’s terms. In recent weeks, the US government has announced more than \$500 million in cuts in Palestinian aid, including cancelling support for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees. It has maintained security-related aid, having provided \$61 million in assistance this year. —AFP

Syrians vote in first local polls...

Continued from Page 1

Voting was also under way in areas recaptured by the government in the past year, including the eastern city of Deir Ezzor, recaptured in full last October by Syrian troops after fierce battles against the Islamic State group.

Mohammad Tah, 36, said he was happy to vote but

tions will change things for the better, to pave the streets and improve the electricity.”

No voting took place in areas outside government control, including Kurdish-held parts of the northeast and rebel-held Idlib province in northwest Syria that has become home to some three million people. Syrian troops have amassed around the opposition bastion for weeks, although an expected assault appears to be on hold for now as regime ally Russia and rebel backer Turkey try to hash out a deal on Idlib.

A vast majority of the candidates in yesterday’s polls were members of the ruling Baath party or affiliated to it, which deterred some people from casting their bal-

lots. “Why vote? Will anything change? Let’s be honest,” said Humam, a 38-year-old working in the capital’s Mazzeh district who opted to stay at home. The number of seats has slightly increased from the roughly 17,000 available posts in the last elections, as smaller villages had been promoted to fully fledged municipalities.

Council members serve four-year terms at the municipal level and are mostly responsible for service provision and other administrative matters. Syria last held local elections in Dec 2011, just nine months into the conflict. It held parliamentary elections in 2016 and a presidential vote in 2014 that renewed Assad’s reign for another seven years. — AFP

Sports

Kenyan marathon master Eliud Kipchoge smashes world record

Kenyan clocks two hours, one minute, 39 seconds

Berlin: Kenyan Eliud Kipchoge set a new marathon world record in Berlin yesterday, smashing the previous best as he clocked 2hr 1min 39sec. The 33-year-old Olympic champion, aided by a string of pacemakers through to 25km of the 42.195km race, took 1min 18sec off the previous best set four years ago by Dennis Kimetto. It was the largest single improvement on the marathon world record since Derek Clayton improved the mark by 2:23 in 1967. "My only words are 'Thank you!'," said Kipchoge, who sprinted into the lead after 100 metres and never let up.

"I was prepared to run my own race early so I wasn't surprised to be alone. I have trained so well for this race and have full trust in the programmes of my coach. I am just so incredibly happy to have finally run the world record as I never stopped having belief in myself." Acclaimed as the greatest marathon runner of the modern era, Kipchoge has dominated marathon racing since making his debut in Hamburg in 2013 after a successful track career that saw him win world gold and silver (2003, 2007) in the 5000m and Olympic silver and bronze (2008, 2004) over the same distance.

He has notched up 10 wins from the 11 marathons he has raced, winning three times not only in Berlin but also London, with victories in Rio for Olympic gold as well as in Hamburg, Rotterdam and Chicago. In the German capital on Sunday, Kipchoge had just a handful of pacemakers for company from the early stages of the race. The Kenyan passed through five kilometres in 14:24 and 10 kilometres in 29:21. But shortly after 15 kilometres, which was reached in 43:38, two of the three pacemakers were unable to continue and withdrew from the race. The final pacemaker, Josphat Boit,

led Kipchoge through the half-way point in 1:01:06 before dropping out at 25 kilometres, covered in 1:12:24.

SOLITARY FINAL 17KM

Running alone with 17 kilometres left, Kipchoge then sped up. He passed the 35-kilometre checkpoint just a shade outside 1:41:00, suggesting a finishing time inside 2:02 was possible. By 40 kilometres, reached in 1:55:32, a world record looked a certainty.

Kipchoge maintained his form well into the closing stages to smash compatriot Kimetto's previous best. "Yes, it was tough running alone, but I was confident," said Kipchoge, who finished well ahead of compatriots Amos Kipruto (2:06:23) in second and Wilson Kipsang (2:06:48) in third. "I'd said I was running my own race following my planning and I was confident." Kipchoge came agonisingly close to sporting immortality by nearly running the first sub two-hour marathon last year. He missed the mythical mark by just 25 seconds.

But the race conditions at the Nike-sponsored event were so favourable-Kipchoge ran behind a six-man pacesetter team and was trailed by a time-keeping vehicle on a racing circuit in Monza, Italy-that the time was not recognised by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).

There was a Kenyan double as Gladys Cheronro ran 2:18:11, a course record and world leading time, to win the women's race. Ethiopian Ruti Aga finished second in 2:18:34 and six-time Olympic and six-time world medallist Tirunesh Dibaba third (2:18:55), making more history as it was the first time three women have broken 2:19 in one race. — AFP



BERLIN: Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge crosses the finish line to win the Berlin Marathon setting a new world record yesterday in Berlin. —AFP

Shooting school tournament concludes



By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Tournament of the shooting school was concluded Saturday night by a ceremony attended by President of Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations, Chairman of Kuwait Shooting Sports Club Eng Duaij Khalaf Al-Otaibi, Secretary General Obaid Al-Osaimi, Assistant Treasurer Adnan Al-Ibrahim and Minister of Public Works, State Minister of Municipality Affairs, KSSC board member Eng Hussam Al-Roumi.

Eng Al-Otaibi said Kuwait Shooting Sport Club give special attention to the shooting school with the aim of discovering skilled shooters, especially youngsters as they are the future of the sport in the country.

Al-Otaibi who spoke to the press during the closing ceremony which was held at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting complex lauded the efforts and performance of the shooters who made good scores.

He said the club will give the outstanding shooters their own weapons and will receive all the necessary support to continue practicing the sport.

Al-Otaibi appreciated the support Kuwait shooting enjoys from the political leadership of the country which resulted in major achievements the latest of which in the Asian games in Indonesia and World Cup in South Korea.



Al-Otaibi said that as trap shooter Abdelrahman Al-Faihan already qualified for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, he will receive special attention and training to prepare him for the most important sports event in the world.

Results of the tournament were as follows:
In the 10m air rifle: Hussein Al-Roumi

10m air pistol: Ali Sabti
Frees shooting: Abdelrahman Al-Hamad
Meanwhile in the women's category:
10m air rifle: Moudhi Al-Marzouq
10m air pistol: Aseel Al-Mututah
Free shooting: Sundus Al-Hamad.
In the Olympic Archery, juniors:
Adel Al-Rasheedi.



Fawzia Sultan Healthcare Network announces eighth edition of RunKuwait charity race

KUWAIT: Fawzia Sultan Healthcare Network (FSHN), a non-profit multidisciplinary healthcare provider, is pleased to announce the return of its annual charity sporting event, RunKuwait, in its eighth edition. The event, which will be held on November 10th, invites interested participants and RunKuwait returning friends to register for the race and contribute to improving the lives of children with special needs.

RunKuwait is a charitable initiative aiming at raising awareness and funds towards the rehabilitative treatment of vulnerable children with special needs. Since 2013, all registration proceeds are channeled directly towards the non-profit Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center (CERC), founded by FSHN. Last year's event successfully contributed towards offering a total of 795 treatment sessions to children with special needs, which were offered at no cost.

Commenting on the 8th edition of the race, Dr Elham Al Hamdan, Medical Director at FSHN said: "Providing medical support to children with special needs is at the core of what we do and we are proud to announce the return of RunKuwait for the eighth consecutive year. Our journey is based on the enormous contributions we have been receiving from our partners and sponsors, who share our belief and act towards the cause supported by the race."

Every year we welcome new sponsors on board. This year we look forward to growing our family of generous supporters who will share our goal of successfully completing treatment courses and providing a better chance of living to the children treated at CERC. We look forward to seeing many of you at the race and supporting us throughout."

RunKuwait is a community based fun sporting event for all family members who can join a 5KM or 10KM run or walk



Dr Elham Al Hamdan

starting from The Scientific Center. The event's race village will host different warm-up exercises, activities for children and exciting activities for family members and friends who will join the event to cheer for the participants.

Continuous supporters of RunKuwait, interested athletes as well as sports enthusiasts can now register on runkuwait.org in order to receive their race kits and join the race. Early bird registration at a discounted fee is currently available until October 10th.

RunKuwait is supported by generous contributions from the following sponsors: Agility as a Founding Partner, INTERSPORT and ASAR Legal as Gold sponsors, and KDD and EQUATE as Silver sponsors. The media sponsors for the RunKuwait initiative this year are Al Anba newspaper, Kuwait Times newspaper, Bazaar Magazine, and 248am as social media sponsor.

Interested participants can register through the RunKuwait.org website. Additional information or queries about the race can be channeled through the RunKuwait official social media channels, @RunKuwait on Instagram and Facebook.

French decathlete Mayer edges closer to world record

TALENCE: World champion Kevin Mayer remained well within range of a tilt at a new world record in the decathlon with just two disciplines left of the Decastar yesterday. The Frenchman cleared 5.45 metres in the pole vault to leave him on 7,503 points, 80 ahead of American Ashton Eaton when he set the current world record of 9,045pts.

"Now we can start talking about the world record," Mayer said after the pole vault. Mayer will now compete in the javelin and the 1500m in full knowledge that Eaton's record is there for the taking should he produce anything close to his personal bests. The 26-year-old missed out on adding the

European title to his world crown and Olympic silver medal when he failed to register a mark in the long jump in Berlin last month. But he put that disappointment well and truly behind him on the opening day on Saturday with personal bests of 7.80m in the long jump and 10.55sec in the 100m.

A shotput throw of 16m, then 2.05m on his third and last effort in the high jump and a 400m time of 48.42sec earned him a total of 4563 points at the midway stage. Mayer opened Sunday with 13.75sec in the 110m hurdles and threw a whopping 50.54m in the discus before excelling at the pole vault in front of a partisan crowd. — AFP



TALENCE: France's athlete Kevin Mayer reacts as he competes in the men's pole vault event during the IAAF 'Decastar' World Combined Events Challenge in Talence, south-western France yesterday. — AFP

Sports

Puig hits three home runs as Dodgers atop NL West

Red Sox hold off Mets, shrink magic number to 4

ST LOUIS: Yasiel Puig hit three home runs for the first time in his career on Saturday to give him five homers in two days and added seven RBIs as the visiting Los Angeles Dodgers grabbed sole possession of first place in the National League West with a 17-4 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals. Cody Bellinger homered and drove in six runs, and Manny Machado also went deep as the Dodgers passed Colorado in the division. The Rockies lost late to San Francisco and are a half-game up on the Cardinals for the second wild card. The Dodgers have won the first three games of a four-game series at St. Louis after the Cardinals earned a three-game sweep at Los Angeles last month. The Dodgers have outscored the Cardinals 29-11 in the series. Puig went deep in the fourth, fifth and eighth innings to give him 21 home runs on the season. He had a chance for a fourth home run in the ninth inning but popped out to shortstop.

GIANTS 3, ROCKIES 0
Madison Bumgarner extended his consecutive-innings scoreless streak at home to 20 and helped his own cause with a double, delivering San Francisco a second straight shutout over Colorado. Bumgarner (6-6), who had blanked Arizona and Houston for seven innings apiece in his previous two home games, limited the Rockies to five hits in his six-inning effort. He walked one and struck out two. After Bumgarner left a 3-0 game, Tony Watson struck out all three batters he faced in the seventh inning. Mark Melancon pitched around a Nolan Arenado double in the eighth and closer Will Smith worked a one-hit ninth for his 12th save.

RED SOX 5, METS 3
Jackie Bradley Jr. and Brock Holt each delivered two-run doubles in the fifth inning for host Boston, which went on to defeat New York. By virtue of their win and a Yankees loss, the Red Sox cut their magic number for winning the American League East to four. The Mets fell to 10-4 this month. Rick Porcello (17-7) allowed three runs on two hits and one walk while striking out five.

ASTROS 10, DIAMONDBACKS 4
Marwin Gonzalez and Yuli Gurriel keyed three-run innings with two-run singles, and Houston squared its interleague series with visiting Arizona. The Astros broke free offensively and extended their lead in the American League West over Oakland to 3 1/2 games in the process. George Springer finished 4-for-5 with three runs scored while Jose Altuve went 2-for-3 with three runs and two RBIs. The Diamondbacks fell four games back of Los Angeles in the National League West and 3 1/2 back of Colorado in the hunt for the second NL wild card. Zack Godley (14-10) allowed five runs (four earned) on seven hits and six walks over 3 2/3 innings.

INDIANS 15, TIGERS 0
Francisco Lindor and Michael Brantley hit back-to-back home runs to ignite a six-run first-inning outburst, and Cleveland clinched the American League Central for the third consecutive season by overwhelming visiting Detroit. Every player in the Indians' starting lineup

knocked in at least one run. Jose Ramirez and Yonder Alonso each had three hits, three runs scored and two RBIs. Edwin Encarnacion supplied two hits, three runs scored and two RBIs while Brantley contributed two hits and three runs scored. Mike Clevinger (12-8) held the Tigers to one hit in six innings and struck out five.

RAYS 7, ATHLETICS 5
Jake Bauers belted a three-run home run off Jeury's Familia to break an eighth-inning tie and propel Tampa Bay past visiting Oakland. The As had a chance to pick up ground on the New York Yankees in the battle for the first American League wild-card spot, but failed to do so and remained 1 1/2 games behind. After the As had rallied twice from two-run deficits, the Rays took the lead for good in the eighth when Familia (4-2) sandwiched a strikeout between walks to Joey Wendle and Brandon Lowe. Bauers then crushed his 11th home run of the season to right field to break a 4-4 tie and put Tampa Bay up by three.

BLUE JAYS 8, YANKEES 7
CC Sabathia put New York in an early hole by allowing three homers in 2 1/3 innings, and a late rally fell short against visiting Toronto. Sabathia (7-7) allowed five runs on seven hits in his shortest outing in more than three years. Randal Grichuk homered in consecutive at-bats, and Kevin Pillar also homered off the left-hander. Yankees rookie Miguel Andujar slugged a grand slam in the seventh off Tyler Clippard to make it a one-run game. Andujar's second career grand slam occurred after Giancarlo Stanton and Didi Gregorius hit solo homers.

CUBS 1, REDS 0
Jon Lester continued his mastery of Cincinnati as host Chicago won in a shutout. The Cubs, who are trying to hold off Milwaukee in the National League Central, won their third straight game. Lester (16-6) allowed two hits in seven innings, with two walks and nine strikeouts. Cubs manager Joe Maddon used three relievers in the ninth, with each getting one out. Steve Cishek earned his fourth save of the season.

PIRATES 3, BREWERS 1
Milwaukee couldn't muster much offense beyond Christian Yelich's 30th homer, falling to visiting Pittsburgh. The Brewers, who had their two-game winning streak halted, fell 2 1/2 games behind first-place Chicago in the National League Central. Milwaukee holds a 3 1/2-game lead over Colorado for the top NL wild-card spot. Colin Moran and Francisco Cervelli each had an RBI double for the Pirates, who have won two of three.

NATIONALS 7, BRAVES 1
Adam Eaton and Anthony Rendon both drove in two runs, and rookie Juan Soto made history on the bases as Washington cruised to victory at Atlanta. The Nationals turned the game into a track meet at times with six stolen bases, led by Soto with three. The 19-year-old left fielder became the youngest player since 1900 to swipe



ST LOUIS: Max Muncy #13 of the Los Angeles Dodgers attempts to tag Patrick Wisdom #21 of the St. Louis Cardinals in the second inning at Busch Stadium on Saturday in St Louis, Missouri. — AFP

three bags in one game. Wilmer Difo added two steals and Eaton had one. Washington also drew 14 walks from seven Atlanta pitchers.

PHILLIES 5, MARLINS 4
Cesar Hernandez hit a three-run homer, and seven Philadelphia relievers combined for seven scoreless innings to defeat visiting Miami. Left-hander Austin Davis and right-handers Victor Arano, Luis Garcia (3-1), Edubray Ramos, Hector Neris, Tommy Hunter and Pat Neshek combined to allow only two hits, didn't walk a batter and struck out eight. Neshek pitched the ninth to earn his fifth save of the season. The Phillies, who are in second place and 6 1/2 games back of Atlanta in the National League East, rallied from a four-run deficit to win their second in a row. The last-place Marlins suffered their fifth consecutive defeat.

WHITE SOX 2, ORIOLES 0
Yolmer Sanchez lined an RBI double in the sixth. Avisail Garcia homered in the ninth and Reynaldo Lopez threw seven shutout innings as Chicago blanked host Baltimore. Both starters dominated much of the game as neither team got a runner into scoring position until Baltimore put one at second with two outs in the fifth but stranded him. Lopez (6-9) allowed four hits and struck out six against one walk. Juan Minaya took care of the final four outs and earned his first save.

ROYALS 10, TWINS 3
Alex Gordon had three hits and five RBIs to help Kansas City to a rout of visiting Minnesota. Cam

Gallagher was 4-for-4 with one RBI, and Alcides Escobar added three hits and three RBIs for the Royals, who have won the first three games of the four-game series. Royals starter Ian Kennedy (2-8) allowed two runs (one earned), six hits and two walks with four strikeouts in six innings for his first win since April 7, a span of 17 winless outings that included a stint on the disabled list.

RANGERS 6, PADRES 3
Robinson Chirinos highlighted a five-run sixth inning with a three-run double as Texas overcame a 3-1 deficit to win at San Diego. Texas took a 1-0 lead in the second when Joey Gallo homered to right-center off Eric Lauer. First baseman Eric Hosmer put the Padres ahead 3-1 in the third with a three-run homer-his 17th homer of the season and fourth in the last seven games. Ariel Jurado (3-5) followed "opener" Alex Claudio and allowed three runs on seven hits and two walks over four innings to get credit for the win. Jose Leclerc picked up his 11th save.

MARINERS 6, ANGELS 5
Robinson Cano's two-out, three run double in the eighth inning completed a rally from a four-run deficit to lift Seattle to a win at Los Angeles. The Angels got with-in 6-5 in the bottom of the ninth on a solo homer by Justin Upton, his second homer of the game and No. 29 on the season. But Edwin Diaz was able to close it out for his 55th save. With the win, the Mariners moved to within 7 1/2 games of Oakland for the second wild-card spot in the American League. The Mariners have 14 games remaining. — Reuters

Seahawks, Bears seek to rebound from opening losses

CHICAGO: The Seattle Seahawks and Chicago Bears each held fourth-quarter leads on the road in Week 1, but one of them will exit tonight's battle at Soldier Field with an 0-2 record. The Bears' collapse surely was more crushing, as they led by 20 in the third quarter and 17 in the fourth before a gimpy Aaron Rodgers willed the Packers to a miraculous 24-23 victory. Once eyeing a share of the NFC North lead, Chicago would slip two games out with a loss to Seattle as Green Bay hosts 1-0 Minnesota later.

"In this league, you've got to have a short memory," Bears receiver Allen Robinson said. "There's a lot of games. You've got to forget about it. We've got a big task this week at home." The Seahawks picked off Case Keenum three times in their opener against Denver but couldn't keep a 24-20 fourth-quarter advantage, losing 27-24. A sluggish run game (16 carries for 64 yards) and six sacks of Russell Wilson led to inconsistency on offense, as 117 of the team's 306 yards came on two plays. The other 53 snaps averaged 3.6 yards per play. Pete Carroll defended his offensive line's performance, however, saying Wilson was responsible for some of the sacks. "I think our protection is better than it's been," Carroll said. "Six sacks doesn't show you that, but the four-man rushes that [the Broncos] did, we did very well on and we'll be able to clean some things up."

There's no rest for the much-maligned front five, which says goodbye to Von Miller (three sacks, two forced fumbles) and hello to Khalil Mack and a Bears front that had four sacks at Lambeau Field. After Mack stole the show in the first half of his debut-tallying a strip-sack, fumble recovery and pick-6 — his new teammates remain in awe.

"Did you see Khalil's, where he just snatches the ball from [DeShone Kizer]?" defensive lineman Akiem Hicks said this week. "Who does that? You dream about that type of play, you know? Pretty cool."

Mack should play a bit more this week after getting eased in (42 of 60 snaps) at Green Bay. Linebacker Roquan Smith, a first-round selection in the NFL draft in April, missed the preseason with a holdout and hamstring tightness, but he also could get more work after seeing just eight snaps in his debut.—Reuters

Cool Coric steers Croatia into Davis Cup final with France

ZADAR: Borna Coric kept his cool to prevail in a thrilling winner-takes-all duel with fellow young gun Frances Tiafoe yesterday and steer Croatia into the final of the Davis Cup for the second time in three years with a monumental 3-2 victory over the US.

The 21-year-old Coric came from two sets to one down to defeat the 20-year-old debutant Tiafoe 6-7(0) 6-1 6-7(11) 6-1 6-3 and finally subdue a remarkable fightback from the Americans, who had earlier levelled the tie 2-2 from two down.

Late understudy Sam Querrey had rewarded captain Jim Courier's gamble by taking the tie into a decider in the fourth rubber, battling back from the brink of two

Male tennis players punished more than women

LOS ANGELES: Male tennis players are almost three times more likely to be fined for losing their temper and smashing racquets than their female counterparts. The New York Times reported Saturday. Male players were slapped with 1,517 fines compared to 535 fines for females according to data compiled by officials at Grand Slam tournaments for the period covering 1998 to 2018.

The figures obtained by the Times show that men received 649 fines for breaking racquets to 99 for women in tens of thousands of matches in the four Grand Slams over the last two decades. Men were fined 344 times compared to 140 for "audible obscenity" and 287 to 67 for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Last week, Serena Williams accused the chair umpire Carlos Ramos of being a "liar" and a "thief" after she was cited for verbal abuse during the US Open women's final against Japan's Naomi Osaka. "Because I'm a woman you are going to take this away from me?" she said to the tournament referee Brian Earley. "That is not right."

In the post-match news conference, Williams doubled down on her claim there is a double standard when it

sets down to beat home talisman Marin Cilic 6-7(2) 7-6(6) 6-3 6-4.

Yet with everything resting on the first duel between two of tennis's brightest young 'Next Gen' men, Coric overcame the loss of two very contrasting tiebreaks to book Croatia's final date against champions France.

The French, who defeated Spain 3-2 in the other semi-final in Lille, will have home advantage in the November showdown and hope to avenge their 3-2 loss to the Croatians in the 2016 semi-final.

For a moment, though, after Coric had capitulated 7-0 in the first set breaker and 13-11 in the third set decider, the shocked fans in the Dalmatian resort feared Croatia could be on the wrong end of one of the competition's unlikely comeback.

Coric, though, demonstrated why he is seen as one of the sport's best prospects, holding his nerve against the brilliant young American and proving to be too solid over the final two sets as he finally prevailed after four hours six minutes.

At 2-0 down after Friday's singles, there had not seemed the remotest chance of a U.S. team without

comes to punishment. "I have seen other men call other umpires several things. I am here fighting for women's right and women's equality and for me to say 'thief' and for him to take a game it made me feel like it was sexist," she said. "He's never took a game from a man because they said thief. For me, it blows my mind." She also smashed her racquet and threatened to make sure that the Portuguese umpire never worked another match of hers again in the second set of a 6-2, 6-4 loss to Osaka.

"You will never, ever, ever be on another court of mine as long as you live," she said during the on court outburst. "You are the liar. When are you going to give me my apology?" The incident led to scores of Williams' supporters coming to her defence but also to widespread criticism, especially on social media, of the 23-time Grand Slam winner. Williams' first code violation in the Osaka match was for coaching which women have received 152 fines compared to 87 for men during the 20 years. One factor in the disparity in the data is that men play best-of-five set matches in Grand Slam events while women play best-of-three. This was not the first time Williams has had a meltdown at the US Open. In 2009, Williams refused to apologize after threatening to shove a ball down a lineswoman's throat in an expletive-laden outburst.

Earlier this year at the Indian Wells tournament, Williams berated a female reporter in the players' lounge area for asking a question at a news conference about therapeutic use exemptions. One Australian commentator took issue with Williams's claim she is fighting for women's rights. "She is doing a terrible disservice to women's rights, to the #metoo movement, to gender equality," Caroline



ZADAR: Croatia's tennis player Borna Coric returns the ball to his opponent US Frances Tiafoe during the Davis Cup semi-final tennis match between Croatia and the US at Sport Centre Visnjik in Zadar yesterday. — AFP

their top two players John Isner and Jack Sock recovering to reach a first final in 11 years.—Reuters



NEW YORK: File photo shows Serena Williams of the US smashes her racket while playing Naomi Osaka of Japan during their 2018 US Open women's singles final match on September 8, 2018 in New York. —AFP

Wilson of the Australian Broadcasting Corp. said. "To say she's fighting for women's rights, when what she is, is a bad sport." — AFP

Sports

Juve's Ronaldo off the mark with a brace, Costa dismissed for spitting

Juventus, chasing an eighth successive Serie A title, have 12 points

MILAN: Cristiano Ronaldo broke his Juventus duck in his fourth game when his second-half brace gave them a 2-1 win over Sassuolo yesterday, although the Turin side's day was marred by a red card for Douglas Costa for spitting at an opponent.

The five-times World Player of the Year opened his account in the easiest possible fashion by tapping into an empty net from less than two metres in the 50th minute, then finished off a counter-attack 15 minutes later. Khouma Babacar headed one back in the 90th minute but the game ended in ugly scenes as Costa became involved in a running feud with Sassuolo midfielder Federico Di Francesco.

The Brazilian escaped with a booking for elbowing and then head-butting his rival as they tangled before the Sassuolo goal, but was then sent off after cameras caught him spitting at the same player in another altercation. Juventus, chasing an eighth successive Serie A title, have 12 points, three ahead of Napoli, while Sassuolo are on eight after their first defeat of the season. "I was a little bit anxious as expectations were high," said Ronaldo. "I really wanted to score, so I'm happy." Sassuolo allowed Ronaldo few openings in the first half apart from an early shot which was blocked and a header which went wide from Alex Sandro's cross. He also tried his luck from a 30-metre free kick but sent a disappointing effort harmlessly wide of Andrea Consigli's goal. But Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri's prediction that it would be Ronaldo's day proved to be right. Ronaldo's luck changed when

Sassuolo defender Gian Marco Ferrari headed a corner onto his own post and the rebound left Ronaldo with the easiest of tap-ins. Sassuolo, who caused Juventus trouble all afternoon, were then caught on the break, with Emre Can sliding the ball to Ronaldo to drill an angled left-foot shot into the far corner.

Ronaldo could easily have had a hat-trick but missed two more good chances and also had a penalty appeal turned down. He volleyed wide from an unmarked position six metres out and also failed to hit the target when the rebound landed at his feet as Joao Cancelo's shot was saved by Consigli.

Roma were left with only five points from four games after another unhappy afternoon. Stephan El Shaarawy and Bryan Cristante put them 2-0 ahead in under half an hour, but Chievo hit back after the break as Valter Birsa curled in a delightful effort and Mariusz Stepinski levelled with seven minutes left.

Winless Chievo are on minus one point after having three deducted on Thursday by the Italian federation over accounting irregularities. A second-half goal by Krzysztof Piatek gave Genoa a 1-0 win over Bologna in another match marred by ugly scenes after the visitors had Erick Pulgar sent off for a shocking tackle on Romulo, sparking a scuffle involving a number of players. Torino midfielder Soualiho Meite was hero and villain in his team's 1-1 draw at Udinese. His mistake led to Rodrigo de Paul's opener for Udinese but the Frenchman made amends with the equaliser after half-time. — Reuters



TURIN: Juventus' Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo (L) and Sassuolo's defender Marlon Santos (R) go for the ball during the Italian Serie A football match Juventus vs Sassuolo yesterday at the Juventus stadium in Turin. — AFP

Alvarez ready for rematch after Golovkin dethroned

LAS VEGAS: Saul "Canelo" Alvarez is eyeing a trilogy with Gennady Golovkin after ending the middleweight champion's unbeaten reign here Saturday. Mexican star Alvarez produced a performance of guts and resilience to inflict the first defeat of Golovkin's career with a majority decision at the T-Mobile Arena.

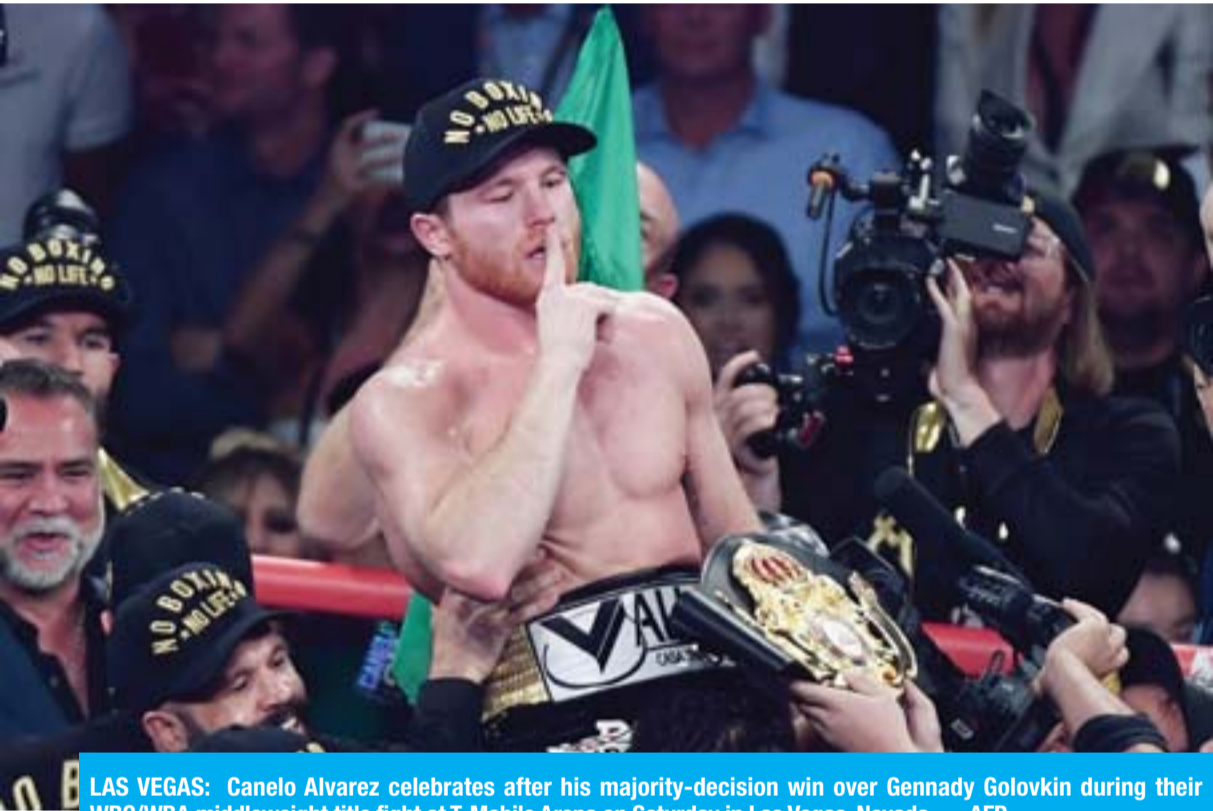
The win wiped away months of simmering acrimony which stemmed from Alvarez's failed drugs test in February, forcing the cancellation of a rematch scheduled in May. Alvarez, who fought a controversial draw with Golovkin a year ago, said he would be ready for a third installment, possibly later this year.

"If the people want another round, I'll do it again," said Alvarez, who improves to 50-1-2. Victory was sweet for Alvarez, who had been accused of "running" during last year's first encounter by Golovkin's camp.

On Saturday's the 28-year-old from Guadalajara, roared on by a large contingent of Mexican fans, took the fight to Golovkin throughout. He took control with a dominant spell in the middle rounds before holding off Golovkin down the stretch to claim a 114-114, 115-113, 115-113 win. "We knew the best way to beat him was to make him go backwards," Alvarez said. "It was my plan from the beginning. At first I aimed for the knockout. I didn't. I'm satisfied with the way we did it today."

While Golovkin's camp felt he had done enough to clinch victory, there was little sense of injustice following the fight. The 36-year-old, who needed eight stitches in a cut above his right eye, insisted he had not felt under pressure during 12 punishing rounds.

"I felt very comfortable," Golovkin said. "I think we controlled the fight. Even though he was not running



LAS VEGAS: Canelo Alvarez celebrates after his majority-decision win over Gennady Golovkin during their WBC/WBA middleweight title fight at T-Mobile Arena on Saturday in Las Vegas, Nevada. — AFP

this time, it doesn't mean he was controlling the fight. "We were controlling the fight. I feel fine."

Golovkin's trainer Abel Sanchez meanwhile admitted he hoped to see a third meeting between the two. "Canelo is a champion today, he deserves it, he fought a great fight," Sanchez said.

"There was only one or two rounds between them. It's obvious that these two guys can make great fights. Hopefully there'll be a third fight," Golovkin added: "Of course we would like to have a third fight if we can

negotiate that." Sanchez meanwhile brushed off suggestions that Golovkin had once more been on the wrong end of a dubious performance by the three ring-side judges. "We appreciate the support but we can't be hypocritical and stand here complaining about every decision we lose," Sanchez said.

"The judges saw the fight in Canelo's favour tonight. Maybe the next time they'll see it in our favour. We can't take that away from Canelo. He fought a great fight." — AFP

Hamilton wins Singapore Grand Prix to increase title lead

SINGAPORE: Lewis Hamilton won the Singapore Grand Prix yesterday in dominant fashion to increase his Formula One championship lead over Sebastian Vettel to 40 points with just six races remaining.

The Mercedes driver led from pole to chequered flag, with Red Bull's Max Verstappen more than eight seconds behind and Ferrari's Vettel a distant third.

"Great job everyone, what a weekend," said Hamilton on team radio immediately after winning at the Marina Bay Street Circuit for the second year running. "Keep pushing—we've got this guys."

A unique set of challenges makes the steamy track in the heat and humidity of Singapore's tropical climate the toughest physical test of the season.

The duration of the race, with each of the 61 laps of the 5.063 kilometre track having 23 bends and 80 gear changes—more than any other on the Formula One calendar—means that drivers and machinery are worked to breaking point. "I'm spent. It felt like the longest race of my life so I'm glad it's over," said Hamilton when interviewed on track after his crew in celebration. "Max put up a great fight as well—but what a day, what a weekend." Hamilton got the perfect start from pole position as Verstappen was slower away from second on the dirty side of the grid and saw his Red Bull come immediately under pressure from Vettel.

The German four-time world champion used his superior Ferrari power to outdrag Verstappen down Raffles Boulevard and just managed to nip past the Dutchman before the safety car brought a temporary



SINGAPORE: Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton holds up the trophy on the podium after winning the Singapore Formula One Grand Prix at the Marina Bay Street Circuit in Singapore yesterday. — AFP

halt to hostilities on the first lap for the third year in succession in Singapore.

It was prompted by a collision between the Force Indias that put Esteban Ocon into the wall and out of the race after a sideswipe from teammate Sergio Perez.

Hamilton controlled the restart four laps later to sprint away more than a second clear of Vettel.

The championship leader had stretched his lead to around three seconds when, on lap 14, Vettel was first to pit for ultrasoft tyres, but it soon looked an ill-judged move as he rejoined behind the slower Force India of Perez. Hamilton responded immediately and pitted on the next lap, but he crucially opted for the soft compound that had been predicted to last until the end.

Vettel's frustration increased as Hamilton rejoined in front and then boiled over as Verstappen jumped him when he too pitted for softs. There's "no chance" of winning, Vettel moaned over team radio.

"We were too late again," he bawled. "These tyres will not make it to the end." When the last of the front-runners Daniel Ricciardo took on ultrasofts on lap 27, it left the top six back in grid order: Hamilton leading, Verstappen second and Vettel third.

Hamilton remained in control but was getting twitchy up front. "I feel we have stopped too early," he said, as a few spots of rain began to tumble around the circuit. "No we are looking good compared to those around us," assured his race engineer Peter Bonnington. — AFP

Zlatan pleased to make Toronto his 500th goal victim

LOS ANGELES: Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic made history on Saturday, scoring his 500th career goal in stunning fashion but it wasn't enough to lift the Los Angeles Galaxy to a win over Toronto FC.

The 36-year-old Ibrahimovic as always had a flair for the dramatic and he did just that in becoming the third active footballer to reach the milestone, joining Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

The six-foot-five (1.95 metre) Ibrahimovic released a perfectly-timed roundhouse kick in the 43th minute that fooled goalkeeper Alex Bono for his 17th goal of the season. The goal cut the deficit to 3-1 and sparked a three-goal Galaxy rally but the defending MLS champions would go on to win 5-3 in front of a crowd of 30,700 at BMO Field in Toronto.

"I am happy for Toronto because they will be remembered as my 500th victim," said Ibrahimovic. Ibrahimovic came into Saturday's game tied for second in MLS scoring. "I was close to the goal. It reminds me of a goal I did in Ajax," he said. "It came from a cross and I turned around and I hit it. I was just trying to hit the goal and it went in."

Ibrahimovic scored 62 of his goals for Sweden with the rest coming while playing for Malmö FF, Ajax, Juventus, Inter Milan, Barcelona, AC Milan, Paris Saint-Germain, Manchester United and now the Galaxy. Jonathan Osorio's 75th-minute go-ahead goal halted a three-goal Galaxy comeback and helped give Toronto some much needed points in their playoff push.

Jay Chapman added an insurance goal in stoppage time with a low shot to the corner. "It is an incredible achievement," said Galaxy coach Dominic Kinnear of Ibrahimovic's goal. "The guy is a great goal scorer and it is a memorable one for him for many reasons." Asked if it was memorable one for the coach, Kinnear said, "In about 10 years from now." — AFP

Matches on TV

(Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Southampton v Brighton & Hove Albion

22:00

beIN SPORTS HD 2

SPANISH LEAGUE

Girona v Celta de Vigo

22:00

beIN SPORTS HD 3

ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE

Spal v Atalanta

21:30

beIN SPORTS HD 4

25 Kenyan marathon master Eliud Kipchoge smashes world record



26 Cool Coric steers Croatia into Davis Cup final with France



27 Alvarez ready for rematch after Golovkin dethroned



Yarmolenko helps Hammers to first win

Hammers' first league win under manager Manuel Pellegrini



LIVERPOOL: West Ham United's Colombian midfielder Carlos Sanchez (C) shoots past Everton's Senegalese midfielder Idrissa Gueye (L) during the English Premier League football match between Everton and West Ham United at Goodison Park in Liverpool, north west England yesterday. — AFP

LIVERPOOL: Andriy Yarmolenko scored twice on his first start for West Ham as they climbed off the foot of the English Premier League table with a 3-1 win away to Everton yesterday. It was the Hammers' first league win under manager Manuel Pellegrini, whose four previous top-flight games in charge of the east London club at the start of this season had all ended in defeat.

This victory at Goodison Park also catapulted West Ham out of the bottom three. Chilean boss Pellegrini, celebrating his 65th birthday on Sunday, had spent £100 million (\$129 million) bringing nine new signings to the London Stadium in the close season.

But such had been the Hammers' poor start to the

new campaign that questions were already being asked about the former Manchester City manager's long-term job prospects.

"It's easy to say we were going to change, but I was absolutely convinced this is the way," Pellegrini, who said his birthday was the "last thing" on his mind, told Sky Sports. "We score goals and always try to continue scoring goals. I saw the players working every day of the week...I am convinced and the players are convinced." Ukrainian forward Yarmolenko, one of Pellegrini's new signings, gave his manager some breathing space on Merseyside with a double strike that put the visitors 2-0 up just after the half-hour

mark. Gylfi Sigurdsson pulled a goal back in first-half stoppage time before Marko Arnautovic restored West Ham's two-goal lead in the 61st minute as Everton suffered their first defeat under manager Marco Silva.

"We didn't play with enough quality to win the match," Silva told the BBC. "It's a tough result for us." It took West Ham just 11 minutes to break the deadlock when one long ball out of defence proved too much for Everton to handle.

Arnaoutovic unselfishly squared the ball to Yarmolenko, who fired home from close range. And the away fans had a second goal to celebrate when Yarmolenko doubled the Hammers' lead in the 31st

minute. Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford's poor pass gifted West Ham possession in a dangerous area and Yarmolenko, cutting in off the right flank, beat two defenders before curling a left-footed shot into the top corner from the edge of the box.

But just when it seemed West Ham would enjoy a 2-0 lead at the break, Everton gave themselves a lifeline when Sigurdsson headed powerfully home from an excellent cross by full-back Jonjoe Kenny.

Everton squandered several chances to equalise and were made to pay when Pedro Obiang drove into their box and slipped the ball sideways to Arnautovic, who toe-poked a shot past the diving Pickford. — AFP

Wolves win to stretch Burnley's losing run

MOLINEUX: Wolverhampton Wanderers inflicted a fourth successive defeat on Burnley with a 1-0 victory at Molineux yesterday, leaving the visitors second bottom of the Premier League after their worst start to a top-flight season in 89 years.

After Wolves missed several chances in the first half, Raul Jimenez pounced in the 61st minute to break the deadlock with his second goal of the season. Burnley pressed for a leveller, but lacked any real threat in attack, mustering just two tame shots on target in the entire match.

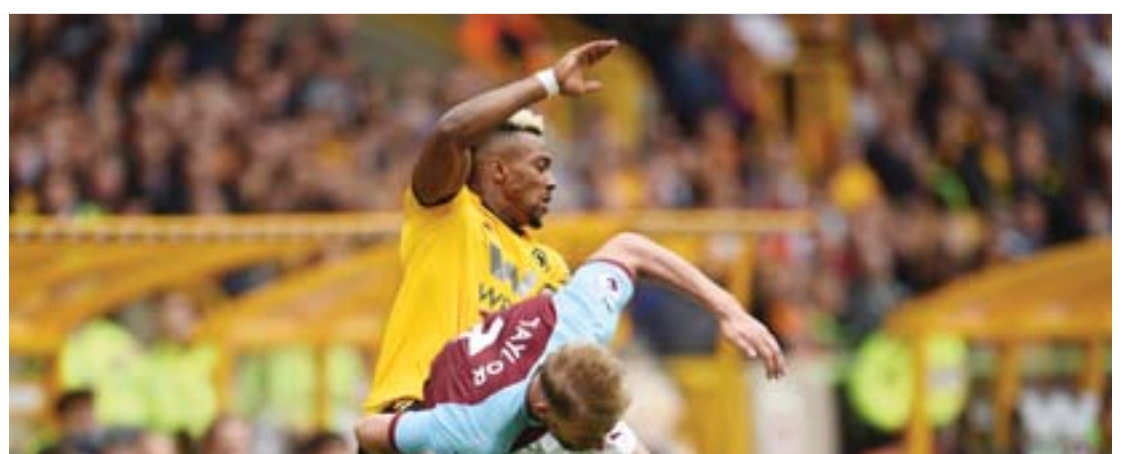
Wolves continue to look at home in the top flight and sit in the top half of the table with eight points from five games,

while Burnley, who finished seventh last season, have a solitary point. "I am very, very satisfied," Wolves manager Nuno Espirito Santo said. "If there is a 'but', we could be more clinical. But if we can continue to make this many chances, it makes me very proud."

Wolves dominated for large swathes of the first half, but were kept at bay by Burnley keeper Joe Hart, who made three smart saves in quick succession at the end of the opening period. After the break, Jimenez should have opened the scoring from just inside the box, but blazed over with the goal at his mercy.

He made amends soon after, however, darting to the near post to meet a low Matt Doherty cross before guiding the ball into the far corner. Wolves should have made the victory more comfortable, having fired 30 shots at Hart's goal—the most they have managed in a single match in Premier League history—but had to make do with Jimenez's solitary strike.

"We took a bit of a battering," Hart said. "Wolves were really on it. We have a lot more to come and a lot more to do. It is what it is so we need to look at ourselves in the mirror and keep going." — Reuters



MOLINEUX: Wolverhampton Wanderers' Spanish striker Adama Traore (L) vies with Burnley's English defender Charlie Taylor during the English Premier League football match between Wolverhampton Wanderers and Burnley at the Molineux stadium in Wolverhampton, central England yesterday. — AFP